

PIEDMONT, The Western Alps

PRIVATE TOUR ONLY

Hirides



www.hirides.com

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PIEDMONT: The Western Alps

Western Alps, the Occitan Valleys, the most challenging and breathtaking dirt roads in all of Europe. Ancient military border roads between Piedmont and France, you will pedal along high-altitude routes that exceed 8,200 feet. You will be able to follow in the footsteps of the ancient alpine smugglers who transported salt from the Ligurian Sea to Switzerland and Germany. **A very busy week.**

1st day – Arrival in Italy, welcome and warm-up ride

2nd day – Via dei Cannoni

3rd day – Gardetta and Faunera, the legendary Marco Pantani's climbs

4th day – Valley of Wonders, tour of the military forts

5th day – Alta Via del Sale, the ways of Smugglers

6th day – Greetings and see you soon with us on the Italian roads



Gravel Tour



Summer Tour

PRIVATE
TOUR ONLY

Regular itinerary: **For enthusiast cyclist level**

Total ride distance 150 miles (250 km)

Total climbing 19,500 feet (6.000 mt)

Extended itinerary: **For avid cyclist level**

Total ride distance 245 miles (310 km)

Total climbing 29,950 feet (9.100 mt)

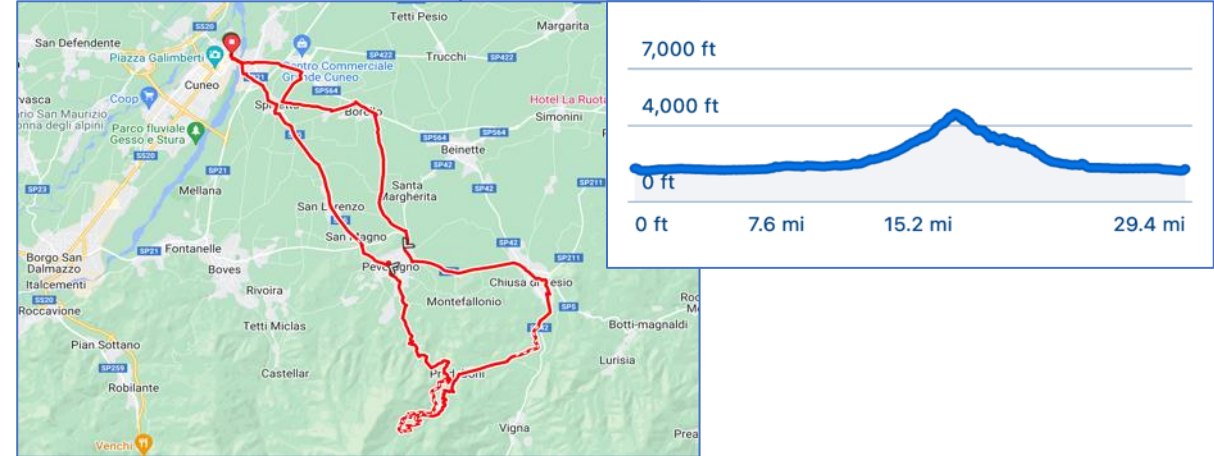


1st day – Arrival in Italy, welcome and warm-up ride

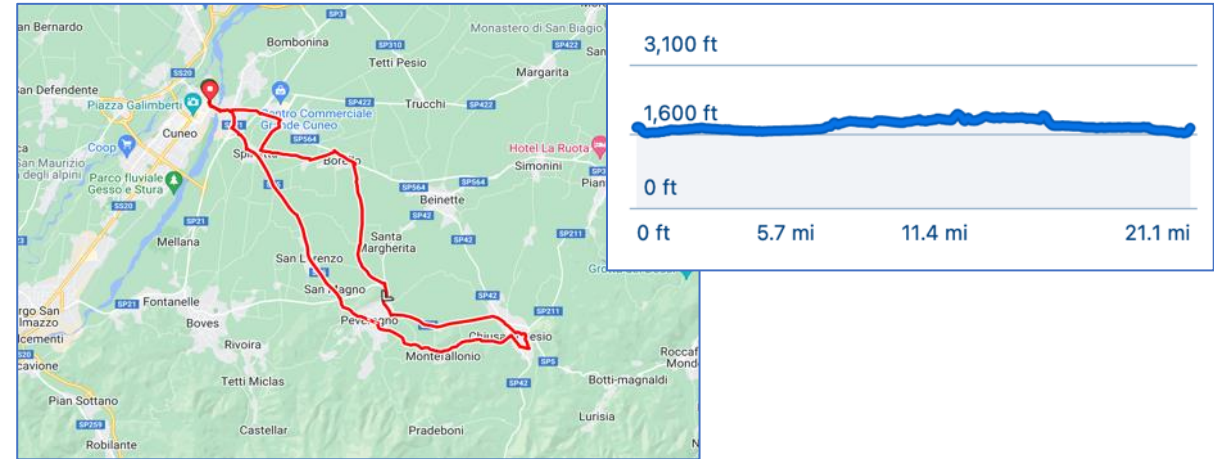
Arrival in Italy, we pick you up at Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP). Approximately two hour van transfer to hotel in a small town of Cuneo Hotel check-in, and after a light lunch two options: few hours to recover from the fatigues of the trip and relax in the hotel or setup the bike and go riding in the mountains (please see below). Late afternoon the vacation briefing is the chance to meet the whole group of guest and the guides.



LONG TOUR: 29 miles – 3,200 feet



SHORT TOUR: 21 miles – 1,200 feet

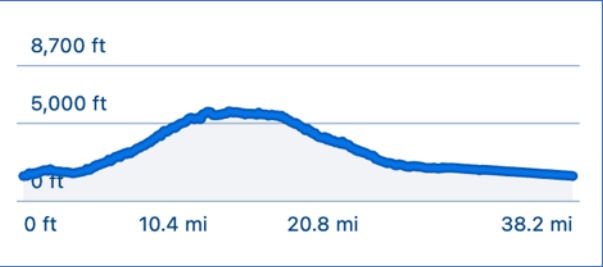


2nd day – Via dei Cannoni

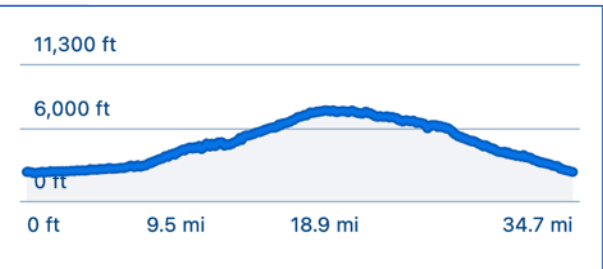
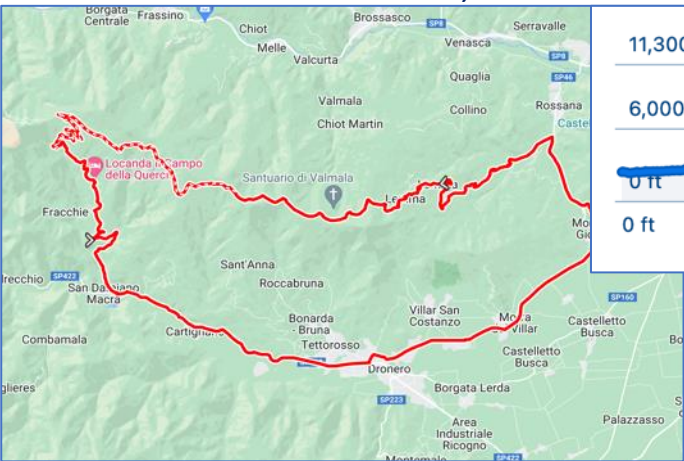
We begin to get serious, two beautiful itineraries on the "Cannon Road", a military road that was used to bring heavy artillery pieces to the fortifications located on the French border. Challenging but very rewarding high mountain itineraries.



LONG TOUR: 38 miles – 6,000 feet



SHORT TOUR: 35 miles – 4,800 feet

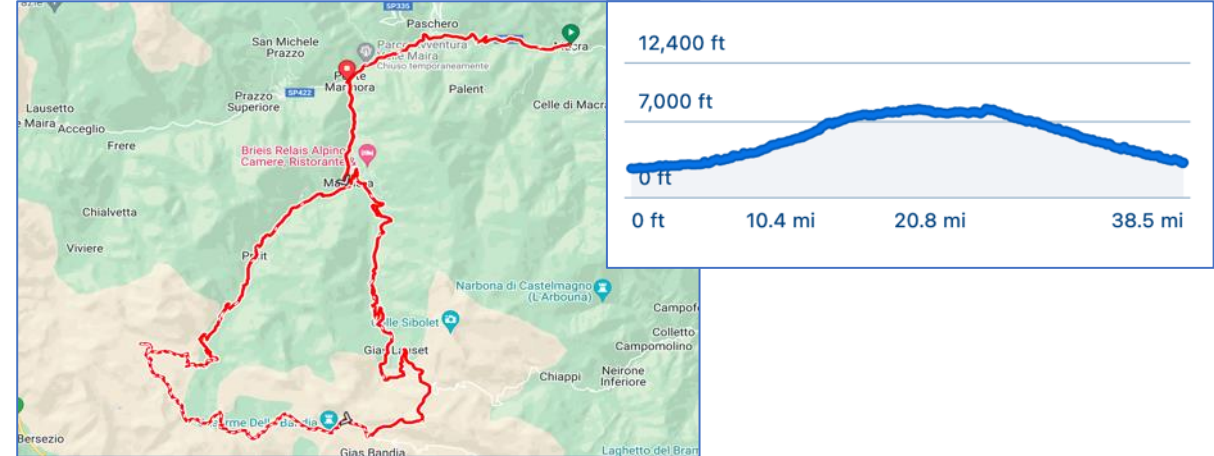


3rd day – Gardetta and Faunera, the legendary Marco Pantani's climbs

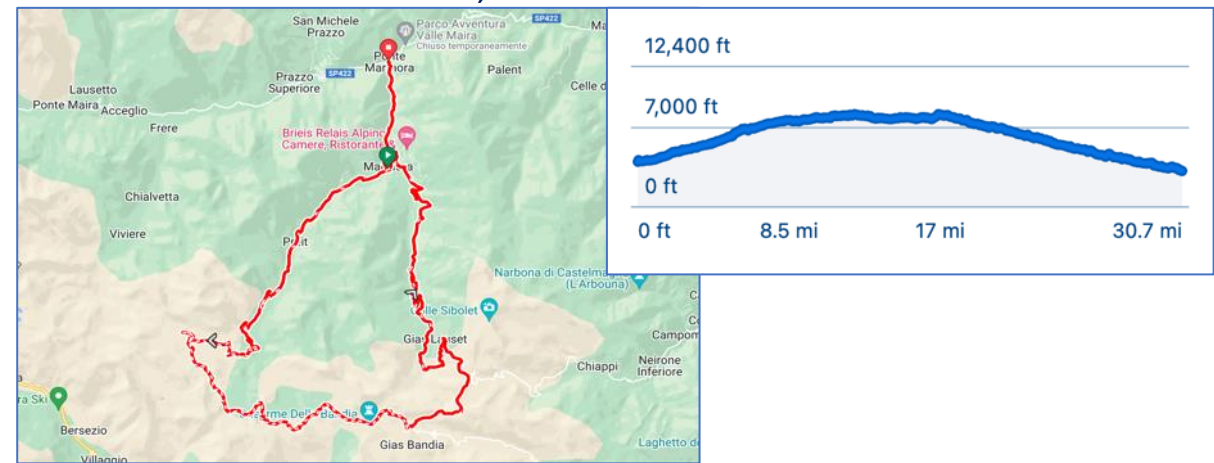
Gardetta and Fauniera are the climbs that recall the fantastic achievements of Marco Pantani at the 1999 Giro d'Italia. Two rugged climbs in a solitary environment of high, almost lunar mountain, the true essence of the Occitan Alps. We will climb on asphalt to the well-deserved lunch at the refuge, then we will continue with a long overpass of the unpaved plateau above 7000-8000 feet. Last climb takes us up to the Fauniera Pass (Colle dei Morti) where we will find the monument to Marco Pantani, in front of which, true cycling enthusiasts will experience a thrill.



LONG TOUR: 39 miles - 6,700 feet



SHORT TOUR: 31 miles – 5,200 feet

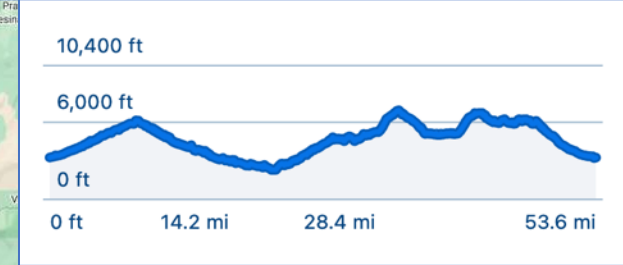
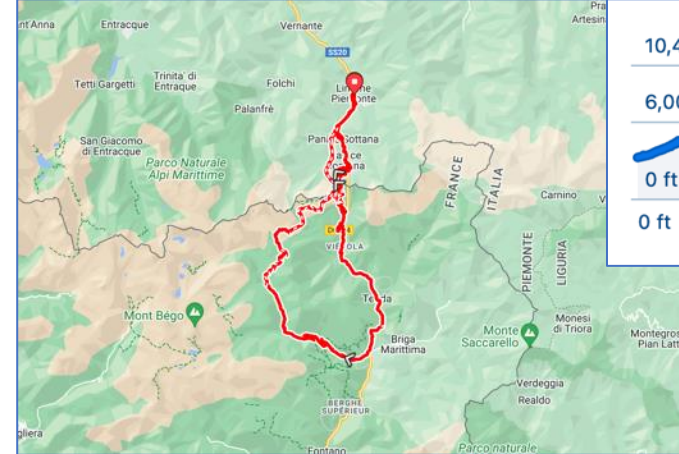


4th day – Valley of Wonders, tour of the military forts

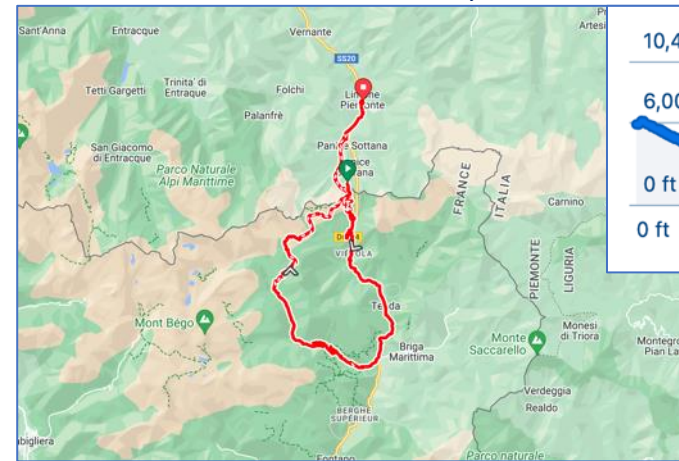
A long ride in a wild alpine environment on the old roads of the eighteenth-century defensive end of the border military forts. Within 1850 and 1880 the Colle di Tenda area was affected by an impressive series of fortification works. The forts involved in this route are Forte Alto (close to Colle di Tenda), Forte Pernante, Giura and Margheria (to the west of the hill, towards the Forte dell'Abisso) and the Tuburda forts (to the east). Following the transfer of the French border, the forts are now all in French territory.



LONG TOUR: 44 miles – 7,700 feet



SHORT TOUR: 35 miles - 5,000 feet

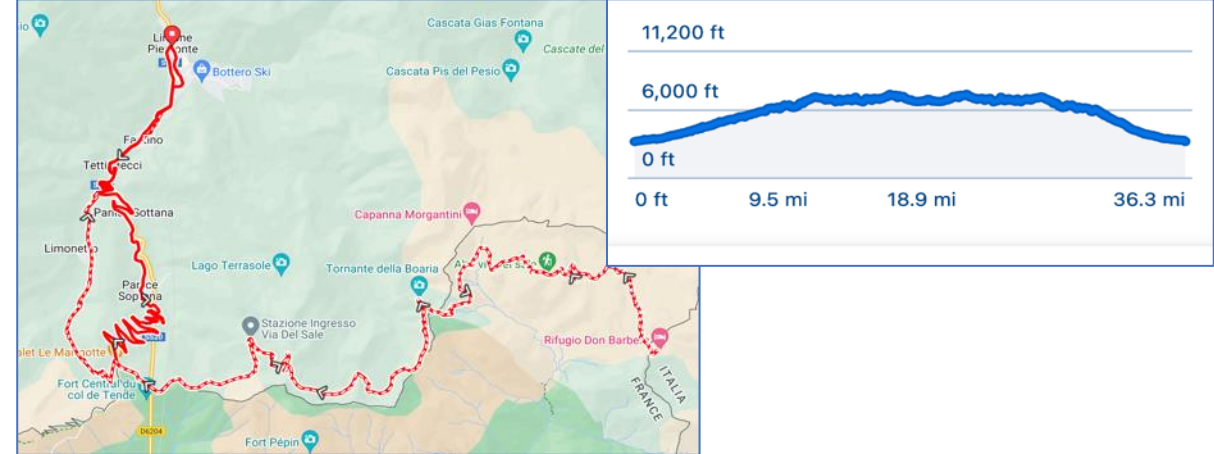


5th day – Alta Via del Sale, the ways of smugglers

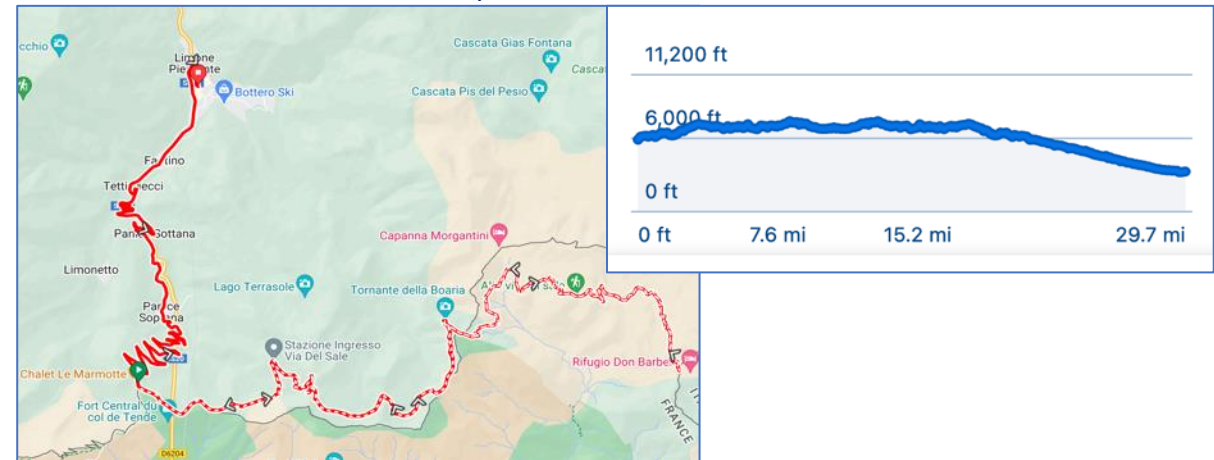
We are moving towards the sea, we get there through the old roads used by merchants and smugglers who used them to sell sea salt to Lombardy or Switzerland. The Alta Via del Sale is a fascinating former military dirt road that connects the Occitan and French Alps to the Ligurian Sea. Winds between 1800 and 2100 meters above sea level along the main alpine watershed near the Italian-French border, crossing the Alpine passes, hairpin bends and passages along the coast bold. It's the Europe's gravel paradise.



LONG TOUR: 35 miles – 6,100 feet



SHORT TOUR: 30 miles – 3,500 feet



6th day – Greetings and see you soon with us on the Italian roads



After breakfast, return the bike and its time to say goodbye to the next tour and start the trip back home.

If you travel back home, we drop-off you to airport, or if you plan to stay longer to visit Italy we will be happy to help you with a concierge service and a lot of suggestion

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AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Don't want to get bored? The activities we propose for the afternoon:



Mondovì with its shops and pedestrian areas, churches and walks. With the historic funicular, you can reach Mondovì Piazza, the heart of the ancient Montis Regalis. A short walk will take you to the Belvedere Gardens which offer a spectacular view.



Visit to the city of Bra (City of the international cheese fair “CHEESE BRA”) with tasting of Piedmontese mountain cheese, the highlight is the spectacular mountain pasture Castlemagno cheese.



Barolo and Barbaresco are undoubtedly the best Italian red wines. They are grown on the hills of the Langhe with very strict quality rules. We will do a tasting starting with Barbera and then Barbaresco and Barolo.



Dome of the Vicoforte Sanctuary, with helmet and harness for an unforgettable adventure: a 60-meter climb, step after step, to the top of the largest elliptical dome in the world, a masterpiece of Piedmontese Baroque.

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DINNER IN THE GREAT ITALIAN «TRATTORIA»

RISTORANTE BATTAGLINO (Bra)

www.instagram.com/ristorantebattaglino

In Bra, the city famous for the international «Cheese» fair and for the Slow Food movement, we are welcomed in this splendid restaurant, haute cuisine and delicious cellar

Highlights dishes:

Starter: "Truset» salad, low temperature cooked eel and sweet and sour peppers

First course: Meat »bollito» ravioli on creamed potatoes and white pepper

Main course: "Toumin dal Mel» cheese with turnip tops and Bra sausage



OSTERIA AL BORGO (Carrù)

www.osteriaborgo.com

When we talk about Carrù we cannot help but think of the "Fat Ox" (a regional breed of beef ox) and the fair that has celebrated its meat since the beginning of the last century. In Carrù the preparation of boiled meat is celebrated which includes 7 sauces for 7 boiled meats: head, tongue, scaramella, muscle, breast, lean, tail. Not only this but much more in rigorous respect of tradition.

Highlights dishes:

Starter: Mixed Piedmontese appetizers

First course: Pasta Tajarin 30 eggs with Fat Ox beef ragout

Main course: "Boiled" Fat Ox beef from Carrù



OSTERIA FUORIMANO (Busca)

www.instagram.com/osteriafuorimano/

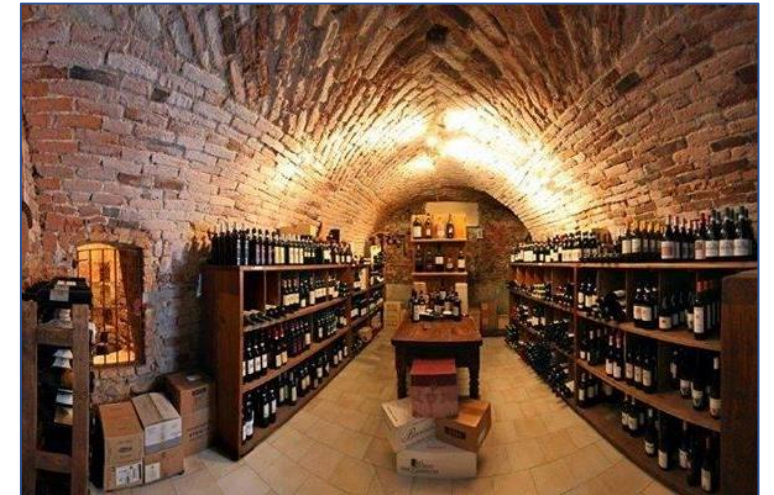
Osteria Fuorimano, only "free-form" menus, three choices depending on the hunger of the diners. The dishes come out with rhythm and are surprisingly different among the diners who have expressed their tastes and any intolerances. Taste dishes with strong, immediate and refined flavours, which combine new recipes with the traditional preparations of the city of Cuneo.

Highlights dishes:

Starter: Sheep tartare with bottarga, garlic bread and candied lemon

First course: Risotto with crispy eel

Main course: Boneless quail stuffed with baked veal sausage



DINNER IN THE GREAT ITALIAN «TRATTORIA»

LOCANDA DEL FALCO (Valdieri)

www.instagram.com/locanda_del_falco/

It is an old carriage house, then the engine emptied the premises but left the poetry. Between the stone walls, cool in summer and heated by the stove in winter and scented by the smell of wood, poetry is interpreted according to the strict rules of tradition. Valdieri is the small village where Alessandro opened the Locanda del Falco in the old Savoy carriage depot (@SLOW FOOD and MICHELIN award winner). Excellent Occitan cuisine, good cellar of Piedmontese and non-Piedmontese wines.

Highlights dishes:

Starter: Marinated alpine trout with horseradish and chicory

First course: Ravioles, occitan potato gnocchi, alpine butter and Plaisentif (cheese of violet)

Main course: Sambucano lamb, stewed with white beans and bitter wild mountain herbs



REIS CIBO LIBERO DI MONTAGNA (Chiot Martin)

www.instagram.com/reis_cibodimontagna/

Small mountain trattoria in Varaita valley, a real gem of "Occitan" cuisine (@SLOW FOOD awarded). Juri (owner and chef) has chosen to work in the mountains, he will introduce us to a unique gastronomic experience, linked to the products and traditions of his mountain, something very profound and difficult to replicate. After only some years of work, this small trattoria has become the refuge of many Italian and French gourmets.

Highlights dishes:

Starter: Marinated anchovies, vanilla, raspberries, rocket pesto

First course: "Mustardela", risotto with wild garlic pesto and honey vinegar

Main course: Diaframma lamb steak skirt with pea cream, capers and coffee powder



OSTERIA LA TORRE (Cherasco)

www.instagram.com/osterialatorre_cherasco

Snails, snails, snails are the specialty of the village of Cherasco and above all here at the Osteria della Torre. Don't panic because there is much more waiting for you on the table, they won't leave you hungry. One of the most beautiful taverns in the Langhe with Michelin Bib Gourmand award-winning cuisine

Highlights dishes:

Starter: Piemontese-style Steak tartare with hazelnuts and Alba white truffle

First course: Potato gnocchi stuffed with snails grilled with parsley chlorophyll and green ribs

Main course: Ruché wine Braised Piemontese Beef



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SOME ACCOMODATIONS RESERVED FOR YOU

LIVING IN THE CHARM ¹

We have selected some beautiful boutique hotel, historical house or vinery house, where you will enjoy to stay in relax during you holiday.

Most of them have SPA treatment available in a charming exclusive environment.

Our tours involve staying in a single hotel for the entire holiday, to avoid the commitment of transfers and to have more time to immerse yourself in the culture of the area.



Relais Nazionale – VERNANTE

www.instagram.com/relaisdelnazionale

The Macario family celebrated 150 years of experience and professionalism with the inauguration of the Relais del Nazionale. Happy achievement dictated by long years of maturity and dedication to the hotel business, to which over five generations have contributed, the Relais del Nazionale marries splendid forms of ancient mountain stories and modern technology, offering its guests all the best of the mountains .



Palazzo Lovera – CUNEO

www.instagram.com/hotelpalazzoloveracuneo

Palazzo Lovera is a boutique hotel located in the historic center of the city of Cuneo, in the pedestrian area of stately buildings and medieval porticoes.

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WHAT'S INCLUDED, NOT INCLUDED

What's Included

ACCOMODATION

- 5 night in Historical Mansions, 4* Luxury Hotels, Villas or Wine Resort located in special places
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Concierge & suggestion service for additional vacation

TRANSPORT

- Guest pick-up / drop-off in airport or other meeting point
- All-vacation long, guests, bikes and luggage transport, as planned

MEALS

- 5 daily breakfasts in hotel
- 5 lunches during the pedaling time
- 5 social hours aperitivo
- 5 dinners in **5 different GREAT ITALIAN TRATTORIA** with the best Italian regional wines

MORNING ACTIVITIES

- 5 riding days, 2 daily itineraries with different grade of effort
- 2 expert local certified guides multilingual will ride with you and support all day
- 1 professional mechanic with support/SAG Van during the tour
- Energy bars and sports drink during bike time
- Daily bike maintenance and daily laundry service for bike clothing
- GPX daily tours documentation
- Hirides cycling kit

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

- Usually our hotels have a swimming pool, sauna, SPA and gym where relax and unwind after cycling
- Visits of tourist cities with professional guides, and other activities as described in the tour program
- Wine tasting/oil tasting at the producers' premises. Visits to dairies with demonstration of cheese making, as described in the tour program

YOUR BELOVED BICYCLE OR RENTAL BIKE/EBIKE

- Please see further ahead our bicycle policies

PERSONAL INSURANCE

- Civil Liability Insurance and Italian Health Insurance for non European citizens

Not Included

AIRFARE TO FROM ITALY

- Through our partners we can organize the flight for you (**ON-REQUEST**)

BEFORE AND AFTER TOUR

- Meals, transportation, hotel costs or expenses in the days before and/or after the tour

HIRIDES.COM STAFF GRATUITIES

- Staff Hirides.com gratuities is not included

TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Personal Travel Protection Plan not included, **but heavily suggested**

HIRIDES CYCLING KIT

- We prepare you the cycling kit for you that you can find on www.hirides.com/gears. You can order more than one, but it will have an additional cost

LUGGAGE AND BIKE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

- Luggage service, before/after tour days (**ON-REQUEST**)
- Bike transport service, before/after tour days (**ON-REQUEST**)
- Door-2-Door bike transportation service (**ON-REQUEST**)

UPGRADE BIKE/E-BIKE RENTAL LEVEL

- Upgrade rental for advanced bike or dream bike

PERSONAL EXPENSES

- Cost of passport and visas
- Personal expenses while on the vacation
- Personal transportations when not included on the Tour
- Beverages not specifically agree/included
- Additional hotel expenses, mini-bar, wellness treatments
- Optional activities not scheduled in Hirides.com Tours
- All not explicitly declared in the tour description

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CYCLIST SKILLS LEGENDA

With the e-gravel bike that **we prepare for you**, your pedaling will have up to 40% more assistance. You will be able to easily keep up with the group, make the challenging climbs and enjoy the views and Italian roads.

RECREATIONAL LEVEL

For RECREATIONAL cyclists

Active vacationer, adventure rider and enjoys sightseeing.

Ideal day for this cyclist:

- Average activity duration: 2/3 hours
- Average daily mileage: up to 30 miles (50 Km)
- Average daily altitude difference: up to 2600 feet (800 mt)



ENTHUSIAST LEVEL

For ENTHUSIAST cyclists

Has participated in a gran fondos or other bike charity event, adventure rider, active vacationer. Not too interested in racing

Ideal day for this cyclist:

- Average activity duration: 3/4 hours
- Average daily mileage: up to 40 miles (65 Km)
- Average daily altitude difference: up to 4000 feet (1200 mt)



AVID LEVEL

For AVID cyclists

Participates in bike races, rides gran fondos, loves adventure riding and big days in the saddle.

Ideal day for this cyclist:

- Average activity duration: 4/6 hours
- Average daily mileage: over 50 miles (80 Km)
- Average daily altitude difference: over 6000 feet (1800 mt)



BICYCLE POLICIES: e-Bike

Embark on your cycling adventure your way! Whether you prefer to travel light and let us provide the perfect bike for your journey or bring along your beloved two-wheeler, we've got you covered. **Explore the tailored options we've prepared just for you below.**

Standard e-Bike (included in the tour price)

We make it easy for you to travel light and enjoy an extended vacation. Let us prepare a high-performance e-bike for your tour, ready for you upon arrival at hotel.

Bianchi e-Arcadex Carbon E-Gravel → Shimano GRX Disc 11-Speed, BOSCH CX Motor Drive with 500W Battery

Each bike is prepared for you, the rental costs are included in your tour package.

Advanced e-Bike

For those seeking even greater performance, we offer an upgraded e-bike option tailored to your preferences:

Scott Solace Carbon Performance E-Gravel → SRAM Rival XPLR eTap AXS Disc 12-Speed, TQ Mid Motor Drive with 300W Battery

This high-performance bike is designed for those who want to push their limits and enjoy a premium riding experience. A small additional fee applies for this upgrade.



BICYCLE POLICIES: Muscolar Bike

Embark on your cycling adventure your way! Whether you prefer to travel light and let us provide the perfect bike for your journey or bring along your beloved two-wheeler, we've got you covered. **Explore the tailored options we've prepared just for you below.**

Standard Muscolar Bike (included in the tour price)

For those who love the pure joy of pedaling, we offer high-quality muscular bikes prepared just for you. Travel light and extend your adventure—your bike will be ready and waiting at your hotel upon arrival.

Bianchi Arcadex Carbon Gravel → Shimano GRX Disc 11-Speed

Each bike is prepared for you, the rental costs are included in your tour package.



Advanced Muscolar Bike

For cyclists seeking superior performance, we offer an upgraded option tailored to your preferences:

Scott Addict Carbon Performance Gravel → SRAM Rival AXS Disc 24-Speed, Syncros Capital X40 Carbon Wheelset

This high-performance bike is designed for those who want to push their limits and enjoy a premium riding experience. A small additional fee applies for this upgrade.



BICYCLE POLICIES: Your beloved bike & Your dreams bike

Embark on your cycling adventure your way! Whether you prefer to travel light and let us provide the perfect bike for your journey or bring along your beloved two-wheeler, we've got you covered. **Explore the tailored options we've prepared just for you below.**

Bring Your Beloved Bicycle to Italy

Fly to Italy with your cherished bicycle by your side—no extra hassle!
At Hirides.com, we'll reimburse all your bicycle transport costs, making your journey as smooth as your ride.

Your Dream Bicycle

Have you always imagined exploring breathtaking landscapes on your dream bike? Let it come true.
Together, we will create a meticulously prepared bike, perfectly tailored to your desires, ready for you upon your arrival in Italy.
Your journey begins here: make it extraordinary.
We can prepare the following bikes: Colnago, Trek, Specialized, Wilier



Hirides

Many thanks for your attention

<https://www.hirides.com>

[mail to: info@hirides.com](mailto:info@hirides.com)

[whatsapp to: +393279635036](https://www.whatsapp.com/chat?phone=393279635036)