

JEANETTE PLATANIA - HARPER

Italian & Sicilian Maiolica-Style Acrylics Painting Workshop - 2026

CASA DELLA ZIA, VALLO DI NERA

May 11th to May 18th

umbriacasa.com



TRAVEL: Arrival Monday May 11th (travel from US begins May 10th - the day before arrival)

DAY#1

Morning Arrival Rome Fiumicino Airport

Pick up with two vans/sedans

Stop at Bar/Cafe halfway on 2 hour drive to Casa Della Zia for snacks and coffee

MIDDAY

Arrival in Vallo Di Nera 1-2pm

Unpack, freshen up

Snacks and drinks available at house

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Welcome party at Taverna Bordone Buffet Style - Vallo

Taglieri, bruschetta, other assorted hor-devours, wine, aperol spritz



Snacks and drinks available in the house all day/evening
Running tab for retreaters at local taverna/hotel for coffee

DAY#2: Tuesday, May 12th

Breakfast items available in the house daily:

- Fresh coffee
- Yogurt
- Muesli
- Cereal
- Eggs
- Toast
- Juice

Coffee also available through guest tab at Bordone/Cacio Re - Vallo

10:00am

Short Tour of Vallo including:

- Walled town
- Church of Santa Maria with 14th century frescos
- Fontana where people (including me) used to wash clothing
- Visit Franca (a villager and have coffee in her home)



12:00pm

Visit Spoleto (approximately 20 minutes from Vallo Di Nera)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spoleto>

Spoleto is a historic town in Umbria, Italy, renowned for its stunning blend of Roman, medieval, and Renaissance architecture.

Duomo in Spoleto



1:00 pm - Lunch, Prosciutteria Del Corso



4:00pm - 6:30pm

First Class with Jeanette - Vallo



7:30pm

Full Dinner Cacio Re (hotel) - Vallo

Snacks and drinks available in the house all day/evening

Running tab for retreaters at Bordone/Hotel for Coffee

DAY#3: Wednesday, May 13th

LA LECCETA

Breakfast items available in the house

Fresh Coffee Available at Bordone/Cacio Re - Vallo

10:15am:

Departure for La Lecceta in Massa Martana with

- Hosts: Daniela & Roberto
- Several course meals/snacks/drinks

homerestaurant-lalecceta.it

umbriacasa.com/day-trips



5:00pm

Return to Vallo but, first a short visit to Ponte Fonnaia (about 10 minutes from La Lecceta)

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g783940-d8657780-r313073777-Ponte Fonnaia-Massa Martana Province of Perugia Umbria.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g783940-d8657780-r313073777-Ponte_Fonnaia-Massa_Martana_Province_of_Perugia_Umbria.html)



6:00pm – till... Class with Jeanette

Snacks at home for dinner

DAY#4: Thursday, May 14th

Breakfast items available in the house

Coffee Available at Bordone/Cacio Re - Vallo

9:30am - 1:00pm

Class with Jeanette



1:30pm leave for Trevi

Visit Trevi (Approx. 20 minutes from Vallo di Nera)

Light lunch in the Historic town of Trevi - Ristorante L'Ulivo

Trevi is a medieval hill town on the slopes of Monte Serano, overlooking the Clitunno plain between Foligno and Spoleto. Famous for its excellent extra-virgin olive oil (DOP Colli Assisi-Spoleto), it's a stone-laned warren of churches, frescoes, and panoramic terraces.



After lunch visit Il Frantoio Societa' Agricola Trevi

(olive oil producer) Town of Trevi

Olive oil tasting and tour of facilities

oliotrevi.it/

Focaccia DINNER

A Unique Opportunity to gain insight into Italian food tradition: Giacomo & Anastasia's Focaccia Tradition

Capture the magic as Giacomo and Anastasia, natives of Vallo di Nera, bring a 200-year-old outdoor oven to life in the garden. The antique oven, steeped in history, becomes the centerpiece of a culinary tradition as Giacomo carefully tends to the flames, creating the perfect heat for baking.

Anastasia joins him to prepare a variety of traditional Umbrian focaccias, from classic rosemary and olive oil to toppings inspired by the season's freshest ingredients. The process is a visual feast: the rustic charm of the stone oven, the glow of the fire, and the hands-on artistry of kneading, topping, and baking.

As the golden focaccias emerge, steaming and fragrant, the scene provides countless opportunities to capture the essence of Umbrian life, blending tradition, craftsmanship, and the simple joy of sharing a meal.

Giacomo and Anastasia both speak pretty good English!



DAY#5: Friday, May 15th

9:30am - 1:00pm

Class with Jeanette

1:30pm

Light lunch, Bordone

4:00pm Visit Ceramic Studio in Deruta





Dinner in Deruta

Explore this charming Umbrian town, famous for its ceramics and traditional maiolica pottery.



Visit local shops showcasing exquisite handmade ceramics and enjoy the vibrant piazza at the heart of the town.

Snacks and drinks available in the house all day/evening

Running tab for retreaters at Bordone/Cacio Re for coffee

DAY #6: Saturday May 16th - Breakfast items available in the house

Coffee Available at Bordone/Cacio Re - Vallo

10:00 am - meet Maura in Assisi for 3 hour guided tour



1:30pm

Light lunch Assisi

5:00pm - 7:30pm

Class with Jeanette

8:00 pm - Dinner Cacio Re- Vallo

Dinner Cacio Re

DAY#7: Sunday, May 17th

Breakfast items available in the house

Coffee Available at Bordone/Cacio Re

9:00AM - Cooking Lesson & Lunch at Locanda Cacio Re (Vallo di Nera)

Join proprietors Cinzia and Paolo for a hands-on, Italian-language cooking class inside their celebrated country inn—Jessica and her sister Lisa translate throughout so you can relax and learn. We'll make fresh egg pasta from scratch (think ribbons of strangozzi and delicate ricotta-and-greens ravioli with a simple pan sauce), a warm savory pastry bite with local cheese and honey, and a silky dessert inspired by Sagrantino Passito. After the lesson, sit down to a convivial lunch featuring the dishes you've just created, paired with Umbrian EVOO and local wine—a perfect half-day taste of Valnerina hospitality. Each participant takes home English recipe instructions (digital or printed) and a Cacio Re chef's apron as a keepsake.



4:00pm - 6:30pm

Class with Jeanette

7:00pm

7:30 pm Visit Scheggino

Dinner

Locanda Valcasana, Scheggino, approximately 9 kilometers from Vallo di Nera

Everyone on their own for the dinner bill

valcasana.com

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scheggino>



Snacks and drinks available in the house all day/evening
Running tab for retreaters at Bordone/Hotel for Coffee

TRAVEL DAY: DAY #8, Monday May 18th

Breakfast items available in the house
Early Departure for Rome Fiumicino

WEBSITES

<http://www.tavernadelbordone.it/>
<https://it.caciore.it/>
<https://www.e-borghi.com/en/village/Perugia/62/vallo-di-nera>
<https://www.umbriatourism.it/it/vallo-di-nera>
<https://aweekinumbria.com/discover-umbria-with-us/vallo-di-nera/>
<https://www.alltrails.com/italy/umbria/vallo-di-nera>

Food/Drink in the house:

- Mineral water
- Gassed water
- Red/white/frizzante wine
- Bruschetta breads/spreads
- Yogurt
- Breakfast pastries
- Ricotta
- Cheeses
- Cured Meats

- Olives
- Fruits
- Chocolates

Meals will be traditional Umbrian cuisine using area specialties like truffles, trout, cinghiale (wild boar), strangozzi. Red/white wines, waters and locally made liquori

Fireplaces/central heat in the house will be used if necessary

2 full baths with bidet: Stand up shower downstairs, bathtub upstairs with stand up shower

Sleeping (Casa della Zia):

- Downstairs off kitchen twin beds (2)
- Living room pull out twin bed (1)
- Upstairs small bedroom double bed (2)
- Upstairs large bedroom double bed (2) & two twin beds (2)





Available to Retreaters:

- 12 yoga mats
- 6 pairs of walking sticks for hiking
- 8 Painting easels
- Bathrobes
- Slippers
- Toiletries
- Blow dryers, flat irons

- Clothes steamer/iron and board
- Clothes laundered off site, 10€ per bag

PRICING:

\$3,750 per person (based on multiple room occupancy in the Main House or in the Hotel

Locanda Cacio Re)

Single occupancy, add \$750

The price includes accommodation at Casa Della Zia as follows:

The Main House features three bedrooms:

- One room with a double bed
- One room with a double bed and two single beds
- One room with two single beds
- Once the house is full, guests will be booked into the hotel, Locanda Cacio Re, Vallo di Nera
- All guests enjoy full access to the main house and all its amenities.
- Price includes transportation and all meals, except during the visit to Scheggino on the last evening.
- All other fees included i.e., tour guide Assisi

WORKSHOP FEE:

- \$750
- Art Supplies Fee TBD

Because of space limitations in the vehicles, carry-on only (see your airline for dimensions) and a personal bag. **If you bring a larger bag, you may have to take a train and be met at the Spoleto station** as there will only be enough room for **carry-on luggage and a personal bag.**

We require a Travel Policy for the 8 day trip and we recommend this site for quotes (usually under \$50):

<https://vti.travel/get-a-quote/?aff=afns39w2wh>

You will be required to sign a Travel and Trip Risk Acknowledgment/Liability Waiver Form.

Casa Della Zia is located at the end of a lane which is approximately 60ft. that is on a 10 - 15% uphill grade and some locations we are visiting can be more than that. You **MUST** be in good enough shape to hike **medium difficulty** trails, as the grades are steep and the cobblestones can cause instability while walking.

If you cannot do this kind of walking you will not be able to walk in most of these medieval towns which are built on the sides of mountains.

Here's what the grade looks like going up to Casa Della Zia:



A video shot while walking up to the house:

<https://vimeo.com/957100231/fb61dfd660>

Selected photos from 2024-25 trips:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/M4QoFrUeRlkcjFPx8>

Casa Della Zia Accommodations:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/c47EKCBqh7zSdJSx7>

Cacio Re Hotel Accommodations:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/4hQuPbfmfEPbaiT58>

Hotel accommodations (7 nights)

8 Units available

Includes breakfast



Deposit: A deposit of \$1,000.00 is required immediately to secure a reservation. This deposit is composed of a non-refundable fee of \$500.00, with the remainder of the deposit refundable in accordance with the cancellation policy.

Full Payment: The balance of the trip price must be paid in full no later than April 1st.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations made more than 14 days prior to the trip will result in a full refund of the trip price, less the non-refundable portion of the deposit (\$500). Cancellations made within 14 days of the trip will result in forfeiture of the full deposit.

Payment Installments: Payment can be made in 2 equal installments.

No Refunds for Missed Excursions or Events: No refunds will be provided for missed excursion events or activities. However, the host will make reasonable efforts to accommodate missed meals on-site.

Special Note: We want you to feel great all week, so a quick heads-up: Italy does not allow the purchase or sale of recreational cannabis. While small-quantity possession for personal use is decriminalized, it can still trigger administrative sanctions (for example, temporary suspension of a driver's license or passport). In 2025, Italy also tightened rules on "cannabis light," significantly limiting the sale of hemp-flower products—so you should not expect to procure THC items during your stay in Umbria. Medical cannabis exists in Italy, but access is by Italian medical prescription and pharmacy dispensing only; foreign prescriptions generally aren't accepted as a basis for purchase. If you have a dependency on THC, please prepare accordingly before traveling.

