



PERSONALLY CURATED SMALL GROUP & PRIVATE JOURNEYS

EUROPE 2018



ITALIAN LAKES & SWISS MOUNTAINS

9 Days

A scenic, nature-inspired journey delivering the best of Italy and Switzerland's stunning lakes, intimate lakeside villages and beautiful mountains. Over 9 leisurely days, experience the crystal-clear waters of glacial lakes framed by green mountains and snow-capped peaks that have lured the elite over the last millennia. This unique tour covers 6 panoramic lakes and their villages, from Italy's Lake Como, Lake Orta and Lake Iseo; Switzerland's Lake St Moritz and Lake Lugano; and beautiful Lake Maggiore from the shores of both Italy and Switzerland. With deluxe transport including a train journey on the iconic Bernina Express on the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Rhaetian Railway and staying in the finest 5 star lakeside hotels, a comfortable and relaxing experience is assured.

HIGHLIGHTS & INCLUSIONS

- > Visit Italy and Switzerland's 'must see' lakes, lakeside villages and Alpine peaks.
- > 8 nights in exquisite 5 star hotels.
- > 8 breakfasts (B), 3 lunches (L).
- > Guided sightseeing tours in Lake Iseo, Lake Como, St Moritz and Lake Maggiore.
- > Lunch and wine tasting in Franciacorta.
- > Lunch on Lake Como's Isola Comacina served with magnificent views.
- > Train journey on the iconic Bernina Express.
- > Visit 6 panoramic lakes of Iseo, Como, St Moritz, Lugano, Maggiore and Orta.
- > Visit beautiful lakeside towns including Bellagio, Locarno, Ascona and Stresa.
- > Entrance fees to Villa Carlotta and Palais Borromée.
- > Deluxe transport and boat excursions on Lake Iseo, Como and Maggiore.
- > Airport transfers on first and last day.

DAY 1 Milan

Welcome to Milan for the start of an unforgettable adventure through the beautiful region covering Italy and Switzerland's lakes and mountains. On arrival, transfer to your spectacular, centrally located hotel to freshen up, before enjoying the rest of the day and evening at leisure.

Overnight: TownHouse Galleria 5 star or similar

DAY 2 Milan – Franciacorta – Lake Iseo – Monte Isola – Lake Como (B, L)

Depart for the Franciacorta region, characterised by rolling hills and perfect soil for the cultivation of grapes. Enjoy a tasting of the area's most famous export, Franciacorta sparkling wine, followed by a scrumptious welcome lunch. Afterward, cruise the crystal-clear waters of Lake Iseo, surrounded by lush green mountains, for a guided tour of the Lake's stunning Island. Monte Isola is the largest Lake Island in Italy and with a peak of 600 metres above sea level, is one of the highest in Europe.

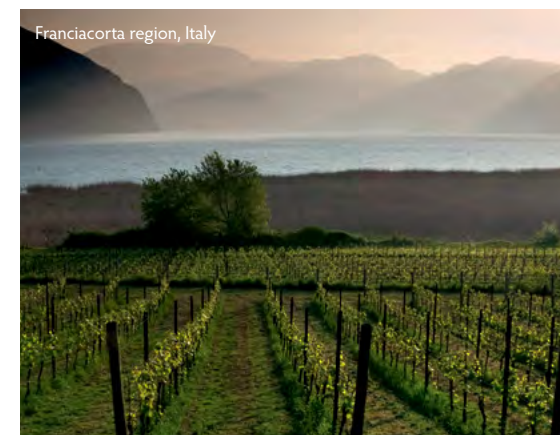
Afterward, continue to Lake Como for an evening at leisure in your amazing hotel.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Tremezzo 5 star or similar

DAY 3 Lake Como (B, L)

Explore magnificent Lake Como, a popular retreat for aristocrats and the wealthy since Roman times. The Lake is of glacial origin and has been voted one of the 20 most beautiful lakes in the world. Cruise the lake to visit Bellagio, the famous village located on a beautiful promontory with cute shops and cobbled alleyways. Afterward, enjoy lunch and magnificent views on the Lake's only island, Isola Comacina, before finishing with a visit to Tremezzo's famous 17th century Villa Carlotta. The Villa boasts luxurious interiors and an exquisite 17-acre garden decorated with sculptures, stairs, fountains and over 500 species of plants.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Tremezzo or similar





Bellagio, Lake Como

DAY 4 Lake Como (B)

Enjoy the entire day and evening at your leisure. Options include visiting the villages of Varenna, Menaggio, Cernobbio and/or Como; visit Villa del Balbianello as featured in many films such as Casino Royale; lunch at the exclusive Villa d'Este or simply relax in the hotel's amazing spa and pool.

Overnight: Grand Hotel Tremezzo or similar

DAY 5 Lake Como – Tirano – St Moritz – Lugano (B)

Depart for our train ride aboard the iconic Bernina Express. The stunning journey twists, turns and loops through incredible landscapes and across amazing bridges, following the historic Rhaetian Railway which is UNESCO World Heritage Listed. On arrival in St Moritz, enjoy a guided tour of this Alpine resort that stands at a crisp 5,910 feet above sea level. The host of two Winter Olympics, St Moritz was known through the ages for the medicinal powers of its natural springs. Afterward, have time for lunch and a stroll along Lake St Moritz, before departing by bus to your amazing Lugano hotel with a magnificent view.

Overnight: The View Lugano 5 star or similar

DAY 6 Lugano (B)

Enjoy the entire day at leisure to explore this beautiful Italian speaking Swiss town. Stroll the pedestrian streets and piazzas littered with designer stores, people watch in Piazza della Riforma ringed with pastel coloured, neo classical palazzi or walk Lake Lugano's scenic promenade.

Overnight: The View Lugano or similar

DAY 7 Lugano – Locarno – Ascona – Stresa (B)

Our Swiss discovery continues with a quick stop in Locarno with enough time to lose yourself in its maze of speciality craft stores. Continue to the quaint village of Ascona on the Swiss shores of Lake Maggiore. Enjoy time for an independent lunch at one of Ascona's many lakeside cafés before crossing through stunning snow-capped mountains on our return to Italy. On arrival, experience Lake Maggiore from a different perspective with a relaxing evening at leisure.

Overnight: Grand Hotel des Iles Borromees 5 star or similar

DAY 8 Stresa – Isola Bella – Stresa (B)

After breakfast, enjoy a morning guided tour to learn about Lake Maggiore, Stresa and its nearby villages. The tour will include the ferry to Isola Bella, one of the Borromean Islands for a visit to the fishing village and the beautiful Palazzo Palais Borromée with its Italianate Gardens. Afterward, return to Stresa with an afternoon to enjoy at your leisure.

Overnight: Grand Hotel des Iles Borromees or similar

DAY 9 Stresa – Lake Orta – Milan (B, L)

After breakfast, depart for beautiful Lake Orta which features the beautiful Island, Isola San Giulio and many lakeside villages including Orta San Giulio, Omegna and Pettenasco. Enjoy time to visit Orta San Giulio and soak up the Lake's atmosphere before celebrating with a memorable closing lunch. Afterward, transfer to a Milan airport or the Milan centre for an extended stay.



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Isola Bella, Lake Maggiore