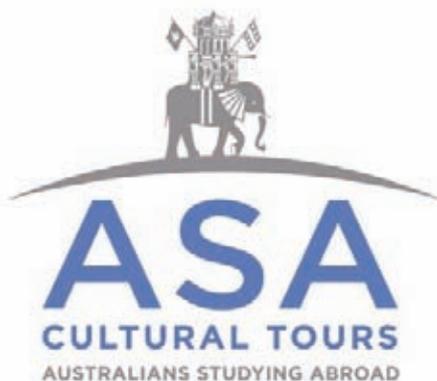




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Gardens of Italy

The Italian Lakes, the Piedmont, Tuscany,
Umbria & Rome

5 - 27 May 2015

TOUR CODE 21505

TOUR PRICE (Land Content Only)

\$11,780.00 (early bird-special) or \$11,980.00

PHYSICAL ENDURANCE LEVEL ☆☆☆

TOUR LECTURER John Patrick

Itinerary updated 10 April 2014

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Join **John Patrick**, horticulturalist, garden designer and presenter on ABC TV's *Gardening Australia*, to tour the gardens of five distinct regions of Italy, exploring their unique gardening styles in relation to local topography, ecosystems and traditions from the Renaissance to the 21st century. This tour blends an understanding of Italy's grand garden history with the very latest developments, introduced in person by the owners of estates and by some of Italy's foremost contemporary gardeners and landscape architects.
- Revel in the magic of **northern lakeside and island gardens** including **Villa Carlotta, Villa del Balbianello, Isola Bella and Isola Madre**
- Meet with **Paolo Pejrone**, a pupil of Russell Page and currently **Italy's leading garden designer**, and study his design projects at his own garden Bramafan, the **private gardens of Tenuta Banna Spinola Castle** and the estate of the Peyrani family
- Tour through Piedmont, a little known and appreciated garden region, exploring the great estates of the House of Savoy including the Palazzo Reale where a garden and park were designed in typically French style by André Le Nôtre
- View the work of **Russell Page** with visits to the private gardens of **San Liberato** and **Villa Silvio Pellico**
- Contrast grand estates like those of the House of Savoy to intimate urban gardens in Florence and Fiesole including **Le Balze designed by Cecil Pinsent**, the secret gardens of **Villa Capponi** and the **Giardini Corsini al Prato**
- Ramble through the historic centres of lovely old cities like **Lucca, Siena, Florence and Perugia**
- Encounter masterpieces of Italian art in major churches and museums
- Enjoy delicious meals in the verdant surrounds of a number of private Tuscan and Umbrian villas including **Villa di Geggiano, Villa Vignamaggio** (featured in Kenneth Branagh's film *Much Ado About Nothing*) and **Villa Aureli**
- Explore the great Renaissance garden designs at **Villa La Foce**, home of Iris Origo, author of the famous *Merchant of Prato*, and **Villa Gamberaia** at Settignano described by Edith Wharton in her book *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* (1904)
- Learn about the work of **Pietro Porcinai**, one of the most outstanding Italian landscape architects of the 20th century, with an **excursion to Isola Polvесе**; and visit the **private gardens of Daniela Fe d'Ostiani 'Il Giardorto'**, overlooking Lake Trasimeno
- Appreciate historic masterpieces like **Villa Lante** and **Villa d'Este, Tivoli, and the Giardini di Ninfa**
- Discover the **'rose regions' of Umbria** and Lazio with visits to Palazzo Patrizi and Castel Giuliano
- Conclude with a visit to the **private gardens of Torrecchia** with designs by **Dan Pearson and Stuart Barfoot**, considered "one of Italy's most beautiful private gardens".



TOUR LECTURER

John Patrick will be familiar to many as a presenter on ABC's television series *Gardening Australia*. He has written extensively on gardens throughout the world, having published 12 books. John has lectured widely in Britain, Australia and New Zealand and has worked as a judge for, and consultant to, garden shows and events. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of plants which, along with his understanding of European history, allows him to place gardens in a general context. An enthusiastic traveller, John has led many ASA garden tours to a variety of destinations, including Italy, France, the UK, Ireland, Spain, Japan, USA & NZ.

OVERVIEW

Join **John Patrick** to explore the unique gardens of the Northern Lakes, Piedmont, Tuscany, Umbria and Lazio. A very special feature of our tour, are visits to exclusive private gardens opened especially for ASA. Few travellers indeed will ever encounter Russell Page's garden at Villa Silvio Pellico or Torrecchia Vecchia with designs by Dan Pearson and Stuart Barfoot. We have arranged visits with some of Italy's foremost contemporary gardeners: Paolo Pejrone, a pupil of Russell Page and currently Italy's leading garden designer accompanies us for two days. We visit his own garden 'Bramafan', the private gardens of Tenuta Banna Spinola Castle and the estate of the Peyrani family. We'll also encounter the work of Pietro Porcinai, one of Italy's most outstanding 20th-century landscape architects and visit the private gardens of Daniela Fe d'Ostiani 'Il Giardorto', overlooking Lake Trasimeno after a cruise to Isola Polvесе. These special experiences accompany visits to Italy's greatest traditional gardens in order to explore continuity and change in Italian gardening tradition. Along with the magical northern lakeside and island gardens of Villa Carlotta, Villa del Balbianello, Isola Bella and Isola Madre, we visit the Piedmontese House of Savoy's Palazzo Reale with a garden and park by the great Frenchman André Le Nôtre; Tuscan Renaissance and Baroque masterpieces like Villa La Foce, home of Iris Origo, author of the famous *Merchant of Prato*; and the unforgettable Giardini di Ninfa south of Rome. Outside Florence we view the ingenious garden designs of Englishman, Cecil Pinsent, at Villa Le Balze and Villa Capponi - a perfect example of a 'secret' enclosed parterre garden where the late Queen Mother enjoyed holidays as a girl. Umbria's Palazzo Patrizi at Castel Giuliano will delight rose lovers. Throughout our journey we'll explore how Italians have for centuries exploited panoramic parterres, glistening lake settings, exquisite villa architecture and garden sculpture, fountains and water cascades to produce sublime gardens. In our banquet of sensual delights we'll enjoy Italy's loveliest landscapes including the stunning Ligurian coast; beautiful old cities such as Turin, Florence, Lucca, Siena, Perugia and Rome; and feast on exquisite local cuisine at Villas Geggiano, Vignamaggio and Aureli.

23 DAYS IN ITALY

Overnight Moltrasio (2 nights) • Stresa (2 nights) • Turin (3 nights) • Lucca (2 nights) • Florence (4 nights) • Siena (2 nights) • Perugia (2 nights) • Viterbo (1 night) • Rome (4 nights).

This tour may be combined with

- Romania Revealed: Saxon Villages, Transylvanian Cities and Byzantine Monasteries (27 May - 9 June 2015)

PHYSICAL ENDURANCE LEVEL 3 STAR

☆☆☆

The number of stars (indicated next to each tour code) is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One star (☆) is given to the least taxing tours, six to the most. Stars are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. **Nevertheless all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion.** Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 23-day tour involves

- Moderate walking and standing during site visits; walking tours may include steep slopes, flights of stairs, cobbled streets, visits to hill-top towns and uneven ground during garden visits
- Moderate travel by air-conditioned coach
- Visiting a range of towns and villages on foot, walks uphill from bus parks to historic town centres and other sites

Other considerations

- 3 to 5-star hotels with eight hotel changes
- You must be able to carry your own hand-luggage. Hotel portage only includes 1 piece of luggage per person. Assistance with luggage can be slow on occasion
- Excursions by ferry in the Northern Italian Lakes District; and to Isole Polvese in Lake Trasimeno

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Tour members will receive prior to departure practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers see: www.smarttraveller.gov.au

ACCOMMODATION

All hotels are rated 3, 4 or 5-star locally and are comfortable and conveniently situated, all rooms have shower or bath and w.c. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure. Following is a summary list:

- **Moltrasio (2 nights): 4-star Grand Hotel Imperiale**, a charming hotel built in the late Art Nouveau style, overlooking Lake Como and surrounded by private gardens; www.hotel-lago-como-imperiale.com
- **Stresa (2 nights): 4-star Hotel La Palma** is an elegant modern hotel in the town centre, close to many shops, restaurants, cafés. La Palma is situated in its own beautiful, well kept gardens across the road from the lake and enjoys magnificent views over Lake Maggiore; www.hlapalma.it
- **Turin (3 nights): 4-star Townhouse 70 Hotel**, a modern boutique hotel located in the heart of the historic centre; www.townhouse.it/th70/
- **Lucca (2 nights): 4-star Hotel Ilaria**, located within the walls of the old city, close to the cathedral. It is flanked by the centuries-old garden of the Villa Bottini - it occupies the villa's restored stables - and the medieval city gate, Porta San Gervasio; www.hotelilaria.com
- **Florence (4 nights): 4-star Grand Hotel Adriatico**, a modern hotel located between the Santa Maria Novella Square and the Arno River and within easy walking distance of all major monuments & museums; www.hoteladriatico.it
- **Siena (2 nights): 4-star Hotel Garden** housed in a villa perched on a hill with vineyards and olive groves overlooking Siena. It stands majestically at the end of a beautiful park of ilex trees, flower beds and shrubs; www.gardenhotel.it
- **Perugia (2 nights): 5-star Hotel Brufani Palace** located on a hilltop, within the historical centre of Perugia, at very close walking distance from the main historical sites www.brufanipalace.com
- **Viterbo (1 night): 4-star Alla Corte delle Terme** Exclusive Resort, a charming resort hotel located in the countryside out of Viterbo, www.allacortedelleterme.it
- **Rome (4 nights): 3-star Albergo Santa Chiara**, a charming hotel chosen for its location close to the Pantheon, in the historic centre of Rome; www.albergosantachiara.com

Note: Hotels are subject to change. In this instance a hotel of similar standard will be provided.

THE ITINERARY

The following itinerary describes a range of gardens, villas and palaces which we plan to visit. **Many are accessible to the public, but others require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure in 2015.** The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight schedules and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents prior to departure. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches & evening meals indicated in the detailed itinerary where: **B**=breakfast, **L**=lunch and **D**=evening meals.

Villa Carlotta, Tremezzo



Villa del Balbianello, Bellagio



Villa il Bozzolo, Casalzuigno by David Henderson



Day 1: Tuesday 5 May, Arrive Milan – Transfer to Moltrasio

- Afternoon at Leisure
- Introductory Meeting

On arrival at Milan's Malpensa airport, those taking the ASA designated flight transfer by private coach to Moltrasio. If you are travelling independently, you should meet the group at the **Grand Hotel Imperiale**. Note: private transfers from the airport to the hotel can be arranged through the hotel's concierge, please contact ASA for further information.

Afternoon is at leisure to relax on the shores of Lake Como with panoramic views of the Grigne Mountains. Evening: Short introductory meeting before dining at the hotel's restaurant. **(Overnight Moltrasio) D**

Day 2: Wednesday 6 May, Moltrasio - Tremezzo – Bellagio – Moltrasio

- Villa Carlotta, Tremezzo
- Villa Melzi, Bellagio (optional)
- Villa del Balbianello, Bellagio

Morning cruise across Lake Como to 18th century Villa Carlotta, a garden with a huge botanical collection and a traditional Italian formal design, unlike most lake gardens that were heavily influenced by the more fluid layouts of English landscape gardening; it thus has a wide variety of architectural features - parterres, stairways, ponds, fountains, etc. In April and May Villa Carlotta offers an authentic sea of multi-coloured azaleas shaped in high rounded cushions alongside the garden paths.

During the lunch break you will have some time at leisure to visit Villa Melzi (optional).

Afternoon visit to Villa del Balbianello, an exquisite villa set in woods of pine, soaring cypress and oak with pollarded plane trees and manicured lawns and flowerbeds. Facing the promontory of Serbelloni, from the Lavedo point it boasts unparalleled views down the three branches of the lake. The first villa was built in 1540, but was later moved to a new site inland to protect it from flooding. Cardinal Durini erected a casino with a loggia in 1790, open to the sun and breezes; today it is trellised with *Ficus pumila* (creeping fig) and flanked by a library and music room. **(Overnight Moltrasio) B**

Day 3: Thursday 7 May, Moltrasio – Bisuschio – Casalzuigno – Stresa

- Villa Cicogna Mozzoni, Bisuschio
- Villa della Porta Bozzolo, Casalzuigno

Depart Moltrasio to visit Villa Cicogna Mozzoni, located on a steep hillside in the village of Bisuschio. Its garden looks out upon sweeping views, with a glimpse of Lake Lugano. Founded in the 15th century, the villa took its present form in the 16th century. The Cicogna family, who inherited it in 1580, still owns this lovely villa. The formal gardens rise on 7 narrow terraces and adjacent to them is a small sunken garden with formal box parterres and patches of lawn. We tour the villa residence that houses a fine antique collection. Above the villa is a great terrace with Renaissance grottoes offering shade in summer, and a magnificent water stair. Flowing water was an essential feature of Italian formal gardens, offering a cooling spectacle and a lively, burbling sound.

After lunchtime at leisure we visit Villa della Porta Bozzolo, which is unusual for Lombardy because its measured stately design is laid out upon a steep slope. Parterres, terraces with stone balustrades and grand stairways flanking fountains rise to an octagonal clearing, or theatre, surrounded by a thick ring of cypresses and woods. The perspective rises further to the villa, set to one side in order not to interrupt the silvan view. We continue to our hotel located on the shores of Lake Stresa. **(Overnight Stresa) B**

Day 4: Friday 8 May, Stresa – Lake Maggiore – Lake Orta - Stresa

- Isola Bella, Lake Maggiore
- Isola Madre, Lake Maggiore
- Orta San Giulio & Isola San Giulio, Lake Orta

We take the ferry across Lake Maggiore to Count Carlo Borromeo's Isola Bella (1632), one of Italy's most extraordinary Baroque gardens. Located on an island off Stresa, it appears to float like a palatial barge, with 10 terraces rising like a ship's prow from the reflecting waters. It shares the island with the Borromeo palace and its adjacent village.

We also visit Isola Madre, with semi-tropical plantings amongst which white peacocks roam. In 1845, Flaubert wrote that 'Isola Madre is the most sensual place that I have ever seen in the world'. It has a fine swamp cypress, citrus fruit trees, crape myrtle, hibiscus, leptospermum and acacias. The landscape woods have groves of native trees - aromatic cypress, bay and pine - interplanted with camphor, pepper trees and styrax. Its pathways are lined with magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas.

Afternoon visit to Lake Orta to the west of Lake Maggiore, a tiny jewel surrounded by hills and mountains acting as a great natural theatre enveloping local towns and villages. The most beautiful of these is Orta San Giulio, whose town hall has a frescoed façade. Its narrow streets are lined by Rococo houses. We take a ferry to San Giulio Island to visit the 12th century Romanesque church whose pulpit is one of the outstanding masterpieces of medieval sculpture in Northern Italy. **(Overnight Stresa) B**

Day 5: Saturday 9 May, Stresa – Caravino – Agliè - Turin

- Castello di Masino including lunch and 'The Cloud Garden' by Paolo Pejrone, Caravino
- Castello Ducale di Agliè

We drive south from Stresa to the Castello di Masino to tour the castle and its monumental park. This great Savoyard property 'sets the scene' for your exploration of Piedmont, one of Italy's lesser known, yet extremely important regions. Nestling at the foot of the Alps, this 'gateway to Western Europe' absorbed many foreign garden influences, particularly from nearby France, and from the United Kingdom. In 1860 the venerable House of Savoy, founded in the 11th century, gave a newly unified Italy its royal family. From the 17th century the Dukes of Savoy had built grand palaces and vast gardens often influenced by those of the French Ancien Régime. Our tour of the interior of Castello de Masino and then of its grand park introduces not only Savoyard culture but also contemporary developments in Italian gardening. A captivating aspect of the park is the *Giardino delle Nuvole* (the Cloud Garden) designed by one of Italy's foremost garden designers, the internationally renowned Paolo Pejrone, founder of the Piedmontese Garden Academy.

Isola Bella, Stresa



Isola Bella, Lake Maggiore



Castello di Masino, Caravino



Villa Silvio Pellico, Turin - courtesy of Contessa Raimonda Lanza di Trabia



Villa Silvio Pellico, Turin - courtesy of Contessa Raimonda Lanza di Trabia



Villa Silvio Pellico, Turin - courtesy of Contessa Raimonda Lanza di Trabia



Inspired by Russell Page and Roberto Burle Marx, Pejrone has designed gardens in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Austria, France and the United Kingdom. Pejrone is a committee member of FAI (Fondazione Ambiente Italiana), dedicated to the restoration and conservation of Savoyard castles and palaces; it is headquartered at Castello de Masino. The Castle also hosts an extremely important garden festival in May.

After lunch we will visit Castello di Agliè, a sumptuous palace built from 1646 onwards around the nucleus of a medieval castle, recently restored by FAI. Parts of the 17th century garden survive, and it and later additions form an excellent introduction to Piedmont garden history from the 17th to the late 19th century. In the 18th century the palace became the summer residence of the House of Savoy and was consequently transformed and enlarged to encompass grand formal vistas. The castle, its gardens and terraces are set in large walled and wooded park. This 19th century English park reflects Piedmont's aforementioned sensitivity to foreign influences. **(Overnight Turin) BL**

Day 6: Sunday 10 May, Turin – Moncalieri – Poirino - Turin

- Il Palazzo Reale di Torino
- Villa Silvio Pellico - incl. lunch (exclusive private visit)
- Tenuta Banna Spinola Castle & The Spinola Banna Foundation (exclusive private visit)
- Orientation walk of Turin incl. Palazzo Madama

Morning visit to Turin's Royal Palace, seat of the House of Savoy (1646 – 1859) and of Vittorio Emanuele II, King of Italy (1860 – 1865). This grand palace, a major essay in Italian Baroque and Rococo, has sumptuous decorations and furniture from all periods. Its grand formal garden was transformed at the end of the 17th century into a French garden under the influence of the gardener of Versailles, André Le Nôtre.

In the late morning we visit Villa Silvio Pellico, a fine NeoGothic mansion (1870) with a Russell Page garden, arguably one of his three masterpieces. Page had gained an understanding of the Italian and French formal tradition of gardening from Edith Wharton and Geoffrey Jellicoe. On an ill kempt hillside in the 1950s he created a fine terraced garden on two axes divided by pools; Page was particularly sensitive to the use of water in gardens. Symmetrical hedges create a series of 'rooms' of different designs, using diverse vegetation and ground patterns, as well as sculptures. The present owner, the Raimonda Lanza di Trabia, daughter of the last Prince of Trabia (Sicily), will host us for lunch. You can read more about this garden in Marina Schinz & Gabrielle van Zuylen's book *The Gardens of Russell Page*.

Accompanied by Paolo Pejrone, we next visit Tenuta Banna Spinola Castle, home of the Marchese and Marchesa Spinola. Here Pejrone was inspired by Persian carpets to design a series of contrasting walled gardens; of special note is the rose garden, with types chosen for their fragrance. Pejrone has said: 'Tenuta Banna is a place full of peace... a forgotten place, with no sense of time'.

We return to Turin for a walk through the city, visiting the Palazzo Madama, a medieval castle behind a Baroque façade, with a major art collection that includes Antonello da Messina's *Portrait of a Man*, and a charming reconstruction of a medieval herb garden. There will be time at leisure for you to explore the museum's great art collection. **(Overnight Turin) BL**

Day 7: Monday 11 May, Turin - Revello - Moncalieri - Turin

- Program hosted by Paolo Pejrone
- Bramafan, Paolo Pejrone's Private Experimental Garden (exclusive private visit)
- Private Garden of Silvana and Alberto Peyrani (exclusive private visit)

We are particularly privileged today to accompany Paolo Pejrone on a visit to his own, very private garden, designed not so much for its aesthetics as a laboratory in which the master is constantly experimenting with new plantings. Set on a steep escarpment near a ruined medieval rampart from which 'Bramafan' takes its name, the garden and its owner's discussions with you will give precious, unique insights into his ideas and practice.

Today Paolo Pejrone will also introduce the private garden he designed for Silvana and Alberto Peyrani. Pejrone surrounded their villa with extensive new gardens, including decorative orchards and a fine potager. We are very grateful that the Peyranis have graciously consented to allow us to explore their private domain with its creator.

(Overnight Turin) B

Day 8: Tuesday 12 May, Turin – Santa Margherita Ligure - La Cervara – Lucca

- The Abbey of San Girolamo al Monte di Portofino (La Cervara)
- Group Evening meal at Gli Orti di Via Elisa Restaurant

We drive southeast along the grand Ligurian coast to the magnificent Abbey of San Girolamo al Monte di Portofino. Located in a strategic position atop a rocky headland that overlooks the Tigullio Gulf, it was founded as a Benedictine Monastery (1361). The monks' former vegetable garden was transformed into what is now the only monumental Italian formal garden in the Liguria region. It extends over two levels connected by arbors and steps. On the lower level, hedges of boxwood (*buxus sempervirens*) are trimmed into ornate stepped cones, an important example of topiary art. The hedges surround a 17th-century marble fountain in the form of a putto, whose underlying basin is tinged with pink water lilies in summer.

After visiting this grand garden, we continue to Lucca and check-in to the Hotel Ilaria that occupies the restored stables of the Villa Bottini inside the city walls. In the evening we dine together at the Gli Orti di Via Elisa Restaurant located near the hotel. **(Overnight Lucca) BD**

Day 9: Wednesday 13 May, Lucca

- Orientation tour of Lucca incl. Cathedral of San Martino, San Michele, San Frediano and the Piazza del Mercato
- Palazzo Pfanner
- Afternoon at leisure: Optional Walk along Lucca's City Walls
- Evening Puccini Concert, Church of San Giovanni

Lucca is one of the most beautiful of all Italian cities, with city walls graced by grand plantations of trees and one of the finest sets of Romanesque churches in Italy. We visit the Cathedral of St. Martin, with a lovely Jacopo della Quercia tomb. The Church of San Michele has a spectacular façade made up of complex blind galleries with capricious sculptures of beasts. It was built in the ancient

forum of the city; Lucca's medieval street plan follows the original Roman plan. The oval Piazza del Mercato's medieval palaces were built into the structure of Lucca's Roman amphitheatre. San Frediano, meanwhile, has a distinctive façade mosaic and a unique baptismal font that was once a medieval fountain.

After lunch we visit the privately owned 17th century Palazzo Pfanner where parts of Portrait of a Lady were filmed (1996). The palace's owner, Dario Pfanner, will introduce his palace and its Baroque garden, a fine example of an urban garden that includes various statues of Olympian deities and a fountain pond. Its elegant lemon house (*limonaia*) inflects a space defined by boxwood and laurel hedges. Bushes of peonies and hortensias, roses and potted geraniums gain shade from yews, pines, magnolias and an old camellia. Inside, the palace's *piano nobile* (main reception room) features Pietro Paolo Scorsini frescoes (c.1720).

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. You may wish to walk a section of Lucca's 17th-century city walls, the best preserved in Italy. The Lucchese planted trees atop these walls to form a promenade enlivened by small gardens and lawns. We attend an evening concert with a selection from operas (e.g. *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, *Madame Butterfly* and *Turandot*) by Giacomo Puccini (1858 - 1924) a native of Lucca, in the Church of San Giovanni. **(Overnight Lucca) B**

Day 10: Thursday 14 May, Lucca – Marlia - Camigliano S. Gemma – Florence

- Parco Villa Reale, Marlia
- Fattoria Villa Maionchi, Camigliano - including lunch
- Villa Torrigiani, Camigliano S. Gemma

During the Renaissance, the wealthy merchant families of Tuscany built grand villas on the plains of Lucca. We visit the Villa Reale in Marlia (1651), a magnificent courtly establishment of the Orsetti family that has influenced gardens throughout Europe. Napoleon's sister, Elisa Baciocchi, Princess of Lucca and Piombino, changed much of the original setting to a vast English landscape garden and Niccolò Paganini, her music director, filled its garden with his music. The Orsetti created the garden's climax, its 'green theatre', in 1652. Nearly every detail of a 17th-century theatre - even the footlights - is here formed of carefully clipped topiary. It is now the setting of important recitals.

We eat a traditional Tuscan lunch at the local *agriturismo* Fattoria Villa Maionchi, followed by a brief tour of the farm that produces a variety of products including wine, olives, olive oil and marmalade.

We then visit 17th century Villa Torrigiani, named after the camellia that was introduced to the gardens in the early 18th century. The garden's Baroque layout, attributed to André Le Nôtre, features symmetrical reflecting pools in front of the villa. Most outstanding is the secret garden (Giardino di Flora), with regular beds, topiary and pools. The garden features 19th-century trees, magnificent magnolias, cypresses and umbrella pines. The 18th century avenue of cypresses leading to the villa from the village of Borgonuova reflects the past grandeur of estates in this region. In the late afternoon we arrive at our hotel in central Florence.

(Overnight Florence) BL

Lucca - photo by David Henderson



Villa Torrigiani, Camigliano S. Gemma



Giardino Corsini al Prato, Florence



Day 11: Friday 15 May, Florence – Fiesole – Florence

- Villa Medici in Fiesole
- Villa Le Balze, Fiesole
- Villa Capponi (exclusive private visit)

Unlike the grand villa gardens we have visited near Lucca, Florence and its vicinity have a number of small intimate urban gardens that we visit today. Many of these offer glimpses of the city, a counterpart to the spectacular views afforded by their grander Florentine counterparts. Such views offer a reminder that Florentine villas were seen as retreats from this metropolitan powerhouse. We make an early morning visit to elegant Fiesole in the hills overlooking Florence where Boccaccio set his *Decameron*, model for Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*; Boccaccio's protagonists told stories to while away their days in a Fiesole villa in which they had escaped from the plague ravaging Florence.

We first visit the 16th-century Villa Medici in Fiesole. The garden, showing Cecil Pinsent's influence, is divided into three terraces with a limonaia. After leisure time to explore Fiesole's town centre we shall walk to Villa Le Balze. Now a University of Georgetown study centre, it has a small formal garden and olive grove designed by Englishman Cecil Pinsent, with breathtaking views over Florence.

In Florence in the afternoon we visit the 16th-century Villa Capponi and its secret gardens where the late Queen Mother spent holidays as a girl. Cecil Pinsent's influence is evident; he added a library and created a hidden swimming pool area. **(Overnight Florence) B**

Day 12: Saturday 16 May, Florence – Greve in Chianti – Florence

- Giardino Bardini
- Villa Vignamaggio, Greve in Chianti - including wine-tasting and lunch
- Giardino Corsini al Prato (exclusive private visit)

In telling contrast to the small gardens visited yesterday, the Bardini gardens, situated above the famous Boboli gardens, are composed of broad terraces offering grand theatrical panoramas of the city. Developed over 700 years, this garden eventually comprised 3 major sections: Ancient terraced orchards, 18th-century Baroque features, and an English Romantic garden. A centerpiece is the magnificent Baroque floral staircase, leading to a Belvedere terrace with unmatched views of the city below.

We next drive out of Florence for a delicious lunch at a beautiful Renaissance villa, Vignamaggio, Greve in Chianti. The 15th-16th-century house has important artistic associations, for Leonardo da Vinci is thought to have stayed here, and painted the owner's young wife, Lisa del Giocondo, Mona Lisa. Vignamaggio is also famed for its wines, for it is the official supplier to the Italian parliament at the Quirinale Palace, Rome; its wines are first mentioned in the 15th century. It also was the setting of Kenneth Branagh's film *Much Ado About Nothing*, starring Emma Thompson. The restored garden, aligned to a row of 100-year-old cypress, features simple topiary and box hedging amid lawns. Areas like the sunken fountain garden inflect this exquisite orchestration of trees, hedges, lawns and old statues that look out upon the estate's famous vineyards.

We conclude with a visit to the Giardini Corsini al Prato, a Florentine urban garden that illustrates the deep connection between nature, science and beauty in the

Palazzo Medici-Riccardi, The Chapel of the Magi, Florence

Renaissance sensibility. Alessandro Acciaiuoli, a passionate 16th-century botanist, conceived the garden. Unable to finish his residence, he was forced to sell the property to Filippo di Lorenzo Corsini who completed the Italian garden that remains unchanged to this day. Completely concealed from the street by the façade of the palazzo, this urban garden reveals pink and red rock roses, peonies, cherry trees and lavender along with elegant lemon urns and a central axis of solemn marble statues. After our tour of the gardens Princess Georgiana Corsini has kindly arranged for us to a tour of her palace, accompanied by refreshments. **(Overnight Florence) BL**

Day 13: Sunday 17 May, Florence

- San Lorenzo: Medici Chapel
- Palazzo Medici-Riccardi: The Chapel of the Magi
- Afternoon at leisure

On a visit to San Lorenzo and the Medici Chapel we explore Michelangelo's Medici tombs, masterpieces of 16th-century sculpture showing a transition from classical High Renaissance values to a Mannerist mode.

Near San Lorenzo we visit the Palazzo Medici-Riccardi to view Benozzo Gozzoli's frescoes of the *Procession of the Magi* in the small Magi Chapel. The sumptuous procession, which includes Medici family members, is set in an ideal Tuscan landscape, which forms a fascinating comparison to the gardens we visit and countryside through which we drive. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Florence's many monuments and museums. **(Overnight Florence) B**

Day 14: Monday 18 May, Florence – Settignano – Pianella – Siena

- Villa Gamberaia, Settignano - including interiors of the villa
- Villa di Geggiano, Pianella - including buffet lunch (exclusive private visit)
- Optional evening excursion to Siena's town centre

We drive to Siena via two famous Tuscan villas. At Settignano we visit the Villa Gamberaia, with arguably the most famous of Florentine villa gardens. The Capponi family initiated the present garden in 1718. In 1896, Princess Ghika of Serbia created the main water parterres in front of the villa. The Marchi family has recently restored the garden. It features magnificent topiary, two fine grottoes, and wonderful old cypresses and pines. By special arrangement, we also tour the interiors of the villa which combines interesting architectural features of both an urban palazzo and suburban villa.

Midday we cross to the opposite side of the Sienese hills to the enchanting Villa Geggiano. Here, centuries-old cypress, potted lemons and clipped box hedges adorn a garden boasting a unique 'greenery theatre', late Baroque sculptures, a kitchen garden with topiary art and a semi-circular fishpond that forms an elegant terrace overlooking Siena. The villa itself contains original 13th century furnishings. A small chapel faces the garden. Lunch features crostini with porcini mushrooms and truffles, pasta, various locally cured meats and Pecorino cheeses, followed by plum jam tart, all washed down with Villa di Geggiano *Chianti Classico*, mineral water and coffee.



Villa di Geggiano, Pianella



In the afternoon we continue to our hotel on the outskirts of Siena, a villa surrounded by gardens. For those wishing to dine in Siena, there will be an optional evening excursion by public bus into the city centre. **(Overnight Siena) BL**

Day 15: Tuesday 19 May, Siena

- Orientation tour of Siena including: Palazzo Pubblico, Cathedral & Museum
- Afternoon at leisure

Siena is the quintessential medieval city. We explore Lorenzetti's fascinating paintings of *Good and Bad Government* in the Palazzo Pubblico and Duccio's masterpiece, the *Maestà* in the Cathedral Museum. We examine Nicola and Giovanni Pisano's great pulpit in Siena Cathedral. We also visit medieval quarters (*contrade*) dominated by palaces still occupied by the families who built them. The *contrade* compete in the famous *palio* horse race twice a year. Protected by the Virgin Mary, Siena is a city of Trinitarian symbolism. Built on three ridges, it has three major sectors (*terzi*) that each elected three members of the city council, and interpreted its very architectural fabric in such symbolic terms. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Siena's many monuments and museums. **(Overnight Siena) B**

Day 16: Wednesday 20 May, Siena - Chianciano Terme – Castel del Piano Umbro - Perugia

- Villa La Foce, Chianciano Terme (by special appointment)
- Private gardens of Villa Aureli, Castel del Piano Umbro - including lunch (exclusive private visit)
- Perugia Orientation Walk: Cathedral & Fontana Maggiore

We drive south to the Renaissance Villa La Foce, home of Iris Origo, author of the famous *Merchant of Prato*. Origo's two autobiographies, *Images and Shadows* and *War in Val d'Orcia*, vividly describe life on the estate in the mid-20th century. La Foce overlooks the Orcia valley and Amiata Mountains, maintaining a distinctive harmony between its spectacular landscape setting and the formal style of surrounding gardens. Terraces with cherries, pines, cypress and wild herbs gently climb its hillside setting. Now a centre for cultural and artistic activities it hosts the distinguished Incontri chamber annual summer music festival in the Castelluccio, a medieval castle on the property.

Count Sperello di Serego Alighieri, a descendent of Dante, will host us for a light lunch and show us his lovely Villa Aureli. Shaded by lime trees and oaks and decorated with many late antique vases containing citrus trees, the villa dates to the middle of the 18th century, when a Perugian nobleman and artist, Count Sperello Aureli, transformed a 16th century tower into his country residence. Of particular note is the orangery, whose high roof reminds one of the hull of an upturned ship.

We continue to Perugia for a gentle orientation walk to include its Cathedral and Fontana Maggiore. We spend 2 nights in the luxury Brufani Palace Hotel, located on a hilltop within Perugia's historic core. **(Overnight Perugia) BL**

Day 17: Thursday 21 May, Perugia - Lake Trasimeno & Isola Polvese - Perugia

- Excursion to Isola Polvese - including the water garden designed by Pietro Porcinai
- Private garden of Daniela Fe d'Ostiani, "Il Giadorto" - including lunch (exclusive private visit)

On a full day excursion to the Lake Trasimeno region, we take a ferry to Isola Polvese to visit the small water garden designed by Pietro Porcinai. Son of the Villa Gamberaia's gardener, Pietro Porcinai is considered one of the most outstanding Italian landscape architects of the 20th century. We may also visit a medieval castle and small church of San Giuliano. The island itself is the subject of a major conservation project.

Daniela Fe d'Ostiani hosts us for lunch and shows us through her gardens 'Il Giadorto', which she has developed over 30 years on terraces high above Trasimeno. This passionate gardener has framed views across Lake Trasimeno with her favorite species. The garden is composed of different areas: the mixed borders, the garden of dahlias, the grove and a decorative vegetable garden surrounded by an olive grove on a lower terrace. It also has a wide variety of roses, for Umbria and Lazio are the two Italian regions best known for their roses. **(Overnight Perugia) BL**

Day 18: Friday 22 May, Perugia – Vignanello – Bagnaia - Viterbo

- Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria
- Castello Ruspoli, Vignanello - including lunch
- Villa Lante, Bagnaia

We begin by viewing masterpieces, including works by Perugino, in the Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria before departing Perugia to visit two great villas and their gardens.

Castello Ruspoli occupies the site of a mid-9th century Benedictine convent later converted to a military stronghold. Ortensia Baglioni transformed it into a villa, designed by the great architects Sangallo and Vignola, and succeeding generations created one of Italy's most beautiful parterres, composed of hedges of bay, laurel and box, which articulate a vast rectangular space. The Princess Ruspoli today maintains the gardens. Our visit will be complemented by lunch in the wine-cellars near the palazzo which specialize in the cuisine of Vignanello.

Villa Lante is the consummate example of Italian Mannerist garden design. Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola's exemplary essay in fine scale and proportion centres on a fountain and water parterre. Vignola was influenced by the Vatican gardens, the Villa d'Este, Hadrian's marine theatre and the Boboli Gardens (Florence). Its theme, humanity's descent from the Golden Age is based upon Ovid's *Metamorphosis*. Water flows from the Grotto of the Deluge at the summit down a stepped cascade and through a channel at the centre of a vast stone table used for banquets, inspired by Pliny's description of an imperial garden table using water to cool wine and fruit. In the late afternoon drive a short distance to our hotel located in the countryside outside Viterbo. **(Overnight Viterbo) BLD**

Day 19: Saturday 23 May, Viterbo - Tivoli - Rome

- Private Garden (to be confirmed)
- Villa D'Este, Tivoli

This morning we plan to visit a private garden south of Viterbo. Our afternoon at Tivoli features an exquisite landscape of villas and elegant gardens shaped by water and stone, reflecting the remarkable engineering skills of the ancient Romans and their 17th-century successors. In the 16th century Cardinal Ippolito d'Este built a villa and garden to rival the splendour of its ancient neighbour, Hadrian's Villa. Set among the hanging cliffs of the Valle Gaudente, the Villa d'Este and its surrounding gardens and waterworks has undergone a series of innovative extensions in layout and decoration, including those of Bernini in the late 17th century. This UNESCO world heritage site boasts an impressive concentration of nymphaea, grottoes and fountains, including the famous hydraulic Organ Fountain that still operates. The Villa d'Este's use of water and music became the definitive model for Mannerist and Baroque gardens across Europe. **(Overnight Rome) B**

Day 20: Sunday 24 May, Rome

- Private Gardens in Rome (to be confirmed)
- Time at leisure in Rome

Today we will meet the Architect Gabriella Recrosio, who runs an important Italian garden scheme, the Associazione Giardini Aperti, and whose own garden we shall visit tomorrow. Gabriella has kindly agreed to recommend for us a number of private gardens, which we shall also visit on this day. **(Overnight Rome) B**

Day 21: Monday 25 May, Rome - Castel Giuliano - Bracciano - Rome

- Palazzo Patrizi, Castel Giuliano (exclusive private visit)
- San Liberato Giardini Botanici, Bracciano - including lunch (exclusive private visit)
- Private Gardens of Gabriella Recrosio (exclusive private visit)

The estate of Castel Giuliano, surrounded by a beautiful century-old park, occupies the site of an Etruscan and Roman settlement at the foot of the Tolfa Mountains. The Patrizi family has owned it since 1546 and its present owners have restored its ancient buildings and park to their former splendour. On its wide, gently sloping turf terraces, pines, cluster oaks, and century-old Lebanon cedars tower above sweet-scented herbs and flower-laden bushes, contrasting unruly nature with human interventions. The park has numerous Etruscan tombs and ruins of Roman walls covered in ferns and lichen. Truly unique, is one of Italy's most important private rose gardens; in May it hosts the famous Feast of the Roses. Climbing roses soften the austere lines of the ancient castle walls, which are surrounded by combinations of shrubbery and foxglove, myrtle and pale blue ceanothus.

Nearby we visit the gardens of San Liberato, overlooking Lake Bracciano, designed by the famous English landscape designer Russell Page. Page assisted the Count and Countess Sanminiatielli to create San Liberato between 1965 and 1975. With panoramic views of the lake and surrounding countryside, chestnut woods, a formal rose garden, informal flower beds like small islands dotting the green lawns, and borders of silver and grey plants, the garden also has a modern version of the 'Orto dei

Piazza del Campo, Siena



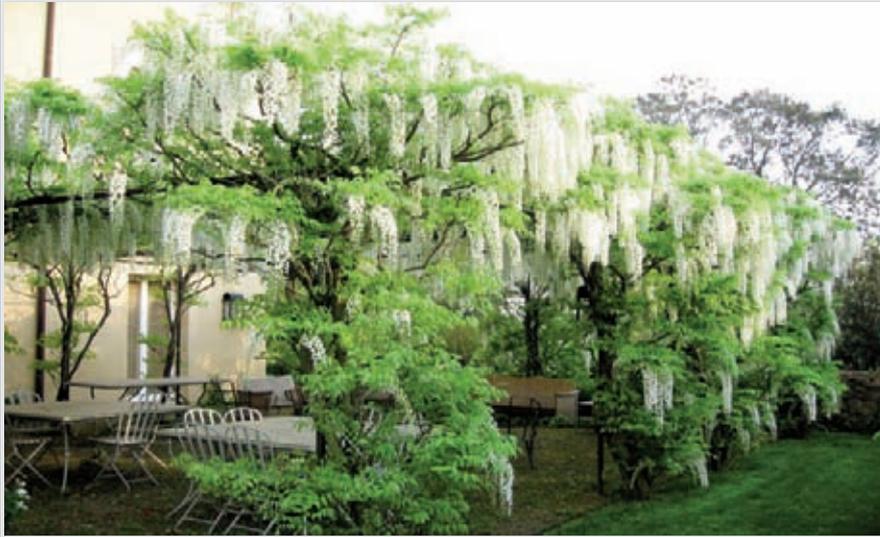
Gardens of Villa La Foce, Chianciano Terme



Gardens of Castello Ruspoli, Vignanello



Tenuta della Torrecchia, Cisterna di Latina, Italy - courtesy of Stuart Barfoot



Giardini di Ninfa, Doganella di Ninfa Latina, Italy



Semplici', a late medieval physic garden of monastery pharmacies - situated next to the extraordinary church of San Liberato (c.1000 AD).

On our return journey to Rome, we visit the private gardens of Gabriella Recrosio, who runs an important Italian open garden scheme. Gabrielle's garden features luxuriant plantings characterized by detailed arrangements of colour and texture. **(Overnight Rome) BL**

Day 22: Tuesday 26 May, Rome - Ninfa - Sermoneta - Sezze - Rome

- Giardini di Ninfa
- Farewell Lunch at Ristorante Simposio al Corso, Sermoneta
- Private Gardens of Torrecchia Vecchia (exclusive private visit)

We depart early this morning (approx. 7.30am) for the Giardini di Ninfa. The magnificent gardens of Ninfa south of Rome are some of the most remarkable in all of Italy. Entrance to the gardens is restricted and we are fortunate to be able to visit them. The town of Ninfa is but a memory of a once prosperous medieval commune owned by the Caetani family since the mid-13th century. In the early 20th century the family began to regenerate its ruins, taking advantage of a microclimate greened by rich spring water. Thousands of species were introduced from all over the world under the guidance of botanical experts. Lelia Caetani, the last of her ancient family, died in 1977 and bequeathed her property to the Foundation Caetani that maintains the wonderfully atmospheric gardens. Today plants weave themselves over ruined towers, ancient archways and churches, while ducks and swans glide on the castle's moat. Highlights include a walled garden, small orchard and diverse plantings in which roses, banana trees and maples thrive together in this unique and beautiful landscape.

Midday we dine at Ristorante Simposio al Corso, located in the medieval town of Sermoneta. Nearby, we visit the dreamy gardens of Torrecchia, one of Italy's most beautiful private gardens. 'Nestled against the crumbling ruins of a medieval village and castle, perched on a volcanic hilltop just south of Rome, they command spectacular views of the unspoilt 1500 acre estate'. Owned by Carlo Caracciolo (the late owner of the Italian newspaper *L'Espresso*) and Violante Visconti, the gardens were originally designed by Lauro Marchetti, the current curator of the Giardini di Ninfa and further developed by the English garden designer Dan Pearson and later by Stuart Barfoot. **(Overnight Rome) BL**

Day 23: Wednesday 27 May, Depart Rome

The morning is at leisure. Participants departing Rome on the designated group flight will transfer by coach for their return flight to Australia. **B**

TOUR PRICE

\$11,780.00 Land Content Only

Early-Bird Special: book before 30 Sep 2014

\$11,980.00 Land Content Only

\$2195.00 Single Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class fares please contact ASA for further information.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3- and 4-star hotels (5-star in Perugia)
- Meals provided are indicated in the itinerary where: **B**=breakfast, **L**=lunch and **D**=evening meal
- Transportation by A/C motorcoach
- Porterage at hotels
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour Notes
- Entrance fees to all sites
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides, and waiters at group meals included in the itinerary

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include

- International Airfare: Australia - Milan, Rome - Australia
- Beverages with meals
- Lunches & evening meals (other than those indicated in the tour itinerary)
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the designated flights
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by some form of international travel insurance. Note, travel insurance may not cover costs incurred due to a pre-existing illness or other conditions. Your insurance can be arranged through ASA. All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program:

- a copy of your travel insurance certificate
- the emergency telephone no. of your insurance company

Passport Details

All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.

Paying the Balance

Balance of your tour price (full price minus \$500) must be paid to Australians Studying Abroad 75 days before you depart. You will receive an invoice from Australians Studying Abroad at this time. Upon receipt of payment we send you a receipt.

Single Supplement

Payment of the single supplement will ensure single room accommodation throughout the tour. The number of single rooms available is extremely limited. People wishing to take the single supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Villa Gamberaia, Settignano - photo by David Henderson





Reservation Application

TOUR NAME
TOUR DATES

Please **complete one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other
FIRST NAME Preferred FIRST NAME
MIDDLE NAME SURNAME
POSTAL ADDRESS
CITY STATE COUNTRY POSTCODE
TEL. (AH) () TEL. (BH) () Mobile Tel:
EMAIL address
Date of birth / / GENDER Male Female

Passport Number Expiry date / / Nationality
 I have enclosed a colour copy of my current valid passport ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Travel Plans

I wish ASA to book my airfare, please contact me to discuss my options. Business Class Economy Class
 I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date / /
 I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.
Frequent Flyer Name of Airline Airline Seat preference
Membership # (please note request only)

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: a twin-bedded room a double-bedded room a room for sole occupancy
I am travelling: on my own with a friend/family member Travel Companion

Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests
Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information
Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:
 fish poultry red meat dairy products
 eggs pork nuts
 Other

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence Postal Mail Email Address

Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person MUST be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name Relationship to Traveller
Address
TEL. (AH) () TEL. (BH) () Mobile Tel:
EMAIL address

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at www.asatours.com.au
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel: 1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- | | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Do you have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? YES NO
- If yes, please specify
-
- If yes, how will you manage this on tour?
-

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

- | | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If yes, please specify | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| 2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If yes, please specify | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| Do you carry an epipen? | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If yes, please specify | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

- | | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If yes, please specify | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| If yes, how will you manage this on tour? | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | |
| 2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries. | | |

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. Are you diabetic? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are you insulin dependent? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour. | | |



Declaration, Liability and Booking Conditions

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept that there are inherent dangers and risks that may occur during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services provided for the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of travelling to, on and from any tour.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Indemnity applies with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
 - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
 - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
 - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally.
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of my continued participation on a tour for whatever reason (refund conditions in ASA's Booking Conditions excepted).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products or services. If a service provider does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (eg. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any such service provider however caused (contingencies). You must take out adequate travel insurance against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour will be limited to the refund of amounts received from you less all non-refundable costs and charges and the costs of any substituted event or alternate services provided. The terms and conditions of the relevant service provider from time to time comprise the sole agreement between you and that service provider.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A deposit of \$500.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:

- More than 75 days before departure: \$500*
- 75-46 days prior 25% of total amount due
- 45-31 days prior 50% of total amount due
- 30-15 days prior 75% of total amount due
- 14-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

*This amount may be **credited** to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. If an ASA tour is forced to cancel you will get a full refund of all tour monies paid. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to daily itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

I accept the conditions on this booking form

I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Please read the above carefully, print and sign below

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

Tour / Course Name

I have enclosed a non refundable deposit of \$ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

By Cheque

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ
Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
Swift Code ANZBAU3M
BSB 013-423
Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No.

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, American Express & Visa 1.95%

Please debit my: Mastercard American Express Visa

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date Security Code (CVC)

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)

Cardholders Name

Cardholders Billing Address

State Postcode

Country

Phone

Email

Cardholders Signature