

Women Writing for (a) Change & Casa Erica Travel present

LE VOCE DELLA DONNE

THE VOICES OF THE WOMEN

Women's Writing Retreat

JUNE 1 - 7, 2026
UMBRIA, ITALY



Dearest Friend,

Welcome to La Voce Delle Donne—“The Voices of the Women”—our 2026 writing retreat, created in partnership with Casa Erica Retreats and Women Writing for (a) Change Jacksonville. Together, we’ll journey into ancient lands to explore healing gardens, whispered stories of generations past, and the living art of Italy—from local village artisans to the Renaissance masters. With writing as our guide, you are invited to slow down, breathe deeply, and let your words rise in harmony with the timeless landscapes that surround you.

From Rome, we’ll travel to the medieval village of Lubriano, where we’ll stay in a restored monastery on the site of the town’s historic healing garden. Beneath Lubriano’s cobblestones lie the echoes of the Etruscans—a people whose women were celebrated for their wisdom and influence, rare in the ancient world. To walk these streets or linger among the vines is to feel that enduring lineage of resilience and care still alive in the air and earth of this place.

Each day will unfold like a page waiting to be written. Meals crafted with love, wines drawn from neighboring hillsides, and the steady rhythm of village life will nourish both body and spirit. Into this gentle cadence we’ll weave our writing circles—spaces of reflection and discovery where pen and page open new doorways. Here, your voice may soften, strengthen, or surprise you, supported by women writing beside you in a circle of shared connection.

Adventure, too, will be part of our story. We’ll visit local vineyards, take part in a hands-on cooking class, and journey to Florence to experience the art that inspired our current theme, Bodies and Faces—the same theme that has grounded the writing and art at Women Writing for (a) Change Jacksonville this year.

Between moments of quiet creation, you’ll find space to wander through gardens, chat with friendly townspeople, or simply sit in stillness as the hills roll endlessly toward the horizon. In this slowing down, stories of the self and the land begin to surface—stories that bring joy, insight, and renewed connection.

The hills, the vineyards, the ancient stones—all invite you into a rhythm where time loosens its grip. Our hope is that when you return home, you carry not only memories and words, but also a lasting sense of rest, joy, and belonging.

Jennifer and Heather



AN ALL-INCLUSIVE TAILORED EXPERIENCE

YOUR STAY & PLAY PACKAGE INCLUDES:



LODGING



Six nights, seven days in a beautifully restored ancient Umbrian villa with panoramic countryside views.

TRANSPORTATION



Car transportation to all activities is covered during the duration of your retreat.

ALL MEALS & WINE



From dining at local farm-to-table restaurants, to wine tastings and in-home meals prepared by our private chef, delicious, fresh meals and superb wines are included.*

TICKETS & ADMISSION



Access to all planned events, sites, experiences and attractions is included. Any tour guides are also included.

**For two lunches, you'll be on your own, dining recommendations provided if desired. All other meals are fully included. What's not included? Airfare and transfers to Lubriano, speciality wines and cocktails, and personal purchases.*

EXPLORE

Every group we host is a unique adventure.
Just a glimpse of the La Dolce Vita journey:



EXPLORE ORVIETO

Visit Orvieto, a stunning hilltop city where ancient winding streets lead to charming restaurants, vibrant art, and rich history. The shopping here is outstanding, with beautiful artisan goods at a fraction of Rome's prices. We'll tour the breathtaking Duomo, a masterpiece of Italian Gothic architecture.



LE VELETTE COOKING SCHOOL

Learn the ancient art of Umbrian cooking with a talented chef. At a stunning estate cared for by the same family for seven generations, we'll tour the grounds and Etruscan-era wine cellars before rolling up our sleeves. The day ends with a delicious wine-paired meal we've created together.



D'AMICO WINERY

Discover Villa Tirrena, the acclaimed D'Amico winery, where rolling vineyards meet timeless elegance. Stroll through their world-class sculpture garden before exploring the Etruscan-era wine cellars carved into volcanic stone. We'll conclude with a tasting of their exceptional wines. It is a perfect pairing of art, history, and flavor.



LAKE BOLSENA

We'll visit beautiful Lake Bolsena - its lakeside town is known for its sparkling waters, lovely boutiques, medieval streets, and lively piazzas. We'll enjoy a leisurely stroll along the shore, taking in the views before stopping for lunch on the lake, and a refreshing gelato by the water's edge.

YOUR TRIP, YOUR WAY

No two travelers are alike. One day of the retreat is reserved for your what speaks to you. Each experiences offers its own unforgettable way to savor Italy.

VILLAGE DAY

a slow, restful day in Lubriano with various optional activities

You asked, and we listened. One of the most requested days is here—a chance to slow down and experience life in our charming village, surrounded by rolling hills and timeless beauty. The day is yours to unwind, with a few optional activities designed to help you slip easily into the rhythm of authentic Italian village life.

FLORENCE

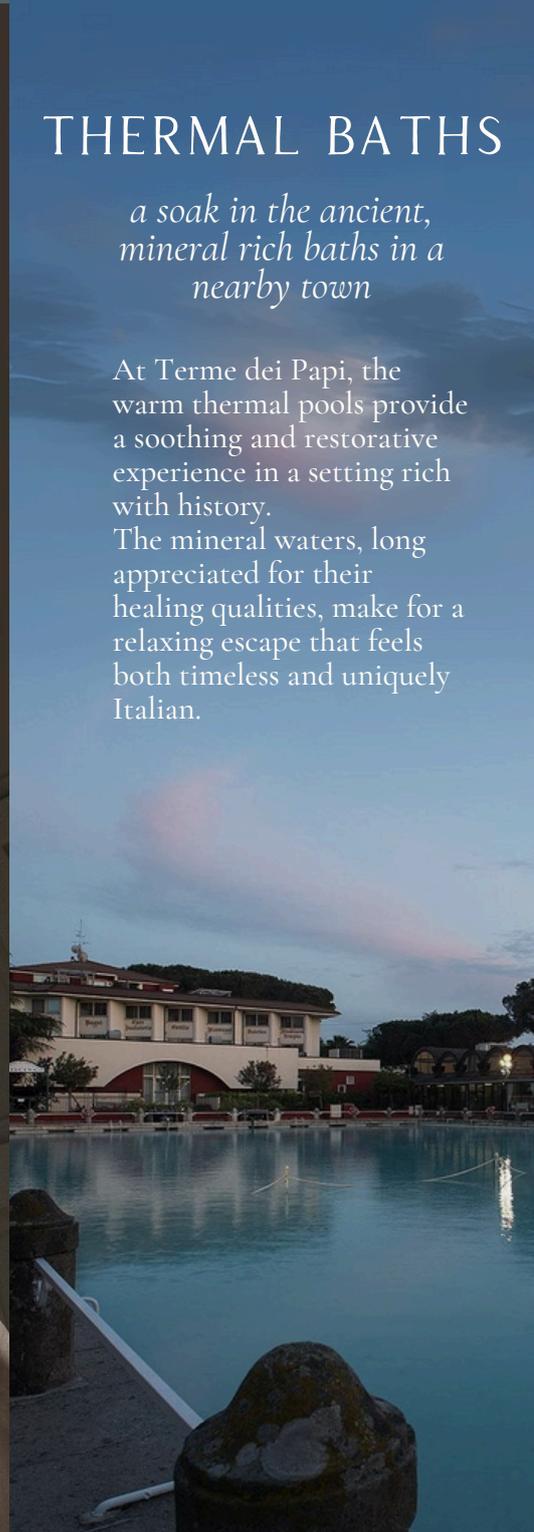
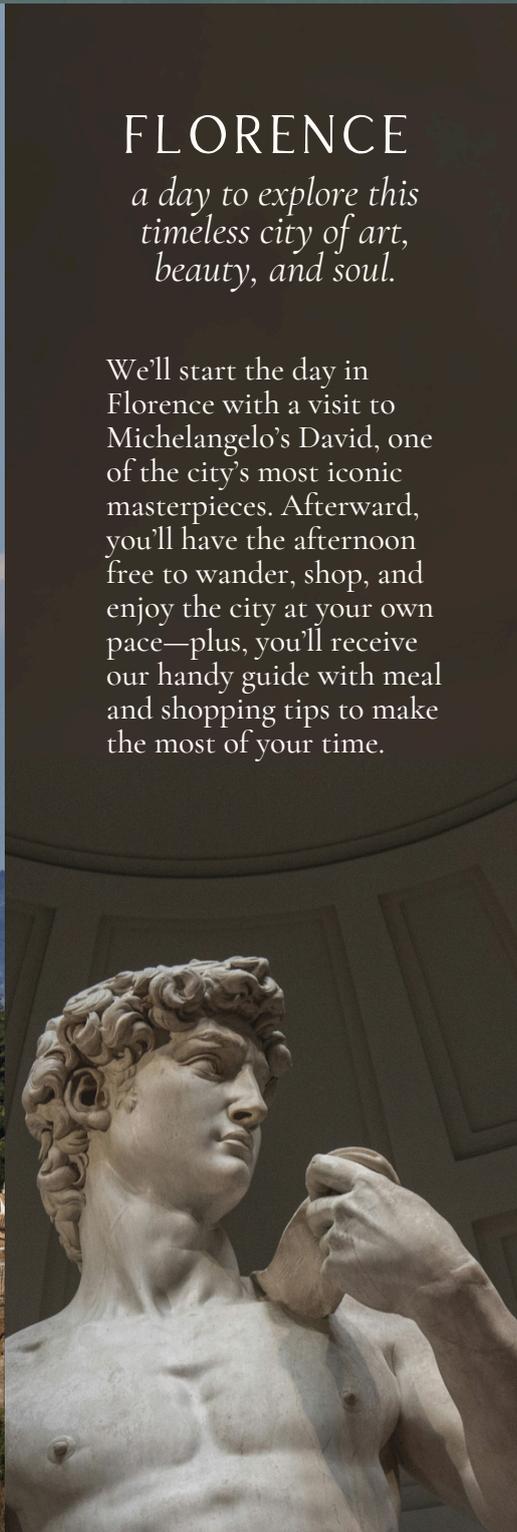
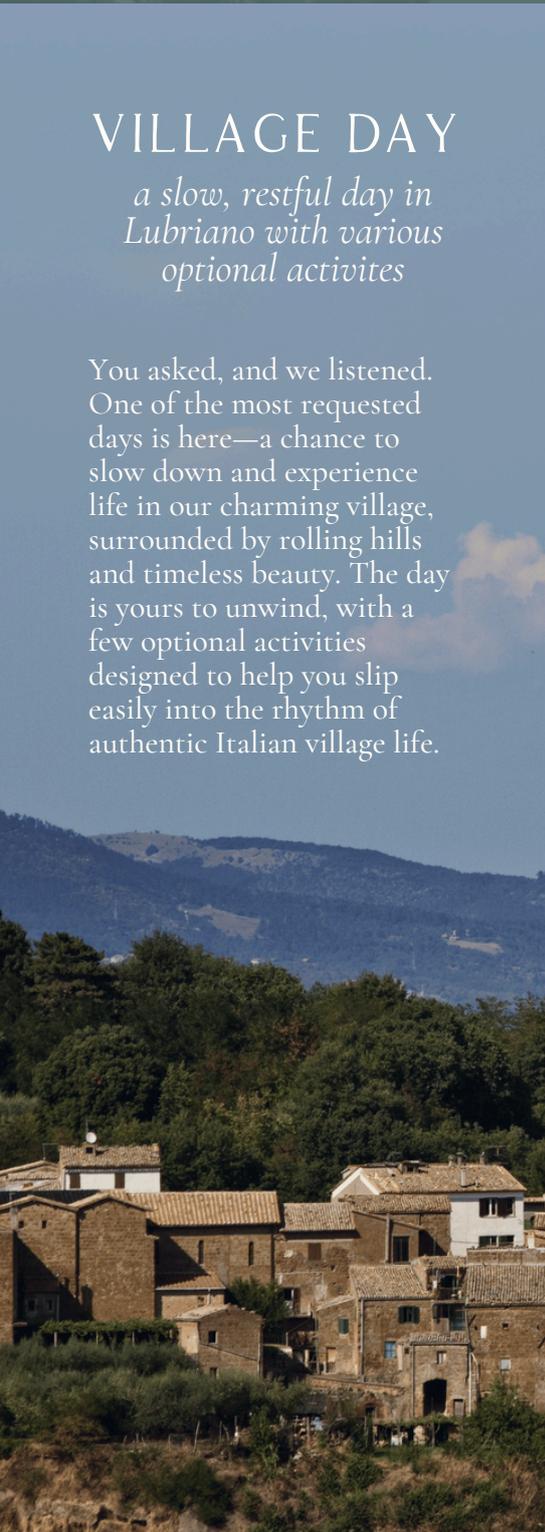
a day to explore this timeless city of art, beauty, and soul.

We'll start the day in Florence with a visit to Michelangelo's David, one of the city's most iconic masterpieces. Afterward, you'll have the afternoon free to wander, shop, and enjoy the city at your own pace—plus, you'll receive our handy guide with meal and shopping tips to make the most of your time.

THERMAL BATHS

a soak in the ancient, mineral rich baths in a nearby town

At Terme dei Papi, the warm thermal pools provide a soothing and restorative experience in a setting rich with history. The mineral waters, long appreciated for their healing qualities, make for a relaxing escape that feels both timeless and uniquely Italian.



Add-on activities, such as private dinners, in-home massages, medicinal plant walks, and more, are available upon request. Please enquire for pricing and availability.



Dearest Writers,

My grandmother, born **Rose Luminello**, was the eldest daughter of two Italian immigrants who left the town of **Tora e Piccilli** at just thirteen and sixteen. They came to America seeking a better life—made and lost three fortunes—and survived the Great Depression by joining forces with other families to share food and work. My grandmother walked five miles each way to her job at a country club. A trained elocutionist, she dreamed of becoming an opera singer, but life took her elsewhere: to Western Electric, where she became a supervisor; to a bowling league; to a life of steadfast devotion to family. She survived two difficult marriages and taught me how to make chicken soup, spaghetti sauce, and stuffed manicotti. No Christmas was complete without her shrimp scampi.

She also did my mother's bookkeeping on the Pennsylvania farm where we grew up, bringing Italian delicacies from New Jersey to brighten our winters—imported cheer against coal furnaces, grey skies, and the bleating of newborn lambs.

Those were halcyon days for my sisters and me. Yet we never fully appreciated our family history, hearing only whispers and fragments. Now, with only one aunt and a few older cousins left, we find ourselves piecing together the larger story—asking, what was it really like for them?

I visited Italy once, as a college student—New Year's in Venice, pizza in Rome, Michelangelo's David and the gardens of Florence—but I barely brushed the surface. I didn't yet feel the connection in my bones—to the bodies, the faces, the stories that made me.

Now feels like the time. To return. To listen. To write.

On this retreat, I long to explore Italy's deeper stories—the ones rooted in soil and seed, in food and faith, in art and ancestry. The bodies and faces, the gardens and kitchens, the wisdom preserved through generations of women tending both land and love.

And when in Rome... we will indeed do as the Romans do: eat, drink, talk, linger, and write—capturing the sensory and spiritual textures of where we are. Then, moving on to the medieval village of Lubriano, we'll sink into the deeper story—a healing garden of all that has shaped us. A trip to Florence, fresh foods, cooking classes, and vineyards, will round out a full sensory experience of all that Italy has to offer.

Join me for days steeped in ancestry, art, and the beauty of shared writing. Together, we will write toward a more rooted, radiant vision of the future—one nourished by the stories and souls that brought us here.

With warmth and anticipation,

Jennifer Wolfe

Writer-facilitator Jennifer Wolfe has led hundreds of writing circles for women a naturalist and a birder, she's a journalist by training and a writer by passion. She founded Women Writing for (a) Change Jacksonville 10 years ago to create a safe and supportive space for women writers and has traveled widely with her journal in hand. Read more about Jennifer [here](#).



women writing for (a) change jacksonville
Writing to Transform Ourselves and Our Communities

ACCOMODATIONS



LUBRIANO

Casa Erica is nestled in the storybook village of Lubriano, Umbria—a hilltop town of just 800 residents dating back to the 12th century. Overlooking the breathtaking Civita di Bagnoregio, famously known as Italy’s “Dying City,” Lubriano is as steeped in history as it is in beauty.

Built on ancient Etruscan ruins, the village once thrived as a regional hub for crafting pottery vessels used to store herbs and medicines in medieval times.

Today, its charm endures in the rhythm of daily life: tiny grocers, excellent family-run, restaurants, two Renaissance-era churches, a post office, pharmacy, coffee shops, and even a wine bar, all within walking distance.

Just an hour north of Rome, two hours south of Florence, and a short drive from Orvieto, Lubriano offers both the intimacy of small-town Italy and the ease of access to its cultural capitals.



Lodging

The Casa Erica estate, for which we are named, is a fully-restored 15th-century Jesuit Monastery. Now renovated into three separate, comfortable homes, each opening to a private traditional Italian garden. Each house possesses its own living area, kitchen, bedrooms, and bathrooms. Two boast sweeping views of Civita di Bagnoregio, the third looks onto the garden.

The garden, the largest in Lubriano, has several beautiful patios, a large pergola with a table for 20+ guests, a vegetable garden, and a variety of fruit and olive trees under which to relax. All lodgings are culturally protected, and carefully restored and maintained to strict historical standards.

COST

SINGLE OCCUPANCY

\$4700 per person

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

\$4200 per person

- A \$1500 deposit is due upon registration
- The remainder of the balance will be due in equal installments on February 1st and April 1st.
- We will send invoice reminders on the appropriate dates.
- Please inquire if you would like to discuss a custom payment plan.

NEXT STEPS

1

REGISTER

Click the link below to register for the retreat.

2

DEPOSIT AND WAIVER

Shortly after you register, you'll receive an invoice for your deposit, along with an attached waiver to sign and return.

3

WELCOME PACKET

Once we receive your deposit and waiver, we'll send along our welcome packet—complete with important dates, a packing list and travel tips.

4

BOOK YOUR FLIGHT

Use our travel agent or book your own flight into Rome.

[CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER](#)

THE TEAM



Heather Deyo

Born from Heather's lifelong love of exploration, her deep devotion to authentic cultural connection, and her passion for sharing both with curious travelers, Casa Erica was founded. Raised in South Africa, she began exploring the world as a child and later spent a decade in global nonprofit work, shaping a perspective rooted in curiosity, compassion, and an appreciation for life across cultures. Today, she welcomes groups to her home in Italy and handpicked destinations beyond, crafting retreats that invite travelers to slow down, savor beauty, and share in the kind of meaningful connection that makes a journey unforgettable.



Magda Petrea

With many years in hospitality under her belt, Magda is a pro at the details, and can come up with a solution for (literally!) anything. She speaks five languages and is always ready to help our guests.

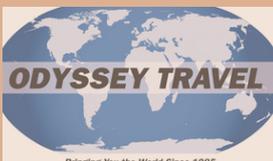


Nadia Lecini

Nadia has been crafting world-class meals for our guests for decades. She is an expert at seasonal fare and cooks with many ingredients fresh from the Casa Erica garden.

We recommend that you fly into Rome (Leonardo da Vinci–Fiumicino Airport | FCO) airport. There are many trains from Rome to Orvieto. We will help you secure a train ticket, and pick you up from the train station. For a fee, we can also arrange private transportation from and back to Rome.

Our trusted partner, Odyssey Travel, is available to assist you with booking travel before and after the retreat. For a small fee, our dedicated agent, Marion Taborda, can book your flight to and from Rome. Marion can also book hotels and tours in Rome, and can provide any support you may need to extend your European trip.



Marion Taborda

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CONNECT

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