

Watercolour Landscapes

With Keiko Tanabe
At Rignana Estate

4th to 10th July 2026



RETREAT

About the Workshop

This five-day immersive workshop is designed for artists who want to deepen their understanding of landscape painting through observation, design, and expressive interpretation. Working primarily in water colour and on location, participants will explore essential principles of composition, light, atmosphere, and perspective while learning how to simplify complex scenes and capture the essence of a place.

Beginning with en plein air watercolor practice, the course builds a strong foundation in observing and composing the natural landscape. Each day balances technical instruction with guided practice, allowing students to progressively develop confidence and personal expression. Architectural elements and perspective will be introduced to expand compositional possibilities, while later sessions focus on refinement, simplification, and emotional clarity in landscape work.

The workshop concludes with a supportive review and group critique, encouraging reflection, artistic growth, and dialogue—ending with a relaxed wine tasting to celebrate the week's creative journey.



About Keiko

Keiko was born in Kyoto, Japan. As a child growing up in an art-loving family, she always enjoyed drawing and painting and won many awards in children's art contests. However, art was not her chosen field of study later on. She earned a B.A. in intercultural communication (International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan) and an M.A. in international education (UCLA, California). She then worked in international relations positions in a Japanese government trade organization in Tokyo, at a large law firm in San Francisco and at a private consulting firm in San Diego. For decades, she has traveled extensively, mainly in European countries, Asia and North America.

Through all these years, Keiko knew there was in her heart the growing desire to someday become an artist. That, fueled by her love of travel and strong interest in other cultures, eventually found its way out in 2003. After learning basic drawing and watercolor painting skills at a local community school in San Diego, she took on her first project as an artist together with her father, a renowned scholar of French literature in Japan. Through the Azure Sea and Sky of Provence: A Tribute to Her Joie de Vivre (Kosei Publishing, Osaka, Japan) was published in August, 2003, authored by her father and illustrated by Keiko. From then on, she intensely taught herself to be fluent in watercolor painting, just as one would do to master a foreign language.

Mostly self-taught, Keiko embarked on a professional art career in 2005 and started exhibiting publicly. Since that year her paintings have been juried into many exhibitions across Americas and in Asia and Europe. Her work has been purchased by private and corporate collectors from all around the world. She also had her paintings published in leading art magazines in the U.S., Europe and Japan. Additionally, her art has been enjoyed by many in nine self-published books as well as on four DVDs that have been produced to date. She's also a sought-after workshop instructor. Since 2011, she has been invited to and completed successfully hundreds of workshops and numerous live demonstrations around the world. She has served as a juror in a number of art exhibitions including but not limited to major watercolor/watermedia shows around the world such as the National Watercolor Society, the Watercolor USA Honor Society, the Transparent Watercolor Society of America, the Watercolor West, Splash 22, the International Watercolour Masters, and many regional or state-wide watercolor societies and art associations such as the San Diego Museum of Art Artists Guild. In 2015 she was named an official Ambassador for Winsor & Newton. In 2018, she was appointed to the advisory board of the American Watercolor Weekly. In 2018 and 2019, she was invited to be a faculty member for the Plein Air Convention & Expo, the world's largest plein-air painting event. Since 2021, she has been an Official Savoir-Faire, Sennelier, Cretacolor, Fabriano & Raphael Advocate. In 2022 Keiko was appointed an Escoda International Brand Ambassador. Keiko currently lives in San Diego, California.



Daily Schedule

Daily Rhythm (Sunday–Thursday)

Each day includes:

8:30– 9:30 Breakfast

10:00–13:00 Workshop Session

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:30–16:30 Workshop Session

19:00 Wine Aperitivo followed by dinner



Workshop Timetable

DAY 1

Session 1: Watercolour en plein air

Session 2: Composition of landscape

DAY 2

Session 3: Design of landscape

Session 4: How to capture light & atmosphere

DAY 3

Session 5: Landscape with architecture

Session 6: Composition with perspective

DAY 4

Session 7: Simplifying a complex scene

Session 8: Capturing the essence

DAY 5

Session 9: Review

Session 10: Critique with wine tasting

Materials to bring

Paints

professional quality brands. My basic palette consists of cobalt blue, alizarin crimson, orange, cadmium red, burnt sienna, raw sienna, quinacridone gold, lemon yellow, Dioxazine purple, viridian or phthalo green, turquoise, transparent brown, titanium white (all Sennelier). Feel free to bring your own favorites, too. Include one suitable for a monochromatic painting such as neutral tint or sepia. Tube paint recommended.

Palette

any kind. Plenty of mixing areas will be useful.

Brushes

One large round brush size 12 or bigger (such as Escoda Ultimo which is squirrel imitation or something similar such as Raphael Softaqua, Princeton Neptune). One medium-sized round brush similar to the above. One brush for details size #14 or smaller (such as Escoda Perla, Raphael Precision or something similar). Other brushes useful: liner, rigger, dagger, flat (hake), Oriental brush, etc. Bring your own favorites.

Paper

rough or cold-pressed; 140Lb (300gm) or heavier; cotton, professional quality such as Arches Saunders/Waterford and Fabriano Artistico. Please plan on using 2 sheets per day. Also some paper to test colors (old or lesser quality paper will be fine).

Paper Size

¼ sheet (11" x 15") or 12" x 16" recommended, up to half sheet (15" x 22"), depending on your comfort level

Others (required)

Drawing board, gatorboard, foamcore or anything that supports paper (If you use a block, this will not be necessary.), Masking tape, clips, or staplers to secure paper to the board, Pencil & eraser, Sketchbook or drawing pad for thumbnail sketches and small studies, Container for washing brushes, Towels or sponge

Optional

Masking fluid, spray bottle, palette knife, table-top easel (for studio) or outdoor easel (for plein-air) if applicable, etc

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

July 4th – 10th 2026 (6 nights)

Suite (Master bedroom, Living room, mezzanine bedroom & bathroom):

Two people: €3,770

Extra person: €1,000 each

Superior bedroom with ensuite:

Single occupancy: €2,480

Shared occupancy: €3,480 for two people

Bedroom with ensuite:

Single occupancy: €2,220

Shared occupancy: €3,220 for two people

Bedroom with shared bathroom:

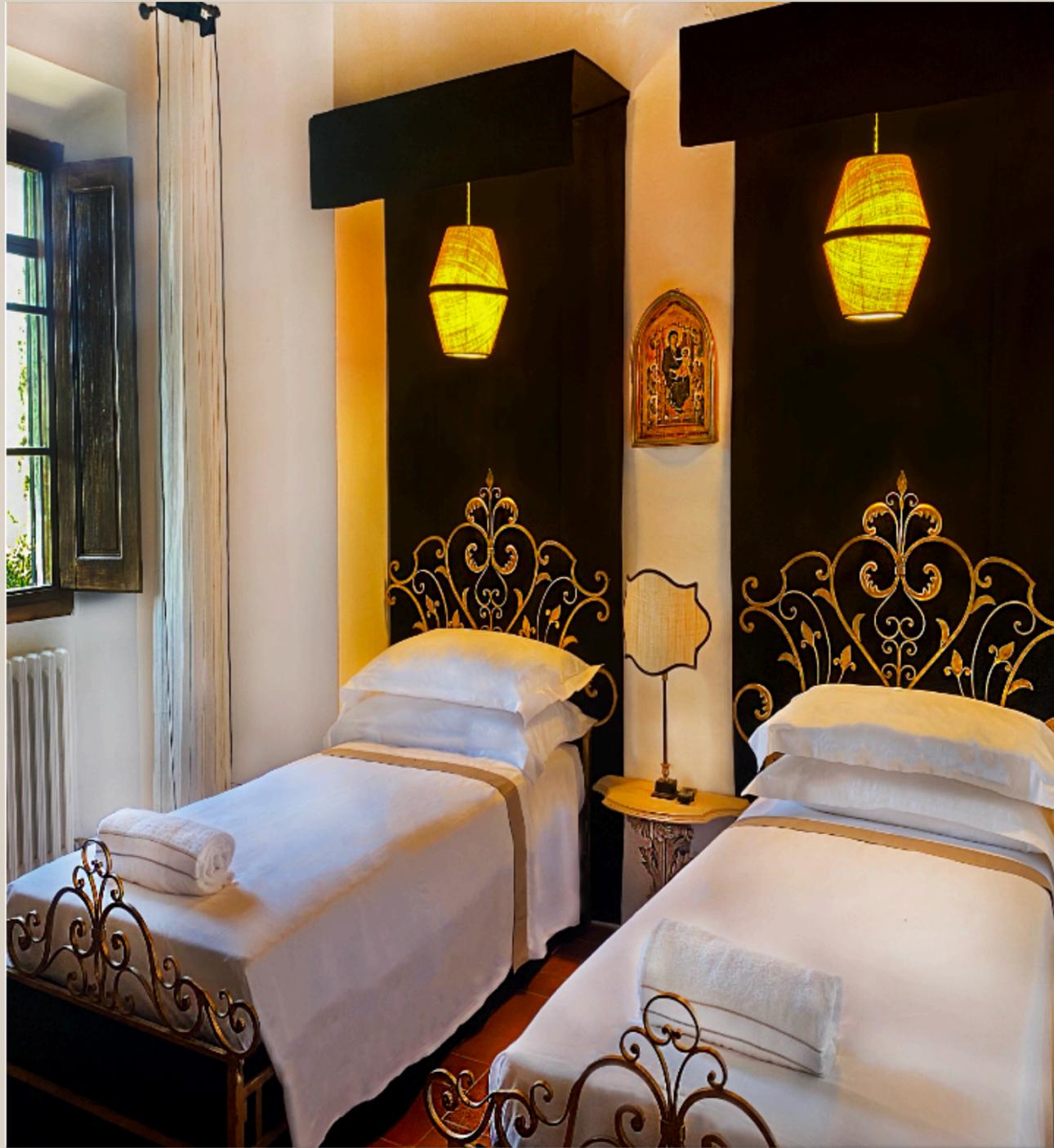
Single occupancy: €1,970

Shared occupancy: €2,970 for two people

Workshop fee for participants: €500

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

ACCOMODATION



What's included

- 6 nights accomodation
- Daily breakfast, 5 lunches & 5 dinners
- Daily Aperitivo
- Pizza making experience
- Transfers
- Easel & table
- Towels & linens
- Infinity pool
- Tennis court
- Wifi
- Laundry facilities
- VAT tax



What's not included

- One dinner (at famous local resturant La Cantinetta Di Rignana)
- City tax (€2.50 per person per day to be paid in cash on arrival)
- Painting Materials

Optional Add-Ons

- Massage
- Wine tasting

Practical Information

Dates

4-10 July 2026

Check-in and check-out

On 4 July you are very welcome at Rignana Estate from 16:00.
Check-out on 10 July is before 10:00.

Address

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

Travel

You organise your own journey. When traveling from Florence we encourage you to travel by taxi or carpool with other participants. Before the trip, you will receive a travel coordination schedule to help you align your plans with your fellow participants.



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.



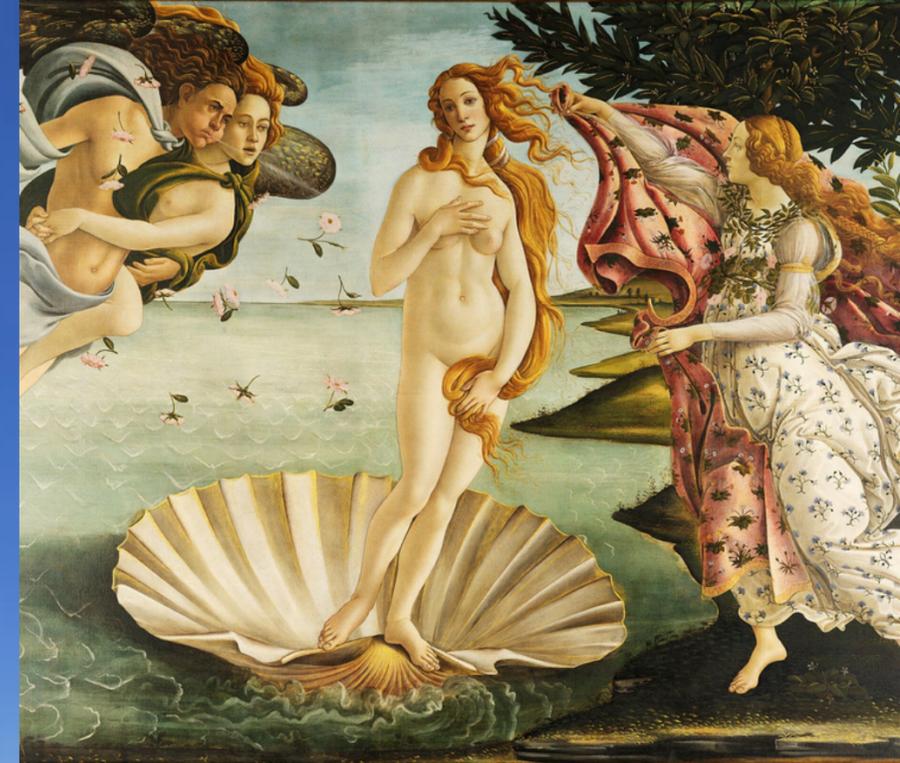
Prime Location Highlights

Just 30 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

Keiko

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We hope to welcome you soon

Martino and Alessandra
Rignana Estate