

Wonderful
RETREATS

OUR 2019 TUSCAN ADVENTURES

CHARMING CASTIGLION FIORENTINO VILLA

JUNE 15 - JUNE 22

7 NIGHTS IN A PRIVATE VILLA IN CASTIGLION FIORENTINO, ITALY



Spend a quiet week in one of the charming hillside towns of Southern Tuscany! Known for its olive oil and close proximity to Chianti, Castiglion Fiorentino is one of the undiscovered towns of Italy, often overlooked for its busier neighbors Cortona (location for *Under the Tuscan Sun*) and Arezzo (featured in *Life is Beautiful*).

But we assure you, while it may not be full of tourists (hooray!), it's full of charm, delicious food, friendly locals and lots of inspiration! It's also the perfect

backdrop for a peaceful week of creating back home at our private villa, Villa la Guardata. From our hillside home, we'll have the perfect view of the sunset and the idyllic countryside right by the pool.

VILLA LA GUARDATA: Relax poolside under the Tuscan sun while surrounded by olive trees and vineyards. Villa la Guardata will be our home for the week, tucked up on the hillside overlooking the Val di Chio with the charming town, Castiglion Fiorentino, just over a mile away. The stone farmhouse was rebuilt in the mid 1700s on the ruins of an old military outpost at the foot of Castel d'Ernia, an ancient castle of a noble Tuscan family dating back to 1100. Renovated in 1996, our private villa will be filled with old world charm and modern comforts.

We will visit the famed town of Cortona (featured in *Under the Tuscan Sun*) and have a full day trip to Assisi. Sample local wines and olive oils made fresh by the locals and feel like a local yourself.

CASTIGLION FIORENTINO: This charming little town has more to it than the eye can see. With Etruscan-Roman origins, there's evidence of Etruscans living in this town dating back to 4th century BC! Underneath the tower at the top of the hill, the Cassero, and throughout the region there are continuing excavations of Etruscan ruins that predate the Romans. In the main piazza you'll find historic arches from the famed Giorgio Vassari, as well as quiet churches, small shops and tasty restaurants along the calm city streets. The city hosts many cultural events and festivals throughout the year, including the Palio dei Rioni, an ancient horse race and smaller version of the famous Palio of Siena. Most people will recognize this city from the opening scene of *Life is Beautiful*. It's a quiet town with lots of charm that's easy to fall in love with!

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Transfer from Train Station | Check in at Villa la Guardata | Evening group aperitivo and welcome cocktails by the pool.

Day 2: Orientation and breakfast at Villa before transfer to Castiglion Fiorentino | Walking tour of town | Lunch and afternoon sketching | Group dinner in town

Day 3: Guided painting at the Villa in the morning | Catered lunch at the villa | Afternoon trip to Cortona for walking tour and visit to Del Brenna Jewelry before dinner

Day 4: Day trip to Assisi in our private shuttle | Dinner provided at Villa upon our return

Day 5: Free Day (activity suggestions & transportation to Train Station provided if needed) or optional day trip to Pienza

Day 6: Quiet morning at the villa or in town for painting | Afternoon wine tasting at Buccelletti winery with time to sketch in the garden or vineyard | Cook dinner together at villa with fresh harvests from the garden

Day 7: Transfer into town to see the Local Market and lunch | Afternoon cooking class at the Villa with a private local chef

Day 8: Check out of Villa | Transfer provided to train station

**Itinerary is subject to change -- this is Italy after all*

RETREAT COST: **\$2650 - Double occupancy**
 \$2950 - Single occupancy

Included:

- Lodging for 7 nights in Villa la Guardata
- All breakfasts at the villa
- 1 dinner out, 1 catered lunch at Villa, 3 dinners at Villa (includes 1 cooking class dinner)
- Welcome cocktails and aperitivo
- 1 cooking class at the Villa (see above)
- Private drivers for all transfers to and from Villa
- 2 Day trips, Assisi and Cortona
- 1 wine and olive oil tasting
- All art lessons
- A handmade art journal and tote bag



NOT INCLUDED IN EITHER RETREAT:

Airfare is not included. You may use miles for free flights. We are happy to provide assistance recommending travel itineraries and will provide detailed train travel instructions to arrive at the retreats as well. Travel from airport to the destination city is also not included but we can help arrange for a private transfer if needed.

All art materials (brushes, watercolors, paper, etc) are not provided but we are happy to ship you our recommended travel sketching and watercolor supply kit along with your included sketchbook for a fee.

OTHER DETAILS:

Early birds registrants (prior to February 28, 2019) will get a signed copy of your host's, Chelsea Ward, first published book on drawing, [Modern Drawing](#). Also available at Barnes & Noble and on Amazon.

We will be instructing on sketching and watercolor. Please inform us on the mediums you intend to participate in and we will provide you with a suggested supply list if you wish to shop on your own. You are more than welcome to bring any of your preferred art supplies (acrylics, pastels, etc).

To hold your spot in the trip, a deposit of \$650 must be paid as soon as possible as space is limited. Please make checks payable to Wonderful Retreats. If you would like to use a credit card there is a 3.5% processing fee.

The payment for the remainder of the trip can be scheduled, but is due in total by no later than May 30, 2019.

It is highly advised that you obtain private travel insurance if you have any concerns about canceling, as all fees are nonrefundable.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

HAVE QUESTIONS?

SEND US AN EMAIL: WANDERFULRETREATS@GMAIL.COM

GIVE US A CALL: (805) 403-1633