



# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## *Pre-Departure Itinerary*

## *The Italian Lakes*

*Saturday, May 1 – Sunday, May 9, 2010*

Many of us have fond memories of summertime vacations with the family spent up at the lake. Of course, those memories might have been even fonder if “the lake” were in sunny, scenic Italy. The trip begins with three days along lovely Lake Garda near the towns of Castelnuovo and Peschiera. Here you’ll spend time touring mountain resorts and strolling the cobbled streets of stunning Malcesine before enjoying a full-day tour of romantic, canal-filled Venice. Next you’ll journey to Lake Maggiore, nestled against the breathtaking Swiss Alps, where you’ll visit the elegant Palazzo Borromeo, a 17th-century palace with spectacular fountains and lush, immaculate grounds. Your time at Lake Maggiore also features daytrips to Lake Orta, a peaceful and picturesque spot by the medieval town of Orta, and Lake Como, home to the charming resort of Bellagio (as well as the charming George Clooney—no word on whether he’ll be around!). Explore Italy away from the hustle and bustle of city life on this soul-soothing tranquil trip.

### **Includes**

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled Alitalia flights from Boston to Venice and Milan to Boston, via Rome
- Seven nights’ three-star accommodations;
- Fourteen meals, 7 buffet breakfast, 7 dinners
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Services of a professional local Tour Manager

### **Rates**

**\$1,819 per person double occupancy**

**\$2,119 for single reservations**

Triple accommodations maybe available on request.

Add \$365 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Passport required.

### **Features**

Full-day guided tour of Lake Garda including Riva, Salò, Sirmione, Peschiera and Malcesine, full-day guided excursion to Venice with walking tour, boat excursion to Isola Bella, full-day guided excursion to Omegna and Lake Orta with stop at Cantina Bianchi for snack and wine tasting, full-day guided excursion to Lake Como with visits to Bellagio and Como

### **Trip Planner**

**Day 1** Overnight flight from Boston

**Days 2-4** **Hotel Drago**, Assenza di Brenzone, Lake Garda

**Days 5-8** **Hotel Alpi**, Baveno, Lake Maggiore

**Day 9** Return flight to Boston

## **DAILY ITINERARY**

### **Day 1: Overnight Flight**

Evening departure from Boston to Rome, via Alitalia Airlines. Dinner will be served on board. Relax and enjoy the inflight entertainment.

### **Day 2: Arrive Rome – flight to Venice**

Continental breakfast will be served before landing in Rome. Clear immigration and proceed to your connecting flight to Venice. Retrieve your luggage and clear customs before you meet your local tour manager. Transfer to The Hotel Drago in Lake Garda. Check in and receive room assignments. The rest of the day is at leisure to get acquainted with the hotel and surroundings. Enjoy a welcome dinner and a presentation of the program with your fellow travelers this evening at the hotel. **(D)**

### **Day 3: Lake Garda**

Lake Garda, famous for its tranquility and breathtaking scenery, is the largest of all the Italian Lakes. After breakfast at the hotel you’ll enjoy a motorcoach tour around the main resorts: **Riva**, with its dramatic mountainous landscape cloaked in pine trees; **Salò**, famous for its beautifully colorful houses; the Roman town of **Sirmione**,

the quaint harbour of **Peschiera**, and the stunning town of **Malcesine**, with its narrow series of winding cobbled streets. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

#### **Day 4: Venice**

After breakfast you'll depart on a full-day excursion to Venice. Upon arrival you'll be treated to a half-day guided walking tour of this enthralling city. The afternoon is at your leisure to explore on your own. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

#### **Day 5: Lake Garda – Lake Maggiore**

After breakfast you'll transfer to Baveno on Lake Maggiore. Nestled against the breathtaking beauty of the Swiss Alps, Lake Maggiore is known for its serenity and an abundance of flora and fauna. Enjoy a relaxing boat trip to Isola Bella, one of the famous Borromean Islands in the centre of the lake, to visit the exuberant Palazzo Borromeo. Dating back to the 17th century, this elegant palace boasts an array of spectacular fountains, imposing statues and landscaped, terraced gardens that gently cascade down to the tranquil waters of the lake. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel Alpi. **(B, D)**

#### **Day 6: Lake Orta**

Enjoy breakfast before you depart to Oragna to visit the local market. After you'll resume your excursion to Lake Orta, one of Italy's best-kept secrets – an unspoiled gem that is quieter than nearby Maggiore. The lovely lakeside villages and surrounding green hills provide a truly romantic setting. The medieval centre of Orta town has pretty, cobbled streets and tucked away cafes and trattorias. A beautiful main square overlooks the ancient monastery on the island of San Giulio. This is a place to relax and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the lakes. Before returning to the hotel, stop at the Cantina Bianchi for a snack and wine tasting. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. **(B, D)**

#### **Day 7: Lake Como**

After breakfast at the hotel you'll experience one of the highlights of your vacation - a full-day trip to Lake Como. Stop and explore the charming resort of Bellagio with its graceful lakeside promenades. You will enjoy an orientation tour and have time for lunch on your own before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon. Dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

#### **Day 8: Lake Maggiore**

Today is a day of leisure for you to enjoy this lakeside resort. Enjoy breakfast and dinner at the hotel. **(B,D)**

#### **Day 9: Departure for Boston**

Depart today for Milan Airport and your return flight to Boston on Alitalia via Rome. **(B)**

**Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*