



Giro d'Italia 2008!

We are diligently preparing the ultimate Italian cycling adventure to this years Giro d'Italia. Italy can easily stand alone as the ideal country for a cycling vacation, however, when you add in the excitement of the Giro d'Italia race passing through the amazing Dolomite mountains, the trip becomes amazing!

Our excursion will first head beautiful Asolo, nestled in the foothills of the bigger mountains. Here we will get settled, get the legs rolling and experience some great Italian hospitality. After two days we can experience some tough climbs and watch the most suspenseful stages of this years Giro.

As our trip progresses, we will return south into the foothills yet another change of scenery, climate, terrain and hotels. Why not Valpolicella? It's a perfect way to finish up this fabulous trip. Visit spectacular Verona.

We never disappoint, as always, Steve Bauer Bike Tours will put you into the heart of the action, guide you over fantastic rides and accommodate you in excellent hotels.

The Trip Dates: May 22 to May 29

The Trip: Day by Day

May 22: Day 1 > Arrival Day

We will meet you at the Venice Marco Polo Airport (12 noon to 1 pm) and transfer you to our first hotel perfectly located in the beautiful town of Asolo nestled in the foothills of the majestic Dolomite mountains. This picturesque, idyllic setting will inspire you and get you in the mood for some Italian fun.

Upon check in, you will be greeted with a welcome cocktail, drinks and snack at the hotel. Once settled, we will prepare the bicycles and get out to spin the legs for our first warm up ride.

Welcome dinner at our Hotel; Villa Cipriani

www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=32

May 23: Day 2 > Stage 13 > The Giro races into Cittadella

Our hotel is on the doorstep to the Giro and only 40 km to the race finish in Cittadella. Its time to do a nice ride to arrive in time to see the pros sprint into town. Before the pros arrive, our ride will take us through the beautiful adjacent routes to enjoy the region before we watch the race from a perfect viewpoint. Awaiting the pros, we can rest in a local café, catch the race on TV, and anticipate our first live view of the peloton charging to the finish.

Ride distance: 80 km Terrain: Flat to rolling
Hotel: Villa Cipriani, Dinner in Asolo village

May 24: Day 3 > Into the Dolomite Mountains

Its' time to test your legs and fitness on some bigger hills and climbs. After a van transfer we will jump on our bike and follow some the today's race course A big challenge in our path is the Passo Manghen topping out at 2043 meters or perhaps we will keep the ride tamer and save some legs for tomorrow. Once the race passes we will make our way to our next hotel in famous Val Gardena. Ski season is past but white capped mountains still remain.

Ride Distance and terrain. 70 km Valleys and one mountain climb

Hotel: Gardena www.gardena.it
Dinner at the hotel

May 25: Day 4 > Stage 15> Marmolada!!

A huge mountain day for the boys of the Giro. For us tourists we will choose a little bit less on the menu but still take on a challenging ride.

Below are a couple of itineraries we will choose from. Even though we will be climbing most of the day, the scenery is so amazing you will not feel any pain!

Passo Sella, Passo Pordoi and Passo Fedaia to the race finish. Or Passo Sella and Passo Fedaia to the race finish. In both cases we want to finish up by climbing the difficult Marmolada, (passo di Fedaia) to arrive on the mountain pass before the race finish. If the weather is great, today's bike ride will be worth the trip by itself. Cycling through these valleys and over the passes will be something very special

Ride Distance and Terrain: 60 to 80 km. Mountains (up or down)

Hotel: Gardena****Dinner on your own in Ortisei

May 26 Day 5> Ride to the Time Trial

Today we will head out the very same direction but before continuing up Passo Sella, this time we will turn left and climb over Passo Gardena. The descent into Corvara im Badia is excellent and they are not many views as amazing. A left turn in Corvara will take us down the valley to the Time Trial in San Vigilio di Marebbe. We will arrive in time to see the best racers take off for one of the toughest tests of the Giro. Ride some of the way back and transfer by van.

Ride Distance to TT: 60 km Option to ride back or partially back Terrain: mountains and mountain valleys
Hotel: Gardena **** Dinner in the restaurant at the Hotel

May 27: Day 6 > The boys rest. We head to new digs and new terrain

We are going to Valpolicella and stay in the most wonderful property called Villa del Quar. At Steve Bauer Bike Tours we travel in luxury. This fantastic spot rests amongst the vineyards of Amarone wines. Check in and have lunch. After a bite another great bike ride amongst the vines and we will do a wine tasting visit in one of the well known producers of Valpolicella.
Ride distance: 50 km over hilly terrain

Hotel: Villa del Quar **** www.hotelvilladelquar.it

Group dinner @ Michelin star restaurant

May 28: Day 7 > A final ride on the ridges and valleys of Valpolicella

The wine region of Valpolicella has southern facing slopes riddled with vineyards which climatically are moderated by the beautiful Lago di Garda, 20 km away. Running north south are multiple ridges and hillsides covered in Olive groves and fruit trees. Fantastic winding roads on this hilly terrain make for wonderful riding. SBBT has based our trips here many times including the World Championships in Verona (2004). This region has become one of our favorites.

Ride Distance and Terrain: 60 km Hilly with climbs
Dinner at a local restaurant

May 29: Day 8 > Departures

It will not be easy to leave the wonderful comforts of Villa del Quar. However it is time to say goodbye.

Transfers to Venice Marco Polo (1 hr 30 min) or departures from Verona airport only 20 minutes from our hotel

Finer Details

Riding Distances:

Cycling itineraries will be developed with an enthusiastic rider in mind. With one or more support vehicles always shadowing the rides, our SBBT staff do our very best to support for individual preferences, riding distances and abilities.

Fixed itineraries will be developed to range from about 50 to 125 km per day (and more if required)

We will do our best to challenge those willing yet make each travelers day just right.

The trip at a glance:

8days/7nights

2 nights Villa Cipriani (Asolo)

3 nights Hotel Gardena (Ortisei)

2 nights Villa del Quar (Pedemonte)

Live Race Viewing:

Stage Finish in Cittadella

Stage Enroute from Verona into the Dolomites

Stage Finish at Summit of Marmolada (Passo di Fedaia)

Stage Start at the TT in San Vigilio di Marebbe

To have a better look at the 2008 Giro www.gazzetta.it/Speciali/Giroditalia/2008/

Our Group Size:

Your traveling companions will not exceed 16 people

Accommodations:

We have chosen the best available accommodations on our route. Luxury!

Three wonderful properties. Villa Cipriani and Villa del Quar and Hotel Gardena We are very excited to say that all of our accommodations are in excellent position very close to the actual Giro d'Italia race course itinerary.

Dining:

Italy is great. It is debatable, whether there is a consistently better place to dine than Italy. One step better than this, we will be dining at some of Italy's finest restaurants at Villa Cipriani and Villa del Quar.

All breakfasts at our hotels will be included.

3 Lunches will be included during our day trips along our route. We will make sure to have good "Pannini" sandwiches, fruit, snacks and drinks on a daily basis for an easy bite to sustain your energy while cycling.

Canadian Dollars Pricing

\$7,500.00 per person based on double occupancy

\$1,400.00 Single room supplement

What is Included

- Accommodations: The best period!
- Services of our trip leaders: 3 to 5 support guides depending on the size of our group.
- All breakfasts, 5 dinners, 3 lunches
- Wine is included on all our dinners
- Gratuities and taxes on hotel accommodations and meals
- All ground transfers for you, your bicycle and your luggage
- 1 to 3 Support Vehicles (group size dependent) for daily cycling itineraries, luggage transfers, bicycle mechanical equipment, first aid, individual transfers for choice of riding distance
- Fruit and nutritious snacks, energy bars and cold bottled water for cycling
- Daily route descriptions, mapped itineraries and suggested visits
- Pick up and drop at Venice Marco Polo airport *see note below*
- Pre-departure information (how to prepare, information on the Giro d'Italia 2008 and our hotels)
- SBBT's Giro d'Italia custom cycling jersey
- SBBT's Cycling Water bottles

note (Ideally, we will arrange one suitable time for rendezvous and pick up on arrival day

Rendezvous will be 12 noon at Marco Polo Venice. Our arrival hotel is about 1.5 hours from the airport. If your flight schedule does not meet our pick up time we can help you arrange transportation to the hotel on your own charge.

Drop off on Departures: the morning of May 29 The Venice airport is about 1 hr 30 min from Verona. As an alternative Verona airport is very close

if you may obtain a departure flight from here.

What's not Included

- Airfare.
- Bike Rental if necessary (we recommend travelers bring their own bike)
- Most lunches and some dinners.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Travel, personal, medical insurance.