The Divine

RAPHAEL

the legacy of
ITALY’S GREATEST PAINTER
500 YEARS LATER

Madonna of the Goldfinch, 1506
Five hundred years ago, Raphael Sanzio died unexpectedly on Good Friday, plunging Rome into an outpouring of public grief much like that at the untimely death of Princess Diana. At age 37, Raphael was handsome, charming and the most gifted painter on Italian soil. Mourners flooded the streets during his funeral procession where he was buried with highest honor in the Pantheon, and they wept for the man who, as Vasari wrote, “through his virtues and his genius, exalted the art of painting to the very skies.”

Raphael's star shone for centuries – dubbed “divine” in his own age, beloved by the Baroque, worshipped by Neoclassicism, even admired by Renoir, but in the late 20th century Raphael fell under the shadow of his rival Michelangelo. Tastes had changed, and the immediacy of Michelangelo’s figures, his fearless use of nudity and his reputation as a lone, irascible genius captured the imagination of the modern era.

This year offers an amazing opportunity to rediscover Raphael's craftsmanship, grace, and harmonious beauty by walking in his footsteps on The Divine Raphael Tour, April 23 to May 1, 2020.

The Divine Raphael Tour will take you to hidden gems of Italy few tourists have seen, along with its most famous cities. In your private coach, you will travel to the charming town of Urbino, cultural jewel of the Renaissance, and walk the streets of Gubbio, the quaint medieval village where time seems to have stopped. We’ll explore Raphael’s early works in Perugia and some of his finest treasures in Florence, all the while soaking up the atmosphere that produced him, viewing art, but also sampling the choice foods and fine wine that are the other riches of these areas. You’ll see Raphael with new eyes: edgy, experimental, brilliant and championed by the most discerning female patrons of the age.

The tour culminates in the greatest “celebrity deathmatch” in the history of art: the Florentine Michelangelo versus Raphael of Urbino in the Vatican Museums. We’ll have front-row seats to the contest between painting and sculpture as we visit the Sistine Chapel and Raphael rooms after hours in calm and glorious isolation.

Liz Lev, your host for this marvelous adventure has been preparing for this tour for most of her adult life. Liz, Renaissance art historian, lectured on Raphael at the United Nations in 2018 and her Ted Talk on the Sistine Chapel has had over 1.7 million views. She has taught courses on the rivalry between Michelangelo and Raphael for 15 years and led hundreds — if not thousands — of tours featuring these artists over the decades. Don’t miss the opportunity to see this artist through the eyes of a celebrated scholar who truly knows and loves him!

This is a special chance to experience the best of Italy: we’ll stay in the heart of these beautiful cities in 4-star hotels, savoring local delicacies in meals prepared specially for us, and, as Liz is also a certified sommelier, you’ll also taste and learn about the magnificent wines of Tuscany and Umbria!

Above all, this is a chance to hone your eye to beauty, the mindfulness it takes to appreciate it and the peaceful joy that exceptional art brings. Put a little color, harmony and happiness in your life this year, courtesy of the Divine Raphael.

Space on this thought-provoking and creative journey is limited, so be sure to contact us if we have awakened your interest.

I hope to have the pleasure of your company.
2020 marks the 500th anniversary of the death of superstar painter Raphael Sanzio of Urbino. Of the three giants of among Renaissance artists Raphael lived much less than Leonardo and Michelangelo, but was more prolific, leaving glorious works all over Italian soil.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Journey with us in the wake of a genius. Discover the exquisite town where we was born.
- See the thriving centers such as Florence where he worked and lived.
- Leave the beaten path and explore unsung treasures of Italy in Arezzo, Urbino, Perugia and Gubbio.
- Experience the terroir of Renaissance art looking at wonderful art, tasting local specialties and sampling wines chosen by Liz in her guise of certified sommelier.
- Revel in the Sistine chapel and Raphael rooms in a private after hours tour of the Vatican Museums.
- Learn to love Raphael and his world as only Liz Lev can reveal it.
- Attend the finest Raphael Exhibition ever put together at the Scuderie del Quirinale.

Pricing starts at $4599 per person, double occupancy.

Here lies that famous Raphael by whom Nature feared to be conquered while he lived, and when he was dying, feared herself to die.

Pietro Bembo, placed on the inscription in Raphael’s marble sarcophagus

EXCLUSIVELY DESIGNED FOR

Dr. Liz Lev
April 23 to May 1, 2020

BOOK NOW
Day 1 | Thursday, April 23 | Depart USA:
Independent departures to Rome. Corporate Travel can assist you by locating the best and most affordable connections. Please email us and we will be happy to help you.

Day 2 | Friday, April 24 | Arrive Rome, Transfer to Assisi: Upon arrival in Rome, our English speaking representative will be available for assistance and to escort you to your private motor coach for your transfer to Assisi (ca.3H). Your rooms will be available for immediate occupancy. Rest and freshen up. In the late afternoon visit the Basilica with Liz, started only two years after St Francis’s death. The fresco cycles in the Basilica are some of the most art historically important in Italy. Cimabue, Giotto, Cavallini, Pietro Lorenzetti, and Simone Martini are all thought to have been involved in the work and, despite varying degrees of restoration and preservation, they constitute one of the great achievements of western civilization. Our dinner will include local Umbrian specialties and handpicked wines by Liz, who is a certified sommelier. First of two nights in Assisi. (D)

Day 3 | Saturday, April 25 | Urbino, Gubbio: After a delicious breakfast, we travel to the tiny hilltop fortress town of Urbino, to visit the Accademia Raffaello, Raphael's birthplace.

Day 4 | Sunday, April 26 | Perugia: After our breakfast, we take a short drive to Perugia, the capital of Umbria, and one of Italy’s most beautiful towns. Here we visit the Cathedral and the Oratory of San Bernardino (1452) dedicated to Saint Bernardino of Siena, with its notable multicolored façade covered in reliefs by the Renaissance artist Agostino di Duccio. The architecturally striking Palazzo dei Priori follows, and finally the Chapel of San Severo where we admire Raphael's fresco of the Holy Trinity, in the upper register (1505 and 1508). After free time for lunch, we enter the Perugina chocolate factory for a visit and tasting experience. Return to Assisi. (cB)

Day 5 | Monday, April 27 | Siena, Florence: After breakfast and checking out of the hotel, we board our luxury bus and travel to Siena, the greatest Italian hill towns, containing perhaps the most memorable medieval townscape in Europe. Liz will take us to visit the Duomo, a Romanesque and Gothic construction of white and green marble, with a stunning façade and an outstanding array of sculpture and painting. We will pay special attention to the Piccolomini Library, where Raphael worked alongside the older master Pinturicchio. Our visit to Siena includes the Palazzo Pubblico with its extraordinary frescoes by Ambrogio Lorenzetti in the Hall of the Nine known as The Allegory of Good and Bad Government.
Free time for lunch in Siena. Our adventure continues to Florence (above), where Raphael resided from 1504 to 1508, and where we have secured skip-the-line tickets to enter the amazing Uffizi Gallery. This brief visit will focus on the Hall 66 to admire the *Madonna of the Goldfinch* (c. 1505-1506), his famous *Self-Portrait* (c. 1506) and the portrait of *Pope Leo X with Cardinals Giulio de' Medici and Luigi de' Rossi* (1518) as well as works by Ridolfo del Ghirlandaio, Michelangelo and Fra Bartolomeo. Enjoy a group dinner at one of Florence's most traditional restaurants for a feast of Florentine specialties, curated by Liz who will again, choose the wines. Overnight in Florence at our central and elegant hotel. First of two overnights in Florence. (cB,D)

**Day 6 | Tuesday, April 28 | Florence:** This morning we visit the Pitti Palace in the company of Liz. Chosen by Cosimo I de’ Medici and his wife Eleanor of Toledo as their new Grand Ducal residence in 1550, it houses today several museums including the Galleria Palatina, with outstanding High Renaissance and Baroque paintings; and in particular, a series of Raphael’s portraits. The church of Santa Maria del Carmine is next on our program, with its Brancacci Chapel’s frescos by Masaccio (below).

Last on our tour with Liz, is the Gothic-Renaissance Church of Santa Maria Novella, the first great basilica in Florence. After lunch on your own, we will end our day at the Accademia Gallery, home to Michelangelo’s David. The remainder of the evening is free. (cB)

**Day 7 | Tuesday, April 29 | Arezzo, Vatican Museums:** After breakfast and check out of the hotel we travel to Rome via Arezzo. Once a member of the Etruscan league, we find here the single nave Basilica of San Francesco. Built in the Tuscan-Gothic style, it houses the History of the True Cross fresco (1453–1464) by Piero della Francesca. Upon arrival in Rome, we settle in our central hotel, before an after-hours entry to the Vatican Museums just for us, Liz will discuss the relationship of faith and beauty in front of Raphael’s frescoes which, with the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo’s *Last Judgment*, constitute the most precious assemblage of paintings in the western world.

After a free afternoon we will gather one last time for the culmination of our trip, the sold-out Raphael exhibit at the Scuderie del Quirinale, completely redesigned between 1994 and 1999 by the renowned architect Gae Aulenti. Over 200 works have been assembled for this blockbuster historic show, with loans from the Louvre, the Hermitage and the National Gallery. Afterwards, our minds sated with divine beauty, we will end our trip at one of Liz’s favorite restaurants, toasting the genius we will have all come to love. (cB,D)

**Day 8 | Thursday, April 30 | Rome:** For our last day of this unforgettable experience, we start in Trastevere and visit the delightful Villa La Farnesina with Raphael’s outstanding frescoes depicting classical mythology (above, right).

Free evening. First of two overnights in Rome. (cB,L)

**Day 9 | Friday, May 1 | Homebound flights** Tour disbands after breakfast. Your tour manager will be at hand to assist you booking airport-transfer arrangements or to help you in any other way. (cB)
**PRICES PER PERSON**

When booked with E-Check
- Sharing a double room $4599
- Use of a single room $5499

When booked with a credit card
- Sharing a double room $4719
- Use of a single room $5619

**INCLUSIONS**
- Seven nights of accommodations at 4-star, city-center hotels: 3 nights in Assisi, 2 nights in Florence, and 2 nights in Rome
- Italian breakfast daily
- One lunch with wine
- Three dinners with wine
- Chocolate factory visit and tasting
- Luxury motor coach for airport transfer on arrival and all sightseeing
- Tour manager
- Sightseeing and entrance fees according to the itinerary
- Private, after-hours entrance to the Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel
- Hotel & city taxes and porterage for 1 piece of luggage
- Whisper sets

**EXCLUSIONS**
- International Airfare
- Transfer from Rome airport to Assisi for travelers who do not meet arrival time guidelines
- Return airport transfers in Rome
- Meals apart from those included
- Beverages with meals unless specified
- Gratuities payable to tour manager, guides and drivers
- Other personal expenses

**CANCELLATION POLICIES**
- Between the time of deposit to 150 days before departure: $100
- Between 150 days and 100 days before departure: $350
- Between 100 days and 75 days before departure: $1,600
- After 75 days before departure: no refund

*Penalties will be determined according to postmark date, or date of the fax or email sent by the cancelling passenger the packages.

---

**NOTA BENE**
The tour is dependent on the kindness of many individuals and organizations, who have confirmed their interest in being a part of the programme, but are reluctant to make firm arrangements so far in advance, thus their participation on the itinerary cannot be confirmed until a later stage.