

AMORE IN ITALY

A Culinary Adventure in the Northern Lakes
Hosted by Amore Trattoria Italiana
SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 1, 2021

ONWARD TRAVEL ✈️

EST 2014



Lake Garda is 30 miles long and 1,350 feet at its deepest point

Chef Jenna Arcidiacono of Amore Trattoria invites you to visit two stunning Italian destinations in the early autumn of 2021: Lake Como and Lake Garda.

We'll start the tour by heading north to Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake, straddling the border between Lombardy and the Veneto. The lake's slopes feature beautiful vineyards, olive groves, and citrus orchards. Mountains lie to the north with hills and valleys to the south. Beautiful harbors are home to picturesque towns that we'll explore. We'll reside at a farmhouse on the Selva Capuzza wine estate, just a few minutes from the lake.

Our second destination, Lake Como, is often regarded as the most spectacular of the northern Italian lakes, positioned in the shadow of the Alps. Spend four nights in Bellagio, a charming town with cypress groves, gardens, and a waterfront of bobbing boats. The majestic shores are peppered with landscaped grounds, estates, and villas. It's a romantic destination, with an aristocratic 19th-century air. Join us to visit these two very special destinations... wonderful experiences await!



IMAGINE YOURSELF...

Cooking (and eating!)
fresh pasta and local
specialties

Sipping Prosecco in a
boat on picture-perfect
Lake Como

Looking out at Lake
Garda from the summit
of Monte Baldo

Welcome to Italy!

DAY 1: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23

- Drink Italy's best bubbly at the source
- Relax at a family-run farm with its own hotel/winery/restaurant

Benvenuto! We'll convene at Milan Malpensa airport and journey about two hours east to our homebase just south of Lake Garda. Lucky us, we'll be traveling right through the province of Brescia where Franciacorta wine is produced...so we'll stop to toast our week ahead. Franciacorta is a sparkling wine considered Italy's "Champagne" with DOCG status. We'll enjoy bubbly and lunch at a winery.

Mid afternoon, settle in at relaxing and peaceful Borgo San Donino, a farmhouse on a wine estate complete with vine covered stone walls and songbirds. Stay in a comfortable apartment, rustic yet well appointed with views of the surrounding countryside. During the three-night stay, we'll enjoy wines made at the onsite winery, Selva Capuzza, and dine at the estate's restaurant, Cascina Capuzza. Tonight savor a guided wine tasting followed by a three-course dinner inspired by what's in season.

Meals Lunch, Dinner

Slow Food Cooking Class

DAY 2: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24

- Learn about ingredient-driven cuisine
- Visit charming resort town Peschiera del Gard

Enjoy a leisurely morning at Podere Selva Capuzza... perhaps a morning walk in the vineyard. Then roll up your sleeves and head into the kitchen. Be inspired by the agriturismo's passion and commitment to quality ingredients and slow food. We'll take our time and have a fun, lively, educational class and then dine on the fruits of our labor. Recipes will be provided.

After some time to rest and digest, we're off to resort town Peschiera del Garda. It's a pretty, colorful town. Enjoy shopping, visit a museum, admire the lake, walk along the waterways... There's plenty of time to enjoy this destination as you please.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Magical Day in Malcesine

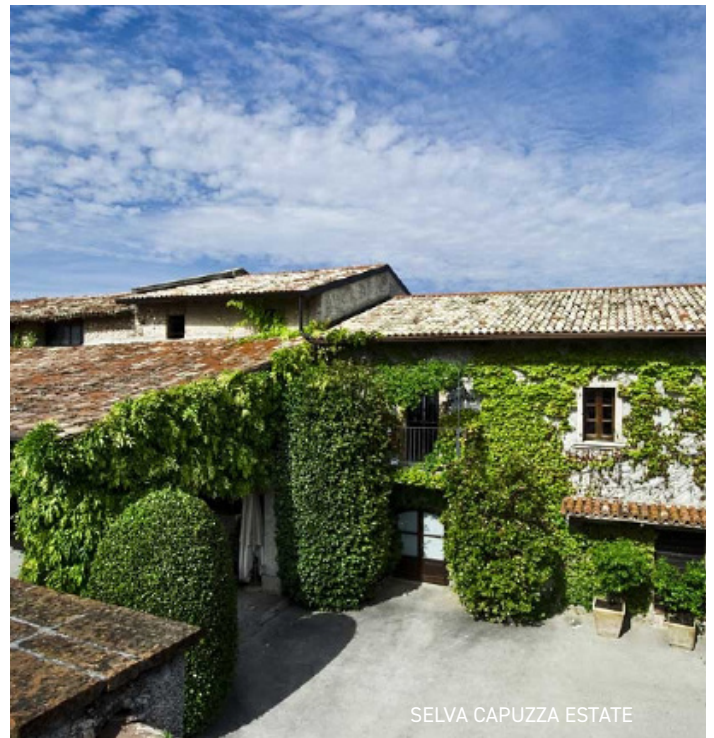
DAY 3: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25

- Get a bird's eye view of Lake Garda
- Taste olive oil reflecting the beautiful scenery

Today we'll travel up the east side of Lake Garda to lively medieval village Malcesine! We'll start with a birds eye view by taking the cable car 1760 meters above the lake to the summit of Monte Baldo. Get an eye full from the rotating glass cabins! Then we'll head back down to town to enjoy lunch together, and afterward, a walking tour. A local guide will show us around this well situated gem of a town. We'll stroll the cobblestone streets and visit Scaliger castle. We'll also enjoy tasting the local olive oil - olives are harvested around Malcesine and they make a fruity, light DOP olive oil. Enjoy time on your own this afternoon, perhaps you might grab a seat at one of the many cafes that line the port and enjoy a glass of wine and a conversation or hit the boutiques.

Once back at tranquil Borgo San Donino, we'll have a special dinner at Cascina Capuzza featuring meats grilled over a wood burning fire and local wines.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



To Bellagio We Go!

DAY 4: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26

- Gaze at true artistic masterpieces
- Toast your traveling companions on a rooftop terrace

We must leave the tranquil farm behind but the fun isn't over yet because today we travel from one beautiful lake to another! Our first stop is stunning Sirmione... this picturesque village is located on the tip on a skinny peninsula on the lake's southern shore. A local guide will meet us to show us this beautiful town including Castello Scaligero where we'll climb up the tower for a 360 degree panorama.

Midday, we'll have a lunch stop at an Autogrill because Italy's highway rest stops are culinary destinations in themselves. Then we have another treat in store, a visit and private tour at Accademia Carrara in Bergamo, an art museum founded in 1796. Accademia Carrara has paintings and sculptures from the beginning of the 15th-century until now, including many masterpieces.

Late afternoon we'll arrive at our base for the next four nights: Bellagio. Our home away from home will be Hotel Metropole, a lakefront hotel in the center of the village. Bellagio is located in the crook of land where the lake divides into two, and the views are unforgettable.

Get settled and then we'll share a special welcome dinner tonight at one of Bellagio's best restaurants. We'll enjoy local specialties like *Risotto con Filetti di Pesce Persico* (Risotto with Perch), *Brasato di Cinghiale Selvatico* (Braised Wild Boar) or *Missoltino* (Sun-Dried Lake Shad).

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



RISOTTO CON FILETTI DI PESCE PERSICO

Cucina Italiana with Chef Luigi

DAY 5: MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27

- Savor a day in Chef Luigi's kitchen
- Explore Bellagio's charming streets

Today we'll head into the kitchen for a cooking class with Chef Luigi at his restaurant, Salice Blu, a short transfer from town. Chef Luigi worked in the illustrious Villa D'Este for seven years and has already won 40 gold medals in international culinary competitions. He's pleased to welcome us to his elegant restaurant today. Chef Luigi is committed to using local ingredients, so when we arrive we'll enjoy a cappuccino and time to visit the herb garden behind the restaurant. Don your apron and roll up your sleeves, today we will prepare several types of fresh pasta and be seriously entertained by Chef Luigi's antics! We'll enjoy lunch on the terrace and take home a booklet of Luigi's recipes.

Perhaps you want to walk off the food coma and stroll around town or head back to the hotel and relax on the sun terrace... whatever you please, the late afternoon and evening is unscheduled for you to wander and enjoy.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

The Pearl of the Lake

DAY 6: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 28

- Immerse yourself in nature walking in the outskirts of Bellagio
- Ferry to small town Varenna for a traditional feast

Enjoy a lovely Italian breakfast spread, and prepare for a fantastic day. If you're an early bird, we're just a few minutes walk from the beach if you want to dip your toe in the lake. Or head to Bellagio's daily market to peruse the stalls. Mid morning we'll meet our local guide for a walk around charming Bellagio (are you in love yet?). Feel immersed in nature and this unique setting as we explore the area's lush gardens, olive groves, views, and even meet a fisherman to learn about the lake fish. Then a highlight: the romantic gardens of Villa Melzi where our guide will introduce us to the history of the gardens and of the villa. We'll then dine at a gourmet lakefront restaurant on fresh pasta and local wine.

This afternoon, enjoy time to explore Bellagio and poke in the shops. We'll take the ferry to Varenna, a nearby town founded by local fishermen in 769. Dinner is a big family style spread at one of Jenna's favorite restaurants, Il Caminetto (meaning the fireplace), a family run traditional restaurant located in the hills above Lake Como. Once satiated we'll head back to Bellagio full and happy!

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

La Dolce Vita

DAY 7: WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 29

- [Explore Lake Como from the water](#)
- [Visit one of the lake's most spectacular villas](#)

Spend the morning as you please. We'll spend the afternoon touring the lake by private boat, cruising around the central lake area, seeing villas and quaint towns from the water, glass of Prosecco in hand. We'll end at Villa Carlotta, a Lake Como must-see. The villa is sprawling and home to a beautiful botanical garden full of camellias, azaleas, roses and citrus trees. Built in the 17th century, the villa has an impressive art collection and opulence to spare.

We have a special happy hour planned tonight. Enjoy a guided wine tasting as you nosh on local cheeses and meats in an atmospheric underground enoteca. We'll enjoy a fun and festive group dinner tonight, our final evening in Bellagio.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Bella Bellagio

DAY 8: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30

- [Check off any lingering items on your bucket list](#)
- [Take in unparalleled views at Serbelloni Gardens](#)

It's your last morning in Bellagio, perhaps you want to jump on the ferry, go kayaking, or hiking... Or something more leisurely. We have been unable to shake the views from Serbelloni Gardens after visiting with a group a few years ago. The landscape is amazing and the property is owned by the Rockefeller Foundation, currently home to an artists-in-residency program. We will join the 11am daily tour for whoever is interested. It's a highlight!

Mid afternoon we'll board a luxury minibus and make our way back to Milan and check in at an airport hotel. We'll have one last group dinner tonight, sharing memories and appreciating the adventure we shared

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Arrivederci!

DAY 9: FRIDAY OCTOBER 1

We'll be at a hotel convenient to the Milan—Malpensa International Airport, so book your departure out of Milan and take the shuttle to the airport at your leisure. A train station is also available at the Milan Airport and Onward Travel can help organize transfers to other cities or airports. Journey home with wonderful memories!

Meals Breakfast



Trip Essentials

BEGINS	Milan Malpensa Airport on September 23, 2021 Please book a flight that arrives in Milan by 10:00 AM
ENDS	Milan Malpensa Airport Hotel on October 1, 2021 Take the shuttle back to the airport at your convenience. No activities are scheduled today.
SUITABILITY & MOBILITY	<u>This tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time, plus stairs and cobblestones.</u> Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.
TRIP LENGTH	9 days, 8 nights
LODGING	<i>Unique lodging with a local sense of place has been selected for Amore in Italy.</i> Hotel Metropole 4 Nights A charming hotel in the center of Bellagio's village, on the shore overlooking Lake Como. Borgo San Donino 4 Nights Lombardy's first agriturismo. Farmhouse-style apartments that are spacious and comfortable. Hotel Osteria della Pista 1 Night A comfortable and modern hotel near the airport with a great restaurant downstairs.
TOUR DATES & PRICE	September 23–October 1, 2021 Double Occupancy \$3975 per traveler Limited availability for solo travelers, please inquire. <i>Note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to Italy. You are welcome to pay by credit card, please add a 3% surcharge.</i>

Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities.
- Four nights accommodations at Hotel Metropole, four nights accommodations at Borgo San Donino, and one night at Hotel Osteria della Pista.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, six lunches, and seven dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences, wine included, of course!
- Local guide services throughout the tour to truly understand Italy.
- Activities, tastings, cooking classes, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.
- Pre-trip dinner at Amore Trattoria to get to know fellow travelers and post-trip reunion dinner to relive the memories. Plus an Amore hoodie!
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Register now!

Visit onwardtravel.co to complete the registration form and submit payment.

Space is limited to only 14 travelers.

\$1,250 deposit due upon booking, balance due by July 1, 2021.

AIR TRAVEL:

The tour will start and end with transfers to/from Milan—Malpensa Airport (MXP). Contact Onward Travel for assistance or to coordinate with other Amore in Italy travelers.

TRIP INFORMATION *Amore in Italy: The Lakes May 13–22, 2020*

About Onward Travel

Onward Travel is a group tour operator owned and operated by sisters Molly Crist and Katerina Dhand. Onward Travel is focused on unique, thoughtful small group tours with itineraries that are researched and pieced together carefully to ensure authentic, engaging trips that foster genuine connection to places and people. A deep love of hospitality and adventure has been in Molly and Kat's blood for generations as Onward Travel is inspired by their family's cooking school on a farm in Bucks County, PA that offered culinary-focused travel to customers for over two decades.

Miscellaneous Travel Information

- *Passports are required for American citizens travelling to Europe. Visas are not required. Note your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of travel.*
- *To determine the current exchange rate, Google "USD to EUR."*
- *Travel Protection: Onward Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. We recommend Travelex. For more information on available plans or to enroll, contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 32-0704.*
- *When booking travel insurance, be sure to familiarize yourself with applicable COVID coverage. Travelex will cover you if you or a family member contracts COVID before or during the tour, but it does not cover global events (i.e. a travel ban) or cancellation because of fear of travel. Read more here: www.travelexinsurance.com/covid19*



Get in Touch!

Contact Onward with questions
or special requests:

letsgo@onwardtravel.co

845-293-2729

COVID Considerations

As we've all seen, the state of the world during the COVID pandemic has been unpredictable. If we need to cancel or reschedule the tour because circumstances change and we feel we can no longer offer the tour safely, we will refund in full. But please note non-refundable expenses due to airfare or extended stays are not our responsibility.

Onward Travel is delighted to offer guided tours again, but we want to do so safely and responsibly. Due to the risk of unvaccinated people spreading COVID and the always-changing requirements by local authorities and businesses, **we are making vaccination mandatory for those traveling with Onward**. All travelers will need to submit a photocopy of their COVID-19 vaccination certificate showing date(s) and time(s) of vaccination(s) with the final dose having been given at least 14 days prior to your tour departure date.

The local ordinances and guidelines for travel in Italy will be changing, probably a few times, between now and fall. As a small travel group, we'll need to stay flexible and adhere to guidelines such as masking when necessary. Some elements of the itinerary may change. All that said, we are confident we can provide wonderful travel experiences. It is possible COVID testing will be required before and/or during the tour. We will arrange any testing that needs to happen during the tour and cover the cost of testing on tour. Testing required before you leave the USA will be your responsibility.

Onward Travel is requiring a COVID-19 Waiver of Liability form, get in touch if you'd like to see a copy. Hard copies will be provided for your signature by your Tour Director on the first day of the tour.