



*Tuscan Shower*

John Goodman

I taught at Carlo Roberti's Toscana Photo Workshop nestled in the hillside town of Buonconvento from 1993 to 2001. Looking back it seems like a dream.

One night after dinner at the farmhouse several of us were asked by Gianni Mariotti, the charismatic estate manager to help bring a group of horses back to the stable. It was a moonless night and our destination lay beyond the wooded hills and the ravines of the property. Not an experienced horseman, the idea of riding through the darkness, bareback after having consumed too much wine seemed well beyond me. However with some prodding by Gianni I was emboldened. "The horses will lead us safely back to their stalls" he explained "just loosen the reins, and give them their heads." With that we mounted the horses and started our journey.

I remember the path leading through dense underbrush and hearing the sounds of wild boar rummaging around in the night. The horses remained calm and sure footed as they made their way along the steep winding trails until we all finally reached the stable. I was exhilarated. With the horses' guidance and Gianni's enthusiastic support I had allowed myself to open up to a new experience, something completely different. To this day I remember the workshop as a provocative, challenging and inspirational adventure.

-John Goodman

TOSCANA 2001



Pedro  
 Roberto  
 James Gordon  
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 Susan  
 Amanda  
 Nicky  
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