

October 2015 Newsletter

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NAPLES *Luxury Travel* ADVISORS, Inc.

Italy, you have to peel the onion.

After you've seen Rome, Florence, Venice, and the Amalfi coast, there are less visited regions to discover that are worthy of your time. You'll be rewarded with warm hospitality, fine hotels and excellent local cuisine.



Tuscan Countryside

Last month, I toured the northern regions of Italy. I visited the magnificent Villas designed by Palladio in the charming towns of Mira, Dola and Stra, located along the Brenta River, 30 minutes outside of Venice. This rarely visited area holds many gems and worth several days touring.

I stayed at a restored Palladian Villa, now a Relais & Chateau hotel called Villa Franceschi. The Dal Corso family runs a fine hotel and exquisite restaurant. Two of the finest meals I enjoyed were in this area.



Clockwise: street view Villa Franceschi, Villa Franceschi Great Hall, Ristorante Margherita hot seafood appetizer

Small working class towns have lovely grand piazzas and no tourists. Just south of Milan is Vigevano.

The town is known for its history of shoe making and rice growing. It's most famous attraction is one of the finest Renaissance Piazzas in all of Italy, Piazza Ducale with its baroque Cathedral façade. An elongated rectangle that is almost in the ideal proportions 1:3.



Left to right: fresh seafood display in the Piazza, Piazza Ducale

beautiful hotel located in an unexpected a peaceful setting offers it's guests a serene retreat, a fabulous spa and over the top chef who executes an exceptional locally inspired menu.



Clockwise: entrance of Relais Colombara, birds eye view of dining room and pool, sunset dinner, stone courtyard

The Ligurian coast has been overlooked of late with the exception of the Cinque Terre. Paraggi Bay, located between Santa Margherita and Portofino is a delight. There are boutique and grand hotels to choose from. Many have with sweeping vistas and sunsets along a stunning coastline. Food in Liguria is distinct, be sure to enjoy fresh made pesto, crisp white wines and fresh seafood.



I would be pleased to work with you to incorporate my new finds on your next visit to Lake Como, Bologna, Emilia Romagna, Verona, Venice or Milan. Whether you travel by land or cruise ship, these exceptional places will not disappoint.



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