

Teaching Through Italy: A Guide to In Situ Studies

Winter 2027-28

Directors: Karen T. Moore & Dr. Grant Horner

TENTATIVE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Program Description:

This study program directly addresses literature commonly read in classical education and how to integrate these works with the material evidence bequeathed to us in order to illuminate the lessons they offer. Participants will read selections from the corpus both in translation and in Latin while visiting the sites with which they are connected. Moreover, the workshop will also provide guidance for those who wish to develop their own senior tour of Italy for their individual schools, including the many resources offered by the Vergilian Society. The tour content is based on the ClassicalU course by Moore and Horner, *Teaching Through Italy: A Guide to In Situ Studies*. The workshop will spend three days in Rome, six days at the Villa Vergiliana in Campania, and three days in Florence.

Classroom sessions will be designed with two goals in mind. First, we will explore how best to integrate the studies of the material evidence we experience abroad with the primary texts we read in our classrooms. Thus, we become better equipped to illuminate the Great Texts as we engage students in conversation with them. Second, we will help participants map out student trips to Italy, studying great literature in situ.

Karen T. Moore (MSc) is the Classical Languages Chair at Grace Academy (TX) where she built the third - twelfth grade classical language program. She also serves as the school's Director for the Senior Tour of Italy. Moore is also an adjunct professor of Classics for Houston Christian University and a course lecturer for ClassicalU. Moore holds an MSc with Distinction in Classical Art & Archaeology from the University of Edinburgh. Her research focus is the intersection of primary texts and material evidence. Moore has published several Latin books including *Latin Alive!* with Classical Academic Press. Her current project is a ClassicalU video course and resource text on the topic of in situ studies with Dr. Horner.

Professor **Grant Horner (PhD)** is a senior Humanities scholar at The Master's University in Los Angeles. His specialty is the literature, theology, and philosophy of the Renaissance and Reformation, with a primary concentration in Milton, Shakespeare, Erasmus, and late sixteenth and seventeenth-century intellectual and cultural history. He is the author of *Meaning at the Movies* and several other books. He is the Founder and Director of both the Classical Liberal Arts degree program there and also the TMU in Italy semester abroad program. Horner also

designed the original Humanities program in the Rhetoric School at Trinity Classical Academy, the fastest-growing classical school in the nation, where he taught for several years. Horner has led three dozen academic trips to Italy and lives in Florence every summer.

Readings will include selections from the following authors:

Primary focus: Vergil, Augustine, and Dante

Supplemental Readings: Hrosvitha, Lactantius, Livy, Perpetua, Pliny (Elder and Younger), Proba, Suetonius, Tacitus, Vitruvius

Dec. 28 (Mon): *Early Rome* **Morning classroom session** followed by afternoon at Capitoline Hill, Forum Boarium, Temple of Hercules, Lupercal, Theater of Marcellus (Jewish Ghetto). *Optional:* Circus Maximus.

Lunch & Dinner in Rome

Dec. 29 (Tues): *Imperialism:* Morning explorations of the Forum Romanum & Palatine Hill; Afternoon visits to the Markets of Trajan, Imperial Fora, and Column of Trajan. *Optional:* Basilica of San Clemente

Lunch & Dinner in Rome

Dec. 30 (Wed): *Age of Augustus:* **Morning classroom session** followed by visits to the Palazzo Massimo, Ara Pacis, Mausoleum of Augustus, and Pantheon. *Optional:* Piazza Navona and the Stadium of Domitian.

Lunch & Dinner in Rome

Dec. 31(Thurs): *Ports and Villas along the Sea:* Travel to the Villa Vergiliana along the coastal route with stops at Ostia Antica and Sperlonga.

Lunch – auto grill; Dinner at Villa Vergiliana

Jan. 1 (Fri): *Orientation to Campania:* **Morning classroom session** followed by afternoon visit to vineyard and wine tasting. Visit the Sibyl's cave and religious sites at Cumae.

Lunch at vineyard, Dinner at Villa

Jan. 2 (Sat): *Roman City A:* Visit Herculaneum and hike Mt. Vesuvius.

Bag lunch, dinner at Villa

Jan. 3 (Sun): Time of worship or Reflection (optional group devotion at the Villa, service at nearby church, or quiet time on your own). Pizza lunch, and National Archaeological Museum of Naples.

Lunch at Neapolitan Pizzeria, Dinner at Villa followed by evening discussion

Jan. 4 (Mon): *Roman City B: Pompeii*

Bag lunch, dinner at Villa

Jan. 5 (Tues): *Baia & Puteoli:* Visit Baia Museum and Roman Baths, return to Villa for lunch, then visit Lake Avernus & Amphitheater in Pozzuoli

Lunch & dinner at Villa followed by evening discussion

Jan. 6 (Wed): *Moving to the Renaissance:* Frecciarosa train to Florence. Visit the Academy and Duomo climb (Bell Tower Climb alternative)

Lunch & Dinner in Florence

Jan. 7 (Thurs): Uffizi Museum and Duomo Piazza; optional miscellaneous sites; evening discussion session

Lunch & Dinner in Florence

Jan. 8 (Fri): Options (one of two): Santa Croce and Boboli Gardens or Archaeological Museum

Lunch out & Dinner at Brandolino's

Participants depart from Florence or continue their own explorations.