



In 2023, Liguria ranked first in Italy for Blue Flags

Foundation for Environmental Education awarded Liguria an impressive 82 banners:
66 for its beaches and 16 for its moorings

*Genoa, 30 May 2023_*Also for the summer of 2023 Liguria ranks first among Italian regions in the special **Blue Flags** ranking, the "European Environment Year" international recognition established in 1987 and awarded every year in 81 countries with the support and participation of the two UN agencies (UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme - and UNWTO - World Tourism Organisation), with which the FEE - *Foundation for Environmental Education* - entered into a Global Partnership Protocol.

Blue Flags are awarded to seaside resorts that comply with special criteria relating to sustainable land management, both with regard to beaches and tourist moorings. For the fourteenth consecutive year, Liguria proved to be the Italian region with the most beautiful beaches and mooring places, not only for its clean sea but also for its quality reception with a low environmental impact: in fact, **in 2023 82 beaches and moorings** (66 beaches and 16 moorings) **received this coveted** award with great tourist and environmental value. Our seaside resorts, beaches and marinas are increasingly well equipped, boasting excellent ratings for bathing water quality, hotel hospitality, tourist information, impact and environmental education.

Compared to one year ago, the number of resorts now flying the Blue Flag has even increased to 34, with the new entries Sori and Laigueglia, located in Liguria's East Coast and West Coast Riviera respectively.

Scrolling through the list of Blue Flags, one also discovers that they are distributed throughout the most famous seaside resorts such as the Riviera dei Fiori, the Riviera delle Palme, the Golfo Paradiso, the Golfo del Tigullio, the Cinque Terre and the Golfo dei Poeti.

This record-breaking result comes at a time of strong growth in tourism in Liguria: the 2023 summer season is already off to a good start, building on the positive trend of the previous season, with a 23% increase in admissions in the area from January to mid-April. As concerns the increase, +66.43% in arrivals and +54.66% in admissions refer to foreign tourists.

The requirements for obtaining the Blue Flag are extremely topical and with their symbol, which has become an integral part of the collective imagination, they remind residents and guests of how decisive everyone's contribution is in preserving our habitat, all the more so in a region like Liguria characterised by extraordinary biodiversity.