

# ALASSIO ... WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO





## ROAD TO GENOVA

- GENOVA (Old Town - Port - Aquarium)
- CAMOGLI/PORTOFINO
- SERRAVALLE (Shopping)
- NOLI
- VARIGOTTI
- PARCO DELLE MANIE
- FINALBORGO
- VEREZZI
- TOIRANO (Grotte)
- CASTELVECCHIO R.B.
- ZUCCARELLO
- CASTELBIANCO
- ALBENGA
- GARLEDA (Golf Club)
- LAIGUEGLIA



- CLAUDIO (Spotorno)
- VESCOVADO (Noli)
- LA MURAGLIA (Varigotti)
- TORCHI (Finalborgo)
- DOC (Borgio Verezzi)
- CAPPERO (Verezzi)
- SCOLA (Castelbianco)
- GIN (Castelbianco)
- LA MERIDIANA (Garledda)
- PINOCCHIO (Casanova L.)

Visit our coastal  
and inland towns!

- PIEVE DI TECO
- CERVO
- DOLCEDO
- TAGGIA
- BADALUCCO
- TRIORA
- APRICALE
- PERINALDO
- DOLCEACQUA
- GIARDINI HANBURY (XXMiglia)
- BALZI ROSSI (XXMiglia)



- PORTEGHETTO (Cervo)
- BALZI ROSSI (XXMiglia)



- SARRI (Imperia Porto M.)
- CÀ MEA (Badalucco)
- GLAM (Sanremo)



## ROAD TO FRANCE

- MONTE CARLO (Casino)
- NICE (Old Town)
- SAINT PAUL DE VENCE
- CANNES (Promenade)

BICYCLE LANE (San Lorenzo - Ospedaletti 24 km)

W elcome to Liguria.

We hope you enjoy your stay here with us. This small guide aims to accompany you on your visit of this beautiful region with multiple characteristics called Liguria. Renowned for its mild climate, it has many locations planted with palm trees, bougainvilleas and exotic plants, all of which give a special charm to the coastal environment.

Liguria is not only famous for its sea and its beaches, but a few kilometers from the coast you will find a hinterland dotted with ancient unspoiled villages, emerging from rugged hills.

Places to be explored for which you will be surprised by their beauty and authenticity! On your return, bring the products of our land such as: extra virgin olive oil, tasty Taggiasca olives, delicious pesto and rich and fruity wines so you can relive the magic of our Liguria.

WELCOME TO LIGURIA



# TOWNS ON THE COAST

**A**lassio, nestled in a beautiful bay, is famous for its beach and lush gardens. It is one of the most visited places on the Ligurian coast, both by Italians and foreigners. The British Lord Byron was one of the first to discover the beauties of the city and by the end of the 19th century it was established as a holiday resort for many wealthy and cultured visitors from across the Channel, who built sumptuous villas and gardens on the hills surrounding the town. Worthy of note is the figure of the famous British composer Elgar who, during his wintering in Alassio in 1904, composed his overture "In the South (Alassio)". Do not miss a walk on the suggestive promenade that runs along the beach for over 5 km until you reach Laigueglia. A must is the "budello", the picturesque pedestrian cobbled street that crosses the ancient heart of Alassio, where you will find fashion shops, curiosities and furnishings for your home. Climb the hills above the city to the Madonna della Guardia on Mount Pisciavino to enjoy breathtaking views or venture along the ancient Roman road starting from the restored church of Santa Croce to the medieval town of Albenga.



**L**aigueglia, its heyday remains as it was in the seventeenth century - an ancient fishing village with a single central street (locally called the "caruggio"), lined with tall houses. Like Cervo, the main industry of Laigueglia in the past was coral fishing. With the profits of the trade the fishermen financed the construction of a magnificent Rococo church with a splendid staircase and a beautiful bell tower in polychrome ceramic. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries life in Laigueglia was threatened by Arab pirates who plundered the Ligurian coasts and often kidnapped the inhabitants of coastal villages holding them hostage. Every summer, in August, these nefarious events are re-enacted and culminate in a noisy beach party that involves many tourists.



# TOWNS ON THE COAST

**Cervo.** It is a unique example of a medieval village with its narrow streets that lead down to the sea. It boasts a magnificent Baroque church built in 1636 by the architect Giacomo Filippo Marvaldi. The church rises above the charming houses sloping down to the sea. Also known as the Church of the Corallini, the church was financed by fishermen who donated money for its construction.

In the summer months the town comes alive with the sounds of the Chamber Music Festival which hosts world-famous artists. It takes place in the evening in the square in front of the Corallini Church which, through its staircase, used as a grandstand, offers a magnificent setting of the Ligurian coast.



**A**lbenga is the most fascinating historical center in the area. The city, called "Albingaunum", was an important port in Roman times. Now it is 1 km from the coast due to the great floods of the thirteenth century that changed the course of the main river the Centa. It retains much of its medieval walls (on foundations from the eighth century BC) and three seventeenth-century gates, plus a dozen masonry tower-houses from the twelfth-fourteenth century, mostly well restored. At the center of the city stands the elegant bell tower (1391) of the Cathedral which together with the two towers forms a suggestive group. The interior of the Cathedral was restored to its medieval splendor in 1966-67. During the excavations, traces of an early Christian church (dated late 4th century) of the same size were discovered, with evidence of other later buildings. Palazzo Vecchio del Comune (1387 - 1421) houses the Civic Museum (open 9-12, 15-18 except

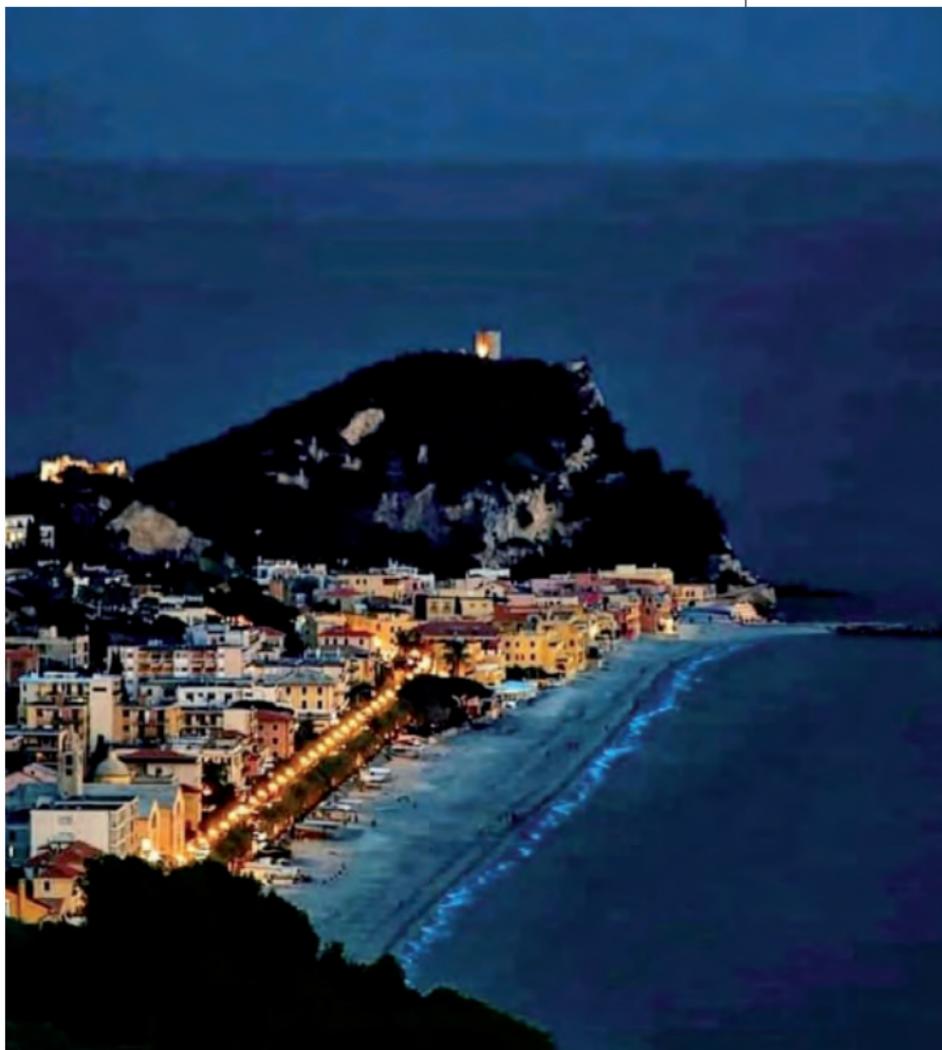


Mondays), with Roman and medieval remains including a well-preserved Roman mosaic floor. From here you go down to the level of the 5th century Baptistery whose exterior has 10 sides, while on the inside it has eight sides. It is the only well-preserved example of Byzantine art in northern Italy after Ravenna. Inside, in the main apse, it houses a precious Byzantine mosaic. Next to it is the suggestive Piazzetta dei Leoni with the sculptures of the three Renaissance lions brought from Rome in 1608 by the Costa family; on the side you can admire the fifteenth-century external frescoes of the Bishop's Palace. A rich collection of archaeological finds recovered from the restoration of churches in the area is exhibited in the Museo Diocesano, along with ceramics and various Renaissance works of art. (Open 10-12, 15-18 except Mondays and worth a visit). On the side of the Cathedral, in Piazza San Michele, stands the thirteenth-century tower of Palazzo Peloso-Cepolla, whose rooms house the Roman Naval Museum (open 9-12, 15-18 except Mondays), which contains over 1,000 amphorae and furnishings marine recovered in 1950 from a Roman ship sunk off the coast of Albenga in 100-90 BC. It is largest Roman transport ship ever found in the Mediterranean and transported more than 10,000 wine amphorae from Campania to southern France and Spain. At "Il Monte", in the southwest of the town, there are the remains of one of the most important monuments of ancient Albenga, a Roman theater that overlooks the city. Nearby is a stretch of the original Roman road, the Iulia Augusta, built at the time of the expansion of the Roman Empire towards northern Europe. It takes its name from the emperor Augustus who inaugurated the road. Along the Iulia Augusta there are numerous ruins including a 2nd century funerary monument called "the pillar" unfortunately damaged in 1944 during the Second World War. It is possible to follow the road up to the aforementioned chapel of Santa Croce, which dominates Alassio and its bay.

**V**arigotti certainly one of the most picturesque seaside villages in Italy with its houses painted in ochre and pink shades that give a relaxed look to the whole. The village enjoys a splendid natural setting, which directly overlooks a wide beach and a turquoise sea. The appreciation that Ernest Hemingway had for the place is well known and today is one of the instagrated sites in Liguria

The narrow coastal road between Varigotti and Noli is one of the most scenic stretches of the Riviera.

Directions: take the motorway towards Genoa, get off at Finale Ligure (15 min), follow in the direction of Savona.



# TOWNS ON THE COAST

**N**oli. Italy had 5 major Maritime Republics in medieval times (Genoa, Venice, Pisa, Amalfi and ... Noli). Lying under Monte Ursino, Noli resembles in its urban structure a mini Genoa, with its narrow alleys and tall houses. Of its original 72 medieval towers (skyscrapers), eight remain and the 13th century Municipal Tower is in perfect condition.

Strolling through its alleys one can imagine what life was like in the twelfth century when Noli reached its maximum splendor. If you're feeling fit, you can venture along the path to the Del Carretto castle, built in the 12th century. The most important monument in Noli is the 11th century church of San Paragorio, one of the most beautiful Romanesque monuments in Liguria  
Directions: take the highway to Genoa, exit at Finale Ligure and follow the direction of Savona.



**S**anremo. It is the most populated summer and winter resort on the Riviera di Ponente. With its temperate climate and lush vegetation it has been famous since the mid 19th century. Its villas and gardens are located between Cape Nero and Cape Verde along a wide 8 km bay. The writer Edward Lear (1812-1888) spent his last years in Sanremo and here he built Villa Emily (now Villa Verde) and Villa Tennyson (in honor of the friend and wife of his favorite poet). Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) was also buried in Sanremo and in 1878 Tchaikovsky finished his fourth symphony here. Among the annual events for which the city is famous is the "Sanremo Festival" at the Ariston Theater. The Municipal Casino with its famous gambling halls is a splendid example of Art Nouveau architecture set in splendid gardens and is well worth a visit. On the hill of Sanremo there is Bussana Vecchia, once a deserted village after a devastating earthquake and now populated by artists and painters .



# TOWNS ON THE COAST

**V**entimiglia. The city is divided by the Roia river into an ancient medieval village, on its western hill, and into a modern center on its coastal plain. It is worth visiting the famous market held every Friday, where people flock from the surrounding area to look for bargains. Quite close to Ventimiglia is the hamlet of La Mortola, home to the famous Hanbury Gardens, a subtropical paradise where exotic trees and rare flowers from all over the world are on display. They were planted and embellished by the English Lord Hanbury in the late 1800s. Sir Thomas was a wealthy silk and spice merchant who fell in love with this place during a holiday on the Cote d'Azur in 1867. In 1912 the gardens had 6000 species and a permanent staff of 45 gardeners and were one of the top gardens in Europe.



Savona, the provincial capital is an important Ligurian port. Its fortress, the Priamar, now houses a spectacular art gallery. On its outskirts is the cemetery of Zinola containing 104 graves of British soldiers who died in the wreck of the "Transilvania" which was torpedoed off the coast of Savona in 1917. Next to Savona, Albisola is worth a visit. It is home to the most beautiful artistic ceramics in Liguria. Several museums dedicated to contemporary and ancient ceramics offer a worthwhile excursion.



# TOWNS INLAND

**C**astelvecchio di Rocca Barbena is one of the most beautiful and picturesque inland villages in Liguria.

Perched high on a rocky ridge, its houses, in the shadow of an ancient and imposing castle, seem to remain precariously attached to the rock cliffs. The village has seen many battles in its long history, and was invincible until, in 1625, when Piedmontese troops besieged the village, interrupting the water supply of inhabitants and supporters.

Directions: from the Albenga motorway exit, continue towards Garessio.



**Zuccarello.** A tiny village founded in 1248, nestled at the foot of the Neva Valley. Its uniqueness lies in the long line of arcades on the main street originally intended as a covered market.

Above the town are the ruins of the castle of the Del Carretto family, feudal lords in this area for centuries. In 1403 the beautiful daughter of the marquis left the castle to marry the prince of Lucca. Unfortunately she died in childbirth two years later and her husband commissioned Jacopo della Quercia to build her tomb, a precious artefact in the Cathedral of Lucca, one of the most famous works of the Renaissance.

Directions: from the Albenga motorway exit, proceed towards Gressio.



**Villanova d'Albenga.** The town was founded in the 13th century by the municipality of Albenga as a fortified outpost. It was the first of these in the area and is therefore a miniature copy of Albenga. Its medieval walls have remained intact in their original appearance along with the well in the center of the town which for centuries has supplied the town with water. Villanova retains all its medieval charm, enhanced by the locals' passion for flowers and potted plants that cascade from every corner of the village. Directions: go towards Albenga, pass the tunnel and take the first exit. Follow the direction Villanova.



**Colletta di Castelbianco.** It is a medieval village completely rebuilt with the most modern construction techniques and wired with optical fiber. The town is located in a panoramic valley surrounded by alpine mountains, a must for those interested in experiencing a lifestyle of the past but with the most modern comforts. Direction: from the Albenga motorway exit, follow the direction of Garessio, after the town of Cisano, at the first intersection, turn left and follow the road for 5 km.

**T**oirano. Six kilometers inland from Borghetto is the ancient medieval village of Toirano. The Grotta della Basura, 1.5 km north of Toirano is a remarkable cave of stalactites, known as Grotta della Strega. Inside there are the only footprints of Neanderthal or Mousterian man discovered so far (40,000 BC).

Guided tours of 1 1/2 hours are daily at 9.30am-11am and 14:30 -17:00. The cave is an unusual setting for ballet performances in the summer months.

Direction: follow the road to Borghetto (15 min), take the first road on the left towards Toirano. Toirano Caves, tel. 0182.98062



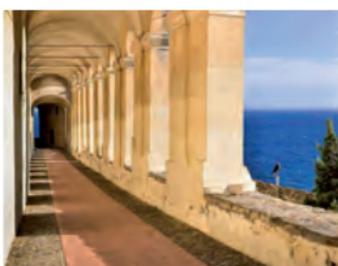
**L**e Manie splendid protected natural park not to be missed. Le Manie is a high altitude clearing crossed by paths between pines and Mediterranean flora.

A great excursion is the walk along the Roman Via Aurelia, crossing five Roman bridges built in 124 AD. The views from this park are truly amazing. Directions: take the motorway towards Genoa and get off at Finale Ligure (15 min).

Follow direction Savona. Just before exiting Finale and before the first tunnel, turn 180 degrees to the left and follow the signs for Le Manie.



**Verezzi.** Few villages have a view like Verezzi. Located 700 meters above the sea, this small town has an incredible feeling to it and you will truly feel like you have discovered a hidden gem. The tiny square where the church is located is home to a renowned summer theater. Directions: take the highway towards Genoa and get off at Finale Ligure. Leaving the highway, turn the road to the right. At the first town, ask for directions. A very small road leads to Verezzi (10 min).



**Imperia.** The inland of Imperia is a vast forest of olive groves, wrapped around ancient villages. Dolcedo has the most renowned olive groves in the region, Montegrazie is perched high on a hill, Moltedo is a scented village of myrtle, Valloria with its 100 painted doors and windows is a must. A whole day should be devoted to visiting this area.

**B**ussana Vecchia, inland near Arma di Taggia is a destination for those interested in taking a leap into the past. This beautifully located village was destroyed by the earthquake in 1887 and abandoned by the population. Starting in the late 60's a group of artists and hippies began restoring the less damaged building. This former ghost town has now become a colony of international artist with many restaurants and bars.

**P**ieve di Teco. The town founded in 1233 contained paper mills and weaving centers. The merchants who transported the precious salt from the coast took a break in the shade of the trees along the Corso Ponzoni. Elegant palaces and artistically decorated slate portals testify to the ancient importance of the city which had its own theater.



**D**olceacqua (inland near Ventimiglia). This village, painted by the impressionist artist Claude Monet is a clear example of how the Ligurian villages defended themselves from enemy attacks at all times thanks to a labyrinth of buildings and passages. Some of the best oils and wines of the Riviera come from this area. Dolceacqua is also in step with modern technologies: one of its most recent attractions is the Visionarium, a unique 3D virtual reality tour of the area through the four seasons ([www.visionarium-3d.com](http://www.visionarium-3d.com) - Open Sat / Sun 16-19; 0184 206638).

Opening hours vary greatly from city to city and depend on what is sold. In general, the shops are open from 9 to 12.30 and then from 16.00 to 19.30. Most of the shops are also open on Sundays!

In Alassio and other renowned seaside resorts, most shops extend their evening opening hours until 23.00 during the summer season.

The weekly markets are very interesting to visit.

The local market days are as follows:

Monday: Ceriale, Andora, Finalborgo

Wednesday: Albenga, Varigotti

Thursday: Finale Ligure

Friday: Laignueglia, Loano

Saturday: Alassio, Sanremo



# THINGS FOR KIDS

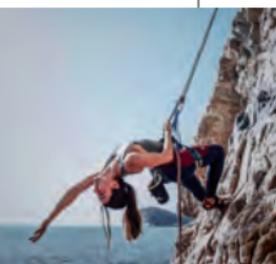
- **Le Caravelle:** water park  
tel. 0182 931755  
[www.lecaravelle.com](http://www.lecaravelle.com)
- About 70 km an hour by car, is **Genoa**.  
The Antica Darsena in the port of Genoa houses the **Aquarium of Genoa**, the largest in Europe and one of the most beautiful in the world. It is truly spectacular for captivating parents and children alike. Behind it, the brand new **National Museum of Antarctica**, dedicated to Antarctica.
- **Aquarium:** open from 9.30 to 19.00.  
(closed on Mondays)  
tel. 010 2488011  
[www.acquariodigenova.it](http://www.acquariodigenova.it)  
Near the Aquarium is the **City of Children**, a modern space with thousands of toys and games, scientific experiments are continuously conducted in order to learn while you play.
- **Children's town** open from 10.00 to 18.00  
Closed on Mondays  
[www.cittadeibambini.net](http://www.cittadeibambini.net)
- **Whale watching:** (July / August)  
tel. 010 565712  
[www.whalewatchliguria.it](http://www.whalewatchliguria.it)
- Visit to the **Toirano Caves**  
(perfect on a rainy day)  
tel. 0182 98062  
[www.toiranogrotte.it](http://www.toiranogrotte.it)



- **I Giardini di Villa della Pergola**  
Nominated among the Top 5 private gardens in Italy  
[www.giardinidivilladellapergola.com/it/](http://www.giardinidivilladellapergola.com/it/)
- **Toirano Caves**  
[www.toiranogrotte.it](http://www.toiranogrotte.it)  
for times 0182 98062
- **Whale Watching**  
not to be missed  
[www.molamoladiveteam.com/](http://www.molamoladiveteam.com/)  
328 845429
- **Boat fishing**  
experience to try!  
[www.pescaliguria.it](http://www.pescaliguria.it)  
345 1246380
- **Tour Gallinara Island**  
[www.molamoladiveteam.com/](http://www.molamoladiveteam.com/)  
328 8454299
- **Electric scooters**  
[www.mythinkgreen.it](http://www.mythinkgreen.it)  
320 172 9619
- **Helicopter tour**  
departure from Riviera Airport  
327 03059
- **SuperCar rental**  
[www.differentsrl.com](http://www.differentsrl.com)  
392 6601452
- **Dinghy rentals**  
**Water ski, wakeboard, water games rental**  
in the center of Alassio  
Graf Water Division  
392 8885333  
Porto Alassio Fandy  
393 9015335
- **Motorboat rental (10m)**  
[www.differentsrl.com](http://www.differentsrl.com)  
392 6601452



# SPORT



- **Garlenda Golf Club** 15 minutes from Alassio  
0182 580012 - [www.garlendagolf.it](http://www.garlendagolf.it)
- **Hanbury Tennis Club** - club house early 1900  
0182 640174
- **Mountain Bike** rent electric bikes and discover the fantastic trails (with or without guide)  
Fonzibike  
[www.fonzibike.com](http://www.fonzibike.com) - 320 2669660  
Gallinara Freeride in Albenga - 392 4126271
- **Ponente Cycle Path** 24 km overlooking the sea between Imperia and Sanremo  
[www.pistaciclabile.com](http://www.pistaciclabile.com)
- **Horseback riding**  
Gli Angeli Agriturismo (Cisano) 339 3306996  
Elena Ranch (Albenga) 338 8046059  
Country Club (Villanova) 347 8724818
- **Diving:** discover the wonderful seabed  
[www.sestocontinentediving.com](http://www.sestocontinentediving.com)  
347 1155909  
[www.molamoladiveteam.com/](http://www.molamoladiveteam.com/)  
328 8454299
- **Climbing** in Finale  
[www.turismo.comunefinaleligure.it/it/outdoor/climbing](http://www.turismo.comunefinaleligure.it/it/outdoor/climbing)
- **Paragliding**  
347 2801169
- **Sailing**  
[www.cnamalassio.it/](http://www.cnamalassio.it/)  
335 180 8063



**SPA and Wellness Centers:****Thalassotherapy at Grand Hotel Alassio**

0182 648778

**Aqua Rosa Spa at Hotel Rosa**

0182 640821

**Wellness Area at Hotel dei Fiori**

0182 640519

**Diana Wellness Club at Grand Hotel Diana**

0182 642701

**Wellness Center at Hotel Toscana**

0182 643146

**Fior di Loto Spa at Hotel Regina**

0182 640215

**Solaria Wellness at Hotel Ligure**

0182 640653

**Adelasia's Dream** via F. Gioia

0182 640657

**Gyms:****In Alassio Kronos**

0182 020259

**In Albenga YoUniverse**

0182 542790

**Yoga**

338 7397108 - 338 739710

# WINE TASTING



- **Cascine Praie**  
Enjoy a fantastic setting between Laigueglia and Andora overlooking both the mountains and the sea. Call +39 351 713 5050 to book. In addition to aperitifs, they also offer dinner and brunch. An additional proposal: a day on a sailing boat with wine tasting!!
- **Poggio dei Gorleri**  
Taste the authentic flavors of the Ligurian Riviera at Poggio dei Gorleri. Their seven experiences offer guests the opportunity to explore vineyards, taste wine and olive oil, learn how to cook local dishes and even try fishing. In Poggio dei Gorleri, the traditions and customs of Liguria come to life.  
[www.poggiodeigorleri.com/](http://www.poggiodeigorleri.com/)
- **Tenuta La Colombera**  
Discover a breathtaking location between Albenga and Alassio where you can taste the DePeri wines among the vineyards and overlooking the Gallinara Island <https://www.deperi.eu/tenuta-la-colombera.php>



# DAY TRIPS

- Albenga - (1.5 hours)
- Alassio / Laigueglia - (2.5 hours)
- Varigotti / Verezzi / Noli - (4 hours)
- Zuccarello / Castelbianco / Castelvechio - (4 hours)
- Sanremo / Ventimiglia - (5 hours)
- Toirano Caves - (2.5 hours)
- Montecarlo / Nice - (5 hours)
- Portofino - (5 hours)
- Serravalle Discount Shops - (6 hours)
- Sanremo Luxury Discount Shopping Center (3 hours)
- Genoa Aquarium - (4 hours)



- Take the panoramic Roman road "Iulia Augusta" from Alassio to Albenga (1.5 hours)
- Visit the medieval city of Albenga (2 hours)
- Go along the 2 Km. "Budello" of Alassio with more than 100 shops and bars (2.5 hours)
- Walk on the sandy beach between Alassio and Laigueglia (5 Km ) (2 hours) recommended out of season

Print: Litografia Bacchetta - Albenga



