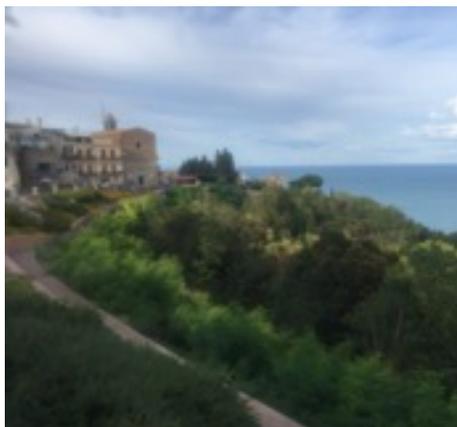


# Italy Like a Local: Pottery, Food and Culture May 1-10, 2018

## Day 1: Arrival, Travel Day: Rome to Vasto

We will meet up in Rome, either at the Fiumicino Airport (or at a spot in Rome for those who choose to arrive early). From there, we will make our way through the beautiful Abruzzo mountains to the ancient Roman town of Vasto. After checking in at Hotel San Marco in the historical downtown, we will meet up with our host, Fabrizio, who will lead us on a walking tour of Vasto, followed by a welcome dinner in a traditional restaurant in Vasto's old town.



## Day 2: Vasto

After a good night's sleep and a nourishing breakfast, it's time to jump into the art and culture of Italy! We will start with a maiolica class taught by local husband and wife potters, Michela and Giuseppe. After a demonstration and explanation of maiolica, we'll give it a try, painting a small piece of pottery that will be fired and sent home for us.

Next we'll drive to the fascinating Abruzzo coastline to discover the landmark symbols of the area, the trabocchi—traditional Abruzzo fishing piers. Our host, Rinaldo, will show us how to fish from one and explain the origins of and reasons for this unique structure, and then we'll enjoy a seafood lunch right on the trabocco.

We've already been in Italy for 24 hours...it must be time for a visit to a winery! We will visit Fontefico winery, an award winning winery that sits between a marine park and the mountains, owned by brothers, Nicola and Emanuele. There, we will enjoy a wine tasting and tour of the vineyard and cellars.

After some free time for a quick rest or another walk around town (or another appetivo!), we will meet up for dinner again in Vasto's historic town center.



### Day 3: Vasto

Today, it's time to really act like locals: We will have a little language lesson, and we will each learn enough Italian to buy one ingredient at the local market that will be used in our dinner!

Once our shopping is done, we'll drive to the little hilltop village of Lentella. There, we will meet another local "celebrity artist," Ettore Altieri, at his "Fattoria d'Arte" (Art Farm). Ettore and his wife, Barbara live in a quirky house made entirely from recycled materials surrounded by an amazing landscape with views of both the sea and the mountains. We'll have our second art class, and Ettore will help us create personal postcards or a little sculpture. We'll enjoy an aperitif and lunch on the terrace, and if we're lucky, we could help Barbara make risotto with truffle that grows on their land.

In the late afternoon, back in Vasto, we will take the ingredients we purchased earlier at the market to a local home where we will learn to cook a meal like a traditional Abruzzo housewife! We'll learn how easy fresh pasta is to make and be introduced to the favorite seasonal sauces. A sample menu includes: Pasta alla chitarra (made using a guitar string shaped utensil) with meat sauce, polpette (meatballs), and Tarallucci olio e vino (typical biscuits from Abruzzo). Finally, of course, we will enjoy the fruits of our labor!



### Day 4: Travel Day: Vasto-Castelli-Faenza

Sadly, it's already time to say goodbye to Vasto. After breakfast, we will start making our way north to Faenza. We will detour for an afternoon in the hill-town of Castelli, now one of the main tourist attractions of Abruzzo, particularly for the 13th century church of San Donato featuring the majolic altarpiece and a ceiling comprised of multicoloured ceramic tiles bearing designs & devices, as well as the Castelli ceramic museum located just outside the town in the cloisters of a convent. We will visit the International Ceramics Museum and the "Sistine Chapel of Majolica." We will also visit the oldest pottery studio in town—that of Antonio de Simone. Antonio will show us his work and his personal ceramics collection. Before hopping back in the car, we will enjoy a traditional lunch in a Castelli trattoria. In the late afternoon, we will finish the drive to Faenza (3 1/2 more hours). We will be staying in the gorgeous Villa Abbondanzi and once we are settled in, we will enjoy a dinner there in the beautiful dining room.



## Day 5: Faenza

Make sure you've gotten a good night's sleep because the International Ceramics Museum is our focus for the day and it is pretty overwhelming for anyone even remotely interested in clay! Luckily, we will have a guided tour to better understand the myriad of styles, traditions, and techniques. After a couple hours of this, you are sure to need a break. Faenza is a very easy town to navigate, so you can choose to branch out on your own to grab lunch or stick with some of your fellow travelers.

There are a kind of amazing number of pottery studios to explore in Faenza, and in the afternoon, we will have a guided tour of some of the best of these studios. Since we are 1/2 way through the tour, it is good night for dinner "on your own"... but I will still be organizing a reservation at a local trattoria for those that just can't get enough of your wonderful fellow travelers!



## Day 6: Travel Day: Faenza-Orvieto

We've got one more morning in Faenza—a great opportunity to visit the Carlo Zauli museum. Zauli is considered by many worldwide to be one of the most important sculptors of the 20th century. After lunch, it's time to move on to our third and final town—and my favorite place in Italy—Orvieto. The train ride to Orvieto should be comfortable, and we will arrive in town just in time for dinner at 7:30pm. At that point we will drop our bags at the Hotel Palazzo Piccolomini and head over to the simple but elegant Bartolomei L'Olio for dinner, where we will meet Maddalena, who will be our Orvieto guide.



## Day 7: Orvieto

Today we start our two day workshop with Marino Moretti, an internationally known ceramic artist who owns a gorgeous little gallery right next to the duomo in the center of town. Marino is actually the first person I ever met in Italy in 2014, and probably the reason I instantly fell in love with this country! We will drive the short distance out to his home— a picturesque, renovated 14th century monastery in nearby Vinceno. We'll spend the morning learning from Marino in his idyllic home/studio. At lunchtime, we'll be treated to a meal right there in the monastery with Marino and his wife Marilyn.

In the afternoon, back in Orvieto, there will be free time to explore town— to wander the streets, practice your Italian in the little shops, or see a few of the many amazing historic sights that this sweet little Etruscan town has to offer! Not feeling like you want to branch out on your own? Maddalena will be ours for the afternoon—to guide us to some of the best spots.

At dinner time, we'll enjoy delicious authentic Italian pizza dinner at Ristorante dell'Ancora.



## Day 8: Orvieto

Before heading out to Marino's this morning, we will make a quick stop by the Orvieto library to check out his fabulous installation located in the courtyard overlooking the surrounding valley. Our workshop will continue this morning, followed a stop half way back to town at Palazzone winery for lunch.

In the afternoon, Maddalena will meet up with us once again to take us to Bolsena, an enchanting Etruscan town known for a "miracle" that took place in 1263. We will learn about the miracle and life in Bolsena today. We'll have time to wander through town and enjoy a relaxing afternoon before a lovely seafood dinner.



## Day 9: Orvieto

Today is our last full day in Italy! Let's make the most of it! We'll have a morning trip to Civita de Bagnoregio and an afternoon trip to Montecchio.

Rick Steves claims, "Of all the Italian hill towns, Civita di Bagnoregio is my favorite." It is a town like no other. The entrance to the town is a huge stone bridge, cut by the Etruscans 2,500 years ago. To be honest, there's not all that much to do in Civita de Bagnoregio aside from wandering through the narrow cobblestone streets, enjoying a taste of what life may have been like many years ago. That, and, as always— enjoy a snack at a courtyard table overlooking the valley below as you enjoy the gentle Umbrian breezes.

Don't ruin your appetite in Civita, though— because our next stop is Fattoria Montecchio, a winery and olive oil farm, where we will be treated to another wine and olive oil tasting with our light lunch.

After lunch, it's back to Orvieto where you may have time to do a little more local exploring on your own... or just take a nap!

Finally, in the evening, we will have our last dinner together as a group at a trattoria in town.



## Day 10: Rome

Say it isn't so!!!! Our incredible Italian adventure is coming to an end. If anyone is choosing to enjoy another few days on their own, we may say goodbye in Orvieto. Otherwise, we will travel together to Rome-Fiumicino Airport.

**Note About Your Itinerary:** Your Itinerary is a guide to your activities during the tour. However, we may modify the final itinerary to take advantage of the season, the weather, and the needs of the group. My goal is to ensure that everyone has a fabulous time and a completely unique Italian experience. That may mean tweaking the schedule even after your arrival. Because we will be a small group, we can decide together if any modifications are desired. Be assured that only enhanced experiences will be considered.

### **Rough Timetable with website links...**

#### **Tuesday, May 1**

2pm: Meet your traveling companions—there will be a pickup in Rome and one at Fiumicino Airport.

2:30-6pm: 3 hour drive to Vasto with a stop along the way

<http://www.italythisway.com/places/vasto.php>

6pm: Check into hotel, meet Fabrizio, take a walk around historic old town Vasto, and have dinner

<http://www.italiasweetitaly.com/about-us/the-italiasweetitaly-team/>

<http://www.hotelsanmarcovasto.com>

#### **Wednesday, May 2**

9am-12: Pottery visit and majolica lesson/workshop

<http://www.cretarossa.it>

12-3pm: Visit to trabocco with lunch

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trabucco>

3-5pm: Visit to winery

<http://www.fontefico.it/en/>

5-7pm: Free/rest time

7pm: Dinner

#### **Thursday, May 3**

9am: Shopping at local market

11-2: Visit to Ettore's house with lunch and stone carving

<https://fattoriadarteicolli.wordpress.com>

2-4: Free/rest time

4pm: Cooking lesson and dinner

#### **Friday, May 4**

8:30am: Leave Vasto for Castelli

10:45am: Arrive Castelli

11-3pm: Visit International Ceramics collection and San Donato, lunch, visit to pottery studio

<http://italianmajolicaceramictiles.com/sandonatotiles.htm>

3-6:30pm: Drive from Castelli to Faenza

6:30: Check into hotel and dinner

<http://www.villa-abbondanzi.com>

<https://www.prolocofaenza.it>

#### **Saturday, May 5**

10am: International Ceramics Museum

<http://www.micfaenza.org>

1-3pm: Free/rest time

3-6pm: Tour of pottery studios

<https://www.prolocofaenza.it/en/the-pottery/potters-map/>

7:30pm: Dinner

## **Sunday, May 6**

10am: Carlo Zauli Museum

<http://www.museozauli.it/>

3:30: Train to Orvieto

7:30: Arrive, check into hotel, meet Maddalena, Dinner

<http://www.palazzopiccolomini.it/en/>

<http://www.oleificiobartolomei.it/en/>

## **Monday, May 7**

9am-1pm: Workshop and lunch with Marino Moretti

<http://www.marinomoretti.it>

2-7pm: Tour Orvieto

<https://www.orvietoviva.com/en/>

7:30pm: Dinner

<https://www.orvietoviva.com/en/ristorante-dellancora-orvieto/>

## **Tuesday, May 8**

8:30am: Visit to Orvieto Library

<http://www.bibliotecaorvieto.it>

9:30am-12:30: Workshop with Marino Moretti

1-2:30: Light lunch at winery

<http://www.palazzone.com>

4-9pm: Bolsena visit and dinner

## **Wednesday, May 9**

9am-1pm: Civita di Bagnoregio

<https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/read/articles/italys-civita-di-bagnoregio-jewel-on-the-hill>

1-4pm: Montecchio winery and oil

<http://www.fattoriamentecchio.com>

7:30pm: Farewell Dinner

<http://www.lapergolaorvieto.com/en/>

## **Thursday, May 10**

9am: Return to Rome

**Total cost: \$2550 Single room supplement: \$250**

Deposit of \$550 due to hold your spot.

This deposit is fully refundable until January 15, 2018.

On January 15, 2018, the balance of \$2000 is due.

Any accounts not paid in full by January 15 will incur a \$300 late fee.

**Price includes:**

All ground transportation

All hotels

All taxes

Meals: All breakfasts, 8 dinners, 6 lunches

All Excursions/Activities in Vasto

(maiolica workshop, trabocco tour, winery tour, visit to Ettore's house and stone carving lesson, market visit, cooking lesson)

All Excursions in Castelli (Ceramics Museum, San Donato visit)

Entry and guided tour at the International Ceramics Museum in Faenza

Carlo Zauli Museum in Faenza

Guided tour of potteries in Faenza

2 day workshop with Marino Moretti

Guided tours of Castelli, Orvieto, Bolsena, Citta de Bagnoregio, and Montecchio

**Price does not include:**

Airfare

Lunches on arrival and departure day as well as 2 lunches in Faenza

One dinner in Faenza

Optional tourist attractions in Orvieto

Tips for tour guides and drivers

Personal expenses like phone calls, laundry, snacks, etc.

Shipping for pottery made at workshops

Travel insurance (Highly recommended)

Extra spending money

*Pre-trip add-on in Rome and post-trip add-on in the Cinque Terre to be announced soon.*