



**FRIENDS
OF FAI**  **PRESERVING
ITALIAN HERITAGE**
NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

2011 Thus Far...

Friends of FAI is pleased to announce some exciting changes for 2011. With a full-time staff member at our New York office, you can expect to hear from us more regularly via our newsletter.

*We are also becoming involved with social networking, and have created a **Facebook** page and **Twitter** account so that we may keep you up-to-date on all our events and initiatives.*

*In addition to our annual Balbianello Circle Tour in Italy, Friends of FAI is organizing some unique events in the US this fall, including a lecture on the towers of San Gimignano at New York University's Casa Italiana in conjunction with our **2011 Restoration Project: The Campatelli Palace and Tower.***

We hope you will be able to join us for some of these interesting initiatives!

In Memory of Dr. Luigi Moscheri



Friends of FAI mourns the passing of Dr. Luigi Moscheri, a vital member of our organization and Board of Directors, who contributed tirelessly to the development and growth of Friends of FAI, both in the US and Italy. He will be remembered for his ingenuity, leadership, and enormous energy that helped ensure successful events and initiatives for Friends of FAI over the years. He shall be deeply missed.

FALL 2011 CALENDAR

September 15 6-8 pm

Friends of FAI will cohost a private shopping event at the *Salvatore Ferragamo Boutique* in Beverly Hills:
357 N. Rodeo Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

September 29 6-8 pm

Friends of FAI's president, Jim Carolan, will participate in a round table at the Italian Cultural Institute in New York for Gian Antonio Stella's new book: *Vandali. L'assalto alle bellezze d'Italia*:
686 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10065

November 10 6-8 pm

Dr. Deborah Krohn will present a lecture on the towers of San Gimignano at NYU's Casa Italiana:
24 W. 12th Street
New York, NY 10011

RSVP: 212-242-3377 - info@friendsoffai.org



A word from our International Chairman

It has been a bitter-sweet year so far for the Friends of FAI. This summer, we lost a dear friend and colleague, Luigi Moscheri, a man of great intellect and talent who displayed an unparalleled commitment to our organization over the years. We are all truly bereft by this loss, and will honor his memory by ensuring that the cause he so dearly cherished continues to grow and flourish.

We also have great reason to celebrate: not only was this year's Balbianello Circle tour of Venice & the Veneto our best attended trip yet, but it afforded our travellers a glimpse into some of the region's most fascinating and exclusive treasures. We are so grateful to all those who attended, and who helped make the journey such a memorable experience.

This summer also marked the grand opening of FAI's magnificent Villa dei Vescovi near Padova. After a scrupulous restoration process, which was funded in large part by our generous donors, the Villa has been restored to its former glory and is now open to the public. The villa is equipped with guesthouses, which visitors will have the unique opportunity to rent out for the weekend. For information on staying at the guesthouse, or renting out FAI's other beautiful properties, please see page 7 of the newsletter.

We are also delighted to announce that in November, FAI will officially open the Bosco di San Francesco, a forest of remarkable natural and spiritual beauty near the Umbrian hill town of Assisi, home to Saint Francis and the order he founded.

Finally, Friends of FAI has adopted a very special restoration project for 2011: The Campatelli Palace & Tower in San Gimignano, Tuscany. This newsletter contains information about the FAI property and restoration process, as well as details on how you may support this wonderful project.

All of these important initiatives have been made possible by FAI and Friends of FAI's incredible benefactors, who year after year, have shown their dedication to rescuing and safeguarding Italy's historic, architectural, and environmental patrimony.

I send you my heartfelt gratitude for your vital contributions, and hope that you will continue to support our mission and join us for some of the enjoyable and enlightening events we will be holding this fall in the United States.

Bona Frescobaldi



Ten years of Incredible Tours

The 2011 Spring Tour: Venice and the Palladian Villas

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Friends of FAI's Balbianello Circle Tours. Since 2001, Friends of FAI has organized an exclusive trip for the members of the Balbianello Circle every Spring. This past May, our adventurous group embarked on an unforgettable six day journey to Venice and the Veneto to explore the breathtaking Palladian Villas. In addition to experiencing the magnificent architecture of Andrea Palladio, and discovering many of Venice's hidden treasures, our travelers were welcomed into the homes of some of Italy's most important families for intimate luncheons, dinners and cocktail parties. As a special treat, our members were offered a sneak preview of the newly restored Villa dei Vescovi. A unique example of pre-Palladian

architecture, the 16th century "Bishop's Villa" was donated to FAI in 2005 by Maria Teresa Olcese. Prior to opening to the public, the villa underwent extensive renovation, thanks in part to the generosity of our Friends. In fact, it was the Balbianello Spring Tour of 2005 that launched the campaign to restore Villa dei Vescovi by the Friends of FAI. Eleven of our members, many of whom were present on this year's Spring Tour, committed to contributing 300,000 to the villa's restoration! Friends of FAI is truly grateful for their support. We wish thank all our members who joined us on this memorable visit to Venice and the Veneto, and look forward to announcing the destination of next year's tour!

2011 BALBIANELLO CIRCLE MEMBERS

Giancarla Berti
Martin & Sharleen Cooper Cohen
Douglas & Arlene Giancoli
Elena Heinz
Pamela Kramlich
Victoria London
Maria Manetti Farrow
Peter & Merle Mullin
Luigi & Liliana Moscheri
Steven & Harriet Nichols
Mariella Pallavicino
M. Lee Pearce & Juliet Franco
Gianluigi, Claudia & Sergio Quentin
Joyce Rey
Rossana Sacchi Zei
Jan Shrem
Bob & Sandra Tully
Bruce & Sandra Tully

Villa Foscari la Malcontenta



Toasting 10 years of Balbianello Circle Tours



Villa Emo, Monselice



Who we are

A word about Friends of FAI and FAI - The National Trust of Italy

Friends of FAI is an American nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster in the United States a deeper appreciation and support for the preservation of Italian cultural and historical heritage reflected in buildings and properties of architectural and environmental significance in Italy. One way that **Friends of FAI** meets its cultural and educational objectives is through its support of FAI (Fondo per l'Ambiente Italiano), a leading Italian nonprofit organization, in FAI's efforts to restore, preserve and open to the public important Italian monuments and properties.

Each year, **Friends of FAI** plans and organizes cultural activities, both in the United States and Italy, for the purpose of informing the public of and promoting our mission.

In this context, we hold special events including conferences, seminars, exhibits and concerts in the United States, and visits to Italy, with the objective of educating the public about Italian culture and the important objectives FAI has been pursuing for over 30 years.



What is FAI?

FAI - Fondo Ambiente Italiano - is an Italian non-profit foundation established in 1975 with a precise objective: to safeguard Italy's artistic and natural heritage.

The name is not just an acronym, but a play on the Italian verb "fare" which means "to do," encouraging Italians to do something concrete for their country.

As such, FAI is committed to restoring a host of monuments and important environmental landmarks throughout Italy and reopening them to the public.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James M. Carolan
President

Giancarla Berti
Vice President

Bona de' Frescobaldi
International Chairman

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Ilaria Borletti Buitoni
Sharleen Cooper Cohen
Vannozza G.P. Crespi
Giovanna Lorendan Bonetti
Alessandra Pellegrini

How to reach us

FRIENDS OF FAI

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info@friendsoffai.org - www.friendsoffai.org
www.facebook.com/friendsoffai
Twitter: Friends_of_FAi



Villa della Porta Bozzolo



Villa del Balbianello



Masino Castle

2011 Restoration Project

The Campatelli Tower, San Gimignano

Immersed in the Tuscan countryside, the hilltop town of San Gimignano cuts a striking profile thanks to the prominence of its 13 medieval towers.

The Campatelli Palace and Tower is a prime example of these iconic structures, and will be only the second of its kind open to the public.

San Gimignano

The town of San Gimignano first grew to prominence in the Middle Ages as a stopping point on the important pilgrimage route, Via Francigena, that connected Rome and Northern Europe. During the 13th century, the town experienced a period of great economic expansion and became the seat of a wealthy urban aristocracy. Referred to affectionately as “Medieval Manhattan”, at its peak San Gimignano was home to over 70 stately towers. These structures represented the power of the town’s noble families, each striving, quite literally, to tower over its enemies and neighbors.

A Medieval Tower-House

Located in the heart of the medieval town, the Campatelli Palace and Tower was donated to FAI in 2005 by Lydia Campatelli. The palace dates back to the late 1100s, but its current composition is the result of a series of complex procedures to transform and fuse multiple buildings that took place over a period of 800 years. The structure is somewhat of an anomaly in San Gimignano in that it is a rare example of a Pisan-style “tower-house.”

Because its walls are not as thick as those of the city’s other towers, the building’s lower floors could be used for commercial and residential purposes, while the higher levels served the traditional defensive function. Once the palace is opened to the public, visitors will be able to walk inside the tower and decipher the building’s history by looking at its stones. For instance, the discerning eye will be able to tell that the tower leans slightly to the south-west due to a centuries-old flaw in the foundation.

A Snapshot of 19th century life

Not only is the property fascinating from an architectural standpoint, but it also provides a glimpse into the lifestyle of the Tuscan upper classes of the 19th and 20th centuries. Along with the property itself, the colorful and strong-willed Lydia Campatelli bequeathed the entire contents of the palace to FAI. The building’s 18th and 19th century furnishings will be on display, as well as Miss Campatelli’s ceramic collection, and a selection of paintings by her maternal uncle, the noted Florentine painter Guido Peyron.

The Campatelli Tower



View from the guesthouse



The Restoration Program

We need your Support!

In order to make the palace and tower accessible to visitors, the property must undergo a scrupulous restoration process which will include, among other steps: reconstructing the roof, restoring the palace's façade, and creating a guest services area on the ground floor of the palace. The palace's embellished walls, terracotta floors, furniture, paintings, and collections must also be restored. Moreover, the building must be

equipped with fire safety measures and certain structural reinforcements must be added so that guests may visit the tower's fascinating interior.

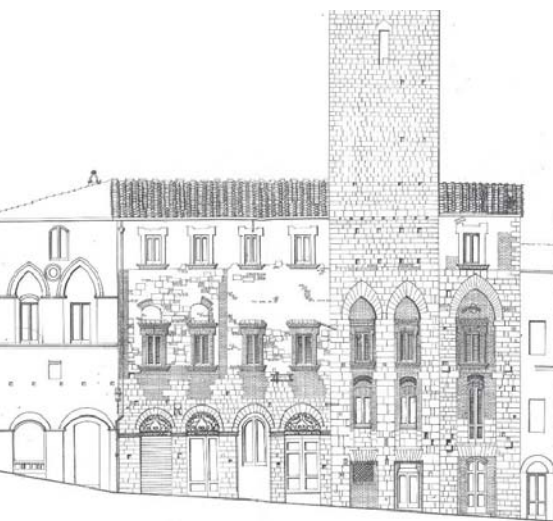
The palace also contains two loft spaces located behind the tower that will be converted into a guesthouse. Guests will have the unique opportunity to rent out the apartment and experience what it is like to live in a medieval tower-house.

PROJECTED COSTS*	\$ 1,575,000
Structural Reinforcements	\$ 495,000
Electric & plumbing maintenance	\$ 205,000
Restoration of wall embellishments	\$ 205,000
Technical expenses	\$ 200,000
Completion of guesthouse	\$ 156,000
Renovation of "house-museum"	\$ 120,000
Incidentals	\$ 109,000
Bookshop & guest services	\$ 70,000
Fire safety system	\$ 14,000

The restoration process will take approximately 18 months. Work will begin in Fall 2012 and should be completed by **Spring 2013**.

*Amounts have been converted from Euros and are subject to change based on present exchange rate.

Image credit:
*I. Ceccarini: San Gimignano,
i fatti principali della storia
urbanistica, 1988*



Architect Demetrio Cutrupi, project manager



View from San Giovanni



Experience FAI for Yourself!

Not only are FAI's properties open for public visits, but it is also possible to rent out these beautiful landmarks for private events or weekend getaways!

Overnight Stays

FAI invites you to spend the weekend at two of its most spectacular properties: the Abbey of San Fruttuoso and the Villa dei Vescovi!

Villa dei Vescovi:

This breathtaking Renaissance Villa, immersed in the hills of Veneto, was once the country home of the bishops of Padua. Guests will have their pick of two elegant apartments on the villa's top floor, each containing 2 bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and magnificent views of the surrounding countryside.

Weekend Rate: € 550 (approx. \$780)

San Fruttuoso Abbey:

Relax by the sea at this enchanting 10th century abbey, nestled in the pristine Bay of Capodimonte, near Genoa. The recently renovated guest house is located only steps from the beach and includes 2 bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and a terrace overlooking the bay..

Weekend Rate: € 500 (approx. \$700)

Private Events

Get married at a medieval castle, host a banquet at a villa on Lake Como, or plan a photo shoot in a Renaissance garden. These are just some of the possibilities available to you at FAI's incredible properties. FAI offers a rich variety of unique settings that can accommodate virtually any type of event, from concerts, to weddings, art exhibits to film shoots. Contact us today to begin planning your special event!

*For booking inquiries & further information, please call:
212-242-3377
or email: info@friendsoffai.org*

San Fruttuoso Abbey



Villa dei Vescovi



Masino Castle



Villa del Balbianello



Please join us today to help support the Mission of Friends of FAI & contribute to the restoration of the Campatelli Palace and Tower

Membership Options

FRIEND

Donations from \$500 to \$2,499

FAI's Friends will receive a FAI membership card allowing the donor to visit, free of charge, all FAI properties in Italy. A Friend will also receive "Il Libro del FAI," a handsome illustrated book with a description of the most beautiful FAI properties. A Friend will also be invited to all Friends of FAI social events in the United States, and will be kept informed of all major FAI events in Italy.

BENEFACTOR

Donations from \$2,500 to \$4,999

A FAI Benefactor will enjoy, along with the benefits described for a FRIEND, complete access to the benefit's of FAI's "Italian Experience". When a Benefactor travels to Italy, he or she can contact our International Office for a personal and exclusive travel consultation to ensure that special tours and visits will make your trip to Italy unforgettable. This service will put you in the special care of our travel experts, who will tend to your every need and concern.

BALBIANELLO CIRCLE

Donations from \$5000 to \$19,999

The Balbianello Circle is a select group of friends of our Foundation. The Balbianello Circle members are entitled to join us, every year, on an exclusive Italian journey, organized especially for them. Members of the Balbianello Circle will enjoy invaluable access to the treasures of Italy's museums, with special viewings as personal guests of the venerable families that have been and continue to be Italy's greatest patrons of art and culture. These opportunities will make this Italian journey an unforgettable experience. Members of the Balbianello Circle will also receive all the benefits accorded Friends and Benefactors.

PATRON

Donations, \$20,000 and up

Every year, FAI identifies a special restoration project of one of its properties to be supported by Friends of FAI. A Patron's donation will be designated to support that project. As a patron, you will enjoy great recognition for your generosity: plaques with the names of the Patrons who have made the restoration possible will be featured prominently at FAI projects for various levels of support. A Patron will also receive all the benefits available to the other membership levels.

Friends of FAI c/o Casa Italiana Zerilli Marimò - New York University - 24 West 12th Street, 5th Floor - New York, NY 10011- Phone 212-242-3377 - info@friendsoffai.org - www.friendsoffai.org



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[Friends_of_fai](https://twitter.com/Friends_of_fai)

A significant portion of your donation is tax-deductible

I share the mission of Friends of FAI and I would like to become:

- FRIEND** - donations from \$500 to \$2,499
- BENEFACTOR** - donations from \$2,500 to \$4,999
- BALBIANELLO CIRCLE** - donations from \$5000 to \$19,999
- PATRON** - donations, \$20,000 and up

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City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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Please make check payable to: Friends of Fai

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PO 5870 Grand Central Station - New York, NY 10163

SWIFT CODE or IBAN: CITI US 33 - Routing #: 021 000 089 Account #: 756404 32

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Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

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24 West 12th Street, 5th Floor - New York, NY 10011

