



DISCOVERING MONFERRATO, A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

*Just over an hour away from Torino, Monferrato unveils its treasures,
a UNESCO World Heritage site.*

*It starts with the Sacred Mount of Crea,
situated in a panoramic position on one of the highest
hills in the area and surrounded by an exceptionally beautiful natural setting.
Another highlight is the visit to the "infernot",
underground chambers carved by skilled craftsmen in sandstone, which is also used in the
construction of the houses that make these among the most beautiful villages in Italy.*

8.30 am: depart from Torino to **Cella Monte**.

10.30 am: arrive in Cella Monte, one of the most beautiful Villages in Italy.

Walking along the narrow streets of the village, which looks like an open-air museum, you will notice shells in the walls, positioned there by nature not man, because millions of years ago this area was sea, and the Monferrato hills its archipelagos. The water slowly withdrew, leaving sandstone, which was used to build the houses, buildings and infernots UNESCO heritage sites. These underground chambers dug into the sandstone 'pietra da cantoni' maintain constant temperature and humidity, thanks to the geological characteristics of this soil of marine origin, making them ideal for storing food, an addition to the cellars. They are the precious inheritance of the rural tradition, small hidden gems recognised as heritage sites. Visit the Eco Museum of Pietra da Cantone followed by a visit to an historic winery and its private infernot with tasting of the wines produced.

1.00 pm: wine tasting and lunch at Cella Monte.

2.30 pm: visit the Holy Mountain, also UNESCO heritage site, which stands on an area of ancient Marian devotion and is composed by the Sanctuary, 23 chapels and 5 hermitages. The most spectacular is Chapel 23 "Coronation of the Virgin", commonly known as "Il Paradiso" which dates to 1598: it is the highest chapel of the Holy Mountain and features the groups of figures, hanging and frescoed on the vault, about 300 in all, by the Flemish sculptor Nicola De Wespina.

Short transfer and arrival in Casale Monferrato. Visit the city, starting from Piazza Castello and the imposing Castle of the Paleologi, home to the Gonzaga family until the second half of the 16th century, which later became a fortress. Casale is one of the gateways to Monferrato, between the Po Plain and the hills of the territory which is now UNESCO heritage. The Gonzaga made it one of the most prestigious centres of Europe and this is evident during the visit of the centre, rich in architectural treasures, civilian and religious buildings. After Piazza Castello, continue to Via Saffi, rich in small specialty stores and shops and dominated by the 11th-century civic tower, one of the symbols of the city. Stop in well-known Historical Pastry Shop to taste and enjoy Krumiri, famous biscuits produced using the same original recipe of 1878 and inspired by the moustache of Vittorio Emanuele II.

7.30 pm: dinner at **Casale Monferrato** with typical traditional menu.

11.30 pm: arrival in Torino.

Fam Trip organized and offered by the Local Tourism Board Alexala
in partnership with Monferrato Travel by Monferrato to Taste srls