

Technical & Intuitive

Portrait Drawing

With Marie Stander

13th to 18th October 2026



About the Workshop

Welcome to a unique and authentic Italian art experience in the beautiful Chianti region of Tuscany, set on the picturesque Rignana Wine Estate. Here, we will immerse ourselves in the exploration of portraiture in a beautifully restored 12th-century monastery studio with South African portrait and figurative artist Marie Stander, who is renowned for her large-scale black-and-white charcoal portraits and figurative works. This will be her eighth portrait workshop abroad and her third in Tuscany.

As an art lecturer, Marie works with her students as individuals, building on their strengths while addressing their weaknesses. Artists of all skill levels are welcome in her classes. Participants will draw from a live model as well as carefully selected reference imagery. The workshop will focus primarily on soft media such as charcoal and pastel. As always, her teaching is hands-on, inspiring, enjoyable, challenging, and highly instructive.





Your instructor

Marie Stander

Marie has a Fine Arts (Hons) degree from the University of Stellenbosch and, in addition to working as a professional portrait artist, has been a lecturer for more than 30 years. She is represented by the Everard Read Gallery in South Africa and held her 11th solo exhibition this year.

An award-winning portrait artist, Marie has participated in numerous exhibitions both locally and internationally. She has published two books about her work, and her artworks are included in private and corporate collections in South Africa and abroad. She also runs her own private art school, where she teaches 50 post-school students.

Alongside her professional art practice, Marie is passionate about sharing her knowledge and expertise in portraiture with her students. Her approach to portraiture is highly intuitive, and she works primarily with the tactile medium of charcoal, often incorporating touches of colour with soft pastel and ink. She creates using her hands, drawing tools, and brushes, focusing mainly on tone (light and dark) rather than fine detail.

As she says, "**Detail is too complex, and tone finds its own detail.**"

Daily Schedule

Tuesday 13th

16h00 Check in and Estate Tour
19h00 Aperitivo and Welcome
Dinner

Friday 16th

08h00 – 08h30 Italian Breakfast
08h30 – 12h00 Studio Time
12h00 Optional Winery Lunch, Badia
di Passignano and Montefioralle
excursion

Wednesday 14th

08h00 – 09h00 Italian Breakfast
09h00 – 13h00 Studio Time
13h00 Lunch
14h00 – 17h30 Studio Time
18h30 Aperitivo
19h00 Dinner

Saturday 17th

08h00 – 09h00 Italian Breakfast
09h00 – 13h00 Studio Time
13h00 Pizza Making Workshop
14h00 – 17h00 Studio Time
17h00 Prepare for Exhibition
18h00 Exhibition and Aperitivo
19h00 Dinner

Thursday 15th

08h00 – 09h00 Italian Breakfast
09h00 – 13h00 Studio Time
13h00 Farm to Table Lunch
14h00 – 17h30 Studio Time
18h30 Aperitivo
19h00 Dinner

Sunday 18th

10h00 Check out

Accommodation



THE ESTATE

In the Heart of Tuscany

We would be delighted to welcome you to our home, 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.



A Sanctuary for Artists

Develop your technique in our Renaissance Church and amongst the Tuscan Countryside.





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 trusted local producers. Guests enjoy seasonal, farm-to-table dishes alongside organic wine, olive oil, fresh eggs, and honey produced on-site, all in the spirit of the Slow Food movement, where quality, tradition, and natural flavours come together.





Accommodation Rates

October 13th – 18th 2026 (5 nights)

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

Double occupancy: €3,750

Superior bedroom with ensuite:

Single occupancy: €1,980

Double occupancy: €2,980

Bedroom with ensuite:

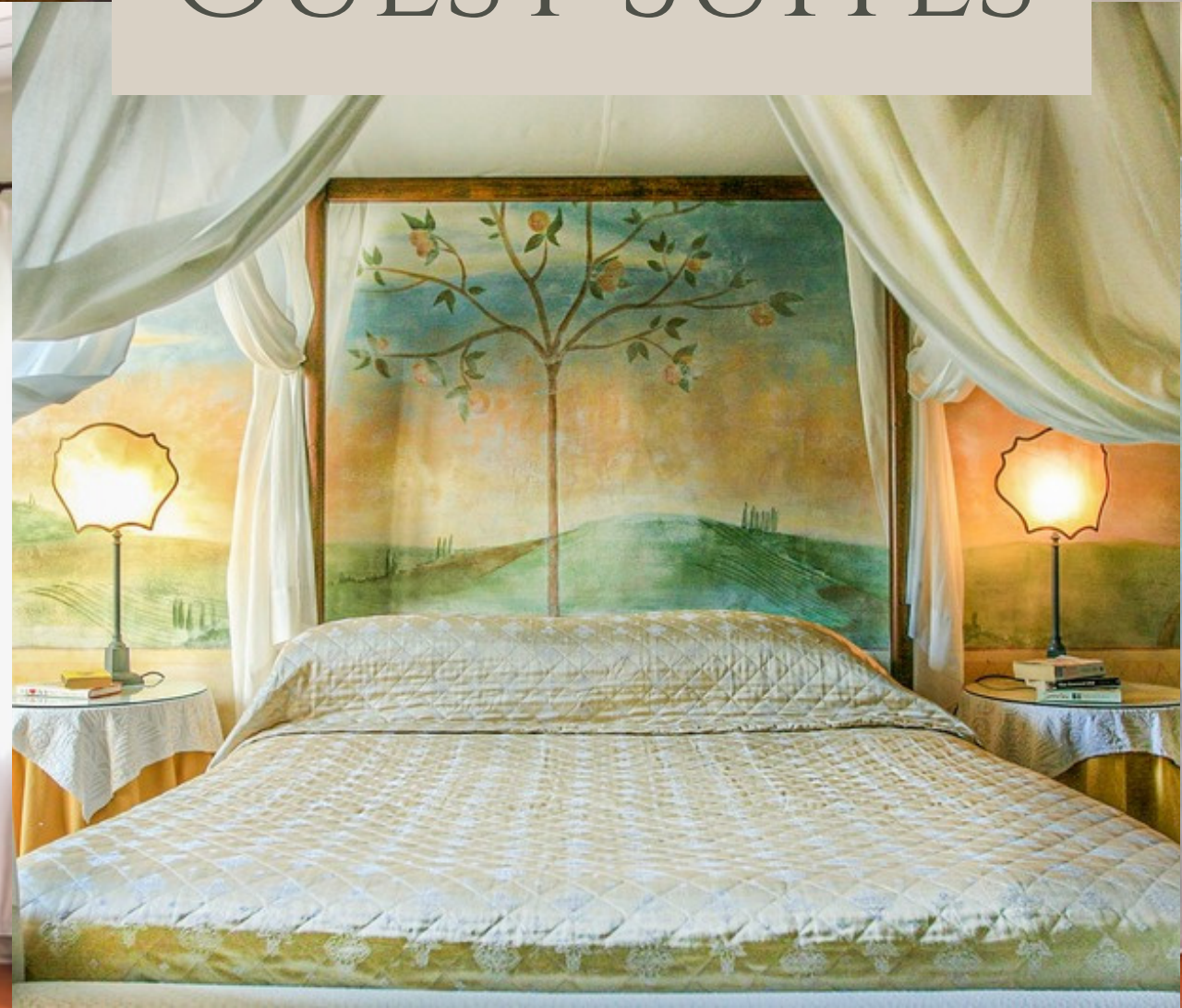
Single occupancy: €1,770

Double occupancy: €2,770

Workshop fee for participants: €400



GUEST SUITES



What's included

- 5 nights accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 3 lunches & 4 dinners with wine
- Pizza making experience
- Painting Easel
- Infinity pool
- Tennis court
- Wifi
- Laundry facilities
- VAT tax



What's not included

- We advise you bring your own paint and brushes.
- Wine Tours
- Massage
- City tax (€2.50 per person per day to be paid in cash on arrival)
- Transfers

Practical Information

Dates

13-18 October 2026

Check-in and check-out

On 13 October you are very welcome at Rignana Estate from 16:00.

Check-out on 18 October is before 10:00.

Address

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



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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Workshop

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We hope to welcome you soon

Martino and Alessandra
Rignana Estate