



Food & Wine: Northern Italy & the Alba Truffle Festival

12 days | 14 days with Venice extension

Begin your small group Food & Wine Tour by celebrating one of the prize gems of the culinary world at the Alba International White Truffle Fair. Then, expand your palate with the unique flavors of Northern Italy, from truffles in the Langhe and wine on the Riviera to Parmigiano Reggiano in Parma and fresh-cooked tagliatelle in Bologna.



Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 2 wine tastings
- 4 food tastings
- 1 cooking class
- 6 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Turin's Palazzo Madama
- Alba International White Truffle Fair
- Guided truffle hunt
- Barolo wine tasting
- Parmigiano-Reggiano tasting
- Balsamic vinegar tasting
- Piazza Maggiore market
- Pasta-making class
- Valpolicella wine tasting
- Verona countryside accommodations
- Verona Arena

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 3 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills

Group size

10-22 ^{TICO-2395858} | CPBC-73991 | OPC-702373
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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Milan today.

Turin → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Milan & transfer to Turin

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Italy! Arrive in Milan, then transfer to your hotel in Turin and get settled in. Later, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Turin

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

This morning, set out on a guided tour to discover Turin, home to Italy's Royal Family, the House of Savoy.

- Make a photo stop at Santa Maria del Monte, which overlooks the Po River
- Pass through Piazza Castello, Palazzo Madama, and Palazzo Carignano
- Step inside the Royal Church of San Lorenzo
- Stop to sample some of the city's famous bicerin coffee (*seasonal*)

Enjoy a free afternoon in Turin or add an excursion.

+ Turin Chocolate Demonstration & Tasting

Day 4: International Alba White Truffle Fair & truffle hunt

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

Today, make your way to the town of Alba in the Piedmont wine region to celebrate one of the culinary world's most prized ingredients at the International Alba White Truffle Fair.

- Enter the Alba White Truffle World Market to peruse magnificent specimens of truffles
- Enjoy free time to explore the fair on your own finding other delicacies like cheeses, chocolate, mushrooms, nuts, and more

Please note: The Alba White Truffle Festival runs from October 5 through November 24.

Then, try your hand at truffle hunting alongside an expert truffle hunter and dog.

- Learn about the characteristics, look, smell, and taste of white truffles

- Discover the importance of this regionally grown tuber, which is a delicacy used in Italian cuisine

Italian Riviera → 2 nights

Day 5: Italian Riviera via La Morra & Barolo

Included meals: breakfast, light lunch, wine tasting

Stop at the village of La Morra for a panoramic view of the Langhe, the hilly Piedmont region famous for its cheeses, truffles, and wines. While here, you'll enter the UNESCO-recognized Castle of Grinzane Cavour.

Then, visit Barolo, a small town with one of the most well-known names in Northern Italian wine.

- Enjoy a light lunch of local specialties at a winery
- Sample local Barolo vintages in the vineyard's wine cellar

After, continue on to the Italian Riviera.

Please note: Castle of Grinzane Cavour will be replaced with Castle Barolo if Day 5 falls on a Tuesday.

Day 6: Free day on the Italian Riviera

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day on the Italian Riviera or add an excursion.

+ Cinque Terre Villages & Wine Tasting

Bologna → 3 nights

Day 7: Bologna via Parma Region

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, lunch

As you head to Bologna, Italy's culinary capital, stop to try some culinary delights.

- Stop at a local Parmigiano-Reggiano producer where you'll watch and learn about the process of cheesemaking
- Enjoy a cheese tasting in the cheese storage room
- Visit a balsamic vinegar villa for lunch and a tasting of the region's famous vinegar known as *Aceto Balsamico Tradizionale di Modena*

Then, continue on to Bologna.

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Bologna

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

This morning, venture out on a walking tour of Bologna with a local guide.

- Visit the University of Bologna, the world's oldest operating university
- Enter the Archiginnasio of Bologna, once the university's main building, and learn about its architecture
- Step inside Teatro Anatomico, which was built in the 1600's and formerly used for anatomy lectures
- Peruse the local fish and vegetable market district and explore Piazza Maggiore

Sit down for an included homemade pasta and lasagna dinner with your group.

Day 9: Free day in Bologna

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Enjoy a free day in Bologna or add an excursion. Then, try your hand at making pasta during tonight's cooking class and included dinner.

+ Food of Modena Walking Tour

Verona Countryside → 2 nights

Day 10: Verona Countryside via Valpolicella

Included meals: breakfast, light lunch, wine tasting

Travel to the Verona countryside, stopping in Valpolicella along the way. Here, you'll enjoy a light lunch and sample three red wines typical of the region: Amarone, Ripasso, and Recioto. Then, venture on to your villa hotel in the Verona countryside.

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Verona

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, farewell dinner

Travel to the city center of Verona and join your guide on a walking tour of the city of love.

- Discover the sites that served as the backdrop for Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, including Casa di Giulietta, Juliet's house and storied balcony
- Stroll down Via Mazzini, admiring the marble along the street as you go
- Visit Verona's UNESCO-recognized historic district to see the Verona Arena, Piazza della Erbe, and Lambert's Tower

- Enjoy a tasting of tramezzino, a specialty sandwich from the Veneto region that's similar to English tea sandwiches

Enjoy free time to explore Verona, then return to your villa in the Verona countryside.

This evening, celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner featuring local and seasonal specialties from the villa.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to explore Venice.

+ Venice extension

All the pictures in the world couldn't prepare you for the real-life sight of Venice rising from the water. Find out why the Queen of the Adriatic has such a special place in our hearts as you explore the city's maze of canals and streets with a local guide.

Venice → 2 nights

Day 12: Venice via Prosecco Region

Included meals: breakfast, light lunch, wine tasting

Stop in the Province of Treviso, where Prosecco is produced, as you travel to Venice.

- Tour 17th-century wine cellars to learn about Prosecco production
- Enjoy a light lunch at Osteria followed by a tasting of 3 different Proseccos, white wines that are comparable to Champagne

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Venice

Included meals: breakfast

Admire historic churches, winding canals, and picture-perfect piazzas on a guided tour of the city known as the Queen of the Adriatic.

- Explore the Rialto market, famous for its fish and vegetable stands
- Step into the iconic St. Mark's Square and enter St. Mark's Basilica
- View the stately Doge's Palace, built in the Venetian Gothic style in 1340
- Marvel at the Bridge of Sighs, the link between Doge's Palace and the New Prison

- See a glassblowing demonstration to learn about the city's most celebrated art

Enjoy a free afternoon in Venice or add an excursion. Then, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members this evening.

+ Venice Grand Canal Cruise

Flight Home

Day 14: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/TIC | 1-800-754-5066

Day 3: Turin Chocolate Demonstration & Tasting

\$180CAD/\$190CAD* (3 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Pizza and pasta may be the two most famous foods Italy is known for, but did you know the country is also a destination for chocolate lovers? That's right! The city of Turin, located in the northern Piedmont region, is considered the capital of chocolate. Today, you'll discover the history of this traditional sweet during a visit to one of the city's top chocolatiers and, of course, watch a chocolate making demonstration. You'll hear how the chocolate school's parent organization hosts vocational classes for local businesses and unemployed people as a way to give back to the community. Your workshop will be led by a professional chocolatier, who usually teaches classes for fellow pros. If you're wondering what the best part of the demonstration will be, we can guarantee getting to eat the chocolates will be a real highlight.

There's nothing more romantic than Venice from the water, and you'll soak in all the beauty the city has to offer as you set off from St. Mark's Square on this leisurely excursion. Do as the locals do and board a private water taxi to embark on a cruise down the famous Grand Canal. Float past the countless historic buildings that dot the canal banks as you admire the City of Water. After, head to a traditional Venetian barcaro, or wine bar, to enjoy a glass of prosecco and an aperitivo, or light snack.

Day 6: Cinque Terre Villages & Wine Tasting

\$215CAD/\$225CAD* (10 hours, departs in the morning)

Meaning "Five Lands," Cinque Terre is a UNESCO-recognized collection of unique villages that hug the rugged Italian coastline. Travel by train to the village of Vernazza and have free time to visit the shops, scenic viewpoints, and waterfront. Then, continue your train ride to Riomaggiore. This village is famous for the pastel-colored houses that hug the tiny harbor and Via dell'Amore, a hiking path that connects two of the five villages. You'll sit down for a tasting of three local wines, including a glass of sweet Sciacchetrá. These sips will be accompanied by signature Ligurian foods such as pesto and a focaccia tasting. Next, admire the dramatic coastline from the water as you travel by boat to the beachy village of Monterosso. End the day with a train ride back to Rapallo before continuing to your hotel by bus. Please note: The boat ride is weather-dependent. In inclement weather, all villages will be visited by train. Rapallo may be replaced by Santa Margherita based on hotel location.

Day 9: Food of Modena Walking Tour

\$129CAD/\$139CAD* (5.5 hours, departs in the morning)

Set off for the ancient city of Modena to get a taste of some of its signature specialties on a walking tour. After meeting up with your guide, make your way through the city's historical center, taking time to admire the 12th-century Modena Cathedral. Modena is also home to Mercato Albinelli, a covered market that's been in business since the early 1900s. Here, you'll stop to sample local bites like Tigelle, Lambrusco wine, traditional salami and cheeses, and prosciutto.

Extension excursion options

Day 13: Venice Grand Canal Cruise

\$165CAD/\$175CAD* (1 hour, departure time varies)

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms