
Liguria and Piedmont, March 12 to 22, 2027

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 ruling houses, respectively. In addition to savoring natural beauty, and gastronomic highs, cultural highlights will include one of the world's greatest collections 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 Genoa. After five 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!

Our Leaders

Noted Rome based scholar, Jeffrey Blanchard, Academic Director, Cornell in Rome, will accompany us as lecturer, to the delight of those who have enjoyed his company and erudition on past trips! He and Stephen Harby have collaborated in the conception and crafting of this trip, and both will accompany the group.



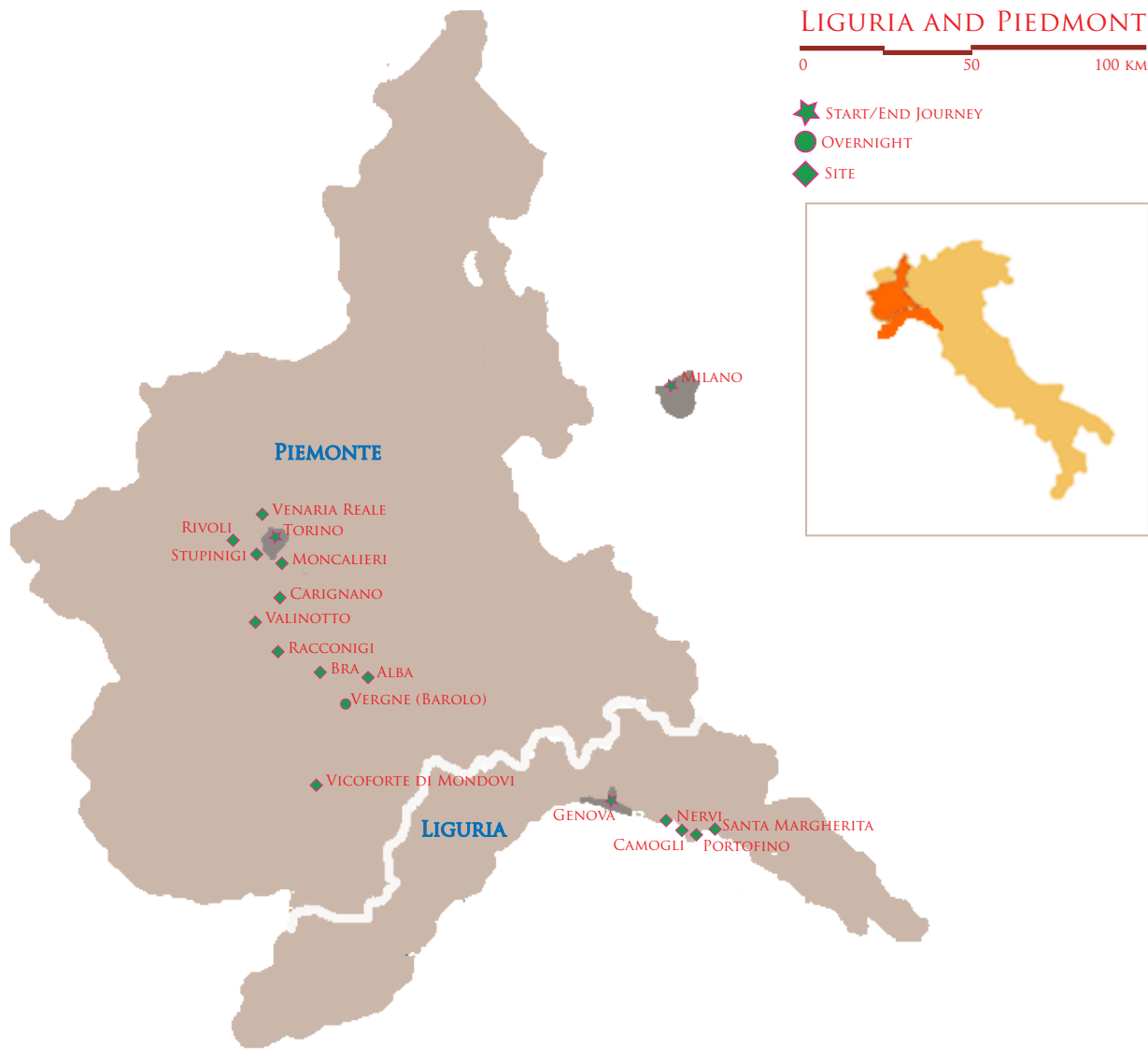
LIGURIA AND PIEMONTE

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★ START/END JOURNEY

● OVERNIGHT

◆ SITE



Itinerary

Day 1. Friday, March 12, 2027

Arrival Genoa Hotel Bristol Palace (5 nights)

Participants should arrange to arrive at Genoa's Cristoforo Colombo Airport where they will take a short taxi ride on their own to the Hotel Bristol Palace in the center of Genoa. Alternatively, by flying round trip to Milan, travelers might find more and cheaper options. From Milan's Malpensa Airport, there are frequent rail connections both to Genoa and from Turin; so this could be a viable option. We will gather in the evening for a welcome aperitivo and dinner in the hotel restaurant Giotto.

Genoa is remarkable for its topography—it clings to and is strung out along the coast, climbing up the steep slopes of the coastal mountains. Nineteenth century formal urbanism takes advantage of the few flat areas, the formerly seedy and now gentrified 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.

Day 2. Saturday, March 13, Genoa

Our first morning is devoted to a walking tour of the *centro storico* of Genoa. We'll begin with Piazza de Ferrari, just down the street from our hotel, and one of Genoa's several symbolic centers. This

Below: Hotel Bristol Palace and Portico Genoa.



square, largely a product of the early twentieth century but with much older origins, marks the conjunction between older medieval Genoa to the west and south and the more regular larger scale urban grid to the east. Several grand boulevards leading into it, (via XX Settembre, via Roma, and via Dante) link it to the city's other important squares (Piazza della Vittoria, Piazza

Dante, and Piazza Corvetto) respectively. Bounding the square, we will see the exterior of Teatro Carlo Felice by Aldo Rossi, reconstructed in 1991, following World War II damage, The Palazzo Ducale, and several nineteenth century buildings of civic and regional importance. Our first visit will be to SS Ambrogio ed Andrea (the chiesa del Gesu) a high baroque church from the

late 16th/early 17th century containing masterworks of Guido Reni and Peter Paul Rubens. We will visit the Ducal Palace the seat of government for several centuries. Following that, we will continue into Piazza Dante for an urban intervention from the early twentieth century Mussolini period, including the only highrise in central Genoa, Marcello Piacentini's 1935-40 thirty-one story office building, whose horizontal striped masonry pattern takes historical cues from earlier stylistic periods. Nearby, we will pause for lunch at the Ristorante Santa Teresa. After lunch, we propose a return to the hotel for a nap to restore energy for a full afternoon! Resuscitated, we will venture again from the hotel, 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 for the final part of our day we will 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, and the church of Santa Maria Assunta (Galeazzo Alessi).

Dinner tonight will be at the Trattoria Rosmarino, a stone's throw from the Piazza de Ferrari, and near our hotel.

Day 3. Sunday, March 14, Genoa

Today, 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

From top: Multi-level urbanism of Genoa, Left: Genoa, Strada Nuova. Right: Castello Mackenzie, Gino Coppedé (watercolors by Stephen Harby)





From top: San Fruttuoso, Camogli (watercolors by Stephen Harby)

into museums, and two, the Palazzo Bianco and Palazzo Rosso became museums in the late nineteenth century. We will visit them along with the Palazzo Tursi (now the City Hall). A highlight of the Palazzo Rosso is the apartment of its director, Caterina Marcenaro, who during the postwar period, helped reinvent the city's museum network with the collaboration of architect Franco Albini, who created her home under the eaves on the top floor in 1955. We will pause for lunch at nearby Tre Merli. From there we will continue to via Balbi, where the University and Palazzo Reale offer more solutions to the challenge of

arranging courtyards and gardens on a hillside. Descending towards the port, we will visit the Galleria Nazionale housed in the completely intact 16th century Palazzo Spinola. At this point, there will be an option to carry on taking a look at the Aquarium and/or the Museo del Mare (two recent additions in the renewed port area, designed by Renzo Piano and Guillermo Vázquez Consuegra respectively), before settling into our tables at the portside Antica Osteria Vico Palla. Others can return to the hotel earlier for some rest and rejoin us at the restaurant.

Day 4. Monday, March 15 Genoa

Today we have planned a field trip outside of Genoa to explore the nearby coastal watering holes of Portofino and Camogli. These old-fashioned resorts seem to survive from a bygone era. Reaching Santa Margherita Ligure, we will walk the short distance to the docks to catch our boat for San Fruttuoso via Portofino. The abbey of San Fruttuoso di Capodimonte was constructed and active between the tenth and thirteenth centuries. Reachable only by water or by a foot path, 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 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 Genoa with a stop enroute in Nervi where we will find the Wolfsoniana museum. This houses Mitchell Wolfson's highly eclectic collection of objects and works of art from 1880 to 1945. Returning to the Bristol Palace in the early evening, dinner will be on your own.

Day 5. Tuesday, March 16 Genoa

Today's explorations will involve some of the outlying areas of the city. First, we will head north along the autostrada which is quite a marvel of engineering! In Pegli, it dips into a tunnel under the 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. Next we will retrace our path back into the city to see the Villa del Principe with its formal garden overlooking the port. We will continue to the Staglieno Cemetery, a romantic collection of temples, monuments and beautiful landscape built from 1844

to 1851. Also on a dramatic hillside site opposite we will see a ribbon of multistory housing hugging the hillside, which we will hope to explore. This is the INA Casa Forte Quezzi Housing from 1958 by Luigi Carlo Daneri, Eugenio Fuselli (coordinators, A building); Robaldo Marozzo della Rocca (B building); Angelo Sibilla, Mario Pateri (C building); Gustavo Pulitzer Finali (D building), Claudio Andreani (E building)! Next, in 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. Next, a visit to the Chiossone Museum, housing one of Europe's finest Asian collections, presents an interesting 1953 structure designed by Mario Labò. For



those with remaining reserves of stamina 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 at the Circolo Artistico del Tunnel, a private club housed in one of Genoa's grand palaces.

Day 6. Wednesday, March 17
Vergne, Barolo

Leaving Genoa 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 Mondovi (Vitozzi and Francesco Gallo) built from 1596 to 1740. Nearby in the picturesque town of Mondovi 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 town Vergne, which is part of Barolo. If there is time,

Above: Genoa University, Watercolor by John Singer Sargent, 1911; Below: Panorama of Genoa from Museo Chiossone showing Piacentini Tower and Teatro Carlo Felice (center and right).





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



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 two fine restaurants, Locanda Buon Padre and La Gemella, and we will sample each in succession where the emphasis is on traditional and modern cuisine organized around the enjoyment of an extraordinary wine! We will stay in a very simple hotel, Ca' San Ponzio nearby. For dinner tonight we will venture to the small-town center of Barolo for dinner at the simpler of the two Viberti restaurants, La Gemella!

Day 7. Thursday, March 18 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 by Guarino Guarini in 1674 and

From Top right: Vineyards in Barolo, Santa Chiara, Bra, Bernardo Vittone, Below: Palazzo di Racconigi.



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 to Cherasco, we will explore its urban plan and the church of Santa Maria del Popolo (1693-1702) by Sebastiano Tarrico. Tonight's dinner is at Buon Padre, the flagship of the Viberti operation, and a short walk from our hotel.

Day 8. Friday, March 19 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.

We will walk to a nearby covered galleria presided over by the traditional restaurant Baratti e Milano, and its adjacent venerable bar, Mulesano.

Day 9. Saturday, March 20, 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 continue on to Palazzo Madama (1718-21) by Juvarra. Our walk will continue into the piazza of the Royal Palace, where Guarini's two masterworks, San Lorenzo (1666-92) and the chapel of SS. Sindone (1668-94). The Shrine of the Holy Shroud, built behind the high altar of the cathedral was miraculously restored after a fire in 1997. We will visit the Cathedral interior and then explore the adjacent Roman remains, including the Porta Palatina and the Roman Theater. Next we will visit the Royal Palace Museums, a recently unified itinerary, which includes the Palazzo Reale, Armeria, Biblioteca Regia, Museo di Antichità, SS Sindone, and the Galleria Sabauda, Turin's excellent picture gallery. All this is before lunch, which we will have nearby. After lunch will feature a visit to the interior of Palazzo Madama (Civic Museum), the Teatro Regio (rebuilt after a fire, to the designs of architect Carlo Mollino in 1967), and finally, Mole Antonelliana. This tower, built between 1863 and 1889 to be a synagogue, is the tallest non-reinforced brick building in the world and became a cinema museum in 2000.

Dinner tonight will be at the elegant Del Cambio, possessor of a Michelin star.

Day 10. Sunday, March 21, Turin

Taking another cross-section through the city, today we will dedicate to exploring other great museums. First thing we will admire the façade, great stair vestibule, and courtyard of Guarini's Palazzo Carignano (1679). The palace was also the birth place of Victor Emanuel II and also houses the Museo del Risorgimento. The adjacent 17th century Palazzo dell'Accademia delle Scienze by Guarini is home to Turin's Egyptian

Museum. It 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 poring over the collections. It was



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

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 Piedmontese, who served under Napoleon as the French consul, and in that capacity liberated Egypt of 5,268 objects!

Now our bus will take us outside of the center due south, devoting the afternoon to the legacy of Turin’s great industrial dynasty, the Agnelli family. We will discover the former Fiat Factory at Lingotto. We will pause for a lunch break at the original Eataly, installed within an adjacent industrial building, then we will visit the former Fiat factory 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 one or the other of 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.

Dinner tonight will be at an inventive small restaurant in our neighborhood, Contesto Alimentare.

Day 11. Monday, March 22, Departure

Flights may be booked from Turin’s Caselle airport, 15 km to the north, or from either of Milan’s two airports reachable by train in about two hours. Buon Viaggio e Ben ‘tornato!

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



For Pricing and Registration
Information

Please Contact:

Stephen Harby Invitational
718 Cedar Street
Santa Monica, CA 90405

310 962 2069
info@stephenharby.org