Bucknell University Alumni Association

AROUND THE
ITALIAN LAKES
LAKE COMO • LAKE MAGGIORE • LAKE LUGANO
SEPTEMBER 19 TO 27, 2015

EARLY BOOKING SAVINGS
SAVE $600 PER COUPLE!
Dear Bucknellian:

Ciao!

High on the list of the most captivating destinations in the world is northern Italy’s fabled Lake District. Its unique setting of glacial waters, Alpine peaks, sub-tropical climate, ancient towns painted in terra cotta and ochre, and distinctly bella figura, Italian style combined with a rich history, has inspired poets, composers, musicians, artists and philosophers for centuries.

Join this small group of alumni travelers at the best time of year for a one-of-a-kind, seven-night Village Life® around the Italian Lakes soggiorno, a wonderful way to experience the true essence of life in the beautiful and charming region of Lombardy, featuring the inherently Italian Lago di Como. Our carefully designed, expert-guided excursions explore the artistic and architectural treasures commissioned by Roman patricians, medieval lords and Renaissance princes at a relaxed pace, while enriching presentations and the exclusive Village Forum®, featuring local residents, bring you personal perspectives on Lombardy’s cultural heritage and contemporary life. You will have opportunities to taste northern Italy’s acclaimed cuisine and Prosecco and learn to speak basic Italian, making your visits to Como’s lively market all the more enjoyable.

Accommodations for this comprehensive program are located in the heart of ancient Cernobbio, on the shores of Lake Como, in the charming Hotel Regina Olga. This traditional hotel overlooks stunning Lake Como and welcomes guests with warm Italian hospitality and impeccable service.

Village Life® around the Italian Lakes is a popular travel program that has sold out every time we have offered it. This is an excellent value and a truly unique opportunity to experience consummate Italian hospitality and daily life in one of Italy’s loveliest settings, and you unpack only once! I encourage you to book now while Early Booking Savings and space are still available.

Arrivederci!

’ray Bucknell,

Melissa Plaisance ’82
President
Bucknell University Alumni Association
Visit picturesque Bellagio, a splendid combination of fin-de-siècle architecture and stunning panoramic views of Lake Como and the majestic Alps. Inset above: Statue at Villa del Balbianello.

Cultural Enrichments are specially arranged for this custom-designed itinerary:

- **Enjoy an authentic experience** in the incomparably beautiful Lake District and its quintessential northern Italian città and villaggi.
- **Immerse yourself** in a carefully planned, balanced itinerary of included guided historical and cultural excursions.
- **Enjoy time on your own** to discover and observe the rhythms of daily village life just like the Lombardi (residents of the region) do in the small village of Cernobbio, historic Como and the Lake Como jewel of Bellagio.
- **Hear it from the Experts!** Meet a Como scholar who will present a lecture on his luogo natio (hometown) and share his expertise of historical, cultural and contemporary Lombardy.
- **Experience** the best of the Italian Lake District in unspoiled Como, the picturesque islands of Maggiore and the Alpine splendor and culture of Switzerland’s Lugano.
- **Engage local Lombardi** during the Village Forum® where they share their candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in the Lake District.
- **Admire** the architecture and elaborate terraced gardens of the 18th-century Italian National Trust property Villa Balbianello.
- **Visit Isola Bella’s 17th-century Baroque palazzo**, home to priceless masterpieces by famous artists, and sprawling gardens where exotic birds walk among breathtaking blooms.
- **Explore** Como’s colorful three-times-weekly outdoor market, a short ferry ride from our hotel.
- **Sample** authentic northern Italian regional specialties both in the hotel and in a typical Cernobbio ristorante.
- **Handpicked and by special arrangement, experienced, English-speaking local guides will accompany you throughout the program and their knowledgeable expertise will enhance your understanding of Italy’s la dolce vita.
- **Choose to take the opportunity to visit Ticino—Switzerland’s only Italian-speaking region.**
- **Learn key phrases in la lingua italiana** (the Italian language) to make your interactions with local residents all the more enjoyable.
Day  

1) MILAN® Pre-Program Option  

1 Depart the U.S.  

2) MILAN, ITALY/CERNOBIO, LAKE COMO  
Check into Hotel Regina Olga.  

3) COMO/CERNOBIO  

Walking tour of “Old” Como.  
Cultural Enrichment:  

Learn basic phrases in la lingua italiana.  
Lecture by Como scholar.  
Cernobbio Village Forum®.  

4) LAKE COMO/BELLAGIO/VARENNA  
Scenic private cruise on Lake Como.  
Cultural Enrichment:  
Specially arranged tour of Villa del Balbianello.  
Explore the treasures of Bellagio and Varenna, two of Lake Como’s charming villages, at your own pace.  

5) CERNOBIO  

Day at leisure in Cernobbio.  
Cultural Enrichment:  
Lecture by local resident.  

6) LAKE MAGGIORE/STRESA/ISOLA BELLA  
Private cruise on Lake Maggiore around the Borromean Islands.  
Cultural Enrichment:  
Tour of Isola Bella’s magnificent palazzo and gardens.  
Explore the treasures of Stresa at your own pace.  

7) CERNOBIO/LUGANO, SWITZERLAND  

Day at leisure in Cernobbio.  
Lugano Cultural Enrichment Option:  
Visit Santa Maria degli Angioli church.  
Explore the 16th-century Villa Pizzo.  

8) CERNOBIO  

Day at leisure.  
Cultural Enrichment:  
Stroll Como’s colorful market and mingle with Lombardi.  

9) CERNOBIO/MILAN/Return to the U.S.  

Cernobbio  
This delightful town, located at the foot of Mount Bisbino, is the perfect village “home” for our soggiorno. Stroll along Cernobbio’s bustling waterfront. Wander down the village’s narrow medieval streets and amble through its romantic piazzas, lined with handsome buildings painted in the soft buttery hue seen throughout the Lake District.  
Cultural Enrichment: A local scholar presents a private lecture about Como from Roman times to the present.  
Cultural Enrichment: During the exclusive Village Forum®, residents of the Lake District will discuss contemporary life in the extraordinarily beautiful and historic Italian Lake District.  
Cultural Enrichment: Local resident Giuseppina Lucini presents an exclusive lecture about Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci.
Como
Founded by the Romans in 196 B.C., Como’s cobblestoned passages wind past 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. The Cattedrale di Como, considered to be the most beautiful cathedral in Lombardy, took nearly 400 years to complete and reflects a seamless blend of Gothic and Renaissance styles.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Opportunity to explore the fresh fruit and vegetables in the outdoor market, a local tradition for centuries.

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 spectacular—lake. Its allure is enhanced by quaint coastal villages like Bellagio and Varenna, and grand Renaissance villas built on the snow-capped mountainsides surrounding Lake Como.

Varenna
Splendidly located on the shores of Lake Como, Varenna’s narrow, pine-shaded streets lead through the village’s beautifully preserved medieval center. It is famous as the source for the quarried black marble used to decorate the floors of Milan’s famous Duomo as well as the villas and cathedrals throughout Lombardy.

Bellagio
Perched on a promontory punctuated by stands of cypress trees, Bellagio is one of the Lake District’s most famous towns 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 sub-tropical gardens.

Villa del Balbianello
Just across the lake from Bellagio is the exquisite Villa del Balbianello and its magnificent terraced gardens. Built in 1787 by Cardinal Angelo Maria Durini, it 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. Today, it remains an authentic Italian villa masterpiece and repository of 18th-century French and English furniture and Monzino’s collection of Chinese, pre-Columbian and African art.

Lago Maggiore
Italy’s second-largest lake forms a natural boundary between the regions of Lombardy and Piedmont and is a close rival to Lake Como as the most remarkable in the Lake District. Lake Maggiore’s mild climate allows for the gardens to grow rare and exotic plants in the beautiful landscape beneath the high Alps. The deep, clear waters were a draw and 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. Visit the exquisitely preserved Isola Bella where Count Carlo Borromeo III commissioned architect Angelo Crivelli in 1632 to design and build a magnificent Baroque retreat dedicated to his wife, Isabella.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Walk through Isola Bella's breathtaking gardens, where white peacocks stroll among the seasonal blaze of roses, gardenias, camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons. Tour the palazzo, filled with priceless masterpieces by such artists as Tiepolo and the sculptor Canova, and see the magnificent grotto, decorated with shells, pebbles and pink marble creating spectacular 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.

Lugano, Switzerland
Nestled between the Alpine peaks of San Salvatore and Monte Brè, this historic lakeside town is the cultural center of Ticino, the only region in Switzerland where Italian is the official language.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT OPTION: This optional full-day excursion includes a funicular ride to the top of Monte Brè to visit the humble Chiesa di Santa Maria degli Angioli to see Bernardino Luini’s amazing 16th-century fresco of the Passion of Christ. Enjoy a specially arranged visit to the private, 16th-century Villa Pizzo and its stunning gardens located on the shores of Lake Como.

Milan
Pre-Program Option
Milan, recognized as the capital of world design and fashion and host of the next world’s fair, Expo Milano 2015, has an ancient cultural heritage and legacy that blends the 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. Accommodations for two nights are in the deluxe Sheraton Diana Majestic.

The Pre-Program Option and the Lugano optional excursion are at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
Included Features

In Cernobbio
- Seven nights in the charming Hotel Regina Olga featuring comfortable accommodations overlooking Lake Como.
- Full buffet breakfast each morning.
- Three dinners in the hotel and one dinner in a traditional restaurant, featuring northern Italian specialties with house wine included.
- Welcome Reception with an assortment of Italian wines and Prosecco.

Local Expert-Guided Excursions
- Walking tour of Old Como.
- Private boat cruise across Lake Como to ancient Varenna, medieval Bellagio and the 18th-century Villa del Balbianello.

Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
- Specially arranged Village Forum® with local Lombardy residents who will discuss contemporary cultural and social topics.
- Specially arranged private tour of the Italian National Trust’s magnificent Villa del Balbianello.
- Spectacular, full-day scenic tour of Lake Maggiore, featuring a private cruise to the Borromean Islands and a visit to the splendid Isola Bella.
- Exclusive, private lectures: Como history and culture presented by a local scholar and Como native, and Leonardo da Vinci presented by a local resident in Cernobbio.
- Time at your own pace to explore romantic Bellagio, the most famous village on Lake Como; stroll through the perfectly preserved old quarter of Varenna; and experience Stresa’s spectacular views and tropical gardens.
- 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.

Enhanced Travel Services
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Optional Lugano excursion at additional cost.
- Hospitality desk in the hotel.
- The services of an experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director throughout the program.
- Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.
- Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
- 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; among them were Virgil, Napoleon, Byron, Stendhal, Dickens, Flaubert, Puccini, Toscanini and Hemingway. But 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. The mild climate and the beauty of snow-capped Alpine peaks descending to serene lake shores have continued to lure powerful empires here. Following the Romans, Middle Ages and Renaissance, nobility built magnificent holiday villas here, filled them with priceless art and laid out extraordinary gardens. European aristocrats of the 18\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th} 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 Europe. “Lombard” was the name given to any merchant or banker coming from northern Italy. And to this day, the region remains of paramount importance to Italy.

From the deep-blue glacial lakes of Como and Maggiore to the bewitching Villa del Balbianello, from the medieval cobbled streets of Varenna 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 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

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<th>Per person, based on double occupancy</th>
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RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

By participating in the trip(s) covered by this brochure, you acknowledge the risks and consequences of participating in the trip(s) and you agree that the trip(s) are entirely at your own risk and you are not entitled to a refund of your monies paid by you to Gohagan for any reason. You are required to fill out the "Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement." If you do not sign and return this agreement, your participation in the trip(s) will be automatically cancelled and you will have no further right to participate in the trip(s). Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insects, rodents or other pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

Although we take the utmost precaution in the selection of our travel suppliers, and because of such uncontrollable factors, 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. It is the responsibility of the participant to ensure that they have sufficient time to adapt as a trip participant, including Pre/Post Program(s). Gohagan is not responsible to remove a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the requirements of participating in the activity. Participants must be able to embark and disembark without reasonable help, or who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Gohagan is not responsible therefor and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Gohagan may cancel a trip (or any part thereof) with or without notice, and Gohagan is not responsible therefor and is not required to compensate participants.

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TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, 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. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Gohagan and for others for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. No increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

TRIP ARRANGEMENTS: Unless specifically noted in the Included Features section of the brochure, transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s); meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned in the Included Features section. Airfare: Airfare is subject to change and availability, and is not binding. Your airfare ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, and even if purchased through Gohagan. LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. Please contact your airline(s) for the most current luggage allowance policy.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may affect your ability or the ability of any other participant (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when reserving your space. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute others, or in the discretion of the hotel or cruise line, Gohagan reserves the right to refuse to substitute other travelers with special needs or medical problems. If you are involved in any accident or illness during the trip, you are responsible for all medical care and related expenses. Gohagan will not be responsible for any additional costs or any costs related to any medical care or treatment.