

10 DAY 'BEST OF PIEDMONT' TOUR

From \$4910 pp* - May 20th, October 7th 2011 departures

**TURIN - LANGHE REGION - ALBA - BORGOMALE - MONFERRATO AREA
COSTIGLIOLE D'ASTI - ASTI - LAKE ORTA - STRESA - LAKE MAGGIORE - TURIN**

Piedmont offers unbelievable scenery, food and some of the best wines Italy has to offer. This tour allows you to discover the wine region: Le Langhe, Barolo & Barbaresco as well as the magical lakes and the amazing city of Turin, made up of arcades and museums. You will taste your way through this amazing region - wine tastings at famous

cellars with specialist sommeliers, chocolate tastings, cheese tastings and truffle tastings. You will discover typical Piedmontese food with a half day cooking class. Visit beautiful medieval towns such as Asti & Alba and experience the famous truffle hunting. This tour encapsulates the very best of this region!!!



Day 1: Turin

Arrive in Turin and transfer independently to the Grand Hotel Sitea. In the evening a welcome drink with your tour escort followed by dinner in a local restaurant. (D)

Day 2: Turin

Breakfast. The day will start with a guided visit of Turin. Piazza Castello, the Mole Antonelliana and the Duomo are just some of the sites you will visit. End the morning tour with a nice aperitif and light lunch in one of the historical cafès in one of the most beautiful central squares. In the afternoon you will have free time to visit some of the museums such as The Egyptian Museum or the Museum of Cinema, etc). Meet in the afternoon to visit a typical chocolate shop: here you'll taste different kinds of chocolate and you will learn about how it is made. The tasting will continue in the evening: you will end the day in Eataly, a very famous



gourmet shop. Here you will find special products from all over Italy. Dinner (not included) will be in any of the Eataly restaurants you choose. Transfer back to your hotel and overnight. (B,L)

Day 3: Turin, Langhe Region

After breakfast visit the VENARIA REALE. One of many Castles that the Savoia Royal family owned. Completely renewed in the last few years it is definitely worth a visit. In the afternoon leave for the Langhe region. First stop will be Pollenzo to visit the Wine Bank. In the Slow Food University a special wine bank has been created where all the wine producers from every part of Italy can store examples of their wines. They are sent here to mature and after so many years they are returned to their owner, or they can be sold by the bank itself. After the visit you will have the opportunity to taste some of the wines, guided by the specialist sommeliers of the school. You will then depart for your hotel located on the famous hills of the Langhe. Dinner will be at the restaurant in the hotel. (B, D)

Day 4: Langhe Region

Breakfast. This morning you will learn how to cook typical Italian dishes. In the cooking lesson - (about 2.5 hours) - you will learn about typical Piedmont recipes. This



will be followed by a tasting of the dishes you have helped prepare. In the afternoon tour the magic landscape of the Langhe and visit the new Wine-Museum in the Castle of Barolo (opening September 2010). This will be followed by a wine-tasting in the Enoteca of the museum. In the evening a traditional dinner in a very special restaurant with an amazing view of the hills. (B, L, D)

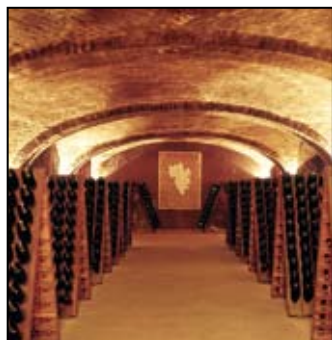


Day 5: Alba, Borgomale, Monferrato area

Breakfast. The day begins with a guided tour of Alba, the town famous for its many towers, truffles and not to be forgotten - sweet Nutella. Proceed to Borgomale. We will visit a local farm that produces sheep cheese. Tasting of the cheese will follow with home-made bread and wine. We then proceed to the Monferrato area to visit a vineyard farm. Here you'll learn how vinegars are produced and used, followed by local wine tasting. In the late afternoon depart for your hotel in the Quattordio. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6: Monferrato area

After breakfast we depart for an exciting shopping experience. In the region of Piedmont there are shopping outlets that provide famous Italian and foreign brands at below cost price. We will visit Mcarthurglen, and Ser-ravalle. In the afternoon we head back to the Monferrato hills where the famous Spumante is produced. We visit Canelli, a maturation wine cellar, and we taste this special wine before going back to the hotel. Tonight dinner will be in a typical small restaurant in the hills near the hotel. (B, L, D)



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Day 7: Monferrato area, Costigliole d'Asti, Asti

After breakfast we will leave for Costigliole d'Asti where

you will engage in truffle hunting with an expert guide and truffle hunting dogs. You will see and learn a lot about Truffle hunting. This will be followed by tastings of typical products of the region - these include truffles and good wine. <http://www.lacasadeltrifulau.it>. You will continue to Asti for a guided tour of the town which is renowned for its towers and many churches. Before returning to the hotel there is one more stop - a visit to a Weaving Mill still working today. Tapestry is an old tradition of this region. We will visit the museum dedicated to this art and then the new factory. Tonight the dinner will be in a typical Osteria. (B, D)

Day 8: Monferrato area, Lakes area, Stresa

After breakfast we depart for the lakes area. Visit Lake Orta, the most romantic Italian lake. Visit the Isola S. Giulio by boat. You will experience the past and the present in this medieval town. Today lunch is in Pella, a small secret place facing the Isola S. Giulio. In the evening transfer to your hotel in Stresa - dinner and overnight. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Stresa - Lake Maggiore

Breakfast. Morning will be at your disposal. Relax or walk along the beautiful promenade of Stresa. Visit the town centre. In the afternoon cruise by boat to Isola Bella where you will visit the baroque palaces and the gardens along the lake. Continue to "Isola Madre" for a visit of the villa and the spectacular garden. End the day on "Isola pescatori". In this old fishing village you will enjoy a fish based dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 10: Stresa, Turin

After breakfast transfer to Turin. End of services. (B)

*Rates per person:

Double room from \$4910 Single rate on request.

Our Hotels (or similar)

Turin: Grand Hotel Sita

Langhe: Tota Virginia

Monferrato: Rocca Civalieri

Lago Maggiore: Grand Hotel Bristol

The price includes

- 9 Breakfasts
- 3 lunches on day 2, 4 & 8
- 8 Dinners - 4 in hotel/4 in local restaurants
- Welcome drink on day 1
- Entrance Fees (except Museums in Turin where we suggest the purchase of the Torino Card for those interested in visiting Museums during their free day)
- Local guides for days 2,3,5,7,8,9
- Excursions as per Itinerary
- English speaking tour escort for the entire tour
- Choc tasting on day 2
- Food and wine sampling as per Itinerary
- Cooking Course on day 4
- Motorboat, bus transfers as per Itinerary.

Not Included:

- drinks during the dinner in hotel
- all tips for restaurant, guide, driver
- entrances in museums in Turin (Egyptian museum – Museo del Cinema)
- Dinner at Eatly on day 2
- Anything not stated in "What's included"

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