

CAPPADOCIA

The Land of Beautiful Horses

Kah-Wai Lin & Isabella Tabacchi

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Kah-Wai Lin

Dr. Kah-Wai Lin is a distinguished landscape, wildlife, and travel photographer, documentary film producer, and photography educator based in New Jersey, USA. His multifaceted career has been marked by a remarkable journey that spans the realms of medicine, research, and the captivating world of professional photography and film production.

Born in Malaysia, Dr. Lin is not only a holder of a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) from Lviv National Medical University in Lviv, Ukraine, but also possesses a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in medical science from the esteemed Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. Following a successful research career at Princeton University in New Jersey, Dr. Lin made a profound shift to follow his passion for visual storytelling through photography and documentary filmmaking.

Today, Dr. Lin's impact on the world of photography is substantial. With a portfolio that spans over 100 photo workshops, presentations at over 300 seminars worldwide, and a collection of more than 200 global awards, he stands out as a luminary in his field. Noteworthy achievements include securing 1st place at the International Photography Award in 2015 and being recognized among the top 10 exhibitors globally by the Photographic Society of America (PSA) in both 2015 and 2016. In 2016, Dr. Lin was honored with the prestigious appointment as Artist-in-Residence of the US National Park, a testament to the profound impact of his work on the appreciation of natural landscapes. His contributions have garnered sponsorship from leading brands in the industry, including Phase One, NiSi, Fotopro, f-stop, FeiyuTech, Spiffy Gear, iwata-Tech, Red River Paper, BenQ, Laowa, Cotton Carrier, and The Heat Company. Dr. Lin's commitment to the photographic community extends beyond his artistic endeavors. He served as the former Vice President of the Photographic Society of America (PSA); the founder and former Chairman of the PSA Metropolitan Chapter; and the founder and former president of the Photographic Society of New Jersey. With an influential social media presence boasting over 300,000 followers, Dr. Lin continues to inspire and connect with a global audience.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Dr. Lin has received numerous honorary titles from photographic organizations worldwide. He has also been honored with the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from a US Member of Congress, acknowledging his photographic excellence and the positive impact he has made on the broader community.



Isabella Tabacchi

Isabella Tabacchi is an award-winning full-time landscape photographer and influencer. While photography had been a hobby since high school, her transformative moment occurred in 2014 amid the enchanting landscapes of the Italian Dolomites, specifically the Catinaccio/Rosengarten mountain group.

Captivated by the sharp, misty peaks of the Dolomites, Isabella envisioned a life dedicated to immortalizing these landscapes and inspiring others. Despite initially seeming like an unattainable utopia, her dream gradually materialized, with the Dolomites becoming her emotional sanctuary. Her landscape photography is an art form that not only preserves moments but also captures and conveys her emotions to the viewers. Nature, often perceived as a dead and impersonal subject, holds a special place in her photography, embodying vibrant life and evoking profound emotions.

Isabella's editing style, developed since 2016, is an integral part of her artistic process. While not intended to distort reality, it serves as a conduit for expressing her emotions within a landscape. The subconscious nature of her style allows for personal interpretations, adding a layer of depth to her work.

Since 2016, Isabella has gained international recognition and awards for her dream-like style, particularly for works from the Dolomites, propelling her into the world of workshops and photo tours. Her global travels, encompassing countries like Far East Russia, Iceland, Namibia, New Zealand, Madagascar, Greenland, and others, have further enriched her artistic evolution. In 2021 she received the title of Hasselblad Heroine.

With over 200k followers on both Facebook and Instagram, Isabella's influence extends far and wide. Her achievements include accolades such as Photographer of the Year 2020 at the Moscow International Photo Awards, 3rd prize in the International Landscape Photographer of the Year 2020 and 2023, and recognition in various prestigious international competitions.

Beyond her photography, Isabella actively contributes to the photography community as a judge in renowned competitions such as Hasselblad Masters and International Epson Pano Awards. She has been featured in prominent publications worldwide like National Geographic, Elle, House and Garden, The Times, The Telegraph, Daily Mail and many others.

CAPPADOCIA

Cappadocia has been renowned for its horses since ancient times. The name "Cappadocia," believed to originate from the Hittite word "Katpatuka," is often interpreted as the "Land of Beautiful Horses". Historical records reveal that the region contributed horses as gifts or tributes to ancient Assyrian and Persian monarchs. During the period of Persian rule over Cappadocia, horses even formed a part of the taxes collected from the region. Today, the local population still holds horses in high esteem, and they play a significant role in the region's thriving tourism industry.



Kah-Wai Lin

HOT AIR BALLOONS

Cappadocia typically witnesses approximately 100 hot air balloon flights departing before sunrise, followed by an additional 50 half an hour later. In contrast to the average of 60-day balloon flight season in Europe, Cappadocia offers nearly year-round opportunities for balloon adventures, with an impressive 250 flying days annually thanks to the perfect wind conditions. Altogether, approximately 150 hot balloons with 2,000 individuals soar above Cappadocia's captivating landscapes each day!



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FAIRY CHIMNEYS

The mesmerizing 'fairy chimneys' rock formations that have established Cappadocia as a premier destination in Turkey owe their existence to a geological process that commenced millions of years ago. This remarkable transformation was set in motion by ancient volcanic eruptions that enveloped the region in a dense layer of ash, subsequently solidifying into a pliable rock known as 'tuff'. As the relentless forces of nature, including wind and water erosion, sculpted the landscape, only the sturdier components endured, giving rise to the 'fairy chimneys' we marvel at today, some towering as high as 130 feet into the sky.



Isabella Tabacchi



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YILKI WILD HORSES

These Yilki wild horses have been domesticated for over a millennium in the Anatolia region, also known as Asia Minor, which constitutes a significant portion of contemporary Turkiye. Taming wild horses for agricultural and transportation purposes has been a necessity since ancient times in Turkey. Remarkably, this tradition still endures today among Turkish villagers, albeit primarily for tourism purposes.



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PINK SALT LAKE

The Pink Salt Lake ranks as the second largest lake in Turkey, covering an expansive surface area of over 1,500 square kilometers (643 square miles). Fascinatingly, approximately 63% of Turkey's salt supply is sourced from the mines in close proximity to this remarkable lake.



Isabella Tabacchi



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UCHISAR

Uchisar, a historic town nestled in the captivating landscape of Cappadocia, Turkiye. The roots of Uchisar trace back to the 7th-8th century, long before its mention in historical chronicles during the 14th century, when the region was under Ottoman rule. At the heart of this enchanting town stands Uchisar Castle, a remarkable 60-meter-high cylindrical mound crafted from volcanic tuff, perched atop a prominent hill. This castle is believed to have served as a crucial defensive stronghold in the heart of Cappadocia. Today, the castle is surrounded by an array of cave structures that have been transformed into hotels and restaurants, a far cry from their past as homes for soldiers.



Isabella Tabacchi



Kah-Wai Lin

POTTERY

Cappadocia's pottery legacy stands as a vibrant testament to the area's abundant cultural heritage and artistic prowess. The distinctive geological makeup of Cappadocia offers the perfect clay for crafting ceramics, as the fertile red earth, known as "terra rossa," boasts a high iron oxide content, imparting Cappadocian pottery with its unique reddish hue.





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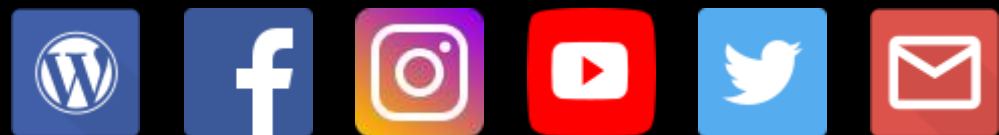


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Watch the Cappadocia video at: <https://youtu.be/KXFmBO-MwDw?si=TLOJNGSybOBWUSV4>





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