

Comparing High-end Bike Tours

The information you need to compare high-end active travel companies before booking your next tour.



by Beppe Salerno

Compare before you book a high-end cycling vacation to Italy.

Chances are the idea of another cycling tour in Italy (or your first one) is often at the back of your mind.

Thanks to our easy to read comparison chart, you can gain an insightful picture on the top active travel companies.

Their offer is not dissimilar: we are looking at the best companies offering high-end programs. However, details are important.

Read it and compare to make the best possible decision.

Tourissimo's Magnifica Tours dare to stand against any travel company, of any size, when it comes to cultural active travel in Italy.

Of course, we hope you will consider us. But make sure you shop around first and compare.

Disclaimer:

The following chart was prepared using information available on the companies' websites and on printed material as of October 2016.

	CICLISMO CLASSICO	BACKROADS	DUVINE	VBT	TREK TRAVEL	TOURISSIMO
Tagline	Pedal Your Passion	The World's #1 Active Travel Company	Bike. Eat. Drink. Sleep	Bicycling and Walking Vacation Since 1971	Cycling Vacations of a Lifetime	Active Travel in Italy
Years in Business	27	37	20	45	15	1
Difficulty Levels	http://www.ciclismoclassico.com/the-ciclismo-experience/levels/	http://www.backroads.com/why/choice/level.htm	https://www.duvine.com/experience/levels/	http://vbt.com/Biking/support	http://www.trektravel.com/frequently-asked-questions/rider-types/	https://www.tourissimo.travel/magnifica-tours/tour-levels
Navigation System	paper/GPS w/bike upgrade	paper & GPS	digital maps (app)	paper; New for 2017 downloaded gps tracks with Ride with GPS	GPS	GPS
Jersey Included	yes	no, available for \$75 plus shipping	yes, t-shirt also included;	no, available for \$69.99, including shipping, t-shirt included	Trek travel gift, jersey included https://trektravel.com/frequently-asked-questions/whats-included/cycling-jerseys/	yes, full cycling kit and t-shirt

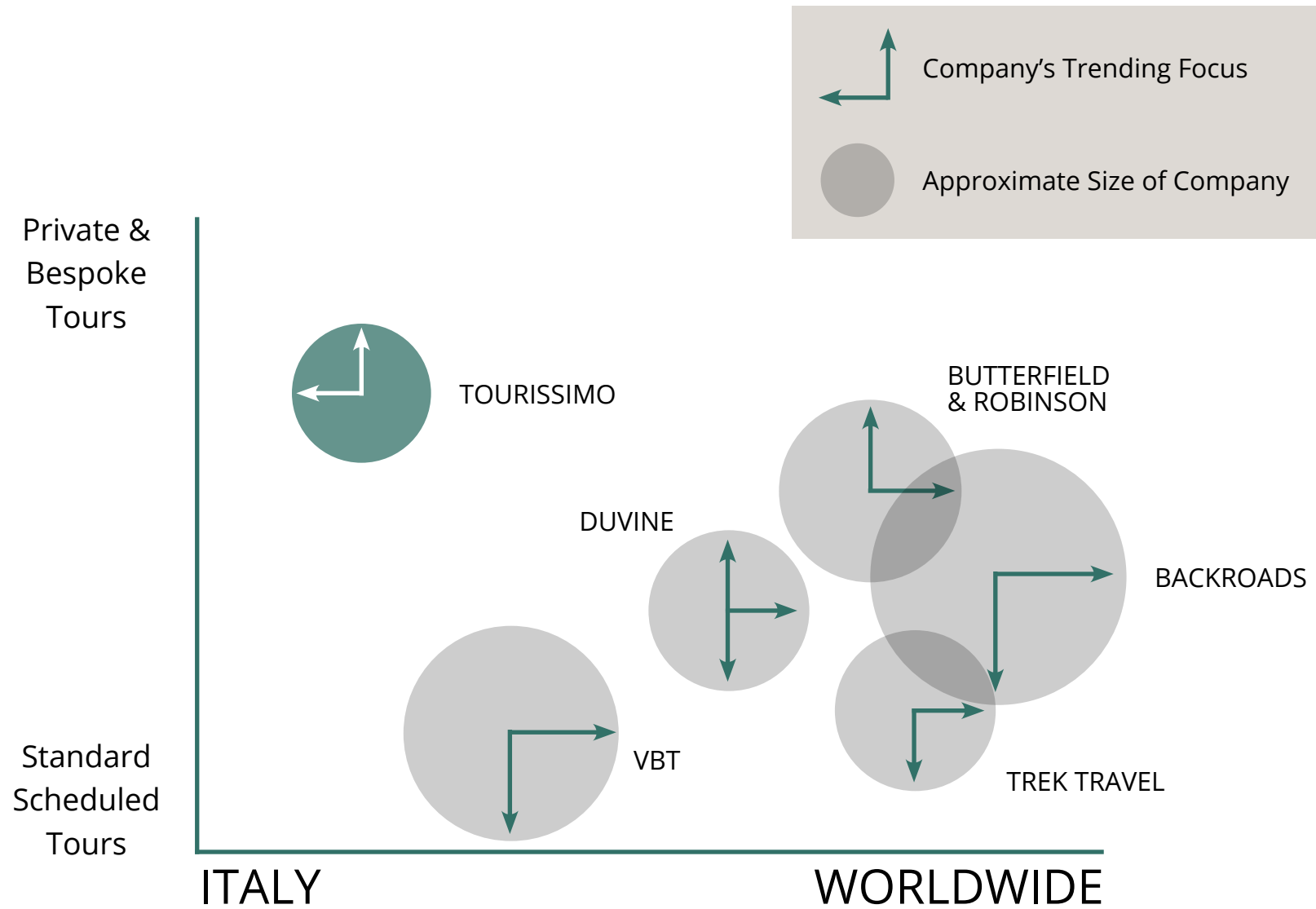
	CICLISMO CLASSICO	BACKROADS	DUVINE	VBT	TREK TRAVEL	TOURISSIMO
E-bike?	yes, \$400	yes, included in tour price	yes, price is not listed	Select tours only; included in price	Free, first-come, first-served	yes, \$195
Standard bike	Aluminum Bianchi	Titanium custom	Many models: https://www.duvine.com/bikes/	Aluminum (Fuji budget bikes); https://www.vbt.com/trip-essentials/frequently-asked-questions/	Carbon Trek	Carbon Bianchi
Bike upgrade	Carbon Bianchi \$250: Available on all intermediate and advanced European tours at no extra cost. Available for rent (\$250) on all easy and athletic beginner European tours.	Specialized S-Works \$400	unclear	unclear	Trek Emonda \$300	N/A
Online Resevation	no	maybe	maybe	yes	no	yes
Online Payment	no	maybe; there is a "My Backroads" section for pax enrolled in a trip. This section requires login info.	unclear	yes		yes

	CICLISMO CLASSICO	BACKROADS	DUVINE	VBT	TREK TRAVEL	TOURISSIMO
Pre-trip Planning	http://www.ciclismoclassico.com/plan-your-trip/trip-essentials/	https://www.backroads.com/trip-prep	Some info in the FAQ section https://www.duvine.com/duvine-faqs/What-should-I-pack/	Trip Essential and FAQ: https://www.vbt.com/trip-essentials/frequently-asked-questions/ , Also welcome packet and handbook received 3-5 days after booking	Packing List available on website: http://www.trektravel.com/frequently-asked-questions/packing-list/	Tour essentials https://www.tourissimo.travel/magnifica-tours
Free Trip?	bring 11 people and your trip is free	New system for 2017: https://www.backroads.com/why/private/works.html	\$150 discount per passenger that can be used for each passenger or combined for a trip leader discount.	bring 10 and your trip is free; all members eligible for Good Buy Plan	Tiered pricing based on size of group for private trip; not free for group leader, but complimentary bike upgrade to the Madone 6.5	N/A
Max Group Size	20	walking & hiking: 20; biking & multisport, 26	14	20	20+	12
Minimum to Run	6/8	just two but they will re-price it: https://www.backroads.com/terms_and_conditions/	will guarantee some departures with a minimum of 2 pax	No minimum, case by case basis.	1 (unclear fine prints)	guaranteed with one booking of two people
Guides	http://www.ciclismoclassico.com/the-ciclismo-experience/worlds-greatest-guides/	http://www.backroads.com/leaders/ldrprofiles.htm	http://www.duvine.com/experience/guides	http://vbt.com/vbt-experience/trip-leaders	https://trektravel.com/why-trek-travel/our-team/	Beppe (founder) and other senior guides with 10+ years of experience
Repeat Customer Program	Fall alumni discount promotion- http://www.ciclismoclassico.com/the-ciclismo-world/worlds-greatest-guests/alumni-savings/	BEST Club- trip credit for referrals, awards for completing milestone trips (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50), dream destination calendars for your desktop computer	Peloton Club- https://www.duvine.com/service/loyalty-club/	Good Buy Plan-savings for paying early; also discounts for multiple trips in the same year https://www.vbt.com/offers/good-buy-plan/	Club TT- http://www.trektravel.com/why-trek-travel/club-tt/	Magnifica Club https://www.tourissimo.travel/magnifica-tours/magnifica-club

Comparison of Cycling Tours in Puglia

	CICLISMO CLASSICO	BACKROADS	DUVINE	VBT	TREK TRAVEL	TOURISSIMO
Tour Name	La Bella Puglia	Puglia Bike Tour	Puglia Bike Tour	Puglia: Italy's Undiscovered Coast	Puglia	Puglia and Matera Magnifica
Rating (by company) & Daily Mileage	Moderate; 10-40 miles	Route Rating 1-4; there are multiple route options available each day of varying length and difficulty.	Level Two; 20-30 miles	Easy; 15-35 miles	Rider Type 2 (recreational); 20-65 miles	Active; 35 miles
Land Package 2016	4995	4298	4895	3245	4399	4695
Land Package 2017	4995	4298	4895	3395	4399	4695
# of Days	9	6	6	7	6	7
Cost per Day	555	716.333	815.833	463.571	733.167	670.714
Single Sup	800	990	750	395	800	650

	CICLISMO CLASSICO	BACKROADS	DUVINE	VBT	TREK TRAVEL	TOURISSIMO
Hotels	4-star	4- & 5-star hotels	4- & 5-star hotels	4- and 5-Star Hotels	4-star hotels	4- & 5-star hotels
Pretour Shuttle	no	yes, from Bari train station to Conversano for warmup ride	yes, from Brindisi airport.	no, must buy air package	yes, from Bari train station	yes
Post Tour Shuttle	yes, from hotel to Bari airport	yes, from hotel to Bari train station and Bari airport	yes, from hotel to Brindisi	yes, from hotel to Brindisi Airport	yes, from hotel to Lecce train station	yes
Meals Included	8 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners	5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners, Après Velo cocktails	5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners	6 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners	5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners, 3 social hours included	all meals included, all coffee, cappuccino, and gelato stops are included
Wine and beer with meals	not included (wine kitty collected by guides)	included	included	not included	not mentioned	included
Other Inclusions	walking tour of Alberobello, walking tour of Matera, wine tasting, olive oil tasting, mozzarella cheese-making demo, local music event	walking tour of Alberobello, walking tour of Matera, cheese making and wheat grinding demo, dinner with Sommelier	walking tour of Otranto, olive oil tasting, cooking class, wine tasting	olive oil tasting, walking tour of Alberobello	Pizzaiolo demonstration (misspelled on the website), wine tasting, guided tour of Otranto	walking tour of Alberobello, walking tour of Matera, two wine tastings, cooking class, olive oil tasting, folkloristic night



About Magnifica Tours

These are Tourissimo's top of the line scheduled tours both cycling and walking. Get a group together and make them private, even choose your own dates!

Our Magnifica Tours are all-inclusive programs except for flights, and you'll be guided by Beppe Salerno, founder of Tourissimo.

While there are some great travel companies out there we can humbly say that cultural active travel in Italy is not only our business but our passion.

Here are a few things you should know about Tourissimo:

- We specialize in Italian cycling and walking vacations
- Tours are for all abilities and for the whole family
- We are Italians with an office in the US, and our guides are very experienced bilingual Italians
- You can request any custom tour and we will design it
- We can have a program for a wide range of budgets from \$2,500 to \$5,000+

- The Tourissimo experience means authentic Italian cultural immersion
- Our groups are small with an average size of just 12 people
- We design and operate directly all aspects of our tours

Our focus when designing and leading bicycle and walking tours is to show our guests the unspoiled Italian countryside and small villages by selecting spectacular roads and trails.

Italy is a cyclist's and walker's dream come true. It is a place where the people are friendly and believe that healthy, delicious eating is synonymous with living a high quality life.

We look forward to talking with you about your Italian walking and cycling vacation.

Thanks!

Thank you for reading “Comparing High-end Bike Tours.”
[Click here](#) to learn more about how we work design and run custom
active travel tours in Italy.

[**www.tourissimo.travel**](http://www.tourissimo.travel)