




VISUAL EXPLORATIONS



Visual Explorations of Italy
June 21-28, 2024

Visual Explorations is a week-long creative retreat in the heart of Tuscany, Italy led by professional artists and designers, Jerrod and Jessie Partridge

June 21 - 28, 2024

We invite you to join us in Tuscany for an experience designed to encourage creativity and relaxation. This splendid region of Italy is the perfect place to be inspired and gain a renewed sense of purpose. We will spend the majority of our time at the medieval castle and organic agricultural estate of Spannocchia just outside of Siena. The beautiful and luscious spaces of the estate will serve as our home for the week where we will enjoy the sights and sounds of nature and farm-to-table meals prepared for us daily. Each evening includes wine on the terrace and dining al fresco, providing a wonderful time to build community among participants. It is truly a time of disconnecting from the hustle of your normal day to connect with yourself and your surroundings in a meaningful way.

On this creative retreat you will have the option to study drawing and painting with Jerrod, participate in art history discussions, enjoy a floral design demonstration by Jessie, or simply be inspired to work in your own creative medium. Additional opportunities include a class in traditional Tuscan cooking, a tour and tasting of the Cinta Senese heritage breed of pigs, and yoga in the Secret Garden. We will take two day-trips to surrounding Tuscan towns, and our experience will end with one night in the beautiful city of Florence, birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. This is the perfect opportunity to engage with Italy's amazing culture - the people, flora, fauna, architecture, food, drink, art, and of course, its rich history.

PRICE (The program cost is per person based on double occupancy.)

\$3100 - includes art instruction

\$2700 - without art instruction

\$2900 - student rate with art instruction

PROGRAM WEBSITE

www.jerrodpartridge.com/visual-exploration

CONTACT

Jerrod Partridge

601-668-5408

painterjerrod@gmail.com

Jessie Partridge

601-918-6991

partridgejj@gmail.com



*"The trip was amazing...only made better by meeting new friends. Jerrod, thanks for your patience, guidance and especially inspiration. Jessie, thanks for your calm ability to make everything happen. Spannocchia is a magical place. It is also a reminder of a more simple form of living and what is really important in life."
- Joyce (2019 Participant)*

PROGRAM DETAILS

Program includes:

1. 12 hours of art instruction from Jerrod (if selected)
2. Floral arrangement demonstration by Jessie
3. Historical tour of the castle
4. Cinta Senese (pig) tour/tasting
5. Seven nights' accommodations (six at Spannocchia and one in Florence)
6. Transportation from the Florence airport to Spannocchia on the day of arrival, transportation for all scheduled off-property excursions, and transportation to Florence on our last full day in Italy
7. All meals at Spannocchia beginning with dinner on Friday evening, through breakfast on the following Thursday. Also included is a group dinner in Siena, and breakfast in Florence on Saturday, our last day - 17 meals total

Expenses not included:

1. Airfare. Individuals will be responsible for purchasing their own flights. NOTE: Please check with Jessie prior to booking a flight to ensure proper arrival time.
2. Lunch on our mid-week day trip
3. Lunches and dinners in Florence
4. Art Supplies
5. Admission to any museums or other non-scheduled off-property attractions
6. Transportation to Florence airport or train station when program concludes
7. Cooking class - \$150
8. Yoga - \$15*
9. Massage - \$60*

**approximations based on past trips*

ART SUPPLIES

Traveling with art supplies is not difficult. Jerrod will discuss with you what medium(s) you are interested in working with, recommended materials and how to safely travel with them.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We will spend our week at Tenuta di Spannocchia about 12 miles SW of Siena. Built by the Spannocchi family in the 12th century, enlarged over the centuries and then purchased by the Cinelli family in 1925, Spannocchia is furnished with many original antiques, paintings, and family heirlooms. Though ancient, the rooms are modernized with plumbing, and electricity. The rooms are not air conditioned; however, fans will be available for your comfort. Wi-fi is available in the common area.



"I have some limited experience in organizing and administering overseas group trips, so I fully appreciate the skill and manner in which you (Jerrod) and Jessie managed this one. Thank you for a care free but interesting experience!"
- David (2019 Participant)

THE WEEK-LONG EXPERIENCE AT A GLANCE

A glimpse of the week begins with an historical tour of Tenuta di Spannocchia which will familiarize us with our surroundings. At the end of each day we will gather on the terrace for wine and fellowship with other guests and interns before the evening dinner. Fresh, authentic Italian cuisine is prepared daily from the estate's organic gardens and livestock and is served with Spannocchia's own wine and olive oil. There will be an afternoon sketching, sightseeing and shopping excursion to Siena on our first full day. We will be able to purchase last minute art supplies here. Most days of the week will include a 2-hour drawing or painting session scheduled for the morning and afternoon. It will be completely up to participants as to how many of these sessions in which they take part. A second sketching excursion is planned for mid-week which is to a different location each year. In addition to instruction, free time is planned each day to encourage rest and relaxation. It's important that we honor the Italian lifestyle and appreciate the beauty of our surroundings and the pace at Spannocchia. An in-ground pool is available on the property. An optional cooking class begins with a tour of the working gardens and gives you hands-on experience with traditional Tuscan meal preparation. There are also the options of yoga, massages, and various other classes offered by Spannocchia for additional charges. On our last evening at Spannocchia we will gather in the Museo to view an exhibition of our group's work from the week with wine and light food and a special dinner will follow. Often we are joined at the show by staff members, interns, and other guests from around the world. Our last full day and evening are spent in Florence, home of some of the most famous art and architecture in the world including Michelangelo's David sculpture. You will be on your own to explore and experience the amazing wealth of history in this remarkable city.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY

Jerrod is a full time artist and instructor. Jessie is owner and lead designer of Maidenhair Floral. They live and work in Ocean Springs, Mississippi with their three children. Jerrod received a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from the New York Academy of Art in 2004. His undergraduate degree is from Mississippi College where his primary study was Graphic Design. During his undergraduate years he spent a semester in London, England studying art history. Jerrod is a 2011-2012 recipient of a Visual Arts Fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission, and was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 2017 by the Mississippi College Department of Art. Examples of Jerrod's work are on his website www.jerrodpartridge.com.

This will be Jerrod and Jessie's tenth year to lead a group to Tenuta di Spannocchia.

