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Q/A

and

Painting Classes in Italy

Q. *I would like to attend a painting workshop in Italy this summer. Do you know of any? — Suzanne Steinbauer, New York, N.Y.*

A. During the summer there are painting schools and workshops hiding behind just about every vineyard in Italy, especially in Tuscany and Umbria, regions synonymous with beauty.

Etruscan Places offers eight weeklong workshops in Tuscany from mid-May through the end of October. This year workshops are scheduled for May 16 to 23, May 30 to June 6, June 13 to 20, June 27 to July 4, July 11 to 18, Sept. 19 to 26, Oct. 3 to 10 and Oct. 17 to 24. Participants stay in farmhouses minutes away from the Tuscan hilltop town of San Gimignano and paint in the surrounding countryside. The daily painting instruction, which is held at all levels from beginner to advanced, is supplemented by evening slide shows and field trips to Volterra, Siena and San Gimignano. The two farmhouses that serve as a base for the workshops are known for their production of D.O.C. Chianti and vernaccio wines, vin santo and olive oil. Meals consist of hearty Tuscan fare. Organized by the artist Maddine Insalaco, who holds a master of fine arts degree in painting from the New York Academy of Art, the classes are limited to 12. Fees for the one-week course range from \$1,300 to \$1,650 for painters and \$750 for nonpainters. Included in the price is lodging, meals, instruction, most materials and museum visits in Siena and Volterra. Information: (212) 780-3216 in New York; after May 10 in Italy at (39-338) 942-45-65.