

## Travels Through Italy

with

Jay Bonner, Ambassador for Constituent Outreach

### Tentative Itinerary Fall 2023

- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 | DEPART U.S.** - U.S. flights to Rome depart on October 28. Plan to arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Airport (FCO) between 7:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. on October 29. We will travel together to Spoleto. If you cannot meet at this time or have other travel plans, please let us know.
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 | SPOLETO** - Arrival and Introduction to the Spoletino Valley. The seat of a Lombard Duchy during the High Middle Ages, Spoleto preserves a vast array of artistic memories from its historical past. We arrive in time to enjoy lunch and a brief rest, followed by a walking tour that will take you from Roman time to the early Christian period, from the Middle Ages to the blooming of the Renaissance. The XII Century Duomo preserves the last fresco cycle by the Florentine artist Fra Filippo Lippi.
- **MONDAY, OCTOBER 30 | SPOLETO**
- **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31 | ASSISI & SPELLO** - After a short ride through the valley, we arrive at Assisi, a magical town that still preserves the atmosphere, colors, and sounds that must have been so familiar to Saint Francis and his poor friars. The Basilica contains examples of the most important frescoes in the history of western painting. After lunch, spend time in the charming Umbrian hillside town of Spello.
- **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | ADVENTURE TO TUSCANY | SIENA** - Our travels will include stops in Siena and several of the most colorful smaller towns in central and southern Tuscany. In Siena you will be treated to a detailed visit of the *Palazzo del Comune* (Town Hall) with its splendid frescoes and a spiritually charged tour of the resplendent Gothic Duomo. You will have time to shop in the shops that line the colorful streets of the city.
- **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | MONTEFALCO | TREVI** - A morning visit to Montefalco will offer you one of the most spectacular views of the countryside and a chance to taste some of the best wine in the region. A short trip across the valley to the adjacent hill town of Trevi will provide a complete view of the area.
- **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 | FLORENCE** - Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance civilization, will appeal to the history buff, the art lover, or simply the admirer of nature. Winding through the streets of the old part of town, taking a walk along the Arno River, and visiting the museums or churches will magically put you in touch with many of the greatest minds of western civilization, from Dante to Michelangelo, from Botticelli to Boccaccio. Asheville School alumna Erica (Mitchell) Filidoro '95 will join this tour and add her Tuscan expertise to our time.

- **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 | SPOLETO** - Enjoy a free day in Spoleto
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 | DEPART FOR THE U.S.** - Depart Spoleto at 6:00 a.m., arriving at Fiumicino (FCO) at 8:30 a.m. Flights out of Rome should leave no earlier than noon.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Tour participants will be staying at the [Palazzo Leti](#), a 13th Century residence restored as a bed & breakfast. From the Italian-style garden you can enjoy breathtaking views of some of Spoleto's most iconic landmarks.

## FEES

**Base Tour Price:** \$3600 (estimated)

- **Required Tour Deposit:** \$375 is due upon application to reserve your spot.
- **Final Balance:** Remaining \$3225 (\$3775 for single room supplement) is due before June 1, 2023.
- **Checks should be made out to Asheville School and sent to Kate Foltz, Asheville School, 360 Asheville School Road, Asheville, N.C. 28806**

*Fees are calculated on 2023 exchange rates and are subject to change. They are based on double occupancy and include lunch on arrival day, continental breakfast and dinner each day, and travel and fees for all group activities included in the itinerary. This does not include airfare, daily lunches, health or travel insurance, or personal expenses. A single hotel room is available for an additional \$550. Travel insurance is at the traveler's discretion; however, it is strongly advised.*

**Readings:** In advance of the travels, participants will be asked to read a novel, *After Hannibal*, by Booker Prize award winner Barry Unsworth, set in the region, Luigi Barzini's *The Italians*, and Rachel Cusk's memoir, *The Last Supper*, of her family's experience in Italy, which includes visits to several of the cities of our itinerary. There will be a zoom class of Italian readings offered in fall 2023 in anticipation of this experience!