

Northern Italy September 27 – October 4, 2021

nwaldeck@tasteandsavor.com to SAVE YOUR SPOT

Authentic Luxury, Personalized Attention and Unique Experiences - We are thrilled to invite you to a Food, Wine and Cultural Adventure in Northern Italy this Fall.

Day 1 – September 27 Monday

Arrival in Milan, where we will greet you with our comfortable transportation – you can relax now, we have a fabulous trip in store for you! First stop, Franciacorta where the owners of a unique and famous winery will host us for a personal visit and lunch. Then on to Verona for a welcome dinner featuring local food and wine. and a two-night stay in a lovely hotel nestled right in the heart of Valpolicella wine region.

Day 2– September 28 Tuesday

Wine tasting day in Valpolicella! A special Porchetta lunch just for us in Negrar and wine tasting at TWO of our favorite, (contrasting), wineries for a full immersion wine experience of the area. Then a stop at one of the Veneto's most famous bakeries where our friends will give us a behind-the-scene tour and tasting. We'll end the evening with a fun dinner in an authentic pizzeria where you can create your own favorite pizza.

Day 3– September 29 Wednesday

Tortelli making at an extraordinary restaurant, taught by a famous Slow Food Awarded Chef. You'll get hands on with the pasta making and then enjoy the fruits of your labor with wine at lunch. Followed by an afternoon walk, guided by Demet and an engaging presentation at the archeology site of ancient Verona, led by the head Archeologist. After an Aperitivo in the square, a short drive to Modena for a unique dinner experience at one of the oldest butcher shops in Italy along with a 2-night stay in Modena, the heart of Italy's famous "Market Basket" region.

We are monitoring closely Covid restrictions and travel. If any conditions change, we will respond to them quickly and inform you as soon as possible.

Day 4 – September 30 Thursday

Today we are exploring all the wonderful foods and wine of Emilia-Romagna. Starting off with a visit to one of our favorite Parmegiano Reggiano producers, you'll learn just why the "King of Cheeses" is so special from the artisans who make it. Before lunch we'll be tasting wine with a special Lambrusco producer – his wines are served at Osteria Francescana, the restaurant named best in the world. After a beautiful alfresco lunch, we'll visit to our favorite Balsamic vinegar producer to learn how this rare product is made. Then, we'll return to the city of Modena so you can enjoy an evening on your own to taste, tour and shop. (Of course, we do have ideas for you!)

Day 5– October 1 Friday

We are headed to a shopping, eating and learning mecca in Bologna on our way to Valdobbiadene. We'll take part in a fun class to learn about and enjoy tasting the remarkable foods of the area. More cheese please, we'll end the day with a Prosecco tasting at our agriturismo, then off to an exploration of other Italian cheeses, and a dinner with cheese, wine and local charcuterie.

Day 6 – October 2 Saturday

On the Prosecco road, where we will have unique visits at two wineries, sipping not only wine but also the UNESCO heritage listed scenery and fascinating local history. Our lunch today will be an experience to remember, overlooking the sparkling hills. We'll end the day with special dinner in an authentic setting of an agriturismo.

Day 7– October 3 Sunday

Off to Venice where our water taxis will pick us up and deliver us to a hotel in the middle of the city. Then, time for our celebration lunch with cicchetti and spritz at a typical Venetian bar – afterwards you'll have the freedom to explore and enjoy a light dinner on your own.

Day 8– October 4 Monday

Departure from Venice airport via water taxi.

We don't believe in over-scheduling you; transit and hotel transfers are kept to an absolute minimum. You'll have plenty of free time to explore at your own pace.

The group is purposefully small and limited to 12. Seats have already been booked – so expect the remaining to book very quickly – so here are the key details:

Dates: September 27– October 4 2021

Location: Arrive Milan's Malpensa Airport depart from Venice

Two nights in Valpolicella - Two nights in Modena

Two nights in Valdobbiadene - One night in Venice

Cost: \$3,900 pp/double occupancy - \$500 single supplement.

Includes: Ground transportation, hotel rooms, all breakfasts, 5 dinners, 7 lunches, all with specially selected local wines, winery visits, tastings, admission fees, tours, and presentations. Airfare and travel insurance are not included.

Deadline: \$1,000 pp deposit to reserve your seat due by July 15.

If you're in Atlanta, plan to attend our Pre-trip Food and Wine Tasting!

nwaldeck@tasteandsavor.com for QUESTIONS

Have Questions about the Trip, the Planned Itinerary? Here's some Answers!

What should I expect from my trip to Italy?

Our goal is always to put together an itinerary that you cannot create on your own. We are taking you to visit our friends – we are not just tour guides. We have vetted every stop we make and every place we stay. This is an interesting, enriching, rewarding and memorable travel experience. With us you are not simply a tourist; you are a guest. That's why you are going with a professional chef, two advanced certified wine experts and a food historian with a Ph.D. You'll taste and learn about wine, sample new and authentic regional cuisine, meet locals and discover history and traditions of the regions we visit.

What is the age group of people who join Taste and Savor Travels to Italy?

We typically have a wide age range on a trip – in the past we've had travelers from 28 to 80 on the same trip. We welcome anyone over 21 who is interested in culturally immersive, active, small group travel.

What kinds of meals are included on the trip?

We have an authentic culinary experience in Italy. All meals are included, except for the ones noted on each the itinerary. (When we receive your trip deposit, we will send a Traveler Biography for you to complete. That's when you tell us more about yourself (your food allergies, for example) so that we can make sure the trip is perfect for you.

What kind of hotels will we stay in?

The hotels we choose always have three things, a great location – close to key historic and cultural sights, regional ambiance and excellent service. The tour price includes all hotel accommodations with private baths and comfortable amenities. Our standards for our entire trip are high, whether it is where we stay, where we eat or who we meet. Although the hotel types may differ, our commitment to your comfort is unwavering.

How much walking should I expect?

Mountain climbing and fording rapids are not required, but you should be ready for comfortable action. We do walk in old historic city sections, in and around attractions, over cobblestone streets, up some hills and climb staircases. We try to plan at least 2 nights in a hotel, so our packing and unpacking is minimized, but keep in mind that a heavy suitcase can be a drag! We'll help you in any way we can, (and our bus driver will, too!)

How do I pay for the trip? Can I pay with a credit card?

Of course, you can pay with a credit card. As a small operator, that costs a premium for us, so we would prefer that you pay with a check. If you do pay by credit card, we will need to charge you an additional 3%.

What kind of information should I expect to receive after I make my reservation?

Once you've booked your space on the trip by sending in your deposit, we will keep in close touch with you. We want you to be as ready as we are to experience a trip of a lifetime (That's what one of our recent travelers called their trip!) We will be sending out interesting information to you, on wines, the places we will go and the people we will meet. About a month before your trip begins, we'll have a Traveler Get-Together and you'll receive additional information. At this get together, we will provide you with a final itinerary, with contact numbers and further information.

Can you help me with accommodations, tours or other information for the beginning or end of my trip?

Absolutely. We have lots of friends and ideas, vetted hotels and BnBs that we can share with you.

Why is it called a planned itinerary?

We pledge to make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, we reserve the right to alter or curtail the itinerary, or substitute sightseeing, hotels, and/or conveyances as deemed necessary. (Any savings realized by these changes will be refunded to you.) We will cover any resultant added expenses. If for some reason beyond our control, a trip is canceled, we will refund your money promptly and completely. (We have LOTS of experience with this from COVID last year.)

Can I cancel my participation in the trip or change my plans?

We have an industry standard cancellation policy. Your deposit will be refunded in full, minus a \$200 administration fee until 60 days before departure (on July 29). If you let us know less than 60 days before departure that you are unable to take the trip, we will refund 50% of your payment. At 30 days before the trip (August 28), your deposit/full payment is non-refundable if we cannot find a replacement for your spot. Of course, we will try to work with you anyway possible. Your travel experience is an important investment. We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance.

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