



VILLAGE LIFE[®] around the Italian Lakes

Uniquely designed 9-day/7-night journey featuring our exclusive VILLAGE LIFE[®] forum and private boat tours of Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta

*Departures: April 22 to 30 | May 6 to 14 | May 13 to 21 | May 20 to 28 | May 27 to June 4
September 9 to 17 | September 16 to 24 | September 30 to October 8 | October 7 to 15 | October 14 to 22, 2023*

Villa del Balbianello



Northern Italy's fabled Lake District beckons with its shimmering glacial waters, soaring Alpine peaks and bijou towns. Immerse yourself in the distinct *bella figura* Italian style that has inspired poets, composers, artists and philosophers for centuries. Visit Bellagio; Villa del Balbianello; Stresa; Isola Bella; San Giulio; and Sacro Monte di Orta, a UNESCO World Heritage site. In Milan, visit the Duomo and Teatro alla Scala, and enjoy a specially arranged viewing of Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*. Extend your journey with the Treasures of Bologna & Florence Post-Program Option.



9-Day/7-Night Itinerary

- 1 Depart the U.S. or Canada**
- 2 Milan, Italy/Como**—Arrive in Milan, Italy, and transfer to Como, the perfect “home” for our *soggiorno* in the spectacular mountainous Italian countryside. Check into the charming PALACE HOTEL on the shore of Lake Como. Join your traveling companions for a Welcome Reception.
- 3 Como**—Stroll beside medieval towers and walls, Renaissance palaces and churches, Neoclassical 19th-century villas and small family-owned *negozi*, or shops, leading to the Piazza Cavour and the tranquil lakeside promenade. See the magnificent Duomo di Como and the 12th-century Romanesque Basilica di San Fedele.
- 4 Lake Maggiore/Borromean Islands/Stresa**—Enjoy a private boat cruise amidst charming Lake Maggiore islands graced with elegant villas and striking natural beauty. Visit the crown jewel of the Borromean archipelago, Isola Bella, occupied by the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo. Enjoy spectacular mountain views from Stresa, a must for any “Grand Tour” that was also the setting for Ernest Hemingway’s iconic novel *A Farewell to Arms*
- 5 Milan**—Visit Milan’s exquisite late-Gothic Duomo and the world-famous Teatro alla Scala opera house, a Neoclassical jewel of gilt boxes and glittering chandeliers. 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*.

- 6 Lake Como/Villa del Balbianello/Bellagio**—Cruise by private boat across the sparkling waters of Italy’s deepest—and perhaps most spectacular—lake while learning about its fascinating history and allure. Enjoy time to explore Bellagio at your own pace. Across Lake Como from Bellagio, visit the magnificent Villa del Balbianello and its unique terraced gardens. Savor the delights of a northern Italian dinner in a local *ristorante*.
- 7 Lake Orta/Orta San Giulio/Sacro Monte di Orta**—Enjoy a tour to the heart of Orta San Giulio’s medieval village center to admire Baroque palazzos built by Italian nobility. Visit chapels dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi atop the summit of UNESCO-inscribed Sacro Monte di Orta. Cruise across the cobalt-blue water in a private boat to Isola San Giulio, taking in views of Italian villas and gardens along the way. Visit the 12th-century Romanesque-style Basilica San Giulio and return to Orta San Giulio for time at leisure in this beguiling village.
- 8 Como**—The day is free for independent pursuits. This evening, join your travel companions for the Farewell Dinner in the hotel.
- 9 Como/Milan/Return to the U.S. or Canada**
After breakfast in the hotel, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S. or Canada.

Narrow streets and colorful houses of Bellagio



Highlights

- ◆ Visit to UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, featuring a specially arranged viewing of Leonardo Da Vinci's *The Last Supper*.
- ◆ Meet locals and learn about daily life in the Italian Lake District during the VILLAGE LIFE® forum in Como.
- ◆ Enjoy private boat tours on Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta, an undiscovered gem.
- ◆ Attend a lecture by Fabio Cani, a local Como resident and art historian.



Isola Bella garden



Frescoed Basilica of San Giulio



Historic old Como



THE PALACE HOTEL

ACCOMMODATIONS

THE PALACE HOTEL

- ◆ Majestic *Belle Epoque* hotel with 94 renovated guest rooms, situated on the promenade overlooking Lake Como.
- ◆ Enjoy expertly landscaped gardens for enchanting views across Lake Como.
- ◆ Meals feature fresh seasonal Italian ingredients, local specialties and international cuisine.



Piazza Maggiore, Bologna

POST-PROGRAM OPTION

Treasures of Bologna & Florence

Conclude your tour with a four-night extension featuring Bologna and Florence, both UNESCO World Heritage sites. Enjoy a tour of Bologna's storied medieval square, from Piazza Malpighi to Piazza Maggiore. Visit the legendary Basilica of San Petronio and admire the 17th-century Anatomical Theater at Archiginnasio. Explore Florence's historical center and view Filippo Brunelleschi's dome on the Duomo and Lorenzo Ghiberti's bronze-cast "Doors of Paradise." Enjoy an afternoon at the Uffizi Gallery to admire works by Botticelli, Giotto, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. Also take a tour of Ravenna's historical center to see the stunning Ravenna Cathedral and the majestic Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo. Accommodations are in the historic HOTEL CORONA D'ORO BOLOGNA in the heart of Bologna.



Florence Cathedral



Piazza del Duomo, Milan

2023 DEPARTURE DATES:

Spring: April 22 | May 6 (Exclusive) | May 13 | May 20 (Exclusive) | May 27 (Exclusive)

Fall: September 9 | September 16 | September 30 (Exclusive) | October 7 | October 14

LAND RATES

Includes Accommodations

Early Booking Savings
(if booked more than six months
prior to departure)

Rate after
Early Booking Savings

\$3,295

\$3,895

Singles are available upon request for an additional \$1000 from Early Booking Savings price.

The Post-Program Option is available at an additional cost. Details will be provided during the reservation process.