



Michelangelo
foundation

PRESENTS

THE MICHELANGELO TRAVEL SEMINARS 2012

CELEBRATING

The Sistine Chapel at 500





The Sistine Chapel at 500

faculty

An elite group of lecturers is at the core of our program and provide the key ingredient in these travelling seminars. They have been chosen for both their scholarship and their ability to communicate their knowledge. Their assignment is to enlighten and stimulate, not merely to inform. We use the term *lecturer* because it emphasizes their primary role. They are not simply tour guides—although some of what they do does constitute *guiding*; however, being professional academics, writers, and curators, they are qualified to provide a depth of background that is significantly different from what the usual ‘tour guides’ are able to offer as they reach deep into the richness of the treasures we visit.

principal lecturers

Frank Dabell



Meet Prof. Dabell

Professor Frank Dabell is a graduate of Merton College, Oxford, and pursued his studies at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. He is a former Fellow of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and regularly lectures to its members on travels throughout Europe and the Mediterranean. A longtime resident of Rome, where he was raised, he is now an enduring pillar of the art history faculty at Temple University Rome.

Elizabeth Lev



Meet Prof. Lev

After graduating from the University of Chicago, Elizabeth Lev moved to Italy to do graduate work at the University of Bologna. Researching her thesis, she realized that like Queen Christina of Sweden before her, she couldn't live another day if she didn't live it in Rome. In 1998, she joined the faculty at the Duquesne University Italian campus and went on to teach Renaissance Art at John Cabot University. Dr Lev has also joined the teaching staff at the University of St. Thomas Catholic Studies program in Rome.

The Seminars 2012 Rome

- ♦ MARCH 1 TO 6
- ♦ MAY 24 TO 29
(PENTECOST IN ROME)
- ♦ MAY 31 TO JUNE 5
- ♦ JUNE 28 TO JULY 3
- ♦ OCTOBER 18 TO 23
- ♦ DECEMBER 13 TO 18
(CHRISTMASTIDE ROME)

It's not often one gets to see the whole range of work of a great artist within a few days, yet – like a music festival with a live performance of Wagner's *Ring cycle* (no coincidence, considering these artists' titanic natures) – our Michelangelo seminars can offer the same kind of exhilarating, first-hand experience. In this case, the range is extensive, covering a public career that went from the artist's early twenties to his late eighties, and it is almost unsettling, not only for its sometimes colossal scale, but because of the larger-than-life reputation Michelangelo has had for centuries: how can we properly appreciate and understand him? We will provide an answer to these questions – calmly, warmly, intelligently.

Our visits will be far more than a series of encounters with art and history—they are woven around a connecting thread based on years of familiarity with Rome and Mediterranean culture. While our focus is obviously on Michelangelo, the material will always be presented in its original context, with time spent on the work of his contemporaries, Raphael and Bramante, and that of his followers and admirers, as well as celebrated ancient Greek and Roman sculptures that were part of his creative DNA. Even to those unacquainted with all this, the paintings, sculptures and architecture will be made approachable, never indigestible – and the same applies, of course, to local gastronomic events, with additional contentment coming from the excellent food and wine chosen to strengthen us during our days of exploration. The entire experience will enable us to better appreciate our modern cultural heritage, as well as the philosophies and beliefs of our ancestors.

Retracing the most significant artistic moments of the period will give us a sense of its epic qualities. In 1496, when the 21-year-old Michelangelo Buonarroti came to Rome, Columbus had twice sailed to the New World; when he died in the Eternal City in 1564, he was almost 89, and Shakespeare's birth was only two months away. After a precocious start in Florence, apprenticed to Domenico Ghirlandaio (who had just painted the side walls of the Sistine Chapel, with Botticelli and others) and a protégé of the Medici family, Michelangelo sought his fortunes beyond Tuscany. Rome around 1500 was the most exciting place to be, with a Pope whose revival of Classical antiquity was driven by an ambition and confidence shared by the young artist.

Nothing was understated – a promise was made that the Vatican *Pietà* would be “the most beautiful work in Rome” – and the excitement surrounding the discovery of the 1,500-year-old *Laocoön*, the statue which provided Michelangelo with such extraordinary stimulus, remains palpable to this day.

The 1510s saw the painting of the Sistine Chapel ceiling, and we will be able to compare Michelangelo's achievement there with that of Raphael in the nearby apartments of Pope Julius II, as well as other works by Raphael and Sansovino in Roman churches. We will see Michelangelo's *Risen Christ* in Santa Maria sopra Minerva, and study the memorable *Moses*, part of Julius II's tomb monument, in San Pietro in Vincoli. Considering Castel Sant'Angelo, the Palazzo della Cancelleria and the Palazzo Farnese will set the scene for the generation of artists who worked under Pope Paul III, the artist's next great Papal patron. After Michelangelo's definitive move from Florence to Rome in the 1530s, the Farnese Pope was the driving force behind the *Last Judgment* in the *Sistine Chapel* and the aging artist's appointment as architect-in-chief of the new Saint Peter's Basilica. We will reflect on the Counter-Reformation and his work of the 1540s and 1550s, including his late ecclesiastical and civic architecture.

From the *Pietà* in Saint Peter's to what Michelangelo could scarcely have imagined in his youth – the design of the great cupola which covers that church – we will come to understand the man and the artist, someone who worked unremittingly to the very end, and was always true to his professional and spiritual values; and we will have a vivid sense of mind triumphing over matter.



The Michelangelo Foundation is a non-profit association, composed of multi-cultural art historians dedicated to the promotion and understanding of Michelangelo Buonarroti's art. This includes his closest contemporaries, his rivals such as Bramante and Raphael, and the heralds of the Baroque such as Bernini. These are all a vital part of our Western cultural heritage. *The Michelangelo Travelling Seminars* during 2012 and 2013 will celebrate the **500th anniversary of the completion of the Sistine Chapel Ceiling** and focus on the beauty, genius, and inspiration of Michelangelo's works; they will bring his unparalleled artistry to a special audience with a very exclusive approach. For the first time ever, through *The Michelangelo Travelling Seminars*, privileged groups will have special opportunities and unique glimpses into Michelangelo's creative thought processes as well as his life and work in Italy during the brief yet highly influential Italian Renaissance. As far as we know, our prestigious travelling seminars are the only educational experience of this kind offered in the travel industry today.

Logistics and technical operation of the traveling seminars will be handled by ARTE & TRAVEL, our preferred Tour Operator, while the intellectual content is provided by a specially selected faculty in Rome and Florence. We invite you to join our special group and treat yourself to the *art and travel* experience of a lifetime,

Jose Luis Tobar Pratt



Seminar pricing



The Michelangelo Travelling Seminars can be booked in combination with lodging in different hotels in Rome. We have selected properties in several key locations in the very heart of Rome. You can, of course, purchase the seminar without hotel accommodations.

For those who do not purchase their hotel with us, special instructions will be provided on how to get to the starting point of the seminars each day. For those who purchase their accommodations with us, transfers are provided to starting points and back to the Hotel after the day's tour is over.

2 ★ PROPERTIES

HOTEL ROMAEO
GIOTTO FLAVIA

3 ★ PROPERTIES

HOTEL DEL SENATO
HOTEL SAN SILVESTRO
HOTEL TRITONE

4 ★ PROPERTIES

HOTEL SOLE AL PANTHEON
COLONNA PALACE
HOTEL BOUTIQUE TREVII

5 ★ PROPERTIES

HOTEL D'INGHILTERRA
GRAND HOTEL DE LA
MINERVE

FOR A FULL DESCRIPTION OF OUR SELECTED HOTELS FOLLOW THIS LINK [▶](#)

Pricing & INCLUSIONS

2 ★ PROPERTIES

SINGLE DOUBLE

HOTEL ROMAEO.....\$3620.....\$3420
HOTEL GIOTTO FLAVIA.....\$3620.....\$3495

3 ★ PROPERTIES

SINGLE DOUBLE

HOTEL TRITONE.....\$4120.....\$3620
HOTEL SAN SILVESTRO.....\$4385.....\$3752
HOTEL DEL SENATO.....\$5245.....\$4182

4 ★ PROPERTIES

SINGLE DOUBLE

HOTEL SOLE AL PANTHEON &
COLONNA PALACE.....\$4120.....\$3620
HOTEL BOUTIQUE TREVII.....4385.....\$3752

5 ★ PROPERTIES

SINGLE DOUBLE

HOTEL D'INGHILTERRA.....\$5370.....\$4245
GRAND HOTEL MINERVE.....\$6785.....\$4952

**PROGRAM WITHOUT
HOTELS.....\$3200**

- ◆ All seminars and visits as per program with PhD level lecturers
- ◆ All entry fees
- ◆ Visits by special arrangement and privately to sites off-limits to the general public
- ◆ Special entry to the Vatican Museums (bypassing the line)
- ◆ Exclusive private entry to the Sistine Chapel and Raphael Rooms
- ◆ Five nights' accommodation with breakfast in selected hotels
- ◆ All city taxes and VAT (valued added tax)
- ◆ All transportation in Rome from arrival to departure
- ◆ Welcome Cocktail and Hors d'œuvres and cocktails
- ◆ One gourmet lunch with fine wine
- ◆ One reception with cocktail and petits fours
- ◆ Farewell reception, cocktails, and dinner
- ◆ Excellent pre-departure documentation
- ◆ Souvenir Bag

RESERVATION FORM [▶](#)

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