



LAKES — EXPE RIENCE

/ Magazine



Lakes Experience #inLombardia — Magazine

They have seen the birth of prehistoric forms of life and civilisations, defended Italy from the threat of invasion and fascinated poets and writers. Lombardy's lakes are a wealth of history just waiting to be discovered, either on a trip around their banks or a journey into the surrounding areas. They offer amazing experiences to suit all tastes, to be savoured slowly, off the beaten track. These pages are filled with ideas and suggestions, starting points for trips that will take you into the beauty of breath-taking, unspoilt nature, and allow a close up look at masterpieces of art and architecture or the opportunity to simply relax.

Cover

Grotte di Catullo, Sirmione, Lago di Garda.



CULTURE
AND HISTORY



FOOD AND WINE
EXCELLENCES



EVENTS AND
HAPPENINGS



OUTDOOR
ACTIVITIES



NATURE AND
LANDSCAPES



FOR
FAMILIES





Lago di Garda

The wild side

— Experience 1

Towns perched on cliffs over the water, with dizzy views. And roads dug out of the rock, as harsh as...

“An inland branch” of the Mediterranean sea for many centuries, the upper Garda lake or “Alto Garda” is the northernmost part of a large citrus-producing area. Lemons are found anywhere. Terraced crops and facilities protecting the plants during winter were first introduced in the Thirteenth century and impressed Goethe during his Italian Journey at the end of the Eighteenth century. Scattered in the territory around the municipalities of Limone, Gargnano and Maderno, these old lemon crops, or what is left today of the old facilities, pay witness to a long history of work, skilfulness and impressive results, visually illustrated in the **Ecomuseo della limonaia Pra dela Fam** (an ecological museum in the port of Tignale). The large greenhouse on the lake shore is of great architectural and landscape interest, with the opportunity to taste local lemon-based products (including lemons pickled in salt and flavoured with pepper or chilli pepper). In Limone, a special lemon crop called **Limonaia del Castèl**, situated under the rocks of Mount Sughera, is also worth a visit, with its profusion of walls and pillars all around and its old growing methods.

Lemons and more

Gabriele D'Annunzio, Italian writer and poet, had the merit of making the **Limone del Garda** village accessible by road. Until 1931, it could only be reached on foot or by boat. He advocated the completion of construction works of the

—
Tremosine.

Experience 1
Lago di Garda
The wild side



Gardesana Occidentale road, which today runs along the Lombard shore of the upper lake. This village, a favourite among German tourists, retains its old houses around a small port, which evokes an ancient period, when the village was nothing but an area for fisherman. Walking through its narrow alleys you will come across the **San Pietro's church**, a patron saint of the place since the Ninth century. Roofs are covered by flat Roman tiles and traces of old frescos can be found under the small portico. The bell tower was partially torn down during World War I to remove a strategic target for an Austrian cannon placed in the nearby Crocette. Limone is also the birthplace of a saint, **San Daniele Comboni**, whose house can still be visited to get an insight of the work of missionaries, of both genders, of the San Daniele Order all over the world.

Strong emotions

Tremosine overlooks the lake from above on an extensive plateau and resembles more an alpine village than a lake town, with its grazing land and typical mountain activities. Vegetation, however, is typically Mediterranean. A trip to Tremosine, among the most picturesque Italian municipalities, is a totally emotional experience. It only suffices to run along the **Strada della Forra**, a panoramic road that Winston Churchill defined the 'Eighth World Wonder'... The road climbs amidst mountains by exploiting a natural cleavage excavated by the Brasa torrent. Walking or driving through it after sunset is particularly inspiring, better if you do it on a motorbike. The **Terrazza del Brivido** is not to be missed, i.e. a panoramic terrace suspended at a height of 350 m over the lake surface, for a breathtaking 360° experience, including a view on the Strada della Forra road.



Here
Limonaia del Castèl, Limone.

Below
Strada della Forra.

The terrace can be freely accessed from the Paradiso Hotel.

Green spaces and silence

A site of Community interest for the EU, **Valvestino** is a paradise for nature lovers. This charming, wild mountain area is a border and transition land, which has been inhabited since prehistory and also crossed by the ancient Romans. During World War I, it was under Austrian rule. If you walk through a trail leading from **Magasa** to Mounts Tombea and Caplone, you will meet old military depots excavated in the rock, trenches and masonry outposts, or settlements built on the ground. The barns with thatched roofs of **Cima Rest** and **Denai** are also worth visiting. These are the only remains, in the Alpine chain, to bear witness to an old culture and have now been refurbished into comfortable accommodation facilities.



— 5 reasons for

- 1. Sports for all tastes.** The lake and mountains of Alto Garda are a sportsman's paradise: sailing and surfing can be practised in Gargnano, Limone and Tremosine, horseriding, paragliding and golf in Toscolano Maderno, and canyoning in Tignale.
- 2. The Sentiero del Sole in Limone.** This easy-to-walk panoramic trail winds at the foot of the Alto Garda mountains. With clear signs placed along it, it runs through olive groves and World War remains and offers the opportunity to see a typical quicklime kiln called calchéra. Views on the lake are amazing.
- 3. The Centomiglia Freshwater Regatta, Bogliaco.** Since 1951 this appointment falls in the second weekend of September and is organised by the

- Gargnano Sailing Club. Centomiglia attracts hundreds of teams from all over Europe. Sailboats depart from Bogliaco and return late at night, applauded by a cheerful audience.
- 4. The bisse boats.** The bisse are flat-hulled boats that easily navigate through the lake water. They have four rowers, who row standing up with a technique that combines synchronisation, balance and rhythm of movement. This tradition has been resumed since 1967. In various villages scattered along the Lombard shore, sporting clubs are now handing down this long-standing tradition.
 - 5. Formaggella di Tremosine.** A kind of soft cheese with a fragrant taste and a delicate smell of mountain prairies. It is cured in rooms with selected mildew types.



Lago di Garda

The shadow of D'Annunzio

— *Experience 2*

From the Vittoriale degli Italiani to the fifteenth-century Cathedral in Salò, via the Valle delle Cartiere valley in Toscolano Maderno: all the spectacular sights around Gardone Riviera

This incredible town is home to the monument built by poet Gabriele D'Annunzio, the **Vittoriale degli Italiani**, in celebration of his life. He retired to Gardone Riviera in 1921, where he bought the villa in Cargnacco, one of the town's districts. With collaboration from the young architect Gian Carlo Maroni, he gradually extended the property, adding buildings, gardens and even an amphitheatre. In the house where he then lived until 1938, visitors can today walk among his furniture and books, discovering the secrets of a life that was decidedly out of the ordinary. The Vittoriale is also home to a collection of mementos dating back to the early twentieth century, from the aeroplane in which D'Annunzio flew over Vienna during World War One to the torpedo ram he received as a gift from the Italian Royal Navy in 1923.

Paper trails

A must-visit in Toscolano Maderno is the **Valle delle Cartiere**, eroded by the river that in medieval times was used to power the factories producing the hand-made paper that was famous all over Europe, as is explained in the small museum here, open from April to September. Closed

Experience 2
Lago di Garda
The shadow of D'Annunzio



to traffic, visitors can walk, cycle and horse ride through the valley, rediscovering the old paper trails or arriving at the dam on Lago Valvestino lake, splendid at sunset with its weeping willows and peaceful waters. On the way back around the lake, there is the **Basilica of Sant'Andrea**, with its extraordinary multi-colour façade in marble, the oldest part of which dates back to the year thousand.

Masterpieces in Salò

At the foot of Monte San Bartolomeo mountain, overlooking a wonderful gulf, Salò is a starting point for exploration of the romantic lakeside road, **Lungolago Zanardelli**. Twenty plaques mark the route, telling the history and the origin of the name of the town's "contrade" or districts. Another must-see in the old town centre is the late **Gothic Cathedral**, built between 1453 and 1502 on the site of an older building, with its majestic Rinascimento-style portal testifying to the passage from one architectural style to another. Inside are masterpieces by Romanino, Moretto, Zenon Veronese, Paolo Veneziano and decorations by Palma il Giovane. Not far away, the recently inaugurated **Mu.Sa.** is also worth a visit. Opened in 2015, this museum explains the town's identity, its treasures and contribution the history of Italy.

City-garden

Nestling between the lake and hill, **Gardone Riviera** enjoys a particularly favourable micro-climate for plants, which have turned the town into a large botanical garden (not by chance referred to as the city-garden), where typical Garda vegetation alternates with Central European, Mediterranean and sub-tropical species. Visitors must see the **Heller Garden**, ten thousand square metres where three thousand botanical species from all over the world grow. From the Himalayan Alps, Mato Grosso, New Zealand, Japan, Australia, Canada and Africa, they create a



plethora of scent and colour, orchestrated by the multimedia artist André Heller, who has also inserted installations and sculptures by famous artists such as Keith Haring, Roy Lichtenstein, Auguste Rodin, and Joan Miró. Included on the list of Italy's most beautiful small towns, Gardone Riviera is home to countless buildings and period villas.

One night wine

Chiaretto was one of the first Italian wines to obtain DOC (controlled designation of origin) recognition on 21 July 1967 after being invented in 1896 by Pompeo Molmenti, lawyer and history of art teacher at the Academy in Venice, who had a house and vineyards in Moniga del Garda. This rosé wine is made from black grapes with vinification in partial contact with the skins (just one night).

Here
 Vittoriale degli Italiani, Gardone Riviera.

Below
 Heller Garden, Gardone Riviera.



— 5 reasons for

- 1. San Felice Benaco.** The former pawn agency building (Monte di Pietà), with a five-arched portico and ashlar masonry pillars, currently hosts the local tourist office. The ruins of the Castle and Palazzo Rotondo (the present-day Town Hall) are also worth a visit.
- 2. Rocca di Manerba.** Nature reserve, lake park, and archaeology museum, plus wineries and oil producers offering a chance to taste typical local products. Everybody enjoys a visit to Rocca di Manerba on Garda.
- 3. Isola del Garda island.** An extraordinary neo-Gothic Venetian villa surrounded by Italian- and English-style gardens that slope down to the lake. Guided visits are organised for

- tourists by the Borghese Cavazza family, the owners of this property on Isola del Garda.
- 4. Romantica beach in Manerba.** Ideal for families, Manerba beach is the biggest and best known in the area. It offers water sports and shady areas under the trees behind the lake. Between Porto Torchio and San Felice.
- 5. Oil from Garda.** Olive trees are documented to have grown around the lake since Roman times and Catullus. The favourable Mediterranean micro-climate here (it is the northernmost point in the world producing oil), makes it possible to produce a very fine, light, fruity oil rich in chlorophyll, tasty and harmonious.



Lago di Garda Castles and legacy

— Experience 3

A land of pleasure and invasions, the lower Garda area has a wealth of historic sites, with roots dating back as far as the Bronze age

The remains of a sumptuous Roman villa known as the **Grotte di Catullo** are in exceptional panoramic position, right at the far end of the Sirmione peninsula. Grottoes because these old buildings look like a site of natural caves, and Catullo in honour of the Latin poet Catullus, who celebrated the beauty of this town. At the entrance to the park, an antiquities museum displays not only a general plan of the villa, but also photos of the dig, restoration work and particularly interesting finds such as floor mosaics, objects in bronze and ceramic, fragments of plaster and frescos and a sculpture depicting the head of one of the Dioscuri. The Grotte di Catullo can be reached on foot with an hour's walk through the old town centre and the last part of the Sirmione peninsula. There is an electric train service in the summer months. Afterwards, visitors can relax on the nearby **Giamaica** beach, one of the most beautiful banks of Garda, with large smooth stones just breaking the surface of the lake, perfect for sunbathing and swimming in crystal-clear waters.

Doing the rounds

Built for strategic purposes at the end of the thirteenth century, **Rocca Scaligera** in

—
Castello, Soiano.



Sirmione is one of the best preserved castles in Italy, with its own quayside making it a rare example of fortification for port use. A Roman and medieval museum of stone is housed in the castle's large inner portico, together with a small exhibition giving the most important information about the fortress. A walk around the *chemin de ronde* of the castle walls is a must, as is climbing to the very top of the keep, the castle's tallest tower, which offers spectacular views.

A walk down memory lane

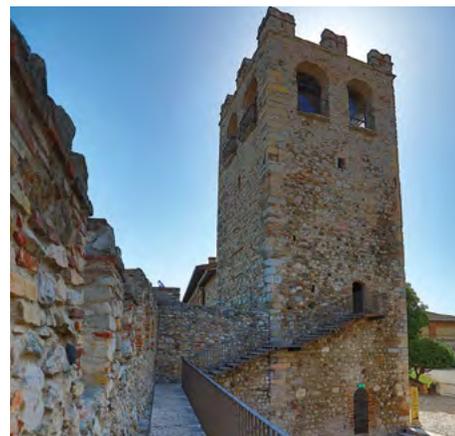
On the lakeside in the heart of the old town centre, the remains of the **Roman villa** in Desenzano are the most important evidence of the great villas of late-Antiquity in Northern Italy. It was decorated with multi-colour mosaics of fine manufacture, depicting scenes with cupids harvesting grapes or on racing chariots, maenads and satyrs, wild animals and allegories. The antiquities museum shows reconstructions and fragments, as well as kitchen and eating pots and small bronze utensils found during digging. One room is dedicated to the collection of statues.

A look at the keep

The fortified wall with its crenelated walls and towers still dominates the old town centre below. In **Desenzano castle** visitors can walk by the side of the tower, go up two floors and enter the keep, right up to the panoramic observatory at the very top, whose windows offer unparalleled views of the lake. Under the battlements, the *chemin de ronde* to the **Torresin del Pontesello** has been restored, leading to a spiral staircase that gives a glimpse of the openings for the cannons. The town council has set up a small arena for historic re-enactments, parades and summer concerts.

From one castle to another

One of the most characteristic towns in this area of Garda is **Padenghe**, overlooked by a medieval castle built to defend the inhabitants from the Barbarian invasions. During the summer it is a stage for theatre companies, musical groups, historic re-enactment and folklore groups. Padenghe marks the start of a two-hour walk suitable for anyone. It winds its way through woods, vineyards, olive groves and lemon orchards to **Drugolo** and its castle, which probably has Longobard origins, but cannot be visited. Not far away there is also the fortification of **Polpenazze**, which still has its keep (now part of the town hall), two towers and part of the outer walls, and **Moniga** fort, with its layout and walls still well preserved.



Here
Rocca Scaligera, Sirmione.

Below
Castello di Desenzano.

— 5 reasons for

- 1. Rambotti Museum, Desenzano.** *Lake Lavagnone, now dry, was home to pile-dwellings over 4000 years ago and since 2011 has been one of the "Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps" on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. The Rambotti archaeology civic museum in Desenzano preserves the traces of this settlement, including an almost complete plough, dating back to the start of the Bronze Age, considered to be the oldest example of its kind in the world.*
- 2. Soiano Castle.** *The northern tower of Soiano castle, a quadrangular fortification that stands out for its very high walls, offers an extraordinary view of the lake.*
- 3. Parco del Risorgimento park, San Martino.** *This monumental complex evokes the battle between the Austrian and French-Piedmont armies in the second Italian War of Independence (24 June 1859). In the tower, a path of memory, with the statues of the main players in the unification of Italy, frescos with episodes from the Risorgimento, arms, relics and documents.*
- 4. Sirmione Spa.** *A source of spa water has been talked about since the end of the Rinascimento, even if its real discovery dates back to the end of the nineteenth century. Today Sirmione spa waters are known for their preventive and therapeutic properties thanks to their sulphurous salso-bromo-iodic content.*
- 5. The small lakes of Sovenigo, Puegnago.** *The two-hour walk, suitable for anyone, it takes to reach them is worth it—in the summer their silvery waters fill with lotus flowers and water lilies.*



Lago di Como

Charmingly seductive

— Experience 4

Described by Stendhal as 'voluptuous', the south-western branch of Lake Como charms with its gardens, villas and breath-taking views.

The **Duomo di Como**, or Como Cathedral, skilfully constructed using late Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque elements, and the **Tempio Voltiano** temple, built to mark the centenary of Alessandro Volta's death, summarise the spirit of Como perfectly: a medieval town that reached out to the world with the brainchild of the battery, defined by Einstein as the basis of all modern inventions. The neoclassical Volta Temple, evidently influenced by Andrea Palladio, nestles on the lake' shore. It displays original (and replica) scientific instruments belonging to the great scientist, along with documents and other items illustrating his life. Before arriving at the Duomo, it's worth detouring from the fascinating shoreline route to take in the **Novocomum**, the condominium designed by Giuseppe Terragni that is one of Italy's first examples of modern architecture. It is to Terragni that the **Itinerario razionalista** (Rationalist tour) - which includes buildings such as the former Casa del Fascio, the Monument to the Fallen and the Sant'Elia kindergarten - is dedicated.

The island

Lake Como's only island, the tiny **Isola Comacina**, has a long and intricate history. In Roman and medieval times it acted

—
Como.



Experience 4
Lago di Como
Charmingly seductive



as both a military base and a key religious centre. In alliance with Barbarossa, the Comaschi (people of Como) later razed it. Its rediscovery came in the 20th century when Pietro Lingeri built three "artists' houses" in the rationalist style, leading to the discovery of a fascinating archaeological heritage. Stunning views and lush vegetation make the island a must-see.

All aboard!

Just getting there is a thrill. From Como, a **funicular** railway, in service since 1894, climbs 700 metres to Brunate, a gorgeous borgo dotted with numerous art nouveau (or 'Stile Liberty' in Italy) style villas, the main protagonists of a clearly marked itinerary. Another must-see is the **Faro Voltiano** lighthouse in San Maurizio, a 29 metre high octagon-plan tower built to mark the centenary of Alessandro Volta's death. A climb to the top of its 143-step spiral staircase rewards the visitor with astounding views not just of the lake but also the Alps beyond (on a clear day Monte Rosa is visible).

Sheer beauty

One of Italy's most beautiful villages, **Tremezzina** is spellbinding, its natural and man-made beauty almost overwhelming. Verdant gardens, water and stone merge to compose a unique symphony. Superb palazzi (**Villa Carlotta**, **Villa Mayer** with its publicly owned **Teresio Olivelli** park, **Villa Amila**, designed by Pietro Lingeri to look like a ship sailing through the woods), spinning mills, the scent of lemons and a kaleidoscope of azaleas, hydrangeas and camellias offer a unique experience that has been enjoyed since the 1700s when Tremezzina was a favourite with the European bourgeoisie.

On-the-go quiz

Kids, keep your eyes peeled in **Menaggio**.



the gorgeous village located half-way up the lake's western shore. The Tourist Office offers a fascinating 'historical quiz' that takes you through the streets of the village and its environs. Getting the right answers will require attentive observation and involve drawing what you see, from the **castle** to Luigi Tagliaferri's frescoes in the **church of Santo Stefano**.

Pirates ahoy!

Today, all that remains of the '**Medeghino**' castle in Musso are its ruins. Yet it's easy to imagine the exploits of brigand Gian Giacomo de' Medici (the diminutive Medeghino nickname referred to his diminutive stature) and his band of pirates, whose members included the legendary 'Falco della Rupe'. The latter's exploits were immortalised in the same-named novel by Giambattista Bazzoni.



Here
Isola Comacina.

Above
Villa Carlotta, Tremezzo.

— 5 reasons for

- 1. The "Museo del cavallo giocattolo", toy horse museum, Grandate.** Over 650 toy horses from all over the globe, dating from the 18th century to the modern day. Utterly unique, the museum is housed in the stables of the legendary trot racehorse, Tornese. On display is a fascinating array of rocking, tricycle, hobby and clockwork horses made of wood, papier-mâché, tin and fabric.
- 2. The "Museo didattico della seta", silk museum, Como.** A collection of machines and industrial exhibits to preserve the textile traditions that made Como the 'city of silk'.
- 3. Spina Verde Park.** Nature, archaeology and history all play pivotal roles in the Spina Verde regional park. A far-reaching network of paths leads visitors to several points of interest. Such as the Baradello

Castle: its tower commands sweeping views of Como, the plains towards Milan and the rolling foothills. Every year, at the end of summer, the Palio del Baradello is held: 20 days of exciting historical re-enactments that take over the town and the lakeside villages.

- 4. Tremezzo beach.** Inspired by the Italian gardens of Villa Colonna in Rome, the **Teresio Olivelli** park hosts bathers in the shade of its age-old trees. Its pebbly shore has a refreshments bar and a beach volleyball court.
- 5. Sport.** Lake Como is the perfect place to practice a variety of water sports: rowing, sailing, windsurfing, scuba diving, canyoning and more. Numerous facilities offer tuition or boat rental services.



Lago di Como Bellagio, the pearl

— Experience 5

One of the world's best-loved places, Bellagio lies on the tip of the central headland, offering convenient ferry access to both branches of the lake

Lake Como has been a prestigious destination for centuries and its villas stand as testimony to that prestige. Visitors to Bellagio can enjoy the verdant parks of **Villa Serbelloni** (piazza Chiesa 14) and **Villa Melzi** (via Lungolaro Manzoni). The former stretches towards the water from the headland that splits the lake into its lower branches. It was the brainchild of Alessandro Serbelloni, a leading figure in one of Lombardy's noblest, richest families. Thanks to him the park is criss-crossed by an 18 km network of carriage tracks, avenues and paths. The garden of Villa Melzi, instead, is characterised by sculptures and architecture. It was designed by Luigi Canonica and the botanist Luigi Villosi, a duo who'd previously designed the Park of Monza. Terracing and small knolls give the landscape an eye-catching dynamism.

Action!

Villa del Balbianello, located on the Lenno promontory (via Comoedia 5), has long been a favourite with directors and actors and has provided the setting for movies such as the James Bond film *Casino Royal* and *Episode II - Attack of the Clones* from George Lucas' *Star Wars* saga. In 1988 it was left to the **Fondo Ambiente Italiano** (Italy's National Trust) by the last owner, Guido Monzino, its contents reflecting the man's passions: the library

—
Villa Serbelloni, Bellagio.

Experience 5
Lago di Como
Bellagio, the pearl



and map room in the loggia, and even a small museum illustrating his expeditions, offer a fascinating insight into his Alpine feats and polar explorations. Again on the western shore of the lake, and easily reached by ferry from Bellagio, lies **Villa Carlotta**, (via Provinciale Regina 2), beautifully set between mountain and water. Its unrivalled charm is the work of the second owner, Gian Battista Sommariva, who embellished it with 19th century masterpieces (Canova, Hayez) and extended the garden which, every spring, shimmers with the colours of over 150 varieties of azaleas and rhododendrons.

Set a course for history

Sun dials, astrolabes, marine chronometers: for those with a love of sea-faring history, the **Museo degli strumenti per la navigazione**,



(Museum of Navigation Instruments) located in the antique tower-shaped house in San Giovanni di Bellagio (piazza Don Miotti) is a must. Over two hundred exhibits illustrate centuries of exploration, navigation and the discovery of new worlds.

A cyclist's paradise

It's no chance occurrence that the **Museo del Ciclismo** (Cycling Museum) in **Madonna del Ghisallo** (via Gino Bartali 4, Magreglio) stands on this hill with breath-taking views, a favourite with amateur cyclists of every age and sometimes included in top-class races such as the Giro d'Italia and Tour of Lombardy. The museum has a decidedly philosophical feel: it takes an all-round approach to cycling, telling us of its leading legends yet also its unsung heroes, from race organisers to bike builders and journalists.

Soar over the lake

From views of village rooftops to ever-expanding panoramas of the lake. All this, in just four minutes, on the **cable car** connecting Argegno to Pigna, a viewpoint that overlooks the southern section of the lake's Como branch. It's also a place with a story to tell: Founded in 1877, **Al Cason** was one of the first Società di Mutuo Soccorso (precursors of modern welfare institutes). Giuseppe Garibaldi was an honorary member. The building was the heart of the town: on the ground floor there was a dairy, on the first floor a theatre and meeting room and, on the second, a kindergarten, schools and a records office. At Argegno, the Santuario di Sant'Anna, built in the 18th century and featuring decorations and frescoes from the same period, is an absolute must-see.

Here
Bellagio.

Left
Villa Balbianello, Lenno.

— 5 reasons for

- 1. The missoltini.** A fish dish dating back to Medieval times. The *agoni*, after being skilfully salted for days, are sun-dried on special racks. Able to be conserved for long periods, they are generally grilled and flavoured with olive oil, vinegar and parsley.
- 2. Woodland spirit.** In the *Foresta dei Corni di Canzo*, wood takes shape and appears to spring into life. Suggestive settings, artistic installations and wooden sculptures contribute to an out-of-the-ordinary experience. Parking is available in piazzale Giovanni XXIII, Canzo.
- 3. Sacred Mount of Ossuccio.** A UNESCO world heritage site, the *Sanctuary of the Madonna del Soccorso* dominates the lake from the hills above Lenno. Fourteen small baroque temples - representing the 14 mysteries of the rosary - form the avenue of chapels. The fifteenth is the sanctuary itself.
- 4. Steamboat.** From April to September, every Sunday (also Thursdays in July and August), you can travel in the style of yesteryear as you set sail on the historic steamboat *Concordia*.
- 5. The Orrido waterfall, Nesso.** Crashing into a natural gorge called *Orrido di Nesso*, this waterfall was cited by *Leonardo da Vinci* in his *Atlantic Code*. An inspiration to painters and writers, it has also supplied energy to flour, paper, spinning and oil mills. Its endless, mighty cascade can also be seen from the lake.



Lago di Como More than Manzoni

— *Experience 6*

Together with Renzo and Lucia in the streets of Lecco. Then on to discover the eastern bank of the Como Lake. Start with Varenna

All the traces of Manzoni's novel "The Betrothed" are found here... the climb of the "bravi" (coarse soldiers who were hired by rural lordlings), the presumed house of Lucia, the convent of Friar Christopher (Fra' Cristoforo) and the castle of the Unnamed. A specialised museum is hosted at Villa Manzoni (in the Caleotto city district), where the author spent his childhood, adolescence and early youth.

A precious gem

In Varenna, a small village with an international flair, visitors will find **Villa Monastero**, a real 'gem' with superposed architectural styles spanning nine centuries. Built originally as a female convent, it was later turned into a sumptuous mansion, Villa Leliana, for more than three centuries. Today it hosts a museum with a variety of antique pieces of furniture in all rooms, from the Billiard Hall to the Music Hall. The complex also includes a conference centre, where the Nobel Prize winner Enrico Fermi delivered his physics lectures, and is surrounded by a botanic garden extending over almost two kilometres, or 1.24 mi. (up to the Fiumelatte district) with a rich collection of rare, native and exotic tree species. Workshops, itineraries and games are also organised for children.

In the river gully and underground...

The silence of wildlife is broken by the roar of the Pioverna river, which forms waterfalls, rapids and splashes flowing into

Experience 6
Lago di Como
More than Manzoni



the **Orrido di Bellano** gully, a natural canyon created 15 million years ago. Footbridges anchored to one of the rock walls are used to walk through the gully, amidst luxuriant vegetation, which calls to mind a real jungle. Other routes for visitors to follow are the underground passages of the Piani Resinelli **Mining Park**, to discover ancient mines that operated from 1600 to the mid-twentieth century. Visitors will also get an insight into old extraction methods and tools by stepping into wide tunnels and corridors, most of which have lighting installations.

A little walk through history

The more-than-one-thousand-year-old **Veziro Castle** is a lakeside outpost dominating Varenna. Partially restored in the mid-twentieth century, today it is partially open to visits and hosts a diurnal and nocturnal raptor-training centre based on the rules of the ancient art of falconry. Another medieval monument, which dates back to a couple of centuries later, is the **Corenno Plinio Castle**, perched on a spur of rock through which the characteristic alleys of the village were dug. Another fortress, the **Forte di Fuentes**, dating back to 1600, dominates Lake Como from the Colico hills. Initially destroyed by Napoleon, it was reused during World War I. Through its privileged position, it straddles between the Valtellina Valley on one side and the Chiavenna Valley on the other.

For visitors with a cultural taste

Culture-minded visitors will appreciate a masterpiece of Lombard Romanesque architecture, the **Piona Priory**, or Piona Abbey, situated in Colico, on the Olgiasca peninsula. Particularly worthy of note is its cloister (1242), which exemplifies the shift from Romanesque to Gothic art. Its square layout evokes the symbolism of number four, i.e. the four elements of the universe, the four cardinal points, and the four symbols of self-contempt, contempt of the world, love of one's neighbour, and love of God. The bell tower of the **San Nicolò Basilica**, nicknamed "the Big Pencil", is one of Lecco's

symbols. It is among the tallest bell towers in Italy (96 metres, or 315 ft.), and is equipped with nine bells intoning a concert in A-major and each bearing its own name. In the opening days, visitors can climb 380 steps to enjoy one of the most charming views of the city.

Gone with the wind

When the weather is fine, windsurfing, wakeboarding, kiting or sailing are only some of the sports that can be practised in Lake Como, swept by two winds, the Brega blowing strongly from the south (in the afternoon) and the milder Tivano blowing from the North (in the morning). This is a perfect combination for all sports enthusiasts and pros wishing to sail or surf the lake waters. When the Brega blows, expert surfers will find well-formed wave patterns. The upper lake area is particularly suited to the practice of sailing sports.

Here
Corenno Plinio.

Below
Priorato, Piona.



— 5 reasons for

- 1. A multi-sensory itinerary in Piani d'Erna.** Exploring nature through senses, walking barefoot in the water or on moss, watching animals, listening to the sound of birds and tasting natural products are only some of the leisure activities on offer while enjoying a breathtaking view of the lake from above.
- 2. Beaches.** Slopes leading to the lake can be found everywhere, but the Riva Bianca beach of Lierna, with its fine white cobblestones, is definitely a must-go. Dog owners will be happy to know they can take their four-legged friends to the Bau Bau Malpensata beach, in Oliveto di Varenna.
- 3. The Moto Guzzi Museum in Mandello del Lario.** Motor-biking enthusiasts and anyone interested in this world myth will enjoy a collection of 150

exhibits, including mass-produced and sports motorbikes, test-prototypes and engines, all on display at the historical Moto Guzzi factory.

4. Mount Barro. The Mount Barro Regional Nature Park offers plenty of flora, fauna and landscapes for nature lovers to enjoy. The park overlooks the Lecco branch of lake Como and lake Annone, and is covered by an extensive 44 km (27 mi.) network of trails reaching all major places of interest.

5. Forte Montecchio Nord in Colico. Completed in late 1914 to defend lake Como from the bellicose attacks from Switzerland, this fortress is one of the most modern artillery installations of World War I. Its four cannons are still functioning efficiently.



Lago di Iseo History, nature and... — *Experience 7*

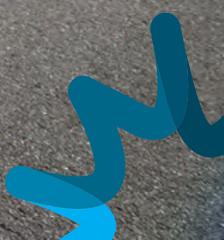
From the recently rediscovered Roman spa in Predore to the Liberty architecture of Sarnico, via the enchanting town of Lovere and surprising natural phenomena

A client, the Faccanoni family, and an architect, Giuseppe Sommaruga, turned **Sarnico** into the highest, most constant architectural expression of **Liberty** style in the whole of Lombardy. A pleasant exception in an area where there is no significant presence of noble residences. Three villas and a mausoleum built for the family and a nursery school. Only the mausoleum in the town's cemetery can be visited as Villa Surre (originally Villa Luigi Faccanoni) is today a conference centre accessible only on special occasions.

Romantic Lovere

Lovere has ancient origins, and was described by English Lady Wortley Montagu as the most romantic town she had ever seen. It nestles like a huge amphitheatre between lake and mountain. The old town centre is well preserved and dominated by an impressive civic tower. Three towers still survive of the town's medieval fortifications: Torre Soca

—
Chiesa di San Giorgio, Credaro.





(thirteenth-fourteenth century), Torre degli Alghisi (twelfth-thirteenth century) and the Torricella of the old town walls.

The lakeside is home to elegant buildings, such as sixteenth-century Palazzo Gregorini with its portico and second-floor loggia, **Palazzo Marinoni**, **Villa Milesi**, and **Accademia di Belle Arti Tadini**. The latter today houses the Tadini Art Gallery, with hundreds of modern and contemporary works of art on display, testifying to Italian and European artistic culture since World War Two through to very recent times.

Valle del Freddo valley

This is perhaps the most unusual natural phenomenon in the whole of the Bergamo area. At just 360 metres above sea level, plants and flowers grow that are typical of areas in the high mountains, from rhododendrons to eidelweiss (which does not usually grow below 1700 metres asl). Mysteries of the **Valle del Freddo**, in the upper Val Cavallina valley, after the small lake Laghetto di Gaiano. The fact is that a complex and very singular terrain structure means that large blocks of ice form underground during the winter, and in summer, air in the valley bottom passes through holes in these blocks and is cooled to a very low temperature (2-4°C). Visitors to the Valle del Freddo must stick to the path, in order not to disturb the delicate equilibrium of this extraordinary ecosystem.

Breath-taking sheer drops

The sheer drops of what is known locally as the "Bögn", namely the Zorzino ravine. A very high rocky wall made of 200 million-year-old layers of dark limestone drop straight down into the lake, framing a small bay in the **Riva di Solto** area. Wild scenery that represents one of the most important natural surprises on Lago di Iseo.



A Romanesque treasure trail

There are twenty Romanesque churches dotted throughout the lower Sebino area. Credaro has two, one dedicated to the **Saints Fermo and Rustico**, the other to **Saint George**. The latter, on the outskirts of the town, features a cycle of frescos painted by **Lorenzo Lotto** in 1525. In the arch over the altar there is Saint George on horseback slaying the dragon and in a chapel along the norther side and also visible from outside, there are Nativity with Saints Rocco and Sebastian, and Eternal Father on the rib vault, with figures of saints down the sides. Meanwhile, the small church of the Holy Trinity in Parzanica stands on the peak of Mut dèi Pagà, a wooded high plain that can be reached by following a path that winds right up to the top of the promontory. The hard walk is generously rewarded by unbeatable views out over Lago d'Iseo.

— 5 reasons for

- 1. Lido Nettuno in Sarnico.** A long pier that reaches out into the waters of the lake is the added value offered by Lido Nettuno in Sarnico, a municipal park covering 22,000 square metres that is connected to the town centre and Predore by a cycle path.
- 2. Sebino Nature Trail.** This 17 km circular walk starts and finishes in Riva di Solto, taking in mule tracks and paths through terraced vineyards and olive groves, and offering amazing views of the lake.
- 3. Roman spa in Predore.** An archaeological site has recently be found in the former Lanza factory area in Predore, with the remains of a spa building belonging to a bigger villa, dating back to the first century A.D. The most

Here
Lovere.

Below
Orrido di Bögn.



significant finds are on display in an antiquities museum and include coins, reconstruction of the heating system and many fragments of decorated plaster.

- 4. Lake cruises.** A regular boat service on Lago di Iseo that offers a series of different mini-cruises for discovering picturesque villages. They also run at night, with dinner, music and entertainment on board.
- 5. Parco del Corno park in Predone.** Two alternative walks take visitors across Corno, a rocky coastline that connects Predore with Tavernola. The higher path allows walkers to look out over the vegetation and enjoy views of the final stretch of the lake.



Lago di Iseo Prehistory and bubbles

— *Experience 8*

The Valle Camonica rock engravings are as famous worldwide as the wine made in Franciacorta. On a journey of discover what else this area has to offer

The first Italian UNESCO World Heritage Site, the national rock engraving park is truly exceptional. Thousands of figures engraved into the rocky walls in the Valle Camonica tell of the daily life of the local inhabitants between the Paoleolithic age and the arrival of the Romans. Carts and ploughs show that they were initially farmers, then, towards 3000 B.C., they discovered the art of metal working and started to hunt. As civilisation progressed, so too did the historiatiions, enriched to become almost narrative in nature. This real-life journey back in time offers different routes and opportunities, with the original site having seen the addition of other parks and museums in a circuit like no other anywhere in the world.

Pyramids of earth

The Egyptians never came to Zone, but here too there are “**Pyramids**”. Modelled over the centuries by the erosive action of water on the moraine soils of the mountain, these amazing conical shapes stand majestically erect opposite Lago di Iseo, measuring up to 30 metres in height. Surrounded by a nature reserve at 400-600 metres above sea level, these elegant structures in earth are protected by a stone “hat”



that defends them from the elements. Comparing them to stalagmites hidden in grottoes is inevitable, but the view to be enjoyed from this hill adds a completely different touch. The more adventurous can cycle to Zone, following a trail that offers a splendid view of these sculptures in earth.

Cycling along the Oglio

The slight downhill slope makes the **Valle Camonica cycle path** suitable for all “no oil” fans wanting to pedal their way through the valley (about 40 km). The start is in Capo di Ponte, home to the educational **museum of art and prehistoric life**. The route heads towards Pisogne along dedicated asphalt paths or secondary roads with little traffic, alongside the River Oglio and through various old town centres, like Breno. There are stopping points with facilities along the way. From Pisogne, cyclists can catch the train back to the start.

Wetlands by night

A marshland of international importance, the nature reserve of the **Torbiera del Sebino** peat bog goes from Franciacorta to Lago di Iseo. It is considered a priority area for biodiversity, mainly made up of rushes and water, surrounded by farmed land that includes the Franciacorta vineyards. Access is on wooden walkways that link the various tongues of earth between the pools of water. Ideal for birdwatching. Each of the three entrances (the visitor welcome centre in Iseo, Provaglio, the monastery of San Pietro in Lamosa, and the Le Torbiera



shopping centre in Corte Franca) has automatic dispensers selling the one-euro tickets for entry day or night.

Cheers Franciacorta!

Home to wines of excellence, Franciacorta is a paradise for tourists that goes beyond all its unmissable food and wine itineraries: from the waters of Lago di Iseo to the vineyard covered hills, from natural phenomena like the **Monticelli Brusati waterfalls** and historic buildings. A must-visit is **Bornato castle**, a Roman complex of buildings that also includes a villa from the Rinascimento, privately owned but open to visitors. To learn all about the history of the wine-making process, a visit to the **Ricci Curbastro Agricultural Museum of Wine** is a must. Its thousands of exhibits testify to how work in the vineyards has changed.



Here
Piccola Tahiti Beach, Marone.

Below
Rock Drawings in Valle Camonica.

— 5 reasons for

- 1. Iseo.** Medieval at heart, Iseo looks out over the lake of the same name, bordered by a long, scenic promenade. In the main piazza, named in memory of Giuseppe Garibaldi, stands the Italian monument dedicated to the “hero of two worlds” (1883), by the sculptor Luigi Bordini.
- 2. Santa Maria del Giogo.** A classic spring walk starting from Sulzano or higher up from Colmi above Polaveno, with a few slightly uphill stretches that lead to the Santuario di Santa Maria del Giogo shrine. Magnificent views to the east over Val Trompia valley, and to the west of Lago di Iseo.
- 3. Dancing Herbs Park, Paratico.** A series of green pastures around the Paratico lakeside flatter the scenery around the lake: a pergola of fox grapes, a pond of white water lilies, and the wavy lines of gravel paths. This walk won the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.
- 4. Gnome Wood, Zone.** A chance to savour the fascinating connection between lake and mountain. The wood is inhabited by real and imaginary characters engraved by the artist Rosso (Luigi Zatti) on trunks still rooted in the ground. The atmosphere is special, with singular views completing the experience.
- 5. Piccola Tahiti, Marone.** White stones and a wonderful view of the lake and the mountain behind for this beach with its exotic name.



Lago di Iseo The pleasant isle

— *Experience 9*

Cars are not allowed on Monte Isola island, where visitors must walk or cycle as they explore the delightfully silent, narrow streets in its villages

It is the biggest lake island in Europe, and can be reached by boat from all the main towns around Lago d'Iseo. For three weeks during 2016, it was also possible to walk there—preferably with bare feet to feel the movement of the water—on the **Floating Piers by Christo**. In addition to the link with dry land, between Sulzano and Peschiera Maraglio, the orange, or rather dahlia yellow, walkway by the Bulgarian artist also reached the island of San Paolo, which for the occasion was given a sort of beach.

Best foot forward

Walking, cycling or buses are the only modes of transport for visitors to Monte Isola island, home to some of Italy's most beautiful villages, and they must keep a sharp eye out for residents on mopeds. A round trip of the island is a nine-kilometre walk. The starting point is generally **Peschiera Maraglio**, where the boats arrive from Sulzano. Here the seventeenth-century church of San Michele is worth a visit. Some of Monte Isola's internationally famous net factories are still in business (with a dedicated museum in Siviano), as are boatyards where expert carpenters

—
Porto, Monte Isola.



and master shipwrights hand build wooden boats. A walk around the lakeside brings you to **Sensole**, directly opposite the island of San Polo, where you can visit the small seventeenth-century chapel, with a painting of the Virgin Mary on the portal. The elevated position of **Siviano** makes it a must-visit panoramic location with views of the Bergamo side of the lake. Once again on the lake is **Carzano**, an old fishing village that looks out towards upper Sebino, opposite the island of Loreto.

The other islands

San Paolo is a private island, home to a villa with garden, but with no beach. Thanks to the installation by Christo it has been included today in an art catalogue. **Loreto** is another private island, the smallest. On it stands a neo-gothic style castle with a park of conifer trees and tiny harbour. A tower, battlements and pale stone walls make this a wonderful complex, with a perspective that can be enjoyed from the side, thanks to its position on top of an outcrop that plunges into the lake. Boat trips are organised around both islands.

Shrine with a view

The **Santuario della Madonna della Ceriola** shrine stands on the top of the mountain and offers unparalleled views of the whole of Sebino.

The last stop on the bus is Cure, and an easy walk of about one kilometre then leads to the shrine. Alternatively, it can be reached along the mule track up through the Peschiera Maraglio woods. The shrine is 23 metres long, 7.5 wide and 10 high and has a single nave with barrel vault and many votive offerings for grace received. It would seem to owe its name to a log of Turkey oak into which a likeness of the Virgin Mary was carved in the twelfth century.

A walk in the woods

For those wanting to quietly discover a Monte Isola off the beaten track, we suggest the walk from Siviano to Masse, both on the top part of the island. Once out of the town, the path winds through nature with extraordinary views. Another nice walk is from Menzino to the **Rocca Martinengo** fortification, and the path starts at the end of the town towards Sensole.

— 5 reasons for

1. The Santa Croce festival, Carzano.

Held every five years, the wonderful Festa di Santa Croce is linked to a votive offering made to ward off an epidemic.

The town and village of Novale are decorated with arches covered in pine branches and paper flowers, all strictly made by hand by locals, who have handed down the technique from one generation to the next. The next festival will be in 2020.

2. Montisola salami. Beware of imitations: Montisola salami is only produced out in the middle of the lake, with almost no fat, flavoured with wine and garlic and then lightly smoked.

3. The Net Museum, Siviano. The Net Museum in Porto is housed in the island's oldest net

Here

Santuario Madonna della Ceriola.

Above

Isola di Loreto.



factory and it houses a collection of documents, historic photos and articles linked to an activity essential for the island's economy. Visits must be booked.

4. Fish in the sun. Perch and shad (here erroneously called sardines) are put out in the sun to dry and make them easier to preserve. The special arched wooden supports used for this purpose, a tradition that has led to the most widespread surname on the island: Archetti.

5. Ere beach, Peschiera Maraglio. Clear waters and shady olive trees make Ere beach, just a few hundred metres from the town, irresistible. Natural recycling of the water is thought to be due to underwater springs.



Lago Maggiore Unspoilt landscapes

— Experience 10

Monteviasco can only be reached on foot or by cableway from Ponte di Piero. This village is famous for its 18th century mills placed in a natural setting. Indeed, mother nature is sovereign in Alto Verbano

The extraordinary position of **Maccagno** offers a vantage point over Lake Maggiore, which we prefer to call "lago Maggiore". Here the onlooker's gaze can reach out to the Swiss shore, on one side, and Stresa, on the other. The village is among the early settlements along the course of the Verbano river with a glorious past – underpinned, as the legend has it, by the hospitality given by the then Maccagno feud to Otto I in 962. In exchange, the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire granted the feud independence, which it only lost in 1800 under the order of Napoleon. In the 17th century, Maccagno enjoyed the right to mint currency. In the lower part of the village, Maccagno Inferiore, a sanctuary juts out over the lake, **Santuario della Madonnina della Punta**. Another construction of interest is **Palazzo Mandelli**, which still retains its original towers and a few parts of its walls. The **Museo Parisi Valle** is a museum not to be missed. Built across the Giona river with a peculiar architecture, it hosts the works of the villager Giuseppe Parisi and his wife Wanda Valle as well as of the Italian artistic vanguard of the years 1930 to 1980.

A 'tropical' forest

Lush vegetation, high humidity, a wide variety of ferns make the **cascata di Fermona**, in Ferrera di Varese, a unique waterfall surrounded by a quasi tropical landscape. The Margorabbia torrent originates from Valganna and falls 30 metres (100 ft.) down into a calcareous rock ravine. This jump ends in a pond, where visitors can take a relaxing dip. In its upper course, close to Cunardo, the torrent sinks into a system of grottoes, i.e. Pont Niv, Antro dei Morti, Grotte di Villa Radaelli

—
Madonna della Punta, Maccagno.



and Grotte del Traforo. They can all be visited with the assistance of the Gruppo Speleologico Prealpino.

Piero and its mills

In Val Veddasca, time seems to stand still with a landscape of millstones, cows and goats, to be reached by a quarter-of-an-hour walk from the forecourt of the Ponte di Piero cableway. In any case, the cableway goes up to Monteviasco. Mills dating back to the 18th century were built with stone and wood and restored in 1997. The landscape is pristine, the air is good and a few holiday farms serve local food (cheeses and cold meats) for the gourmets. At a short distance, the Giona torrent forms small spectacular waterfalls, where tourists can bathe in clean water. Braver visitors may also take a walk through a harsh trail that begins just beyond the mills and leads to an old stone bridge that crosses the river and climbs to Biegno, on the other side of Valle Veddasca.

Life in the days of yore

Do you want to take a break from civilisation? Then, **Monteviasco** is perfect for you. Perched on the slopes of Mount Pola, it can be reached on foot along a mule track for a total of 1400 steps to climb, or through the Ponte di Piero cableway. This village sits in the landscape with low-rise houses and their flagstone roofs and wooden balconies, winding alleyways, and rudimental stone paving (named 'rizzada'). All around, the built area is surrounded by a wood of chestnut, beech and walnut trees. More towards the countryside, visitors can find the **Santuario della Madonna della Seta** dating back to 1890. In 1933 it was renovated, i.e. the octagonal building was redesigned into a Greek-cross layout. The project



involved the full population including children. This sanctuary is also a pilgrimage destination and, on the last Sunday of May, a festival takes place with the traditional incanto dei canestri (auction of typical food baskets) and the participation of the music band of Curiglia.

The pleasant Luino

This municipality combines tourism, industry, history and modernity, in addition to being both Swiss and Italian. In other words, **Luino** is a multifaceted town with an enchanting lake front. It is also the birthplace of the Italian comedians Massimo Boldi and Francesco Salvi, the poet Vittorio Sereni and the novelist Piero Chiara, who always set his novels in Luino. These novels were partly written at a table of the historical **Caffè Clerici**, founded in 1875. Today a plate outside the café mentions the writer among its habitual customers.

Here
Monte Lema.

Below
Cascata Fermona.



— 5 reasons for

- 1. The Luino market.** The picturesque, colourful and worldwide known Luino market is held every Wednesday and has been taking place uninterrupted since 1541, when Charles V first licensed it. It involves the whole village with hundreds of stands. Here market goers can find a little bit of everything... garments, leather goods, haberdashery products, kitchenware and, of course, food, such as fresh cheeses, charcuterie and lake fish.
- 2. Formaggella del Luinese.** A soft fat cheese, produced in the Varese mountain pastures exclusively from goat's milk. Matured only briefly, it is a recognised PDO product.
- 3. Pino Tronzano Beach.** You will have the wind behind you in this lake beach, where visitors can practice kiting and windsurfing from the morning to the early hours of the afternoon, and take

advantage of the Inverna wind that blows from the south. If all you need is relaxation, you can opt for sunbathing in the lawns.

- 4. Monte Lema.** Placed at the border between Italy and Switzerland, the summit of Mount Lema is a privileged viewpoint over the regional lakes (lago Maggiore & lago di Lugano) and the peaks of the Pennine and Lepontine Alps. It can be reached by an easy and well signposted trail (a 3-hour walk in total including return) to be taken from the Campiglio mountain refuge in Alpe Pradecolo (Dumenza).
- 5. Spiaggia di Colmegna.** This pebble, rock and grass beach caters for the needs of everyone, including 'shadow lovers' to enjoy the shade of local tree species. Cannero and Luino are also visible from the beach.



Lago Maggiore Artist's brushstrokes

— *Experience 11*

Trompe l'oeil frescos, five centuries of pictorial cycles, spontaneous and organised murals: colour is everywhere in and around Laveno Mombello

A sixteenth-century country residence now owned by the Fai (Italian Environmental Fund) in Casalzuigno, **Villa Della Porta Bozzolo** has seen many changes over the centuries. Especially interesting are the frescoed rooms with floral decorations covering doors, windows and furniture. Important rooms include the ballroom, the gallery, the two kitchens and the court of honour, their walls frescoed with rococo architectural-style trompe l'oeil. The outbuildings used for agricultural work have also been preserved, where children can learn about tools from yesteryear—the great grape press, the oil mill and the icebox—and visit the areas used for production: the big cellar, stalls, tool store, wash house and spinning mill. Visitors must take a walk around the spectacular long Italian-style garden, which slopes upwards, at its top end offering a wonderful view of Valcuvia and the surrounding hills. For a more mystical experience, there is the Secret Garden, a secluded spot that naturally inspires meditation.

Art and industrial archaeology

The former furnaces in **Parco di Caldè** park in Castelveccana are evidence of an ancient artisan and industrial economy

—
Eremitaggio di Santa Caterina del Sasso, Leggiuno.



and are worth a visit. Partially in ruins, the plaster dropping off the walls shows evidence of the passing of time, even if some of these have become works of art thanks to the colours of the murals painted by a group of youngsters who have somehow taken in hand this disused heritage. All around, an as yet unspoiled environment, with views of the lake, tiny sheltered beaches and the mountain looming in the distance. For those wanting to stretch their legs, a path leads to the **small church of Santa Veronica** in just a few minutes.

The painters' town

In the fifties, the town of **Arcumeggia** with the approval of its inhabitants, decided to put the walls of most of the houses at the disposal of contemporary painters. The operation took almost twenty years and turned this village into a true open-air art gallery, with very technical frescos featuring the widest range of subjects. At the foot of Monte Nudo mountain, Arcumeggia is the starting point for a network of paths that take walkers throughout Valcuvia.

Monastery in the rock

Nestled against the mountain-side, with a sheer drop below to the lake, the **Eremo di Santa Caterina del Sasso** hermitage can be reached down steep steps from the group of houses above, with a lift dug out of the rock, or via the lake. Tradition has it that this place full of magic was founded in the twelfth century by the merchant Alberto Besozzi di Arolo, who, having survived a shipwreck, had a small church built and dedicated to Saint Catherine of Alexandria, to whom he had prayed in his moment of difficulty. In the centuries that followed, the complex was expanded by the monks who gradually settled here. Today the southern monastery can be visited, together



with the small monastery with its seventeenth-century fresco inspired by the Danse Macabre) and the church. A large number of pictorial cycles inside and outside the church walls cover a period from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century. The view out over the lake is unforgettable.

Flying off the mountain

Hair flying in the wind in the open cabin on the cable car or sheltered in the closed one. In just a quarter of an hour it takes visitors up from Laveno Mombello to **Monte Sasso del Ferro** mountain, at more than one thousand metres above sea level, looking out over Lake Maggiore and views of the Alps, the Pre-Alps, lakes Lugano and Varese, right across to the Po valley. Some take off from here with hang-gliders, others with paragliders. Expert instructors are on hand so that even complete beginners can enjoy this extraordinary experience.

Here
Villa Della Porta Bozzolo, Casalzuigno.

Below
Arcumeggia.



— 5 reasons for

- 1. The International Museum of Ceramic Design, Cerro di Laveno Mombello.** Hundreds of pieces of ceramic, from the Società Ceramica Italiana Richard-Ginori collection and donated by Scotti-Meregalli and Franco Revelli, are on show in sixteenth-century Palazzo Perabò. Artistic directors for this collection of ceramic in Laveno include Gio Ponti and Antonia Campi.
- 2. Church of Santa Maria in Ca' Deserta, Laveno Mombello.** Near to the cemetery, it was donated to the monastery in Cluny in the eleventh century. It has frescoed lunettes on its façade and inside the baroque wooden high altar is worth seeing.
- 3. Alfredo Binda Museum, Cittiglio.** From his jerseys to the equipment he used, this museum dedicated

- to Binda by his home town also has the Legnano bikes from the 1930 and 1932 World Championships on show, together with documents and articles from newspapers at the time.
- 4. "Linea Cadorna" Document Centre, Cassano Valcuvia.** Audio-visual and iconographic material, interactive points and documents tell the history of the Northern Frontier defence line, namely the system of fortifications built along the Italian-Swiss border between 1915 and 1918. Visitors can walk in the trenches and tunnels cut out of the rock, from Ridotto di S. Giuseppe to Cassano Valcuvia.
 - 5. Beach in Cerro.** Going from the centre out towards the main church brings you to a small bay where there are also rocks.



Lago Maggiore Old stories

— Experience 12

Finds from the Iron Age, evidence of the Ice Age, monuments of industrial archaeology, dolls from the eighteenth century to date: lower Lago Maggiore (the Verbano area)

With its five factory buildings, built between the twelfth and seventeenth century, the **Rocca di Angera** stands guardian of the Lake Maggiore. Comprising the Torre Castellana tower, the Ala Scaligera and Ala di Matteo Visconti wings with the splendid Sala di Giustizia (Room of Justice) decorated with thirteenth- and fourteenth-century frescos, the Torre di Giovanni Visconti tower, the Ala dei Borromeo wing, this fortification has belonged to the Borromeo family since 1449. Open to the public are the Sale Storiche (Historic Rooms), embellished by recent installation of the Sala delle Maioliche (Majolica Room), an extraordinary collection of three hundred very rare pieces, and the gardens, rebuilt following ancient medieval codes. The **Museum of Dolls and Toys** is a must-visit, with over a thousand dolls in wood, wax, papier-mâché, porcelain, biscuit, compounds and fabric from the eighteenth century to date.

The origins of methane

One of the last examples of flooded forests in Lombardy, the **Oasi della Bruschera** alternates stretches of water with paths through trees and rushes. White lilies grow everywhere and walkers will come across rare flowers like the marsh violet. Home to water birds, including mallards, moorhens and kingfishers, this is the perfect destination



for birdwatchers. Its birdwatching towers are also useful for those wanting to enjoy an unusual view of Lago Maggiore. **Isolino Partegora** is between Bruschera and the Angera bank, covered only by poplars and surrounded by marsh reeds. In a boat with friends in 1776, Alessandro Volta noticed air bubbles rising up from the bottom. He took a sample of the water and discovered methane.

A ring of furnaces

The land here is dotted with the well-preserved **furnaces of Ispra**, examples of industrial archaeology. Limestone was extracted from the banks of Lago Maggiore for the production of lime as far back as the Middle Ages. A part of these very unusual buildings has been converted into private residential units. A 5-kilometre path, steep in parts with others at water level, comes close to some of these homes, offering views of the woods and the lake.

Erratic boulders

A gigantic boulder of serpentine rises out of the waters of Lago Maggiore near Ranco. Called **Sasso Cavallaccio**, this is a natural monument, an erratic boulder in the shallow, marshy waters of the **gulf of Quassa**. We are in the only extended stretch of north-facing open coast in the whole of Verbano, where large amounts of moraine materials deposited during the quaternary glaciations. This unusual landscape, with its very shallow sandy lake bottom, home to a wealth of almost five hundred botanical species, has been the Park of the gulf of Quassa since 2010. There is another exceptional erratic boulder in Sesto Calende. In green serpentine, the Sasso de Preja Buia ci sembra che il testo in italiano sia scorretto is covered with shallow dips, engravings that would seem to indicate a Celtic place of worship.



Anello delle fornaci, Ispra.

The legacy of Golasecca

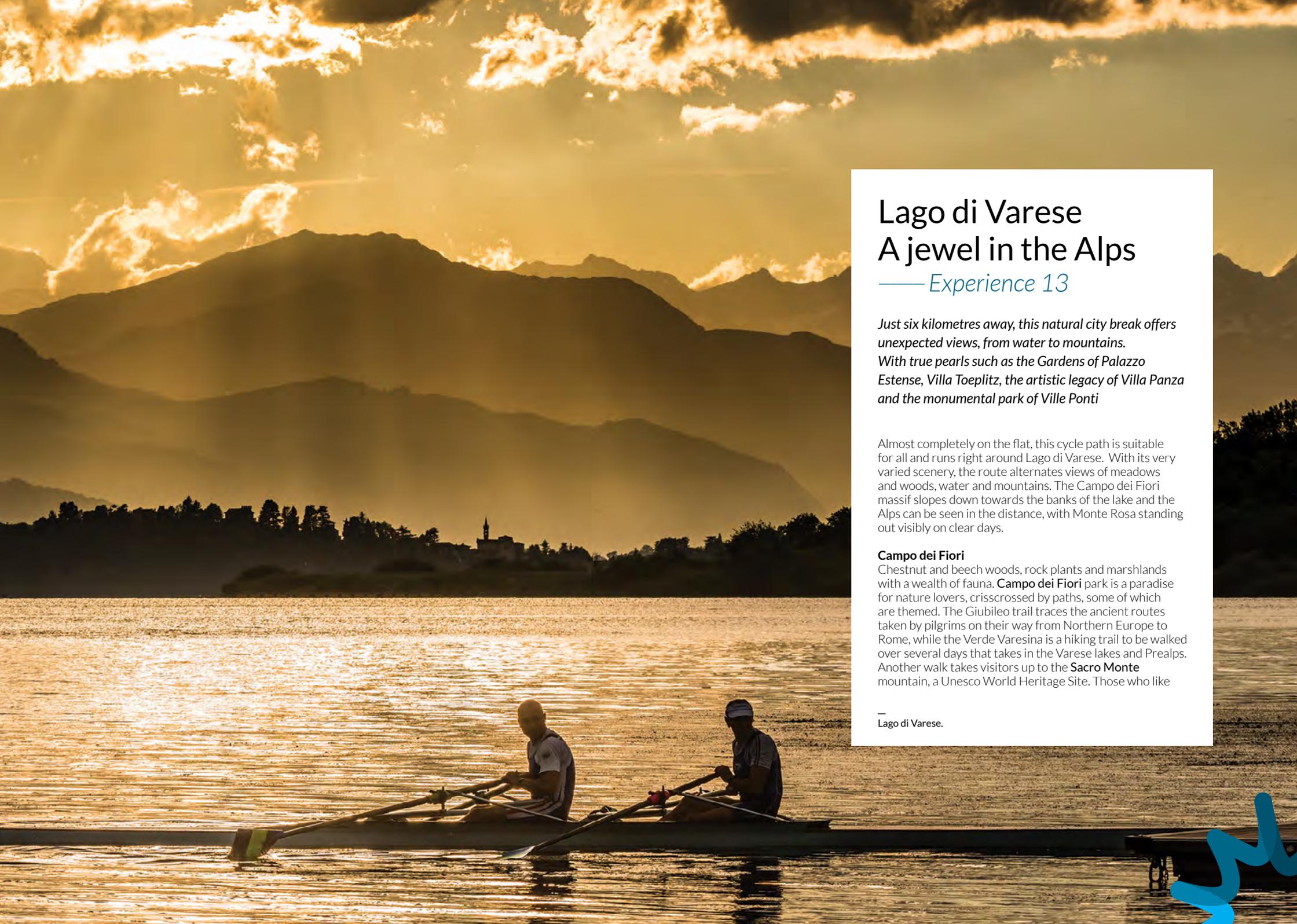
Pottery jars, metal ornaments and also coral, amber and other fine materials. Plus the Tomb of the Tripod (late six century B.C.), a female sepulchre with a rich dowry of various ornaments and the neck of a glass bearing two inscriptions, rare testimony to an Italic alphabet deriving from the Etruscan one and called the "alphabet of Lugano". The ancient civilisation of Golasecca, which settled between western Lombardy and eastern Piedmont in the Iron Age, left many traces of its existence that can today be admired in the **Sesto Calende Museum of Archaeology**. 800 exhibits tell the history of this land from the third millennium B.C. through to the Middle Ages. There is also a very interesting section of fossils from Cheglio di Taino, which includes various species of animals and plants from the Pleistocene Era.

— 5 reasons for

- 1. Santuario della Madonna della Riva shrine, Angera.** 27 June every year sees celebration of the anniversary of the miracle in 1657, when a fresco of the Virgin Mary on the wall of a house dating back to in 1443 seemed to exude blood. The traditional procession of illuminated boats takes place on the first Sunday in July.
- 2. The Collegiata di Castiglione Olona.** A fragment of Tuscany that landed in Lombardy thanks to Cardinal Banda Castiglioni, who embellished this town with palazzos, churches, schools and charitable buildings. The most important complex comprises the collegiate church and baptistery, with frescos by Masolino da Panicale.
- 3. Parco di Taino park.** A public park for compensation, reflection, pausing and

contemplation. This is how Gio Pomodoro described his project in 1991. His sculpture "Il Luogo dei quattro punti cardinali" (Place of the four cardinal points) stands in the centre of the park.

- 4. Typical Angera products.** Honey –wildflower, acacia and chestnut– grappa from the Rossi d'Angera distillery, savoured by heads of state, ministers and popes since 1847 and also wine, produced here since medieval times.
- 5. Museum of Plastic Art, Castiglione Olona.** The first museum of arts applied to plastic in Italy is to be found in the frescoed rooms in fourteenth-century Palazzo dei Castiglioni in Monteruzzo. It houses over fifty works from the seventies, by Italian and international artists, from Man Ray to Enrico Baj.



Lago di Varese A jewel in the Alps

— Experience 13

Just six kilometres away, this natural city break offers unexpected views, from water to mountains. With true pearls such as the Gardens of Palazzo Estense, Villa Toeplitz, the artistic legacy of Villa Panza and the monumental park of Ville Ponti

Almost completely on the flat, this cycle path is suitable for all and runs right around Lago di Varese. With its very varied scenery, the route alternates views of meadows and woods, water and mountains. The Campo dei Fiori massif slopes down towards the banks of the lake and the Alps can be seen in the distance, with Monte Rosa standing out visibly on clear days.

Campo dei Fiori

Chestnut and beech woods, rock plants and marshlands with a wealth of fauna. **Campo dei Fiori** park is a paradise for nature lovers, crisscrossed by paths, some of which are themed. The Giubileo trail traces the ancient routes taken by pilgrims on their way from Northern Europe to Rome, while the Verde Varesina is a hiking trail to be walked over several days that takes in the Varese lakes and Prealps. Another walk takes visitors up to the **Sacro Monte** mountain, a Unesco World Heritage Site. Those who like

—
Lago di Varese.





visiting churches and buildings will enjoy the Liberty villas, **Badia di Ganna** and **Rocca di Orino** in the park.

Special water effects

Romantic, bucolic routes featuring fountains, gardens and orchards. The park of the early twentieth-century eclectic **Villa Toeplitz** in Varese covers eight hectares and offers a constant series of different experiences. A large number of paths and trails wind their way through the park, allowing visitors to admire a variety of plants that ranges from local to exotic species. Spectacular fountains in pale blue mosaic and grey Carrara marble reach their climax against a monumental flight of steps in porphyry from Cuasso al Monte. The geometry of the pools and fountains recall the oriental gardens of the Mongolian emperors.

Milan's "Little Versailles"

This is how Giacomo Leopardi described **Palazzo Estense** and its gardens in Varese. When he built his residence, the Duke of Este actually had Schönbrunn in mind, the summer home of the Habsburgs in Vienna. The gate of honour leads to a beautiful parterre dotted with beds of low-growing shrubs and flowers. In the centre, a fountain and in the background, Belvedere hill, which offers wonderful views.

Prehistory at Isolino

A few kilometres from the western bank of Lago di Varese, **Isolino Virginia** is a wonderfully preserved example of one of the most important pile-dwelling sites from the Neolithic, dating as far back as 3500 B.C. Objects in quartz, flint and obsidian chippings and arrowheads were dug up in the sixties and are today on show in the **civic Museum of Prehistory**, which can be reached by boat from Biandronno. A visit ends with an educational trail that explains how the prehistoric

inhabitants of the pile dwellings lived. Isolino Virginia is a Unesco World Heritage Site as a pile-dwelling site.

The appeal of the colonnade

Volturne, just a few hundred metres from Gavirate, is home to the **Chiostro della Chiesa di S. Michele** cloister. Hidden among farmhouses and plants, this example of Lombardy Romanesque architecture has been a national monument since 1911 and was originally built in 1100. Its colonnaded walkway is particularly worthy of mention, with its very slender columns of varying heights, cylindrical or octagonal and topped with capitals, each one having a different structure: Greek, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian or Byzantine. The history of the cloister is explained in a permanent exhibition housed in the modern art museum in the same building.

— 5 reasons for

- 1. Palude Brabbia bog, Inarzo.** This is one of the best preserved lowland peat bogs in foothills and has clear post-glacial origins. Palude Brabbia is managed by the LIPU (Italian society for the protection of birds) and it is a birdwatcher's paradise.
- 2. Velate Tower.** Belonging to FAI (Italian Environmental Fund), this tower is a landmark in the hilly countryside around Varese and it has great symbolic value for locals. One whole side remains intact of the original formidable 25-metre tall four-sided building.
- 3. Villa Panza, Varese.** A masterpiece of the American advance guards furnished with period furniture and African and pre-Colombian works of art. All housed in an eighteenth-century building,

Here
 Palazzo Estense, Varese.

Above
 Museo della pipa, Gavirate.

- renovated in the twentieth century by Piero Portaluppi and surrounded by a splendid park. Villa Panza is a truly unique must-visit.
- 4. Canoeing and...** Lido Schiranna also offers gliding but the main attraction is canoeing, as Lago di Varese is particularly suited to this sport, so much so that the Australian team picked Gavirate as its European training base camp.
 - 5. Pipe Museum, Gavirate.** Briar, cherrywood, olive and wild olive, juniper, oak, applewood, boxwood, mulberry, rosewood, lemonwood, orangewood, cypress, and ebony are the woods used in pipe making. Alberto Paronelli has dedicated a museum to this ancient art. The 30,000 exhibits include tools, machines, porcelain and terracotta.



Lago di Lugano The Little World of the Past

— Experience 14

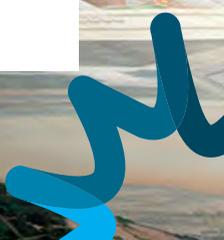
A place of cultural interest indeed with the landscapes of Fogazzaro's novels, the fossils of Monte San Giorgio, the fortifications of World War I and the secret places of Ceresio

In the Fifteenth century, the guests of the Mozzoni family departed from the hunting lodge to hunt bears. In the Sixteenth century, **Villa Cicogna Mozzoni**, in Besuschio, was enlarged and changed into a sumptuous mansion, embellished by gardens on various levels with an interplay of exteriors and interiors. The descendants of the family continued to run the property, whose garden (full of statues and fountains) can now be visited together with 12 fully frescoed rooms (with furniture and objects of various historical periods). The villa is also used as a concert venue and an exhibition centre and can be rented for wedding receptions and gala dinners.

Antonio's memories

Villa Fogazzaro Roi in Oria Valsolda was used by Mario Soldati as a set for his movie *Piccolo mondo antico* (The Little World of the Past), named after the novel that Antonio Fogazzaro wrote in the same rooms of the villa. The writer's works depict the atmospheres of what was his dwelling in the past, whose conservation was entrusted to the FAI (Italian Environmental Fund) in 2009. Its rooms are 'loaded' with memories, disseminated all around from the library, where Fogazzaro's books are kept, to his office. Original handwritten annotations have also survived and are still kept inside a drawer of his desk. Erected on the lake bank, the villa offers charming views of the neighbouring mountains.

—
Villa Cicogna Mozzoni, Bisuschio.





The echo of Prehistory

Fossils of 25 reptile species, 50 fish species, more than 100 invertebrate species and various vegetable species, conifers in particular, were extracted from the deep layers of **Mount San Giorgio**, where they had remained for millions of years - the oldest even date back to 247 million years ago. The peculiarity of this very important geo-paleontological area, a transnational (Italian-Swiss) UNESCO World Heritage site, are the five layers of fossils, each belonging to a prehistoric period, which are of interest for studying the evolution, over millions of years, of groups of organisms that used to live in the same environment. To arouse visitors' interest, workshops and guided tours around the mountain are organised. Do not forget to take a look at the exceptional panorama of this site. The fossils extracted from Mount San Giorgio are kept in two museums, the **Museo dei fossili del Monte San Giorgio**, in Meride, Switzerland (refurbished and enlarged by architect Mario Botta) and the **Museo civico dei Fossili** in Besano. The first exhibit to be seen in the San Giorgio museum is a 2.5 m long reconstruction of the terrestrial saurian *Ticinosuchus*. The exhibits on display in the second museum include, among others, a nearly 6 m long *Besanosaurus*, with four embryos found in the abdomen, and a *Saltriosaurus*, whose remains are the only fossils of a large carnivorous dinosaur in Italy.

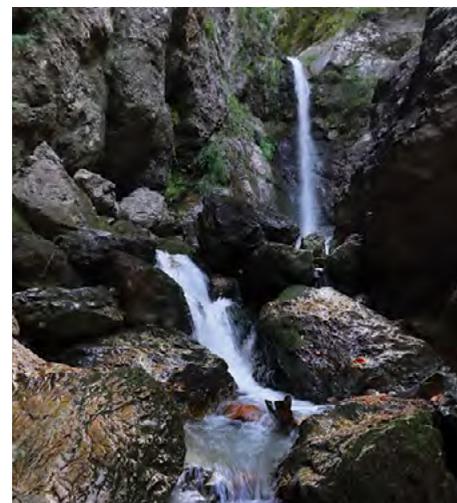
In the trench

A system of fortifications – skilfully erected between mountains – connect the two ridges of mount Orsa and mount Pravello, a few kilometres far from Viggù. These constructions are part of the **Linea Cadorna** defences, built during World War I. This historic itinerary raises visitors'

curiosity, as they walk through the tunnels where soldiers used to station and live in the past, with a rudimentary but effective ventilation system and clearings, where cannons were kept. Right outside, views of the lago di Lugano will await them.

The arco di Muzio

An arch is placed at the entrance of **Campione d'Italia**, an Italian border town surrounded by Swiss territory. It was designed in the 1930s by the 20th century Milanese architect Giovanni Muzio, who was on a mission here to review the town-planning scheme. In 1958, a garden was built just behind the arch, whose ideal focal point is a large, cylindrical fountain decorated with seagulls by skilled local ceramists. On the north side of piazzale Maestri Campionesi (this place is called "Campione Masters Square" by no coincidence!), a few mosaics saved from the demolition of the old Casino are found, which depict the "liberal arts", or the arts of the Middle Age masters.



Here
Sighignola, balcone d'Italia.

Below
Cascata del Trallo.

— 5 reasons for

- 1. Cascata del Trallo (Trallo Waterfall), Brusimpiano.** A short and easy walk will lead visitors from the village centre, along the torrent, to the Trallo waterfall, a wonder of the natural world, nestled in the woods.
- 2. Balcone d'Italia, Lanzo d'Intelvi.** Sighignola, a 1,320 m high mountain of the Lugano Pre-Alps (Prealpi Luganesi) on the Italian-Swiss border is otherwise known as the "Italian balcony" for a good reason. It can be reached from Lanzo d'Intelvi by car or on foot by a practical trail.
- 3. Grotte di Rescia, Claino con Osteno.** Seven grottos wind along a 500 m (545 yd) trail on the eastern side of Ceresio. The peculiarity that makes these "Grotte di Rescia" rare at national level is their material, travertine marble sculpted by water erosion down the centuries. In December and January, grottos are extraordinarily open for the "Natale in grotta" (Christmas in the Cave) pantomime.
- 4. Sasso Paradiso, Marzio.** This rock can be reached on foot from Porto Ceresio or from Marzio, through a non-demanding trail. *Masso Erratico* is a natural Lago di Lugano belvedere, but also retains traces of the old Linea Cadorna system of fortifications.
- 5. Porto Ceresio.** Porto Ceresio is a picturesque village overlooking the lake, surrounded by nature and the mountains. The lake-front is worth discovering by walking past ancient villas (with marble decorations now unfortunately displaying signs of ageing) to finally reach a few pebble-and-sand beaches, under the shadow of weeping willows.



Lago d'Idro

Clear cool water

— Experience 15

At the foot of the Piccole Dolomiti mountains, and surrounded by their wooded slopes, this is almost a mountain lagoon. Perfect for sport, it is the location for an incredible carnival

It is the coolest of the lakes in Lombardy, but also the least known and quietest. At almost 400 metres above sea level, the small lake today called Lago d'Idro, known as **Eridio** to the Romans, is surrounded by wooded mountain slopes that reach a height of a thousand metres. This unspoilt environment makes any activity enjoyable. Relaxing on the pebbly, stony banks of the lake, water sports (sailing and windsurfing), cycling, hiking and climbing, winter skiing on the slopes of **Monte Maniva** mountain, which also welcomes visitors in the summer with walks and the unforgettable scenery of the Brescia Piccole Dolomiti. All the towns overlooking the lake are worth a visit, starting with **Idro**, which is divided into the seven hamlets of Pieve Vecchia, Lemprato, Crone, Vesta, Vantone and Tre Capitelli.

Fortified mountain

The **Rocca d'Anfo** fortifications cling to the slope, winding their way up from the lake to the top of Monte Censo mountain. Building had already been started by the noble Visconti family in the fourteenth century, with further work carried out in the fifteenth century by the Republic of Venice, later extended by Napoleon's engineers and completed by the Italian military engineering corps. With the annexation of Trentino to Italy in 1919, it was no

—
Vesta.



longer needed as a bastion but continued to be used as a military site until 1975. Today, guided visits lasting four hours can be made to its barracks, armoury, and military strongholds—all connected by walkways, stairs and underground paths. Educational visits for children are also organised, made more fun with a treasure hunt.

Masked balls

Classified as one of the most important ethnological discoveries in the past 200 years, **Bagolino carnival** was discovered in 1972 by researchers of popular customs. Celebrated since the sixteenth century, it comprised two separate events: the Balari and the Maschèr. The dancers and musicians (Balari) perform on the Monday and Tuesday before the end of the party, through the town's streets, in costume with masks and elaborately decorated hats. Whereas the Maschèr make their appearance earlier, immediately after Epiphany, their faces covered, and their walk, voice and behaviour also disguised.

Wrought iron, slate, stairways

Nestling among the mountains above the lake, **Bagolino** is a medieval village, its closely set houses decorated with details such as wrought iron railings, and architectural elements like porticoes, balconies and roofs in terracotta or slate. Narrow cobbled streets alternate with flights of steps. The seventeenth-century **church of San Giorgio** stands in the middle of the village. Its vault was frescoed by Tommaso Sandrini, who created an optical illusion that appears to double the height of the nave. The organ was built by the Serassi brothers, a famous dynasty of master organ makers from Como.

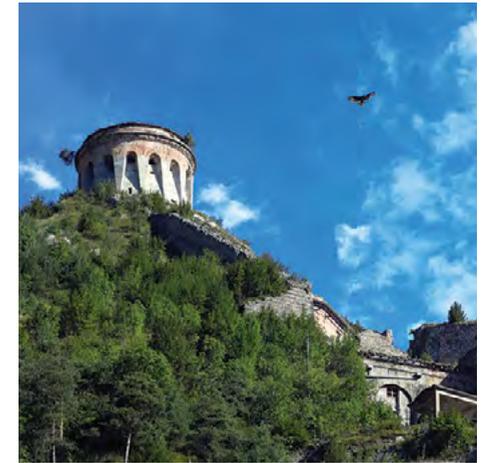
Antique frescoes, vintage frescoes

On the banks of the lake, on the spot where

the Chiese River leaves to flow down the valley, the **church of Santa Maria ad Undas** in Idro has a Romanesque apse, subsequently absorbed into the fourteenth-century architecture that still remains today. Over the high altar there is a shrine, decorated with frescos that depict popular saints. Whereas the frescos that adorn the walls inside the **Hotel Milano**, directly opposite the church, -are of a totally different nature. In the thirties, Federico Vaglia, a self-taught painter and owner, together with his brothers, of the hotel, painted the rooms on the ground floor and the bedrooms on the upper floors. He drew his inspiration from the futurists, Gustav Klimt and aeropainting. Unfortunately, in the sixties, short-sighted management decisions cancelled the works in the bedrooms, but the bar, reception and public rooms continue to enjoy the bright colours and many different themes of Vaglia's art.

— 5 reasons for

- 1. Bagoss cheese.** This typical Bagolino cheese gets its name from the village's inhabitants. The large rounds are produced in the *malghe* (typical mountain buildings) and matured for two years. Made from cow's milk, it is a hard cheese "coloured" with saffron.
- 2. Church of Sant'Antonio, Anfo.** Of Romanesque origins, recent restoration work has brought to light its Greek-cross plan and the frescos that embellish both the interiors and the outside walls, dating back to the sixteenth century and the school of Verona. The bell tower is believed to be the oldest in the Val Sabbia valley, presumed to have been built in the fourteenth century.
- 3. Cruise on the Eridio.** Round trips starting and



Here
Bagolino.

Above
Rocca d'Anfo.

finishing in Crone for the mini cruises on Lago d'Idro that stop in Vantone, Vesta, Baitoni (mini-foray into the Trentino part of Eridio), Ponte Caffaro and Anfo. Bikes can be taken on board.

- 4. Ferragosto bonfire, Crone park.** Music, dancing and local food and drinks on the 15 August, on an evening that ends with large bonfires on the beach.
- 5. Miner's Day, Anfo.** Miner's Day (Giornata del Minatore) has been organised every end of July in Anfo for over twenty years. In addition to stalls, food and fireworks, it is also an important opportunity for education and celebration of local history, as barite quarrying in Danzo and Anfo was the main source of income for decades.



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C'è tanto da scoprire

— Info

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Capo di Ponte, loc. Naquane
Tel. +39 0364 42140
www.parcocincisioni.it
capodiponte.beniculturali.it
Open all year round,
Closed on Monday

Parco degli gnomi
Zone
www.rossodizone.com
Open all year round

Torbiere del Sebino
Via Europa 5
Provaglio d'Iseo
Tel. +39 030 9823141
www.torbiere Sebino.it
Open all year round

THE PLEASANT ISLE

Museo della rete
Località Porto
Siviano
Tel. +39 030 9886336
To book visits

Navigazione Lago d'Iseo
www.navigazione lagoiseo.it

LAGO MAGGIORE UNSPOILT LANDSCAPES

Civico Museo Parisi Valle
Via Leopoldo Giampaolo 1
Maccagno con Pino e Veddasca
Tel. +39 0332 561202
www.museoparisivalle.it
Open all year round

Monteviasco
www.gruppoamicimonteviasco.it

**Centro Documentale Frontiera
Nord "Linea Cadorna"**
Vicolo Costanza 2
Cassano Valcurvia
Tel. +39 349 6649821
www.centrodocumentale.it
Open on Saturday and Sunday

ARTIST'S BRUSHSTROKES

**Chiesa di Santa Maria
in Ca' Deserta**
Via Ronco Santa Maria
Laveno Mombello
Tel. +39 0332 667358

**Eremo di Santa
Caterina del Sasso**
Via Santa Caterina 13, Leggiano
Tel. +39 0332 647172
www.santacaterinadelsasso.com
Open every day from March to
October, open on Saturday and
Sunday from November to February

Funivie del lago Maggiore
Via Don C. Tinelli 15
Laveno Mombello
Tel. +39 0332 668012
www.funiviedellagomaggiore.it

Museo Alfredo Binda
Piazzale Alfredo Binda, Cittiglio
Tel. +39 0332 604276
www.comune.cittiglio.va.it/binda

**Museo internazionale
del design ceramico**
Lungolago Perabò 5
Cerro di Laveno Mombello
Tel. +39 0332 625551
www.midec.org
Open all year round, closed on Monday

Villa Della Porta Bozzolo
Viale Camillo Bozzolo 5
Casalzuigno
Tel. +39 0332 624136
www.visitfai.it
Open from March to November,
Closed on Monday and Tuesday

OLD STORIES

Complesso Museale della Collegiata

Via Card. Branda Castiglioni 1
Castiglione Olona
www.museocollegiata.it
Open all year round
Closed on Monday

Museo Arte Plastica

Via Roma 29
Castiglione Olona
Tel. +39 0331 858301
www.comune.castiglione-olona.va.it
Open all year round
Closed on Monday

Museo civico archeologico

Piazza Mazzini 1
Sesto Calende
Tel. +39 0331 928160
www.simarch.org
Open all year round
Closed on Saturday

Oasi della Bruschera

Via Bruschera
Angera
Open all year round

Rocca Borromea

Via Rocca Castello
Angera
www.borromeoturismo.it
Open from March to October

LAGO DI VARESE A JEWEL IN THE ALPS

Museo delle pipe

Via del Chiostro 1/A
Gavirate
Tel. +39 340 7444130
www.paronellipipe
Visit by appointment

Palude Brabbia

Via Patrioti
Inarzo
Tel. +39 0332 964028
www.lipu.varese.it

Parco e Giardini di Villa Toeplitz

Via G.B. Vico 46, Varese
www.varesecittagiardino.it
Open all year round
Free entry

Villa Panza

Piazza Litta 1
Varese
Tel. +39 0332 283960
www.visitfai.it

Parco Campo dei Fiori

www.parcocampodeifiori.it

Isolino Virginia

www.unescovarese.com

Chiostro di Voltorre

Piazza Chiostro 23
Gavirate
Open all year round

Palazzo e Giardini Estensi

Via Sacco 5
Varese
www.varesecittagiardino.it
Open all year round
Free entry

LAGO DI LUGANO THE LITTLE WORLD OF THE PAST

Grotte di Rescia

Via Porlezza 63
Claino con Osteno
Tel. +39 0344 72520
www.grottedirescia.it
Open to April to October

Museo Civico dei Fossili

Via Prestini 5, Besano
Tel. +39 349 2182498
www.montesangiorgio.org

Villa Cicogna Mozzoni

Viale Cicogna 8, Bisuschio
Tel. +39 0332 471134
www.villacicognamozzoni.it
Open to March to October,
Saturday and Sunday

Villa Fogazzaro Roi

Via Antonio Fogazzaro 14
Oria Valsolda
Tel. +39 0344 536602
www.visitfai.it/villafogazzaro

LAGO D'IDRO CLEAR COOL WATER

Chiesa di Sant'Antonio

Anfo
www.romanicobrescia.it/anfo.html

Rocca d'Anfo

Via Calcaterra 6
Anfo
www.roccadanfo.eu
Open to May to September,
Saturday and Sunday

Bagolino

www.bagolinoinfo.it

Navigazione Lago d'Idro

www.lagodidro.it/it/eventi/news/347-battello.html

Colophon — Magazine

Lakes Experience #inLombardia
Promo tourist brochure published
by Explora S.C.p.A.

Author Chiara Maranzana
Photo credits Walter Capelli /
Marco Ciceri / Alberto Locatelli /
Beck Peccoz / Laura Rabachin /
Ulisse Piana / Alessandro Zepponi
Translation Studio De Novo - Padova



Lakes Experience #inLombardia

— Magazine

*History, culture, sport,
food and wine specialities...
and, above all, wonderful
scenery. A journey into
discovery of the seven
biggest lakes in Lombardy.*

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