

# NEW YEAR IN AN ITALIAN CASTLE

7 EXHILARATING DAYS – LUZERN TO MILAN – ESCORTED GROUP TOUR

*IMAGINE... Staying in a glorious Italian Castle set in the charming foothills of the Italian Dolomites and enjoying a sumptuous New Year's Eve Gala dinner. Now add medieval Innsbruck, the chic ski resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo, the canals and hump backed bridges of Venice plus elegant, stylish Milan. An awesome experience!*



## DAY 1 - 28 DECEMBER LUZERN

This 'New Year in an Italian Castle' tour has been specially designed to start in Luzern as your Christmas Tour ends. The day is free in this delightful town with lakeside promenades, covered bridges and cobbled stone streets. Early evening we have provided a welcome drink for you in the hotel bar. Why not take this chance to meet your Tour Manager and the rest of your fellow travellers. Dine in style this evening at the hotel. (D)

*Your Luzern Hotel – Wilden Mann Romantik Hotel. Your charming hotel is a member of the 'Romantik' hotel chain and is centrally located only 200 metres walk from the historic Chapel Bridge. Dating back 500 years and expanded through the 19th century, the Wilden Mann ('Wild Man') has a delightful, traditional décor and ambience. For more information see <http://www.wilden-mann.ch>*



Your New Year Hotel, Castelbrando

## DAY 2 - 29 DECEMBER INNSBRUCK

A leisurely day as we follow the spectacular Inn Valley through the Tyrol and make a visit (entrance included) to the Swarovski 'Kristallwelten' (Crystal Worlds)... a weird and wonderful crystal experience. Later this afternoon we continue the short distance to the winter resort of Innsbruck. After checking into our centrally located hotel you will have plenty of time to explore the Old Town on your doorstep. Make sure you see the picture perfect medieval square beneath the famous 'Golden Roof'. (B, D)

*Your Innsbruck Hotel - Grauer Bär. Superb location just 200 metres from the historic city centre. This is a hotel with style and tradition, a restaurant, a bar, sauna, steam-bath, solarium and a gym. 91 rooms, with private facilities, TV, radio, hairdryer.*

## DAY 3 - 30 DECEMBER CASTELBRANDO

Today we cross into Italy via the Brenner Pass and take a morning stop in Bolzano, capital of Alto Adige region. Intricately carved gables, painted timber façades and an elegant arcaded main street illustrate the influence of both Tyrolean and Italian cultures. At Trento we cut across the scenic Val Sugana and mid afternoon reach the foothills of the Dolomites and our superb Castelbrando. Located above the village of Cison di Valmarino this 2,000 year old Roman fortress was turned into a sumptuous noble's palace in the 13th century. On arrival we have included a guided tour of the castle – there is a lot to see - and this will be your home for the next three evocative nights. (B, D)

*Your Castle Hotel – Castelbrando. Skilful restoration and sensitive modernization have brought the original magnificence back to life. Guelph style decorative battlements, stone cellars, tapestries, swords and suits of armour set the scene for the elegant halls, dining rooms, manicured gardens and terraces overlooking the valley. There is an extensive beauty and wellness centre connected to the hotel (entrance charge applicable) with an indoor pool, thermal health spa, massage services and Turkish baths. For more information look at <http://www.castelbrando.it>*



Photo courtesy - Paul Maughan  
Venice

## Albatross gives you more...

### Highlights

- Spend New Year in a stunning Italian Castle
- Enjoy the Swarovski Crystal World
- Stay in Medieval Innsbruck
- Cross the Brenner Pass, and follow the dramatic Val Sugana through the majestic, snow covered Dolomites
- Explore the canals and hump backed bridges of Venice
- Experience a New Year's Eve Castle Gala dinner
- Relax in the chic ski resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo
- Visit Lake Garda and picturesque Desenzano
- Shop in stylish Milan

### Inclusions

- All sightseeing, scenic drives and excursions described in the itinerary
- Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
- First class touring coach for excursions and touring
- End of tour tips to Tour Manager, drivers and guides
- 6 nights in selected accommodation
- Hotel portorage (1 bag per person)
- Full buffet breakfasts daily
- Special New Year's Eve dinner with drinks
- 6 dinners including Welcome dinner and special New Year's Eve Gala dinner
- Tea, coffee and water with all dinners
- Local guide Venice
- Welcome drink in Luzern and CastelBrando,
- Entrance to Swarovski Crystal World

### Tour Price

7 days only **\$2,189** pp twin share  
Single supplement \$319 (land only prices in Australian Dollars)

#### DAY 4 - 31 DECEMBER CASTELBRANDO

New Year's Eve. Today we visit nearby Venice – arguably one of the most romantic cities in the world. At Tronchetto we board a boat to take us to St Marc's Square where we join our expert local guide for a walking tour. The rest of the day is free to shop and explore the myriad of narrow, water lined streets and canals spanned by humped back bridges. Tonight we enjoy a Gala New Year's Eve Dinner in 'our' castle. Sit back and enjoy fine Italian dining, numerous courses with Venetian fish specialties, selected regional wines and live musical entertainment. This will be a night to remember! (B, D)

#### DAY 5 - 1 JANUARY CASTELBRANDO

Time to have some fun in the snow as we drive north into the spectacular Dolomites to visit the chic Italian ski resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the dramatic, snow laden peaks surrounding you. For lunch maybe take the cable car to one of the numerous mountain restaurants. (B, D)

#### DAY 6 - 2 JANUARY MILAN

Leaving our castle we head for the shores of Lake Garda where we take a morning break in the incredibly picturesque town of Desenzano with its tiny harbour surrounded by cobbled stone walkways and cafes. Later we continue to the stylish city of Milan for time at leisure before enjoying a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

*Your Milan Hotel – The 4 star Michaelangelo. This first class, modern hotel is in a brilliant location being right opposite the central railway station, transport links and only two subway stops to Cathedral Square and the central shopping district.*

#### DAY 7 - 3 JANUARY MILAN

Italy is at your feet. Sadly your special New Year tour is complete after breakfast. Wish to stay longer in Milan? No problem! We can arrange extra nights. (B)



### Compare the Albatross Difference



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...come share our love of Europe