

Two San Marinans Unite to Offer European Painting Excursions



WalkEurope tour participants, from left, Shannon Williamson, Eva Margueriette, Tami Wolter, Sue Sparks, Tom Harter, Linda Mollno, Linda Salinas, Kristi Simmons and Linda Seiter, at a wine tasting session on the Italian Riviera in Santa Margherita, Italy.

Two San Marino natives can make that dream a reality as they've teamed up to escort artists and travelers to Europe.

WalkEurope founder Tom Harter and local artist and instructor Eva Margueriette have scheduled four painting trips this year to breathtaking destinations such as Barcelona, Spain; Provence, France and Tuscany, Italy.

"I had been painting and teaching in Europe for 27 years, when last fall Tom invited me as an instructor of plein air painting on the French and Italian Riviera," Margueriette said. "I respect his travel expertise. He does a fantastic job of seeking out charming accommodations in every city offering a choice of comfort boutique or luxury hotels. I

also appreciate his unique vision of a small group experience. The trips are limited to only 15 persons.”

“You don’t have to be a painter to come, but if you have always wanted to try painting, this is the perfect time and place,” Harter said. “Eva will help you capture the European landscape in your own unique style in a watercolor painting and drawing journal filled with treasured memories of your creative adventure. There will be daily painting sessions, individual instruction and demonstrations by Eva, which will improve your skills and expand your art experience.”

Artist Marilyn Roth took a trip with WalkEurope last year to paint. She included paintings from her time painting en plein air on the French Riviera at her recent art exhibition at Crowell Public Library.

WalkEurope founder Tom Harter and local art instructor Eva Margueriette.

“This was the first time I’d been there,” she said. “I was enthralled. It’s just beautiful.”

Linda Mollno had never taken an art class or painted in oils or watercolor. She took WalkEurope’s French and Italian painting tours last year and has signed up for another one.

Harter started WalkEurope, which is a tour company that specializes in European walking excursions for small groups, last year. He had a long career as an executive in the media and advertising industries. Margueriette began Eva Margueriette Art Studio in San Marino in 1986. She is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, an artist member of the California Art Club and a founding member of the Pasadena Art Colony. Margueriette has had 24 solo art shows.

Upcoming WalkEurope painting trips include one this summer featuring the Spanish cities of Barcelona, Madrid and Toledo from June 19-25 and one in Provence, France from June 26 to July 2.

Another painting trip will take place from Sept. 11-17 to Tuscany, followed by a small group excursion to Italy’s Amalfi Coast, Capri and Pompeii.

The trips are designed for the artists as well as their companions as the experiences also include wine tasting, cooking classes, shopping and time for relaxation.

For more information on the upcoming WalkEurope Painting Trips or other WalkEurope trips, visit www.walkeurope.com or call 626-616-3448.