

Painting & Barging in Italy with Robert Carsten

Capturing the Beauty of Color and Light

October 18 – 27, 2019



Experience plein air painting in Italy on a small group barging tour with Robert Carsten, a master pastelist in the Pastel Society of America and a master circle pastelist (2013) in the International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS). Robert will lead art discussions and plein air painting sessions throughout the tour capturing the beautiful light, colors and the incredible scenery unique to Venice and the Veneto! We'll tour museums, historic monuments, churches and enchanting seaside villages for inspiration. The ports on the trip include Venice, Lido, Pellestrina, Chioggia, Ostiglia and Mantua. We'll visit the Srovegna Chapel (Giotto frescoes) in Padova and end the tour with a full day and overnight in a hotel in Verona.

Nearly every day will consist of painting demonstrations reinforced with one-on-one instruction with Robert in the medium of your choice – pastel, oil, acrylic or watercolor. Throughout the tour, Robert will provide engaging lectures, critiques and demonstrations. Painters are responsible for their own supplies and a recommended packing list will be provided. A chartered coach (and water taxis in Venice) will take us to and from the barge to painting locations when necessary.

Our tour begins in Venice aboard the Ave Maria, a comfort-plus class barge, featuring an upper level sundeck, airy lounge, spacious dining area, and 24-hour coffee station (unlimited cappuccino!). Passengers are accommodated in climate-controlled cabins with private bath and twin lower beds. While you coach, the barge sails to the next port to meet you at the end of your day. Breakfast and dinner, featuring excellent, local cuisine, are taken aboard and provide a time for gathering together in a relaxed atmosphere. All decks are accessible via full-sized, staircases with handrails.

Non-painters are welcome and will join the group on all planned tours – museums, and city tours, etc. During painting sessions, non-painters will enjoy guided excursions with plenty of options for sightseeing, walking tours, exploration and shopping at local markets.

For more information or to register, please call 413-263-6800 ext. 382 or email jfontaine@springfieldmuseums.org

October 18: Depart on an overnight flight to Italy

October 19: Giudecca/Venice - Rendezvous with your guide and fellow travelers at the Venice Marco Polo Airport. Travel by private water taxi to the island of Giudecca, where our barge, the Ave Maria awaits. After depositing the luggage on board, continue by water taxi to Zattere, just off the Canale della Giudecca where you will disembark and walk with your guide to a restaurant in the sestiere of Dosoduro to sample the local fare at a group luncheon. Following lunch, we set our sights for the Gallerie dell'Accademia. Join an art historian for an informative introduction to this exquisite gallery that houses a remarkable collection of Venetian paintings spanning the 13th to 18th centuries. Learn about the works by artists from Bellini to Veronese to Canaletto. Return to the barge by private transfer and settle into your assigned cabin before attending a short vessel orientation with the captain and crew. Savor the first of many delicious three-course dinners on board the Ave Maria while overlooking the picturesque Venetian Lagoon. Following dinner, enjoy an optional vaporetto ride through the Grand Canal, weather permitting. (L, D)

October 20: Giudecca/Venice - Begin your exploration of the Most Serene Republic of Venice with a private water taxi transfer to Saint Mark's Square, the heart of the city and the symbol of the Venetian Republic. This piazza is bounded by the impressive complex of Saint Mark's Cathedral and the Doge's Palace. Take the morning for independent exploration of Venice - venture into a local artist's studio, take a gondola ride with a serenading Venetian, or explore the artwork in one of the many splendid churches. Meet up with the group after lunch to return by private water taxi to the barge for an afternoon of painting instruction in one of Giudecca's tranquil enclaves with stunning views of Venice. (B, D)

October 21: Chioggia/Pellestrina - Relax on board this morning as the barge motors through a narrow channel in the Venetian Lagoon along the coastline of the picturesque island of Lido, home to exquisite mansions and luxury hotels, as well as the Venice Film Festival. En route, marvel at the fleets of fishing boats with nets outstretched to dry against a backdrop of pastel-colored cottages. Our destination is the ancient town of Chioggia, known as "Little Venice" for its narrow alleyways and network of tiny canals lined with small fishing boats. Chioggia is situated on the second-largest island in the Venetian Lagoon and its claim to fame is the Torre dell'Orologio San Andrea, a Romanesque watchtower with a medieval clock. Disembark the barge, ready your palette and paints, and get set for an afternoon of painting with Robert. Take a break from painting and sample some of the local seafood during your independent lunch in Chioggia. Late afternoon, the barge will ferry the group to the overnight docking location on the peaceful island of Pellestrina. (B, D)

October 22: Adria - After a bountiful breakfast, board a motorcoach for an excursion to Padua, one of Italy's oldest and most dynamic cities. Padua is a blend of modern and cosmopolitan cultures, and is well-known for its historic university. Join a local docent for a guided tour of the Scrovegni Chapel, which features the groundbreaking cycle of frescoes completed in 1305 by the famous Florentine artist, Giotto. This masterpiece covers the entire walls of the chapel and narrates events in the lives of the Virgin Mary and Christ. Continue your exploration of this enchanting city with an independent lunch before meeting up with your fellow artists for an afternoon of painting. Having captured images in your sketchbook or canvas of this delightful old town of arcaded streets and stylish cafes, continue by coach to Adria, where the barge awaits on the Canal Bianco. This town of 20,000 inhabitants was an important trading town in the past and gave its name to the Adriatic Sea. (B, D)

October 23: Zelo - Hop aboard your coach to Ferrara, a former cultural center under the Este dynasty, which beckons you to discover its Renaissance treasures. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is still surrounded by its 500-year-old walls and is home to a 14th-century moated castle in the town center. Discover the fascinating history of Ferrara on a guided walk of the bustling city center where the noble Este family determined the destiny of this splendid Italian Renaissance city for over

three centuries. Enjoy an independent lunch in Ferrara at a café or restaurant of your choice. We highly recommend the local specialty of cappellacci di zucca ferraresi, pumpkin-filled pasta shaped like a bishop's cap, with sage and butter. Having satisfied your hunger, join Robert for an afternoon of painting instruction before continuing by coach to Zelo, our docking location for tonight. Take a stroll after dinner to the village pub at the foot of the bridge for a nightcap and a chance meeting with the locals. (B, D)

October 24: Mantua - Relax on board the upper barge deck or in the day salon as we motor to the village of Ostiglia. Enjoy lunch aboard the barge prior to disembarking and coaching to Mantua, once home to the Gonzaga family who ruled the city from 1318 until 1708. Under the Gonzaga rule, Mantua flourished as a cultural center of art and Humanism in Lombardy, encouraging artists such as Andrea Mantegna and Giulio Romano. At the beginning of the 18th century, Mantua fell under the rule of the Austrian Habsburgs, then to the French, and then when Napoleon was defeated, it reverted back to the Austrians until Italian Unification in the 1860s. Today, the city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Join a local historian for an informative walk through Mantua, a hidden gem of Italy. The city is known for its architectural treasures and artifacts, elegant palaces, and the Medieval/Renaissance cityscape. Savor dinner on the barge tonight while enjoying the panoramic views of Mantua's lakes. (B, L, D)

October 25: Mantua - Start the day with breakfast on board before striking out to discover an interesting site to set up and paint for the day in Mantua. There are numerous architectural landmarks in the old town or scenic views at the lakeside park that beckon to be captured on canvas. Venture into one of the cobblestoned squares of the historic district to seek out lunch in a café, trattoria or pizzeria. Bid arrivederci to the crew at dinner tonight aboard the Ave Maria. (B, D)

October 26: Verona - Our destination is Verona, one of Northern Italy's most attractive cities. This former ancient stronghold of the medieval Della Scala lords is famous for being the setting of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, and the well-preserved 1st-century Roman amphitheater which hosts opera performances and concerts. After dropping our luggage at the hotel, we'll gather to receive final instruction on painting with Robert in Verona. Recap your adventures with your fellow travelers tonight at the farewell dinner in a local restaurant before packing your suitcase for the journey home. (B, D)

October 27: Verona – Morning transfer from our hotel to the airport in Verona. (B).

Cost: The cost for this trip will be based on the number of participants (accounting for the cost of the chartered barge):

With 16 participants: double occupancy: Painters: \$5,395. Non-painters: \$5,095.

With 20 participants: double occupancy: Painters: \$4,495. Non-painters: \$4,195.

Five standard double cabins remain. The 4 superior double cabins are sold out. *Singles, sold out - waiting list at this time.*

The cost will drop even further if we reach 24 participants. Air travel is not included, but assistance in booking air travel is available.

***Cancellation Policy:** If cancellation notice is received more than 90 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$500 per person cancellation fee. If cancellation notice is received 90 to 30 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$750 per person cancellation fee. If cancellation notice is received less than 30 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$1250 per person cancellation fee.

Tour participants will be asked to fill out a health form prior to departure and are encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan, but only after the tour has been declared operational and deposits



have been processed. Information on travel insurance will be included in your enrollment confirmation, but in the meantime feel free to learn more at www.travelinsured.com.

Springfield Museums Travel Booking Form – Painting & Barging in Italy 2019

Traveler 1: _____ **Name as it appears on your passport**
 Address _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email address: _____ Tel: (____) _____ Alt Tel: (____) _____
 Special Dietary Needs/Conditions: _____
 Emergency contact person: _____ Relationship: _____
 Tel: (____) _____ Alt Tel: (____) _____ Painter _____ Non-painter _____

Traveler 2: _____ **Name as it appears on your passport**
 Address _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email address: _____ Tel: (____) _____ Alt Tel: (____) _____
 Special Dietary Needs/Conditions: _____
 Emergency contact person: _____ Relationship: _____
 Tel: (____) _____ Alt Tel: (____) _____ Painter _____ Non-Painter _____

Passport: **Passport copy/copies enclosed.** **Will send passport copy/copies separately.**

Accommodations: All rooms have two twin beds and there is no smoking on the barge.

Roommate's name: _____

Payment schedule:

- \$1,000 deposit due to hold your place on the tour.
- **May 1st** – Balance is due. Credit card number on file will be used unless specified.

Payment Information:

___ I have enclosed a check or money order for the total fee of : \$ _____

___ I authorize you to charge my credit card for the total fee of : \$ _____

___ MasterCard ___ Visa ___ DiscoverCard ___ American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ___/___/___

Cardholder Name _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Terms & Conditions: I/we, understand and accept that the information above is accurate. Once the tour has been declared operational, participants will have the opportunity to confirm their participation or withdraw from the tour. Once the deposit has been processed, the cancellation policy will go into effect.

Signature on booking form indicates participant's acceptance of the above terms and conditions and understanding of the cancellation policy.

Signature (Traveler 1) _____ Date _____

Signature (Traveler 2) _____ Date _____

**Mail to: Museum School Travel, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield, MA 01103.
Questions: Jeanne Fontaine – 413-263-6800 ext. 382 or E-mail: jfontaine@springfieldmuseums.org.**



Illuminated full size stair cases on the barge.

