

12 DAY TOUR OF THE ITALIAN NORTHERN LAKES

From \$5541 pp* - June 20th, September 5th 2011 departures

**MILAN - LAKE COMO - TREMEZZO - BELLAGIO - VARENNA - LAKE MAGGIORE
STRESA - VERBANIA - TURIN - ALBA - ASTI - LAKE GARDA - SIRMIONE - VERONA**

A small group tour capturing the very best of the Italian Northern Lakes area. Depart Milan, Italy's fashion capital and begin our journey towards Como. We will be visiting Villa's and Palaces with their enchanting gardens. Tour the lakes by boat and enjoy the breathtaking views. Stroll through the beautiful town of Bellagio and the romantic

lake of Varenna. Discover the hidden treasures of Lake Maggiore and the splendours of Garda. Take in the beautiful surrounding cities and towns such as Turin, Asti, Alba and Verona (regions of Piedmont and Veneto) where you will have a opportunity to sample some unforgettable wines, indulge in local regional cuisine. A true delight!!!



Day 1: Milan

Arrival in Milan and transfer independently to the hotel. Day at leisure. Opportunity to explore the amazing city of Milan, Italy's fashion capital. In the afternoon meet for a welcome dinner with your tour escort. Overnight in hotel. (D)

Day 2: Milan

Breakfast . This morning meet your guide for a tour of Cenacolo Vinciano (Last Supper). In the afternoon enjoy a guided shopping tour in Milan's fashion district. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight.(B,D)

Day 3: Milan, Lake Como

After breakfast depart to Lake Como for a guided visit of the town. Transfer to Tremezzo, where you will visit Villa Carlotta's over 70.000 square metres of world famous gardens and museum. The beautiful villa was built at the end of XVII century by the Milanese marquis Giorgio Clerici. Proceed to Villa Melzi in Bellagio. The garden has been planted with native tree, shrubs and many exotic plants. Dinner and overnight stay at your hotel on Lake Como. (B, D)

Day 4: Bellagio, Varenna

After breakfast depart for a guided tour of the marvellous gardens of Villa Serbelloni, in Bellagio. Time to stroll the streets and visit this beautiful picturesque lake town. In the afternoon proceed to Varenna, an ancient fishing village

spread along a steep hillside overlooking Lake Como. Varenna is a an ideal lake to explore. Very romantic, lined with restaurants and amazing pastel coloured houses. It is also known as the "Golden Triangle" due to its location. Visit Villa Monestero, a few minutes walk from the central square. The villa was a

Cistercian convent founded in 1208 and dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. Another villa, not quite as grand but worth the visit is and of historical interest is Villa Cipressi in Via IV Novembre, which also meets the waters edge! We suggest a stroll through the cobbled streets and explore the narrow alleys. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Day 5: Lake Como, Lake Maggiore

After breakfast, tour Lake Como by boat and admire the breathtaking views along the lake. In the afternoon, depart for Stresa on Lake Maggiore for a guided tour of Villa Pallavicino. A well maintained park with a beautiful panoramic view above Lake Maggiore. The villa has a magnificent collection of exotic trees. Accommodation in Stresa. Dinner and overnight. (B, D)





Day 6: Lake Maggiore

Breakfast. Full day exploring the Borromee islands: Isola Bella with the Borromean palace and Isola Madre. Lunch in a typical lake side restaurant. Depart for Verbania, on the Borromean gulf. Time to stroll and visit the town. Continue to the Gardens of Villa Taranto in Verbania for a visit. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Lake Maggiore, Turin

After breakfast depart for Turin, once capital of the Kingdom of Italy. On the way, stop at a local wine cellar to taste some of the famous Piedmont wines. Meet your guide for a guided tour of Turin's historical city centre, with its squares and majestic palaces. Accommodation in Turin, dinner and overnight stay in hotel. (B, D)

Day 8: Turin

After breakfast start your day by discovering the parks of Turin. Visit the Parco del Valentino (The botanical gardens of Turin). The Gardens are one of the main study centres of Italian botany. (The herbarium contains some 700,000 specimens, the second largest collection in Italy), with its Castle and Medieval village. Board a boat for a cruise on the River Po, the longest river in Italy. In the afternoon, a ride via a small train up to the famous Basilica di Superga, visit the tombs of the Savoia Royal family and enjoy the marvelous view of Turin from the hills. (B, D)



Day 9: Turin, Alba, Asti, Lake Garda

After breakfast, proceed to Alba. On the way stop for truffle tasting, one of the specialities of the area. After a short visit depart for Asti. Enjoy some unforgettable local wines, followed by a visit of the old town. In the afternoon depart for Sirmione on Lake Garda. Dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Day 10: Lake Garda

After breakfast, board the motor boat for a tour of the marvellous Lake Garda. Later on, you will have an olive oil sampling and time for a walk along the Lake's shore. Tonight a special dinner with typical lake fish. Overnight at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 11: Verona

This morning, after breakfast, departure to Verona, to explore the city of the famous Arena and of Romeo and Juliet. Enjoy a guided tour of this amazing little treasure of Northern Italy. In the afternoon enjoy a wine tasting tour in the Valpolicella area. A famous wine district not too far from Verona. Dinner and overnight stay on Lake Garda. (B, D)



Day 12: End of Tour

Breakfast in hotel. End of tour. (B)

*Rates per person:

Double room from \$5541 Single rate on request.

Our 4 Star Hotels (or similar)

Milan - 2 nights Hotel Anderson
 Lake Como - 2 nights Grand Hotel Cadenabbia
 Lake Maggiore - 2 nights Hotel Bristol
 Turin - 2 nights Hotel Sitea
 Lake Garda - 3 nights Hotel Savoy Palace

The price includes

- English speaking licensed tour escort for the entire tour
- 11 continental buffet breakfasts
- 5 dinners in local restaurants including taxes and service charges, drinks not included
- 6 dinners in hotels including taxes and service charges, drinks not included
- English speaking licensed local guides as per itinerary.
- Entrance fees for Last Supper, Milan (if available at the moment of reservation. If not, we suggest a visit to La Pietà Rondanini at the Musei Civici del Castello Sforzesco); the following Villas - Carlotta, Melzi, Serbelloni, Monestero, Cipressi, Pallavicino, Borromeo and Taranto; Little train Turin - Superga Basilica; Superga basilica and tombs of the Savoia
- Food and wine tastings on day 7, 9, 10 & 11
- Private transportation by coach.
- Boat trips on day 3, 5, 6, 8, 10.

Not Included:

- Porterage;
- Lunches except day 6;
- Drinks at meals;
- Transportation to the hotel in Milan and from the hotel on Lake Garda from/to airports or your next destination;
- Guided tours, entrance fees, coach, train and boat transfers not indicated above;
- Tips and personal expenses;
- Anything not stated in "What's included"

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