

# PAPER PAINTINGS RETREAT

*with Elizabeth St. Hilaire*

7 Days / 6 Nights



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# DAILY ITINERARY

## *Paper Paintings Italy Retreat*



### DAY 1: ARRIVAL

- Tour of Villa Poggio alla Trese, retreat orientation, under-painting, aperitivo hour, special welcome dinner
- Dinner

Benvenuti in Italia! Upon arrival at Florence Peretola Airport, sit back and relax as you are transported by private Mercedes Benz van service to the Italian countryside and Poggio alla Trese, your 17th century villa accommodations near the Tuscan town of Chiusi. After check-in you'll have the opportunity to explore your surroundings and studio space before taking part in an orientation and paper paintings lesson 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 prepared by our in-house chef.

### DAY 2: MONTEPULCIANO

- Visit to organic flower farm, flower arranging class, take-away flower arrangement, studio instruction
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner

This morning after a delicious breakfast at the villa, you'll head off with Elizabeth to a romantic, organic

flower farm in the heart of Tuscany's wine country. Sisters, Mara, Laura and Teresa will give you a personal tour of their incredible farm (where they grow more than 500 varieties of flowers!), followed by a hands-on, free-form flower arranging class. Afterwards you'll enjoy a picnic lunch under the grape arbor as you soak in the atmosphere of this authentic, family-run farm. In afternoon it's back to the villa with Elizabeth - and your flower arrangement - where you'll begin the beautiful process of creating your collage from a living subject. After aperitivo hour together with the group, you'll enjoy a chef-prepared Tuscan-style dinner.

### DAY 3: POGGIO ALLA TRESE

- Collage class, paper painting techniques, vineyard walk and wine tasting
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Breakfast this morning includes organic yogurt, freshly baked pasties, cheese, eggs, fruits, cereals, juices - plus made-to-order cappuccino, caffè or tea. Then get ready for a 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 lunch at the villa, 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 enjoying a guided walk through the estate's vineyard, followed by a private wine tastings with sommelier, Paola. This evening you'll enjoy a delectable chef-prepared meal under the Tuscan stars.

### DAY 4: ORVIETO

- Side trip to Orvieto, private mini-workshop with paper artisan, marbled paper, on your own shopping, studio instruction
- Breakfast and dinner

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This morning, after an abundant 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 our friend, Lamberto, an antique book expert and marbled-paper artisan. Here you'll enjoy a fascinating demonstration and lesson all about paper - plus you'll be able to try your hand at creating marbled paper designs. So fun! Afterwards you'll have some time for shopping and exploring (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 aperitivo hour and another fabulous dinner together..

### DAY 5: CITTA DELLA PIEVE, CHIUSI

- Collage instruction, saffron paper painting and saffron tasting, village walking tour, Chiusi archeological museum, pizza night
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner

This morning after a delicious breakfast at the villa, Elizabeth will be sharing more of her sought-after techniques and best-kept secrets for creating a floral collage that looks like a painting. Elizabeth's signature approach to collage is renowned! After a light lunch at the villa, it's off to nearby Città della Pieve for a fascinating visit at our friend, Alessandro's, saffron shop, where you'll learn about cultivating saffron and painting with saffron (yes, painting!). Plus you'll have fun painting your own paper using "watercolor" made from the local saffron. After some time your own to explore the charming, medieval avenues of the town, it's off to enjoy dinner at our friend, Pinos's, charming pizzeria (one of Elizabeth's favorite spots) - so fun!



### DAY 6: POGGIO ALLE TRESE

- Guided instruction with Elizabeth, crostata-making lesson with Paola, gallery finale with Elizabeth
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

This morning, after breakfast, you'll be heading to the art studio for instruction and one-on-one assistance from Elizabeth with your project, as you rip and glue your way to project completion. Then it's time for a break and a fun-filled crostata-making lesson with our friend, Paola. Lunch will be served up at the villa, and in afternoon you'll head back to the studio with Elizabeth to continue working on your project. In evening you'll enjoy a celebratory gallery "show" and aperitivo followed by a delectable farewell dinner prepared by Chef Doriana.

### DAY 7: DEPARTURE

Our drivers will be transporting you this morning to Florence Peretola Airport.

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE



below.)

Strada Toscana arranges a private group pickup at Florence Peretola Airport - on the start day of your trip, scheduled at approx. 1:00pm. (See arrival recommendations

Pickup instructions, including the exact meeting location, are supplied one month before the trip start date. You are responsible for reading and following these instructions in order to be included in the group pickup. Should you miss the group pickup for any reason whatsoever, including a delayed or canceled flight, you are responsible for arranging and paying for your own transportation to the tour accommodations.

Strada Toscana arranges a private group transport to Florence Peretola Airport on the departure date of the tour. Should you wish to arrange your own departure transport separately, we recommend working with a travel agent.

### Arrival and departure airport is Florence Peretola

- To participate in our private group pick-up, we recommend booking your inbound flight to arrive before 12:00pm on the trip start date.
- To participate in our private group departure transport, we recommend booking your outbound flight to depart after 11:00am on the trip departure date.

Arriving early or extending your stay, or wish to arrive or depart on your own? We suggest working with your own travel agent to arrange and book transportation and accommodations.

## What's Included

- Villa accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts and all regionally inspired dinners
- Local trip leader and behind-the-scenes support staff
- Tours, visits and hands-on experiences with local residents and artisans
- Private land transportation throughout the trip
- Daily instruction with Elizabeth St. Hilaire
- Gratuities for hotels and meals
- Entrance fees to sites included in the itinerary

## HAVE QUESTIONS?

Visit our  
Frequently Asked Questions

Email us:

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Call us:

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