

Living Italy Slow Travel

Sunday 20 Sept departing Sunday 04 Oct 2009



Welcome to our Slow Travel program. Neil and I look forward to meeting you, and we are delighted that you are coming to Umbria this May. This letter is to fill you in on a few details about your arrival and the tour in general as well as some advice on what to bring with you. We also need some information about your needs so that we can do our best to make your holiday excellent, so there is a form to fill out and to send back to us.

This is also to remind you that final payment is due by 20 July 2009

Arrival

We will meet you at Rome's Fiumicino airport at around **10.30am** on **Sunday 20 September**. We will be in **Terminal 'B-C' on ground level** in the **International Arrivals** section immediately as you exit customs. We will be carrying a sign saying 'Living Italy'. Wait in this area even if you don't find us there immediately and in particular don't wander around the airport looking for us. If you stay near the meeting place we will find you. In case of any problems Carol's mobile phone number is **+39 3484 13 5545 or +39 333 66 800 26**.

If you are staying overnight at the **Airport Hilton** the pick-up point is the foyer at **11am**. Please let us know if you are planning to be there. Please decide in advance and specify clearly on the attached form whether you want us to meet you here or at the airport.

From Rome Airport you will be transferred directly to Montefalco in a private air-conditioned coach. Unless there are unexpected delays you will leave by about 11am and arrive at Camiano Piccolo at approximately 1pm in time for lunch.

What to wear & what to bring

The temperatures should be cool to warm; 14° to 25° during the day, cooling to 8° to 12° at night. You should have a **light waterproof jacket** for day and a **warmer coat** for the evening. It is reasonable to expect rain at any time of the year so bring a **small portable umbrella**. In the event of a cold spell a number of light layers works better than heavy items. A **scarf** can make all the difference to feeling comfortable and is easy to store away as the day warms up. A pair of **comfortable walking shoes** is essential as there's a lot to be seen and a lot of ground to cover and all shoes should be **non-slip** for the steep cobbled streets in some of the hilltowns. A **small backpack** is much more comfortable than something you have to hold on to, and it means you have your hands free to use practicing all of those wonderfully expressive Italian gestures. You will find that a small pair of **binoculars** will be useful inside museums and churches to look more closely at some of the spectacular artwork and frescoes, up inside high domes.

Montefalco

Your host town is a ten minute stroll uphill from Camiano along a country road with spectacular views of the valley of Umbria behind you. The town is called 'the Balcony of Umbria' because of its central position in the valley and its hilltop perspective of all that goes on around it. You enter Montefalco through 'Porta Camiano' in the medieval surrounding walls which still completely encircle the town. Continuing up (they're not called hilltop towns for nothing) past the beautiful old stone houses and cobbled streets of the residential area you soon arrive at the large main piazza where you can catch your breath over a cappuccino.

The 7 churches within the walls of Montefalco contain a considerable number of frescoes including Perugino, Benozzo Gozzoli, and local painter Melanzio. One church has been converted to a

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delightful small museum, one of the best in Umbria containing a considerable number of works of artistic importance.

There is a photography shop, an email café, an optometrist, a doctor, dentist, and pharmacy as well as clothes & shoe shops (nothing fancy, emergency supplies only), a supermarket, two very good restaurants and a number of coffee / cocktail bars. There are hairdressers, a masseur and a beautician. Five minutes walk from the accommodation at there is a café and a small shop for provisions. Opening hours: 7.30am-1pm and 4pm-7pm.

Banks

There are two banks in Montefalco. Both have ATM which accept Maestro/Cirrus keycard and Visa card. Check with your bank that your code will work overseas. We do not recommend you bring traveller's cheques since they are difficult to cash. The other towns that have ATM machines are: Foligno, Bevagna, Perugia, Spoleto, Assisi, Gubbio. Banks in the larger towns will change cash.

General Information

Agriturismo Camiano Piccolo has been the home of the Fabrizi family since the 16th century. They are a distinguished family with a basis in agriculture. The term 'Agriturismo' applies to the type of accommodation in a rural setting. The Agriturismo Camiano Piccolo is a group of country farmhouses, surrounded by their own fields of olive trees and grapevines. There are only 23 rooms and each has its own new bathroom. You can see images of the accommodation at the following web addresses.

www.livingitaly.com/accom.htm

www.thinktag.com/umbria/tour/camiano_piccolo1.htm

Personal comfort

The ladies at Camiano will do your washing for you for approximately Euro 35 (approx. AUD50) per machine load, returned immaculately ironed. Washing, ironing and tea making facilities are available if you prefer to do these things yourself. A small kitchen next to the office is made available to us and has a stove, refrigerator, tea-pots and proper English tea, if you can't face another cappuccino.

How to contact people on Living Italy programs

Telephone calls and faxes to and from Italy

The time difference between Italy and Australia from March to the end of October is 8 hours. The best time for phone contact between Italy and Australia from 3pm to 7pm Australian time, which is 7am to 11 am on the same day in Italy.

If you have a digital mobile phone it is possible to request installation of 'global roaming' and to take your phone to Italy. However people calling to the mobile phone will pay the normal international rate and the receiver of the call in Italy also pays significant charges.

The hotel has one central phone with a public pay phone in the office. You can buy telephone cards for Euro 10.00 (\$8 approx). You need one of these to make reverse charges or Telecard calls, though the telephone card will not be debited. Faxes are one of the best ways of keeping in touch.

If you are going to bring your mobile phone, please send us a text message to +39 3484 13 5545 now so that we can file your number and be sure we are in touch.

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Calling people in Australia

It is strongly suggested that you obtain a **Telecard** from Telstra or Optus. This will allow you to call Australia from any telephone in Italy and have the cost of the call charged to your account in Australia at Australian International rates (Italian rates are much higher).

History & Art

Umbria, a Cultural History ~ Ian Campbell Ross - published by Penguin Books
Heavy going, but very worthwhile with excellent historical information, and good architectural and artistic overviews.

Art in Renaissance Italy, 1350-1500 (Oxford History of Art Series.) ~ Evelyn Welch. published by Oxford University press
A fresh picture of this period in the light of new scholarship and by recreating the experience of contemporary Italians - the patrons, the viewing public and the artists. The book discusses a wide range of works from across Italy.

General Guides

Umbria ~ Jonathan Keates - published by Philip's travel guides
Evocative writing

Eyewitness Travel Guide – Umbria

The Blue Guide ~ a perennial essential.

Coffee table books

Umbria Land of Harmony ~ Giancarlo Gasponi. Euroedit Trento.
Available in the museum in Umbria and a must have when you leave.

Deruta - a Tradition of Italian Ceramics ~ Chronicle Books, San Francisco.

The Hill Towns of Italy ~ Chronicle Books, San Francisco.
A large coffee table book in paperback about Tuscan & Umbrian towns

Novels

****Living in a Foreign Language****

Tucker, his actress wife Jill Eikenberry lost their hearts to a 350-year-old rustico sitting on a hillside in the Spoleto valley. For Tucker, an unabashed gourmet, gourmand and all around foodie, the clincher was the forno, an oven older than the rustico which once had been where all the village women baked their bread.

Lucrezia Borgia: Life, Love and Death in Renaissance Italy ~ Sarah Bradford. Published by Viking

Lucrezia Borgia - Long considered the most ruthless of Italian Renaissance noblewomen, - a poisoner who committed incest with her natural father, Pope Alexander VI, and with her brother, Cesare Borgia, her tarnished reputation has prevailed long since her own lifetime.

The Italians ~ Luigi Barzini. Atheneum Books February 1, 1977.

Barzini is an Italian journalist and his account tells us about his own, middle class Italian, prejudices toward the rest of the country. He has more information available than a foreigner can ever have.

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Your Information

Name on passport
Preferred name
Address

Home Telephone
Mobile
Email

Work

ARRIVAL DETAILS

For collection from Fiumicino airport

Please indicate your arrival flight number and/or hotel contact details on one of the following dates

DEPARTURE DETAILS

Your travel plans on the last day of the tour. Include flight number and departure point and time if applicable.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & PREFERENCES

Upstairs / Downstairs Single Twin / Double: sharing with

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

ESSENTIAL MEDICATIONS

Please be sure to let us know if you have any food allergies or a pre-existing medical condition that may be relevant to us in an emergency.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: A prerequisite of participation

INSURANCE COMPANY

POLICY NUMBER:

TERMS & CONDITIONS

TOUR CANCELLATIONS

Cancellation must be presented in writing to your travel agent. The following cancellation fees will apply as % of total tour price for cancellation prior to 1st tour day. Over 45 days, 25%. 45 - 22 days, 55%. 21 days, 100%. Should Living Italy be forced to cancel the tour all payments will be refunded.

DISCLAIMER

Living Italy is operating as booking agent only for the accommodation, various tour excursions, transport, meals and other arrangements. By booking a tour the passenger acknowledges and agrees that though every effort will be made to ensure your personal well being, no liability is accepted should you fall ill, suffer accident, misfortune, delay, damage, detention, death, or loss. All claims are expressly renounced should you incur additional expense as a direct or indirect consequence of the tours, foods or beverages, or transport or any ancillary service provided throughout the tour, or for any additional charges, including transport, meals or accommodation costs, incurred as a result of fault, misdemeanour or third party failures, the non-provision of services, strikes, cancellations, delays, illness or accident. Though all practical assistance will be given, no responsibility is assumed or undertaken for loss of money, credit cards, traveller's cheques, baggage or personal belongings. Though every effort will be made to fulfil commitments as per the itineraries, no liability is undertaken should circumstances beyond our control prevent such undertaking being possible. Living Italy reserves the right to change the itinerary, prices, concerts, meals or other inclusions in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice and will not be liable to refund passengers for any reason whatsoever, including failure to reach expectations, or inability to participate in activities or inclusions.

Please sign below, indicating that you have read and accept the terms and conditions

Signature

Date

Please return this form direct to Living Italy fax +39 0742 378 399 or email: info@livingitaly.com

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