



Ski, Golf, Bask

The best ways to experience the Boot.

BY IVY GRACIE

Ski

Those who have skied Italy have unearthed one of the sport's best-kept secrets: The Boot's downhill destinations span all the way from tip to toe. Set up camp in any of the six northernmost regions, and you're atop the Alps. Tuscany is home to the Apennine Mountains and boasts a range of options to satisfy athletes of every level. Emilia-Romagna offers 15 resorts; even Liguria and Marche have a smattering of their own. Bruncu Spina is the only ski destination on the island of Sardinia. While it doesn't have the altitude to ensure consistent snow conditions, it does offer the opportunity to claim you've skied on an island. And there's only one way to top that: Head to Sicily to hit up one of the two resorts on Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano.



Golf

Just like the country's awe-inspiring artwork and architecture, incredible dining and shopping, and breathtaking sea- and ski-scapes, great golfing is everywhere. Near Venice, the stately Circolo Golf Venezia is hidden behind the walls of an old fortress on Lido. Romans tee off at Country Club Castelgandolfo, a Robert Trent Jones creation set in an extinct volcanic crater. Tuscany's Argentario Golf Resort & Spa is breathtaking in every way, from the vistas of the coastal course to the array of decadent spa treatments. If you're up for a little high-altitude play, visit Golf Club Biella "Le Betulle" situated at the foot of the Alps between Turin and Aosta Valley. And one of Italy's most beloved courses is the Menaggio & Cadenabbia Golf Club, the oldest in the lakes area.





Bask

Traveling calls for logging some serious mileage — in the air, on the Autostrade and on foot. After subjecting your soles to steaming stone streets, chilling out in cooling waters could be as momentous as seeing the Sistine Chapel. And with almost 5,000 miles of coastline, Italy affords plenty of opportunities to have your own religious experience. Lifelong sun worshipers Paolo Meschini and Antonio Rinaldini of Roam Around Rome offer up the following insider intel as to where the locals summer. In Lazio, hit up Gaeta, Nettuno, Sabaudia and Sperlonga. In Sardinia, don't miss Arzachena, Baia Chia, Golfo di Orosei and Mari Pintau. And in Tuscany, visit Castiglione della Pescaia and Spiaggia di Sansone. Don't fret if you can't hit them all — consider this the beginning of your beach bucket list. [A1](#)

