



## WEST VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER TOUR

### Piedmont & Alps

May 4, 2018 – May 11, 2018

#### May 4, Friday - Turin (D)

*Turin is an elegant city. It has been the capital of the Kingdom of Savoy for over 300 years and was the first capital of the country of Italy. The regal influence can be seen in the architecture, cuisine and culture.*

Upon your arrival at the Turin airport, you will be met by our guide. You will have a private transfer from Turin airport to the [4 star hotel Victoria](#) to check in to your room.

Afternoon at leisure.

Welcome drink in the hotel and dinner in a typical Piedmont restaurant that is walking distance from the hotel.

### May 5, Saturday - Egyptian Museum- Masino Castle (B, L)

This morning we will meet our guide for a walking tour through the historic squares and buildings of the city such as the [Royal Savoy Palace](#), [Piazza Castello](#), [Piazza Carlo Felice](#), [Mole Antonelliana](#), and the [Egyptian Museum](#).

Lunch in a typical restaurant.

In the afternoon we head to [Masino Castle](#) where we will learn about Savoyard culture and also contemporary developments in Italian gardening. A captivating aspect of the park is the “Cloud Garden” (Giardino delle nuvole) designed by one of the Italy’s most foremost garden designers, Paolo Pejrone, founder of the Piemontese Garden Academy. Inspired by Russel Page and Roberto Burle Marx, Pejrone has designed gardens in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Austria, France and the United Kingdom.

Transfer back to Turin and dinner on your own.

### May 6, Sunday - Venaria Reale , Villa della Regina & Bramafam garden (B, L)

This morning we will meet our guide and head to the [Venaria Reale](#) (UNESCO Heritage Site) which was created as hunting lodges and places of pleasure for the Royal Savoy family.

*The enchanting scenario of the Hall of Diana, the solemn splendor of the Great Gallery, the Church of St. Hubert, and the vastness of the 18th c. Juvarra Stables designed by Filippo Juvarra are masterpieces of universal baroque style.*

During our visit of the Venaria Reale and its gardens, we will enjoy a “ Merenda Sinoira” for lunch at the restaurant Patio dei Giardini in the Venaria Reale and prepared by star-studded chef Alfredo Russo, the Gastronomic Supervisor of the Reggia. “Merenda Sinoira” is a typical, small but substantial meal which peasant families used to have at around 5pm to restore their energy after a hard afternoon's work. This custom is now being revived by many bars throughout the territory, mainly as a pleasant social ritual. The merenda sinoira consists of cold dishes, toma and tomina cheeses, charcuterie, fried foods and comes with a good glass of wine!

After lunch we head to [Villa della Regina](#) (just outside Turin).

*Villa della Regina and Castello del Valentino were the favourite residences of duchesses, princesses and queens, while the Palazzina di Caccia di Stupinigi and the Reggia di Venaria are stately baroque complexes created as hunting lodges and places of pleasure.*

*After careful restoration, the Villa of the Queen has been reopened to the public. Acting as a dramatic backdrop to the city, it is in the center of Italianate gardens with pavilions, fountains, and agricultural areas once again in production.*

We then visit [Bramafam garden in Revello](#), Paolo Pejrone's private garden.

Transfer back to Turin.

May 7, Monday - Tenuta Banna Spinola Castle, Silvio Pellico villa & Villa Peyrani in Moncalieri [B, L]

This morning we head to [Tenuta Banna Spinola Castle](#).

*Twelve miles south of Torino, **Tenuta Banna**, with the tallest tower in Piedmont, belongs to one of the region's most beautiful estates. It presides over a lake and many small gardens where infinite roses bloom from summer through fall.*

*The garden of Banna is a place where both Marchese and Marchesa Spinola express their love for beauty, flowers, trees and architecture," says **Paolo Pejrone**, a renowned Italian landscape architect and founder of the Piedmontese Garden Academy, who in 1995 redesigned and restored the gardens of Tenuta Banna. The enclosed gardens are organized like a Persian carpet," says Pejrone. "I picked a very childish manner of doing the garden: simply, and a little whimsically." The landscape is organized into five walled gardens arranged into an L-shape around a larger rectangular courtyard, flanked by the castle and the tower on one side, and 691 acres of farm on the other, where hay is left growing tall in the fall and daffodils announce the arrival of spring in sweeping masses. There are white and red oaks, cypresses and clumps of bamboo so well adapted that they look as if they grew naturally from seeds planted centuries ago. A secret garden and potager grace the estate's medieval church near the castle.*

We then reach [Silvio Pellico Villa](#), near Moncalieri, where we will have an aperitif and lunch and visit the gardens.

*The villa is a neo-gothic mansion (1870) with a Russel Page garden (likely one of his three masterpieces). Page created a fine terraced garden on two axes divided by pools.*

Transfer back to Turin where we will visit the private **Villa Peyrani in Moncalieri**.

Enjoy a relaxing dinner on your own.

**May 8, Tuesday - Palazzina di Caccia Stupinigi - Villa Ottolenghi (B, L)**

We will meet our guide at the hotel in the morning for a private excursion to the [Palazzina di Caccia Stupinigi](#).

We then head to the *Monferrato area - Acqui Terme*, [Villa Ottolenghi Wedekind](#), where we will have lunch and then a wine tasting following the visit.

*The Villa Ottolenghi Wedekind is the only example in Italy of a close collaboration between architects, painters, sculptors and patrons giving life to a villa filled with important works of art.*

*In 1920 Count Arturo Ottolenghi and his wife Herta von Wedekind zu Horst entrusted the design of Villa Ottolenghi first to Federico d'Amato and then the celebrated architect Marcello Piacentini. The Ottolenghis' patronage brought a large number of artists to Monterosso including Ferruccio Ferrazzi, Fortunato Depero, Adolfo Wildt, Libero Andreotti, Fiore Martelli, Arturo Martini, Rosario Murabito, Venanzo Crocetti and Ferruccio Ferrazzi. It was at Villa Ottolenghi that Arturo Martini produced some of his most important works, including "Tobias, Adam and Eve, the Lions of Monterosso...", and he also brought many pieces here. Following the deaths of the couple, their son Astolfo took over the completion of the villa and the park, designed by Pietro Porcinai.*

Transfer to Mondovi for the visit of the [Botanical Garden](#) and enjoy time at leisure.

Transfer to Turin and enjoy a relaxing dinner on your own.

### May 9, Wednesday - Alps

This morning we will check out of hotel and transfer by bus to the Alps area north of Turin where we will stay at the 4 star [Hotel De La Ville](#) in Saint Vincent.

Rest of the day at leisure.

### May 10, Thursday - Alps [B]

Day at leisure.

### May 11, Friday - Departure [B]

Private coach transfer to Turin Airport.

## PRICING

- **Master Gardeners that register by 11/30/2017 save \$200!**
- Price per person based on double occupancy: \$3,699
- Single supplement: +\$640

## ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

- If you prefer to travel early in order to have ample time to rest and better adjust to the jet lag, we can book an additional night in Turin prior to the start of the tour. Additional fee for night stay will apply.
- If you are interested in expanding your trip with additional excursions either before or after the tour, we can help coordinate.

## INCLUDED

- 5 night accommodation in Turin, breakfast included
- 2 night accommodation in Saint Vincent, breakfast included
- Meals as specified
- Private transfers and excursions by bus as per program
- Private English speaking Guide with the group from day 1 to day 5 (*guide not included from day 6 to day 8*)
- Reservations and tickets
- 5 night accommodation in Turin, breakfast included

## NOT INCLUDED

- City tax to be paid to the hotel
- Flights
- Food and beverages outside of those specified
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities to guide and driver