

THE LAKES OF NORTHERN ITALY

COMO, MAGGIORE, MERGOZZO, ORTA



VISION GROUP

LUXURY
EXPERIENCES

The enchanting experience of a bucolic natural setting dense with culture and traditions. Considered the most beautiful pre-alpine areas, the rugged mountains and valleys rising up from the lakes conceal many breath taking landscapes. Nature, art and historical jewels contribute to make this one of the most beautiful tourist areas in the world.

The romantic atmosphere of the lakes, the grandeur of the surrounding alpine peaks, the ancient rural history and the excellence of top quality food and wine products typical of the regional cuisine.



ART & MUSEUMS

Silk museum. Private visit to the fascinating Abegg Silk Museum, housed in a 17th century silk mill built by the In the past lake Como and its shores used to produce one of the finest silk in the world, tradition still persists in the famous silk printings of Como, while silk production couldn't compete the international pricing and slowly disappeared in late 19th century. lakeside.

On Lake Maggiore, private tour following the traces of the Borromeo seignory, from the San Carlo's Colossal statue to the ruins of the Rocca Fortress, passing shops and small alleys on a leisurely stroll along the Lungolago all the way to the Lido.

On Lake Orta, visit the mystic island of San Giulio, theatre of famous movies, interesting and peaceful with its Basilica, villas and views of the lake.

Just above the town of Ghiffa is the Special Nature Reserve of the Holy Trinity Sacred Mount, established to protect the buildings of this monumental area and valorize the surrounding environment. The monumental baroque complex of the Sacred Mount, Unesco site, celebrates the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

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VILLAS & GARDENS

Visit Lake Maggiore's Isola Bella, one of the most enchanting villas ever built, a 17th century palace and park that still contribute to make the island famous all over the world. The island was conceived as an imaginary vessel with the villa to the fore and the garden aft. In the stately baroque residence, you will go through a succession of beautiful rooms decorated with tapestries, furniture, statues, paintings and stuccoes culminates in cool grottos covered by stone and shell mosaics. From the palace take access to the magnificent Italian style garden where beautiful white peacocks thrive among enchanting plants, citrus trees and rare plant species of remote origin. Articulated in 10 descending terraces, the garden is embellished by ponds, fountains and a multitude of statues.

Private visit to The Botanical Gardens of Villa Taranto; created in 1931 by a Scottish officer with a passion for plants and flowers, Neil McEacharn bought the villa and its park along the Castagnola Hill in Pallanza from the marquis of Sant'Elia, and he then decided to create an exemplary English garden on a strip of land that reminded him of Scotland. He called the property "Villa Taranto" in honor of the Duke of Taranto. The officer was a relentless traveler and from every country he visited he brought back new specimens that he would skillfully plant in his garden; he then bought neighboring pieces of land to further extend the garden into a 16 hectare park. He created marvelous terracing compositions, with woods, borders, paths, flowerbeds, lawns and greenhouses for plants originating from all over the world. Today the botanical heritage of the Gardens of Villa Taranto includes about 1000 plants that had never been grown in Italy before, and about 20,000 varieties and species of great interest.



VILLAS & GARDENS

Cruise on board of a 'Riva' Lake Como, while cruising on a wonderful Riva experience the luxurious villas and the mountains backdrop from the water, embrace it all with charme.

The legend began in November of 1962. It was called "Aquarama" and since its introduction, it became the finest symbol of Riva itself, a brand within a brand, the slogan of which included the keywords, "Water, Sea, and Passion for Life." Only 203 vessels were built, with "Alma" 12th in order of construction.

Villa Serbelloni and its gardens. The villa was built in the 15th century for Marchesino Stanga and passed in the late 18th century into the hands of the Serbelloni Dukes. Its magnificent grounds stretch over the high part of the rock of Bellagio, offering a splendid view over the Como and Lecco branches of the Lake, as well as views of the lake's northern branch and the Pre-Alps from the remains of the fortification on the top of the promontory.

Today Villa Serbelloni belongs to the Rockefeller Foundation and offers hospitality to artists and scientists from all over the world.

Villa Pizzo. This wonderful Villa is located between the charming villages of Cernobbio and Moltrasio. It has a very important historical past. On July 9, 1435, Giovanni Muggiasca, a merchant of Como, acquired a vast land that was rich in vineyards and olive groves, not far from town, stretching from the shore of the lake till the peak of the hills. The last of the Muggiasca who inhabited the property was Giovanni Battista, who then became the bishop of Como, to whom a large part of the still existing original furniture in neo-classical style once belonged.



SPORTS

Hiking paradise. The landscape surrounding Lake Como is charming, wild and often brings you to uncontaminated areas with an unparalleled vista over the surrounding lakes and across the Alps. The mountains around Lecco have been the playground for many of the greatest climbers and are renowned for their many rock climbing routes; but the mountains are suited to all capabilities. The network of paths is enormous and varied, with difficulty ranging from beginners to expert alpine routes. The area is dotted by an extensive network of mountain refuges, distributed strategically for rest and replenishment, where our expert alpine guides will bring you to taste local products such as polenta, brasato, cheeses and tasty mushrooms.

High Speed motorboat. Let the speed of a racing motor boat take you to experience the beauty of secluded spots on Lake Maggiore shores.

Helicopter ride. Departing from Como, enjoy a ride up the western branch of Lake Como. Stop for a delightful lunch at the Michelin starred Mistral Restaurant at Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni in Bellagio and enjoy a private walking tour of Bellagio and Villa Melzi with some shopping time. Fly back along the eastern branch of the Lake until the city of Lecco and then overfly Brianza and its 3Lakes: Annone, Pusiano, Montorfano.

Seaplane adventure. The joy of flying on a seaplane, a fantastic experience to admire the Lake Como, its two branches and its mountains from above.



EPICUREAN

Olive oil tasting. An exclusive opportunity to taste a very special and unique olive oil, despite the fame of the southern Italian regions' production, the olive trees growing on the shores of Lake Como gives an extra hint of scent in a very limited production. A fascinating old mill will open its doors for us on the hills above Varenna to taste locally produced olive oil, typical Valsassina cheese, cold cuts and wine followed by a guided walking tour of Varenna with its Celtic origins and steep alleys.

Cooking class. A cooking class taking place in the Cooking Academy lead by Chef Silvia in Mandello del Lario, a characteristic village on the lakeside. Here our professional Chef will guide you through our regional recipes using seasonal, local fresh ingredients making you feel at home while preparing and then enjoying a home cooked meal with local wine.

On Lake Mergozzo, a tiny jewel surrounded by gigantic mountains with crystal-clear waters, let a renowned Michelin starred chef take you to the discovery of the local ingredients and the traditional cuisine.

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