Syracuse University Alumni Association, Inc.

TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE®

IN THE

ITALIAN LAKES • VENICE

LAKE COMO • LAKE MAGGIORE

APRIL 21 TO 29, 2016
Dear Syracuse University Alumni and Friends:

Northern Italy’s fabled Lake District and the magnificent city of Venice, a UNESCO World Heritage site, have long been high on the list of the most captivating destinations in the world. **TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® IN THE ITALIAN LAKES AND VENICE** highlights the parallels and contrasts between Lombardy and Veneto, from Lake Como and Lake Maggiore’s unique setting of glacial waters, Alpine peaks, subtropical climate, ancient towns painted in hues of terra cotta and ochre, and distinctly *bella figura* Italian style to the rich history and beautifully picturesque setting of Venice. Explore the allure of these two regions that have inspired poets, composers, musicians, artists and philosophers for centuries.

Join this small group of alumni travelers at the best time of year for a one-of-a-kind, eight-day *soggiorno*, a wonderful way to experience the true essence of life in the beautiful and charming region of Lombardy, featuring the quintessentially Italian *Lago di Como*, and the impossibly picturesque Venice. Our carefully designed, expert-guided excursions explore the artistic and architectural treasures commissioned by Roman patricians, medieval lords and Renaissance princes at a relaxed pace, while enriching presentations and the exclusive **TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE FORUM®**, featuring local residents, provide you with personal perspectives on Lombardy’s cultural heritage and contemporary life. You will have opportunities to taste northern Italy’s acclaimed cuisine and Prosecco and learn basic Italian phrases, making your visits to Como’s lively market all the more enjoyable.

Your accommodations will be in the historic center of ancient Cernobbio in the charming **HOTEL REGINA OLGA**, overlooking stunning Lake Como, and in the heart of captivating Venice in the classically Italian **HOTEL BONVECCHIATI**, ideally located just a short walk away from the glorious Piazza San Marco.

**TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® IN THE ITALIAN LAKES AND VENICE** is a popular travel program and an excellent value, including specially arranged meals, all excursions and comfortable accommodations. It is a truly unique opportunity to experience consummate Italian hospitality and daily life in two of Italy’s loveliest settings. I encourage you to book now while Early Booking Savings and space are still available.

Sincerely,

Tina Casella ’94, G’04
Director of Alumni Tours

Cover: The stunning beauty and magnificent architecture of the Italian Lake District have made it one of Italy’s premier destinations for 2000 years.
IN THE
ITALIAN LAKES • VENICE

Experience firsthand the true character of Italy’s romantic Lombardy and Veneto provinces during this specially designed small group soggiorno with visits to the charming lakeside città (towns) and villaggi (villages) of Cernobbio, Como, Bellagio and Stresa along the shores of Lake Como and Lake Maggiore. Delight in the beauty of fair Verona—the backdrop for Shakespeare’s tale of star-crossed lovers—and the enchanting archipelago of Venice. Enjoy an enriching travel experience like no other, an excellent value featuring a carefully crafted itinerary, thoughtfully designed exclusive excursions, accommodations specially selected for their locations and leisure time for independent exploration. Immerse yourself in the rhythm of daily life in the Italian Lake District and Venice; explore the history, culture, art, cuisine and language; and interact with local people. This popular program is one of the TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® series, a comprehensive and intimate travel experience at just the right pace.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS are specially arranged for this custom-designed itinerary:

◆ **Immerse yourself** in authentic experiences during this carefully planned, balanced itinerary of included guided historical and cultural excursions in the quintessential northern Italian città and villaggi of the incomparable Lake District and captivating Venice, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

◆ **Hear it from the Experts!** Meet a Como scholar who will present a lecture on his luogo natio (hometown) and share his expertise of historical, cultural and contemporary Lombardy. An art historian and lifelong resident of Como will share her knowledge of art, medieval history and the classics during a private lecture on Leonardo da Vinci.

◆ **Engage** with local Lombardi during the TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE FORUM® where they share their candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in the majestic Lake District.

◆ **Admire** the architecture and elaborate terraced gardens of the 18th-century Italian National Trust property Villa Balbianello and the opulent palazzos and piazzas of Venice.

◆ **Enjoy** breathtaking views across the Venetian landscape from the top of St. Mark’s Torre dell’Orologio (clock tower), during a specially arranged visit.

◆ **Visit** Isola Bella’s 17th-century Baroque palazzo, home to masterpieces by northern Italian artists, including Bergognone, Boltraffio and Crespi, and gardens where white peacocks walk among tropical flowers.

◆ **Discover** 14th- to 18th-century masterpieces by painters of the Venetian school during a guided tour of Venice’s Gallerie dell’Accademia, home to the world’s finest collection of Renaissance art.

◆ **Explore** Como’s three-times-weekly colorful outdoor market, just a short ferry ride from our hotel.

◆ **Sample** authentic northern Italian specialties in both hotels and in a typical Veronese ristorante.

◆ **Learn key phrases** in la lingua italiana (the Italian language) to make your interactions with local residents all the more enjoyable.

◆ **Enjoy time on your own** to discover and observe the rhythms of daily life in quaint local cafés, open-air markets and along lovely cobblestone streets in the villages of Cernobbio, Stresa, historic Como and the Lake Como jewel of Bellagio; and explore the sestieri (six main neighborhoods) of Venice, winding your way through the calli (narrow streets) and sotoportegi (covered passageways).

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Visit the very symbol of Venice in St. Mark’s Square, the Gothic architectural masterpiece Palazzo Ducale, or Doge’s Palace, which houses the magnificent artwork of Titian, Veronese and Tintoretto in its grand interior.
This delightful village, located at the foot of Mount Bisbino, is the perfect “home” for our soggiorno into the spectacular mountainous Italian countryside. Stroll along Cernobbio’s bustling waterfront. Wander down the village's narrow medieval strade and amble through its romantic piazzas, lined with handsome buildings painted in the soft, buttery hue seen throughout the Lake District.

Como
Founded by the Romans in 196 B.C., Como has been internationally known for its silk-weaving industry since silkworms were first imported here in the 14th century and is still today the largest European silk producer—dyeing, weaving and designing fabrics shipped to the fashion houses of Milan, Paris and London. Walk along winding cobblestone passages past medieval towers and walls, Renaissance palaces and churches, neoclassical 19th-century villas and small family-owned negozi (shops) leading to the Piazza Cavour and the tranquil lakeside promenade. During time on your own, peruse the fresh fruit and vegetables in the three-times-weekly outdoor market, a local tradition for centuries.
Lago di Como
Composer Franz Liszt romanticized, “When you write the story of two happy lovers, place them on the shores of Lake Como.” Cruise by private boat across the sparkling waters of Italy’s deepest—and perhaps most spectacular—lake. Its allure is enhanced by quaint coastal villages like Bellagio and grand Renaissance villas built on the surrounding snowcapped mountainsides.

Bellagio
Perched on a promontory punctuated by stands of cypress trees, Bellagio is one of the Lake District’s most famous towns and has been a popular European holiday destination since Roman times. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Milanese nobility flocked here to build elaborate villas and cultivate subtropical gardens.

Villa del Balbianello
Just across Lake Como from Bellagio is the exquisite Villa del Balbianello and its magnificent terraced gardens. Built in 1787 by Cardinal Angelo Maria Durini, this epitome of an Italian lake villa was renovated in the early 20th century by an American veteran of World War I and more recently purchased by Italy’s first explorer to summit Mt. Everest, Guido Monzino, who bequeathed it to the Italian National Trust. It remains an authentic Italian villa masterpiece and repository of 18th-century French and English furniture, and Monzino’s collection of Chinese, pre-Columbian and African art.

Lago Maggiore
Italy’s second-largest lake forms a natural boundary between the regions of Lombardy and Piedmont and is a close rival to Lake Como as the most remarkable in the Lake District. Lake Maggiore’s mild climate allows for the gardens to grow rare and exotic plants in the beautiful landscape beneath the high Alps. Enjoy a private boat cruise across the deep, clear waters that served as inspiration for Flaubert, Wagner and Goethe.

Borromean Islands
Cruise among Lake Maggiore’s enticing islands graced with elegant villas and striking natural beauty. Isola Bella, Isola di San Giovanni, Isola Madre and Isola dei Pescatori are collectively known as the Borromean Islands, named after the powerful and influential Borromeo family. Visit the exquisitely preserved Isola Bella, commissioned by Count Carlo Borromeo III in 1632 as a magnificent Baroque retreat dedicated to his wife, Isabella. Walk through the island’s splendid Italianate gardens, where white peacocks stroll among the seasonal blaze of roses, gardenias, azaleas and rhododendrons. Tour the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo, filled with priceless masterpieces by such artists as Tiepolo and the sculptor Canova, and see the spectacular grotto, completely decorated with mosaics of marine life.

Stresa
An 18th- and 19th-century “Grand Tour” of Europe was considered incomplete without a visit to Stresa to experience its spectacular mountain views, tropical gardens and the resplendent glistening waters of Lake Maggiore.
A young Ernest Hemingway, recuperating in Stresa during World War I, was inspired to make it the setting for Frederic Henry and Catherine Barkley’s reunion in *A Farewell to Arms*.

**Verona**
The fabled setting for Shakespeare’s *Romeo & Juliet* and a major trading center dating from the time of the Roman Empire, Verona’s opulent architectural and artistic heritage is indicative of its former wealth and unique blend of Roman and medieval cultures and traditions. Enjoy a walking tour to the magnificent 2000-year-old Roman Arena, the third largest such edifice in the world and still among Italy’s preeminent venues for opera and ballet performances. See Juliet Capulet’s famous balcony and Verona’s 12th-century Duomo, one of the country’s most impressive Romanesque churches.

**Venice**
An extraordinary architectural masterpiece, from the marble Bridge of Sighs to the Byzantine opulence of St. Mark’s Basilica, the entire city of Venice is constructed upon an amazingly unique archipelago. A UNESCO World Heritage site, this historical center of prosperity and culture is today one of Italy’s premier cities for art and architecture. Admire one of the finest collections of Renaissance art in the world on a specially arranged guided tour of the Gallerie dell’Accademia. View a spectacular selection of 14th- to 18th-century masterpieces by major Italian painters of the Venetian school, including Bellini, Mantegna, Tiziano, Tiepolo and Tintoretto.

Tour the Gothic Doge’s Palace, the lavish heart of the former Venetian Empire and, by special arrangement, walk through its rarely seen hidden corridors. Enjoy a private visit to St. Mark’s Torre dell’Orologio, usually closed to the public, and enjoy extraordinary panoramic views across the Venetian landscape from its rooftop terrace.

In a private boat, cruise the legendary Grand Canal past traditional Venetian gondolas and the stately 13th- to 18th-century villas and palazzos of Venice’s first families.

**Hotel Regina Olga**
Overlooking Lake Como in the charming village of Cernobbio, the classic 19th-century HOTEL REGINA OLGA combines traditional Italian ambience with modern amenities, exceptional service and comfortable accommodations. By special arrangement, your room will feature a view of legendary Lake Como. Accommodations have a private bathroom, air conditioning, satellite television, minibar, hair dryer and ample closet space. The elegant Cenobio dining room serves northern Italian cuisine, and the lounge, coffee lounge and cocktail terrace bar provide ideal settings for conversation and refreshments. For your enjoyment, the hotel also offers beautifully landscaped gardens to stroll through, bicycles and an outdoor swimming pool. It is a short water taxi ride to Como and within easy walking distance of trattorias and boutiques.

**Hotel Bonvecchiati**
Located in the heart of Venice, just a short walk from the famous Piazza San Marco, the refined elegance of the HOTEL BONVECCHIATI, set in an 18th-century historic palazzo, provides the perfect base for exploring the romantic city of Venice. With a combination of classic Venetian décor and modern amenities, your stylish, air-conditioned room is equipped with a private bathroom, satellite television, minibar, safe, hair dryer and bathrobes. The alfresco Restaurant La Terrazza serves traditional Venetian and international cuisine from its terrace alongside one of the city’s picturesque canals.
Included Features

**In Cernobbio**
- Four nights in the charming HOTEL REGINA OLGA overlooking Lake Como.
- Full buffet breakfast each morning.
- One dinner in the hotel.
- Welcome Reception with an assortment of Italian wines and Prosecco.

Scenic transfer from Cernobbio to Venice with a stop in Verona for a walking tour and lunch.

**In Venice**
- Water taxi transfer to the hotel upon arrival.
- Three nights in the traditional HOTEL BONVECCHIATI.
- Full buffet breakfast each morning.
- One dinner in the hotel.
- Farewell Reception.

**Local Expert-Guided Excursions**
- Walking tour of Old Como.
- Private boat cruise across Lake Como to medieval Bellagio and the 18th-century Villa del Balbianello.
- Spectacular, full-day scenic tour of Lake Maggiore, featuring a private cruise of the Borromean Islands.
- Venice walking tour featuring St. Mark’s Square, with visits to the Basilica and the opulent Doge’s Palace including its hidden corridors.
- Private boat cruise on the Grand Canal in Venice.

**Exclusive Cultural Enrichments**
- Exclusive, private lectures: Como history and culture presented by a local scholar and Como native, and a Leonardo da Vinci presentation by an art historian and resident of Como.
- Specially arranged TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE FORUM® with local Lombardy residents.
- Specially arranged tour of the Italian National Trust’s magnificent Villa del Balbianello.
- Visit to Isola Bella with a walk through the gardens of the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo.
- Time at your own pace to explore romantic Bellagio, the most famous village on Lake Como.
- Experience Stresa’s spectacular views and tropical gardens.
- Explore Como’s fresh fruit and vegetable market.
- Guided tour of Venice’s renowned Gallerie dell’Accademia.
- Specially arranged tour of Venice’s elaborate St. Mark’s Torre dell’Orologio.
- Opportunities to savor northern Italy’s traditional cuisine during included meals and on your own.
- Occasion to interact with locals and immerse yourself in Lombardy and Venetian life.
- Italian language introduction.

**Enhanced Travel Services**
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Hospitality desk in the hotels.
- The services of an experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director throughout the program.
- Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.
- Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
The romantic allure of the Italian Lakes and Venice

For centuries, Italy’s Lake District has seduced hearts, minds and souls, including those of Virgil, Napoleon, Byron, Stendhal, Dickens, Flaubert, Puccini, Toscanini and Hemingway. Long before the Romans annexed the region 2000 years ago and began to build their well-ordered towns, it was settled by Etruscans and invaded by Celts. Following the Middle Ages and Renaissance, nobility built magnificent holiday villas and extraordinary gardens. European aristocrats of the 18th and 19th centuries considered the Italian Lake District an essential stop on their “Grand Tour” of Europe. To this day, the mild climate and extraordinary beauty of snowcapped Alpine peaks descending to serene, deep-blue glacial lakes continue to lure the rich, the famous and international travelers from all walks of life to discover the exquisite gem that is the Italian Lake District.

Enchanting Venice, too, seems to exist for the benefit of artists and writers—Lord Byron called it “a fairy city of the heart,” and Corot, J.M.W. Turner, Shakespeare and Henry James are but a few others that fell under its spell. The essence of “La Serenissima,” one sobriquet for this most serene cityscape, manifests itself in art, culture and life intertwined. You need only walk the labyrinthine streets or glide along the Grand Canal, and you are transported into any number of dreamlike paintings or literary portraits of this improbable floating city.

Milan

Pre-Program Option

Recognized as the capital of the design and fashion worlds, Milan has an ancient cultural heritage and legacy that blends the ornately preserved palaces, churches and museums with vibrant contemporary life, an abundance of haute cuisine, art and operatic traditions. Visit the world-famous Teatro alla Scala opera house, Milan’s exquisite Duomo and the UNESCO World Heritage site Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie to experience the genius and beauty of Leonardo da Vinci’s The Last Supper. Accommodations for two nights are in the deluxe SHERATON DIANA MAJESTIC. The Pre-Program Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

During the Pre-Program Option, visit Milan’s towering Duomo, home to some of Italy’s finest religious art.
Nestled on the shores of Lake Como and surrounded by majestic Alpine peaks, the legendary Villa del Balbianello has one of the most beautiful and dramatic settings in all of Italy.

LAND TARIFF

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<th>Early Booking Price through November 18, 2015</th>
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- Singles are available upon request for an additional $900.
- Taxes are an additional $195 and are subject to change.

send to: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446

for more information, please call Gohagan & Company at (800) 922-3088.

Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Milan Pre-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $ as deposit.
Make checks payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
I/we authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $ to:
- Visa
- MasterCard

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by January 15, 2016.
Discover Venice's history and romance while gliding through its legendary canals and under the iconic Rialto Bridge.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

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If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own transportation and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders or third parties, including, but not limited to, disruptive, chronic complainers, determined drivers of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line. Gohagan has the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason without notice, including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $660 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; from 22 through 44 days prior to departure, 75% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture and loss of all monies paid for any such cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Gohagan and others for consideration, in the event of any such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

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ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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Alumni Tours
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