



Colgate University Alumni Office Presents

Florence: Past as Present October 24-October 31, 2020



Arrival Florence on Saturday October 24; departure on Saturday October 31st, 2020
Price: \$5,669.00 (based on double occupancy)

Program Highlights:

- Private visit to the Uffizi Galleries
- Private visit to the Gori Collection
- Private visit to Villa Medici and I Tatti
- Private visit to the Palazzo Gondi
- Hands-on experience with Florentine Artisans
- Excellent instruction by local experts and Batza Professor Mary Ann Calo, Emerita

Program Includes:

- 7 night accommodations at Hotel Brunelleschi, four-star hotel in the heart of Florence
- Entrance fees to museums and monuments
- Transportation in private coach/mini vans (including airport transfers)
- Daily breakfast, 3 lunches, 3 receptions, 3 Dinners

Itinerary

Saturday October 24

Arrival and afternoon in the heart of Florence

Meet program assistants at the Florence airport for transfer to Hotel Brunelleschi, your luxurious 4-star accommodation in the heart of Florence. Later this afternoon, explore the historic center of Florence on a walking tour and stroll down the medieval streets and piazzas that make up the city center. Learn about the city's ancient Roman origins and see what the city back alleys and smaller squares reveals about Florence's growth in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. After this pleasant stroll through the past, return for a welcome reception and dinner in the hotel, which is built into the ruins of an ancient church complex and features one of the city's oldest medieval towers.

(Reception, dinner)





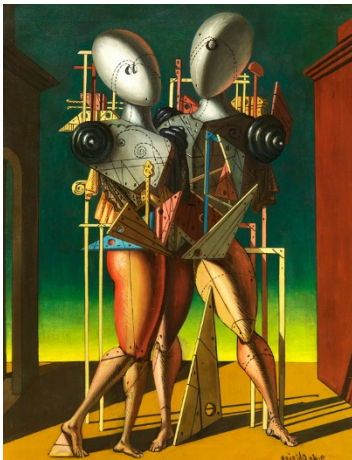
Sunday October 25

The Cathedral Complex and Roberto Casamonti Collection

9:00 am Join Professor Mary Ann Calo and Elaine Ruffolo, for a slide illustrated overview of the history of Florence Past as Present. After the presentation, we'll see a marriage of history and modernity at the recently expanded and completely reorganized Cathedral Museum. Here you'll encounter sculptural masterpieces such as Lorenzo Ghiberti's bronze doors for the Florentine Baptistery the Gates of Paradise, learn about the unique design of Brunelleschi's Dome and see highly emotional works by Donatello that inspired the deep pathos of Michelangelo's Florence Pietà, intended for his own tomb but now in the museum.

Free for lunch on your own

This afternoon visit the newly opened Collezione Roberto Casamonti at the Palazzo Bartolino-Salimbene, an example of the "public-private" art space. Housed in a 16th century palace at the center of Florence, the Casamonti gallery features objects from the owner's extensive personal collection of modern and contemporary art. Dealer and collector Roberto Casamonti is the director of Tornabuoni Arte, a major network of commercial galleries with multiple locations in Italy and abroad, including Florence, Milan, Paris and London.



This evening you'll enjoy a group dinner just off the city's main square at Frescobaldi Wine Bar.
(Breakfast, dinner)

Monday October 26

Private Uffizi Galleries and Artisans of the Oltrarno

9:30 am The Uffizi occupies the top floor of a U-shaped building on the front side of the Arno River, designed by Giorgio Vasari in 1559 to hold the administrative offices of Medici Grand Duke Cosimo I. Here the Medici installed their art collections. We know you will enjoy this special morning viewing some of the most magnificent works of art in the world and follow in the footsteps of princes as you pass through the Uffizi privately. Expect to admire masterpieces by Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Bronzino, Titian and more – culminating in three works by Caravaggio opened exclusively for Colgate University Alumni.
Free for lunch on your own



Artisans and Craftsmen of the Oltrarno

This fascinating tour will wind through the backstreets of the Oltrarno, or other side of the Arno River, traditional home of many artisans still working in Florence. While strolling through the most characteristic quarter of the city, you will visit a variety of workshops to view artisans at work, for example marbled paper, printmaking, wood carving, jewelry



crafting and so on. Enjoy a hands-on experience with a gilding master. Actual demonstrations will be provided just for you...a peek into the hidden city far from the tourist track.

This evening enjoy a group dinner at a local restaurant
(Breakfast, dinner)



Tuesday October 27

Villas and Gardens

9:00 am depart for a day in the country

By the 16th century, country villas became mansions on a princely scale. Designed to be integral parts of the land around them, the art of landscape gardening developed into a sophisticated study. Carefully laid out with geometric designs in topiary, terraces, pools and streams, these miniature kingdoms continued to inspire a tasteful and opulent way of life well into the 19th century. Built on the side of the Fiesole hill turned toward Florence, at a point where the slope becomes steeper, Villa Medici dominates the landscape, admirably harmonizing with the surrounding terraces of its garden. Built by Michelozzo for Cosimo de' Medici, the villa was a weekend retreat and an inspiration for intellectual pursuit for Florence's elite. Colgate will have special access to the gardens of Villa Medici still privately owned by a noble Florentine family.



Next visit Villa Gamberaia, known as the "garden of the princess," is a magical place. The inspiration for architects, painters and authors for more than 400 years, Villa Gamberaia was originally a 14th-century farm at Settignano, but was transformed into a villa three centuries later. Many consider it the most beautiful private garden in the Europe. Enjoy exploring the gardens with a landscape architect and expert in Renaissance gardens.



1:00 pm Enjoy a group lunch in Fiesole, overlooking Florence

By special permission, Colgate Alumni will enter Villa I Tatti, the former residence of famed American connoisseur and writer Bernard Berenson. We will see Berenson's home, gardens and personal art collection, and learn about his role in shaping major American art collections in the Gilded Age. Today I Tatti is a world-renowned center for the the study of Italian Renaissance culture operated by Harvard University.
(Breakfast, lunch)



Wednesday, October 28

The Palazzo Pitti (Palatine and Modern Art Gallery)

Explore the magnificence and grandeur of the Medici during the height of their power with a visit to the Palazzo Pitti and the Silver Museum. Originally built for the banker Luca Pitti, this huge building was meant to outdo all other palaces in Florence, and it succeeded. View famous works

by Raphael, Titian and other great High Renaissance painters.



Enjoy a visit to the Medici winter apartments, today known as the Modern Art Gallery. The museum offers an overview of Italian painting between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries, with an extensive collection of works by the Macchiaioli, the Florentine realist group associated with the Risorgimento, Italy's war for political unity and independence in the mid-nineteenth century.

Lunch on your own and free afternoon

1:00 pm gather together for a festive group lunch in the Oltrano (breakfast, lunch)

Free afternoon and dinner on your own (Breakfast, lunch)



Thursday October 29

Michelangelo and the Medici

9:00 am As one of the most powerful families in Florence, the Medici were responsible for commissioning some of the greatest works of the Renaissance. Under astute Medici leadership, Florence enjoyed a period of peace and prosperity. The result was an outpouring of art and architecture. We will begin our day with a visit to the church of San Lorenzo, one of Florence's most precious treasures, generations of Medici put some of the greatest artists to work here; men like Brunelleschi, Donatello and Michelangelo. Delve into Michelangelo's turbulent relationship with the Medici through an investigation of the Laurentian Library and Medici Tombs.

Continue on to the Palazzo Medici-Riccardi, home of the family for 100 years and became the model for noble Florentine houses in the 15th century and was copied throughout Italy. It was here that Lorenzo the Magnificent began his Neoplatonic Society, here that Michelangelo spent the early days of his youth and here that Benozzo Gozzoli's painted his famous procession of the Magi, celebrating both the birth of Christ and the greatness of the Medici. Finish the morning with a visit to the Accademia Galleries to see the iconic David and unfinished Prisoners by Michelangelo.



1:00pm Free for lunch on your own and the remainder of the afternoon

4:30 pm This evening enjoy an exclusive reception at the historical Palazzo Gondi. Count and Countess Gondi lovingly maintain their private Renaissance home, of which they are justly proud and extremely well informed. This exclusive event will be an unforgettable experience. (Breakfast, reception)



Friday October 30

Contemporary Art: the Gori Collection at Fattoria di Celle

8:30 am Travel by private coach to the extraordinary Gori Collection of Contemporary Art, which consists of onsite-galleries displaying objects from the Gori collection, as well as the unique gardens where multiple site-specific sculptural installations have been commissioned. This is one of the most important “public-private” art spaces in Europe, the product of contemporary art collectors functioning also as patrons and stewards of the land. It contains works by some of the most innovative international artists of the late twentieth century, including Alberto Burri, Emilio Vedova, Beverly Pepper, Alice Aycock, Sol Lewitt, Mimmo Paladino, Fausto Melotti, Robert Morris, Dennis Oppenheim, Michelangelo Pistoletto, and Richard Serra.

1:00 pm Enjoy a group lunch in nearby Pistoia

6:30 pm Say farewell with a light snack and a glass of prosecco in the hotel museum.
(Breakfast, lunch, reception)



Saturday, October 31

Departure

Group departure from hotel to the airport.

Program Leaders

Modern and Contemporary Art Historian



Mary Ann Calo, Batza Professor, Emerita, joined the Colgate University faculty in 1991 as a member of the Department of Art and History. During her 25 years at Colgate, Prof. Calo taught courses on modern and contemporary art history, the arts and public policy, and American art. She also served as Chair of the Art and Art History Department, Associate Dean of the Faculty, Director of the Institute for the Creative and Performing Arts, and Director of the Division of Arts and Humanities. Calo has spent many years living and working in Italy, initially as a student and then later as a professor. She led Colgate’s Venice Study Group and was a visiting professor of modern art at Syracuse University in Florence. Calo is the author of three books and numerous articles. Her edited volume, *Critical Issues in American Art*, is widely used as a textbook in college courses on American Art.

Renaissance Art Historian



Elaine Ruffolo has been teaching art history in Florence since 1989 and her special interests include the history of art and patronage in Renaissance Florence. Elaine firmly believes that the best way to understand a work of art is by exploring the context in which it was made. What makes art history interesting and relevant today is study of the political situation, economic conditions, patronage, and the

artist's personality that is reflected in the work of art. Elaine currently lectures undergraduate and continuing art history programs in Florence. She is also the Resident Director for the Smithsonian Associate's Programs in Italy, has developed art history programs for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Yale Alumni, College of William and Mary and the Patrons of the Vatican Museums. She has been on the advisory board of the Friends of Florence since 2000 and consults for CEO and YPO programs in Europe.