VILLAGE LIFE

AROUND THE

ITALIAN LAKES

LAKE COMO • LAKE MAGGIORE • LAKE LUGANO

MAY 30 TO JUNE 7, 2015
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Ciao!

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.

Join this small group of alumni travelers at the best time of year for a one-of-a-kind, seven-night VILLAGE LIFE® AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES soggiorno, a wonderful way to experience the true essence of life in the beautiful and charming region of Lombardy, featuring the inherently Italian Lago di Como. Our carefully designed, expert-guided excursions explore the artistic and architectural treasures commissioned by Roman patricians, medieval lords and Renaissance princes at a relaxed pace, while enriching presentations and the exclusive VILLAGE FORUM®, featuring local residents, bring you personal perspectives on Lombardy’s cultural heritage and contemporary life. You will have opportunities to taste northern Italy’s acclaimed cuisine and Prosecco and learn to speak basic Italian, making your visits to Como’s lively market all the more enjoyable.

Accommodations for this comprehensive program are located in the heart of ancient Cernobbio, on the shores of Lake Como, in the charming HOTEL REGINA OLGA. This traditional hotel overlooks stunning Lake Como and welcomes guests with warm Italian hospitality and impeccable service.

VILLAGE LIFE® AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES is a popular travel program that has sold out every time we have offered it. This is an excellent value and a truly unique opportunity to experience consummate Italian hospitality and daily life in one of Italy’s loveliest settings, and you unpack only once! I encourage you to book now while Early Booking Savings and space are still available.

Arrivederci!

Raise High the Buff and Blue!

Joshua I. Hiscock
Senior Director, Alumni Benefits & Services
Office of Alumni Relations
http://www.alumni.gwu.edu

For more information, please call Gohagan & Company at (800) 922-3088.
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 Lombardy province during this specially designed small group *soggiorno* with visits to the charming lakeside *città* (towns) and *villaggi* (villages) 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 a carefully crafted itinerary allowing leisure time for independent exploration, thoughtfully designed exclusive excursions and accommodations specially selected for location. Most meals are included, and it is an excellent value. Interact with local people and become immersed in the rhythm of daily life in the Italian Lake District; explore the history and culture, art, cuisine and language. And, unpack just once! This popular program is one of the VILLAGE LIFE® series, a comprehensive and intimate travel experience at just the right pace.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS are specially arranged for this custom-designed itinerary:

◆ Enjoy an authentic experience in the incomparably beautiful Lake District and its quintessential northern Italian *città* and *villaggi*.

◆ Immerse yourself in a carefully planned, balanced itinerary of included guided historical and cultural excursions.

◆ Enjoy time on your own to discover and observe the rhythms of daily village life just like the Lombardi (residents of the region) do in the small village of Cernobbio, historic Como and the Lake Como jewel of Bellagio.

◆ Hear it from the Experts! Meet a Como scholar who will present a lecture on his *luogo natio* (hometown) and share his expertise of historical, cultural and contemporary Lombardy.

◆ Experience the best of the Italian Lake District in unspoiled Como, the picturesque islands of Maggiore and the Alpine splendor and culture of Switzerland’s Lugano.

◆ Engage local Lombardi during the VILLAGE FORUM® where they share their candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in the Lake District.

◆ Admire the architecture and elaborate terraced gardens of the 18th-century Italian National Trust property Villa Balbianello.

◆ Visit Isola Bella’s 17th-century Baroque palazzo, home to priceless masterpieces by famous artists, and sprawling gardens where exotic birds walk among breathtaking blooms.

◆ Explore Como’s colorful three-times-weekly outdoor market, a short ferry ride from our hotel.

◆ Sample authentic northern Italian regional specialties both in the hotel and in a typical Cernobbio *ristorante*.

◆ Handpicked and by special arrangement, experienced, English-speaking local guides will accompany you throughout the program and their knowledgeable expertise will enhance your understanding of Italy’s *la dolce vita*.

◆ Choose to take the opportunity to visit Ticino—Switzerland’s only Italian-speaking region.

◆ Learn key phrases in *la lingua italiana* (the Italian language) to make your interactions with local residents all the more enjoyable.
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 a private lecture about Como from Roman times to the present.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: During the exclusive Village Forum®, residents of the Lake District will discuss contemporary life in the extraordinarily beautiful and historic Italian Lake District.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Local resident Giuseppina Lucini presents an exclusive lecture about Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci.
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 negozi (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.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Opportunity to explore the fresh fruit and vegetables in the outdoor market, a local tradition for centuries.

Lago di Como
Composer Franz Liszt romanticized, “When you write the story of two happy lovers, place them on the shores of Lake Como.” Cruise by private boat across the sparkling waters of Italy’s deepest—and perhaps most 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 stands of 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.

Villa del Balbianello
Just across the lake from Bellagio is the exquisite Villa del Balbianello and its magnificent terraced gardens. Built in 1787 by Cardinal Angelo Maria Durini, it was renovated in the early 20th century by an American veteran of World War I and more recently purchased by Italy’s first explorer to summit Mt. Everest, Guido Monzino, who bequeathed it to the Italian National Trust. Today, it remains an authentic Italian villa masterpiece and repository of 18th-century French and English furniture and Monzino’s collection of Chinese, pre-Columbian and African art.

Lago Maggiore
Italy’s second-largest lake forms a natural boundary between the regions of Lombardy and Piedmont and is a close rival to Lake Como as the most remarkable in the Lake District. Lake Maggiore’s mild climate allows for the gardens to grow rare and exotic plants in the beautiful landscape beneath the high Alps. The deep, clear waters were a draw and inspiration for Flaubert, Wagner and Goethe.

Borromean Islands
Cruise among Lake Maggiore’s enticing islands graced with elegant villas and striking natural beauty. Isola Bella,
Isola di San Giovanni, Isola Madre and Isola dei Pescatori are collectively known as the Borromean Islands, named after the powerful and influential Borromeo family. 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.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: 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.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT OPTION: This optional full-day excursion includes a funicular ride to the top of Monte Brè to visit the humble Chiesa (church) di 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.

Milan
Pre-Program Option
Milan, recognized as the capital of world design and fashion and host of the next world’s fair, Expo Milano 2015, 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 comfortable accommodations overlooking Lake Como.
- Full buffet breakfast each morning.
- Three dinners in the hotel and one dinner in a traditional restaurant, featuring northern Italian specialties with house wine included.
- Welcome Reception with an assortment of Italian wines and Prosecco.

Local Expert-Guided Excursions
- Walking tour of Old Como.
- Private boat cruise across Lake Como to ancient Varenna, medieval Bellagio and the 18th-century Villa del Balbianello.

Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
- Specially arranged VILLAGE FORUM® with local Lombardy residents who will discuss contemporary cultural and social topics.
- Specially arranged private tour of the Italian National Trust’s magnificent Villa del Balbianello.
- Spectacular, full-day scenic tour of Lake Maggiore, featuring a private cruise to the Borromean Islands and a visit to the splendid Isola Bella.
- Exclusive, private lectures: Como history and culture presented by a local scholar and Como native, and Leonard da Vinci presented by a local resident in Cernobbio.
- Time at your own pace to explore romantic Bellagio, the most famous village on Lake Como; stroll through the perfectly preserved old quarter of Varenna; and experience Stresa’s spectacular views and tropical gardens.
- Opportunities to savor northern Italy’s traditional cuisine during included meals and on your own.
- Occasion to interact with locals and immerse yourself in Lombardy life.
- Italian language introduction.

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 an experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director throughout the program.
- Complimentary state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.
- 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 2000 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 Como and Maggiore to the bewitching Villa del Balbianello, from the medieval cobblestoned 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.

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<th>LAND TARIFF</th>
<th>Early Booking Price through December 1, 2014</th>
<th>Regular Price after December 1, 2014</th>
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<td>Per person, based on double occupancy</td>
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- Singles are available upon request for an additional $800.
- Taxes are an additional $195 and are subject to change.

VILLAGE LIFE
AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES RESERVATION FORM

Send to:
2015 Village Life around the Italian Lakes
The George Washington Alumni Association
c/o Thomas P. Gohagan & Company
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60604-1446

For more information, please call
Gohagan & Company
at (800) 922-3085.

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Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)

City
State
Zip Code

Telephone: (Home) (Mobile)

Email Address (Business)

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s) Tour No. 068-05/30/15-039

Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Milan Pre-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

- Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $_______ as deposit.
- Make checks payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
- I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $_______ to:
  - Visa
  - MasterCard

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by February 24, 2015.

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 $1150 per person.
- Single at $1630 per person.

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

I/We want you to book my/our air from

- Economy Class
- Business Class
- First Class

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

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

(Use departure city)

AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES LAND TARIFF

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Pictoresque lakes, Alpine views and grand villas define the beauty and charm of Lake Maggiore.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring associations/organizations, and their agents, employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is or could provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors.

As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for death, illness, injury, personal or property damage or loss of any kind which could result from any of the following: acts of God, war, terrorism, theft, civil disorder, strike or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time or safely.

It due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are forced to miss a day or an activity, or in any way your trip may be delayed, you will be responsible for all of your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from the tour, any person who in the sole discretion of Gohagan is as a result of any of the following: having a physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for independence and mobility); any physical or mental condition that may change without prior notice. Please contact your airline(s) for the most current luggage allowance policy.

The ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if you purchase through Gohagan. If the airline or any other transportation mechanism does not provide you with a seat, or if you are denied access to use your seat, the right is reserved to consider the trip participant to have voluntarily cancelled the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel, vessel or airline.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any loss of any kind or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time or safely.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Programs) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $600 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; from 22 through 44 days prior to departure, 75% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change. In addition and without limitation, Gohagan reserves the right to change the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in fuel costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the Gohagan tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment. Gohagan is not responsible for any governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION: CST#: 2011886-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OHT#: TA 0905.

BINDING ARBITRATION: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement, the brochure, or any other information related to any trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the American Arbitration Association then existing. In any such proceeding, the substantive, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the parent certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for all extra expenses incurred.

DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by December 1, 2014. In this event a “discounted” reservation must be cancelled, no “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted amount. A “replacement” reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.