In the Footsteps of the Landscape Masters

ROME – CAMPAGNA

with Michelle Hiscock and Christopher Allen
15–27 April 2013 (13 days)
Michelle Hiscock is a well-known contemporary Australian landscape painter, who shows at Australian Galleries. She has taught at the National Art School in Sydney, the Art Gallery of NSW, Adelaide Central School of Art, and Sydney Grammar School. She is sought-after for her expertise recently in the fundamentals of classical drawing and painting techniques. Michelle is equally capable of conveying her extensive knowledge to the beginner and the professional.

For centuries, artists and the aristocracy have travelled to Rome to discover the fascinating remains of the ancient city and the marvels of the Renaissance and Baroque artists and architects. It was here that modern landscape painting was perfected by Claude Lorraine, Poussin and their contemporaries, and here that the later generation of Corot went to rediscover the classical landscape and its sites.

In the tradition of the Grand Tour, join art couple Michelle and Christopher for a leisurely stay in Rome and its surrounding Campagna. Whether you are experienced or a complete beginner, you will find that sketching is the ideal way to enjoy and understand these wonderful sites, slowly and in depth. Michelle will offer guidance in technique and materials, and both Christopher and Michelle will lead you through selected museums and galleries, introducing you to beautiful and often little-known artistic treasures of Rome. The tour programme is full and diverse, and yet you experience things essentially at your own pace.

At a glance
- Enjoy a leisurely 7 night stay in Rome
- Visit the sites where landscape painting was perfected by Claude Lorraine, Poussin and their contemporaries
- Join Michelle Hiscock for drawing and sketching
- Discover museums, villas and many hidden sights with Christopher Allen
- Beginners and experienced artists are welcome

Materials and equipment:
You will need a simple lightweight kit of your favourite sketching materials. Sketching equipment for the tour will be discussed in detail closer to the departure. The orientation walk in Rome will also include a visit to an art supply shop.

Dr Christopher Allen is the national art critic for The Australian and an art historian who graduated from the University of Sydney, has worked at the Collège de France in Paris and the National Art School in Sydney; he is also currently a Senior Master at Sydney Grammar School. He is the author of several books, on Australian art, French painting and the work of Jeffrey Smart. Christopher speaks French and Italian and has travelled extensively throughout Europe for several decades, especially France and Italy.
## Itinerary

**Sun 14 April** | **Depart Australia**
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Suggested departure from Australia on Cathay Pacific flights via Hong Kong. Overnight in flight.

**Mon 15 April** | **Arrive Rome**
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Arrive in Rome in the morning. Check in to the Ponte Sisto Hotel located across the river from Trastevere, and close to the Campo the Campo de’ Fiori, the Piazza Navona and the Pantheon.
Following an afternoon orientation walk of the area surrounding the hotel, join Michelle Hiscock and Christopher Allen for a welcome dinner.

**Tue 16 April** | **Rome**
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This morning travel across the Tiber to the base of the Janiculum hill, much of which was turned into a park in 1870 to honour Giuseppe Garibaldi for his heroic but unsuccessful defence of the short-lived Roman Republic of 1849.
Start with a visit to the Villa Farnesina, including Raphael’s Loggia of Psyche and his famous fresco of Galatea.

Visit the fountain of the Acqua Paola and Bramante’s Tempietto on the way up the hill to the Janiculum where you will have free time for lunch in a local café.
Sketch in the vicinity of the Villa Lante, a late Renaissance building at the summit of the hill. It is a wonderful position from which to become familiar with the major sites of Rome and the point where Giuseppe Vasi sat in 1765 to draw his Grand View of Rome.
Back to hotel before meeting for dinner at an atmospheric restaurant in Trastevere.

**Wed 17 April** | **Rome**
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Board the bus for opportunities to sketch at the Pyramid of Cestius and the Baths of Caracalla; the bus will leave you at the Giardino degli Aranci (Orange Garden) on the top of the Aventine Hill. After enjoying the views of Rome and other sights such as the Square of the Knights of Malta, take a leisurely walk down the hill to the Circus Maximus and the Forum Boarium.

Situated in the valley between the Aventine and Palatine hills, the Circus Maximus was the first and largest stadium in ancient Rome. It measured 621 m in length and 118 m in width, and could accommodate about 150,000 spectators.

After lunch at leisure, spend the afternoon sketching in the Forum Boarium, filled with ancient edifices and remains from the Republican period.
Finish the day with a visit to the Doria Pamphilj Gallery housed in the Palazzo Doria Pamphilj.

This imposing building, still the property of the noble Pamphilj family, was built between the 16th and the 18th century and preserves all its original furniture. The wonderful halls contain a valuable collection of paintings including masterpieces by Titian, Raphael, Caravaggio and Velasquez as well as sculptures by Bernini and Algardi.
Return to the hotel for a short break before dinner at a famous restaurant in the old Ghetto of Rome.

**Thu 18 April** | **Rome**
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Morning visit to the Forum and exploration of the Palatine Hill, the cradle of Roman civilisation.
After a day of sketching in these imposing surroundings and a picnic lunch among the ruins, visit the Capitoline Museums, and admire the sunset over the Forum.

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**Villa Lante, Rome**

**View from Palentine Hill, Rome**
Fri 19 April

Continue your exploration of Rome and its artistic tradition with a leisurely walk to the Palazzo Barberini, the Galleria Nazionale d’Arte Antica. See the spectacular ceiling fresco by Pietro da Cortona in the Gran Salone and many great paintings from the 13th to the 17th centuries in the collection, including Caravaggio’s Judith Beheading Holofernes, Raphael’s La Fornarina and Titian’s Venus and Adonis.

After lunch at a local restaurant, proceed to the Pincio and a sketching session by the charming Tempio d’Esculapio – or hire a dinghy and row around the ornamental lake – then enjoy the afternoon light from the top of the Spanish Steps; finally, walk down to the Piazza di Spagna and the Via dei Condotti for a well-earned drink at a local café before an evening at leisure.

Sat 20 April

Leave Rome by bus, stopping for a short walk around the Piazza del Popolo and nearby streets once inhabited by famous artists, and then travelling north up the via Nomentana, following in the footsteps of Claude Lorraine. Explore the area around Acqua Acetosa, with its famous view of the Tiber; then stop to sketch at the Ponte Milvio, one of the most beautiful and peaceful drawing spots in Rome – Michelle’s painting from the last trip is on the cover of the brochure.

After lunch at a local pizzeria, continue to two other famous sketching sites, Monte Mario and the Ponte Nomentano, before returning to Rome for an evening at leisure.

Sun 21 April

Today leave Rome through the Porta San Sebastiano at the southeastern end of the city, visiting the Via Appia Antica and its many monuments, including the Tomb of Cecilia Metella and the Villa dei Quintili.

Begin at the Circus of Maxentius, then proceed down to the Tomb of Cecilia Metella, sketching and having lunch at your own pace.

After lunch, enjoy the beautiful walk down the Via Appia to the the Villa dei Quintili and sketch among the impressive and solitary ruins.

This ancient road begins outside the Porta San Sebastiano, a gate in the city walls, and is lined with the imposing ruins of late classical tombs. In the background are the broken line of the Roman aqueducts and the picturesque profile of the Alban Hills.

Meet at the Museum of the Villa, then drive back to Rome via the Claudian Aqueduct. There will be time for a rest at the hotel before meeting for a short walk to the Mausoleum of Augustus and dinner at a restaurant nearby.

Mon 22 April

Say farewell to Rome and travel north to Civita Castellana in the footsteps of Camille Corot (1796-1875); Civita Castellana is a beautiful little hill town with a magnificent view of the famous Mount Soracte, a motif in many classical landscape paintings. After free time for a light lunch, spend a leisurely afternoon drawing and exploring the town (among the town’s famous visitors, Mozart played the organ in the Cathedral when he stayed here in the later eighteenth century).

Conclude the day with dinner at the gastronomic La Scuderia restaurant, attached to the Palace Hotel Relais Falisco, where you will be spending the night.

Tue 23 April

In the morning travel to nearby Nazzano. Sketch in countryside visited by Corot – today the natural reserve of Tevere Farfa – and enjoy a picnic lunch before continuing on to Frascati.

The little town of Nazzano has been continually inhabited since the Bronze Age. Today, the atmosphere of the Middle Ages is almost perfectly preserved in the architecture of the historic centre, with its buildings hunched up together and its character-filled archways and pathways decorated with ironwork.

Arrive in the afternoon at Frascati, renowned for its white wine and fine villas, including the magnificent Villa Aldobrandini, built from the 16th century onwards by Popes, cardinals and Roman nobles as

Palazzo Barberini statue, Rome

Civita Castellana, Rome
summer houses, refuges from the suffocating heat of the city. Spend the next four nights in one of these great houses which has been converted into a hotel.

Wed 24 April
Frascati
Full day excursion to the hill town of Tivoli, a popular summer resort since the days of the Roman Republic and a constant source of inspiration to landscape artists – indeed no site in Italy has inspired so many sketches, paintings and engravings. Here you will visit the spectacular sixteenth-century Villa d’Este, with its cascading fountains, grottoes and splendid views (where Franz Liszt once stayed). After exploring the gardens, you will have the opportunity to enjoy a light lunch on the terrace.

In the afternoon, visit the Villa Gregoriana with its steeply wooded slopes and views of the Gran Cascata and the famous Temple of the Sibyl that appears in so many drawings and paintings by Claude and others. Following an afternoon sketching session, return to Frascati for an evening at leisure – and dinner in your choice of fine small restaurants in the town.

Thu 25 April
Frascati
Take a leisurely drive through the Alban Hills, stopping to sketch at the picturesque site of Tusculum, once among the largest and most beautiful of ancient Roman cities, and now empty but for shepherds and their flocks.

Then on to Lake Nemi, a volcanic formation famous for its ancient temple of Diana and a favourite site for landscape painters.

The story of the temple is well-known from Frazer’s Golden Bough: the priest notoriously acquired the position by murdering his predecessor and lived in dread of being murdered in his turn; in compensation, he was considered while he lived to be the mystic consort of the goddess. The lake was also known for the remains of two colossal pleasure ships built by the Roman emperor Caligula, whose sunken remains were salvaged between the wars but burnt by the Nazis in their withdrawal from Italy in 1944.

Stop for lunch at a restaurant with a breathtaking view of the lake, and sketch the view over coffee afterwards, before strolling around to the picturesque old town of Nemi and returning to Frascati for an evening at leisure.

Fri 26 April
Frascati
After breakfast, explore the impressive ruins of Hadrian’s Villa at Tivoli.

Built as a private summer retreat between AD 118 and 134, the Imperial Villa was a vast open-air museum of the finest architecture of the Roman world. The grounds of the Imperial palace covered an area of 120 hectares (300 acres) and were filled with full-scale reproductions of the emperor’s favourite buildings from Greece and Egypt (it was here that the statue of the Discobolus, now one of the most famous works of antiquity, was discovered in the late eighteenth century).

Today the site is a place of inexhaustible fascination both for archaeologists and for landscape artists, and a perfect place for a leisurely conclusion to a sketching trip in Rome and its countryside.

In the evening join Michelle Hiscock, Christopher Allen and fellow travellers for a farewell dinner.

Sat 27 April
Depart Rome
Early morning transfer to Rome airport where you will be dropped off in time for an early afternoon departure on Cathay Pacific via Hong Kong.

Sun 28 April
Arrive Sydney
Evening arrival in Sydney.
Tour Prices

Per person, twin-share  AUD 5,990
Single supplement*  AUD 1,050
Deposit (per person)  AUD 500
Final payment due  11 February 2013

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code

AG1303

Suggested Airline

Cathay Pacific

Please pay attention to the departure time if departing Rome on the 27 April. The departure transfer included in the tour will drop off at Rome airport at 9.00am.

Tour prices include

- Accommodation in centrally located 4-star hotels with private facilities and daily breakfast
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner) including special Welcome and Farewell meals.
- Departure transfer from Frascati to Rome airport dropping off at Rome airport around 9.00am on the 27 April
- Comprehensive sketching lessons with Michelle Hiscock
- Comprehensive sightseeing and museum visits with Michelle Hiscock and Christopher Allen, including entrance fees as per itinerary
- Lectures and talks with your tour leader throughout
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel porterage (1 piece per person). Airport porterage NOT included.

Tour price does not include

- Airfares
- Transfer on arrival
- Departure transfer if not travelling on suggested flights
- Drinks with meals, except Welcome and Farewell meals
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry etc.
- Travel insurance

Your hotels ★★★★★

Rome – Ponte Sisto Hotel
Civita Castellana – Palace Hotel Relais Falisco
Frascati – Grand Hotel Villa Tuscolana

N.B. Hotel of a similar standard may be substituted.
How to Book
Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit.

Deposit/Final Payments
Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payments are accepted in cash and by cheque, bank transfer, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

Cancellation & Refunds
a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

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<th>Number of Days</th>
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<tr>
<td>60 days or more</td>
<td>Perish of deposit</td>
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<tr>
<td>59–45 days</td>
<td>25% of tour cost</td>
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<td>44–31 days</td>
<td>50% of tour cost</td>
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<td>30–15 days</td>
<td>75% of tour cost</td>
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<td>Less than 15 days</td>
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The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

Passports, Visas and Vaccinations
All travellers must be in possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

Travel Insurance
It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

Fitness and Participation
For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 2–3 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark/disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

If you (or we) have any doubts about your ability to participate in your chosen tour, you may be required to have a doctor’s appraisal. This would require a doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour and provide you with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

Terms & Conditions
You can find the full terms & conditions on the Renaissance Tours booking form. They can also be found at www.renaissancetours.com.au or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.

Villa Lante, Rome
View from Aventine Hill, Rome
Your travel agent is