



Language
Center

Dreaming in Umbria

Creative Writing Workshop with Martha McPhee and Christina Ball

June 9 – 16, 2012

Frequently Asked Questions, Answered

Can you tell me more about the 2 hour writing workshop sessions? Will they be exercise driven and/or will we workshop using the participant's work?

Daily morning workshops will be spent examining and critiquing student work. On occasion, an exercise will be given as a prompt for the afternoon if students desire. But the goal will be to learn how to talk about each other's writing, guided by Martha. Writers will leave Roccafiore with a solid sense of how to develop their work. Exercises will be optional but all will be designed to use the experience of being in Italy as a source of inspiration – be it to write about food, place, travel, even memory. This will be a multi-genre fiction/memoir workshop. In advance of the trip manuscripts will be collected and copies made, a schedule set so that the time is used efficiently. Additionally, we will be looking at published works to learn how to read as writers – which means learn how to study craft while enjoying literature.

I am a fiction writer, but have not yet published anything. Is this program right for me?

Yes. All you need is a manuscript or writing project you want to work on, share and discuss. The program is all about helping students launch writing projects whether it be a short story or a novel or a memoir. The primary aim of Dreaming in Umbria is to develop as writers while being inspired by Italy – and each other.

What if I don't have a manuscript?

That's fine too. We can discuss in advance of the trip and design assignments that will help to get you started writing. More than anything else, you need to have *the desire to write*. We'll take care of the rest.

What does a private tutorial with Martha consist of?

Before your private conference, Martha will have carefully gone over your work and will be prepared to discuss it at length. Primarily it will be a deepening of the workshop critique and a chance to synthesize the various responses to the work during the class. She will address your concerns of both the manuscript and the realities of the publishing

experience. It will be the students' chance to have Martha's full attention and to pick her brain and for her to give you an honest appraisal of your writing.

Can my spouse or partner attend the workshop with me?

Yes. There is a discount for two in the same room and you are both welcome on the optional excursions.

Do I need to be fluent in Italian to attend?

Certamente no! Not at all. But Speak! always recommends learning a few basics before traveling to Italy (or any country where English is not the native tongue). Christina will be happy to advise and assist in the *italiano* department! You could even study Italian in Todi with Speak! right after our Dreaming in Umbria workshop (Two Weeks in Todi, June 16-30).

Which airport should I fly into and when? How will I get to Roccafiore? Should I rent a car?

Todi is in southern Umbria and thus is closest to Rome. Unless you are planning to tour other areas before Dreaming in Umbria, you should fly into Rome (FCO). We can arrange for a private driver to pick you up and bring you to Roccafiore (extra charge of approx 150 euros). There are also buses and trains from Rome. Many Todi-bound travelers stay in Rome first for a few nights (Christina can advise on hotels and activities) to get acclimated to the time zone and soak up some Roman culture before heading to Umbria for the course. If you are short on time, you should book your flight to arrive on Saturday, June 9 (i.e. departing June 8 from North America) and then arrange to travel directly to Roccafiore to rest and get ready to work (and dream!). You will not need a rental car during the workshop (we will travel together to town and on excursions) but should you wish to be independent in the afternoons/evenings private transportation is certainly an option.

Please contact us with additional questions.

We look forward to getting to know you and your work in beautiful, inspiring Italy!

Martha and Christina

the glass building
313 2nd Street S.E., Suite 109, Charlottesville, VA 22902

434.245.TALK • info@speaklanguagecenter.com
speaklanguagecenter.com