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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

Thursday, March 23, to Wednesday, April 5, 2017

*Our 14-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 is offered in collaboration with Guelph Arts Council and will be escorted by historian Jacques Pauwels, PhD, author of books such as 'Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places' (London, 2009), who will lecture on the region's rich history, including the saga of a world-famous Genoese hero, Columbus.*

Tour cost: \$4,275 from Toronto (plus approximately \$600 in airline taxes and surcharges)  
“Land only”: \$3,925 – Single room supplement: \$825

### **PROPOSED ITINERARY:**

Day 1 - Thursday, March 23: Evening departure from Toronto for Milan with Air Canada, via Munich. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 - Friday, March 24: 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 a centrally located 4-star/first-class Hotel. 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 in the restaurant of our hotel.



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

Day 3 - Saturday, March 25: 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 - Sunday, March 26: Morning visit to Turin's Egyptian Museum, described as "one of the richest collections of Egyptian antiquities in the world" ([www.museoegizio.it/en](http://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](http://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 - Monday, March 27: 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: **Novalesa Benedictine Abbey**, a station on

the ancient Via Francigena pilgrimage route from France to Rome, featuring superb 12<sup>th</sup>-century frescoes ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novalesa\\_Abbey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novalesa_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](http://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 - Tuesday, March 28: 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 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>);  
**Emilia-Romagna Region**: Historic city centre of Parma (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/1148>).  
**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 - Wednesday, March 29: 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](http://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 - Thursday, March 30: 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 - Friday, March 31: 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*

David Downie, *Enchanted Liguria: The Glorious Lifestyle Art and Food of the Italian Riviera*

Day 10 - Saturday, April 1: Departure from Santa Margherita after breakfast. We motor, first along the coast and then across the Apennine Mountains to the city of **Parma**, famous for its high-quality *prosciutto* (ham) and *Parmigiano*-cheese as well as Balsamic vinegar, and associated with Italy's great composer, Giuseppe Verdi. Upon arrival, sightseeing tour of the old town of Parma, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with monuments such as the imposing Pilotta Palace, the Royal Theatre, and the Cathedral and its magnificent Baptistry. The afternoon is free to explore the town on your own, visit the fine art gallery ([www.parmabeniaritistici.beniculturali.it/galleria-nazionale-di-parma/en](http://www.parmabeniaritistici.beniculturali.it/galleria-nazionale-di-parma/en)), or shop. Accommodation in the Best Western Farnese or another first-class/4-star hotel, and dinner in the hotel or in a typical restaurant.



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

Day 11 - Sunday, April 2: After breakfast we leave Parma 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 **Milan** and dinner and overnight in the first-class/4-star Starhotel Ritz ([www.starhotels.com/en/our-hotels/ritz-milan](http://www.starhotels.com/en/our-hotels/ritz-milan)) or similar.

Day 12 - Monday, April 3: Morning sightseeing tour of Milan, an exciting metropolis that may not be Italy's capital but is sometimes described as the country's "New York"! The highlights will include the wonderful Duomo (Cathedral); the impressive 19<sup>th</sup>-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>). Afternoon free. No group dinner today.



*Leonardo's 'Last Supper'*

Day 13 - Tuesday, April 4: This morning 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. Afternoon free to shop or visit another one of the city's fine museums, such as the exquisite Pinacotecas di Brera (<http://pinacotecabrera.org/en>) and Ambrosiana ([www.leonardo-ambrosiana.it/en](http://www.leonardo-ambrosiana.it/en)); the Modern Art Gallery ([www.gam-milano.com/en/hom](http://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](http://www.museopoldipezzoli.it/#/en/discover)) In the evening, arrivederci-dinner in a typical restaurant.

Day 14 – Wednesday, April 5: After breakfast, transfer to Malpensa Airport and return flight to Toronto with Air Canada, via Munich.

**Tour cost: \$4,275 from Toronto (plus approximately \$600 in airline taxes and surcharges)**

**“Land only”: \$3,925 – Single room supplement: \$825**

*Included in the price are:*

- Return flight from Toronto to Milan via Munich, 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, 9, and 12;
- 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:*

- \*\*\***The usual combination of airport taxes/security fees/fuel surcharges, presently (June 2016) approximately \$600, but subject to change;**
- 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 March 23 – April 5, 2017.  
Enclosed is my/our deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)  
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:

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.

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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.