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Mythological landscape of mountains and sea in the Villa d'Este in Tivoli (Photo by J. Pauwels)

“ITALY BETWEEN ALPS AND MEDITERRANEAN”

A leisurely tour of Piedmont, Liguria, and Lombardy

Monday, April 3, to Saturday, April 15, 2017

Our 13-day exploration of three north-Italian provinces, including the three capitals of Turin, Genoa, and Milan, plus wonderful countryside, featuring Alpine peaks and valleys, famous wine regions, the superb coastal scenery of the Riviera, including pearls like Portofino and the Cinque Terre, and wonderful architecture and art, epitomized by five UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Leonardo's 'Last Supper.' Plus fine food and wines such as Barolo! This tour will be escorted by Vince and Jan Sacilotto.

Tour cost: \$4,995 from Toronto inclusive of all airline taxes and surcharges
“Land only”: \$3,845 – Single room supplement: \$825

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 - Monday, April 3: Evening departure from Toronto for Milan with Air Canada, via Munich. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 – Tuesday, April 4: Late morning arrival in **Milan**, where a private coach will be waiting to take us to a **Turin** (Torino), capital city of the Italian province of Piedmont, formerly an independent country ruled by the Savoy Dynasty. Turin is a dynamic but elegant city, famous for its major industries (home of e.g. FIAT) but also wonderful architecture, fine museums, soccer (Juventus), and excellent food and wine! We briefly visit the impressive Superga Basilica, located high on a hill overlooking the city, before checking into the centrally located 4-star/first-class Hotel Concord (www.hotelconcordtorino.com). Free time to settle in and relax after your overnight flight. In late afternoon, leisurely walking tour of the historical city centre, followed by welcome dinner.



< *One of Turin's UNESCO-classified palaces on an ancient painting by Canaletto (picture free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Commons)*

Day 3 - Wednesday, April 5: Morning sightseeing tour, featuring all the major sights of Turin, including its palaces, former residences of the Royal House of Savoy collectively classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including the Stupinigi Hunting Lodge; the Cathedral (Duomo) with the chapel of the famous Holy Shroud; Piazzas San Carlo and Castello; the Roman city gate known as Porta Palatina; the Gothic San Domenico Church; and the city's emblem, the Antonelliana Tower! For lunch, we recommend the historical café San Carlo, a meeting place of Italian patriots in the heroic era of the Risorgimento, the establishment of a unified Italian state in the 1860s. In the afternoon, visit to the Galleria Sabauda, a first-class art gallery bursting with Italian as well as Spanish, Flemish, and Dutch masters, including Veronese, Caravaggio, Van Eyck, Rembrandt. Dinner in the hotel or in a typical ristorante.

Day 4 – Thursday, April 6: Morning visit to Turin's Egyptian Museum, described as “one of the richest collections of Egyptian antiquities in the world” (www.museoegizio.it/en). The rest of the day is free to shop, explore the city on your own, or visit yet another museum, perhaps the Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art (<http://www.gamtorino.it/en>) or the fabulous Automobile Museum (www.museoauto.it/website/en). No group dinner; this evening it may be possible to attend a classical music concert (optional).



The Piedmont wine country, with the Alps in the background (Photo by Piedmont properties)

Day 5 – Friday, April 7: A full day of sightseeing in the long and wide **Susa Valley**, which stretches from Turin to the French border and features magnificent Alpine scenery as well as many sites of great historical and cultural interest. Our tour will include all or most of the following: **Noalesa Benedictine Abbey**, a station on the ancient Via Francigena pilgrimage route from France to Rome, featuring superb 12th-century frescoes (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noalesa_Abbey); the historical and strategically important town of **Susa**, “gateway to Italy,” with some monuments dating back to the time of the Romans, such as the Arch of Augustus, and a fine Romanesque Cathedral; the **Sacra di San Michele**, a Benedictine abbey perched spectacularly on top of a rock, a religious complex similar to the Mont St. Michel in France, and a station on the old St. Michael’s Pilgrims Road, similar to the St. James Road into Spain - the famous book ‘*The Name of the Rose*’ was inspired by this monumental abbey (www.sacradisanmichele.com). Depending on circumstances, today’s group meal will be either lunch in a country restaurant OR dinner in the city.

Day 6 – Saturday, April 8: Departure from Turin after breakfast. We head for the Langhe district, heartland of the world-famous **Piedmont wine country**, situated in the hilly south of the province, between the Po River and the Apennine Mountain Range. We enjoy outstanding scenery, featuring vine-covered slopes sprinkled with picturesque hilltop villages, castles and churches, as well as picturesque towns; this region was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site on account of the “balance between the aesthetic qualities of its landscapes, the architectural and historical diversity of the built elements associated with the wine production activities and an authentic and ancient art of winemaking.” A visit to a winery, a tasting of some of the famous regional wines, such as Barolo, and a delicious lunch in a typical ristorante will be included. In late afternoon we continue into the neighbouring province of Liguria, a narrow but glorious strip of coastline tucked between the mountains and the blue Mediterranean, much of it a.k.a. the Italian Riviera. Our destination is the quaint coastal town and resort of **Santa Margherita Ligure**, situated at the base of the romantic Portofino Peninsula. We stay in the first-class Hotel Regina Elena (www.reginaelena.it/en/home-page.aspx) or similar.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES VISITED ON THIS TOUR:

Piedmont: Residences of the Royal House of Savoy in and around Turin (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/823>); Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1390>);

Liguria: Genoa’s *Strade Nuove* (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1211>); Cinque Terre (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/826>);

Lombardy: The Church and Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie with “The Last Supper,” by Leonardo da Vinci, in Milan (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/93>).

Day 7 – Sunday, April 9: Morning boat tour to **Portofino**, one of the most beautiful and romantic little seaports anywhere in Italy or, for that matter, the entire coast of the Mediterranean Sea! (www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Q1yQeJPoJA) Return to Santa Margherita after lunch and rest of the day free to enjoy the resort on your own. Dinner again in the restaurant of our hotel.



Portofino (photo by J. Rosier free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Commons)

Day 8 – Monday, April 10: Full-day excursion to the great seaport of **Genoa**, the birthplace of Columbus. Our local sightseeing tour will include another UNESCO site, the complex of streets, lined with Renaissance and Baroque palaces, known as the *Le Strade Nuove* (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1211>); the port and adjoining sailors’ quarter, featuring the lighthouse known as La Lanterna and the famous Bank of St. George; the Gothic St. Lawrence Cathedral; the splendid Church of the Annunciation; and the so-called House of Columbus. Also some time for shopping and exploring on your own before we return to our hotel in Santa Margherita in time for dinner.

Day 9 – Tuesday, April 11: Full-day excursion by coach and train – and on foot! - to the famous **Cinque Terre**, a collection of five quaint fishing villages clinging to a particularly rugged and isolated stretch of the Ligurian Coast, and not accessible via road; this is yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site! No lunch or dinner today.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

[Alta Macadam](#), [Annabel Barber](#), and [Paul Blanchard](#), *Northern Italy: From the Alps to the Adriatic*

Sally Spector, *Chocolate, Truffles, and Other Treasures of Italy's Piedmont Cuisine*

Victor D'Amico, *Bonding with Piedmont: Italy's Undiscovered and Bountiful Region*

Luigi Veronelli and Luca Invernizzi Tettoni, *The Food of North Italy*

[David](http://www.amazon.co.uk/David-Downie/e/B001JPA1Y0/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1) [HYPERLINK "http://www.amazon.co.uk/David-](http://www.amazon.co.uk/David-Downie/e/B001JPA1Y0/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1)

[Downie/e/B001JPA1Y0/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1](http://www.amazon.co.uk/David-Downie/e/B001JPA1Y0/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1)"Downie, *Enchanted Liguria: The Glorious Lifestyle Art and Food of the Italian Riviera*



< *La Certosa di Pavia* (Wikimedia Commons photo by Ugo Franchini)

Day 10 – Wednesday, April 12: After breakfast we leave Santa Margherita and drive along the *autostrada* to the historic town of **Pavia**, a former capital of the province of Lombardy. Here we visit the famous **Certosa di Pavia**, one of the largest monasteries in Italy, dating back to about 1400 and famous for its exuberant Gothic as well as Renaissance architecture and sculptures. Lunch break in the old town of Pavia. In the afternoon we continue to **Stresa**, a resort situated just north of Milan on the shores of wonderful Lake Maggiore, featuring lush Mediterranean vegetation even though surrounded by towering, snow-covered Alpine peaks! Arriving in late afternoon, we enjoy a leisurely boat tour to aptly named **Isola Bella**, the “beautiful island” ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isola_Bella_\(Lago_Maggiore\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isola_Bella_(Lago_Maggiore))), before checking into the first-class/4-star Hotel Milan Speranza Au Lac, centrally located on the lakeshore (<http://www.milansperanza.it/en>). Dinner in the restaurant of the hotel.

Day 11 – Thursday, April 13: Full-day excursion to nearby **Milan**, the capital of Italy’s northern province of Lombardy, an exciting metropolis that is sometimes described as the country’s “New York”! The highlights will include the wonderful Duomo (Cathedral); the impressive 19th-century Galleria, featuring fine shops and restaurants; La Scala Theatre with its small but exquisite museum; and the huge Sforza Castle. Will it be a coincidence if the tour ends around noon right in front of what is arguably Europe’s best delicatessen store, Peck, a great option for lunch? (<http://www.nytimes.com/1981/02/25/garden/in-milan-a-delicatessen-among-the-finest.html>). In the afternoon we view Leonardo’s masterpiece, ‘The Last Supper,’ in the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, a UNESCO site, and also visit the ancient Basilica of Sant’Ambrosio, a fine example of Lombard-Romanesque architecture, before returning to Stresa. Dinner again in the restaurant of our hotel.



< *Isola Bella, with the Alps in the background*

Leonardo's 'Last Supper'



Day 12 – Friday, April 14: Today you have a choice: (1) Return to Milan (with our coach) to shop, perhaps in the fashion designer district, e.g. along the Via Montenapoleone (see www.milano24ore.net/shopping), explore on your own, and/or visit one or more of the city's fine museums, such as the exquisite Pinacotecas di Brera (<http://pinacotecabrera.org/en>), the Ambrosiana (www.leonardo-ambrosiana.it/en), the Modern Art Gallery (www.gam-milano.com/en/hom), with the iconic painting *The Fourth Estate*, by da Volpedo, and the Poldi Pezzoli Museum with its fabulous collection of weapons, clocks, bronzes, paintings, etc. (www.museopoldipezzoli.it/#!/en/discover). Or (2) you can stay in wonderful Stresa to relax, shop, or perhaps enjoy another boat tour, perhaps even to the quaint Swiss town of Locarno. In any event, this evening we all get together again for our arrivederci-dinner.

Day 13 – Saturday, April 15: After breakfast, transfer to Malpensa Airport and return flight to Toronto with Air Canada, via Munich.

Tour cost: \$4,995 from Toronto inclusive of all airline taxes and surcharges
“Land only”: \$3,845 – Single room supplement: \$825

Included in the price are:

- Return flight from Toronto to Milan, with Air Canada;
- Overland transportation via private coach;
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in first-class/4-star hotels - the single room supplement is \$825;
- Daily breakfast, mostly buffet-style, and dinner (or sometimes full lunch) also daily except on days 4 and 9;
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments as shown in the itinerary;
- Gratuities for the coach driver and local guides.

Not included:

- All expenses of a personal nature;
- Travel Insurance is available; please call our office for rates.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book ___ seat (s) on the "Italy between Alps and Mediterranean" tour of April 3 – April 15, 2017.
Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)
Please indicate with an X if you intend to travel on optional group flights _____ OR land only _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1000.00 followed by the balance invoice due 45 days prior to departure.

WE NOW REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (VALID FOR 3 MONTHS FROM THE RETURN DATE) TO BE SENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.

Name as on Passport. Indicate the appropriate title before each name (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

NAME(S): _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

(Residence) _____ (Business) _____ (Fax/Email) _____

If traveling alone, please indicate your willingness to share accommodations: YES ___ NO ___

SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED: _____

(We will try to find a roommate for those willing to share, but cannot guarantee success in doing so. For single travelers we are not able to match, the single supplement will apply.)

SPECIAL REQUESTS: (Dietary, wheelchair assistance, frequent flyer number, twin beds, etc.): Please list here so we can do our best to assist you. **Please be advised that due to Airline policies, individual seat selection is not always available on group fares and cannot be guaranteed by our agency.**

I/we agree to the "terms and conditions" attached to the program. _____

Insurance, I/we accept:

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____ Decline Insurance _____

Signature (s) _____

If purchasing travel insurance, we require your date of birth:

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

PAYMENT:

Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa American Express MasterCard

Amount Paid: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____ Security: _____

Signature: _____

Please forward this completed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. **Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.**

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non -refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure:	25% of tour cost
45 to 31 days before departure:	50% of tour cost
Within 30 days prior to departure:	100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates. Pauwels Travel will research any request for date or routing changes at the time they are requested. Should any individual rate be less than the group fare plus airline and administrative fees, the lower rate will be offered to the tour participant. Individual airfares are subject to immediate ticketing and the fare plus taxes must be paid at the time the ticket is issued by the participant requesting the change. Should the group airfare be the lowest available rate, an administrative fee of \$50.00 plus any airline charges will apply.

