

Living Italy

patchwork
tours



Painting Umbria

7-day tour

Day 1 Sunday

Transfer to Montefalco

L D

You will be met at Foligno railway station to be transferred to your accommodation at the Fabrizi estate near Montefalco. Time to settle in before we stroll into Montefalco for an afternoon orientation before returning to Camiano for a welcome dinner and relaxing evening.

Day 2 Monday

Foligno & Neil Moore

B L D

This morning we travel first to Foligno to the local art supply shop to stock up on any materials you might be needing. In the afternoon we travel to the tiny hilltop village of "Colle del Marchese", home to renowned artist Neil Moore and Carol Searle. Neil and Carol renovated the ruins of a 13th century castle turning it into their home and Neil's studio. In our first master class Neil will introduce us to his work, style and techniques which have been influenced by 20 years immersed in the rich history and artistic heritage of Umbria. Having been called an "Aussie Renaissance man", Neil describes his paintings as "magic realism" a combination of ancient and modern - like Italy itself with its lively culture grown out of the wonderful past that is ever - present. His work can be viewed on his website at www.neilmoore.it. In the afternoon we travel first to Foligno to the local art supply shop to stock up on any materials you might be needing.

Day 3 Tuesday

Spello & Virginia Ryan

B D

Today we head to the stunning medieval town of Spello, dressed in fairytale pink and cream stone and home to a great treasure of art, "The Annunciation" by Pinturicchio. The essence of Spello however are the tiny laneways lined with flower clad balconies tended with great devotion by the local people. There is great choice of subject matter today as you may be inspired by toga clad Roman sculptures standing guard over the entrance gates or perhaps capturing the spirit of the cobblestone laneways with all their beautiful detail unchanged for centuries. In the afternoon we visit the studio of Australian artist Virginia Ryan in the town of Trevi.

Day 4 Wednesday

Clitunno & Frances Middendorf

B D

You will be accompanied to the mysterious Tempietto di Clitunno a relic from paleo-Christian times when the area was worshipped as providing water to the entire valley from its numerous springs. Time for sketching in the limpid atmosphere of the small lake and the temple itself. Frances is an American artist resident here for the last ten years.

Day 5 Thursday

Deruta & Montefalco Frescoes

B D

In the morning we travel to Deruta, to watch the artists of Deruta working on the dramatically colourful maiolica ceramics designs which are characteristic of the town. Under the guidance of Neil Moore, we meet this afternoon at the church of San Francesco in Montefalco. With special permission we are able to set up in the apse of the choir under the gaze of the beautiful 15th century frescos by Benozzo Gozzoli. In what is considered to be his best work, we enjoy his version of the "life of St. Francis" Italy's most beloved Saint. Inspired by the revolutionary frescos attributed to Giotto in Assisi, Gozzoli indulges in his favourite cityscapes, especially the background view of Montefalco painted over 500 years ago. We are able to emulate the skill of the renaissance master as we work under the watchful eye of Neil in this unique setting.

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Day 6 Friday

Spoletto & Jeffrey Isaacs

BLD

The special qualities of the morning light are captured as we head into Spoleto where we begin with a short orientation stroll entering the town over the dramatic "Ponte delle Torri", a medieval aqueduct bridge with 10 towering arches to the main square. In the afternoon we visit the studio of Jeffrey Isaacs, American, though resident in Umbria for the last 20 years.



Day 7 Saturday

Bevagna & Luigi Frappi

BD

Our drive to nearby Bevagna winds along the edge of a hill where we can clearly see the cities of Spello and Assisi across the broad valley. It is the piazza in Bevagna, considered to be one of the most evocative in Umbria which draws us today. Decorated with two of Umbria's most splendid Romanesque churches built with Roman ruins believed to be taken from the pagan temple of Isis, recycled with subtle geometry, incorporating muscular stone interiors and unusual Egyptian capitals. There is much more to the walled town of Bevagna however, with a delightful main shopping street displaying traditional crafts that makes for great diversion as we find a special place to set up easel for the last time. This evening we enjoy a final farewell dinner to a list of artists in Umbria

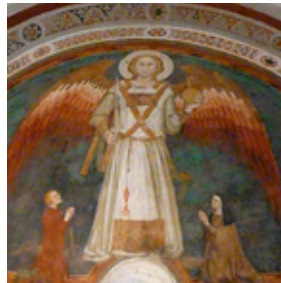


Day 8 Sunday

Departure

B

Transport to Foligno station where you will arrive at 9am. The tour officially ends here.



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