

Casa Orchidea

Bellagio

The pearl of Lake Como



10 minute by car from **Casa Orchidea**, Bellagio is also reachable by the C30 bus,
by boat or by walking on the Strada Regia.



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It is no mistake that Bellagio is called the "pearl" of Lake Como. It is undoubtedly the most famous resort on the lake. For centuries, its scenic location has enchanted artists and writers, not only from Italy, but also from abroad. It is situated on the tip of a headland that divides the lake into the two legs of Como and Lecco.



The town stretches along the coast and part of it goes up the slopes of the promontory. Because of its location it has a great variety of views and a special view of the whole lake.



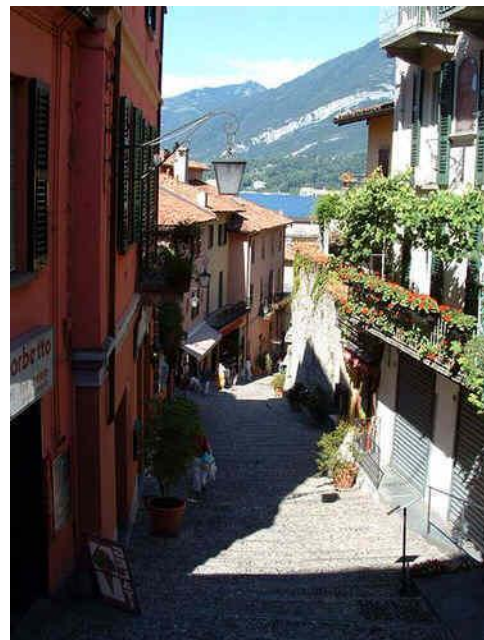
Some of the best views can be seen from the park of Villa Serbelloni and from the top of Monte San Primo. On a particularly clear day, one can make out the Alps, from Mont Blanc to the Ortles, and the Madonnina on top of the Duomo of Milan.

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With its mild winter and pleasant summer, its historical town center, its lush and varied flora, Bellagio is the ideal place for those who like tranquil walks.

The gastronomic specialties of the area are varied and excellent: fish from the lake, polenta “tocc” and “vuncia”, and desserts, such as “mataloc”.



Perhaps you are more in the mood for exciting water sports and winter skiing (there are three ski-lifts on Monte San Primo).

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The Romanesque churches are of considerable architectural interest. In the upper part of the town, next to a tower - the only remains of the ancient system of defense - one can see the basilica of San Giacomo, which was built by the Maestri Comacini.



There is also the Oratorio di San Giorgio and the ruins of the church of San Pietro Apostolo, which is incorporated into Villa Serbelloni.

Bellagio is famous for its villas and their parks. Here, along with the local-flora, there are rare and exotic plants in splendid Italian or English style gardens. The park of Villa Serbelloni is considered to be one of the most beautiful in Italy and it takes about two hours to visit.



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Apart from its beauty, Bellagio is also an ideal place to base yourself while visiting Lake Como because it's the main hub of water transportation on Lake Como. And from Bellagio. It's possible to visit all the major attractions of Lake Como by water. You can choose between public ferries or private and luxurious motor launches that conjure up the mystery and romance of the Lakes.



There is a good public ferry service, which stops off at the villages on the opposite shore of the lake. The fastest means of transport is the hydrofoil, which serves the whole lake. There is also a car-ferry service which links Bellagio to Varenna and Cadenabbia.



Link for boat schedule:

http://www.navigazonelaghi.it/eng/c_orari.asp

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SIGHTS:

The Basilica of S. Giacomo

This Romanesque church was built in the 12th century. It has three naves with raised apses. Externally, it is decorated by double-lintelled arches. Inside, there are some Romanesque sculptures and two fourteenth century tables, from the Umbrian and Lombard schools. There is also a sixteenth-century wooden altar. The bell tower is from the 16th century and was modified in the following centuries.

Villa Melzi

Now called Villa Gallarati Scotti, it was formerly of the Melzi Family. This building with neoclassical features was built between 1810 and 1815 and designed by G. Albertoli. It houses many works of art, including paintings and sculptures by Canova. One of the tombs in the chapel is by V. Vela. The extensive park, which runs down to the edge of the lake, surrounds the villa. Among the trees, there are Egyptian, Etruscan-Roman, Renaissance and neoclassical Sculptures.

Villa Poldi Pezzoli

Villa Trivulzio, formerly Poldi Pezzoli, manifests typical eighteenth century neogothic features. The Romanesque church of Santa Maria is in the locality of Loppia. It belonged to a Benedictine monastery in the 16th century.

Villa Serbelloni

This was built in the 16th century and was practically remade in the following century. It has a big park that extends into the promontory in the lake. At present the villa has the air of an eighteenth-century building. It is now owned by the Rockefeller Foundation. It incorporates a small Romanesque church with a small bell tower.

