

**“Plein Air Tuscan Landscape Painting
in Acrylics”
with Australian artist Elena Parashko
14 - 21 October 2017**

I'm very excited to present my new painting holiday workshop in romantic Tuscany in Italy. What a painting adventure of a lifetime staying at the Tuscan Renaissance Centre located at San Fedele - a restored 12th century monastery in the gorgeous Chianti hills. San Fedele sits conveniently on a country road connecting the charming medieval walled town of Radda and the village of Vagliagli. It is about 12 km northeast of Siena and 45 km south of Florence.



Accommodation

San Fedele is classified as a historic residence in Italy. That means that it is an intimate setting, preserved along strict historical guidelines to preserve its original spirit. The owners are on site to oversee this unique combination of historic landmark and modern day comfort.

Accommodation includes spacious shared double rooms or junior suites. Each room, because it was converted from the original structure of the monastery without altering the building, is unique in shape. Furnishings and decor were selected to coordinate with the historic, subdued feeling of the monastery, but in a comfortable, modern style. All rooms have two beds that can be separated into twins or combined into one large matrimonial. There is a sitting area, refrigerator, DSL wi-fi, television, air-conditioning, heating, modern private bathroom with shower and hair dryer.



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The Workshop

In this incomparable area of central Italy we have an endless source of inspiration and choice of subject matter to paint - wild flowers, the famous rolling hills of Tuscany, Italian cypress trees, local villages, San Fedele monastery architecture and panoramic views from hilltops.

In this course you will learn how to paint the basic elements of the landscape in a realistic style. We will be covering aspects of art theory such as selecting subject matter from the environment, designing balanced compositions, blending techniques, aerial perspective and linear perspective, colour mixing, tone, creating the illusion of texture and the use of light and shadow. This painting holiday includes 5 half day en plein air painting workshops which means painting out on location in the gorgeous Italian countryside. In the event of poor weather we have a comfortable studio where we can paint. We will be using acrylic paint in Italy but the techniques learned can also be successfully applied to oil paints when you return home.

Each workshop is structured around a group demonstration of a particular subject while on location followed by individual tuition. Information sheets summarising the art theory taught will also be distributed. Workshops will be informative, fun and tailored to the individual needs of participants. All skill levels are welcome in these workshops, from beginners through to experienced painters.

Materials List

BYO art supplies.

(acrylic paint but not Jo Sonya brand please)

Titanium White (2 tubes)

Cadmium Yellow Medium

Cadmium Yellow Light (or Lemon Yellow)

Cadmium Red

Alizarin Crimson

Ultramarine Blue

Cerulean Blue

Yellow Oxide (or Yellow Ochre)

Burnt Sienna



5 Canvas panels 8" x 10" or pad of canvas sheets (bring more if you would like to do additional painting in free time)

Flat brushes (stiff synthetic is best, no soft nylon) - small, medium and large

Filbert brush - small and medium

Liner brush - small

Round bristle brush - medium

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Disposable Palette (pad of many sheets)
Palette knife (for mixing paint)
Willow charcoal (for drawing composition on canvas)
Clear painting medium (to thin paint for details)
Portable field easel (not a table easel. If you are buying a new easel please know how to set it up and fold it away before you arrive)
Lightweight folding stool (if you need to sit while painting on location)

Apron or painting shirt
Paper towel or tissues (for cleaning palette knife and drying brushes)
Cling wrap (to cover paint on palette)
Pen and pad (if you would like to take additional notes during demonstration.
Information sheets will be distributed)

Additional Activities

Our daily painting will be combined with other adventures such as:

- Day trip to Medieval Siena to sketch or take photos, explore and shop
- Excursions to nearby hill towns like Radda, Castellina or Monteriggioni
- Visit to Chianti winery for a tour and tasting
- Discussions of Tuscan cuisine with our chef
- Informal art exhibition by participants on final day

We'll use our historic monastery as a home base, returning each evening for a home-made meal and good company. Stay with the group or go off on your own. Our purpose is to paint, explore and enjoy the beauty of Italy.



Inclusions:

- Pick up from Florence train station at 3:30pm on arrival Saturday
- Shared double room in restored monastery (single room available for supplement)
- Daily traditional breakfast and dinner, including wine
- Excursion to Siena
- 5 half day plein air painting classes with Elena
- ½ day painting excursions to nearby plein air settings and hill towns (Monteriggioni, Radda, Volpaia)
- Transfer to bus/train station in Siena on final day (option to hire a van back to Florence airport for those heading directly home)

Package does not include:

- Airfare
- Art supplies
- Gratuities
- Lunch (light lunch will be available for purchase at San Fedele on days we are not out on excursion)

Price*

\$US 2695 p/p shared double

\$US 3245 p/p single room

\$US 2395 p/p non-painting partner

Deposit to secure a place:

\$AU500 to Elena or \$US500 to Il Chiostro

* Because of the shifting exchange rate, we won't calculate the equivalent of your balance in \$US and \$AU until August 2017 when the balance is due.

Workshop inquiries and bookings for course participants living in Australia

Contact Elena

Email: info@elenaparashko.com

Phone: +61 404 032 785 (Australia)

Bookings for course participants living outside Australia

Contact Linda and Michael at Il Chiostro

Email: info@ilchiostro.com

Phone: 800-990-3506 (toll free USA)



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About Il Chiostro

Celebrating 20 years of Art, Photography, Singing, Culture, Food, Wine and Personal Development adventures in Italy!

In the spring of 1995, Linda Mironti and Michael Mele took a group of friends to Tuscany for a creative retreat. "We immersed ourselves in beauty, food, wine and culture and quickly developed lasting friendships with the local community. Little did we know, that week was the beginning of what we now call the "Il Chiostro Experience". We had no intention of starting a business but that experience was so profound that we wanted to share it again and again. In those first years every week we asked the participants to leave a thought about their stay in our book of memories. Those thoughts and memories guided our way to creating *Il Chiostro* and now 20 years later we remain as inspired and excited as the first time we discovered all that Italy has to offer.

"chiostro" = cloister

Our name is a bit tricky to pronounce (the *ch* is hard like in Chianti and the *o*'s are both long like the word *photo*). In Italian "il chiostro" means the cloister, by definition a central square area within a monastery or convent, surrounded by arched walkways which is used for contemplation and seclusion from the outside world. For us, *Il Chiostro* is a metaphor. Take yourself away from your hectic, demanding life and place yourself in a beautiful, seductive environment that will give your spirit and creativity a chance to breathe and reconnect.



Why Italy?

Art, music, scenery, food, wine, the romantic language, friendly people, crafts, fashion... There is a reason why Italy has inspired great artists for centuries, why the Renaissance started here, why opera and ballet were born here, why 60% of Western art is still here, why its cuisine is cherished around the world, why Italian is the language of love. There is an essence of Italy that is magic and seductive. Other places may have some of these characteristics, but Italy has them all. *Il Chiostro* aims to show you an authentic Italy, not just dazzle you with highlights. We think that the good and

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simple life of Italy is an artwork in itself. We find interesting, non-traditional places to stay, like a convent or a farmhouse or a family-run winery. We don't hurry from one town to the next, we settle in at one place for the week. We dig our heels in and talk with the man who owns the grocery store. We shop for dinner at outdoor markets, eat newly harvested figs, drink fresh wine from a vintner's own cask. Linger over a cappuccino and watch the people come and go. Walk the dirt paths instead of pointing at them from the comfort of a tour bus. Then you'll slowly begin to understand what makes Italy so special.

Il Chiostro is Italy. Then with the combination of good food, wine and working on a creative project with stimulating people in a sublimely beautiful setting, the deepest, most unexpected passions emerge. It happens time and again..."

About the Instructor

Elena Parashko is an award winning artist, teacher and writer from Sydney, Australia. Her artwork is held in private and corporate collections in Australia and internationally. She is a regular artist in residence on Hamilton Island, Fiji, Bora Bora and the Maldives where she teaches and exhibits her seascape paintings.

Elena is the author of the inspirational book "Survival Guide for Artists: How to Thrive in the Creative Arts". Elena's artwork has been featured in *Australian Artist* magazine, *Artist's Palette*, *Australian Decorative Painting*, *Artist's Back to Basics*, *Ocean*, *Fine Art and Decorative Painting*, *Honestly Woman*, *Australian Coastal Home*, *Finally at 40... Life Begins*, *Modern Home*, *My Home* and *Home Ideas* magazines. Elena regularly contributes step by step painting demonstrations to the English magazines *Leisure Painter* and *Start Art*. She is also a contributing writer for the American business magazine, *Professional Artist*.



Elena is a trained teacher with a Certificate in Visual Arts, Bachelor of Education and Masters in Adult Education and loves teaching art to children and adults. She has nearly 30 years teaching experience. Elena also acts as an art therapist to intellectually and physically disabled adults. She sees her challenge as to inspire others, no matter their circumstances, through sharing her passion for artistic creation - the process as well as the product.

View Elena's online gallery at: www.elenaparashko.com

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