

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS IN 2012



Art Cities of the Po Valley: Milan, Parma, Bologna, Padua, Mantua

26 April – 12 May 2012 (17 days / 16 nights)

Tour Leader: Terence Maloon


Renaissance
Tours



Art Cities of the Po Valley



Tour leader Terence Maloon

Dip AD, BA (Hons), MA

Terence is senior curator of Special Exhibitions at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. His highly acclaimed exhibitions include Classic Cézanne, Picasso – The Last Decades, Pissarro – The First Impressionist, Drawing the Figure – from Michelangelo to Matisse (with Peter Raissis) and the most recent, Paths to Abstraction 1867-1917. To satisfy his lifelong passion for art, Terence has been a regular traveller to Italy and France since boyhood. Over the past 15 years, he had led a number of successful Art Gallery tours to Europe.

Blessed by millennia of prosperity, the richly fertile Po Valley holds an extraordinary array of historic towns and cities. This in-depth tour selects the most interesting, from Milan in the west to Padua in the east, with stays in some of Northern Italy's loveliest old cities, including Parma, Bologna and Verona with visits to Bergamo, Pavia, Ferrara, Vicenza and Mantua.

Through an overview of the cultural history of the region, this focussed itinerary traces developments in architecture, painting and sculpture between the 11th and 17th centuries. Artists and architects such as Mantegna, Lotto, Correggio, Tiepolo, Palladio and the early works of Bramante, are examined in great detail.

Highlights include visits to landmarks in the history of art such as Giotto's *Arena Chapel*, Piero della Francesca's Brera altarpiece, Mantegna's *Camera degli Sposi*, Leonardo's *Last Supper*, and Palladio's *Olympic Theatre* and *Villa Rotonda*. There will of course be many gastronomic delights along the way plus Puccini's *Tosca* at the famed La Scala Theatre in Milan.



Verona

ITINERARY

Wed 25 April 2012

Depart Australia

Suggested departure from Australia on Emirates via Dubai to Milan.

Thu 26 April

Arrive Milan

Arrive Milan and check-in to the hotel located just a few steps from the Gothic **Duomo Cathedral**, Milan's exclusive fashion street Via Montenapoleone and the world renowned **La Scala Opera Theatre**. Tonight join Terence Maloon and fellow art lovers for a welcome dinner. (D)

Fri 27 April

Milan

Full day exploration of Milan, which was one of the greatest centres of the Roman Empire. See the **Porta Romana**, an ancient gateway to the city. Visit two churches founded in the 4th century, **San Lorenzo Maggiore** and **Sant' Eustorgio**. The former preserves some Paleochristian mosaics and a sarcophagus, while the latter features the marvellous 15th century **Cappella Portinari** attributed to the Florentine architect Michelozzo. There will be some time at leisure to explore the Duomo and the **Vittorio Emanuele Gallery**, which are both symbols of the city. (BL)

Sat 28 April

Milan

After breakfast visit the stronghold of the Renaissance dukes of Milan, the **Castello Sforzesca**, which contains Michelangelo's last work, the very moving **Pietà**. Continue to the **Brera Museum**, whose treasures include the only surviving paintings by Bramante, Mantegna's *Dead Christ* and Piero della Francesca's *Madonna and Child with Saints and Angels*.

In the afternoon visit **Santa Maria della Grazia**, designed in part by Bramante, with Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper* fresco in the refectory. The tour will conclude at the church of **Sant' Ambrogio**. Founded by Saint Ambrose in 386, it is one of the most important Romanesque buildings in Europe, with an accretion of one and a half thousand years of history in the fabric of its interior.

This evening attend a performance of Puccini's **Tosca** at the **Teatro alla Scala**. (B)

Sun 29 April

Milan

Morning visit to the **Poldi Museum** which once was a private collection. It includes Botticelli's moving *Lamentation*, Pollaiuolo's *Portrait of a Woman* and Piero della Francesca's *St Nicolas of Tolentione* among its highlights. Remainder of the day at leisure. (B)

Mon 30 April

Milan – (Bergamo)

Excursion to Bergamo. Start with a walking tour of the old centre of Bergamo situated on a hill, accessible by funicular. The works of painter Lorenzo Lotto are found in the churches of **San Bartolomeo**, **Santo Spirito**, **San Bernardino** and **San Michele**. Finish with a visit to the **Galleria dell'Accademia Carrara**, rich in Lottos and one of the best painting collections in Italy. (BL)

Tue 1 May

Milan – Pavia – Parma

Travel from Milan to Parma with a stop in **Pavia** to visit the delightful **Certosa di Pavia**, built in a mixture of Gothic and Renaissance styles as a mausoleum to the Visconti dukes.

In Pavia, also visit **San Michele**, the **Duomo** and the Romanesque church of **San Pietro** in Ciel d'Oro containing the tomb of Saint Augustine. Late afternoon arrival in Parma. (BL)



Milan's Gothic Duomo Cathedral



Teatro alla Scala, Milan



Vittorio Emanuele Gallery



Santa Maria della Grazia



Bergamo countryside

Wed 2 May

Parma

Parma gave the High Renaissance master Correggio (1489-1534) his major commissions. Visit the **Duomo**, where the frescoes of the dome are Correggio's last and most influential work. His frescoes also dominate the nearby church of **San Giovanni Evangelista**, Parma's most important Renaissance building.

In the afternoon explore the **Palazzo della Pilotta** which houses several museums as well as the **Farnese Theatre**, which pre-dates Palladio's Olympic Theatre in Vicenza. The **Galleria Nazionale** contains an outstanding collection of Correggios. (B)

Thu 3 May

Parma – Modena – Bologna

Travel by coach from Parma to Bologna. En route stop in Modena, where the **Duomo** is one of the masterpieces of the Italian Romanesque. It was the inspired collaborative work of the sculptor Wiligelmo and the architect Lanfranco, who commenced work in 1099.

The **Galleria Estense** houses the collection of the House of Este, rulers of Modena (1288–1796). Arrive at your hotel, a charming villa in the hills outside Bologna. (BLD)

Fri 4 May

Bologna

Exploration of the old centre of Bologna, which is exceptionally well preserved, with arcaded streets and the magnificent Piazza Maggiore. Visit the vast **Basilica of San Petronio**, **Santo Stefano** and the nearby church of **San Domenico**, which contains an important shrine by Nicola Pisano (1264), early sculptures by Michelangelo and a fresco by Guido Reni.

In the afternoon visit the **Morandi Museum** and the **Pinacoteca Nazionale** which provides a matchless survey of the artists of the Bolognese school and also includes important works by Giotto and Raphael. (B)

Sat 5 May

Bologna – Ferrara – Padua

Depart Bologna after breakfast and travel to Ferrara to view the badly damaged, but irresistibly charming cycle of 15th century frescoes by Francesco del Cossa and Ercole de'Roberti in the **Sala dei Mesi of the Palazzo Schifanoia**. They represent the months of the year and provide fascinating glimpses into the amusements of courtly life in the early Renaissance. On a walking tour see the **Duomo** and the **Castello Estense** before continuing to Padua. (BD)

Sun 6 May

Padua

Full day exploration of Padua. Start with a visit to the **Arena Chapel** to see Giotto's great cycle of frescoes. Continue to the nearby **Chiesa degli Eremitani** to see the remnants of Mantegna's frescoes that survived bombing in World War II.

After lunch visit the Byzantine-style **Basilica of Sant' Antonio**, containing great works by Donatello and Altichiero, and the Chapel of Sant' Antonio by Tullio Lombardo. The adjoining Conto chapel contains remarkable frescoes by Giusto de Menabuoi, while the Scuola del Santo houses early masterpieces by Titian. Continue to the **Palazzo della Ragione**, **Duomo** and **Baptistry** containing more frescoes by Giusto de Menabuoi. (BL)

Mon 7 May

Padua

Day at leisure in Padua. You may wish to return to the **Arena Chapel** for a second visit. (B)



Bergamo's Old Town



Covered bridge, Pavia



Duomo frescos by Correggio, Parma



Ferrara Duomo



Bologna canal

Tue 8 May Padua – Vicenza – Verona

On the way to Verona, stop in Vicenza, a showcase of Palladian architecture. Highlights include Palladio's **Olympic Theatre**, the **Basilica** and the **Palazzo Chiericati**.

The **Villa Rotonda** is located on the outskirts of Vicenza and is one of Palladio's best-known legacies to the architectural world. It inspired a thousand subsequent buildings, but the villa was itself inspired by the Pantheon in Rome. Arrive in Verona in the afternoon. (BLD)

Wed 9 May Verona

Full day exploration of Verona. Start with a visit to the **Roman Arena** and walk through the town centre via Piazza Erbe and Piazza Signori and the finest medieval tomb-complex in Italy, the **Arche Scagliere**. Continue to the church of **Sant' Anastasia** to view Pisanello's fresco of *St George and the Princess* (c. 1436).

From the **Porta Bosari**, walk via the 16th century palaces, **Palazzo Canossa** and **Palazzo Bevilacqua** to the **Castlevecchio**, which contains works by Mantegna, Giovanni Bellini, Veronese, Lotto etc.

In the afternoon visit the great Romanesque church of **San Zeno Maggiore**, with Mantegna's masterpiece, the **San Zeno Triptych** (1457-59) within. Return to the hotel via the **Duomo**, which contains an altarpiece by Titian, and San Stefano. (BL)

Thu 10 May Verona – (Mantua)

Full day excursion to Mantua. Visit the **Ducal Palace**, a vast sprawl which evolved over 300 years of more or less continuous building. The high point is Mantegna's frescoes in the **Camera degli Sposi**, one of the foremost achievements of early Renaissance painting. The nearby church of **Sant' Andrea** is Alberti's most ambitious and coherent building.

After lunch visit Giulio Romano's Mannerist folly, the **Palazzo del Te** - a sort of running gag of aesthetic rule breaking, whose architect and patron egged one another in a spirit of hilarious contrariness. (B)

Fri 11 May Verona – (Lake Garda)

Today's excursion takes you to Lake Garda and the pretty town of **Sirmione** located on the southern shore of the lake, perched on the end of a long promontory. Sirmione's beautiful setting was praised by the Roman poet Catullus. The town's narrow medieval streets bustle with colour and life, and its most striking feature is the moated castle, **Rocca Scaligera**. After a scenic cruise and visit to the **Isola del Garda**, join Terence Maloon and fellow travellers for a farewell lunch. Return to Verona in the afternoon. (BL)

Sat 12 May Verona – depart Milan

Tour arrangements conclude after breakfast. Transfer to Milan airport for the afternoon departure on Emirates via Dubai to Australia. (B)

Sun 13 May In-flight

Mon 14 May Arrive Australia

Morning arrival in Australia.



Bologna



Arena Chapel, Padua



Titan fresco at Scuola del Santo, Padua



Mantua



Piazza Erbe, Verona



Verona



Porta Borsari, Verona



Strada Farini (Credit Pietro Ronchini / Municipality of Parma)

TOUR PRICES ...

Per person, twin-share	AUD 8,950
Single supplement*	AUD 1,990
Deposit (per person)	AUD 500
Final Payment Due	27 February 2012

*Single travellers may request to share.
Please advise at time of booking.

TOUR CODE AGS Po Valley

SUGGESTED AIRLINE Emirates

Emirates has connections from Australia to Milan (and other Italian cities) via Dubai.

Please contact Renaissance Tours for assistance with airfares and flight reservations.

TOUR PRICES INCLUDE

- Accommodation in centrally located 4-star hotels with private facilities and daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner) including a special Welcome dinner and Farewell lunch. Wine with dinners and farewell lunch.
- Transfers on arrival and departure if travelling on suggested flights
- A-reserve ticket to Tosca at La Scala, Milan
- Comprehensive sightseeing, visits to galleries and attractions with Terence Maloon including entrance fees as per itinerary
- Lectures and talks with your tour leader throughout
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (1 piece per person).

DO NOT INCLUDE

- International airfares
- Transfer on arrival and departure if not travelling on suggested flights
- Drinks with lunches
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, taxis etc.
- Airport portorage
- Travel insurance

YOUR HOTELS ...



Starhotel Rosa
Milan

★★★★



Grand Hotel de la Ville
Parma

★★★★



Palazzo Loup
Bologna

★★★★



Plaza Hotel
Padua

★★★★



Grand Hotel
Verona

★★★★

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

TERMS & CONDITION

How to Book

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit of \$500 per person. Upon receipt of your Booking Form and deposit, you will receive confirmation of your place from Renaissance Tours.

Deposit / Final Payments

Deposit (at time of booking) AUD500

Your deposit is used to pay supplier deposits and is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation. Your final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit. We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

Payment by cash, cheque, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

Cancellation & Refunds

You may cancel the booking at any time. Written notification is essential even if verbal notification of an intention to cancel has been given. Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to the charges shown below, airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	forfeit of deposit.
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any

existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

Forced Cancellations

We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees.

No compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

Passports, Visas and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to be in possession of a passport valid for 6 months after the date of your return to Australia. You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary visas, inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour. Information about these matters or related items is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Renaissance Tours.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide the following information no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel:

- a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- next of kin emergency contact

Fitness and Participation

While our tours do not require a special level of fitness, for the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 2-3 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

If you (or we) have any doubts about your ability to participate in your chosen tour, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require a doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour and provide you with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

Terms & Conditions

You can find a copy of the full terms & conditions attached to the Renaissance Tours booking form. They can also be found on our website at: www.renaissancetours.com.au or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



Isola del Garda



Castello Estense, Ferrara



Front: Prato della valle Padova, Padua
 Back (L-R): From Via Pisacane to the Baptistery (Credit Milla Mariani / Municipality of Parma); Neptune Fountain, Bologna.

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