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The Art of Slow Travel: New Learning & Craft Holidays in the Heart of Tuscany

admin (https://bloomingfifties.co.uk/author/boomfi/) June 3, 2026 (https://bloomingfifties.co.uk/2026/06/)



In the sun-dappled hills of northern Tuscany, The Watermill at Posara offers a retreat shaped by craft, creativity and time honoured ways of working. Set within a beautifully restored 17th-century mill, this is a place where making by hand is central to the experience – a refined yet deeply human alternative to conventional luxury travel. For over three decades, the Watermill has welcomed artists, craftspeople, makers and thoughtful travellers seeking space to slow down, learn deeply and reconnect with the quiet satisfaction of skilled, mindful work.

The Watermill at Posara now unveils its 2026 programme of craft-led learning holidays, curated for those who value process over pace and depth over distraction. Set beside the gently flowing River Rosaro, the Watermill is known for its understated elegance, sustainable hospitality and immersive courses rooted in traditional and contemporary crafts, from drawing, knitting and painting to fibre arts, textiles and mixed media. Each week is designed around a shared belief: that craft is both a creative practice and a way of living more attentively.

Highlights from the 2026 Craft & Learning Holiday Collection include:

A Taste of Tuscany (18–25 July 2026)

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A sensorial exploration of place through food, movement and daily ritual. Guests travel slowly through the landscape on a classic Vespa, visit local markets in Fivizzano and Forte dei Marmi, and experience the beauty of Cinque Terre. The week celebrates regional knowledge, seasonal produce and the pleasure of taking time, from hands-on encounters with local culture to long evenings spent around the table at Al Vecchio Tino.

Watercolours & Gouache with Pamme Turner (22-29 August)

This week-long Watercolour and Gouache Painting Workshop is designed for artists of all levels. Participants will develop confidence painting en plein air while learning essential techniques in composition, value studies, and the effective use of light, shadow, and atmosphere. The workshop also covers specialised drawing skills, the integration of figures and details, and the creation of Pamme's Essential Watercolour Art Notebook for future artistic reference.

Pastels & Mixed Media with Rebecca de Mendonça (12–19 September 2026)

Blurring the boundaries between fine art and craft, this course explores pastels alongside pen and ink, Conté crayons and pastel pencils. Through relaxed en plein air sessions and studio work, Rebecca de Mendonça supports students in developing a personal visual language while responding to the architecture, gardens and textures of the mill and its surroundings.

Italian Language with Serena Orselli (17-24 October)

Immerse yourself in the Italian language at the mill. Suitable for all levels, this unique course combines language learning with cultural discovery, from the mountains of Tuscany to the coastal villages of the Cinque Terre. Developed in collaboration with leading language educators, the programme uses an interactive, student-centred approach that emphasizes practical communication, personal growth, and learning through experience.

Each week-long learning holiday includes expert tuition, time-rich days for practice and reflection, gentle excursions to hilltop villages and markets, and seasonal, home-cooked Italian cuisine served communally. Guests stay in elegantly restored rooms overlooking the River Rosaro, the mill gardens and the rising Apennines, a setting that encourages quiet focus, conversation and creative exchange.

"Craft teaches us how to pay attention," says Lois Breckon, Co-owner of The Watermill at Posara. *"Here, learning isn't rushed. Whether you're drawing, knitting or simply sharing a meal, the experience is about honouring materials, skills and the pleasure of making something well."*

At The Watermill at Posara, creativity is shaped by materials, time and place. Learning is tactile, travel is intentional, and luxury lies in depth, focus and presence.

www.watermill.net (https://watermill.net)

@watermillatposara

About The Watermill at Posara

Set in a lovingly restored 17th-century mill beside a crystal-clear river, The Watermill at Posara offers week long creative holidays in painting, cooking, knitting, language and more. With its warm, family-run hospitality, gourmet food and wine, and peaceful gardens and grounds, The Watermill has become a beloved destination for creative travellers from around the world.

The celebrated creative retreat is nestled in the heart of rural Tuscany beside the river Rosaro in the heart of historical Lunigiana, Tuscany's hidden gem. With a commitment to sustainable hospitality, personalised experiences, and exceptional creative programming, it offers an unmatched blend of inspiration and Italian charm.

The 2026 season is already booking fast and early registration is encouraged. Details of all courses, dates, tutors, and pricing can be found on the website.

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