

"Makes me want to pack my bag and follow Van Allen's alluring suggestions...she reveals an intimacy with Italy and a honed sense of adventure. *Andiamo!*"

—Frances Mayes, author of *Under the Tuscan Sun*



100 PLACES IN ITALY *Every Woman* SHOULD GO

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SUSAN VAN ALLEN



new techniques to capture these scenes, working quickly and spontaneously. It was a liberating experience, in contrast to working in a studio. Camille Corot's landscape paintings from this time paved the way to Impressionism.

www.landscape-painting.com
WWW.
Maddine and Joe follow in the footsteps of this tradition and are passionate about the form. They've been landscape painters for twenty years and their work is shown in American and Italian galleries. They're also passionate about Italy, and divide their time between an apartment in New York and a place in Buonconvento (southern Tuscany), where they base their workshop. Here students get Maddine and Joe's enthusiastic, expert instruction as they paint, along with the joy of being integrated into the local scene through the couple.

"What was so wonderful is that everything was taken care of—the only decision I had to make all week was what to paint and what colors to use," said Voni Schaff, a student from Minnesota. Voni had studied art in college, then put it aside for thirty years while she brought up four children. The week in Tuscany was a kick start for her to pick up where she left off. It turned out to be amazingly productive—she went home with a suitcase full of paintings and liked it so much she returned for a second time.

"Spending a week there is equivalent to a semester in a college art course," said Rachel Newman, who went to her first workshop with no experience, hoping it would help heal a heartbreak. She's since returned for three more sessions. The heartbreak is long behind her, she's had gallery shows of her paintings, and ended up buying a place in Buonconvento because she loved the area so much.