



Italian Lakes & Alps 2019

■ September 1-13

- 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, 17th century **Pallazo Salis**, in the Alpine resort of **Bormio**
- The magnificent villas and gardens of the lake country
- Beautiful villages with stairstep streets and bubbling fountains
- Dramatic **Dolomite Alps • Bolzano/Bozen**, a cultural crossroads
- The spa resort of **Merano/Meran**, surrounded by the **Tyrolean Alps**
- Soaring **Alpine** scenery – some of Europe's most dramatic mountains
- *Aperitivi, gelati, formaggi, salume* • Historic **Padova's Giotto** frescoes

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 – 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 two 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** and **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 **Borronean 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** and head into the **Alps**. By mid-morning we are at the astonishingly beautiful **Pallazo Salis**, a 17th-century palace of opulent, frescoed rooms, as well as an award-winning winery. After a visit we enjoy **LUNCH**, then continue to the remarkable mountain village of **Bormio**. Here, stroll through the charming, arcaded streets, breathing the clean mountain air of this thriving resort. **OVERNIGHT – BORMIO**

■ Day 8 (Sunday, September 8)

We take a break from our travels, spending all day in or near delightful **Bormio**. Options include soaking in Bormio's hot springs, exploited since **Roman** times, or taking a spa treatment; and the **Civic Museum**, tracing Bormio's past from medieval times to **World War I**. A simple stroll around town reveals medieval frescoes, ancient carved wooden doors and rustic fountains, all surrounded by steep Alps. In the afternoon, we'll make an optional day trip to a nearby village, hidden in the hills. **OVERNIGHT – BORMIO**

■ Day 9 (Monday, September 9)

We climb to the lofty **Stelvio Pass**, at 9,045 feet above sea level the second highest road pass in the Alps, then descend to pretty, walled **Glurns/Glorenza** before pushing on to **Braugarten Forst**, where **LUNCH** comes with a generous helping of *oompa*. Late in the day, following a break in **Meran/Merano**, with its **Passer/Passerio River** promenade and arcaded shopping streets, we arrive in **Bolzano/Bozen**, the traditional capital of Italy's German-speaking **Südtirol** region (in Italian, **Alto Adige**). **OVERNIGHT – BOLZANO/BOZEN**

■ Day 10 (Tuesday, September 10)

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. 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). **DINNER** and **OVERNIGHT – BOLZANO/BOZEN**

■ Day 11 (Wednesday, September 11)

Today we get to know **Bolzano/Bozen**, visiting the renowned **Südtiroler Archäologiemuseum**, 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 and 12 arrows, clothing and a flint knife and sheath. **LUNCH**. **OVERNIGHT – BOLZANO/BOZEN**

■ Day 12 (Thursday, September 12)

On our last day, we leave the **Alps** and come to the university town of **Padova** (Padua), where we view a magnificent cycle of 39 frescoes by **Giotto** dating from 1305 – a masterpiece of Western art. Later, marvel at the elaborate basilica dedicated to **St. Anthony of Padua** (1195-1231). This opulent, domed church dates from 1232 and contains the tomb of St. Anthony. **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 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 daily and eight other meals (lunches and dinners), as indicated in **BOLD CAPS** in the itinerary.

OUR HOTELS

Hotel Aquadolce, Pallanza
Hotel Bellagio, Bellagio
Hotel San Lorenzo, Bormio
Hotel Figl, Bolzano/Bozen
Hotel Antony, Venice airport

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS – Subject to availability.

ITINERARY – Details of this preliminary itinerary could change. A final itinerary will be included in an orientation booklet given to you at the beginning of the tour.

* **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.