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Lago Maggiore and Piemonte

September 23rd to October 1st, 2026

This enhanced itinerary includes descriptive details about the landscapes, history, and atmosphere of the Lake Maggiore and Piedmont regions, immersing guests in the full touring experience. An eight-night tour, with the initial three days in the lakes, followed by 5 nights of serious wine exploration of the Langhe, Roero, and Monferrato regions of Piedmont.

Most of our tour days will begin at 9:00 AM with an expected return to the hotel about 5 PM. If we're dining out, that return may be as late as 10:00 PM. Our daily schedule will be communicated the day before. We'll use Whatsapp for this. Information related to Whatsapp is detailed in the orientation letter.

3-Day Lake Maggiore tour

The tour begins on the shores of Lake Maggiore, a stunning glacial lake framed by the Alps. Guests will explore the Belle Époque town of Stresa and cruise to the magical Borromean Islands. A side trip to the quieter, more intimate Lake Orta offers a change of pace, highlighting the diverse natural beauty of Italy's lakes region.

Wednesday, September 23: Arrival and Stresa exploration

- **Arrival:** Meet for a 1:00 PM pickup at Milan Airport (MXP), with provided transport to a lakeside villa. The 60-mile drive offers a dramatic shift from the bustling city to serene alpine vistas. For those arriving earlier, Milan offers a wealth of cultural experiences.

As stated in the orientation letter, we'll meet at the Sheraton Hotel located in Terminal 1 at Malpensa Airport.

- **Afternoon:** The afternoon is dedicated to exploring Stresa, a town famed for its elegant architecture and palm-lined promenade. Guests can relax at the hotel or sample local wines before dinner.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a traditional meal at a *ristorante* just a short walk from the hotel, where the menu will likely feature fresh, pan-fried lake fish, a regional specialty.
- **Overnight:** Stresa (Dinner included).

Thursday, September 24: The Borromean Islands

- **Morning:** The day is spent exploring the enchanting Borromean Islands. A short boat ride from Stresa delivers guests to [Isola Bella](#), where a guided tour reveals the extravagant Palazzo Borromeo and its impressive terraced gardens, a marvel of Baroque landscaping.
- **Lunch:** A short ferry ride takes the group to [Isola dei Pescatori](#), a picturesque fishing village with narrow, winding alleys and a timeless atmosphere. Lunch is on your own, allowing for a personalized exploration of its charming seafood restaurants.
- **Afternoon:** Return to Stresa in the late afternoon.
- **Evening:** Dinner is served at a restaurant near the hotel, capping off a day of lakeside exploration.
- **Overnight:** Stresa (Breakfast and dinner included).

Friday, September 25: Lake Orta and local wine

- **Morning:** Visit [Orta San Giulio](#), a pretty town on the more tranquil Lake Orta. An orientation tour reveals its peaceful charm before a small boat ferries the group to Isola San Giulio, with its 9th-century Roman Basilica.
- **Lunch:** Enjoy free time to wander the village streets, perhaps stopping for lunch and a gelato.
- **Afternoon:** Depart for [Cantine del Castello Conti](#) for a tasting of local wines, a nod to the winemaking heritage of northern Piedmont.
- **Evening:** Dinner will be served near the hotel.
- **Overnight:** Stresa (Breakfast and dinner included).

5-Day Piedmont wine and cuisine tour

The focus of the tour shifts to the rolling, vineyard-covered hills of Piedmont, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This leg of the journey delves into the heart of Italy's

Slow Food movement, featuring world-class wine tastings, a hands-on cooking class, and an authentic truffle hunt.

Saturday, September 26: Into the heart of Piedmont

- **Morning:** Following breakfast, the group departs Stresa for the heart of Piedmont's wine country. The drive offers changing scenery, from alpine lakeshores to pastoral hillsides.
- **Afternoon:** Experience a Nebbiolo wine tasting with snacks at [La Piemontina](#), a newer winery in the northern hills. Later, enjoy a gourmet lunch and wine pairing at [Hic et Nunc Winery](#).
- **Late Afternoon:** Arrive at the villa, check in, and enjoy a glass of wine by the pool, soaking in the serene countryside atmosphere.
- **Evening:** Walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner, continuing the culinary immersion.
- **Overnight:** Villa (Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included).

Sunday, September 27: Asti history and wine

- **Morning:** Visit the unique underground caves of [Contratto Winery](#), a UNESCO World Heritage site known as the "Underground Cathedrals". A tasting of five wines is included.
- **Afternoon:** Break for lunch in Asti, then join a local guide for a walking tour of the historic center, known for its medieval towers.
- **Evening:** Enjoy dinner in Asti before returning to the villa for a short drive.
- **Overnight:** Villa (Breakfast and dinner included).

Monday, September 28: Truffle hunting and Alba

- **Morning:** Embark on an exhilarating truffle hunt with a *trifulau* and his trained dog at [Tenuta Carretta](#). The experience is followed by a tasting of reserve wines and a sampling of local charcuterie and cheeses.

We are confirmed at the Tenuta at 10:30 on 9/29

- **Afternoon:** Explore the medieval center of Alba, a gastronomic hub famous for its white truffles. Enjoy free time for shopping and sightseeing.
- **Evening:** Meet up at [Wine Bistro Roberto Sarotto](#) for a tasting of Barolo and Barbaresco wines, followed by dinner in town.
- **Overnight:** Villa (Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included).

Tuesday, September 29: Cooking Class and Barolo Tasting

- **Morning:** Immerse yourself in the culinary traditions of Piedmont with a hands-on cooking class at [Agricola Marrone](#). You'll learn to prepare a four-course meal and enjoy it afterward with wine pairings.
- **Afternoon:** Travel to the town of Barolo, the heart of the "King of Wines", to visit the castle and wine museum. Free time is allotted for personal exploration.
- **Evening:** Experience a special dinner with wine pairing at [Marchesi di Barolo](#), one of the region's most historic estates.
- **Overnight:** Villa (Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included).

Wednesday, September 30: Cheese and markets

- **Morning:** Stroll the vibrant weekly market in [Dogliani](#), where you can observe local life and browse regional products.
- **Afternoon:** Travel to Bra, the birthplace of the Slow Food movement. Visit [Giolito Formaggio](#) for a tasting of eight different cheeses and wine, followed by free time for lunch and shopping in Bra.
- **Late Afternoon:** Visit [Paitin](#), a family winery near the village of Barbaresco for an in-depth tasting of its acclaimed wine.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a final farewell dinner at a restaurant within walking distance of the villa.
- **Overnight:** Villa (Breakfast and dinner included).

Thursday, October 1: Departure

- **Morning:** Transport is provided to Milan/Malpensa Airport (MXP) for guests flying home or continuing their travels. Departure for the two-hour drive to Malpensa will be at 9:00 AM. Guests traveling on Vueling, Air Dolomiti, and Delta will all depart from Terminal 1. Malpensa has a train station in both terminals for guests traveling onward.

Accommodations

[Regina Palace Hotel](#)

[Cascina Toetto](#)