

Key Editorial Pieces

ABSOLUTELY london



Lake Como Holidays: 5 Of The Best Places To Stay, Plus What To Do

Lake Como holidays offer more than just awe-inspiring views. The picturesque setting is a landscape of luxury; here's where we'll be staying...

Words Helen Brown

Unfadedly one of Italy's most picturesque landscapes, Lake Como is a favourite for those looking for luxury. Surrounded by Alpine peaks and wooded hills, the area offers sporting activities, enchanting views and is a haven to relax.

WHAT TO DO?

An ideal starting point for Lake Como holidays is the town of Como itself. It's a charming historic centre just waiting to be explored. Next take the sweeping road up to the charming lakeside village Bellagio. The grounds of the neoclassical 'Villa Melzi' still await here along with dining at Terrazza Barbellera.

Villa Carlotta has a short ferry ride from here. This palatial 17th century home boasts spectacular gardens. A trip to the southeast side of the lake is well worth a visit, not only for the scenic lakeside route down. Here you settle upon the historic town of Bergamo. It's home to the Duomo di Bergamo, the city cathedral and a maze of tangled, cobbled streets. Stay here at the 16th century Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore or the grand Cappella Colleoni.

5 OF THE BEST PLACES TO STAY

VILLA LARIO



This all-suite resort is impressively carved from the rock cliff, surrounded by gardens and free from the bother of traffic. It's a real gem for those looking for sheer glamour and space from their Lake Como holiday. Looking to splash out? Book a stay in the Pavilion suite. It has enormous lake-facing arched windows and two bedrooms floored in French oak. The hotel gets bonus points for its 20m infinity pool, with its teak decking and surrounding lawns.

Rooms from around 400 EUR per night, villalario.com



STELLA
The Sunday Telegraph
9 June 2017

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VILLA LARIO
Lake Como
Best for... lake-side views
Best for... city explorers
NEW HOTEL
Jaffrey
Best for... city explorers
WINE VINEYARDS
Monterosso-Vino, Portugal
Best for... sunny views
HOTEL BELLEVUE
Dubrovnik
Best for... cliff-side views

The Sunday Telegraph

Country

25 Max Vicens, Costa Brava, Spain
26 Design Inn, Pinerolo, Italy
27 Le Vieux Chateau, Languedoc-Roussillon, France
28 Casa La Sirena, Sicily, Sicily
29 Grand Villa, Lazio, Italy
30 Casa La Sirena, Sicily, Sicily
31 Villa Lario, Lake Como, Italy
32 La Sirena, Sicily, Sicily
33 Casa La Sirena, Sicily, Sicily
34 Casa La Sirena, Sicily, Sicily

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The Telegraph

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Book it: four of the most breathtaking hotel views in Europe



Breathtaking views await those lucky enough to stay at Villa Lario, a heaven-sent all-suite property on Lake Como.

By STELLA magazine writers
2 JUNE 2017 • 2:53PM

Flinging your hotel windows open can be a bit of gamble, but at these stunner, it's the best bit of the day...

Villa Lario, Lake Como

Best for... la dolce vita

The low-down: Breathtaking views await guests of Villa Lario, a heaven-sent, all-suite property on the sunny side of Lake Como, serving up exciting fresh Italian food created by super chef, Michele Tamburrino. Those who are not lucky enough to be staying as guests are flocking here for the food alone so the vibe is buzzy despite there only being six suites. The interiors are achingly cool with soft greys and white tones, while huge windows make the most of the spectacular views. Mosey down through the lush gardens to the private pantoon to take advantage of your very own speed boat or water taxi and explore the lake. Sunworshippers will relish lounging by the infinity pool with a large prosecco in hand - waiter!

• The best Italian Lakes and where to stay when there

Out and about: Head Chef Michele runs cookery classes at the villa which are a lot of fun. You will be giddy with delight when diners that evening are served your amuse bouche efforts and bread rolls. For a change of scene Casta Diva Resort is a 10-minute drive along the same stretch of lake and offers gourmet dining, a state of the art spa and a floating swimming pool. Ditch the crowded Como in favour of the beautiful village of Bellagio, a must for silk, people watching and the best gelato.

Stella loves: The villa is scattered with sculptures by celebrated artist Nathalie Decoster which really brings a sense of fun to the place.

Chrissy Amer

Suites start at £340 per night, b&b; villarior.com

• Read the full Villa Lario review here

DEPARTURES

— Travel —

What's New in Lake Como



Lauren Perotti / Courtesy Villa Lario

Villa Lario

The noble Lombardi family previously owned this 19th-century hotel, situated on the cliffs above Como, and it still feels like an intimate residence. Expect just nine spacious suites, each with panoramic views of the lake and the mountains beyond, not to mention the infinity pool or the house pontoon. Meanwhile, the new chef, Michele Tamburrino, will teach you how to make fresh pasta as well as regional specialties using ingredients grown in the on-site gardens. Doubles from \$690, 25 Via Giacomo Matteotti, Pognana Lario, 39-31/537-5064; villarior.com.

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44.0160° N, 9.2372° E

With swish, new design hotels adding to its timeless glamour, Como is hotting up just in time for summer

Top of the lake

With swish, new design hotels adding to its timeless glamour, Como is hotting up just in time for summer

S Bruce Springsteen and Robert De Niro are rival spots, and the lake is legendary. John Legend, he married on the same front lawn as Alfred Hitchcock, shot his first movie

The Telegraph



Villa Lario Lake Como

Lake Como, Italy



Check availability

From £500

8/10

Telegraph expert rating

"An exclusive all-suite property in a private and secluded location, perched on a cliffside overlooking the lake. Vivid white tones and monochromatic colours give the sophisticated interiors a clean look. The head chef serves superb regional dishes."

By Nikki Dewar, destination expert

9/10

Location

Secluded and private, and spread out on a hillside more than 160ft above the lake, offering jaw-dropping vistas. From the lakeside road a lift descends to the main villa, which is flanked by a leafy terraced garden with infinity pool looking out over the water. From here a second lift goes down to the lakefront garden from where it's possible to stroll into the tiny village of Pognana Lario - no tourists here, just the occasional resident strolling the front.

View on map

9/10

Style & character

The attractive and stylish interiors feel almost Mediterranean: neat and tidy palettes of soft greys and whites, while large windows allow for plenty of light. The spectacular vistas inevitably draw the eye outside. In the lounge and restaurant, floor-to-ceiling shelves are neatly stacked with coffee-table books on cookery and art, alongside large candles and glass containers. It's sophisticated, contemporary and stylish - a welcome change from the lake's historic establishments filled with antiques and heavy drapes.