

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

## *The Italian Riviera*

**9 DAYS: Saturday, May 11-Sunday, May 19, 2024**

**THE ITALIAN RIVIERA**—a slender coastal strip in northwest Italy that flows into the French Riviera—offers breathtaking scenery, a wonderful climate and charming seaside resort towns. In this land of everlasting spring we'll discover hills covered by olive groves and vineyards, streets lined with palm trees and picturesque villages perched on hilltops. We'll stay in Sanremo on the "Riviera dei Fiori," or riviera of flowers, famous for its casino and Russian Orthodox Church. Enjoy two excursions to the nearby French Riviera to exclusive Monte Carlo and Monaco with a visit to a French perfumerie in the village of Eze and charming Nice—including admission to the Chagall Museum. Head to seaside Santa Margherita Ligure and a cruise to the world-famous resort of Portofino. This special vacation is enhanced by a visit to an olive oil mill and a wine tasting.

### **Includes**

- Round-trip regularly scheduled Alitalia Airlines flights from Boston to Genoa, via Rome (land only pricing available if you prefer to make your own air arrangements)
- Seven nights' four-star accommodations: **Hotel Nazionale, Sanremo** or similar hotel
- Twelve meals: seven breakfasts, one lunch, four dinners with wine
- Escorted round-trip, private airport/ hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

### **Features**

Full-day excursion to Nice and Cannes including the Nice flower market. Excursion to villages of Apricale and Dolceacqua with lunch. Full-day excursion to Monaco, Monte Carlo and perfumerie in Eze. Excursion to Albegna and ancient olive oil mill. Excursion to Santa Margherita and cruise to Portofino.

### **Rates**

**\$3,799 per person double occupancy**

Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. **Single supplement is \$300. We have a limited number of single supplements available at just \$200. Call to reserve.** Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$300.

### **Hotel Nazionale**

Corso Matteotti 3 18038 – Sanremo  
Tel: 011 39 0184 577577

Located next to the Sanremo Casino, Best Western Hotel Nazionale is on the city's most popular shopping street. Its rooftop terrace with hot tub has panoramic views out over the Ligurian Sea. Rooms are spacious and air conditioned and feature a minibar, Mediaset Premium pay-TV channels, and tea and coffee-making facilities. The property dates back to the 19th century and includes an elegant restaurant, which serves Ligurian specialties. The buffet breakfast can be enjoyed up on the terrace in warm weather. The hotel is a 5-minute walk from the medieval center of Sanremo and the beach.

### **Saturday, Day 1: Depart Boston**

Depart Boston Logan Airport, on Alitalia's non-stop, direct service to Rome. Dinner is served with complimentary wine/beer. Relax and enjoy the inflight entertainment while crossing the Atlantic.

### **Sunday, Day 2: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Genoa**

Continental breakfast will be served before landing. In Rome, clear immigration and proceed to our connecting flight to Genoa. After passport control and immigration, proceed to baggage claim and retrieve our luggage. We

will then pass through customs and meet our representative who will assist with boarding the transfer vehicle to the **Hotel Nazionale** in San Remo. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner with wine at the hotel. **(D)**





**Monday, Day 3: Full-day excursion to Nice and Cannes**

After breakfast we'll depart for a full-day excursion to Nice on the French Riviera. See the highlights of Nice – including the flower market – before free time in Cannes and lunch on our own. Enjoy dinner, with wine, at the hotel this evening. **(B,D)**



***Nice Harbor***



***Flower Market***



### **Tuesday, Day 4: Apricale – Dolceaqua – Wine Tasting**

Enjoy buffet breakfast at the hotel and depart for an excursion to the village of Apricale. Continue on to visit the Visionarium of Dolceaqua to view a documentary in 4d about the Val Nervia and its four seasons. Later we visit the charming medieval village of Dolceaqua, the former residence of the infamous Doria family and enjoy a lunch with wine at a local venue. Return to the hotel. Evening at leisure. **(B,L)**



### **Wednesday, Day 5: Monaco – Monte Carlo – Eze**

After breakfast at the hotel we'll return to the French Riviera and the Principality of Monaco for a visit to Monte Carlo, the jewel of the Cote d'Azur. Enjoy free time to explore on our own. On our return we'll stop in the village of Eze to visit the perfume factory. Return to the hotel the remainder of the day and evening is at leisure. **(B)**



Monaco



Eze

**Thursday, Day 6: Albenga - olive oil mill**

Today we'll enjoy a half-day excursion to the village of Albenga followed by a visit to the ancient Sommariva olive oil mill for a tasting. The mill is a real gem set within the walls of the ancient town. Adjacent to the mill is the oil museum which contains rare examples of ancient agricultural instruments. Return to the hotel the remainder of the day and evening is at leisure. **(B)**



### **Friday, Day 7: Santa Margherita Ligure – Portofino**

Today we'll enjoy a full-day excursion that begins with a drive to Santa Margherita Ligure where we board the boat for a short cruise to Portofino—a picturesque, half-moon shaped seaside village with pastel houses lining the shore of the harbor. Enjoy free time in Portofino before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon. This evening enjoy dinner with wine at the hotel. **(B,D)**



*Santa Margherita Ligure*



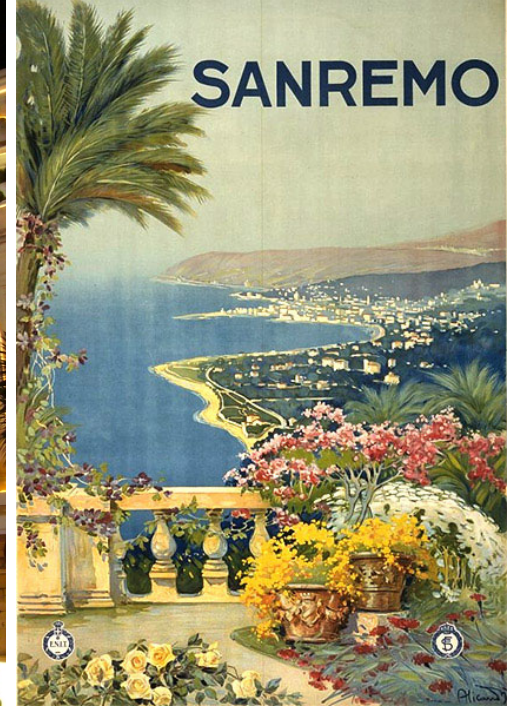
*Portofino*

### **Saturday, Day 8: Day at leisure in Sanremo**

Today we have the whole day to explore Sanremo on our own (be sure to visit the Flower Market – Italy's largest) before a Farewell dinner tonight, with wine, at a local restaurant. **(B,D)**

### **Sunday, Day 9: Return flight to Boston**

This morning transfer by motorcoach to the Genoa airport for our return flight to Boston via Rome. **(B)**



Sanremo is a popular resort town on the west coast of Italy, best known for its casino. But there's a lot more to do and see in this beautiful city on the Italian Riviera if you're not interested in gambling.

La Pigna, the Pinecone, is the oldest part of the city. La Pigna's tiny streets and covered alleyways wind up the hill to the gardens and sanctuary at the top.

Some of the historic buildings, churches, and squares have been restored, and there are signs describing them along the tourist itinerary.

Madonna della Costa Sanctuary, on the hilltop above La Pigna, can be seen from most places in San Remo and is a symbol of the city. A beautiful cobblestone mosaic dating from 1651 leads the way to the sanctuary. The dome atop the sanctuary was erected between 1770 and 1775. Inside are an ornate altar and organ and beautiful paintings and statues dating from the 17th to 19th centuries.

The Russian Orthodox Church was finished in 1913 when San Remo was a popular winter destination for Russians. It's similar to the church of San Basilio in Moscow.

The Gardens of Queen Elena are on top of the hill above La Pigna, and there are other beautiful gardens around the city, in Villa Zirio, Villa Ormond, and Villa Nobeland Palazzo Bellevue.

The coastal resort of Sanremo was an important social centre around the end of the 19th century, and a popular resort until the middle of the 20th century, and many of the the grand houses and hotels that you can see in the town date from that period.

The town is in the Liguria region of Italy and one of the most western beach resorts in the country, not far from the border with France. It is correctly called Sanremo although often referred to as San Remo.

San Remo has a very mild - warm climate because the mountains protect the town from weather arriving from the north, which helps enhance its popularity.

Start your visit with a stroll around Porto Vecchio, the old harbour (there is now also a larger more modern harbour in San Remo). This old harbour is quite small, and you can find a few restaurants along one edge of the harbour.

After exploring the harbour area wander along the seafront and the main boulevards in the town centre such as Corso degli Inglesi to see many of the grand villas and their surrounding gardens, many of them still beautifully maintained. The Tourist Office is in one of the most impressive of these houses, the Palazzo di Riviera.

Between the harbour and the tourist office you can also see the 17th century Santa Tecla Fort which dominates the centre of Sanremo. Also in the western part of the town is the casino, the most well known building in San Remo and built in the Art Nouveau style. The casino dates from the period of prosperity in Sanremo (it was built in 1906) and is still a popular destination in the town today. The casino also now contains a theatre and restaurant, while the adjacent Corso Matteotti is one of the main shopping streets in San Remo.

Behind the harbour and just off Corso Matteotti is the medieval center of the town, which is largely pedestrianised and very pleasant to explore with lots of narrow streets to wander through. Known locally as La Pigna (translation: pinecone) this area of tall medieval houses clustered close together along narrow streets provides an interesting contrast with the luxury of the grand villas - and for us was the most interesting part of our visit.

Many of the most impressive villas in Sanremo are to the east of the town centre - you can admire them from the street but they are usually closed to the public. The best place to start exploring is on Corso Felice Cavallotti



at the Giardini Nobel, a large and attractive garden just behind the new port area. The large gardens of Villa Ormond are on the other side of the road from here, and are also very pleasant to explore.

Almost all the popular Italian destinations include a church (or several) to visit and San Remo is no different...

One religious monument here that is interesting to visitors is north of the main centre and is the Sanctuary of Madonna della Costa. This was built above the town in the 17th and 18th centuries and has a decorative baroque style facade. Built on the site of a pre-existing church, the sanctuary has for a long time helped to guide sailors returning to the town across the sea.

Another notable religious monument in the town is the Russian Orthodox church - the Chiesa Russa Ortodessia, near the Sanremo Tourist Office. The church was built for the Russians who flocked here as followers of the Russian Tsarina who established herself here during San Remo's heyday. The inside with its Russian icons is the most interesting feature of the church.

One other important religious building in San Remo is the Cathedral of San Siro, founded in the 12th century although the current roman style building was largely built / reconstructed in the 17th century after damage to the earlier church during a naval bombardment.

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Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

PLEASE NOTE: This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.