

Discover Italy's magnificent Lake District, attending chamber music concerts in the intimacy of beautiful villas, gardens, churches, and historic buildings, and experience performances at the legendary Verona Arena Opera Festival, celebrating its 100th season in 2023!

During our 9-day stay on Lake Maggiore and Lake Iseo – in two first-class hotels – we explore **the Borromean Islands** with their Baroque villas and sensational gardens, take in spectacular views while **cruising on Lake Como**, discover charming medieval towns such as **Love** and **Pisogne**, stroll in **Orta San Giulio** on **Lake Orta** (one of the most beautiful villages in Italy), and visit the winery credited with inventing **Franciacorta sparkling wine**. A unique Dean Dalton Tours experience awaits at **Villa Medici Giulini**, where we will embark on a musical journey in the magnificent rooms of the 17th-century villa. There will also be ample opportunity to discover **Brescia and Bergamo**, chosen as the **2023 Italian Capitals of Culture**.

2023 marks the centenary season of the Arena Opera Festival in Verona, and the most successful works performed in the amphitheater since the festival's inauguration in 1913 are to be featured. We will attend a brand-new production of *Aida*, with two optional performances on the other nights: *Nabucco* and *Tosca*.

During the daytime, we discover **Verona**, the enchanting city of Romeo and Juliet, with Roman remains and vestiges of the Middle Ages, ancient palaces, squares, bridges, and marvelous churches. We also spend a day in and around **Vicenza** exploring the villas, palaces, and civic buildings of **Andrea Palladio**, who is considered by many the most influential individual in the history of Western villa architecture. You will also have the option of visiting **Mantua**, a city designed for the powerful Gonzaga family by some of the greatest artists at the time: architect Giulio Romano and painters Andrea Mantegna and Lorenzo Costa.

Please read over the brief description below and let us know if you would like to participate. Space is limited to 22 and will be allocated in the order that we receive your deposit.

Prices, per person

\$4,825
sharing a double/twin
\$5,976
single occupancy

*Prices are stated in
U.S. Dollars
calculated on an exchange
rate of \$1.05 to the Euro.*

TOUR DESCRIPTION

Tuesday, July 18: Depart for Milan

Wednesday, July 19: Arrive Malpensa airport where we will get you on your way to our hotel on Lake Maggiore. Welcome dinner.

July 19 – 24: Lake Maggiore Area (5 nights)

One day, we explore **the Borromean Islands** – three small islands and two islets owned by the Borromeo family, which acquired them beginning in the early 16th century – departing our hotel aboard a private motorboat. Our first stop is **Isola Madre**, which Flaubert called “the most sensual place that I have ever seen in the world.”

We'll explore its **immense English-style garden of rare trees and exotic flowers**. Swamp cypress, citrus fruit trees, crape myrtle, hibiscus, leptospermum, and acacias abound alongside camphor, pepper trees, and styrax; its pathways are lined with magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons, and azaleas. The palace, though uninhabited, is splendidly furnished with 16th- to 19th-century Italian masterpieces and paintings. In 1632, Carlo III Borromeo decided to have a palace built for his wife Isabella d'Adda and selected an empty little island opposite Stresa – **Isola Bella**. The palace – in Baroque style with hints of mannerism – occupies nearly the entire island and was designed by the most famous architects of the times. Its extraordinary

Baroque “hanging” gardens are situated on 10 terraces in the shape of a cut-off pyramid, embellished with statues, fountains, rare shrubs, and exotic plants and flowers. We enjoy a delicious lunch of local specialties on **Isola dei Pescatori**, “Fishermen’s Island,” boasting a spectacular maze of narrow streets with colorful houses.

Another day, we discover the resort town of **Orta San Giulio**, located on a peninsula that extends into **Lake Orta**. After a walking tour, we take a boat to **Isola San Giulio**, a lovely island in the lake where we visit the Romanesque **San Giulio Basilica**, whose pulpit is an outstanding masterpiece of medieval sculpture in northern Italy. Lunch is included at a family-run hotel with splendid views over the lake.

Package prices include

Accommodation in these carefully chosen hotels

La Palma Hotel, Stresa

Hotel Rivalago, Sulzano

Hotel Indigo, Verona



Breakfast each day



Lunch or dinner on eight days



Wine tasting



Airport transfers



Ground transport by private coach



Aida at the Roman Arena in Verona plus two performances in the Lake District



Tours with expert guides as described to the right



Plus, at additional cost:

Tosca and/or *Nabucco* at the Verona Festival



Additional Lake District performances as available



Upgraded hotel accommodations as available

We've left one full day free and another is dedicated to an optional visit to magnificent **Lake Como** in the foothills of the **Alps**. Our sightseeing starts in the historic center of **Como**, a beautiful medieval city surrounded by Roman walls and a magnificent 600-year-old Cathedral, possibly one of the most significant Gothic churches in Northern Italy. We then continue by boat to **Bellagio**, enjoying views of the opulent villas and villages nestled along the shoreline. Perhaps the most beautiful town in Italy, **Bellagio** flaunts a promenade lined with lime trees and oleanders, a city center of cobblestone streets and picturesque alleyways, and charming buildings painted in shades of cream, peach, and butterscotch. We also visit the spectacular **gardens of Villa Melzi**, whose beautiful statues of Béatrice and Dante are said to have inspired Liszt to write a piece that he later expanded into the Dante Sonata.

July 24: En route to Lake Iseo

We visit **Villa Medici Giulini**, with its splendid Italian and English-style gardens and an extraordinary collection of historical keyboard instruments. We will have a **private recital in the six halls of the instrument collection**, including the villa's magical **Teatrino**. Following the demonstration on a number of fortepianos and pianos, we will enjoy a buffet lunch in the charming dining hall of the villa, beautifully decorated with paintings.

Our next stop is **Berlucchi**, the winery where **Franciacorta sparkling wine** was created. It was in the gilded rooms of the 16th-century Palazzo Lana that the idea for Franciacorta wine was dreamed up by Guido Berlucchi and winemaker Franco Ziliani. We will tour of the historic cellars followed by a guided tasting of Berlucchi Franciacortas paired with artisanal baked goods. Franciacorta wine is made in the same method as champagne and cava, with a second fermentation in the bottle, so the bubbles are smaller and last longer than in prosecco or Lambrusco. It is also made from similar grapes to champagne (chardonnay, pinot blanc), so it's not surprising that the region is sometimes called "Italy's Champagne."

July 24 – 28: Lake Iseo Area (4 nights)

We will explore **Lovere's** historic town center including the Basilica of Santa Maria in Valvendra and the Accademia Tadini gallery, which displays the art collection of Count Luigi Tadini, rich in important works of the Lombard and Venetian schools of

the 15th and 16th centuries. Highlighting the museum's collection are sculptures by the Venetian Antonio Canova, with whom Tadini had a close relationship. **Pisogne** is a medieval town situated at the northeastern tip of Lake Iseo. We will visit the Church of Santa Maria della Neve, defined by art critic Giovanni Testori as the "Sistine Chapel of the poor." Brescian painter Romanino painted the vault, arch, walls, even the façade.

A full day is set aside for an optional trip to nearby **Bergamo**, which has been named (together with Brescia) **Italian Capital of Culture 2023**. Surrounded by an impressive 4-kilometer Venetian wall system, the upper city (Città Alta) or Old Town is an extraordinary group of masterpieces of arts and architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its Piazza Vecchia is considered the most beautiful square in Italy. The breathtakingly huge Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore is the resting place of Donizetti – a Bergamo native – and boasts wooden marquetry designed by Lorenzo Lotto. The Renaissance funerary chapel of Bartolomeo Colleoni (a captain in the Venetian Republic) with ceiling frescoes by Tiepolo, is one of the finest in Lombardy. Designed by Giovanni Antonio Amadeo, it has been likened to a jewel box because of its ornately decorated marble facade.

July 28: En route to Verona

We discover the other half of **2023's Italian Capital of Culture: Brescia**. The historic center boasts some of the best-preserved Roman public buildings in northern Italy. The Santa Giulia monastic complex (now museum) contains, among its impressive 11,000 works of art, Desiderius Cross, one of the most grandiose pieces of jewelry in the world; the "Brescia Casket," a precious ivory box decorated with incredibly detailed carvings; and the incredible frescoes of Coro delle Monache (Choir of the Nuns).

July 28 – August 1: Verona (4 nights)

One morning will be dedicated to a guided tour of Verona itself, starting at the **Basilica of San Zeno** with its sculpted portico and famous altarpiece by Andrea Mantegna. We'll then take a stroll through the beautiful streets and squares at the heart of the city, admiring Renaissance palaces of noble families, the spectacular medieval tombs of the ruling Della Scala family, and visiting the **church of Sant'Anastasia** to see its Pisanello frescoes.

A full day is set aside for the villas, palaces, and civic buildings in and around **Vicenza** designed by **Andrea Palladio**, considered by many the most influential individual in the history of Western villa architecture. At the age of 16, Palladio, son of a Paduan stonemason, moved to Vicenza, where he would reside for most of his life. We begin our visit to the city with Palladio's famous **Teatro Olimpico**, the earliest surviving enclosed theatre in the world. Its trompe-l'œil stage scenery, designed by Vincenzo Scamozzi, gives the appearance of long streets receding to a distant horizon. It was installed in 1585 for the very first production in the theatre and is the oldest surviving stage set.

In the countryside nearby, we visit Palladio's Villa Capra, '**La Rotonda**' (you will recognize it if you have seen Joseph Losey's 1979 film version of *Don Giovanni*), built not as a functioning estate but as a retreat from the city in which theatrical entertainments took place. Also on our agenda is the **Villa Valmarana**, still inhabited by the Valamarana family. It is known for its spectacular frescoes by Giambattista and Giandomenico Tiepolo, universally considered the expressive peak of 18th-century painting.

Another day, you will have the option of visiting **Mantua**. Discover the **Palazzo Ducale of the Gonzaga family**, petty tyrants who rose to Ducal status during the 15th century and made their palace the focus of a vital Renaissance culture. The major treasure of the vast, rambling palace is the Camera degli Sposi (Marriage Room), in which Mantegna painted his extraordinary scenes of the life of Marquis Ludovico and his wife, Barbara of Brandenburg. These paintings give a rare vision of court life during the Renaissance. After lunch, we visit **Palazzo Te**, a masterpiece by Giulio Romano, constructed in 1524-1534 for Federico Gonzaga, Marquis of Mantua as a pleasure palace just outside Mantua's city walls.

Tuesday, August 1: Departures from Verona airport

Participation is limited to 22; reservations will be honored in the order deposits are received. Payment in full is due by March 15, 2023.

<u>Prices per person</u>	<u>Sharing a double</u>	<u>Single occupancy</u>
Two-week tour (13 nights in Europe)	\$4,825	\$5,976

For details, visit DeanDaltonTours.com or email DD@DeanDaltonTours.com or call 713-213-6447.

*Although this is not a strenuous program, expect some walking, including some hills and uneven pavement.
If your mobility is limited, you might have to forego some activities
and/or need to rely on taxis to get to and from some events.*

Complete and return this form and your deposit for \$1,000 per person payable to **Dean Dalton Tours** to:
Dean Dalton Tours
1904 Banks St.
Houston, TX 77098

Name 1 as it appears on passport (LAST/First): _____

Name 2 as it appears on passport (LAST/First): _____

Street address: _____ Mobile phone: _____

City: _____ St. _____ Zip _____ Email: _____

Passport # 1: _____ Issue date: _____ Date and **place** of Birth: ; _____

Passport # 2: _____ Issue date: _____ Date and **place** of Birth: ; _____

Name and phone of emergency contact: _____

If reserving for two: prefer one bed prefer two beds

If reserving for one: prefer a private room need help finding a potential roommate

will be sharing a twin room with _____

Request upgrade at La Palma Superior €65 rm/nt Deluxe €120 rm/nt

Request upgrade at Rivalago Lake View €35 rm/nt w/Terrace €60 rm/nt Jr.Suite. €90 rm/nt

Special needs: _____

I have read the brochure and accompanying "Terms and Conditions" and agree to their contents.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

We strongly encourage all participants to be covered by a travel protection plan, whether just for this trip or annual coverage. You should be covered at the very least for medical emergencies and evacuation. Since group policies are no longer available, we now offer a variety of individual plans through Travel Insured International, one of which can almost certainly provide coverage appropriate to your situation. Go to this address <https://www.travelinsured.com/agency/?p=deanhdalton> to compare coverage and costs, specific to you and this tour, for the several plans Travel Insured can provide. You may also call Travel Insured International at 855-752-8303. Please identify yourself as a client of Dean Dalton Tours, agency #49076.

We encourage you to explore other providers as well, to find the coverage that best suits your needs. Once you have returned this reservation form and deposit check for the tour and have determined which plan you prefer, you must purchase coverage within the time limit indicated, usually 14 to 21 days of your reservation.

Don't hesitate to contact us for a quote or to discuss the pros and cons of the various options.

Terms and Conditions of Sale — Italian Lake District and Verona Festivals Tour

A deposit of \$1,000.00 per person is required to guarantee your reservation; the date of receipt will determine the order in which travelers are booked, in the event of a sold-out tour. The balance of the tour price is due on or before March 15, 2023.

Prior 120 days prior to departure: the deposit will be refunded, less a service charge of \$100 per person and the unrecoverable cost of any performance tickets already purchased

From 120 to 90 days prior to departure: full deposit is forfeited

89 to 45 days prior to departure: 30% of tour cost is forfeited

44 to 30 days prior to departure: 60% of tour cost is forfeited

30 days or less, prior to departure: 100% of tour cost, is forfeited

Included in quoted tour prices: All ground transportation by private coach, from arrival at Milan Malpensa airport, July 19, to Verona airport on August 1, 2023; luggage handling (1 piece, maximum 50 pounds, at owner's risk); accommodations in hotels listed in the itinerary or comparable, including taxes and daily breakfast; lunches and dinners, sightseeing, entrance fees, performance tickets, guide and escort services, as indicated in the itinerary.

Not included in quoted tour prices: Airfare, costs of passports or visas, laundry; meals or beverages, optional performances, and sightseeing not included in the itinerary; room service; travel protection; gratuities to guides and drivers; communication charges; excess baggage fees.

Exchange Rates: Dean Dalton Tours reserves the right to adjust prices to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange rates and any fuel or inflation surcharges imposed by providers. The listed prices for this program were calculated at an exchange rate of 1 Euro = \$1.05 US dollar.

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Itineraries: Hotel accommodations, performances, and sightseeing are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

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