



**Venice, Ravenna, Verona and the Po Valley:**

**Renaissance Italy and the Literature of the Grand Tour**

**June 13 – 24, 2011**

This Study Tour is designed for travelers who want to experience the renowned beauty of Northern Italy, to discover its artistic treasures, to absorb its dramatic history, to experience its people, to taste and feel its culture. We invite you to join us on this rewarding journey of exploration, reflection and enjoyment. For Liberal Studies students in the BALS, MALS and DLS programs, the Study Tour may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit, with the approval of the student's Dean.

North of the Apennines, Italian Renaissance culture developed in ways that paralleled the emergence of the humanist renewal in Tuscany and Umbria, but was also shaped in distinctive ways by traditions and influences that gave it a particular character of its own. This itinerary is designed for travelers who wish to discover for themselves cities little known to most visitors, but whose historical, artistic and cultural riches and significance never fail to amaze the discerning eye. It offers the opportunity for a much richer experience than the commonplace Venice, Florence, Rome race through Italy. In addition, we will be reflecting and discussing what we can learn from our discoveries for living more fully and humanely in our own societies. Our reflections will be guided by the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> American and British authors for whom the tradition of the European "Grand Tour" became a prism through which to examine the powerful impact of exposure to a cultural tradition altogether different than their own which opened up new horizons and powerfully challenged all their assumptions about human living. Join us for this engaging exploration of the origins and development of one the most

unique episodes of human cultural transformations which history has recorded, and reflect on its continuing relevance in our lives today

The **tour leaders** will be Associate Professor of Philosophy, Francis J. Ambrosio, Director, Doctor of Liberal Studies Program, and Ms. Deborah Warin, Director, Renaissance Tours Company, LLC, former Director of Continuing Education and lecturer at Georgetown University, and author of the forthcoming book, *Battista Sforza and the Court of Urbino*. Together they have led more than 25 previous Liberal Studies tours to Italy.

The **cost of the tour** for Liberal Studies students is **\$3995 per person**, plus the charge for tuition at the normal rate for Liberal Studies credit. This is a special discounted price for registered students only. The cost for all other participants is **\$4875.00**. LSP Alumni are eligible for a discount of 10% for themselves and one companion. All rates are exclusive of airfare. Breakfast is included each day in the Hotels; the welcome reception on the first evening and the Farewell dinner on the final evening are also included. All other meals are at the expense of participants. The cost of the tour includes ground transportation and admission fees for all activities included in the itinerary. Please be sure to read the Terms and Conditions (see below) carefully for other important information including the Payment schedule and the Cancellation Policy.

### **Program Overview**

Our adventure begins in Bologna the "Cultural Capital of Europe." Home to the oldest university in Europe and one of the most historically preserved cities in Europe, Bologna's beautiful arcades, towers and plazas imbue the city with an active ambiance all its own. Bologna is equally famous for being the gastronomic capital of Italy and our stay here will afford the opportunity to partake of the culinary pleasures of the city. Bologna will serve as our first "hub" of operations, as we spend our first four nights amid its stately arcade and relatively unhurried rhythms. We spend our first full day exploring the city itself, and then on subsequent days venture out on day excursions, first to the city of Ferrara, seat of the princely court of the d'Este family, and then to Ravenna, with its fabulous mosaic decoration.

Leaving Bologna, we travel north toward Verona, and second base camp, but on the way we stop for most of the day in Mantova, another gem of a city that was home to another noble family, the Gonzaga, who, like the d'Este, were known for their patronage of art and the new learning. After arriving in Verona, we spend the next two full days amid the many distinctive monuments, both roman and renaissance, of this most cultivated city. Then, from Verona, we take a day excursion to Vicenza, home of Palladio and site of some of his most distinctive architectural creations.

Departing Verona, we travel toward Venice, but before arriving we will spend the full day in Padova. There we shall encounter masterpieces of two of the greatest artists of the Florentine renaissance, both of whom were summoned north to work in this city which was also the sight of a University as venerable as Bologna's. Giotto's Scovegni chapel is his most fully realized and best reserved work, and Donatello's contributions to the Basilica of "Il Santo," the beloved saint Anthony of Padova,

including the astounding bronze equestrian statue of "Gattamelata" that can only be compared to the parallel bronze of Marcus Aurelius in Rome.

Finally, we enter into the magical atmosphere of Venice, La Serenissima, for four nights and three full days of exploring both its artistic patrimony as well as perhaps the most fascinating urban environment ever devised by human imagination.



### Detailed Itinerary

#### Monday, June 13

Travelers arrive at our Hotel in Bologna. In the evening, we gather for a Welcome Reception and orientation before dining together.

#### Tuesday, June 14

We visit Bologna's beautiful city center including the Palazzo Comunale, including the splendid rooms of Cardinal Legato which now house the the Collezioni Comnali d'Arte. Another destination is the Basilica di San Petronio, dedicated to the city's partron saint, St Pertronius, where we will see the work of Jacopo della Quercia and the expressive frescoes by Giovanni da Modena. For the brave, there will be the opportunity to climb the medieval Torre degli Asinelli, built in 1109 and still affording a breathtaking view of the city. Other sights include the Basilica di Santo Stefano and the Chiesa di San Domenico which houses the beautiful tomb with the sarcophagus by Nicola Pisano (1267). Work of the tomb was

complete by Michelangelo in 1494; Museo Morandi, the largest collection of the 20<sup>th</sup> C painter and engraver as well as a reconstruction of the artist study.

### **Wednesday, June 15**

Today we visit the charming town of Ferrara, home to the illustrious d'Este family. The d'Este, great patrons of art, literature, and architecture, made Ferrara a cultural center of the Renaissance. We will visit the Castello Estense, home of the d'Este family as well as the Duomo, and the Pinacoteca Nazionale, which houses masterpieces of the Ferrarese, Emilian and Venetian Schools of painting.

### **Thursday, June 16**

This morning we will venture east to experience the famous, ancient mosaics of Ravenna. Once the capital of the Roman Empire and Exarchate of Byzantium, Ravenna's ancient churches house breathtaking mosaics from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries. Together we will visit the mid 5<sup>th</sup> C Mausoleo di Galla Palacidia, Basilica di San Vitale, Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo and make a short journey to the Basilica di Sant'Apollinare in Classe.

### **Friday, June 17**

We leave lovely Emilia Romagna for the Veneto and the beautiful city of Verona, our base for the next four nights. Before reaching Verona in the evening, we stop along the way to visit Mantova (Mantua) in Lombardy. Birthplace of Virgil (70 BC) and home of the Gonzaga family, Mantua became another great intellectual and artistic center of Renaissance. We will visit the splendid, imposing Palazzo Ducale of the Gonzaga including the very famous Camera degli Sposi (Room of the Spouses) with its celebrated frescoes by Andrea Mantegna. Later, there will be an option to visit the Palazzo Te, built and decorated in the Mannerist style or you may choose to spend your time strolling the lovely and lively city.

### **Saturday and Sunday, June 18 - 19**

We will spend two days visiting the principal sites of Verona: the Arena, the Roman amphitheater (accommodating an audience of 25,000), the Castelvecchio and the Museo d'Arte within it with the work of Mantegna, Pisanello, the Bellinis, and Stefano da Verona; Chiesa di Sant'Anastasia with its impressive frescoes and unique terracotta figures in the Cappella Pellegrini. Our two day visit will allow plenty of free time to relax and stroll the bridges and the piazzas and visit the cafes that give this city its unique, vibrant character.

### **Monday, June 20**

Vicenza, city of Andrea Palladio, the most influential and imitated architect in the world. Vicenza, a UNESCO world heritage Site since 1994 is home to Palladio's best works, including the famous Teatro Olimpico (Olympic Theater). This sparkling Renaissance jewel like city with its elegant Palladian palaces, beautiful piazzas, continues to thrive as the cosmopolitan capital of the Veneto and one of the wealthiest cities in Italy. Our visit here will be especially memorable as we are guided by a renowned Palladio scholar.

## **Tuesday, June 21**

Padua is our destination today and the Scrovegni Chapel with the superlative fresco cycle painted in 1305-10 by Giotto. The 39 frescoes, the only fresco cycle of Giotto wholly intact, illustrate the lives of Mary and Jesus and include Giotto's *Last Judgment*. Recently restored, the brilliance and sophistication of Giotto's masterpiece is breathtaking. After, we will have an extended visit to one of the most important pilgrimage churches, the Basilica of Sant'Antonio. Inside *Il Santo* with its magnificent nave, is the Capella dell' Arco del Santo, the chapel of the tomb of St Anthony by Tiziano Aspetti. On the high altar, the dramatic bronze statues and reliefs by Donatello. Outside the church is the famous equestrian statue of the Venetian leader Gattamelata, a masterpiece by Donatello (1453) and the first Renaissance bronze equestrian monument. Leaving Padova in the late afternoon, we make the short trip to Venice and our hotel.

## **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, June 22 -24**

We awaken to Venice, that most romantic of cities, "a fairy city at heart." (Byron). Over the course of the next three days, we will visit the Basilica of Mark and the Piazza San Marco, the sacred and secular heart of the city, the Palazzo Ducale, which served as the residence of doges and the seat of government from the 12-17C, and the Academia, housing the most important Venetian art from 14-18C including the works of Bellini, Titian, Giorgione, Mantegna, and Carpaccio. There will be plenty of time to enjoy the legendary city, *La Serenissima*, "the most serene", on your own, as you wander over its many bridges and canals, experience its changing light and mood. Mysterious, regal, exotic, a labyrinth of streets and canals, for centuries the city has exuded its power to transfix its visitors with its elusive, magical character.

Finally, on Friday evening we will gather to have our *Cena Addio*, our farewell dinner and conclude our time together in Bell'Italia.

**\*\*N.B.:** Although the tour officially concludes with dinner on Friday evening June 24, the price of the hotel stay and breakfast the following morning are included in the cost of the program.



**Program Notes: \*\***

**Cost of the Tour:** The cost of the tour for Liberal Studies students is **\$3995 per person**, plus the charge for tuition at the normal rate for Liberal Studies credit. This is a special discounted price for registered students only. The cost for all other participants is \$4875. LSP Alumni are eligible for a discount of 10% for themselves and one companion. All rates are exclusive of airfare. Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to Bologna, arriving at the hotel there on June 13 for the opening reception and dinner beginning at 6:00 pm. Both the reception and dinner are included in the price of the tour, as is the farewell dinner on the last night of the tour in Venice. Breakfast is included each day in the Hotels. All other meals are at the expense of participants. All arrangements for subsequent travel and accommodation are solely the responsibility of the participant.

In addition to the accommodations specified below, the cost of the tour includes ground transportation and admission fees for all activities included in the tour itinerary. Participants are themselves responsible for all charges, including room charges at hotels, incurred in connection with any activity not explicitly specified in the itinerary.

**Level of Physical Activity:** The nature of the tour program and the type of sites which the group will visit make for a moderately strenuous routine; those who need to limit their physical activity or who cannot easily walk longer distances are strongly encouraged to consult with the tour leaders prior to

reserving space. The Directors reserve the right to limit individual participation in group activities at their sole discretion in cases where the group's interests might be adversely affected.

**Accommodations:** Cost is based on double occupancy in hotels. In some cases single rooms might be available at the hotels for a supplemental charge. All hotels are three or four star and have been carefully chosen for their location, comfort and quality of service. A list of hotels will be provided separately to registered participants. Room assignments are made by the hotel management. Breakfast is included each day at the hotel.

**Reservations:** Places on the tour are strictly limited to a maximum of 18 participants to ensure the comfort and focused attention of the group experience. As a result, places on the tour will be reserved in the order in which deposits are received. Places may be reserved by completing the included Reservation Form, and returning it by mail with a deposit of one thousand dollars per person. Deposits are refundable according to the terms specified in the Terms and Conditions below. The balance must be paid in full by March 15, 2010. Before submitting a deposit, please read the "Terms and Conditions" below carefully for other important information including the **Cancellation Policy. Travelers are strongly urged to purchase separate travel insurance including coverage for cancellation loss to protect themselves in the event that they are unable to travel for any reason.**

If you should have any questions regarding this tour, please feel free to call Prof. Frank Ambrosio (202) 687-7741 or email ambrosif@georgetown.edu.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Renaissance in Florence Study Tour.

***All details of the itinerary subject to change based on availability of accommodations, changes in opening\closing schedules, acts of God and other conditions beyond the control of the tour directors. Be sure to read the Terms and Conditions carefully before submitting a deposit.***

\*\* N.B. This Study Tour is not affiliated with Georgetown University's Charles A. Strong Study Center, Villa Le Balze, in Fiesole

### **Syllabus**

The Northern Italian Renaissance and the Literature of the Grand Tour

A Liberal Studies Course in conjunction with  
the "Venice, Ravenna, Verona and the Po Valley" Study Tour,  
June 13 – 24, 2011

The goal of this course is give participants the unique opportunity to read and reflect on some of the great works of travel writing and literature that have been inspired by the country and culture of Northern Italy during the Renaissance while at the same time visiting that region and experiencing many of its natural and artistic beauties for themselves first-hand.

Beginning in the city of Bologna, we shall progressively become acquainted through lectures, slide presentations and discussion with the places we will visit, their special attractions, and the rich patterns of historical and cultural interconnection among them during the Renaissance. In addition, we will begin reflecting on and discussing what we can learn from our discoveries for living more fully and humanely in our own societies, guided by 19th and 20th American and British authors who for whom the tradition of the European “Grand Tour” became a prism through which to examine the powerful impact of exposure to a cultural tradition altogether different than their own which opened up new horizons and powerfully challenged all their assumptions about human living. The Study Tour is more fully described in the accompanying itinerary.

The **course instructors and tour leaders** will be Associate Professor of Philosophy, Francis J. Ambrosio, Director, Doctor of Liberal Studies Program, and Ms. Deborah Warin, Director, Renaissance Tours Company, LLC, former Director of Continuing Education and lecturer at Georgetown University, and author of the forthcoming book, *Battista Sforza and the Court of Urbino*. Together they have led more than 25 previous Liberal Studies tours to Italy.

The course, which can be taken for graduate or undergraduate credit \*\* in the Georgetown Liberal Studies Program, includes the following additional elements:

- ❖ Two on-campus classroom sessions prior to departure
- ❖ Participation in the Study Tour Program
- ❖ required readings as described in the “Reading List” below
- ❖ A research paper of approximate 7500 words (graduate) or 5000 words (undergraduate) on a subject of the student’s choice related to the course material and approved by the Instructors, to be completed upon return from the study tour.

### **Reading List**

Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince

Paul Johnson, The Renaissance, Modern Library Chronicles

Jan Morris, The Venetian Empire, Penguin

John Julius Norwich, A History of Venice, Vintage Books

Robert Tavenor, Palladio and Palladianism

Lauro Martines, Power and Imagination: City-States in Renaissance Italy, Johns Hopkins Univ. Press

Christopher Hibbert, The House of the Medici, W. Morrow Publishers.

**\*\* Fourth Credit Option (undergraduate only): With permission of the Dean, undergraduate Liberal Studies students may opt to complete a fourth credit option involving additional reading and writing assignments as well as an oral examination which enables the course to fulfill the requirement for either the Medieval or Renaissance Core Course in the BALS program.**

### **Terms and Conditions**

The cost of the Study Tour is \$3995.00 per person plus tuition for a three credit course\* for LSP students registered for credit. The cost of the Study Tour for all others is \$4,875.00. LSP Alumni are eligible for a discount of 10% for themselves and one companion. All rates are exclusive of airfare. Prices include hotel accommodations (double occupancy) Breakfast is included each day in the Hotels; the welcome reception on the first evening and the Farewell dinner on the final evening are also included. All other meals are at the expense of participants. All entrance fees and guided tours by the faculty, and bus travel as indicated in the itinerary and subject to the specified conditions are included. Airfare and ground transportation prior to the official start of the tour at the hotel or after its conclusion are not included.

Participants are urged to make reservations using the Reservation Form at their earliest convenience in order to guarantee a place on the tour. Enrollment is determined by date of receipt of a deposit of \$1,000, which shall be refundable according to the conditions of the stated cancellation policy. Payment in full, including tuition for participants taking the Study Tour for credit, is due March 15, 2011.

\*BALS student may, with permission of their Dean, register for a four credit course which will fulfill the core requirement for the Renaissance.

### **Cancellation Policy**

\* After receipt of the deposit, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a minimum \$250 per person cancellation fee.

\* Cancellation after January 15, 2011 will result in forfeiture of the full amount of the full deposit (\$1000.).

\* Cancellation after March 15, 2011 but Prior to 14 days before the commencement of the tour will result in forfeiture of 50% of the cost of the trip (exclusive of tuition).

\* Cancellation within 14 days of the commencement of the tour or “no show” at the commencement of the tour will result in forfeiture full cost of the trip per person (exclusive of tuition).

**\* Given the necessity of strict adherence to this cancellation policy, Georgetown University strongly recommends that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance from a reputable vendor of their own choosing. The University reserves the right to make exceptions at its sole discretion.**

**All tours are offered on condition of sufficient enrollment. If the offer of a tour must be withdrawn at any time due to insufficient enrollment, all deposits and additional payments will be refunded and this will constitute full satisfaction of all claims by participants on the University.**

### Responsibility

The University and its representatives act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary, and they will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements. However, they do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person and property due to any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tour.

The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other rendering service shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. Further, the University and its representative agents accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control.

The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice, and to decline to accept any tour member at any time, when such action is determined by the University and its representatives, at their sole discretion, to be in the best interests of the health, safety or general welfare of the tour group or individual. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance.

In view of the statutory or contractual limitations which may apply to personal injury or property damage losses, the purchase of accident and baggage insurance, is strongly recommended, as well as trip cancellation insurance, is strongly recommended.

Finally, the University bears no responsibility whatsoever for any travel arrangements made by individual travelers that do not form part of the published itinerary. Extensions of stay, hotel accommodations beyond those indicated in the program, early arrivals or departures, hotel charges not included in the basic room rate including but not limited to telephone, beverages and meals, and hotel



Washington, D.C., 20057

Thank you! We look forward to traveling with you. Any questions: write [ambrosif@georgetown.edu](mailto:ambrosif@georgetown.edu) or call 202-687-7441.