

In 30 years of hosting tours, we've never visited the Piedmont region in far northwestern Italy and its capital, Turin; when we announced it as a potential destination for fall 2025 we got a torrent of interest. To flesh out the program, we decided on the neighboring Ligurian coast and Genoa, which we last visited (far too briefly) 20 years ago! Having been alerted that Juan Diego Flórez was appearing in Donizetti's sparkling *La fille du régiment* at La Scala at just the right time, it was a no-brainer to close out the program in Milan. We immediately got in touch with our contact at La Scala and secured 25 best-in-house seats as part of a VIP package of special privileges: the only way to be assured of getting tickets at all.

We will begin in Genoa, for centuries a pre-eminent naval power and economic center, visiting both its rich heritage of art and architecture and exciting harbor area (including our hotel) redeveloped by Renzo Piano. We've set aside two full days to explore the stunning Ligurian coast, for its natural and enhanced coastlines lined by spectacular palaces and gardens.

For Piedmont, noted for its vineyards and gastronomy, we decided to lodge in a lovely, restored 19th-century farmhouse that, along with first-class accommodations, offers spectacular views. Our days will be spent sightseeing, sampling the region's justly famed wines and feasting on both traditional and contemporary cuisine. We've also set aside a day for the region's capital, Turin, the first capital of unified Italy in the 1860s.

Because most Italian companies do not announce their fall seasons till the preceding spring, we cannot be sure of what, if anything, will be available while we are there, but we have taken care to schedule our tour to put us in both Genoa and Turin at times when they have historically offered performances. We've budgeted for one event in each city; if none is available, the tour price will be discounted appropriately.

Knowing that most of our travelers have visited Milan before, we have decided to provide the "main event" at La Scala, two additional optional performances, and otherwise to leave your daytime hours open for you to pursue your own interests. There is one exception: a very special, private musical event.

Please consult the details of the itinerary below. As you see, this will not be a "leisurely" tour; almost every day till we reach Milan is well-packed with plenty of walking, often involving hilly terrain and buildings that may not meet accessibility standards. There are just too many wonderful things to see and do! On the other hand, you will have a free day in Genoa and time for relaxation most afternoons and evenings.

If you would like to join us, don't delay; this program is limited to 25 participants.

To request a reservation form, please email dd@deandaltontours.com or call 713-213-6447.

Reservations will be honored in the order completed forms and deposits are received.

TOUR DESCRIPTION

October 10, 2025: Departures for Genoa

Most major carriers can get you to Genoa conveniently, although you will probably need to change planes at a major European hub.

October 11-15, 2025: Genoa and the Ligurian Coast

We chose the elegant NH Hotel Marina in the *porto antico* of Genoa, an area redesigned for Expo '92 by the famous Genoese architect Renzo Piano. For that world exhibition commemorating the 500th anniversary of America's "discovery" by Genoa native Christopher Columbus, Piano converted warehouses into shops, restaurants, and museums; the wharf area was developed with walkways and plazas. Nearby attractions include Europe's largest aquarium; a panoramic lift that is a sculptural octopus of eight arms extending diagonally skywards; and a glass and steel ball nicknamed 'La Bolla' (the Bubble), home to a lush rainforest with birds, reptiles, and butterflies.

October 16, 2025: En route to Piedmont

Today we leave for Piedmont, surrounded by mountains on three sides (the Alps in the north and west, the Apennines in the south). The region's Italian name, Piemonte, translates to "foot of the mountains," a fitting descriptor given its location. The mountains create a protective barrier while the sub-alpine foothills offer many sunny slopes for planting the region's most-prized grapes, including Nebbiolo (cultivated in villages such as Barolo and Barbaresco) and Barbera (primarily from the provinces of Alba and Asti).

On our way to Villa d'Amelia, a hillside retreat on a ridge among lush woods and hazelnut groves, with stunning views of the Monviso Alps, we make two stops to taste the famous wines of the region. First, we sit down for a home-cooked traditional farmer's brunch with salami, cheese, vegetable appetizers, a pasta course and dessert, prepared by the mom of the family and accompanied by wines including the DOCG appellation "Nizza" (Barbera aged in oak, only produced in a district comprised of 18 communes in Monferrato). Then, we head to Canelli, home of the first Italian classic method of sparkling wine. The town stands atop a monumental network of tunnels and galleries, artistically dug into the tufa rock, locally known as

"underground cathedrals." These historic wine chambers, now a UNESCO World Heritage site, keep the wines at a constant temperature and humidity; we will taste some of the most iconic Asti spumante and Canelli wines.

October 17 and 18, 2025: Alba and Bra region, Piedmont

We dedicate two days to exploring the surroundings of our villa. Alba, the 'capital' of the Langhe, is famous for its white truffles. October is one of the best months to visit: the vineyards around town are at their most beautiful, all russets and gold, and the world-famous truffle festival is in full swing (you'll have time to explore!). Alba is the quintessential fortified medieval town with a soaring 12th-century gothic cathedral. Its "little sister," Bra is one of the most important centers of Piemontese Baroque architecture. Grinzane Cavour Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has splendid rooms including the Hall of Masks, decorated with 156 masks depicting faces, allegoric figures, and coats of arms; an ethnographic museum of rural life; an open-air wine museum around the perimeter ramparts of the castle; and the Piemontese Regional Enoteca, where you can purchase local wines and grappas directly or, if you prefer, order online for worldwide delivery.

Of course, Piemonte is the destination for foodies, and we will include some special experiences, including a wine-tasting "slow food" lunch and cheese tasting at a small family farm, where cheeses from the raw milk of the Langhe sheep are produced in natural surroundings following traditional methods.

*Prices per person
for the 14-night tour:*

\$6,590

sharing a double/twin



\$8,575

single occupancy



Prices are stated in
U.S. Dollars
calculated on an
exchange rate of \$1.07
to the Euro

Prices include:

**Accommodation in these
4-star hotels**

**NH Genova Marina
5 nights**

**Relais Villa d'Amelia
4 nights**

**Sina de la Ville Milano
5 nights**



Premium Category Seats for

***La fille du régiment*
with Juan Diego Flórez
at La Scala Milan,
including special VIP
privileges and events**



**A private house-concert
with lunch**



A six-cheese tasting



Three wine tastings



Breakfast each day



**7 lunches or dinners
(*wine or beer included*)**



Airport transfers



**Ground transport by
private coach**



**Tours with expert guides
as described to the right**



**Additional performances in
Genoa and Turin (as
available)**



**First Category Seats, at
additional cost, available
for two more performances**

You will also have time to relax and enjoy our hotel's Damá Restaurant, featuring classic dishes like the irresistible ravioli del plin and vitello tonnato, alongside contemporary haute cuisine creations, all with a focus on sustainability and authenticity. If there is sufficient interest, we can arrange for you to roll up your sleeves at an optional cooking class; a Damá chef will teach you to prepare some of the traditional dishes of the Langhe and Piedmont.

October 19, 2025: Turin

Today we visit the first capital of Italy and home to the royal family of Savoy, who originated in France. Determined to create a capital to rival the likes of Paris and Vienna, the family sponsored some of Italy's most exceptional baroque architecture, including several residences of the Royal House of Savoy, all UNESCO World Heritage sites. Turin's historic center is a treasure trove of art and architecture, from the Church of San Lorenzo (a Guarini masterpiece) to the Royal Palace with the state apartments, Royal Armory, and Guarini's Chapel of the Holy Shroud.

October 20, 2025: En route to Milan

On our way to Milan, we stop at a family-owned wine estate surrounded by a beautiful English garden to visit part of the castle and taste its most representative Barbera d'Asti and Nebbiolo wines. Then we cap off our days in Piedmont with another special Piemontese lunch.

October 21-24, 2025: Milan

Our program in Milan is focused on music. In addition to the performances and the special events associated with our VIP La Scala package, there will be another very exclusive visit. A (perhaps THE) highlight of our 2023 Italian Lake District Tour was a visit to the Villa Medici Giulini, where Signora Giulini hosted us for a private recital, played on some of her priceless collection of antique instruments. We also got to see the Signora's art collection and were treated to a lovely luncheon. As we were leaving, she invited us to visit her "at home" in Milano, where more of her collections are housed. The Signora responded immediately to our request, inviting us for an exclusive visit, including lunch, to see her 15th-18th century paintings, drawings, sculptures, and porcelains, which provide the perfect setting to listen to music played on her antique harpsichords, spinets, dulcimers, and fortepianos.

Otherwise, your time in Milan is reserved for you to pursue your own interests. For art enthusiasts, there's the Brera, Poldi Pezzoldi, Ambrosiana collections or Da Vinci's "Last Supper" at Santa Maria delle Grazie; for fashion enthusiasts, there is the art foundation by the Prada dynasty or Italy's oldest active shopping gallery, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. For those interested in hidden gems, there is the Bagatti Valsecchi Museum, "an Italian Renaissance time capsule." This is the neo-Renaissance mansion of two baron brothers, who were inspired by 16th-century Lombard mansions, collected artworks, objects and furnishings dating back to the Italian Renaissance.

Our elegant and strategically located hotel is just a couple of blocks from Teatro a la Scala and within easy walking distance of nearly everything mentioned above.

Everyone will enjoy VIP treatment for *La fille du régiment* featuring Juan Diego Flórez, with premium category tickets and other special perks. You will also have access to VIP seating (optional, at regular prices) for *Rigoletto* and/or a concert by the La Scala Philharmonic featuring Elína Garanča and conducted by Riccardo Chailly.

October 25, 2025: Departures

Transfers will be provided, whether you depart from Linate or Malpensa airport.

Please note:

*This will be a very busy program with almost everything included.
Participants must be prepared for full days and plenty of walking,
often involving hilly terrain and buildings that may not meet accessibility standards.
If your mobility is restricted, please travel with a companion for assistance
and be prepared to forego some activities.*

*Schedules have not been announced in
Genoa and Turin; nonetheless, one
performance in each city has been included
in the budget. Should nothing be offered,
the cost of the tour will be discounted
accordingly.*

*VIP access to first category seats
for [Rigoletto](#) and/or a concert
by the [La Scala Philharmonic](#)
will be available to participants
at normal prices.*