



Barrington Community School presents

At the Foot of the Mountain

A Regional Discovery of the Piedmont
September 27 - October 06, 2007

The region of Piedmont (or Piemonte in Italian) lies in the northwest corner of Italy, surrounded on three sides by mountains and leading out into the fertile Po valley to the east. This geographical location has been the crucial factor in determining the region's history and development: although relatively isolated from its neighbors by the Alps, Piedmont controls the two major mountain passes between France and Italy, putting it directly in the path of both traders and invaders.

Piedmont is the ancient dominion of the Savoys, the ill-fated royal family who ruled Italy from the Unification in 1870 until abdication in 1946, and its capital is Turin, host of the 2006 Winter Olympic Games. One of the most elegant baroque cities in Europe, Turin owes its symmetrical layout to its Roman origins, but is better known these days for two things: being the manufacturing center of Fiat cars and the home of the Holy Shroud of Turin.

Luckily tourists, apart from the ski vacationers, have only recently discovered the beauties and the bounties of Piedmont, but it is now becoming a Mecca for gourmands from every corner of the universe. They come to sip its wines, nibble on its cheeses, savor its stupendous meat dishes, and, last but far from least, they come to pay whatever price they must to taste its truffles. In the autumn, every small town in the region has a truffle, wild mushroom and/or wine festival, and here you will see the happy travelers devouring free samples, mingling in the piazza with the sweet and friendly but often rather bewildered locals, who are flattered but still not quite accustomed to all the attention.



Orta San Giulio

From cosmopolitan Turin to the remote beauty of Lake Orta, join BCS Director, Sandi Tinyk and Discover Europe's Fiona Bennett this fall At the Foot of the Mountains – or, as the French would say (and the House of Savoy were originally French) the “pieds des monts.”

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Boston departure:	\$3590
Land Only:	\$2630
Single supplement:	\$550

The following services are included:

- Airfare:** Roundtrip air from Boston.
All customs fees and airport taxes included.
- Hotels:** 8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary, including round trip transfers from Barrington to Boston.
- Meals:** Continental breakfast daily, 5 table d'hote dinners, 1 lunch.
- Guides:** Discover Europe tour director & BCS escort throughout.
- Expenses:** Portorage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.



Vineyards in the Langhe

**For further information & registration please contact:
Sandi Tinyk at the Barrington Community School
(401) 245-0432**



Thursday, Sept 27th This afternoon we gather in Barrington to take our private coach to Logan Airport, where we board our overnight flight to Europe. **Overnight: Plane**

Friday, Sept 28th This morning we connect to our continuing service direct to Turin Airport. Our arrival is met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. After check-in there will be free time to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood. This evening we gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) Overnight: Turin**

Saturday, Sept 29th A morning walking tour of the city center with a local guide will include a visit to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, which houses the enigmatic Shroud of Turin, and the adjacent Royal Palace, with its magnificent gardens designed by Andre Le Notre (the designer of Versailles' gardens). Time permitting we will also visit the church of San Lorenzo next door to the palace. The afternoon and evening are free for personal exploration, but don't miss a visit to the Palazzo dell'Accademia della Scienza. This beautiful 17th-century palace houses two museums – the Egyptian Museum, with one of the finest collection of Egyptian artifacts in Europe, and the Galleria Sabauda, housing the art collection of the House of Savoy. **(B) Overnight: Turin**

Sunday, Sept 30th Today we take a full-day excursion out of the city. Our first stop will be the Palazzina di caccia di Stupinigi; originally built as a hunting lodge and decorated in the rococo style, it now houses a Fine Arts and Furniture Museum. We'll then continue west along the Susa valley to the beautiful medieval town of Avigliana, where we'll break for lunch, before continuing to visit the nearby Abbey of St. Michael. This imposing Benedictine Abbey commands spectacular views from the mountains to the west over the fertile plain below and was the inspiration for the setting of Umberto Eco's novel, *The Name of the Rose*. We return to Turin for dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D) Overnight: Turin**



The Royal Palace, Turin

Monday, Oct 1st This morning we will travel up into the hills to the east of the city to the Basilica di Superga. This beautiful chapel houses the tombs of the princes of the house of Savoy (who were also the kings of Sardinia) and commands wonderful views back over the city and surrounding plains. We return to Turin for a final free afternoon and evening. You may wish to stroll along the river through the Parco del Valentino and visit the medieval village (a recreation built for the Exhibition of 1884) or catch up on some shopping as, unfortunately, most of the museums will be closed today. This evening tickets have been included for a performance at the Teatro Regio (subject to schedule and availability). **(B) Overnight: Turin**



The Basilica di Superga

Tuesday, Oct 2nd Leaving the city today, we head south through idyllic hill-top towns, such as Pinerolo, making our first stop in the unspoiled town of Saluzzo. We'll walk up through the medieval streets to the imposing castle, and take time for lunch before continuing south to the provincial capital of Cuneo. On arrival we'll check in to our hotel and take a walking tour of the town center, with its beautiful arcaded main square, the Piazza D. Galimbarti. We'll have dinner at a local restaurant this evening. **(B, D) Overnight: Cuneo**

Wednesday, Oct 3rd Our day trip today takes us northeast from Cuneo through a region known as the Langhe. This is the heart of the wine country, where the great wines of northern Italy are produced – it is also the gourmet center of the region and the home of the famous white truffles, the tartufi bianchi. We'll stop for a wine tasting and an agriturismo lunch in Barolo before continuing to the Castello di Serralunga for a visit. We'll also make a stop in the ancient Roman city of Alba before returning to Cuneo for a free evening. **(B, L) Overnight: Cuneo**



Black and White Truffles

Thursday, Oct 4th A broad sweep through the east of the region today takes us past the spa town of Aquis Terme, Casale Monferrato, on the River Po, and Vercelli, the center of the rice-growing district. We arrive at our hotel on Lake Orta in time to freshen up before dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Orta San Giulio**

Friday, Oct 5th This morning we will take a short ride across the lake to visit the Isola San Giulio and its Basilica, said to date from the 4th century. Returning to the mainland, we climb the Sacre Monte di Orta – the sacred mountain. Begun in 1590, this is a series of chapels leading up the hillside overlooking the lake, all of them filled with scenes depicting the life of St. Francis, in frescoes, paintings and life-sized terracotta statues. Erected over a period of 300 years the chapels also provide a fascinating look at the changes in architectural styles over the centuries. The rest of the afternoon will be free to explore the town of Orta San Giulio before we gather for our farewell dinner at a local restaurant **(B, D) Overnight: Orta San Giulio**



Turin, the view from Superga

Saturday, Oct 6th Morning transport to Milan's Malpensa airport for returning flights to the U.S. On arrival at Boston our private coach will be waiting to take us back to Barrington. **(B) Overnight: Home**

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner