



CIVITELLA RANIERI

SOJOURNS IN UMBRIA

**GARDENS, PLANTS,
WALKING, SPELLS**
March 13-22, 2026

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How does wonder take root, and how might it grow? What does it mean to look—and look again—through the eyes of poetry? How may we connect the spell of walking, step by step, with the spell of words?

Stay at Civitella Ranieri's 15th-century castle in Umbria, Italy, while exploring the lyric of wonder with Alice Oswald, Joanna Klink, and Matthew Bevis as guides. The fourth residency in this popular series will be devoted to poetry, gardens, plants, and walks, and will include generative workshops, craft lectures, fireside conversations, excursions to organic growers, medieval gardens, farmers' markets, an ancient orchard, and more.

To apply, submit 10 pages of poetry and a cover letter no later than November 30, 2025. Please email greta@civitella.org for the application and further inquiries. See below (and follow the links) for a detailed itinerary. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning July 14, 2025 until capacity is reached.

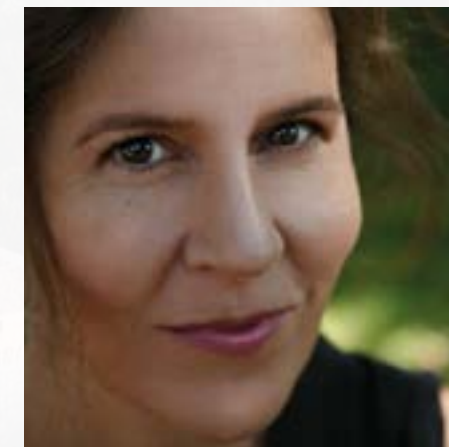
For me the initial delight is in the surprise of remembering something I didn't know I knew. I am in a place, in a situation, as if I had materialized from cloud or risen out of the ground. There is a glad recognition of the long lost and the rest follows. Step by step the wonder of unexpected supply keeps growing.

Robert Frost, "The Figure a Poem Makes"

ABOUT THE FACULTY



Matthew Bevis teaches literature at the University of Oxford. His books include *Comedy: A Very Short Introduction* (2012), *Wordsworth's Fun* (2019), and *Edward Lear, Moment to Moment* (2022). His essays have appeared in *Poetry*, *The London Review of Books*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Raritan*, and *Harper's*. He is currently finishing a book on some versions of wonder: *Then Again: Notes on Lyric*.



Joanna Klink is the author of five books of poetry, including *Circadian* (2007), *Raptus* (2010), *Excerpts from a Secret Prophecy* (2015), and *The Nightfields* (2020). She teaches at the Michener Center for Writers in Austin, Texas, and has received awards and fellowships from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Guggenheim Foundation. Her new book, *Days and Chances*, is forthcoming in 2026.



Alice Oswald has published several books of poetry, including *Dart* (2002), *Woods etc.* (2005), *Weeds and Wild Flowers* (2009), *Memorial* (2011), *Falling Awake* (2016), and *A Short Story of Falling* (2020). She originally trained as a gardener but took the post of Oxford Professor of Poetry in 2019, and she now teaches a course in oral traditions with the Schumacher Wild Foundation.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

The sum of \$4,750 USD per person is all-inclusive, covering lodging at Civitella Ranieri for nine nights, pick-up and drop-off from Perugia to and from the Castle, all group ground transportation, excursions, entrance fees, lunch and dinner daily, wines, workshops, and lectures. Air travel to Rome (and any connecting flights you may require) along with transportation to Perugia are not included. Air travel to Rome (and any connecting flights you may require) along with transportation to Perugia are not included. There are double-occupancy rooms available for a reduced price of \$4,250 USD per person.

Upon acceptance of your application, a \$1,000 deposit to secure your registration is due by December 1, 2025. The remaining balance (\$3,750/\$3,250) is due no later than January 19, 2026. Participants can pay by check, made out to Civitella Ranieri Foundation and mailed to the New York address below, or they may pay via credit card [at this link](#) or by scanning the QR code below:

CIVITELLA RANIERI FOUNDATION
28 Hubert St.
New York, NY 10013

Should Civitella Ranieri Foundation cancel this travel study trip for any reason, participants will receive a full refund. If you withdraw five months or more in advance, we return all but \$100 of your deposit. If you withdraw three months or more in advance, we return all but your deposit. If you withdraw less than three months but more than one month in advance, we return 50% of your full payment.



THE ITINERARY*

FRIDAY	Late Morning	Arrivals in Perugia
MARCH 13	Lunch	Pick-up in Perugia
	Afternoon	from 1:00 PM Buffet Lunch at Civitella
		4:30 PM Tour of Castle
		6:00 PM Welcome Cocktail in the Castle Library
		Welcome from the Civitella Ranieri Staff
	Dinner	7:00 PM at Civitella
	Evening	8:00 PM Faculty Introductions, and what we hope for from the week
SATURDAY	Morning	9:30 AM Departure for the Madonna del Parto Museum in Monterchi
MARCH 14	Lunch	11:30 AM Archeologia Arborea Botanical Gardens
	Afternoon	1:00 PM at Botanical Gardens
	Dinner	Writing time
	Evening	7:00 PM at Civitella
		8:00 PM Craft Talk: Alice on Unacknowledged Legislations
SUNDAY	Morning	Writing time
MARCH 15	Lunch	1:00 PM at Civitella
	Afternoon	Writing time / Time for local walks / Tour of castle gardens
		6:00 PM Craft Talk: Matt on Forms of Lyric Wonder
	Dinner	7:30 PM Dinner at Ristoro in Campagna, Umbertide
MONDAY	Morning	9:00 AM Departure for Perugia
MARCH 16		Visit at the Medieval Gardens
		Time to walk around Perugia
	Lunch	1:00 PM at Civitella
	Afternoon	Writing time
	Dinner	7:00 PM at Civitella
	Evening	8:00 PM Craft Talk: Joanna on Spells
TUESDAY	Morning	Writing time
MARCH 17	Lunch	1:00 PM at Civitella
	Afternoon	3:00 PM Monte Corona
		Vespers at the Abbey of Monte Corona
	Dinner	7:00 PM at Civitella
	Evening	8:00 PM Faculty Reading from their poems (Alice)

WEDNESDAY	Morning	Writing time
MARCH 18		11:00 AM Street Market in Umbertide (optional)
	Lunch	1:00 PM at Civitella
	Afternoon	Lecture on Saint Francis (30 minutes) right after lunch
		Workshop (Joanna, 3 hours)
	Dinner	7:00 PM at Civitella
	Evening	8:00 PM Fireside chat with Matt: ‘On the way: Walks & Poems’
THURSDAY	Morning	Writing time
MARCH 19		11:00 AM Diary Museum in Pieve Santo Stefano
	Lunch	1:00 PM at Civitella
	Afternoon	Workshop (Alice, 3 hours)
	Dinner	7:00 PM at Civitella
	Evening	8:00 PM Faculty Reading from their poems (Joanna)
FRIDAY	Morning	Writing time
MARCH 20	Lunch	1:00 PM at Civitella
	Afternoon	Writing time
		5:00 PM Wine tasting (optional)
	Dinner	7:00 PM at Civitella
	Evening	8:00 PM Participant Reading
SATURDAY	Morning	Writing time
MARCH 21	Lunch	1:00 PM at Civitella
	Afternoon	Workshop with Alice, Workshop with Joanna (smaller groups for each, 3 hours)
	Dinner	7:00 PM at Civitella
	Evening	8:00 PM Participant Reading
SUNDAY	Morning	Drop-off in Perugia (train, bus....)
MARCH 22		

*Schedule might be subject to change.

THE EXCURSIONS

[Civitella Ranieri Castle and Gardens](#)

Located just outside the small city of Umbertide, the Ranieri residence is a beautiful thick-walled 15th-century castle, one of the best-preserved in Umbria. This fortress provided protection, sustenance, and renewal to generations of the Ranieri family and its extended community.

[The Hermitage of Monte Corona](#) (two-hour walk)

Built in the mid-16th century on top of the mountain of the same name, surrounded by a forest of firs, chestnuts, and strawberry trees dotted with votive shrines, the Hermitage of Monte Corona is a place of profound charm. Its origins are closely tied to those of the Abbey of San Salvatore, the nearby Camaldolese monastery, which it ideally complements: the hermitage was the center of the community's spiritual life, while the abbey served as the hub of economic activities and as a refuge for elderly or ill monks unable to endure the austerity of the eremitic lifestyle.

[The Madonna del Parto in Monterchi](#)

The village of Monterchi preserves Piero della Francesca's splendid fresco of Madonna del Parto, one of the highest expressions of the Renaissance and a rare example of a pregnant Madonna.

[Archeologia Arborea](#)

Curated by botanist and master gardener Isabella dalla Ragione, also known as the "Fruit Detective," Archeologia Arborea is an orchard dedicated to the research and preservation of old local varieties of fruit plants. It contains antique specimens that were common centuries ago and have mostly disappeared.

[The Diary Museum in Pieve Santo Stefano](#)

This museum reveals the history of Italy from the unprecedented point of view of ordinary people. Thousands of autobiographical texts, letters, memoirs, and diaries have been donated by citizens and are available for consultation in the archive.

[The Medieval Garden in Perugia](#)

Located within the Abbey of San Pietro in Perugia, this garden is a reconstruction based on medieval numerology and Benedictine conceptions that saw in every aspect of nature a tangible sign of God. Originally used as a vegetable garden by Benedictine monks, it became a monastic garden that contains a botanical garden, a representation of the Earthly Paradise, a testimony of the symbolic and spiritual value of plants in the Middle Ages.