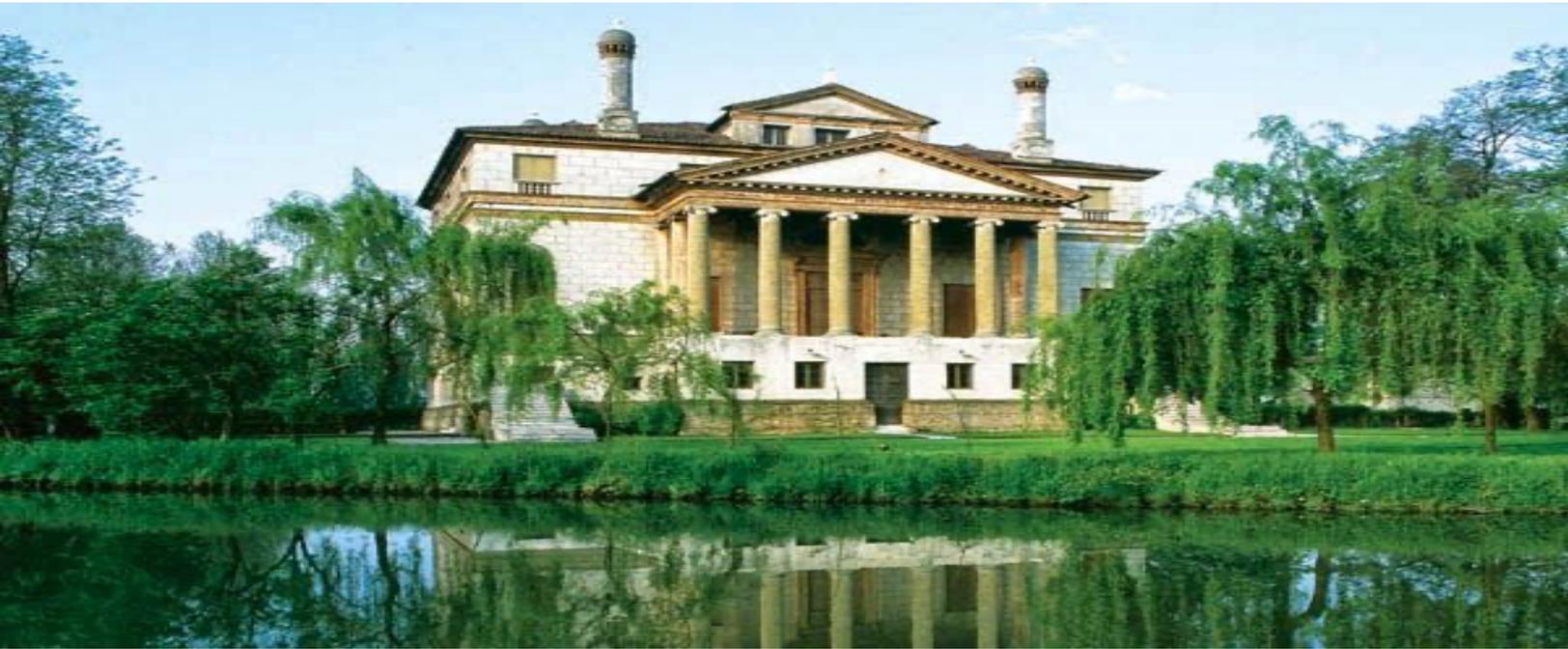


Italian Lakes and the Veneto

Gardens, Villas & Cuisine

September 16-24, 2023





ITINERARY

Day 1 - Sep. 16, 2023 Arrival in Venice and welcome tour in Malcontenta

Independent arrivals at Venice airport. Plan to arrive by 12:30pm. We will be welcomed by our tour escort and transferred to Malcontenta. We will enjoy some refreshments before visiting Villa Foscari with its beautiful frescoes and gardens. Villa Foscari, designed by Palladio for Nicolò and Alvise Foscari, is now part of Unesco's World Heritage monuments.

After the visit we will drive north to our accommodations in Asolo, Hotel Villa Cipriani. The hotel, formerly a noble country residence, is just a few steps from the heart of the walled town of Asolo. Villa Cipriani is a tranquil, elegant property with restaurant, bar, heated swimming pool and wellness center. The lush gardens are a perfect place to relax after a day of touring.

Our welcome dinner is at Hotel Villa Cipriani. Dinner



ITINERARY

Day 2- Sep. 17, 2023» Maser, Franzolo, Altivole and Possagno with lunch

After breakfast at our hotel we'll meet our tour escort, and board our private vehicle and head to Maser for a visit to Villa Barbaro, designed by Andrea Palladio and decorated with the frescoes of Paolo Veronese.

After this visit we continue to Franzolo where we will visit Villa Emo also designed by Andrea Palladio and decorated with the frescoes of Giovanni Battista Zelotti.

We will lunch at a local restaurant before traveling to Altivole for our afternoon visit to Brion's Tomb. Surrounded by the Treviso countryside, a masterpiece of twentieth century architecture by Carlo Scarpa: the Brion's tomb is a family cemetery, to which the genius of Carlo Scarpa has given the shape and the atmosphere of a large garden, a place of silence peace and harmony, in which different cultures and religions come together for a memorable experience.

Our last stop will be Possagno, where we will visit the Gypsotheca Antonio Canova, with architecture and restorations by Carlo Scarpa.

We return to our hotel in the afternoon and enjoy dinner at Villa Cipriani.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



ITINERARY

Day 3 - Sep. 18, 2023» Rivella di Monselice, Luvigliano and Valsanzibio with lunch

After breakfast at the hotel we will check out, and board our private vehicle, and head to Rivella di Monselice for a tour of Villa Emo, a sixteenth century villa attributed to Vincenzo Scamozzi, which stands at the foot of the Euganean Hills. Its garden, although a recent creation, is classically Italian in conception, uniting typically Italian Renaissance elements such as the hornbeam pergola, the orchard and fish ponds while including an exceptional variety and number of flowers.

Next we transfer to Luvigliano and explore Villa dei Vescovi, architecture of Girolamo Falconetto and frescos of Lambert Sustris, dated 1535.

We will have lunch at a local restaurant in Torreglia, before reaching Valsanzibio for a visit to historic Villa Barbarigo gardens with its fountains, statues and labyrinth. Later we travel to our accommodations in San Pietro in Cariano, near Verona. We will check into the Hotel Villa Giona for our three night stay. The hotel was built by a Veronese family as a sumptuous summer residence. It has a restaurant, winery, pool and romantic garden with tall trees and a small lake.

Tonight we will enjoy dinner at Hotel Villa Giona. *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



ITINERARY

Day 4- Sep. 19, 2023» Day in Avio with wine tasting and lunch

After breakfast at our hotel we travel to Avio where we will visit Tenuta San Leonardo. We'll stroll through the gardens, see the vineyards and cellars and have a taste of their beautiful wines. More than 1000 years ago it was a monastery, but for over three centuries now San Leonardo has served as the residence of the Marchesi Guerrieri Gonzaga family, its proud custodians. The San Leonardo estate is a garden of roses and vineyards, protected by the massive barrier of the Alps. The tenuta remains an antique world in which winemaking practices still uncompromisingly artisanal, yield wines that are true gems of Italy's wine tradition, marked by freshness, harmony, and an innate elegance.

We stop for lunch in Avio at Agriturismo Vallarom.

In the afternoon we will enjoy a visit to Avio Castle and its gardens: a majestic circuit of towers and crenellated walls in a fortress complex conceived for strategic control of the Adige valley, but also a treasure trove of a luxuriant garden and precious and lively "Giottesque" pictorial cycles dedicated to love and war.

Later this afternoon we return to our hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Breakfast, Lunch



ITINERARY

Day 5 - Sep. 20, 2023» Giusti & Villa Guerrieri Gardens, Villa Arvedi with wine tasting and lunch

After breakfast at our hotel we travel to Verona for a visit to the stunning Giusti Garden. The garden's terraces provide enchanting views of Verona. Giusti is considered one of the finest examples of Italian gardens. We'll see the famous avenue of cypress leading to a grotto of stalactites, the flower collection, fountains and a maze.

We continue to Grezzana to visit the beautiful Villa Arvedi, one of the most majestic villas in the Veneto area.

Lunch is at a restaurant near Valpolicella.

After lunch, we head to Negrar and tour the garden of Villa Guerrieri Rizzardi known for its green theater and spectacular views. Then in Fumane we will enjoy a visit and wine tasting at Villa della Torre.

Breakfast, Lunch

We return to our hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. *Breakfast, Lunch*



ITINERARY

Day 6 - Sep. 21, 2023» Varenna and Tremezzo with lunch

After breakfast at our hotel we check out and board our private vehicle to travel to our accommodations in Varenna, the Hotel Villa Cipressi, located on Lake Como. The property has its own Botanic garden designed around native plants. There are two restaurants and beautiful views of Bellagio.

After we check in we will enjoy a morning tour of the area.

First we visit the panoramic Vezio Castle then, on the way down, we'll stop at a local old mill for olive oil tasting and local produce tasting, including cheeses, sliced meats and wine.

We will have lunch in Varenna before boarding our private boat for our afternoon tour in Tremezzo. We'll have a guided tour of the seventeenth century Villa Carlotta and its fascinating botanical gardens.

After the tour, the rest of the day is at leisure to explore this lovely area of the lakes and to sample one of the many fine restaurants.

Breakfast, Lunch



ITINERARY

Day 7 - Sep. 22, 2023» Lake Maggiore and the Borromean Islands with lunch

After breakfast at our hotel we will board our private vehicle and transfer from Varenna to Stresa for a full day dedicated to visiting Lake Maggiore and the Borromean Islands. Our guide will meet the group in Stresa, where we will join our private boat and head to one of the most famous Italian style Baroque gardens, Isola Bella.

After the garden our lunch will be arranged at Isola dei Pescatori. (Island of the fishermen).

In the early afternoon we will visit Isola Madre, dominated by a sumptuous Baroque palace and luxurious Italian-style garden. We will see some of the richly furnished rooms in the palace and stroll through the gardens.

A private transfer will then take us back to our accommodation in Varenna.

Evening at leisure. *Breakfast, Lunch*



ITINERARY

Day 8 - Sep. 23, 2023» Lake Como and lunch

After breakfast at our hotel we'll meet our escort and walk to the public piers to take a ferry to Bellagio. Here we can choose to either have free time to explore the town or take a guided walk.

Later we'll have a guided tour of the botanical gardens of Villa Melzi. The gardens contain a variety of botanical specimens from around the world as well as statues and lovely promenades.

We will enjoy lunch at lakeside Ristorante alle Darsene di Loppia.

After lunch we will cruise along Lake Como and enjoy the views of Villa del Balbianello, Isola Comacina and the small villages dotting the shores.

After the cruise we will have a guided visit of the gardens of Villa Monastero and Villa Cipressi.

This evening we'll gather with our escorts and new friends for our farewell dinner.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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ITINERARY

Day 9 - Sep 24, 2023» Departure

After breakfast at the hotel a morning transfer will be provided to Milan airport.
Independent departures from Milan.

LAND COST PER GUEST BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:

\$6990 per person for members of Pacific Horticulture

\$7090 non-member price. We suggest non-members join before registering for the tour.

Single supplement \$1900

THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- 8 nights First Class accommodation
- All hotel taxes and service charges
- Breakfast daily, lunches, tastings and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Deluxe transportation by private motor coach or van
- Arrival airport transfer (If arriving by 1:00pm)
- All sightseeing and entrances as per the itinerary
- Guided by a local English speaking guide
- Escorted by Linda McKendry, Garden Designer
- Tax-deductible donation of \$350 to Pacific Horticulture

COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Airfare
- Tips to your local guide and driver
- Travel insurance

For reservations and further information contact:

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