



2024 Schedule with Workshop Leaders:

Storyteller: Karen Leslie  
 Carolyn Flynn  
 Songwriter: Clay Mills

Stories and Songs Writing Retreat  
 Sept. 10-16, 2024  
*Location: Spannocchia, Tuscany, Italy*

Tuesday, Sept. 10

2 to 5 p.m. <i>Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	Check-in at Spannocchia
6:30 p.m. <i>Villa Terrace</i>	Welcome to the Stories and Songs Writing Retreat
7 p.m. <i>Villa Terrace</i>	Wine on the terrace
7:30 p.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Dinner
8:30 p.m. <i>Villa Terrace</i>	Open mic sharing of stories and songs [Host: Karen]

Wednesday, Sept. 11

8-10 a.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Breakfast
8 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. <i>Castello de Spannocchia, locations of your choice</i>	Enter the day writing   Prompts provided in your welcome packet
10 a.m. -10:45 a.m. <i>Library, Castello de</i>	WHY STORIES, WHY SONGS Design your writing immersion time

<i>Spannocchia</i>	
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Historical tour of Spannocchia
1 p.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Lunch
2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. <i>Museo</i>	SONG FEEDBACK WORKSHOP [Clay]
2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. <i>Library at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	PERFECTING YOUR PROCESS: WORDS ON THE PAGE [Karen]
3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	WRITING IMMERSION
4 to 4:45 p.m. <i>Library, Castello de Spannocchia</i>	YOUR STORY IS A SONG [Carolyn] In this session, we'll help you identify the narrative elements of a story you're working on. We'll use the song as a lens into how to plot a story in a compressed narrative. You'll learn how to make your story lean -- and make it as memorable as a song you can't forget.
4:45 to 7 p.m.	WRITING IMMERSION Time to write
7 p.m. <i>Villa Terrace</i>	Wine on the terrace
7:30 p.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Pizza night
8:30 p.m. <i>Villa Terrace</i>	Open mic sharing of stories and songs [Host: Clay]

## Thursday, Sept. 12

8-10 a.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Breakfast
8 a.m.	Enter the day writing   Prompts provided in your welcome packet

- 9:50 a.m. <i>Castello de Spannocchia, locations of your choice</i>	
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. <i>Museo at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	CROSS-GENRE #1 [Karen and Carolyn]
11:45 a.m. -12:30 p.m. <i>Museo at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	SONGWRITING & THE POWER OF THREE [Clay]
11:45 a.m. -12:30 p.m. <i>Library, Castello de Spannocchia</i>	<p>RESONATING IMAGES AND RHYMING ACTION [Carolyn]</p> <p>In this session, we will guide you in two craft techniques that will make your story ring out like a song. We'll do an "image inventory" so you can create and choose images that resonate -- and linger long after the note is played. We'll work with rhyming action — using scenes that echo actions in other scenes. You'll have a chance to write two scenes!</p>
1 p.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Lunch
2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. <i>Museo at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	CO-WRITING WORKSHOP [Clay]
2:30-4 p.m. <i>Various locations at Tenuta de Spannocchia, tba</i>	<p>WRITING IMMERSION</p> <p>Time to write</p>
4:30-6 p.m. <i>Library, Castello de Spannocchia</i>	<p>WRITERS IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Presentation of Karen's and Carolyn's writing with Q &amp; A about process</p> <p>Carolyn will read "Shall We Just Kill Ourselves Now? Romeo and Juliet Improve Their Communication" and opening of memoir, <i>Boundless</i>, published September 2024</p>

	Karen will read from her novel-in-progress <i>When the Trees Go Silent</i> and a selected short work
7 p.m. <i>Villa Terrace</i>	Wine on the terrace
7:30 p.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Dinner
8:30 p.m. <i>Villa Terrace</i>	Open mic sharing of stories and songs [Host: Carolyn]

## Friday, Sept. 13

8-10 a.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Breakfast
8 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. <i>Castello de Spannocchia, locations of your choice</i>	Enter the day writing   Prompts provided in your welcome packet
10 a.m. - 11 a.m. <i>Museo at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	THE ART OF CREATIVE CONTRAST [Clay]
10 a.m.- 10:45 a.m. <i>Library, Castello de Spannocchia</i>	THE ART OF COMPRESSION: SHORT STORIES AND SONGS [Karen]
10:45- 11:15 a.m.	WRITING IMMERSION - HOW TO DO A WRITER'S DATE
11:30 a.m. -12:45 p.m. <i>Museo at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	CROSS-GENRE WORKSHOP: GUIDED WRITING SESSION [Clay]
1 p.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Lunch

2:30-6 <i>Various locations at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	WRITING IMMERSION or SPANNOCCHIA ACTIVITY: 2 hour Wine Tour & Tasting [Optional: 35 euros paid at registration desk]
7 p.m. <i>Villa Terrace</i>	Wine on the terrace
7:30 p.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Dinner
8:30 p.m. <i>Villa Terrace</i>	Open mic sharing of stories and songs [Host: Karen]

## Saturday, Sept. 14

8-10 a.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Breakfast
8 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. <i>Castello de Spannocchia, locations of your choice</i>	Enter the day writing   Prompts provided in your welcome packet
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	WRITING IMMERSION Time to write
1 p.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Lunch
3 p.m. <i>Registration lobby, Castello de Spannocchia</i>	Depart for Siena Writer's Date
	Dinner on your own in Siena
8 p.m. <i>Location in Siena, tba</i>	Departure from Siena, return to Spannocchia at 8:30 p.m.

## Sunday, Sept. 15

8-10 a.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Breakfast
8 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. <i>Castello de Spannocchia, locations of your choice</i>	Enter the day writing   Prompts provided in your welcome packet
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. <i>Museo at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	WRITING MORE MUSICAL LYRICS [Clay]
10 a.m.- 10:45 a.m. <i>Library at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	SONGS AS STRUCTURES FOR STORIES (HERMIT CRAB PIECES, SETLISTS and ALBUMS) [Carolyn]
10:45- 11:45 a.m.	WRITING IMMERSION
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. <i>Library at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	HOW TO FOLLOW AND REFINE YOUR VOICE [Karen]
1 p.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Lunch
2:30 - 4:00 p.m. <i>Museo at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	SONG SHARE & PROGRESS CHECK IN [Clay]
2:30-6 <i>Various locations at Tenuta de Spannocchia</i>	WRITING IMMERSION Time to write

7 p.m. <i>Villa Terrace</i>	Wine on the terrace
7:30 p.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Dinner
8:30 p.m. <i>Villa Terrace</i>	Closing Reception/Open mic sharing of stories and songs [Host: Clay, Carolyn, Karen]

## Monday, Sept. 16

8-10 a.m. <i>Villa Dining Room</i>	Breakfast
10 a.m.	Check out from Spannocchia

Find more information about our Friends of Spannocchia membership on our website. Please click here for more information: <https://www.spannocchia.org/giving/>

## Breakfast

Coffee and tea

Assorted fruit juices

Milk and butter

Yogurt

Sweet breads

Organic cereal and Tuscan bread

Fresh fruit in season

Jams and honey made at Spannocchia

Homemade granola

Hardboiled eggs

## Lunch

The following are examples of some items typically found in a budget or picnic lunch.

Wine and water

Pasta or soup

Rice or pasta salad, cheese

Vegetables

Bread

Green salad or seasonal vegetables

Fruit

Omelette

Vegetables

Sandwiches (tomato and cheese, etc.)

Bread

Tomatoes in season, or olives/ pickles

## Dinner

Dinner begins with the primo piatto (first course)—a pasta, soup, or risotto made with seasonal vegetables or meat. The secondo piatto (main course) is a meat—usually pork, beef, venison, or chicken—served with a contorno (side dish) of seasonal vegetables from



the Spannocchia garden and insalata (green salad) that can be dressed to taste with Spannocchia-produced olive oil and vinegar. Dolce (dessert)— panna cotta, tiramisu, or cantucci and vin santo, for example—is served at the end of the meal. Bread, wine, and water are included with the meal as well.

## Wine

At Spannocchia, we are proud to serve our estate-produced organic wine for guests to enjoy during dinner. Included in the group price is one bottle for every four people at the table.

If any participants want to consume additional wine, or wine outside of mealtimes, they can purchase additional bottles. This may be requested during a meal, and Spannocchia wine is also available for sale in the Spannocchia Shop during regular store hours.

## About wi-fi

Free wi-fi is available for program participants' personal use, but these services are shared by all guests, so we encourage everyone to limit their time spent on the telephone and internet.

*Website: [storiesandsongsretreat.com](http://storiesandsongsretreat.com)*

*Contact:*

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