



InGamba Tours **LIVING LARGE IN CHIANTI**

João Correia has seen the world of cycling from all angles. A former pro-level racer, the Portuguese-born Correia left the bike, moved to New York City, became a publisher of *Bicycling Magazine*, and gained 60 pounds, the byproduct of excessive business lunches and dinners.

And then, he got back on the bike, lost the weight, and through industry contacts, landed a spot on the Cervélo TestTeam at age 34, riding alongside Laurens Ten Dam and Ted King in 2010. Today, he's their agent, a partner at Corso Sports Marketing, and a well-connected man of six languages in the cycling universe. When Portuguese rider Rui Costa won the world road championship in Florence, Correia was there to congratulate him; 15 minutes later, he was on a microphone, in front of the world's press, translating for the new rainbow jersey winner.


Yes, Correia is *that* guy. He's also the principal of InGamba Tours, a luxury cycling tour group that began in October 2010 with a simple Twitter invitation.

During his time with Cervélo TestTeam, Correia lived and trained just outside of Siena, in the Chianti region of Tuscany, an area he believes is "the most beautiful place to ride, anywhere in the world." After his (second) racing career ended, Correia posted an invitation on Twitter for folks to come experience the roads, and restaurants, of the area. Four people joined him, and the seed was planted.

Today, InGamba owns a service course and apartment in the small town of Lecchi, where its tours are based.

InGamba (which translates to "in the know") prides itself on local knowledge, on and off the bike. Using contacts Correia gained working in the cycling industry, InGamba offers riders the ultimate experience — state-of-the-art Pinarello Dogmas, full Giordana kit, use of a Garmin Edge 810, personalized name decals, fully supported rides from an experienced race mechanic, and massages from a professional masseuse. It's not uncommon that King, Ten Dam, or another of Correia's clients might show up for a few rides, and meals, between races.

And once the ride is over, the real adventure begins. Correia believes Chianti is the "epicenter of the food and wine world," and a meal with InGamba dives straight into the heart of Tuscan cuisine.

InGamba's trips are not inexpensive, its clientele often consisting of those from the uppermost tax bracket. But for those who can afford it, a stay with InGamba means world-class riding, and world-class dining. Correia wouldn't have it any other way. 

Italy Bike Hotels A HOTEL CONSORTIUM FOR THE TRAVELING CYCLIST

Imagine walking into a hotel lobby, head-to-toe Lycra, the click-clacking of your cleated shoes echoing across the room as you approach the front desk looking for a spare tube and some local route advice. It's an awkward scenario many cyclists have experienced.

Now, imagine this: Instead of receiving weird looks, you're treated like one of the family. Ample spare tubes are found, right there at the front desk, along with riding maps, and the option of a guided tour.

That's the idea behind Italy Bike Hotels, a consortium of 43 bike-friendly hotels, scattered across the Italian coastlines, mountains, and countryside, offering service and accommodation to cycling enthusiasts.

Dragging a bike box into the lobby? Drop it in the hotel's bike room, where tools, a stand, and a floor pump are readily available. Or just use one of their rentals.

Not sure where to ride? Italy Bike Hotels offer guided routes, often led by a multilingual rider affiliated with a local club, or bike shop, offering a range of routes for all levels of riders.

In addition to guided rides, services include safe bike storage, usually in a workshop area, laundry facilities, and regionally specific pre- and post-ride menus.

With a variety of accommodations for experienced riders, beginners, and families, Italy Bike Hotels provide a wide range of guided cycling excursions, and experiences. If you're a cyclist looking to ride in Italy, looking for seamless equipment and route solutions, Italy Bike Hotels may just be your answer.

For more, visit www.italybikehotels.it/en.

