

8 – 14 May 2018



*Co.Cathedral of St. John*

## **In the Footsteps of Caravaggio (1571 – 1610)**

This Tour covers Caravaggio's last years in Malta and Sicily, two of his most famous periods. He was at first feted and welcomed by the Knights of Malta in the island's capital "Valletta" which will be European Capital of Culture in 2018. Although fleeing from justice, he was still made a Knight of Malta and here he left his most magnificent work "The Decollation of the Baptist" in the Co.Cathedral of St. John



*Caravaggio. The Decollation of the Baptist*

The greatest painter by far to have worked in Malta, our visit to his two remaining works with the works of Mattia Preti and others in Malta's Cathedral and Museums plus the island's natural beauty, make this an essential Tour - unique to the eye and the spirit. The island's exciting history since 5000 BC is worth exploring and it is still visible in its Neolithic Temples reputed to be the oldest standing structures in the world.

But Caravaggio's life journey did not end here. Within a year of his arrival, having picked a fight with another (aristocratic) Knight, Michelangelo was judged and thrown into the Knights' prison in Fort St Angelo from where he made a spectacular and audacious escape.



*Caravaggio. The Raising Of Lazarus*

Here he was received and helped by his great friend from Rome, the painter Mario Minniti. Having developed in Malta a new and enhanced chiaroscuro technique while recreating within the painting the background ambience and atmosphere (using almost a different brush stroke) Caravaggio painted in Siracusa "The Burial of Saint Lucy" for the Church of S.ta Lucia alla Badia, the magnificent Raising of Lazarus and the Adoration of the Shepherds, now in the Regional Museum of Messina. We will visit both towns of Siracusa and Messina, to follow our subject in those last dramatic years, when he was running away from the Knights of Malta relentless in their pursuit of people considered traitors, although judged by themselves in favour of their own aristocratic Members.

The Tour will take place in May, one of the most beautiful seasons of the year both in Malta and Sicily. In Malta the quaint cafe's and wine bars, where we will enjoy our evening meals, will provide us with the magnificent vistas of Malta's Grand Harbour, said to be the most beautiful of the Mediterranean.

Moving to Sicily on our way to Siracusa it is particularly splendid on the River Ciane where we will do a beautiful excursion by boat up the river to Fonte Ciane to see the lush Papyrus plants. On the bank of the river we will be accompanied by the beauty and scent of the orange blossom.

The Tour will be accompanied by Dr Rosa Maria Letts, Art Historian and a specialist on Caravaggio, who will give two evening talks in Malta and Messina on the artist's dramatic events reflected in his works, style and technique.

## **ITINERARY**

### **Tuesday 8 May**

Flights will be confirmed a little nearer the date. We will be met at Malta's International Airport and transferred to Victoria Hotel [www.victoriahotel.com](http://www.victoriahotel.com)

In the afternoon we will start with a guided visit to the Knights of Malta Hospital followed by an audiovisual show which brings 7000 years of Malta's history to life in a brief 45 minutes.

Dinner on the Harbour (by invitation).

### **Wednesday 9 May**

Visit to the Barrakka Gardens, St John's Co.Cathedral which boasts the famous Caravaggio masterpieces and Mattia Preti's paintings. We will then go to the Grand Master's Palace.

### **Thursday 10 May**

Visit to the old Capital of Malta "Mdina" located in the central part of the Island. While in Mdina, visit to the Wignacourt Museum in Rabat.

After lunch visit the Southern part of the island in order to discover the historical area known as the Three Cities "Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea".

Dinner (by invitation)

### **Friday 11 May**

Depart by Ferry to Pozzallo, Sicily. En route to Siracusa we will have a boat tour on the river Ciane to reach the Fonte Ciane where are still plants of Papyrus. We will then proceed to our Hotel, Grand Hotel Ortigia, in Siracusa [www.grandhotelortigia.it](http://www.grandhotelortigia.it)

**Dinner** (by invitation) on the Seafront.

### **Saturday 12 May**

Walking Tour of the island of Ortigia, visiting the magnificent Piazza with the Cathedral and Caravaggio's "Burial of Saint Lucy" in the nearby Church of S.ta Lucia alla Badia. Visit to the Bellotto Museum and to the magnificent Greek and Roman remains in the Archeological Park of Neapolis.

Evening Free.

Optional: performance in the Greek Theatre in the Archeological Park of Neapolis.

### **Sunday 13 May**

Day in Messina to visit the Regional Museum where are Caravaggio's Adoration of the Shepherds and the Raising of Lazarus.

Dinner (by invitation) overlooking the sea on our return journey

### **Monday 14 May**

Morning - Free time in Siracusa.

Transfer to Catania Airport for return Flights.

---

**COST:** *to include 6 nights b&b, transport throughout including Ferry crossing, 4 dinners, guiding, entrance fees.*

**£1600**

**Single supplement £300**

Members receive a 10% discount and Friends – 5% discount

**If you are only interested in the visit to Malta the basic cost is £800**

**FLIGHTS NOT INCLUDED**

**Please pay as detailed below:**

---

**To book contact *Accademia Italiana / Artstur* - Tel: **07720812183****

email: [artstur@gmail.com](mailto:artstur@gmail.com) - web: [www.artstur.com](http://www.artstur.com)

Payment: should be made by bank transfer as follows: Bank: CARDONEBANKING - Name: Artstur Ltd; Sort Code: 23 18 84; Account: 78597529 or by cheque payable to Artstur Ltd (now subject to a £2 surcharge), should be sent to Artstur, 55 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PN

---