

VIP Tours of Italy

September October



CONNECTITALIA



<https://www.connectitalia-nz.com>



Come with us!

info@connectitalia-nz.com

ABOUT CONNECTITALIA-NZ LTD

Our company's mission is to promote greater liaison between Italy and New Zealand, reflecting the different but complementary backgrounds of the company's two directors, Beniamino Petrosino and Anne Scragg. Our principal focus is planning and escorting exclusive small group tours in Italy offering a cultural experience with a difference. Our tours are most definitely not of the whistle-stop "Today is Tuesday so it must be Belgium" kind. We pride ourselves in providing you with the time and comfort to really enjoy what you are seeing and doing and you will never feel rushed. Our tours start and finish in Italy so you are most welcome to join us from anywhere in the world. Whether you are travelling on your own or with others, you can expect individual care and attention from two escorts who are willing to go the extra mile to ensure you have an unforgettable time. We also encourage travellers wanting to visit New Zealand from overseas to contact us and we will be very happy to provide you with a New Zealand tour package tailored to meet your particular needs and interests. We use accredited tour operators to ensure our tours are trouble free and we insist on the highest standards of customer service in all situations throughout our tours. Your comfort and security are of paramount importance to us. Whether you are planning a trip to Italy or a trip to New Zealand with us, it will be our pleasure to look after you throughout your tour. We are confident you will enjoy a unique cultural experience and a lot of fun along the way.

OUR AMBASSADORS

Richard Scragg



"In 2017 and 2019 I travelled with Connectitalia-NZ throughout the north and south of Italy and had an absolutely marvellous time. Every day produced a new highlight.

If you want to enjoy the Italy the Italians know, Connectitalia-NZ has the tours for you. Your principal tour escort Beniamino comes from the Mezzogiorno and you will be immersed in Italian culture in all its varied aspects.

You will stay in carefully chosen first class accommodation in out of the way places and travel in a comfortable private vehicle with your own driver. You will see some amazing historical sites and stunning countryside. As you enjoy local food and wine, you will learn the fascinating history of what you are eating and drinking. I am proud to promote Connectitalia-NZ. tours, which offer visitors to Italy the experience of a lifetime."

Richard Scragg is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Auckland. He began his working life as a practising barrister and solicitor, joined the Institute of Professional Legal Studies as a Senior Instructor and then embarked on an academic career at the University of Canterbury where he became Dean and Head of Law before joining the University of Auckland.

Robert Watson



"Following a brief career in the law I travelled and worked in Europe spending time in northern Italy where I taught and visited some of its great gardens. On my return to NZ I studied landscape architecture as a post graduate student at Lincoln University.

This course included the history of Italian gardens for which I have a passion. I have since then returned to Italy on several occasions and visited more of its gardens for the sheer pleasure of being there and to better understand their place in the history of garden design.

I am delighted to be an ambassador for Connectitalia-NZ's wonderful tours and an escort on its stunning Garden tours. I hope you will join us!"

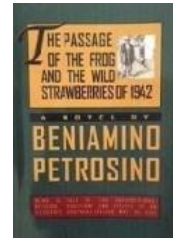
Robert Watson is a landscape architect based in Christchurch and he has been involved in a wide variety of major projects around New Zealand over the last 35 years. He is a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Landscape Architects and an Assessor for the NZ Gardens Trust. Robert's work has won numerous prizes including a Gold award at the 2009 Ellerslie Flower Show for a garden he designed for the Canterbury Horticultural Society. Another of Robert's projects is the renowned Broadfields Garden, a NZ Garden Trust Garden of International Significance, for which he was a finalist in 2015 NZILA Awards.

VACANZE ITALIANE – Come with us!

Beniamino Petrosino



I am the founder of CONNECTITALIA-NZ. I came from Italy to live in New Zealand in the 1980's and have worked as a chef, restaurateur and consultant in the hospitality industry in New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia and the United States of America. I have taught Italian in schools and privately and also English to refugees. In 2003, Hazard Press published my novel "The Passage of the Frog and the Wild Strawberries of 1942" set in the Mezzogiorno regions of Italy where I grew up and it would give me great pleasure to introduce you to this magical land and its people.



In late 2015 I met Anne Scragg when she became one of my Italian language students. In 2016 we ran a successful cultural programme in Christchurch showcasing many special Italian foods and wines and introducing our guests to delightful Italian locations off the beaten track. Now Anne and I take our guests to see the enchanting places we have talked about and ensure they have a cultural experience like no other. Our future plan is to secure a home in Italy so you will even be able to put down your luggage and forget about it!

Anne Scragg



I initially trained as a lawyer and worked in private practice for some years. I had a few years off work while my family was young and then returned to work as an adjudicator and mediator. Over time I became involved in designing and establishing specialist dispute resolution schemes in the public and private sectors. In 2015, I retired from a senior management role with the intention of doing something entirely different. One day my husband came in from the letterbox with one of Beniamino's business cards and I thought Italian language lessons might be just what I needed!

I have been to Italy several times and have loved every visit. I am confident I know what non-Italians need and want when travelling and I want to share my passion for Italy with others. I also want to show our guests from other countries the treasures that my homeland, New Zealand, has to offer and would be delighted to work with you to plan your trip through the land of the Lord of the Rings.

Exclusive Tours of Italy

"Over the last few years we have got together to bring people a genuine glimpse into Italian culture and customs. Now our intent is to take you there for an experience unlike any other."

For any queries email
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DOPO LA VENDEMMIA after the grape harvest with Beniamino and Anne



Dopo la Vendemmia-12 days (11 nights)

NZ\$ Price TBA (single supplement may apply)

On this tour, you will:

- Gain real insight into Italian life and customs
- Feel free to do what you want to do while being appropriately looked after
- Enjoy very high-quality accommodation in stunning surroundings. No boring high rises for us!
- Not be getting up every day at 7am and moving on to your next stop
- Have the opportunity to learn lots of Italian from Beniamino and put your learning into practice
- Explore regions of Italy renowned for their gastronomic products and their wine-producing tradition
- Sample some outstanding local wines where they are produced
- Learn about the regional cuisine from an experienced Italian restaurateur and enjoy local delicacies.
- Spend time in medieval towns and villages soaking up centuries of history
- Visit Mercato di Mezzo, the oldest and the most fascinating market of Bologna
- Not have absolutely everything mapped out for you – there will be surprises along the way that you will want to tell all your friends about when you get home and MOST IMPORTANTLY you will have fun!



Tour outline

Start date: TBA

End date: TBA

Note: The tour package is a land package only. Flights to suit your individual needs can be arranged for you or you can make your own flight arrangements if you prefer.



TRAVELLING THROUGH THE REGIONS OF: EMONTE – EMILIA ROMAGNA – TOSCANA

The tour group will be picked up in Milan and transferred to the historic centre of Turin (Torino) for two nights. This gracious city is home to some beautiful architecture including five splendid royal places such as La Venaria, which is one of the top 5 most visited cultural sites in Italy. There are also some world-renowned museums in Turin, such as the world-famous Egyptian Museum, the National Car Museum, and the National Museum of Cinema housed in the landmark tower known as Mole Antonelliana.



After a day exploring the sights with an expert local guide, we will have the opportunity in the evening to visit some of Turin's elegant historic cafes and restaurants to sample outstanding cuisine and local wines. Turin is a magical place after sunset with its golden lit squares and illuminated palaces.

When we leave Turin, we will be transferred to a charming setting deep in the heart of the Monferrato district where the party will stay for two nights. This is a hilly region of Piedmont renowned for its gastronomic products and great wine-producing tradition. We will explore the surrounding area and sample some of the most famous wines from this area such as Barolo and Barbaresco.



We'll visit Alba, which is considered the capital of the UNESCO Human Heritage hilly area of Langhe, famous for its white truffle, peach and wine production. White truffle fairs are held regularly here in Autumn. We may want to take a side trip to the small city of Cuneo to try 'Cuneesi al rhum,' the scrumptious chocolates with a unique rum-based filling.

When we leave Piedmont we will travel to Bologna, the capital of Emilia Romagna and our base for the next 2 nights. Our accommodation in Bologna will be in a beautiful hotel right in the historical centre of the city within close walking distance of all the main sights.



Bologna is known as “la dotta” (the learned one), “la grassa” (the fat one because of its renown as the food capital of Italy) and “la rossa” (the red one – originally because of the red roofs but more recently because of its association with socialism and communism). Bologna is home to the oldest university in the world, founded in 425AD and it has a colourful social and political history. The food markets are legendary and a must see.



When we leave Bologna, we will drive south into the rolling hills of northern Tuscany. We will visit the hamlet of Anchiano in the commune of Vinci, where Italy’s finest artist and polymath Leonardo da Vinci was born. As we look around his birthplace, we can only hope we will absorb some of his genius!



We will then travel further south through vineyards and olive groves, where medieval villages are dotted around the hills in every direction. Our charming accommodation for the night is situated in the Chianti region.

We will visit Greve which has an enchanting triangular main piazza, where a market has been running more or less continuously for centuries serving the nearby castle communities and hamlets. The Chianti Classico wine producing area guarantees we will enjoy more than one glass of excellent wine tonight.





The next morning, we will set off for the picturesque walled hill town San Gimignano with its 14 towers. There were 72 at one time as building a tower higher than one's neighbours was a popular way for the town's prominent families to demonstrate their wealth and power. Film buffs will recognize San Gimignano from Zeffirelli's film "Tea with Mussolini." After a leisurely look around, we will move on to our destination for the next two nights, the medieval city of Siena.



Siena is a truly gorgeous city. We will unfortunately miss the famous wild horse race *il Palio*, which is held in the stunning Piazza del Campo every July and August but we are still likely to see young men parading in historical costume



Piazza del Campo

and carrying their local district banners. A local guide will accompany us as we visit the Palazzo



Publico, the Torre del Mangia in the famous square and the nearby Duomo with its incredibly ornate interior and exquisite Piccolomini Library. Naturally we will also have time to bask in the Tuscan sun soaking up the special atmosphere of Piazza del Campo.



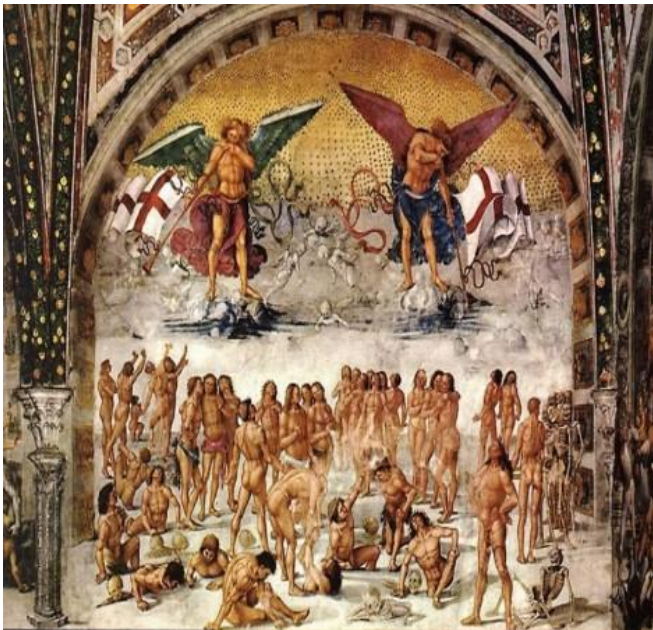
Our last two nights in Tuscany will be spent in an idyllic location in southern Tuscany. We are not giving the precise location away just yet, but you can be sure it will be right where Chianti Classico, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano and Rosso and Brunello di Montalcino are produced. Here we will visit prestigious wine estates and sample the local wines with the locals in enoteche lining the medieval streets of attractive hill towns.

One is the village of Montalcino with its dramatic fortress dominating the town's skyline and labyrinth of cobbled streets; another is Montepulciano, which boasts magnificent views of the Val d'Orcia and Val di Chiana valleys. Montepulciano, which is the home of Vino Nobile, is full of elegant Renaissance palaces, ancient churches, charming squares and plenty of hidden corners.





It is going to be difficult to leave this gastronomic paradise but on our last day we must depart for Rome, the end of the tour. On the way, however, we will break the journey at Orvieto, a small city perched on a rock cliff in Umbria. The glittering façade of the Duomo is a clue to the significance of the city and its wine in papal history. Viticulture was introduced to the Orvieto region by the early Etruscans who carved out cellar-like caves from volcanic soil, which allowed long, cool fermentation and produced the sweet wine popular in the ancient world. Today's Orvieto wine is less sweet but just as highly prized among wine connoisseurs.



We cannot imagine a better place for our last stop!



We will then take you to a central point in Rome or Rome International Airport depending on your onward travel plans.



Tour exclusions

- Meals and beverages other than those included
- City taxes, room service meals and mini bar refreshments
- Telephone/internet charges
- Porterage
- Gratuities
- Individual sightseeing not undertaken as part of the tour
- Expenses incurred on sightseeing trips other than transport costs
- WE DO NOT ARRANGE TRAVEL INSURANCE. COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



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