Fine Art Travel 2019

Palaces and Gardens of Lisbon and Sintra
Treasures of Milan and Gardens of Lake Maggiore

Please Contact:
Charles FitzRoy or Jane Rae
Fine Art Travel Limited, 13 Old Burlington Street, London W1S 3AJ

Chairman: Lord Charles FitzRoy
Managing Director: Jane Rae
Directors:
David Campbell
Robin Lane Fox
Leonora, Countess of Lichfield

Please Contact:
Charles FitzRoy or Jane Rae
Fine Art Travel Limited, 13 Old Burlington Street, London W1S 3AJ

Telephone 020 7437 8553    Fax 020 7437 1733
Email charles@finearttravel.co.uk   jane@finearttravel.co.uk
**Treasures of Milan and Gardens of Lake Maggiore**

**Friday September 27th to Thursday October 3rd 2019**

**Lecturers:** Robin Lane Fox and Charles FitzRoy

Leonardo’s Last Supper remains Milan’s most famous artistic landmark and the most important work of this archetypal Renaissance genius. Consequently, most visitors barely pause to admire Bramante’s majestic church of Santa Maria della Grazie adjoining the Last Supper, the delightful frescoes by Leonardo’s star pupil Bernardino Luini, or the treasures of the Brera Museum and the Ambrosiana Library, containing masterpieces by Raphael, Mantegna, Piero della Francesca and Caravaggio.

Outside the city we are heading for Lake Maggiore, famed for its beautiful gardens. Pride of place goes to Isola Bella, whose terraced gardens, laid out by the Borromeo family, possess the magical quality of a ship floating in the middle of the lake. We are extremely fortunate that Robin Lane Fox, celebrated gardening correspondent of the Financial Times and Emeritus Fellow of New College, Oxford, will be leading us round these gardens, some of them privately owned. We end the tour with a visit to the charming and little-known Lake Orta.

**Cost:** £4,000

This includes Half Board plus two dinners, all lectures, coach and boat trips and entry fees. We reserve the right to adjust the price should there be a significant alteration in the rate of the exchange. Please note that the cost of air travel is not included.

**Hotels:** The first two nights of our tour will be at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Milan. This luxurious contemporary hotel, in a quiet cul de sac in the heart of the city, has a spa and chic outdoor spaces for dining and relaxing. We then move for a further four nights to Villa e Palazzo Aminta, a 5 star hotel at Stresa on the shores of Lake Maggiore where opulent interiors offer breathtaking views of the beautiful Borromean islands. There is an outdoor swimming pool. All our rooms have a view of the lake.

**Single Rooms:** There will be a supplement of £800 for single occupancy of a double room.

**Flights:** Please let us know if you would like to travel as part of the group and we will advise you of the return flights we have selected for this tour.

**Insurance:** Travel insurance is an essential requirement if you are taking a tour. If you require travel insurance, please contact goodtogoinsurance.com or call 0330 024 9952 quoting Fine Art Travel. There is also a link on our website www.finearttravel.co.uk

**Tour Leaders:** Charles FitzRoy and Jane Rae

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**Palaces and Gardens of Lisbon and Sintra**

**Friday May 10th to Thursday May 16th 2019**

**Lecturers:** Patrick Bowe and Charles FitzRoy

Lisbon lies in a beautiful position overlooking the mouth of the river Tagus. Situated at the western extremity of Europe, the city enjoyed a period of unparalleled magnificence in the 15th and early 16th centuries, when Portuguese sailors and explorers created a maritime empire that stretched as far as Brazil, Goa, Macao and the fabled Spice Islands. The riches that poured into Lisbon are displayed in the city’s great churches and palaces; we are fortunate enough to be visiting some of the finest of these in private hands. The city that we admire today is the result of the classic town plan executed by the Marques de Pombal following the disastrous earthquake of 1755. No wonder Calouste Gulbenkian should have chosen to leave his extraordinarily rich and eclectic collection to this cosmopolitan city.

The Portuguese monarchs and their nobles enjoyed escaping from the summer heat by retreating into the surrounding hills where they laid out a series of enchanting villas and gardens at Sintra, many of them still privately owned. We will be visiting these accompanied by the knowledgeable landscape designer and architectural historian Patrick Bowe, who has written an acclaimed book on Portuguese gardens.

**Cost:** £4,000

This includes Half Board plus two dinners, all lectures, coach trips and entry fees. We reserve the right to adjust the price should there be a significant alteration in the rate of the exchange. Please note that the cost of air travel is not included.

**Hotel:** The Lapa Palace Hotel is in the quiet and elegant Lapa district of Lisbon, close to many embassies and the Museum of Fine Arts. This late 19th century palazzo has been transformed into a charming and very comfortable 5 star hotel. The well maintained gardens have flowering borders and a swimming pool. All our rooms have wonderful views over the gardens to the Tagus.

**Single Rooms:** There will be a supplement of £800 for single occupancy of a double room.

**Flights:** Please let us know if you would like to travel as part of the group and we will advise you of the return flights we have selected for this tour.

**Insurance:** Travel insurance is an essential requirement if you are taking a tour. If you require travel insurance, please contact goodtogoinsurance.com or call 0330 024 9952 quoting Fine Art Travel. There is also a link on our website www.finearttravel.co.uk

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