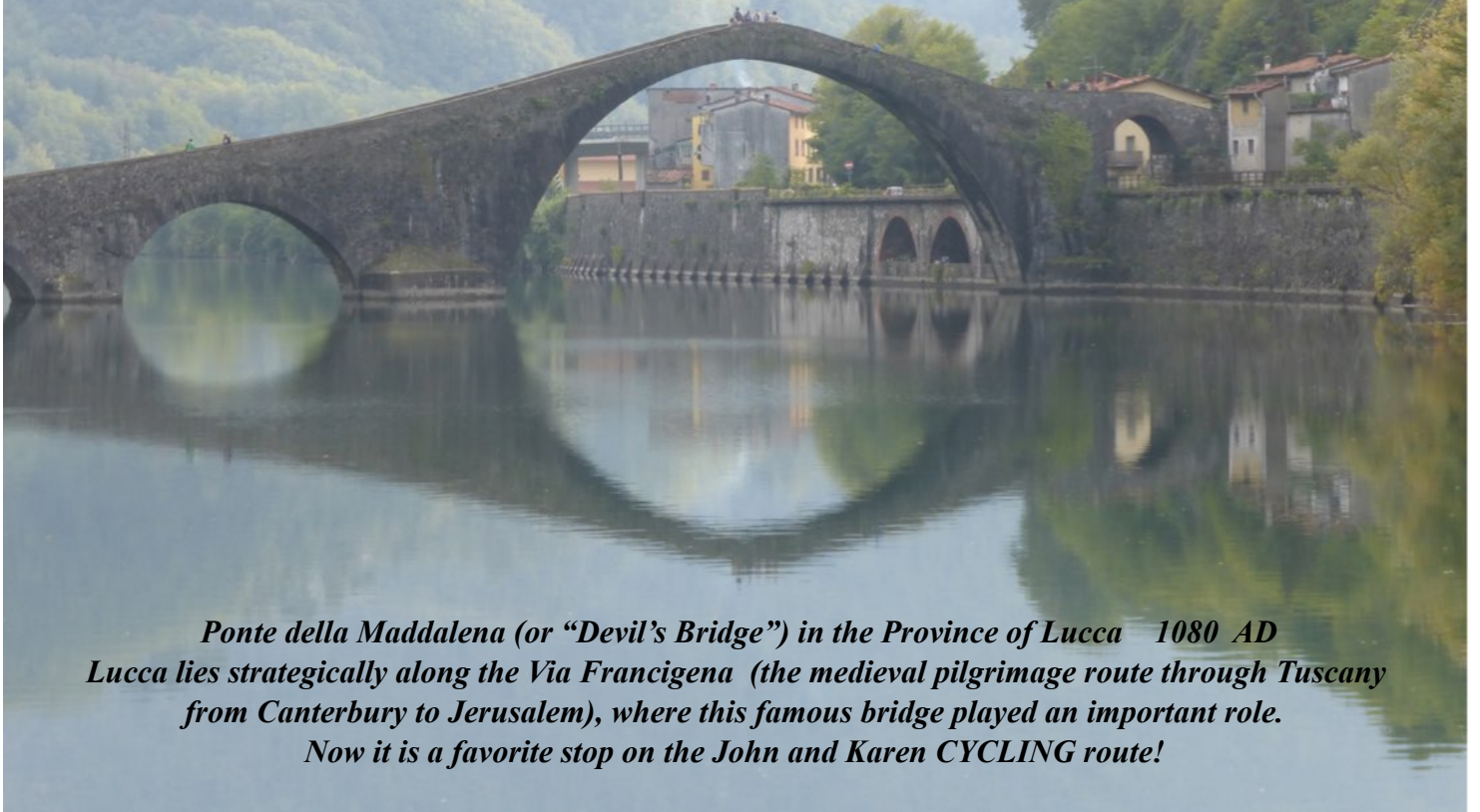


## ***AUTUMN IN LUCCHESIA 2015***



*Ponte della Maddalena (or “Devil’s Bridge”) in the Province of Lucca 1080 AD  
Lucca lies strategically along the Via Francigena (the medieval pilgrimage route through Tuscany  
from Canterbury to Jerusalem), where this famous bridge played an important role.  
Now it is a favorite stop on the John and Karen CYCLING route!*

### ***“THESE ARE THE DAYS WE LIVE FOR”***

*I’ll never forget our lovely friend Gabriella’s words as we sat outside one fine late  
September day, 15 years ago now, enjoying beautifully prepared fresh local seafood  
under perfect Tiepolo skies here in Lucca :  
“Karen, these are the days we live for”.*

*....and so autumn in Lucca has been for us ever since ~  
One month later we purchased our home here.*

*We have been fortunate to, like last year, be here from late summer on into the late fall  
season enjoying dining al fresco, patio wood fired pizza parties, Murabilia up on the  
walls of Lucca, the vendemmia (grape harvest), the many local chestnut festivals, all of  
the craziness of Lucca Comics and Games during Halloween weekend ...*

*<https://www.icloud.com/photostream/#A25yeZFhSve8D>*

*and then la raccolta (the local olive harvest) ~ all culminating in the grand celebration  
of the local fall harvest here in Lucca at Il Desco. [www.ildesco.eu](http://www.ildesco.eu)*

*~ Life is good ~*



*Wood fired pizza night!*





*What to do with several kilos of left over pizza dough???*  
*Always a Ligurian at heart... Karen's potato, gorgonzola, rosemary focaccia, of course!*



*2015 has been a stellar season in Lucca for both the grapes and the olives.*  
*The Lucchese 2015 wines will be of top quality*  
*~ as are the fresh new olive oils (nuovo raccolto) this November.*

*Buying some of our favorite local wines (Libente e Ebrius) direct from  
Valle del Sole in Cappella [www.valledelsole.eu](http://www.valledelsole.eu)*



*Helping friends harvest their olives for pressing into their excellent private label olive oil:*





***Eating necci (freshly ground chestnut flour pancakes filled with ricotta) and hot roasted chestnuts at La Festa della Castagna (Chestnut) in Bagni di Lucca:***



**PORTRAITURE IN THE GRAND MANNER  
THE LUCCA STUDIO 2015**

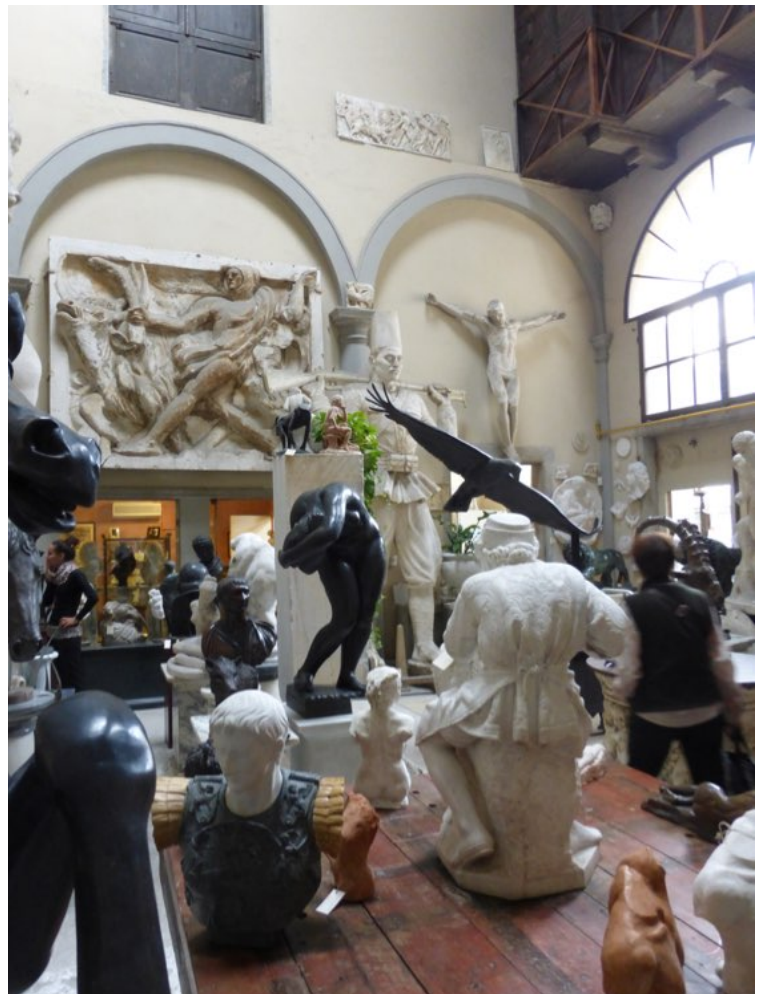


***Day #1 laying in “Portrait of Kate” (for Boston clients through Portraits, Inc.)  
One of 5 bust portraits of children that were completed here this Lucca season!***

***It has been a busy fall here in our Lucca studio, as always, along with a good bit of time  
spent in Florence.***

***The art world’s loss of Nelson Shanks this fall hit both of us hard. He was a titan and a  
purist in the world of portraiture and someone we both admired greatly. Not only did John  
enjoy the privilege of having him in our Charlotte studio, but they both worked and lived in  
the very same historic studio in Florence on Borgo San Frediano, 68!  
(Nelson in the 1960’s and us in the 1990’s, when John taught at Charles Cecil Studios)  
[www.charlescecilstudios.com](http://www.charlescecilstudios.com)***

*Now the impressive Romanelli sculpture studio downstairs is also open to the public and makes for a fascinating visit (and we usually walk out with a little something)!  
[www.raffaelloromanelli.com](http://www.raffaelloromanelli.com)*



A full-length portrait of a man with grey hair and a mustache, smiling. He is wearing a dark pinstripe suit, a white shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He holds a rolled-up document in his right hand and a pair of glasses in his left. A silver watch is visible on his left wrist. He stands next to a red leather chair. In the background, there is a painting of a building and a framed picture on the wall. The artist's signature 'J. Gebels-Welken 2015' is in the bottom left corner.

## ***WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE:***

*We are FINALLY getting close on the new website, with it now almost ready to launch.  
It will be quite extensive and far more interactive.*

*John and Portraiture in the Grand Manner are now on Facebook, although neither of us  
has really figured out what to do with Facebook yet! I think we'll get more going with  
that once the new website is launched and we can post the latest news both places for  
everyone. That is the goal, anyway!*

## ***2016 LUCCA STUDIO DATES:***

*We will be in Lucca, Sicily, Liguria and London spring of next year:  
~ 2 March 2016 through 15 May 2016 ~*

*As we head off to Rome this weekend and arrive back to the States next week,  
we send our warmest wishes to everyone for a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING!*

*John and Karen  
Portraiture in the Grand Manner  
[www.johnseibelswalker.com](http://www.johnseibelswalker.com)  
Charlotte/Lucca  
2015*



*Liguria and the Italian Riviera ~ a painter's paradise in the springtime!*