



# TRINITY COLLEGE ELDERHOSTEL ITALY

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## The Italian Lakes

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 6 nights Riva del Garda
- 5 nights Desenzano
- 2 nights Stresa
- Lake cruises to Malcesine and Sirmione
- Lecture on Giuseppe Verdi
- Experience local cuisine
- A day in the Dolomites
- Meet a violin maker and visit his workshop in Cremona
- Explore the elegant and charming city of Parma



The exhilarating mountains and deep Alpine waters of the lake country form one of Europe's most attractive regions. Lake Garda is a crossroads of three fascinating regions: the Veneto, Lombardy, and Trentino/Alto Adige. To the west, Lake Maggiore is one of Europe's most coveted retreats, where elegant "Belle Epoque" hotels mingle with stupendous shoreline villas. Amid this stunning geography local experts bring alive the regions' intriguing history as well as the architecture, literature, and music that define them.



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## THE ITALIAN LAKES



*Please note schedule is subject to change. Finalized schedule will be available at the program site.*

- Day 1 Departure from points in North America.
- Day 2 Arrive Milan Malpensa Airport. Coach to Rival del Garda on Lake Garda. Late afternoon Welcome Reception and Neighborhood Walk.
- Day 3 Morning orientation session presents the lectures, excursions and field trips on the program schedule. A lecture introduces the bi-lingual and bi-cultural Trentino/Alto Adige region which was part of Austria until annexed by Italy in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Informal Survival Italian evening session.
- Day 4 Coach to Trento, city at the foot of the Alps, where we visit the *Castello del Buon Consiglio* and the gothic frescoes in the *Torre dell'Aquila* depicting rural life in the 15th century.
- Day 5 First in a series of lectures on Giuseppe Verdi, the great composer from nearby Parma. Free afternoon to explore Lake Garda. The coordinators will provide ideas and transportation information for excursions.
- Day 6 A field trip to Bolzano to tour the Civic Museum and view the *Iceman*, the wounded hunter from the Bronze Age whose frozen body was found in a melting glacier 10 years ago. After lunch a drive through a pass in the Dolomite mountain range where we can admire the strikingly bold silhouette of the peaks.
- Day 7 A boat cruise across the Lake Garda to Malcesine. An afternoon lecture on Verdi back at the hotel.
- Day 8 Transfer by coach to the southern shore of Lake Garda. After checking into the lakeside hotel in Desenzano, and lunch at the hotel, a guided walk in town and by the lake.
- Day 9 A boat ride to the enchanting town of Sirmione. Afternoon lectures on the History and Cuisine of the Po Valley, Italy's great plains.
- Day 10 Free day to explore the lake region at your own pace. Lunch on your own.
- Day 11 Excursion to Parma, affluent and dignified city in Emilia. View works of Correggio, the Farnese theater, the elegant complex of the Pilotta and the cathedral and baptistery square.
- Day 12 Coach to Cremona, city with a rich musical heritage, where we visit a violin maker's workshop. Lunch in Busseto, town where Giuseppe Verdi lived and worked.
- Day 13 Transfer by coach to Stresa. After lunch at the hotel, a walk in the heart of the town on the shores of Lake Maggiore. Free time to enjoy the lakeside and town.
- Day 14 Boat ride and guided visit of the Borromean islands, Isola Bella and Isola Pescatori. Lunch on your own, free afternoon. Farewell dinner at the hotel.
- Day 15 Coach transfer to Milan Malpensa Airport. Departures.

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### MEALS:

- 13 breakfasts at the hotels
- 7 lunches at the hotel restaurants; 2 independent lunches; 4 lunches at local restaurants
- 13 dinners at the hotel restaurant