



**Testimonials from the participants at the
Study Tours *DISCOVER TRANSYLVANIA 2004 - 2015***

Stefano,

Thank you so much for a truly wonderful trip. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. You are a fabulous host and guide. We look forward to going on another adventure with you one day. Thank you again for all your time, energy and enthusiasm,
All the best,

Mary Jo Otsea

Senior Vice President
Worldwide Director Carpets
Sothebyes NY

Thank you Stefano -- and many, many thanks for your organisation and generosity on the tour -- it was just great. It's seldom that a totally new perspective and depth of inquiry on an "established" group comes up -- and I think you've given the carpet world just that. I feel very fortunate to have benefited from your hard work and vision.

Best wishes -- and thanks again,

Susan Scollay
Australia

Dear Stefano,

Thank you indeed for all you did to make the trip so enjoyable. As you saw, we really enjoyed the company of the HK lawyers and got on with them very well, feeling very much welcomed as part of their group. That was an important factor in how much we enjoyed the tour. You organised everything very well, with the right mix of culture and fun, which meant everything ran smoothly and very comfortably.

We loved Romania! The landscape, the wonderful visual rural idyll that one sees (I am quite sure that the reality for the poor farmers is very different, but it has amazing charm), the buildings and monuments we visited, the variations in architecture, the surprisingly good wine, and the welcome we were given by so many people mean that we have come back recommending all our friends to go there.

Thank you for making the trip possible for us.
With best wishes

William Robinson

International Head of Group,
World Art **CHRISTIE'S**

Stefano:

Just a short note to say how much I enjoyed your trip to Romania and Budapest! You did a great job of organizing and conducting the trip in the face of many changes and short term problems, which you resolved beautifully.

I have been on many trips to Europe, and yours ranked at the top in terms of content and organization.

Regards,

Bruce Wescott,
Hajjij Baba Club, NY

Dear Stefano,

It was such a wonderful trip overall that we have a hard time to get back to reality here. Also it was very nice to have Lidia and Lorenzo with us. Catherine has appreciated your Mom very much. It was such a rich group of experiences and of different horizons. Our friends Francois and Daniele are also marvelled.

I attach a few pictures as "meze".

Thank you for this well arranged , documented and planned trip and all the "exclusive" visits and touches. What an energy deployed. This one will remain an all time special experience !

Best

Ali & Catherine
Geneve

Dear Stefano,

The overall trip was one of the best experiences I have ever had. It was very intense, the company was fantastic, and the carpets of course incomparable. I feel very lucky to have done this with all these great people. I especially enjoyed meeting and talking with Ali, and Andrea, and of course you and Alberto.

I will write again soon,

Chris Andrews,
Oklahoma

Dear Stefano,

It was indeed a fantastic trip and we thank you deeply to have taken us with you.

We learned a lot from your passion for your country and its fabulous treasure of Transylvanian Rugs. Thanks also to make us know all these great rug-lovers that you gathered around you. They all made a big success of this trip, not forgetting the quality of organisation, choice of hotels, great food, etc...

We hope to see you in Rome or, if you still accept us, on your next trip. We promise to raise our knowledge in rugs, thanks to the help of Ali.

Danièle and François
Geneve

Dear Stefano,

Julie Brogan and I had a wonderful time on the trip - we will always remember it! The time in Budapest was enjoyable, it was great to see the Batari exhibit. We enjoyed the history museum as well - on Saturday it hosted an event with all of the museums in Hungary presenting their activities on the museum grounds. That evening we went to see Don Carlo at the Budapest Opera. Very best wishes,

Sharon Fenlon
USA

Stefano,

It was a wonderful trip. My head is still reeling with visions of rugs, fragments and otherwise. The people on the tour were wonderful and your concern for us all was great. I adored meeting your Mother, who is an exceptional woman. Of course, Transylvania was the highlight of the trip. I haven't downloaded my camera yet, but will try to do that today and get some favorite pictures off to you. Thank you,

Julie Bogan
USA

Dear Stefano,

Thank you for the days of magic. I enjoyed the "Rug Mission" very much and do appreciate your great efforts to reveal the land, the rugs and the people, it was all done on a "Red Carpet".

Best regards,
Rachel Lowenstein, ISRAEL

Stefano,

Thanks again for a wonderful study trip to Transylvania. Penny and I enjoyed our time and gained a new respect for Transylvanian rugs and for your hard work.

Tim Heyes,
Berlin

Stefano

My wife and I have just returned from a nine day trip to Transylvania where we were honored to be members of a tour led by Mr. Stefano Ionescu the world famous author of '*Antique Ottoman Rugs in Transylvania*' and world recognized authority in Transylvanian carpets. The trip was also joined by Mr. Alberto Boralevi, well known rug scholar, rug dealer and big shot with the ICOC. We had the opportunity to view approximately four hundred 15th century to 18th century Transylvania rugs in Saxon Lutheran churches, private collections and museums. This total probably represents half of this type of rug in the world.

Mr. Ionescu is unbelievably charming and extremely well versed in the country of his birth. He provided 1st class lodging and excellent meals for the twenty or so people in the trip. Probably half of the group came to see the architecture and the churches which was fine with me as it gave me more time to look at the rugs.

This trip is only offered once a year and if this sort of thing appeals to you, I recommend you sign up for the 2010 tour. It really is the opportunity of a lifetime.

Robert Mosby
AntiqueOrientalRugs.com

Dear Stefano,

What can I say but thankyou, thankyou, thankyou.

Adrian and I had a fabulous time in Romania and this would not have been possible without your expertise.

It was a wonderful journey into the history and culture of Transylvania and the rug heritage there. We certainly have benefited from seeing the rugs in situ as well as following up with your book.

Transylvania has a lot more to offer than I thought so it was a real bonus to get an insight through the eyes of someone as knowledgeable as yourself.

We really appreciated the attention to detail and thoughtfulness of what was arranged for us - this made our holiday so much more enjoyable and certainly better than we expected.

thankyou again for such a fulfilling experience,

with kindest regards
Gail and Adrian Broadbent
Australia

CLASSICAL SYRIA May 2010

It was a great tour and we appreciate all you did. I meet the nicest people on your trips! You have very interesting friends. I hope you found all to be fine when you arrived home.

Thanks again.

We'll be in touch.

Best, Holly and Rob

AntiqueOrientalRugs.com

Stefano,

Tim and I want to thank you so much for arranging yet another fabulous tour. We were especially impressed in how seamless you and Teresa were able to arrange these incredibly complicated logistics. We saw firsthand that what should be simple things--such as getting from one point to the next or even having lunch--can be extremely difficult in Syria. Our friends posted in Damascus (whom we met again on Saturday after the tour) told us we had seen all the highlights of Syria--something they had not been able to do in two years!

Thanks again. Must dash to do my 6th load of washing!

Regards,

Penny Hayes

Washington