

Beginners and accomplished painters very welcome

TUSCANY, ITALY: Cotto June 2nd-9th & June 9th-16th, 2012 La Vecchia Canonica

Excursions

Picnics

Meals with wine

Special dietary needs met

With magnificent views to the hills of Carrara and the Apuan Alps, the villa of La Vecchia Canonica provides the painter with perfect surroundings of glorious, unspoilt Tuscan landscapes. Perched high on the edge of the village of Cotto, La Vecchia Canonica has been sympathetically restored with all modern conveniences whilst maintaining its traditional regional character.



£765

No single room supplement

The villa is set in an acre of terraced and secluded gardens with mature trees and vines. There is also a swimming pool surrounded by shaded terraces where you can enjoy an invigorating dip or relax with a glass of wine and watch the sun sink over the distant hills.

£50 discount for painting friends sharing twin room



£50 discount for non-painter partners and friends

Cotto and its dramatic scenery are ideal for a creative holiday in which you'll have the opportunity to improve your painting skills as well as discover the local culture. The village itself is an exceptional painting location with stone-built farm cottages, old washing places (still used sometimes by the women in the village) an impressive domed church and stunning panoramas. If we're lucky we can watch the mules trotting past, or even being re-shoed.

With easy access to the Cinque Terre and its fabulous seafood restaurants, the Appenine Hills with their challenging walks and the cultural delights of Lucca only a couple of hours away, Cotto is an attractive destination, both for painters and non-painters alike.

The nearby medieval town of Fivizzano is in walking distance and has a typical Tuscan square complete with fountain, church tower, restaurants and Gelateria. Only few minutes further on is the ancient castle of Verrucola, one of our painting locations and well worth a visit. Non-painting partners are very welcome and invited to have a go with pencil or brush.

Itinerary and Excursions



The first day or so we generally stay in and around Cotto, where there are numerous picturesque subjects to paint, ranging from landscapes and flowers, to Tuscan architecture and farm animals.

One day is spent painting in Fivizzano, where you will also have the opportunity to try the local ice creams and the legendary hot chocolate while watching life go by from the Gelateria on the main square.

Depending upon opening hours and availability, other painting excursions may take us to the 14th-century Castello dell'Aquila with breathtaking views over the medieval villages below, or to the imposing Castle Verrucola. If time allows, we might also be able to visit a mountain village set in heavenly countryside.

Wednesday is a day with no formal tuition when there is (at a reasonable additional cost) a scenic excursion by train through the Apuana Alps National Park to the historic city of Lucca. Here, you can visit the extraordinary, circular Piazza Anfiteatro where Julius Cesar spoke, and stroll atop the ancient city walls overlooking architectural treasures and graceful gardens. And you should still have enough time to visit the shops and cafes. Of course, Lucca is also a wonderful town to paint if you prefer.

Alternatively you could spend the Wednesday in Cotto, completely at your leisure. Plans might vary a little depending on the needs for the day.

Accommodation and Meals

You will be staying in fully-furnished apartments. All are equipped with modern bathrooms and kitchens, although, with breakfast, lunch and dinner provided, you will have no need to cook for yourself. However, your very own kitchen will come in handy for making a quick cuppa if it takes your fancy! Most meals will be taken in the dining room or, weather permitting, on the terrace, but there will be several occasions when we'll dine in restaurants in nearby Fivizzano, a walled medieval market town, complete with castle and Medici fountain.



On painting excursions, lunch will usually be in form of a cold buffet picnic with local hams and cheeses.

Vegetarians and food intolerances arising from medical conditions can usually be catered for.

The dining room, with its vaulted ceiling, offers generous space for meals and other gatherings in true Italian style.

No supplement is charged for a single room, as this would discriminate against people on their own. It would therefore be appreciated if friends could share a room if possible.



The Painting Course

Bettina's painting courses are suitable for all, from absolute beginners to accomplished painters. They are designed to help you to make the most of your abilities and to find a personal approach. The emphasis is on how to capture the initial excitement on first spotting a subject, without getting too bogged down in technicalities. Tuition will be in watercolour mainly but also in other media as required.

Daily demonstrations (in- or outdoors) are tailored to the particular needs of the students and to help you to get started. The tuition will also deal with general painting problems such as basic perspective, choice of colour, composition, shadows and many other tricks of the trade. Above all, Bettina's courses aim to enhance the pleasure of painting whilst improving your skills.

Particular attention is given to wet-in-wet technique as well as some of the ground rules for beginners. Groups are kept small so you can visibly advance within the course duration irrespective of your ability. For complete beginners Bettina teaches a simple, easy to follow 'step by step' approach.

Tuition is normally arranged in day sessions lasting from 10am until 4pm, so there is time for you to relax before dinner and explore the locality. If you are keen to carry on painting, you are welcome to make use of the terraces, studio and surrounds of La Vecchia Cannonica.

Students should bring their own painting materials and easels if wanted. You can also contact Bettina for further advice on what to bring.

Your Tutor, Bettina Schroeder

Bettina Schroeder is a professional artist who lives and works in London. She exhibits regularly in the UK, throughout mainland Europe and America. She has also been teaching for many years.

Bettina works in watercolours, oils and other media. She divides her time between landscape painting in the summer, and figure painting in her London studio during the winter. Her most recent shows include the A&D Gallery, London; Galerie Claudine Hohl, Zurich, Switzerland; and Santa Fe Contemporary Art Fair, New Mexico, USA.

“Bettina is an exemplary teacher” said Nicholas Shakespeare in The Telegraph Magazine.

Comments from Students

“I shall look back on the week as if it was, a week long magical dream.”

“I had such a fantastic time, the perfect balance of inspiration and relaxation.”

“Your teaching was most helpful and supportive, and your great sense of humour really helped make the holiday a most enjoyable experience, which I certainly want to repeat in the future.”

“Thanks for your help and advice and as always your gift as a hostess as well as a tutor.”

“Thank you for yet another inspiring painting holiday.”

“The whole experience is one I’ll remember for a long time.”

“It was everything I had hoped for and much more.”

“I loved every moment and want to thank you so much.”

“Good company, excellent subjects to paint and as always a superb host and teacher to show us the way, thank you.”

“This painting week was inspirational in every way.”

“How wonderful to make a difference to so many peoples lives. Thank you so much.”

“Your Tuition was superb and most of all I have benefited from your demonstrations of washes.”

“Thank you so much for refreshing my painting.”

“It was a joy to meet you and enjoy the enthusiasm you generate.”

“Wonderful week, both in terms of my learning and also the social side too. It was such fun and I have enjoyed it all. I can’t believe how quickly the week went!”

“Just to say in writing it was a holiday of a lifetime.”

Cost Summary and Payment

The course price is £765 per person per week. A discount of £50 is available for non-painting partners and for painting friends sharing a twin room. A deposit of £150 per person should be sent with the booking form (below). The balance (non-returnable) is payable 2 calendar months before the course starts. (Please note the cancellation and insurance conditions below.)

The price (exclusive of air fare) includes all transportation (transfers from and to Pisa airport, excursions to painting locations), breakfast, lunch, dinner with wine (including lunches and dinners at restaurants), accommodation (including linen and towels) and tuition. The optional excursion to Lucca on Wednesday is not included, but should work out at about £25 - £30.

Travel Arrangements

You will be picked up at Pisa airport and driven to your accommodation, assuming you arrive between 11.00 to 16.00 on the Saturday of either 2nd or 9th June 2012. Your return flight should be around midday to give us time to take you back to the airport. Please book your own flight to Pisa, or use Bettina's travel agent, Kate Donaldson at Real Holidays, tel: 0044 (0)20-7359 3938 e-mail: kate@realholidays.co.uk

For further information or if you travel by car please contact:
Bettina Schroeder 4 Cairns House Holloway Road LONDON N7 9SA UK
+44-(0)20 7609 0843 bettina.schroeder@virgin.net www.art-holidays.com

Cancellation Conditions and Insurance

If you have to cancel 12 to 8 weeks before departure, a charge of 80% of the total price is payable. Cancellations at 8 weeks or less are charged at the full course price. It is a condition of your booking that you take out your own personal holiday insurance including cancellation insurance. In addition you will receive Bettina Schroeder's certificate of insurance (*See below).

**In accordance with "The Package Travel, Package Tours Regulations 1992" all passengers booking with Bettina Schroeder Painting Holidays are fully Insured for the initial deposit and subsequently the balance of all monies paid to us, including repatriation if required, arising from the cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements due to the insolvency of Bettina Schroeder Painting Holidays. A certificate detailing this cover will be given to each and every passenger as evidence of cover. Please ensure that you have been given the appropriate certificate(s) at the time of booking. This insurance has been arranged by Towergate Chapman Stevens through HCCI International Insurance Company PLC.*

Version 2 07th June 2010

BOOKING FORM COTTO

**Please print out and send to
Bettina Schroeder
4 Cairns House, Holloway Road, London, N7 9SA, UK
Please insure cheques are made payable to Bettina Schroeder.**

Please reserve _____ place(s) on the painting course in Cotto, Tuscany on (please indicate date) June 2nd-9th OR June 9th-16th, 2012	
Student's name(s)	
Non-painting partner	
Address	
Telephone Mobile	E-mail
Special Dietary Needs	
How did you learn about the courses? Telephone of your family/friend at home	
I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £ (£150 per person) towards the total cost of £765 per person (or £715 discounted price for non-painters or painting friends sharing a room). I accept the cancellation and insurance conditions and understand that the balance (non-returnable) is payable 2 calendar months before the course starts.	
Signed	Date

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