



Living Italy

Carol Searle &amp; Neil Moore

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 September. 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.

**Please note that final payment is required by 05 July 2006.**

### Arrival

We will meet you at Rome's Fiumicino airport at around 10.30am on **Sunday 05 September**. We will be in **Terminal 2 on ground level** in the **International Arrivals** section. Immediately as you exit customs. We will be at the seats near there carrying a sign saying 'Living Italy'. Wait in this area even if you don't find us immediately, and in particular don't wander around the airport looking for us. If you stay near the customs exit we will find you. In case of any problems Carol's mobile phone number is **+39 3484155545**.

If you have stayed at the **Airport Hilton** the night before, 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 at the Airport Hilton or at the airport.

Following the airport pickups you will be transferred directly to Montefalco in a private air-conditioned coach. Unless there are unexpected delays you will arrive at Camiano Piccolo at approximately 1pm in time for a late lunch. The afternoon will be at leisure so that you have time to rest and settle in.

If you prefer to travel independently you need to arrive at **Foligno** railway station, which is on the Ancona line from Roma Termini. Please let your travel agent know if this is your plan and confirm with us at least 48 hours before your arrival (Living Italy fax: ++39 0743 254063 or email [carolsearle@livingitaly.com](mailto:carolsearle@livingitaly.com)). When we know your arrival time we will arrange to have you collected from the station.

### What to wear & what to bring

The temperatures should be cool to warm; 14C° to 18C° during the day, cooling to 8C° to 12C° 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.

You may also wish to pack your swimming costume for a refreshing swim in the pool at Camiano Piccolo at the start or end of the day. Camiano Piccolo will supply towels for the pool.

For relaxing at the end of the day with 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.

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 classes**. The cooking school provide aprons, writing materials, rolling pin, excellent food, superb wine, a translator and good company. It has been suggested we advise people that eight rolls of film is not enough. Don't forget your battery charger if you have a digital camera.

### In 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 or a cool drink.

The 7 churches within the walls of Montefalco contain a considerable number of frescoes including by Perugino, Benozzo Gozzoli, and local painter 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 a photography shop, an email café with one terminal, 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. At Camiano Grande, five minutes walk from the accommodation, 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. Travellers cheques can be cashed in both banks. 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. All rooms have their own new bathroom (and a hairdryer). You can see images of the accommodation at the following web addresses. [www.livingitaly.com/accom.htm](http://www.livingitaly.com/accom.htm)  
[www.thinktag.com/umbria/tour/camiano\\_piccolo1.htm](http://www.thinktag.com/umbria/tour/camiano_piccolo1.htm)

### **Personal comfort**

The ladies at Camiano will do your washing for you for approximately Euro 25 per machine load, returned immaculately ironed two days' later. Washing and ironing 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, teapots and proper English tea, if you can't face another cappuccino.

### **The Art in Umbria**

Detailed information on the various artists of the late medieval and early Renaissance will be given out in separate documentation. We hope to be able to introduce you to as much as possible of the varied history and rich artistic heritage in the scenic hilltowns of the region. We have lived here for eighteen years now and still haven't exhausted the possibilities for exploration. Your two weeks may go all too quickly, but we'll do our best to show you as much as possible in the time.

## **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 is 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. 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.

### **How to contact people at the accommodation**

Camiano Piccolo has one central phone with a public pay phone in the office. You can buy Italian telephone cards (scheda telefonica) for \$5, \$10 approx. You need one of these to enable the phone to make reverse charge or telecard calls although the scheda will not be debited.

There is an email café in Montefalco with one terminal. Some of the other towns we visit have email cafés. Email messages and faxes are often the best way of keeping in touch. Carol can receive email, but you will need to use an email café to return messages.

<p><b>Agriturismo Camiano Piccolo</b> Via Camiano Piccolo 5 06036 Montefalco, PG Italy Tel: <b>0011 39 0742 379 492</b> Fax: 0011 39 0742 371 077 (the 0011 prefix is for dialling from Australia)</p>	<p><b>Carol and Neil can be contacted on the following:</b> Living Italy Office: +39 0743 254063 Carol's mobile: <b>+39 3484135545</b> Neil's mobile: +39 333 6680 026 Email: carolsearle@livingitaly.com</p>
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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).

### Reading List

[www.livingitaly.com/reading.htm](http://www.livingitaly.com/reading.htm)

### History & Art

**Umbria, a cultural history** ~ Ian Campbell Ross - published by Penguin Books  
Heavy going, but very worthwhile - 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.

**The Piero della Francesca Trail** John Pope Hennessy published by The Little Bookroom, New York 2004

### General Guides

**Umbria** ~ Jonathan Keates - published by Philip's travel guides (evocative writing and one of my favourites)

### 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** published by Chronicle Books, San Francisco

**The Hill Towns of Italy** also by 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. 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.

# SLOW TRAVEL

Sunday 05 to Sunday 19 September 2010

## **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.

*SEE NEXT PAGE FOR FINAL INFORMATION FORM – PLEASE COMPLETE AND FORWARD TO LIVING ITALY*

**Your Information**Return to Living Italy with your final payment **by 05 August 2010**

NAME ON PASSPORT		
PREFERRED NAME		
ADDRESS		
TELEPHONE	Home	Work
MOBILE		
FAX		
EMAIL		

**ARRIVAL DETAILS**

For collection from Fiumicino airport

Please indicate your arrival flight number and time/or hotel contact details on the morning of the first day of the tour

**DEPARTURE DETAILS**

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

**ACCOMMODATION DETAILS**

Your preferred room type and position.

Single                      Twin / Double: sharing with

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.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:**

Travel insurance is 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, understood and accept to be bound by the terms and conditions. Return this form via fax to Living Italy Travel**

**Signature****Date**