



## NEW 2024 LAKE GARDA



20008

Veneto - Verona - Garda

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## 1 DAY ARRIVAL

Arrival at Lake Garda. Accommodation, dinner and overnight.

## 2 DAY SIRMIONE, BARDOLINO AND MERMAIDS' BAY

Breakfast and day dedicated to the visit of Lake Garda. Lake Garda extends for more than 50 km from north to south and is divided between three Italian regions: Veneto, Lombardy and Trentino. It is one of the main Italian and European tourist destination and certainly contributes to make the province of Verona an important vacation hub. There are so many places to visit, experiences to try and things to do and products to taste. Your trip starts from Sirmione. The poet Catullo call Sirmione "the pearl of all islands and peninsulas" and indeed It enjoys spectacular surroundings set between clear blue waters and lush green olive groves. Visit to the Caves of Catullo, the remains of an imposing Roman villa. From Sirmione take the ferry to reach the enchanting village of Bardolino. This town has ancient origins, testified by the old church of St. Severo, a small example of ancient romanesque architecture whose deepest layers date back to the centuries that followed the fall of the Roman Empire and first barbaric invasions. In Bardolino village you can still find signs of the Scala family control, in the towers and remains of fortifications. Nowadays Bardolino is one of main tourist center on the east coast of lake Garda, with its many traditional restaurants but also the lively bars and clubs.

Bardolino gives the name to the red wine which is produced on the hills surrounding the village. It's a wine produced with the same grape varieties of the famous Valpolicella, but lighter, fresher and more fruity. Bardolino can be found both in its red and rosé variety. Bardolino wine is the protagonist of the Grape Festival in October and of the Chiaretto Wine Festival held in November. Wine, but also olive oil, can be bought directly from producers in many wineries of Bardolino hills where you can also take relaxing walks on the Strada del Vino (Bardolino Wine Road). Stop for a visit to Oil Museum with a tasting of local products after the visit. Before coming back to the Hotel you will admire Punta San Vigilio, a small promontory not far from Bardolino. It is one of the most fascinating places on the whole lake Garda. To one side of the headland a little bay known as "Baia delle Sirene" (Mermaids' Bay) opens up on a picturesque little port. At the very end of the point where the park ends is Villa San Vigilio, the remains of a Roman villa, and a greenhouse with centuries old lemon trees, a palace and a small church. Back to the Hotel. Dinner and overnight.

## 3 DAY MONTE BALDO EXCURSION

Breakfast and departure to Malcesine. The northern part of Lake Garda is completely different from its southern part. Shores narrow and become rocky and steep, landscape becomes alpine, water becomes cleaner but also colder, even in Summer.

The eastern Garda shore is dominated by the Scala family castle of Malcesine, built on top of a rocky promontory overlooking the lake. The castle is very well preserved and you can visit it with the guide. In its rooms there are the displays of the Museum of Natural Science of Lake Garda and Mount Baldo. In summer, in its inner courtyard, it hosts concerts, music events and wedding ceremonies. From Malcesine you will take the Mount Baldo rope way which will take you on top of the highest mountain of Verona province. Cables rotate so you can have a 360 degree panorama of Lake Garda and the surrounding mountains. Stop for lunch in panorama mountain restaurant. Free time for a walking before coming back with the cable car. Dinner and overnight.

## 4 DAY VERONA AND VALPOLICELLA

Breakfast and departure to Verona, the city of Romeo and Juliet. The tour begins with Piazza Bra and the fountain of Madonna Verona in its centre, Arena, Roman amphitheatre from the 1st century ad.C, Castel Vecchio, Porta Borsari, Piazza delle Erbe picturesque square, Piazza dei Signori, Scaligeri arc and Juliet's house with the most famous balcony in the world. Free time for your shopping. Departure to the wine region of Valpolicella. It is the hilly region north-west of Verona between the town and Lake Garda. The name Valpolicella has probably Roman origins in the words Valle poli cellae, in latin "valley of the many cellars", proving the ancient wine making tradition of this area. Here it was produced a red wine, sweet and very concentrated, that the Romans drunk adding water and spices. Even if Valpolicella is known all over the world for its famous wines, especially the Amarone, its territory is made of beautiful landscapes, sweet hills that become mountains as you move north, valleys with old villages, gorgeous villas, medieval churches, making it a tourist destination in its own. Stop in a typical wine cellar to visit its vineyard and the wine cellar. After the visit tasting of red wines and local typical products. Back to the Hotel. Dinner and overnight.

## 5 DAY GARDONE RIVIERA AND GARDA ISLAND

Breakfast and departure to Gardone Riviera in the western coast of the lake. The waterfront settlement of Gardone Riviera is very much dominated by tourism, in an amiable and laid-back way. It's a small place with several hotels, a little piazza sloping down to the lakeshore and a peaceful lakeside promenade

decorated with well-kept flowerbeds.

As well as being a comfortable place to stay, Gardone has a couple of the lake's great tourist destinations on its doorstep. The home of eccentric poet Gabriele D'Annunzio (1863-1938), which he named after an Italian military victory: Il Vittoriale degli Italiani, is just about the best tourist attraction on the lake: a pretentious, excessive and rather bonkers memorial to a very unusual Italian. The town's other prize attraction is a botanic garden, the Heller Garden, also known as the Giardino Hruska Botanico, which contains tropical plants and displays. A short walk uphill from the lakeshore is Gardone Sopra (Gardone above) a very charming old historic centre to the village, with little restaurants, courtyards, stairs and flowers. The next stop will be on Garda Island that you will reach by boat. It owes its charm to the extraordinary Venetian neo-Gothic villa, designed by architect Luigi Rovelli in the early 1900s; an imposing harmonic construction, full of surprising architectural details. Starting its feet, up to the lake, you will find Italian and English gardens. The island is also known for its luxuriant and intact vegetation, rich in local, exotic plants, rare and unique flowers. Together with the guide you will explore this dream island and afterwards you will stop for an aperitif on the terrace. Back to your Hotel. Dinner and overnight.

## 6 DAY DEPARTURE

