

Art Holidays in Central Italy: Le Marche

We are based in the south of Le Marche, the region that is being touted as “the new Tuscany”. We sincerely hope that this is not the case. Le Marche is the same latitude as Tuscany and Umbria but as it is the other side of the Apennine Mountains, only those who know the secret venture over. Le Marche is the Italy of imagination; unspoiled by tourism, rolling countryside, long sandy beaches, spectacular looming mountains, medieval hill top towns, excellent wine and authentic cooking using traditional recipes and local produce.

With all this why isn't Le Marche as popular a destination as Tuscany/Umbria? Why don't we get the coach loads of tourists? Why no “tourist menus” in English, German and Japanese? Why no queues? Why no hassle? Why no rip-off merchants? Why no extortionate prices?



While Le Marche is rural Italy at its finest what it doesn't have is the big draw cities of Florence, Sienna, Assisi, etc. Le Marche does boast the magnificent cities of Urbino and Ascoli Piceno but while beautiful, historic and atmospheric, they lack the big name museums and landmark buildings of Tuscany that draw the crowds. And for this we are very thankful.



Casa Bella Fonte

We spent many years looking for the ideal location to settle down in Italy and think that we have come close to the perfect situation with Casa Bella Fonte.



The villa is a large resorted farmhouse perched on the north eastern slopes of Montalto delle Marche, set on its own in extensive grounds at the end of a walnut tree lined private drive. We have a ten-meter pool and plenty of places to relax. Unwind and take in the stunning views out across the rolling landscape to the sea, dotted with medieval hill towns and soak up the Italian atmosphere. You will stay either at Casa Belle Fonte or at the nearby (3 minute walk) equally impressive Casa Montalto. While the majority of meals are served at Bella Fonte, several evening dinners will be taken at local hostleries – and all meals are included in the price of the holiday.

The villa has a number of other possible entertainments for those idle moments, we have wireless broadband, a internet international phone, plenty of board and card games and a library with over a thousand books, many of them Art related.



Art: Sculpture, Drawing and Photography

This is an informal art holiday but with ample opportunities for trying your hand at a variety of alternative techniques to the standard watercolour holiday. There will be sessions in drawing, life and architecture, opportunities for landscape and townscape photography and clay sculpture sessions from life. As well as studio sessions at Casa Bella Fonte you will have the opportunity for trips to local sites of artistic, cultural, historical and architecture interest, the coast and the Sibilini Mountains National Park. If you prefer to spend time exploring on your own there are a number of interesting sites within walking distance of the house and of course you have use of the pool at any time.

Prices for 2012:

£600 pp for double/twin, shared bathroom
£650 pp for double with en suite
single room supplement £100

Dates for 2012:

May
June
October

To book a place or if you have any questions, contact us:

phone/text - 0039 3395 393253

email - create@artholidaysinitaly.co.uk

www.vacanzaitalia.co.uk



Art Holiday: Sample Itinerary

Sunday: Pick up at Ancona airport and transfer to Casa Bella Fonte (CBF) for an evening meal.

Monday:

AM, exploring the local Mediaeval and Renaissance towns of Montalto and Montedinove, guidance on photography and sketching.

PM tour of Offida and other local towns, evening meal at CBF.

Tuesday:

AM tutored drawing session at CBF.

PM tour of Ascoli Piceno with sketching and photography opportunities, evening restaurant meal for local specialties.

Wednesday:

AM tutored architectural drawing session in Montedinove.

PM tour to the mountains, photography opportunity, evening meal CBF.

Thursday:

AM tutored clay sculpture session at CBF. continued in afternoon.

PM optional wine tasting tour, evening meal at local restaurant.

Friday:

AM sculpture session at CBF.

PM relaxing round the pool, evening meal at CBF.

Saturday:

optional day visit to Urbino with guided tour of the Ducal Palace and art gallery.

Sunday:

return transport to Ancona airport and depart.

