ITALIAN LAKES

Lake Como • Lake Maggiore • Lake Orta

October 5 to 13, 2019
Buon giorno!

High on the list of the world’s most captivating destinations is northern Italy’s fabled Lake District. The extraordinary landscape of glacial waters, Alpine peaks and colorful villages painted in ocher and terra cotta hues, combined with its rich history and distinct bella figura Italian style, has inspired the world’s poets, composers, musicians, artists and philosophers for centuries.

Join our small group of alumni travelers in this quintessentially Italian città di Como—your picturesque “home” for a full week—for this one-of-a-kind, Village Life® around the Italian Lakes soggiorno, an exceptional way to experience the true essence of life in Italy’s beautiful regions of Lombardy and Piedmont. Our carefully designed, expert-guided excursions explore the artistic and architectural treasures originally commissioned by Roman aristocrats, 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, 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’s cultural heritage and contemporary life. You will taste northern Italy’s acclaimed cuisine and wines and learn basic Italian phrases to enhance your time in Como.

Your accommodations for this comprehensive program are ideally located in the heart of charming Como in the delightful, elegant 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.

Indulge in the refined traditions of the Italian Lakes and join us on this unique travel program, where you unpack only once in one of Italy’s loveliest settings. It has sold out every time it has been offered, so I encourage you to book now while Early Booking Savings and space are still available.

Ciao!

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 Assistant Tour Director Laura DeRose at (614) 292-2372, ext. 2 (800) 852 TOUR (8687), or derose.25@osu.edu. Visit our web site at www.go.osu.edu/travel.

Cover: Enjoy a private boat ride across the tranquil waters of Lake Orta, the hidden gem of the Italian Lake District.

The epitome of Lombardy’s old-world charm, Bellagio enchants with its authentic Italian ambiance.
Enjoy Como’s architecture, financed by a prospering silk industry, including the 14th-century Duomo di Como.
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 timeless Italian città. Stroll beside 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 the most beautiful cathedral in Lombardy—which took nearly 400 years to complete, reflecting a seamless blend of Gothic and Renaissance styles.

Cultural Enrichments:
A local scholar of Como from the Roman era to the present, and resident art historian Giuseppina Lucini will present private, expert lectures.

During the exclusive Village Life® Forum, residents will discuss contemporary life in the dazzling and historic Italian Lake District. Savor the delights of a northern Italian dinner in a local ristorante. Peruse the fresh fruit and vegetables in the tri-weekly outdoor market, a local tradition for centuries.

Lago Maggiore

Italy’s second-largest lake is a natural boundary between the regions of Lombardy and Piedmont and 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 beneath the high Alps, particularly on the remarkable Borromean Islands. Enjoy a private boat cruise amidst the charming islands that inspired 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.
Cultural Enrichment:
Visit the centerpiece of the Borromean archipelago, Isola Bella, and walk through its splendid Italianate gardens, a baroque botanical masterpiece ablaze with roses, gardenias, azaleas and rhododendrons. Commissioned by Count Carlo Borromeo III in 1632, this secluded Baroque retreat is dedicated to his wife, Isabella. Tour the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo, filled with priceless masterpieces by Tiepolo and the sculptor Canova, and see the unforgettable 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 famed reunion in A Farewell to Arms.

Milan
The recognized capital of the design and fashion worlds, Milan has an ancient cultural heritage 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 the exquisite Duomo.

Cultural Enrichment:
By special arrangement, visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Santa Maria delle Grazie to experience the enduring genius of Leonardo da Vinci’s 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 paradisal—lake and learn more about its fascinating history and allure as you survey the quaint coastal village of Bellagio and grand Renaissance villas, built on the slopes of snowcapped mountains.

Villa del Balbianello
Across Lake Como from Bellagio is the magnificent Villa del Balbianello and its unique terraced gardens. Built in 1787 by Cardinal Angelo Maria Durini, this consummate Italian lake villa was renovated in the early 20th century by an American veteran of World War I, then purchased by Italy’s first explorer to summit Mt. Everest, Guido Monzino, who bequeathed it to the Italian National Trust. A paragon of authentic Italian luxury, the villa is a repository of 18th-century French English furniture and an exquisite collection of Monzino’s Chinese, pre-Columbian and African art.

Bellagio
Centrally located on the hilly 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.

Admire the 14th-century Piazza del Duomo, which marks Milan’s geographic, social and cultural heart.
Milanese nobility flocked here in the 18th and 19th centuries to build elaborate villas and cultivate subtropical gardens.

**Lago d’Orta**
Serene Lake Orta, nestled in the captivating Piedmont region of northwestern Italy, is considered the Italian Lake District's best-kept secret. Enjoy a walking tour to the heart of Orta San Giulio's 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 in 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 stunning views of picture-perfect Italian villas and gardens along the way. Robert Browning, Honoré de Balzac and Lord Byron all wrote of this intimate island's sublime beauty. Visit the 12th-century Romanesque-style Basilica San Giulio, whose opulent interior is adorned with richly detailed frescoes painted upon the nave, chapel, vaults and aisles; then, stroll the monastery’s lush grounds.

**The Palace Hotel**
The ideally located, classic belle-époque PALACE HOTEL is a delightful establishment with an ideal setting on the lungolago (lakefront promenade) overlooking Lake Como, just steps away from Como's beautiful marble Duomo and the medieval, pedestrian-only town center. Venetian stucco artistry, Italian marble and antique furniture provide subtle touches of 19th-century elegance throughout the hotel, while its expertly landscaped gardens are the perfect setting to admire enchanting views across Lake Como. The Garden Bar Ceccato, with its summer terrace overlooking the lake, is an excellent place to enjoy the hotel's renowned homemade ice cream or a cup of cappuccino.

Each of the hotel's 94 comfortable guest rooms is tastefully appointed with a private bathroom, air conditioning, satellite television, minibar and hair dryer. Meals feature fresh, seasonal Italian ingredients, local specialties and international cuisine. Regional wine selections accompany dinner. The hotel staff provides exceptional service.

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

Tour Venice, a UNESCO World Heritage site and architectural masterpiece, and the Gothic-style Doge’s Palace. Visit the charming archipelago of Burano, known for its skilled fishermen and their colorful houses. Enjoy three nights in the 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 specialties paired with Italian wines.
◆ Welcome Reception.

Expert-Guided Excursions and Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
◆ Walking tour of Old Como.
◆ Spectacular, full-day scenic tour of Lake Maggiore, featuring a private cruise of the Borromean Islands and time to experience Stresa’s spectacular views and tropical gardens at leisure.
◆ Visit to Lake Maggiore’s Isola Bella with a walk through the gardens of the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo.
◆ Full-day excursion to Milan to visit the world-famous Teatro alla Scala and the exquisite Duomo.
◆ 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.
◆ Private boat cruise across Lake Como to medieval Bellagio, including time at your own pace to explore this romantic and most famous village on Lake Como.
◆ Specially arranged guided tour of the Italian National Trust’s magnificent 18th-century Villa del Balbianello.
◆ Specially arranged Village Life® Forum with local Lombardy residents.
◆ 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, and a walking tour of the beautiful medieval village.
◆ Guided tour of the fresco-adorned chapels dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi on Sacro Monte, a UNESCO World Heritage site overlooking Lake Orta.
◆ Opportunities to explore local markets in Como at your own pace.
◆ Opportunities to savor northern Italy’s traditional cuisine during included meals and dining on your own.
◆ Occasion to interact with locals and become immersed in Lombardy life.
◆ Italian language introduction.

Always Included
◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for all included excursions.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
◆ Complimentary bottled water provided on motorcoaches during excursions.
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel.
◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director at your service.
◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
◆ 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 Roman era, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, nobility built palatial holiday villas, filled them with priceless art and landscaped 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 snowcapped Alpine peaks descending to serene lake shores continue to lure the wealthy, as well as celebrities and visitors 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 beautiful town of Stresa on Lake Maggiore has beckoned artists, authors and European aristocracy for centuries.
Cruise scenic Lake Como to the Villa de Balbianello, nestled on the lakeshore and one of the most beautiful, dramatic settings in all of Italy.

LAND TARIFF excluding taxes*  
Per person, based on double occupancy  
Early Booking Tariff through March 18, 2019  $3695  
Tariff* after March 18, 2019  $3995  
Singles are available upon request for an additional $1000.*

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

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.

Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person for 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 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 July 2, 2019.

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

Signature(s) of tour participant(s):

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 $1795 per person.
  - Single at $2595 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, at additional cost to be advised,‡ from:

  ______________ (fill in departure city)

- 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.

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RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

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In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with transportation or any acts of God or public impotence. Gohagan makes no representation as to the financial solvency of any hotel, airline, vessel, or other transportation company, or any mobile unit or medical emergency service, or any health or medical facility. This includes, but is not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, strikes, riots, or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of transportation, the failure of any transportation service to or from the trip due to strikes or other labor activities, or chemical or biological contamination, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time or safely.

It is understood that, due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to travel independently and you will be responsible for your own well-being, safety, and costs. Gohagan is not responsible for any meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or, in the event of injury, death, illness, or adverse health condition, any person in its or any person's judgment, to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other participants, leaders or third parties, or who Gohagan determines may unreasonably and unacceptably affect the travel experience for any passengers under these circumstances. Gohagan may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant to it. Gohagan, however, is not required under these circumstances to refund the cost of any purchased travel insurance. Gohagan is not required to cancel any trip for any reason including without limitation, the United States Department of State, World Health Organization or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Gohagan is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes. Gohagan makes the flight arrangements or cancels the trip if Gohagan reserves the right to substitute vessels, hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure.

ASSOCIATION DISCLAIRMER: Association is not the tour operator.

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Association shall not be responsible for alteration of the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour, and the right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar quality. The right is further reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure; in which case the entire agreement will be refunded without further obligation on Association's part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour, based on health, age, or any general or specific condition or standard, in the opinion of Association impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour.

APPLICATIONS: Applications for participation in this tour accept in full all the conditions set forth above.

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