

Joanne Thomas



Joanne Thomas is an accomplished gifted artist who specialises in watercolours, as well as a highly professional tutor with many years of teaching experience. Joanne tutors many watercolour workshops, demonstrates watercolour techniques for various Art Societies as well as tutoring painting holidays. She also writes and demonstrates for The Leisure Painter Magazine.



With a bubbly personality, Joanne ensures that her classes are not only informative but are also great fun. She is a superb, inspirational tutor who is sympathetic to the needs of her students, using demonstrations to inspire and motivate with her loose impressionistic style of painting.



Personal individual tuition is also an integral part of Joanne's teaching method, her simplistic fresh style of painting has encouraged many and has ensured that her workshops are always in high demand. The qualities she looks for in a great piece of work are pleasing composition, harmonious colour, interesting textures and a quality of light.

Prices & Details

8 Days / 7 Nights

Full-board accommodation & all local transportation

Professional art tuition throughout

Day trips to beautiful painting locations

Rustic dining, regional dishes, abundance of local wine

Light weight easels, sun umbrellas, chairs and boards provided

£895

No single room supplements

£200 discount for non painting partners

Direct flights from Gatwick, Stansted, Edinburgh, Leeds / Bradford, East Midlands, Bristol, Liverpool & Dublin (flights not included)

"John & Maria's organising skills and attention to detail meant that nothing was left to chance and so this plus their friendliness and assistance, if needed, made this painting holiday a relaxing experience. All I had to do was enjoy the excellent food, wine and good company – oh, and of course the painting. Being an all inclusive holiday, this was very good value for money."

"Thank you so much for making the painting course into a very enjoyable holiday as well. I will certainly recommend you and Sardinia as the place to go and the people to go with to my friends."

"I feel having been taught by Anne (Lang) I would like to go on her courses in England. I feel more confident about starting a watercolour and the completion. For me it was the best of both worlds, plenty of painting and painting in beautiful surroundings."

"We really enjoyed our stay with you and want to thank you again for looking after us so well. Do keep us informed of next year's holidays. We certainly can and will recommend you to our Irish artist friends."

"Many thanks for all your hard work to make my week in Sardinia so enjoyable. I really had a great time, learnt a lot, gained a lot of confidence that I can become (with a lot more practice) a reasonable artist, and made some new friends who I hope to meet again on a future painting holiday. It really was a holiday that ended far too soon, so mille grazie once again."

"I was especially impressed by the way John and Maria organised and planned the holiday and their lovely, friendly approach and attention to every detail."

"The care and attention you and John had given to every detail was obvious. I really enjoyed the food as well - I think it was lovely to be eating traditional food prepared by obviously very good cooks."

"Thank you again for all the care and though that you put into making our holiday in Sardinia such an enjoyable one. Sue and I thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to visiting you again."

"We got a superb taste of the real Sardinia and the group was great fun - we all got along really well, but I think that most of the credit must go to the pair of you for all your hard work and effort, which was non-stop for the whole week (and no doubt for some time before and after the week we saw!)"

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Sardinia

"the heart of the Mediterranean"

Joanne Thomas

25 Sept—2 Oct 2010



relaxing painting holidays

SARDINIA • MALTA & GOZO • CORSICA • LAZIO

2010

Hotel Funtanarena



Located in the ancient village of Codrongianos, this small 19th-century country manor house hotel is furnished in period style giving it an air of sophisticated Italian elegance. It is set in a beautiful natural park with a suggestive backdrop of hills lined with olive trees and fruit orchards. It is an ideal base for

those looking to relax but also makes an excellent point of departure for our excursions to inspirational painting locations.

The position of this lovely country manor house hotel on the outskirts of the village enables guests to enjoy the amenities and conviviality of an authentic Sardinian village as well as direct access to a variety of subjects. Painting



is superb here with the earthy tones of the buildings giving intense texture and depth – shadows are cast by rolling hills, covered in groves of olives and acres of cork oak trees. Most bedrooms have wonderful views of the surrounding countryside and are all

decorated and furnished in period style. The hotel is only a stone's throw away from the Romanesque abbey of *Santissima Trinità di Saccargia*, featuring the only existent cycle of 13th century frescoes on Sardinia.



All meals, including wine with dinner, are provided throughout your stay. Breakfast is a rich continental buffet and lunches a mix of picnics and local restaurants, depending on the painting day. Dinner is taken in the hotel's dining room



where you will savour excellent regional cuisine, made from only the finest, freshest local ingredients.

Our day trips allow you not only the opportunity to paint in beautiful locations but also to discover the cultural richness and natural beauty of Sardinia.

Painting trips include: Bosa, a picturesque riverside town with its enchanting old alleyways and the towns' medieval castle, *Castello Malaspina*, built in 1112.; a day at the vineyard, where we will enjoy magnificent views onto the surrounding countryside and gain an insight into wine making; Alghero, which has the most Spanish feel of any Sardinian town with its charming harbour, its towers and fortifications and its many churches, thoroughly unusual but all of particular beauty.

The Itinerary



Saturday: Our week starts with welcome drinks and canapés served in the hotel garden followed by a 3 course dinner with wine.

Sunday: Continental breakfast. Welcome and introductory talk by your tutor. We will spend the morning painting in the hotel grounds or in the



nearby village of Codrongianos. A light lunch with refreshments is served on the terrace. Afternoon spent painting in the hotel grounds or in the village. End the day with a critique of your days work followed by a 3 course dinner with wine.



Monday: Continental breakfast. Depart to our painting location Alghero, a distinctly Spanish influenced town, with Spanish towers and surrounded by the old bastion walls. From the fortifications along the lungomare (promenade) we will enjoy magnificent panoramic views across the bay of

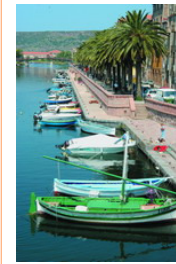
Alghero as far as the imposing rocks of Capo Caccia. Packed lunch with refreshments at the beautiful Le Bombarde beach, regarded as being amongst the most beautiful beaches in Sardinia. You also have the chance of visiting the Nuragic complex of Pal-mavera, the main tower of which dates back from the 14th-century BC. Our excursion this afternoon will take us to the impressive rock formations created by the wind and sea at Capo Caccia, the most westerly point of the island. End the day with a critique of your days work followed by a 3 course dinner with wine.



Tuesday: Continental breakfast. Transfer by car to one of the finest and best-preserved churches in Sardinia, Santissima Trinità di Saccargia just outside of the village of Codrongianos. Inside, the apse contains the only existent cycle of 13th-century frescoes on Sardinia.



There is no denying the splendour of its position and this is sure to inspire today's painting. Packed lunch with refreshments on location. Afternoon painting at the abbey of Saccargia or return to the hotel. End the day with a critique of your days work followed by a 3 course dinner with wine.



Wednesday: Continental breakfast. Depart to the riverside town of Bosa, which offers an abundance of inspirational scenery for this morning's painting, from the palm tree-lined esplanade with views out over beautiful coloured fishing boats, to the old town famous for its maze of narrow alleys and tall houses. Packed lunch with refreshments on location. Free time for you to relax by the riverside!

This afternoon there is an option to visit the towns' medieval castle, *Castello Malaspina*, built in 1112, and nowadays the pride of the town's inhabitants. From the Castle it is possible to enjoy magnificent views of Bosa, river *Temo* and the sea. Dinner tonight will be at the *Pizzeria Saccargia* where we will enjoy traditional wood-oven baked pizzas.



Thursday: Continental breakfast. Depart for a leisurely drive to the inland of Sardinia on a scenic route into the Vermentino wine region. Enjoy the picturesque countryside, passing through vineyards, overlooked by the Limbara mountain chain. We will spend the day painting in the private grounds of the vineyard belonging to Maria's family. Light refreshments will be served upon arrival and a full and bountiful typical countryside lunch will be served on the terrace of the vineyard house where we will share a glass of wine with the person who made it! There is also an opportunity today of visiting the informative Museo del Vino (wine museum) in Berchidda. End the day with a critique of your days work followed by a 3 course dinner with wine.



Friday: Continental breakfast. Our final full day will be spent as on our first day painting in the hotel grounds or in the village. Now that you are acquainted with the place you may have a favourite spot to paint! Light lunch with refreshments served on the terrace. Our last painting session of the week

will conclude with an appraisal of your week's work followed by a 3 course dinner with wine.

Saturday: Continental breakfast. Time to say our goodbyes before departing for the airport.