Shakespeare's Italy
Exploring the Bard's Favorite Italian Towns with Provost Katherine Rowe
June 11-19, 2017
Dear Smith alumnae and friends,

You are cordially invited to join Provost Katherine Rowe on a trip to Shakespeare’s Italy, a custom-designed tour created exclusively for Smith College.

Our itinerary reads like a compilation of Shakespeare’s greatest hits, spanning Northern Italy’s most attractive historic cities. In Padova, visit the Palazzo Bo, a renaissance anatomy theater that sparked Shakespeare’s interest in poetry of the body, then take in Giotto’s gorgeous Scrovegni Chapel frescoes. Glide through timeless Venice, touring both famous and hidden palaces and churches, going behind-the-scenes at La Fenice Theater, and exploring the Jewish ghetto, setting of The Merchant of Venice. In the beautiful city of Verona, learn about the real historical backdrop to Romeo and Juliet while meandering the old town’s quaint squares, winding streets, and riverfront promenades. Immerse yourself in the great ducal city of Mantova, home to Marchesa Isabella d’Este, an arts patron and political leader who rivaled Elizabeth I.

Your home for the week is the delightful northern Italian city of Vicenza, located just an hour from Venice, and famous as the home of Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. His beautiful 16th-century palaces grace the city’s streets and piazzas, giving Vicenza a stately charm quite different from the more heavily visited tourist cities nearby. The lovely four-star Hotel Campo Marzio (newly renovated and reopened in 2012) offers a perfect base in the city center of Vicenza, just steps from great shops, churches, palaces, and restaurants.

Friendly Italian hosts, knowledgeable guides, local alumnae, and our expert faculty leader will all work toward making this a memorable trip. The tour will offer cultural insights, outstanding meals, and one-of-a-kind insights into Renaissance Italian life and cultural heritage. We hope you can join us on this unique exploration of Shakespeare’s Italy.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel
This custom travel program has been created uniquely for Smith College.

Sunday, June 11, 2017
Departures
Take independent overnight flights from the U.S. to Venice, Italy.

Monday, June 12, 2017
Benvenuti a Italia
Arrive at Venice Marco Polo Airport and take a private transfer to the charming city of Vicenza, our home for the week. After settling into the centrally located and recently renovated Hotel Campo Marzio, enjoy an elegant welcome dinner of regional specialties at a favorite local restaurant.

Hotel Campo Marzio, Vicenza (D)

Tuesday, June 13, 2017
Palladio’s Vicenza
Meet our local guide for a full-day walking tour of Vicenza, the hometown of famed architect Andrea Palladio, a contemporary of Shakespeare and the most influential architect of the 16th century whose designs continue to inspire modern architects. Visit Palladio’s Palazzo Chiericati, home to Vicenza’s impressive art gallery of masterpieces by Tintoretto and Tiepolo along with drawings by Palladio. Continue on to the Teatro Olimpico, Europe’s oldest surviving indoor theater, which was designed as a “perfect Roman theater” with innovative scenic perspective. Enjoy lunch at a café in the shadow of the impressive Basilica Palladiana. After viewing Palladio’s beautiful, 13th-century church, Santa Corona, drive to the outskirts of the city to see hidden Veronese frescoes. Dinner and the evening are independent.

Hotel Campo Marzio, Vicenza (B, L)

Wednesday, June 14, 2017
‘Fair Padua’
Visit Padua, the charming setting of The Taming of the Shrew. Begin at the Scrovegni Chapel to see Giotto’s fresco cycle, then follow our expert guide to Padua’s historic center for a walking tour including its historic university, vibrant Piazza delle Erbe, and awe-inspiring Basilica di Sant’Antonio. After lunch at a local restaurant, return to the university to tour the Palazzo Bo, home to the world’s first permanent anatomy theater, where the famous physician Andreas Vesalius practiced, and the Aula Magna, or grand hall, where Galileo taught. Shakespeare’s works—and particularly poetry—draw liberally on the vogue for the new sciences. Return to Vicenza, where the evening is independent.

Hotel Campo Marzio, Vicenza (B, L)

Thursday, June 15, 2017
‘ Beauties of Verona’
Drive to romantic Verona, the setting for Romeo and Juliet and The Two Gentlemen of Verona. Upon arrival, meet a local guide and visit the 12th-century Basilica of San Zeno and its beautiful, sparkling altarpiece by Jacopo Bellini and crypt. Continue to the city center with its elegant palaces and quaint piazzas. Stroll through Piazza Erbe, named for Verona’s old herb market and used as a marketplace for 2,000 years. Walk by “Romeo’s House” and “Juliet’s House,” tourist attractions created by an enterprising mayor, which testify to the fictional power of Shakespeare’s star-crossed lovers. After lunch at a local restaurant, make a special visit to the Roman Arena, the third-largest ancient amphitheater in the world, famous for its summer opera festival. Return to Vicenza for an independent evening.

Hotel Campo Marzio, Vicenza (B, L)
**Friday, June 16, 2017**

**Venice Merchants & Maritime Power**

Drive to Venice and meet our revered local guide—born and raised in the city—who will lead us on a Shakespeare-inspired tour of the city. Begin with a walk through the Jewish ghetto including a special visit to its important synagogues, contemporary with Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. Next take private water taxis to the Grand Canal, arriving at the iconic Rialto Bridge, an important Shakespearean landmark. After lunch at a tucked-away neighborhood restaurant, we have special reservations for a behind-the-scenes tour of the newly reborn Teatro La Fenice, Venice's opulent, accursed opera house, whose story was told so memorably in John Berendt's book *The City of Falling Angels*. Conclude the afternoon with a visit to the monumental Arsenale, which once served as the shipyards for the Venetian Republic. Shakespeare lovers will recall that in *The Merchant of Venice* Antonio's money was invested in ships, and the fleet commander Othello set sail from just such an impressive dockyard. Return to Vicenza late this afternoon. The remainder of the day is at leisure. 

**Hotel Campo Marzio, Vicenza (B, L)**

**TOUR COST**

| Land Only .......................................................$4,995 |
| Single Supplement ... $895 |

**LAND ONLY**

Tour price is based on double occupancy with a minimum of 16 paying participants. Land prices are based on quotes of August 2016 and are subject to change.

**DATES** | June 11–19, 2017

**ACTIVITY LEVEL |** Moderate, good walking ability

**DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT |** A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant is required to guarantee participation in the program. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa or MasterCard. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on March 3, 2017 by check only to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrants will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

**FLIGHTS |** Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their round-trip air arrangements into and out of Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE).

**TERMS & CONDITIONS |** International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, Smith College, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. ISDI and Smith College reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS |** All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and are subject to a non-refundable administrative fee of $500 per person. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before March 3, 2017: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or between March 4 and April 27, 2017: 50% of tour cost per person. Cancellations received on or after April 27, 2017: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds can be issued for occasional missed meals or sightseeing tours. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors you are required to spend an additional night, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. © 2016-2017 International Seminar Design, Inc., CST 2072963-40, WST 603578109

**TRAVEL INSURANCE |** Tour cancellation-interruption insurance is strongly recommended. Smith Travel will provide a confirmation letter and travel insurance application, which will be mailed upon receipt of your deposit. Smith Travel and ISDI strongly recommend

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**Saturday, June 17, 2017**

**An Enchanting ‘Sojourn in Mantua’**

This morning depart for the enchanting city of Mantua, which boasts a trove of artistic and architectural gems and is surrounded by artificial lakes fed by the Mincio River. Mantua and its forest are settings in *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*—a forlorn Romeo spends part of his exile here. Discover the Palazzo Ducale on an in-depth tour of this 500-room palace built for Mantua's ruling family, the Gonzagas. Their most powerful and formidable scion, Marchesa Isabella d’Este, supported many of the city’s artists with whom Shakespeare was familiar. The highlight of the palace is the stunning Camera Degli Sposi, or wedding room, painted by Andrea Mantegna. Lunch is included at one of the most charming restaurants in Mantua, a city renowned for its delectable northern Italian specialties. This afternoon, continue on to the Basilica of Sant'Andrea, commissioned by Ludovico II Gonzaga and home to frescoes by painters of Giulio Romano’s school and the tomb of Mantegna. Finally, visit Antonio Bibiena’s Teatro Scientifico Bibiena, an impressively ornate and beautifully preserved

**Hotel Campo Marzio, Vicenza (B, L)**

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theater, named for the spirit of the
Enlightenment. Return to Vicenza for an
independent evening.

**Hotel Campo Marzio, Vicenza (B, L)**

**Sunday, June 18, 2017**

**Palladio’s
La Rotonda**

This morning, visit Andrea Palladio’s
most iconic villa, La Rotonda, for a
private viewing of the villa’s interior,
which is normally closed to the
public. With a symmetrically and
mathematically balanced design, La
Rotonda stands gracefully on a hilltop
with views of the countryside. Return to
Vicenza, where lunch and the afternoon
are independent. Attend an optional
wine tasting at a nearby vineyard. This
evening attend a lavash farewell dinner
at one of the city’s finest restaurants.

**Hotel Campo Marzio, Vicenza (B, D)**

**Monday, June 19, 2017**

**Departures**

Take a group transfer to the Venice
Marco Polo Airport for return flights to
the United States.

(B)
Smith Travel
Office of Alumnae Relations
33 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063
Shakespeare's
Italy
June 11-19, 2017
Gondolas near Piazza San Marco, Venice / Dimitry B.