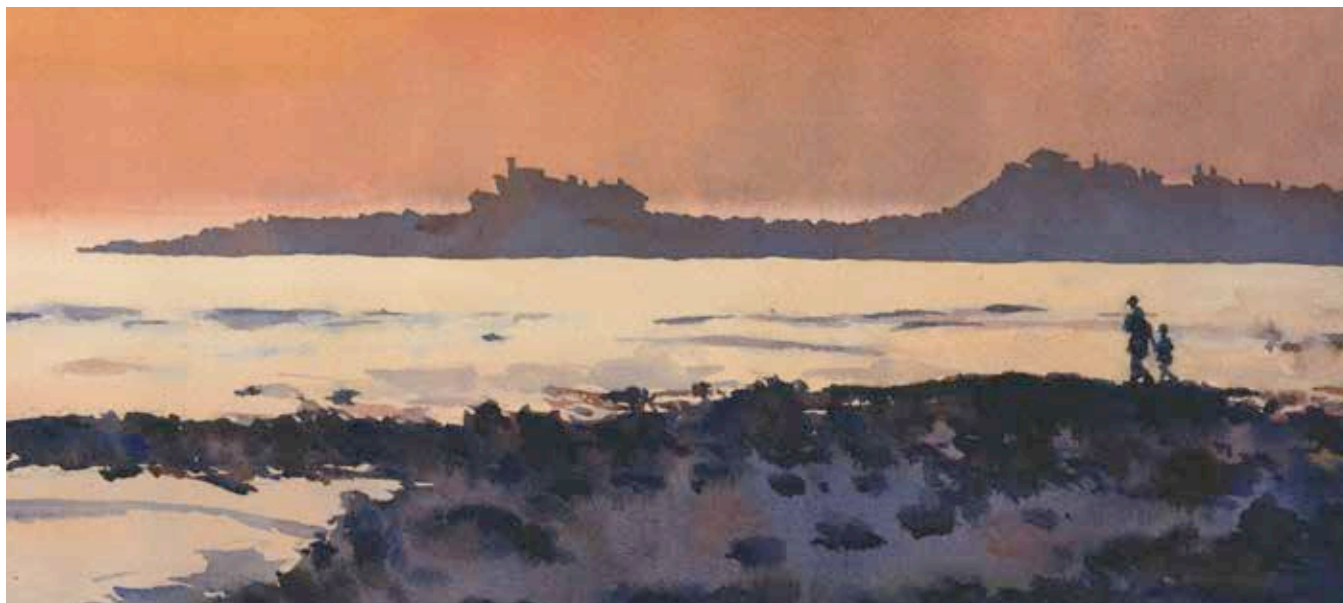


Watercolor Workshop with Michael Reardon on the Amalfi Coast

October 7-14, 2026 •



I am honored to be able to invite you for a week of painting and sketching in one of my favorite places in the world under the leadership of a dear friend and one of the world's most acclaimed painters in watercolor today: Michael Reardon! Based in San Francisco, Michael has been painting and teaching watercolor for almost forty years, first as an architectural illustrator and then as a fine artist. He holds signature membership in the American Watercolor Society and the National Watercolor Society and is a Master signature member of the California Watercolor Association. His work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, including a solo show at the Thomas Reynolds Gallery in San Francisco.

He is the author of *Watercolor Techniques: Painting Light and Color in Landscapes and Cityscapes*, from North Light Books. He has been featured in several publications, such as *Watercolor Artist*, *Plein Air*, and *L'Art de*

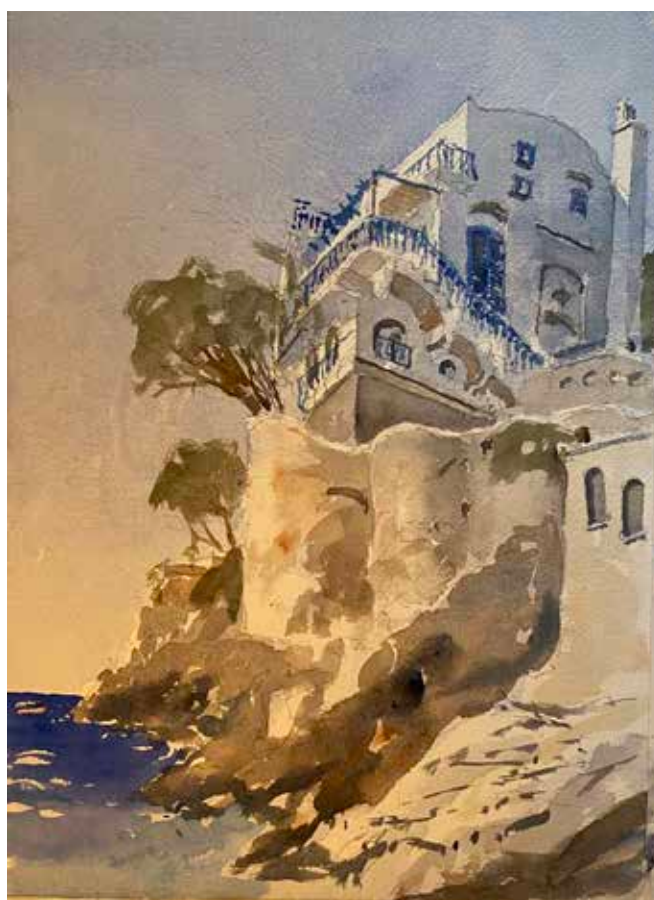


Año Nuevo 20" x 10" by Michael Reardon. Above: View at Sunrise of the bay of Salerno and the Mediterranean Sea from our Villa San Michele.

l'Aquarelle. His work has garnered many awards, including the Ogden and Mary Pleissner Memorial Award from the American Watercolor Association, Best of Show in the Statewide Watercolor Exhibition at the Triton Museum in California, and a finalist in the 2025 Plein Air Salon. He was also awarded the Gabriel Prize from the Western European Architecture Foundation, going to Paris for three months of painting and study. During his career as an architectural illustrator he received the Hugh Ferriss Memorial Prize for excellence in the field of architectural illustration.

The Villa San Michele is a small family run hotel perched on the steep slope between the famed coast road and the sea, where there are steps and a rock jetty for swimming. Now in its second generation of ownership (I have been staying there ever since the two brothers, now in their 20s and taking over management from their parents, were infants). The hotel offers simple but ample comforts and a stunning view from each room of the bay of Salerno and distant mountainous shore to the south. Several rooms offer terraces or balconies. The

Above, right, View from one of the rooms; below, right, Villa San Michele from the bathing jetty, watercolor by Stephen Harby; Below, left, View of the Hotel from the cliffs of Ravello (the white building, our hotel)





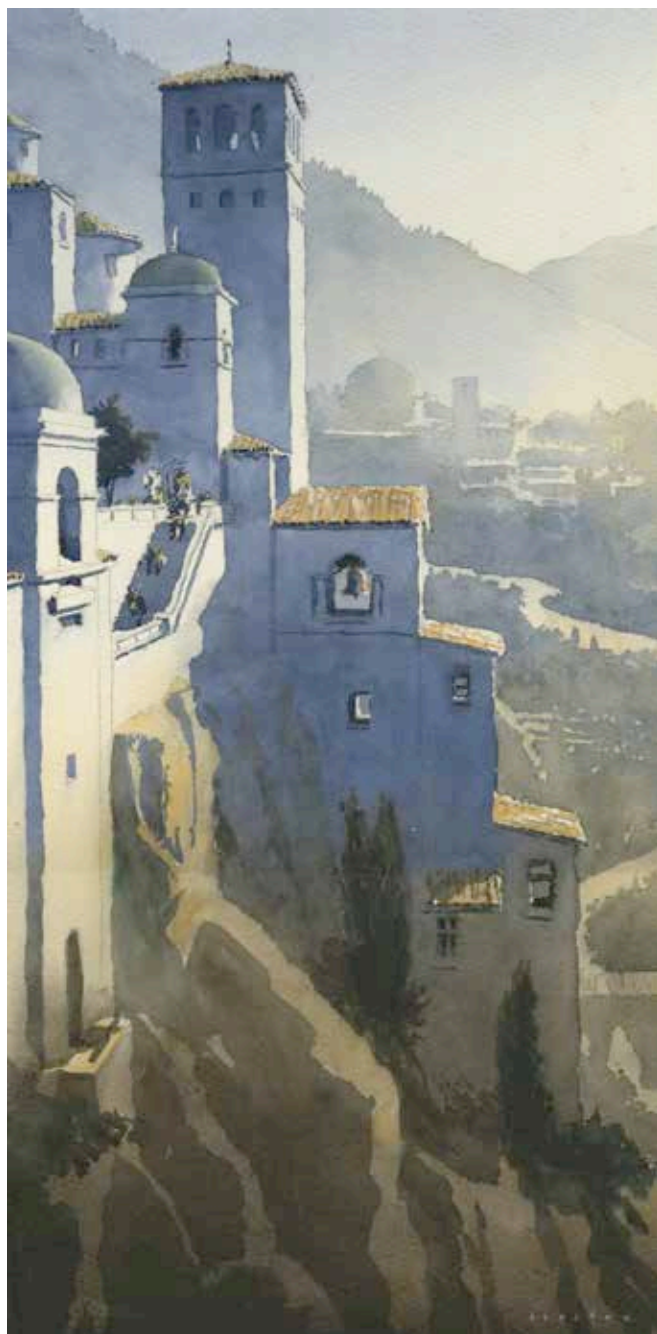
Above, left, Headlands 16" x 16"; Above right, Issisa, 25" x 10"; Bottom, Lime Point, 20" x 10"; all works this page by Michael Reardon.

resident chef, prepares a daily menu of exquisitely prepared locally sourced cuisine. There are only twelve rooms at Villa San Michele, which will be allocated in order of registration. Due to the small number of rooms, our group will be intimate, however sharing is encouraged, as availability of single rooms is limited.

Our six days will be comprised mainly of field sketching around the Villa San Michele and the environs. Painting sites include a shady arbor or the expansive lounging terrace at the Villa San Michele and other special locations curated by Stephen Harby along the coast and inland. Of course, artists will be free to paint where they please.

Michael Reardon strongly believes in individual attention and will be available at all times to help you along your painting journey. His specialty is watercolor, but other media are welcome as his guidance includes universal painting concepts such as composition, light and values. He will also talk about specific watercolor necessities, including washes, pigment-mixing and brushes and paper. His main goal is to make every artist feel welcome and help them when he can.

At day's end we review the day's work. Each artist showcases their daily oeuvre, discussing the pleasures and, perhaps, pitfalls of their painting day. During the review, discussion is



encouraged with occasional suggestions to help the artist along their painting path.

The magnificent landscape and built environment around us will also summon our skills and resources! In addition to the breathtaking and always changing views from our villa, there is an abundance of nearby places to explore and paint. Within a five or ten minute walk by either narrow paths or the coastal road is the small hamlet of Atrani. We will go there one day to have a simple lunch in the arcade of the viaduct of the elevated roadway above. A multilevel stage-set like piazza frames the parish church as its centerpiece. Narrow passageways under the buildings lead to a small pop-up museum devoted to MC Escher, no doubt inspired by the configurations of stairways that are commonplace here. Another morning or afternoon will be spent in Amalfi, where we will visit the Cathedral of Sant'Andrea, dating from the 9th through 13th centuries, and whose Arab-Norman details attest to how Amalfi was once a crossroads of the diverse cultural currents flowing across the Mediterranean. Amalfi is also home to the ancient paper mill, Carteria Amatruda, whose watercolor paper is still sought after today. We will visit early on, attend a paper making session and stock up!

All meals are provided from arrival through departure. Breakfast and dinner will be at the villa, as well as some lunches, and when we are in other nearby locations, lunch will be arranged at a pizzeria or trattoria serving local fare.



Above: the charming church and piazza of Atrani, another nearby destination for exploration and field sketching; Below: Cathedral of Sant'Andrea, Amalfi.





Above The piazza of Ravello, one of the places we may gather to paint; below left, Foletto, 18" x 11" below right, Lycia, 16" x 10", by Michael Reardon





For Pricing and Registration Information

Please Contact:

Stephen Harby Invitational

718 Cedar Street

Santa Monica, CA 90405

310 450 8239

info@stephenharby.org