



# Food & Wine: Northern Italy & the Italian Riviera

12 days | 14 days with Venice extension

Eating isn't just a part of the daily grind here—it's a full-on art form. Stand beside the masters in their kitchens, farms, and wineries and learn the ins and outs of the region's knockout delights. From wine on the Riviera to Parmigiano-Reggiano in Parma to fresh-cooked tagliatelle in Bologna, prepare to indulge in the best the region has to offer on this small group Food & Wine Tour.



## 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 truffle hunt
- Castle of Grinzane Cavour
- Barolo wine tasting
- Parmigiano-Reggiano tasting
- Balsamic vinegar tasting
- Piazza Maggiore market
- Pasta-making class
- Valpolicella wine tasting
- 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

12-22

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Milan today.

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## 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*).

### Day 4: Alba truffle hunt

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

Travel to the town of Alba, which is located in heart of the Piedmont region.

- Try your hand at truffle hunting alongside an expert truffle hunter and dog.
- Learn about the characteristics, look, smell, and taste of truffles while on the hunt.
- Discover the importance of this regionally grown tuber, which is a delicacy used in Italian cuisine.
- Enjoy free time for lunch in Alba.

*Please note: Truffle hunting is seasonal with black and white truffles growing different times of year. Black truffles are typically in season from May–August and white truffles typically from September–December.*

Enjoy a free afternoon in Turin or add an excursion.

+ Turin Chocolate Demonstration & Tasting

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## Italian Riviera → 2 nights

### Day 5: Italian Riviera via Castle of Grinzane Cavour & Barolo Wine Tasting

*Included meals: breakfast, light lunch, wine tasting*

Travel through 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 a village in the Langhe region to taste some of the best known names in Northern Italian Wine and sample classic Barolo vintages.

- 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

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## Bologna → 3 nights

### Day 7: Bologna via Parma Region

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting*

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 & cooking class

*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.

+ A Day in Parma

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## 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*

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.

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## 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.

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## + 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.

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## 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

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## 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.com/TIR](https://goaheadtours.com/TIR) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 4: Turin Chocolate Demonstration & Tasting

\$139/\$149\* (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

\$149/\$159\* (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: A Day in Parma

\$105/\$115\* (7 hours, departs in the morning)

Spend the day in the beautiful city of Parma and find out the secrets of Parma's charming villas, rich history, and prestigious ham during today's excursion. Travel to Parma where you'll meet up with a local guide who will take you on a treasure hunt from some of the city's most iconic deli boutiques brimming with Parmigiani and Prosciutti, savory paninis, and some of the best tortelli and anolini. As you taste your way through the city, you'll learn about the historical and artistic heritage of the Ducal Palace of Clorino, the summer residence of the Dukes often referred to as the Petit Versailles.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 13: Venice Grand Canal Cruise

\$99/\$109\* (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.com/terms](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)