

# THE COCHENILLE FASHION, CRAFT & FOOD RETREAT

OCTOBER 11TH - 20TH, 2023, VERONA, ITALY LOCATION:

VERONA ITALY

Verona is situated in the north of Italy. It is a lovely city located between Venice and Milan. The city size is about 270,000. It is easily walked, and has much to see, yet Verona retains a small-city charm. There is a lot of great fashion here, in addition to the great food and wine.

Susan has been going to Verona since 2007 and 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 2023 retreat, centered in Verona, will include day-trips to Venice and either Vicenza, Milan or Padua . It will begin at dinner time on October 11th (the day of arrival) and ends the morning of the October 20th with a farewell coffee.



## FASHION, TEXTILES, FOOD...

This year, we have added more emphasis on mini-workshops; some with locals and some with Susan. Topics will revolve around hand-techniques with fiber (Nuno felting), dyeing/printing (either Shibori or printing), sustainable design projects, 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 items related to fashion. We will be able to attend an event call Abilmente (the Salon of Creative Ideas) which is in Vicenza, and features exhibits, workshops, and vendors. They just announced their dates, and the first day is Oct. 19th!.



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). 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. The chosen visits combine our hands-on workshop activities with fashion and food, and let's not forget the history of Verona.

The dates and activities may shuffle a little as final appointments are made.

## TENTATIVE AGENDA *(subject to slight changes)*

*Wednesday, October 11th*

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

*Thursday, October 12th*

- Workshop #1
- Walking Tour of Verona, Visits to artisans

*Friday, October 13th*

- Visit to a knitting mill outside of Verona
- Workshop #2

*Saturday, October 14th*

- Workshop #3
- Wine Tasting

*Sunday, October 15th*

- Free time to exploring the city of Verona
- Cooking class/dinner

*Monday, October 16th*

- Train to Lake Garda area
- Cooking Class with a Chef (tentative)
- Workshop #4: Nuno Felting (tentative)

*Tuesday, October 17th*

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

*Wednesday, October 18th*

- Possible Workshop #5
- Visit to local Fabric Store and Yarn store plus other artisans.
- Farewell Dinner

*Thursday, October 19th*

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

*Friday, October 20th*

Farewell coffee.

*Note:* You can always sit out on an activity if the agenda is too rigorous, no problem.



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:** \$1600. This will include:

- Tuition including 4-5 workshops related to fiber/textiles
- 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)
- One or Two cooking classes with meals included
- Welcome Aperitivo, Pizza Dinner, Farewell Dinner
- Wine Tasting
- Bus travel while in Verona

*The anticipated maximum group size is seven people.*

## Payments

A deposit of \$500 will be required to hold your place. The balance of \$1100 will be due 8/10/23.

## Cancellation Policy

- If you cancel and we can fill your place, there will be a full refund (less \$25.00 handling fee)
- If you cancel prior to 120 days out, and we cannot fill your spot, we will retain \$250.00.
- If you cancel between 119 and 60 days of the Retreat, and we cannot fill your spot, we 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 59 days of the Retreat, and we can't fill your spot, we will retain 75% of the entire amount unless a substitute can be found.
- If you cancel within 14 days of the retreat, no refund will be given.
- We 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, but we will coordinate this for you.
- There are options to stay in an apartment, a Bed and Breakfast, or a hotel. Please let us know your preference.
- We estimate that you should plan for around 70 - 80 Euros per person, per day, in a shared accommodation. If you are willing to have more than two people in an apartment, you can get this down a little. Some apartments sleep up to four people, but the total price structure goes up a little with each additional person.
- The local Bed and Breakfasts will run around 60 - 80 Euros per person, per night, (based on double-occupancy).
- 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](mailto: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 sending a check in the mail .