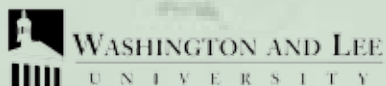


The W&L Traveller



Leonardo's Milan *and* Villas of Lake Como

June 13 - 21, 2015

A cultural exploration of Northern Italy with Italian Renaissance
art historian and Leonardo expert, George Bent



Leonardo's Milan *and* Villas of Lake Como

Every year, it seems, we must return to Northern Italy. By now, our affections have earned the active support of W&L's esteemed Italian Renaissance art historian and Leonardo expert **George Bent**, who will guide this special art and architectural tour of Milan and Lake Como.

As the World Expo city for 2015, Milan will be very much in the news in the months ahead. A world fashion and design capital and UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as Italy's main commercial and financial center, Milan has every sophistication one might seek in a major European city. But Milan's special appeal is its artistic heritage. Leonardo spent 17 years in the city working on various commissions. We'll have ample opportunity to view several of his masterpieces through guided visits at the Pinacoteca di Brera and the Ambrosian Library, where several of the best pages of the *Atlantic Codex*, the famed writings and drawings of Leonardo, will be shown to us. We'll have a private visit to the palace of a major Italian art collector to view her collection of Old Masters. We'll also enjoy tours of the Duomo and the Teatro alla Scala. The culmination of our time in Milan will undoubtedly be our guided visit to Santa Maria delle Grazie to see Leonardo's tour de force, *The Last Supper*.

But to many of our travelers, Italy itself is a work of art. We'll admire her natural beauty with seven nights in Lake Como, where aboard a private launch we'll explore the countless gorgeous villas, villages, and gardens that line Lake Como's shoreline. We'll tour the famed 18th-century Villa Carlotta and the Villa Balbianello with its lakeside gardens and outstanding collections of exotic art and antique furniture. We'll also enjoy time to explore the renowned lakeside town of Bellagio as well as Como. With our excellent four-star hotel in Como and superb leadership throughout, this holiday in Lombardy, Italy's richest region, is sure to delight.



Duomo of Milan



The Last Supper



Villa Carlotta

CUSTOM ITINERARY

June 13th: Departure for Milan

Embark on independent flights to Milan Malpensa International Airport departing from the U.S.A.

June 14th: Arrival in Milan - Como (D)

This morning we meet at Milan International Airport and transfer north to the stunning Lake Como. Check into our lovely 4-star Palace Hotel on the waterfront of Como's historic district. Later, we join with fellow travelers for a welcome dinner featuring typical local cuisine. Remainder of the evening is at leisure.

June 15th: Da Vinci in Milan (B, L)

Today we discover the Renaissance world and creations of Leonardo da Vinci in Milan at the Ambrosian Library, one of Milan's greatest caches of artistic treasures. We'll see pages from Da Vinci's *Atlantic Codex*, the famed writings and drawings of Leonardo da Vinci! Next, we stop in San Maurizio with its interior almost entirely frescoed by Leonardo's best Milanese student, Bernardino Luini – a graceful echo of the aesthetic Leonardo brought to the city. Enjoy lunch in one of Milan's restaurant featuring local cuisine. By special invitation, we are invited into the gorgeous private palace of a major Italian art collector, who will share her passion for Old Masters art as she leads us through her stately home. This afternoon, our group gains private access backstage at the Teatro alla Scala to see the dramatic stage where historic performances have taken place in one of the world's leading opera house. Return to Palace Hotel for an evening at leisure.

June 16th: Lake Como Villas by Private Boat (B, L)

This morning, we board a private boat chartered for the entire day, allowing us to explore the countless gorgeous villas, villages, and gardens that line Lake Como's shore with our local guide. We'll step inside the famed 18th-century Villa Carlotta, one of Italy's most glorious garden estates and home to Canova's statue of Cupid and Psyche. Our lunch today is at a favorite lakeside restaurant. Continue on our boat to the water-gate landing of Villa Balbianello with its lakeside gardens and outstanding collections of exotic art and antique furniture of what is, perhaps, Lake Como's greatest treasure. As the sun prepares to set, our privately chartered boat glides back to our hotel where the remainder of the evening and dinner are at leisure.

June 17th: Hidden Gems of the Countryside (B, L)

This morning, we visit the tiny provincial village of Castiglione Olona, to admire the amazing fresco cycle by Masolino, teacher of Masaccio and one of Italy's greatest early Renaissance painters. Next, we are greeted by a Count at his aristocratic family estate in the countryside north of Varese, where the Count will lead us through his family's 500-year-old painted home and its glorious 300-year-old gardens. We'll enjoy a lavish luncheon with the Count in his home. Enjoy the remainder of the evening and dinner at leisure.

June 18th: Milan's Cultural Heritage (B, L)

We begin our day at the Pinacoteca di Brera to discover some of Milan's greatest Renaissance artworks. Stroll through Milan's Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, a covered shopping gallery opened in 1877 that is a masterpiece in itself. Our lunch is in a private room at one of Milan's most famous historic coffee houses. Next, we step into Milan's awe-inspiring Duomo, Italy's largest Gothic cathedral with its sculptural spires soaring toward the sky. This afternoon, we stand before Leonardo da Vinci's tour de force, *the Last Supper*. Return to Palace Hotel for an evening at leisure.

June 19th: Bellagio & the Centro Lago (B, L)

We depart this morning for Bellagio to the romantic gardens of the Villa Melzi, one of the lake's most notable landmarks. Venturing into the village of Bellagio for a guided exploration of the town, we'll step inside a parochial church and lakeside gardens. Today we enjoy a memorable lunch at a private estate owned by a local family of wine distributors. Their home is high above the rooftops of Bellagio with sweeping views over the lake, and they have invited a top Lake Como chef to personally prepare a special tasting menu just for us! Free time is given to shop in Bellagio, stroll on your own, or perhaps even ferry over on your own to the nearby picturesque town of Varenna. Return to Como by ferry and enjoy the remainder of the evening and dinner at leisure.

June 20th: Town of Como & Free Time (B, D)

This morning, we come face-to-face with the beauties of the historic city of Como, including the Cathedral and adjoining Broletto, both important reflections of the city's medieval reputation. The old church of Sant'Abbondio is one of the most important surviving 11th-century churches in Europe. We also pass the "Fascist House," a monument to a turbulent period of Italy's 20th century, but also a critical piece of modern architecture. Lunch and the afternoon are then at leisure for individual pursuits, such as cruising the pristine lake, making a day trip to Menaggio, taking the funicular to Brunate for stunning views of Como. This evening, we gather with fellow travelers for a lovely farewell dinner in our hotel's fine restaurant.

June 21st: Departure for U.S.A. (B)

Following breakfast at the hotel, we board our coach and take a group transfer to the Milan Malpensa international airport for independent return flights to the United States.



ELEGANT 4-STAR PALACE HOTEL COMO

Our home base for the Lake Como portion of the tour is this impressive Art Nouveau edifice - the Palace Hotel is truly a palace! The hotel's spacious interior offers a gracious Old World Italian ambiance, while guestrooms are comfortably sized with elegant private baths. Washington & Lee has upgraded your experience by providing lake-view rooms for travelers. The hotel's beautiful romantic garden faces the lakeshore, and is a lovely, shady escape. There is even a great traditional gelateria on the hotel grounds. The hotel is just blocks from all the best of Como town - the city square and main shopping streets are minutes away on foot.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Seven (7) nights at the 4-star Palace Hotel, Como
- Breakfast daily, five (5) lunches, two (2) dinners
- Water, soft drinks, coffee, and tea are included with each lunch and dinner
- Two (2) glasses of wine at included lunches and dinners
- Expert local English-speaking guides to accompany the tour throughout planned sightseeing tours
- Services of an experienced, Italian-speaking ISDI Tour Manager throughout the program
- Entrance fees to all sites listed in itinerary
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout the trip
- Gratuities for guides and motor coach drivers
- One (1) group airport transfer upon arrival and departure, to/from Milan International Airport (MXP)

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE:

- International and domestic airfare, airport and airline taxes, and any airline fuel surcharges
- Transfers to and from the airport for individuals not using the group transfers
- Airport portorage and gratuities for chamber maids
- Passport fees and visa fees
- Any items not listed as included on the itinerary including excursions or meals marked optional or independent on the itinerary
- If - due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors - participants or representatives from Washington & Lee University are required to spend any additional nights, they will be responsible for their own hotel, transfers, and meal costs
- Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance

TOUR INFORMATION

Dates:

June 13 - 21, 2015

Hotel:

4-star Palace Hotel, Como

Cost:

Land only package: \$3,995

Single supplement: \$795

**Tour Price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 20-28 paying participants.*

Deposit & Final Payment:

A deposit of \$1,000 per paying participant will be required to guarantee participation in the program. This may be paid by check, Visa or MasterCard. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on **March 4, 2015**. Final payment must be made by check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations will be accepted beyond March 4, 2015 on a space-available basis.

Air Arrangements:

International and U.S. domestic airfare are not included in the package cost.


Travel Insurance:

For more information on Travel Insurance, please contact the W&L Traveller at the Washington and Lee University Office of Special Programs at (540) 458-8723.

Terms & Conditions

International Seminar Design, Inc. ("ISDI") and Washington & Lee reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date. All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by ISDI. If a tour member cancels, the following scale of charges is incurred: There is a non-refundable administrative fee of \$500 per person. The costs associated with any tickets purchased for planned activities (as indicated in the itinerary) are non-refundable. Written cancellation received by ISDI before **March 4, 2015**: full refund minus \$500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI on March 4, 2015 through May 1, 2015: full refund of any recoverable land costs, less \$1,500 per person cancellation charge (includes administrative fee). Cancellations received on or after May 2, 2015: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or any missed sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not acceptable. The tour cost is non-transferable. A package of cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance is strongly recommended.

REGISTRATION

 Washington and Lee University	Leonardo's Milan and Villas of Lake Como	June 13-21, 2015
<p>Enclosed is my credit card info or deposit by check made payable to International Seminar Design, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000 per person.</p>		
<p>The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Washington & Lee and International Seminar Design, Inc (ISDI) and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licenses, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.</p>		
EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN:		
SIGNATURE - PARTICIPANT 1		DATE
SIGNATURE - PARTICIPANT 2		DATE
<p>Complete and return by mail or fax to: The W&L Traveller Office of Special Programs Washington & Lee University 204 West Washington St. Lexington, VA 24450 Call: 540-458-8723 Fax: 540-458-8478</p>		
FULL NAME - PARTICIPANT 1		
FULL NAME - PARTICIPANT 2		
ADDRESS (Billing if using credit card)		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
DAYTIME TELEPHONE		
E-MAIL ADDRESS		
NUMBER OF PERSONS / AMOUNT ENCLOSED		
<input type="radio"/> VISA <input type="radio"/> MASTERCARD		
CREDIT CARD NUMBER		EXP. DATE (MM/YY)
NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD		
<input type="radio"/> Double Occupancy <input type="radio"/> Single Supplement		
<input type="radio"/> I will share a room with _____		
<input type="radio"/> I would like a roommate but will pay the Single Supplement if one cannot be found.		