The Association of Former Students, Texas A&M

VILLAGE LIFE®

AROUND THE

ITALIAN LAKES

Lake Como • Lake Maggiore • Lake Orta

Aug. 11-19, 2018
Howdy, Ags!

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

Join our small group of former student travelers in the quintessentially Italian città di Como—your picturesque “home” for a full week—for this one-of-a-kind, VILLAGE LIFE® AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES soggiorno, an exceptional way to experience the true essence of life in Italy’s beautiful and charming regions of Lombardy and Piedmont. Our carefully designed, expert-guided excursions explore the artistic and architectural treasures commissioned by Roman patricians, 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, hung in the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie.

Enriching presentations and the exclusive VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM, featuring local residents, offer you personal perspectives on Lombardy cultural heritage and contemporary life. You will have opportunities to taste northern Italy’s acclaimed cuisine and wines and learn basic Italian phrases to make your time in Como all the more enjoyable.

Your accommodations for this comprehensive program are ideally located in the heart of charming Como in the prestigious, 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 simple, authentic traditions of the Italian Lakes and join us on this unique, popular travel program, where you unpack only once in one of Italy’s loveliest settings. It is an excellent value and 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.

Gig ’em!

Jennifer Bohac ’87, Ph.D.
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No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by our tour supplier.
Stay in the heart of charming Como on the shores of this picturesque Italian lake, and experience firsthand the authentic character of Italy’s romantic Lombardy and Piedmont regions. During this specially designed small group soggiorno, visit charming lakeside città (towns) and villaggi (villages) along the shores of Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta. Experience the rhythms of daily life and traditions of Italy’s elite, and enjoy custom-designed CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS, such as the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Sacro Monte di Orta, the exquisitely Italian Villa del Balbianello and secluded Isola Bella and a private 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, hear insights from a Como scholar and lifelong resident and sample savory regional specialties and the colorful Italian dialect. This popular program in the VILLAGE LIFE® series immerses you in an intimate and comprehensive travel experience at just the right pace and includes exceptional accomodations, specially arranged meals and all excursions—an excellent value.

Como features gorgeous architecture at every turn, but its most iconic building is the 14th-century Roman Catholic Duomo.
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 charming 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, arguably 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
Lake Maggiore’s enticing islands are 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 reunion in A Farewell to Arms.

Milan
The capital of the design and fashion worlds, 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-designated 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 exquisite Villa del Balbianello and its magnificent 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

Lush parks with fragrant gardens and poplar trees surround the lakeside village of Bellagio, which is comprised of many traditional patrician houses and villas.
The Palace Hotel

The recently refurbished, classic belle-époque PALACE HOTEL is a delightful establishment with an ideal setting on the lungo lago (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 pristinely 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 well-prepared Italian and local specialties and international cuisine. Table wines are served with dinner. The hotel staff provides exceptional service.

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
Nestled in the captivating Piedmont region of northwestern Italy, serene Lake Orta is one of the Lake District’s best-kept secrets. 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.

Tesori di Verona e Venezia
Post-Program Option
Discover the delightful treasures of two beloved Italian locales—fair Verona and extraordinary Venice. The legendary setting for Shakespeare’s timeless romance and tragedy, Romeo and Juliet, and a UNESCO World Heritage site, Verona is renowned for its well-preserved Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals, delightful piazzas and magnificent Roman monuments. See the spectacular 2000-year-old Roman Arena—the third-largest such edifice in the world, still in use today—and star-crossed Juliet’s famous balcony.

Tour Venice, a UNESCO World Heritage site and architectural masterpiece, including the Gothic-style Doge’s Palace. Visit the charming archipelago of Burano, known for its colorful houses, fishing boats and skilled lace-making artisans. Enjoy three nights in the elegant HOTEL BONVECCHIATI, an 18th-century palazzo ideally located just a short walk from Venice’s famous Piazza San Marco.

The Post-Program Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
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 with Italian wines.

Welcome Reception.

Expert-Guided Excursions and Exclusive Cultural Enrichments

Walking tour of Old Como.

Exclusively arranged, private lectures: Como history and culture presented by a local scholar and Como native, and a presentation on the life of Leonardo da Vinci by an art historian and resident of 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 romantic Bellagio, the 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 local guides for all included excursions.

Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.

Complimentary bottled water is 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.
The romantic allure of the Italian Lake District

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 rich, the famous and 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—“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.
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* 
Per person, based on double occupancy 

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<th>Early Booking Tariff* through April 2, 2018</th>
<th>Tariff* after April 2, 2018</th>
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Singles are available upon request for an additional $1,000.*

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

VILLAGE LIFE AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES RESERVATION FORM

Send to: Traveling Aggies
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840
(979) 845-7514 or (800) 633-7514
Fax: (979) 845-9263

Title  Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)  Class Year
Title  Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)  Class Year

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)
City  State  Zip Code

Telephone (Home)  (Mobile)

Email Address  (Business)

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s)  Tour No. 068-08/11/18-104

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 2018 Village Life around the Italian Lakes.

I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:
  - Visa
  - MasterCard

Card Number  Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by May 8, 2018.

Please make my/our reservation(s):
  - Double occupancy (two twin beds).
  - Double occupancy (one double bed).
  - Single accommodations.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):
Tesori di Verona e Venezia Post-Program Option
  - Double at $1,795 per person.
  - Single at $2,495 per person.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

I/We want you to book my/our air, at additional cost to be advised,† from:

(fill in departure city)

- Economy Class
- Upgraded Economy
- Business Class
- First Class

†Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring organizations, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide trip accommodations, transportation (by land, sea, rail, air, or other means of transportation), any activity, attraction, aircraft, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, features or other services and/or goods associated therewith, and all such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In the event that Gohagan cancels any portion of your trip or all of your services and/or goods, it will have no responsibility for any cost or damage attributable to such cancellation, including without limitation, flight(s); hotels; flights; tour programs; insurance; any other aspect of your trip or any act or failure to act. Gohagan is not responsible for any loss or damage that results from any change in your itinerary that is made at the full fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

GRAIN, DENGUE, MALARIA, ZIKA, NO-FLY ZONE, SPECIAL CONDUCT, OR OTHER DISEASES: If you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. You are advised to purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those

TRIP INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

BAGGAGE: Baggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may vary depending on the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, 5600 ($200 Pre/Po, Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; from 22 through 44 days prior to departure, 75% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeit of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

CT#: 2031688-40, WST#: 601 707 666, OSTS#: TA 0905.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a

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AIRFARE: Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without notice. Cancellation penalties may apply.