

Brenda Swenson

California artist Brenda Swenson is the artist-author of two books, *Keeping a Watercolor Sketchbook*, an Award of Excellence Finalist, and *Steps to Success in Watercolor*. Her paintings and sketches have been featured in *Splash 11*, *Artistic Touch 4*, *Watercolor Magazine*, *Watercolor Highlights* and many other publications. Brenda has received numerous awards for her paintings and is in demand to demonstrate and teach her watercolor techniques nationwide and abroad. She has been awarded signature membership in WW and NWS, is an active participant in the arts community and has served on the board of directors for the National Watercolor Society and Watercolor West. Additional information about Brenda's work can be found on her website at www.swensonsart.net.

In this workshop you'll enjoy the charming, free-flowing and colorful nature of watercolor at its best . . . in the outdoors! Brenda will help you sharpen your observation skills, color awareness and learn simple design principles. Each day you'll explore various sketching tools, techniques and papers. She'll show you how a sketch can be complete in itself or a road map to larger studio paintings.

Whether you want to improve your skills, create travel journals or take that next step as an artist, you'll come away from this workshop excited and inspired about your artwork. You'll benefit from demonstrations, friendly critiques and lots of one-on-one help and guidance from Brenda.



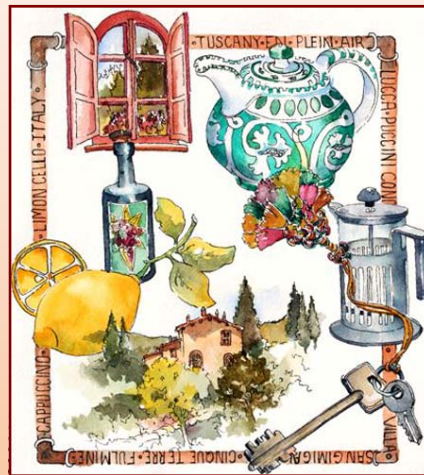
*Brenda Swenson
in San Gimignano
with its famous
towers*



Ten glorious days in Tuscany . . .

where you'll explore such varied painting venues as charming hill towns, rustic gardens, Baroque villas and gardens and the cliff-side villages of the Cinque Terre. Plus you'll enjoy a concert, a tour of Lucca, wineries and olive mills . . . all for €2300.

The price is inclusive of everything from the time you are picked up at the airport or train station until you are returned there with the exclusion of three lunches to give you independent painting time. Instruction, inspiration and coaching from Brenda Swenson, meals, wine, off-site excursions with guides, an evening's cooking course and gracious accommodations are all part of the base fee. Airfare not included.



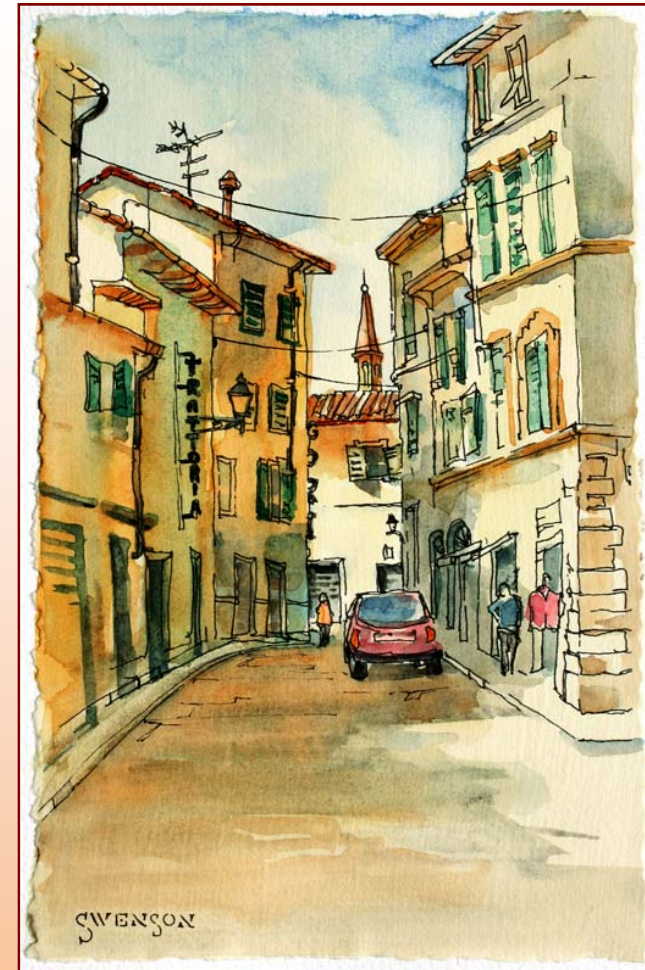
"Selva Collage" by Brenda Swenson

*Complete course descriptions, details
and booking forms at
www.abbondanzatoscana.com
or contact us at
abbondanzatoscana@gmail.com*

*Abbondanza Toscana
Tuscany, more than a place
. . . an experience*



Tuscany En Plein Air



"Florence" by Brenda Swenson

*Watercolor Sketching
with
Brenda Swenson
September 3 - 13, 2011*



A Unique Italian Experience Awaits You . . .

What better venue could an artist have than enchanting Tuscany with its red tile roofed villas and farmhouses, ancient olive groves, charming towns atop hills covered in vineyards and picture-book wineries!

Painting themes on the estate, your home for the week, include vineyards, olive groves, flower gardens, the rustic winery and olive mill, the Renaissance Forci villa, unrestored ruins, farmhouses, chestnut forests and majestic cypress trees. Vignettes abound for small studies . . . huge pots overflowing with their lemon trees, roses tumbling over a patched brick wall, pottery perched above an indoor wood oven.

Excursions outside the estate have been chosen with the painter's eye in mind, including:

- A country villa with its sweet, traditional garden, crumbling walls, and antique wine cellar. Lunch is under the vine-covered outdoor dining area
- Enchanting San Gimignano with its famous towers, colorful markets, medieval piazzas and expansive views of vineyards and olive groves
- The drama of the Cinque Terre with colorful towns perched on rock faces hanging over the Mediterranean, tiny fishing boats and terraced vineyards
- The jewel city of Lucca, where this year's program coincides with *Murabilia*, a flower show on the city's famous walls.



The Cinque Terre where colorful homes perch on seaside cliffs



Our local Tuscan chef will teach you ravioli-making techniques using olive oil from the surrounding olive groves

The Painting Workshop offers wonderful food for the body as well as the soul. Meals are prepared in the Tuscan style, and you'll enjoy making your own pizza on our traditional pizza night. Pre-dinner aperitivi and antipasti under the leafy pergola provide time for friendly and helpful sharing of the day's painting. Some evenings present the opportunity to attend a special event, such as a musical concert in the Duomo or a retrospective of a local artist's work.

A Cooking class with our Abbondanza Toscana Italian chef introduces you to the



artistry behind the delicious restaurant meals you'll enjoy as well as the local specialties prepared at Selva. Everyone gets to roll up their sleeves for a hands-on experience even if your "hands-on" is just around a wine glass!

Pizza night brings our local baker to work his magic in Selva's wood-fired oven

You'll be a Guest in a 15th Century Farmhouse . . .

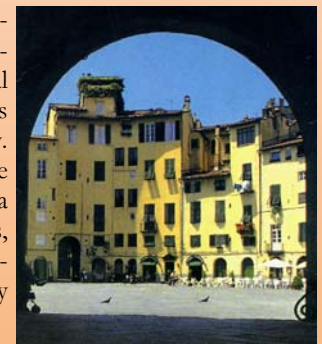


"Selva" by Brenda Swenson

The rustic country home of Selva has been lovingly restored yet retains all the charm of its origins on the 1000-year-old Tenuta di Forci wine and olive oil estate, a uniquely preserved property in the Lucca hills. Selva's old barn, with its traditional latticed terra cotta windows, houses our cooking school kitchen, a rustic room with modern equipment.

Selva's grand fireplace and wood-fired oven add to the ambience while guests appreciate 21st century comfort with modern bathrooms, central heating and spacious rooms.

Lucca its Renaissance walls enclose a perfectly preserved medieval treasure house, and Selva is only 20 minutes away. You can join the Lucchese in their evening passeggiata (stroll) through the streets, sip a cappuccino in Puccini's favorite bar and enjoy a gelato in a shaded piazza.



Lucca's Piazza del Mercato echoes the shape of the original Roman amphitheater that once stood in the same location

Lucca is also a shopper's paradise for linens, laces, leather, ceramics and its famous regional olive oil.