

OHIO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

VILLAGE LIFE[®] around the Italian Lakes

September 9 to 17, 2023

Villa del Balbianello

**EARLY BOOKING
SAVINGS
UP TO \$1,200
PER COUPLE!**
BOOK BY
JANUARY 15, 2023

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE!
No cancellation fees for new bookings.*
Call (800) 922-3088 or visit gohagantravel.com



Isola Bella aerial view

Highlights include:

- ◆ Visit the 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.

9 DAY ITINERARY

- 1 Depart home city
- 2 Milan, Italy/Como
- 3 Como
- 4 Lake Maggiore/
Borromean Islands/Stresa
- 5 Milan
- 6 Lake Como/
Villa del Balbianello/Bellagio
- 7 Lake Orta/Orta San Giulio/
Sacro Monte di Orta
- 8 Como
- 9 Como/Milan/Return to
home city





Piazza del Duomo, Milan



Dear Alumni and Friends,

One of the world's most captivating destinations, northern Italy's fabled Lake District beckons with its sublime landscapes of shimmering glacial waters, soaring Alpine peaks, charming waterfronts, and bijoux towns. The Mediterranean region's ancient history echoes through towns embellished with lavish Renaissance and Gothic architecture and imbued with the distinct *bella figura* Italian style that has inspired poets, composers, musicians, artists, and philosophers for centuries.

Join our small group of travelers in the Italian *città di* Como—your picturesque “home” for a full week—during this one-of-a-kind VILLAGE LIFE® around the Italian Lakes *soggiorno*, an exceptional way to experience the genteel ambiance and authentic delights that have lured visitors to the storied regions of Lombardy and Piedmont since the days of the “Grand Tour.”

Our carefully curated, expert-guided excursions explore the artistic and architectural treasures commissioned by Roman aristocrats, medieval lords, and Renaissance princes—including a specially arranged viewing of Leonardo da Vinci's renowned masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, in the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie. Trace the legacy of Milan's outstanding artistic heritage, visit the enchanting town of Bellagio, and the romantic Borromeo Island of Isola Bella—crowned by the Baroque Palazzo Borromeo, famed for its lavish ornamentation, priceless artworks, and terraced Italianate gardens.

Enriching presentations and the exclusive VILLAGE LIFE® forum featuring local residents offer you personal perspectives on Lombardy's cultural heritage and contemporary life. Your accommodations are in the heart of charismatic Como in the ideally located, lakeside PALACE HOTEL. Indulge in the refined traditions of the Italian Lake District on this unique 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.

Sincerely,

Your Ohio University
Alumni Travel Team

The safety and well-being of our travelers remains our highest priority. Cruise lines and some other providers of services (as well as, potentially, some countries) require all passengers traveling on our programs to present confirmation of a full COVID-19 vaccination, and, as well, passengers may have to produce evidence of a recent negative COVID test. All our staff are committed to adhering to all health and safety protocols from the start of your trip to the end as directed by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overseas health officials as well as those protocols mandated by your cruise company (if applicable) and other suppliers of services. Detailed protocol information tailored to your travel program will be mailed to you along with additional pre-departure information.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



The Lake District Awaits



Isola Bella garden

Through the centuries, the Lake District of Italy has seduced the hearts, minds, and souls of artists and writers, including Lord Byron, William Wordsworth, Edith Wharton, and Ernest Hemingway. Long before the Romans annexed the region 2,000 years ago, it was settled by Etruscans and invaded by Celts. Following the Romans through the Renaissance, nobility built palatial 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, as chronicled in E.M. Forster’s *A Room With a View*. To this day, the mild climate and snowcapped Alpine peaks descending to lake shores continue to lure the wealthy, as well as celebrities and elite 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—the “Pearl of Lake Como”—to the sophistication of Milan, discover the exquisite gem that is the Italian Lake District.



Historic old Como



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Depart Home City

Day 1

Milan, Italy/Como

Day 2

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.

Como

Day 3

Stroll along 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.

Lake Maggiore/ Borromean Islands/ Stresa

Day 4

Enjoy a private boat cruise amid 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*.

Milan

Day 5

Visit Milan’s late-Gothic Duomo and the world-famous Teatro alla Scala opera house, a Neoclassical jewel of gilt boxes and glittering

genius of Leonardo da Vinci’s masterpiece, *The Last Supper*.

Lake Como/Villa del Balbianello/Bellagio

Day 6

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



Narrow streets and colorful houses of Bellagio

chandeliers. By special arrangement, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Santa Maria delle Grazie to experience the

to explore Bellagio at your own pace. Across Lake Como from Bellagio, visit the magnificent Villa del Balbianello and its unique terraced gardens.



Statue at Villa del Balbianello



Frescoed Basilica of San Giulio

Savor the delights of a northern Italian dinner in a local *ristorante*.

Lake Orta/ Orta San Giulio/ Sacro Monte di Orta

Day 7

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.

Como

Day 8

The day is free for independent pursuits. This evening, join your travel companions for the farewell dinner in the hotel.

Como/Milan/Return to Home City

Day 9



Isola San Giulio on Lake Orta

ALWAYS INCLUDED WITH GOHAGAN & COMPANY

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/ departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your room and on excursions.
- ◆ Hospitality desk at the hotel.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors 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.

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE!

No cancellation fees for new bookings until 95 days prior to trip departure.





THE PALACE HOTEL

The classic *Belle Époque* PALACE HOTEL is ideally located on the *lungolago*—the 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. Its expertly landscaped gardens are the perfect setting to admire enchanting views across Lake Como. The Garden Bar Ceccato, with its terrace overlooking the lake, is an excellent place to enjoy the hotel’s renowned homemade ice cream or a cappuccino. Each of the hotel’s 94 renovated 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.



LAND RATES

Early Booking Savings
Jan. 15, 2023

Rate after
Jan. 15, 2023

Includes Accommodations

\$3,295

\$3,895

Singles are available upon request for an additional \$1,000 from early booking savings price.

The Post-Program Option is available at an additional cost.



Palazzo Borromeo



POST-PROGRAM OPTION

Treasures of Bologna & Florence September 17 to 21, 2023

Conclude your tour with a four-night extension featuring Bologna and Florence, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Enjoy a walking tour of Bologna's storied medieval square, from Piazza Malpighi through the heart of the city to Piazza Maggiore. Visit the legendary Basilica of San Petronio with its 15th century frescoes. Discover the glory of Florence's historical center, the birthplace of the Renaissance and home to masterpieces of unparalleled art, architecture, and literature. See Filippo Brunelleschi's iconic dome on the Duomo and Lorenzo Ghiberti's bronze-cast "Doors of Paradise"—created for the Baptistery of San Giovanni to depict scenes from the Old Testament. Savor an afternoon at the world-famous Uffizi Gallery to see works by Botticelli, Giotto, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci. Conclude your sojourn with 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.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$2,395

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$2,995

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.



RESERVATION FORM

Send to: Ohio University Alumni Association
52 University Terrace
Athens, OH 45701
Tel: (740) 593-4300

068-09/09/23-082

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- Double (two twin beds).
- Double (one queen bed).
- Single accommodations.
- Single but prefer to share and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

**Treasures of Bologna & Florence Post-Program Option
September 17 to 21, 2023**

- Double \$2,395 per person.
- Single \$2,995 per person.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.
- I/We want you to book my/our air from:

_____ (fill in departure city)

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

Title Full Name

Title Full Name

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)

City State ZIP Code

Home Telephone Cell Phone

Email Address Business Telephone

Program reservations require a deposit of \$800 per person.

- Enclosed is my/our check(s) for \$_____.
Make check(s) payable to **Gohagan & Company**.
- I/We authorize you to charge a deposit of \$_____ to:
 American Express Discover MasterCard Visa
- I/We request that you contact me/us via telephone or email for payment by ACH.

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

**Please note: Terms & Conditions are available at
gohagantravel.com/terms/**

First participant's signature Date

Second participant's signature Date

**FINAL PAYMENT due June 6, 2023; make by check,
ACH, or credit card. Reservations made after June 6, 2023,
require payment in full at time of booking. No cancellation fees
until 95 days prior to September 9, 2023!**

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Athens, OH 45701

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