



GOLD & INK: A TUSCAN SCRIPTORIUM

Workshop
With Julia Bangert
At Rignana Estate

22nd to 29th May 2027



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Escape to the heart of Chianti for a week of creative devotion. Set within the historic walls of Rignana Estate, Julia invites you to step back in time and rediscover the slow, soulful art of the medieval book. Surrounded by vineyards and olive groves, this retreat is an invitation to master the tools of the ancient masters in a place where art and nature have been inseparable for centuries.



Over five immersive days, Julia will guide you through the intricate process of creating a handcrafted manuscript page. From the first rhythmic strokes of the pen to the breathtaking moment of applying genuine gold leaf, she shares the technical secrets and historical context of a craft that once flourished in nearby Florence.

Julia will lead you through the grace of historical hands, teaching you to find focus and meditative rhythm in every stroke of the pen. As your manuscript takes shape, you will learn to embellish your work with real gold leaf, capturing the radiant Tuscan light forever upon your page. To complete the illumination, you will use vibrant colors and fine brushes to breathe life into intricate borders and a stunning decorated initial.



Whether you are a beginner captivated by the beauty of old books or an artist looking to refine your gilding techniques, Julia provides a supportive and inspiring environment. This retreat is for anyone who seeks the deep satisfaction of creating something lasting by hand, just 30 minutes away from the cradle of the Renaissance.

ABOUT JULIA BANGERT



I've been passionate about art from an early age, especially painting portraits and animals. After school, I pursued book studies, German studies, and art history at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (Master's in 2012, PhD in 2017).

During my studies, I focused on Johannes Gutenberg and the invention of letterpress printing with movable type, particularly the fascinating transition from manuscripts to mass-produced books, where hand-painted details still made each copy unique.

In 2013, I began painting reproductions of Gutenberg Bible pages, combining my love for art with my academic background. Since then, I've worked as a freelance artist, specializing in illumination. Over time, I've received many questions about my techniques, and now, I'm excited to share my knowledge.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Daily Rhythm

Each day includes:

8:30– 9:30 Breakfast

10:00-13:00 Workshop Session

13:00–14:00 Farm to table lunch at Rignana

14:30-16:30 Workshop Session

19:00 Wine Aperitivo followed by dinner



RETREAT TIMETABLE

Saturday

16:00 Check in & estate tour

18:00 Welcome dinner at Rignana

Day 1 - Sunday

8:30– 9:30 Italian breakfast

10:00-13:00 Introduction & Layout

13:00–14:00 Farm to table lunch at Rignana

14:30-16:30 The shape of the letters

18:30 Wine Aperitivo followed by dinner

Day 2 - Monday

8:30– 9:30 Italian breakfast

10:00-13:00 Writing the text

13:00–14:00 Farm to table lunch at Rignana

14:30-16:30 The initial

18:30 Wine Aperitivo followed by dinner

Day 3 - Tuesday

8:30– 9:30 Italian breakfast

10:00-13:00 Foundation for the gilding

13:00–14:00 Farm to table lunch at Rignana

14:30-16:30 Gilding

18:30 Wine Aperitivo followed by dinner

Day 4 - Wednesday

8:30– 9:30 Italian breakfast

FREE BREAK DAY

Day 5 - Thursday

8:30– 9:30 Italian breakfast

10:00-13:00 Painting the base colour

13:00–14:00 Farm to table lunch at Rignana

14:30-16:30 Shadows & Highlights

18:30 Wine Aperitivo followed by dinner

Day 6 - Friday

8:30– 9:30 Italian breakfast

10:00-13:00 The finishing touch

13:00–14:00 Farm to table lunch at Rignana

14:30-16:30 Presentation & Reflection

18:30 Wine Aperitivo followed by dinner

Day 7 - Saturday

8:30– 9:30 Italian breakfast

10:00 Checkout

ACCOMMODATION



RIGNANA ESTATE

IN THE HEART OF TUSCANY

We would be delighted to welcome you to our home, **Rignana Estate**, an 150-acre estate surrounded by **vineyards** and **olive groves**, where **alpacas** and **horses** graze freely. Our retreats are an immersive experience where you can cultivate your creativity with like minded people, connect with the natural world and taste the flavours of Tuscany through our **farm-to-table meals** paired with wine from our vineyards.



THE ESTATE MAP

Pool



Tiki Bar



Church House



Dining Area



Church Courtyard



Tennis Court



Art Studio



Stone Cottage



Horses & Machu and Picchu





FACILITIES

RENAISSANCE CHURCH

Refine your technique in our
Renaissance church.



FACILITIES

TENNIS COURT

An astroturf tennis court with a view, providing the perfect opportunity for both recreational and competitive play. Sit on the stone wall and watch a tennis tournament.



FACILITIES

INFINITY POOL

The 18x8m marble pool with large spaces to sunbathe or practice yoga, a vine pergola that provides ample shade. By the pool, a Tiki bar offers a relaxed setting for refreshments.



THE KITCHEN

ORGANIC LIVING

Authentic Tuscan meals are prepared by Alessandra using organic ingredients from Rignana Estate's garden and local farms. Enjoy seasonal, farm-to-table dishes alongside organic wine, olive oil and fresh eggs, produced on-site.

Experience the art of pizza making with a pizza party by the pool.





BEDROOMS

22nd - 29th May 2027 (7 nights)

Suite - Master bedroom, Living room, mezzanine bedroom & bathroom:

Two people: €3,990

Extra person: €1,000 each

Superior bedroom with ensuite:

Single occupancy: €2,890

Shared occupancy: €3,890 for two people

Bedroom with ensuite:

Single occupancy: €2,590

Shared occupancy: €3,590 for two people

Bedroom with shared bathroom:

Single occupancy: €2,295

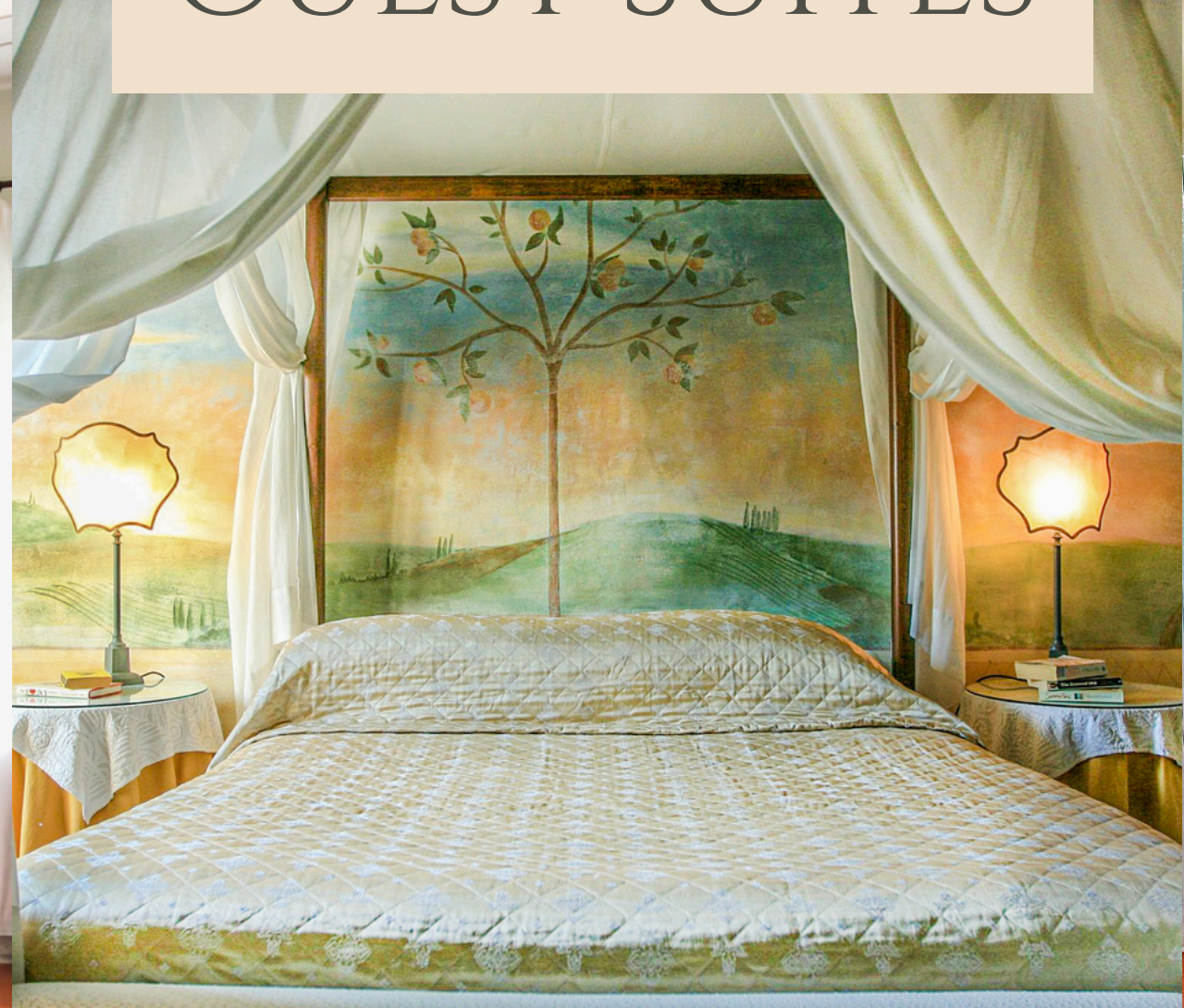
Shared occupancy: €3,295 for two people

Workshop fee for participants: €650

Important Note: The accommodation fee and the tuition fee are separate.



GUEST SUITES



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 nights accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 5 lunches, 6 dinners
- Daily Aperitivo
- Pizza making experience
- Towels & Linens
- Transfers
- Infinity pool
- Tennis court
- Wifi
- Laundry facilities
- VAT tax



WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Wine Tours
- City tax (€2.50 per person per day to be paid in cash on arrival)

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

- Treatments (Massage) - these can be requested
- Wine Tours

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Dates

22 - 29 May 2026

Check-in and check-out

On 22 May you are very welcome at Rignana Estate from 16:00.

Check-out on 29 May is before 10:00.

Address

Rignana Estate, Rignana 8, Greve, in Chianti
Toscana, Italy 50022 Firenze

Travel

Our transfer to the venue will collect you on the first day of the workshop from Florence Santa Maria Novella train station, you must confirm in advance if you plan to meet the transfer. Our transfer from the venue will take you back on the final day of the workshop to Florence Santa Maria Novella train station, departing from the venue at 10am.



HOW TO GET TO RIGNANA ESTATE

Travel to Italy

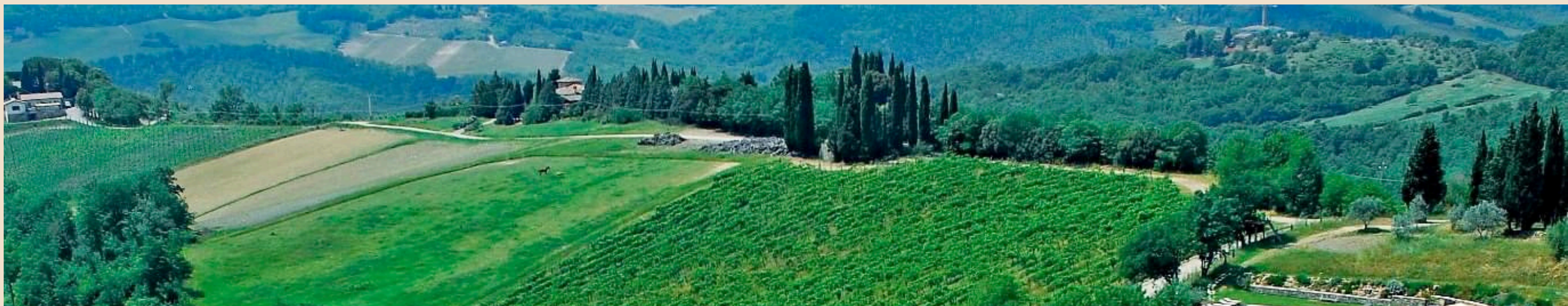
By Air to **Florence**: Florence Airport (Peretola) is the closest airport to Rignana Estate. The estate is a 50minute drive from Florence airport

By Air to **Pisa**: Alternatively, you can fly into Pisa International Airport. From Pisa, you can connect to Florence by bus, train, or taxi.

From Florence to Rignana Estate

By Car: Renting a car is the most convenient way to reach Rignana Estate. From Florence, it's an approximately 40-minute drive to the Estate.

Alternatively, we can search for the most convenient price for a taxi or minibus taxi service for you.



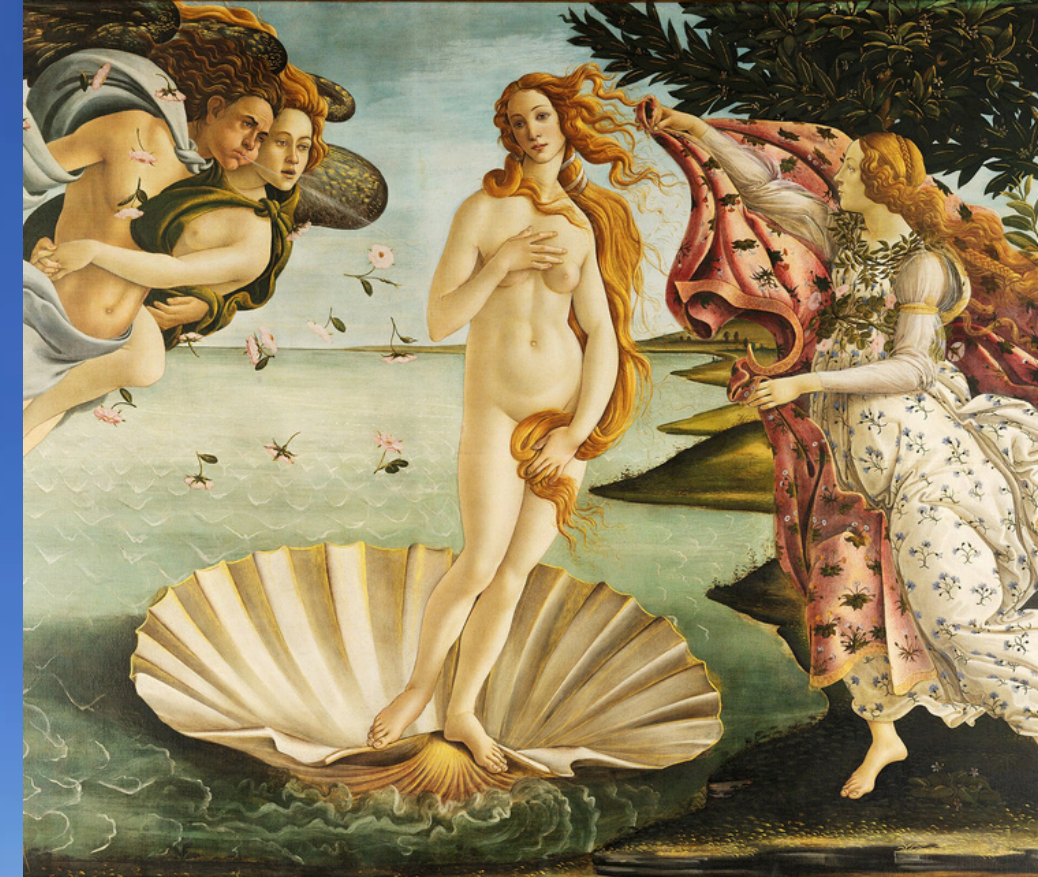
PRIME LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Just 40 minutes from Florence, Rignana Estate offers the perfect balance of tranquility and accessibility.

Nearby, charming villages like Greve and Panzano invite exploration, while world-class wineries such as Antinori nel Chianti Classico provide unforgettable tasting experiences.

We highly recommend a visit to the monastery of Badia A Passignano, home to Ghirlandaio's Last Supper. A tour with one of the monks is a must!

Walking and cycling is popular in the area. The primary walking route passing through the Rignana area is the historic Via Sanese, a leg of the ancient pilgrimage route leading to the Via Francigena, offering hilly treks through vineyards and olive groves.



CONTACT US

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!

ACCOMMODATION

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WE HOPE TO WELCOME YOU SOON

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