

Blair's Favorite Hotels and Restaurants of Italy:

Tuscany
Piedmont
The Lakes
Liguria
Veneto

Travel Agents and Tours Blair Recommends:

Endless Beginnings Tours
www.endlessbeginnings.com
Victoria Goyet
1-800-822-7855

Dream Italia
www.dreamitalia.com
Elizabeth Montana
303-504-6151

Barolo Grill's Trip to Italy

Starting in 1995 owner Blair Taylor has taken his staff on an educational working trip to Italy. The trip is a chance for the staff to experience the foods and wines of Italy firsthand. When you dine at Barolo, the chefs have perfected their dishes under the advice of the best chefs in Italy, and your waiter has likely tasted the wines he recommends in the vineyard with the winemaker.

The trip is approximately two weeks, and originally took place at the beginning of July. However, in 2005 Mr. Taylor moved the trip to early April in order to give the staff an opportunity to attend the Vinitaly wine fair.

The trip begins in Piemonte, staying in the town of Alba, which is the home of white truffles, and is surrounded by the hill towns of Barolo and Barbaresco. When the trip goes to Tuscany, we stay in the town of Castellina in Chianti, located in the Chianti Classico wine region. Finally, we visit the Veneto staying in Desensano, a town on the shores of Lago di Garda. Desensano is 15 minutes from Verona, where the Vinitaly wine fair takes place. Vinitaly is the largest Italian wine expo, with approximately five thousand Italian wineries attending. It is a chance for Barolo Grill staff to taste the best wines of Italy, and meet the wine makers en masse.

[Pictures from Barolo Grill's trip to Italy](#)