



Writers on Fire

Writing Retreat at Chateau St. Philippe, France

Writing Retreat at Chateau St. Philippe – Workshop Schedule

Following please find a sample workshop schedule from the previous Writers On Fire In France retreat. Workshop schedules are subject to change, and will be customized to suit the 9 workshop participants for the upcoming August 12th-August 19th retreat.

Day before the retreat: Early arrival for those who prefer.

Day 1: Arrival. Icebreaker dinner at the Chateau: 8pm.

Day 2: Morning session: 9am-12pm. The Necessary Lie: Turning Life Into Fiction. Afternoon session: 1-3pm. Memoir Intensive. 9pm: Screening of 1935 “Bride of Frankenstein” in the 10-seat private movie theater.

Day 3: Morning session: 9am-12pm. Here Comes Frankenstein: Writing Visceral Fiction. The Thrill of High Literary and the Pleasures of Genre. Afternoon session: 1-3pm. More Fiction. 6-7pm: Guest lecture on the Frankenstein series of paintings and Q&A with fine artist Pat O’Neal. [Mary Shelley composed the classic horror novel Frankenstein in the mountains not far from the Chateau.]

Day 4: Morning session: 9am-12pm. Tour-de-force Travel Writing & The Power of the Personal Essay. Afternoon session: 1-3pm. Dramarama: Cooking Up the One-Act Play. 9pm: Screening of “Quills” in the movie theater, in preparation for tomorrow’s tour. Discussion of de Sade follows.

Day 5: Morning session: 9-12pm. Sudden Fiction: The Flash Art of the Short-Short. Afternoon excursion: 1-3pm. Guided tour of Fortress de Miolans.

Day 6 : Morning session: 9-12pm. Erotica: Sade & How To Write Without Censure. Tapping Your Inner Libertine. Hike: 1-3pm. Excursion of Light. Group stops at various points to discuss ways light can be described. Last event: 8pm. Public reading of works created during retreat at local gourmet restaurant, followed by celebratory dinner.

Day 7: Departure. The evenings are free for writing and exploring the spectacular and richly atmospheric grounds – 17 acres -- and nearby villages. Participants will be encouraged to use their vivid memories, as well as experiences with the retreat environment, each other, food, dreams and observations in their writing exercises and assignments. Inspiration

may also come from writing journals and dream logs. I will offer two personal coaching sessions with each participant, to work out a plan for your future writing and other creative endeavors and to clarify and expand your individual goals as a writer. The first one-on-one session will be at the beginning of the conference, and the second toward the end of the conference. Each evening we will organize wine and cheese gatherings in the library as breaks from writing and opportunities to mingle. *Schedule subject to change.

Inspiration and Personal Coaching Sessions

In both retreats, participants will be encouraged to use their vivid memories, as well as experiences with the retreat environment, each other, food, dreams and observations in their writing exercises and assignments. Inspiration may also come from writing journals and dream logs. I will offer two personal coaching sessions with each participant, to work out a plan for your future writing and other creative endeavors and to clarify and expand your individual goals as a writer. The first one-on-one session will be at the beginning of the conference, and the second toward the end. Each evening we will organize wine and cheese gatherings in the living room or on the deck as breaks from writing and opportunities to mingle. I also offer private personal coaching sessions separately from the retreats. If you are interested, please contact me directly for more details.

WHEN YOU LEAVE, YOU'LL TAKE: Concrete critiquing of your writing, to whatever degree you desire; a coaching plan for how to work regular writing into your life and how to use writing to expand your creative energy and the power of your imagination in all areas; and the experience of a unique, breakthrough creative journey.

PREPARATION: All you will need for each meeting is a pen and a notebook. There will be writing assignments out of class as well. The conference will not have computers, so you may wish to bring your laptops if you work on computer. A printer will be available on the premises for out-of-class assignments. DSL also available at the Chateau St. Philippe for email and online access. No advance submission of work is required.

Cost & What's Included

The all-inclusive price (except for airfare) is \$4,250. This includes: the 6-night 5-day stay; three specially catered meals beginning with a daily continental breakfast as well as wine, beverages and snacks, lunch and dinner; transportation to and from the Lyon airport; a guided tour of Fortress de Miolans where the Marquis de Sade was imprisoned -- and escaped! There are laundry facilities on the property, and a daily cleaning crew who will make beds and clean rooms daily. There will be two workshop meetings/day. I will also provide two personal coaching sessions with each participant, to work out a plan for your future writing and to clarify and expand your individual goals as a writer.

Please make checks out to: Writers On Fire/120 N. Topanga Cyn. Blvd., Suite 105/PMB 173/Topanga, CA 90290. If you want to pay by PayPal, please include an additional \$10 servicing fee, and use my katamon@verizon.net e-mail for making payment.

There will also be more Writers On Fire workshops and retreats upcoming, both here and abroad. If you'd like to be on the mailing list for coaching and workshop retreats, let me know.

I look forward to working with you!

Best,

Rachel



RACHEL RESNICK, WRITING COACH AND RETREAT LEADER

Rachel Resnick is the author of *Love Junkie*, a bestselling and critically acclaimed memoir, and *Go West Young F*cked-Up Chick*, a bestselling novel. Her essays, articles and fiction have appeared in nearly a dozen anthologies, most recently *What Was I Thinking? 58 Bad Boyfriend Stories*, and many more magazines, newspapers and literary journals. She has taught in major writing programs, among them UCLA Extension Writers Program, USC Professional Writing Program, Loyola Marymount, mediabistro.com, Cal Arts, LACC, Chapman, Whittier, Emerson, Antioch, UC Riverside/Palm Desert, and she runs her own Writers On Fire writing workshops in Hawaii, France and Los Angeles.

Please refer to www.rachelresnick.com for more links, reviews and general info on the writing coach, workshop and retreat leader. Or feel free to e-mail with any questions.

A few Coaching and Retreat Testimonials

"I've learned so much from you about how to write—real. I now get that cleverness is not what people want. They want heart. And jokes cover up the pain. I'm learning in reverse to remove the "jokes" as if taking the lid off a boiling pot. Your teaching has really made a difference, not only in my writing, but in my life. [see, no jokes.]"

~ Judy Carter, comedian, magician, sought-after public speaker, and author of perennial bestseller *The Comedy Bible*

"I had a breakthrough and came out knowing more about my writing voice, how different I am from others, and not to be afraid of that, but to really go deep and explore it."

~ Holly Hughes, new mother and writer

"Rachel takes us to her perch, spreads her wings (and her wing span is might), and takes us safely over the mountain."

~ Coleman Hough, screenwriter

"Rachel Resnick's Writers On Fire in France retreat proved to be an intense and invigorating experience. I pushed myself to write beyond my usual boundaries and experienced seismic shifts in my writing after attending this workshop. Rachel has the rare ability to inspire and guide a writer on his or her own individual journey."

~ Monica Carter, bookstore bandleader and writer

"I didn't know I needed a writing coach until I started working with Rachel. Within a week she had assessed my work from the dozen clips I gave her, helped me define my "voice" and map out a book proposal -- something I had been attempting to do on my own for the past two years! I thoroughly enjoyed the process and feel that it has been terrific investment of both time and money."

~ Linda Renaud, print journalist and writer of creative non-fiction

"Sometimes it takes a few secrets, a few laughs and Rachel Resnick to go a little deeper and simply write. Rachel's warmth and respect for the writing process just lets the work

reveal in ever more intimate layers. Somehow in luxury of sharing writing, doubts slip away..."

~ Madeleine Gallay, fashion maven and writer

"Whatever you did blew me out of my rut and into territories I have yet to explore and digest. The best single writing experience of my life. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

~ Russell Avery, world traveler, philanthropist and writer

"The writing exercises, where everyone had to read out loud what they had written, trained the brain muscle that had been dormant. More than what I had expected. I wanted to get inspired. I got very inspired plus energized plus left with a smile."

~ Gregor von Bismarck, filmmaker, father and bon vivant

"I loved that the workshop was generative, since it kept it fresh and alive for me -- one who can get lost in moving a word around for a couple of hours. The retreat as a whole was beyond my expectations in all ways. The quality and quantity of work, one-on-one's with Rachel, the writing exercises, the people, setting...wow, wow, wow."

~ Marcia King, personal coach and motivational speaker

Please note: Workshops and retreats are non-refundable. Extra coaching sessions are of course available, and billed at the rate of \$100/hour per quarter hour segments. In-person meetings are for 90 minutes or more.