

# EXQUISITE ITALY


**18  
DAYS**

TUSCANY • CINQUE TERRE  
UMBRIA • AMALFI • ROME

WITH SWITZERLAND PRE-TOUR OPTION



DEPARTS MILAN 11 JULY 2012

## The advantages of travelling escorted to Exquisite Italy with West Coast Cruise & Travel Centre.

Our reputation has been built on providing safe, excellent value-for-money holidays. We offer you our expertise, experience, personal service and above all - our passion. Many hours of planning and experience go into our departures with every attention to detail. You will know of hidden costs up-front and often save money because of the group discounts built into the overall cost. Above all, escorted touring enables you to take in all of the magic and history of this wonderful country hassle-free from start to finish. Italy has so much to offer the traveller. Blessed with natural beauty, you can't help but be impressed – Buon viaggio!



Traditional Venetian mask

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS - Please read carefully

#### DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

A non refundable deposit of \$1000 per person is required at the time of booking. A signed booking form is also required at the time of booking.

#### CANCELLATION PENALTIES

Deposit is non refundable  
140 days before departure - 100% of tour cost

#### TRAVEL INSURANCE IS COMPULSORY

It is a condition of travel that each passenger is adequately covered by a proper insurance cover. Please also check the contingencies of your prospective insurance cover and ensure you are aware of its conditions and omissions. We strongly advise travel insurance from time of booking to provide full cover. If you choose to acquire your travel insurance outside West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre, we will require a copy of the policy prior to completion of your booking.

#### NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

Unless otherwise indicated we have not included visas, items of a personal nature, laundry, drinks and consumables. This tour is land-based and as such, flights are not included in the tour cost however our reservation staff will be pleased to arrange flights to suit your particular travel arrangements.

#### UNUSED SERVICES

No refund is given where pre-booked accommodation is partially or wholly unused. No overseas supplier or associate is authorised to promise a refund on behalf of West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre.

#### PASSPORT / VISA REQUIREMENTS

Australian Passport holders do not require a visa to enter Italy or Switzerland.

#### HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

West Coast Cruise and Travel recommends all passengers contact the local Travelers Medical & Vaccination Center regarding appropriate and current information for this holiday.

#### BOOKING AND INFORMATION



Lic 9TA988

[www.cruiseandtravelcentre.com.au](http://www.cruiseandtravelcentre.com.au)

#### ITINERARY VARIATIONS

All possible effort will be made to adhere to the published touring itinerary. Occasionally circumstances beyond our control will force changes, amendments or modifications to the itinerary and its inclusions. West Coast Cruise and Travel Centre cannot be held responsible for any omissions or modifications to the itinerary or the inclusions made as a consequence to these changes.

#### UNSUITABILITY

Please note: In this tour we visit a number of medieval hilltop towns which may have some steep, uneven cobbled stone streets, and attractions with steep staircases and no lifts. Additionally some larger cities only provide coach passenger drop off points 15 minutes or so walk from the old town centres. This need to walk from coach drop off points in some Italian towns and cities is common to every tour operator. People with walking difficulties or limitations should consider this before booking.

Additionally, local traffic by-laws and regulations on coach travel in Italian cities require a higher than usual number of earlier starts.

If the operators consider any passenger as an unsuitable person for any tour it may in its absolute discretion cancel that passenger's booking or decline to carry that passenger further, if at all.

#### TOUR ESCORT

A tour escort will be provided subject to a minimum of 16 passengers

#### IMPORTANT

Due to the possibility of fluctuation of the Australian Dollar, the final price may need to be adjusted if it falls below the exchange used for price calculation of this quotation.

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*Land Sea or Air - We'll get you there*

Ah ... molto bello! Full of culture, history and Italy has something special for every taste.

sensory delights,

Panoramic view of Florence from Ponte Vecchio



**I**TALY is big. Very big!  
 Did you know, with motorway service station stops for morning tea and lunch, taking into consideration tolls, traffic and entering and exiting major cities it takes over 8.5 hours to travel on a coach from Florence to Sorrento or Venice to Rome? Yet so many tours have these drives as a standard part of their itinerary.  
 West Coast Cruise & Travel Centre has organised this holiday to cater for breaks in these journeys with five nights in Tuscany and two nights in Spoleto, enroute to the Amalfi Coast. Our travelling days are not endurance tests. We allow leisurely stops enroute! You will arrive fresh and ready for some serious sightseeing at the next destination.



For instance, between Tuscany and Umbria regions, we enjoy visits to both Siena and delightful San Gimignano and between Stresa and Castelbrando we enjoy lunch on Lake Garda. Aren't these sorts of visits exactly why you want to travel to glorious Italy?  
 By providing four nights in the glorious Lakes District, three on the Amalfi Coast and two in an ancient castle, we perfectly complete your Italian experience!

It's all about a sensible touring style at a civilized pace, genuine inclusions and actually enjoying what you have come so far to see.  
 West Coast Cruise & Travel Centre delivers a fuller and more rewarding experience from start to finish. Take a good look at our comprehensive 2012 itinerary. It includes all the magical places in Italy you really shouldn't miss.

● Multi-night stays  
 ● Excursions  
 See inside back cover for Switzerland pre-tour option ...

**TOUR COST**  
 18 Day Tour from Milan to Rome  
**\$6,467 per person** on a Twin Share Basis  
 \$879 Single Supplement  
 25 Day Tour from Zurich to Rome (see pre-tour option)  
**\$9,399 per person** on a Twin Share Basis  
 \$1379 Single Supplement  
**\$600 per couple early bird saving will be applicable for bookings made and deposited by 10 Dec. 2011**

**COST INCLUDES:**

- Transfers to/from hotels
- First Class hotel accommodation on a Twin Share Basis, hotel taxes included
- Breakfasts daily and other meals as indicated (B.L.D) in the itinerary
- Tours mentioned in the itinerary
- All ground transportation
- Entrance fees unless stated otherwise on itinerary
- Porterage of 1 piece of luggage per person

**DAILY ITINERARY**  
**WEDNESDAY 11 JULY MILAN / STRESA ON LAKE MAGGIORE**  
 Commencing in central Milan at midday we will transfer you to Stresa on wonderful Lake Maggiore, where you will stay the next four nights. Join us tonight for a welcome drink before dinner.  
 This is an ideal chance to meet, and get to know, your Tour Manager and fellow travellers. (D)  
 Your feature Hotel in the Italian Lakes district is La Palma Hotel. Set in its own private gardens and within an easy walking distance of Stresa's old town, this first class hotel

is superbly located on the lakeside promenade with magnificent views across Lake Maggiore to the Borromean Islands. The elegant dining room leads out into the hotel's manicured gardens, and the swimming pool is located opposite the hotel, on the lakeshore.  
 This hotel is the perfect place to spend your first four nights on tour! See [www.hlpalma.it/en](http://www.hlpalma.it/en)

**THURSDAY 12 JULY STRESA ON LAKE MAGGIORE**  
 Today we explore the famous Italian Lakes District. After a leisurely start we drive to the town of Como and follow the shore of the lake to Tremezzo, where we visit the world famous Villa Carlotta. This wonderful Villa is set in 70,000 square metres of romantic Italianate Gardens and faces across Lake Como to the Bellagio peninsula. The classic gardens boast fountains and pergolas and in spring time is famous for its Rhododendrons and Azaleas. Later we board our private

Land Sea or Air - We'll get you there



# Velvet green hillsides stretch down to sparkling lakes. Quaint villages cling to the mountain sides. Amazing vineyard landscapes, farms and forests, olive groves and small cities filled with cultural treasures.



Bellagio - a gem on the shores of Lake Como



Lake Como villa - James Bond movie set



Anallì Coast from Ravello



Castelbrando



Enjoy a Peroni or two



Street musician



Sample fresh, regional produce at a covered market

boat and enjoy a cruise on Lake Como, past a number of striking lakeside villas, to delightful Bellagio. This beautiful town is situated at the tip of the peninsula separating the lake's two southern arms, with the Alps visible across the lake to the north. It's time to relax in this delightful town which boasts peaceful villas and gardens nestled by the lakeside, elegant shops and walkways plus stylish al fresco dining at its very best. Later we return to Stresa. (B.D)

## FRIDAY 13 JULY STRESA ON LAKE MAGGIORE

Mountain peaks soar either side as we drive north over the spectacular Simplon Pass into the mighty Swiss Alps and down into the 'Swiss Valais'. Arriving at Taesch mid morning, we board the Alpine cog railway up to the picture postcard village of Zermatt. Set at an altitude of 5,315 feet, the village is surrounded by a dozen huge peaks and dominating all is the Mighty Matterhorn.

Relax and enjoy the atmosphere in this alpine village or perhaps take the Gornergrat funicular train (not included) to the highest open air railway station in Europe, where at 10,170 feet the views across the Alps are beyond belief. Later we return to Stresa in Italy. (B.D)

## SATURDAY 14 JULY STRESA ON LAKE MAGGIORE

Boarding our private boat we visit the famous islands of Lake Maggiore. First stop will be Isola Bella where we have included entrance and a guided tour of the palatial Borromeo villa and gardens, which dominate the island. The villa boasts Murano glass chandeliers, goblin-covered chairs, intricate tapestries and paintings. The spectacular formal gardens rise behind the ornate villa, with patterned flower beds falling in terraces, with statues and ornamental stonework completing the Italianate style.

Next we visit Isola Pescatori (the Fisherman's island). Lunchtime is at leisure on this small, picturesque island with its quaint cafes and restaurants set amongst the old houses with wooden balconies, tiny boats and fishing nets. The afternoon and evening are at leisure in delightful, lakeside Stresa. (B)

## SUNDAY 15 JULY CASTELBRANDO

Bidding farewell to Lake Maggiore we drive east and arrive at Lake Garda late morning. This is the largest of the Italian lakes and the meeting point of three Italian regions. With a circumference of about 100 kilometres, the lake is surrounded by lemon and citrus



Lake Maggiore-Isola Bella

groves. There will be time at leisure for lunch in one of the colourful and diverse lakeside towns.

Later we reach the foothills of the Dolomites and the superb Castelbrando, where we stay for the next two evocative nights. Located above the village of Cison di Valmarino, this 2,000 year old Roman fortress was turned into a sumptuous noble's palace in the 13th century. Access to the castle is by funicular. On arrival we have included a guided tour of the castle. (B.D)

*Your feature Hotel in Italy - Castelbrando. Skilful restoration and sensitive modernisation have brought the original magnificence back to life. Guelph style decorative battlements, stone cellars, tapestries, swords and suits of armour set the scene for the elegant halls, dining rooms, manicured gardens and terraces overlooking the valley. Glorious for those après dinner*

*drinks on those long summer evenings! See www.castelbrando.it*

## MONDAY 16 JULY CASTELBRANDO

After a leisurely start we descend to the Po Valley and visit nearby 'Venezia' (Venice) - arguably one of the most romantic cities in the world. At Tronchetto we board a private boat to take us to St Marc's Square, where we join our expert local guide for a walking tour. The rest of the day is free to meander through the myriad of narrow, water lined streets and alleys spanned by humped back bridges. Dinner this evening is back in 'our' magnificent castle. (B.D)

## TUESDAY 17 JULY MONTECATINI TERME IN TUSCANY

A leisurely start to the day as we bid farewell to our castle and travel



Tuscan vines

south to Tuscany. We arrive in the charming spa town of Montecatini Terme mid afternoon. This was once a favourite 'cure resort' of the crowned heads of state from all over Europe. We stay here for the next five nights, in a traditional family-run, four star hotel, close to the major sights.

As a highlight, this evening we drive into the picturesque Tuscan countryside, where we have arranged dinner at Fattoria il Poggio with its winery and olive groves. (B.D)

*Your feature Tuscan Hotel - Ercolini & Savi Hotel. Dating from the second half of the 19th century, the splendid Liberty-style building which hosts Hotel Ercolini & Savi is one of the oldest in the town. The hotel is in an extremely central location in the elegant Via San Martino, close by Piazza del Popolo.*

## WEDNESDAY 18 JULY MONTECATINI TERME IN TUSCANY

Today is dedicated to nearby 'Firenze' (Florence). We catch a train to swiftly reach the city centre, where you are joined by a local guide who will bring to life this truly beautiful city, which is otherwise known as the 'Cradle of the Renaissance'.

We see the Duomo and take in the magnificent statues in the Piazza della Signoria. Your tour ends inside the famous Uffizi Gallery - one of the world's greatest collections of Italian, Florentine and Renaissance art. Your afternoon is entirely free to enjoy Florence at your own pace.

Espresso Coffee on Piazza Santa Croce where Michelangelo is buried? A gelato whilst strolling across the Ponte Vecchio? Don't forget the excellent shopping. (B.D)

## THURSDAY 19 JULY MONTECATINI TERME IN TUSCANY

The whole of today has been purposely left entirely at leisure. This is a perfect opportunity for you to do as little, or as much as you want!

Maybe take the local train back to the museums and shops of Florence. Alternatively explore Montecatini's old centre and parklands, or pamper yourself in one of the Spas. Perhaps

just relax in your hotel or sip wine in a café and enjoy the ambience. (B)

## FRIDAY 20 JULY MONTECATINI TERME IN TUSCANY

A delightful day is planned as we explore the famous Cinque Terre.

The name means 'five lands' and comes from the five unspoilt fishing villages that cling to the cliffs, overlooking the sea. We have arranged a coastal boat ride for you to admire the spectacular scenery and almost inaccessible fishing villages, and to visit Porto Venere, Vernazza and Monterosso. Our return journey is by train through the tunnels and cliffs above. (B.D)

## SATURDAY 21 JULY MONTECATINI TERME IN TUSCANY

Our first stop today is in one of the most typically 'Tuscan' towns in the area, Lucca - a medieval walled city, filled with palaces, churches, ancient houses and the former home of Puccini, where he wrote *Turandot*.

Walk on top of the city walls for the very best city views, or visit Piazza San Michele and stroll along the shops of Borgo Giannotti.

Later we visit Pisa with its famous Leaning Tower, Cathedral and Baptistery in the magnificent Piazza dei

Miracoli. This afternoon at 'I Cipresini' farmhouse, near Montecatini Alto, owner Dante will host an olive oil tasting accompanied by Tuscan wines and a selection of antipasto including local meats, cheese and bread. You will also enjoy Vin Santo and Cartucci - specialities of this region. (B)

## SUNDAY 22 JULY SPOLETO IN UMBRIA

We make the short drive across Tuscany to the fairytale 'town of towers' San Gimignano, famous for its 13th and 14th century Tuscan towers. Exploring the pedestrian walkways of this hilltop town is an absolute delight.

Lunchtime will be at leisure in the beautifully preserved streets of medieval Siena amongst the great sights such as the gothic town hall and the Piazza del Campo, scene of the famous Palio horse race.

Next we wind up to the hills of Umbria and the wonderful walled town of Spoleto where we stay the next two nights. Medieval Spoleto is easily explored on foot. There are numerous Romanesque churches and cobbled stone alleyways lined with shops, bars and trattorias. (B.D)

*Your Umbrian feature Hotel - Hotel Dei Duchi. This unpretentious, family run hotel is located literally*

# Ancient Pompeii awaits as well as breathtaking vistas along the craggy Amalfi Coast.

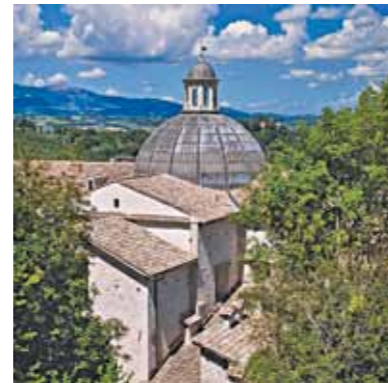
# 7 DAY SWITZERLAND PRE-TOUR OPTION:



Piazza Navona, Rome - a photographer's delight



Spoleto, Umbria views



just outside the old city walls and is known locally for its cuisine. The dining area has wide panoramic views of the stunning Umbrian countryside. The hotel has the dual benefit of being a 'town' hotel but at the same time giving the feeling as if you are in the middle of the countryside - so you have the best of both worlds. Perfect for those after dinner strolls into the medieval centre to enjoy a gelato or nightcap in a local café!

## MONDAY 23 JULY SPOLETO IN UMBRIA

We spend this morning in the nearby beautiful Umbrian city of Assisi. Badly damaged by earthquakes in 1997 the city, dominated by two medieval castles, undertook a remarkable programme of restoration which soon brought it back to all its glory.

On arrival in Assisi we are joined by a lay Franciscan Monk for a guided tour of the Basilica of St Francis with its magnificent frescoes. Afterwards there is time for you to explore Assisi at your own pace. Returning to Spoleto, the rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps take a leisurely walk along the path around the castle and across the medieval viaduct in to the Umbrian countryside. This is the real Italy!

(B.D)

## TUESDAY 24 JULY MAIORI, AMALFI COAST

Driving south past Vesuvius we visit the ancient ruins of Pompeii, where a local guide takes us through the city that was buried under volcanic ash in AD 79. Paintings, furniture, mosaics, sculptures, graffiti and even loaves in ovens are wonderfully preserved.

From here it's only a short drive to the Amalfi coast and the port town of Maiori, where we stay in the Regina Palace Hotel for the next three nights. (B.D)

Your Maiori Hotel – Regina Palace. We have selected this hotel for its position and style, local ambience and the warm, welcoming service you will receive during your stay. A perfect base for visiting all the local sights and soaking up the unique atmosphere of the Amalfi Coast!

## WEDNESDAY 25 JULY AMALFI COAST

Enjoy your day as we take you on the ferry across to Marina Grande, on the island of Capri, which the Roman emperor Tiberius made his capital. On arrival we catch a local shuttle bus up to the top of the island to explore the charming village of Anacapri. We also spend time at leisure amongst the boutiques and galleries in the main town, Capri.

Later, we will enjoy an afternoon boat cruise around the island. (B.D)

## THURSDAY 26 JULY AMALFI COAST

The Amalfi Coast is famous for its twisting, winding scenic drive with picturesque villages and towns hugging the cliffs and craggy coves. This morning we catch a ferry from Maiori along the dramatic coastline to our morning stop in Amalfi.

Later we continue by ferry to perhaps the most scenic of towns, Positano. The town clings, in tiers to the rock face down the steep, rugged hillside to the old port, which is only directly accessible by boat.

Mid afternoon we return by ferry to Maiori, where the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to relax and enjoy your surroundings. Prior to dinner, we have arranged a tasting of one of the region's famous liquors – Limoncello. (B.D)

## FRIDAY 27 JULY MAIORI / ROME

On arrival in Rome we enjoy a guided panoramic tour around the famous landmarks of this grand city, from the magnificent fountains by Bernini, the palaces and open squares to Piazza Venezia and the massive Colosseum (entrance fee is not included here).

After checking into our central Rome hotel, our finale will be a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B.D) Your Rome Hotel – Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio

## SATURDAY 28 JULY ROME

Sadly your tour ends after breakfast in your hotel. (B)

## EXTEND YOUR HOLIDAY IN ROME

West Coast Cruise & Travel Centre will be pleased to handle any extra hotel and travel arrangements should you wish to extend your holiday in Rome or elsewhere. As an example, additional accommodation in Rome the Massimo d'Azeglio hotel is: Single: \$184 per person including breakfast. Twin/Double: \$105 per person including breakfast.

Airfares are available in conjunction with group, speak to our reservation staff for details. Please ask our friendly sales consultants when booking this tour.



The endless mountain vistas will have you enthralled

## WEDNESDAY 4 JULY ZURICH / LUZERN

Upon arrival at Zurich Airport we travel straight to Luzern. Dinner is included in a local restaurant. Overnight Luzern (D)

## THURSDAY 5 JULY ZURICH / BERNE / LEYSIN

Our drive to Leysin includes a long morning stop in Berne. We should arrive into Leysin early afternoon.

Visit the Chateau Chillon, (entrance and guided tour). This is the amazing castle made famous by Lord Byron in the prisoner of Zenda. Sits out onto Lake Geneva. Free time in Montreux / Leysin. Tonight, dinner is included at a local restaurant. Overnight Leysin (B.D)

## FRIDAY 6 JULY LEYSIN

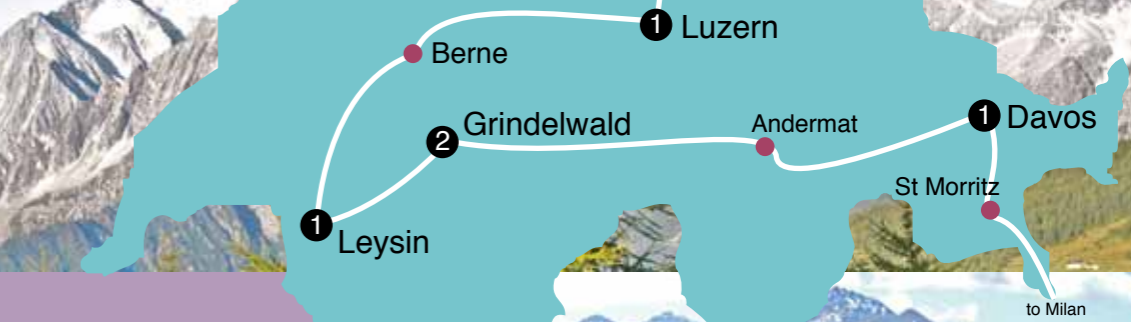
We join a morning cruise (1hr approx) on Lake Geneva. Lunch is in Vevay (Charlie Chaplin's town) then we commence an afternoon drive along the lakeside. This stunning drive is heritage-listed as it travels through steep, terraced slopes covered in vineyards that cascade down to the lake. At Ouchy (just on the lakeshore by Lausanne) we include a visit to the Olympic Museum. Before our return to Leysin we visit a vineyard for some wine tasting. The evening is free in Leysin. (B)

## SATURDAY 7 JULY LEYSIN / GRINDELWALD

Our first stop this morning will be after about 50 kms at the village of Gruyere. It gives its name to the well-known cheese.

Later we will drive through the Diablerets mountain range, past Chateau D'Eu village where the actor David Niven once lived, past Gstaad and then deep into the

- Overnight or Multi-night stays
- Excursions



Bernese Oberland to Thun on Lake Thun (the other end of the lake from Interlaken). As this region is so scenic, we have built in a long break to enjoy lunch and take photographs. Later we drive up to Grindelwald where we will stay for 2 nights.

At a height of about 1000 metres, the views are stupendous. You can see directly on to the nearby North Face of the Eiger, the Jungfrau and Monch mountains. Dinner tonight has been included at a local restaurant. (Total driving distance today is 166 kms.)

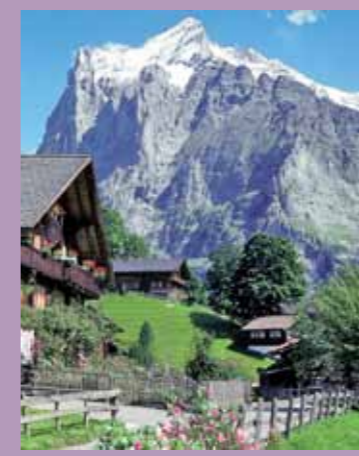
Have your camera ready and look at this website to whet your appetite. <http://www.grindelwald.travel/en/wel-come.cfm>

Overnight Grindelwald (B.D)

## SUNDAY 8 JULY GRINDELWALD

Enjoy a return train trip from Grindelwald to Jungfraujoch. Overnight Grindelwald (B)

Have a look at: <http://www.grindelwald.travel/en.cfm/ausflugsziele/offer.cfm?list=true&category=ExcursionsGT&subcat=GrindelwaldSuGT>



Grindelwald



Summer's blooming lupins above Davos

Our Suggestions:

1. Catch a train down directly into Interlaken. Can take a cruise on the lake.
2. Catch the cog train up to the Jungfrau Joch 11,333 feet. Restaurant and Ice palace up there. An incredible trip. Half way down from the above is the station at Kleine Scheidegg. It's a 2 hour walk down hill from there back to Grindelwald and at this time of year as you descend the wild spring flowers and Alpine grasses change with altitude.
3. There are dozens of walking paths all round Grindelwald. Various lengths and difficulties.
4. Cable car up to the Mannlichen.
5. Or maybe just relax and amble through this wonderful town. Do nothing just enjoy the vista! There are loads of shops, restaurants and cafes with terraces and mountain views.

## MONDAY 9 JULY GRINDELWALD / DAVOS

Our morning stop will be at Meiringen. Whilst this is certainly a pretty town but the real reason we stop here is because this is where Meringues were invented. It makes an ideal place to have a coffee and share one of the huge, locally made meringues. All the cafes serve them. We then head deep into the Alps for a couple of incredibly scenic drives.

The pace of the day is easy and will allow for impromptu stops and photo stops all over the place.

Next we drive over the Susten Pass to Andermat where we have lunch. Have a look at the photos on <http://opentravel.com/profile/ted/photos/12024> - there are some great images here in sequence that illustrate the drama of this drive over the pass.

From here we follow the route of the Glacier Express to Davos where we stay the night. This is an ideal place to stay as our express train departure starts here tomorrow morning. Dinner will be included tonight at a local restaurant. Overnight Davos (B.D)

## TUESDAY 10 JULY DAVOS / MILAN

We catch the Bernina Express this morning directly from Davos (08.12 departure, subject to availability). This travels via St Morritz and into Italy.

On arrival a local Italian coach will meet the group and take you to Milan for 1 night. The drive will actually follow the right hand shores of Lake Como (opposite side from when we visit on the 'Exquisite Italy' Tour so this will give you an added perspective of this lovely region). Overnight Milan (B)

## WEDNESDAY 11 JULY MILAN

Today you will commence the Exquisite Italy Tour.

Land Sea or Air - We'll get you there

