



BARRINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL PRESENTS MILAN & THE ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 6TH - 15TH 2017

Ringed by alpine peaks, the sparkling waters of the Italian Lake District command a landscape where mountains descend to meet the shores and grand hotels rise up in pretty lakeside towns. Here at the convergence of Italy and Switzerland is an area graced with shocking beauty and extraordinary diversity, where each lake with its own charms and treasures unfolds against a backdrop of semi-tropical gardens, gracious old villas, and vibrant villages and tradition.

The legendary beauty of Italy has enthralled visitors for centuries. Artists have been inspired by its brilliant light, poets and writers have been moved to pen great works, and travellers have come to bask in all that Italy has to offer. From the majesty of Lake Maggiore, the most famous of the Italian Lakes, to the enchanting vistas surrounding Lake Como, we'll explore the Italian Lake District, an area beloved of the Romantic poets as well as writers as diverse as Virgil, Goethe, Stendhal, and Hemingway, not to mention a host of royalty.

In contrast to the pristine beauty of the Lakes, we'll spend the final couple of days of our tour in the modern, bustling city of Milan. This is the economic hub of northern Italy, where high fashion and cutting-edge design meet the ancient heritage of the Roman Empire and the Catholic church.

This fall join BCS director, Sandi Tinyk and Discover Europe's own Fiona Bennett, on a journey of discovery to one of the most beautiful regions of Europe. Whether on the jewel-like Borromean Islands, or admiring the panorama from the crystalline waters of Lake Como, this highly scenic tour perfectly captures the romantic charm of the Italian Lakes. And with a balance of guided visits as well as free time on your own to explore the villages and vistas, you'll experience the full flavor of Italy's lakeside majesty.



LAKE MAGGIORE



MILAN CATHEDRAL

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

BARRINGTON, VIA BOSTON DEPARTURE:	\$4580
LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$3650
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 980

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

AIRFARE:	Round trip air from Boston to Milan, Malpensa All airport taxes and customs charges included
HOTELS:	8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in day-by-day itinerary.
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 4 dinners.
GUIDES:	Barrington Community School Director Sandi Tinyk, and Discover Europe tour guide throughout. Local guide in Milan.
EXPENSES:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
FERRIES:	All ferry tickets as detailed in the day-by-day itinerary.

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & REGISTRATION PLEASE CONTACT:
SANDI TINYK AT THE BARRINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
(401) 245-0432



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH - Departure from Barrington by private coach to Boston, Logan Airport for your overnight flight to Milan. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH - Your arrival at Milan's Malpensa Airport will be met for the scenic (and short) drive to our hotel in Stresa. After checking in there will be time to unpack and relax in our hotel with stunning waterfront views of Lake Maggiore. This evening we'll gather for drinks and enjoy a welcome dinner. **(D)** **OVERNIGHT: STRESA**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH - We'll begin our first full day with a boat transfer to Isola Bella for a morning walking tour. Literally translated as 'beautiful island' this is one of the Borromean Islands of Lake Maggiore. Scenically divided by a fishing village and the Palace with surrounding Italianate garden, we'll enjoy the setting of historically sumptuous parties and theatrical events for the nobility of Europe. The palace, begun in 1632 by Carlo III, from the influential House of Borromeo, was to be dedicated to his wife Isabella D'Adda (from whom the island takes its name). We'll have time for lunch on Isola Pescatori before heading to Isola Madre. A walking tour will acquaint us with the largest of the three islands in the archipelago. We'll wander among the well-known English style gardens – the Giardini Botanici dell'Isola Madre – dating from about 1823, which cover eight hectares on the site of a former citrus orchard. We'll return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B)** **OVERNIGHT: STRESA**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH - This morning we will take a short ride to Lake Orta, to visit the Isola San Giulio and its Basilica, said to date from the 4th century. Returning to the mainland, we visit the Sacre Monte di Orta – the sacred mountain. Begun in 1590, this series of chapels leads up the hillside overlooking the lake, all of them filled with scenes depicting the life of St. Francis, in frescoes, paintings and life-sized terracotta statues. Erected over a period of 300 years the chapels also provide a fascinating look at the changes in architectural styles over the centuries. The rest of the afternoon will be free to explore in Stresa – those who wish to can be dropped at the station to take the cable car up the Mottarone, the mountain behind the town, for fabulous views over Lake Maggiore. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D)** **OVERNIGHT: STRESA**



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH - We'll begin our day with a drive through the spectacular countryside to Varese, where we'll visit the Villa Cicogna Mozzoni and enjoy a private tour with the owner of both the house and garden. The residence is a stellar example of Lombard Renaissance architecture and was first built in 1400 as a hunting lodge for the Mozzoni family, Milanese nobility who retired to the Varese area. The gardens, dating back to the 16th century, include a 'stairway' of water featuring a temple at the top and a grotto with tunnels. We'll relax over lunch before continuing to our hotel in Bellagio. After checking in the rest of the day is free to explore the town and sample a local restaurant for dinner. **(B, L)** **OVERNIGHT: BELLAGIO**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH - This morning we transfer by boat across the lake to the Villa Carlotta. Originally built for the Milanese Marquis Giorgio Clerici in 1690, the villa features an Italian garden with steps, fountains and notable sculptures. We'll stop at a lakeside restaurant for a leisurely lunch before visiting the Villa Balbianello with a private guide. Built on the site of a Franciscan monastery in 1787, Villa Balbianello is located on a peninsula overlooking the lake. The villa is famous for its elaborate terraced gardens which form part of the Grandi Giardini Italiani. We return to our hotel in Bellagio for dinner. **(B, D)** **OVERNIGHT: BELLAGIO**



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH - This morning we visit the gardens at Villa Melzi d'Eril on Lake Como. Built between 1808 and 1815 for the Duke of Lodi, Vice President of the Italian Republic under Napoleon, and Chancellor of the Empire, Francesco Melzi d'Eril, the neoclassical villa, chapel and orangery occupy a significant position overlooking the lake. It was decorated and furnished by famous artists and sculptors of the period including Appiani, Bossi, Canova and Comolli. The 'English style' gardens include rare exotic plants, camellia hedges, azalea groves and enormous rhododendron, alongside sculptures and artefacts, including two Egyptian statues and a Venetian gondola. We return to the center of Bellagio for free time to enjoy this charming lakeside town. **(B)** **OVERNIGHT: BELLAGIO**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH - Leaving Bellagio, we drive south beside the lake to Como. We'll stop and visit the cathedral and have free time for lunch before we head into the city center of Milan. Our first visit will be to see Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper, still in situ in the refectory of Santa Maria delle Grazie. Then we'll take a backstage tour of La Scala Opera House before heading to our hotel. The evening is free. **(B)** **OVERNIGHT: MILAN**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH - This morning a local guide will show us the city highlights. We'll visit the Duomo and end at the Pinocoteca Brera, with works by Rubens, Mantegna and della Francesca. The afternoon is free for individual exploration – don't miss a visit to the Galleria, Milan's famed shopping arcade. You can also stroll the artistic Navigli district of the city, where the canal banks are lined with galleries, small shops and enticing cafes. This evening we gather again at the hotel for a farewell dinner. **(B, D)** **OVERNIGHT: MILAN**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH - Morning transfer to Malpensa Airport for your returning international flight back to Boston. On arrival at Logan Airport you will be met by your private coach for the transfer back to Barrington. Alternatively, why not stay on and join our Corsica & Sardinia tour at a special reduced price? **(B)**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner