



FRIENDS *of* FLORENCE

OCTOBER 2016

BOTTICELLI AND POLLAIOLO PROGRAM

Thursday, October 13th to Tuesday, October 18th

PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

(as of May 2016)

- *Payment for direct Program costs in the amount of \$3,800 per person and a per-person tax-deductible contribution of \$2,500 are required to register.*
- *Our primary historians will be Dr. Bill Cook, William Wallace and Rocky Ruggiero.*
- *A block of rooms at a discounted rate is available at the St. Regis (Piazza Ognissanti, 1; 50123 Firenze) or the Westin Excelsior (Piazza Ognissanti, 3; 50123 Firenze) in Florence. See below for more information on rates and how to make a reservation.*

Thursday, October 13th

- ◆ Arrival at the St. Regis or Westin Excelsior Hotels in Florence.
- ◆ Welcome session followed by an overview lecture on Botticelli and Pollaiolo.
- ◆ Dinner at a private palace in Florence.

Friday, October 14th

- ◆ Morning exploration through Florence looking at various influences on Botticelli's artwork including masterpieces by Filippo Lippi, Filippino Lippi and Ghirlandaio.
- ◆ Wine tasting luncheon at the Badia a Passignano with a visit to the first of Ghirlandaio's Last Suppers, recently restored by Friends of Florence.
- ◆ Return to Florence in the afternoon.
- ◆ Visit Palazzo Pucci to view the private Botticelli in their collection followed by cocktails and dinner at the Archeological Museum of Florence.

Saturday, October 15th

- ◆ Departure for Rome by fast train.
- ◆ Visit various artworks in churches and private/public collections following our theme of Botticelli, Pollaiolo, and other artists who were influential.
- ◆ A luncheon in Rome.
- ◆ Late in the afternoon, private visits to the Sistine Chapel and other sites in the Vatican Galleries to view the Botticelli and Pollaiolo artworks.

- ◆ Return to Florence in the evening.
- ◆ Dinner at the historic Trattoria of Cammillo.

Sunday, October 16th

- ◆ Morning visit to San Marco while exploring the influence of Savonarola on Botticelli's later artworks.
- ◆ Visit to the recently restored Cathedral Museum, the Opera del Duomo, to view the spectacular new exhibition spaces and completed projects by Friends of Florence including the *Cantoria* by Della Robbia, *Gates of Paradise* by Lorenzo Ghiberti, and the bronze Rustici group from the Baptistry.
- ◆ A Luncheon will be arranged during the course of the afternoon.
- ◆ Late afternoon departure for the historic vineyards and winery of the Marchesi Frescobaldi, the Castello di Nipozzano, for an evening of special wines and dinner.

Monday, October 17th

- ◆ Morning visit to the Church of Ognissanti, home to one of the Ghirlandaio's Last Suppers and burial site of Botticelli.
- ◆ Visit the Uffizi's Drawing Room Department for a private viewing of the superb drawings and incisions by Botticelli and Pollaiuolo as well as the recently unveiled Study Room and Library, a restoration by Friends of Florence.
- ◆ A luncheon will be arranged during the afternoon.
- ◆ Finally, a late afternoon private unveiling of the Botticelli Room in the Uffizi Gallery followed by Cocktails and a Gala Dinner.

Tuesday, October 18th

- ◆ 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 St. Regis (Piazza Ognissanti, 1; 50123 Firenze) and the Westin Excelsior (Piazza Ognissanti, 3; 50123 Firenze). The options are listed below.

- ◆ At the Westin Excelsior, the single occupancy room rate is Euro 440.00 + 10% VAT per night and the double occupancy room rate is Euro 480.00 + 10% VAT.
- ◆ At the St. Regis, the single occupancy room rate is Euro 495.00 + 10% VAT per night and the double occupancy room rate is Euro 550.00 + 10% VAT.

Rates are per room, per night, inclusive of breakfast. Rates **do not** include the 10% VAT nor the city tax of Euro 4.50 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 is not refundable

INDIVIDUAL CANCELLATIONS' POLICY

In case of total or partial cancellation, we kindly inform you that you will be held responsible for the following cancellation fee:

- **From time of booking till 30 days prior to arrival:** the reservation may be totally cancelled without penalty, save 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 Make Your Reservation

A personalized website for the Friends of Florence Botticelli Program has been created for Program guests. To make an online reservation at the St. Regis Florence, please click [here](#). To make an online reservation at the Westin Excelsior Florence, please click [here](#).

OR

Contact **Sandra Bagni** at Sandra.bagni@starwoodhotels.com or **Luigi Comi** at luigi.comi@starwoodhotels.com and mention the "Friends of Florence October 2016 Botticelli Program" to receive the discounted rate.

Room reservations **must be made by 30 May 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 there. 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 in the past 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.

Professor Rocky Ruggiero

Rocky Ruggiero is originally from Providence, RI. He is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross where he majored in Art History and Pre-Medicine. In 1995 he was

awarded a Florence Fellowship by Syracuse University where he continued his art historical studies at a graduate level.

He has lived in Florence for the past eighteen years teaching for various American universities including Syracuse, Kent State, Vanderbilt, and Boston College. Prof. Ruggiero specializes in Early Renaissance Architecture, although he has lectured on subjects ranging from ancient art and architecture through the Italian Baroque. He starred in the History Channel series "Engineering an Empire: Da Vinci's World" and "Museum Secrets: the Uffizi Gallery" episode as an expert witness. Most recently, Prof. Ruggiero appeared as an expert witness in the acclaimed PBS-NOVA special "Great Cathedral Mystery".

He also shares his knowledge and love of Florentine art as an advisory board member of the non-profit group Friends of Florence which has raised funds for the restoration of various works of art throughout the city. Prof. Ruggiero has also led both classes and off sites for various YPO, WPO and CEO programs.

William Wallace

William E. Wallace received his Ph.D. in Art History from Columbia University in New York in 1983, and that same year joined the faculty of Washington University in St. Louis. He is the inaugural holder of The Barbara Murphy Bryant Distinguished Professor of Art History in the Department of Art History & Archaeology (since 2003). Professor Wallace is an internationally recognized authority on the Renaissance artist, architect, and poet, Michelangelo Buonarroti.

Professor Wallace has published extensively on Renaissance art: in addition to more than eighty articles and essays (including two short works of fiction), he is the author or editor of seven different books on Michelangelo, including the award winning Michelangelo: The Complete Sculpture, Painting and Architecture (1998), Michelangelo at San Lorenzo: The Genius as Entrepreneur (1994), and most recently, Discovering Michelangelo (New York, Rizzoli, 2012). His biography of the artist, Michelangelo: The Artist, the Man and his Times (Cambridge University Press, 2010) was issued in paperback in 2011.

He is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including a year spent at Villa I Tatti, Harvard University's Center for Renaissance Studies in Florence and a year at the American Academy in Rome. He has been a principal consultant for two BBC television programs on Michelangelo, and has taped a 36-lecture audio-visual course, "The Genius of Michelangelo" for "The Teaching Company." Last year, he was a Visiting Professor at Villa I Tatti where he was completing a book on Michelangelo's late life and art.