

Cinque Terre (Liguria) – The Gateway to Italy

The outstanding scenic feature on the Ligurian Coast is the Cinque Terre ('five lands') National Park. It is made up of five tiny villages set on a short stretch of cliff surrounded by olive groves, pine forests and a spectacular coastline. The best way to explore this area is on foot and it is a real treat for the avid walker. The most popular walk is the 11km Blue trail, which leads you along the breathtaking shoreline, through each of these famous villages. In addition to the fabulous walking on offer, there are also biking trails and scooters are available for hire.

Levanto, a popular seaside resort, has a wide, well maintained beach, plus a swimming pool, and is the perfect location for a lazy day or two following your walking holiday in Cinque Terre. However, if you are still feeling energetic Levanto offers plenty water sports, including canoeing and surfing. In the old town, which is made up of narrow streets and pastel coloured houses, there are a number of interesting sites to visit, notably Loggia Comunale on the central Piazza del Popolo and the black and white stripped church of Sant' Andrea. In addition, if you happen to be in Levanto on a Wednesday it is well worth dropping in on the huge market that draws crowds from across the area.

The main city of Liguria is Genoa, the European city of culture in 2004. It has a fascinating historic centre with many Romanesque and baroque churches, and interesting museum collections housed in former palaces. East of Genoa is Portofino, the playground of the rich and famous. The popularity this pretty little fishing village gained during the '50's and '60's, when the likes of Winston Churchill and Elizabeth Taylor visited, has continued to this day. Portofino's colourful harbour area is lined with cafes from where you can relax with a drink and watch the boats come and go, before visiting its famous designer boutiques. A friendly and more reasonably priced alternative to Portofino is Santa Margherita Ligure. This small town offers attractive sea views from the harbour that is frequently home to many smart yachts. With an abundance of palm trees, grand hotels and garden villas this attractive resort is ideal for a day trip.

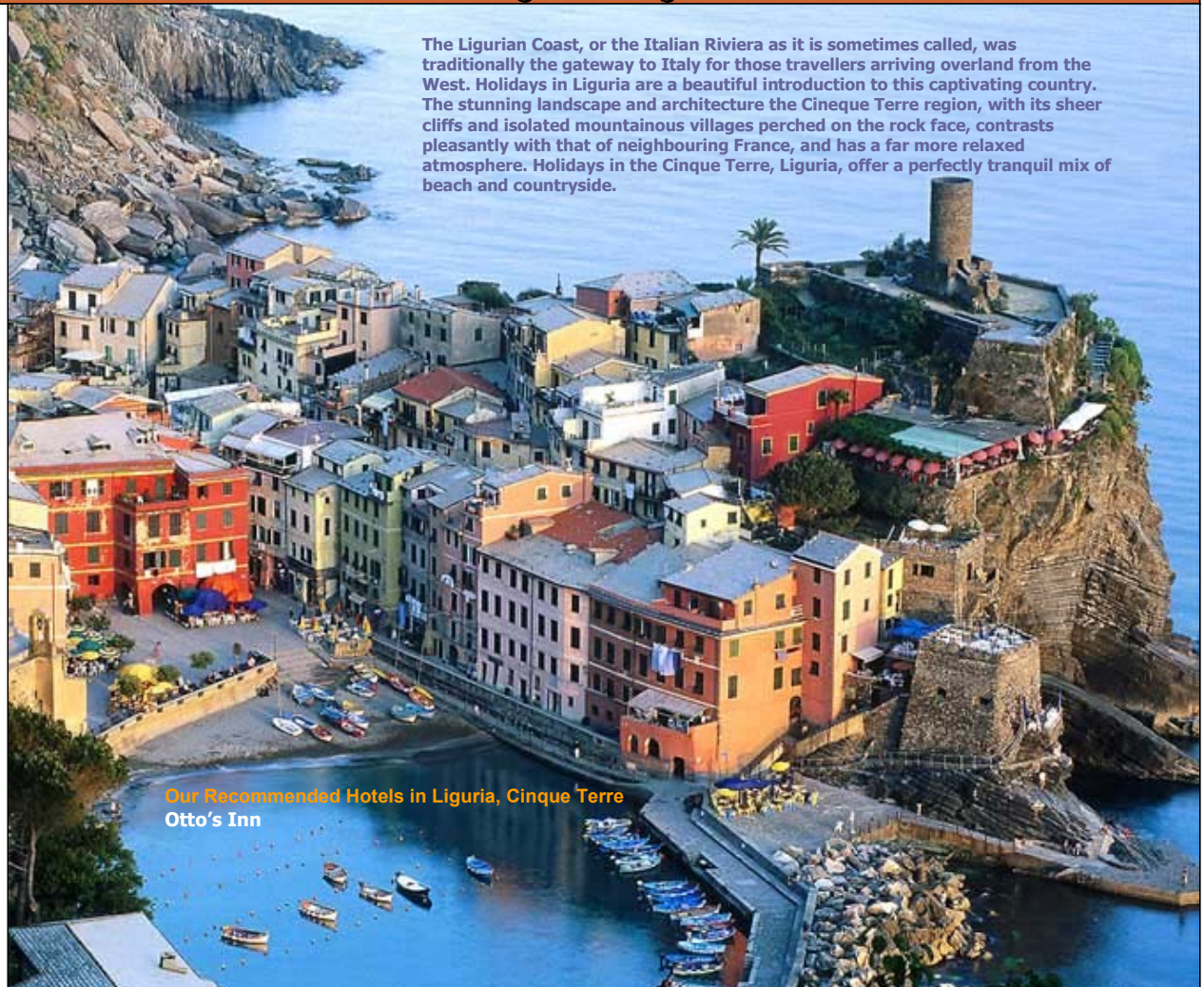
Getting There

Fly direct from the UK to Genoa or Pisa with, amongst others, Ryanair, Easyjet, BA

Combine With

The Lakes and winelands to the northwest, or the countryside of Tuscany or Umbria to the south. Add a city break in Venice, Florence or Rome.

For more images & hotel details see www.c-boutiquehotels.com
To book call **08717 500070**



The Ligurian Coast, or the Italian Riviera as it is sometimes called, was traditionally the gateway to Italy for those travellers arriving overland from the West. Holidays in Liguria are a beautiful introduction to this captivating country. The stunning landscape and architecture the Cinque Terre region, with its sheer cliffs and isolated mountainous villages perched on the rock face, contrasts pleasantly with that of neighbouring France, and has a far more relaxed atmosphere. Holidays in the Cinque Terre, Liguria, offer a perfectly tranquil mix of beach and countryside.

Our Recommended Hotels in Liguria, Cinque Terre
Otto's Inn