



The Ultimate Food Tour of Italy

Based in the gastronomic heart of Italy – Parma



PARMA - Stay in a fashionable boutique hotel in Parma for 3 nights and experience the finest this stylish city has to offer, food, wine, theatre, shopping.



COUNTRYSIDE – for 3 nights, truffle hunting, vineyard visit, balsamic vinegar tasting. Flavours, fun & discovery!



GRANDTOURIST



A Brand New Tour for October, 2020

The dynamic Doni Belau, founder of Girl's Guide to Paris has teamed up with Janet Simmonds of Grand Tourist in Italy to bring you some amazing Italian Journeys. First up is an exceptional 'Ultimate Food Tour' to Italy's foodie heart, set in the region of Emilia Romagna. This is the area that produces world-class hams, cheeses, balsamic vinegar and flavoursome truffles.

Join The Girl's Guide to Paris (and beyond) for this indulgent and delicious treat in October, 2020. Here are just some of the highlights:

- Parma – Stay for 3 nights in Parma, this is Europe's City of Culture, 2020. It promises to be a year of art, culture and events.
- Viano - Stay 3 nights in truffle country, just south-west of Bologna in a very secluded location. Here you'll go truffle hunting with the local truffle hunters and their dogs. This is a really unique experience. But be very quiet don't tell anyone, we don't want everyone here!
- Enjoy a walking tour of Parma – such a sophisticated small city, including the Royal Palace, where the Dukes of Parma lived for over 300 years. Visit the Teatro Regio, Royal Theatre where Giuseppe Verdi's operas are still performed. Visit a fabulous and stylish osteria (small restaurant) for a tasting of Parma's finest products.
- Take a bicycle tour of Parma to discover historic piazzas & medieval streets. This is an opportunity to really discover the history of Parma.
- Be part of an exclusive visit to Castle Rivalta, located on a rocky hillside, explore the ancient castle and enjoy a tour of the main rooms, including Princess Margaret's guest room (she was a regular visitor). Climb the spiral staircase to Rapunzel's Tower. This is a real fairy tale castle.
- Visit a family-run prosciutto farm, where hams are prepared and cured to produce the finest 'Prosciutto di Parma'.
- Early morning visit to a Parmesan cheese-maker to see the milk arriving and the cheese being made. This is the authentic Parmigiano Reggiano.





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Next we head into the rolling hills just south-west of Bologna for an exceptional truffle hunting experience:

In this delightful area of gentle hills and mixed woodland, nature has provided the perfect conditions for truffles to grow. Farmers and local people rear dogs from birth as truffle hunters. This charming litter of Lagotto Romagnolo Hunting Dogs are introduced to the distinctive smell of the truffles when they are days old. They can smell them even if they are several feet beneath the surface. They work in partnership with their owners to find the truffles.

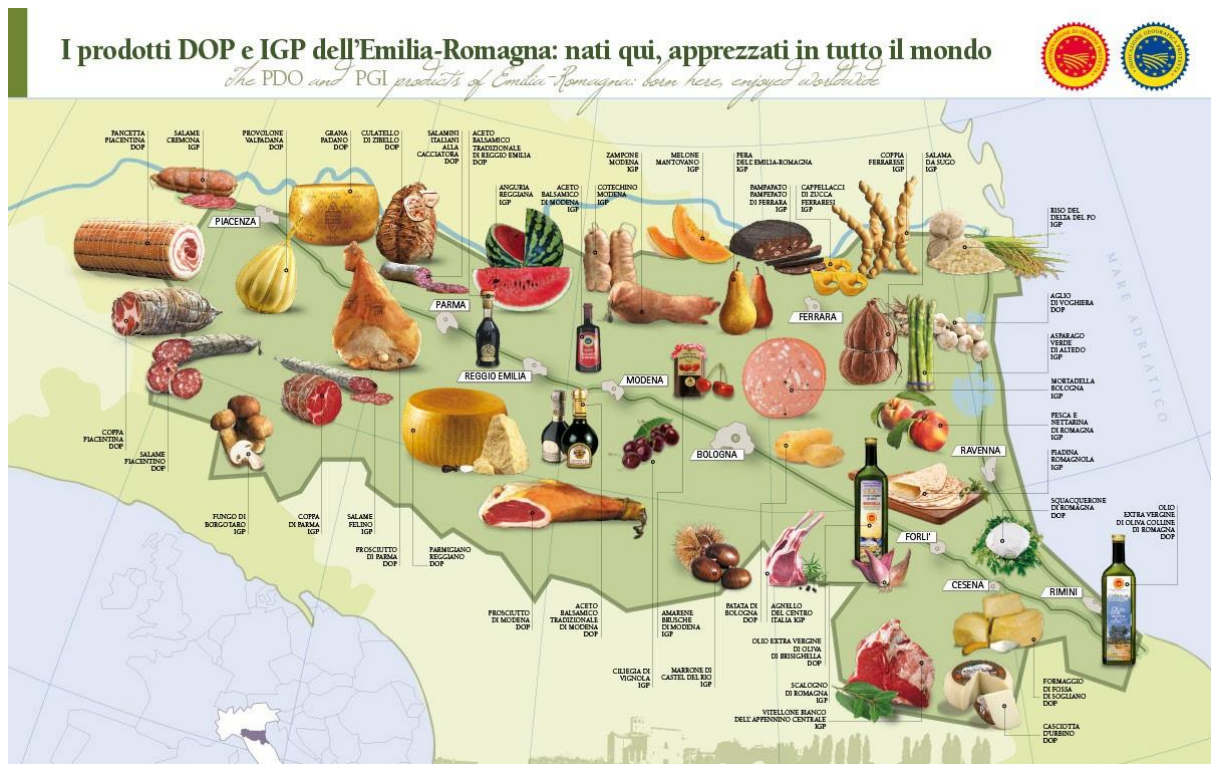


- Here in the countryside we'll head into the woodlands with our local guide and his hunting dogs. Let's hope we find some truffles.
- Later in the day there's a special visit to a Balsamic Vinegar producer. This is a family farm, fourth generation, our host is a dynamic and charming woman. The Balsamic they produce is just incredible.
- Our host trained as an engineer before joining the family business!





The rolling hills south-west of Bologna, perfect for truffle hunting



Emilia Romagna – the bread basket of Italy – bread, fruit, vegetables, hams, cheeses, balsamic vinegar, wines, fruits, water melons, mushrooms, truffles. Such a rich harvest.



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What's included:

- A 6-night trip to Italy's Gastronomic Heart, Emilia Romagna
- 3 nights in Parma in a centrally located boutique hotel
- 3 nights in the countryside south-west of Bologna
- All rooms are very comfortable, hotels are four-star quality
- Rooms are all spacious and comfortable.
- There is no single room supplement
- All meals are included daily, breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Meals range from gastronomic experiences to casual 'tasting' sessions.
- A walking tour of Parma is included with local guide.
- A behind the scenes trip to Regio Teatro, Parma – the Royal Theatre is included. Nearer the time we'll give you the opportunity to attend an opera at the theatre (once the schedule is finalised).
- Bike Tour of Parma to help you to understand the layout of the city.
- Visit to Prosciutto Ham maker just outside Parma.
- Rivalta Castle Visit with private guided tour and Tasting event.
- Participate in a pasta-making class with a professional, pasta making lady.
- Try your hand at pasta-making before enjoying the fruits of your labours!
- Parmigiano Cheese making demonstration and visit.
- Visit a family who make the finest Balsamic Vinegar, for a special visit, demonstration and tasting. The lady is a very big character!
- A very special Truffle hunting experience going out with local people and seeing them working with their dogs. This is not a 'tourist event' this is a real-life truffle hunting event.

Costs - The cost of the trip is:

- GBP £ 3400 / Euros € 4000 / US \$ 4500.
- Prices are all per person - There is no single room supplement.
- All accommodation is double room for single use.
- Based on a minimum group size of 8 guests.

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