Colby Worldwide Adventures for Alumni, Parents, and Friends

UNDISCOVERED ITALY
Art, Food, and Wine in Piedmont and Liguria

October 1-12, 2017 (12 days) with Colby Professor of Art Véronique Plesch
Dear Colby alumni, parents, and friends,
We have designed a well-paced trip that explores areas far off the beaten path and near and dear to Plesch's heart.

- Magnificent medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque art
- Splendid churches and monasteries
- Lovely Lake Orta, at the foothills of the Alps
- Remote mountain villages steeped in age-old traditions
- A seaside town on the Italian Riviera
- A national park with prehistoric petroglyphs
- A spectacular, extensive cave complex
- Accommodations in comfortable, smaller hotels and inns
- Fine wines and specialty dishes
- The famous Alba White Truffle Festival
- An optional extension in La Morra and Milan

Based on her extensive research and travel, Plesch will share fascinating insights into each region's art, culture, and gastronomy. Professional local guides and an expert trip manager will handle all of the logistics, so you can relax and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Dan Olds
Director of Alumni Programs

P.S. The trip is limited to a maximum of 24 participants and is expected to fill up quickly. Reserve your space today by calling (toll-free) 844-309-1889 or emailing colby@studytours.org.

Colby College Faculty Leader

Véronique Plesch, professor of art at Colby College, holds advanced degrees in art history and medieval French literature from the University of Geneva and from Princeton University, where she received her Ph.D. in art history in 1994, the year she joined the Colby faculty. She was born in Argentina and raised in Switzerland. Plesch is the author of works, including *Painter and Priest: Giovanni Canavesio's Visual Rhetoric and the Passion Cycle at La Brigue* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2006), which received the College Art Association's Millard Meiss Publication Fund award. She has also published more than 40 articles in Europe and the United States in English, French, and Italian on subjects ranging from late medieval and Renaissance iconography to Alpine art, and from Passion plays to early modern graffiti, with forays into contemporary art. Plesch is the current president of the International Association of Word and Image Studies and the recipient of Colby College’s Charles W. Bassett Faculty Award for 2015. She is an experienced and engaging study tour leader.
Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017: Depart
Depart home on overnight flights to Milan, Italy.

Monday, Oct. 2: Arrive Milan, Italy | Orta San Giulio
Upon arrival at Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP), a group transfer will take us to our hotel in the medieval village of Orta San Giulio on the shores of Lake Orta. Gather for an introduction to the tour by Plesch and our trip manager. Then take a short boat ride to the island of San Giulio, in the center of Lake Orta, for a brief visit to its Basilica with its vibrant frescoes and other treasures. Return to Orta San Giulio for a welcome dinner. Overnight at the Hotel La Bussola for three nights. (D)

Tuesday, Oct. 3: Orta San Giulio | Sacro Monte di Varallo | Santa Maria delle Grazie | Orta San Giulio
Drive to the Sacro Monte di Varallo, a UNESCO World Heritage site and fascinating 16th-century religious “theme park” in a striking natural reserve. At the bottom of the Sacro Monte is the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie with Gaudenzio Ferrari’s frescoes. We will also visit the Pinacoteca, Varallo’s fine arts museum with, among others, 17th-century paintings by local Caravaggesque artist Tanzio da Varallo. Return to Orta San Giulio for an evening at leisure. (B,l)

Wednesday, Oct. 4: Orta San Giulio | Vercelli | Arborio | Orta San Giulio
Drive to Vercelli and visit the cathedral and the Biblioteca capitolare (Chapter Library of the Archdiocese of Vercelli). Lunch is in Vercelli; perhaps we will get to taste the panissa (Piedmontese risotto recipe). Continue on to Arborio, where we will visit the Oratorio di San Sebastiano (with its unique historical graffiti) and the Madonna del Bosco, then visit Plesch’s friend Paolo Taglialò, who will talk about rice cultivation and show his paintings. Enjoy a light dinner and concert by the Corale Polifonica Cantate Domino, a choral group specializing in early music from the Vercelli area, before returning to Orta San Giulio. (B,l,d)

Thursday, Oct. 5: Orta San Giulio | Alpignano | Avigliana | Abbazia di Sant’Antonio di Ranverso | Sacra di San Michele | Avigliana
Check out and drive southwest to Alpignano, where we will visit Plesch’s friends at the Stamperia Tallone, a fine-press printer and publisher that is the only original, 18th-century typographic studio still in use. Continue on to Avigliana for lunch at the Certosa 1515, a former 16th-century convent, now a bed and breakfast, where we will spend the night. Then on to the Abbazia di Sant’Antonio di Ranverso, a monastery founded in 1188 with numerous frescoes starting from the 13th century. Also discover the spectacular Sacra di San Michele, the ruins of a 12th- to 15th-century monastery atop a rocky crag. One of the most important examples of Romanesque architecture, this monastery inspired Umberto Eco’s novel The Name of the Rose. Overnight at Certosa 1515 Bed & Breakfast. (B,l,d)

Friday, Oct. 6: Avigliana | Castello della Manta | La Brigue, France
Check out and drive south to explore the Castello della Manta, viewing the stunning decoration of the castle’s baronial hall and the chapel with remarkable late medieval/Renaissance frescoes. After lunch, drive across the French border to the remote mountain town of La Brigue. Relax, then gather for an evening reception with the mayor (pending availability) at the town hall followed by dinner. Overnight at Hôtel Le Mirval for three nights. (B,l,d)

Saturday, Oct. 7: La Brigue | Notre-Dame des Fontaines | Morignole | La Brigue
Drive to Notre-Dame des Fontaines (Our Lady of the Fountains). Visit the sanctuary, then walk down to the once-believed-miraculous intermittent springs. On the way back, stop to take a look at the beautiful Pont (Bridge) du Coq. Continue on to Morignole for a walk around this charming mountain hamlet. Return to La Brigue for the balance of the day at leisure. (There is an optional walking tour of the town this afternoon.) (B)

Sunday, Oct. 8: La Brigue | Mercantour National Park | La Brigue
Enjoy a full-day excursion to the Mercantour National Park. On the slopes of Mont Bégo, considered sacred 4,000 years ago, we will find the Vallée des Merveilles.
a repository of prehistoric rock art. Explore the archaeological site, viewing its petroglyphs as well as its rich fauna and flora. Enjoy a picnic lunch outdoors (weather permitting). Return to La Brigue for an evening at leisure. (B,L)

**Monday, Oct. 9: La Brigue | Apricale, Italy | Taggia | Montegrazie | Alassio**
From La Brigue we head south, down the Roya Valley to the Mediterranean coast to Ventimiglia. Then we will drive up mountain roads, admiring the beautiful villages of Dolceacqua and Apricale, where we will enjoy lunch. Return to the Riviera to visit Taggia’s Dominican Monastery, admiring frescoes in the refectory and the church’s collection of great Renaissance altarpieces. After a quick stop to see the fresco in the police station, we will drive to Montegrazie to visit the splendid 15th-century Sanctuary of the Madonna delle Grazie (including a spectacular depiction of the Last Judgment and the torments inflicted upon the damned). Proceed to the seaside town of Alassio, where we will check in to our hotel and have dinner. **Overnight at the Hotel Dei Fiori for two nights. (B,L,D)**

**Tuesday, Oct. 10: Alassio**
Enjoy a day at leisure in Alassio, on the Italian Riviera. Or, take an optional half-day excursion to the fascinating Caves of Toirano, with an underground tour of impressive limestone formations and archaeological remains. (B)

**Wednesday, Oct. 11: Alassio | Albenga | Mondovi | Alba | Milan**
Depart Alassio and drive to nearby Albenga for a visit to its Early Christian baptistery. Head north to Mondovi and visit the Church of the Missione, with its baroque façade and astonishing trompe-l’oeil ceiling decoration by Andrea Pozzo (1642-1709). Drive to the Trattoria Vascello d’Oro for a memorable farewell lunch. Continue on to Alba, “the city of 100 towers.” Our visit coincides with the renowned White Truffle Festival. The festival offers thousands of products for tasting and for sale: wines, spirits, liqueurs, cheeses, meats, fresh and dried pasta, bakery products, traditional sweets, chocolate, vegetables, special flours, mushrooms, and truffles, of course. There will be time to explore and shop at the festival and in nearby stores before driving to our hotel near Milan Malpensa Airport. Dinner is on your own. **Overnight at the Ibis Milano Malpensa Airport Hotel. (B,L)**

**Thursday, Oct. 12: Milan | Home**
Take a group transfer to Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP) for independent flights home. (B)

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**Optimal Post-Tour Extension**
La Morra and Milan October 11–14, 2017

**Wednesday, October 11: Alba | La Morra**
Participants on the optional extension will split from the main tour-only group after today’s visit to the White Truffle Festival in Alba. Transfer to the striking hilltop village of La Morra, where we will check in to our hotel and have dinner. **Overnight at Uve Boutique Hotel. (D)**

**Thursday, October 12: La Morra | Barolo winery | Milan**
Go on a morning truffle hunt with a local trifolao and his dog. Continue on to one of the many wineries producing world-famous Barolo wine, where we will have lunch with a wine tasting and food pairing. Drive to Milan, where we will check in to our hotel and have an evening at leisure. **Overnight at the B&B Hotel Milano Sant’Ambrogio for two nights. (B,L)**

**Friday, October 13: Milan**
Take a short orientation tour of the city, including a stop at the Basilica di Sant’Ambrogio, an important early church with a golden altar. The city tour ends at the Santa Maria delle Grazie church for a viewing of Leonardo da Vinci’s *Last Supper*, with a final lecture by Plesch. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure to continue exploring Milan at your own pace. Enjoy an early farewell dinner before heading to the Teatro alla Scala to enjoy Carl Maria von Weber’s *Der Freischütz* (opera optional, at additional cost). (B,D)

**Saturday, October 14: Milan | Home**
Group transfer to Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP) for independent flights home. (B)
What to Expect

This adventure features a second-to-none small-group educational and gourmet experience with comfortable 2- and 3-star hotels as well as boutique hotel accommodations. The itinerary involves a significant amount of walking, with packed dirt and cobblestone streets. Some attractions are only accessible via steep staircases with tall, uneven steps. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. Participants who are not able to walk unassisted for extended periods (at least two miles a day) are kindly advised not to join this tour unless accompanied by a companion who will be available to assist you at all times. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you. October is generally considered the start of the fall shoulder season in Italy. Rain is more prevalent in October, although you may still enjoy sunny and warm days followed by cool nights. In northern Italy, average daytime temperatures for October are in the mid-40s to mid-60s Fahrenheit. Complete pre-departure details and what to pack will be sent to participants.

Air Arrangements

Airfare from/to home is not included. Group airport transfers are provided as indicated in the itinerary (transfer times TBA). Once you have received your final payment invoice, and arrival and departure transfer times, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

For questions and to make a reservation, please contact Colby Worldwide Adventures at:

Toll-free: 844-309-1889
Fax: 603-756-2922  •  Toll: 603-904-4127
alumni.colby.edu/adventures

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RESERVATION FORM

Name 1  
(as it appears on passport)

Name 2  
(as it appears on passport)

Address

City

State Zip

Phone (h)

Phone (w)

Phone (cell)

Email

☐ I/We have read the ‘What to Expect’ section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

☐ Please register me/us for the optional extension in La Morra and Milan

ACCOMMODATIONS:

☐ Double (one bed)  ☐ Twin (two beds)  ☐ Single

☐ I will be sharing with

☐ Share — please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

I am a ☐ Non-smoker  ☐ Smoker

RESERVATIONS and PAYMENT:

A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. You will receive an invoice for final payment. Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment. All prices and payments are in U.S. dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (PLEASE CHECK ONE):

☐ Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account—CWA UndiscoveredItaly10/17

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express

CC#

Exp. Date 3- or 4-Digit Code

Name on Card

Please complete this reservation form, sign the release statement below, enclose your deposit, and mail or fax to:

Colby Worldwide Adventures, PO Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938
Fax: 603-756-2922

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions herein.

Signature Date

Terms and Conditions

Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason nor to passengers whose documentation for entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied. 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