



GT Experiences

A REALM OF UNFORGETTABLE TRAVEL

# Sordevolo & South of France







## Torino

# SORDEVOLO & SOUTH OF FRANCE

SPECIAL FEATURE: THE PASSION PLAY OF CHRIST - SORDEVOLO

### BIELLA, NICE - 11 Days/9 Nights

#### TOUR FEATURES

- 9 nights accommodations at indicated First Class hotel or similar with private bath or shower
- Professional English speaking tour director throughout
- Buffet breakfast daily
- 5 Dinners at local restaurants including wine (1/4 bottle pp), mineral water (1/2 bottle pp) and coffee:
- Sightseeing as indicated, including local guide and all entrance fees
- Touring and transfers by deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach
- Portorage of 1 piece of luggage per Person at hotels
- Passion Play ticket
- City Tax included
- Hotel taxes and service charges

#### ITINERARY

Day 1: Depart USA on overnight flight to

Milan.

Day 2: Arrive Milan meet tour escort and transfer to Biella. Some free time to relax and unwind. This evening enjoy a lovely Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. **(D)**

Day 3: Breakfast at the hotel. Morning departure for guided tour of Torino, starting at the Museum of Holy Shroud, in which, according to tradition, the body of Christ was wrapped after he was lowered down from the cross. Time at leisure to shop - and explore on your own. Return to Biella. **(B)**

Day 4: Breakfast at hotel. Departure for Oropa to visit the Sanctuary. The Oropa Sanctuary is found near Biella in the northern part of Piedmont. It is a very important Italian pilgrimage destination with a reputation for providing relief to the sick and also now a UNESCO listed

heritage site. More than 800,000 pilgrims visit Oropa each year. You will see the 12 chapels that create a devotional path. Inside each chapel are scenes of the Virgin Mary's life. The statue of the Black Madonna, brought to the Santuaria d'Oropa by the founder of the sanctuary in the 14th century, is kept in the church, in a chapel that predates the current (17th century) church by several centuries.

Other highlights at the Oropa sanctuary include the Royal Gate and Royal







## Chateauneuf de Pape, Provence

Apartments, while to the rear is a second, 19th-20th century church. After some free time at the Sanctuary, our next stop will be a local “Grappa Distillery” for a tasting including their home made sweets.

Return to Biella. Late afternoon we depart for Sordevolo, the village where, every 5 years, a Passion Play is performed, with all the actors being local village people.

Dinner will be at a local restaurant before we attend this remarkable performance of “The Passion of Christ”. **(B, D)**

**Day 5:** Breakfast at the hotel. Morning departure for Nice. Check in at a 4\* hotel in Nice. Meet your English speaking guide at your hotel for a late afternoon tour of Nice (duration 4hours); Capital and queen of the Riviera, discover the “Promenade des Anglais”, the old town with the flower market, the Castle Park overlooking the Bay of the Angels. 3 course dinner – drinks included in a local restaurant near your hotel. Overnight. Passion Play, Sordevolo. **(B, D)**

**Day 6:** Breakfast at the hotel.

9.00 am: Departure from your hotel with an English speaking guide. Full day guided excursions to Monaco to see the famous Casino, and the Prince’s palace. Visit Eze, a medieval french village perched up high on the middle cornice with craft shops and excellent views of the Mediterranean coast, you will have a guided tour of the traditional perfumery.

6.00 pm : Drop off at your hotel in Nice. Dinner on your own. Accommodation. **(B)**

**Day 7:** Breakfast at the hotel.

9.00 am : Departure from your hotel with an English speaking guide. Go to the picturesque village of Saint Paul de Vence where the great impressionists used to gather with easel and canvas and sample the regional flower sweets at a perched medieval village that has stood guard since the 9th century. Next stop will be in Grasse, for a tour of the perfume factory.

6.00 pm : Drop off at your hotel in Nice

Dinner on your own. Accommodation. **(B)**

**Day 8:** Breakfast at the hotel.

9.00 am : Departure with your luggage for a tour transfer to Arles via Aix en Provence. Walking visit of Aix en Provence en route (duration 3 hours). Walk with your guide on the Cours Mirabeau lined with 17th and 18th centuries private mansions, where large trees give shade on hot summer days. The old town is packed with shops, architectural and religious sites, bustling squares and refreshing fountains. Take a stroll through one of the numerous markets taking place everyday in the center of the city. Arrival in Arles surroundings. Check in at your 4\* hotel in Arles. Dinner in a restaurant in Arles center (you will have to take your coach to drive to Arles center).

Back to the hotel for accommodation. **(B, D)**

**Day 9:** Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure with your own coach to Avignon.







## TORINO, PALAZZO REALE

9.00 am: Meet an English speaking guide in Avignon center for a walking and guided tour of Avignon, the majestic city of the Popes. Visit Pont d'Avignon, also called Saint- Benezet bridge, famous for the children's song "Sur le Pont d'Avignon", and visit the Popes' Palace which is the biggest gothic style palace in Europe (entrance tickets included). Lunch on your own. Continue to Chateauneuf du Pape. Sightseeing in the vineyards, explanations about "terroir", grape varieties, vinification and aging cellars. Discover 2 different appellations and enjoy the visit and the wine tastings of the 2 wine estates. End of the service of the guide at 6.00 pm in Avignon. Back to the hotel in Arles with your own coach. Dinner on your own. **(B, D)**

**Day 10:** Breakfast at the hotel. Morning tour, meet your English speaking guide for an half day tour to Arles and St Rémy de Provence.

Visit the ancient city of Arles (UNESCO World Heritage). On the footpaths of

Van Gogh, you will discover the roman remains with the amphitheater called "Arenas" and the ancient theater, Saint-Trophime church (carved doorway from 12th century), the Forum Square and Van Gogh's Café. The tour continues toward the Alpilles mountain range. Stop at the Antiques in Saint Rémy de Provence (Triumphal Arch and mausoleum) located in an olive-tree field. Landscape painted several times by Van Gogh. Visit St Paul de Mausole mental hospital were Van Gogh stayed for a year. Discover the reproduction of his bedroom. Farewell diner in a nice restaurant located in Arles center (you will have to take your coach to drive to Arles center). Back to the hotel for accommodation. Accommodation. **(B, D)**

**Day 11:** Breakfast at the hotel and then transfer to the airport for your return flight breakfast in hotel.



### Legend

**B** Breakfast  
**L** Lunch

