

# Best Drives In Europe

Blanc tunnel under the highest Alp is a strange thrill; emerging into Italy's deep Aosta valley is even better. From Turin, head south for Alba, hitting the Med at Savona. Enjoy the Levantine Riviera as far as La Spezia, then find the little roads climbing up the Apennines to Abatone, and then twist down into Florence. Make a circuit by returning on the winding minor routes to Bologna or Modena, then back up to the Alps via Milan.

**Look out for** Lots of mountains, of course, plus all the shops, food and buzz of Italian cities, the undiscovered charm of its country towns and old-school swank of its glamorous coast. Portofino and Le Cinque Terre are seaside highlights; the twisty Apennine roads north of Florence a driver's joy.

**Where to stay/eat** Money no object? Park next to George Clooney's motorbike slot at the Splendido in Portofino (+39 0185 267 801, [hotelsplendido.com](http://hotelsplendido.com), doubles from around €671). On a budget? Casa Cambi near Savona (+39 0182 78009, [casacambi.it](http://casacambi.it), doubles from €80 B&B) is a colourful little hilltop hideaway.

**Ends** In Florence. Don't let the flat, industrial outskirts deter you, but think twice about trying to drive around the complex, restricted old city centre.



Famous five... Vernazza, one of the villages of Le Cinque Terre

