



# From Lombardy to Lazio

## Exploring the Hidden Treasures of Italy with Judy Pike & Friends

October 6 - 19, 2011

Keeping up our “Hidden Treasures” theme from last year, this year’s annual adventure is going to explore some regions of Italy that are often overlooked by the mainstream tourist.

We begin in the Piedmont, 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.

We then head south, using the beautiful resort town of Forte dei Marmi as our base for exploring the Ligurian coast, and especially the fabulous Cinque Terre. From here we’ll continue to Siena, the heart of Tuscany, where we’ll delve deep into the Tuscan countryside keeping well off the regular tourist paths.

Our final stay is in Lazio, the region just north of Rome. We’ll stay on Lake Bracciano, an old volcanic crater and the cleanest lake in the country (or so they claim!). This will be our base for day trips to sample the delicious local food and wine and to investigate some of the hill towns of Umbria.

Ancient cities, small towns, mountains, fertile plains, crystal clear lakes, warm Mediterranean beaches – and hotels of wonderful style and character. This fall join Judy Pike and Discover Europe’s David Phillips for an unforgettable adventure into the heart of Europe.

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

Land Only (no airfare included): **\$3990**  
Single supplement: **\$670**

*Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.*

The following services are included:

- i) 12 nights’ accommodation in 4 and 5-star hotels. All hotel taxes & service charges included.
- ii) Buffet breakfast daily.
- iii) Services of tour leader David Phillips throughout.
- iv) All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- v) Local guide in Turin.
- vi) Entrances to all sites featured in the itinerary.
- vii) Portage of one large suitcase per person at all hotels.



*The Magnificent Tuscan Countryside*

### Italian Lake District Extension

**Monday, October 3rd:** Departure from your chosen US gateway city.

**Tuesday, Oct 4th - Thursday, Oct 6th:** Three days in Stresa on beautiful Lake Maggiore. Excursions will include the Borromean Islands, with visits to Isola Bella and Isola Madre, and a day trip to nearby Lake Orta, with a chance to ride the cable car to the top of Il Mottarone for fantastic views of the whole region. **(B)**

**Friday, Oct 7th:** This morning you head back to Milan Airport to meet up with the rest of the group and head for Turin. **(B)**

The cost of this extension is **\$950** per person, double occupancy (single supplement: \$330) and includes 3 night’s first-class hotel accommodation, breakfast daily, all entrance fees on the daily excursions, portage, airport transfers and services of a tour guide (David Phillips) throughout.





**Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.** Departure from your chosen departure city.

**Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.** Your arrival at Milan, Malpensa Airport will be met for the short ride to Turin. After checking in, there will be time to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood. **(B)** **Overnight: Turin**

**Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.** 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, October 9<sup>th</sup>.** 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. The evening is free. **(B)** **Overnight: Turin**



*Turin, the Royal Palace*

**Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.** 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 Italian Riviera at Savona. We'll drive around the Gulf of Genoa, and along the Ligurian Coast to our seaside hotel. **(B)** **Overnight: Forte dei Marmi**

**Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.** A full day excursion by boat today takes us along the coast to explore the region known as the Cinque Terre (the Five Lands). The name comes from the five towns that are perched along this stretch of cliffs as they tumble into the sea and it is an area of such unspoiled natural beauty that it was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1997. We return to our hotel in Forte dei Marmi for a free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Forte dei Marmi**

**Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.** A completely free day to enjoy this beautiful resort town. **(B)** **Overnight: Forte dei Marmi**

**Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.** Our first stop today will be the city of Pisa to view the famous Leaning Tower and the magnificent Baptistery. We'll then proceed to the charming town of Lucca, with its intact medieval walls, to stop for lunch. This afternoon we will stop in Gimignano, the City of the Towers, before making our way to our hotel outside Siena. **(B)** **Overnight: Siena Area**

**Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.** Today you have a full day to explore the beautiful medieval city of Siena, built around the lovely Piazza del Campo. This mystical, passionate city, encircled by ramparts, invites you to stroll its narrow Gothic streets lined with palaces and mansions that converge on the famous piazza. Siena's Duomo is one of the most dramatic in Italy with its striking black and white marble pillars and façade. The inlaid marble floor, featuring Biblical scenes, is an architectural and artistic treasure. More than anywhere else Siena conveys the aspect of a medieval city. **(B)** **Overnight: Siena Area**

**Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.** An excursion today into the heart of the undiscovered Tuscan countryside. Our first stop will be at the small hillside town of Montalcino with its 13<sup>th</sup>-century walls and magnificent fortress. We'll visit the fortress and have time for lunch before continuing on to the nearby Abbazia di San Galgano. The ruined Cistercian Abbey is the real home of the Sword in the Stone. **(B)** **Overnight: Siena Area**

**Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.** Leaving our hotel we head south to the Tuscany coast and stop to explore the region around Orbetello and the picturesque fishing villages of the Argentario Promontory. This afternoon we follow the coast south, stopping to view the Etruscan sites around Tarquinia, to our hotel on Lake Bracciano in the heart of Lazio. **(B)** **Overnight: Lake Bracciano**

**Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.** This morning we drive north through the beautiful wine country of Lazio to the town of Viterbo, a typical walled hill town of the region. We'll wander the medieval Piazza San Lorenzo (built on the site of the original Etruscan acropolis) and visit the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Papal Palace. After time for lunch we'll head to Montefiascone, the center of the production of the wonderful wine, *Est, Est, Est*. **(B)** **Overnight: Lake Bracciano**



*Viterbo*

**Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.** On our final day, we'll explore the lake and its surroundings. Lake Bracciano is formed in the crater of an extinct volcano, Mount Sabatini and is one of the clearest, most beautiful lakes in Italy. Its proximity to the capital make sit a favorite getaway for Romans and because it is used as a reservoir for the city, no motor boats (with the exception of a few local fisherman) are allowed on the lake, making it one of the cleanest bodies of water in the country. We'll explore the charming lakeside town of Anguillara Sabazia and then head to Bracciano for lunch by the water. This afternoon we'll visit one of the most spectacular residences in the country, the Castle Orsini-Odescalchi, a fabulous renaissance palace that recently played host to Tom Cruise's wedding reception! **(B)** **Overnight: Lake Bracciano**

**Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.** Morning transport to nearby Rome Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

*Key to included meals:  
B - breakfast*