



BOTANICAL PAINTING IN ITALY

Imagine yourself in Tuscany in the Spring, comfortably lodged in a medieval hilltop village surrounded by vineyards and olive groves. Each day, from a stunning studio space or perched on a hillside you will draw or paint spring flowers - poppies, wild field gladioli, native blue iris – or choose your subject from the local offerings of fruits and vegetables such as fava beans, fennel or strawberries to be found in the daily markets or from the rich variety of native trees and shrubs. All of this you will achieve under the expert guidance of a world-renowned teacher and foremost botanical artist, **Margaret Best**. Compliment your artistic experience by tasting fine vintages at boutique Chianti estates with resident wine-makers, visit the organic kitchen garden of one of the region's pre-eminent slow food chefs, spend a day in Siena with a local guide who will bring the history of this unparalleled medieval jewel to life. All the while you will be immersed in authentic Tuscan village life in the beautiful heart of Chianti. Join Margaret for this uniquely memorable 9-day workshop in Italy.

Itinerary April 26 - May 4, 2012

8-NIGHT ITINERARY OVERVIEW

- Thursday** Arrive in Rome check into your charming 4-star hotel in historic Trastevere. Welcome cocktails.
- Friday** A privately guided walking tour of ancient Rome is followed by lunch with the group in a local trattoria. Afternoon at leisure.
- Saturday** Transfer north into the heart of Chianti. Check into your apartment before an introductory session with Margaret. Dine this evening in the panoramic garden of your Italian hostess's private villa.
- Sunday** This morning go to the market in Panzano to see the incredible bounty of local produce and experience the vibrancy of village life. Visit the exquisitely wild garden of a local family and enjoy a home-cooked lunch. Spend the afternoon painting.
- Monday** Today immerse yourself in your artwork with Margaret's guidance. This evening, transfer to an award-winning Chianti Classico estate for a wine-tasting with the owner.
- Tuesday** Visit an organic farm owned by renowned Slowfood chef and cookbook author Susan McKenna Grant. Discover what's seasonal in the kitchen garden and surroundings with time for journaling, before indulging in a gourmet lunch with Susan.
- Wednesday** Transfer into Siena for a guided walk through the magnificent medieval centre and the remainder of the day is at leisure.
- Thursday** Enjoy the final day of painting before a sumptuous farewell dinner.
- Friday** This morning transfer into Florence where you will bid the group farewell and connect with your ongoing flight or train.

Highlights

- Highly personalized artistic instruction from Margaret Best, tailored to individual needs and mediums.
- Limited number of participants to ensure best possible learning experience. Maximum group size is 18.
- Exclusive use of beautiful studio space and the chance to paint outdoors; several hours of painting time daily
- Staggeringly idyllic setting surrounded by vineyards, olive groves and spring flowers.
- Rustic-chic accommodations in a picturesque medieval village and immersion into local rural culture.
- Three exclusively home-hosted meals prepared by resident gourmet chefs, and access to private gardens.
- Privately guided city tours in Siena and Rome with local art historians.
- Local tastings with the wine-makers, in the cellars of some of the finest boutique estates of the region.
- The full-time guidance of an Italian-speaking trip guide.
- Assistance with tailored pre or post-trip travel arrangements upon request.



How to Book

Contact us for more information or to book your trip at 416 366 2777
or by email at tripdesign@quenchtravel.com

Your Instructor



MARGARET BEST is an internationally recognized botanical artist and teacher offering tuition in graphite, colour pencil and watercolour. She has taught workshops to all levels of experience from rank beginners, intermediates to advanced levels in Canada, UK, USA and Bermuda. These workshop venues include respected botanical gardens and institutions such as Huntington Gardens, Pasadena; Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens; San Diego Natural History Museum; Filoli near San Francisco, Dow Learning Center in Zoo Conservatory, Calgary; Bermuda Art Center, Hamilton Bermuda. Margaret's watercolours have been widely exhibited - New York; Weisman Museum, Minneapolis; Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh; Los Angeles, Denver, Bermuda, Toronto, San Francisco and her work is found in numerous private and corporate collections around the globe. Recently the Royal Canadian Mint released a wild rose coin designed by Margaret. For the past 6 years Margaret has painted regularly with her mentor Pandora Sellars who is widely regarded by experts as the leading contemporary botanical artist of our time. She has also completed master classes with Katie Lee, Lizzie Sanders and Anne-Marie Evans. A professionally qualified art teacher, Margaret is known for her nurturing style and her ability to readily identify student skill level in order to steer advancement.

Included

Not Included

- Painting daily under the guidance of acclaimed botanical artist Margaret Best
 - Personalised workshop books prepared for each student by Margaret
 - Private transfers from Rome to Chianti, and on all excursions as described
 - Charming 4-star apartment-style accommodation for 6 nights in beautifully restored Tuscan medieval village
 - Accommodation for 2 nights in an enchanting 4-star boutique hotel in Rome
 - Continental breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 2 gourmet dinners
 - Welcome cocktail and 2 estate wine-tastings in Chianti
 - Activities and excursions as outlined in the itinerary
 - A full time Italian -speaking trip guide
 - One group transfer to Florence on the final morning
- International flights & local airport taxes
 - Meals not mentioned as included
 - Airport transfer Fiumicino to Rome city centre
 - Personal expenses and tipping
 - Art supplies

Price

from Euro 3,190 *

* Price per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement starts from Euro 475 per person.

* All bookings may be subject to HST and subject to availability

PLEASE NOTE: Bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis. We will do our best to accommodate single travellers who are willing to share twin rooms. If you are travelling with a non-artist partner, please ask us about a non-participant rate.

****Early Booking Bonus: Book by October 7th and save Euro 150 per person**