

Northern Italy: The Alps, Dolomites & Lombardy

April 2020



Witness the awe-inspiring landscapes and cultural treasures of Northern Italy on a journey from the fashion capital of Milan and romance of the Lombardy Lakes to the snow-covered Alps and towering pinnacles of the Dolomites. Discover the enchanting juxtaposition of Italian and Austrian culture in this scenic region of woodlands, vineyards, and valleys dotted with medieval villages.

Thanks to our small group size, you'll get to meet and mingle with the people who live and work amidst the verdant valleys and Alpine splendor of Italy's northernmost lands. You'll rub elbows with Italian miners, visit with fishermen and local families, get to know winemakers, and meet with Latin-speaking locals to learn about the unique language and culture they are trying to preserve in valleys hidden deep in the Dolomites. And you'll ride through the majestic Alps into Switzerland aboard the legendary Bernina Red Train. Best of all, you'll travel in style with your friends from Southern Exposure!

REMINDER: Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, please call the Southern Exposure office at **(269) 962-1255**. If you haven't experienced a Southern Exposure travel adventure before, feel free to ask questions or meet with our staff.



Snapshot Itinerary: New Impressions of Tuscany 2020

Travel Dates: *April 2020*

Day 1 – **Depart U.S.**

Day 2 – **Milan, Italy**

Day 3 – **Milan**

Day 4 – **Orrido di Bellano / Tirano**

Day 5 – **Valtellina Valley / Home-Hosted Dinner**

Day 6 – **Bernina Red Train to Switzerland**

Day 7 – **Franciacorta**

Day 8 – **Rovato / Italian Cooking Lesson**

Day 9 – **Transfer to Verona**

Day 10 – **Verona / Optional Mantua Tour**

Day 11 – **Trento and the Dolomites / Bressanone**

Day 12 – **Ladin villages of Val Gardena / Bressanone**

Day 13 – **Villages of South Tyrol / Bolzano**

Day 14 – **Valsugana / Apple Orchard / Venetian
Countryside**

Day 15 – **Return to U.S.**



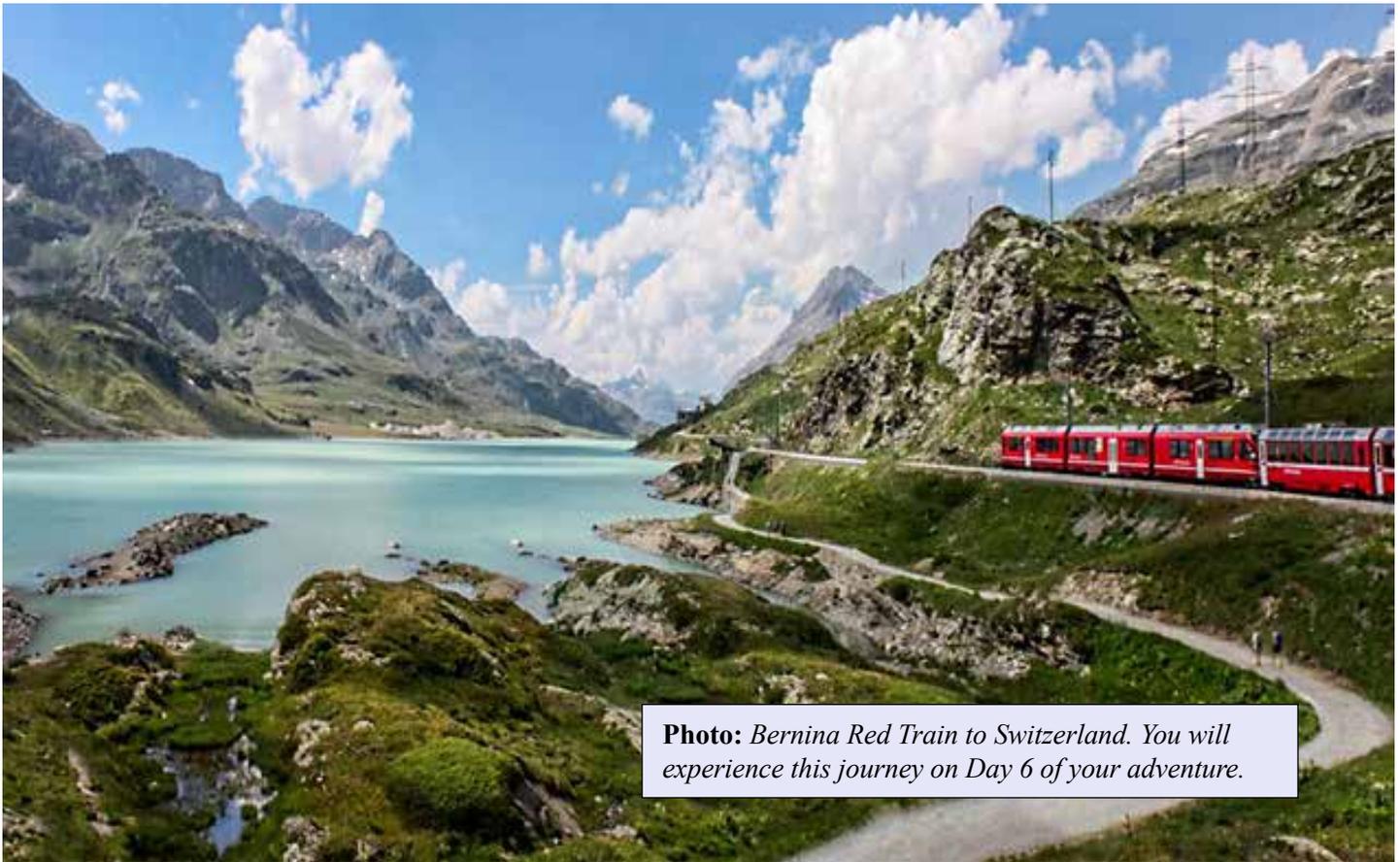


Photo: *Bernina Red Train to Switzerland. You will experience this journey on Day 6 of your adventure.*

Detailed Itinerary: Northern Italy: The Alps, Dolomites & Lombardy 2020

Day 1 – Fly Overnight from U.S. to Milan, Italy

Day 2 – Milan, Italy

Upon arrival in Milan, our trip representative will meet you at the airport and escort you to your hotel. After some time to relax from your flight, we'll get to know the members of your group. Dinner is on your own.

Morning: You'll arrive in Milan sometime this morning, depending on your specific flight arrangements. Our trip representative will meet you at the airport and escort you to your hotel via minibus—a transfer of about 45 minutes to an hour, depending on traffic. Here we'll be joined by travelers who took our optional Genoa & Cinque Terre pre-trip extension.

Upon arrival, you will check in and receive your room assignments. We stay for two nights in our hotel located in the historic center of Milan. Depending on which hotel we stay at, amenities may include an indoor pool, fitness center, bar, and restaurant. Typical rooms will include a minibar, safe, air conditioning, wireless Internet, and a private en suite bathroom with hairdryer.

Afternoon/Evening: The remainder of the day is on your own—you are free to rest in your room after your flight to prepare for tomorrow's discoveries, head out to begin getting acquainted with the city, or ask your Trip Leader for recommendations on things to do in the area. You may choose to have lunch and dinner in the hotel restaurant, or at one of the many fine restaurants near our hotel—your Trip Leader can point you toward their favorites.

Day 3 – Explore Milan

Morning: We'll meet with our Trip Leader for a Welcome Briefing at 11am in the hotel. During this briefing, we will introduce ourselves and review our itinerary in more detail (including any changes that may need to occur). Our Trip

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Leader will also discuss logistics, safety and emergency procedures, and answer any questions we may have. After our briefing, our Trip Leader will take us on a short walk around the hotel to get acclimated with the area, including where to find an ATM. Lunch: On your own around noon. Ask your Trip Leader for recommendations on restaurants in the area.

Afternoon: You have a couple hours of free time to explore Milan on your own. Then, around 3pm, we'll gather together for a walking tour of the city's historic center. The capital of Lombardy and Italy's second largest city, Milan was an important trading center for more than two millennia, and once served as the capital of the western half of the Roman Empire. Today, it's a vibrant, fashion-conscious metropolis with a population of 1.3 million. Our discoveries include a stroll through the spectacular Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, which connects both the Teatro La Scala and the Duomo di Milano, Milan's magnificent Gothic cathedral. One of the world's largest churches (it can seat 10,000), the white-marble

Duomo covers an entire city block and has some 3,200 statues and 135 spires adorning its extravagant façade—more than any other building in the world. We'll also stop for an outside view of Castello Sforzesco, a centuries-old fortress now home to notable galleries and museums, as well as Michelangelo's final unfinished statue, Rondanini Pietà.

We'll return to the hotel around 5pm and the remainder of the day is free. Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Leader will be glad to offer suggestions about local restaurants.

Important Travel Notes:

- For your comfort and safety, we recommend this tour for individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking, this may be a difficult trip for you.
- We reserve the right to cancel this tour due to insufficient registration. Full refund will be given if tour is canceled due to insufficient registration.
- If traveling alone, we will match you up with a roommate (this tour is double occupancy only).
- Please read the "What to Expect" box on the next page carefully. If you have further questions, please contact the Southern Exposure staff at (269) 962-1255 during business hours.

Day 4 – Explore Orrido di Bellano / Tirano

Morning: We depart Milan by bus around 9am and set out on a journey of a little under two hours to reach Orrido di Bellano, a waterfall and natural gorge where caves have been carved out by the water over the centuries. This area on the eastern shore of Lake Como was named Orrido (which means "horrific") for the howling echo noises the water makes flowing through the series of natural caves. When we arrive, we'll admire the beauty of this natural wonder from footbridges

attached to the rocks, and we'll hear the legend of the Devil's House, a four-story tower of mysterious origins that appears to guard the waters of the ravine.

Just before noon, we'll board our bus again and drive about 15 minutes to Varenna, a picturesque fishing village nestled along Lake Como. We'll stroll along the waterfront area, where our Trip Leader will lead a discussion on how to spot good gelato—keep these tips in mind for an after-lunch treat.

Lunch: On your own around 12:30pm. You may dine al fresco to enjoy panoramic views of the rugged mountains and pristine waters of Lake Como.

Afternoon: We'll gather again around 2pm and continue by bus to Tirano. We'll arrive around 4pm, at which time we'll check in to our hotel and receive our room assignments. Depending on which hotel you stay at, typical amenities include a spa and on-site health club. Your room will likely feature wireless Internet, a satellite TV, minibar, and private bath with robe and slippers.

You'll have a few hours on your own this afternoon. You are free to settle into your room and relax, or to begin exploring the charming city center of Tirano.

Dinner: Around 7pm, our small group will gather again in our hotel lobby and walk about 15 minutes to a local restaurant. Along the way, our Trip Leader will give us a brief orientation walk, pointing out conveniences and points of interest in the vicinity of our hotel. After this walk, we'll enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a restaurant built into an ancient wine cellar. Here, we'll sample our first taste of the local Valtellina delicacies and toast to the discoveries ahead with some Italian wine.

Evening: We return to our hotel after dinner around 8:30pm. You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish, whether you want to retire to your room to rest before tomorrow's discoveries or take an evening stroll around the town.

Freedom to Explore: During your three days in Tirano, you have the freedom to explore this charming town on your own during your free time.

Day 5 – Traditional Life in the Valtellina Valley / Home-Hosted Dinner

Activity Note: This afternoon features an elective hike with your Trip Leader through the countryside of the Valtellina Valley. This hike is not particularly strenuous, but it is long—expect to be walking outdoors for between 3 and 4 hours if you choose to join this activity.

What to Expect: Northern Italy: The Alps, Dolomites & Lombardy 2020

■ **Physical Requirements:** Pacing is 46 locations in 15 days with one 1-night stay. Not appropriate for travelers using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids. You must be able to walk 3-5 miles unassisted and participate in 6 hours of physical activities each day. Agility and balance are required for embarking a small boat. We reserve the right for Trip Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience. Altitude Elevations of up to 9,960 feet at Diavolezza in the Alps on Day 6, and 7,280 feet at Sella Pass in the Dolomites on Day 12. Travel on some rugged paths and many cobblestoned streets on foot, as well as over bumpy, narrow rural roads by bus; several elective hikes. Ability to climb steep stairs and walk up and downhill is required in several locations. Travel by motor coach, ferry, funicular, and train.

■ **Climate:** Milan has a typical Mediterranean climate, but summers can be very hot and humid while winters can bring occasional snow with temperatures falling below freezing; Dolomite summers are mild with average temperatures from June to October rarely going above 77°F.

Passport & Visa Information

U.S. citizens do not need a visa for this trip. Your passport should meet these requirements for this itinerary. It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S. It should have the recommended number of blank pages (refer to the U.S. State Department handbook for details). The blank pages must be labeled "Visas" at the top. Pages labeled "Amendments and Endorsements" are not acceptable.

Vaccinations Information

Generally speaking, vaccinations are not needed for this trip. However, for the latest list of vaccinations that **may** be recommended for this trip, please visit the CDC's "Traveler's Health" website at www.cdc.gov/travel. In addition, we recommend these three additional health steps before you leave on your trip:

■ Have a medical checkup with your doctor. Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and OTC. Have a dental and/or eye checkup, if possible.



Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel from 7am-10am, with Italian and American options available.

Morning: Around 10am, we'll board our bus and set off for a day experiencing the region's scenic splendor and glimpsing everyday Italian life in the Valtellina Valley. Set in the Alps near the Swiss border, the lush valley is renowned for its natural beauty, wine, and regional cuisine. Blanketed in orchards and terraced vineyards, Valtellina winemaking traditions pre-date even the ancient Romans.

First, we'll head to San Rocco, where we'll visit a renovated water mill that grinds buckwheat to make pizzoccheri, the traditional pasta of the Valtellina Valley that resemble small tagliatelle and are made from buckwheat flour. Then, in the small town of Teglio, We'll see why pizzoccheri is such a regional favorite during a presentation at the Accademia del Pizzocchero, an organization dedicated to this flavorful dish and the preservation of food and wine traditions of the Valtellina Valley. **Lunch:** At a local restaurant around 1pm, featuring regional Italian fare.

Afternoon: After lunch, we'll return to Tirano by bus, arriving around 3pm. There, you may enjoy the rest of the afternoon on your own, with the freedom to explore independently or relax at the hotel. Or, you may wish to join your Trip Leader for an elective hike through the

surrounding countryside where you can learn about the famous red wines of the region, and discover how stone walls are used to create the precipitous terraced vineyards of the valley. This hike is not particularly strenuous, but it is long—expect to be walking outdoors for between 3 and 4 hours.

Dinner: Just before 7pm, we'll gather at our hotel and set out for one of the highlights of our Northern Italy adventure: a Home-Hosted Dinner with a local family. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about life in the Valtellina Valley—come hungry and bring plenty of questions for your hosts. **Evening:** We'll return to our hotel shortly before 9pm, and you are free to spend the remainder of the evening as you wish.

Day 6 – Bernina Red Train to Switzerland

into Switzerland. On our cable car journey today, we will reach altitudes of almost 10,000 feet. We recommend travelers stay hydrated and eat a light lunch to cope with the altitude.

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel beginning at 7am, with Italian and American options available.

Morning: We set off today for a full-day excursion across the Alps and into Switzerland. Around 8:30am, we'll depart our hotel and walk about 15 minutes to the nearby



Tirano train station. There, we'll board the local Bernina Express Train. One of the few rail journeys designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Bernina Express Train is not just the world's highest Alpine crossing (reaching an altitude of 7,400 feet), but also the steepest, with gradients up to 7%. Panoramic views from the train allow us to sit back, relax, and enjoy the unfolding Alpine scenery as we travel over bridges and viaducts, through tunnels, and past glaciers, picturesque villages, alpine meadows, and vineyards.

After crossing the border into Switzerland, we'll disembark the train around 10:30am at the Diavolezza station to board a cable car that will transport us farther up the Alps. Reaching an altitude of almost 10,000 feet, we can enjoy the stunning panoramic views of the surrounding snow-cloaked mountains and glaciers. We'll spend about 2 hours riding the cable car. Then, we'll return to terra firma in Diavolezza.

Lunch: Around 1pm, we'll have an al fresco picnic lunch in Diavolezza.

Afternoon: Shortly after 2pm, we'll catch the Bernina Express Train back to Tirano from the Diavolezza train station. Our return journey will take a little over an hour and will feature the same breathtaking views we saw this morning—try to sit on the opposite side of the train for a different perspective. When we arrive in Tirano, you are free to spend the rest of the afternoon as you wish.

Dinner: At about 7pm, our small group will enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant in Tirano.

Evening: As this is our final night in Tirano, you may wish to take in the town nightlife over a glass of wine at an outdoor café, or retire early to rest up for tomorrow's discoveries.



Day 7 – Franciacorta Vineyard and Winery Tour / Franciacorta

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel beginning at 7am, with Italian and American options available.

Morning: We depart Tirano around 8:15am and head to Lake Iseo, the least known of the Lombard lakes, and the Franciacorta wine region. Our drive will take us approximately 3 hours. Along the way, we'll stop in Edolo to witness sweeping views of Val Camonica, an ancient valley in the central Alps carved by glaciers and named for the Camuni people who inhabited the region in the Iron Age.

Upon arrival in Franciacorta, we'll see how the region produces some of the best sparkling wines in the world. Unlike other popular Italian sparkling wines like Prosecco, Franciacorta wines are hand-harvested, fermented in wooden casks, and aged by law for 18 months. Next, we'll visit the Berlucchi winery—a NEW feature for 2019—whose centuries-old cellars produced the first of the famous Franciacorta wines. Here, we'll learn about the methode champenoise method used to produce the wine's "sparkle."

Lunch: At the winery around 1pm, we'll enjoy a wine tasting accompanied by a light lunch. Afternoon: A little after 2pm, we'll board our bus and drive about 30 minutes to our hotel. Depending on where we stay, our hotel

may be set along the picturesque shores of Lake Iseo. Amenities may include a restaurant, bar, and terrace with views of the lake and surrounding mountains. Your room may feature a satellite TV, safe, minibar, wireless Internet, and private bath with hair dryer.

After checking in, you are free to spend the rest of the afternoon as you wish. You may choose to join your Trip Leader on a walk through town, or go for a stroll along the lake's edge.

Dinner: Around 7:30pm, our small group will gather for our first dinner at the hotel. Our meal will feature regional Italian cuisine and will include a hot appetizer, main course with side dish, and dessert. Bottled water, soft drinks, one beer, or a glass of wine are included.

Evening: You are free to return to your room to rest before your explorations tomorrow, or join fellow travelers in the villa's main area for a nightcap to discuss the day's activities.

Day 8 – Rovato / Italian Cooking Lesson

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel from 7am-10am, with Italian and American options available.

Morning: Enjoy most of the day to relax at our hotel or do some exploring. You may choose to take a local ferry



boat to Montisola, a charming island in the middle of Lake Iseo, where you can ride bikes, stroll the ancient cobbled streets, and perhaps watch fishermen haul in their catch using the same methods their ancestors have used for centuries.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Leader can make recommendations.

Afternoon: Continue spending time making your own discoveries or relaxing. Around 4pm, we'll regroup to take a 30-minute bus ride to Rovato, where a local resident will meet us and show us the charms of this historic town in the Franciacorta hills. About an hour later, because of our small group size, we'll be able to enjoy a hands-on Italian cooking lesson at a trattoria in Rovato. There, a local woman and former chef will teach us the secrets of traditional Italian cuisine as we roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Dinner: We'll reap the reward of our efforts, dining on the food we've made during our cooking lesson, at the trattoria around 6:30pm.

Evening: We'll depart Rovato by bus around 8pm and arrive at our villa about 30 minutes later. The rest of the evening is free to do as you wish.

Day 9 – Transfer to Verona

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel beginning at 7am, with Italian and American options available.

Morning: Around 9am, we board our bus and depart our villa for Verona, the city made famous by Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet—and second only to Rome in the number of ancient Roman ruins. We'll arrive in Verona about an hour later, and set out on a walking tour that includes all the major curious and enchanting areas of the city, including a stop at Club di Giulietta, where we'll meet with some of the volunteers that answer the thousands of letters that arrive from around the world addressed to Shakespeare's famous heroine. Our tour will end at Arena di Verona, the grand Roman amphitheater built in the first century

What's Included in the Package

- International round-trip airfare from Detroit Metro Airport to and from Italy.
 - Accommodations for 13 nights
 - 28 meals: daily breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 8 dinners (including 1 home-hosted dinner).
 - 18 small group activities
 - Explore in a small group of 8-16 travelers (average group size of 14)
 - Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Leader
 - Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters on the main trip and extensions
- * Airport transfers are only available for travelers arriving and departing to/from the same airport and on the same arrival/departure dates as the main trip

A.D. With seating for 30,000, the Arena is still in use today and renowned for its presentations of open-air opera performances. We'll also take a stroll through the market at Piazza delle Erbe (the old Roman forum).





Lunch: Served in a local restaurant, around noon. Our meal will include an appetizer, hot entrée, sides, and dessert. Bottled water, soft drinks, one beer, or a glass of wine are included.

Afternoon: After lunch, we'll check in to our hotel. Depending on where we stay, hotel amenities may include a bar, restaurant, and coffee shop. We'll then receive assignments to our rooms, which will typically come equipped with a minibar, safe, satellite TV, wireless Internet, coffee- and tea-making facilities, and private bath with hair dryer. The rest of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries. You may continue to explore the elegant squares of Verona at your own pace.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Leader can recommend their favorite local restaurants.

Evening: Free to do as you wish. Perhaps you'll take in Verona's nightlife over a Negroni—a traditional Italian cocktail made with gin and Campari—at a local bar.

Freedom to Explore

During your two days in Verona, you have the freedom to explore this romantic city on your own during your free time.

Day 10 – Verona / Optional Mantua Tour

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel from 7am-10am, with Italian and American options available.

Morning: The day is yours to explore Verona independently, with lunch on your own. Or, you may join a full-day Optional Tour to explore nearby Mantua, an ancient city known as *la bella addormentata*—the sleeping beauty—by the locals. This optional excursion features a guided walking tour, a visit to Palazzo Ducale, lunch at a local restaurant, and free time in Mantua before returning to Verona in the late afternoon.

Lunch: On your own in Verona, or at a local restaurant if you elect to take the Optional Tour.

Afternoon: If you remained in Verona, continue to explore this charming town on your own.

Dinner: Around 7pm, our small group will reconvene at our hotel. We'll take a short walk to a nearby local restaurant, where we'll have dinner together. Our meal will consist of hearty regional Italian cuisine, and bottled water, soft drinks, one beer, or a glass of wine are included.

Evening: Free to do as you wish. You may choose to stroll through the Piazza delle Erbe to see the Roman ruins lit up at night, or have a nightcap with your fellow travelers at one of Verona's many charming wine bars.

Mantua tour - \$100/person: This optional tour journeys by train to Mantua, backdrop to Verdi's opera *Rigoletto*. Mantua sits beside three serene lakes, and your tour begins with a guided walking tour of the city including a visit to Palazzo Ducale, a palatial complex built between the 14th and 17th centuries. An included lunch at a local restaurant is followed by free time to explore Mantua's atmospheric streets and cobbled squares on your own before taking the train back to Verona by late afternoon.

Day 11 – Trento and the Dolomites / Bressanone

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel beginning at 7am, with Italian and American options available.

Morning: Around 9am, we'll check out of our hotel in Verona and journey north to the valleys, meadows, and towering peaks of the Italian Dolomites. We'll drive about 1.5 hours to reach Trento, noted in history as the locale of the Council of Trent, which began the Counter Reformation and brought half of Europe back to Roman Catholicism in the mid-16th century. Upon arrival, we'll enjoy a walking tour of Trento, followed by about an hour of free time to explore on your own. Or, you may wish to join our Trip Leader on a visit to Castello del Buonconsiglio, a mighty fortress in the heart of the city that was home to Trento's bishop-princes from the 13th century until 1801.

Lunch: Around 12:30pm at a local restaurant, featuring regional specialties. Bottled water, soft drinks, one beer, or a glass of wine are included.

Afternoon: Shortly before 2pm, we'll continue our journey to Bressanone (also known as Brixen), the oldest city in the Alto Adige. Upon arrival about an hour later, we'll check in to our hotel. Depending on where we stay, our hotel will most likely be situated in the heart of Bressanone, about a 10-minute walk from the ancient Cathedral. Amenities should include a restaurant, bar, café, spa, and sauna. Your room will likely come with wireless Internet, satellite TV, and private bath. There may not be air-conditioning. You'll receive your room assignment and have a few hours to settle in or head out to get acquainted with Bressanone.

Around 5:45pm, our small group will gather again in the hotel to enjoy a discussion about the South Tyrol region from a local expert. Afterwards, we'll take an orientation walk along the medieval streets of this Austrian-influenced city founded in 901.

Dinner: On your own this evening, around 7pm. Consider asking your Trip Leader or the local expert from this evening's discussion for recommendations on where to dine.

Evening: Free for you to do as you wish. Continue getting acquainted with the town on an evening stroll, join fellow travelers at the hotel bar for a nightcap, or simply relax in your room after the day's discoveries.

Freedom to Explore: During your three days in Bressanone, you have the freedom to explore this alpine town on your own during your free time.

Day 12 – Ladin Villages of Val Gardena / Bressanone

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel beginning at 7am, with Italian and American options available.

Morning: Around 9am, we'll take a bus ride of a little over an hour to Val Gardena, a magical valley nestled in the heart of the Dolomites where a trio of languages is spoken: German, Italian, and Ladin. Several of these small Alpine villages in the Val Gardena are centers of Ladin culture. An ethnic minority of about 35,000 people living in five valleys in a corner of the Dolomites, Ladins developed their own language—unrelated to German or Italian, it's the oldest language of Italy's Alpine region. Because of our small group size, we'll meet up with a Ladin-speaking resident of the region who will accompany us while we hike amidst the scenic beauty of the Dolomites. At Sella Pass, one of the most scenic mountain passes in the Dolomites, we'll breathe in the crisp mountain air during a brief hike toward Saslong, a legendary mountain slope where world cup skiers compete.

Shortly after noon, we'll board our bus and drive about 45 minutes through the pastoral scenery to reach a local chalet. Lunch: At the chalet around 1pm, featuring an appetizer, hot entrée, and dessert. Bottled water and soft drinks are included.

Afternoon: Starting around 2pm, you'll have about an hour of free time to explore the chalet's grounds and admire our mountain surroundings. A leisurely stroll may be just the thing after our decadent lunch. Then, shortly after 3pm, we'll board our bus once more and make the hour-long journey back to Bressanone. Then, the remainder of the afternoon is free. You may choose to return to your hotel room to relax after the day's discoveries, or explore the local market in Bressanone.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Leader for recommendations near the hotel.

Evening: On your own. Observe Bressanone's local nightlife during a stroll through the many piazzas or retire early to rest up for tomorrow.

Day 13 – Villages of South Tyrol / Bolzano

Breakfast: Served buffet-style at the hotel beginning at 7am, with Italian and American options available.

Morning: Just before 9am, we'll take a quick walk to the Bressanone train station and catch a train to Bolzano, the provincial capital of South Tyrol. South Tyrol is an idyllic enclave of picturesque villages, medieval castles, and rolling hills. An Austrian territory for centuries, some 70% of South Tyroleans speak German as their first language. Upon our arrival around 9:45am, we'll enjoy a walking tour to view its medieval splendor and pastel-painted homes. Afterward, travelers may wish to visit Bolzano's Museum of Archaeology, which features Otzi the Iceman, the incredibly well-preserved 5,300-year-old mummy discovered in the region in 1991.

Lunch: On your own, around noon. Bolzano's local cuisine is marked by a heavy Austrian influence, and you may like to try traditional sausages and a light beer for lunch.

Afternoon: Around 1pm, you may choose to return to Bressanone by bus. Or, remain in Bolzano for the afternoon to soak up the town's alpine charm. You can return to Bressanone via train whenever you wish; your Trip Leader will inform you of the train times.

Dinner: At a local restaurant back in Bressanone around 7pm. Our meal will feature regional Italian cuisine and will include a hot appetizer, main course with side dish, and dessert. Bottled water, soft drinks, one beer, or a glass of wine are included.

Evening: We return to our hotel around 8:30pm. There, you are free to return to your room to rest before your explorations tomorrow, or join fellow travelers in the main hotel area for a nightcap to discuss the day's activities.

Day 14 – Valsugana / Apple Orchard Experience / Venetian Countryside

Activity Note: Today's visit to the apple orchard farm is seasonal and may not be available depending on your departure date.

Breakfast: Served buffet-style beginning at 7am, with Italian and American options available.

Morning: We check out of our hotel in Bressanone around 9am, leaving the towering peaks of the Alps for the enchanting hills of the Veneto region. Our 2-hour journey will take us to Valsugana, a fertile plateau dotted with vineyards and pristine lakes and streams. Apples and other fruits have been cultivated in this scenic region for

centuries, and when we arrive, we'll spend some time at an apple orchard farm—a NEW feature for 2019. Here, we'll meet with the farmer and learn about local apple cultivation and the production of apple-derived products such as juice, cider, and vinegar—and how apples are incorporated into the local cuisine, especially in desserts and cakes.

Lunch: Around 1pm at the farm, featuring a sampling of the delicious apple varieties grown here, the well-known Polenta Valsugana (grits), and some local delicacies that create a typical farmer lunch.

Afternoon: Around 2pm, we'll board our bus once more and set off into the heart of the Venetian countryside. We'll arrive at our hotel at about 3:30pm and receive our room assignments. Depending on where we stay for our final night in Italy, our accommodations will likely be at an elegantly restored 18th-century villa situated in the rolling countryside between Treviso and Venice. Amenities may include a restaurant, café, bar, wellness center, and manicured gardens. Rooms should have period furnishings, minibar, safe, satellite TV, and private bath with hair dryer.

You'll have a couple hours of free time to get settled in and explore the villa's idyllic grounds. Then, around 6pm, we'll gather in the bar for a Farewell Drink to toast to the friendships formed and the memories made during our adventure.

Dinner: We'll move into the villa's restaurant for our Farewell Dinner. Our meal will feature regional Italian cuisine and will include a hot appetizer, main course with side dish, and dessert. Bottled water, soft drinks, one beer, or a glass of wine are included.

Evening: Free to do as you'd like. You may choose to take an evening stroll around the villa's grounds, or share a final drink with your fellow travelers as you discuss highlights of your adventure.

Day 15 – Return to U.S..

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight home.

Pricing Summary & Trip Dates

Trip Name: Northern Italy: The Alps, Dolomites & Lombardy 2020
Trip Dates: April 2020 (exact dates to come)
Base Price: \$4,895 (PP / DO)
Rd. Trip Airfare: \$1,200
Trip Insurance: \$699

Trip Cancellation Coverage – Trip cancellation insurance for “Northern Italy: The Alps, Dolomites & Lombardy 2020” is not required but is highly recommended. For details, please contact Southern Exposure at (269) 962-1255 during normal business hours.

Reservation Deposit: The deposit to reserve your space on this trip is \$350 per person, fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure.

Need Help? For personal assistance or more information about this trip in the meantime, please call the Southern Exposure office during normal business hours at **(269) 962-1255**, Monday - Friday.

TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Southern Exposure Farm at **(269) 962-1255**. A \$350 deposit is required to guarantee your place (check, cash or credit card accepted), fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure. Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

Note: The information, dates and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.

Pricing Disclaimer: *Every effort will be made to provide accurate pricing information. Operator reserves the right to correct promotional or pricing errors at any time, or to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, cruise fares, currency fluctuations, venue fee increases, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons, unless you pre-paid according to the terms of the Good Buy Plan prior to the cost increase going into effect. For more information, please contact Southern Exposure at **(269) 962-1255**.*