

Vineyards of Barolo

Hotel-to-hotel   independent walking

- Spectacular walking in undiscovered Italy; vineyard paths, sun-dappled hamlets and Savoy castles
- Wonderfully varied hotels: an elegant C18 villa, a rural retreat and a stunningly converted village town house
- Panoramic swimming pools 4 nights out of 8
- Excellent cuisine - prepared with passion and pride - and world famous wines
- Visit the beautiful village of Barolo - taste 'the king of wines'

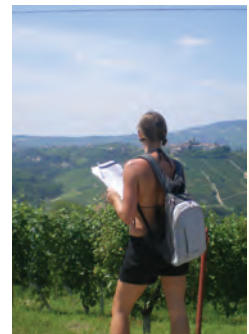


On this independent hotel-to-hotel walking holiday you explore the beautifully tranquil Langhe region of Piedmont – a gastronomic gem quietly tucked into Italy's north-western corner. Undiscovered by most tourists, the countryside is a glorious mix of gently rippling, wave-shaped hills cloaked by layers of vines, sunflowers and oak forests, crowned with honey-hued hamlets and imposing Savoy castles.

Your route starts and ends in Benevello, nestling in the hazelnut-clad Alta Langa hills, from where you follow the limpid Tanaro river before climbing through a string of hamlets to Grinzane Cavour - gorgeous balcony views from the hotel terrace! It's then on to Castiglione Falletto, dominated by its distinctive 11C castle. As you approach beautiful Monforte d'Alba, whose ochre-colored houses seem to cling enchantingly to the hillside, you visit Barolo, home of the revered eponymous wine.

Distances are reasonably short, leaving plenty of time to try the many regional specialities en-route. This rich and fertile land produces some of Italy's finest foods and wine – from robust Barolo and sweet Moscato to aromatic white truffles (exclusive to Alba!), crunchy hazelnuts and tangy cheeses.

This is all complemented by our carefully picked hotels, often with pools, and full of character and contrasts – from Serena's friendly, family run hotel in the center of Castiglione Falletto, to a beautifully restored 19C family villa, complete with its own converted chapel. The hotel restaurant in Benevello gained a Michelin star in 2011.



Book now on 1-800-567-6286 or visit www.breakaway-adventures.com for more information

VINEYARDS OF BAROLO | DAY BY DAY



Day 1 Arrive at Benevello

We meet you at Cuneo train station and take you to your hotel (75 mins) in time for a swim before dinner. The recently awarded Michelin-starred chef trained under Marco Pierre White so you're in for quite a treat!

Day 2 Benevello to Grinzane Cavour 10km/7mi/3.5hr

After a short transfer you follow a gentle path alongside the clear waters of the Tanaro river, next to which pheasants and partridges rustle in the oak forest. Onto Roddi (the castle here used to house the University of Truffle Hounds!) and Grinzane Cavour with its wonderful megalithic castle with amazing views. Time for a drink on the terrace at our welcoming 4* hotel in the village center before dinner.

Day 3 At Grinzane Cavour

Grinzane Cavour is an atmospheric wine town with wine tasting on offer in the village's imposing castle. Gastronomic capital, Alba is easily reached from here (most customers tend to taxi or bus there, then walk back); explore the cobbled crimson squares and bustling porticoed streets.

Day 4 Grinzane Cavour to Castiglione Falletto 12km/7mi/4hr

Following lush paths with hawks cruising overhead you cross the Talloria river. Then a gentle climb through holm oak to reach Serralunga d'Alba, whose 13C castle seems to surge towards the sky – you still need to cross the drawbridge to visit it. A last gentle ascent through vines takes you to the center of Castiglione Falletto and our welcoming village hotel.

Day 5 At Castiglione Falletto

Perhaps follow a circular route today, first visiting tiny Annunziata with its frescoed chapel (and an excellent farmhouse trattoria!). Then through sun-dappled hamlets and delicate swaying vines to reach La Morra, the "Balcony of the Langhe" - plenty of wine tasting in the bustling center, even Julius Caesar stopped here to try some!

Day 6 Castiglione Falletto to Monforte d'Alba 8km/5mi/2hr or 11km/7mi/4hr

Descending gently to the Talloria valley, you follow the stream's poplar-shaded path towards the ochre-hued C16 castle of Barolo, which stands guard over the village's world-famous vineyards. Maybe visit panoramic Novello, a belvedere town built as a summer retreat for the residents of Alba, before continuing through fields ablaze with colorful wild flowers to reach our elegant villa hotel at Monforte d'Alba.

Day 7 At Monforte d'Alba

Situated in its own scented garden with views across mediaeval Monforte and beyond (even Mont Blanc on a clear day!) Villa Beccaris offers a tempting swimming pool and a sun-trap courtyard. However, there are plenty of walking choices if you're feeling more energetic with way-marked paths taking in frescoed chapels and verdant countryside.

Day 8 Monforte d'Alba to Benevello 13km/8mi/5hr

A lift to lovely Serravalle Langhe, from where you join the Sentiero della Valle Tanaro. At first shaded by hazelnut, oak and poplar trees, you reach Albaretto della Torre dominated by its 13C Duecentesca tower. After lunch the panorama opens out with spectacular views back to Alba and the Tanaro valley as you descend gently towards Benevello. Time for one last swim before dinner.

Day 9 Leave Benevello



Dates and Prices

Departs every two days **Tour Only**

2011 departures

May 11-31	\$3,319
Jun 2-30	\$3,336
Jul 2-Aug 31	\$3,388
Sep 2-Oct 14	\$3,482
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$2,135

Singles: Add \$117 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.
Child: Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

Room upgrade: Prices from \$13 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

Holiday type: Independent walking, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size.

Departs: Every two days from May 11 to Oct 14.

Duration: 9 days (8 nights).

Meals: Continental breakfast and evening meals.

Other details: For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Nice Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

The above prices include our standard transfers: Cuneo train station at 15:50, (transfer to hotel, 75 mins, provided). **Return:** Cuneo train station by 08:33 (transfer provided).

Rail Options: Nice Ville to Cuneo (via Ventimiglia) 12:36/15:50. Return: Cuneo to Nice Ville (via Breil-Sur-Roya) 08:33/11:12.

Second Class Rail: Add \$175 per person, round trip.

First Class Rail: Please call for details.

Tour only: Transfers included from Cuneo train station at 15:50, and back to Cuneo train station departing hotel at 07:00.

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VINEYARDS OF BAROLO | WHERE YOU STAY



Relais Villa d'Amelia
★★★★
Benevello Days 1+8



Casa Pavese
★★★★
Grinzane Cavour Days 2+3



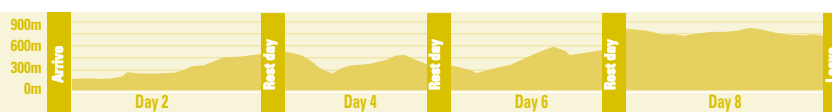
Le Torri Hotel
★★★
Castiglione Falletto Days 4+5



Villa Beccaris
★★★★
Monforte d'Alba Days 6+7

For extra nights we recommend Benevello or Monforte d'Alba.

VINEYARDS OF BAROLO | WALKING DETAILS



Mainly through vineyards on earthen paths, forest trails and some asphalt sections. Walking boots are essential and poles are recommended for the ascents and descents through the vineyards which may be uneven underfoot.



Average daytime temperature (°C):

21 25 28 27 23 17
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT



Average monthly rainfall (mm):

90 91 68 68 79 99
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT