

**DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY**  
AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN RELIGION

FLORENCE, ITALY – MAY 18-25, 2025







An Insightful Pilgrimage into the World of Dante  
with Distinguished Medieval Scholars



### Our Visiting Scholars



William Franke, who holds degrees in philosophy and theology from Williams College and Oxford University, has written five books and countless articles on Dante. He approaches the *Divine Comedy* as theological revelation in poetic language. Dr. Franke will bookmark our week with lectures on Dante's *Inferno* and *Paradiso*.



Alessandro Vettori, Vice President of the Dante Society of America, is Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature at Rutgers University where he currently serves as Chair of the Department of Italian. His most recent monograph is *Dante's Prayerful Pilgrimage: Typologies of Prayer in Dante's Comedy*.



Mark Vernon is a psychotherapist and author with a doctorate in ancient Greek philosophy and degrees in theology and physics. His influential, *Dante's Divine Comedy: A Guide for the Spiritual Journey*, will be utilized as a secondary text for the group. Dr. Vernon's forthcoming book, *Awake! William Blake and the Power of Imagination*, will be published later this year.



Federica Anichini is a leading faculty member at New York University's Florence campus and one of the foremost experts on Dante's muse, Beatrice. A Florentine by birth, Dr. Anichini holds a particular interest in the relationship of medieval urban Florence to its vernacular poetic tradition.



Francesco Ciabattoni is Director of the Global Medieval Studies Program at Georgetown University where he specializes in the interplay of polyphonic music and literature, particularly as represented in the *Divine Comedy*.

### Schedule

Sunday, May 18, 2025 – arrival, evening welcome reception at the Hotel Orto dei Medici

Monday, May 19, 2025 — morning class, *Introduction to Dante’s Inferno: A Journey of Interpretation*, afternoon tour of Dante’s Florence

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 — morning class, *Purgatorio: Pilgrimage as Prayer*

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 — morning tour of Convento San Marco and the frescoes of Fra Angelico, afternoon class, *Dante and the Art of Spiritual Expression*

Thursday, May 22, 2025 — afternoon class, *Just Like an Admiral: Beatrice at the Helm of Dante’s Journey*

Friday, May 23, 2025 — morning class, *Dante’s Journey to Polyphony and the Music of the Spheres*, afternoon tour, Beatrice’s Florence

Saturday, May 24, 2025 — *Introduction to Dante’s Paradiso: Vision Impossible*, evening farewell dinner at Trattoria Omero in the Florentine hills

Sunday, May 25, 2025 — departure

### Terms and Conditions

**The tour is sponsored and organized by Gladdening Light Inc, a spiritual arts 501(3)(c) nonprofit foundation.**

The cost of the tour is **\$3,975.00** per person. **All rates are exclusive of airfare.** Prices include hotel accommodations, double occupancy; depending on availability, some single rooms may be available at an additional fee of \$1,225.00. Breakfast each day in the hotel, the welcome reception on the first evening and the farewell dinner on the final evening are included. **All other meals are at the expense of participants.** Program entrance fees and guided tours by the leaders are also included.

Ground transportation and hotel accommodations prior to the official start of the tour at the hotel or after its conclusion are the separate responsibility of each participant. Those

who wish to book additional accommodations before or after the start of the program should contact the hotel directly.

**Participants are urged to make reservations using the reservation form at their earliest convenience to guarantee a place on the tour, as space is limited. A deposit of \$975.00 per person is due with the registration form. The deposit covers the cost of the hotel room block until final payment and is non-refundable, except in the case of tour cancellation by the Organizers due to insufficient enrollment whereby all deposits will be refunded.**

### Cancellation Policy

**Cancellation for any reason after final payment, due no later than on February 21, 2025, or no-show at the start of the tour will result in forfeiture of the full cost of the tour. GladdeningLight reserves the right to make exceptions at its sole discretion.**

**GladdeningLight strongly recommends that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance from a reputable vendor of their own choosing.**

**All tours are offered on condition of sufficient enrollment. If the offer of a tour must be withdrawn at any time due to insufficient enrollment, all deposits and payments will be refunded, and this will constitute full satisfaction of all claims by participants on GladdeningLight.**

### Responsibility

GladdeningLight and its representatives act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary, and they will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements. However, they do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person and property due to any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company, or person rendering any of the services included in the tour.

The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules, or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other rendering service shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. Further, GladdeningLight and its representative agents accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather, or any other cause beyond their personal control.

The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice, and to decline to accept any tour member at any time. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance.

In view of the statutory or contractual limitations which may apply to personal injury or property damage losses, the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended, as is trip cancellation insurance.

Finally, GladdeningLight bears no responsibility whatsoever for any travel arrangements made by individual travelers that do not form part of the published itinerary. Extensions of stay, hotel accommodations beyond those indicated in the program, early arrivals or departures, hotel charges not included in the basic room rate including but not limited to telephone, beverages and meals, and hotel services, and all other arrangements undertaken at the initiative of individual participants are their sole responsibility. No change can be made in group plans or schedules to accommodate such arrangements.