

**Italy Cultural Immersion Experience**  
**Umbria and Florence**  
*Tentative Schedule*  
**July 7-16, 2015**

This tentative schedule allows for flexibility around participant interests, area events, and special opportunities. It also takes into consideration a wide variety of opportunities in the surrounding area, most particularly in Umbria's medieval towns. Time is also available for activities that participants bring to the experience.

**Tuesday, 7-7-15**

**Day 1: Fly to Rome**

**Wednesday, 7-8-15**

**Day 2: Buongiorno! Arrive in Rome** and meet at **Fiumicino International Terminal C** in the snack shop between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. – travel by private bus to **Pieve International School, Corciano** - A day at the Villa to become familiarized with the family, surroundings and Italian culture and life style

1:30	Arrive at Villa Pieve nestled in the foothills of Corciano; enjoy pranzo (lunch)
3:00 pm	Orientation, tour, and meet the family and staff with Rossella and Davide Vasta, our hosts; <a href="http://rossellavasta.blogspot.com/p/artists-resume.html">http://rossellavasta.blogspot.com/p/artists-resume.html</a> and <a href="http://www.davidevasta.biz/video_creativi_regista_video_clip_spot_documentari_videomaker_filmmaker_davide_vasta.html">http://www.davidevasta.biz/video_creativi_regista_video_clip_spot_documentari_videomaker_filmmaker_davide_vasta.html</a> ; Overview of week with Kris
4:00 pm	Time on your own; Walk to Corciano for a visit with Kris (wear comfortable shoes) <a href="http://www.italyheaven.co.uk/umbria/corciano.html">http://www.italyheaven.co.uk/umbria/corciano.html</a> Optional – Group meditation
6:30-7:15 pm	Cooking class and food tasting with Rosa, Pieve cook
7:30 pm	Cena (dinner) at the Villa

**Thursday, 7-9-15**

**Day 3: Passignano, Lake Trasimeno and Nestlè Chocolate Factory** – private bus

7:30 am	Breakfast (colazione)
8:00 am	Depart for Isola (Island) Maggiore from Passignano on the 8:45 ferry; walk the island and visit the shrine of St. Francis and other sites; return on the 11:30 ferry; <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isola_Maggiore">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isola_Maggiore</a> ) <a href="http://www.google.com/search?q=passignano+sul+trasi+meno&amp;hl=en&amp;tbo=u&amp;tbn=isch&amp;source=univ&amp;sa=X&amp;ei=vgbSUPLHCMHCqAGpkoCIDQ&amp;ved=0CDUQsAQ&amp;biw=990&amp;bih=531">http://www.google.com/search?q=passignano+sul+trasi+meno&amp;hl=en&amp;tbo=u&amp;tbn=isch&amp;source=univ&amp;sa=X&amp;ei=vgbSUPLHCMHCqAGpkoCIDQ&amp;ved=0CDUQsAQ&amp;biw=990&amp;bih=531</a>
12:30 pm	Leave Passignano and enjoy pranzo at Maria's Ristorante in the countryside for torta al testo, an Umbrian specialty (€15, includes tip)
2:30 pm	Dessert/Tour of Perugia Chocolate Factory in San Sisto <a href="http://www.slowtrav.com/italy/umbria/pb_perugina.htm">http://www.slowtrav.com/italy/umbria/pb_perugina.htm</a>
4:00 pm	Return to Villa Pieve with time on your own

- 6:30-7:15 "La Rosa Mystica" - video to prepare for our visit to the Basilica of St. Francis in PIS classroom  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOQIETwVDQ0>
- 7:30 pm Cena at the Villa

**Friday, 7-10-15**

- Day 4: Day in Assisi** – private bus
- 8:30-9:30 am Colazione followed by Group Meditation (Optional)
- 9:30 am Depart for Assisi; <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/990>  
 Tour of the Basilica of St. Francis  
[http://www.assisionline.com/assisi\\_162.html](http://www.assisionline.com/assisi_162.html)
- 12:30 pm Pranzo at your own or with group; free time  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8f7\\_6ZzffM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8f7_6ZzffM)
- 2:30-4:00 pm Tour and presentation at San Damiano; discussion of the history of Sts. Francis and Clare with a Franciscan friar  
<http://saintfranciswalk.blogspot.com/2010/05/san-damiano.html>
- 4.30 pm Depart for Villa Pieve
- 5:30-6:30 pm Meet with Rossella re: her project, The Table of Silence, <http://www.tableofsilence.com/> and <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/2146111355/the-table-of-silence-project-9-11>
- 7:30 pm Cena at the Villa followed by a discussion of *Interruptio* with Rossella and Kris

**Saturday, 7-11-15**

- Day 5: Perugia** – private bus
- 8:30-9:30 am Colazione (Optional - followed by Group Meditation (Optional))
- 10:00-11:30 Meet with Emanuela Boccio, a Delegate from the Comune of Corciano at the "Antico Molino" with a visit to the archaeological museum  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corciano>
- 11:30 pm Leave for Perugia
- 12:00-3:30 pm Tour Perugia with city manager, Marialuisa Martella, in charge of Tourism for a cultural overview of the city; includes pranzo <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perugia>
- 3:30 pm ---- Time on your own; shopping, etc. Evening at Umbria Jazz! (Transportation: Pieve van or return by taxi) See link for a past event  
<http://www.bellaumbria.net/en/umbria-jazz/>

**Sunday, 7-12-15**

- Day 6: Corciano**
- 8:30-9:30 am Colazione
- 9:30 am Free time (Optional – Catholic mass at the Assumption of the Blessed Mary Virgin Church; Group meditation; walk and/or enjoy the café in the piazza; remain at the villa)
- 1:00 pm Pranzo at Il Convento Ristorante (fixed menu: €15, includes tip includes Umbrian specialties)  
<http://www.ristoranteilconvento.it/>
- 2:30 pm Visit Antonella Parlani, Atelier of Artist engraver with option to purchase

- 4:00 pm Olive oil tasting at Brunelli oil with option to purchase <http://www.promozioneecorciano.it/Index.aspx?idmenu=297> and stop at a cashmere factory
- 7:30 pm Cena at the Villa and current projects with Filippo <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/filippo-vasta/10/525/519> and Davide Vasta

**Monday, 7-13-15**

- Day 7: Florence** – private bus/train
- 6:30-7:30 am Depart for Terontola – colazione on your own at station
- 8:10 am Board the train in Terontola for Florence at 8:17 arriving at 9:48  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florence>
- 10:30 am Possibilities: See Michelangelo' David at the Accademia San Lorenzo and the Medici Chapel  
[http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Medici\\_chapels.html](http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Medici_chapels.html); the Duomo (Cathedral), Bell Tower and Baptistery  
[http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/cathedr\\_of\\_florence.html](http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/cathedr_of_florence.html);
- 1:00 pm Pranzo on your own or dine with the group in the Historical City Center a ZaZa's (fixed menu: €15-20 includes tip)
- 2:30 pm Ponte Vecchio  
[http://www.italyguides.it/us/florence/ponte\\_vecchio/old\\_bridge.htm](http://www.italyguides.it/us/florence/ponte_vecchio/old_bridge.htm)  
Piazza della Signoria  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piazza\\_della\\_Signoria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piazza_della_Signoria)  
Walking Tour to the City Market
- 7:00 pm Cena on your own or with the group in the Historical City Center (fixed menu: €20-25 includes tip)
- 9:15 pm Meet group to board the 9:42 (or earlier) train for Terontola – arrive at 10:47 (or earlier) – board the bus for the Villa
- 11:00 pm Arrive at the Villa (or earlier)

**Tuesday, 7-14-15**

- Day 8: Orvieto and Deruta** – private bus
- 8:00 am Colazione followed by Group meditation or walk (optional)
- 9:00 am Depart for Orvieto
- 10:30 am Walk to the Duomo and enjoy free time and lunch on your own; other options include the Underground Passages and the National Archaeological Museum, etc.  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orvieto>
- 2:30 pm Depart for Deruta to visit the Grazia Ceramic factory (oldest in Europe), famous for Majolica ceramics, Tour with owner and CEO, Ubaldo Grazia  
<http://www.derutaitaly.com/ceramics/>
- 4:30 pm Depart for Villa Pieve
- 8:00 pm Gala Cena with Italian speakers and guests

**Wednesday, 7-15-15**    **Day 9: Return to Assisi** – private bus  
 8:00-9:00 am    Colazione  
 9:00 am    Depart for Assisi  
 10:00 am    Tour St. Maria degli Angeli Basilica and the Porziuncola  
<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/italy/assisi-santa-maria-degli-angeli>  
 12:00 pm    Tour the Basilica of Saint Clare  
<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/italy/assisi-santa-chiara> followed by free time  
 1:00 pm    Pranzo and time on your own  
 4:00 pm    Return to Villa Pieve  
 7:30 pm    Final cena and processing of experience

**Thursday, 7-16-15**    **Day 10: Arrivederci Villa Pieve** - Early departure to Rome at 5:00 am; return home the same day or extend travel

### **A Sampling of Italian Leaders and Speakers**

**Kris Hipp** – Program Coordinator, Professor Emerita, retired from full-time employment in the Doctoral Leadership Department at Cardinal Stritch University. This upcoming cultural experience will be the 10<sup>th</sup> program Kris has planned, organized and hosted at Villa Pieve in Corciano, Italy since 2006. It is open to adults world-wide.

**Rossella Vasta** – daughter of Michele and Bibi Vasta, proprietors of Business Services and Pieve International School. Rossella, Director of Pieve International School, an internationally known artist, and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Cardinal Stritch University, will host our program. Rossella has a master degree in philosophy from the University of Perugia. She also created the *Table of Silence* an annual presentation with the Jacquelyn Buglisi Dance Theater in New York City's Lincoln Center on 9-11, as well as other cities and countries around the world. Rossella is the author of *Interruptio* (2010), a book that captures the impact of significant interruptions in people's lives.

**Michele and Bibi Vasta**, proprietors of Business Services and Pieve International School. **Benedetta**, better known as **Bibi** served the Villa's guests as master cook for decades. **Michele** is retired but opened Business Services and served as a consultant to hundreds of business managers in Italy including Alitalia, Perugia/Nestles Chocolate, etc.

**Davide Vasta** – son of Michele and Bibi Vasta, Professor of Graphic Design at the Academy of Fine Arts Pietro Vannucci and at Università di Stranieri, the University for Foreigners in Perugia. He is currently a highly established Video Maker and works in conjunction with Pieve's educational and cultural programs, Italy-at-Large, and the US.

**Filippo Vasta** – son of Michele and Bibi Vasta, a business consultant with his own company, Management by Methods, MbM.

**Angelo Vasta** – son of Michele and Bibi Vasta, and CEO of UmbriaGroupUSA, who works in conjunction with Pieve's educational and cultural programs

**Marialuisa Martella** - City Manager at the Comune di Perugia - responsible for Tourism, because of her background in Art history she particularly works at the valorisation of the artistic and cultural patrimony of Umbria Region.

**Emanuela Boccio**, member of the City Council who works collaboratively with 7 other small towns making up the Comune of Corciano.

**Ubaldo Grazia** – manager of the oldest ceramic factory in Italy and in Europe, repeating its craft for over 500 years, located in Deruta.

Fausto Bizzirri – manager of Bizzirri Ceramic Factory in Citta

**Antonella Parlani** – local artist whose etchings are known throughout Italy.

**Padre Massimo**, Rettore (Past Rector) and/or **Padre Claudio (Current Rector)** : responsible for the Porziuncola and Santa Maria degli Angeli.

**Padre Eugenio**, Franciscan Friar at the precious shrine of San Damiano where St. Francis conceived the Canticle of the Creatures, Assisi

**Andrea Ceccomori** – Internationally known Flautist and annual participant in the *Table of Silence* presentation in Lincoln Center in New York City on 9-11 and other cities and countries around the world.

**Alba Asfalti** – manager for several institutions, i.e., ATER, which is a public housing institution. Alba served as Vice President of Umbria Jazz, one of the largest outdoor music festival in Europe. She has been a politician and continues to be involved in many social issues, i.e., serving as President of the Kiwanis in Umbria. Alba is an extremely influential leader with a strong service attitude. She is a promoter in Umbria of an ambitious project on special education and social inclusion called “The Social Factory”. Through Kiwanis Alba, with Rossella Vasta, has financed the building of 9 schools in the Ivory Coast.

**Maria Rosi** – Senator in Perugia, representing the region of Umbria

**Claudio Ricci**, Mayor of the Comune of Assisi, is currently involved in a 20-year strategic planning involving a collaborative process.

**Prof. Roberto (Bob) Volpi** – Past Principal of the artistic High School, Istituto Statale D’Arte Bernardino di Betto.