In 1991 Tony began fencing with French Foil and Hungarian Saber. He earned his Instructor’s certification of Provost at Arms in classical Italian Fencing (Foil, Saber, and Epee) at the San Jose State Fencing Master’s Program. Tony went on to study Fencing with Rapier and Dagger, Side Sword, Heavy Saber, and Longsword as well as foot combat in full armor. Classical Italian Fencing, along with his training in traditional martial arts including Aikido, Jujitsu, Kendo, Escrima, and Iaido gave Tony the scholarly foundation to interpret historical Italian Fencing treatises. Ultimately these studies inspired him to establish the “Italian Renaissance Swordsmanship Academy where he serves as head coach.

Tony has been an instructor in several Fencing and martial art schools, including the California Fencing Academy, San Mateo Community College classical fencing program under Maestro Sherman. The Fencing Academy in San Jose. He assisted Adrian Paul (of the Highlander TV series) with his first “Sword Experience” events in Sacramento, CA. Currently, he is an instructor with the Sonoma State Fencing Masters Certificate Program under Maestro Sullins and Instructor at the Rapier and Saber Pedagogy Retreat under Maestro and Maestra Coblentz in Atlanta, GA. He also continues to serve as the Fight Coordinator for St. Michael’s Salle D’Armes, a renaissance 501c educational reenactment guild.

Class

Cavalry Saber
From the early 19th century, sabre gains widespread use and its design is inspired by the Mameluke sword, a type of Middle Eastern scimitar. Napoleon used it in great extent during his wars as a main weapon for heavy cavalry and their charges. Shorter variants were also designed and were used as sidearms by dismounted units. British Government authorized their pattern swords for use by infantry officers at the same time. As longer-range rifles appeared on the battlefields, cavalry charges fell out of favor and sabres with them at least for the military uses. Some European police forces used sabres for both mounted and dismounted police officers during the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century. Luckily, to some extent, for civilians, sabres were later replaced with batons and night stick. Some polices like the Gendarmerie of Belgium used them until 1950s. So, we will be practicing sabre as a mounted weapon off our Airship...We will practice the cuts as used unmounted. Then the cuts used mounted. The cavalry charge...And keep in mind this is all within our Steam universe...HUZZAH!!!!

Small Sword
The Small Sword was the weapon of choice for duels of honor. Join us and step into the world of classical Italian fencing and immerse yourself in the techniques and strategies honed by the masters of the Scuola Magistrale di Scherma. This class pays homage to the historical roots of fencing, where the art served as a vital skill for military men and into an elegant means of settling disputes of personal honor through duels.

In this class, we will be teaching the dueling sword (small sword or Epee). The Epee is distinct for its emphasis on accuracy, requiring fencers to target specific areas on their opponent’s body. This precision-driven approach refines not only the physical dexterity of the fencer but also sharpens their mental acuity in identifying strategic openings. At the same time, it emphasizes the importance of avoiding specific actions that could prove detrimental in a life-or-death situation.