

# Palazzola

**“the best view in Italy!”**

Henry James

**T**HE BEAUTIFUL Villa Palazzola was built on the site of a Roman Consul's prestigious summer estate. It sits perched high above the extinct volcanic Lake Albano, 18 miles south of Rome.

For centuries Palazzola was home to Carthusian, Cistercian and Franciscan monks and friars, whose memory is preserved in the stunning 13th century church of Our Lady of the Snows which stands alongside the medieval convent and its classical Italian garden.

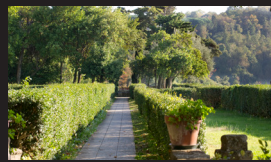
In 1920, Palazzola was purchased by the Venerable English College as a retreat from the sweltering heat of Roman summers. Nearby are the charming towns and Roman ruins of the Alban Hills, Marino, Nemi and Frascati, lakeshore beaches, family-run trattorias, wineries and the sea-towns of Ostia, Nettuno and Anzio.

The Villa is only minutes away from Ciampino Airport, with its low-cost flights, and is located among 16 acres of protected woodland, sports grounds and nature trails.

From the terraced sides of the garden, there are breathtaking views across Lake Albano to the Pope's summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, down to Rome itself and out to the Mediterranean Sea. The writer Henry James described it as “the best view in Italy!”

The website provides all the necessary information about Villa Palazzola: [www.palazzola.it](http://www.palazzola.it)

*Cover icon of St Benedict by Silvia Potter*

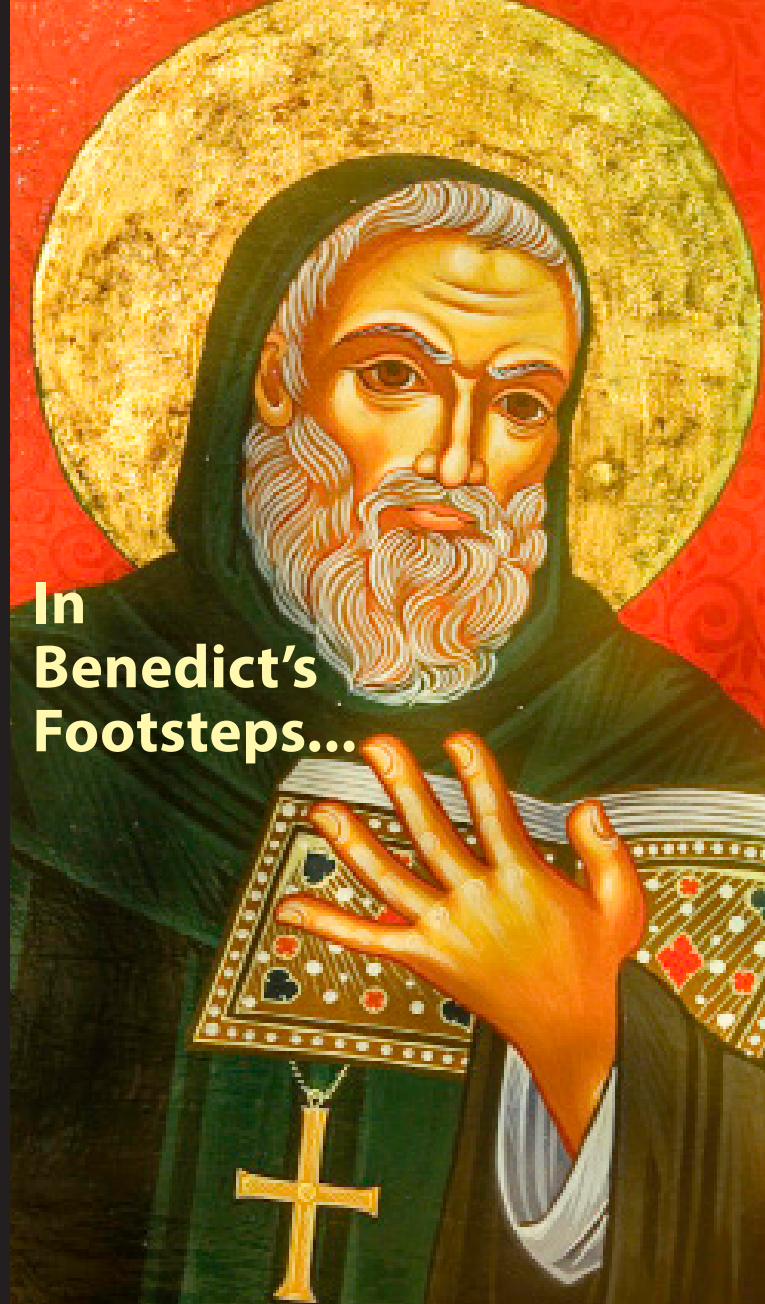


The view from Palazzola



Palazzola

*Come and join  
our 2025 pilgrimage  
In Benedict's Footsteps...*



**In  
Benedict's  
Footsteps...**

**A Pilgrimage Retreat**

Palazzola • Rome • Subiaco • Monte Cassino

**6-13th October 2025**

**Information & Booking Form**

# The Vision

HAVING organised two very blessed and moving pilgrimages in 2013, 14 & 15 for groups of Lay Community of Saint Benedict members, parishioners and oblates interested in an exploration of the Benedictine origins, several people have requested a similar experience to be created in 2025. The idea is for the trip to be more than just a holiday with a few Benedict-related coach tours. It will be a prayerful, relaxed and joyful exploration of the sources of Benedictine spirituality.

Rather than staying in a hotel, we have arranged to use Palazzola, the summer retreat of the Venerable English College, as our base. Once itself a Cistercian monastery, it is an historic building in a stunning location, 18 miles from Rome.

At Palazzola, described as 'the ante-camera to Paradise', we will be able to share the liturgy of the hours in a hallowed space and enjoy a balance of study, relaxation in beautiful, tranquil surroundings, companionship and prayer.

We will involve Benedictine expertise to develop our knowledge and enhance our experience. We will be accompanied by our own Benedictine chaplain, Fr Peter Bowe OSB, a monk of Douai Abbey.

We hope to return with a much deeper sense of Benedict's unique contribution to the life of faith.

For the trip to be viable we need a group of 30, and can accommodate more. To secure the best prices we do need to book early, and commit to a deposit per head of £100.

We need to make an advance payment by the end of January 2025, with the balance due on July 31st.

*"The week was magnificent...a great programme, lovely people and a real opportunity to share deeply with others on life's pilgrimage."*

# The Week

## PROVISIONAL ITINERARY

October 6-13th 2025

Monday 6th

*Transfers, Evening Mass at Palazzola. Compline*

Tuesday 7th

*Day in Rome: S. Cecilia, Lateran Basilica, etc*

Wednesday 8th

*Vicovaro & Subiaco*

Thursday 9th

*Quiet Day; Tour of Palazzola*

Friday 10th

*Monte Cassino*

Saturday 11th

*Sharing Responses*

Sunday 12th

*Sunday Mass at Grottaferrata; Castel Gandolfo*

Monday 11th

*Mass. Transfers & Departures*

## Costs

A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT has secured us a great deal, but we do need to pay a substantial deposit on January 31st 2025 to secure the attractive prices.

Prices include all foreseeable charges\*, but **exclude your flights**, currently E130-175. Transfers from & to Ciampino Airport will be available, & can also be arranged at cost from Fiumicino Airport.

**With shared bathroom** (no single supplement)  
**Accommodation, Meals + Trips £940**

**With Ensuite Accommodation, Meals + Trips £1060**

\* A Guided Tour of Castelgandolfo Papal Apts & Garden is optional

# Booking Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle your preference appropriately below.

Please reserve a: **Single / Twin / Double room\***  
With: **ensuite** [£1060] / **shared bathroom** [£940]

\*Limited numbers of rooms in each category, to be allocated in booking order.

I understand my deposit of £100 may not be returnable after February 1st, 2025

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please return a copy of this booking form with payment of a £100\* deposit per person [to be held in a dedicated International account] to:

**Michael Woodward**  
**In Benedict's Footsteps**  
**9 Croesonen Road,**  
**Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 6AE**

e: shotwithspirit@gmail.com

mob: 07790 943853

**\*Direct electronic transfer can be arranged**

Cheques payable to M.Woodward, please