

Chef Mark McDonald of Old Vine Kitchen & Bar + The Italian Culinary Institute hosts

SPLENDORS OF NORTH ITALY

NORTH ITALY: OCTOBER 15 –24 2021

THE NORTH

***IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT WE INVITE YOU
TO JOIN US TO SAVOR THE SPLENDORS OF NORTH ITALY!***

During this special program, you will live northern Italy, not as a tourist, but as an Italian, as you travel and dine with Chef Mark McDonald of Old Vine Kitchen & Bar and Master Chef John Nocita of the Italian Culinary Institute.

Together we will explore four regions of northern Italy: Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Lombardia and Trentino-Alto Adige, and will experience all of the delicacies and hidden gems of these breathtakingly beautiful regions.

Created for the most discerning epicureans, Splendors of North Italy is the most impressive leisure tour of Northern Italy, and is the only that is hosted and presented by Chef Mark McDonald and the Italian Culinary Institute (ici). All hotels offer four star, luxury accommodations and are located in the heart of each city. Our excursion has been planned by real chefs who share a love for travel, fine wine, dining and culture as much as you do!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chef Mark McDonald : (714) 655-6142

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\$4500.00 per person (*doubleoccupancy*)

\$4995.00 per person (*singleoccupancy*)

PRICING

INCLUDES:

- 9 nights superior accommodations in 4-star hotels
- Professional transfers to and from the airport or train station
- All ground transportation including airport transfers, all visits and dining
- Breakfast every day
- Hands-on cooking demonstrations and tastings with Chef John Nocita
- Wine tasting & tour in Franciacorta
- Agriturismo feast in Franciacorta
- Wine tasting, tour & local antipasti in Alto Adige
- Strudel tasting in Bolzano
- Chef's style kitchen lunch by Chef John Nocita & Chef Mark McDonald
- Vineyard lunch prepared by Chef John Nocita & Chef Mark McDonald
- Welcome dinner with wine pairing by Chef John Nocita & Chef Mark McDonald
- Dinner in Verona at the famous and historic Antica Bottega del Vino
- Pizza dinner with beer & wine
- Dinner with wine pairing by Chef John Nocita & Chef Mark McDonald
- Evening Apperitivo, including wine
- Farewell dinner at Trattoria Alesi, Desenzano Del Garda
- English & Italian speaking guides
- Tax , VAT and gratuities included

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**Price does not include airfare or expenses during “free time”.*

***Payments are refundable minus a \$150 administration fee until 90 days prior to start date.*

****enroll and change dates free of charge for other scheduled events. The Italian Culinary Institute offers participants the flexibility to change program dates or switch programs at any time for no cost.*

CONTACT:

Old Vine Kitchen & Bar – Mark McDonald

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The Italian Culinary Institute (ICI)

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+39.334.333.2554

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DAY 1

Verona/Desenzano Del Garda – Arrival & Welcome Dinner with Wine Pairing

- Arrival at Verona Villafranca Airport (CODE: VRN) or Desenzano Del Garda-Sirmione Railway Station and transfer to Hotel Nazionale, Desenzano Del Garda
- Welcome dinner prepared by both hosts, Chef Mark McDonald & Master Chef John Nocita
- Overnight at Hotel Nazionale, Desenzano Del Garda

DAY 2

Day Trip to Verona

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Late morning departure to Medieval Verona, the city that inspired Shakespeare to set the two plays: Romeo & Juliet and The Two Gentlemen of Verona. Free time to explore this beautiful, historical place.
- Dinner in Verona at the famous and historic Antica Bottega del Vino
- Return to Desenzano Del Garda
- Overnight at Hotel Nazionale, Desenzano Del Garda

DAY 3

Winery Visit in Franciacorta; Agriturismo Feast; Free Evening

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Private tour & tasting at a Winery in Franciacorta, home of the Champagne style sparkling wines of Italy!
- Visit to an Agriturismo for a lunch feast. An agriturismo is an organic farm. Here we dine on truly local delicacies that are all farmed, raised and produced on site by the proprietors. A feast fit for royalty!
- Free evening to explore the beautiful lakeside town of Desenzano Del Garda, the largest lake city of Garda! This beautiful, upscale town is filled with bars, restaurants, shopping, gelato and more!
- Overnight at Hotel Nazionale, Desenzano Del Garda

ITINERARY

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DAY 4

Day Trip to Trentino-Alto Adige; Terlano Winery Tour & Tasting; Bolzano

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Early morning departure to Trentino-Alto Adige, the Northern most region of Italy bordering Austria and Switzerland, with breathtaking mountain views.
- Visit to an award-winning winery for an amazing tour and tasting, inclusive of local Antipasti. This region is world famous for their beautiful, high altitude vineyards that produce some of the most remarkable wines in the region.
- Afternoon visit to Bolzano, a beautiful city known for their marriage of two different lifestyles, one Northern European, and the other more Mediterranean. From the architecture to the cuisine, you will find a marriage of cultural influences making this one of the most unique places in all of Italy.. Travelers will have free time to explore this magical place at their own pace. After, together we will taste the local Apple Strudel
- Evening return to Desenzano Del Garda.
- Pizza dinner together in Desenzano Del Garda.
- Overnight at Hotel Nazionale, Desenzano Del Garda

DAY 5

Morning Mercatino Visit; Departure to Bologna; Evening Apperitivo

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Free morning to visit the local open-air market. Late morning departure to Bologna with scenic views of the Northern countryside.
- Afternoon arrival and check in to the Best Western San Donato Hotel
- in the heart of the Historic City Center of Bologna. This beautiful hotel offers the most stunning views in the city from their rooftop patio where guests can enjoy breakfast in the morning, and cocktails in the evening.

ITINERARY

(DAY 5 Continued)

- Early evening Apperitivo in Bologna as a group. Apperitivo in Bologna is an evening tradition where locals gather to enjoy a buffet of local cuisine and drink wine together to begin the evening.
- Free night to wander the Historic City Center of Bologna
- Overnight at Hotel San Donato Hotel, Bologna

DAY 6

Free Time in Bologna!

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Travelers are free to explore the Medieval Historic City Center of Bologna for the day and evening. Bologna is considered the gastronomic centers of Northern Italy that celebrates a rich food legacy. This is where Ragu or Bolognese originates and is the home of Mortadella as well as some of the nation's finest restaurants and trattorias. Wander the streets to take in the breathtaking Medieval architecture, mixed with an abundance of storefronts filled with meats, cheeses and delicacies that can only be experienced in Bologna.
- Overnight at Hotel San Donato Hotel, Bologna

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DAY 7

Modena - Balsamic Vinegar & Wine Tasting, Vineyard Lunch

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Late morning departure to the outskirts of Bologna in the province of Modena to visit a beautiful Wine Estate for a Lambrusco and Balsamic Vinegar tour and tasting.
- Lunch at the vineyard prepared by Chef John Nocita & Chef Mark McDonald
- Late afternoon return to Bologna
- Free evening in Bologna
- Overnight at Hotel San Donato Hotel, Bologna

DAY 8

Return to Desenzano Del Garda

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Late morning departure back to Desenzano Del Garda
- Return to Hotel Nazionale with a free afternoon to rest.
- Evening Meat & Cheese Degustation, Dinner and Wine Pairing by Chef John Nocita and Chef Mark McDonald
- Overnight at Hotel Nazionale, Desenzano Del Garda

DAY 9

Cooking Demo & Tasting; Farewell Dinner

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Late morning Cooking Demonstration and lunch by Chef John Nocita
- Farewell Dinner at a Local Restaurant in Desenzano Del Garda

DAY 10

Departure

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Departure and transfer to Verona Villafranca Airport (CODE: VRN) or Desenzano Del Garda-Sirmione Railway Station
- Arrivederci!!!

ITINERARY