

Steve Bauer Bike Tours Inc.

Valpolicella, Verona and the Majestic Dolomites

Schedule: 7 day, 6 night trip

September 26th : Airport Pickups (12 noon) van transfers and arrival at Villa del Quar. Welcome to the beautiful region of Verona, Valpolicella and Lago di Garda. Ideal Airport is Verona Italy. Next best is Venice.

Upon Arrival we will have a light snack and welcome drink to greet you and kick off our trip. After check in and some brief relaxation, we will prepare for our first ride and get rolling for a short warm up loop. This will help you acclimatize and get the body moving to release some of that travel stiffness.

Hotel: Relais & Chateaux Villa del Quar www.hotelvilladelquar.com

Group dinner at Villa del Quar (Michelin 2 Stars!)

September 27th : Lets go check out Lago di Garda

After breakfast we will make our way on a great ride through the vineyards of Valpolicella and the hills and valleys to our north west along the river Adige before arriving at the waters edge of Lago di Garda, in Bardolino. Bardolino is situated on the shores of Lago di Garda only 20 km from our beautiful hotel. A loop in the hills of the regions small mountains reveal splendid lake views and enticing vineyards of Bardolino Classico. We will stop for lunch in the pretty lakeside town to recharge our energy before returning to the hotel by bike or by van.

Evening out in Verona; Group dinner @ the Piazza Bra near the arena.

Hotel: Villa del Quar

September 28th : Time to test the legs on some small mountains.

To the north of our hotel in the "foothills" lie some fabulous cycling routes which cross some challenging ridges which orient in a north-south pattern. Small rivers have cut some impressive valleys and gorges which dissect the terrain and flow into the River Adige. We will ride a fantastic loop through this pretty region. A great combination of climbs, valleys, views, vineyards, forests and unique rural villages highlight the ride.

A final descent will show off a fantastic view of Verona before we drop in the outskirts of the city and back onto the plains of the Adige once more. During the afternoon we will visit the fantastic estate of Serego Alighieri www.seregoalighieri.it/ or perhaps drop into (Masi) www.masi.it to tour the property and taste some great wines. Try Valpolicella Classico, Recioto and the pairing of parmesean cheese, honey and Amarone!

Return to the hotel. Perhaps the late afternoon nap by the pool will bring us into the evening.

Lunch enroute during the ride, Dinner at Villa del Quar

Hotel: Villa del Quar

September 29th : Ride to beautiful Sirmione, worth a visit!!

Famous for its long history and its' highly desirable geographical position, this unique village is situated at the tip of a narrow peninsula protruding into Lago di Garda at its southern end. One Sirmione website describes "The details have faded away in the wake of time, but the Roman poet's spirit still lives in Catullus' Villa and Catullus' Grotte, the original purpose of which is a secret of lake Garda. The eventful history of the Peninsula has had many highs and lows, but Sirmione has never lost its magic. Be they Romans or Cimbrians, Goths or Avars, Scaligers or Venetians, all were touched by its fabulous charm".

Lunch in a lakeside view resto in Sirmione.

Return to the Hotel: Group dinner at a cozy local family run restaurant

October 30th: Into the beautiful Dolomites ; Ortisei

One of the most spectacular mountainous regions in the world.

Ride the Famous "Ring" by Bike, By Van or by Mountain goat.

Passo di Sella, Passo Pordoi, Passo Campolongo, Passo di Gardena

Check out: <http://www.aukadia.net/alps/east/ring.htm>

How about a nice spa treatment to wrap up your day?

Hotel Gardena www.gardena.it Dinner@ Hotel Gardena

October 1st : Another day to enjoy mountains.

I am sure by now the legs are a little bit toasty. However, at Steve Bauer Bike Tours we are sure to give you the ride (or unride) to ensure your final day on tour is an enjoyable one. Perhaps a ride into the adjacent valley of L'alpe di Suisi.

Hotel Gardena

October 2nd Departures Verona / Venice

OPTION: September 30, October 1st

Transfer to Asolo and stay in the beautiful Villa Cipriani. Asolo is a wonderful little hill perched town with nice riding, walks, shopping and restaurants. Departure would be Venice on October 2nd. With this option it would still be possible to pick one day for the long "out and back" trip into the Dolomites for those travelers that are keen to climb.

During the week:

We will make sure that we plan time to have a relaxed stroll, sightseeing and shopping! visit to the center of Verona. We will spend one of evenings in Verona for dinner as well.

A Little more Detail

Group Size:

The trip will be customized and priced on a minimum number of participants determined by your group.

Guide Support:

A minimum of 2 support staff ensure your trip runs well for optimum enjoyment. Steve will join your group as an additional guide. Guides support the daily rides with a combination cycling with the group or a van shadowing the group depending on the logistics of the day.

Accommodations:

4 nights Villa del Quar in Pedemonte near Verona

2 nights Hotel Gardena in Ortisei

Option : 2 nights Villa Cipriani in Asolo

Dining:

Our hotels have excellent restaurants. Villa del Quar's restaurant is designated a 2 star Michelin and I can speak from experience, a gourmet dinner here is exquisite. Restaurants off property in Verona or otherwise will feature fine local dining and wines. Over the years we have found some great places to recharge our energies.

Wine will be included on all group dinners.

-> What is included?

- Accommodations
- Gratuities and taxes on hotel accommodations and meals
- Wine tour and tasting (Masi or Serego Aligheri)
- Services of our trip leaders: 2 logistical support guides + Steve
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners
- All ground transfers for you, your bicycle and your luggage within the trip context
- 2 Support Vehicles for any required client shuttles, support of cycling itineraries, luggage transfers, to carry mechanical equipment, first aid, cell phone communications
- Argon 18 Road bicycle if required
- Customized Steve Bauer cycling jersey
- Fruit and nutritious snacks for daily rides , cold bottled water for cycling
- route descriptions and mapped itineraries
- Pick up and drop at Arrival and Departure point (**1 Specific Time, 1 Designated Place**)
- Pre-departure information (how to prepare, information on the regions we visit, our hotels and attractions of interest)
- SBBT's Cycling Water bottles as needed

-> **What's not included?**

- Airfare
- most lunches and one dinner
- Alcoholic beverages that are not included above
- Travel and personal insurance
- Personal hotel expenses; mini bar, telephone, room service
- Arrival shuttle which does not meet our scheduled pick up time and location.