

# Langa of Wine

Landscape Itineraries

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LANGHE  
MONFERRATO  
ROERO

The Home of BuonVivere

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# The Home of BuonVivere.

**L**anghe Monferrato Roero: a series of hills which rise uninterruptedly up to the Ligurian Apennines, among valleys and ridges, castles and towers, art and history, great wines and excellent products. A fairytale landscape that alternates rows of vines neatly combed like gardens with truffle groves, hazelnut groves and the pastures of the Alta Langa. A unique feature that UNESCO has rightly recognized as a World Heritage Site specifically for this cultural landscape which has been persistently created by mankind over centuries of hard work.

A landscape with subtle but significant nuances meant to enhance these itineraries, confident that every corner of this magic territory deserves attention, with eyes able to understand it and feet ready to tread it. An unhurried journey which, *en passant*, will tell the great story of Piedmont along with the various minor stories collected by the singers (poets, writers and storytellers) of these lands, which were once very poor and harsh, always on the margins of big politics and, at the same time, at the centre of the routes of merchants and pilgrims who moved from the sea to the plains.

These routes will lead you to discover some minor hamlets, often treasure troves of great art, and enchanted villages with just a few houses, extraordinary viewpoints and remote 1000-year-old country chapels, through endless ridge paths like the long hills of the Langa, winding ups and downs among the thousand waves of the Monferrato hills, steep paths in the “canyons” of the Rocche del Roero and unexpected shores of a sea which disappeared millions of years ago, and yet, still provides fossils and memories.

A journey, as it should be, through one of the most renowned cuisines of the Bel Paese, one of the few that truly succeeds in combining rustic, frugal and cheap dishes with noble wines - red, white and sparkling - which are the genuine ambassadors of Italian oenology worldwide. A cuisine where the White Truffle, the ultimate gift of a perfectly happy nature, also reigns supreme, the magic that delights gourmets all over the world and that is revealed not through a magic wand but thanks to the generosity of the dog that finds it, and thus confirms itself as man’s (and the cook’s) best friend.



## Big Benches

The small idea with giant effects.

Climb aboard and look at the world through the eyes of a child. You feel so small in the presence of such beauty of nature, these are the emotions ready to pervade you once you have climbed up. A circuit of over 100 giant benches, created by the American designer Chris Bangle who is in love with the Langhe region, and that are just waiting to be discovered and experienced.







# Langa of Barbaresco.

A very small area that produces one of the most famous and coveted red wines in the world, marked by an impressive number of wineries, practically all family-run, with a highly fragmented property that has made it possible to enhance the value of each individual vineyard (there are nearly 66, known as *additional geographical mentions*) to make it famous and desirable nowadays.

However, the Langa of Barbaresco is first and foremost a garden straight out of a fairytale: hectares and hectares of neatly combed vines, small truffle groves close to the rocks on the river (the Tanaro: the *limes* of all the Langhe), farmsteads, hamlets and villages perched on the ridges giving true identity to that Cultural Landscape recognised by UNESCO in 2014.

An itinerary needs no great guidance here, because perhaps it might be better to loose yourself in the journey rather than to arrive, and let destiny run free and take you to that ridge, to that farmyard, to that country chapel.



The itinerary starts in **Alba** (see Alba, Urban Itineraries), the “parlor” of the hills, rich in history, culture and typical products to be tasted. Its elegant shops, markets, cafés, pastry shops, towers and many churches, including the Duomo with its 16th-century choir, are a must-see. You climb up the Altavilla hill and enter this magic world through the nearby little valley, whose name is reminiscent of the brave Roman emperor Publius Elvius Pertinace.

You climb up to the Tre Stelle ridge, one of the most iconic views in the whole Langhe, before reaching, in a crescendo of most noble wineries, the village of **Barbaresco**, archetype of any village, with its unique road and the extraordinary Tower overlooking the view and the village. In the tower you will find a multimedia museum, a sensory analysis room and a breathtaking panoramic terrace. Under the tower, hidden in the wild rock, lies the surprising educational truffle ground. It takes ten minutes to walk around the village, but then you would love to stay there for ten days! It is impossible not to stop at the Enoteca Regionale del Barbaresco (Regional Wine Centre), in the small confraternity, where this wine (specifically created - guess what - by an Emilian man: the illustrious professor Domizio Cavazza) actually has its own temple.

From Barbaresco you reach **Neive** (which already peeps out through its medieval old town beyond the hamlet of Montestefano, another indelible postcard), known as the

“village of the squires” for its beautiful houses, noble palaces, the Bottega dei Quattro Vini (Local Wine Shop), the Castle of the Counts of Castelbourg and the Clock Tower, now fully restored and open to the public. Neive deserves to be explored on foot, without haste, while waiting for aperitif time when the town squares are buzzing with life and dinner is happily postponed an hour. The “women and hills” of Romano Levi, the “*grappaio/angelico*” who designed poetry labels, are everywhere: the Casa della Donna Selvatica (Wild Woman’s House Museum) remembers him with a sense of fondness and nostalgia. But Neive is also the town of Dante Giacosa, the designer of the legendary Fiat 500!

From Neive, passing through Coazzolo, you can cross over to Castagnole Lanze (see itinerary Monferrato of Costigliole d’Asti), a village that is practically Neive’s twin, but it is famous for its Barbera wine; or, once you have walked by the Romanesque remains of the bell tower of Santa Maria del Piano, you can enter the valley of Trezzo Tinella (where this stream, the impalpable border between Langa and Monferrato, has its source) and, from here, climb up to Treiso, amidst stone terraces and a hill that already reveals the geography of the Alta Langa (see itinerary Alta Langa of the Belbo).

The ridge leading to **Treiso** is breathtaking: the mountains enclosing the plain, and the hills looking like balconies overlooking the world. The mysterious Rocche dei Sette



Fratelli (Rocks of the Seven Brothers) surrounded by an obscure legend, are the most iconic ravines which suddenly open up on these green waves of vines, and also provides an ideal opportunity to read the geological stratigraphy of a territory which once was a seabed (and this is the real secret of these unique hills). Treiso was often mentioned by Fenoglio in his works, and was also the setting for many shots by Piero Masera, a sensitive photographer, celebrated at the

Venice Biennale in 1978. Today the village is very fashionable thanks to the Bottega del Vino (Local Wine Shop), *à la page* restaurants and centuries-old trattorias.

From Treiso you will go down towards the small hamlet of San Rocco Seno d'Elvio in a bucolic countryside setting, and finally climb the last hill of Madonna di Como and return to **Alba** (see Alba, Urban Itineraries) along a strip of asphalt as winding and hypnotic as a lullaby.





## Top Art and Culture

- Barbaresco – Fenoglio's Places
- Barbaresco - Visconti Tower
- Neive - Clock Tower
- Neive – Casa della Donna Selvatica (Wild Woman's House) Museum
- Trezzo Tinella - Monument to the Woman of Langa

## Top Food and Wine

- Barbaresco - Barbaresco Regional Wine Centre
- Neive – Local Wine Shop Bottega dei Quattro Vini
- Treiso – Local Wine Shop Bottega dei Grandi Vini di Treiso

## Top Nature

- Barbaresco - Didactic Truffle-Ground
- Neive - UNESCO Viewpoint
- Treiso - Rocks of the Seven Brothers

### PLEASE NOTE:

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## From Tower to Tower

All the charm of the towers. Strong and strategic, yet also noble and aristocratic. These are the towers of Langhe Monferrato Roero, a sighting system which nowadays allows you to enjoy a 360° view of landscapes, while imagining the history that has been written in the place you are visiting. Towers in towns as well on the hills, an ideal tour not to be missed, a journey through the centuries that will surprise us.





# Langa of Moscato.

**T**he hills of Moscato, set between the Belbo and Tinella Valleys, dominate the Barbaresco ones and, from their position, they overlook the Monferrato of Asti and the highest Langa, the permanent junction between Alba and Asti.

A superb scenery can be enjoyed here: endless panoramic viewpoints, the quietness of the relaxed and discreet countryside, the contrast between the silence of the woods and the liveliness of the industrious valley floors, and also the value of solitude, which can be regained in just a few steps behind the first vineyard, the starry sky that reminds man of the same questions that have been waiting to be answered for millennia, everything here has already been said and described by one of the most brilliant authors of the 20th century and, sadly enough, at the same time one of the most tormented men of the century. We are obviously referring to Cesare Pavese, who was born in Santo Stefano Belbo in the summer of 1908 and took his life in the summer of 1950, just a few months before his masterpiece “La luna e i falò” (The moon and the bonfires) was published; this is a novel that everyone should read before travelling to these hills.



The centre, or rather '*gateway to the world*', of these hills is **Canelli** (see itinerary Canelli, the "Gateway to the World"), a historic village on the Belbo, home to the Italian sparkling wine invented by Carlo Gancia in 1850. The Underground Cathedrals are a must-see, these cellars are dug into the hills or below the street level, and they can boast the UNESCO World Heritage Site recognition.

From Canelli you climb up to Sant'Antonio, the watershed with Monferrato marked by the beautiful Torre dei Contini (Contini Tower): the difference between the steep hills of the Langa and the gentle hills of the Monferrato is the same as between an ocean wave and a Mediterranean wave. Next, you walk along the ridge that leads to Calosso, as it is one of the most beautiful panoramic roads in the whole area.

**Calosso**, with its scaled-down castle, the Museo Memorie di Futuro (Museum of Future Memories) and its sandstone *croatin* dug out of tuff almost anywhere under the village (you can visit them at the beautiful *Rapulé* Fair in October), is a pretty little village that deserves a stop even if only for the *Crota 'd Caloss*, the local Cantina Comunale (Municipal Wine Cellar), which also boasts Gamba di Pernice (now called Gambarossa), an ancient vine variety at the base of 'Calosso', the last DOC wine to be born in Piedmont. Last but not least, there is the panoramic viewpoint of Bric Crevacuore which is truly stunning.

On the opposite hill you will find **Castiglione Tinella**, with its "Versi in Vigna" (Vines in Lines), some poetic verses written in the rows of vines which

decorate each side of the village and can only be read from afar. In Castiglione, too, you will find the Bottega del Vino (Local Wine Shop), an old town made of stones, tiles and bricks and a beautiful sanctuary full of ex-votos of popular devotion. We have reached a very high altitude, but the ridge that runs to Mango still ascends, like a cable car hanging over all the other vineyard hills.

Just beyond the village's fearsome rock lies the tiny Church of San Carlo, another splendid panoramic viewpoint; then, as you reach Valdivilla, you will see the Memorial to the Partisans of the Langhe Division (i.e. the Autonomous brigade of Mauri, Poli and Fenoglio). Next comes the junction leading to Camo, another beautiful balcony over the Belbo Valley, with its creative Museo a Cielo Aperto (Open-air Museum) and the Bricco dei Quattro Venti (the Four Winds Bric, *nomen omen*). Finally, just beyond the majestic Bricco d'Avene, lies **Mango**, the highest hilltop village, with the Enoteca Regionale (Regional Wine Centre) Colline del Moscato set in the late Renaissance Busca Castle, the memorable Monument to the Dog featuring verses by the local poet Oreste Gallina and the Pinacoteca delle Langhe, where it is possible to admire almost 50 works of Piedmont artists that express in their art the creative spirit of the land from where/which they come from.

From Mango you continue towards **Neviglie**, a pleasant rural village nestled in-between vineyards on the southern side and woods on the north, and whose parish Church of San Giorgio houses an



absolute masterpiece: the last painting by Macrino d'Alba, “Lo sposalizio di Santa Caterina” (The marriage of Santa Caterina). From here you can join the Langa of Barbaresco itinerary (see itinerary Langa of Barbaresco), descending towards Neive. The route continues on to San Donato with its House of Memories of Rural Civilisation and the imposing Bricco Torretta, where the partisans who survived the terrible winter of 1944 rallied in February 1945 to resume the fight.

Next, just like Fenoglio's Partisan Johnny, you descend towards **Cossano Belbo** via the Sanctuary of the Madonna della Rovere. The village, to which the whole Langa acknowledges, if not the paternity, at least the excellence of *tajarin*

(handmade egg pasta that perfectly pairs with white truffles), is located along the Belbo river like the neighbouring villages of Rocchetta and Santo Stefano. However, to get there you have to go up to Scorrone, while following the marvellous right bank of the Belbo that will make you fly over the roof of the world, over the church and to a farm, just like Mary Poppins, yet without needing an umbrella. In Cossano, a special place to visit is the Enomuseo (Wine Museum) Toso, the ideal place to know and preserve all the secrets of the art of winemaking of these hills.

**Santo Stefano Belbo**, with its ancient ruined tower, the soft sandstones of the romanico Abbey of San Gaudenzio, the imposing size of the Confraternity

of Saints Giacomo and Cristoforo, the romantic spires of Moncucco and, above all, with the displays of the “Pavese” Foundation deserves another unhurried visit, maybe with the poems of “Lavorare stanca” (Work is tiring) in your pocket and a thought for Augusto Manzo, the ultimate Pallapugno champion (*balon* in dialect), another illustrious fellow citizen. For those who love the bright colours and the contaminations of contemporary art, not to be missed a visit just outside the village, where a Relais Château is home to a precious treasure, the Open Space San Maurizio 1619: a chapel frescoed by Tremlett, a British artist ‘at home’ in the Langa, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the monastery. A gem in which to immerse yourself through lines, colours

and lighting effects/plays of light. Then, you walk by the Poet’s Birthplace and climb the last hill, known as “Gaminella”, up to the Quassi: if you get there before dusk, the view takes your breath away.

Finally, still on the ridge, you head out to the wooded hermitage of **Loazzolo** (also a tiny DOC wine: a great Moscato Passito) with the WWF Oasis of the Luja (see itinerary Parks of the Monferrato Area) and then to **Cassinasco**, with the first of the many towers of the Langa Astigiana (see itinerary Langa Astigiana from Monastero Bormida) and one of the five Polentoni rural festivals in the Val Bormida. From the Sanctuary of Caffi, through a shady descent amidst branches and dry stone walls, you return to **Canelli**.





# Top Art and Culture

- Calosso - Castle
- Calosso - Museum of Future Memories
- Canelli - Contini Tower
- Cassinasco - Tower of the Ancient Castle
- Mango - Art Gallery of the Langhe
- Mango - Fenoglio's Places
- Mango - House of Memories
- Santo Stefano Belbo - "Cesare Pavese" Foundation and Pavese's Places
- Santo Stefano Belbo - Open Air Museum of Camo
- Santo Stefano Belbo - Open Space San Maurizio 1619 - Wall Drawing by David Tremlett

# Top Food and Wine

- Calosso - Municipal Wine Cellar of the Wines of Calosso
- Canelli - Underground Cathedrals
- Castiglione Tinella - Local Wine Shop of Moscato of Castiglione Tinella
- Cossano Belbo - Wine Shop and Wine Museum Toso
- Mango - Regional Wine Centre Colline del Moscato

# Top Nature

- Castiglione Tinella - “Vines in Lines”
- Loazzolo - WWF Oasis - Bosco della Luja
- Mango - Gnomovia (Path of the Gnomes)
- Santo Stefano Belbo - Hill of Monucco - Pavese's Place

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## Orange Flags

Villages certified by the Italian Touring Club.

A recognition of excellence developed from the grass-roots, thanks to the attention paid to hospitality, sustainability and the environment. A flag that is flying in many Italian municipalities, with an increasing number in the Langhe Monferrato Roero area every year.









# Langa of Barolo.

**T**he most famous hills of the Langhe are a crown decorated with castles and its most precious gem lies in the middle: Barolo. The ancient feud of the Falletti family (wealthy Asti bankers) has in fact preserved its unity and timeless charm. The Castle of the Count of Cavour in **Grinzane Cavour** (extreme outpost of the Alba area in the past) stands out at the entrance to the great Barolo crown. It is a historical monument of national importance along with its Museo delle Langhe (Museum of the Langhe), the first Enoteca Regionale (Regional Wine Centre) of Piedmont (since 1967) and the In Vigna Open Air Museum. It is a place that opens the heart and mind and will take you back in time, when Camillo Benso planned a thousand reforms, right from here, and dreamt of a new state for all Italians.



Next, you go up to an altitude of 500 metres in **Diano d'Alba** to have a complete view of the whole area from above: from the ridge of the panoramic terrace, in fact, you can overlook the town of Alba and all the Barolo hills. A unique Dolcetto wine, which has earned its namesake DOCG label, is produced here and can be tasted in the Cantina Comunale (Municipal Wine Cellar).

We continue to **Montelupo Albese**, where the Lupus in Fabula walk in the centre is worth a visit. The village, with the nearby **Rodello**, chest of sacred art with the Museum "Dedalo Montali", encompasses the capital of the Langhe with its first

hillsides planted with vines (although this is outside the DOCG area) to descend through a steep and almost wild slope to **Sinio**, another beautiful medieval castle village.

Once you have crossed the Talloria stream, you enter again the DOCG area to ascend the upper **Serralunga d'Alba** hill, which seems both unexpected and almost surreal in its timeless charm. A tall medieval fortress in the French style that has guarded and defended these hills since the 14th century overlooks a hamlet with a few houses clustered around its ramparts. The village is intact: you enter on foot through the city gate and walk through it







with wonder and without haste. Serralunga d'Alba is most famous for the longevity of its Barolo: here, each bend, each bric, each vineyard has quite a name and prestige. This is why the road up to Roddino is almost a summation of the blazon of the *"Vino dei Re e Re dei Vini"* (Wine of Kings and Kings of Wines).

The landscape you walk through fully justifies the UNESCO recognition as the small hamlets of Castelletto and Perno di Monforte d'Alba stand out on the other hillside passing through castles, Romanesque churches and tiny villages. Below, in the small valley, you will find the royal estate of Fontanafredda, where King Victor

Emmanuel II used to hide away with Rosa Vercellana, far away from state affairs.

Once you reach **Roddino**, you have to stop and fill your eyes with the view over the whole DOCG area, which now looks completely different from Diano (and it will not be the last time). The small Romanesque Church of Santa Margherita, perched on a hillock towards Cissone, is also worth a visit (see itinerary Langa of Dolcetto).

The route then descends gently towards **Monforte d'Alba**, one of the liveliest villages in the whole Langa of Barolo, with



its old town restored in every detail, the steep alleyways leading up to the top of the *bric* where the former castle, whose beautiful bell tower still remains today, has been replaced by a magnificent open-air auditorium, the summer venue for international jazz sessions which is considered one of the most beautiful open-air stages in Italy. Not to miss also the Museo Civico (Civic Museum) “Colonello Martina” to know the history of the first years of the united Italy. Monforte’s unique charm may lie in the obscure persecution of the poor Câtari in 1028 (the first case of heretics condemned by the Pope to be burned at the stake) or, more likely, in the vibrant night-life scene that enlivens this village like no other thanks to its aperitifs, dinners, cocktails, songs and endless tastings.

From Monforte d’Alba, the Langa of Dolcetto (see itinerary Langa of Dolcetto) appears westwards, while southwards you enter the Alta Langa of the Belbo (see itinerary Alta Langa of the Belbo), whose dark outline is reflected in the snow-white chain of the Alps.

Since we have nearly covered half the circle of the crown, we just have to walk by **Castiglione Falletto**, another turreted village with a mighty private fortress and an efficient Cantina Comunale (Municipal Wine Cellar), cross the famous Bussia hill and finally descend to **Barolo**.

The castle of the patron and philanthropist Marquise Juliette Colbert, last heir of the Falletti dynasty, has medieval features and a Juvarra-style façade with a monumental staircase. It

was here that the Risorgimento martyr Silvio Pellico was housed, and again, it was here that Barolo found its completed form and was named, in accordance with French tradition, after the Falletti fiefdom. This would be enough to show eternal gratitude to the great-granddaughter of the famous Colbert of Mercantilism, but Giulia Falletti of Barolo was also an extraordinary philanthropist (in the odour of sanctity) who dedicated her whole life and her vast fortune to help the poor, the first of a theory of “Social Saints” that would mark Savoy society throughout the 19th century.

Today the castle is home to the futuristic WiMu - Museo del Vino (Wine Museum), while beyond the entrance arch you will also find the fascinating Museo dei Cavatappi (Corkscrew Museum) with unexpected trivia about this essential item that was invented, guess what, in England. The Enoteca Regionale (Regional Wine Centre) del Barolo is another secular temple where you can worship Bacchus, with well-trained and passionate vestals who will help you discover all the nuances of this refined red wine, unique in the world.

The rest of the village of Barolo switches easily from the Middle Ages to the 19th century through its beautiful cellars, many restaurants, wine bars and with a typical all-Savoy detachment from the fame that surrounds it nowadays. It is lovely to wander through the shady streets and steep stairways, going from a wine cellar (there are plenty of them in the village) to a wine shop, from a bar to a restaurant.



The climb that leads up to the top with a few sharp hairpin turns overlooks the Novello - La Morra ridge, another invaluable panoramic viewpoint which can be walked on level ground. You should go to **Novello** first, to discover a pretty village that has remained suspended between the Middle Ages of its forms and the Baroque of its churches to which, finally, Schellino added one of his masterpieces: a neo-Gothic and neo-Romantic castle. There is also a pretty little Bottega del Vino (Local Wine Shop) under the parish church, where one of the native white grape variety of the Langhe is celebrated: Nas-cetta.

Afterwards, you briefly retrace your steps, go through the small hamlet of Vergne and then enjoy a visit under the Bricco del Dente (Tooth Bric), another local attraction. Just below, the famous Cerequio, Sarmassa and Brunate *crus* provide an *overture* to a world of neatly arranged vineyards stretching as far as the eye can see, a sort of green crumpled sheet covering the horizon up to the imposing outline of the Alta Langa, and where the castles look like placeholders added to help orientation.

**La Morra**, the queen of Barolo, features a chequered medieval village sloping towards the famous Piazza del Belvedere (one of the most photographed places in the Langhe) and a lively tourist life. As in Monforte d'Alba, it is best to leave the car and walk through the maze of narrow streets to full enjoy all the details and find your own corner of paradise. The Cantina Comunale (Municipal Wine Cellar) is a must-see unless you are a teetotaler, while the small ham-

lets of Santa Maria and Annunziata, with their ancient monasteries, Romanesque bell towers and historic Museo del Vino (Wine Museum) "Ratti", are ideal for hiking. Also worth a visit is the Cappella del Barolo (Barolo Chapel), the small country church transposed into the colourful American world of Minimal-Art by the well-known artist Sol LeWitt (the interiors are by the Englishman David Tremlett, who will often appear during these itineraries), now one of the Langhe's photographic *griffes*.

From the village you can easily descend to **Cherasco** (see itinerary The "Secret" Treasures of Cherasco), a *villanova* of great history and nobility, or to **Verduno**, almost a twin village of La Morra, but more cosy and intimate. Since the time of King Charles Albert it was chosen as a private residence by the Savoy family (in the hall of the royal castle there is still a mirror with his signature and of all his guests invited to a party in 1833) and retained the typical Piedmontese reluctance. The belvedere is beautiful and romantic, the old town is also lovely and, yet again, it is better to go on foot. Then, there are the spicy scents of roses, violets and pepper of Pelaverga, another rare native grape variety, but this time it is red and aromatic, everything can be tasted in the local Cantina Comunale (Municipal Wine Cellar) Casa Ciabotto. A must-see is the neo-Gothic village of **Pollenzo** below, with its Università di Scienze Gastronomiche (University of Gastronomic Sciences) and the Banca del Vino (Wine Bank).

The small provincial road from Verduno down to Roddi is another of the perfect "landscape routes" to understand the full value of the UNESCO recognition.



The Castle of **Roddi** towers over the village nestled at its feet: it houses an area dedicated to truffles and a kitchen especially set up for gastronomic classes and events.

From Roddi you can already overlook **Grinzane Cavour** on your way back and

possibly pass through Manescotto, the farmhouse where Giacomo Morra was born at the end of the 19th century. He was the last son of very poor sharecroppers before he became, only thanks to his genius, the King of the Truffle and made these hills world famous.



# Top Art and Culture

- Barolo - Castle and WiMu - Wine Museum
- Barolo - Corkscrew Museum
- Barolo - WiLa - Wine Labels Collection
- Grinzane Cavour - Castle, Museum of the Langhe and In Vigna Open Air Museum
- La Morra - Abbey of the Annunziata and “Renato Ratti” Museum of Alba Wines
- La Morra - Bell Tower
- La Morra - Chapel of Santissima Madonna delle Grazie (Chapel of Barolo) by Sol Lewitt and David Tremlett
- La Morra - The Fourth Landscape - The Atelier of the Camouflage by Hilario Isola
- Monforte d’Alba - “Bottari Lattes” Foundation
- Monforte d’Alba - Civic Museum “Colonnello Martina”
- Monforte d’Alba - Horszowski Auditorium
- Monforte d’Alba - Perno Castle
- Montelupo Albese - Open Air Museum *Lupus in Fabula*
- Pollenzo (Bra) - Complex of Carl Albert of Savoy
- Pollenzo (Bra) - Archaeological Site
- Roddi - Castle, Bell Tower and Educational Pathway on the Truffle
- Rodello - Museum of Modern Sacred Art “Dedalo Montali”
- Serralunga d’Alba - Castle





# Top Food and Wine

- Barolo - Barolo Regional Wine Centre
- Castiglione Falletto - Municipal Wine Cellar of Castiglione Falletto
- Diano d'Alba - Municipal Wine Cellar I *Sōri* of Diano d'Alba
- Grinzane Cavour - Cavour Piedmontese Regional Wine Centre
- La Morra - Municipal Wine Cellar of La Morra
- Novello - Local Wine Shop of Novello
- Pollenzo (Bra) - Wine Bank
- Roddi - University for Truffle Dogs
- Verduno - Municipal Wine Cellar of Verduno Pelaverga

# Top Nature

- Grinzane Cavour - Belvedere - UNESCO Viewpoint
- La Morra - Belvedere - UNESCO Viewpoint
- Serralunga d'Alba - The Wood of Thoughts

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## Italy's Most Beautiful Villages

A dive into the most authentic Italy.

An award meant to certify the beauty of a village. Over 70 parameters must be assessed to be part of the club. A journey to be undertaken by the villages themselves, willing to take a different look at their own reality, and offer visitors its charm.





# Langa of Dolcetto.

**D**ogliani, which has always been at the centre of the small Rea valley with its jagged hills on the sides, the woods of the Bossola Pass (see itinerary Alta Langa of the Belbo) in the background and the Tanaro river ahead, lives in a world of its own.

This surprising and unexpected area is both rural and generous: alongside hectares of combed rows of vines marked by countless country churches there are truffle gorges and ridges which climb up towards the Alta Langa of the Tanaro (see itinerary Alta Langa of the Tanaro), where the Dolcetto wines are usually more fragrant and lighter than those nearby Monforte d'Alba, which are more full-bodied and structured.



Dolcetto, an intimately Langhe grape variety and wine, is lightly aromatic, with low acidity and tannins, and can be paired gently with the endless theory of traditional hors d'oeuvres, with which it really gets on very well. You can taste it at the Bottega del Vino (Wine Shop) in downtown Dogliani. The landscape is ever-changing and fascinating, to the extent that President Einaudi was eager to hide here, far away from the affairs of state, to tend his vineyards with painstaking care and love.

**Dogliani** is divided into two areas: Borgo on the left bank of the river and Castello, the upper area, perched on a panoramic hillock. Both villages are quite ancient and they preserve history, culture and some hidden treasures like the legacy of Schellino, the “Gaudi of the Langhe”. The village is encircled by a beautiful series of smaller hamlets which revolve like moons around the planet.

Next we head towards **Monchiero**, whose upper village, with its monastery and a few houses nearby, is a masterpiece of romanticism that also spellbound the great painter Eso Peluzzi (today there are still a house-museum, a tomb and a permanent exhibition).

A detour should definitely be made to the archaeological site of *Augusta Bagiennorum*, a Roman city set between the current **Bene Vagienna** and **Narzole**, where the evocative theatre is still in use during the summer festival, whereas

much of the village is yet to be discovered. Roman vestiges and an old town with plenty of palaces and churches make Bene Vagienna a lovely place to wander around and savour the atmosphere of a village with vineyards in the background and the plain just ahead.

From Monchiero it is up to go up to **Monforte d'Alba** (see itinerary Langa of Barolo) and explore the hamlets of San Sebastiano, San Giacomo, Santa Lucia and San Luigi, along a maze of ridge routes and farmsteads where it is quite funny to lose your way and find a new one which is just as beautiful: it is one of the less visited and more fascinating wine landscapes in the whole Langa. The best ridge is perhaps the one that, starting from Sant'Anna di Monforte d'Alba and passing through Rinaldi, continues through San Bartolomeo and San Fereolo (a delightful little panoramic church) to San Luigi, and then goes back to the village.

From Monforte d'Alba we climb up to the tiny village of **Cisone** (the birthplace of one of Piedmont's greatest cabinet-makers, Luigi Prinotto) walking past the beautiful cemetery Church of the Nativity (15th-century fresco) to get to **Serravalle Langhe** (see itinerary Alta Langa of the Belbo), where you should visit the Oratorio di San Michele with Tremlett's modern contaminations set next to 15th-century frescoes. Our trail continues as a sort of roller coaster always on the ridge in-between forgotten hamlets (such as



the surreal Paradiso hamlet), solitary little churches (San Lorenzo, Madonna della Neve, San Martino) and fairytale views.

And so we reach **Somano**, another timeless village surrounded by woods, then we get to **Bossolasco** (see itinerary Alta Langa of the Belbo), and finally we reach the isolated hermitage of **Bonvicino**.

The steep Lovera path climbs up to the hamlet and then, from here, it climbs up more gently to **Murazzano** (see itinerary Alta Langa of the Tanaro), *“shield and key of Piedmont”*, walking past the only

windmill in the Langhe and then going down along the ridge to **Belvedere Langhe** where, on the second Sunday after Easter, one of the most beautiful sacred celebrations in the Langa takes place: the Festa dei *Micun*. Last but not least, we should stop at the tiny Church of San Colombano (in the hamlet of Casale) which preserves some surprising 16th-century frescoes.

From Belvedere Langhe, just like the merchants of yesteryear who had many different routes to choose from, we descend and go back to **Dogliani**.

## The Romantic Road of Langhe and Roero

There is no need to be in love to take it, because you will fall in love with the landscape as you walk along it. From the Roero to the Alta Langa, passing through the Langa of Barbaresco and that of Barolo: an ideal 11-stage route through the most suggestive places and atmospheres of Langhe Monferrato Roero.





# Top Art and Culture

- Bene Vagienna - *Augusta Bagiennorum* Archaeological Site
- Bene Vagienna - Casa Ravera: Museum of the Territory
- Bene Vagienna - Palazzo Rorà: MAB - Archaeological Museum
- Bossolasco - The Angel of Alta Langa
- Monchiero - House Museum “Eso Peluzzi”
- Monforte d’Alba - “Bottari Lattes” Foundation
- Monforte d’Alba - Civic Museum “Colonnello Martina”
- Monforte d’Alba - Horszowski Auditorium
- Murazzano - Fenoglio’s Places
- Murazzano - Medieval Tower
- Serravalle Langhe - Facade of Palazzo Boeri by David Tremlett
- Serravalle Langhe - Per le Langhe (Former Oratory of San Michele) - Wall Drawing by David Tremlett

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The opening times of the sites listed in this itinerary may be subject to change. Keep updated and please check [www.visitlrm.it](http://www.visitlrm.it)

## Did you know app..bout this?

Did you know about the app that allows you to visit chapels and churches that are normally closed? One more way to access unexpected beauty in the palm of your hand. And on your mobile.





## Unexpected treasures

## The Churches of Langa Medievale

**Monforte d'Alba (frazione Perno)** - Chapel of Santo Stefano

**Neive** - Priorate of Santa Maria del Piano

**Roddino** - Church of Santa Margherita Vecchia

**Serravalle Langhe** - Chapel of San Michele Arcangelo

**[www.langamedievale.it](http://www.langamedievale.it)**

## **Langhe Monferrato Roero Tourist Board**

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Piazza Risorgimento, 2 - 12051 Alba (CN)

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### **Bra Tourist Office**

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Download here the itineraries of the Langa of Wine



Download here the itineraries of Langhe Monferrato Roero



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**LANGHE MONFERRATO ROERO**

The Home of BuonVivere

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