

November itinerary

Langhe



Alba, panoramic view



Alba, landscape with the Monviso

BRA • This is a city known for Baroque art and it is a commercial and industrial centre that has ably transformed itself into a favoured destination for tourists searching for refinement and the best culinary traditions of Piemonte. It is a good place to purchase the special traditional products of the area. The church of Sant'Andrea is a must. This lavish Baroque construction rises over the scenic square Caduti per la Libertà and the Craveri Civic Museum which displays a rich collection of natural history, with an adjacent greenhouse and botanical gardens worth visiting.

ALBA • Considered to be the “capital of Langhe”, Alba is a historic centre with a strong medieval influence that is thick with towers, bell towers, churches and prestigious public and private buildings. In the heart of the historical district, the façade of the Cathedral provides the scenic backdrop to the large Piazza Risorgimento. The church is in gothic style with a bell tower containing twin lancet windows and an engraved wooden chancel inside. From here one can admire

The name Langhe denominates a hilly area in the central-southern Piemonte region between the provinces of Cuneo and Asti and the Appennines in Liguria. It is a land that is characteristic with rolling hills dotted by vineyards and castles, forests, pastures, country houses and farmlands. Fall is the best season for travelling in this area, which is famous for its wines and the bounty of the land, including mushrooms and truffles. It is an area that is appreciated by food lovers and celebrated by writers. History has left its mark and it is a pleasant place to discover the poignant atmosphere and genuine flavours.



HOW TO GET THERE

From “Caselle” airport in Turin take the Raccordo Autostradale Torino-Aeroporto Caselle (the Turin-Caselle Airport ring road highway) and follow the indications for the “tangenziale” freeway and the “autostrade” highways. Take the A55 in the direction of Savona. Continue on the A6 in the direction of Asti and then continue on the A33. Take the Bra-Marene exit, which is the entrance to the Langhe area.

Bra, historic center





Grinzane, sunset



Castle of Grinzane



Serralunga, panoramic view

the many picturesque medieval house-towers, a solid memory of the internal fighting and strong rivalry between the powerful families of Alba in times past. The main road, Via Vittorio Emanuele, is called the “via maestra” and it is the heart of social, cultural and commercial life in Alba. It displays splendid examples of baroque architecture such as the church of Santa Maria Maddalena and the Dominican monastery. Alba is also important historically, especially in its resistance to Nazi-Fascism. However today it is an elegant destination for quality tourism, refined cuisine and for enjoying local traditions.

THE EVENT OF THE MONTH: THE WHITE TRUFFLE FAIR IN ALBA

The International White Truffle Fair in Alba is an event that involves all of the parts of city life and it takes place for over a month ending on November 9. The heart of the event remains the promotion and sale of the famous truffle of Alba, but it all takes place in a rich context of theatrical presentations, concerts, exhibits, sporting events, artistic and cultural awards, traditional festivals and wine and gastronomic presentations. The fair is an international scale event that manages to spotlight the historical, cultural, tourist and economic resources of the territory. For detailed information please see the website www.fieradeltartufo.org.

SANTO STEFANO BELBO • The town of Santo Stefano Belbo is tied to the figure of the writer Cesare Pavese, who was born here. His works gave a great deal of importance to the Langhe landscape as a site of nostalgia and legend. There are many sites to visit including the house where he was born. Sites worth noting are indicated with special signs. Cultivation and moscato wine processing are important to the economy of the town.

GRINZANE CAVOUR • The town is named Grinzane Cavour in memory and in honour of Camillo Benso di Cavour, whose family had large holdings of land in Grinzane. He profoundly renewed and modernized the ancient wine tradition here. The hamlet contains a majestic castle that is built entirely from brick that preserves a large part of its ancient medieval characteristics. The Regional Piemonte “Cavour” wine bar, which dates back to 1967 and is one of the first in the region, can be found in the castle. It was founded with the aim of serving as a prestigious display case for the best wines and grappa from Piemonte. Some of the castle rooms are dedicated to a museum of local traditions.

SERRALUNGA D’ALBA • The ancient and central nucleus of the town on the top of a hill was built in the dark ages and it is a classic example of a town that grew around a fortified structure. Even today Serralunga contains one of the most fascinating fortified castles in Piemonte. As in the rest of Langhe, Serralunga easily satisfies even the most exacting palates with specialties that include: wines, truffles, hazelnuts, cheeses and desserts.

MURAZZANO • In a beautiful panoramic position on one of the highest hills in Langhe, the town is dominated by a tall tower that is built entirely in stone blocks and is the last remnant of the castle that was demolished centuries ago. The historic centre is built around the tower with steep paths and narrow roads. The parish church dedicated to San Lorenzo and the Sanctuary of the Madonna di Hal are both worthy of note. The latter, which is in Baroque style, was built to celebrate the apparition of the Madonna, which took place in 1635.

WHERE TO DINE

- RISTORANTE DULCIS VITIS, Via Rattazzi 7, Alba, 0173 364633
- RISTORANTE IL BATTAGLINO, Piazza Roma 18, Bra, 0172 412509
- RISTORANTE VILLA CONTESSA ROSA, Via Alba 15, Serralunga d’Alba, 0173 626191
- RISTORANTE DEL CASTELLO, Via Castello 5, Grinzane Cavour, 0173 262172

WHERE TO STAY

- AGRITURISMO IL GELSO, Borgata Croera 34, La Morra, 0173 50840
- HOTEL I CASTELLI, Corso Torino 14, Alba, 0173 361978
- HOTEL LANGHE, Strada Profonda 21, Borgo Moretta, Alba, 0173 366933
- HOTEL BEST WESTERN CAVALIERI, Piazza G. Arpino 37, Bra, 0172 421516
- RELAIS SAN MAURIZIO, suburb S. Maurizio 39, S. Stefano Belbo, 0141 843833

Avis Point

- Alba (CN):**
Corso Asti 50, Hamlet of Vaccheria, 0173 211652
- Bra (CN):**
Piazza Giolitti 92, 0172 433595
- Torino:**
Caselle Airport, 011 4701528

AVIS

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