Pageantry of the Palio
June 24 to July 6, 2017

THE Italian Riviera, Tuscany and Rome

a program of the stanford alumni association
Italians have a special gift for _la bella vita_. Come enjoy “the good life” as we explore the Italian Riviera, Tuscany and Rome. We call on longtime Stanford contacts to immerse us in the scenic beauty, spectacular regional cuisine and rich traditions of these unique areas. In Liguria, hike among the rustic fishing villages of Cinque Terre and soak up the glamour of Portofino. In Tuscany, stay in a medieval _castello_, savor great wines and cuisine, and explore Florence and Lucca—each a treasure trove of history and art. Once-in-a-lifetime experiences await us, from witnessing Siena’s unforgettable Palio in our trackside seats to viewing the astonishing frescoes of the Sistine Chapel on a private visit.

**Brett S. Thompson, ’83, Director, Stanford Travel/Study**

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**Highlights**

**DELIGHT** in our VIP seats at the Palio, Siena’s legendary bareback horserace and colorful 800-year-old pageant.

**EXPLORE** traditional Tuscany as the guests of the Gucciardini family in their restored 13th-century _castello_.

**GAZE** in awe at Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel on a private, after-hours visit.*

*Pending confirmation in 1/17
Faculty Leader

WANDA M. CORN, the Robert and Ruth Halperin Professor Emerita of Art History at Stanford, began her art history training studying Italian Renaissance art and spending a long summer in Italy visiting its museums, churches and artistic monuments. She takes a special interest in the history of museums and in the conservation of vulnerable masterpieces such as the Sistine Chapel. Her scholarship focuses on modern art and visual culture. During our program, Dr. Corn will explore the historical significance of the Italian Renaissance and baroque art and the aesthetic innovations of artists such as Donatello, Michelangelo, Raphael, Caravaggio and Bernini.

— Anthony P. Meier Family Professor
— Director, Stanford Humanities Center, 1992–1995
— Author and curator of Seeing Gertrude Stein: Five Stories; author of Women Building History: Public Art at the 1893 Columbia Exposition and The Great American Thing: Modern Art and National Identity, 1915–1935; Georgia O’Keeffe: Living Modern is scheduled for release in early 2017
— BA, MA and PhD, art history, New York University

“Wanda was perfect for the trip—her level of knowledge and understanding of art and history made each itinerary stop more relevant and interesting.”

VICKI BERRY, LONDON ARTS AND CULTURE, 2014

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?riviera2017
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093
Itinerary

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 24 & 25
U.S. / PISA, ITALY / SANTA MARGHERITA
Board overnight flights to Italy, arriving in Pisa on Sunday morning and transferring to our hotel in the charming town of Santa Margherita on Italy’s Ligurian coast. Check in and enjoy a stroll through town before our welcome reception and light supper this evening.

HOTEL CONTINENTAL (6/25: D)

MONDAY, JUNE 26
SANTA MARGHERITA / PORTOFINO
A short train ride this morning takes us to Camogli, a picturesque town with a beautiful harbor. Take a scenic boat ride to the medieval Benedictine abbey of San Fruttuoso, a hidden gem set in a rocky cove overlooking the emerald green waters of the Bay of Tigullio. Continue to Portofino by local ferry or begin a spectacular hike along a scenic trail winding above the sea. Relax and explore the Italian Riviera’s most famous town, with its brightly painted houses set along an elegant harbor lined with private yachts. Return to Santa Margherita for an evening at leisure.

HOTEL CONTINENTAL (B)

TUESDAY, JUNE 27
SANTA MARGHERITA / CINQUE TERRE
Today take the local train to Manarola, one of five fishing villages known as Cinque Terre perched on rugged coastal cliffs and linked by a walking path. This spectacular section of the Italian Riviera rivals the Amalfi Coast for stunning views and gorgeous sunsets. Travel by ferry to Vernazza and lunch independently in one of the many seafood trattorias. Continue by ferry to Monterosso or opt for a guided hike on the scenic trail that links the two villages high above the sea. Return to our hotel in the late afternoon. HOTEL CONTINENTAL (B,D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28
SANTA MARGHERITA / CARRARA / LUCCA
Begin the day with a scenic drive to Carrara, Michelangelo’s source of marble for his monumental David and other masterpieces. Visiting the quarries here is an unforgettable experience; walls of shining white stone soar skyward, cut out of the high mountains and accessible only by narrow switchbacks up to the summit. After lunch, continue to Lucca and check in to our charming hotel in the city center. Our evening is at leisure. HOTEL SAN LUCA PALACE (B,L)

THURSDAY, JUNE 29
LUCCA
Our morning walking tour introduces us to beautiful Lucca, birthplace of the composer, Giacomo Puccini. Walk through the Piazza dell’Anfiteatro, a sun-bleached ellipse of medieval houses built on the ruins of a Roman amphitheater, and visit the 12th-century Romanesque church, San Michele in Foro, with its elaborate “wedding cake” façade. This evening enjoy dinner in the heart of Lucca. HOTEL SAN LUCA PALACE (B,D)

FRIDAY, JUNE 30
LUCCA / FLORENCE / GARGONZA
Travel south this morning to Castello di Gargonza in the hills of southern Tuscany, stopping first in Florence
for a day of viewing Renaissance masterpieces. In Piazza della Repubblica, discover the city’s beginnings as a Roman settlement. Stroll down narrow streets past the fortified houses and towers that marked the medieval town and emerge onto the Piazza della Signoria, the political center of the city since the Renaissance. Stand in awe of Michelangelo’s peerless David and his evocative, unfinished Prisoners at the Accademia. After lunch independently, visit the Uffizi gallery for a look at one of the world’s greatest repositories of medieval and Renaissance art.

CASTELLO DI GARGONZA (B,D) SATURDAY, JULY 1
SIENA
A short drive brings us to the beautifully preserved Tuscan city of Siena. This town still retains its medieval character, and along with Gargonza, is a great place to get a feel for what Tuscany was like in the Middle Ages. Our walking tour includes the shell-shaped Piazza del Campo; the Palazzo Pubblico, with its spectacular frescoes depicting scenes of good and bad government; and the Cathedral of Siena with its brilliant marble façade. Lunch is on our own in one of Siena’s many great trattorias with time in the afternoon to explore independently.

CASTELLO DI GARGONZA (B,D)

SUNDAY, JULY 2
SIENA / THE PALIO
Today we witness one of the world’s most spectacular medieval pageants, Siena’s Palio. Arriving in Siena after lunch, we have enough time to stroll through the feverishly busy courtyards, piazzas and streets to observe the preparations for the centuries-old wild, bareback horserace we will later watch from our reserved seats. Following a historical parade featuring Siena’s flag throwers and drummers, districts of the city vie for victory in the Piazza del Campo in front of 50,000 spectators.

CASTELLO DI GARGONZA (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JULY 3
GARGONZA / ROME
Say farewell to Gargonza and head south to Rome, where we check into our elegant hotel, located near the Pantheon. This afternoon take a walking tour along the narrow, twisting streets of Rome’s Centro Storico, stopping at such Roman icons as the Piazza Navona, Pantheon and Trevi Fountain.

GRAND HOTEL DE LA MINERVE (B,D)

TUESDAY, JULY 4
ROME
This morning’s walking tour takes us to the ancient monuments of the Eternal City: the Forum; the Arch of Constantine; and the Colosseum, Rome’s enormous amphitheater that once accommodated 50,000 spectators. This evening, visit the Vatican Museums for our special after-hours tour.* Free of crowds, view room after room of masterpieces by Giotto, Botticelli, Caravaggio and Raphael, culminating in the masterfully restored Sistine Chapel.

GRAND HOTEL DE LA MINERVE (B)
*Pending confirmation in 1/17

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5
ROME
This morning visit the renowned Borghese Gallery. This outstanding museum includes paintings by Titian, Tintoretto, Botticelli and others, as well as a stunning array of sculpture, including Canova’s once-scandalous Triumphant Venus. Take the rest of the afternoon to explore independently, then celebrate our journey at our farewell reception and dinner tonight.

GRAND HOTEL DE LA MINERVE (B,D)

THURSDAY, JULY 6
ROME / U.S.
Transfer to the Rome airport (FCO) this morning for return flights to the U.S. (B)
The Palio

Few public spectacles are as thrilling as the Palio, Siena’s legendary 800-year-old medieval pageant, which culminates in a wild bareback horse race around the famous Piazza del Campo. But before the race, the excitement that grips Siena is indescribable as drummers and alfieri (flag throwers) lead parade contingents through the city. Inside the Piazza del Campo, the Corteo Storico, the procession that celebrates Siena’s Golden Age, recaptures the grandeur of medieval times and ushers in the heart-pounding, drama-filled horse race. The experience is unforgettable and sure to be the highlight of our journey.

Castello di Gargonza

Castello di Gargonza is an authentic medieval village, complete with tower, parish church, town walls and a host of other original buildings converted for modern use. Our accommodations are the former homes of the farmers and tradesmen who worked centuries ago on the surrounding estate. These houses, still bearing the names of the original inhabitants, have been transformed into cozy cottages, with kitchens, living rooms and all the idiosyncrasies of the original dwellings. The castello now boasts a conference facility, gourmet restaurant and swimming pool nestled in an olive grove with a spectacular view. Cottages vary in size and features, and some uphill walking is necessary to access them.
Trip Information

DATES
June 24 to July 6, 2017 (13 days)

SIZE
Limited to 35 participants. Single accommodations are limited; please call for availability.

COST
$8,995 per person, double occupancy
$10,995 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

INCLUDED
8 nights of 4-star hotel accommodations; 3 nights of 5-star accommodations • 11 breakfaests, 2 lunches and 8 dinners • Welcome/farewell receptions • Gratuities to guides, drivers and hotel staff for all group activities • All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary • Single group transfer on program arrival day; multiple transfers on departure day • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Delta Airlines from San Francisco to Pisa, Italy, and return from Rome is approximately $1,980 as of July 2016 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is, at times, physically demanding and busy. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. The centers of many of the towns we visit are closed to traffic. You must be capable of extensive walking—two to four miles—in historic centers, in museums and on city tours, as well as extended periods of standing on excursions. Participants will encounter uneven terrain, including dirt and cobblestoned paths, and must be able to walk at least 20 minutes up and down hills in Tuscan towns and at Gargonza. At the Palio, participants must be able to sit outside for three hours on metal bleacher seats with limited legroom. Summer in Tuscany can be hot and humid, though much less so on the Riviera and in Rome. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Terms & Conditions

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?riviera2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0602.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in July 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
"The trip was truly amazing. I was impressed by how well-planned everything was and all the activities and visits that we were able to fit into two weeks."

AARON TARVER, ROME & TUSCANY, 2013