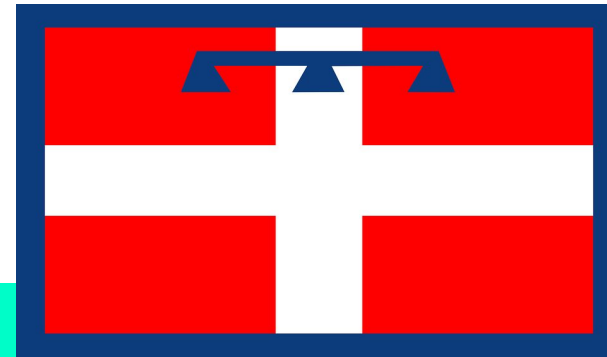


P I E D M O N T



COAT OF ARMS

BORDERS

Piedmont borders Liguria to the south, France to the west, Aosta valley and Switzerland to the north, Lombardy and Emilia Romagna to the east.



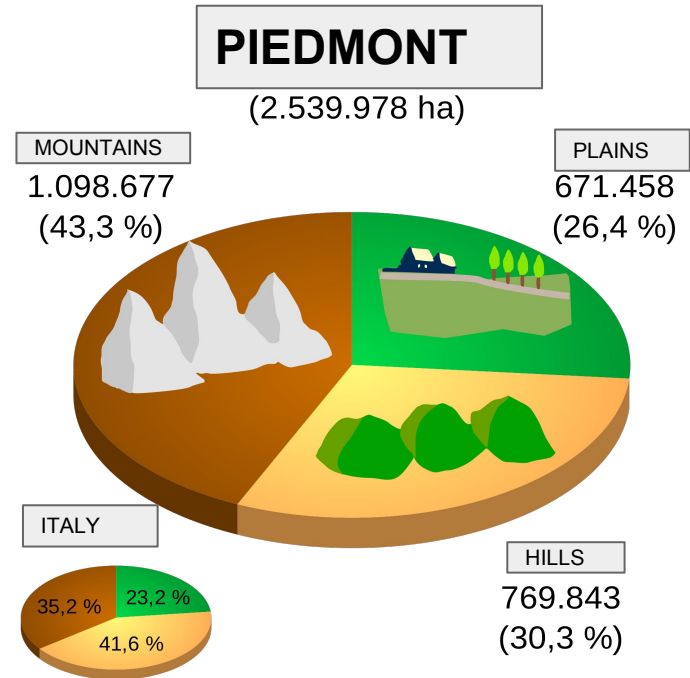
WHERE IS PIEDMONT?

It is located in the western part of Italy.



LANDSCAPE

Almost 43% of the territory is mountainous; hills represent 27% of the territory and plains cover 30% of the region.



CLIMATE

Climate depends on the altitude, it is very cold on glaciers and milder on the Po valley. winters are rainy, there is fog and frost at night whereas summers are warmer and more humid.



HILLS AND LAKES

The hilly territory stretches across [Monferrato](#) and a small area of the [Langhe](#).
There are two national parks: [Gran Paradiso](#) and [val Grande](#).
There are two glacial lakes: [Lake Maggiore](#) and [Orta Lake](#) (which is really tiny).



Mountains

The region has a varied landscape: vast pasturelands, woods and large stretches of vineyards.

The highest mountains are

Mount Rosa (4634 m),

Gran Paradiso (4061 m),

Monviso (3841 m).

Piedmont means "situated at the foot of a mountain".



THE CHARM OF MOUNTAINS

GRAN PARADISO



MOUNT ROSA



MONVISO



RIVERS

The largest river in Piedmont is the Po. Other important rivers, in order of their mean rate of discharge, include the Ticino, the Tanaro, the Dora Baltea, the Dora Riparia, the Sesia, the Toce, the Stura, the Bormida.



ART AND CULTURE

The capital city, Turin, has many palaces of the period when it was the capital city of Italy. Unesco world Heritage Site royal residences are in Venaria, Racconigi and Stupinigi. They attract a lot of tourists every year.



ART AND CULTURE 2

There are a lot of medieval castles in the area of Langhe and Monferrato; of the same period is the Sacra di San Michele, sometimes known as Saint Michael's Abbey, a religious complex on Mount Pirchiriano, situated on the south side of Susa valley.

Modern art is hosted in two museums: GAM (Modern Art Gallery in Turin) and the Castle of Rivoli.



ART AND CULTURE 3

The Sacri Monti (Sacred Mountains) of Piedmont recall Jesus' via Crucis (way of the Cross). The most famous ones are in Biella and Orta. The Sacred Mountains of Piedmont and Lombardy are inserted onto the UNESCO World Heritage List.



COME AND EAT !



Piedmont produces some of the finest red wines in Italy: Barolo, Barbaresco, Nebbiolo, Freisa, Grignolino, Barbera, and Dolcetto.

It is also famous for "pasta ripiena" (stuffed pasta): ANOLINI (agnolotti?) and RAVIOLINI DEL PLIN (plin means "pinch" as they are really small) with braised meat filling. Typical of Piedmont are BREADSTICKS and GIANDUOTTI. In Novara and VerCELLI, which are rice areas, you can taste PANISCIA with rice, beans, salami and vegetables.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The region contains major industrial centres, the main of which is Turin, home to the FIAT (now it is called FCA, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles). Textiles, chemicals, food products and publishing companies are among the other important industries.



LIVING IN PIEDMONT: INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Over the last few years the industrial activities have declined whereas the tertiary sector has improved a lot, thanks to the development of tourism.

Most population lives in the capital city Turin and in its surrounding areas.

There are well-developed activities of secondary and tertiary sectors thanks to an efficient system of communication routes.

Piedmont has a great number of hydroelectric plants due to the abundance of water.



AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM

Piedmont is a fertile agricultural region. The main agricultural products are cereals, including rice, representing more than 10% of national production, maize, grapes for wine-making, fruit.

Tourism is important and it is especially connected to its environmental heritage (lakes and national parks) and to food and beverage (Langhe, Monferrato, Cuneo).



STOCKBREEDING

Cattle and sheep are bred in pastoral farming in the Alps.



DIPPING INTO THE PAST!

Piedmont was inhabited in early historic times by Celtic-Ligurian tribes. They were later subdued by the Romans (220 BC), who founded several colonies there including *Augusta Taurinorum* (Turin) to honour Emperor Augustus.



NOT-TO-BE MISSED TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



and the list could go on and on...

SPORT

Sports in Piedmont have become important after world war II. Football has always been a famous sport and today many teams have high-level results: not only the legendary Juventus and Torino clubs but also Novara, Alessandria, Casale, Pro-vercelli and Cuneo clubs.



AND ALL THAT HAPPENED IN PIEDMONT...

After the fall of the western Roman Empire, the region was successively invaded by the Burgundians, the Ostrogoths (V century), Byzantines, Lombards (VI century), and Franks (773) but it kept a certain autonomy. In the IX-X centuries there were further incursions by the Magyars and Saracens which destroyed Novalesa Abbey in Susa valley.



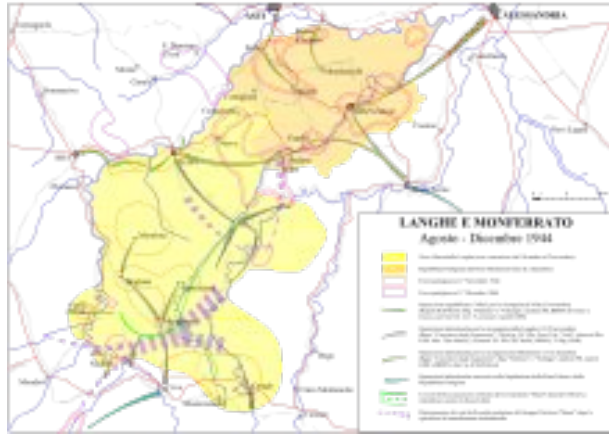
THE HOUSE OF SAVOY

At the time Piedmont was subdivided into several marks and counties. In the 11th century it was unified by Alerico Manfredi II who got the important marks of Turin and Ivrea, which he devised to his son-in-law Oddo Count of Savoy, Humbert of "Biancamano"'s son. The process of unification of Piedmont under Savoy's control took a lot of centuries, especially because there were many independent communes such as Asti, Alessandria and Savigliano (12th century) and strong marquisates such as Saluzzo (11th century) and Monferrato (12th century).



THE SECOND WORLD WAR

During the Second world war, Piedmont was one of the main cradles of the Italian Resistance movement, specially in the area of Langhe (now Unesco Heritage for their landscape and history), and in many mountain valleys. In autumn 1944 the town of Alba was set free and became a republic that lasted for about three weeks before being reoccupied by the nazi-fascists.



The writer Beppe Fenoglio (Alba, 1922-1963) took part to the Resistance and wrote about it in "The 23 days of Alba" and "Partisan Johnny" among his other works.

VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE

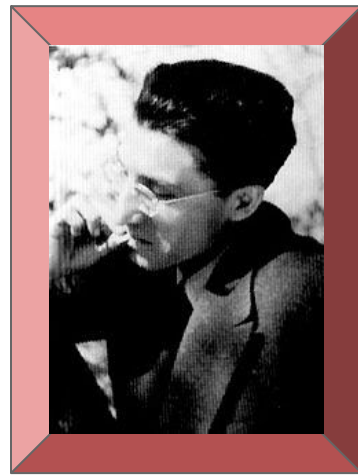
Piedmont gave birth to many important writers like

Gianni Rodari (Omegna, 1920-1980), Primo Levi (Torino, 1919-1987),
Umberto Eco (Alessandria, 1932-2016), and Cesare Pavese
(S.Stefano Belbo, 1908-1950);

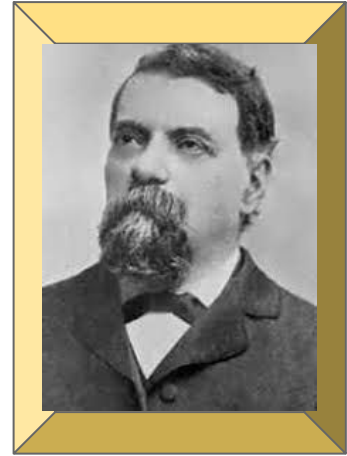
theatre authors like Vittorio Alfieri (Asti, 1749-1803);

musicians like Giovanni Battista Viotti (Fontanetto, Po 1755-1824)
and Paolo Conte (Asti, 1937);

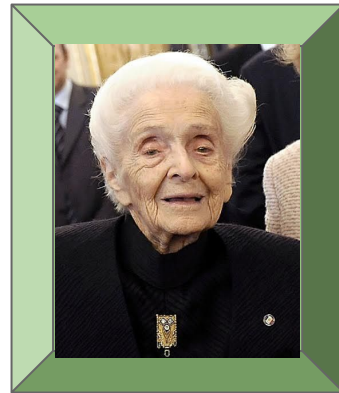
scientists like the mathematician Luigi Lagrange (Torino, 1736-1813),
the physicist Amedeo Avogadro (Torino 1776-1856), the astronomer
Giovanni Schiaparelli (Savigliano, 1835-1910) and the biologist Rita Levi
Montalcini (Torino 1909-2012)



Cesare Pavese



Giovanni
Schiaparelli



Rita Levi
Montalcini