

EXPLORERS  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 13-21, 2024

with optional  
CINQUE TERRE PRE-TOUR &  
VENICE POST-TOUR

No Single  
Supplement

# Flavors of NORTHERN

Award-winning wine,  
captivating culture, and **ITALY**  
stunning architecture—aged to perfection

BOOK WITH  
CONFIDENCE

30-day refund  
guarantee

*Veneto, Lombardy &  
Lago di Garda*





Colosseum Arena di Verona



EXPLORERS  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Join our small group for a nine-day journey to the culinary and cultural heart of Northern Italy—a region brimming with exquisite local wines, specialty ingredients, soul-satisfying signature dishes and the wonderful Italians who conjure them with time-honored techniques.

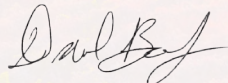
Settle into a beautiful wine estate outside Verona. Within reach is a connoisseur's pick of centuries-old wineries, artisan producers and extraordinary historic sites.

With each day highlighted by exclusive experiences, access authentic Italy, learn from local Italians and, most of all, revel in *la dolce vita*—the joyful celebration of food, friends and life!

Space is limited. With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly, so be certain to reserve your spot today and share this brochure with family and friends who may be interested in traveling with you.


Please reserve online at [uillinois.orbridge.com](https://uillinois.orbridge.com), by calling (866) 639-0079 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
President  
University of Illinois Alumni Association  
<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>

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 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at [orbridge.com/going-green](https://orbridge.com/going-green).



## Your 9-Day Itinerary (subject to change)

**Day 1:** En route from U.S.

**Day 2:** Arrive in Verona, Italy / Province of Brescia (Selva Capuzza) (D)  
Settle in, welcome dinner  
Overnight: Borgo San Donino

**Day 3:** Sulzano / Lago d'Iseo / Franciacorta (B,L,D)  
Boat excursion, Al Rocol cellar tour and wine tasting  
Overnight: Borgo San Donino

**Day 4:** Selva Capuzza (B,L,D)  
Fresh pasta making and dessert cooking classes, followed by lunch made during class. Walking tour of property including an olive oil tasting and wine presentation  
Overnight: Borgo San Donino

**Day 5:** Verona / Valpolicella (B,D)  
Guided sightseeing, Renaissance Gates, Castelvecchio Bridge, San Zeno Basilica, Piazza delle Erbe, Juliet's balcony, Roman monuments and amphitheater, Giuseppe Lonardi winery (winner of numerous *Decanter World Wine* awards) tour and tasting, Amarone cooking demonstration and dinner  
Overnight: Borgo San Donino

**Day 6:** Vallagarina / Malcesine (B,L,D)

Guided tour of the Tower of San Martino della Battaglia, award-winning de Tarczal winery visit with tasting and lunch, leisure time in Malcesine beside Lago di Garda  
Overnight: Borgo San Donino

**Day 7:** Modena / Mantua (B,L,D)

Balsamic vinegar tasting and lunch at award-winning Acetaia Caselli, Palazzo Ducale UNESCO World Heritage Site inside visit  
Overnight: Borgo San Donino

**Day 8:** Roncà / Soave / Sirmione (B,L,D)

La Casara cheese demonstration and tasting, Soave castle, leisure time in Sirmione, special farewell dinner  
Overnight: Borgo San Donino

**Day 9:** Depart Verona for U.S. (B)

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)

**Activity Level:** We expect that guests can enjoy two hours or more of walking, are sure-footed on cobbled surfaces, and can walk up and down stairs without assistance. On the estate, unpaved roads and pathways separate its various structures, and walking is required to get from one building to another and to reach the restaurant. Historic city centers are usually more accessible by foot than vehicle. Due to the structure of some buildings, facilities for the disabled may be limited.







Lonardi Winery

## Repose

- With your small group (maximum 19 guests), enjoy seven nights accommodations at a historic country farmhouse amidst a wine and olive oil-producing estate.
- Join intimate cooking classes with locals who share their families' histories and favorite recipes.
- Relax during a boat tour around Lago d'Isèo, featuring mesmerizing clear water and stunning mountain scenery, followed by touring on land.

## Discover

- Take in the area's layered history, with visits to Verona's 2,000-year-old Roman arena and the magnificent medieval Castelvécchio Bridge.
- Admire the panoramic beauty at captivating Lago di Garda—Italy's largest lake.
- Delight in a cheese-making demonstration and tasting in the heart of Lessinia, home to a delicious variety of Italian cheeses.
- See Palazzo Ducale di Mantova—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—which was the royal residence of the Gonzaga family from 1328 to 1707.

## Engage

- Meet a renowned winemaker who specializes in creating Amarone. Then retreat to a nearby restaurant for a polenta-making demonstration, featuring Amarone, and dinner.
- Enjoy a special excursion near Modena for a tasting of aged balsamic vinegar during a convivial meal with the property's owner and his family.

## What's Included

- 7 nights accommodations
- 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 7 dinners served with wine
- All lessons, private tours and tastings, and unique small-group excursions noted in the 9-day itinerary
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Travel Director and expert local guides
- Private motor coach transportation
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, drivers, and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times





Cascina Capuzza Cooking Class

## Your Accommodations (subject to change)

Within arm's reach of the culture-rich Veneto and Emilia Romagna regions lies Borgo San Donino, a charming farmhouse on the Selva Capuzza wine estate—also the 1859 battle site of Italy's fight toward its independence.

The farmhouse apartments, winery, and nearby restaurant are the result of many years of dedicated work, and provide award-winning wines, delightful accommodations, and generous hospitality.

Stroll the grounds and you might see grape vines being carefully tended by hand or olives ripening for the estate's own olive oil, just steps away from tables where the harvest is reincarnated in signature wines and local dishes. The Selva Capuzza winery produces a wonderful selection of varietals—red, white, and rosé, all under the careful expertise of the property's skilled vintners.

Visit the nearby San Martino Tower to admire its majesty from the inside and out. Then follow the tree-lined road to the Chapel of San Martino, which guards many of the fallen from the battle.

After a day's adventures, restore your senses amidst the comfortable atmosphere of your apartment.

**Studio:** A cozy studio room with en suite bathroom overlooking the garden. Recommended for single occupancy. Limited availability.

**Classic Apartment:** A comfortable apartment with a living area, kitchenette, and en suite bathroom overlooking the garden and surrounding countryside.

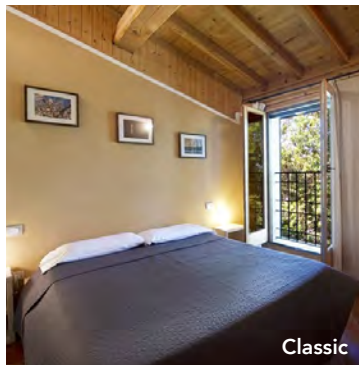
**Superior Apartment:** A spacious apartment with a living area, kitchenette, and en suite bathroom. Each room is unique with either vaulted ceilings or a large patio, and views of the vineyard or surrounding countryside.

All rooms' general amenities: individual climate control, complimentary Wi-Fi, safe, slippers, and bathroom sundries with hair dryer. Hair conditioner is not provided.

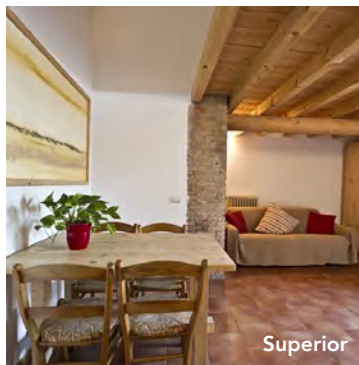
*NOTE: This property does not have an elevator.*



Luca Formentini, Vintner  
Selva Capuzza



Classic



Superior

## Insider, Interpreter, Epicure, Host

Your Orbridge Travel Director will infuse your journey with an epicure's appreciation of food and wine, a local's knowledge and pride of place, and a travel aficionado's ability to gather the beauty of all senses to your discoveries in Italy.



**Orbridge**



## Optional Pre-Tour Cinque Terre



Take advantage of additional time in Italy to explore Cinque Terre and the Italian Riviera, an area teeming with meaningful traditions surrounding wine, cuisine, and family. More than food and drink, Cinque Terre is also a National Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site, drawing visitors to its dramatic coastal scenery and sunset panoramas.

### Pre-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)

**Day +1:** En route from U.S.

**Day +2:** Arrive in Milan, Italy / Sestri Levante

Leisure time to explore the fishermen hamlet of Sestri Levante  
Overnight: Vis-à-Vis

**Day +3:** Sestri Levante / Cinque Terre / Sestri Levante (B,L)

Guided touring and tastings through Monterosso, Vernazza, and Manarola  
Overnight: Vis-à-Vis

**Day +4:** Sestri Levante / Portofino / San Fruttuoso / Santa Margherita Ligure / Sestri Levante (B)

Abbey of San Fruttuoso, guided tour of Santa Margherita Ligure  
Overnight: Vis-à-Vis

**Day +5:** Sestri Levante / Verona / Main Program Begins (B)

### What's Included

- 3 nights accommodations at Vis à Vis (or similar)
- 3 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- Cinque Terre card for all train transportation within the Cinque Terre
- Guided touring (by English-speaking guides) and tastings through Cinque Terre's villages
- Private transportation (with unlimited bottled water) for included touring
- Boat excursion to San Fruttuoso
- Entrance fee to San Fruttuoso Abbey
- Luggage portorage
- Gratuities to hotel staff, local guides, drivers for included activities and excursions, porters, and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving during the suggested times



San Fruttuoso Abbey



Santa Margherita Ligure Church

## Optional Post-Tour Venice



Revel in the gloriously romantic and enchanting atmosphere of the *Floating City*. Your small group will delight in exploring classic cultural treasures of this remarkable region. Guided tours for sightseeing, meeting with artisans, and learning about wine making reveal Venice's rich layers of history, art, and dedication to good food and drink.

### Post-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)

**Day 9:** Depart Verona / Arrive in Venice  
Private water taxi city tour down the Grand Canal (see the Rialto Bridge, St. Mark's Basin, Giudecca, and San Giorgio Maggiore)  
Overnight: Hotel Nani Mocenigo Palace

**Day 10:** Venice (B)  
Private gondola boatyard tour, afternoon at leisure  
Overnight: Hotel Nani Mocenigo Palace

**Day 11:** Venice / Mazzorbo / Burano / Venice (B,L)  
Vineyard visit and wine tasting, leisure time to explore Burano  
Overnight: Hotel Nani Mocenigo Palace

**Day 12:** Depart Venice for U.S. (B)

### What's Included

- Transfer by train (in business class) from Desenzano del Garda to Venice accompanied by your Orbridge Travel Director who will see you to your hotel for check-in, then bid you a fond farewell
- 3 nights accommodations at Hotel Nani Mocenigo Palace (or similar)
- 3 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- Guided touring accompanied by an art historian
- Private visit to an artisan mask workshop
- Private gondola boatyard visit
- Guided vineyard tour and wine pairing with lunch
- Water taxi transportation for canal and lagoon tours, and transfers to and from your hotel on arrival and departure days
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to hotel staff, local guides, local drivers for included activities and excursions, porters, and wait staff for included meals



Aerial view of Venissa Winery



# Flavors of Northern Italy

SEPTEMBER 13-21, 2024

Cinque Terre Pre-Tour: September 10-14, 2024

Venice Post-Tour: September 21-24, 2024

## Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: [uillinois.orbridge.com](http://uillinois.orbridge.com)

Phone: (866) 639-0079

Fax: (206) 452-5655

## Reserve by Check:

Made payable to **Orbridge, LLC**

Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 1376

Poulsbo, WA 98370

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

## GUEST INFORMATION:

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

Check    ACH (Automated Clearing House)    MasterCard/Visa    American Express    Discover

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as printed on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:

Category Preference: 1st choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ guests joining pre-tour (\$500/person) +

# \_\_\_\_\_ guests joining program (\$850/person) +

# \_\_\_\_\_ guests joining post-tour (\$500/person) = **TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at [terms.orbridge.com](http://terms.orbridge.com); and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservations, Deposits and Final Payment.** To secure your reservation, deposits are due upon placing a reservation as follows: \$850 per person per program and \$500 per person for any pre/post-tour. Orbridge accepts payment by check, ACH, wire or major credit card. Final payment is due 90 days prior to the departure date. Reservations made after the final payment due date are due at the time of registration. If final payment is not received by Orbridge by the final payment due date, Orbridge may cancel your reservation in its sole discretion with no right of refund. CST#2098750-40 WST#602828994

**Reservation Grace Period.** Reservations made 121+ days prior to the departure date may be cancelled within 30 days from the reservation date ("Grace Period") for a full refund. Notice of cancellation must be received in writing during the Grace Period. The date of receipt will be used for the effective date.

**Reservation Cancellations and Refunds.** Notice of cancellation must be submitted to Orbridge in writing. The date of receipt will be used for the effective date. If the cancellation notice is received after the Grace Period (if applicable): (a) 91+ days prior to the departure date, all monies paid will be refunded less an administrative fee of \$350 per person for the main program and \$200 per person for a pre/post-tour; (b) 90-76 days prior to the departure date, a 25% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program and the balance will be refunded; (c) 75-61 days prior to the departure date, a 50% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program and the balance will be refunded; (d) 60-46 days prior to the departure date, a 75% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program and the balance will be refunded; (e) within 45 days prior to the departure date, a 100% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program. A 100% cancellation fee applies to all non-refundable airfare. Refunds, if any, will be processed within 30 days of our receipt of your written notice.

For complete Terms & Conditions, visit [terms.orbridge.com](http://terms.orbridge.com) | Copyright © 2023 Orbridge, LLC | [orbridge.com](http://orbridge.com) | (866) 639-0079

\*Special group rate; limited offer. Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Airfare not included. Single availability limited. \*\*Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Orbridge Wine Gift per room reserved will ship after receipt of final payment. Where prohibited by state law (including, but not limited to AR, DE, KY, MS, OK, RI, UT) or by retailer licensing obligations (AK, IL, MA, MD, MT, NH, NJ, NY, PA, SD, TX, VA, VT), guests will receive alternative specialty items of comparable value. All Wine Gifts are handled by an independent third party.



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CUT HERE

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Classic	<del>\$5,499</del>	\$4,995
Superior	<del>\$5,799</del>	\$5,295
Single (Studio)	<del>\$5,199</del>	\$4,695
Single (Classic)	<del>\$5,499</del>	\$4,995
—no single supplement—		
<b>Cinque Terre Pre-Tour*</b>		
Classic: \$2,395   Single: \$2,995		
<b>Venice Post-Tour*</b>		
Classic: \$2,395   Single: \$2,995		



# FLAVORS OF NORTHERN ITALY

SEPTEMBER 13-21, 2024

Special Alumni Rate: **Save more than \$1,000**  
per couple

**EXPLORERS**  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

University of Illinois Alumni Association  
EXPLORERS Travel Program  
Alice Campbell Alumni Center  
601 S. Lincoln Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801

**FREE Wine Gift**  
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY  
RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by  
**February 23, 2024**

to receive six bottles of wine featuring labels by  
vintners in the regions you will visit on this program.\*\*

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