The Ohio State University
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Village Life*

Around the

Italian Lakes

Lake Como • Lake Maggiore • Lake Orta

May 26 to June 3, 2018
High on the list of the most captivating destinations in the world is northern Italy’s fabled Lake District. Its unique, extraordinary landscape of glacial waters, Alpine peaks, ancient towns painted in ocher and terra cotta hues and its distinctly bella figura Italian style, combined with its rich history, have inspired poets, composers, musicians, artists and philosophers for centuries.

Join our small group of alumni travelers in the quintessentially Italian città di Como—your picturesque “home” in Italia for a full week—for this one-of-a-kind, eight-day Village Life® around the Italian Lakes soggiorno, an exceptional way to experience the true essence of life in the beautiful and charming regions of Lombardy and Piedmont. Our carefully designed, expert-guided excursions explore the artistic and architectural treasures commissioned by Roman patricians, medieval lords and Renaissance princes, including the fashionable city of Milan and a specially arranged viewing of Leonardo da Vinci’s renowned masterpiece, The Last Supper, hung in the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie. Enriching presentations and the exclusive Village Life® forum, featuring local residents, offer you personal perspectives on Lombardy cultural heritage and contemporary life. You will have opportunities to taste northern Italy’s acclaimed cuisine and wines and learn basic Italian phrases to make your time in Como all the more enjoyable.

Your accommodations for this comprehensive program are ideally located in the heart of charming Como in the prestigious, lakeside Palace Hotel, just steps away from the city’s Gothic-style Duomo. This historic hotel overlooks stunning Lago di Como and welcomes guests with warm Italian hospitality and impeccable service.

Won’t you join us for Village Life® around the Italian Lakes? This popular travel program has sold out every time it has been offered. It is an excellent value and a unique opportunity to experience daily life in one of Italy’s loveliest settings, and you unpack only once! I encourage you to book now while Early Booking Savings and space are still available.

All the best,

Debbie Vargo
Director, Alumni Tours
The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc.

Questions concerning this tour should be directed to Ohio State Alumni Tour Manager Addie Natalie at (614) 292-2372, (800) 852-TOUR (8687), or natalie.6@osu.edu. Visit our web site at www.go.osu.edu/travel.
Stay in the heart of charming Como on the shores of this picturesque Italian lake, and experience firsthand the true character of Italy’s romantic Lombardy and Piedmont regions. During this specially designed small group *soggiorno*, visit the charming lakeside *città* (towns) and *villaggi* (villages) of Bellagio, Isola San Giulio and Stresa along the shores of Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta. Enjoy an enriching travel experience like no other, an excellent value featuring thoughtfully designed exclusive excursions, hotel accommodations specially selected for a unique and impressive location on Lake Como and leisure time for independent exploration. Interact with local people and become immersed in the rhythm of daily life in the Italian Lake District; explore the history and culture, art, cuisine and language. And, unpack just once! This popular program is one of the Village Life® series, a comprehensive and intimate travel experience at just the right pace.

**Cultural Enrichments** are specially arranged for this custom-designed itinerary:

- **Immerse yourself** in authentic experiences during included guided historical and cultural excursions, well balanced with ample leisure time to observe daily life in quaint local cafes, along lovely cobblestone streets and amidst the bustle of Como’s three-times-weekly colorful outdoor market.
- **Hear it from the Experts!** Meet a Como scholar who will present a lecture on his *città natale* (hometown) and share his expertise of historical, cultural and contemporary Lombardy. An art historian and lifelong resident of Como will share her knowledge of art, medieval history and the classics during a private lecture on Leonardo da Vinci.
- **Experience** the best of the Italian lakes in unspoiled Como, on picturesque Isola Bella surrounded by Lake Maggiore and on secluded Isola San Giulio in the midst of Lake Orta, the undiscovered gem of the district.
- **Engage with local lombardi** during the Village Life® forum where they will share their candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in the majestic Italian Lake District.
- **Admire** the magnificent 18th-century architecture and elaborate terraced gardens of the Italian National Trust’s Villa del Balbianello.
- **Visit** Isola Bella’s 17th-century Baroque palazzo, home to masterpieces by northern Italian artists including Bergognone, Boltraffio and Crespi, and splendid terraced gardens where white peacocks strut among tropical flowers.
- **Enjoy** a guided walk on Sacro Monte (Sacred Mountain), a UNESCO World Heritage site where 21 chapels dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi stand amidst a spectacular mountaintop garden.
- **Visit** the vibrant city of Milan and see Leonardo da Vinci’s unrivaled masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, in the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie.
- **Sample** authentic regional specialties during included dinners in the hotel and in a local *ristorante*.
- **Learn key phrases** in *la lingua italiana* (the Italian language) to make your interactions with local residents all the more enjoyable.

Como features gorgeous architecture at every turn, but perhaps its most iconic building is the Duomo di Como, a 14th-century Roman Catholic cathedral in the city’s historic center. Inset above: Statue at Villa del Balbianello.
Lake Como

Founded by the Romans in 196 B.C., Como has been internationally known for its silk-weaving industry since silkworms were first imported here in the 14th century. At one time, Como was the largest European silk producer—dyeing, weaving and designing fabrics to be shipped to the fashion houses of Milan, Paris and London.

Enjoy ideally located accommodations for the entire week in the Palace hotel on the shores of Lake Como and in the centro storico (old town) of this charming Italian città. Walk along cobblestone passages past medieval towers and walls, Renaissance palaces and churches, neoclassical 19th-century villas and small family-owned negozi (shops) leading to the Piazza Cavour and the tranquil lakeside promenade. See the magnificent Duomo di Como, considered to be the most beautiful cathedral in Lombardy—it took nearly 400 years to complete and reflects a seamless blend of Gothic and Renaissance styles.

Cultural Enrichments:
- A local scholar presents a private lecture about Como from the Roman era to the present, and local art historian and resident Giuseppina Lucini presents exclusive lecture. During the exclusive Village Life® forum, residents will discuss contemporary life in the extraordinarily beautiful and historic Italian Lake District.
- Day at leisure. Opt to stroll Como’s colorful market and mingle with lombardi.

Isola Bella is the most spectacular of the Borromean Islands, located on the Italian side of Lake Maggiore. Visit a magnificent 16th-century villa and stroll through one of the most beautiful gardens in the world.
Savor the delights of northern Italian cuisine while enjoying dinner in a local ristorante. During time on your own, peruse the fresh fruit and vegetables in the three-times-weekly outdoor market, a local tradition for centuries.

**Lago Maggiore**

Italy’s second-largest lake forms a natural boundary between the regions of Lombardy and Piedmont and is a close rival to Lake Como as the most spectacular in the Italian Lake District. Lake Maggiore’s mild climate allows gardens to grow rare and exotic plants in the beautiful landscape beneath the high Alps, particularly on the remarkable Borromean Islands. Enjoy a private boat cruise across the deep, clear waters and amidst its charming islands that served as inspiration for Flaubert, Wagner and Goethe.

**Borromean Islands**

Cruise among Lake Maggiore’s enticing islands graced with elegant villas and striking natural beauty. Isola Bella, Isola di San Giovanni, Isola Madre and Isola dei Pescatori are collectively known as the Borromean Islands, named after the powerful and influential Borromeo family. Visit the exquisitely preserved Isola Bella, commissioned by Count Carlo Borromeo III in 1632 as a magnificent Baroque retreat dedicated to his wife, Isabella.

**Cultural Enrichment:** Walk through Isola Bella’s splendid Italianate gardens, where white peacocks stroll among the seasonal blaze of roses, gardenias, azaleas and rhododendrons. Tour the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo, filled with priceless masterpieces by such artists as Tiepolo and the sculptor Canova, and see the spectacular grotto, decorated entirely with mosaics of marine life.

**Stresa**

An 18th- and 19th-century “Grand Tour” of Europe was considered incomplete without a visit to Stresa to experience its spectacular mountain views, tropical gardens and the resplendent glistening waters of Lake Maggiore. A young Ernest Hemingway, recuperating in Stresa during World War I, was inspired to make it the setting for Frederic Henry and Catherine Barkley’s reunion in A Farewell to Arms.

**Villa del Balbianello**

Just across Lake Como from Bellagio is the exquisite Villa del Balbianello and its magnificent terraced gardens. Built in 1787 by Cardinal Angelo Maria Durini, this epitome of an Italian lake villa was renovated in the early 20th century by an American veteran of World War I and more recently purchased by Italy’s first explorer to summit Mt. Everest, Guido Monzino, who bequeathed it to the Italian National Trust.

**Milan**

Recognized as the capital of the design and fashion worlds, Milan has an ancient cultural heritage and legacy that blends its ornately preserved palaces, churches and museums with vibrant contemporary life, an abundance of haute cuisine, art and operatic traditions. Visit the world-famous Teatro alla Scala opera house and Milan’s exquisite Duomo.

**Cultural Enrichment:** By special arrangement, visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie to experience the genius and beauty of Leonardo da Vinci’s renowned masterpiece, The Last Supper.

**Lago di Como**

Composer Franz Liszt romanticized, “When you write the story of two happy lovers, place them on the shores of Lake Como.” Cruise by private boat across the sparkling waters of Italy’s deepest—and perhaps most spectacular—lake and learn more about its fascinating history and allure as you pass in front of the quaint coastal village of Bellagio and grand Renaissance villas, built on the slopes of snowcapped mountains.

**Villa del Balbianello**

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It remains an authentic Italian villa masterpiece and repository of 18th-century French and English furniture, and Monzino’s collection of Chinese, pre-Columbian and African art.

Bellagio
Perched on a promontory punctuated by stands of cypress trees, Bellagio is one of the Italian Lake District’s most internationally well-known communes and has been a popular European holiday destination since Roman times. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Milanese nobility flocked here to build elaborate villas and cultivate subtropical gardens.

Lago d’Orta
Nestled in the captivating Piedmont region of northwestern Italy, tranquil, glittering Lake Orta is one of the Lake District’s best-kept secrets. Enjoy a walking tour to the heart of Orta San Giulio’s lovely medieval village center, replete with cobblestone lanes that open up to a picturesque piazza; rich, ochre-hued houses fronted by decorative wrought-iron balconies; and attractive palazzos, once home to Italian nobility. Enjoy time at leisure this beautiful village.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Atop the summit of Sacro Monte di Orta—one of nine sacred mountains in northern Italy and a UNESCO World Heritage site—amidst a picturesque landscape of forested hills, visit several small chapels dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, decorated with elaborate frescoes and built between the 16th and 18th centuries.

Isola San Giulio
Cruise across cobalt-blue Lake Orta in a private boat to diminutive Isola San Giulio, taking in spectacular views of picture-perfect Italian villas and gardens along the way. This intimate island served as artistic inspiration to Robert Browning, Honoré de Balzac and Lord Byron, who all wrote of its sublime beauty. Visit the 12th-century Romanesque-style Basilica San Giulio, whose opulent interior is decorated with richly detailed frescoes painted upon the nave, chapel, vaults and aisles, and stroll the lush grounds of its monastery and old-world villas.

The Post-Program Option
Discover the delightful treasures of two beloved Italian locales—fair Verona and extraordinary Venice. A vibrant Roman and medieval trading center, Verona is the legendary setting for Shakespeare’s timeless romance and tragedy, Romeo and Juliet, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The town is renowned for its well-preserved Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals, delightful piazzas and magnificent Roman monuments. See the spectacular 2000-year-old Roman Arena—the third-largest such edifice in the world, still in use today—and star-crossed Juliet’s famous balcony.

In Venice, tour this UNESCO World Heritage site and architectural masterpiece, including the Gothic-style Doge’s Palace. Visit the charming archipelago of Burano, known for its colorful houses and fishing boats and for skilled lace-making artisans. Accommodations for three nights are in the elegant Hotel Bonvecchiati, an 18th-century palazzo ideally located just a short walk from Venice’s famous Piazza San Marco.
Included Features

In Como
◆ Seven nights in the charming PALACE HOTEL on the southern shore of Lake Como.
◆ Full buffet breakfast each morning.
◆ Three dinners in the hotel and one dinner in a traditional restaurant, featuring northern Italian specialities with Italian wines.
◆ Welcome Reception.

Local Expert-Guided Excursions
◆ Walking tour of Old Como.
◆ Spectacular, full-day scenic tour of Lake Maggiore, featuring a private cruise of the Borromean Islands.
◆ Full-day excursion to Milan to visit the world-famous Teatro alla Scala and the exquisite Duomo.
◆ Private boat cruise across Lake Como to medieval Bellagio.
◆ Excursion by private boat to Lake Orta’s island of San Giulio, including a visit to the 12th-century basilica, renowned for its medieval pulpit made of black Oira marble.
◆ Walking tour to the beautiful medieval village of Orta San Giulio.

Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
◆ Exclusively arranged, private lectures: Como history and culture presented by a local scholar and Como native, and a presentation on the life of Leonardo da Vinci by an art historian and resident of Como.
◆ Visit to UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, with a specially arranged viewing of Leonardo da Vinci’s The Last Supper.
◆ Specially arranged VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM with local Lombardy residents.
◆ Visit to Lake Maggiore’s Isola Bella with a walk through the gardens of the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo.
◆ Time at your own pace to explore romantic Bellagio, the most famous village on Lake Como, and to experience Stresa’s spectacular views and tropical gardens on Lake Maggiore.
◆ Guided tour of the fresco-adorned chapels dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi on Sacro Monte, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
◆ Private guided tour of the Italian National Trust’s magnificent 18th-century Villa del Balbianello.
◆ Opportunities to explore local markets in Como at your own pace.
◆ Opportunities to savor northern Italy’s traditional cuisine during included meals and on your own.
◆ Occasion to interact with locals and immerse yourself in Lombardy life.
◆ Italian language introduction.

Enhanced Travel Services
◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
◆ Complimentary bottled water is provided on motorcoaches during excursions.
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel.
◆ The services of an experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director throughout the program.
◆ Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.
◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
For centuries, Italy’s Lake District has seduced hearts, minds and souls, including those of Virgil, Napoleon, Byron, Stendhal, Wordsworth, Shelley, Wharton, Verdi, Puccini, Toscanini, Twain and Hemingway. Long before the Romans annexed the region 2000 years ago and began to build their well-ordered towns, it was settled by Etruscans and invaded by Celts. Following the Romans, Middle Ages and Renaissance, nobility built magnificent holiday villas, filled them with priceless art and laid out extraordinary gardens. European aristocrats of the 18th and 19th centuries considered the Italian Lake District an essential stop on their “Grand Tour” of Europe.

Lombardy became one of the richest and most economically developed areas of Italy and Europe, thanks to its agricultural production, trade and banking activities that extended throughout the continent.

To this day, the region remains of paramount importance to Italy. The mild climate and the beauty of snow-capped Alpine peaks descending to serene lake shores continue to lure the rich, the famous and travelers from around the world. From the deep-blue glacial lakes of Como, Maggiore and picturesque Orta to the enchanting Villa del Balbianello, and from colorful Bellagio—“Pearl of the Lake”—to the modern sophistication of Milan, discover the exquisite gem that is the Italian Lake District.

The romantic allure of the Italian Lake District

The beautiful town of Stresa on Lake Maggiore has beckoned artists, authors and European aristocracy for centuries.
Nestled on the shores of Lake Como and surrounded by majestic Alpine peaks, the legendary Villa del Balbianello has one of the most beautiful and dramatic settings in all of Italy.

**LAND TARIFF excluding taxes**

Per person, based on double occupancy

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<tr>
<th>Early Booking Tariff* through November 2, 2012</th>
<th>Tariff* after November 2, 2017</th>
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<td>$3695</td>
<td>$3995</td>
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Singles are available upon request for an additional $1000.*

*Taxes are an additional $195 per person and are subject to change.

**VILLAGE LIFE AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES RESERVATION FORM**

Send to: Ohio State Alumni Tours
2200 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1035
(614) 292-2372
(800) 852-TOUR (8687)

Alumni, their families and friends may travel on this tour by meeting Ohio State Alumni Tour eligibility requirements.

Please make my/our reservation(s):
- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one double bed).
- Single accommodations.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):
- Tesori di Verona e Venezia Post-Program Option
  - Double at $1695 per person.
  - Single at $2395 per person.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

- I/We want you to book my/our air from __________________________ (fill in departure city) to and from Milan, Italy, at an additional cost to be advised.‡
  - Economy Class
  - Upgraded Economy
  - Business Class
  - First Class

‡Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

- I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Tesori di Verona e Venezia Post-Program Option.

By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

- Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit.
- Make checks payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
- I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:
  - Visa
  - MasterCard

Card Number

Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by February 20, 2018.

I (We) have read, understood and accepted the conditions as stated in this brochure.

Signature(s) of tour participant(s): ____________________________
The captivating setting of the Italian Lakes possesses an inestimable charm for both travelers and locals alike.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, The Ohio State Alumni Association, Inc., and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, licensees, contractors, subcontractors, successors and assigns, and their agents, employees, officers, directors, successors, and assigns (collectively, "Gohagan"), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services directly to the participant. Gohagan is not the tour operator. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act by any such person or entity or of any third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, death, illness, inconvenience, delay, or damage to property or person in connection with the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from any cruise, hotel, or air travel; and for any reason, including but not limited to, any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Gohagan is not the tour operator. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act by any such person or entity or of any third party.

Applicants for participation in this tour accept in full all the terms, conditions, and restrictions set forth above. Gohagan may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason and for any reason, including but not limited to, any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Gohagan is not the tour operator. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act by any such person or entity or of any third party.

Gohagan shall not be responsible for alterations of the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the right to substitute cruise lines, vessels, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act by any such person or entity or of any third party.

Travellers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs without assistance. Travellers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, no later than December 2, 2017. In the event a “discounted” reservation must be cancelled, no “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare rate. Cancellation penalties may apply.

ASSOCIATION DISCLAIMER: The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, any person whom Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is a threat to the safety and/ or well being of other participants, trip leaders, or what Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/ cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line. The Association is not responsible for alteration of the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16, either according to the then-existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Illinois law and will take place in Chicago, IL. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Gohagan is strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance in the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program. Trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

CANCELLATION PENALTIES: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip included in the Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective unless received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $250 ($50 Per Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 99 through 116 days prior to departure, $600 ($200 Per Post Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; from 22 through 44 days prior to departure, 75% of the published full regular tariffs; from 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRAVELERS: Travellers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs without assistance. Travellers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.