

SKIPPACK TRAVEL PRESENTS

DELIGHTS OF NORTHERN ITALY

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 8, 2009

\$3399**

INCLUDES:

- * Round Trip Air Newark/Milan/Newark
- * 9 Nights 4****Hotels (3 Nts. Parma/3 Nts. Moncalvo/3 Nts. Lake Como)
- * Buffet Breakfast Daily /7 Meals of Regional & Gourmet Specialties
- * Welcome Drink/Wine Included At One Dinner
- * Wine Tour at Asti With Tasting/Winery Tour Villa Giada
- * Tour Parmiggiano Experience & Tasting* Balsamico Experience & Tasting
- * Guided Tours; Parma, Turin, Milan *Tour Of Colorno Palace
- * Villa Balbianello, da Vinci's Last Supper, Holy Shroud Admissions
- * Italian Automobile Museum/Boat Fare to Belggion & Varenna
- * English Speaking Tour Manager & Agency Escort
- * Luggage Portage, Local Taxes, Service Charges

- SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR DETAILED ITINERARY -

Deposit/Payment Schedule

- \$250 Per Person By June 15 (Space Limited)
- Final Payment August 1
- Price Based On Double Occupancy**

Refunds & Cancellations

- Non Refundable June 16
- Price Based on 25 Travelers**
- Single Supplement \$360**

Not Included

- RT Transfer To Newark /Air taxes/charges \$239.00**Subject to change)/Tips To Driver & Guides & Escort/Cancellation Insurance

PRINT FIRST & LAST NAME AS ON PASSPORT

NAME: _____ NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE:() _____ PHONE: () _____

SHARING ACCOMMODATIONS DESIRED: DOUBLE:___ TWIN BEDDED:___ SINGLE TRAVELER:___

INTERESTED IN TRANSFER TO AIRPORT? PRICE TO BE ADVISED AFTER FINAL PAYMENTS ARE RECEIVED. YES _____ NO _____

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Mon Sept 28th A get acquainted gathering at Justin's Carriage House Restaurant, in Skippack prior to departure to the "Optional" transfer to Newark and our non stop flight to Milan. Cost of transfer to be advised. (Approx \$50 -\$65 roundtrip)

Tue Sept 29th We land at **Malpensa airport** where our tour manager will assist us in boarding our coach for a transfer to our hotel in **Parma**, our base for the next three nights. The remainder of the day is free to explore this delightful town on your own. A welcome drink of sparkling Lambrusco and dinner of local specialties will be served at our hotel. **Overnight Parma, Emilia Romagna** (www.starhotels.it) (D)

Wed Sept 30th A **guided tour of Parma this morning**, featuring the Bapistry and the amazing cathedral. Remainder of the morning is free to explore the sights and attractive streets of Parma, its museums that include works by Leonardo da Vinci. Late afternoon we'll tour the prestigious **Castle of Colorno**, once dubbed the "Versailles of Parma". The French-style palace became a splendid stage-set for festivities, with frescoed ceilings, marble fireplaces and fine stucco work. Today its ducal apartments, as well as its grounds, are still impressive. Dinner of regional dishes will be served this evening at the hotel. **Overnight Parma, Emilia Romagna. (B, D)**

Thurs Oct 1st Today we take an **excursion to Modena** where we enjoy free time in this historic and authentic town center. Early afternoon, we'll join a fascinating and educational tour of a **traditional Balsamic vinegar maker**. Following this experience that includes a lesson in Balsamic sampling, we'll discover the **fine art of cheese-making at a traditional parmiggiano manufacturer**. This evening is free to choose an eatery for dinner on our own in Parma. **Overnight Parma, Emilia Romagna. (B)**

Fri Oct 2nd After breakfast, we leave Parma and go to **Asti**, where we can explore the old town and have lunch on our own. In the afternoon, we **tour a winery** producing Moscato d' Asti, a pleasant sparkling wine made of Muscat grapes. A short drive will now take us to **Moncalvo** in the heart of the **Piedmont Region, our base for the next three nights**. We check into our hotel in the picturesque **Piedmont** countryside. A centuries-old wine estate, this **hotel is owned by producers of excellent regional wines that are matured in the property's cellars**. The remainder of the afternoon is free. The hotel is a gourmet's delight. This will be reflected in tonight's dinner at the hotel of delicious Piedmont specialties that include the inimitable white truffle. **Overnight Moncalvo, Piedmont. (www.spinerola.it) (B, D)**

Sat Oct 3rd This morning we depart for **Alba**, a quiet and genial country town known as the **white truffle capital**. This is a lovely place to blend into the **authentic Italian lifestyle**, do some **great shopping and interesting sightseeing**. We'll also visit Alba's **annual white truffle fair** with numerous displays and food stands of fresh truffles and regional products. Around midday we'll drive a short distance to the **charming village of Barolo** rising on a spur-shaped plateau, standing out from the slopes that surround it like an amphitheatre. This is the **home of the undisputed king of Italian wines, a mouth-watering treat to wine connoisseurs around the world**. We may want to try a glass over a tasty lunch at one of the village's welcoming eateries before exploring its ancient streets in the afternoon. You might want to visit the **Corkscrew Museum** offering over **500 examples from the 18th century to the present day**, witnessing various artistic periods, countries, and types. Late afternoon, we **visit an important winery, Villa Giada, in the heart of the Asti wine region where we have an exclusive winery tour & tasting with dinner of regional dishes. Overnight Moncalvo, Piedmont. (B,D)**

Sun Oct 4th Today we'll take a **daytrip to Turin**, a historic city boasting a noble **collection of 18th and 19th century streets, an impressive royal palace, smart shops, elegant cafes and a replica of the famous Holy Shroud**. The shroud is the most venerated piece of cloth in Christendom and, **when photographed by a Turin photographer in 1898, the image proved to be a 'negative'**. **Thanks to this development, the image confirmed a crown of thorns, wounds and various bruises on a naked man with long hair and a beard**. Though the shroud is kept in a silver chest in Turin's cathedral, a full-sized copy is shown in the church to examine. After a **guided tour of Turin's main features of interest and some free time for shopping, exploring and lunch**, we'll continue mid afternoon to the **Italian Automobile Museum showcasing close to 170 European collector's cars from the earliest models to the present-day**. **Dinner will be on our own tonight in Moncalvo. Overnight Moncalvo, Piedmont. (B)**

Mon Oct 5th We leave Piedmont to head for the traditional **resort region of Northern Italy: enchanting Lake Como**. En route we'll tour **Milan, Italy's fashion capital** and showcase of **numerous sights** of interest. Its cathedral, for instance, remains Italy's most famous unfinished masterpiece, which patrons continue to endow with statuary and stones. Apart from the city's impressive architecture we will also **visit an ageless masterpiece: Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper**, which has drawn increased attention over the past few years thanks to *The da Vinci Code*. **Free time to enjoy Milan's exceptional shopping opportunities before checking into our hotel overlooking Lake Como. Dinner this evening of local specialties. Overnight Cadenabbia, Lake Como (www.grandhotelcadenabbia.it) (B,D)**

Tue Oct 6th After breakfast we'll make a **daytrip into Como where we take a funicular trip up to a spectacular viewpoint**. Later we visit **Como's medieval town center** with its impressive cathedral and inviting old town center famed for its silk and textile industries. In the afternoon, we'll **visit beautiful Villa Balbianello once a retreat for Cardinal Durini** who transformed it into Lake Como's most romantic villa. Back at the hotel, we may enjoy free time, perhaps with an aperitif on the lakefront. **Dinner will be served at our hotel overlooking the lake. Overnight Cadenabbia, Lake Como. (B,D)**

Wednesday, Oct 7th After breakfast, we'll embark on a **boat trip to Bellagio rising high on a promontory commanding a superb position on the cusp of the lake between its two southern branches**. After free time shopping and strolling along the bustling café-lined waterfront and the main shopping street, **we'll continue by boat to Varenna**, a delightful steamer stop, with a beguiling old quarter stacked up on the lower slopes. The lush resort is surrounded by **terraced gardens, cypresses and pine groves**. Upon returning to our base at Cadenabbia, we'll visit the splendid **formal gardens of Villa Carlotta, a magnificent Baroque residence**. This evening we'll be offered a **farewell dinner of delicious regional specialties** **Overnight Cadenabbia, Lake Como. (B,D)**

Thursday, Oct 8th **Sadly, your Northern Italy adventure has come to an end** as after breakfast, we depart our hotel and transfer to **Malpensa airport** for our return flight home. (B)