

Paper Paintings Retreat in Italy with Elizabeth St. Hilaire

AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2017



ITINERARY

Elizabeth St. Hilaire's annual Paper Paintings Retreat in Italy is hosted at an 18th century countryside villa nestled along the border of Tuscany and Umbria. Open to participants of all artistic levels, each day brings new lessons with Elizabeth on using hand painted and found papers to develop imagery and form using light, shadow, and directional ripping - similar to traditional painting techniques. You'll also have fun experimenting with hand painting, staining, stamping and patterning your own papers. Although some painting experience is helpful, it is not imperative. This once-in-a-lifetime retreat is the epitome of creativity in an inspirational setting - a place that has inspired artists with its beauty for thousands of years!

DAY 1 (Saturday, August 26) ARRIVAL AT VILLA

Benvenuti in Italia! Upon arrival at Florence Peretola Airport, sit back and relax as you are transported by private van service to the Italian countryside and your beautiful accommodations along the border of Tuscany and Umbria. After check-in you'll have the opportunity to explore your surroundings and studio space before taking part in your first orientation and presentation with Elizabeth where you'll get a preview of retreat, as well as an introduction to Elizabeth's unique approach to collage. Afterwards it's time for aperitif hour together before enjoying a delicious, regional-style dinner served up by the in-house chef.

Dinner included

DAY 2 (Sunday, August 27) ORVIETO

This morning after breakfast you'll be heading to gorgeous Orvieto, a medieval hill town layered in 3,000 years of history. First stop is the historic center of town where you'll find one of Italy's most beautiful cathedrals, followed by a very special visit with a marbled paper artisan (in his 15th century workshop!) for a demonstration and lesson all about paper. Afterwards you'll have some time for shopping (Orvieto is famous for its hand-painted ceramics and fine lace), as well

as lunch on your own at one of the town's charming restaurants. Then it's back to the villa for some extensive class time and paper paintings instruction with Elizabeth. In evening you'll enjoy aperitif hour and another fabulous dinner together.

Breakfast and dinner included

Lunch on your own

DAY 3 (Monday, August 28) AT VILLA

After breakfast this morning, get ready for an fun-filled, inspiring day! You'll be heading to the onsite studio with Elizabeth to learn a plethora of methods for painting paper, from stamps to rollers to stencils - and so much more. You'll also learn Elizabeth's expert techniques for developing imagery and form. After a chef-prepared picnic-style lunch you'll continue painting papers, while preparing to begin your special Italy-inspired paper painting project. In late afternoon it's time for a break - and perhaps a dip in the pool - before walking to a nearby winery for a private tour of the beautiful vineyard, followed by a special wine tastings with a local sommelier. Back at the villa another delicious dinner will be prepared by the talented chef.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

DAY 4 (Tuesday, August 29) MONTEPULCIANO

This morning after breakfast you'll travel by our private Mercedes Benz van service to the hill town of Montepulciano where you'll enjoy a private demonstration with an amazing copper artisan, followed by a visit with a local mosaic expert for an up-close look at this ancient art form used by the Etruscans and perfected by the Romans. Talk about artistic inspiration! Afterwards you can explore on your own, shop (so many beautiful leather hand bags!) or make a stop in an enoteca for a taste of town's famous wine - Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Lunch is on your own, and in afternoon you'll head back to the villa to join Elizabeth in the studio to work on your project while you learn new collage techniques using the papers you have painted yourself or discovered on your outing. This evening you'll enjoy a regional-style dinner after our fun aperitivo hour together.

Breakfast and dinner included

Lunch on your own

DAY 5 (Wednesday, August 30) AT VILLA

This morning, after breakfast, you'll be heading to the onsite studio for instruction and one-on-one assistance from Elizabeth with your project. Then it's time for a break and a fun-filled pasta-making lesson with delightful Antonetta who will be teaching how Italians *really* make pasta, as well as how to pair a pasta with the right sauce (an Italian art form!). Lunch will include (you guessed it) the pasta you've made - and a few other goodies. In afternoon you'll head back to the onsite studio with Elizabeth to continue working on your project. After aperitivo hour together, the chef will be serving up a dinner of seasonal specialties.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

DAY 6 (Thursday, August 31) FABRO & SCARZUOLA

This morning, after breakfast, it's off to the nearby convent, Scarzuola, (founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1218) for a guided tour of the ancient convent and adjacent theatrical sculpture garden - an evocative, artistic marvel - created between 1958 and 1978 by an renowned architect from Milan. Afterwards you'll enjoy a special, regional lunch at our friends' charming restaurant in a nearby medieval village. In afternoon it's back to the studio with Elizabeth to finish up your project and take part in a celebratory aperitivo hour together! Naturally, the chef will be serving up a beautiful farewell dinner.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

DAY 7 (Friday, September 1) DEPARTURE

Alas, it's time to say arrivederci ... as least for now. Our drivers will be transporting you this morning to Florence Peretola Airport OR to your hotel in Florence (see Florence option below!).

OPTIONAL FLORENCE EXTENSION!

Ready to head to the birthplace of the Great Renaissance? Our unaccompanied Florence Extension is optional to Paper Paintings participants and includes 2 nights at our favorite boutique hotel (situated at the historic Piazza della Repubblica) one dinner at our friends' authentic Florentine restaurant, and an optional guided tour of the Uffizi Gallery. Although this trip extension is on-your-own, we'll offer plenty of suggestions and recommendations for your stay in Florence. You may select this option when you register for the retreat.

PLEASE NOTE: Sometimes small changes must be made to the itinerary due to inclement weather, changes in venue or other circumstances beyond our control. Rest assured that any itinerary alterations will be minor.

[REGISTER NOW!](#)