VILLAGE LIFE®

AROUND THE

ITALIAN LAKES

Lake Como • Lake Maggiore • Lake Orta

May 18 to 26, 2019
Dear Alumni and Fans,

Buon giorno!

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

Join our small group of alumni travelers in the quintessentially Italian città di Como—your picturesque “home” for a full week—for this one-of-a-kind, VIALA® 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 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 VIALA® 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 make your time in Como all the more delightful.

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 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!

Sincerely,

Christine Kajikawa Wilkinson ’66, ’76 PhD
President, ASU Alumni Association
## ITINERARY

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<th>Day</th>
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| 2   | **Milan, Italy/Lake Como**  
  • Check into the PALACE HOTEL in Como. |
| 3   | **Como**  
  • Walking tour of Old Como.  
  **Cultural Enrichment:**  
  • Lecture by Como scholar. |
| 4   | **Lake Maggiore/Borromean Islands/Stresa**  
  • Private cruise on Lake Maggiore around the Borromean Islands.  
  **Cultural Enrichments:**  
  • Tour of Isola Bella's magnificent 17th-century palazzo and gardens.  
  • Explore the charming strade (streets) of Stresa at your own pace. |
| 5   | **Milan**  
  • Guided tour of Milan.  
  **Cultural Enrichment:**  
  • Visit to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Santa Maria delle Grazie to see Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*. |
| 6   | **Lake Como/Villa del Balbianello/Bellagio**  
  • Private scenic cruise on Lake Como.  
  **Cultural Enrichments:**  
  • Specially arranged tour of the Italian National Trust’s Villa del Balbianello.  
  • Explore charming Bellagio at your own pace.  
  • Exclusive Village Life® Forum. |
| 7   | **Lake Orta**  
  • Private boat ride across Lake Orta to visit the beautiful Isola San Giulio.  
  • Walking tour to medieval Orta San Giulio.  
  **Cultural Enrichment:**  
  • Guided tour on Sacro Monte di Orta. |
| 8   | **Como**  
  **Cultural Enrichment:**  
  • Day at leisure. Opt to stroll Como's colorful market and mingle with Lombardi. |
| 9   | **Como/Milan**  
  **Post-Program Verona® • Venice® Option* or**  
  • Return to the U.S.  
  *Available at additional cost. |

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### Italian Lakes

Experience firsthand the authentic character of Italy’s romantic Lombardy and Piedmont regions from the shores of picturesque Lake Como. During this specially designed small group itinerary, explore the charming lakeside città (towns) and villaggi (villages) dotting the coasts of Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta. Stay in the center of medieval Como, falling into the daily rhythms and traditions of Italy’s elite, and enjoy custom-designed **Cultural Enrichments**, including visits to the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Sacro Monte di Orta, the exquisitely Italian Villa del Balbianello and the secluded Isola Bella, and a rare specially arranged viewing of da Vinci’s unrivaled painting, *The Last Supper*, a fixation for scholars since its inception.

Engage with local Lombardi during the exclusive Village Life® Forum, gain keen insights from a Como scholar and lifelong resident, sample savory regional specialties and hear the colorful Italian dialect. This popular program in the Village Life® series will immerse you in an intimate travel experience at just the right pace and includes ideally located accommodations, specially arranged meals and all excursions—truly an excellent value.

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Como's prospering silk industry encouraged a flux of world-class architecture, 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 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 its charming islands that served as inspiration for 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 exquisitely preserved Isola Bella and walk through its splendid Italianate gardens, where white peacocks stroll among the seasonal blaze of 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 such artists as 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 fashion world, 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 Milan’s exquisite Duomo.

Cultural Enrichment:
By special arrangement, visit the UNESCO World Heritage-site 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
Just 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 and more recently purchased by Italy’s first explorer to summit Mt. Everest, Guido Monzino, who bequeathed it to the Italian National Trust. It remains a paragon of authentic Italian luxury, and repository of 18th-century French and English furniture and the collection of Monzino’s Chinese, pre-Columbian and African art.

Bellagio
Perched on a promontory punctuated by stands of cypress trees, Bellagio is one of the Italian Lake District’s most internationally known resorts. Since the 14th-century, the Piazza del Duomo has marked Milan’s geographic, social and cultural heart.
well-known communes and has been a popular European holiday destination since Roman times. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Milanese nobility flocked here 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 a Lake District 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’s island 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

- 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.
- Private 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 on your own.
- Occasion to interact with locals and immerse yourself 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 Romans, Middle Ages and Renaissance, nobility built palatial holiday 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.

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.
## AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES RESERVATION FORM

**Send to:** Gohagan & Company  
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1446  
Phone: (800) 922-3088  
Fax: (312) 609-1141

In support of the Arizona State University Alumni Association, the printing and postage for this brochure has been paid for by Gohagan & Company.

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Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person. 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

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Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by February 12, 2019.

**LAND TARIFF excluding taxes**

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

**TESORI DI VERONA E VENEZIA**

Nestled on the shores of Lake Como and surrounded by majestic Alpine peaks, the legendary Villa del Balbianello has one of the most beautiful and dramatic settings in all of Italy.

**LAND TARIFF** excluding taxes

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Captivating visitors, artists and locals for centuries, the alluring Italian Lakes possess an inexhaustible charm.