

The Art of Sculpting

Portrait from Life

With Victor Veber & Jana Büttner
At Rignana Estate

14th to 20th September 2026



RETREAT

About the Workshop

This intensive five-day workshop is dedicated to the creation of a realistic and expressive portrait sculpted directly from life. The course is designed to guide students step by step through the entire portrait process, from initial block-in to refined modeling and final adjustments.

Through live demonstrations, individual critiques, and close guidance, participants will gain a clear understanding of facial anatomy, the underlying bone structure of the head, and the relationships that create likeness and expression. Particular attention will be given to the accurate construction of each facial feature—eyes, nose, mouth, and ears—and to their infinite variations.

A specific sculptural methodology will be taught, allowing students to maintain control and clarity throughout every stage of the work. The goal is not only to achieve likeness, but also to develop a solid working process that can be applied independently in future projects.

Participants will work from a live model for six hours each day in a focused yet supportive studio environment.



Your instructors



Victor Veber

Victor Veber is a French figurative Sculptor born in 1994. Originally trained in literature and cinema, he went on to spend three years working on the Cathedral of Strasbourg, where he learned traditional sculpture techniques directly from the legacy of the old masters.

His work has been exhibited in New York, at the Taylor Foundation in Paris, and at the Opéra de Lyon. He received the Art and Museums Society Award in Strasbourg and was invited to present his work at the START European Art Fair. He is also the winner of the BMB International Sculpture Competition.

Today, he divides his time between Lyon and Florence, where he established his own studio after studying sculpture at the Florence Academy of Art.

Jana Büttner

Jana Büttner is a figurative sculptress from Germany. Working in Florence and Salzburg. In her work the main focus is the human figure which she sculpts in clay and cast in Bronze. For her, working with clay shows a connection to human existence based on the circle of growth and decline. Clay starts cracking with time. Often, so do we as people one day our strong bodies begin to wear and fall apart. She feels a deep connection with this material because it gives her the opportunity to express herself with my bare hands creating something new. She also explores human emotions and contradictions. She wants to symbolise the internal reflection we as humans are going through. In our daily lives , it's essential to take a moment for introspection and engage in the art of reflection. Much like a mirror that reveals our external appearance, our internal mirror reflects the depths of our thoughts and emotions.



Daily Schedule

Daily Rhythm

Each day includes:

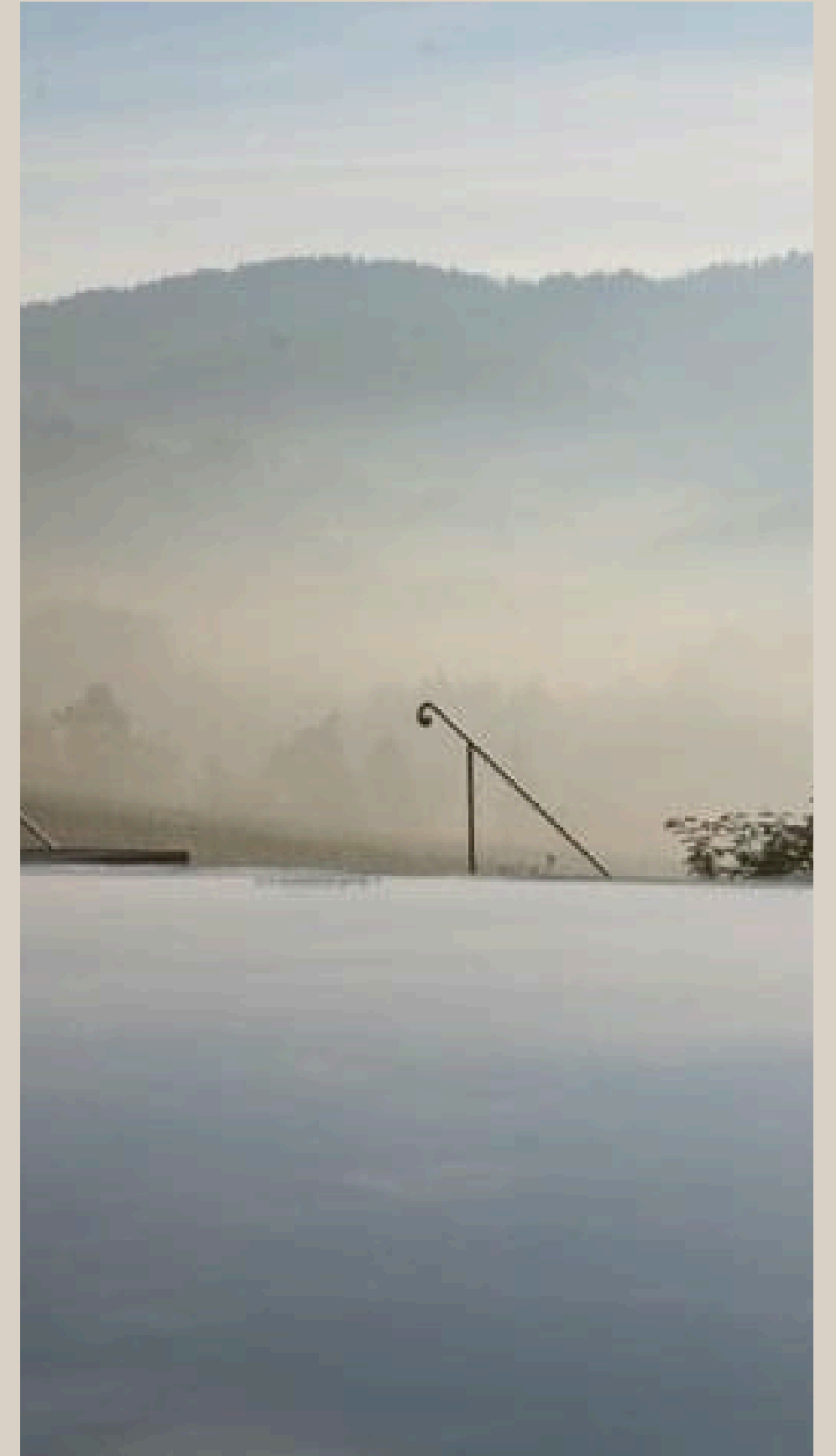
8:30– 9:30 Breakfast

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 Information

Materials & Level

All materials are included in the course fee. Participants are welcome to bring their own preferred tools if they wish.

No previous experience is required; the course is suitable for both beginners and more advanced students seeking to strengthen their portrait skills.

After the Workshop: What Happens to Your Sculpture?

At the end of the week, several options are available:

1. Continue working on your portrait

Take the sculpture home on its armature and continue refining it.

Armature cost: €50

2. Hollow and transport your sculpture

Remove the sculpture from the armature, hollow it, and take it with you in a bag.

Please note that this option requires reserving Friday afternoon, as the process is time-consuming.

3. Mold-making service

Mold only: €300

Mold + plaster cast: €400



Accommodation



THE ESTATE

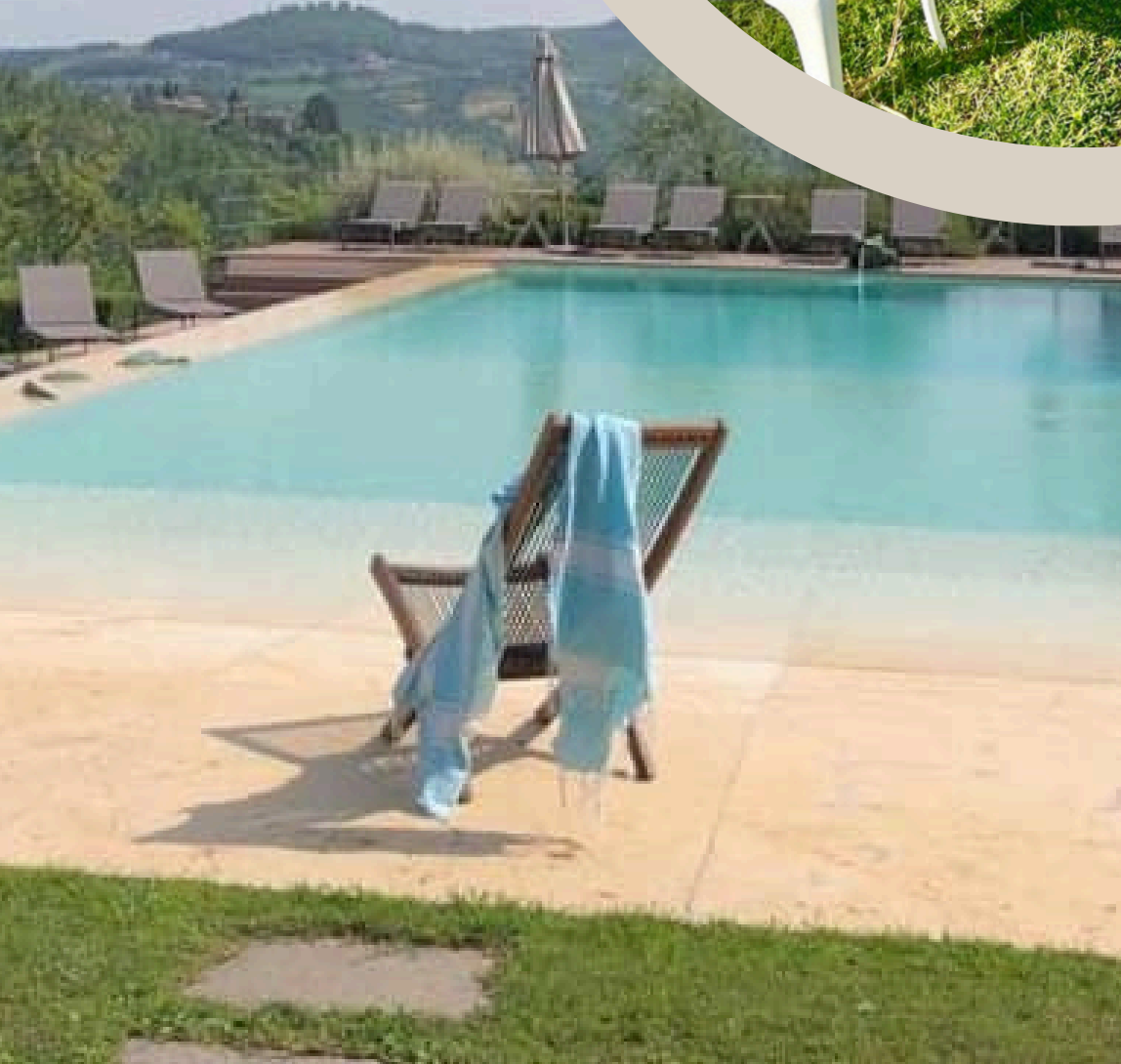
In the Heart of Tuscany

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

September 14th - 20th 2026 (6 nights)

Private bedroom with ensuite:

Single occupancy: €1,300

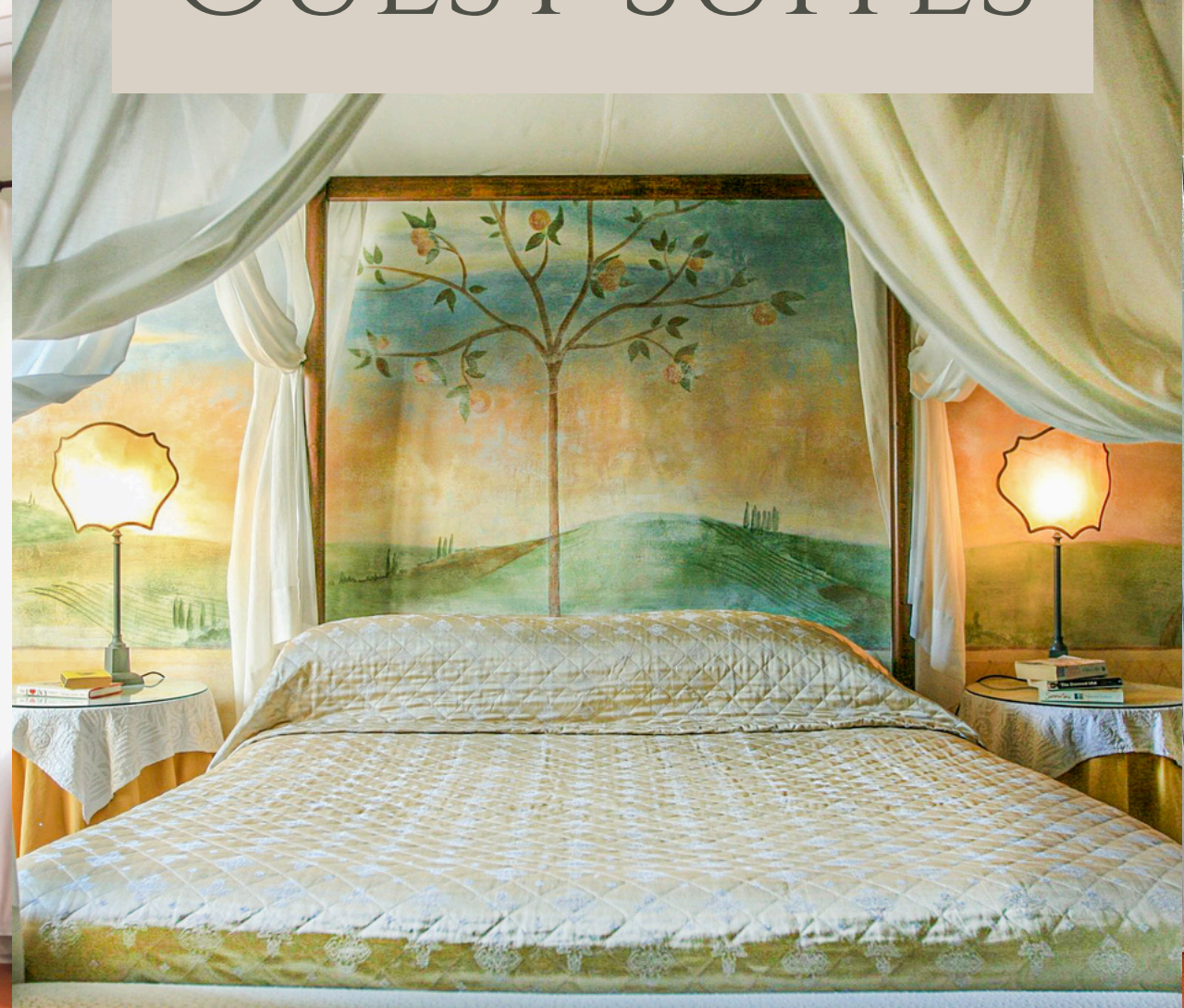
Shared occupancy: €2,300 for two people

Workshop fee for participants: €990

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



GUEST SUITES



What's included

- 6 nights accomodation
- Daily breakfast, 5 lunches & 5 dinners
- Daily Aperitivo
- Pizza making experience
- Easel & table
- Transfers
- 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

14-20 September 2026

Check-in and check-out

On 14 September you are very welcome at Rignana Estate from 16:00.
Check-out on 20 September 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 between 15:00 & 16:00. 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

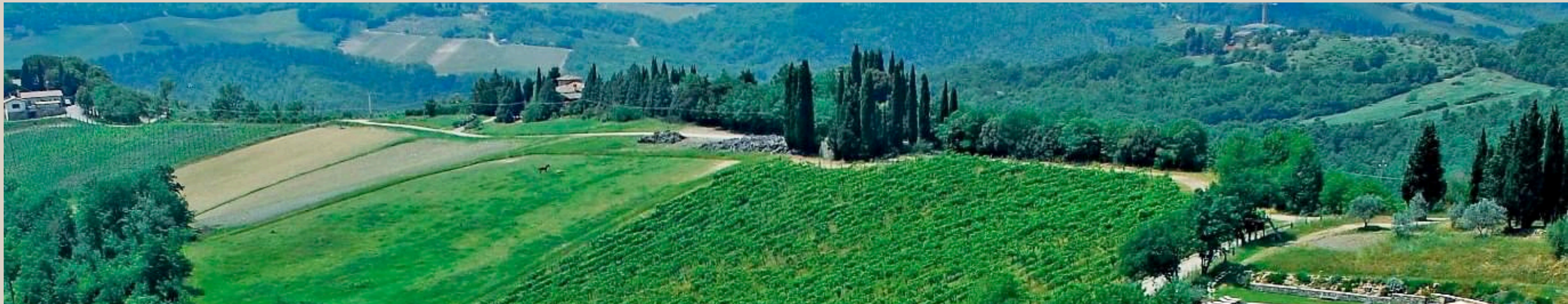
Travel to Italy

- **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.



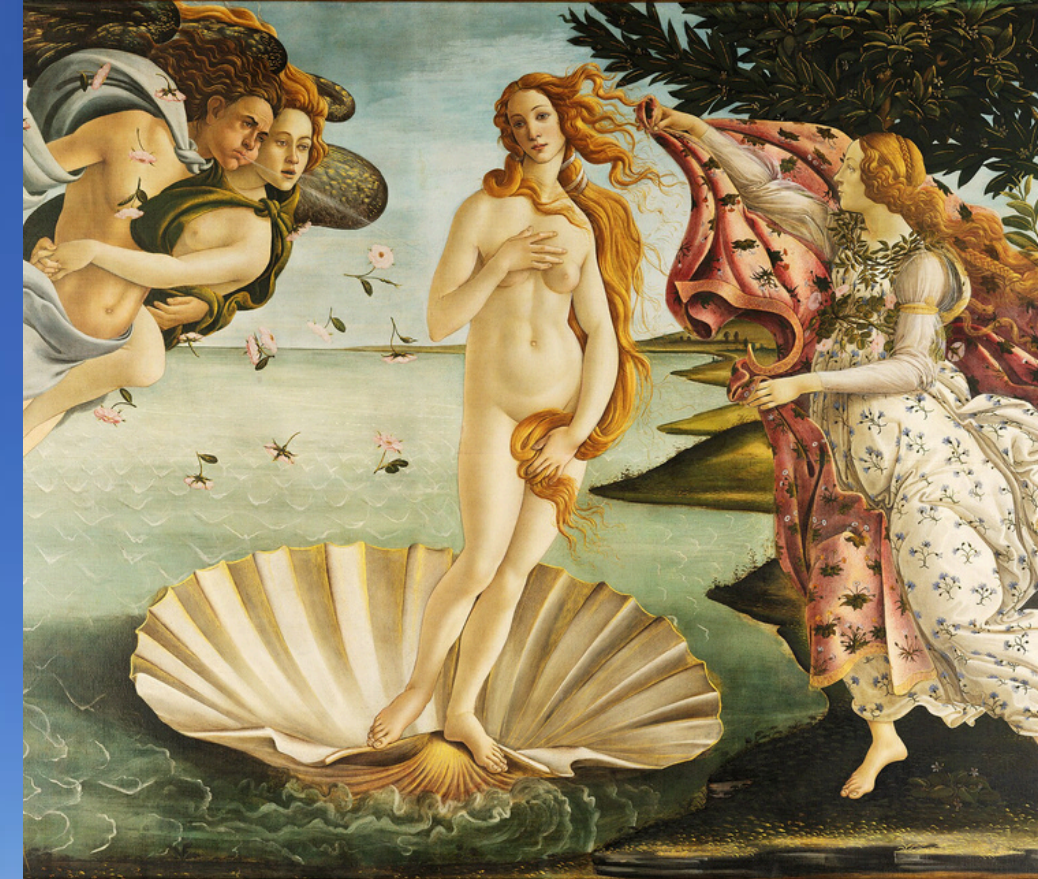
Prime Location Highlights

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

Philippa

**book@rignana.estate
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Workshop

Victor & Jana

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jana.buettner1997@gmail.com**



We hope to welcome you soon

Martino and Alessandra
Rignana Estate