**LAURA MORELLI**

LAURA MORELLI holds a Ph.D. in art history from Yale University and is an award-winning, USA Today bestselling historical novelist. She has been a columnist for National Geographic Traveler and Italy Magazine, and has also developed lessons for TED-Ed.

Laura has taught college students in the United States and in Italy. She is a longtime trusted guide in the world of cultural travel and authentic shopping and is the author of the popular Authentic Arts guidebook series that includes MADE IN ITALY.

As a historical novelist, Laura’s passion is bringing the stories of art history to life. Two of her novels, THE GONDOLA MAKER and THE PAINTER’S APPRENTICE, are both set in artisan workshops of 16th-century Venice. Laura’s novel THE GIANT immerses readers in the world of Renaissance Florence, following the amazing story of the creation of Michelangelo’s *David*. Laura’s novel THE NIGHT PORTRAIT tells the story of Leonardo da Vinci’s *Lady with the Ermine*, following the portrait from its creation in 15th-century Milan to its theft during World War II. Her latest novel, THE STOLEN LADY, takes readers on the incredible journey of the *Mona Lisa* and tracks the untold story of the *Mona Lisa* from 16th-century Florence to World War II France.

Laura’s books have been translated into a variety of languages and her historical novels have been recent book club picks in North America at Costco, Target, and Hudson News. Laura will coordinate book sales after the event.