

Holy Cross Alumni, Parents and friends are invited to experience

NORTHERN ITALY LAKES

MAY 19-27, 2024



\$4,399 P/P Dbl. Occ.
\$5,299 P/P Single Occ.

\$3,599 Land only P/P Dbl. Occ.
\$4,499 Land only P/P Single Occ.



Our nine-day tour includes: round-trip airfare from Boston, MA; seven nights, four-star accommodations; four dinners including cooking class; breakfast daily; winery tour and tasting, olive tree trail tour with sampling.

OUR DAILY ITINERARY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

DAY 1 | MAY 19, 2024

DEPART USA

- ▶ We depart on our overnight transatlantic flight to Milan, Italy. Meals and snacks are served on board.

DAY 2 | MAY 20, 2024

MILAN – ARRIVAL

- ▶ Upon arrival at **Milan** airport, collect your luggage in the baggage claim area, and continue to the Arrivals Hall, where you will be greeted by a tour guide and/or driver. Make your way to the bus and transfer to your hotel. Following check-in, you will have free time to unpack, relax or explore Milan on your own. Your tour escort may suggest places to visit. Enjoy welcome dinner at a local restaurant and overnight. *Hotel Best Western Concorde or similar (D)*

DAY 3 | MAY 21, 2024

MILAN, SIRMIONE, LAKE GARDA

- ▶ Start the day with breakfast at the hotel, then follow through an orientation tour of **Milan**, stopping to admire the famous gothic-style **Duomo**. Our first stop is **north shore to Cascate del Varone, a part of a private natural park**. Here we will get an inside visit to the **Varone Waterfalls** which includes multiple observation points. The first view can be had from below, through the lower cave: from here it is possible to observe the waterfall in its final phase. We then travel to the south shore of **Sirmione**, the picturesque spa town on the south shore of Lake Garda. Transfer back for group dinner and overnight. *Piccola Vela Hotel or similar (B, D)*

DAY 4 | MAY 22, 2024

LAKE GARDA

- ▶ Have breakfast at the hotel. Today, you will have a whole day at leisure to enjoy this beautiful area, situated at the foot of the Alps and surrounded by mountains to the north and the gentle slopes of moraine hills to the south. Dinner on own and overnight at accommodations. (B)

Optional Tours:

1. **Garda Thermal Park:** Enjoy the amenities of this Thermal Park near Lake Garda, including whirlpools set at different temperatures and the natural thermal lakes. (\$80 pp)
2. **E-Bike and winery tour:** Guide will lead the group on a route through vineyards, olive groves, and lake vistas. The last stop on your ride will be at a winery where you will enjoy cured meat, local cheese, bread, and wines. (\$115 pp)

DAY 5 | MAY 23, 2024

LAKE GARDA, VERONA, LAKE COMO

- ▶ This morning after breakfast, visit the romantic medieval city of **Verona**. See **Juliet's Balcony** and enjoy some time at leisure before continuing to **Lake Como**, where you'll spend two nights. Upon arrival we will have a **winery tour and tasting in Domaso**. This tour includes secrets behind the region's wine making, breathtaking views of Lake Como, and an introduction of the winemakers with an explanation of the winery's history. Dinner on own and overnight at accommodations. *Hotel Villa Fiori or similar (B)*

DAY 6 | MAY 24, 2024

LAKE COMO, EXCURSION TO BELLAGIO

- ▶ Enjoy breakfast to start the day. Inspiring everyone from Roman senators and great composers to Hollywood actors, Como is the romantic image of the lakes, its cobalt-blue waters lined with magnificent mountains, lush gardens, and grand villas. Take the ferry boat around **Lake Como** to the lakeside towns. Here you'll enjoy breathing the fresh mountain air while your eyes will feast on the natural beauty. Join the included boat trip to **Bellagio**, which occupies one of the most scenic positions in all of Italy. Today we get to cook and eat with a view and prepare Italian specialties together in the picturesque setting of a hilltop restaurant overlooking Lake Como. Overnight at accommodations. (B, D)

DAY 7 | MAY 25, 2024

LAKE COMO-LUGANO, SWITZERLAND-LAKE MAGGIORE, ITALY

- ▶ After breakfast today, leave **Lake Como** and cross the border into **Switzerland**, on the way to enchanting **Lake Maggiore**. Along the way enjoy an excursion to beautiful **Lake Lugano**, and visit the stylish city that bears its name, **Lugano**. Enjoy an olive sampling and history of its production on your visit through the olive tree trail. Afterward, leave Switzerland and cross back into Italy, driving to **Lake Maggiore** to reach your accommodation in the late afternoon. Dinner on own and overnight at accommodations. *Hotel Splendid or similar (B)*

DAY 8 | MAY 26, 2024

LAKE MAGGIORE

- ▶ Have breakfast at accommodations. Set between Piedmont, Lombardy, and Switzerland, **Lake Maggiore** is a paradise of crystal waters, backed by towering mountains and surrounded by lush countryside. We will see the three Borromean Islands – **Isola Bella**, **Isola Madre**, and **Isola dei Pescatori**, which lie in a wide gulf surrounded by mountains on the western side of Lake Maggiore. After boarding the boat in **Baveno** you will first cruise around Isola Madre, with its exotic and lush gardens which almost totally cover the island. Proceed to Isola Bella, which is perhaps the most well-known of the islands. Here is located the Palazzo which offers visitors an elegant setting and contains priceless works of art. Wander around the stunning gardens, which form an extraordinary flowering monument laid out over a series of ornate and overlapping terraces. Embark again on the boat and cruise around Isola dei Pescatori before reaching Stresa. A stop will be made here to give you time to wander around. Cruise back to the mainland. Farewell Dinner and overnight at accommodations. (B, D)

DAY 9 | MAY 27, 2024

DEPART ITALY – USA FLIGHT

- ▶ Enjoy your last breakfast at your accommodations during this tour. Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the US. (B)