



Trip to Piemonte

3 – 5 May 2008

The proposal focuses on the reds – Barolo foremost since it remains the most important quality wine for the British market – the hotel we have chosen is in the heart of the Langhe to minimise journey times.

- 2 nights bed and breakfast at the 3-star Relais Monte Marino including use of the new indoor swimming pool
- A lunch or dinner and wine tasting at the cantina of Matteo Ascheri near Bra
- A lunch and wine tasting at the cantina of Marziano & Enrico Abbona
- A lunch and wine tasting at the cantina of Bricco del Cucu with Dario Sciolla plus visit to the wonderful frescoes in church of San Fiorenzo
- A dinner on one evening in Alba (with coach transfers for return)
- Wine visit to Canelli to wine cellars of Bosca at Canelli (producers of Spumante)
- Coaching for 3 days for visits, collecting and returning to Turin airport

All for the price of £300.00 per person - single supplement: £45.00 (sole occupancy of double room).

Not Included: flights and any other meals not mentioned

Hotel Relais Monte Marino (3-star):

<http://www.relaismontemarino.it/>

This country house hotel has been opened recently and has the bonus of a swimming pool. Rooms are finished to a good standard and all bedrooms have en suite bathrooms. Services in the room include hairdryer, minibar, direct dial telephone, Satellite TV, modem point and safety deposit box. The hotel has a reading room and wine cellar, where you can arrange tastings for the party. There is a restaurant within walking distance of the hotel for evenings when dinner is not included.

Wine Visits (wines mentioned are for your information rather than guide to tastings):

Dario Sciolla at Bricco del Cucu is best known for his Dolcetto di Dogliani. His Dolcetto Bricco San Bernardo is only produced in the best years. Dario has also been experimenting with plots on his 12 hectare terrain replanting some Arneis with Sauvignon Blanc and Dolcetto with Merlot. In spite of these plans, Dario remains very traditional in his wine making and will provide an interesting benchmark against the innovations and massive investment you will see elsewhere.

Matteo Ascheri is an enthusiastic wine producer. You may be familiar with his wines from the special selection in Sainsbury's supermarket. You can taste Ascheri's wines from their various plots including *Podere di Sorano* (Barolo and Dolcetto), *Podere di la Morra-Verduno* (Barolo, Nebbiolo d'Alba, Barbera d'Alba and Dolcetto d'Alba) and *Montalupa*. The winery also produces a Gavi di Gavi, Langhe Arneis and Moscato d'Asti. These are good quality wines and provide an excellent overview of the key wines in Piedmont .

Marziano and Enrico Abbona have had great success in the last couple of years, winning a three glasses award from Gambero Rosso for their Barolo Pressenda 2000 and Dolcetto di Dogliani 2000. Their ambition is apparent in the vast new winery, disguised among the hills and vineyards above Dogliani. These are quality wines.

Bosca is one of the famous producers of spumante at Canelli. The wine cellars here are seeking recognition as a Unesco heritage site. A visit to these vast cellars is an experience, and all the more fun for trying the various sparkling wines, including the Moscato d'Asti, an excellent dessert wine.

Elvio Cogno, a short distance away on the edge of the town Novello. The vineyard enjoys a lovely location with wonderful views over the Langhe. Walther Fissore, the wine maker will meet the party for a tasting of his wines. The reputation of Walther's wines has been growing. Indeed he was one of twelve Italian wine producers to be invited to partake in the Decanter Fine Wine Encounter. There will be an opportunity to taste his Barolo, such as the Barolo Ravera, Montegrilli Langhe Rosso, Barbera D'Alba Bricco dei Merli, Dolcetto d'Alba and Anas-Cetta Langhe Bianco. These are quality wines.

Tourist Visits:

1) The church of San Fiorenzo above Bastia Mondovi is worth a visit after the tasting with Dario Sciolla. The church boasts 346sqm of frescoes dating from 1472, commissioned by Bonifacio della Torre at a time when Bastia Mondovi flourished on the trade routes between the coast and the north. These are wonderful and well worth the visit.

2) Alba is known as the centre of production for Barolo and Nebbiolo wines, as well as the famous white truffle. The truffle fair in October is traditionally opened with the Palio degli Asini (a comic race of asses). The city dates back to Roman times and is distinctive for its towers which still survive today.

3) The wine cellars at Canelli are also well worth a visit in their own right – indeed the cellars have been proposed for inclusion among the UNESCO heritage sites.