

Welcome to our Art Cities of Umbria program, offered in conjunction with the National Gallery of Victoria. The Living Italy team is looking forward to meeting you, and we are delighted that you are coming to join us in Umbria on this fascinating program taking in the Fresco cycles of our area.

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 you so that we can do our best to make your holiday as enjoyable and informative as possible. There is a form to fill out and to send back to us.

Arriving

The ART CITIES PRE TOUR begins at 4pm on 13 June in the foyer of our accommodation in Florence

Strozzi Palace Hotel

Via de' Vecchietti, 4 50123 Florence Tel. +39.055.283898

Your independent arrival is best managed by taxi. It is a short ride to the hotel from the main train station or Florence Airport. Travel to Umbria for the main tour is included as part of this program.

If you are joining us only for the main ART CITIES TOUR you will be met at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport at Fiumicino at 10.30am on Sunday 20 June. A Living Italy representative will be in Terminal '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 immediately. In case of any problems please call any of the following numbers in Italy +39 3484135545 or +39 0743254063.

If you are staying overnight at the AIRPORT HILTON HOTEL the pick-up point is the hotel foyer at 10am approx. Please specify clearly on the attached form

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 by 1.30pm, in time for lunch.

If travelling independently you need to arrive at Foligno railway station, which is on the Ancona line from Roma Termini. When we know your arrival time we will arrange to have you collected from Foligno station.

If you are arriving independently or have made other arrangements with us, please specify clearly on the attached form. It is helpful to confirm with us at least 48 hours before your arrival (tel: +39 3484135545 or +39 0743254063 or email: info@livingitaly.com)

What to wear & what to bring

The temperatures should be quite warm: 16° to 28° during the day, cooling 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.

The pool at Camiano Piccolo will probably be open so you may also wish to pack your swimming costume. For relaxing at the end of the day with a glass of wine or a cocktail people generally like to have something slightly dressy. It is a good idea to bring something for casual evening wear and comfortable dress shoes as there is a concert included in the itinerary. It is also acceptable to go in jeans & sneakers if there isn't time to go home to change. Dinner is often outside in the garden when it is warm enough so your preferred insect spray could be useful.

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. No special materials are required for the cooking class. The cooking school provides aprons, writing materials, rolling pin, excellent food, superb wine, a translator and good company. If you are bringing a digital camera, don't forget the battery charger (also that for your mobile phone) and an adapter plug - Australia/Italy.

optional pre tour in Florence 13 to 20 June

In Montefalco

Your host town is a fifteen minute stroll uphill from Camiano Piccolo 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 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 or a Campari.

The 7 churches within the walls of Montefalco contain a considerable number of frescoes including Perugino, Benozzo Gozzoli, and local painter Francesco Melanzio. One church has been converted to a delightful small museum, one of the best in Umbria, containing a considerable number of works of artistic importance. There is an internet café, an optometrist, a doctor, dentist, and pharmacy as well as clothes & shoe shops (nothing fancy, emergency supplies only), a supermarket, several restaurants and a number of coffee shops/bars and wine bars. There are hairdressers, a masseur and a beautician. Five minutes' walk from the accommodation, at Camiano, there is a café and a small shop for provisions.

Banks

There are two banks in Montefalco. Both have ATM which accept Maestro/Cirrus keycard and Visa card, however from time to time some people have experienced difficulties getting funds from the ATMs at one of these banks - there seems to be a particular problem with Commonwealth Bank 'Cirrus' cards. Check with your bank that your PIN code will work overseas. Credit card 'cash advance' always seems to be available, but this is less than ideal as you pay interest immediately on these withdrawals. It is advisable that you have more than one way of accessing money, but you should note that travellers cheques can only be cashed in the larger towns (Perugia, 40kms away, is the nearest town to Montefalco for this purpose).

Laundry and facilities

The ladies at the accommodation will do your washing for you for €35.00 per machine load. It will be returned to you beautifully ironed two days later. Washing and ironing facilities are also available. You may also make a cup of tea in the dining room at most times of the day.

How to contact people on Living Italy programs

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 is from 3pm to 7pm Australian time, which is 7am to 11am on the same day in Italy.

If you have a mobile phone it is possible to request installation of 'global roaming' and to take your phone to Italy. People calling to the mobile phone will pay the normal international rate, however the receiver of the call in Italy also pays significant charges. Nevertheless, this is usually cheaper than paying hotel rates.

Camiano Piccolo has one central phone with a public pay phone in the office. You can buy telephone cards for €5. You need one of these to enable the phone to make reverse charge or telecard calls, though the Italian phone card will not be debited.

There is an internet café in Montefalco. Email messages and faxes are often the best way of keeping in touch. The Living Italy office can receive email, but you will need to use the internet café to return messages. 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).

Contacting people in Italy

LIVING ITALY

Email: info@livingitaly.com Tel : + 39 0743254063 Mobiles: +39 333 6680026 +39 3484135545

CAMIANO PICCOLO

Email: camiano@bcsnet.it Tel: +39 0742 379 492 Fax: +39 0742 371 077

PALAZZO STROZZI

Email: info@strozzipalacehotel.it

Vogue Hotel Arezzo

Email: info@voguehotel.it Tel: 0575 24361 Fax: 0575 24362

LIVING ITALY

email: info@livingitaly.com www.livingitaly.com +39 0743 254063

Reading List

www.livingitaly.com/reading.htm

History & Art

Art in Renaissance Italy, 1350-1500 (Oxford History of Art Series) Evelyn Welch 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, a cultural history Ian Campbell Ross Penguin Books
Heavy going, but very worthwhile - excellent historical information, and good architectural and artistic overview

The Piero della Francesca Trail John Pope Hennessy The Little Bookroom New York 2004

Umbria Jonathan Keates Philip's Travel Guides (evocative writing and a favourite)

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 Montefalco 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

Lucrezia Borgia: Life, Love and Death in Renaissance Italy Sarah Bradford, Viking
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 lifetime.

The Italians Luigi Barzini Atheneum Books February 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

The Birth of Venus Sarah Dunant
A fascinating historical novel. It is about the limited choices available to a woman with talent in Renaissance Florence. As Savonarola takes Florence closer to being an ascetic theocracy, Alessandra is in love with a painter whose religious mania and fascination with the body makes him a plausible suspect for a series of killings and dismemberments. Dunant's style is light, fluent and pacy.

optional pre tour in Florence 13 to 20 June

CLIENT INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO YOUR TRAVEL AGENT or LIVING ITALY. [CLICK HERE](#) TO COMPLETE THE [FORM ONLINE](#)

TOUR & DATES **ART CITIES OF UMBRIA 20 JUNE to 04 JULY 2010**
and **FLORENCE – AREZZO PRE TOUR 13 TO 20 JUNE 2010**

FULL NAME/S AS PER PASSPORT

PREFERRED FIRST NAME

ADDRESS

P/CODE:

TEL/FAX

MOBILE

EMAIL

ARRIVAL DETAILS:

13 JUNE STROZZI PALACE HOTEL FLORENCE

or

20 JUNE FIUMICINO AIRPORT; Please specify your arrival flight no. and/or hotel contact details

or AIRPORT HILTON

or OTHER ARRANGEMENTS (please specify)

DEPARTURE DETAILS: Your travel plans on the last day of the tour: include flight no. & departure point if applicable

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS

your preferred room type: Single Twin/ sharing with Matrimonial

your preferred room location: Upstairs/downstairs

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. In such a situation it is essential that we have a record of any medication that you are required to take.

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TRAVEL INSURANCE COVER is a prerequisite of participation in this tour. Please provide details INSURER POLICY NO.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TOUR CANCELLATIONS: Cancellation must be presented in writing to Living Italy or your travel agent. Deposit is non-refundable unless the tour is cancelled by the operator. Cancellations made subsequent to the final tour payment having been received will incur a cancellation fee as a proportion of that amount as follows: Over 45 days prior to Day 1: 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 and return this form to your travel agent/or Living Italy if you have booked direct.

SIGNEDDATE.....

LIVING ITALY
email: info@livingitaly.com www.livingitaly.com +39 0743 254063