

## Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in Campagna, Italy (1786-87)

### Abstract

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From 1786 to 1788, Goethe traveled through Italy on a journey of self-discovery and to escape his duties as a high-ranking civil servant in Weimar, the capital of the Duchy of Saxe-Weimar. In the years following the publication of his celebrated *Sorrows of Young Werther* (1774), Goethe became a central figure in the literary and cultural movement known as “Weimar Classicism.” This famous portrait by Johann Heinrich Wilhelm Tischbein (1751-1829) shows Goethe amidst a landscape of Roman ruins. His surroundings highlight the perceived connection between German and classical Mediterranean culture. Oil on canvas, 1786-87.

### Source

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