ITALIAN LAKES

Lake Como • Lake Maggiore • Lake Orta

October 12 to 20, 2019
Dear Alumni & Friends:

Buon giorno!

High on the list of the world’s most captivating destinations is northern Italy’s fabled Lake District. We invite you to travel with us, as well as alumni from other colleges and universities, to see the extraordinary landscape of glacial waters, Alpine peaks and colorful villages painted in ocher and terra cotta hues, which, combined with its rich history and distinct bella figura Italian style, has inspired the world’s poets, composers, musicians, artists and philosophers for centuries.

Join our small group of alumni travelers in this 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 regions of Lombardy and Piedmont. Our carefully designed, expert-guided excursions explore the artistic and architectural treasures originally commissioned by Roman aristocrats, 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, 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’s cultural heritage and contemporary life. You will taste northern Italy’s acclaimed cuisine and wines and learn basic Italian phrases to enhance your time in Como.

Your accommodations for this comprehensive program are ideally located in the heart of charming Como in the delightful, elegant 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 refined traditions of the Italian Lakes and join us on this unique travel program, where you unpack only once in one of Italy’s loveliest settings. It 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.

Please visit our website at www.alumni.auburn.edu/travel. If the Auburn Alumni Association can be of service to you, please call 334-844-2586.

Ciao!

War Eagle!

Gretchen Van Valkenburg ’86
Vice President for Alumni Affairs & Executive Director,
Auburn Alumni Association

Cover: Enjoy a private boat ride across the tranquil waters of Lake Orta, the hidden gem of the Italian Lake District.

The epitome of Lombardy’s old-world charm, Bellagio enchants with its authentic Italian ambiance.
ITINERARY

Day
1  Depart the U.S.
2  Milan, Italy/Lake Como
   ◆ Check into the PALACE HOTEL in Como.
3  Como
   ◆ Walking tour of Old Como.
   CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:
   ◆ Lecture by local Como scholar.
4  Lake Maggiore/Borromean Islands/Stresa
   ◆ Private cruise on Lake Maggiore around the Borromean Islands.
   CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:
   ◆ Tour of Isola Bella’s magnificent 17th-century palazzo and gardens.
   ◆ Explore the charming strade (streets) of Stresa at your own pace.
5  Milan
   ◆ Guided tour of Milan.
   CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:
   ◆ Visit to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Santa Maria delle Grazie to see Leonardo da Vinci’s The Last Supper.
6  Lake Como/Villa del Balbianello/Bellagio
   ◆ Private scenic cruise on Lake Como.
   CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:
   ◆ Specially arranged tour of the Italian National Trust’s Villa del Balbianello.
   ◆ Explore charming Bellagio at your own pace.
   ◆ Exclusive VILLAGE LIFE® Forum.
7  Lake Orta
   ◆ Private boat ride across Lake Orta to visit beautiful Isola San Giulio.
   ◆ Walking tour of medieval Orta San Giulio.
   CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:
   ◆ Guided tour on Sacro Monte di Orta.
8  Como
   CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:
   ◆ Day at leisure. Opt to stroll Como’s colorful market and mingle with Lombardi.
9  Como/Milan
   Post-Program Verona® • Venice® Option* or
   ◆ Return to the U.S.

*Available at additional cost.

ITALIAN LAKES

Experience firsthand the authentic character of Italy’s romantic Lombardy and Piedmont regions from the shores of picturesque Lake Como. During this specially designed small group itinerary, explore the charming lakeside città (towns) and villaggi (villages) dotting the coasts of Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta. Stay in the center of medieval Como, falling into the daily rhythms and traditions of Italy’s elite, and enjoy custom-designed CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Sacro Monte di Orta, the exquisite Italian Villa del Balbianello and secluded Isola Bella. Enjoy a specially arranged 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 and gain keen insights from a Como scholar and lifelong resident; sample savory regional specialties and hear the colorful Italian dialect. This popular program in the VILLAGE LIFE® series will immerse you in an intimate travel experience at just the right pace and includes ideally located accommodations, specially arranged meals and all excursions—truly an excellent value.

Enjoy Como’s architecture, financed by a prospering silk industry, including the 14th-century Duomo di Como.
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 timeless 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, considered 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.

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 Italian 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 the charming islands that inspired 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.
Cultural Enrichment: Visit the centerpiece of the Borromean archipelago, Isola Bella, and walk through its splendid Italianate gardens, a baroque botanical masterpiece ablaze with 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 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 famed reunion in A Farewell to Arms.

Milan
The recognized 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 the exquisite Duomo.

Cultural Enrichment: By special arrangement, visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of 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
Across Lake Como from Bellagio is the magnificent Villa del Balbianello and its unique 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, then purchased by Italy’s first explorer to summit Mt. Everest, Guido Monzino, who bequeathed it to the Italian National Trust. A paragon of authentic Italian luxury, the villa is a repository of 18th-century French English furniture and an exquisite collection of Monzino’s Chinese, pre-Columbian and African art.

Bellagio
Centrally located on the hilly promontory punctuated by stands of cypress trees, Bellagio is one of the Italian Lake District’s most internationally well-known communes and has been a popular European holiday destination since Roman times.
Milanese nobility flocked here in the 18th and 19th centuries to build elaborate villas and cultivate subtropical gardens.

Lago d’Orta
Serene Lake Orta, nestled in the captivating Piedmont region of northwestern Italy, is considered the Italian Lake District’s best-kept secret. 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; then, stroll the monastery’s lush grounds.

The Palace Hotel
The ideally located, classic belle-époque PALACE HOTEL is a delightful establishment with an ideal setting on the lungolago (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 expertly 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 fresh, seasonal Italian ingredients, local specialties and international cuisine. Regional wine selections accompany dinner. The hotel staff provides exceptional service.

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

Tour Venice, a UNESCO World Heritage site and architectural masterpiece, and the Gothic-style Doge’s Palace. Visit the charming archipelago of Burano, known for its skilled fishermen and their colorful houses. Enjoy three nights in the 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

#### In Como
- 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 paired with Italian wines.
- Welcome Reception.

#### Expert-Guided Excursions and Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
- Walking tour of Old 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 this romantic and most famous village on Lake Como.
- Specially arranged 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 dining on your own.
- Occasion to interact with locals and become immersed 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, English-speaking local guides for all included excursions.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary bottled water 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.
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 Roman era, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, nobility built palatial holiday villas, filled them with priceless art and landscaped 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 wealthy, as well as celebrities and visitors 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.
LAND TARIFF excluding taxes*

Per person, based on double occupancy $3695 $3995

Singles are available upon request for an additional $1000.*

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

Send to: War Eagle Travelers Auburn Alumni Association 317 S. College Street Auburn University, AL 36849-5149 Email: wareagletravelers@auburn.edu

For more information, please call Gohagan & Company at: (800) 922-3088.

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 2019 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 July 9, 2019.

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 $1795 per person.
☐ Single at $2595 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:

☐ 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.

Cruise scenic Lake Como to the Villa de Balbianello, nestled on the lakeshore and one of the most beautiful, dramatic settings in all of Italy.
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring associations/organizations, and its and their employees, shareholders, affiliates, partners, resellers, directors, trustees, and successors and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not or own operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, fee paid, lodging facilities, air transportation, local law enforcement, host, their employees, and all other persons and entities, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. 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.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: 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, insurrection or revolt, riots from or attacks by animals, insects or 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.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own expenses and arrangements. Gohagan shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of such a change. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lectures (if applicable), are subject to change or cancellation. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute motorcoach transportation using hotels, inns or lodges for cruise accommodations if necessary due to weather, water conditions or levels, other events of force majeure, mechanical or other conditions beyond the control of Gohagan. Gohagan is not responsible therefore and is not required to compensate passengers (unpaid) for any claim that Gohagan may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant to it. Gohagan, however, is not required to return the cost of any purchased travel insurance.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE: Available for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in connection with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon request of your Gohagan travel advisor.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective unless received in writing on the contract date, Gohagan. Should you wish to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation is subject to a $200 ($50 Per Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administration fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 119 through 90 days prior to departure, $600 ($200 Per Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; from 44 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 forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellations fees and administrative fees may apply.

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. Trip cancellation insurance is available for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in connection with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon request of your Gohagan travel advisor.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment. Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to be paid of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased intercity or intercontinental air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION: CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, CST#: TA0905. BINDING ARBITRATION: Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning the trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Illinois law and will take place in Chicago, IL. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, the participant and Gohagan are waiving the right to a trial by jury. ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement. PHOTO CREDITS: Alamy, Deposit Photos, Etekke Photo, Glow Images, Shutterstock, all images are rights managed and cannot be used without permission.