Join our faculty leader, Cornell classicist and oenophile Michael Fontaine, on this moderately strenuous biking tour with gorgeous scenery. We'll explore medieval towns and castles, Renaissance palaces, Baroque opera houses, and vibrant vineyards along the Main River cycling path.

**Saturday, September 21: Depart the U.S.**

**Sunday, September 22: Arrive in Bayreuth, Germany**

After the group transfer and check-in at the hotel, we will take an easy ride to become familiar with our Bianchi bikes and to prepare for the next days of cycling. Bayreuth is home to the medieval Rabenstein Castle and to the beautifully restored Baroque Margravial Opera House, opened in 1748. The town hosts the annual Bayreuth Festival of Wagner's works. To celebrate the start of our adventure, we will share a welcome reception and dinner.

*HOTEL ANKER (L, D)*

**Monday, September 23: Bad Staffelstein**

(44 miles, rolling terrain)

After a day of biking, we will explore Bad Staffelstein, a Spa town with an ancient heritage. It occupies a picturesque position along the river, between sheer hills, and features interesting medieval and Baroque architecture. We'll sample the wares of some of its famous breweries.

*BEST WESTERN–KURHOTEL an der OBERMAINHERME (B, D)*

**Tuesday, September 24: Bamberg**

(29 miles, rolling terrain)

Today's ride will take us away from the river for a bit to discover the lovely, quiet farming landscape of Franconia. A series of gentle climbs will bring us to the highest point in Neudorf, at mile 16. From there the ride is mostly a gentle descent all the way to Bamberg, a World Heritage Site which, like Rome, is built on seven hills, each topped by a church. The Bamberg Cathedral, built in the 11th century, occupies the main hill. It burned down in the 11th and 12th centuries and its current structure, with its four towers, is late Romanesque of the 13th century.

*HOTEL VILLA KATHARINA (B, D)*
Wednesday, September 25: Volkach
(41 miles, rolling terrain)
The ride today follows the Main bike path for a while, then
turns west toward the Franconian wine district. This huge bend
in the river creates the region known as “the Meinschleife.”
We’ll enjoy exploring the famous wineries of the area, where
the soil is perfect for growing grapes, asparagus, and fruits.
ROMANTIK HOTEL ZUR SCHWANE (B, D)

Thursday, September 26: Würzburg
(41 miles, hilly terrain)
Today’s final destination is Würzburg, a UNESCO World
Heritage Site and an important cultural hub of Germany. It
is also home to the Marienberg Fortress, which started as a
residence for the Bishops of Würzburg, and later served as a
fortress that saw repeated action in the wars of the late 18th
and 19th centuries. Now it houses two museums. Michael
knows this city well, including its Residence Palace, a mini
Versaille, beneath which lies the fabulous state wine cellar.
Würzburg is also renowned as the site of one of the largest
witch trials of the early modern period. From 1626-1631, 157
men, women, and children were burned at the stake and nearly
1000 were killed in the entire Prince-Bishopric.
HOTEL WURZBURGER HOF (B, L)

Friday, September 27: Rothenburg Ob Der Taub
(42.5 miles, flat and rolling terrain)
Today’s ride heads south along the so called “Romantic Road.”
The ride has many short climbs on lovely country roads which
cross small forests and farmlands. Along the way we will stop at
tiny villages to rest, enjoy refreshments, and soak in the beauty
of the area. We’ll arrive in Rothenburg, with its extremely well-
preserved medieval town. In the evening we will celebrate our
travels with a farewell dinner.
HOTEL BURGGARTENPALAIS (B, D)

Saturday, September 28: AUF WIEDERSEHEN
After breakfast at the hotel, a group shuttle will return us to
Nuremberg Airport for our flights home. (B)

Our tour operator, bicycle guru, and cycling maven is Enrico
Pizzorni of Ciclismo Classico. Included in this tour are the
following:
• Ciclismo Classico water bottle
• Two water bottle holders
• Map holder on handlebars and a Garmin Edge GPS
• Handlebar bag
• Tire pump
• Combination bike lock
• Gel-padded saddle
• Choice of pedals (flat, half-toed, toe cage)
• Card with your tour leaders’ mobile phone numbers

You may choose from one of the following bicycles:

Bianchi Intenso and Vertigo
The carbon frame guarantees maximum performance with
minimum stress for the riders, due to Bianchi’s special Coast
to Coast frame design/geometry and different material
combination. These Carbon bikes are equipped with compact
crank and 11/32 cassette.

Bianchi C-Sport 2.5
For more relaxed riding at a look-around-you pace, this is a high
performance aluminum hybrid bicycle with straight handlebars.
It has a sloping design for superior comfort, bigger tires than
average and hydraulic disc brakes.

Or upgrade to a tandem bike if you’d like to share the ride with
someone.
• Cannondale RT 2: Racing position with 700c wheels. Available
  for $400, limited availability.
• Honey bicycles: Racing position with 700c wheels. Available
  for $400, limited availability.
• Co-motion Periscope: Racing position with 700c wheels. Accommodates
  smaller team or even children. Available for $400.
• Cannondale Hybrid MT800: Upright position with 26in wheels
  and straight handlebars. Available for $400.