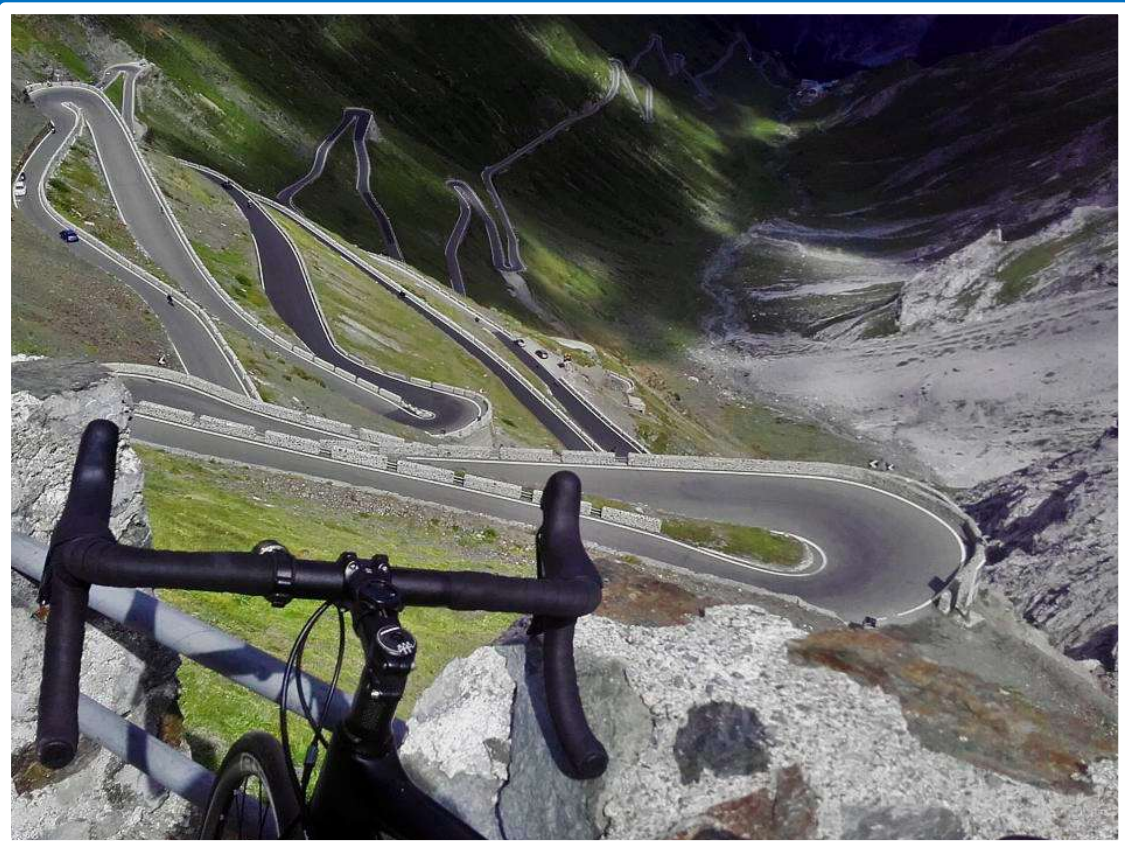




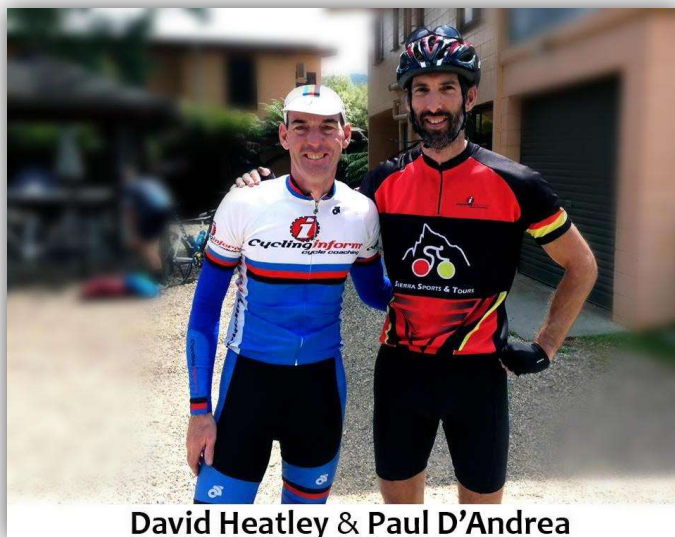
EPIC DOLOMITES CYCLING TOUR

Italian Alps: Venice to Milan (Via Stelvio & Como)



Meet your 'Dolomites & Alps' Cycling Tour Directors

Sierra Sports & Tours and Cycling-Inform are pleased to present two packages for cyclists wanting to crush the most epic mountain passes in Italy and cols in France. During 2027 we will kick things off with an Italian Alps cycling adventure (Dolomites & Stelvio National Parks) before moving immediately over to France to conquer Alpe d'Huez and Mont Ventoux. The tour groups will be capped at 15 riders to keep the experience intimate and so we can provide excellent support to all our guests.



David Heatley & Paul D'Andrea

*This document focuses on the detailed tour itinerary for **EPIC DOLOMITES!***

The Sierra experience in Europe and the coaching support from Cycling-Inform will help you go back-to-back over the French and Italian Alps! David from Cycling-Inform has 20+ years successfully preparing recreational and age group riders for the challenges of their lives; getting riders over WTF corner at Peaks Challenge ride, 25 Bright Boot Camps in the Victorian High Country, training cyclists for the world's biggest gran fondos including Europe's famous Haute Route events and preparing hundreds of clients for their own European cycling adventure. Now combined with the logistical support from Paul and his Sierra team, their European base and equipment, plus 15 years of rolling out first class cycling tours this Sierra/Cycling-Inform joint venture is a match made in cycling heaven.

Our story dates back to 2014 where we met at Peaks Challenge to assess ideas for future collaboration. By 2015 Paul from Sierra was riding a Cycling-Inform Bright Boot Camp to kick start his European cycling guide training. Jodie and David in the same European spring were conquering the cobbles and pave at Flanders and Roubaix. In 2017 Cycling-Inform were back to Europe with Sierra on some the biggest alpine passes at La Vuelta a España. To follow the professional riders Cycling-Inform also joined Sierra at the 2019 Criterium du Dauphine. The latest 'Epic' range of cycling tours have been running since 2023 with tours conducted between the French Alps, Italian Alps and Spanish/French Pyrenees.

Now in 2027 we are pleased to present you all the **EPIC DOLOMITES** and **EPIC FRENCH ALPS** trips of your lifetime!

2027 Epic Dolomites & Stelvio Cycling Tour

Cycling from Venice to Milan

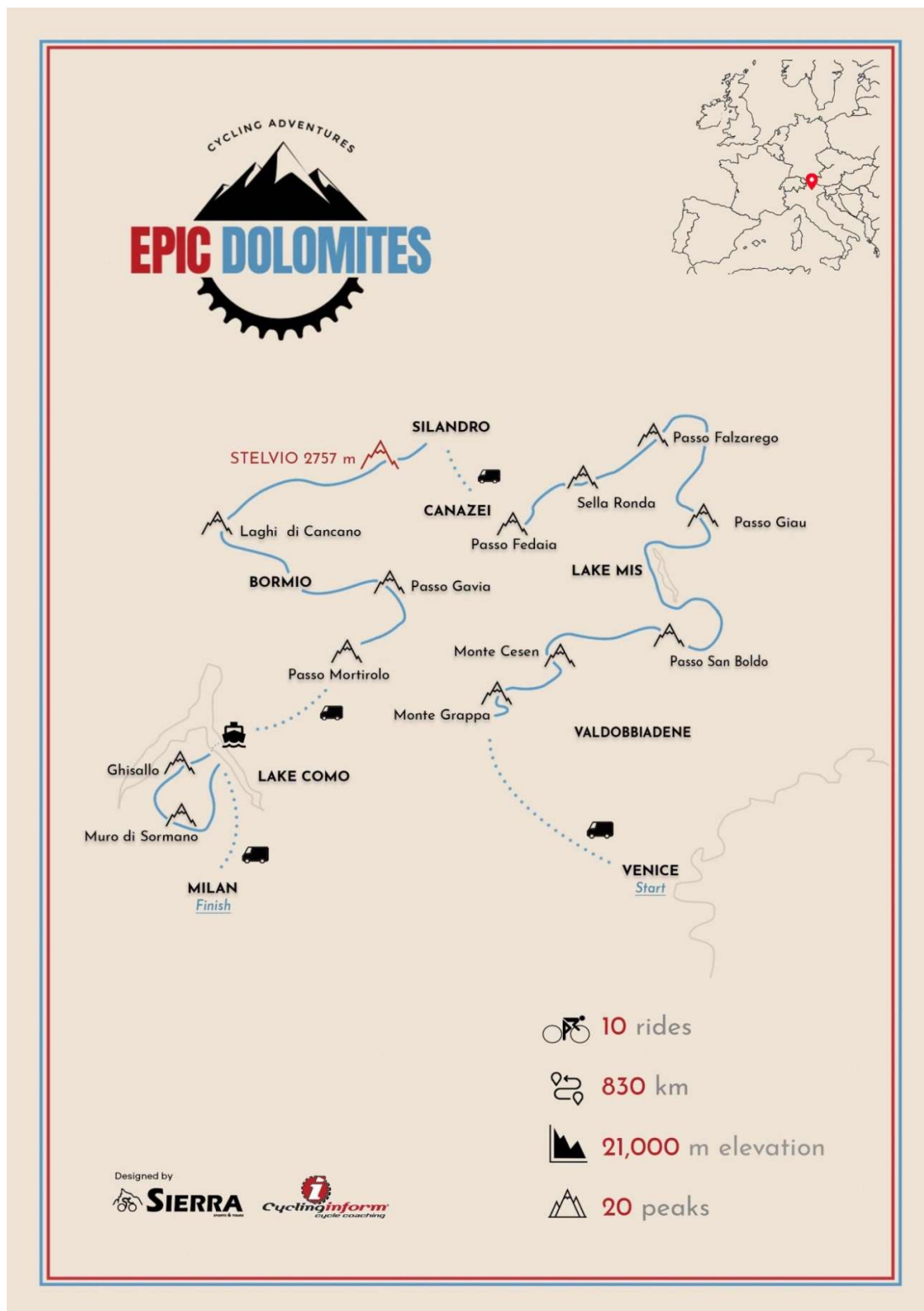
Welcome to the roads of cycling legends! This cycling tour will take you through the Veneto Prosecco wine region, up and over the epic Dolomites and Stelvio National Parks before finishing on the beautiful shores of Lake Como.

During 2027 we start our cycling tour in Venice and finish in Milan. This tour is perfect for cyclists who would like to challenge themselves on some of Europe's biggest climbs. You will enjoy amazing bucket list climbs, such as, Sella Ronda (Pordoi, Sella, Gardena & Campolongo), Passo Giau, Passo Falzarego, Passo Fedaia, Passo dello Stelvio, Passo Gavia and Passo Mortirolo! The tour has also been designed to give you the time to relax and enjoy northern Italy. With multiple nights in Bassano del Grappa, Arabba, Bormio and Bellagio there will be many opportunities to soak up the Italian summer and explore this beautiful part of the world at a leisurely pace!

The Dolomites are not the only region in Italy with famous climbs. As a special treat escapes to tackle Monte Grappa, Foza, Passo San Boldo, Passo Ghisallo and the Sormano wall also await. From the mythical Giro d'Italia roads to the race defining climbs from Giro di Lombardia this tour has it all!

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Time trial the **Monte Grappa** ascent like Nairo Quintana
- ✓ Ride the 5 crazy tunnelled switchbacks over **San Boldo Pass**
- ✓ Follow the limestone rocky peaks around the **Sella massif!**
- ✓ Test your legs on **Passo Giau** and its toughest southern approach
- ✓ Conquer His Majesty the **Stelvio Pass** – Europe's 2nd highest paved pass!
 - ✓ Celebrate your achievements on **Lake Como!**



ITINERARY

DAY ONE – Wed 14 July 2027 – Venice to Foza

This morning we can collect you from Venice (Marco Polo Airport or Hotel Venice Resort) at approximately 9:00am. From Venice there will be a 1hr transfer to Bassano del Grappa. We have a historic base for your first 2 nights on tour! After setting up the bikes and a light lunch we will now be ready to take on the Foza climb which is our first challenge for the tour.

Foza was used during Stage 20 of the 100th edition of the Giro d'Italia. The fact that it was used as the final climb of such an important Giro anniversary really says something regarding its importance in Italy. It is a 14.7km climb with an average gradient of 6.4%. There are many tight switchbacks to contend with as you ride up through the woodlands.

Tonight we will go through a detailed briefing and enjoy our tour welcome dinner. Some epic cycling awaits!

Meals

Dinner

Destinations

Foza

Today's Ride

60km cycling / 1300m elevation gain

Accommodation

Bassano del Grappa

(Veneto, Italy)

DAY TWO – Thursday 15 July 2027 – Monte Grappa loop

Monte Grappa. Bang! For those looking for a challenge on a classic Giro d'Italia climb then look no further than Monte Grappa. For Italian cyclists, riding Grappa is a tradition and for many just as important as the Stelvio Pass. It is the location where the Italian troops held back the constant attacks of the Austro-Hungarian and German armies during WWI and where the famous motto "You Shall Not Pass Here" was born.

The climb rises out of the Veneto plain and measures 27km at an average gradient of 6%. The Giro d'Italia has visited Monte Grappa (1775m) on many occasions and was last used during Stage 15 of the 2025 edition (double ascent!).



Why Epic?

Monte Grappa has 11 different categorised climbs to the summit and is well known for its 'Brevetto del Grappa' where cyclists set out to climb all 11 ascents.

Meals

Breakfast

Today's Ride

115km / 2100m elevation gain

Accommodation

Bassano del Grappa (Veneto, Italy)

DAY THREE – Friday 16 July 2027 – Passo San Boldo

Riding from the hotel and you encounter some stunning scenery on the Passo San Boldo climb. The road near the summit includes a series of five switchback tunnels carved into the rock! The 6km climb at 7.5% average was last contested during Stage 19 of the 2019 Giro d'Italia which an emotional Esteban Chaves went on to win! Rolling across the top of the plateau offers incredible views to the distant Dolomites. Is that snow we often get asked? No, there you have the limestone peaks of the soaring Dolomites!

After a coffee stop the cycling continues along the edge of 'Lago del Mis' and this valley ride hugs the edge of this beautiful lake! There are two short climbs following quiet backroads still to navigate before a well earned cold drink in Agordo. From Agordo there is a 1hr van transfer to our home in Arabba (Dolomites National Park) for the next 3 nights.

Why Epic?

The San Boldo road was built during the First World War by the Austro-Hungarian army in less than 100 days. Quite an impressive feat! A pathway was converted/blasted to create a road to transport heavy artillery and supplies to the Piave war front. In war nobody wins, but in this case, we are lucky to have one of the world's most spectacular cycling routes!

Meals

Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations

Lago del Mis

Today's Ride

100km / 2050m elevation gain

Accommodation

Arabba (Dolomites, Italy)

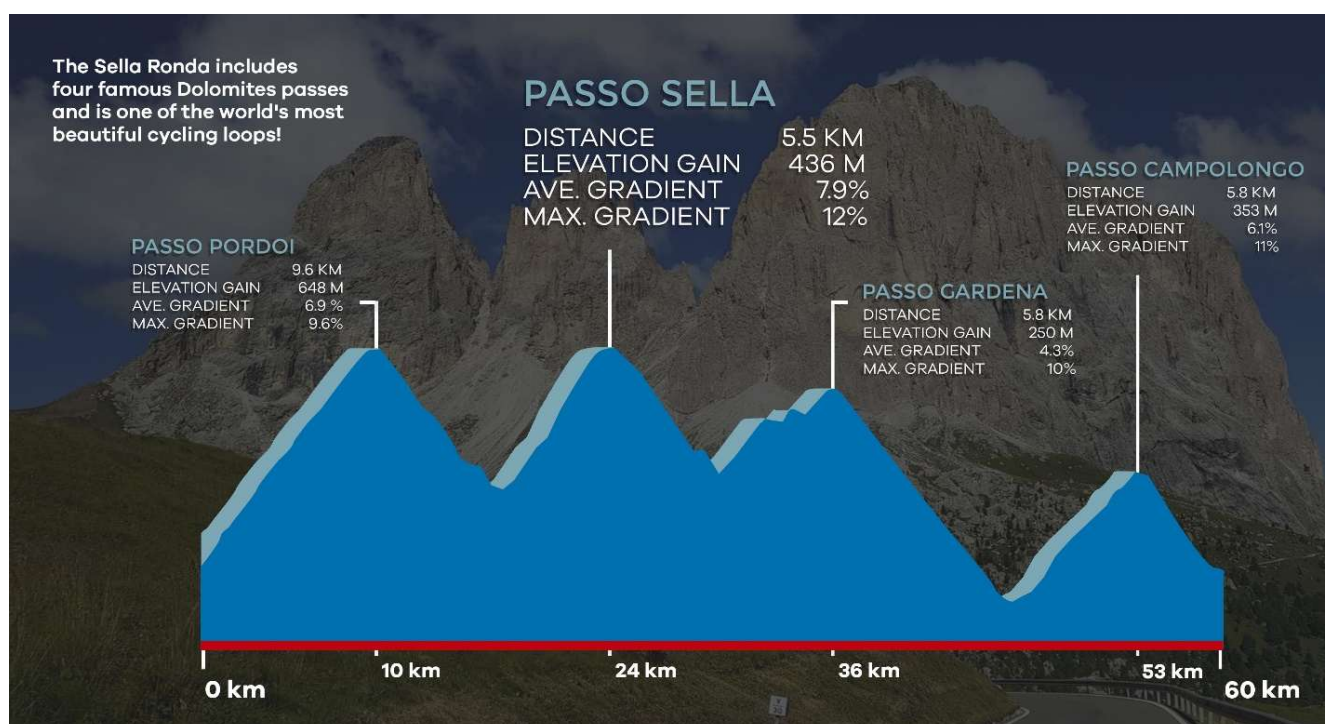


DAY FOUR – Saturday 17 July 2027 – Sella Ronda

One of the world's most iconic cycling routes is on offer today: the Sella Ronda loop!! The Sella Ronda is a must for any cyclist who visits the towering Dolomites mountain region. There are 4 steps to become a member of the Sella Ronda club: Passo Pordoi, Passo Sella, Passo Gardena and Passo Campolongo. The views of the jagged limestone peaks, pine forests, alpine meadows and winding roads will be etched into your memory for a lifetime!

1. Pordoi: 9.2 km, Gradient: 6.9%
2. Sella: 5.5 km, Gradient: 7.9%
3. Gardena: 5.8 km, Gradient: 4.3%
4. Campolongo: 5.8 km, Gradient: 6.1%

Don't let the relatively low kilometre count trick you today as each pass goes accumulating elevation, almost 1850m of elevation gain! We often find that Day 4 can be difficult for some on tour so the Sella loop will provide excellent motivation and also the chance for an early ride finish and afternoon of important recovery.



Why Epic?

The Sella Ronda is the core of the 'Maratona dles Dolomites' gran fondo cycling event. 9000 riders line up every year to tackle the Maratona which is described by National Geographic as "one of the biggest, most passionate, and most chaotic bike races on Earth". Riding around the Sella Massif is about as good as it gets for mountain scenery!

Meals

Breakfast

Destinations

Corvara

Today's Ride

55km / 1500m elevation gain

Accommodation

Arabba (Dolomites, Italy)



DAY FIVE – Sunday 18 July 2027 – Passo Giau & Falzarego

Our base in Arabba allows the perfect chance to enter deeper into the heart of the national park for another classic Dolomites loop ride. For all the Giro d'Italia tragics out there you would have heard about the southern approach of Passo Giau! For most cyclists who have travelled Italy in and out 'Passo Giau South' will be in their top 10 climbs. This beauty measures 9.5km and the 9.4% average grade takes you up to 2236 metres elevation. A little like Alpe d'Huez in the French Alps, Km 1 of this pass is its toughest with ramps constantly reading 10-12%. At the summit you will be in awe of the seemingly sculptured mountain peaks surrounding you (Nuvolau, Lastoni del Formin, Cerner, Croda da Lago and Tofane). This could well be your most scenic coffee stop yet!

From Giau the ride continues with a 17km descent which glides all its way towards Cortina d'Ampezzo. The road winds its way through fields filled with grazing cows and the 6-8% grades make it much friendlier than the torturous southern approach. In combination with its fascinating landscape Giau is also connected with Passo Falzarego which will bring today's route back towards our hotel.





Why Epic?

Passo Giau has been chosen various times as the Cima Coppi (the highest peak) in the Giro d'Italia cycling race.

It is the highest mountain pass in the Cortina area and when combined with Passo Falzarego makes for our Queen stage through the Dolomites!

Meals

Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations

Passo Giau

Today's Ride

90km / 2500m elevation gain

Accommodation

Arabba (Dolomites, Italy)

DAY SIX – Monday 19 July 2027 – Rest Day or Passo Fedaia

After five consecutive days on the bikes feel free to enjoy a sleep in and long breakfast before a 45 minute drive to Canzei to meet up with the cycling group for lunch. For those keen to ride some more there will be a morning expedition to climb Passo Fedaia. 'Fedaia' is a classic climb and it was last used during the queen Stage 14 of the 2018 Giro d'Italia. To make things really interesting we hope to ride through the Sottoguda canyon at the base of the eastern Fedaia ascent but this will depend if the road is open to cyclists or not. Either way there will be a 14km climb up to the majestic Fedaia lakes which were used as the backdrop to the 'Italian Job' movie. A fast descent down to Canazei for lunch before a 2hr van transfer to near the base of the Stelvio Pass. Yes, the Stelvio Pass! Tomorrow is a big day visiting His Majesty so we all need to make sure we are in good condition to give it our all.



Why Epic?

At the top of the Fedaia pass there will be time to soak up the enormity of the Marmolada glacier which at 3343m elevation is the highest peak in the Dolomites. Talk about the perfect backdrop for a photo to remember!

Meals

Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations

Canazei

Today's Ride

Rest Day or
45km / 1300m elevation gain

Accommodation

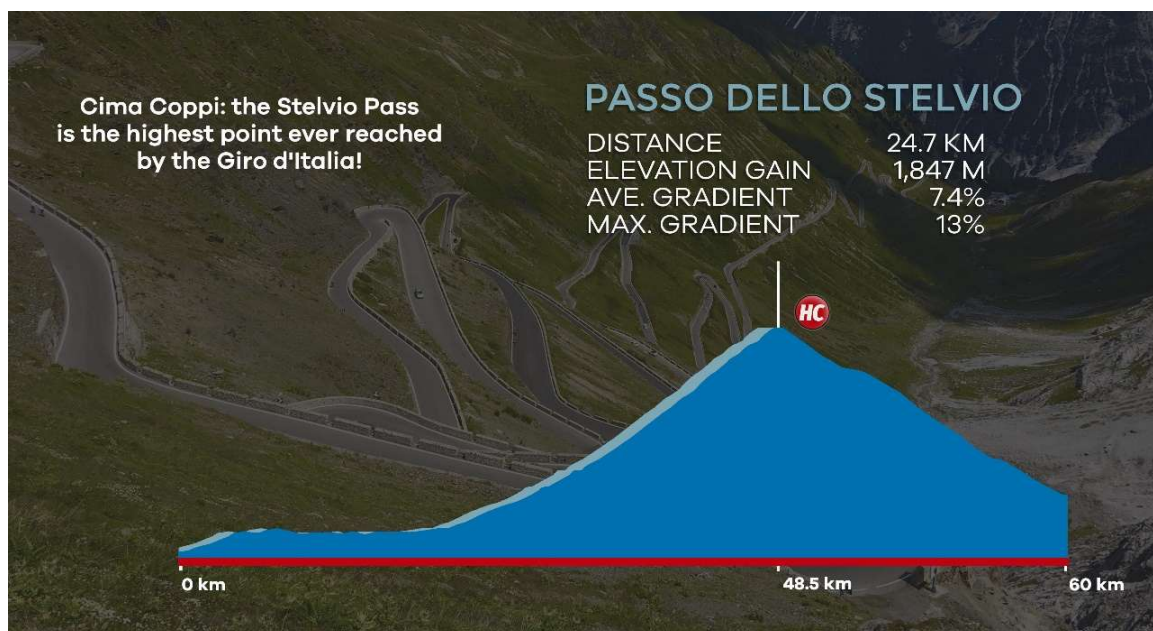
Silandro (South Tyrol, Italy)

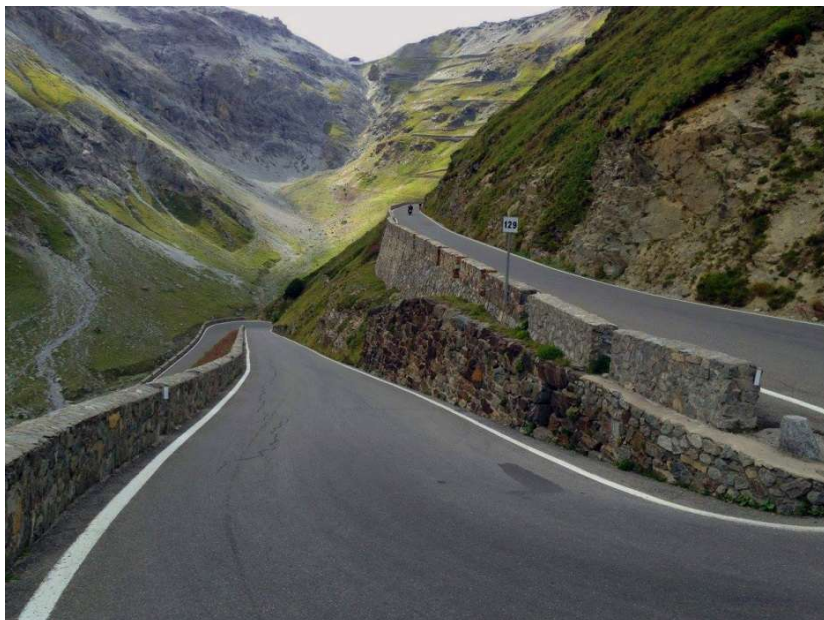


DAY SEVEN – Tuesday 20 July 2027 – Passo dello Stelvio

From Silandro you will ride from the hotel along the bike path to the base of the Stelvio Pass. Past guests have found this 20km through the apple orchards and woodlands as a welcome warm-up. Now you will need to be ready to climb the mythical Stelvio north side with its 48 hairpin bends that rise up and up for 25km and which gain 1840 metres of elevation. Passo Stelvio (2758m) is the highest asphalted mountain pass in the Eastern Alps, second only to Col de l'Iseran (2770m) in the French Alps in elevation and with more than twice the number of switchbacks as the famous Alpe d'Huez. The climb is epic in every sense of the definition. At the top you can take a bow to his majesty the Stelvio Pass. Your sense of achievement will be at an all time high!

When it comes to Giro d'Italia history the Stelvio Pass has been contested on 12 occasions. It first appeared in 1953 when during the penultimate stage the Italian legend Fausto Coppi attacked on the Stelvio Pass to take the lead and secure victory in Bormio. This guy Coppi was pretty good right! This would be his fifth and final Giro title and all thanks to the Stelvio.





Why Epic?

The north side of the Stelvio is the iconic, legendary climb from the Giro d'Italia. 7 of its 12 passings have been held during either Stage 20 or 21 highlighting its importance. With the race held every May the norm is to watch the pro peloton climbing alongside walls of snow elevating it to a level of epic which is unparalleled to the other Grand Tours!

Meals

Breakfast

Destinations

Prato dello Stelvio

Today's Ride

60km / 2000m elevation gain

Accommodation

Bormio (Lombardy, Italy)



DAY EIGHT – Wed 21 July 2027 – Mortirolo & Cancano

The Stelvio Pass is a major cycling feat, so this morning some guests might prefer to sleep in and spend the morning exploring the Bormio village. In regards to cycling though there are always plenty of options around Bormio but the plan is to initiate those who are keen on the Mortirolo climb!

A road that was always a secondary mountain route became asphalted in 1990 and a new page in the Giro history books was opened. In those 30 years there have been as many as 14 Giro crossings and names such as Marco Pantani, Ivan Basso, Steven Kruiswijk and Luis Leon Sanchez have all lead the peloton over this 1851m elevation summit. It will be a great chance for everyone to test themselves on an authentic Italian wall.

As we ride back into Bormio the route continues for an optional 10km climb up to the 2020 Giro Stage 18 summit finish on Laghi di Cancano. The first half of the climb scales the side of the valley before the final section converts into a series of curving switchbacks. At the 8km mark you pass the two medieval towers (Torri di Friaie) and push on to the rifugio and the spectacular views over the lake.

Why Epic?

With climb statistics that put
Mortirolo in the same league
as Zoncolan (Italy) or Angliru (Spain)
it is one 'out and out'
cycling challenge.
12.5km and 1300m elevation gain.
We will leave you all to do the
maths!

Meals

Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations

Mortirolo

Today's Ride

75km / 1850m elevation gain or
100km / 2250m elevation gain

Accommodation

Bormio (Lombardy, Italy)

DAY NINE – Thursday 22 July 2027 – Gavia Pass

Like the Stelvio Pass, Passo di Gavia (2621m) also rises out of the Bormio sport village. This is just another mythical climb that has crowned many modern-day Giro d'Italia winners! 'Gavia' with its 1400 metres elevation gain over 25km leaves one short of breath (5.5% average grade). From Bormio the climb begins as a major road accessing ski villages which then changes in a blink of an eye to a narrow remote mountain road which passes eerily through forest and later up into a barren glacier field. The 'real' Gavia road begins at Km12.5 with the first right hand switchback out of Santa Caterina ski village. We guarantee that you'll never forget its tight switchbacks and steep ramps!

1. Km 0 – 6: Gradient: 2.5%
2. Km 6 – 12.5: Gradient: 6.0%
3. **Km 12.5 – 23: Gradient: 7.4%**
4. Km 23 – 25.6: Gradient: 3.5%

The Gavia summit is a remarkable location but to get there you have to deal with its forever changing gradients. Near the summit you find the beautiful Lago Bianco with the Corno dei Tre Signori mountain (3359m) keeping guard. And right at the top the glacier means the temperature at this elevation are always quite low even in the middle of the summer. Jump into the family owned cafeteria (rifugio) for a nice hot chocolate or coffee!

Since 1960 there have been 10 Giro d'Italia crossings. Interestingly enough though the Gavia has also seen several race cancellations due to terrible weather conditions (1961, 1984 and 2013). Since the mid-1990s the Giro has scheduled 8 of its 10 Gavia crossings highlighting the desire of the modern race organisers to showcase this cycling giant as a true 'Cima Coppi' for the highest point in the race!

Post-ride there will be time for a shower back in the hotel and lunch in Bormio township. Mid-afternoon the vans will head for Lake Como which is our home for the final two nights on tour.

Why Epic?

For some guests the Gavia climb has actually been a more difficult proposition than Stelvio Pass due to its UNPREDICTABILITY. Stelvio is an engineered modern road, almost a mountain highway. The Gavia though is a lesser trafficked road which is often closed for longer periods of the year.

The quality of the asphalt is poorer, its rougher, the road widens and narrows, the switchback corners viciously ramp up rather than flattening and the weather is usually more extreme.

Battling between how to ride the alternating flatter and steeper grades has also seen many riders push too hard before entering the final 13km on the 'real' mountain road! However, apart from all of its challenges we are always amazed to watch our cyclists time trial the final two kilometres around the lake to the summit on a false flat!

At this stage of the tour 3.5% ave. grade will now feel flat!!



Meals

Breakfast

Destinations

Gavia Pass

Today's Ride

60km / 1350m elevation gain

Accommodation

Bellagio (Lake Como, Italy)

DAY TEN – Friday 23 July 2027 – Lake Como

This morning the tour concludes with a classic cycling loop from Bellagio. Bellagio is considered to be the pearl of Lake Como. The grand finale concludes on the 'Ghisallo' and 'Sormano' climbs which are used during the Giro di Lombardia professional race (5th cycling monument race alongside Milan-San Remo, Tour of Flanders, Paris Roubaix and Liege-Bastogne-Liege). It is a wonderful experience arriving at Piazzale del Ghisallo with the church dedicated to cyclists and the new cycling museum. We will finish descending to our hotel for the final celebration with spectacular Lake Como views!



Why Epic?

Muro di Sormano will be an optional 2km detour for those who would like to push themselves over this short but painfully steep climb.

The climb is 1.7km long but with an average gradient of 17% and ramps pressing 24% it's one of the toughest challenges around!

The climb first featured in racing circles during three consecutive editions of the Giro di Lombardia during the early 1960's.

Many riders though were forced to walk or pushed up by cycling fans and in 1963 it quickly disappeared from the pro scene.

In 2006 'il Muro' returned to local racing and by 2012 the Giro di Lombardia was back writing 'Sormano' into cycling folklore!

Meals

Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations

Bellagio

Today's Ride

55km / 1400m elevation gain

Accommodation

Bellagio (Lake Como, Italy)

DAY ELEVEN – Saturday 24 July 2027 – Goodbyes

Following breakfast we will transfer you to Milan Malpensa Airport by 10:30am (1.5hr drive). If you would like to spend additional days relaxing and enjoying the Lake Como area please feel free to ask us for more information. We hope you have enjoyed your 'Dolomiti' cycling experience and we look forward to seeing you again in the near future!

Meals: Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour Package:

Epic Dolomites (14 – 24 July 2027)

Tour Inclusions:

10 nights accommodation (twin share), 3/4 star hotels
All breakfasts included, 3 picnic lunches & 6 dinners with beer & wine
10 epic guided rides (includes support van & mechanic)
Food and drink during rides
Commemorative cycling jersey
Comprehensive tour booklet (ride maps and profiles)

Price: 4750 Euro (Payment in \$AUD available)

Maximum 15 participants

EXTRAS

Single room supplement: 1000 Euro

Carbon road bike hire (Orbea Avant, 105, compact, 11/32 cassette, rim brakes): 250 Euro

Carbon road bike hire (Orbea Orca, Di2 105, compact, 11/34 cassette, disc brakes): 500 Euro

E-road bike hire (Orbea Denna, 420Wh internal battery, disc brakes): 700 Euro

CONTACT



Sierra Sports & Tours specialises in European road cycling tours with annual trips through France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Slovenia & Switzerland. Cycling is our life, bike travel our passion and our number one priority is to support you in your quest to cycle the very best of Europe!

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Cycling-Inform has nearly two decades of cycling coaching experience in customising training plans and master classes for recreational riders and racing cyclists. Our focus is on effective training so you achieve real breakthroughs with your cycling performance.

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