



Lakeside

We land on the shores of Italy's Lake Como to discover three historical villas and a quartet of luxurious loft apartments, all with the most fabulous views across the water

Lake Como is probably the best known of all the Italian lakes, especially since the film star George Clooney bought a villa beside it! Surrounded by mountains and with villas and small, scenic towns scattered around its banks, Lake Como is smaller than Lake Maggiore but is believed to be the deepest, plunging to a depth of 410 metres near Argegno.

Shaped like a 'Y', the two branches of the lake have Lecco on one side and Como on the other with each of the cities at their south ends respectively. In the middle, where the two arms of the Y converge, sits Bellagio, often referred to as the 'jewel of the lake' and also as one of the most romantic of all the towns in the whole of Italy. There's plenty to do and see around the region. You can take a car ferry between the

towns of Menaggio, Bellagio and Varenna in the central lake area and there are all sorts of sports on offer from golf and watersports to hang-gliding and parachuting.

Lombardy in the north of Italy is considered to be the one of the most beautiful and vibrant regions of Italy as well as being the gateway to Europe. Rich in art, music, culture and fashion, it's also the most economically successful region owing to its industry and commerce. Bordering on Switzerland and the Alps, it's an area of outstandingly beautiful lakes and unequalled quality and diversity of life.

Reflections of the past

The northern lakes of Como, Maggiore and the Italian end of Lake Lugano are often referred ▶

Living



Villa Peduzzi, Lake Como

This may well be the last remaining unrestored Liberty villa on Lake Como which has become a popular second home and holiday destination for the rich and the famous – especially for Hollywood celebrities. The restoration work is just beginning with the intention of restoring it to its former glory and adding the comforts and refinements for the 21st century living.

Villa Peduzzi stands 650 metres above Lake Como on the favoured western shore with absolutely stunning views up and down the lake and to the mountains beyond. The villa offers an exceptional degree of privacy (extremely hard to achieve on Lake Como), being surrounded by mature trees and in more than a hectare of land.

Built in 1909 by the Peduzzi family who were involved in high profile building and engineering achievements in Italy, the villa has spectacular art nouveau designs on the walls and ceilings, ornate frescos and mosaic floors. Built over four floors and offering a total of 1400m² the villa was

abandoned by the Peduzzi family in 1941, when it was deemed far too big to continue to occupy. It was abandoned with everything left in its place – sheets on the beds, washing up in the kitchen and open books and plans in the office.

Villa Peduzzi will be available fully restored as four, four-bedroom apartments (one on each floor) measuring 300m² each. An exceptionally high quality finish and extensive landscaping of the grounds will include the addition of an infinity pool.

There is also an opportunity to buy the whole restored villa which will include the option to build up to 2000m² of additional accommodation on the property. This could provide guest villas, a gym complex and indoor pool or a recording studio depending on the owner's wishes.

From £1,214,703 :: €1.35m :: \$1,792,664
 £7,652,087 :: €8.5m :: \$11,287,145 for entire restored villa
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to as the Italian Lake District. The shores of these lakes have been inhabited since the third century BC and the name 'l'laghe' is still retained for those who live by Lake Como. It is more than just a name, it is a state of mind reflecting the natural rhythms of the lake and its surrounding shores, now vibrant with village life but retaining the simplicity of ages past. Its wooded shores are a riot of colour in the autumn while the blanket of green in summer

adds to the beauty of the shimmering heat over the water.

The villages have retained their character of hundreds of years ago – narrow, winding streets take you to the squares affording breathtaking views of the lakes. Lombardy's aristocracy lived in this area from the eighth century, building their villas on the lakeside, and those that now stand there were built mainly in the 17th century and still retain the name of the original owners.

Engel & Völkers, which specialises in the high-end real estate market, advises that there is a wide variety of property still available on Lake Como, from *rusticos* to the magnificent villas on the lakesides favoured by the rich and famous. Prices range up to millions of euros, so there is plenty of scope for the would-be purchaser of a home on Lake Como. One thing is certain, the lifestyle on and around its shores will prove an unforgettable experience. ►