

Giro d'Italia & Nove Colli

... Tuscany, Dolomites and Lake Como



The Rides

The trip will feature guided rides in Italy's best riding destinations. We experience the traditional back-roads and hills of central Tuscany in the lead in to the legendary Nove Colli ride, and then the awe-inspiring mountains of the Dolomites & Lake Como. As with the Giro you will encounter the diversity of terrain and environments that make Italy such a desirable destination to ride. Importantly riders will be supported and flexibility given for those participants that want to ride a little more or a little less.

Package Cost

GF Nove Colli & Giro d'Italia

\$5,495.00 twin-share

\$695.00 single supplement

\$545.00 Bike Hire

A non-refundable deposit of AUD\$500 is required at the time of booking. We recommend that you purchase cancellation travel insurance at the same time.

Giro d'Italia & Gran Fondo Nove Colli - May 17-29th, 2011

Join us during the 2011 Giro d'Italia in Italy's most widely acclaimed locations: Tuscany; the Dolomites; and Lake Como. This 12 night/ 13 day trip captures more than the great cycling tradition of the Giro d'Italia, but place's steeped in history and nature, traditional towns and villages, stunning mountainous geography, fine Italian food and wine, and of course great riding and fun. It is Italian cycling and culture at its best.

The trip also includes participation in the Italian cycling phenomenon known as Gran Fondo Nove Colli. Recognised as one of the cycling world's best sportive events, it attracts over 11,000 participants from around the globe. For cycling enthusiast it represents all that is special about cycling – and in this particular case all that is special about cycling in Italy.

Day 1: Tuesday 17th May - Tuscany

Arrive independently at Trequanda accommodation. Upon arrival at hotel you will meet trip host who will assist you with any initial travel needs and bike set-up. The family owned and operated accommodation is a 336 hectare wine estate and has its origins dating back over 500 years. Surrounded by picture postcard countryside and quite back-roads the area is an oasis for cycling. On our initial night we are treated to a welcome dinner.

Meals: D

Day 2: Wednesday 18th May - World Heritage Ride: 75km or 45km (Option)

The first ride introduces participants to the outstanding World Heritage listed landscape of the Val d'Orcia. The excursion leads us to the stunning hilltop towns of Montepulciano and Pienza. From both you are treated to sweeping views, with Pienza sitting like a balcony over the Val d'Orcia and Montepulciano surrounded by vineyards of its famous wines.

Meals: B; D



Trip Inclusions

- 8 nights quality 3 and 4 star hotels
- 4 nights Tuscan wine estate
- Daily guided rides with experienced guides
- All land transportation from arrival Trequanda (Tuscany) to group departure to Milan (Malpensa)
- Support vehicle (Dolomites & Lake Como)
- Entry to Gran Fondo Nove Colli ride & Cycle Jersey
- Visit to Cycle Expo (Nove Colli)
- Wine tasting - Montalcino
- 12 Breakfasts
- 2 lunches (1 with wine in cellar of Brunello wine producer)
- 7 dinners

Not included

- International airfares & taxes
- Arrival transfers (available on request)
- Travel insurance – compulsory
- Bike hire (quality bikes available for hire on request)

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Trip Itinerary

Day 3: Thursday 19th May - Brunello Trail: 110km or 50km (Option)

Today's riding excursion is into the heart of the World Heritage listed landscape of the Val d'Orcia. The route takes us to visit the ancient thermal village of Bagno Vignoni; tranquil castle topped village of Castiglione d'Orcia; and Monastery of Sant'Antimo – one of the most beautiful in Italy. The day's itinerary includes a memorable lunch in a small cellar of a local 'Brunello' producer.
Meals: B; L; D

Day 4: Friday 20th May - Floating through the Crete Ride: 75km or 45km (option)

Our final ride in Tuscany focuses on the area of the Crete. This territory is a photographers dream, providing post-card images and landscapes ever so unique to Tuscany: The route on near perfect roads rides along ridges and hills of special atmosphere, connecting to a series of delightful medieval towns and villages.
Meals: B;D

Day 5: Saturday 21st May - Cesenatico

transfer to Cesenatico, situated on the east coast of Italy in the region of Emilia-Romagna and location of the Nove Colli, Italy's no 1 cycling event. Cesenatico will also be hosting a cycling product expo over the weekend of Nove Colli, showcasing the latest in Italian cycling technology.
Meals: B

Day 6: Sunday 22nd May - Gran Fondo Nove Colli: 205km or 140km (option)

Gran Fondo Nove Colli 2010. Starting and finishing in Cesenatico, we join 11,000 passionate riders across the 200km (9 hills) or 130km (4 hills) rides of the Apennine foothills. Following the ride participants are rewarded with entry into an enormous pasta party, giving the opportunity to refuel.
Meals: B, L

Day 7: Monday 23rd May - Transfer to Dolomites

Following breakfast we transfer to accommodation in heart of Dolomites, our base for the next 3 nights.
Meals: B;D

Day 8: Tuesday 24th May-Sella Ronda Circuit: 65km

Today we ride the most famous circuit of the Dolomites, crossing 4 major passes: Passo Gardena; Passo Campolongo; Passo Pordoi; and Passo Sella. Situated in heart of Dolomites and within UNESCO World Heritage landscapes. Three of the passes rise to above 2100m, with Passo Pordoi the highest at 2239m, reached via 33 numbered switchbacks.
Meals: B; D

Day 9: Wednesday 25th May - Marmolada Ride: 85km or 65km (option)

Another extraordinary day of riding with a trio of legendary Giro d'Italia Dolomite climbs on route: Fedaiia; Giau; and Pordoi. Both Fedaiia and Giau are recognised as being 2 of the most challenging and beautiful climbs in the Dolomites. The Fedaiia winds across the Marmolada, the highest of Dolomites peaks at 3,343m.
Meals: B; D

Day 10: Thursday 26th May - Transfer to Lake Como

Following breakfast we transfer to final accommodation on Lake Como. Recognised as Italy's most beautiful lake it was for a time Lance Armstrong's favourite cycling location. We stay in a charming 3 star hotel in centre of lake side town Bellagio.
Meals: B

Day 11: Fri 27th May- Madonna di Ghisallo Ride: 55km

Today's ride rises high above Bellagio to the tiny cycling sanctuary of Madonna di Ghisallo – patron saint of (Italian) cyclist. A bestowment made by Pope Pious XII in 1949, it adorns the heroic days of Italian cycling with jerseys and bikes from past Italian champions, from Coppi to Pantani.
Meals: B

Day 12: Sat 28th May-Lake Como Loop Ride: 65km

For our final ride we partake in a spectacular lakeside ride completed with short (10min) ferry trip across lake. You could say we will be going out in style!! The route rolls gently to Como at bottom of lake, and then takes us upwards along the western shoreline of lake to Menaggio. Along the way we pass some of Italy's finest and most expensive Villas, as well as absorbing the natural beauty and charm of the lake.
Meals: B

Day 13: Sunday 29th May

Transfer to Milan Station – End of Trip

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

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