



There is much to see and do in and around the Italian Lakes District from a client's villa base. These range from more traditional tours, to more unique offerings. Below is a small sampling of more unique offerings A Season Away can arrange for clients in the region.

### Food and Wine

- Spend an afternoon with the top cheese affineur in Italy, Carlo, near Lake Maggiore learning about distinguishing cheeses, pairings with foods and wines and how they are seasoned in his grottos.
- Join a **trifulao** (truffle hunter) and his dog Bianca for truffle hunting in the woods near Alba, renowned for its truffles. Sample truffles with bread, salami and local wines. Also enjoy a lunch with truffle specialties.
- Head to **Barolo** for tastings of these noble and prestigious wines, including visiting an enoteca with about 35,000 bottles of wine from throughout Italy, but specializing in these Piedmontese wines from the Barolo area.
- Try a chocolate and wine tasting in Milan as part of the truly Milanese custom of **aperitivo** (the high-style Milan version of cocktail hour/tapas).



### Cooking Lessons

- Take a cooking lesson with Michelin starred chef Silvio in the morning and lunch after the class with dishes prepared together on Lake Maggiore.
- Learn from a master at one of Bellagio's (not the Las Vegas resort!) finest restaurants as chef Luigi Gandola teaches you in this family's restaurant Salice Blu, followed by a lunch of your own making.
- Ever wanted to learn to make a **fantastic thin crust pizza**? Nando will teach you at his restaurant in Bellagio, considered to be the best pizza around, served in a long oval shape on a wooden plank.
- For truly serious cooks, we can recommend a unique cooking experience in the heart of the city of Como at a **professional Italian cooking school** to introduce you to some of the most amazing, yet simple Italian cooking techniques. You also head to local markets to find the best of the season before learning alongside some of the most sought after professional chefs in Italy.



### Artisanal Visits

- Guided visits to some of the most important fashion showrooms in Milan.
- Visits to some of the best jewelry makers in Milan.
- **See how silk is made** and printed, visiting some of the factories in the city of Como and then having the chance to buy at some of the factory outlets there.

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## Italian Lakes District Excursions

### Shopping

- Hire a **personal shopper in Milan** to head to local boutiques and ateliers near Via Montenapoleone, to the area of Milan filled with the flagship stores of top Italian designers or to the fashion outlets.
- Consider a private fashion show in Milan.
- Head to **Fox Town designer shopping outlets** outside of Lugano in Switzerland with a private driver.



### Traditional/Non-Traditional Touring

- Enjoy a unique evening in the company of **Count Gherardo Scapinelli** and his wonderful wife in their beautiful villa on the shores of Lake Como. A truly unique evening awaits you in the home of one of Italy's most important and noble families with the count, owner of one of the three most important silk factories in Italy.
- Private touring with Ferraris and other vintage cars in and around Lake Maggiore.
- Go to musical and artistic performances throughout the region, especially opera at La Scala in Milan (but also including symphony, ballet, jazz, and more). A Season Away can not only get hard-to-find opera tickets in Milan, but can also let clients know about local performances worth attending.
- Have a **personal make-over** in Milan of body, hair or clothing (or all of the above)!
- Visit some of the top fashion & design schools in Milan.
- **Hot air balloon rides** around the lakes and Piedmonte.
- Take in a **Formula 1 race** outside of Milan (in season at Monza).
- Rent a boat to see the lakeside villas up close (including George Clooney's villa, which can only really be seen from the water).
- On Lake Maggiore take the "Lake Express" to see the many towns along the lake from Stresa to Locarno in Switzerland, returning via a mountain train with breathtaking views.
- Take a **seaplane tour of Lake Como**, taking off and landing in the lake!



- Visit Lugano in Switzerland during one of its many music festivals, from classic to jazz.
- Take private painting and pastel lessons.
- Consider driving over the "hill" north of Lake Como (the Swiss Alps) to St. Moritz for lunch or skiing (for much of the year).
- Learn to **speak Italian** with private lessons for individuals or the entire family. Lessons are less out of a book than fun practical lessons such as visiting local markets to learn to shop, going to restaurants to learn to order from an Italian menu, etc.
- See the lakes on foot with a variety of hikes throughout the region from mild to strenuous.
- Attend Italian football (soccer matches), on a local and professional level, including one at the often-raucous San Siro stadium in Milan.

- **Take private tours** of some of Italy's most elaborate villas and gardens, many open to the public, especially on Lake Como. These include:

- **In Bellagio:** Villa Serbelloni and its park, Villa Melzi D'Eril and its gardens, Villa Trivulzio, Villa Trotti and Villa Giulia.
- **In Tremezzo:** Villa Carlotta with its Botanical Gardens and amazing azaleas in the Spring.
- **In Lenno:** Villa del Balbianello, one of the most outstanding villas on the lake.
- **In Ossuccio:** Villa Maria and Villa La Carlia.
- **In Varenna:** Villa Cipressi and the artistic Villa Monastero.



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It's your time.

A Season Away offers extended holidays from one week to several months away, affording you the best gift of all, time:

- Time away...to slow down...gain a sense of place...live like a local
- Time to indulge in your personal passions...with no limits to the imagination
- Time to reconnect with your loved ones

A Season Away presents:

- Handpicked VillaHosts™ with insider access that brings a region alive, offering unique experiences and helping you fulfill your dreams
- Best-in-class villas and apartments
- Thorough pre-trip planning to ensure your goals are met and your “escape” from home is seamless

Specializing in Italy: Tuscany (Chianti, Florence, Lucca, Cortona, Southern Tuscany), Italian Lakes region, Amalfi Coast & Umbria and France: (Provence, Paris, Basque Country, St. Tropez & Burgundy)

A Season Away recommends all clients use a professional travel advisor. Should you have any questions or need the name of a travel consultant in your area, feel free to contact us.

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