

Piemonte Wine Experience

B- Side Travel, Joy of Wine and Sara Olocco present: A Wine and Gastronomy Experience in Piemonte, Italy

Daily Itinerary

(B) Breakfast

(L) Lunch

(D) Dinner

(A) Aperitivo

June 1, 2020 – The adventure will start at the Edmonton airport where we'll catch our Air Canada flight to Milan and start our gastronomic tour! *Buon viaggio!*

June 2, 2020 - After our arrival in Italy, we will be transferred to the picturesque city of Alba, Italy; the heart of the Langhe region. The Langhe is home to famous regions such as Barolo, Barbaresco, Roero and many others with the city of Alba being the centre and providing easy access to all. Alba is an important wine production centre for grapes such as Nebbiolo, Barbera, Dolcetto and Moscato and our journey begins here! Check into the 4-star Hotel Savona where you'll enjoy a full breakfast every morning, clean, spacious rooms and free wi-fi. The hotel is within walking distance of many *piazze*, restaurants, churches and other sights that you will be able to explore during your free time.

After you get settled and relax for a bit, we will be transferred to the town of Barolo where will be hosted for our welcome dinner at 6 pm by Marchesi di Barolo, a winery that boasts one of the best views including the Barolo castle! Their award-winning chef of *La Foresteria* will serve us a meal full of local dishes, paired with exquisite wines from their winery! *(D – Hotel Savona)*

June 3, 2020 - Our tour this morning will start with the Gagliardo family of La Morra. After being transferred to the single vineyard of *Lazzarito* in Serralunga, where Paolo Gagliardo (third generation vintner) will show us why this vineyard is special, you will experience the wine from the grape, the soil in the vineyard, then we will return to the winery in La Morra to taste a "preview" of the wine from the cask, and then a vertical of four vintages to tell the fascinating evolutions of time!

All that wine is bound to make you hungry, so join Sara, our local Piemontese liaison for a "picnic with a view". Sara will provide us with local cheeses and meats, with wines chosen by your hostess, Joy of Wine; and weather permitting, we'll eat outside and enjoy all the incredible vistas that the Langhe valley has to offer! Get your cameras out, because you will most assuredly want to take as many photos as possible!

After lunch, we will continue the wine tour at G.D. Vajra, one of the most iconic wineries of the region. There, we will enjoy six wines and learn more stories of the land and their family.

By late afternoon, you will most certainly have worked up an appetite! We will almost literally "cross the street" to the Viberti family winery where we will have a cooking lesson on the local *Tajarin* pasta! Learn how to make this Piemonte staple, then enjoy dinner at the famous *Buon Padre* with three additional appetizers and dessert paired with wine from the Viberti family portfolio! *(B/L/D – Hotel Savona)*

June 4, 2020 – We begin our day with a visit to Rivetto winery, a bio-diverse property, where proprietor Enrico is a firm believer in using every resource possible to create sustainability. You'll catch magnificent views of the town of Serralunga and the castle, along with 360-degree views of the entire valley from their property. Here you will taste six wines and learn from Enrico Rivetto himself why their land is so special. From there, we will head to Bra, the town where the Slow Food Movement was created. Explore this town at your leisure and find a quaint place to have lunch. After we meet up later in the afternoon, we will explore the world of cheese at Giolito, three generations of passionate cheese makers. There we will sample 10 local cheeses, tasting the likes of *Castelmagno*, *Toma di capra* and *Toma Piemontese*, to name a few. We will stay in Bra and dine at the courtyard of *Osteria del Boccondivino*, the National headquarters of Slow Food. Enjoy the local cuisine of dishes such as *vitello tonato*, *carne cruda*, *tajarin* and *panna cotta*, paired with local wines hand-picked by your hostess. After dinner, we'll return to our hotel in Alba where you can retire for the night, or head out for a late-night cocktail! It will be an evening you won't soon forget! *(B/D – Hotel Savona)*

June 5, 2020 – This day is for you to explore at your leisure! Enjoy the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of Alba! Feel free to catch the local train to some of the smaller villages or explore the town on foot! You may also want to just spend the day relaxing in a nearby *piazza* or in your room for the afternoon, enjoying the quiet time to have a nap or watch a movie! Your guides will have a card with additional ideas on things to do! You can also talk to the concierge at our hotel to get ideas! (*B – Hotel Savona*)

June 6, 2020 – Today’s schedule will bring us to the nearby town of Barbaresco, also well known for their wines from the Nebbiolo grape, which sometimes, can be much more approachable in their youth. Our vineyard destinations today are some of the most prestigious of the region, so we are fortunate to be able to visit, taste and learn! Between the beautiful hills of Alba lies the vineyards of Orlando Abrigo, which is where we will start our day! As we enter the cellar, we will be greeted with a glass of wine, then have a further tasting that will include red wines of the region along with a couple of different Barbaresco to compare! We will enjoy lunch here before we move to the next winery on our tour. Let’s hope for sunny skies as we continue our day within the region of Barbaresco as Ca’ del Baio will host us for an afternoon tasting and stroll through the vineyards. Located in Treiso, a cru site for the Nebbiolo of Barbaresco, the cellar will be our final destination with an additional six wines to enjoy along with local charcuterie. The icing on the cake for this day will be the town of Barbaresco itself, where we will be able to enjoy *la vista* from the *Torre di Barbaresco* and partake in *aperitivo*/dinner. This will be a jam-packed day, so upon return to Alba, you’ll most assuredly be ready to hit the hay before our journey continues tomorrow! (*B/L/A/D – Hotel Savona*)

June 7, 2020 - No trip to Piemonte is complete without a trip to the region’s capital of Torino! The original capital of the country of Italy before Rome was named, Torino is full of historical monuments blended with an air of modernity due to the Winter Olympics of 2006 that essentially put Torino on the map. We’ll experience the trip to Torino via train where you’ll have the next 1 hour, 45 minutes to enjoy the countryside before we disembark the train in the city and start our historical walking tour! Our guide will take us to the major sites of this great city to learn the details of the attractions so you can decide if you want to return to any of them later in the day! Since it’s Sunday, there will be plenty of locals out and about so you’re sure to see lots of street entertainment also! Our day continues with a pasta tasting lunch at Pastificio De Filippis by Damilano.

Who doesn’t love chocolate? We’ll be treated to a special tasting by Guido Gobino of 10 different styles of chocolate! They are not normally open on Sundays so this will be a real treat! After our chocolate tasting, you will be free to explore the city at your leisure, find someplace nearby for aperitivo and/or dinner before our return by train back to Alba later in the evening. (*B/L– Hotel Savona*)

June 8, 2020 – After checking out from our hotel in Alba, we’ll journey to Monferrato, (another) home of Barbera and the important native grape of Ruché. We’ll meet our next winery of Agricola Ferraris, the largest family owned company of the Ruché region, at a panoramic point, where you’ll surely want to take your cameras out to take even more pictures of the views! We’ll then be served a glass of wine while we take a stroll through the vineyards and see the Ruché grape right on the vine! Our walk will take us to the *Museo di Ruché* where we’ll learn even more about the famous grape of the Monferrato region. There we will enjoy a wine tasting and lunch! After lunch we’ll head to the tiny town of Asti, the name itself famous for the wines of *Asti Spumante* and *Moscato d’Asti*. You’ll have the afternoon to stroll through the town and maybe even stop for an *espresso* or *cappuccino* at your leisure. Our last night of the tour will conclude with our farewell dinner, tour and tasting at Tenuta Montemagno. Upon arrival, enjoy an aperitivo and see the expansive grounds where there are prized equestrian horses being raised. You’ll have a chance to relax in your rooms for a short time as we will also be staying the night on the property. Put your fancy clothes on for our final dinner and bring your appetite, as we will be treated to a six-course meal paired with six wines from Tenuta Montemagno! You’ll experience sparkling, white, red, sweet and of course, the region’s famous Ruché wine! After six days together, we hope you’ll genuinely enjoy your fellow traveler’s company! Finish off the evening with a coffee or grappa, then you’re free to retire to your room or continue visiting. (*B/L/A/D – Tenuta Montemagno*)

June 9, 2020 – Today our journey concludes. Our driver will pick us up from Tenuta Montemagno and we will head to Milan to catch our flight home!