



## Italian Weddings –

# Getting Married in Italy – in Piemonte

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## Wedding Options

Piemonte offers hundreds of historic halls in every country town and city exceptionally well suited for the most romantic of events. Religious rites can be celebrated in magnificent Protestant and Catholic churches or Jewish Synagogues where the celebration will be held in accordance with all civil and religious requirements;. **Orientarsi can arrange for you to be united with both a civil and religious rite in the same ceremony**; this applies to Protestant, Catholic or Jewish weddings.

**There is no residency requirement to marry in Piemonte.** This allows foreigners to tie the knot and honeymoon in any location without bureaucratic delays. In some cases you can arrive and marry within two days.

### How is it done and how long does it take?

Your wedding will be planned in every detail with your own personal coordinator who will update you on progress faithfully and regularly.

Most of the paperwork is prepared in your country of origin and filed prior to arrival. Depending on citizenship you may need to complete some final paperwork. This takes half a day at most and a coordinator/interpreter will be there to help you with any legalities.



**A civil service performed in Piemonte is legally recognized throughout the world.** The certificate you are given is multi-lingual and valid internationally and can be issued in several different copies. All that you must do is register it in your home country, in which case the marriage laws applicable in that home state will apply.

Matrimony in a Catholic church can be either a religious blessing (where the couple arrives already legally bound) or a priest can perform both a catholic and a civil ceremony simultaneously.

For couples wanting to skip all paperwork altogether there is the option of a romantic symbolic ceremony with all the trimmings. A symbolic ceremony follows traditional lines but will not hold any religious or civil status. Holding no restrictions allows you to have it just about anywhere except an official civil hall or church. Many couples opt for this solution as it grants them complete freedom to celebrate both ceremony and reception in their location of choice.



We can arrange for a civilly binding **Protestant destination weddings** or a **religious blessing**. If you opt for a civilly binding religious ceremony we

will have a pastor authorized by the Italian State to celebrate in the villa or palace or location of choice.

**Orientarsi** plans unforgettable wedding receptions from 2 to 500 either in one of the famous historical restaurants, or inside superb castles, villas and palazzos. For couples eloping, a special champagne dinner with small cake **is** made available.

## **Piemonte/ Italy Honeymoons**

While planning your romantic event we can also make special travel arrangements for **custom designed Piemonte/Italian honeymoon** or organize wine, culinary or cultural tours for your guests as well as many other unique tailored services.

Flawless planning and attention to detail are our trademark and pleasing couples on the most important day of their life is our company goal.

Our references and testimonials testify to our success in coordinating weddings in Italy.

## **Wedding and Honeymoon Packages**



Our wedding and honeymoon packages are just a sample of the possibilities. Most couples require custom designed wedding package or specially designed honeymoons. This is what **Orientarsi** is known for. A basic wedding package will include key services such as photo, flowers and all legal assistance and booking of your wedding hall or church.

For couples wanting more elaborate arrangements we offer luxury, VIP and celebrity packages. These are more elaborate and include additional services such as luxury car transportation, champagne luncheons and music. Whatever

your budget, there is sure to be a wedding package for you; just ask our wedding planner for proposals and ideas.

Honeymoons are also our specialty, we will design an itinerary that fits into your schedule and take care of hotel arrangements, train tickets, private guides and very unique perks such as chauffeur driven wine tours and romantic candlelight dinners in top restaurants.

## Honeymoons

Where can you book a romantic balloon ride over the Tuscan hills at sunset for your bride ending with a wonderful picnic of local delicacies and wonderful Chianti wine?

How can you plan a private cruise with cocktails and snacks on board through inlets and coves on the Italian Riviera? Who will offer the possibility of a one on one cooking course in a palace taught by a Countess in Venice?

If you want to step out of the ordinary, run of the mill honeymoon or custom tour, come to us. Our specialists will put together some initial ideas with complete itinerary based on the requests you forward and work with you until we have the honeymoon of your dreams planned. Our final hard copy itinerary is printed just for you and is a mini guide book packed with details on the best restaurants or informal family run trattorias to the secret ice-cream stops known only by locals. In short, you will have an insider's view of the places you are visiting because our specialists has been where they are sending you!



Your personal trip coordinator will guide you every step of your journey furnishing you with helpful hints on tipping cab drivers, the best shopping and even reserve tickets to the top museums so you don't waste time in line. Several weeks prior to departure you will receive an express mail package containing hotel vouchers, train tickets, hotel brochures, hard copy itinerary and much more.

We custom design romantic honeymoon packages to be scheduled after your wedding - and have done this since our inception. Some couples come to us only to have their honeymoon planned and organized by us.

Every year many couples come back to us again saying they want us to design something completely new, different and exciting - nothing like what they did the year before and each year we satisfy them with the desire of their hearts.

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## Destination Weddings in Piedmont

A prosperous and inviting region in Italy's north, Piedmont is a lovely place to get married. The vestiges of many centuries of Savoy rule still linger, particularly in the distinctive architecture favored by these dukes and kings. Today, Piedmont is clearly a region with a very real sense of its heritage.

The legendary city of Turin enjoys its present-day wealth due to it being the center of the Fiat car empire. Its prestigious past is evident in the breathtaking Baroque city center, which is filled with ornate palaces, churches and museums to discover. Turin's museums are highly recommended, containing paintings from northern Europe and antiquities from Egypt.



Saluzzo, some 40 miles south of Turin, is another highlight of Piedmont. Its lovely streets, lined with Medieval and Renaissance period buildings, are a delight to explore. Saluzzo's castle, Gothic church and sumptuous 15th century Gothic palace are all must-sees, as is the historic Castello di Manta, just 5 minutes outside the town.

Saluzzo is a good base from which to discover the Po, Varaita and Maria valleys. Piedmont's landscapes vary greatly, from the flat paddy fields of the east to the dramatic mountains in the north.

Tucked away amongst the hills and valleys are picturesque villages, ski resorts, sanctuaries and many other unexpected features such as the fortified abbey in the Susa valley and the hot spa on the outskirts of Asti.

One of the many pretty towns in Piedmont is Alba, surrounded by gentle hills. Alba is a center of gastronomic delights, specializing in fine red wine and delicate white truffles.

**All in all, a wedding in Piedmont is undoubtedly the most romantic way to discover this lovely region of Italy.**

## **Destination Weddings in Alba**

Located in the valley of the Tanaro River, Alba graces the heart of the Langhe area with its celebrated wines and white truffles. Known as the city of 100 towers, this town is an ideal spot for leisure, wine tasting, and epicurean delights. Adorned with castles along its landscapes and hilltops, Alba is the principal area for superb food and wine in the Piedmont region of Italy, thanks in part to the rich hills of the Langhe. This is where visitors can experience the famous truffle festivals that boasts Alba's gourmand delights: pigeon roast, quail risotto and a variety of delectable semi-freddo desserts. Guests are encouraged to indulge in Piemonte's only authentic 'pasta asciutta,' found here in Alba.



Alba's population is just under 30,000 and its charm is evident in the family-run wineries that lace the town and produce some of the finest wines of the region. This territory has transformed a number of poor farmers into world-renowned winemakers because of their superior winemaking expertise. The historical center is located within the Roman walls, and a collection of churches and medieval structures plainly line the Tanaro and Cherasca rivers.

Be aware that a number of towns in the lower Langhe make use of 'Alba' in their names, such as Monforte d'Alba, Canale d'Alba, Serralunga d'Alba and Diano d'Alba, which was always in competition with Alba for rule of the River Tanaro.

Food and wine lovers will relish in all that Alba has to offer. With its rich history and culinary delights, this region promises to deliver an enchanted Italian experience.

## Destination Weddings in Alessandria

A city named in honor of the Pope who found her in the year 1175, Alessandria lies within the placid hills found in Northern West Italy. This picturesque town of 82,200 residents is covered with the vineyards and olive groves that have birthed the wines and olive oils for which the area is famous.

Lovers of the uncomplicated country life will consider Alessandria to be a prime spot for a lovely wedding, as the warmth and hospitality that fill the region serve to enhance any celebration. Alessandria offers fascinating sights for those interested in the arts, nature, food and wine.



Alessandria is found in the Piedmont (Piemonte) region, surrounded by the Alps and varied landscapes. **Lake Maggiore** and **Lake Orta** frame the area and beautiful villas and gardens can be found throughout. The mountains offer great skiing in the winter, and the landscape is spectacular year-round.

The descent from Piedmont is filled with mountainous landscapes, a number of grand castles and churches, and a collection of scenic vineyards. The region

is divided into the provinces of Alessandria, Asti, Cuneo, Novara, Turin, and Vercelli.

The province of Alessandria is filled with hills, lakes, mountains and plenty of fresh air. The town is famous for its city walls, which is why the city was referred to as “Alessandria of straw” for a period of time. But the pride of the city is the truffle, an underground fungus cultivated in silicon-rich soil. This delicacy must be grown near special trees, which are abundant in Alessandria, that enable its precise growth.

The surroundings offer a peaceful setting for a pictorial marriage ceremony. Visitors and guests will be fascinated by Alessandria’s charm as they take in its rich history and enjoyable epicurean offerings.

## Destination Weddings in Asti

An ancient village on a hilltop between the Tanaro river and the Borbore stream, lies a picturesque wedding site offering features all its own. Asti, almost completely hilly and green, serves as a striking venue for ceremony and celebration. With a variety of food festivals, fairs and massive street markets, the province offers a traditional Italian spirit within a quaint setting.

The region of Asti, located south-east of Torino, contains only one big town that bears its same name, and includes 119 communes, half of which do not exceed five-hundred inhabitants. The entire province commemorates its Patron Saint, ‘Secondo,’ with parties and parades where participants flaunt medieval costumes

and traditional rituals. The Carolingia Fair, a huge street market that takes place in the suburbs of the ex-Piazza d'Armi, features more than one thousand merchant spaces. Vendors throughout the whole of Italy attend the event to sell their goods and exhibit local handicrafts, agricultural products and epicurean delights.



One of the more notable revelries is The “Festival delle Sagre,” when 44 villages within the Province unite to form what has come to be known as “the biggest restaurant in Italy”. Each village serves the unique specialties that are distinctive to their locale.

Asti boasts numerous noteworthy monuments such as The Collegiata of San Secondo, the main Cathedral, a variety of medieval towers and houses, The Baptistry of San Pietro and many more. On Sunday mornings, a grand parade marches through the center of town, reviving characters and customs of old country life.

With such fanfare, an appreciation of rich history and spectacular surroundings, Asti makes for an outstanding location choice for a distinguished

marriage ceremony.

## **Destination Weddings in Bra**

A small town located in the hills south of Piedmont in Northern Italy, the city of Bra has a modest population of 28,400 residents. With its aged houses and narrow paved streets, Bra offers a distinct sense of the olden days. There is much to be said about a town that is made up of mostly peasant families who are happy with a simple lifestyle, void of advancing technology and rapid time schedules.

The historical structures in Bra maintain their original appeal. The people here like to keep things the way they have always been. Even the local foods have remained the same over the past several decades. Consequently, the town lags in the progress and industry enjoyed by neighbouring cities in the region.

Since the pastures in Bra are well suited for sheep and goat farming, cheeses of tremendously high quality are produced here. “Murazzano” and “Tuma delle Langhe” are two of the more notable cheese products that flaunt strong, yet wonderful flavours. Italy's Piemonte region, in which Bra is located, is renowned for its fine wine and cheese. Hence, the town has hosted an annual dairy festival since 1997, which is held over the third weekend of September, every other year. One of the more cherished affairs in Bra, this festival is valued by those who appreciate fine wine and unique gastronomic experiences.



The festivals that take place in Bra also boast an array of historical tributes. Shepherds can be seen with their sheep as they peddle their hand-made cheeses and remote goods. The 'transumanza', which is the ritual transfer of sheep as the

seasons change, was at one point a common occurrence; this commemoration affirms the significance of pastoral life for the ancient Italians.

Couples who appreciate the simple life will treasure Bra as a perfect site for a wedding; far removed from the hustle and bustle of the contemporary world. A marriage ceremony that takes place amid a backdrop of history and authentic, local food, will offer a memorable experience that lasts a lifetime.

## **Destination Weddings in Cuneo**

A city constructed about 800 years ago, Cuneo was built on a piece of land shaped in the form of a "wedge," for which the town is named. Walls, towers, and an abundance of historic monuments secure this medieval village with a population of more than 52,000. Baroque churches are prominent throughout the town and the historic center consists of ancient houses and palaces. The 16th Century Town Hall has been recently restored and is a definite tourist attraction. Eight kilometers of covered walkways provide needed shade from the hot summer sun and lend a distinctive character to the area.



Six valleys extend from Cuneo: The Pesio Vally, which is characterized by lavish vegetation, offers great opportunities for long was and rock-climbing. The Vermenagna Valley, which leads up to the Colle di Tenda is a lush and historic connection to France. The Gesso Valley leads to the base of the highest peaks of the Maritime Alps, and is well known for the Valdieri thermal baths. These have been used since Roman times, providing 32 hyper-thermal springs that release therapeutic sulfurous mineral waters, and aid in the treatment of dermatological and rheumatoid issues. The Stura Valley, the longest of the Cuneo valleys, has been dedicated each December since the 1500's to the snail. This valley is ideal for mountain biking as well as cross-country and alpine skiing. The Grana Valley is famous for its cuisine and its Castelmagno cheese. The Maira Valley, is best known for its rural chapels and alpine villages.

The historic town of Cuneo in the Piedmont region is an ideal location for a quaint, old-world wedding. With its historical structures and striking landscape, Cuneo promises to be an extraordinary setting for an unforgettable marriage ceremony.

## **Destination Weddings in Lake Maggiore**

Lake Maggiore's western shore is in Piedmont, its eastern shore is in Lombardy and to the north it enters Switzerland. Surrounded by soaring mountains, lush forests and ancient palaces, Lake Maggiore is the most famous and dramatic of all the Italian Lakes. The climate is mild every season, and is conducive to the flourishing of Mediterranean and exotic plants. Lake Maggiore is based in a tropical setting, with an Alpine, mountainous backdrop. The Lake is 30 miles long

and 3 miles wide. The western shore is where most of the prominent resorts are located, particularly Stresa, a tourist town that was one of the sites for Hemingway's A Farewell to Arms. The western shore is bustling with activity and offers more options for leisure and recreational activities.

The eastern shore is clearly more subdued, but just as unique and enjoyable. Boats to the Isole Borromee depart every 15-30 minutes from the dock at Stresa's Piazza Marconi.



Lake Maggiore's Borromean islands are named after the Borromeos, a family of wealth and nobility who over many years developed the islands as a special resort. The islands are filled with lemon groves, palm trees and other subtropical plants that climb around the collection of luxurious villas. The area has grottos, Baroque palaces, and spectacular gardens. Isola Bella, which was once nothing more than a rocky island in Lake Maggiore, is now entirely occupied by a lavish 16-

century Borromeo villa, which contains some of the most beautiful gardens in the world.

Because of its resort surroundings and its stately landscape, Lake Maggiore is a grand choice for a destination wedding. Offering a perfect example of traditional beauty, the area provides utmost conditions for a dazzling marriage ceremony.

## Destination Weddings in Orta

Small but perfectly formed, Lago d'Orta is one of the prettiest sub-alpine lakes in northern Italy and a lovely place to celebrate a wedding in Italy.

Its mystical island, Isola San Giulio, and the small town on its eastern shore, Orta San Giulio, are both named after the priest San Giulio. He arrived in 390 AD and is said to have scared away a huge serpent which ruled the aforementioned island. After this, he constructed a church there. Following great damage in the 10th century, the basilica was rebuilt and now also features an imposing 12th century tower. Inside you will find centuries-old frescoes and a dramatic black marble pulpit carved with intriguing sculptures.

The legends connected to the priest and the serpent are still strongly felt here. Also on this tiny island-village are several elegant villas and an imposing white seminary, built in the 19th century on the site of an ancient castle. Regular boats will take you over to Isola San Giulio from the lake's shore, and it is a charming place to visit.



The picturesque town of Orta San Giulio is a maze of narrow cobbled streets, lined with pastel colored houses and opulent palaces. Two piazzas open onto the lake and offer a superb view of the island. You can spend as long as you like

relaxing in one of the many pavement cafés here and soaking up the atmosphere. The diminutive town hall, decorated with frescoes, also faces onto the two squares.

After finishing your coffee, you may like to take a stroll along the romantic lakeside promenade Via Giovanetti, followed by a delicious meal in one of Orta's many excellent restaurants.

Get married in Orta and you will have verdant pine forests and the deep blue waters of the lake as your backdrop. Orta, its island and its quiet lakeside town have been seducing visitors for centuries, and for good reason - your wedding in Orta will be an unforgettable experience

## **Destination Weddings in Turin**

Turin, considered a "city of magic," and sometimes referred to as the Italian Paris, is filled with tree-lined streets and stately town homes. With a perfect marriage between natural and architectural beauty, Turin has much to offer its visitors. It is home to over 40 museums, such as the Egyptian Museum, which contains some 30,000 pieces of ancient artefacts of Cairo, Egypt. The city's National Museum of Cinema presents film history in a location surrounded with spectacular views. Turin was Italy's first capital between 1861 and 1864, and the Museum of the Risorgimento outlines the history of the Italian unification. Via Roma in uptown Turin is the main shopping street in the area and connects the city's famous square, the Piazza San Carlo, with the Museum of Ancient Art, known as the Palazzo Madama.



The Shroud of Turin, the ancient linen sheet in which the body of Christ is said to have been wrapped, can be viewed in the 15th-century marble Cathedral. Although the sheet is rarely exhibited, the chest where it is stored is on display. The Holy Grail is also thought to be buried in Turin.

One of the more unusual activities unique to Turin is that the Fiat Corporation is located there, and the company offers guided tours of their headquarters. There is a full-scale test track on the roof, and the auto museum, the Museo sketches the history of the car.

With the recent attention given during the Winter Olympic Games of 2006, Turin (Torino in Italian) gained much notoriety, and its beauty was flaunted for the world to see. Turin is a superior choice for a destination wedding as it holds such history and excitement, and is now world-renowned as a multi-faceted town with a variety of activities for its residents and guests.

## **Destination Weddings in Vercelli**

Vercelli, located in the Eastern portion of the Piedmont region, lies along the Sesia River and has a population of 49,458. This province is an important rice market and the predominant trades include food processing and textiles. A leading agricultural community, Vercelli also excels in the engineering and timber industries.

There are a number of significant landmarks in Vercelli, such as the Gothic Basilica of Sant' Andrea, erected in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In the library of the Cathedral, which flourished from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, is the Vercelli Book, also known as the Codex Vercellensis. This late 10th-century manuscript contains a collection of valuable religious poems. The churches of San Cristoforo and Santa Chiara, the Duomo, and the Casa Centori are also worthwhile tourist destinations. A marriage ceremony in Vercelli can greatly benefit from the town's fertile history amidst the backdrop of its ancient dwellings.

Vercelli is of Celtic origin, and was a Roman town in Gaul, which was the seat of the first Piedmont bishopric. Although the town fortified its walls during the Middle Ages, they were demolished by the French during the Risorgimento in 1704.



The Viotti International Music Competition, a significant event to the province, takes place each October, and the Rice Festival is a popular celebration that occurs in September. Because the arts play such a significant role, the area is well suited for wedding ceremonies that require artistry and originality.

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