

**CTE**  
**GO**



# **RONTA 2018 (ITALY) & BARROSSA 2019 (SPAIN)**



What kind of holiday appeals to you? Our approach is unique. We have promoted adult education holiday programmes for a quarter of a century inspired by the strap line *“residential adult education for retired people for fun”* in Spain Italy, France and the UK. They have also adhered to two main principles: they last a relatively long time: they contain more content than most if not all other providers.

This is because the philosophy is simple *“if you keep your mind alive and complete a little exercise you will live longer and enjoy a better life”*.

We also try to find interesting and stimulating venues where we try to live rather than just holiday. It’s a kind of holistic approach to education which we hope you will find attractive.

The purpose of this newsletter is to invite you to consider joining our month long programme in October in Italy. The rest of this letter will give you information about the venture: what is involved, how much it costs, what is unique about it. Like most things access is restricted to around one hundred people.

## **LIVE IN THE MUGELLO TO EXPERIENCE ITALY AS YOU NEVER HAVE TILL NOW**



Ronta home to the Marrani Hotel is just a small village set amongst the trees of the Mugello. More about it and the family who run it over the page. For now let us point out that a railway line runs through our location. Using it you can go to much of north and central Italy . You could visit Florence and eat out by the Arno or go north and west to see the Byzantine mosaics at Ravenna. During the month there is a chestnut festival in Marradi, a small town further in to the Mugello. There will be outings to places you cannot easily reach by public transport: Siena Lucca, and other really fascinating places. Don’t miss out Join us.

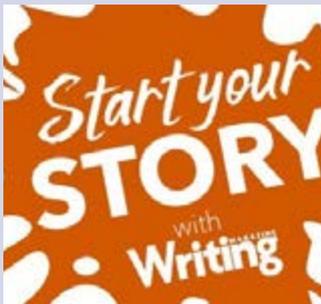
**Residential adult education for retired people for fun.**



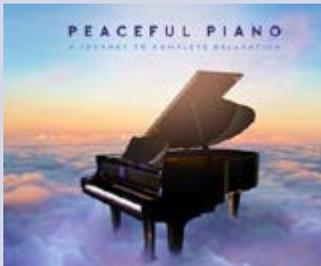
So what is the content you will enjoy?



Painting



Writing



Music



- Keeping Fit
- Concerts
- Italian food
- Good conversation
- Interesting fellow guests
- The rural environment but with access to cities and tourist attractions.

## It's all about "Content" "People" "Places" "Hospitality"

So let's chat about this programme. What is so unique about it? Well for starters its location is unusual. It was just a village hotel but now the Marrani family have turned it into a thriving business. The situation you can gauge from the picture on the front page of this newsletter is rural and apart from the village it feels that it is deep in the Mugello woods. So its quiet and peaceful. It might be isolated but it's not. Why because there is the railway just up the road: there are sufficient trains to let you visit many of the great places in this part of the world including Florence, Pisa Faenza, Ravenna and further afield if you are prepared to get up early.

But the hotel lends itself to being a really great place for groups. Look at the picture again: the main residential part of the hotel is like a housing estate. Confirm all this by studying the website ([www.hotelmarrani.it](http://www.hotelmarrani.it)) you will see the houses. So your group can take it its own house and so be in Italy with its own space. In a way finding them-selves able to enjoy the best of both worlds. Where else can you find a situation like this. Reminds me of a Dutchman I met when I first came here: "*Great place this been here seven times, already and twice this year*". This was a small tribute to the great hospitality you will find here. We have forty odd years experience of places in Italy and Claudia's standard of care is scarcely ever equalled. You will get a great time, a serious welcome and a period to remember. That's remarkable and unique. Take the opportunity to spend time here while it's still available.

Most of its working personnel are family members. Great grandmother can often be found manning the main bar. Claudia is the matriarch and she makes certain you are welcome and that you are well fed and feel at home. She creates the family atmosphere and is always busy. Her two sons are the fulcrum of the place. Francesco is the oldest and he with his wife Daniela is in control of the kitchen where homemade pasta is produced along with many other great dishes. Over a fortnight here we had twenty-eight meals without ever seeing the same thing twice! Riccardo the youngest is in effect the administrator whose job it is to make sure that everything runs smoothly . He is very good at doing that .

### So here is the basic information you need.

**This programme will be restricted to one hundred people. So early booking is advised. Use the booking form to be found with this newsletter.**

**Dates: October 1st to 30th. Prices 1 week- £550/ 2 weeks - £950/ 4 weeks - £1750**

**Basis: Full board, travel to Bologna or Pisa for transfer: from Gatwick, Bristol. Manchester Liverpool Leeds Nottingham Birmingham Glasgow Edinburgh**

**Whilst we hope to retain these prices unchanged we have to take account of the great uncertainty all around us and let you know they are based on the £ not falling below 1.10 to the Euro Prices may vary too according to which airport you fly from.**

**Refer to our websites : [www.cteitaly.net](http://www.cteitaly.net) / [www.ctespain.net](http://www.ctespain.net)  
Phone 01228-523724 01228-526795 Mobile: 07846461781.**

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## **SAM RYALL WILL BE MAKING MUSIC ALL THE TIME**

Sam's first professional engagement was accompanying ballet classes on piano at age eleven and throughout high school. He graduated from Colchester Institute's School of Music and has since worked on cruise ships, for Walt Disney Company and plays keyboards in a great function band. He MDs theatre shows and pantomime and plays piano recitals and church organ as well as running local ukulele groups and a choir. He looks forward to leading ukulele groups, choirs, piano recitals and evening music sessions whilst at Mugello and can even give a few instrument lessons while we're there!



**Sam is very excited to be involved in the trip and is hoping that all the amazing food will still let him occupy just a single seat on the way home.**

## **Melvyn Randall will be providing watercolour painting class tuition and demonstrations.**

Growing up in Somerset, I always enjoyed drawing and remember from a very early age being given a pencil, crayons and paper by my parents. On reflection, this was more to keep me quiet for an hour or so rather than their expectations of me becoming an artist. As the school years went by I 'dabbled' with painting in various mediums including watercolour. I decided back then that watercolour was far too difficult to master as I always ended up with a total mess and could never make any progress!

Thankfully over the years and having learnt from my previous mistakes, I now enjoy both the satisfaction one is able to achieve with painting in watercolour along with helping those starting out or improving in this challenging medium.

All of these artists advocated painting on site, as indeed J M W Turner and many of the French Impressionists did. There is a lot to be gained from this way of painting as you feel closer with nature and in true contact with your subject.

Additional subjects will be Creative Writing and Keeping Fit and maybe anything you can bring with you.



**Portofino Harbour, by Melvyn Randall**



**Cottages in Suffolk, by Melvyn Randall**

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# BAROSSA PALACE HOTEL



## February 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019 A 5 STAR PROGRAMME



We have used this space to tell you about a change to our published brochure programme. Barossa Park hotel will again be closed next year so our activities will be conducted in the five star Palace Hotel at a slightly higher price than that indicated in the brochure for the twenty-third running of this event. The basic facts are given here and the content booklet will be available later. Participation is limited to the occupancy of thirty-five rooms. So if you are keen to take part please complete a booking form, you will find one with this newsletter. Thanks

### Basic Facts

Prices: Two weeks - £1750 / Four weeks - £2800

Half-board basis, flights, transfers plus all activities are all included in this package.

Flights from some airport may include a small supplement to the overall price.

Prices subject to £1 = 1.10 euros

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