

PLEASE NOTE – DATES & ITINERARY ARE TENTATIVE

Intimate



Italian Lakes & Alps 2019

■ September 1-13, 2019

- Comfortable hotels and charming inns – all rooms with private bath
- The splendor of the Italian lakes – **Orta, Maggiore, Como**
- Transportation by van • Outstanding cuisine and fine wines
- The splendid, frescoed **Villa Pisani** 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 **Bozen**, Italy
- The spa resort of **Merano**, surrounded by the **Tyrolean Alps**
- Soaring Alpine scenery – some of Europe's most dramatic mountains
- *Aperitivi, gelati, formaggi, salume* • Historic **Trento**

Tour cost – \$4,295* per person sharing for land arrangements (airfare not included) • Singles add \$550

SUMMARY	FLY FROM U.S. – Leave Aug. 30, arrive Aug. 31 (overnight, First Hotel Malpensa Airport)
Tour begins at Milano airport,	TOUR BEGINS – At 9 a.m. Sept. 1, First Hotel, Malpensa Airport, Milano, Italy
ends at Venice airport	TOUR ENDS – Sept. 13, 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, September 1)

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, September 2)

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, September 3)

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 **Intra** (part of the combined town called **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, September 4)

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 lakeview 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, September 5)

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, September 6)

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 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, September 7)

It's time to leave **Lake Como**. By noon we are at the award-winning **Alois Lageder** winery, where we enjoy a cellar visit, tasting and **LUNCH**. Later we come to the pretty mountain town of **Bozen (Bolzano)** to the Italians). Our late-afternoon arrival gives us time to enjoy the gracious squares, arcaded streets and lively boulevards of this traditional capital of Italy's German-speaking **Südtirol**, also known by its Italian name, **Alto Adige**. **OVERNIGHT – BOZEN**

■ Day 8 (Sunday, September 8)

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 part 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). **DINNER** and **OVERNIGHT – BOZEN**

■ Day 9 (Monday, September 9)

Today we get to know **Bozen/Bolzano**. We first visit 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 3,300 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 – BOZEN**

■ Day 10 (Tuesday, September 10)

From **Bozen/Bolzano** it is only a short drive to the extremely pretty spa resort of **Meran/Merano**. Along the way, we visit the **Messner Mountain Museum**, founded in a medieval castle by mountaineer **Reinhold Messner**. Here we learn about the science of mountains and glaciers, the history of mountaineering and rock climbing, and the history of mountain-dwelling people. **OVERNIGHT – MERAN**

■ Day 11 (Wednesday, September 11)

Our day in pretty **Meran** begins with a stroll

along the **Passer/Passerio River**, then to the arcaded shopping street called **Laubengasse/Via dei Portici**. Around noon, let's travel out of town just a few minutes to **Braugarten Forst**, where Südtirol's favorite beer is brewed and where **LUNCH** comes with a generous helping of *oompa*. Late in the day, we take a cable car to the charming village of **Tirol**, high above **Meran**. **OVERNIGHT – MERAN**

■ Day 12 (Thursday, September 12)

On our last tour 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 dating from 1735 commissioned by **Alvise Pisani** when he was made **Doge of Venice**. It's **Villa Pisani**, a sumptuous mansion boasting frescoes by **Tiepolo**. **OVERNIGHT – VENICE AIRPORT**

■ Getaway day (Friday, Sept. 13)

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

IMPORTANT NOTES

- *Tour does not visit Venice*
- *Dates & itinerary are tentative, subject to confirmation*

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 Figl**, Bozen/Bolzano
- Hotel Residence Flora**, Meran/Merano
- Hotel Antony**, Venice airport

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS – Subject to availability.

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

* **TOUR PRICE** – Price of \$4,295 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.