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# THE COCHENILLE FASHION, CRAFT & FOOD RETREAT

OCTOBER 9TH - 19TH, 2025, VERONA, ITALY

LOCATION: VERONA ITALY

Verona is situated in the north of Italy. It is a lovely city located between Venice and Milan. It is easily walked, and there is much to see, yet Verona retains a small-city charm. Fashion abounds in Verona and the Italians take it seriously. Of course, let's not forget the amazing food and wine. Verona is surrounded by great wine regions such as Valpolicella, Soave, and Lugana.



Verona

Susan has been going to Verona since 2007 and she now lives there half-time. She has developed a sense for Italian fashion, food, and lifestyle. She has also established contacts with various artists, designers, stores, museums, and food-related businesses. This year, our 2025 retreat, centered in Verona, will include day-trips to Venice and Vicenza. The Retreat will begin at dinner time on October 9th (the day of arrival) and ends the morning of October 19th with a farewell coffee/brunch.



Venice

## FASHION, TEXTILES, FOOD...

This year, we are continuing our emphasis on mini-workshops; some with locals and some with Susan. Topics will revolve around hand-techniques with fiber art, garment and pattern design, sustainability, idea shopping, and more. In addition, we will have fashion appointments that include visits to artisans, fabric and yarn stores, designers, and a knitting mill. There will be two out-of-town trips. As always, we will also take a trip to Venice to explore its sights and activities related to fashion. We will also attend an event called Abilmente (the Salon of Creative Ideas) which is in Vicenza and features exhibits, workshops, and vendors. We are leaving the last Saturday free for you to choose what you want to do,



Abilmente Craft Show



Fashion Windows

whether it be shopping or visiting yet another city outside of Verona.

You can't go to Italy without exploring its food, and so we have included two cooking classes (one in a private home and one in a restaurant with a Chef). Of course, we can enjoy wine tasting.

On the next page, you can see a tentative itinerary. It is packed full of activities. The agenda will be similar, but may not be identical, as it is often difficult to schedule appointments this far in advance.



Textile Artist Visit



Cooking Class with Chef Patrick

The chosen visits combine our hands-on workshop activities with fashion and food, and the history of Verona. The dates and activities may shuffle a little as final appointments are made.

## TENTATIVE AGENDA *(subject to changes)*

*Thursday, October 9th*

- Plan to arrive. Light grocery shopping (if time)
- Welcome Aperitivo/Dinner, Orientation

*Friday, October 10th*

- Artisan Workshop #1
- Visit to Yarn Store
- Walking Tour of Verona, Visits to artisans

*Saturday, October 11th*

- Cooking class/lunch
- Free time to exploring the city of Verona
- Fashion Walking Tour

*Sunday, October 12th*

- Design Workshop with Susan
- Artisan Workshop #2

*Monday, October 13th*

- Visit a Fabric Store
- Possible Wine Tour Visit

*Tuesday, October 14th*

- Train to Lake Garda area
- Cooking Class with a Chef
- Workshop #3: Nuno Felting

*Wednesday, October 15th*

- Train to Venice
- Options include visits to a traditional jacquard weaving establishment, a fashion museum/library, knit shop, Fortuny museum, or other.

*Thursday, October 16th*

- Visit to a knitting mill outside of Verona
- Workshop #4

*Friday, October 17th*

- Train to Vicenza and return
- Experience *Abilmente* Event (workshops, exhibits, vendors)

*Saturday, October 18th*

- Free Day

*Sunday, October 19th*

- Farewell Café/Brunch, Departures

*Note:* You can always sit out on an activity should you choose.



Venice (above and left)



Knit Store, Verona



Felt workshop in Wine Country



Sample Project



Workshop with leather artisan Cristina (back row, center)



Cooking class with Nonna and family

You should be in good health and relatively fit, as both Verona and other Italian cities are 'walking' cities. By 'fit', we simply mean that we do walk around, and we walk a fair bit. It is possible to take taxis, but walking and bus are the norm for the locals, as it generally is for us.

## COSTS:

**Tuition:** \$1750. This will include:

- Tuition including 4-5 workshops related to fiber/textiles/design.
- Various visits with local artists or textile/fabric merchants
- Train travel to and from Vicenza, Lake Garda, and Venice, with activities in each location including Abilmente, workshops, fashion museum, etc. (\*subject to change)
- Two cooking classes with meals included
- Welcome Aperitivo meal, Pizza Dinner, Farewell Dinner or Lunch
- Wine Tasting (optional)
- Bus travel while in Verona

*The anticipated maximum group size is seven people.*

## Payments

A deposit of \$500 will be required to hold your place. The balance of \$1250 will be due 7/15/25.

## Cancellation Policy

- If you cancel and we can fill your place, there will be a full refund (less \$35.00 handling fee)
- If you cancel prior to 120 days out, and we cannot fill your spot, we will retain \$250.00.
- If you cancel between 119 and 60 days of the Retreat, and we cannot fill your spot, we will retain \$400, as it will be difficult to solicit people at that point, due to airfare costs on short notice.
- If you cancel within 59 days of the Retreat, and we can't fill your spot, we will retain 75% of the entire amount unless a substitute can be found.
- If you cancel within 14 days of the retreat, no refund will be given.
- We will always make an attempt to fill your spot, and will work with you as much as possible.

## HOUSING:

- Housing is not included in the tuition, but we will coordinate this for you.
- There are options to stay in an apartment, a Bed and Breakfast, or a hotel. Please let us know your preference. We have a group of rooms/apartments in one building which is quite convenient and cost effective. Last year all participants stayed in this building. There are two apartments and three private bedrooms with baths.
- We estimate that you should plan for around 70 - 80 Euros per person, per day, in a shared accommodation.
- The local Bed and Breakfasts will run around 60 - 80 Euros per person, per night, (based on double-occupancy).
- There are lovely little grocery stores and fruit/vegetable stands in the neighborhoods of the apartments. Larger grocery stores are also relatively close. Part of the experience of Italy is learning to live like a local, so we think you will enjoy going to the markets to pick up food.

## AIRFARE:

We leave this up to individuals, as some people are using miles, some want flexibility, and mostly, you all will be coming from different places. You can fly directly into Verona on various major airlines using their local partners, or other airlines (e.g.. Ryan Air). OR.. You can fly into Milan, Venice, Florence, or Rome and take the train to Verona.

Feel free to email Susan ([susan@cochenille.com](mailto:susan@cochenille.com)) with questions. We are also happy to phone talk. Reservations will be first come-first served. You can hold/reserve a place by completing a registration form and paying the deposit online at our web store or by Zelle or Venmo.