

Land of Barolo & Truffles

The Southern Piedmont – A feast for All your senses



Overview

Our tour of Piedmont unveils a region that has achieved the status of gastronomic and enological perfection. Considered Italy's greatest single wine region, the most important and distinct vineyard centers of Gavi, Acqui Terme, Alba, and Asti in Piedmont serve as the focal points of our tour. At our exclusive winery visits, local experts discuss the tradition of winemaking and the nuances of the area's many microclimates that give the wine their prized sophistication. We also visit some important "enoteche" (wine showrooms) housed in historic buildings. With great wine comes delightfully paired cuisine; the cuisine of Piedmont is a blend of Northern Italian and French influences with the truffle and mushrooms as seasonal key players. Piedmontese specialties include "tajarin" (a kind of tiny noodles), "bagna cauda" (mild anchovy, olive oil and garlic hot sauce), "risotto" (Arborio rice cooked with different ingredients like vegetables, porcini mushrooms, cheeses), and "agnolotti" (local ravioli stuffed with meat and vegetables).

In the fall, the tour may coincide with one of the "Fiere del Tartufo," the International Truffle Fair, which attracts countless gourmands and high caliber chefs to the fairytale town of Alba, Moncalvo or Acqui Terme. Here, in the Fall you can savor the delicacies produced by local artisans and witness the enchantment of the Tartufo Bianco, the revered white truffle.

Trip Snapshot

Highlights

- ◆ Lesser-traveled, gorgeous country roads
- ◆ Sumptuous dinners at Enoclub in Alba and Schiavia” in Acqui Terme
- ◆ Introduction to World famous and well kept secret local wines
- ◆ Meet with a truffle hunter & his dog for a lecture on truffles
- ◆ Emerald valleys & vineyard-laden hillsides-
- ◆ Barolo, Barbaresco & Barbera
- ◆ Private wine tastings by our local hosts & sommeliers
- ◆ Accommodations at a 4-star spa hotel

What's Included

- ◆ All accommodations
- ◆ Bike rental equipped with odometer, map case, handlebar and seat bags and bike pump
- ◆ Ciclismo jersey and water bottle
- ◆ All breakfasts, 6 dinners & 2 lunches
- ◆ 3 wine tastings
- ◆ 3 cycling clinics
- ◆ Guided walking tour of Alba
- ◆ Truffle hunting demonstration
- ◆ Shuttle at end of tour

2012 Dates

- ◆ May 10 – May 17
- ◆ June 3 – June 10
- ◆ June 16 – June 23
- ◆ June 30 – July 7
- ◆ July 13 – July 20
- ◆ August 24 – August 31
- ◆ September 6 – September 13
- ◆ September 16 – September 23
- ◆ September 29 – October 6
- ◆ October 11 – October 18

Tour Length

- ◆ 8 Days / 7 Nights

Tour Level

- ◆ Intermediate

Summary of Daily Distances

- ◆ Day 1: 12 miles
- ◆ Day 2: 32 miles
- ◆ Day 3: 35 miles
- ◆ Day 4: 40 miles
- ◆ Day 5: 32 miles
- ◆ Day 6: 53 miles
- ◆ Day 7: 37 miles
- ◆ Day 8: Arrivederci!

- ◆ Optional extra loops available daily

Price

- ◆ \$4,295 - \$4,595
- ◆ Single Supplement: \$800



Daily Itinerary

Day 1

Monterotondo di Gavi

Ride: 12 miles

Terrain: Rolling warm-up ride

Highlights

We meet in the hotel lobby at 1:00 pm for lunch, introductions and an orientation to the trip. After a bike fitting, we take a short warm-up ride in the hills behind our lovely villa to the new "Museo dei Campionissimi" – an awesome exhibit of cycling memorabilia, pictures, and movies. Our ride for this afternoon will be approximately 12 miles. In the evening we enjoy a scrumptious dinner at hotel restaurant which allows us to savour the local yummy delicacies: buon appetito!

Accommodations

L'Ostelliere Albergo (Monterotondo di Gavi 1 night) A beautifully refined farmhouse, dating back to the 17th century, set on the property of one of the finest vineyards in the region, Villa Sparina. It mirrors the surrounding countryside in both its simplicity and in its careful preservation of the original rural architectural features. www.ostelliere.it

Arriving early? If you plan to spend an additional night or two at the same hotel, let us make the reservation for you! Just give us a call (800-866-7314).

Day 2

Gavi to Acqui Terme

Ride: 32 miles

Terrain: Hilly

Highlights

Today we pedal from Gavi to Acqui, passing Castles of Monferrato, a hilly area where each village is protected by a castle. The vineyards of Dolcetto, Cortese, and Moscato are the landmarks of this ride. We stop along the way for a nice lunch of focaccia, an enological talk, and then arrive in the town of Acqui Terme. According to legend, it was founded by Greek colonies, Acqui has been well known for its hot waters since Roman times. During our stay, we'll have the chance to enjoy the thermal facilities of our hotel and to uncover the best secrets of local gastronomy.

Accommodations

Grand Hotel Nuove Terme (Acqui Terme 2 nights) The Grand Hotel Nuove Terme was established in 1892 in Acqui Terme and quickly became one of the most frequented throughout Europe, in addition to one of the most famous hotels of the "Belle Epoque". www.antichedimore.com/Grandhotel

Day 3

Acqui Terme

Ride: 35 miles

Terrain: Hilly with a few climbs in the morning

Highlights

Our ride brings us to the area of Nizza famous for the Barbera wine. On our first visit to a local winery, we taste wines and eat a picnic lunch with the owner and oenologist, Daniele. The area features hills covered with vineyards and spectacular views of tiny villages.

Day 4

Acqui to Alba

Ride: 40 miles

Terrain: Rolling with a few climbs

Highlights

This morning we pedal to Alba crossing the Alte Langhe, the highest and wilder portion of this territory where Cortemilia is the main town, famous for its hazelnuts and Nutella. A majestic view of the Alps will be on our side for almost all the ride.

Accommodations

Palazzo Finati (Alba 2 nights) Located in the historical heart of Alba close to the Piazza del Duomo, this early 19th century building has been recently renovated with special care taken to preserve the original architecture. <http://www.palazzofinati.it>

Day 5

Loop to Barolo

Ride: 32 miles

Terrain: Several 1 – 2 mile climbs

Highlights

Today we pedal through the vineyards of Barolo and Monforte passing by La Morra, famous for its belvedere from where you can enjoy a breathtaking view of the Langhe area. Along the way a local truffle hunter will give us a special demonstration with his loyal dog. Before dinner, a local guide will lead us through town to discover the most important monuments of Alba.

Day 6

Cioccaro di Penango

Ride: 53 miles

Terrain: Rolling hills

Highlights

We pass through Barbaresco, home of the other great red of Piedmont. As we descend, the landscape offers a patchwork series of vineyards as well as fruit and nut tree farms. We continue north, entering the round hills area of Monferrato, and finally soothe our tired legs at the pool of our hotel in the countryside.

Accommodations

Relais il Borgo da Beppe (Penango 2 nights) The “Borgo” was created from the rebuilding of a typical country settlement and is surrounded by a beautiful garden complete with swimming pool and a beautiful panoramic view, all of which was designed by a prominent landscape architect. The environment reflects attention to detail so that the “Borgo” can be a friendly, relaxing and peaceful place for guests. www.ilborgodicioccaro.com.

Day 7

Loop to Vignale Monferrato

Ride: 37 miles

Terrain: Hilly with a tough climb

Highlights

Today we visit the Monferrato area. By lunchtime, we arrive in Vignale where we stop and enjoy the local wines called Barbera, Grignolino and Ruchè. There is very little traffic along these roads, providing great cycling. In the afternoon, we arrive at Montemagno with great views of the surrounding countryside.

Day 8

Arrivederci!

Highlights

After breakfast, around 9 AM, we will provide one shuttle to Asti train station (30 min ride), where the group can catch trains to all other destinations in Italy. We will be happy to assist you with your travel plans!

Arriving and Departing: Land of Barolo and Truffles

Getting to Monterotondo di Gavi

On Day 1, we meet at **1:00 pm** in the lobby of first hotel (see website on day 1). Gavi is located 80 miles east of Turin, 60 miles south of Milan and 40 miles north of Genoa in the Ligurian Coast.

Arriving early? If you plan to spend an additional night or two at the same hotel, let us make the reservation for you! Just give us a call (800-866-7314).

Fly to Milan Malpensa airport (airport code MXP) or Genoa C. Colombo (GOA) or Turin S. Pertini (TRN):

Milan: Take the frequent bus service Malpensa Shuttle from the airport to the Milano Centrale train station (50 min). Take a train to Novi Ligure (1.5hrs) and a cab to the hotel (15 min).

IMPORTANT: Taxis are not always available at the train station and then you are invited to call the first hotel to book the transfer. Additionally, if you know what time your train is arriving, you can call or write an email to the hotel and book the taxi in advance.

Genova: Take the frequent bus service from the airport to the Genova Centrale train station (20 min). Take train to Novi Ligure (45 min) and a cab to the hotel (15 min).

Torino (Turin): Take the frequent bus service or a taxi from the airport to the Turin Porta Nuova train station. Take train to Novi Ligure (1.5hr) and a cab to the hotel (15 min).

Departing from Asti

On **Day 8**, we provide a morning group shuttle around **9 am** to the Asti train station (30 min). From Asti, there are direct trains to Turin (Torino) (1hr) and Genova (1hr) or there are trains to Milan with one stop (2hrs).

For up-to-date train schedules, visit: www.trenitalia.com

Helpful Hints for Planning Your Trip

Be sure to visit the Travel Planning page on our website for lots of helpful tips: www.ciclismoclassico.com/about_the_trips/travel_planning.

Please note that Ciclismo Classico does not recommend the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets. Please be sure to check with your Tour Consultant before making any reservations.

Need a place to stay before or after your tour? We recommend these hotels:

Turin

Luxury

Grand Hotel Sitea

Built in the early 1900s and featuring a traditional brand of hospitality, the Grand Hotel Sitea in Turin is superbly positioned for those who want to be able to get about the city centre on foot for shopping and other needs. See <http://www.thi-hotels.com/hotels/grand-hotel-sitea/four-star-luxury-hotel-turin.html>

Convenient to Transportation

Hotel Chelsea

Only two steps away from Piazza Castello, heart of historical and artistic Turin, as well as its centre of business, Hotel Chelsea grants both tourist visiting ancient Savoyard capital and busy businessman the warm welcome of its familiar atmosphere.

See <http://www.hotelchelsea.it/WP/?lang=en>

Milan

Top-Rated Reasonable

Hotel Berna

Hotel Berna is well known for its accommodating staff and comfortable rooms. Free wi-fi and proximity to public transportation ensure optimum convenience. See www.hotelberna.com

Luxury

Park Hyatt Milan

Exceptional service combined with authentic, Italian luster, immaculate amenities, relaxing spa and convenient location characterize this contemporary hotel. See milan.park.hyatt.com

Convenient to Transportation

UNA Hotel

Located just a short walk from the Milano Centrale train station, this hotel also offers easy access to the rest of the city on foot or by public transportation. See www.unahotels.it

Rome

Top-Rated Reasonable

Hotel Albergo Del Senato

Overlooking the Pantheon, this antique building has been thoroughly renovated with modern amenities such as air conditioning and internet access. Just a short walk from the historic public square of Piazza Navona, the Trevi Fountain, and the renowned Spanish Steps makes it ideal for site seeing. See www.albergodelsenato.it

Luxury

Hotel Splendide Royal

Former 19th Century Palace converted into an elegant and spacious luxury hotel. See www.splendideroyal.com

Convenient to Transportation

Hotel Nord Nuova Roma

Beautifully renovated 1935 period building located near the famous Massimo D'Angelio Restaurant. Conveniently located near the Termini train and bus stations. See www.romehotelnord.it

Boscolo Hotels (the Exedra)

This luxurious hotel is centrally located near the Trevi Fountain, Santa Maria Maggiore, and renowned Spanish Steps, but still just a short work to Rome Termini. See www.boscolohotels.com

Florence

Top-Rated Reasonable

Davanzati Hotel

Located next to the Museum of Palazzo Davanzati in Florence's Historical Center, this hotel exemplifies the city's ancient beauty with the integration of modern amenities. See www.hoteldavanzati.it

Luxury

Savoy Hotel

The Savoy Hotel is the epitome of luxury. Elegance, excellent cuisine, and immaculate service ensure guests maximum comfort. Ideally located near Florence's shopping district, the Ponte Vecchio, and the Uffizi Gallery. See www.hotelsavoy.it

Convenient to Transportation

Grand Hotel Minerva Firenze

Located in Piazza Santa Maria Novella, within walking distance of the historic center and the main train station. Amenities and conveniences include free internet, a roof solarium, and pool. See www.grandhotelminerva.com

Insurance, Terms and Conditions

Insurance

Ciclismo Classico will not assume responsibility or liability for any loss or damage of personal effects or for any injury or loss during the duration of the tour. Therefore, we highly recommend that you obtain travel insurance. We will be happy to assist you in purchasing travel insurance through Travel Guard at any time prior to your final payment to Ciclismo Classico. Please ask a Trip Consultant for more details.

Cancellations and Refunds

All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing as soon as possible to Ciclismo Classico. Exceptions to our cancellation policy cannot be made for any reason, including weather or personal emergencies. There is no refund for unexpectedly leaving a trip early or arriving late. We strongly recommend travel insurance. Cancellation fees are determined as follows:

Days before departure	Cancellation fee
91+	\$150 administrative fee
61-90	Loss of the \$500 deposit
45-60	50% of trip price
30-44	100% of trip price; you may apply 35% of payment to a future trip departing within one calendar year of cancellation date
15-29	100% of trip price; you may apply 15% of your payment to a future trip departing within one calendar year of cancellation date
0-14	100% of trip price

Alterations to the Tour Itinerary

We are proud to bring you the highest standard of quality on our tours. Sometimes this means modifications may be made to this itinerary. Naturally, we will notify you of any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging.