

# NORTHERN ITALIAN WINE ROUTES IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FILIPPO MAGNANI

## 5-NIGHT TOUR PACKAGE DISCOVERING PIEDMONT AND VENETO – SEPTEMBER 9 TO 14, 2021

Travel through Northern Italy with Food & Wine Trails' Italian wine expert and writer, Filippo to experience the Italian region of **Piedmont** and **Veneto** through the eyes of this passionate local connoisseur. Explore ancient wine cellars before you swirl, sniff and sip the finest examples of **Amarone, Barolo & Barbaresco, Franciacorta and Prosecco** and more!



It shouldn't be surprising that art, literature, and music are essential aspects of northern Italy. Surrounded by stunning natural beauty, dramatic history, and deep cultural traditions, it's easy to understand why writers (such as Robert Browning), artists, and musicians have been enamored of and inspired by various locations in the Northern regions of Italy we will visit on this amazing trip — Piedmont, Lombardy, and Veneto. Be captivated each day by the lakes, gardens, cities, countryside, and historic sites. Of course, this is Italy, so culinary delights and award winning wines are also an important part of any visit and you'll savor a delicious diversity of regional food and wine.

This five-night package includes:

- Three nights at Fontanafredda Estate
- Two nights in Romeo and Juliet's Verona
- Receptions, wine tastings, wine paired dinners
- Meet the locals, and take in the surrounding sights
- Transportation to Venice to embark on your incredible voyage

### DAY 1 – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 - ARRIVAL IN MILAN AND TRANSFER TO THE LANGHE REGION [D]



Arrive independently at the Milan airport where Filippo will meet you around 1:00 pm at the arrivals gate for the 2.5 hour transfer by private motor coach to the wine regions of the Langhe in Piedmont. En route, we will stop at the **Castello di Gabiano** winery for a wine tasting and snack. Continuing on, we will arrive in the Alba countryside, where you will check-in to your room at the **Hotel Vigna Magica**, located within the village and wine estate of **Fontanafredda**. Situated just

above the premises that hold the Mirafiore Foundation, this is an ideal place to spend a relaxing holiday immersed in the Langhe, now a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Enjoy a couple of hours to relax and refresh before meeting the group in the estate's restaurant where the chef will prepare a wonderful wine-paired meal.

## DAY 2 – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 – BAROLO WINES [B, L, D]

The Barolo wine region is arguably the most famous DOCG in Italy. It's located in the northern Italian region of Piedmont, south of Alba, and has UNESCO World Heritage status. Known as the 'King of Wine', Barolo is produced from the Nebbiolo grape. It's one of the first varieties to bud and the last to ripen, with harvest taking place in mid-to-late October.



After a leisurely morning, we will depart for the short drive to **Marchesi di Barolo** winery. The historical cellars are located in the town of Barolo, overlooking the Castle of the Marquis Falletti. It is here that more than 200 years ago the Barolo wine was first produced. The visit will start with a vineyard tour and will end at the historical winery with a tasting and light lunch. After lunch, there will be a walking tour of Barolo village.

In the afternoon we will visit **Domenico Clerico** winery, considered to be one of the great Langhe producers, for a wine tasting. Afterwards, we will head into the town of Alba for dinner at a fine dining restaurant. The return drive to the hotel is a short 15 minutes.

## DAY 3 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 – BARBARESCO WINES [B, L, D]

Begin the day with breakfast served in the hotel's restaurant before your adventure today with Barbaresco wines. Barbaresco is one of the great wines of the Piedmont region in northwestern Italy. Historically it was called Nebbiolo di Barbaresco (Nebbiolo being the grape it's made from) and was used by the Austrian General Melas to celebrate his victory over the French in 1799. Only in the middle of the 19th Century was the wine we know today vinified into a dry style.

Today, we will visit two wineries in the Barbaresco for a tasting of their finest wines and also a wine-paired lunch. First, visit the boutique family winery **Giuseppe Cortese** and in the afternoon, we will visit and have lunch at **Marchesi di Gresy** Wine Estate.

Following lunch we will visit the village of Barbaresco. The town overlooks the patchwork of vineyards, offers magnificent views, and boasts a rich history.

The Langhe area is also famous for white truffles and hazelnuts. The truffle season kicks off in the fall so we will be visiting at a perfect time! Hazelnuts are the main ingredient in many local products, including Torrone candy and chocolate products.



Back to the hotel to relax before a dinner at a **Michelin Star Restaurant** with a top wine cellar, **La Ciau del Tornavento**. La Ciau del Tornavento is one of the meccas for food and wine lovers in Piedmont. Perched atop vineyards in Treiso, in the heart of Barbaresco production we will be treated to an exquisitely prepared dining experience.

#### DAY 4 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 STOP IN FRANCIACORTA ON THE WAY TO VERONA [B, L]

Enjoy breakfast and check out of your room, the group will board the motorcoach for a scenic journey to Verona. The first stop will be **Franciacorta** [frantʃa'korta], a small wine-producing area in Lombardy, northern Italy. It is famous for its high-quality sparkling wine with DOCG status. The wine is produced using the traditional method from grapes grown within the boundaries of the territory of Franciacorta, on the hills located between the southern shore of Lake Iseo and the city of Brescia.

Our visit happens to coincide with the *Franciacorta Festival*, during which wineries are open for visitors and offer different type of experiences. Today we will visit a top Franciacorta producer, **Guido Berlucchi Wine Estate** for a tasting of two of their wines. After the visit at *Berlucchi*, we will board the motorcoach for lunch with *Berlucchi* wines at **Ristorante Camplani**, with stunning views of the Lake Iseo.



In the afternoon you will enjoy some free time on the **Lake Iseo**. This gorgeous lake is even more amazing than Lake Como. A hidden oasis shrouded by soaring mountains on all ends, the lake has remained closed off to the unassuming eye for years. The lake is a playground for outdoor enthusiasts, with a variety of parks and nature reserves that you can explore.

You'll also find a variety of water activities such as canoeing, kayaking and windsurfing. The lake is also home to many towns, ranging from those that date back to the medieval era to the sleepy fishing villages where you can enjoy succulently fresh seafood selections. As you walk through cobblestone streets and ancient fortresses, you'll find yourself transported back in time.

In late afternoon, drive to the land of **Romeo and Juliet**, the medieval city of **Verona** and check in to **Hotel Due Torrie** in the center of town for two nights. This evening is a free night to explore Verona and the many interesting restaurants on your own.



## DAY 5 – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 – VALPOLICELLA WINE REGION AND GARDA LAKE [B, L, D]

Enjoy breakfast in the hotel and enjoy some free time exploring the city made famous by **Shakespeare's** tragic story of two star-crossed lovers; visit the courtyard where the real-life **Cappello** family once lived or just enjoy the beautiful town and its historic architecture.

Today we visit the traditional *Valpolicella Classico* wine region and enjoy a tasting and a delicious wine-paired lunch at **Allegrini Wine Estate Villa della Torre**.



Following lunch we have a relaxing afternoon boat tour of **Garda Lake**; the best way to enjoy all the charm of Lake Garda in a day. Lake Garda is known for its crystal clear water in one of the most beautiful regions of Northern Italy. You will also have some free time to visit the small quaintest village of **Sirmione** dating back to 5<sup>th</sup> millennia BC.

This evening we will dine at a beautiful restaurant overlooking Garda Lake enjoying Northern-Italian cuisine; local food with lots of tradition.

## DAY 6 – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 – PROSECCO & VENETO WINE REGION AND VENICE [B, L]

After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and journey to the Prosecco wine region. **Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco** is a DOCG title given to a prestigious zone for Prosecco wines made from the Glera grape variety in the Veneto wine region of northeastern Italy. The appellation was created in 1969 and promoted to DOCG 40 years later. Today we will visit a winery and enjoy lunch in the Prosecco wine region.

From here it's only an hour ride to **Venice** where you can either go to the airport to travel home or if continuing on, you will board the ship and begin your wonderful food and wine journey. **Bon Voyage!**

**PRICE: \$4,495 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$645**

**INCLUDES:** Airport transfer upon arrival, five (5) nights hotel accommodation, all meals and activities as outlined in tour description, winery tours and tastings, all tour fees, an English-speaking guide, transportation on deluxe AC motorcoach, bottled water on the motorcoach, transfer to ship, and some local taxes.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Gratuities for the driver and guides, all items of a personal nature.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** Tour not suggested for people in wheelchairs and/or with mobility issues due to extended walking.

**NOTE:** Times and providers listed are subject to change.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** F&WT highly encourages protecting your travel investment in case of an emergency requiring you to cancel your trip. Your F&WT's Travel Advisor can assist you with procuring the appropriate coverage. Please make sure to read the cancellation policy on the registration form outlining our cancellation policy.