The University of North Carolina General Alumni Association

VILLAGE LIFE®

AROUND THE

ITALIAN LAKES

SEPTEMBER 27 TO OCTOBER 5, 2014
Dear Carolina Alumni and Friends:

High on the list of the most captivating destinations in the world is northern Italy’s fabled Lake District. Its unique setting of glacial waters, Alpine peaks, sub-tropical climate, ancient towns painted in terra cotta and ochre, and distinctly bella figura Italian style combined with a rich history, has inspired poets, composers, musicians, artists and philosophers for centuries.

This seven-night Village Life® around the Italian Lakes soggiorno, offers a one-of-a-kind itinerary and is a wonderful way to experience the true essence of life in, and the incomparable beauty and charm of, the fascinating region of Lombardy featuring the inherently Italian Lago di Como. The expert-guided excursions explore the artistic and architectural treasures commissioned by Roman patricians, medieval lords and Renaissance princes at a relaxed pace, while enriching lectures and the exclusive Village Forum®, featuring local residents, bring you personal perspectives on Lombardy’s cultural heritage and modern life. You will have opportunities to taste northern Italy’s acclaimed cuisine and learn to speak basic Italian, making your visits to Como’s lively market all the more enjoyable.

Accommodations for this comprehensive program are in the charming Hotel Regina Olga, overlooking stunning Lake Como, and located in the heart of the ancient town of Cernobbio, just north of Milan.

Village Life® around the Italian Lakes is a popular travel program that has sold out every year. It is an excellent value and a great opportunity to truly experience consummate Italian hospitality and daily life in one of Italy’s most unique settings with the convenience of unpacking only once. We encourage you to book now while Early Booking Savings and space are still available.

Ciao!

Yours at Carolina,

Douglas S. Dibbert ’70
President
The University of North Carolina
General Alumni Association
Visit picturesque Bellagio, a splendid combination of fin-de-siècle architecture and stunning panoramic views of Lake Como and the majestic Alps. Inset above: Statue at Villa del Balbianello.

**AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES**

Experience firsthand the true character of Italy’s romantic Lombard province during this specially designed *soggiorno* with visits to the charming lakeside *città* of Cernobbio, Como, Varenna, Bellagio and Stresa along the shores of Lake Como and Lake Maggiore. Enjoy an enriching travel experience like no other, featuring carefully planned excursions, all accommodations and most meals; overall an **excellent value**. Explore the history and culture, art, language, cuisine and the rhythm of daily life in the Italian Lake District; interact with local people and **unpack just once**! This popular program is one of the Village Life® series that immerses you in a comprehensive and intimate travel experience at just the right pace.

**Cultural Enrichments** are specially arranged and only available on this custom-designed itinerary:

- **Hear it from the Experts!** Guest speakers and experienced, English-speaking local guides will accompany you throughout the program and discuss historical, cultural and contemporary Italy.

- **Engage local Lombardi** (residents of Lombardy) during the Village Forum® where they share their candid perspectives on daily life in the Lake District.

- **Meet** a Como scholar who will present a lecture on his *luogo natio* (hometown).

- **Savor** northern Italian cuisine while dining in a typical Cernobbio *ristorante*.

- **Sample** northern Italy’s famous Prosecco sparkling wine.

- **Learn key phrases** in *la lingua italiana* (the Italian language) to make your interactions with local residents all the more enjoyable.

- **Enjoy time on your own**—explore the colorful three-times-weekly market in Como, ride a funicular up the mountain to the village of Brunate and observe the rhythms of daily village life from a sidewalk café, just like the Lombardi do.
This delightful town, located at the foot of Mount Bisbino, is the perfect village “home” for our soggiorno. Stroll along Cernobbio’s bustling waterfront. Wander down the village's narrow medieval streets and amble through its romantic piazzas, lined with handsome buildings painted in the soft buttery hue seen throughout the Lake District.

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:** A local scholar presents an exclusive private lecture about Como from Roman times to the present.

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:** During the exclusive VILLAGE FORUM®, residents of the Lake District will discuss daily life in this extraordinarily beautiful and historic region.

**Como**

Founded by the Romans in 196 B.C., Como’s cobblestoned passages wind past medieval towers and walls, Renaissance palaces and churches, Neoclassical 19th-century villas and small family-owned

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**Isola Bella** is the most spectacular of the Borromean Islands, located on the Italian side of Lake Maggiore. Visit the magnificent 16th-century villa and stroll through one of the most beautiful gardens in the world.
shops leading to the Piazza Cavour and the tranquil lakeside promenade. The Cattedrale di Como, considered to be the most beautiful cathedral in Lombardy, took nearly 400 years to complete and reflects a seamless blend of Gothic and Renaissance styles.

Lake Como
Composer Franz Liszt romanticized, “When you write the story of two happy lovers, place them on the shores of Lake Como.” Cruise by private boat across the sparkling waters of Italy’s deepest—and perhaps most spectacular—lake. Its allure is enhanced by quaint coastal villages like Bellagio and Varenna, and grand Renaissance villas built on the snow-capped mountainsides surrounding Lake Como.

Varenna
Splendidly located on the shores of Lake Como, Varenna’s narrow, pine-shaded streets lead through the village’s beautifully preserved medieval center. It is famous as the source for the quarried black marble used to decorate the floors of Milan’s famous Duomo as well as the villas and cathedrals throughout Lombardy.

Bellagio
Perched on a promontory punctuated by cypress trees, Bellagio is one of the Lake District’s most famous towns and has been a popular European holiday destination since Roman times. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Milanese nobility flocked here to build elaborate villas and cultivate sub-tropical gardens.

Borromean Islands
Cruise among Lake Maggiore’s enticing islands graced with elegant villas and striking natural beauty. Isola Bella, Isola di San Giovanni, Isola Madre and Isola dei Pescatori are collectively known as the Borromean Islands.
named after the powerful and influential Borromeo family. Visit the exquisitely preserved Isola Bella where Count Carlo Borromeo III commissioned architect Angelo Crivelli in 1632 to design and build a magnificent Baroque retreat dedicated to his wife, Isabella. Walk through Isola Bella’s breathtaking gardens, where white peacocks stroll among the seasonal blaze of roses, gardenias, camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons. Tour the palazzo, filled with priceless masterpieces by such artists as Tiepolo and the sculptor Canova, and see the magnificent grotto, decorated with shells, pebbles and pink marble creating spectacular mosaics of marine life.

Stresa
An 18th- and 19th-century “grand tour” of Europe was considered incomplete without a visit to Stresa to experience its spectacular mountain views, tropical gardens and the resplendent glistening waters of Lake Maggiore. A young Ernest Hemingway, recuperating in Stresa during World War I, was inspired to make it the setting for Frederic Henry and Catherine Barkley’s reunion in A Farewell to Arms.

Lugano, Switzerland
Nestled between the Alpine peaks of San Salvatore and Monte Brè, this historic lakeside town is the cultural center of Ticino, the only region in Switzerland where Italian is the official language. This optional, full-day excursion includes a funicular ride to the top of Monte Brè to visit the humble church of Santa Maria degli Angioli to see Bernardino Luini’s amazing 16th-century fresco of the Passion of Christ. Enjoy a specially arranged visit to the private, 16th-century Villa Pizzo and its stunning gardens located on the shores of Lake Como.

**Hotel Regina Olga**

Overlooking Lake Como in the charming village of Cernobbio, Hotel Regina Olga combines traditional Italian ambiance with modern facilities, exceptional service and comfortable accommodations. It is a short water taxi ride from Como and within easy walking distance to boutiques and trattorias. Its classic 19th-century Italian style takes you back to the golden age of travel when the hotel first opened. By special arrangement, your air-conditioned room will feature a lovely view of legendary Lake Como; it has a private bathroom, and is equipped with direct dial telephone, satellite television, minibar, hair dryer and ample closet space. The elegant Cenobio dining room serves northern Italian cuisine, and the lounge, coffee lounge and cocktail terrace bar provide ideal settings for conversation and refreshments. For your enjoyment, the hotel also offers beautifully landscaped gardens to stroll through, bicycles and an outdoor swimming pool.

**Milan Pre-Program Option**

Milan, recognized as the capital of world fashion and design, has an ancient cultural heritage and legacy that blends the ornately preserved palaces, churches, and museums with vibrant contemporary life, an abundance of haute cuisine, art and operatic traditions. Visit the world-famous Teatro alla Scala opera house and Milan’s exquisite Duomo. Accommodations for two nights are in the deluxe Sheraton Diana Majestic.

The Pre-Program Option and the Lugano optional excursion are at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
Included Features

In Cernobbio

- Seven nights in the charming HOTEL REGINA OLGA featuring accommodations overlooking Lake Como.
- Full buffet breakfast each morning.
- Four dinners featuring traditional northern Italian specialties with house wine.
- Welcome Reception featuring regional Italian wine.

Local Expert-Guided Excursions

- Walking tour of Old Como.
- Private boat cruise across Lake Como to visit the ancient villages of Varenna and Bellagio.
- Walk through the perfectly preserved medieval quarters of Varenna.
- Visit to romantic Bellagio, the most famous village on Lake Como.
- Specially arranged tour of the Italian National Trust’s magnificent Villa del Balbianello.
- Spectacular, full-day scenic tour of Lake Maggiore, featuring a private boat cruise to the Borromean Islands and a visit to the splendid Isola Bella.

Exclusive Cultural Enrichments

- An exclusive, private lecture about Como history and culture presented by a local scholar and Como native.
- Italian language introduction to basic phrases and customs.
- Specially arranged VILLAGE FORUM® with local Lombardy residents who will discuss contemporary cultural and social topics.

Enhanced Travel Services

- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Optional Lugano excursion at additional cost.
- Hospitality desk in the hotel.
- The services of a Gohagan & Company Program Director throughout the program.
- Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
The romantic allure of the Italian Lake District

For centuries, Italy’s Lake District has seduced hearts, minds and souls; among them were Virgil, Napoleon, Byron, Stendhal, Dickens, Flaubert, Puccini, Toscanini and Hemingway. But long before the Romans annexed the region some 2,000 years ago and began to build their well-ordered towns, it was settled by Etruscans and invaded by Celts. The mild climate and the beauty of snow-capped Alpine peaks descending to serene lake shores have continued to lure powerful empires here. Following the Romans, Middle Ages and Renaissance, nobility built magnificent holiday villas here, filled them with priceless art and laid out extraordinary gardens. European aristocrats of the 18th and 19th centuries considered the Italian Lake District an essential stop on their “grand tour” of Europe.

Lombardy became one of the richest and most economically developed areas of Italy, and Europe, thanks to its agricultural production, trade and banking activities that extended throughout Europe. “Lombard” was the name given to any merchant or banker coming from northern Italy. And to this day, the region remains of paramount importance to Italy.

From the deep-blue glacial lakes of Maggiore and Como to the bewitching Villa del Balbianello, from the medieval cobbled streets of Varenna to the modern sophistication of Milan, discover the exquisite gem that is the Italian Lake District.

The beautiful town of Stresa on Lake Maggiore has beckoned European aristocracy for centuries.
Nestled on the shores of Lake Como and surrounded by majestic Alpine peaks, the legendary Villa del Balbianello has one of the most beautiful and dramatic settings in all of Italy.

LAND TARIFF
Per person, based on double occupancy

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<th>Early Booking Price</th>
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- Singles are available upon request for an additional $800.
- Taxes are an additional $295 and are subject to change.

PLEASE MAKE MY/OUR RESERVATION(S):

Please make my/our reservation(s):
- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one double bed).
- Single accommodations.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

PLEASE MAKE MY/OUR RESERVATION(S):

- Milan Pre-Program Option
  - Double at $940 per person.
  - Single at $1240 per person.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

- If I/we want you to book my/our air from ____________________________ (fill in departure city) to and from Milan, Italy, at an additional cost to be advised.‡
  - Economy Class
  - Business Class
  - First Class

‡ Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by June 24, 2014.
Pictoresque lakes, Alpine views and grand villas define the beauty and charm of Lake Maggiore.

CONTRACT: TERMS & CONDITIONS AND ARBITRATION CLAUSE

IMPORTANT, READ CAREFULLY.

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ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms and conditions of this contract.

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