

Liguria and Piedmont, September 24 to October 4, 2021

This northwest corner of Italy is far less known and frequented than the regions of the Veneto, Tuscany, Lazio and Campania, and often suffers a fleeting glimpse in passing enroute to the French Riviera or the Swiss Alps. Liguria and Piedmont offer great riches, as we will discover during this ten-night journey which will take us from the dramatic coast of Liguria to the gastronomic and enological mecca of Barolo, and will offer extended stays in the great capitals of Genoa and Turin, seats of the Doria and Savoia royal houses, respectively. In addition to savoring natural beauty, and gastronomic highs, cultural highlights will include one of the world's greatest collection of Egyptian antiquities, and some of the most unusual and geometrically complex architecture of the Baroque masters, Guarini, Vittone and Juvarra.



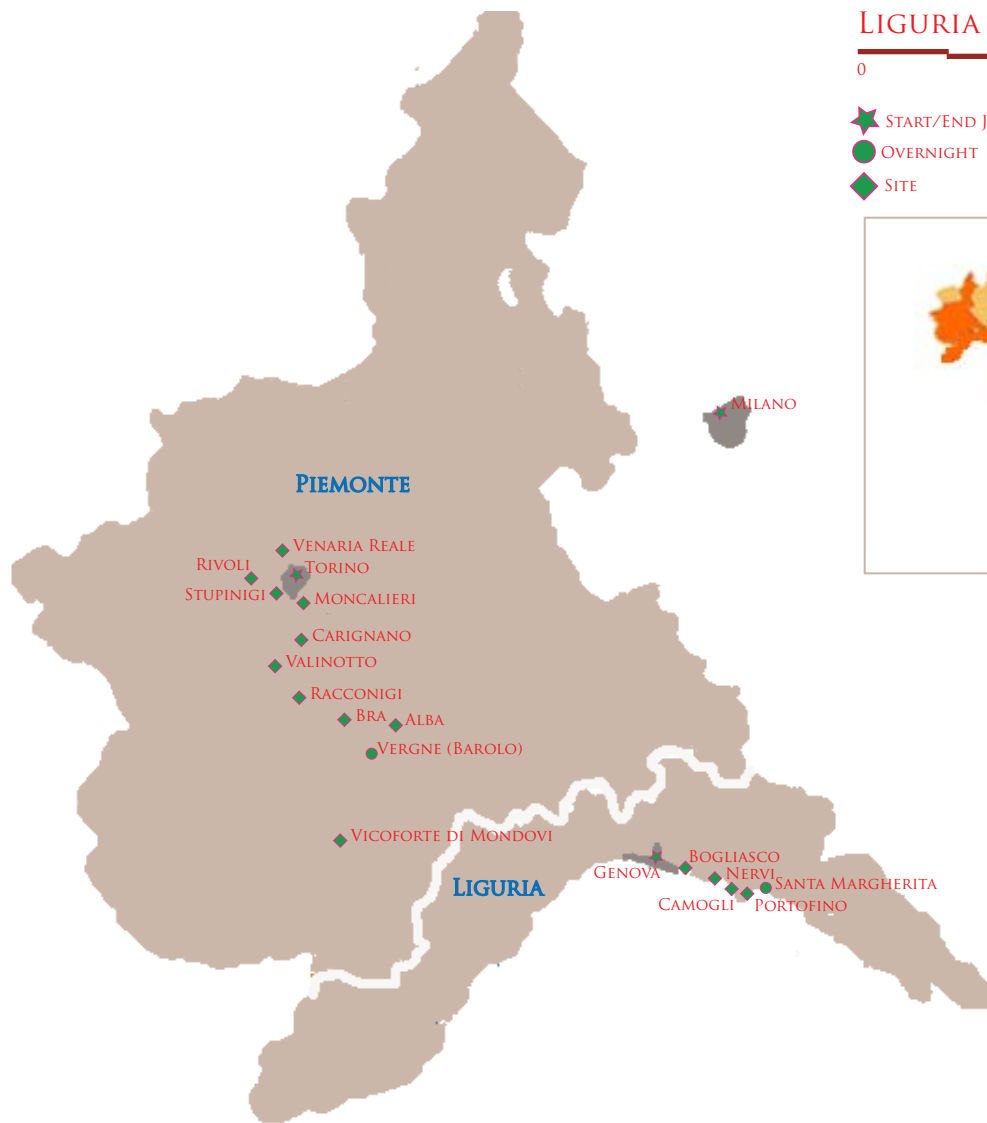
Our trip will begin in the resort of Santa Margherita di Ligure (south of Genoa on the coast). After three nights in Genoa we will stop for two nights in the wine growing region south of Turin, where Alba is the truffle capital of Italy (the world?) and nearby Bra calls itself the “slow food capital of the universe”! Things will pick up again with a finale in Turin, home of Fiat and vermouth of Martini and Cinzano!



LIGURIA AND PIEDMONT

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- ★ START/END JOURNEY
- OVERNIGHT
- ◆ SITE



Itinerary

Day 1. Friday, September 24, 2021

Arrival Genoa—Santa Margherita,

Hotel Continental (2 nights)

Participants should arrange to arrive at Genoa's Cristoforo Colombo Airport where they will be met and from where they will be driven to Santa Margherita Ligure, less than an hour to the south. We have chosen to begin our trip here, as the beautiful and restful position on the Italian Riviera will be a good place to unwind and is well situated to explore the nearby coastal watering holes of Portofino and Camogli. These old fashioned resorts seem to survive

from a bygone era. The day is free for walks and individual exploration, and we will gather together for aperitivi and dinner on the hotel's veranda.

Day 2. Saturday, September 25, Santa Margherita

After a leisurely breakfast, we will walk the short distance to the docks to catch our ferry for San Fruttuoso via Portofino. The abbey of San Fruttuoso di Capodimonte was constructed and active between the tenth and thirteenth centuries. Reachable by water or by a foot path only (the hardy can hike and meet us there!), it clings to the rugged coastline along with the adjacent fishing village. We'll visit the

monastic complex and then have lunch by the water. We'll catch a ferry to continue on to the village of Camogli, which in dialect means "houses close together" and indeed they are! We'll be amazed by the height and density of the multicolored buildings as we stroll towards the Duca del Cernobbio hotel for a look at the coastal view before driving back to Santa Margherita. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

Day 3. Sunday, September 26

To Genoa, Bristol Palace (3 nights)

Departing after breakfast, we will work our way north via the coastal towns of Bogliasco and Nervi. In the latter, we find the Wolfsoniana museum.



This houses Mitchell Wolfson's highly eclectic collection of objects and works of art from 1880 to 1945.

We'll continue on to Genoa to check into our centrally located hotel, the Bristol Palace.

Genoa is remarkable for its topography—it clings to and is strung out along the coast, climbing up its steep slopes. Nineteenth century formal urbanism takes advantage of the few flat areas, the formerly (and perhaps still) seedy port areas occupy a maze of narrow alleys, and elegant residential districts climb up the slopes with piazzas and streets forming terraces on top of buildings below.



Our first destination will be Strada Nuova or via Garibaldi. This was laid out in the mid-sixteenth century to provide building sites for suitable palaces for the families of the aristocracy. These palazzi are known for the way in which they adapt to the sloping conditions on either side of the street: their courtyards and gardens beyond are filled with complex stairways and many linked levels. Of the over a dozen palaces several have been turned into museums, and two, the Palazzo Bianco and Palazzo Rosso have been since the nineteenth century. We will visit them along with Palazzo Doria del Principe with a private visit to the Palazzo Lomellino with its frescos by Bernardo Strozzi (1581-1644). From there we will continue on to via Balbi, where the University and Palazzo Reale offer more solutions to the challenge of arranging courtyards and gardens on a hillside.



After some time to ourselves, we'll have dinner in Antica Osteria di Vico Palla in the old port area beside the new
From top: San Fruttuoso, Camogli (sketches by Stephen Harby), Left: Hotel Continental, Santa Margherita; right: Hotel Bristol, Genoa.

aquarium.

Day 4. Monday, September 27
Genoa

This morning is devoted to the “centro storico” of Genoa which we will explore on foot. We’ll begin with Piazza de Ferrari, just down the street from our hotel, where we will see the exterior of Teatro Carlo Felice by Aldo Rossi, reconstructed in 1991, following world war II damage. From there we will pass through the vast Ducal Palace to reach the largely Gothic cathedral of San Lorenzo. There, we will also visit the Museo del Tesoro, one of two museums in Genoa designed by the modern master, Franco Albini from 1952-56. Finally wind our way through narrow streets down to the completely restored port area, stopping along the way to see the Museo di Sant’Agostino, another Albini design.

Following lunch in a convenient café, this afternoon’s explorations will involve some of the outlying areas



of the city. Starting with an elegant nineteenth and early twentieth century residential quarter, we will visit the Castello Mackenzie, designed by Gino Coppedé between 1896 and 1904 for a Scottish insurance magnate. This castle, which blends medieval with art nouveau details was owned and restored by Micky Wolfson, and now belongs to an auction house. Also on a dramatic hillside site up the coast is the studio of architect Renzo Piano, which we hope to arrange to visit. (note permission pending)! Finally, a visit to the Chiossone Museum, housing one of Europe’s finest Asian collections, presents an interesting 1953 structure designed by Mario Labrò. Dinner tonight will be at the Circolo Artistico del Tunnel, a private club housed in one of Genoa’s grand palaces.

Day 5. Tuesday, September 28
Genoa

This morning there will be a chance to return to Piazza dei Ferrari to visit the Museo Ligustica, founded in 1751 and in this location from 1831. Later we will have a tour of the Teatro Carlo Felice, which was renovated by Aldo Rossi in 1991, restoring damage sustained in World War II. It is too early for the fall schedule of events, but if there is something on, we will substitute a performance for the tour. For the rest of the day, there may be time for independent exploration and shopping, with these two shops of note: Romanengo’s, a sweet shop that is over two hundred years old famous for its marrons glacés, and Luigi Codevilla, an exclusive jewelry store with reproductions of 17th century Genoese silver. Dinner tonight will be in several

Left: Genoa, Straada Nuova. Right: Castello Mackenzie, Gino Coppedé (watercolors by Stephen Harby)

small restaurants to be determined.

Day 6. Wednesday, September 29
Vergne, Barolo

Leaving Genoa we will head north along the autostrada which is quite a marvel of engineering! In Pegli, it dips into a tunnel under the fantastic Villa Durazzo-Pallavicini. We’ll exit to see this fantastic 18th century garden laid out by a set designer of the opera and loaded with themes from antiquity and mythology. We will continue the short distance up over the mountains from Liguria to Piemonte, making a stop along the way at the rather stupendous oval pilgrimage church at Vicoforte di Mondovì (Vitozzi and Francesco Gallo) built from 1596 to 1740. Nearby in the picturesque town of Mondovì Piazza is a Jesuit Church from 1679 with beautiful frescos by Andrea Pozzo. After lunch on the piazza or in the lower town, we will continue on north to the Barolo region and on to the small





From top, left: Vicoforte di Mondovi, Pozzo's frescoes in Mondovi Piazza, Santa Maria Maddalena, by Vittone, in Alba.



town Vergné, which is part of Barolo. If there is time we will stop to see the intricate and geometrically fascinating baroque church of Santa Chiara (1742-48) perhaps the magnum opus of Bernardo Vittone in Bra, or we'll save it for the next day. We have chosen this small winemaking village to be near the winemakers Viberti Giovanni and their Locanda Buon Padre, where we will have dinner organized around the enjoyment of an extraordinary wine! We will stay in two very simple guesthouses nearby.

Day 7. Thursday, September 30
Vergne, Barolo

Today will be spent exploring the nearby towns, churches and palaces of this region rich in agriculture and wine. To the north in the town of Carignano is the church of SS. Giovanni and Remigio (1757-67) by the architect Alfieri and designed in an unusual semi-circular plan. Nearby in the fields is a jewel of a little chapel at Valinotto, designed by Vittone, and perhaps his best work after Bra. It is normally closed except for mass, but we have arranged to get in! Next we will see the Castello di Racconigi of the Carignano family. It evolved from a medieval bastion and then was given a succession of makeovers to keep up with the times, including one



*Above: Vineyards in Barolo, Santa Chiara, Bra, Bernardo Vittone,
Below: Palazzo di Racconigi.*



by Gaurino Guarini in in 1674 and a classicizing remodeling in the 1750s by Giovanni Battista Borra. Passing by Alba we will pause at the unfinished façade of Vittone's S. Maria Maddalena (1749). Continuing on to Cherasco, we will explore its urban plan and the church of Santa Maria del Popolo (1693-1702) by Sebastiano Tarrico. For dinner tonight we will venture to the small town center of Barolo for dinner at another of the Viberti restaurants and more wine by them and other makers!

Day 8. Friday, October 1,
To Turin, Hotel Victoria (3 nights)

On our way to Turin today we will make several stops outside of the city, including the Royal Hunting Lodge at Stupinigi, Castello di Rivoli, (a ruined castle converted to a museum of contemporary art), and the Venaria Reale, another ex-urban hunting and pleasure palace worked on by Filippo Juvarra in the late 17th century. We will repair to the cozy and club-like atmosphere of the Hotel Victoria near the center of Turin.

Day 9. Saturday, October 2, Turin

We will devote today to understanding the urban plan and discovering a selection of the great religious and secular monuments of the city. Our walk will be structured by the axial spine of via Roma which leads from the station to the Royal Palace complex to the north. Along it are many of the great Baroque monuments of Guarini and Juvarra. We will start at the twin



churches of San Carlo and Santa Cristina which frame Piazza San Carlo. Next we'll admire Guarini's façade of Palazzo Carignano (1679-) before continuing on to Palazzo Madama (1718-21) by Juvarra. Our walk will conclude in the square of the Royal Palace, where Guarini's two master-works, San Lorenzo (1666-92) and the chapel SS. Sindone, the shrine of the holy shroud stand. Unfortunately, the latter's interior was irreparably damaged by a fire during reconstruction some years ago. But the sequence of itinerary, newly organized, includes many museums (including the relocated and newly installed Galleria Sabauda, Turin's excellent fine arts museum with collections of both local schools and some of the best representations of Dutch and Flemish painting in Italy).

Day 10. Sunday, October 3, Turin

Taking another cross-section through the city, today we will dedicate to exploring its great museums. The 17th century Palazzo del' Accademia delle Scienze by Guarini is home to three of them. Turin's Egyptian Museum, is the only museum other than that in Cairo devoted exclusively to Egyptian antiquities, and it is considered, depending on one's allegiances, the world's third or fourth in significance (among Cairo, the Louvre, the British Museum). The decipherer of Egyptian hieroglyphs Jean-François Champollion, who came to Turin in 1824, spent much time pouring over the collections. It was Champollion who famously wrote, "The road to Memphis and Thebes passes through Turin". The collection was started by King Carlo Felice in 1824, with the purchase of the great collection amassed by Bernardino Drovetti, a Piemontese, who served under Napoleon as the

Left: The Pinacoteca Agnelli, by Renzo Piano; Right: Interior of San Lorenzo by Guarino Guarini.

French consul, and in that capacity liberated Egypt of 5,268 objects! The museum of antiquities is here as well, and assuming we have made it this far, it may be time for lunch!

We will move out from the center of the city, devoting the afternoon to the legacy of Turin's great industrial dynasty, the Agnelli family. We will



stop first at the former Fiat factory at Lingotto, which has been converted to a shopping and conference complex. On its roof above the oval auto test-track, Renzo Piano has designed a futuristic appendage which houses the Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli containing masterpieces from the family's private collection. Following that, we are hoping to be able to visit two remarkable gardens belonging to the Agnelli family outside of the city: Villar Perosa and Villa Silvio Pellico. These are both the works of the noted twentieth century landscape architect Russell Page. To end on a grand note, we will visit the basilica of Superga, Juvarra's grandest work from 1717 to 1731, perched on a promontory to the northeast of the city.

Day 11. Monday, October 4, Departure

Flights may be booked from Turin's Caselle airport, 15 km to the north, and individual transfers will be arranged. Buon Viaggio e Ben 'tornato!

Torino, Capella della Sindone, first project, Guarino Guarini, 1669-70



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