

Intimate



Italian Lakes & Alps 2018

■ May 13-25, 2018

- Comfortable hotels and charming inns – all rooms with private bath
- The splendor of the Italian lakes – **Orta, Maggiore, Como, Garda**
- Transportation by van • Outstanding cuisine and fine wines
- The splendid **Palladian** architecture of the **Veneto** district
- The magnificent villas and gardens of the lake country
- Beautiful villages with stairstep streets and bubbling fountains
- Dramatic **Dolomite Alps** • Ancient, German-speaking **Bolzano**, Italy
- The lakeside resort of **Riva del Garda**, on beautiful **Lago di Garda**
- Soaring Alpine scenery – some of Europe's most dramatic mountains
- Aperitivi, gelato, formaggio, salume • Lovely **Trento** and **Padova**

Tour cost – \$3,995 per person sharing for land arrangements (airfare not included) • Singles add \$550*

SUMMARY

Tour begins at
Milano airport,
ends at Venice
airport

FLY FROM U.S. – Leave May 11, arrive May 12 (overnight, **First Hotel, Malpensa Apt.**)

TOUR BEGINS – At 9 a.m. May 13, **First Hotel, Malpensa Airport, Milano, Italy**

TOUR ENDS – May 25, in the morning, at **Venice** airport (you will fly home today)

12 NIGHTS • TOUR MEALS – Breakfast daily and eight other meals (lunches & dinners)

IMPORTANT NOTE – This tour does not visit Venice. We will help you plan an independent visit to this lovely city.

■ Day 1 (Sunday, May 13)

Our tour group gathers at our hotel near **Malpensa Airport, Milano**. From here we make the short drive to **Lake Orta** and the charming village of **Orta San Giulio**. Then it's on to the first of our three major Italian lakes – **Lake Maggiore** – and three nights in flower-filled **Pallanza**. After a get-acquainted stroll through the streets, we have a **WELCOME APERITIF**, followed by **DINNER. OVERNIGHT – PALLANZA**

■ Day 2 (Monday, May 14)

After a morning orientation to Northern Italy and to our tour, we get out to see it in person! Today we explore this area's star attraction – the lovely **Borromean Islands**, just a short boat ride from Pallanza. Here, where **Hemingway** set *A Farewell to Arms*, we visit **Isola Bella**, with its **Borromeo Palazzo**, as well as the splendid botanical gardens on **Isola Madre. LUNCH** on Fishermen's Island. **OVERNIGHT – PALLANZA**

■ Day 3 (Tuesday, May 15)

Our first stop today is just outside **Pallanza**: the abundant gardens of the **Villa Taranto**. Then it's on to the bustling lakeside town of **Verbania** for strolling and lunch. In the afternoon, we

explore the old streets of the enchanting lakeside village of **Cannaro Riviera** before returning to Pallanza. **OVERNIGHT – PALLANZA**

■ Day 4 (Wednesday, May 16)

Our route today takes us to our second major lake, **Como**, via its namesake main town. We visit Como's picturesque old town and have lunch before moving on to the lake's most beautiful village, **Bellagio**. Arriving in late afternoon, we check into our central hotel and enjoy free time. If you wish, walk to the in-town gardens of **Villa Melzi**. In the evening, we have **DINNER** at a fine restaurant. **OVERNIGHT – BELLAGIO**

■ Day 5 (Thursday, May 17)

Bellagio, a world-class lakeside resort, is considered one of the prettiest spots in Italy. We get to know it well, exploring its stair-step streets and visiting the gardens of **Villa Serbelloni**. After **LUNCH**, we have free time in Bellagio; or come along on a 20-minute stroll to the tiny fishing village of **Pescallo. OVERNIGHT – BELLAGIO**

■ Day 6 (Friday, May 18)

By lake steamer today we arrive on the western shore of the lake for a look at Como's most famed palace, **Villa Carlotta**, with magnificent gardens. Around noon, via another steamer, we

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come to the attractive village of **Varenna**, perched on a lakeside promontory. Here too we find gardens to visit. At day's end we return to Bellagio.

OVERNIGHT – BELLAGIO

■ **Day 7 (Saturday, May 19)**

It's time to leave **Lake Como**. By late morning we are in the imposing fortified town of **Bergamo** for lunch and sightseeing. Then we arrive on the west shore of our fourth lake, **Lago di Garda**, with extensive views across the water to the soaring peaks of Italy's **Eastern Alps**. Late in the day, we'll explore pretty **Riva** on foot and enjoy **DINNER** in the old town. **OVERNIGHT – RIVA DEL GARDA**

■ **Day 8 (Sunday, May 20)**

Today we get to know **Lake Garda** by lake steamer. Garda's narrow northern reaches, squeezed by steep mountains, are considered the most beautiful part of the lake. Our day pass allows us to cruise to delightful **Limone sul Garda**, without a doubt the upper lake's prettiest village. After **LUNCH** here we reboard the steamer to visit lively **Malcesine**, on the eastern shore, sheltered at the base of **Monte Baldo**. We return to Riva late in the day. **OVERNIGHT – RIVA DEL GARDA**

■ **Day 9 (Monday, May 21)**

Leaving **Riva**, we head north to the important town of **Trento**, and visit its majestic cathedral. Trento was the site in 1563 of the **Council of Trent**, the Catholic Church's answer the reformation promulgated by **Martin Luther** and others. A bit farther north we come to wine country, and enjoy a cellar visit, tasting and **LUNCH** at the award-winning **Alois Lageder** winery. Finally, we come to the pretty mountain town of **Bolzano**. **OVERNIGHT – BOLZANO**

■ **Day 10 (Tuesday, May 22)**

Italy's mighty **Dolomite Alps**, little known to Americans, are very steep, their rock a lovely, light color. Today we get to know their valleys, peaks, forests and charming villages of steep-roofed houses, looking very Austrian. There's a reason – this German-speaking area of Italy was part of the Austrian Empire until 1918. Today's sightseeing takes us past the resorts of **Canazei** and **St. Ulrich**, the deep **Val d'Ega** gorge, and the highest Dolomite, **Marmolada** (10,964 feet). **OVERNIGHT – BOLZANO**

■ **Day 11 (Wednesday, May 23)**

Today we get to know town that Italy calls **Bolzano** and German-speaking locals call **Bozen**. Here we the renowned **Südtiroler**

Archäologiemuseum, covering the history and archaeology of the southern Alpine region. It is best known as the home of **Ötzi the Iceman**, whose mummified body from about 3300 BC was found in the Alps in 1991. With the body were found an extensive kit – complex fire lighting equipment, a quiver loaded with 12 arrows, clothing and a flint knife complete with sheath. **LUNCH** today. **OVERNIGHT – BOLZANO**

■ **Day 12 (Thursday, May 24)**

On our last day, we first come to the university town of **Padova** (Padua), home of a magnificent cycle of 39 frescoes by **Giotto** dating from 1305 – a masterpiece of Western art. Later we stop along the **Brenta Canal** (which links **Padova** and **Venice**) to visit a palace designed in 1721 by **Andrea Palladio**, the best-known Italian architect of his day. It's **Villa Pisani**, a sumptuous mansion boasting frescoes by **Tiepolo**. **OVERNIGHT – VENICE AIRPORT**

■ **Getaway day (Friday, May 25)**

You will depart **Venice** airport for your trip home, or remain in Venice for independent exploration – ask *Intimate France* for advice.

IMPORTANT NOTE – This tour does not visit Venice. We will help you plan an independent visit to this lovely city.

Tour Details

MEALS – Tour includes breakfast every day, as well as eight other meals (lunches and dinners), as indicated in **BOLD CAPS** on the itinerary.

OUR HOTELS

Hotel San Gottardo, Pallanza
Hotel Bellagio, Bellagio
Hotel Europa, Riva del Garda
Hotel Figl, Bolzano/Bozen
Hotel Antony, Venice airport

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS – Subject to change according to availability.

ITINERARY – Details of this preliminary itinerary could change. A final itinerary will be issued closer to trip departure.

* **TOUR PRICE** – Price of \$3,995 is based on a “benchmark” U.S. dollar/euro exchange rate that existed pre-tour and could change if there are significant currency fluctuations. Call us for details – (800) 676-1247. Price quoted is for land arrangements and does not include airfare.