



CASA  
VERNA

## **COURSE AND RETREAT INFORMATION**

### **COURSE DATES AND SCHEDULE**

- **DATES:** September 5th to 18th, 2027.
- Sunday September 5th-Plan to arrive at Casa Verna in the afternoon. Settle in before the Welcome Dinner and Introduction.
- Monday, Sept. 6th through Friday, Sept 10th, classes will be held onsite. There will be a morning and afternoon session with a generous break for lunch. Wednesday's class is only in the morning, with an optional field trip to an Umbrian hill town in the afternoon.
- Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11-12, are free days. We can recommend daily trips and assist with sightseeing plans. You can plan an excursion on your own or with classmates to nearby locations. We can arrange transport to and from Casa Verna to the Spoleto train station if you want to explore Rome, Assisi or other areas.
- Monday, Sept. 13th through Friday, Sept. 17th, classes resume onsite. There will be a morning and afternoon session with a generous break for lunch. Wednesday's class is only in the morning, with an optional field trip to an Umbrian hill town in the afternoon.
- Saturday Sept 18th-Departure after breakfast.

### **REGISTRATION DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT TIMELINE**

- Registration opens May 6th, 2026. A €500 non-refundable deposit is due upon confirmation of your spot. Payment info will be emailed once your spot is confirmed, including payment options in either Euro's or US Dollars, based on location and exchange rates at the time of payment.
- January 10th, 2027: First half of balance is due (balance may be paid in two installment payments). Total balance must be paid by April 10th, 2027.

### **REFUND POLICY AND TIMELINE**

- Until May 1, 2027: 75% of fees (minus €500 deposit) will be refunded.
- May 2-June 1, 2027: 50% of fees (minus €500 deposit) will be refunded.
- June 2-Sept 4th, 2027: No refunds unless your spot can be filled from waitlist, then 50% of fees (minus €500 deposit) will be refunded.
- If the class must be cancelled for reasons outside of our control, you will receive a full refund (minus €250 admin fee).

## **COSTS**

### **TWO-WEEK PARTICIPANT-SINGLE ROOM: €3900**

Fee includes tuition for 10 days of classes (60 hours), single-room occupancy with a queen or twin sized bed, (shared nearby bathroom with shower) for 13 nights, meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner) during class days, (you may have to provide for your own meals if you choose to travel on non-class days or excursion days), evening socials and/or lectures, demonstrations, 24 hour access to the studios, transportation for two half-day field trips and one optional evening in Spoleto.

### **TWO-WEEK PARTICIPANT-DOUBLE ROOM: €3500**

Fee includes tuition for 10 days of classes (60 hours), double-room occupancy with two twin-sized beds or one Queen if with spouse (shared nearby bathroom with shower) for 13 nights, meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner) during class days, (you may have to provide for your own meals if you choose to travel on non-class days or excursion days), evening socials and/or lectures, demonstrations, 24 hour access to the studios, transportation for two half-day field trips and one optional evening in Spoleto.

### **NON-PARTICIPANT RESIDENT: €2900**

Do you have a spouse/companion who wants to stay at Casa Verna but not participate in courses? They must be registered along with a Two-Week Double Room Participant. Fee includes double-room occupancy with two twin-sized beds or one Queen (shared nearby bathroom with shower) for 13 nights, meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner) during class days, (you may have to provide for your own meals if you choose to travel on your own or on excursion days), evening socials and/or lectures, demonstrations, transportation for two half-day field trips and one optional evenings in Spoleto.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Airfare and ground transportation to Casa Verna is not included in listed price. The closest large airport to Casa Verna is the Rome Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport (FCO). There are several options for your ground travel from FCO to Casa Verna. The most affordable option is to take the train to Spoleto, and we will pick you up at the station and drive you to Casa Verna.

Alternatively, there are private transfer and airport shuttles that can be hired. Car rental is also available at the Rome airport, if you prefer to have your own vehicle during the retreat and want to drive the 1 hr. 45 min. trip from FCO to Casa Verna. Once we know everyone's preferences and arrival times, we will help coordinate your arrival with detailed information. Plan to arrive at Casa Verna midafternoon on Sunday, Sept. 5th, and to depart after breakfast on

Saturday Sept. 18th. If you are arriving and leaving by train, Spoleto is the closest station, and we can make arrangements to pick you up there. If you are arriving by car, then Rapicciano is the town to enter in your mapping app.

## **HOUSING**

Casa Verna has several housing options. The house itself has multiple bedrooms with options for single or double occupancy rooms. All rooms have shared bathrooms. If you choose the double occupancy room option, you may request a specific roommate after registration. For a little more privacy, several other single room housing options are also available in the village of Rapicciano, just a few steps from the door of Casa Verna. The houses are not air-conditioned, but classrooms and bedrooms will have fans available. By September, we expect the weather to be comfortable, but it could be quite warm in the day and quite cool in the mornings and evenings and expect occasional rain and thunderstorms. If you prefer to stay off-site or commute to Casa Verna, then you must make your own living and transportation arrangements. Contact us to discuss. Wi-Fi or ethernet plug is available in most rooms of the house.

## **MEALS**

Meals will be prepared at Casa Verna by our team. We will serve a variety of home-cooked meals featuring local ingredients. Breakfast is served continental style, featuring local cheeses, fruit and jams, breads and cereals, juice, milk, coffee and tea. We can accommodate certain simple dietary restrictions through our regular meal plan, but if you have special diets or allergies that we cannot cater to, then we will provide a separate kitchen space and trip to the grocery so you can plan your own meals and preparation separate from the standard meal plan. Meals will be served either in the garden, on the terrace or inside the house, depending on the weather and time of day. On field trip days we will dine together at local pizzerias. We live like a big family here, so Amity and Brody will really appreciate your help with clearing tables and loading the dishwasher.

## **THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS**

Casa Verna is situated in the tiny hill town of Rapicciano, a medieval village located 13km from the town of Spoleto, in the region of Umbria. Surrounded by beautiful views of rolling hills, the house, built in the 1600's is situated within the walls of the town, which boasts a population of around 20 when in full occupancy. Casa Verna also includes a 5-acre park adjacent to the house which contains a lovely field with an olive grove and a large, forested area to explore. Our pergola in the field provides shelter from the sun and an expansive view of the valley below, where students can socialize after a day of classes. There are many roads and paths around Rapicciano if you like to walk

or hike. Within the town there are no commercial facilities, the closest shop is 2.5km down the hill. We will make at least one trip into Spoleto in the evening, giving you a chance to shop and explore the beautiful city, or enjoy a drink or gelato in front of the Duomo or in the city square.

## **MOBILITY**

Rapicciano is a typical Umbrian hill town, and an average degree of mobility is required to access the house, piazza and outdoor areas. Access to the house requires walking on uneven stone pavement and cobblestones, access to the park requires walking on some uneven grassy areas. You will need to be able climb stairs to have full access to all rooms of the house and village. If you are concerned about mobility, please contact us to discuss options. The field trips will require extensive walking with some ups and downs as we explore the beautiful medieval Umbrian hill towns.

## **COMPLETING YOUR ENROLLMENT**

In addition to payment, we need to collect other information from you before the session begins. This includes:

- Emergency Contacts
- Health Information (including dietary restrictions and allergies)
- A Responsibility Release and Waiver of Liability
- Travel information - Airline and Flight information related to your arrival and departure from Italy.

## **FAQ'S**

### **WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?**

- Airfare is not included. When purchasing your airline ticket, we strongly advise that you purchase refundable tickets and travel insurance in case something last-minute prevents you from attending.
- Ground transportation to Spoleto is not included, but we can help arrange train or shuttle. We can pick you up and return you to the Spoleto train station.
- If you leave Casa Verna to explore the area when class is not in session, meals will be your responsibility. If you stay at Casa Verna during the weekend, light meals will be served, and may include delicious leftovers, to give our cooks a break.

- Living expenses incurred by leaving the group on your own are not included.
- Food and beverages outside of the regular mealtime are not included, but we can arrange grocery trips for you and will have beer, wine, soda and waters available for purchase, should you want them.

### **WHAT SHOULD I PACK?**

Comfortable casual clothing and sensible shoes for walking, sandals, for the summer and comfortable shoes for when we are out and about. Rain and wind are possible and heavy at times. A raincoat, umbrella, layered clothing, a hat and long sleeves for sun-protection are recommended. Adequate clothing for studio work, clothes may get stained. Bring an apron. Laundry facilities will be available on-site for a surcharge. Please bring any other essentials such as medication, sunscreen, toiletries, bug repellent, etc. If traveling from outside of Europe, you will need plug adaptors to fit Italian electrical plugs for any devices or chargers.

### **WHAT ART SUPPLIES SHOULD I BRING?**

Course participants should bring their favorite pens and brushes in a variety of sizes. Sketchbook for note taking and any other favorite tools you may want. Most supplies will be provided, and supply information will be sent out after registration.

### **WHAT EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED FOR ATTENDING THIS COURSE?**

An intermediate understanding of calligraphy and the associated tools and techniques is recommended. The course instruction is in English, and no Italian skills are required. One of Brody's superpowers is languages, and he can assist with some translation if needed.

### **WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN RAPICCIANO?**

Casa Verna has common areas to socialize and relax. We have a large terrace, and a shaded garden for outdoor gatherings. The park offers shade and views, and the surrounding area is great for walking and exploring. Wi-Fi is available in most rooms of the house.

### **CAN I COME EARLY OR STAY AFTER THE WORKSHOP?**

While it is unlikely that we can house you before or after the workshop, due to preparing and closing, we can recommend local hotels in the Spoleto area for your extra days. Those coming early often spend time in Rome as well.

**I WON'T BE TAKING A WORKSHOP BUT I'D LOVE TO STAY AT CASA VERNA WHILE I'M IN THE AREA, CAN YOU ACCOMMODATE ME?**

Casa Verna is currently not set up as a B&B so we cannot accept guests on that basis. However, if you want to stop by for a visit while you are in the area, please email us and we will be happy to see what can be arranged.

**CAN MY GROUP BOOK A SPECIAL COURSE?**

If you are wishing to book a course with your own group, we would be happy to discuss planning something special for you. Simply contact us with your ideas.

**CONTACT INFO:**

If you have questions or need more information, contact us by email at [casavernaumbria@gmail.com](mailto:casavernaumbria@gmail.com).