



Bergamo

# Bellissima Northern Italy

*The gems of Northern Italy from Milan to Venice, in depth, up close and extraordinary!*

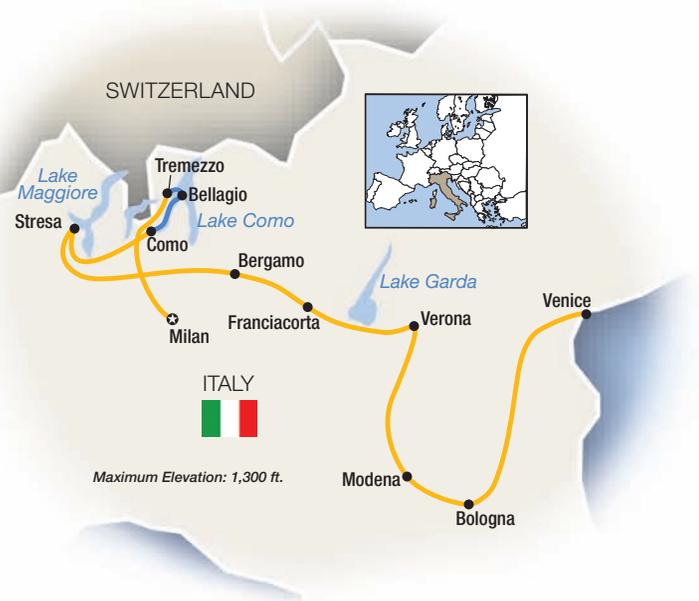
11 DAYS FROM \$7,190 | ALL SMALL GROUP DEPARTURES

## 1. Benvenuti a Milano!

**Tour begins: 6:30 PM, Grand Hotel et de Milan.** A transfer is included from Milan's Malpensa Airport or Linate Airport to Grand Hotel et de Milan, close to the La Scala Opera House and the city's celebrated fashion district. Please join us to meet your Tauck Director and your fellow travelers at a welcome reception followed by dinner this evening. **Meals D**

## 2. Art and architecture of Milan

Milan's wealth of art and architecture awaits on your first day of sightseeing in this remarkable city. Subject to availability, visit the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie to take in Leonardo da Vinci's mural *The Last Supper*. With dimensions of 15 by 29 feet, this beloved mural covers



Maximum Elevation: 1,300 ft.

## Uniquely Tauck

- Experience an after-hours guided visit to St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, a rare opportunity to view eight centuries of mosaics, its gem studded altar and ancient relics without crowds
- Cruise across Lake Como and Lake Maggiore by private boat, immersing in spectacular scenery as you make your way to elegant, garden-graced villas for eye-opening locally guided tours
- Join in a cooking class demonstration in Bologna, learning culinary secrets from a master chef who shows you how to create and plate the perfect pasta, sweetening the experience with a dessert
- Discover the art behind balsamic vinegar at a family-owned azienda, hearing how it is stored and aged for decades before it's ready to make its tasting debut, like the one you'll enjoy on your visit here



Discover the art and architecture of Milan on a panoramic drive through the city and on a locally guided walking tour.

the entire large wall. Then, continue on a panoramic tour of Milan by coach and on foot, including views of Castello Sforzesco; the Duomo, the great Cathedral of Milan and a striking example of Gothic architecture; the famous La Scala opera house; and the impressive Galleria Vittorio Emanuele. The rest of the day is free. **Meals B**

### 3. Lake Como villas and a cruise to Bellagio

Discover why Lake Como entrances celebrities, aristocrats and jetsetters alike when you experience it for yourself today. In Tremezzo, visit Villa Carlotta, known for its lovely setting and splendid 17th-century gardens decorated with sculptures, stairways and fountains. A private boat ride across the lake to Bellagio reveals the grand villas of the rich and famous. After lunch on your own, board another private boat for a cruise to Como en route to your Belle Époque hotel in Stresa on Lake Maggiore. **Meals BD**

### 4. Lake Maggiore and Baroque Isola Bella

Take a private boat to Isola Bella on Lake Maggiore and the exquisite Villa Borromeo. Count Vitaliano Borromeo began the construction of this opulent Baroque palace and its splendid gardens in 1632. A guided tour of the ornate

family home showcases priceless works of art, tapestries and furniture in an elegant and sumptuous setting. Have lunch on Isola Pescatori, then return to lovely Stresa, where the remainder of the day is free. **Meals BL**

### 5. Bergamo, a wine tasting & on to Verona

Drive through lush rural landscapes to ancient Bergamo, to explore its walled medieval center with a local guide. Visit the Piazza Vecchia, the 12th-century Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, and the Cappella Colleoni. After a wine tasting lunch at an *agriturismo* in the Franciacorta region, continue to Verona, land of Romeo and Juliet, where your accommodations are not far from Juliet's famous balcony that recalls Shakespeare's timeless tragedy. **Meals BL**

### 6. Explore Verona

Join a local guide this morning for a walking tour of Verona, renowned as the home of Shakespeare's tragic lovers,



Spend two nights in romantic Verona, the inspired setting of Shakespeare's tale of two lovers, Romeo and Juliet, and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its historic buildings and ancient Roman architecture including an amphitheater still used for entertainment today.

Romeo and Juliet, and of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Valentine and Proteus. Named a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its historic buildings, the city boasts an ancient Roman amphitheatre, the third largest after the Colosseum in Rome and still used for operas and other cultural entertainment, as well as myriad other buildings that have survived since Roman times. The afternoon is free to enjoy on your own. Join us for dinner at a local *ristorante* tonight, discovering even more reasons why this romantic city is a delight to discover. **Meals BD**



Take a private cruise across Lake Maggiore to garden-graced Isola Bella where sumptuous villas, ornately decorated, line its shores.

## 7. Ferraris, parmigiano & balsamic in Modena

Depart for Modena this morning, where you'll visit a Parmigiano Reggiano cheese factory to experience first-hand the process of cheesemaking; from the milk delivery to the finished wheels, follow each detail of the production and end with a tasting! Next, hear the story of Enzo Ferrari, driver and creator of Scuderia Ferrari in the 1930s, at the Enzo Ferrari Museum. Later, a guided visit to a family-owned *azienda* reveals the art of balsamic vinegar making – an elaborate, time-honored process of rendering grapes and decanting must into wooden barrels. Your visit is memorable, as is the sampling of this aromatic staple of gourmet cooking barrel aged for 15 to 30 years! Journey on to the celebrated university town of Bologna, where food, fashion and culture combine to showcase *la dolce vita* in northern Italy. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant steps from your city-center hotel. **Meals BD**

## 8. Bologna & a cooking class with a chef

Surrounded by hills, the dusky red buildings, marble-floored ancient porticoes and wide piazzas contribute to the distinctly Renaissance feel in the center of Bologna. The city is home to the world's oldest university, the Alma Mater Studiorum, founded in 1088, where notable scholars such as Dante, Boccaccio and Petrarca once frequented its streets. A guided walking tour this morning reveals sights that they may well have seen centuries ago, including the university's magnificent Archiginnasio Palace, the Church of San Domenico, Piazza Santo Stefano and the city's iconic

Two Towers. After time to explore on your own, learn the secrets of Bologna's cuisine in a late afternoon cooking demonstration by an accomplished chef. **Meals B**

## 9. Venetian Islands & St. Mark's after hours

Travel on to Venice today, one of the world's most enchanting cities. Venturing as far as possible by coach, board a private boat to begin an exploration of the islands of the Venetian Lagoon, starting with Torcello, where you'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards, you'll have a chance to tour its 11th-century basilica. Continue on to nearby Burano, known for its exquisite lacemaking and picturesque houses, before checking into your palace hotel. Originally the 15th-century private home of a doge of Venice, it overlooks the Grand Canal. Tonight a Tauck Exclusive awaits when you experience an after-hours guided visit to St. Mark's Basilica in the heart of Venice (subject to availability and day of the tour may vary), during which you can explore without the usual crowds! **Meals BL**

## 10. More Venetian delights as you please

Spend the day at leisure in Venice, perhaps starting with a coffee in Piazza San Marco, referred to by Alfred de Musset as "the drawing room of Europe." You may wish to take the opportunity to see the magnificent view of the city from the top of St. Mark's bell tower, stroll over to the Rialto Bridge, take in some of the city's excellent museums or shop for traditional Carnival masks and colorful Venetian glass. Perhaps you'll want to take a gondola ride, a must-do experience, especially with a singing gondolier. This evening, join us for a farewell cocktail reception and dinner at the hotel. **Meals BD**



Learn about the life and loves of Enzo Ferrari at an interactive museum dedicated to his cars and career in Italian motor racing.

## 11. Journey Home

**Tour ends: Venice.** Fly home anytime. A transfer is included from The Gritti Palace to Venice's Marco Polo International Airport and / or Santa Lucia train station. You should allow a minimum of three hours for your flight check-in at the airport. **Meals B**

### 2022 DATES

**Apr 16** **May 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30** **Jun 6, 11, 25** **Jul 9**  
**Aug 20, 29** **Sep 3, 7, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26** **Oct 1, 3, 8**  
 / = Sold Out!

Go to [tauck.com](http://tauck.com) for up-to-the-minute space availability.

### 2022 PRICE PER PERSON

#### July - August

Double \$ 7,190      Single \$ 9,235      Triple \$ 6,725

#### April - June; September - October

Double \$ 7,690      Single \$ 9,795      Triple \$ 7,214

Dates in **blue** indicate Small Group Departures averaging 24 Tauck guests, from \$7,790 per person double. Special Solo Traveler Savings dates in **red** indicate special departures where you save \$300 on the single room price.

### 2022 PRICE INCLUSIONS

18 meals (10 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches & 5 Dinners), airport and train transfers as noted, service charges, gratuities to local guides, admission fees, taxes and portorage.

### 2022 PREMIER ACCOMMODATIONS

Night 1,2	<b>GRAND HOTEL ET DE MILAN</b>	Milan
Night 3,4	<b>GRAND HOTEL DES ILES BORROMÉES</b>	Stresa
Night 5,6	<b>DUE TORRI HOTEL</b>	Verona
Night 7,8	<b>GRAND HOTEL MAJESTIC GIÀ BAGLIONI</b>	Bologna
Night 9,10*	<b>THE GRITTI PALACE</b>	Venice

\*Tour departing Sep 7 will stay at the St. Regis Venice.

International airfare is additional; call Tauck for special rates on air for travel originating in the US and Canada (subject to availability). For activities marked with an asterisk (\*) in day-by-day descriptions, participation is at your own risk and a signed liability waiver will be required. Certain exceptions may apply (will be advised at time of booking). Itinerary is subject to change. **Please go to General Information for additional information, including our Guest Protection Product and Activity / Pace details.**

**Activity Level 2 / Pace Level 3**