

# Northern Italy

**FROM THE SNOWY SLOPES OF THE MILKY WAY TO VILLAS FRAMED BY GAZEBOS** and mould-breaking art and architecture, northern Italy is as action packed as it is artful. Its mountains, lakes and coastal villages have been luring artists, celebrities and moneyed Mitteleuropeans since the days of the Grand Tour, and it's easy to see what drew them here: world-class art, an embarrassment of culinary riches, cult wines and a slew of sophisticated cities.

While Venice's city of palaces dazzles and Milan's Golden Quad rapidly helps to relieve you of your hard-earned cash, you're never far from a rural hinterland that still moves with the rhythm of the seasons and that seems largely untouched by modern tourism.

**Alpe di Siusi** Europe's highest alpine pastures, framed by the magnificent Dolomites (Trip 12)  
DENNIS K JOHNSON/GETTY IMAGES ©

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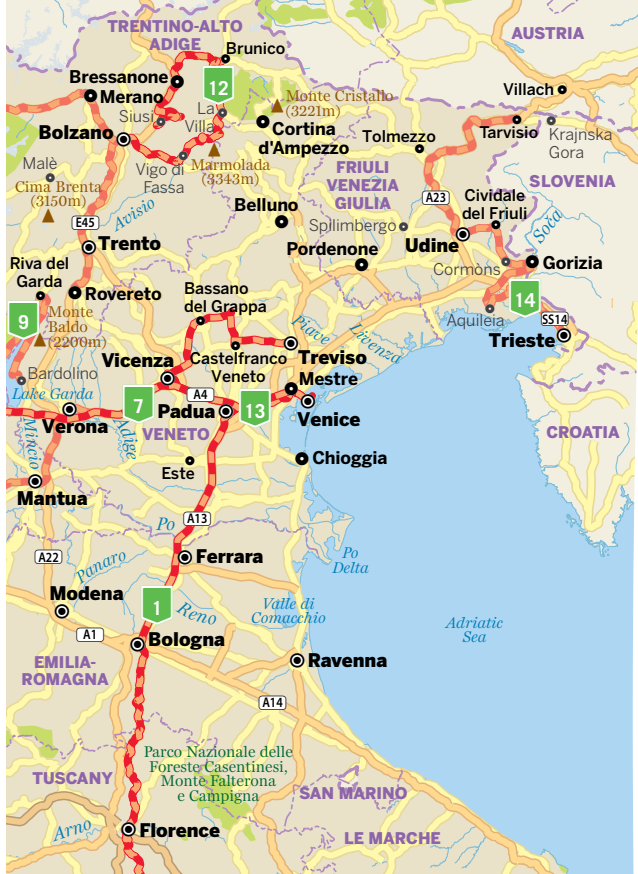
## Classic Trip

- 1 Grand Tour 12–14 Days**  
The classic cultural tour – part pilgrimage, part rite of passage. (p39)
- 2 Savoy Palace Circuit 3–4 Days**  
The impressive property portfolio of the frivolous Dukes of Savoy. (p55)
- 3 Gourmet Piedmont 6 Days**  
Bold Barolos, white truffles and Asti spumante put fizz in this food tour. (p63)
- 4 Meandering the Maritime Alps 7 Days**  
Ski the Milky Way and hike old salt routes in the Gran Paradiso park. (p71)
- 5 Italian Riviera 4 Days**  
Seaside bastions, palm-fringed promenades, Belle Époque villas. (p79)

- 6 Cinematic Cinque Terre 5–7 Days**  
Tour maritime vineyards and secret coves to the Gulf of Poets. (p87)
- 7 Northern Cities 7–10 Days**  
Visit grand-slam cultural sites amid the rice paddies of the Po valley. (p97)

## Classic Trip

- 8 The Graceful Italian Lakes 5–7 Days**  
The destination of choice for Goethe, Hemingway and George Clooney. (p109)
- 9 A Weekend at Lake Garda 4 Days**  
The ultimate lakeside tour through vineyards, orchards and olive groves. (p121)



**10 Roof of Italy 6 Days**  
Dare to drive Europe's highest Alpine pass for the spa on the other side. (p129)

**11 Valle d'Aosta 5 Days**  
Hike the Gran Paradiso and ascend Monte Bianco, Europe's highest peak. (p137)

*Classic Trip*  
**12 Grande Strada delle Dolomiti 7-10 Days**  
Admire the rocky amphitheatre of the rose-coloured Dolomites. (p145)

*Classic Trip*  
**13 A Venetian Sojourn 4-5 Days**  
Glide along the Brenta Canal to splendid frescoed villas. (p157)

**14 Trieste to Tarvisio 7 Days**  
From Italo-Austrian Trieste zigzag through vineyards to Alpine Tarvisio. (p169)

## DON'T MISS

### Scrovegni Chapel

See the Renaissance blossoming through the tears in Giotto's moving frescoes for the Scrovegni Chapel on Trips **1 7 13**

### Portofino Peninsula

Steel a march on Cinque Terre hikers and walk the quiet pathways on the Portofino peninsula, ending with a Spritz at Caffè Excelsior on Trip **6**

### Truffles

Strike gastronomic gold in Alba, and dine on prized white truffles on Trip **3**

### Terme Merano

Dip in and out of hot and cold pools amid stunning mountain scenery, just as Austrian royals, and Kafka, have done before you on Trip **10**

### Walking the Alta Vie

Walk on the roof of the Dolomites through Alpine meadows strewn with wildflowers on Trip **12**