

Enogastronomical trip to Piedmont, 2-12 October 2023

Overview

This all-inclusive, guided trip offers a unique opportunity to embed oneself in the romantic culture of Italy's Barolo region, nestling in folded hillsides southwest of Milan. Ca' Rapulin, a magnificently restored stone farmhouse on a ridge near the hamlet of Calosso, will be your home for eight nights. It has stunning views across seemingly endless vineyards, with hazelnut plantations and farmsteads scattered about, UNESCO-sponsored trails, an infinity pool, bedrooms named after the region's grape varietals, and a restaurant helmed by Chef Andrea. Group activities include flour milling, plin making with Andrea in Ca' Rapulin's kitchen, wine and cheese tastings, truffle hunting, sightseeing, and of course eating, from humble osteria to three-star Michelin. Easing you out of bucolic bliss, into the modernist pizzazz that Italians do so well, are two final nights at Milan's opulent The Square by the Duomo, visiting da Vinci's *Last Supper* and a performance of *Marriage of Figaro* at La Scala. Your guides—whether for discussions with winemakers or explorations of Roman cityscapes—are sommelier Jan Novak and historian Mike Chapman.

Conditions

Group size limited to six couples.

It is in the interests of all prospective participants that they are more than capable of walking a mile, have a minimum of dietary restrictions, are generally of sound health, are organized and punctual, and can take routine precautions to safeguard cell phones, travel documents, and monetary instruments.

Liability & Insurance

Mike Chapman accepts fiduciary responsibility on your behalf, acting as your travel agent for liaison with Ca' Rapulin; accordingly, he will provide all available information on health and safety issues that you may encounter. Notwithstanding, participants should sign a binding waiver to hold harmless Ca' Rapulin, its vendors, guides, and representatives. For your part, you must provide proof of travel insurance, with ample coverage for medical expenses, including Medevac. (Please note: this trip is entirely independent of Piedmont Restaurant Services, Inc., d/b/a Il Capriccio.)

While trip organizers will do their level best to ensure the accuracy and deliverability of the itinerary, they cannot guarantee that all trips and events will come off as scheduled. While Piedmont's early-October weather is typically dry and sunny with morning fog, adverse conditions—particularly periods of rain—would inevitably impact the itinerary.

Cost & Reservations

\$16,200, per couple; includes gratuities, but not airfare or insurance.

Participation guaranteed upon deposit of \$5,000 per couple, prior to the 28 February cut-off date, which is non-refundable, unless *force majeure*, or the participation of less than five couples, necessitates cancellation of the entire trip, when refunds will be in full, minus the upfront cost of any advance ticket and restaurant reservation purchases. A further payment of \$11,200 from each couple is required by 1 August 2023. All payments are by check, made payable to: Michael E. Chapman, either in person or by mail to: M.E. Chapman, 197 8th Street, PH211, Charlestown, MA 02129.

Some Background Websites

Ca' Rapulin: <https://www.carapulinpiemonte.com/en/home>

Piazza Duomo: <https://www.piazzaduomoalba.it/en/restaurant/>

Relais San Maurizio: <https://www.relaisanmaurizio.it/en>

The Square: <https://www.thesquaremilano.com/en/>

Al Mudec: <https://www.enricobartolini.net/ristorante-mudec-milano>

University of Gastronomy: <https://www.unisg.it/en/welcome-unisg/>

Contratto Winery: <https://www.contratto.it/en/visit-us/>