



# The Passion of Easter

## Country

Italy

## Region

Sicily

## Instructor

Jonathan Maher

## Dates

06 Apr > 12 Apr 09

## Price

£1280.00

## Overview

Sicily is perhaps the place that most photographers dream of without knowing it. It's a place where a mutual fascination exists between those who are photographing and those being photographed. It is a place where you feel like a pioneer, an explorer, like a witness to a time and society that not many people have witnessed. Much of Sicily remains wonderfully untouched by the hand of global commerce and brands, and there is a real sense of going back in time. Our Masterclass is a window into Sicily's everyday life and religious culture, and is fascinating, moving and unlike anything else you will witness.

This Masterclass is intended for those who are comfortable in the operation of their cameras, and who relish the opportunity to work in crowds and work creatively under pressure. The workshop will be led by Massimo Bassano who has an intimate knowledge of the places and festivities we will photograph. Perhaps Sicily is the Italy that many people imagine Italy to be - we can assure you that this is a moving, emotional and incredibly rewarding photographic experience

## Itinerary

### What is Included

Five full days of tuition  
Six nights of accommodation with en suite bathroom (no single room supplement required)  
Breakfast  
Transfer to and from Palermo Airport airport to Crystal Hotel, Trapani  
Welcome dinner on first night  
Farewell dinner on last night  
Transportation around Sicily during Workshop  
Entrance to any monuments visited during Workshop

### What is Not Included

International air travel into Italy  
Transfer to and from airports other than Palermo  
Lunches & dinners except first and last night  
Photographic materials & processing



Press Pass to get up close and personal to the Procession

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## Calendar

Monday 6 April 2009 - ARRIVAL DAY

4pm pick up from Palermo International Airport "Falcone Borsellino"

Introductions & Welcome dinner

Tuesday 7 April 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 1

Briefing and introductory talk Jonathan Maher

Your first taste of Sicilian life around the streets and baroque piazzas of Trapani

Lunch

Afternoon visit to the Greek temple of Segesta erected in the 5th century BC

Dinner together

Wednesday 8 April 2009- WORKSHOP DAY 2

Daily life in Trapani - the fish market and the port

Lunch

Review session

Late afternoon shoot on the fairy tale like hill-top medieval town of Erice

Dinner together

Thursday 9 April 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 3

Today we travel to Marsala for our first Sicilian Easter procession: the Via Crucis

The day is spent shooting the procession as it meanders around the town amidst heightened emotion and human intensity. Today's processions concludes early evening

Dinner in Trapani

Friday 10 April 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 4

Review Session

Today's procession is Processione dei Misteri in Trapani. This is a very intense experience that provides enormous photographic potential. The procession lasts 24 hours and during the day we follow it around, shooting at some of the best vantage points. Staying at a hotel in the centre of town means that those who wish to take a few hours sleep, can do so, in time for the emotional return of the procession in the morning

Saturday 11 April 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 5

The morning will be taken to complete the shoot of the Good Friday procession that continues until today. The combination of the morning light against the exhausted procession followers is a photographer's dream

Lunch

Final review session

Farewell dinner

Sunday 12 April 2009 - DEPARTURE DAY

Check-out from hotel - no activities planned

VSP drop off at "Falcone Borsellino" Palermo international Airport

## Accommodation



The Crystal Hotel, of modern style is situated in the city centre of Trapani. The historical centre, where all the city's important monuments can be found is only a five minute walk away. The hotel offers, amongst other services, wireless connection an American bar and an Auditorium. For more information on the Hotel Crystal please see the link below:

Hotel Crystal (<http://www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/italy/trapani/nh-crystal.html?nhagentid=10236&nhsabagentid=102360000006>)

## Travel

We will make one pickup from the airport on your arrival, and one drop-off at the end of the course. If you cannot make your arrival time coincide with the pickup time, we would be happy to suggest alternative ways of getting to Trapani. Please note, that journeys made outside of our designated pickup and drop-off would be expenses covered by the participant.

Arrival Day Airport Pickup - Monday 6 April 2009

There will be a private minibus leaving the airport between 4:00pm and 5:30pm

Departure Day Airport Drop-Off - Sunday 12 April 2009

A minibus will shuttle participants from the Crystal Hotel in Trapani back to the airport, leaving at 9:30am, getting to the airport approximately one hour later.

## Companions

Photography is a passion that touches millions of people, but that doesn't always mean that it is shared throughout your family! A great many of our participants choose to travel with their husbands, wives or partners, and we make every effort to make them just as welcome as everybody else. Should you wish to attend with your partner and require a double room upgrade, please contact us for a quote and further details.

## The Photography

### Photography

If photographing people, events, life and society is what you like to shoot, then this Masterclass is for you. Sicily presents a fascinating environment in which to not only take great pictures, but also witness and learn something very tangible about a country and its relationship with religion. The Masterclass spans over the Easter week, and is focussed primarily on two of the main Easter processions in the towns of Marsala and Trapani in the West of Sicily. The Easter processions are also a very personal moment for Sicilians - it is by no means a tourist attraction. As such we are privileged to witness communities, towns, old and young, all come together in an emotional outpour that spans the week.

The photography is 'street-shooting'. You'll be walking the streets, often working individually to make moving amongst the crowds easier. You'll be working light - one camera, probably one lens too. You'll be right amongst the people - part of the ceremony, and the challenge will be to better understand the delicate line between observer and participant.

The emotion of the celebrations over the week could not fail to move even the most steadfast atheist. It is quite an incredible sight to see such intense emotion displayed publicly. The images that will unfold in front of you are there for the taking - our goal is to guide you along the process, ensuring that your visual, creative and technical skills come together to create moving photography and a great learning experience.



## Teaching

Teaching is done through a combination of daily image review sessions, in the field demonstrations, and hands-on practice. As much of the shooting is to be done amongst towns and crowds, we set meeting points, where your instructor will be so that during the day's shooting, you can always find somebody to assist you and answer any questions. Other days will see us shooting at more leisurely locations such as the hill-top town of Erice or the ruins of Segesta. We normally get together at lunch time - a good time to do a 'business lunch' and discuss how the day is going.

In the evening we all head out for dinner together and have a good chat about the day's events. Image review sessions are conducted using a laptop and digital projector and take place in the hotel's conference room. For those wishing to use film, there are labs nearby that can process slide and film.

## Is this for me?

This course in Sicily is what we call a Masterclass. This means that it is designed for people who are relatively comfortable with the operation of their cameras.

In order for you to get the most out of this Masterclass, we suggest that all participants have the following:

Use an SLR camera with interchangeable lenses  
Comfortable with operating a camera's exposure manually

Our passion is photography, and we welcome all of you that share this love. One of the great benefits of learning in a group, is the knowledge you also gain from those around you. New ideas, shared critiques and a good sense of camaraderie are ingredients we actively try to encourage in all of our trips.

## Inspiration

### Introduction

Below you will find a collection of photographers, writers and films chosen to awaken your senses. They may inspire you about the location or they may just intrigue you. Either way please use this as an insight into the experiences and impressions of others. International travel is so easy these days. The pace at which one travels and 'sees' the world gets faster and faster. If you feel like it, take a moment to slow the process down.

## Photographers

Feridnando Scianna  
Bruno Barbey  
Alex Webb  
Patrizia Battaglia

## Books

Photography Books  
"The Italians" Bruno Barbey  
"Festa" photography by Eugenio Zinna (1996)  
"I Siciliani" photography by Feridnando Scianna (Magnum Agency) 1977  
"Feste religiose in Sicilia" photography by Ferdinando Scianna (Magnum Agency) 1965/1987



"Il grande libro della Sicilia" photography by Ferdinando Scianna (Magnum Agency) 1984  
"Passion Justice Freedom: Photographs of Sicily" photography by Letizia Battaglia (1999)  
"Feste di Sicilia, Pathos Devozione Spasimo" Photography by Raimondo Marino, written by Gina Gulisano (2002)  
General Literature  
"The Leopard" Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (Published late in 1958)  
"Midnight in Sicily" Peter Robb (1999)  
"On Persephone's Island: A Sicilian journey" Mary Taylor Simeti (1986)  
"The Knight and Death" Leonardo Sciascia (1988)  
"To Each His Own" Leonardo Sciascia (1966)  
"Conversations in Sicily" Elio Vittorini (1941)  
"Sicilian Lives" Danilo Dolci (1981)  
"Little Novels of Sicily" Giovanni Verga (1883)  
"Sicily: Three Thousand Years of Human History" Sandra Benjamin (2006)  
"Sometimes the Soul: Two Novellas of Sicily" Gioia Timpanelli (1999)

## Movies

"Divorce, Italian style" directed by Pietro Germi with Marcello Mastroianni, Stefania Sandrelli (1961)  
"Salvatore Giuliano" directed by Francesco Rosi with Pietro Cammarata, Frank Wolff (1962)  
"The Leopard" directed by Luchino Visconti with Burt Lancaster, Claudia Cardinale, Alain Delon (1963)  
"The Godfather" directed by Francis Ford Coppola with Marlon Brando, Al Pacino (1972)  
"The Sicilian" directed by Michael Cimino with Christopher Lambert, John Turturro (1987)  
"Nuovo Cinema paradiso" directed by Giuseppe Tornatore with Philippe Noiret, Salvatore Cascio (1988)  
"Il postino" directed by Michael Radford with Philippe Noiret, Massimo Troisi, Maria Grazia Cucinotta (1994)  
"The star maker" directed by Giuseppe Tornatore with Sergio Castellitto (1995)  
"Malena" directed by Giuseppe Tornatore with Monica Bellucci (2000)  
"The hundred steps" directed by Marco Tullio Giordana with Luigi Lo Cascio (2000)

## Forums

We have our own online forum that over the years has proven to be a very popular and useful way of not just keeping in touch after a workshop, but also before. It can be a fascinating source of information for those considering their first workshop with VSP. You will need to register to join the forum, and we recommend the following two sections

Ask a past VSP Workshops participant (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?board=feedback/>)

Discussion board for all participants booked on The Passion of Easter Masterclass (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1191519226>)

## Testimonials

"Thank you so much for a wonderful Masterclass. I enjoyed the Easter Procession and all the amazing photo opportunities. I have been inspired to work both on street photography and portrait. Great! Grazie per tutto"  
Jeff, USA, 2006



"I can't tell you how much we enjoyed this Masterclass. It was a great balanced work, lots and lots of fun combined with the right amount of travel. We both learned a lot and loved travelling and working with you. If you haven't attended a VSP Masterclass we can assure you that you should run, not walk, to sign up for one - the Sicily Masterclass far exceeded our expectations. "

Chris & Lori, USA 2006

"You won't find a more friendly and delightful photo experience on the planet"

Steve, USA, 2007

"I have never experienced a more balanced, but intense and yet fun Workshop! VSP exudes its love for photography from every pore and it knows how to deliver the message. When is the next one? Where do I sign?"

Jacky, USA 2007

"Thank you VSP for one of the most intense and rewarding experiences of my life! I didn't know I was able to take such images"

Sarah, UK 2006