

Amore Lascio & Louza

A SICILIAN COOKING EXPERIENCE



Book now

The pleasures of sketching with Ximena Maier

When:

May 1-6, 2017

Who:

Ximena Maier is a Spanish illustrator. She works with the main publishing houses and magazines in Spain, both in children's and general books, including many on food. In 2006 she began "Lobster-squad, a food blog with drawings".

She is passionate about sketching and is often to be seen insisting that everyone around her take up pencil and paper too, and have a go. Have a look into her website: www.ximenamaier.com

What:

A week spent sketching in the Sicilian hills, the better to take in all the beauty and inspiration.

We will cook and we will walk, and travel and eat and sit around in a beautiful garden. And all the time we will be keeping a sketchbook. Because everybody can draw, even if they think they can't.

I will be there to nudge and encourage and advise, and it doesn't matter if you are a professional illustrator (like me) or somebody whose last drawing was handed in at the end of the 5th grade.

Sketching is a wonderful way to make the most of travel. It is a way to stay in the moment, to look around, to absorb, to sit still and really

see what is in front of you. Call it mindfulness or call it therapy or just plain pottering around, it feels good to sketch. We will not concentrate on the result but on the process, because it doesn't matter how each individual drawing turns out. This will be just plain fun.

Where:

The Anna Tasca Lanza Cooking School, located at Case Vecchie on the Tasca D'Almerita Regaleali Winery and Estate in central Sicily.

Cost:

€ 2.700 per person for single-occupancy;

€ 4.800 for 2 people in a double occupancy.

Prices include: Accommodation, lessons, meals, trips to local producers, Wi-Fi service, tea/coffee furniture into your room, free access to the swimming pool at Case Vecchie.

Prices exclude: Airfare to Sicily, transportation to/from the airport.

Upon request, we can organize a cab for you from both Palermo or Catania airport; Price for this transportation is € 150 each way.

Accommodation:

Accommodation is in charming rooms that are part of the 19th century Case Vecchie country home and cooking school. Beds have embroidered linen, old framed prints line the walls of the bedrooms, which are full of Sicilian rustic charm. Several rooms have sweeping views of the vineyard and gardens from the shuttered windows.

Schedule:

Day 1 — Monday, May 1

Arrive in late afternoon or early evening, for an introductory discussion over Sicilian aperitifs, followed by a welcome dinner.

Day 2 — Tuesday, May 2

A morning visit to the local shepherd and cheesemaker Filippo Privitera followed by a drawing and writing session on the farm. Return

to Case Vecchie for a lunch and Sicilian cheese tasting.

In the afternoon, we will have time to wander through the garden of Case Vecchie, illustrating and writing, and then meet for a gathering to discuss thoughts and share illustrations.

In the evening, we will cook a fresh, seasonal meal together for dinner.

Day 3 — Wednesday, May 3

Breakfast at 9am, followed by a morning workshop of illustrating on site at Regaleali. We will focus on our surroundings, finding the delights around us. Meet for lunch, then leave at 3pm for a visit to the beautiful hillside village of Polizzi Generosa, with a chance to draw and write in the scenic piazza, sample the local pastry specialties, and visit one of the most ancient pottery producers in the area, before returning through the twilight hills for dinner at Case Vecchie.

Day 4 — Thursday, May 4

Meet for an early breakfast, and then leave to visit Agrigento's ancient "Valley of the Temples" where we will have the chance to draw in the ancient garden of Kolymbethra, after enjoying a picnic in the citrus groves. We will return to Case Vecchie by 4:30pm, followed by a group meeting to share words and drawings. Meet at 7:30 for aperitifs and dinner.

Day 5 — Friday, May 5

Breakfast at 9am, followed by foraging in the garden for seasonal ingredients. Meet in the kitchen to make lunch together, sketching and jotting notes all the while. In the afternoon, we will have time to take a walk together, and sit and draw in a nearby field. Meet at 5:00pm to visit Case Grandi winery for a tour of the winery and a wine tasting. Dinner at Case Vecchie.

Day 6 — Saturday, May 6

Breakfast at 9am, followed by goodbyes.

Please note, due to the seasonal rhythm of life and agriculture in Sicily, planned activities and schedules may change at short notice. If this is the case, an equally engaging activity will be arranged.