



Dear Members

I am delighted to be your Chairman for 2020, which, after a difficult 2019 can only improve for our industry - and especially for tourism & travel in Italy.

Italy is proudly a country ahead of the time and are among few that are already ahead in promoting green and sustainable tourism.

*Italy has now smoke free and eco-beaches, as well as towns and municipalities certified as 'sustainable' by worldwide and independent bodies. I believe this should be reflected in our own efforts and ABTOI should help support such efforts this year. **Enrico Soresini**, Chairman*



The Times + Readers Event

The tail end of 2019 saw ten **ABTOI** members participate in an Italian wine tasting evening at the spectacular top floor location of The Times building on London Bridge. More than 120 Times + readers were treated to an Italian experience, sampling numerous wines from 5 selected regions, paired with delicious antipasti and the opportunity to chat holidays and villas directly with members.

Much gratitude to [Villa Sandi](#) for supplying mini bottles of their excellent Prosecco for the goodie bags. A thoroughly enjoyable and productive evening hosted by Will Lyons, wine columnist of The Times.

Training with an Expert

After Camey Turner of [Crows Nest Films](#) joined the ABTOI Summit last year to expound on the merits of using film to promote your products on social media, we brought him back again for a full afternoon on how to make the right film content for your marketing campaign, with recommended camera equipment and methods to employ. If you have any queries still, he would be delighted to hear from you.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

AGM & Lunch

The Italian boutique Hotel Baglioni overlooking Hyde Park was the recent venue for the latest AGM which was attended by more than 50% of ABTOI members. A warm welcome was given to Enrico Soresini (International Rail) as the new Chair of ABTOI

as we say goodbye to Lisa Leggate (To Tuscany) with much gratitude for her dedication as she relinquishes the position after two years. An excellent lunch followed in the private Clubino Room where members enjoyed delicious Italian wines and networking with old and new colleagues.

A Welcome Escape

Thanks to the region of Campania, ABTOI members were delighted to escape the crowds at WTM with a delicious meal in the private dining room on the Italian Tourist Board stand. Another opportunity to catch up with colleagues and network with a glass of vino.



Other News

Member APG UK are delighted to announce they have become the representative for ITALO trains. Until 2012, there was only one big player in the Italian rail travel market. Now, with the introduction of Italo train service by private company Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (NTV), there are more options.

NTV offers only high-speed train services. Italo's trains run at speeds up to 190 MPH (300 km/h) and have three classes of service. All levels come with leather seats and free WiFi. The high speed train routes go via 30 stations and 22 cities. Please contact stuart.challis@apg-ga.co.uk if you would like further information.

New Members

Welcome new Associate Member **ABTOT** whose particular emphasis on SMEs would be useful to many ABTOI members. ABTOT is an approved body which oversees the bonding process to ensure your bond is at an adequate level to meet insolvency requirements www.abtot.com

Welcome to another new Associate Member **Tranquillo** who are all about risk management. As leading specialists in travel health, safety and crisis management, they can help you strategize your risk management. No job is too big or too small www.tranquillo.com

Welcome to **Relax Puglia** providing authentic and memorable experiences with their holiday villas and trulli to rent in Puglia www.relaxpuglia.com

Welcome to **Sicily A La Carte** offering bespoke travel experience in Sicily from their fine private villas to boutique hotels www.sicilyalacarte.com

Welcome to **Arceno Rentals**, a boutique rental company offering some of the most enchanting properties in Tuscany, particularly the Siena area www.arcenorentalsclub.com

Welcome to **Scent of Sicily** who specialise in villa rentals offering complimentary services from cultural adventures to food and wine experiences www.scent-of-sicily.com

Welcome **Italy Bike Tours** who provide handcrafted cycling holidays operating extensively throughout the north of Italy for consumers as well as incentive travel www.italybiketours.co.uk

Welcome **Flag Travel Holidays** who offer a la carte bespoke holidays for individuals as well as group travel utilising their array of charming hotels and sharing their extensive experience www.flagtravelholidays.com



Dates to Watch

28 February 2020:

Training with an Expert: Getting your paid digital marketing off the ground

20 March 2020:

Training with an Expert: How to get even better results in your paid Digital marketing campaigns without breaking the bank

28 April 2020:

Press Lunch: Theme of sustainable/responsible travel

3 November 2020:

World Travel Market: ABTOI lunch

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