

## Flowers on tulle embroidery with [Olga Prinku](#), experiencing Tuscan life with [Villa Pienza](#) and [Puscina flowers](#)

An introduction to flowers on tulle embroidery by Olga Prinku, the creator of this technique and aesthetic. Olga makes embroidery-inspired tapestries using dry and preserved flowers and other natural materials as her thread. She has worked with brands including Anthropologie and Swarovski and her work has been featured in numerous magazines.

Over the course of this five-day (four-night) retreat, set in the most wonderful location – Villa Pienza, in the Tuscan hills – you will learn how to create floral hoops, floral typography and decorations to adorn your Christmas tree for the upcoming festive season. You will leave with multiple creations, a full set of tools and any dry flowers remaining after the workshops to take home with you to continue your journey into this new floral art form.

### **Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October, 2020**

Sisters Barbara and Sabrina like to open the doors of their enchanting Tuscan villa for workshops by artists and craftspeople from around the world. Learn from Olga a whole new way of embroidery, using natural materials as your thread, while Barbara and Sabrina immerse you in the culture of Tuscany. All meals provided by our hosts, cooked with home-grown produce.

Unwind as you lose yourself in nature and art. Meet and enjoy the company of other creative floral enthusiasts as you learn new skills, with three full days of tuition by Olga. All materials, tools and dry flowers provided. Suitable for all levels with no prior experience in embroidery required.

**Day 1:** Arrival in the afternoon at Villa Pienza, where Sabrina and Barbara will welcome you with cake and herbal tea made with herbs from the garden – either in front of the fireplace or by the swimming pool, depending on the weather. Dinner in the villa, where Sabrina and Barbara will show us how to hand-make pasta together while we get to know each other and discuss the programme for the following days. Olga will introduce you to her work, the inspiration behind flowers on tulle embroidery and working with dry and preserved flowers.

**Day 2:** A relaxed, all-day workshop in the villa, where you will create your own floral designs. We will be working on 6" and 8" hoops. Olga will talk you through her signature half-moon design, various ways of attaching flowers, the choice of colour palette and materials – dry flowers, seed pods and twigs, pressed leaves and other foliage – and work with you step-by-step on the technique, to achieve a balanced design incorporating berry bunches and creating flower shapes.

**Day 3:** After breakfast in the villa we will visit Puscina Flowers, a nearby company run by three sisters. They are the first flower farm and sustainable floral design studio in Tuscany specialized in the cultivation of seasonal and local flowers. In the morning the sisters will guide us on a walk around the woods and fields to forage for flowers, and talk to us about the kind of flowers they grow in their own garden. After lunch, Olga will demonstrate how to dry some of the flowers we collected using silica, and

we will have a workshop in the studio at Puscina flowers, creating flowers-on-tulle typography – a hoop embroidered with dry flowers in the shape of a letter. In the evening we will go back to the villa for dinner.

**Day 4:** On our final full day in the villa, we will start a new project – making colourful dried-flower festive tree decorations – and have the opportunity to continue any unfinished projects from the previous two days. Olga will work with you on any aspects of the techniques you feel you need to practise further. Olga will talk about how to display and care for your creations to maximise their lifespan. In the late afternoon we will go with Sabrina and Barbara for photo-taking opportunities with our creations in the picturesque nearby town of Bagno Vignoni, a medieval village famous for its thermal water square, before returning to the villa for dinner.

**Day 5.** The last day to savour a gorgeous Tuscan home cooked breakfast and have a swim in the heated pool, before departure.

Cost: 2,200 euros per person, based on two people sharing a room. Single occupancy of a room is possible at 3,600 euros, on a first-come-first-served basis.

Included in the cost: all meals, accommodation, heated pool, transportation for day trips, tools and materials for all your flowers-on-tulle creations.

Not included in the cost: flights, airport transfers, travel insurance.

Villa Pienza is a romantic Tuscan villa, which was restored from a ruin by our hosts Sabrina and Barbara, with a mix of modern comfort and traditional local touches. Set on top of a hill, it offers dramatic panoramas of the rolling Tuscan hills, with a heated pool, veranda and garden with herbs, vegetables and flowers.

The nearest airports to Villa Pienza are Perugia (1h15), Florence (1h30), Pisa (2h) and Rome (2h30).

We ask for a non-refundable deposit of 50% on booking, the remainder to be paid by July 2020. We need a minimum of six participants to go ahead - if we do not reach this minimum, you will of course be refunded in full. We plan for a maximum of 10 guests at the villa to ensure you get as much personal attention as possible.

While we will do our best to keep to the itinerary outlined above, we will of course have backup plans in case of bad weather or unforeseen circumstances.

**[To book your place please click here](#)**