

## *Cortona, Assisi and Arezzo*

*11 – 16 March 2010*



In the 14th and 15th centuries, Tuscany and Umbria witnessed a significant artistic flowering with the work of Sienese and Florentine masters as well as the likes of Perugino and Pinturicchio. Many of the greatest works of the period were produced for patrons in the many smaller cities in the countryside of Tuscany and Umbria. The work of Vasari in Arezzo is an example of this. We will also see the work of Piero della Francesca in San Francesco in Arezzo. The visits to churches and other sites will enable us to make a link between the context and the work. Being able to view the work of art in its original context enhances our understanding of the processes by which it was created and the social, cultural and religious purpose it served.

Cortona, the base for this study tour, is a hill town of great character. It is situated on the borders of Tuscany and Umbria and has views towards Lake Trasimeno. Its straight main street runs between tall stone buildings, many of which preserve their medieval character, and on either side steep narrow lanes and passages run up and down the hillside. The life of its two main piazzas make it a perfect place for an after-dinner stroll, a coffee, or a little window-shopping. It was the birthplace of the painter Luca Signorelli and Fra Angelico worked here in the 15th century. Cortona is an ideal centre from which to visit some of the greatest works of art of medieval Italy, from the seminal 13th century frescoes in Assisi attributed to the workshop of the Florentine master Giotto and others such as Simone Martini, Piero Lorenzetti and Cimabue. These frescoes in the upper and lower Basilica at Assisi, the site of the tomb of St Francis of Assisi has acted as a magnet drawing pilgrims to this site for eight hundred years. The fresco cycles with their significance for religious art as well as Franciscan propaganda are a truly magnificent sight. In Cortona, when walking up to the Church of Santa Margherita (patron saint of Cortona) we will also be able to see works by the native futurist artist Gino Severini.

**Accommodation**

**Single room supplement £120**

Accommodation in restored 14<sup>th</sup> century *Palazzo San Benedetto*, centrally located in the old town of Cortona. **Half-board** tariff with private facilities. Dinner will be taken at the *Ristorante San Benedetto*.

**Course Cost**

**£870 on half board basis**

Inclusive of tuition, airport transfers (airport transfers are only available for the Siragusa Ltd nominated flight), visits to Assisi and Arezzo and accommodation on <b>half-board basis</b>	
<b>Travel Insurance</b>	
Once tour is viable and if we have booked a flight for you through Travelpack, you can call Lorraine on 08444 930465 for an immediate quote (unless you already have insurance)	
<b>Optional Cookery Class</b>	(Euro 30)
On this tour you have the possibility of attending two cookery classes led by Paola Barboni, who is the owner of the hotel and restaurant. For this to take off we need a minimum of 4 people and the cost is Euro 30 per person (paid directly to Paola). Please note on the booking form whether you would want to join the cookery class.	
<b>Flight</b>	<b>Ca. £190 scheduled flight to Bologna</b>
Note that the cost is an estimate and if it is less you pay less. Please see Booking Conditions for more information concerning nominated flights	
<b>Local Transport</b>	
Airport transfers and visits to Assisi by coach.	
<b>Group Size</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Tutor(s)</b>	<b><i>Mary Hawkins</i></b>
<b>Related OU Courses</b>	General Interest/AA315
<b><i>Itinerary</i></b>	
<b>DAY 01</b>	
Arrival at airport, transfer to Hotel in Cortona. Course introduction and orientation.	
<b>DAY 02</b>	
Visit to Assisi, the Basilica of San Francesco, Santa Chiara and Duomo.	
<b>DAY 03</b>	
Cortona: Duomo and Museo Diocesano, 11 – 14.30 optional cookery class, Etruscan Museum	
<b>DAY 04</b>	
Le Celle and San Niccolo, free time	
<b>DAY 05</b>	
Santa Maria del Calcinaio, 11 – 14.30 optional cookery class, Church of Saint Mark, Santa Margherita	
<b>DAY 06</b>	
Departure for airport with stop off at Arezzo.	
This itinerary and study programme is provisional and may be subject to change in response to local conditions	

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