

Workshop Itinerary

Haven on the Hill and Cheryl Bruce
Our hosts – Wendy and Neville Vokes

Thursday 24th August 2023 - Guests arrive from lunch time. Spend the afternoon settling in, exploring the property, or relaxing by the pool. Enjoy a welcome drink in the afternoon and dinner at Haven on the Hill. Dinner at the retreat will be served daily at 7.30pm
Breakfast daily 8am onwards

Friday 25th August – 9am start daily - Introduction and both morning and afternoon sessions painting in the studio. Get ready to enjoy a great week and a half of painting together, exploring a range of techniques, subject matter, and styles.

Saturday 26th August – Painting in the studio and on location around Haven on the Hill to introduce plein air styles and set up. Tonight we will dine out together in Eymet, at the creperie La Maison d'Amour, sitting outside overlooking the square. (Dinner cost additional. Feel free to choose a restaurant of your choice if you wish to separate from the group). Before dinner we will be able to wander the town and take photos.

Sunday 27th August – Enjoy a free morning of leisure, then we may take a picnic lunch to the local town of Lauzun and paint the willow trees overhanging the lake, the chateau on the other side of the lake with its lovely reflections, or in the streets of the town.

Monday 28th August - Painting in the studio today.

Tuesday 29th August – Today is a free day, but we are considering optional excursion to Bordeaux if a small group would like to head out together. There will be no tuition on this excursion, but for those who are keen we will have early breakfast and leave Haven at about 8.15 and catch a train to Bordeaux, where we will explore the city. Closer to the time we will check what exhibition is on at Bassins de Lumieres, as this is an incredible immersive art experience in an old disused submarine base. (check out more info here - <https://www.bassins-lumieres.com>). You might like to shop, sketch the city, or sit quietly in a café watching the world go by. (Costs not included - estimated cost is about 70 Euro for train, lunch and an exhibition entry). You may choose to simply chill by the pool, paint in the studio or read a book in the sun.

Wednesday 30th August – Painting in the studio and on the grounds of Haven today. Dine out this evening in a nearby town (Restaurant to be advised, cost additional).

Thursday 31st August – Our excursion today takes us to Latour Marliac – a plant nursery specialising in water lilies, lotus and other aquatic plants, located about 25 mins from Haven. In 1894 Claude Monet ordered his first waterlilies and lotus plants from Latour Marliac, and the 3 hectare grounds are considered 'Remarquable' by the French Ministry. We will paint and sketch on site followed by either lunch at the café on site (cost additional), or picnic lunch from Haven.

Friday 1st September – this morning we will breakfast a little earlier and head off to Chateau de Jaubertie, a local vineyard to paint amongst the vines. Earlier in the week we will have practised painting people into our scenes. It may be harvest time and if we are in luck, we will catch the people and machines moving through the vineyard, but if not we will have gained the skills to pop some pickers in amongst the vines to add life to our scenes. Picnic lunch here, and stop for an optional wine tasting if you would like (approx. 8 Euro additional). From the Chateau we may enjoy a free afternoon in Bergerac, wander the streets, shop, sketch or sit in the local cafes or by the river.

Saturday 2nd September – Our last day painting together in the studio. We will explore some fun techniques for our last projects, and a mini exhibition in the beautiful barn at Haven to look at all of our work and achievements from the workshop.

Farewell dinner together at Haven on the Hill.

Sunday 3rd September – Today is our departure day.

Depending on your travel plans, you may like to have a leisurely breakfast, enjoy the pool or just pack up and head off as it suits you.

Please note: some excursions or the days planned may change due to weather or availability at the venue. While it is a painting holiday because we are in this fabulous location, I consider most people coming along with the intention/desire to paint and learn as much as possible, but you can feel free to skip any sessions if you would like more time to relax or are feeling tired. Participants can come and go from the barn studio in the evenings if they would like to work on paintings a little more.

Other information to make your stay great.

During our stay at Haven on the Hill our alcoholic drinks are additional.

Our hosts don't offer bottled water in consideration of the environment and the water is safe to drink.

There is tea and coffee available complimentary during the day made in the Gite kitchen by guests as and when they would like it.

Each guest will be given a card for additional extras like drinks, massages etc which we ask guests to settle their account prior to departure. Please be aware that Haven on the Hill do not take cards for payment and cash will also be needed on the group evenings out in order to be able to pay the bill as many restaurants won't split bills. (There are many ATMs around.)

Please have a look at the menus online for the restaurants mentioned and advise us whether you will be joining us on those evening dinners or doing your own thing so that we can make the appropriate bookings. Restaurants chosen have been popular locations for the yoga and painting groups in past retreats. If you have specific dietary requirements we may need to advise in advance.

Please remember to bring any medication that you need with you... it may seem obvious, but they have been forgotten before.

We are looking forward to a fantastic week and a half painting together and enjoying the Dordogne region.

Contact details - Haven on the Hill - Wendy and Neville Vokes - 0011 33 53 40 34 85

Tutor - Cheryl Bruce 0011 61 411 175 405

Eymet



Lake and street at Lauzun



Chateau de Jaubertie vineyards – photos courtesy of their website



Latour Marliac - photos courtesy of their website

