

THE COCHENILLE FASHION, CRAFT & FOOD RETREAT

OCTOBER 8TH - 18TH, 2026, VERONA, ITALY \$1800

Group Size: 7-8 persons

LOCATION: VERONA ITALY

Verona is situated in the north of Italy. It is a lovely city located between Venice and Milan. It is easily walked, and there is much to see, yet Verona retains a small-city charm. Fashion abounds in Verona and the Italians take it seriously. Of course, let's not forget the amazing food and wine. Verona is surrounded by great wine regions such as Valpolicella, Soave, and Lugana.

Susan has been going to Verona since 2007 and she now lives there half-time. She has developed a sense for Italian fashion, food, and lifestyle. She has also established contacts with various artists, designers, stores, museums, and food-related businesses. This year, our 2026 retreat, centered in Verona, will include day-trips to Venice and Vicenza. The Retreat will begin at dinner time on October 8th (the day of arrival) and ends the morning of October 18th with a farewell coffee/brunch.



Verona

FASHION, TEXTILES, FOOD...

We are continuing our emphasis on mini-workshops; some with locals and some with Susan. Topics will revolve around hand-techniques with fiber art, garment and pattern

design, sustainability, idea shopping, and more. In addition, we will have fashion appointments that include visits to artisans, fabric and yarn stores, designers, and a knitting mill. There will be two out-of-town trips. As always, we will also take a trip to Venice to explore its sights and activities related to fashion. We will also attend an event called Abilmente (the Salon of Creative Ideas) which is in Vicenza and features exhibits, workshops, and vendors. We are leaving the last Saturday free for you to choose what you want to do, whether it be shopping or visiting yet another city outside of Verona.



Abilmente Craft Show

You can't go to Italy without exploring its food, and so we have included two cooking classes (one in a private home and one in a restaurant with a Chef). Of course, we can enjoy wine tasting.

On the next page, you can see a tentative itinerary. It is packed full of activities. The agenda will be similar, but may not be identical, as it is often difficult to schedule appointments this far in advance. Abilmente's dates are not yet released so this visit depends on their schedule.

The chosen visits combine our hands-on workshop activities with fashion and food, and the history of Verona. The dates and activities may shuffle a little as final appointments are made.



Venice



Fashion Windows seen on our Fashion Walk



Textile Art Workshop



Cooking Class with Chef Patrick

TENTATIVE AGENDA *(subject to changes)*

Thursday, October 8th

- Plan to arrive. Light grocery shopping (if time)
- Welcome Aperitivo/Dinner, Orientation

Friday, October 9th

- Artisan Workshop #1
- Visit to Yarn Store
- Walking Tour of Verona, Visits to artisans



Venice (above and left)



Saturday, October 10th

- Cooking class/lunch
- Free time to exploring the city of Verona
- Fashion Walking Tour



Inspiration

Sunday, October 11th

- Design Workshop with Susan
- Artisan Workshop #2



Knit Store, Verona



Sample Project

Monday, October 12th

- Train to Lake Garda area
- Cooking Class with a Chef
- Workshop #3: Nuno Felting

Tuesday, October 13th

- Visit a Fabric Store
- Possible Wine Tour Visit

Wednesday, October 14th

- Train to Venice
- Options include visits to a traditional jacquard weaving establishment, a fashion museum/library, knit shop, Fortuny Museum, or other.



Workshop with leather artisan
Cristina (back row, center)

Thursday, October 15th

- Train to Vicenza and return
- Experience *Abilmente* Event (workshops, exhibits, vendors)

Friday, October 16th

- Visit to a knitting mill outside of Verona
- Workshop #4



Cooking class with
Nonna and family

Saturday, October 17th

- Free Day

Sunday, October 18th

- Farewell Café/Brunch, Departures

Note: 'You can always sit out on an activity should you choose.'

You should be in good health and relatively fit, as both Verona and other Italian cities are 'walking' cities. By 'fit', we simply mean that we do walk around, and we walk a fair bit. It is possible to take taxis, but walking and bus are the norm for the locals, as it generally is for us.

COSTS:

Tuition: \$1800. This will include: *(but is subject to change)*

- Tuition including 4-5 workshops related to fiber/textiles/design.
- Various visits with local artists or textile/fabric merchants
- Train travel to and from Vicenza, Lake Garda, and Venice, with activities in each location including Abilmente, workshops, fashion museum, etc. (*Subject to change)
- Two cooking classes with meals included
- Welcome Aperitivo meal, Farewell Dinner or Lunch
- Bus travel while in Verona

PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$500 will be required to hold your place. The balance of \$1300 will be due 7/15/26.

Cancellation Policy

- If we cancel the retreat for lack of enrollment, we will refund your full deposit. This decision will be made prior to July 15th, 2026. Please do not book flights before this time unless we have let you know that the trip is a 'go'.
- If you cancel and your space can be filled, there will be a full refund less \$150.00
- If you cancel prior to 90 days out from the start of the Retreat, and your space cannot be filled Cochenille will retain \$250.00.
- If you cancel between 90 and 60 days, and your space cannot be filled Cochenille will retain \$500, as it will be difficult to solicit people at that point, due to airfare costs on short notice.
- If you cancel within 59 -15 days, and your space cannot be filled, Cochenille will retain 75% of the entire amount.
- If you cancel within 14 days of the retreat, no refund will be given.
- Cochenille will always make an attempt to fill your spot, and will assist you as much as possible.
- Trip Insurance is recommended.
- There are no refunds on any service/activity during the retreat which the client does not use.
- During the retreat, Cochenille reserves the right to exclude participation from any person whose practices of courtesy and etiquette hinder the overall experience of the group. No refund will be given.

HOUSING:

- Housing is not included in the tuition, but we will coordinate this with you.
- There are options to stay in an apartment, a Bed and Breakfast, or a hotel. Please let us know your preference. We have a group of rooms/apartments in one building which is quite convenient and cost effective. Last year most of the participants stayed in this building. There are two apartments and three private bedrooms with baths. We estimate that you should plan for around 70 - 80 Euros per person, per day, in a shared accommodation. Single accommodation exists and prices vary
- There are lovely little grocery stores and fruit/vegetable stands in the neighborhoods of the apartments. Larger grocery stores are also relatively close. Part of the experience of Italy is learning to live like a local, so we think you will enjoy going to the markets to pick up food.

AIRFARE:

We 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 on various major airlines using their local partners, or other airlines (e.g.. Ryan Air). OR.. You can fly into Milan, Venice, Florence, or Rome and take the train to Verona.

Feel free to email Susan (susan@cochenille.com) with questions. We are also happy to phone talk.

Reservations will be first come-first served. You can hold/reserve a place by completing a registration form and paying the deposit online at our web store or by Zelle or Venmo.