



FRIENDS *of* FLORENCE

FEBRUARY 2017 FLORENCE PROGRAM

Special Treasures of Tuscany IX:

Following the Path of Dante's Divine Comedy

Thursday, February 16th through Tuesday, February 21st

PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

(as of September 2016)

The 2017 Program will explore the world of Dante and the Divine Comedy.

- Payment for direct program costs in the amount of \$3,000 per person and a per-person tax-deductible contribution of \$2,000 are required to register.
- Our primary historians will be Dr. Bill Cook and Dr. Ross King.
- A block of rooms at a discounted rate is available at The Westin Excelsior (Piazza Ognissanti, 3; 50123 Firenze), our daily starting point while in Florence. See below for more information on rates and how to make a reservation. Please make your hotel reservations for the days we are in Florence. Do not make reservations at The Westin Excelsior for the night of 18th of February.
- We will spend one night outside Florence during the course of the program. This will be Saturday, February 18th in Verona. Lodging costs for this night will be included in the Program costs portion of your payment.

Thursday, February 16th

- ◆ 2:30PM – Welcome meeting at The Westin Excelsior, followed by lectures by Dr. Bill Cook and Dr. Ross King on Dante's *Divine Comedy*.
- ◆ During the afternoon, visits to the Baptistry of Florence and the Cathedral as we walk our way through the first portion of the *Divine Comedy, Inferno*.
- ◆ Dinner at an historic site in Florence.

Friday, February 17th

- ◆ Morning departure to Siena and Montaperti, to the Palazzo Pubblico, Cathedral Museum, and other sites as we walk our way through the middle portion of the *Divine Comedy, Purgatorio*.
- ◆ Luncheon in a private home.
- ◆ Return to Florence in the late afternoon.

- ◆ Cocktails and Dinner in Florence, at a site related to Dante.

Saturday, February 18th

- ◆ Departure to Verona where we will visit sites that welcomed Dante while he lived in this lovely city in the Veneto region.
- ◆ Winetasting dinner.

Note: You should bring an overnight bag for our trip to Verona and Ravenna. You will be able to store your suitcases at The Westin Excelsior in Florence while we travel to Verona and Ravenna. The cost of the hotel in Verona is included in the Program cost.

Sunday, February 19th

- ◆ Departure by bus from Verona to Ravenna. Lay a wreath at Dante's tomb and visit the churches and mosaics of San Vitale, Sant' Apollinare in Classe, and other sites as we discuss *Paradiso* from the *Divine Comedy*.
- ◆ Lunch in Ravenna.
- ◆ Evening return to Florence with dinner before returning to The Westin Excelsior.

Monday, February 20th

- ◆ Visit San Miniato al Monte and Santa Croce churches, and the Historical Dante Society.
- ◆ Luncheon at the Cantinetta Antinori in the Palazzo Antinori.
- ◆ Private visit to the Uffizi Gallery to view recently restored Friends of Florence projects and works related to the *Divine Comedy*.
- ◆ Dinner in a private palace.

Tuesday, February 21st

- ◆ Departures.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Friends of Florence has negotiated special room rates for Program attendees. A block of rooms at discounted rates will be available at The Westin Excelsior (Piazza Ognissanti, 3; 50123 Firenze). The options are listed below.

- ◆ At the Westin Excelsior, the single occupancy room rate is Euro 260.00 + 10% VAT per night and the double occupancy room rate is Euro 285.00 + 10% VAT.
- ◆ Arno River view rooms will be available for an additional Euro 40.00 + 10% VAT per room per night.
- ◆ Premium Deluxe category rooms are available for an additional Euro 40.00 + 10% VAT per room per night.

Rates are per room, per night, inclusive of breakfast. Rates **do not** include the 10% VAT nor the city tax of Euro 5.00 per person, per day.

Check in time is after 2.00 p.m. and check out time is at 12.00 p.m. Later departure or earlier check in can be arranged subject to a charge. Hotel deposit and cancellation policies are below.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT POLICY INDIVIDUAL BOOKING

- A 1-night deposit is required at time of booking and is **not refundable**.

INDIVIDUAL CANCELLATION POLICY

Per Hotel policy, in case of total or partial cancellation, you will be held responsible for the following cancellation fee:

- **From time of booking up to 30 days prior to arrival:** the reservation may be totally cancelled without penalty, with the exception of the retention by the Hotel of the non-refundable deposit;
- **29-0 days prior to arrival:** the whole cost of the reservation will result in a penalty fee equivalent to 100% of the Group's total estimated expenditure;
- **No shows:** will be charged the whole cost of the reservation (rooms).

Reduction of stay: will be charged the whole cost of the reservation (rooms).

How to Reserve your Hotel Room:

You must contact **Sandra Bagni** at Sandra.bagni@starwoodhotels.com and mention the "Friends of Florence February 2017 Program" to receive the discounted rate.

Room reservations **must be made by 1 December 2016** to receive the special Friends of Florence rate.

PROGRAM HISTORIAN BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. William Cook

Until last year Dr. William R. Cook was the Distinguished Teaching Professor of History at the State University of New York at Geneseo, where he taught since 1970. He earned his bachelor's degree cum laude from Wabash College and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He was then awarded Woodrow Wilson and Herbert Lehman fellowships to study medieval history at Cornell University, where he earned his Ph.D.

Professor Cook has taught courses in ancient and medieval history, the Renaissance and Reformation periods, and the Bible and Christian thought. Since 1983 Professor Cook has directed 11 Seminars for School Teachers for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

His books include *The Medieval World View, Images of St. Francis of Assisi and Francis of Assisi: The Way of Poverty and Humility*. Dr. Cook contributed to the *Cambridge Companion to Giotto* and edits and contributes to *The Art of the Franciscan Order*, in Italy.

Among his many awards, Professor Cook has received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 1992, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education named him New York State's Professor of the Year. In 2003 he received the first-ever CARA Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Medieval Studies from the Medieval Academy of America.

Dr. Cook has produced several Great Courses for the Teaching Company that can be seen and heard on DVD and CDs on Dante's Divine Comedy, on Saint Francis of Assisi, on Machiavelli, on Great Christians, The Cathedral, and his latest work, The World's Greatest Churches.

Dr. Cook is a member of the Academic Advisory Board for Friends of Florence. He has led numerous programs for YPO and WPO members over many years.

Dr. Cook recently founded the Bill Cook Foundation, a 501(c)(3) U.S. based non-profit, that provides urgent support to needy children and young adults around the world in the form of financial aid and in-kind assistance for education, housing, medical care, and basic needs.

Dr. Ross King

Dr. Ross King is the bestselling author of five books on Italian, French, and Canadian art and history. He has also published two historical novels, *Domino* (1995) and *Ex-Libris* (1998), and edited a collection of Leonardo da Vinci's fables, jokes and riddles. Translated into more than a dozen languages, his books have been nominated for a National Book Critics' Circle Award, the Charles Taylor Prize, and the National

Award for Arts Writing. He has won both the Governor General's Award in Canada (for *The Judgment of Paris*) and the BookSense Non-Fiction Book of the Year in the United States (for *Brunelleschi's Dome*).

In October 2012, his latest book, *Leonardo and the Last Supper* was published by Bloomsbury Publishing PLC.

Born and raised in Canada, Dr. King has lived in England since moving to London for post-doctoral studies in 1992. He has lectured widely in both Europe and North America, including at events at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Smithsonian, the Aspen Institute, and the Frick Collection. He has also given lectures and guided tours in Florence, Rome, Paris, and Giverny. He lives near Oxford with his wife Melanie, also a writer and historian.

Dr. King is a member of Friends of Florence's Academic Advisory Board.



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RESERVATION FORM

To make a reservation, please complete and return this form with your payment of the Program Cost of \$3,000 per person by December 15, 2016. This amount is not tax-deductible. Additionally, each participant is required to make a fully tax-deductible per-person contribution of \$2,000 to *Friends of Florence*.

Participants are responsible for their air travel arrangements to and from Florence, as well as their hotel reservations and expenses in Florence. Lodging for the two nights outside of Florence and ground transportation during the Program will be provided.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE READ 'ITINERARY' AND 'TERMS & CONDITIONS.'

Name #1: _____
(In full, as it appears on passport)

Name #2: _____
(In full, as it appears on passport)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Arrival Date in Florence: _____ Fax: _____

Please charge \$ _____ to my Visa MasterCard American Express.

The billing address for this card is the same as my mailing address above.

Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Card Billing Address: _____
(If different from your mailing address above)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I confirm that I have read the information contained in the attachment, 'TERMS AND CONDITIONS,' pertaining to refunds, general conditions, and the Responsibility Clause, and understand that full payment – including the \$2,000 per-person contribution portion – is due by December 15, 2016.

Signatures: _____ & _____ Date: _____

By December 15, 2016, please complete and return with your \$3,000 per-person Program fee and the fully tax-deductible per-person contribution of \$2,000 cost to:

Friends of Florence
4545 W Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20007
Tel: 202.333.3705 Fax: 202.333.4046
heather@friendsofflorence.org

Please make checks payable to 'Friends of Florence.' For security purposes we are unable to accept credit card information via email. If you would like to pay with a credit card, please return this completed reservation form to us via fax (202.333.4046) or mail.

Friends of Florence

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

PROGRAM COST:
\$ 3,000 per person
(not tax-deductible)

THE PROGRAM: WHAT IS INCLUDED

- All items noted on the attached itinerary;
- Hotel accommodations outside Florence;
- Four lunches and five dinners;
- Ground transportation to destinations included in itinerary;
- Entrance fees for all scheduled visits; and
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

Air travel to and from Florence; hotel costs in Florence; breakfasts; passport fees; items of a personal nature; airport/hotel transfers; trip insurance.

CONTRIBUTION

In addition to the \$3,000 per-person Program Cost, a tax-deductible contribution of \$2,000 per person, made payable to *Friends of Florence*, is required with your final payment.

HOTEL

To make your reservation:

Contact **Sandra Bagni** at Sandra.bagni@starwoodhotels.com and mention the 'Friends of Florence Winter Program' to receive the discounted rate. Room reservations **must be made by 1 December 2016** to receive the special Friends of Florence rate.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Full payment of all Program fees – both the \$3,000 per-person Program cost and the tax-deductible contribution of \$2,000 per-person – is required no later than December 15, 2016.

Checks should be made payable to *Friends of Florence* and mailed to 4545 W Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007.

If you would like to pay with a credit card, please see the Reservation form. For questions, call 202.333.3705, or email heather@friendsofflorence.org.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY

The itinerary is subject to scheduling changes.

INSURANCE

Trip cancellation/emergency medical evacuation/baggage/accident/sickness insurance are recommended and are the responsibility of the participant.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Friends of Florence (FOF) will strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include, but are not limited to: advance payments made to land operators; communication expenses; and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. FOF strongly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation/interruption insurance. All cancellations must be made in writing to FOF at 4545 W Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by FOF. On the date FOF receives notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: for cancellations received prior to January 1, 2017, FOF will retain fifty percent (50%) of the amount paid; for cancellations received after January 1, 2017, FOF will retain 100%. In the case of a cancellation due to shortage of participants, FOF will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to the commencement of The Program. However, FOF reserves the right to cancel The Program for any reason and, in such case, full reimbursement of all refundable costs of The Program by FOF shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and FOF, the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all moneys actually received from the participant by FOF. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation on the damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon advancement of the deposit to FOF, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE

FOF assumes no responsibility or liability for any act, error, or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. Nor will FOF be responsible for loss, injury, damages, or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, or other such causes suffered by any person in connection with The Program. FOF is not responsible for unexpected transportation delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well being of the participants or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to FOF. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. FOF reserves the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by FOF to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.