

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

ITALIAN GARDEN TREASURES

Florence, Siena, & Val D'Orcia

October 10 to 19, 2008



Tuscan countryside

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- October 10
Friday NEW YORK | FLORENCE
Depart New York's JFK Airport on an overnight flight to Florence.
- October 11
Saturday FLORENCE
Arrive this afternoon in the treasure-filled city of Florence, where we will stay for five nights at the deluxe Hotel Helvetia. In the late afternoon we are invited to the Palazzo Corsini del Prato for tea with Principessa Giorgiana Corsini. This evening gather at the hotel for introductory remarks by Gregory Long, followed by our welcome dinner.
- October 12
Sunday FLORENCE | FIESOLE
After a morning lecture by Peter Curzon, depart for the charming town of Fiesole. Visit the Villa Fontallerta, with its romantic 19th-century garden, then continue to Villa Le Balze to see its olive groves, formal gardens, and breathtaking view of Florence. Lunch will be at the 15th-century Villa San Michele, originally a monastery. This afternoon we will visit the Villa Medicea di Castello, the classic Tuscan Renaissance garden. Laid out for Cosimo Medici, the first Grand Duke of Tuscany, this garden boasts a magnificent range of citrus and other rare plants, as well as antique and Renaissance statues. Dinner is at leisure.
- October 13
Monday FLORENCE
This morning Caroline Wamsler will lecture on Italian Renaissance art. Then we will discover the impressive churches of Santa Maria Novella, the *Duomo*, and San Lorenzo with its famous Medici tombs designed by Michelangelo. Following lunch, view the fine collection of Renaissance art at the Bargello Museum, including important works by Michelangelo and Cellini. Dinner and the evening are at leisure.
- October 14
Tuesday FLORENCE
The focus of our morning is the incomparable Uffizi Gallery, commissioned in the 16th century by the Medicis to accommodate the Republic's growing administrative body. Highlights include the Botticelli Room, Leonardo da Vinci's *Annunciation* and the *Medici Venus*. Then see the Brancacci Chapel in the Church of Santa Maria del Carmine. Lunch is at leisure before we tour Pitti Palace with its opulent interiors and priceless art collections, including masterpieces by Titian and Raphael. Just behind the palace are the Boboli Gardens, whose fountains, grottos, statues, and hilltop view over Florence delight the senses. Dine this evening in one of Florence's fine restaurants.

- October 15
Wednesday FLORENCE
Depart for a visit to I Tatti, former home of Bernard Berenson. Continue to the Villa Gamberaia, whose gardens were considered by Edith Wharton to be among the finest in Italy. Enjoy lunch on a terrace overlooking the city. Then we travel to La Pietra, once the house of Sir Harold Acton, who continued the work of his father to develop the garden we see today. Caroline Wamsler will lecture on Sienee art to prepare us for tomorrow's visits. Dinner and the evening are at leisure.
- October 16
Thursday FLORENCE | SIENA
Travel by private motorcoach to Siena, one of the most perfectly preserved medieval towns in all of Italy. Morning visits will include the Piazza del Campo with the impressive Palazzo Pubblico, the *Duomo*, and the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo to see Duccio's *Maestà*. After lunch, we will see the Baptistery and the Piccolomini Library. Check in at the conveniently located Siena Grand Hotel Continental for three nights accommodations. Peter Curzon will lecture on Sienee gardens before dinner at the hotel.
- October 17
Friday SIENA
This morning visit the 16th-century hilltop Castello di Celsa, a turreted family-owned castle surrounded by olive groves and vineyards. A short drive brings us to the Villa Cetinale, originally created by the Sienee Cardinal Chigi. The gardens feature climbing roses, lilies, irises, and vine-covered pergolas. After lunch continue to the Villa Vicobello, one of the most beautiful examples of Sienee architecture, and Villa San Giovanni with perhaps the finest "English" landscape garden outside of England. Laid out in 1740 the garden is now in the process of being restored by Peter Curzon.
- October 18
Saturday SIENA
Today we travel to Val D'Orcia and begin at Palazzo Piccolomini in Pienza with its Renaissance garden. Continue to the wondrous La Foce estate, home of the writer Iris Origo. View its gardens, whose upkeep is overseen by Peter Curzon. We are invited for lunch with Benedetta Origo at La Foce before departing for the ancient hill town of Montepulciano. We will gather for our farewell dinner at the hotel in Siena.
- October 19
Sunday SIENA | FLORENCE | NEW YORK
Transfer to Florence for the return flight to New York.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

PROGRAM RATE: \$8,695 (*per person, double occupancy*) **SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$1,995** (*limited availability*)

RATE INCLUDES

- Eight nights accommodations, as per itinerary
- Buffet breakfast daily, seven lunches, and three dinners
- Lecture series by Caroline Wamsler and Peter Curzon
- Sightseeing via private motorcoach, as per itinerary, with English-speaking local guides
- Entrance fees for all scheduled visits
- Airport / hotel group transfers
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service, and portage charges
- Selected pre-departure reading material

RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE Airfare; passport fees; alcoholic beverages other than wine at welcome and farewell dinners; \$500 per person voluntary donation to The New York Botanical Garden; personal items and expenses; trip insurance; excess baggage; transfers for those not on suggested group flights; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

AIRFARE Non-refundable, APEX, Economy Class airfare: New York / Florence...Siena / New York will be offered at a supplemental cost. Business Class airfare will be quoted on an individual basis. Academic Arrangements Abroad will be pleased to assist with air travel arrangements. Passengers not on suggested group flights may request individual transfers at a supplemental cost.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE A deposit of \$2,000 per person, payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*, of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required at the time of reservation. Final payment, by check only, must be received 120 days prior to departure.

HEALTH All program participants must be in good health and fully able to participate in all tour activities. This program includes long touring days with considerable walking over uneven terrain, climbing stairs, and negotiating narrow passageways without handrails, as well as the use of accommodations and conveyances that are not handicapped accessible. Please call Academic Arrangements Abroad if you have any questions about your ability to participate in this program.

INSURANCE TRIP CANCELLATION / EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION / BAGGAGE / ACCIDENT / SICKNESS INSURANCE PROTECTION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. CANCELLATION PENALTIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED. Academic Arrangements Abroad will send an insurance application upon receipt of deposit, although you may select an alternative insurer of your choice.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY AND COSTS The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) and Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA). All prices quoted are based on fuel prices, prevailing airfares, and currency exchange rates in effect as of November 2007 and are subject to change without notice. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE The participation of NYBG is limited to educational sponsorship of the program described in this brochure (The Program). AAA acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services, relating to The Program. AAA, NYBG and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any aircraft, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. Nor will AAA, NYBG or and/or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. AAA is not responsible for transportation or other program delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to AAA or NYBG. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the participant at all times. AAA and NYBG reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by AAA or NYBG to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

CANCELLATION POLICY AAA must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; communication expenses; development / promotional expenses and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to the offices of AAA and are subject to a \$350 non-refundable administrative fee. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by AAA and are the sole responsibility of AAA; NYBG shall have no liability for refunds. At the time AAA receives written notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: cancellations received between 120 to 91 days prior to departure, 20 percent of program cost per person; those received 90 to 61 days prior to departure, 50 percent of program cost per person. No refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason. Air cancellation charges, if any, will be assessed in accordance with airline regulations. NOTE: Neither AAA nor NYBG shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket. In the case of a cancellation due to shortage of participants, AAA will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to departure. However, AAA reserves the right to cancel The Program prior to departure for any reason and, in such case, reimbursement of refundable costs of the trip by AAA shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and AAA or NYBG, the following conditions will apply: (a) the dispute will be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in New York, NY; (b) the dispute will be governed by New York Law; (c) the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all monies actually received from the participant by AAA. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation on the damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon payment of the deposit to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

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RESERVATION APPLICATION

To reserve a place, please complete and return this form along with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip code

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Double Twin Single (at a supplement of \$1,995 – *limited availability*)

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*)

Credit card (may be used for deposit only)

Name on credit card

Credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this program. I/We agree to full payment by check 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

For additional information, please contact Academic Arrangements Abroad
Telephone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944 | Fax: 212-344-7493 | E-mail: trips@arrangementsabroad.com