

Renaissance Florence and Siena

16 – 22 April 2010



This *Studytour* provides the opportunity to contextualise your study of the Florentine Renaissance, and familiarise yourself with key works of art in their original locations. The opportunity to experience civic environments, town halls, religious institutions and the fresco cycles commissioned for family chapels as well as public and civic spaces, will enable you to ground your studies in personal experience.

The cities of Florence and Siena represent the nature of social, political and economic life in Italy during the Renaissance. The evidence of forms of government, religious practices, beliefs, and economic activity is all embodied in the works of art and the buildings that were commissioned by patrons and made by craftsmen for these societies. Initially a commune, Florence became a city state in the 14th century when republican government emerged. Cimabue, Giotto, the building of the Duomo, the Palazzo Vecchio, the Baptistery Doors, all attest to the 'flowering' of artistic activity in Florence.

However, it was with the Medici family which emerged in Florence with Cosimo 'the Elder' (1389-1464) at the beginning of the 15th century and became the leading family that ultimately came to dominate the government the city that Florence took its place as the 'centre' of the Renaissance. Lorenzo de' Medici (1449-92) known as 'the Magnificent' made Florence into the leading state in Italy. The Medici were overthrown in 1494 but returned to power in 1512, beginning the process of establishing themselves as the Dukes of Tuscany, which was finally achieved in 1569. In the 15th and 16th centuries the Medici called upon the services of the leading artists of the Renaissance to create the image of their rule through the physical organisation of the city, its public buildings, and their own palaces, chapels and villas. Michelangelo's contribution was to create for them a New Sacristy in San Lorenzo to act as a funerary chapel for the recently murdered members of the family. Vasari, the court artist of Cosimo I, 'the Great' (1519-74), provided the new offices the 'Uffizi', now the seat of one of the greatest collections of Renaissance art, and the *Lives* that is synonymous with the concept of the Renaissance. Siena's history goes back to the Roman period and because of this it adopted the *She Wolf* as the symbol of the city. Located on a hill astride the road to Rome it dominates the countryside and maintained its independence until it was annexed by the Florentines in 1555. However, its tradition of republican government is still physically represented by the appearance of the Palazzo Pubblico and the Campo before it. The frescoes of *Good and Bad Government* in the Sala dei Nove are testimony to the sophistication of philosophical and political ideology in the 14th century. Whereas Duccio's great altarpiece the *Maesta*, installed with great pomp in 1311 on the high altar of Siena Cathedral, represents the importance of religious practices and the nature of belief.

Accommodation

Hotel ** Single room supplement £180

Centrally located Hotel Lombardi in Florence. Bed and Breakfast tariff in twin-share room with private facilities.

Course Cost

£695

Inclusive of tuition, day-visit to Siena, airport transfers (airport transfers are only available for the Siragusa Ltd nominated flight), accommodation and breakfast.	
Travel Insurance	
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)	
Flight	Ca. £190 scheduled flight to Pisa/Bologna
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	
Local Transport	
Airport transfer by train/coach, travel to Siena by public transport/coach (depending on group size)	
Group Size	16
Tutor(s)	Mary Hawkins
Related OU Courses	AA315/A216/General Interest
<i>Itinerary</i>	
DAY 01	
Arrival at airport, transfer to Hotel in Florence. Course introduction and orientation.	
DAY 02	
Am: The Religious Centre: Duomo, Campanile and Baptistery, Bargello Pm: Museo dell'Opera del Duomo	
DAY 03	
Am: Santa Maria Novella, Strozzi Chape, The Brancacci Chapel (Carmine) Pm: Palazzo Vecchio	
DAY 04	
Am: The Rule of the Medici: the Medici Palace (the Gozzoli Chapel), San Lorenzo (the Old and New Sacristy), the Medici Chapel, the Laurentian Library. Pm: Renaissance Painting in Florence: the Uffizi Gallery	
DAY 05	
Day-visit to Siena: the Campo, the Palazzo Pubblico, the Duomo and Baptistery, Opera del Duomo: Duccio's <i>Maestà</i>	
DAY 06	
Am: The Renaissance Villa and Garden: the Pitti Palace and the Boboli Gardens, Pm: Renaissance Altarpieces and Michelangelo's <i>David</i> : the Accademia Gallery	
DAY 07	
Santa Croce. Free until departure	
This itinerary and study programme is provisional and may be subject to change in response to local conditions	

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