

THE COCHENILLE ITALY RETREAT, JUNE 24TH - JULY 2ND, 2012

LOCATION: VERONA, ITALY.

Verona is a lovely city in the north of Italy. It is located between Venice and Milan. The city size is about 350,000. It is easily walked, and has lots to see, yet a small-city charm. There is a lot of great fashion here, and great food. Culture abounds as well.

I have been going to Verona for the past six years, and have developed a sense for the city and surrounding areas and what there is for us to see. I have also established contacts with various artists, shop owners, etc.



Some of our classes will be in artist studios, some on location (in the fashion field so to say), and some in the courtyard of the Medieval building where two of the apartments are located. There will be one out-of-town trip to Venice.

Here is the initial information I have on the Verona 2012 Design Retreat. The confirmed dates are June 24th to July 2nd. Participants should plan to arrive on the 23rd and depart any time after the 2nd of July.

Note: Should any knit designers wish to attend, the Pitti Filati in Florence follows the Retreat dates (July 3rd - 5th).



Below you will see a tentative itinerary. This is based on what we did in the past two years, and I plan to change some things for the coming year. I am open to comments. The activity days may shuffle a little as I make final appointments. You are welcome to arrive earlier, and stay later if you like, to explore Verona on your own. There is a lot to see. I can help you with housing.

You should be relatively fit, as both Verona and Venice are 'walking' cities. By 'fit', I just mean that we do walk around. It is

somewhat possible in Verona to take taxis, but in Venice, the taxis are 'boats', and they can get expensive, although we will have a day pass for the public boat.



TENTATIVE AGENDA

BASED ON THE DATES OF JUNE 24TH - JULY 2ND, 2012

Saturday, June 23rd

Plan to arrive. Light grocery shopping, Welcome Dinner, Orientation

Sunday, June 24th

- Brunch and Discussion of Week
- Walking Tour of Verona,
- Explore the City with the Verona Pass

Monday, June 25th

- Explore further with the Verona Card and Fashion Exercises
- Afternoon Half-Day Workshop in the Bibliotecca ... using fashion books as exploration for ideas
- Window Shopping in the Fashion Streets (evening)

Tuesday, June 26th

- Art workshop with local artist (ceramics, jewelry, or collage art)
- Visit to Costume Collection (opera) or other
- Fabric, Yarn, and Trim Store Visits in p.m.

Wednesday, June 27th

- Morning Walk to View the City from above (optional)
- Design Workshop2 (Susan) ... using the city as inspiration.
- Wine Tasting

Thursday, June 28th

- Day Trip to Venice. Visit a Fashion Library, knit shop, Fortuny museum, or other.

Friday, June 29th

- Free Day. You could stay an extra day in Venice if you like, or visit other small town/cities near Verona. In past we have gone to Padova and Milan.
- I will be available to assist with anything you like, or organize something as well.

Saturday, June 30th

- A.m. Workshop on Translating Fashion Designs. OR Possible trip to fashion museum, wine tasting or other activity in the countryside outside of Verona

Sunday, July 1st

- Still open to be planned.
- Opera (Carmen)

Opera Schedule:

Aida June 28th

Don Giovanni June 29th

Carmen June 30th

Monday, July 2nd

- Workshop with Susan
- Evening Farewell Dinner

The opera takes place in the old Roman Arena. Imagine sitting on Roman Seats, built in 49 AD



COSTS:

Tuition: \$1500. This will include:

- all tuition including special workshops with local artists, or textile/fabric merchants.
- train travel to and from Venice, Vaparetto (boat transport) transport in Venice,
- three dinner meals (with one possibly a cooking class)
- one lunch,
- Verona Card (entrances to various sites),
- Opera ticket and
- bus travel while in Verona.

The anticipated maximum group size is six people.

Payments

A deposit of \$500 will be required to hold your place. The balance of \$1000 will be due 90 days prior to the start of the trip.

Cancellation

- If you cancel and I can fill your place, there will be a full refund.
- If you cancel prior to 120 days out, and I cannot fill your spot, I will retain \$250.00.
- If you cancel within 120 and 60 days of the Retreat, and I cannot fill your spot, I will retain \$400, as it will be difficult to solicit people at that point, due to airfare costs on short notice.
- If you cancel within 60 days of the Retreat, and I can't fill your spot, I will retain the entire deposit.
- I will always make an attempt to fill your spot, and will work with you as much as possible.

HOUSING:

- Housing is not included in the Tuition.
- You have the option to stay in an apartment or in a Bed and Breakfast. There are two sets of apartments. Two of these are where the retreat workshops (held by Susan) are being held and there are three other apartments in another building about 10-15 minutes walk away. I have stayed in both buildings. Both are medieval buildings, but the apartments are renovated.
- I would estimate that you should plan for around 40-50 Euros per person in a shared apartment. If you are willing to have more than two people in an apartment, you can get this down a little. Some of the apartments sleep up to four people, but the total price structure goes up a little with each additional person.
- The local Bed and Breakfast will run around 30 per person (based on double-occupancy) Euros a night. There are two rooms with two twin beds.
- I will assist you in coordinating and securing the housing.
- There is a lovely little grocery store in the neighborhood, as well as a great fresh vegetable store. Larger grocery stores are also relatively close. Part of the experience of Italy is learning to live like a local, so I think you will enjoy going to the little markets to pick up food.

AIRFARE:

I will leave this up to individuals, as some people are using miles, some want flexibility, and mostly, you all will be coming from different places. You can fly directly into Verona (via Germany and Lufthansa) or other airlines (e.g. Ryan Air). OR.. you can fly into Milan or Rome and take the train to Verona.

Feel free to email me with questions. I am also happy to talk on the phone.
My cell is 760-994-8083.

susanisnow@cox.net.

Reservations will be first come-first served.

I am now preparing the Registration form, but you can hold/reserve a place
by calling Sonia at 858-259-1698 and giving a deposit.

You can see lots of Verona on my blog, which is
<http://susanlazeear.blogspot.com>