Dear Members and Friends,

Venice. The very name conjures images of stunning Renaissance palaces, reflected in the water of the beautiful canals atop which they “float.” Romantic gondolas, the strains of Vivaldi’s glorious compositions, the lingering magnificence of ducal grandeur, and the artistic treasures of Venice’s many museums and galleries: These are but a few of the rewards awaiting La Serenissima’s visitors. Add to this the wonders of the island of Murano (known for its centuries-old glass art tradition) and the Veneto, with its remarkable Palladian villas, and it is clear: Venice is the perfect place to enjoy la dolce vita.

It is that Venice that we will be exploring for ten magical days this October, when we launch the Lowe’s new Cultural Tours program in Venice and the Veneto. This exclusive tour includes expertly guided visits to some of the city’s most famous sites as well as behind-the-scenes experiences at a range of artistic and cultural monuments. In addition, as a specialist in 18th-century Italian art, I will be traveling with you throughout the program. We will be accompanied by UM Professor of Architecture, Dr. Victor Deupi, a scholar of 18th-century Italian architecture who has written extensively on Palladio, 16th-century Venice’s most important architect and designer.

I hope you will consider joining me as we explore the place where land, sea, and sky merge in an imaginably beautiful way. In the meantime, I invite you to explore our itinerary in the pages that follow. Please note that space is very limited.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jill Deupi
Beaux Arts Director and
Chief Curator
VENICE & THE VENETO

October 8 to 17, 2015

MIAMI

Thursday, October 8  Depart Miami on an overnight flight to Venice.

VENICE

Friday, October 9  On arrival in Venice, board our private water taxi and cruise the canals to the deluxe Hotel Europa & Regina, located on the Grand Canal near St. Mark's Square. After lunch at the hotel, a walking tour gives us an overview of the city. This evening gather for welcome remarks, followed by dinner.

VENICE

Saturday, October 10  Today admire St. Mark's Square, then discover the Doge's Palace, seat of the government of Venice for centuries. The palace exemplifies the splendor of the Venetian state and is richly adorned with artistic masterpieces by Titian, Veronese, and Tintoretto. Following lunch, visit the outstanding Peggy Guggenheim Collection, where we will be greeted by the Director. The collection includes major works by some of the greatest artists of the 20th century such as Picasso, Miró, Magritte, Dali, and Rothko. Jill Deupi's extensive knowledge of the history and theory of museums will also contribute to our experience at this unique institution. Later, a cocktail boat tour around the Venice Lagoon cruises by the Lido, Isola di Santo Servolo, Armeni, and San Giorgio. The remainder of the evening is free.

Sunday, October 11  This morning travel by private water taxi to see two masterpieces by Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio: the island church of San Giorgio Maggiore and, on Giudecca Island, his "Il Redentore" church. Attend a hands on cooking class in Villa Ines' stunning kitchen, where you will have lunch at the chef's private residence. Then visit the Biennale, one of the most famous and prestigious cultural organizations in the world, for a guided curatorial tour. Dinner is on your own; you may wish to ask for suggestions from the Deupis, who are very familiar with regional specialties in the Veneto, having led many cultural tours in the area.

VENICE

Monday, October 12  Explore the treasures of the city's greatest museum, the Accademia, with works by Bellini, Titian, Tintoretto, and Veronese. In the afternoon, visit local galleries specializing in glass. This evening, we will dine at the Grand Canal palazzo of Contessa Leila Passi. Also a passionate cook, the Contessa will prepare the gourmet dinner herself.
Thursday, October 15  Spend a day devoted to Palladio in Vicenza, the city he lived, worked and prospered in, where we will benefit from Dr. Victor Deupi’s research on the great architect’s influences and legacy. Begin at the Teatro Olimpico, the oldest surviving indoor theater in the world and the architect’s final work. A visit to Palazzo Valmarana Braga, a masterpiece of the mature Palladio, precedes lunch. Then stroll through the historic city center to see the basilica Palladio adapted to serve as the town hall; the palaces he built for the Vicenza aristocracy; and the Church of Santa Corona, with its masterpieces by Bellini and Veronese. Drive to La Rotonda, whose central dome was said to have been inspired by the Roman Pantheon. The rest of the evening and dinner are at leisure.

VENECE | MURANO

Tuesday, October 13  Travel to nearby Murano and discover the island’s history during a walking tour. Spend the morning in the studios of local artists to learn about contemporary themes and techniques. After lunch, visit the Fattoria Seguso and observe the art of glass-blowing. Meet Giampaolo Seguso, whose family has been making glass on this island for more than 600 years. Dr. Jill Deupi is intimately familiar with his work, having curated a major exhibition on Seguso when she directed the Bellarmine Museum at Fairfield University. Enjoy a private tour of the Museo Vetrario and stop at San Donato Church before returning to the hotel by private water taxi. You may wish to dine in one of Venice’s fine restaurants this evening.

VENECE | VENETO

Wednesday, October 14  Begin the morning at Ca’ Rezzonico, a palazzo-turned-museum dedicated to 18th-century Venice, where the Deupis’ expertise in the art and architecture of this period will enhance our visit. Then stop at I Frari, where the beautiful choir stalls and Titian’s monumental Assumption of the Virgin are highlights. After lunch, continue to the Scuola di San Rocco, whose collection includes remarkable paintings by Tintoretto. Transfer by motorcoach to the Veneto and check in at Villa Michelangelo, a luxury hotel that was once an 18th-century aristocratic mansion, before gathering for dinner.

Friday, October 16  This morning visit Villa Maser, arguably the finest and best preserved of Palladio’s villas. View the frescoes by Veronese, great Venetian Renaissance painter and friend of Palladio. Then continue to the newly restored Villa Emo, the only villa designed by Palladio for that eminent family. Drive to Piombino Dese for lunch. During a private visit at Villa Cornaro, one of Palladio’s masterpieces from the early 1530s, meet the owners Carl Gable and his wife Sally, whom Victor Deupi knows personally. Return to the hotel for a festive farewell dinner.

VENETO | MIAMI

Wednesday, October 17  Depart for the airport and return flights home.
**PROGRAM RATE PER PERSON $7,995**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT 1,250**

**RATE INCLUDES**
- 8 nights accommodations, as per itinerary
- Breakfast daily; seven lunches and four dinners with bottled water, coffee / tea and wine
- Airport / hotel group transfers for suggested group flights
- Touring as per itinerary, including services of bilingual national guide as needed
- Entrances fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service charges, porterage charges and gratuities to local guides and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATE**
- Airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages except for local wine at lunches and dinners; personal expenses; trip insurance; transfers for guests not using suggested group flights; any other items not specifically included.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

**AIRFARE**
Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA) will be pleased to assist with air travel arrangements for this program, including specially negotiated group airfare when available, suggested group flights, or your own individual requests, for a processing fee of $40 per person. Complete details will be provided in your confirmation mailing.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE**
A deposit of $1,500 per person, payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad, of which $350 is nonrefundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment, by check or wire transfer only, must be received 120 days before departure.

**HEALTH**
All participants must be in good health. This program involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces, climbing stairs at monuments and other locations not handicapped, accessible, and climbing in and out of various conveyances. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation.

**INSURANCE**
Trip Cancellation / Emergency Medical Evacuation / Baggage / Accident And Sickness Insurance Protection. It is strongly recommended that participants purchase insurance coverage for the duration of their stay. (AAA) will send an insurance application upon receipt of deposit, although you may select any insurer of your choice.

**CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS**
The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Lowe Art Museum (LAM) and AAA. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares, and currency exchange rates in effect at time of brochure printing and are subject to change without notice. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual.

**RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE**
The participation of LAM is limited to educational sponsorship of the program described in this brochure (The Program). AAA acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services, relating to The Program. AAA, LAM, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error, or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity that may be occasioned by reason of 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 Program. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. Nor will AAA or LAM and/or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages, or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts of nature, or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. Neither AAA nor LAM is responsible for transportation or other program delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to AAA or LAM. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the participant at all times. AAA and LAM reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by AAA or LAM to be in the best interest of the participant’s health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

**CANCELLATION POLICY**
AAA must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; ship charters; communication expenses; development / promotional expenses; and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to the offices of AAA and are subject to a $350 non-refundable administrative fee. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by AAA and are the sole responsibility of AAA; LAM shall have no liability for refunds. At the time AAA receives written notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: cancellations received between 120 and 91 days prior to departure, 20 percent of the program cost per person; those received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent of the program cost per person; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason. Air cancellation charges, if any, will be assessed in accordance with airline regulations. All group fare tickets must be issued no less than 30 days prior to departure.

NOTE: Neither AAA nor LAM shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket. In the case of a cancellation due to shortage of participants, AAA will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to departure. However, AAA reserves the right to cancel The Program prior to departure for any reason and, in such case, reimbursement of refundable costs of the trip by AAA shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and AAA or LAM, the following conditions will apply: (a) the dispute will be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in New York, NY; (b) the dispute will be governed by New York Law; (c) the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all monies actually received from the participant by AAA. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation on the damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon payment of the deposit to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

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**LOWE ART MUSEUM | RESERVATION APPLICATION**

**VENICE & THE VENETO | OCTOBER 8 TO 17, 2015**

**To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,500 per person (of which $350 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10018-3721.**

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**On the front cover: Grand Canal, Venice**

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