Spannocchia Farm Internship Program

Reference Form

This reference form is being requested on the behalf of an applicant who has applied to the Farm Internship Program at the Tenuta di Spannocchia in Tuscany, Italy for a three-month-long session. The Farm Internship Program includes a combination of physical labor (farm work and maintenance); education and commitment to issues of regenerative agriculture, food, conservation, and sustainability; study of Italian language, history, and culture; and local field trips. Spannocchia is a close-knit community in a rural environment, 20 kilometers south of the city of Siena. While travel is possible on the weekends (COVID-depending), participants spend most of their time on the farm.

We value your input as we aim to select candidates who will be most likely to thrive in this very special program. Please carefully answer the following questions and feel free to use as much space as necessary. Email this completed form to Spannocchia’s Farm Education Director, Niccolò Merighi, at [farmprogram@spannocchia.org](mailto:farmprogram@spannocchia.org?subject=Farm%20Internship%20Reference) before the session’s application deadline. Responses will be treated confidentially.

To learn more about Spannocchia, check out our website at [www.spannocchia.org](http://www.spannocchia.org).

Thank you in advance for taking the time to better acquaint us with this applicant.

Date:

Applicant’s Name:

Reference’s Name and Credentials:

Reference’s Email Address:

Reference’s Phone Number:

1. How do you know the applicant; is your relationship personal or professional? How long have you known the applicant?
2. Please list the first three character traits that come to mind when thinking about this applicant.
3. In your opinion, what are the applicant’s strengths?
4. In your opinion, what are the applicant’s weaknesses?
5. Please describe the applicant’s work ethic and attitude.
6. Do you think that the applicant is capable of and interested in doing manual labor tasks for many hours at a time?
7. Spannocchia is a close-knit, isolated community, and interns live together in one farmhouse. Everyone is expected to practice active tolerance and pull their own weight—both during the workday and beyond. Can you speak to the applicant’s maturity level and ability to get along with a diverse mix of people, and well as their inclination to help others and be a conscientious community member?
8. If you are an employer, would you hire the applicant again? Why or why not?
9. Please include any other information you think might be helpful to us while making our decision.