

# In the Footsteps of Michelangelo and Caravaggio (Florence, Rome and Naples) November 10-18, 2024



Join renowned author Ross King and Renaissance art historian Elaine Ruffolo for a captivating study tour through Florence, Rome, and Naples. Together, we will delve into the artistry and transformative impact of the “two Michelangelos” — Michelangelo Buonarroti and Michelangelo Merisi, better known as Caravaggio. Born almost a century apart, they revolutionized the world of art through their unique styles, daring innovations, and turbulent personalities. Michelangelo is revered for his mastery of sculpture, painting, and architecture, pushing boundaries and setting new standards. Caravaggio, on the other hand, transformed the use of light and shadow, and his bold naturalism paved the way for a new era of painting.

## Program Dates

Arrival Florence on Sunday, November 10; Depart Rome on Monday, November 18, 2024

## What's Included

- Accommodations at deluxe hotels in the heart of Florence and Rome
- Entrance fees to museums, monuments, special openings to private and public collections
- Daily breakfasts, 4 group lunches, 2 group dinners and 3 receptions
- Transportation in minivans, private coach and high-speed train
- Transportation from Rome to Leonardo da Vinci Airport departure day
- Gratuities and donations
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including an education resource list and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

\*\*Please note: you are responsible for your personal travel expenses, including flights to and from the program and travel insurance\*\*

## **Program highlights**

- Specialized itinerary in Florence highlighting Michelangelo and Caravaggio
- Private access to the Laurentian Library
- Private visit to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel
- Day trip to Naples with special access to works by Caravaggio
- Private visit and dinner at Palazzo Doria Pamphili
- Special guest lecturer Dr. Ross King

## **Deposits, payments and cancellations**

A \$2,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve space on this program. Final payment is due 120 days prior to program start. Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to program start. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and we resell your place(s), in which case a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

## **Program Fee**

**\$5,950** (based on double occupancy)

**\$7,400** (based on single occupancy)

## **Program Description**

Our first stop will be Florence, the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance, and the city that for hundreds of years nurtured an unceasing succession of great artists and thinkers. No other place in Italy can rival Florence for the quantity and quality of art and architecture. Our visit to the city will include its most famous museums. At the Accademia Gallery, for example, we will have the opportunity to see the “David,” which showcases both Michelangelo’s gigantic ambitions and his brilliant sculpting techniques. We will also explore the Uffizi Gallery, seeing works by both Michelangelo and Caravaggio, including the latter’s captivating “Bacchus.”

Moving on to Rome, we will follow the artistic journeys of Michelangelo and Caravaggio as each sought patronage from a succession of popes and cardinals. Rome’s opulent surroundings and wealthy clients served as the perfect stage for showcasing their talent. We will view Michelangelo’s awe-inspiring “Pietà” in St. Peter’s Basilica, whose dome was his final masterpiece, and we’ll be captivated by Caravaggio’s scenes from the life of St. Matthew in San Luigi dei Francesi. Like Michelangelo’s “Pietà” a century earlier, these Caravaggio paintings astonished the world with their youthful virtuosity and announced the arrival of a painter of superlative talent.

In Rome, we will also have the privilege of visiting the Sistine Chapel, whose breathtaking frescoes are Michelangelo's magnum opus. He created these landmark frescoes in direct competition with the young Raphael, working nearby in the Vatican Apartments.

Our journey will include a day trip to Naples, where we will explore the vibrant and fascinating city that inspired Caravaggio's imagination after his flight from Rome in 1506 following his murder of Ranuccio Tomassoni. In Naples, we will visit one of his most celebrated masterpieces, "The Seven Works of Mercy," in which his art displays its tremendous power and emotion.

Alongside the artistic exploration, we will also revel in the cultural and culinary delights offered by these magnificent cities. Prepare to be inspired and captivated by the artistic legacies that Florence, Rome and Naples have to offer.

*\*\*all times refer to meeting at the hotel lobby unless otherwise indicated\*\**

## **Itinerary**

### **Sunday November 10**

#### **Florence Arrival and the Young Michelangelo**

Transfer on your own to Hotel Brunelleschi (Piazza Sant'Elisabetta 3), your luxurious 4-star accommodation in the heart of Florence.



**3:00 pm** Meet in the lobby of the hotel and depart for an exploration of the historic center of Florence following the streets that Michelangelo and his contemporaries knew intimately. We will visit the Casa Buonarroti, a small private palace which Michelangelo purchased for his family, now a museum featuring Michelangelo's first sculptures and the world's largest collection of his drawings and autograph documents.

**6:30 pm** Enjoy reception and light dinner (*apericena*) at the hotel, which is built into the ruins of an ancient church complex and features one of the city's oldest

medieval towers.

(*apericena*)

### **Monday November 11**

#### **Slide illustrated presentation, Bargello, San Lorenzo, Medici Chapels**

**8:30 am** Gather in the hotel conference room (sala San Michele) for a presentation by Ross King on the life and times of Michelangelo.



**9:45 am** Visit the National Sculpture Museum (Bargello) and admire works by Michelangelo and his contemporaries. Continue to the Basilica of San Lorenzo where the Medici were responsible for commissioning some of the greatest works of the Renaissance.

**1:00 pm** Enjoy a group lunch in the San Lorenzo neighborhood.



**2:45 pm** This afternoon explore the Laurentian Library opened exclusively for our group followed by a visit to the Medici Tombs.

Free for dinner on your own  
(breakfast and lunch)

## Tuesday November 12

### Santo Spirito, Palazzo Pitti, and Accademia



**9:00 am** Walk through artisan's quarter of Florence (Oltrarno) to visit Brunelleschi's masterpiece, Santo Spirito. Expect to debate a wooden crucifix attributed to Michelangelo.

**10:30 am** Enter the Palatine Gallery at the Palazzo Pitti to discover works by Caravaggio and his contemporaries as well as Raphael, Titian, and Andrea del Sarto.

**1:00 pm** Group lunch in the Oltrarno.



Free time in the early afternoon.

**5:00 pm** Stroll past the Medici Palace to the Accademia Gallery to gaze upon Michelangelo's iconic David and his unfinished Prisoners destined for the tomb of Pope Julius II.

Free for dinner on your own.  
(breakfast and lunch)



## Wednesday, November 13

### Masterpieces of the Uffizi

**8:30 am** The Uffizi occupies the top floor of a U-shaped building on the front side of the Arno River, designed by Giorgio Vasari in 1559 to hold the administrative offices of Medici Grand Duke Cosimo I. Here the Medici installed their art collections. We will view some of the most magnificent works of art in the world





including masterpieces by Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and more – culminating in three works by Caravaggio.

Free afternoon.

**6:00 pm** Join Ross King in the hotel lecture room for a presentation on Caravaggio.

**7:30 pm** Farewell dinner in Florence.  
(breakfast and dinner)

## Thursday, November 14

### Rome and Private Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel



**8:15 am** Walk to the Florence train station (your luggage will be transferred separately).

**9:00 am** Depart on a high-speed train to Rome.

**10:40 am** Arrive in Rome and depart by minivans to the Basilica of San Pietro in Vincoli to view Michelangelo's Moses and Julius II Tomb.

**12:00 pm** Transfer to the Hotel Ponte Sisto (via dei Pettinari 64).  
Check into the Hotel Ponte Sisto (rooms may not be available for occupancy until 2 pm).

Free for lunch on your own.



**6:15 pm** Transfer by private mini vans to the Vatican Museums, where our group will enjoy an exclusive private entrance to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel. The Vatican Museums, the largest in the world, house the collection of the Papacy, including an extensive collection of sculptural antiquities, Raphael's splendidly decorated papal apartments, and of course, the Sistine Chapel.

**9:00 pm** Graze on a light buffet dinner in the courtyard of the Vatican Museums.  
(breakfast and *apericena*)



**Friday November 15**

**St. Peter's Basilica and Capitoline and Caravaggio Walk**

**8:15 am Depart** for St. Peter's Basilica. Vatican City is the living, beating heart of Roman Catholicism and of High Renaissance art and architecture. No other complex in the world better combines Renaissance grandeur with the deeply rooted piety of a 2,000-year-old religious tradition. Enter the world's largest basilica and experience Michelangelo's breathtaking dome and heartbreaking Pietà.



**11:00 am** Transfer by mini vans to experience Michelangelo's Campidoglio, a masterful setting for the ancient equestrian monument of Marcus Aurelius. Enter the Capitoline Museum filled with Ancient, Renaissance and two early Caravaggio paintings.

**1:00 pm** Group lunch at overlooking Rome.



**2:30 pm** Stroll down the Capitoline hill, through the Jewish Ghetto to the Campus Martius. We will explore this roughly four-block area where narrow alleyways spill into breathtaking piazzas. Expect to see works by Caravaggio, Bernini, Michelangelo and Raphael.

Free for dinner on your own.  
(breakfast and lunch)

## Saturday November 16

### Caravaggio in Naples

**7:30 am** Depart by private coach to Naples

**10:00 am** A walk along the *spaccanapoli* is a must for art lovers. This walk, which swerves in and out of the alleys and side streets of the lively historical center, will illustrate why Naples is an important component in the evolution of Italian art. We will also visit the Pio Monte chapel and palace, a powerful example of 17th-century architecture that contains Caravaggio's magnificent Seven Works of Mercy. Experience the multilayered and sumptuously decorated Neapolitan Duomo, a monument to elaborate Baroque architectural design. The walk concludes with a special visit to the Gallerie di Palazzo Zevallò Stigliano (now an Italian bank) to view Caravaggio's St Ursula.



**1:30 pm** Enjoy a group lunch on the elegant via Toledo.

**3:30 pm** Nestled above the city overlooking the Bay of Naples in a magnificent palace of 150,000 square feet, the collection features masterpieces by Masaccio, Raphael, Titian, and of course, Caravaggio.

Return to Rome by private coach in the evening.  
(breakfast and lunch)

## Sunday, November 17

### Galleria Borghese and Doria Pamphili

**10:00 am** The Villa Borghese offers a rare opportunity to visit a 17th century villa, built for Cardinal Scipione Borghese to house his amazing art collection, including masterpieces by Bernini, Caravaggio, Titian, Raphael, and others.



Free for lunch on your own.

**5:30 pm** Depart for a farewell celebration of your Roman sojourn at the Palazzo Doria Pamphili, with a history dating back to the 15th century. The palazzo is still inhabited by members of this historic family, including their personal memories and art. Admire the original furniture, burnished mirrors, and shimmering chandeliers, as well as paintings by Carracci and Caravaggio. This privately owned collection is one of the finest in Rome and is worth a visit if only for one masterpiece: the Velasquez depicting Pope Innocent X, a member of the Doria-Pamphili family.



**7:30 pm** Enjoy a farewell dinner in the palazzo's Sala Giove.  
(breakfast, reception, and dinner)

November 18

Departure

### Program Lecturers

Author and Historian **Dr. Ross King**



Ross King is the bestselling author of numerous books on Italian and French art and history. Among his books are *Brunelleschi's Dome*, *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*, *Leonardo and The Last Supper*, and *The Bookseller of Florence*. He is the co-author with Anja Grebe of *Florence: The Paintings & Frescoes, 1250-1743*, the most comprehensive book ever undertaken on the art of Florence.

In tandem with his writing, Ross is an active fundraiser for the arts and a passionate lecturer and tour guide. He serves on the Council of Academic Advisors for Friends of Florence (FoF), the fundraising charity that ensures the survival of Florence's art and architectural treasures. He has participated in numerous study tours throughout Italy, including in Florence, Rome, Assisi and Milan. He is both a Smithsonian Expert and an Accredited Lecturer with The Arts Society. He has lectured in many American museums, including at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Frick Collection, and the National Gallery.

### Renaissance Art Historian



**Elaine Ruffolo** has been teaching art history in Florence since 1989 and her special interests include the history of art and patronage in Renaissance Florence. Elaine firmly believes that the best way to understand a work of art is by exploring the context in which it was made. What makes art history interesting and relevant today is study of the political situation, economic conditions, patronage, and the artist's personality that is reflected in the work of art. Elaine currently lectures for the Smithsonian Associates

Programs in Italy, has developed art history programs for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Yale Alumni, College of William and Mary and the Patrons of the Vatican Museums. She has been on the advisory board of the Friends of Florence since 2000 and consults for CEO and YPO programs in Europe. She also developed Art History Encounters, an on-line platform that brings Italian art and culture to your home.

### Travel Director





**Elizabeth Namack**, originally from Florida, has been living in Florence for almost 30 years. Her love of Art History originally led her to Italy. She holds a BA in Art History and Italian Literature from Smith College and an MA in Renaissance Art History from Syracuse University, as well as a Diploma in painting restoration from an Italian institution, Palazzo Spinelli. Her passion for all things Italian is what led her to work in leisure travel. Elizabeth accompanies discerning travelers throughout Italy and as an officially authorized city guide of Florence, Elizabeth leads travelers on off-the-beaten-track walking tours, visits to local museums, monuments, and artisans' workshops, and breath-taking countryside walks in the nearby Florentine and Chianti hills. She can often be found dashing around the city on her bicycle and lives a block away from the river with her long-time husband Gianluca and their 15-year-old son Alessandro.