The University of Colorado Boulder Alumni Association

VILLAGE LIFE®

AROUND THE

ITALIAN LAKES

LAKE COMO • LAKE MAGGIORE

April 27 to May 5, 2017
Dear Alumni and Friends:

Ciao!

High on the list of the most captivating destinations in the world is northern Italy’s fabled Lake District. Its unique, extraordinary landscape of glacial waters, Alpine peaks, ancient towns painted in ocher and terra cotta hues and its distinctly bella figura Italian style combined with its rich history, has inspired poets, composers, musicians, artists and philosophers for centuries.

Join our small group of alumni travelers at the best time of year for this one-of-a-kind, eight-day VILLAGE LIFE® AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES soggiorno, an exceptional way to experience the true essence of life in the beautiful and charming region of Lombardy, featuring the quintessentially Italian Lago di Como. 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 VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM, featuring local residents, offer you personal perspectives on Lombardy’s cultural heritage and contemporary life. You will have opportunities to taste northern Italy’s acclaimed cuisine and wines, including prosecco, and learn basic Italian phrases to make your time in Como’s lively market all the more enjoyable.

Your accommodations for this comprehensive program are located on the shores of Lake Como in the heart of ancient Cernobbio in the charming HOTEL REGINA OLGA. This traditional hotel overlooks stunning Lake Como and welcomes guests with warm Italian hospitality and impeccable service.

Won’t you join us for VILLAGE LIFE® AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES? This popular travel program has sold out every time it has been offered. It is an excellent value and a unique opportunity to experience daily life in one of Italy’s loveliest settings, and you unpack only once! I encourage you to book now while Early Booking Savings and space are still available.

Arrivederci!

Please feel free to contact the alumni association concerning the Roaming Buffs program at 800-492-7743. For booking, please contact Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088.

Sincerely,

Tricia Essenpreis
Director, Business Development

Cover: The stunning beauty and architecture of the Italian Lake District possesses an inexhaustible charm that has beckoned travelers for centuries.

Stroll along Bellagio’s narrow cobblestone streets and experience its authentic old-world charm and beauty.
Experience firsthand the true character of Italy’s romantic Lombardy province 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. Enjoy an enriching travel experience like no other, an excellent value featuring a carefully crafted itinerary, thoughtfully designed exclusive excursions, hotel accommodations specially selected for a unique and impressive location and leisure time for independent exploration. Interact with local people and become immersed in the rhythm of daily life in the Italian Lake District; explore the history and culture, art, cuisine and language. And, unpack just once! This popular program is one of the VILLAGE 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 itinerary of included guided historical and cultural excursions, well balanced with ample leisure time to observe the rhythms of daily life in quaint local cafés and along lovely cobblestone streets, or take the passenger ferry—located just steps away from our hotel—to Como’s three-times-weekly colorful outdoor market.

◆ Hear it from the Experts! Meet a Como scholar who will present a lecture on his città natale (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.

◆ Experience the best of the Italian Lake District in unspoiled Como, on picturesque Isola Bella surrounded by Lake Maggiore and amid the Alpine splendor of Cernobbio.

◆ Engage with local lombardi during the VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM where they will share their candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in the majestic Italian Lake District.

◆ Admire the magnificent 18th-century architecture and elaborate terraced gardens of the Italian National Trust’s Villa del Balbianello.

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

◆ Sample authentic Italian regional specialties during included dinners in the hotel and in a typical Cernobbio ristorante.

◆ Choose to take the opportunity to visit the hilltop town of Bergamo and walk through the 16th-century Città Alta (Upper Town), known for its impressive medieval and Renaissance architecture.

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

Visit picturesque Cernobbio, a splendid combination of fin-de-siècle architecture and stunning panoramic views of Lake Como. Inset above: Statue at Villa del Balbianello.
Cernobbio

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 Italian Lake District.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: A local scholar presents a private lecture about Como from the Roman era to the present.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: During the exclusive VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM, residents will discuss contemporary life in the extraordinarily beautiful and historic Italian Lake District.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Local art historian and resident Giuseppina Lucini presents an exclusive lecture about Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Savor the delights of northern Italian cuisine while enjoying dinner in a local Cernobbio ristorante.

Isola Bella is the most spectacular of the Borromean Islands, located on the Italian side of Lake Maggiore. Visit a magnificent 16th-century villa and stroll through one of the most beautiful gardens in the world.
CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Just steps from the hotel, you can board the passenger ferry and discover for yourself the impossibly picturesque villages and communes that surround glittering Lake Como.

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. At one time, Como was the largest European silk producer—dyeing, weaving and designing fabrics to be 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. See the magnificent Duomo di Como, considered to be the most beautiful cathedral in Lombardy—it took nearly 400 years to complete and reflects a seamless blend of Gothic and Renaissance styles.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: 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 and learn more about its fascinating history and allure as you pass in front of quaint coastal villages like Bellagio and grand Renaissance villas, built on the surrounding snowcapped mountainsides.

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 spectacular in the Italian Lake District. Lake Maggiore’s mild climate allows gardens to grow rare and exotic plants in the beautiful landscape beneath the high Alps, particularly on the remarkable Borromean Islands.

Bellagio
Perched on a promontory punctuated by stands of cypress trees, Bellagio is one of the Italian Lake District’s most internationally well-known communes 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.
Enjoy a private boat cruise across the deep, clear waters and amidst its charming islands 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.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Walk through Isola Bella’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, decorated entirely 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*.

**Bergamo**
Once a Roman settlement, the beautiful hilltop town of Bergamo owes much of its artistic and architectural abundance to Venice, which ruled the town for nearly four centuries beginning in 1428. The historic Città Alta (Upper Town) is likened to an open-air museum because of its picturesque cobblestone streets and handsome medieval and Renaissance buildings.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT OPTION: Join this full-day optional excursion including a walking tour of the captivating Città Alta, which is surrounded by impressive 17th-century fortifications. Visit the Piazza Vecchia, the loveliest area of the Upper Town, where you can see the 12th-century Palazzo della Ragione—the oldest town hall in Italy—and the iconic Cittadella built by the Visconti in the mid-14th century.

**Hotel Regina Olga**
Overlooking Lake Como in the charming village of Cernobbio, Hotel Regina Olga combines traditional Italian ambiance with modern amenities, exceptional service and comfortable accommodations. Its classic 19th-century Italian style takes you back to the golden age of travel when the hotel first opened. By special arrangement, your room features a lovely view of legendary Lake Como. Accommodations have a private bathroom, air conditioning, direct-dial telephone, satellite television, complimentary in-room WiFi, 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.

**Milan’s Masterpieces**
Pre-Program Option
Recognized as the capital of the design and fashion worlds, Milan has an ancient cultural heritage and legacy that blends its 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-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie to experience the genius and beauty of Leonardo da Vinci’s renowned masterpiece, The Last Supper. Accommodations for two nights are in the deluxe Sheraton Diana Majestic.

The Pre-Program Option and the Bergamo Optional Excursion are at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
Included Features

**In Cernobbio**
- Seven nights in the charming HOTEL REGINA OLGA featuring comfortable accommodations overlooking Lake Como.
- Full buffet breakfast each morning.
- Three dinners in the hotel and one dinner in a traditional restaurant, featuring northern Italian specialties with Italian wines.
- Welcome Reception featuring Italian wines, including prosecco.

**Local Expert-Guided Excursions**
- Walking tour of Old Como.
- Private boat cruise across Lake Como to medieval Bellagio.
- Spectacular, full-day scenic tour of Lake Maggiore, featuring a private cruise of the Borromean Islands.

**Exclusive Cultural Enrichments**
- Exclusively arranged, private lectures: Como history and culture presented by a local scholar and Como native, and a presentation on the life of Leonardo da Vinci by an art historian and resident of Como.
- Specially arranged VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM with local Lombardy residents.
- Private guided tour of the Italian National Trust’s magnificent 18th-century Villa del Balbianello.
- Visit to Lake Maggiore’s 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, and to experience Stresa’s spectacular views and tropical gardens on Lake Maggiore.
- Opportunities to explore local markets in Como and Cernobbio at your own pace.
- 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 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.
- Complimentary bottled water while on excursions.
- Optional Excursion to charming Bergamo is available at additional cost.
- Hospitality desk in the hotel.
- 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 Lake District

For centuries, Italy’s Lake District has seduced hearts, minds and souls, including those of Virgil, Napoleon, Byron, Stendhal, Wordsworth, Shelley, Wharton, Verdi, Puccini, Toscanini, Twain 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 Romans, Middle Ages and Renaissance, nobility built magnificent holiday villas, filled them with priceless art and laid out extraordinary gardens. European aristocrats of the 18th and 19th centuries considered the Italian Lake District an essential stop on their “Grand Tour” of Europe.

Lombardy became one of the richest and most economically developed areas of Italy and Europe, thanks to its agricultural production, trade and banking activities that extended throughout the continent.

To this day, the region remains of paramount importance to Italy. The mild climate and the beauty of snowcapped Alpine peaks descending to serene lake shores continue to lure the rich, the famous and travelers from around the world. From the deep-blue glacial lakes of Como and Maggiore to the enchanting Villa del Balbianello, and from colorful Bellagio—“Pearl of the Lake”—to the modern sophistication of Milan, discover the exquisite gem that is the Italian Lake District.

The beautiful town of Stresa on Lake Maggiore has beckoned artists, authors and European aristocracy for centuries.
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***

*Per person, based on double occupancy

Early Booking Tariff* through October 24, 2016  
$3595  

Tariff* after October 24, 2016  
$3895  

Singles are available upon request for an additional $900.

*Taxes are an additional $195 per person and are subject to change.

**VILLAGE LIFE® AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES RESERVATION FORM**

Send to:  
University of Colorado Boulder Alumni Association  
c/o Thomas P. Gohagan & Company  
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446  

For tour information, please call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088.

Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Milan’s Masterpieces 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 2017 Village Life® around the Italian Lakes.

If 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 20, 2017.

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one double bed).
- Single accommodations.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- Milan’s Masterpieces Pre-Program Option  
  - Double at $895 per person.  
  - Single at $1250 per person.  
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

- I/we want you to book my/our air from  

  (fill in departure city)  

to and from Milan, Italy, at an additional cost to be advised.‡

- Economy Class  
- Upgraded Economy  
- Business Class  
- First Class  

Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements.
Pictoresque lakes, Alpine views and grand villas define the beauty and charm of Lake Maggiore.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESEVERATIONS: Gohagan has the unilateral right to cancel or change reservations which is or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers. All such names and entities are assumed to be responsible for their own actions.

As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act to or of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, planes, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, it is necessary or advisable to spend an additional night, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to accept as a travel companion a person from another group in the event of no show or late arrival, without reimbursement. Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, whether caused by third parties, weather or in any other way to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable in the event of any change, cancellation, or substitute motorcoach transportation using hotels, inns or lodges for cruise accommodations if necessary due to weather, water conditions or levels, other events of force majeure, or any other conditions beyond the control of Gohagan. Gohagan is not responsible therefor and is not required to compensate participants for any such changes. Cancellation penalties may apply.

Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a fare-paying companion in a similar category for those listed in this brochure. Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, whether caused by third parties, weather or in any other way to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

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TRAVELER’S RESPONSIBILITIES: Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; baggage charges on aircraft; sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to hotel personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air/airport tax(es); airfare and associated local taxes, airport facility and security taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the “Included Features” section of the brochure; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s); meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned in the “Included Features” section of the brochure.

AIRFARE: Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare Basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

LUGGAGE: Luggage allowances are policies set by the airlines and may change without notice.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special accommodations or transportation assistance must be communicated to Gohagan in writing. Accompanied by the required deposit, by those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, discounted reservations are available. Any physical or mental condition that may require special accommodations or transportation assistance, travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment. CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/PostProgram reservations(s) will be 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/PostProgram(s) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $600 ($200 Pre/PostProgram(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 of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: 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 for comprehensive coverage of 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. RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases must be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

BINDING ARBITRATION: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement, the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then existent. In any such proceeding, the substantive, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. 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. Photo Credits: Alamy, Estock, Glow Images, Italian Tourism Board; all images are rights managed and cannot be used without permission.