From the ruins of ancient Rome to the clear light of Venice, Italy has long fascinated travelers and artists. Painters and draftsmen visiting from across Europe made sketches to capture iconic views or preserve vivid memories, and their Italian counterparts met the demand for tourist souvenirs by crafting their own masterpieces. While the region has held the imagination of artists for centuries, this interest reached its peak in the 1700s, when Italy was a prime destination for wealthy travelers (known as Grand Tourists) from England, France, the Netherlands, Germany, and beyond. This exhibition of works from the Getty Museum’s permanent collection highlights the many ways in which Italy’s landscapes, history, and culture have inspired artists to create drawings and paintings of extraordinary atmosphere and beauty.

The Lure of Italy: Artists’ Views is presented in conjunction with the related exhibition Eyewitness Views: Making History in Eighteenth-Century Europe, Exhibitions Pavilion, May 9–July 30, 2017.

Non-flash photography and video are permitted.
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