

**North Italy Gems:**

**Lake Como and the Alps**

**June 7-17, 2023**

*\*times are approximate and may adjust daily\**

**Day 1 Wed, June 7**

Depart U.S. for Geneva Switzerland (Or depart a day or two earlier and explore.)

**June 8-13 (5 nights)** **Hotel/Spa Milleluci**

**Aosta**

**Day 2 Thurs, June 8 Arrive in Aosta**

**2:00** pick up at Suisse Hotel in Geneva; drive through the Alps, crossing Switzerland, France and Italy, including the famous 7-mile Mont Blanc tunnel

**4:00** arrive in Aosta, get settled and check in to hotel/spa

**6:30** welcome reception

**7:00** dinner up the hill

* Includes: private airport transfer, reception, dinner, hotel

**Day 3 Fri, June 9 Aosta**

breakfast

**10:00** private walking tour in town with Elisabetta; end with cheese and salami tasting

Afternoon at leisure: explore, shop

Spa time at the hotel

**7:30** dinner

* Includes: breakfast, private transfer to dinner, private walking tour, dinner, hotel

**Day 4 Sat, June 10 Up to the Alps**

breakfast

**10:00** drive back up the valley to the [Monte Bianco Skyway](http://www.montebianco.com)

**11:00** take the Skyway to the top, traditional alpine lunch, endless photo opps

**3:00** go back down to Courmayeur to walk through historic center

**5:00** return to hotel, evening at leisure

* Includes: breakfast, private transfer, Monte Bianco Skyway experience, lunch, hotel

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**Day 5 Sun, June 11**

breakfast

**9:00** depart for Fenis Castle, 9:30 tour

**10:00** depart with Elisabetta for high valley area

lunch stop along the way; visit cheese producer

**5:30** return to hotel, afternoon at leisure; spa, shop

**Evening at leisure**

* Includes: breakfast, private driver, entry to castle with tour, dinner, hotel

**Day 6 Mon, June 12**

breakfast

morning at leisure, spa, shop

**2:00** drive to Les Cretes for winery tour/tasting

**4:00** cooking lesson of traditional recipes with Franca in her home

* Includes: breakfast, winery visit, cooking lesson/dinner, hotel

**June 13-17 (4 nights)**

**Hotel Del Duca**

**Como**

**Day 7 Tues, June 13 Aosta - Como**

breakfast

**9:30** lower valley tour with Elisabetta; depart for Gressoney and [Castel Savoia](https://www.regione.vda.it/cultura/patrimonio/castelli/castel_savoia/informazioni_i.asp)

**1:00** lunch break, continue on to Como

**4:30** walking tour of the expansive mostly-pedestrian historic center

**7:00** walk to dinner nearby

* Includes: breakfast, driver, tours of castle, Como, dinner, hotel

**Day 7 Wed, June 14**

breakfast

**10:00** depart for eBike tour (“pedal-assist” bikes that you can adjust for ease of pedaling) We’ll travel through villages, past villas, through vineyards and cross into Switzerland

**1:00** lunch on the lake

**3:30** evening, dinner at leisure

* Includes: breakfast, private e-bike tour and lunch, hotel

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**Day 8 Thurs, June 15**

breakfast

**9:00** depart for Milan

**10:00** private walking tour to see the duomo, the famous “[Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II](https://www.yesmilano.it/esplora/luoghi/galleria-vittorio-emanuele-ii)” shopping arcade

**12:00** free time to have lunch, explore

**3:00** visit Santa Maria delle Grazie church and museum for Da Vinci’s “Last Supper” painting

**5:00** return to Como

**7:30** dinner

* Includes: breakfast, private driver and tour in Milan, entry to Last Supper, dinner, hotel

**Day 9 Fri, June 16**

Breakfast; morning at leisure

**11:00** private boat tour on Lake Como; stop at [Villa Balbianello](https://fondoambiente.it/luoghi/villa-del-balbianello?utm_source=gmb&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=balbianello) and village of Varenna to have lunch, explore, shop

**5:30** return to Como

**7:00** farewell dinner

* Includes: breakfast, private boat for lake tour, dinner, hotel

**Day 11 Sat, June 17**

Breakfast

**9:00** depart hotel for Milan airport (MPX) or [Hotel Villa Malpensa](https://hotelvillamalpensa.it/en/) to stay the night near the airport

**Tour price:**

**TBD per person, double occupancy**

**TBD per person, single occupancy**

**$500 deposit due at booking**

**Balance due March 3, 2023**

**Tour Inclusions:**

* 5 nights, Aosta
* 4 nights, Como
* 3 private guided tours: Aosta, Como, Milan
* 2 winery tours and tastings
* 1 cheese tour and tasting
* Private boat tour on Lake Como
* Private drivers and airport transfer
* Breakfast every day
* 5 lunches (with wine)
* 6 dinners (with wine)
* Tips to guides, drivers and restaurant servers

**Exclusions:**

* Airfare
* Tips to hotel staff (concierge, housekeeping)
* Transportation outside the stated schedule
* Travel insurance
* Additional wine or alcoholic beverages beyond what is provided with each meal

**Special notes**:

**Culture:** Italy is beautiful, rich in history and culture – and fairly unpredictable. Italians are lovely, generous people, but they don’t necessarily run the “tight ship” we’re used to. I will manage everything I can, and I expect that everything is set. But things do happen after a plan has been made! I encourage flexibility – and being open to the magic of serendipity. You will likely hear this more than once during your trip: “It’s all part of the adventure!”

**Activity level:** this itinerary has a moderate activity level. There is walking each day, some hilly terrain, and a bike ride. I average about 5 miles walking per day. But when you’re surrounded by beautiful scenery and rich history, you don’t necessarily notice. There are ride options available (taxi, Uber, metro, bus) per your preference.

