Empires & Courts of Northern Italy

Art, Power, Science & Culture in Medieval & Renaissance Italy

October 7–15, 2016 with Professor Elly Truitt
Dear Bryn Mawr Alumnae/i, Friends, and Family:

I am very excited to announce this exclusive custom-designed tour that is set between the two historic borders of Lombardy and the Veneto, Venice and Milan, where magnificent medieval towers, Gothic cathedrals, and Renaissance towns abound. Whether you have been to Italy multiple times or never before, this custom Bryn Mawr Alumnae tour is the perfect way for history, art, culture, and architecture lovers to be immersed in this unfrequented region of Italy.

This unique program highlights crucial political, scientific, and artistic centers that played roles from the 6th to 18th centuries, stretching from Venice to Milan. During your week in northern Italy you will access collections of rare books, priceless artifacts, private villas, hidden artworks, and glorious gardens. Alongside the leadership of Professor Elly Truitt, you will journey with our local experts and art historians as they reveal not only how landscape, cultural traditions, and artistic communities catalyzed the Gothic into the Renaissance, but how patron-artist relationships strategically wove the most distinct architectural region in Italy.

I hope that you will join us for another unforgettable cultural journey through the Empires and Courts of Northern Italy.

Sincerely,

Wendy M. Greenfield
Executive Director
Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association

FOR QUESTIONS & INFORMATION: ISDI (Tour Operator), 202-244-1448 or info@isditravel.com
Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association, Sarah Doody at 610-526-5316 or sdoody@brynmawr.edu
Elly Truitt teaches medieval history at Bryn Mawr College. Her research is on medieval intellectual and cultural history, especially the history of science. She has published (as E. R. Truitt) articles on the history of automata, the development of mechanical timekeeping, astral science and divination, and pharmacobotany.

Her first book, *Medieval Robots: Mechanism, Magic, Nature, and Art*, was recently published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. Between 9th and 14th centuries, real and imagined automata appeared in European courts, liturgies, and literary texts. Medieval robots took such forms as talking statues, mechanical animals, and silent metal guardians; some served to entertain or instruct while others performed disciplinary or surveillance functions. Various ascribed to artisanal genius, inexplicable cosmic forces, or demonic powers, these marvelous fabrications raised fundamental questions about knowledge, nature, and divine purpose in the Middle Ages.

**STUDY LEADER**

**Empires & Courts of Northern Italy**

with Bryn Mawr Faculty Leader, Professor Elly Truitt

**October 7–15, 2016**
Friday, October 7 • Departures for Milan
Depart on independent flights for Milan, Italy.

Saturday, October 8 • Arrivals in Milan
Upon arrival in Milan, meet your group and tour director at the Milan Malpensa International Airport (MXP). We depart for central Milan, arriving and checking into our four-star Hotel Una Cusani, facing the Sforza Castle. Enjoy some time at leisure in Milan before joining your fellow travelers at a historic restaurant inside of a 400-year-old mercantile building steps away from the Duomo.

Hotel Una Cusani, Milan (D)

Sunday, October 9 • Ducal Courts of Milan
This morning we visit the historic Biblioteca Ambrosiana, housing major literary, historic, and scientific acquisitions including Da Vinci’s Codex Atlanticus; fragments of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke; and manuscripts including Homer’s iliad and early editions of Dante’s Divine Comedy. Walking through Milan’s historic medieval marketplace, we continue onto Cardinal Borromeo’s art gallery at the Pinacoteca di Brera to see masterworks by Da Vinci, Botticelli, Mantegna, Caravaggio, and Titian. We pass the Teatro alla Scala arriving at Milan’s awe-inspiring Gothic Duomo. We break for a leisurely lunch enjoying typical Milanese fare. This afternoon we have the privilege of a private viewing of Da Vinci’s Last Supper (“Cenacolo”) at Santa Maria delle Grazie. We will also explore Bramante’s sacristy with unique late medieval and early Renaissance architectural features. Peak into the small church of San Maurizio where we see exquisite frescoes painted by Bernardino Luini, Da Vinci’s top student. We return to our hotel nearby and enjoy the remainder of the day and dinner at leisure.

Hotel Una Cusani, Milan (B, L)

Monday, October 10 • Monza and the Crown of the Lombards
Today we discover Monza, north of Milan, and visit its 14th-century cathedral with its striking, geometric green and white marble façade, resembling the dramatic Gothic façade of Milan’s Duomo. Beyond the high altar is the Iron Crown of Lombardy, which is believed to have belonged to Emperor Constantine and has been coveted by powerful rulers of the centuries, including Napoleon who claimed “God gave it to me, woe to anyone who touches it” upon his coronation day. Discover the treasures inside the Museum of the Duomo including splendid royal objects that belonged to Teodolinda, Queen of the Lombards. Enjoy an independent lunch and time to explore the historic city center of Monza. Return this afternoon to Milan to visit the Castello Sforzesco, built originally by Galeazzo II Visconti in the mid-15th century with elegant Renaissance designs by Bramante. The castle was once the main residence of Duke Francesco “Il Moro” Sforza and decorated by Da Vinci and Bramante among many other artists summoned to the Duke’s court. Marvelous collections of antiquities, coins, paintings, and sculpture, including an unfinished work by Michelangelo, fill the historic castle today. Enjoy the reminder of the evening and dinner at leisure.

Hotel Una Cusani, Milan (B)
Imperial Borders of Northern Italy: Lombardy and Veneto

We depart Milan for Bergamo, a cultural crossroads perched below the Alps, where we stroll the streets inside the Città Alta (high city) that was once ruled by the Venetians for over 400 years. Consequently, the architecture is faced with lace-like marble decoration, and piazzas are enclosed by clusters of colorful medieval buildings akin to those in Venice. We visit a private 17th-century palace that is still owned by the Count’s family, decorated with Baroque artwork, and framed by a verdant garden overlooking the Lombard hills. Gather in the old town for a lovely luncheon. Later this afternoon we drive across Lombardy below the Dolomites arriving in Padova. We arrive in the late afternoon and check into the historic, four-star Hotel Europa facing streets lined with quiet cafés and medieval brick towers. Enjoy an independent evening exploring the artistic center of Padova.

Hotel Europa, Padova (B, L)

Wednesday, October 12 • Padova: Historic University City

Our day in Padova begins with a private viewing of Giotto’s glorious fresco cycle at the Capella degli Scrovegni. His masterful 14th-century renderings from the life of Christ and the life of Virgil are owed to his mentorship with Florentine artists Cimabue and Duccio. We enter the quiet Church of the Hermits, built from 1276-1306, to see two striking frescoes by Mantegna depicting the Martyrdom of St. Matthew and St. Christopher, which survived a World War II bomb. We continue our leisurely walking tour through Padova to see the underpinnings of university life, which began as early as 1222. Lunch is independent at one of Padova’s many cafés or trattorias. This afternoon we enter Palazzo Bo at the University of Padova to see the magnificent anatomical theater, the first of its kind in the world, to discover the university’s compelling scientific and medical history. Enjoy dinner and the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Hotel Europa, Padova (B)

Thursday, October 13 • The Byzantine Empire in Ravenna

Not far from Padova along the Adriatic coast is Ravenna where great Emperors have conquered since antiquity. We enter the awe-inspiring Basilica of San Vitale with its glittering, jewel-like mosaics that clad the iconic octagonal walls depicting Byzantine Emperor Justinian and his influential wife, Theodora. Next door is the small, yet artful mausoleum of Galla Placidia with impressive blue and gold mosaics adorning its interior walls. Follow your local expert guide through Ravenna to discover the dense history of rulers who have conquered Ravenna including the Romans, Ostrogoths, and the Byzantines. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant with fresh seafood and a favorite local dessert. Afterward, we discover the tomb of Dante, Italy’s highly revered “father of Italian literature,” and the glorious church of Sant’Apollinare Nuovo dominated by two rows of mosaics depicting the Three Kings, virgins, and martyrs bearing gifts for Christ and the Virgin. Late this afternoon, we return to Padova where dinner and the remainder of the evening are at leisure.

Hotel Europa, Padova (B)

Friday, October 14 • Venice and the Power of the Seas

This morning, depart early for a full day in Venezia, “Queen of the Adriatic,” where we meet our expert art historian guide who will lead us through the “city of bridges” far from tourist crowds. We take private water taxis down the Grand Canal and navigate through quiet corners of Venice arriving at Santi Giovanni e Paolo, one of Venice’s largest and most impressive Gothic churches. We walk to San Marco with its magnificent interior clad in mosaics and decorated with relics and artifacts gleaned from empires past. Then we discover the innermost rooms and treasures of the Basilica like the Pala d’Oro, a 10th-century altarpiece made of 250 shimmering panels of gold. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure exploring the canals of Venice or some of the city’s museums, boutique shops, or monuments. Later this evening we gather for a farewell dinner in one of Venice’s best restaurants, away from the tourists and crowds. End the evening with a private boat ride on the lagoon and return to the hotel in Padova.

Hotel Europa, Padova (B)

Saturday, October 15 • Departures from Venice

Following breakfast at the hotel, take a group transfer to the Venice International airport (VCE) for independent return flights to the United States. (B)
Tour Cost
Land Only $4,495
Single Supplement $895

Tour price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants. Pricing based as of August 2015 and subject to change.

Dates: October 7–15, 2016

Activity Level: Moderate, Good walking ability

Deposit & Final Payment
A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant is required to guarantee participation in the program. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa or MasterCard. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on June 22, 2016 by check only to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrants will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

Flights
Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their round-trip air arrangements into Milan, Italy, and out of Venice, Italy.

Terms & Conditions
International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, the Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. ISDI and Bryn Mawr reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

Cancellations & Refunds
All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI and are subject to a non-refundable administrative fee of $500 per person. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before June 22, 2016: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between June 23 and August 17, 2016: 50 percent of tour cost per person. Cancellations received on or after August 18, 2016: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or any missed sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not accepted. The tour cost is non-transferable. If ISDI or Bryn Mawr cancels the tour, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments. A package of cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance is strongly recommended. © 2016 International Seminar Design, Inc. / CST 2072963-40

Travel Insurance:
The Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association strongly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Travel insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. For additional information, please contact Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association.

Name (as listed on passport) Birthdate
Name (as listed on passport) Birthdate
Address
City State Zip
Daytime Telephone Cell Phone
E-mail Address
Please send mailings to my email to receive information more quickly
Number of Persons Amount Enclosed
DEPOSIT BY:
○ VISA or MASTERCARD
○ CHECK (payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.)

Card Number Exp. (mm/yy)

Billing Zip Code (if different from above)

ROOMING OPTIONS: (please select)
○ Double Occupancy
○ Single Supplement ($895)
○ I will share a room with:
○ I would like a roommate but will pay the price of the single supplement if one cannot be found.

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Bryn Mawr, International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI), and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licenses, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN
Registration invalid without signature

SIGNATURE DATE
SIGNATURE DATE

COMPLETE AND RETURN BY MAIL OR FAX TO:
International Seminar Design, Inc
4115 Wisconsin Avenue, NW – Suite 101
Washington, DC 20016
T: (202) 244-1448, F: (202) 244-1808
elizabeth.deans@isditravel.com

Tour Price Inclusions:
3 nights at 4-star Hotel Una Cusani in Milan and 4 nights at the 4-star Hotel Europa in Padova; breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 2 dinners, wine at lunch and dinner; services of ISDI Tour Manager; entrances to all visits on itinerary; land transportation by private coach; 1 group transfer from MXP airport upon arrival and 1 upon departure to VCE airport; gratuities to local guides and drivers; entrance fees to sites per itinerary.

Tour Price Exclusions:
Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; individual transfers to and from the airport for those not using group transfers; excursions, activities, or meals marked optional on the itinerary; personal items; personal services; airport tax, fuel surcharges, and travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

Travel Insurance:
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Address
City State Zip
Daytime Telephone Cell Phone
E-mail Address
Please send mailings to my email to receive information more quickly
Number of Persons Amount Enclosed
DEPOSIT BY:
○ VISA or MASTERCARD
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Card Number Exp. (mm/yy)

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ROOMING OPTIONS: (please select)
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