

LATE SUMMER ITINERARIES

Enjoy the FAI Properties in and around Milan

The last edition saw three concierges suggesting visits at the FAI properties (Fondo Ambiente Italiano). We continue along those lines by proposing a few more itineraries to promote their invaluable work to preserve our cultural heritage. FAI was founded in 1975 to concretely promote a culture of respect for Italian nature, art, history, and traditions. In Milan there is the fascinating and hidden Villa Necchi Campiglio, with its unique oriental pottery and art collection: all of this surrounded by a delightful garden immersed in a quiet neighborhood. If, instead, you wish to escape the city, we propose three itineraries that will take you to the romantic Lake Lugano, to the famous Lake Como, passing through the green Varese province.

SILENT OF THE ORIENT

A crack of the whip which slices through the air and demands silence: from the traffic on Corso Venezia all one needs to do is walk beneath the arch on Via Salvini to be plunged into a magical quadrangle of streets right in the heart of Milan, which was once “plongé dans



"Photocourtesy FAI"

le vert” of the gardens of its noble residences. Today, we can tiptoe down these streets to capture the graceful details that Art Nouveau interlaced with magical oriental influences, embracing both simplicity and floral embellishment. And to conclude this itinerary, how could one not appreciate the Far Eastern artifacts at Villa Necchi Campiglio, FAI property, and enjoy in its setting a “tea ceremony”, featuring a minimalism and sinuosity that hints at Japanese style.

THE SET TABLE

Ever since the beginning of history, hospitality at the table has employed the charm of furnishings that gave prestige to the hosts and a sense of wellbeing to their guests, even going so far as to set up a true theatrical display of “good food”. The table laid with the dinner service custom-designed by the architect Portaluppi for Villa Necchi Campiglio, FAI property in Milan, forms the first stage in an itinerary which will lead us into the elegance of ceramics: from the 1930s to today, a journey as lively and delicate as porcelain itself, taking us through the mastery of a ceramist, and the temptations of the finest tableware shops.



"Photocourtesy FAI"

CLAUDIA GIAN FERRARI COLLECTION

De Chirico, Savinio, the Metaphysics and the return to order, but also the movement of the twentieth century and then Funi, Marussig, Oppi and Sironi: these are just some of the aspects that will be investigated when admiring the 45 works that the Milanese gallery owner Claudia Gian Ferrari donated to the FAI for Villa Necchi Campiglio: a critical anthology of pieces covering two decades central to the Italian art of the last century. Among others, we recall also Balla and Boccioni for the futurism; Carrà, Casorati, Morandi for the great painting between the two wars and finally Wildt and Martini, included in the collection with works of extraordinary beauty.



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THE LAKE AS LITERARY INSPIRATION

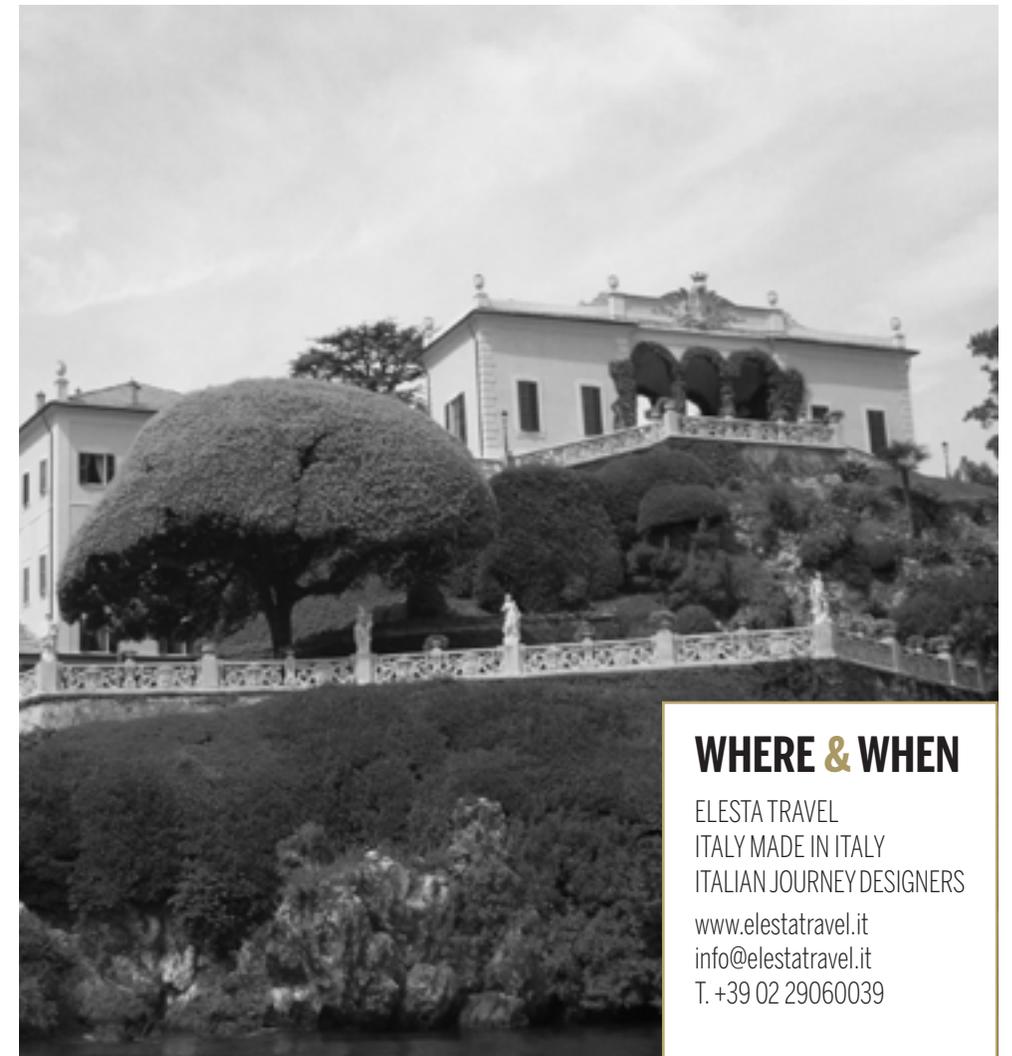
Although here we are on **Lake Lugano**, we can recall “that branch of the lake of Como” mentioned by Manzoni and we use it as starting point for a unique discovery, exploring the Italian shores of Lake Lugano and its surroundings. Here, **Villa Fogazzaro Roi**, a FAI property, is the first “literary” building on this itinerary. The lake landscape has **inspired melancholy and great novels**, and at **Montagnola** one can immerse oneself in the wisdom-laden pages of **Herman Hesse**. As a romantic framework to these main visits, we will admire the **church of San Sebastiano in Oria**, and to the frescoed parish church of **San Martino in the village of Castello**.



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THE PERFECT LOCATION

It's not a coincidence if the **Lake Como** is chosen as a movie's location by many directors. Even one little stretch of coast can surprise you with **superb palaces and astonishing gardens**. We are thinking about **Villa del Balbianello**, a FAI property **on the charming promontory of Lenno**: in addition to the interesting collections inside the villa, the visitor will admire the spectacular view on the lake from the **enchanted loggia** in the middle of the garden: on one side the magnificent lake landscape, on the other the little **Comacina island**, another surprise in this area. To conclude the day discover the beautiful **Villa Carlotta in Tremezzo**, with its **famous and luxuriant botanical gardens**, where you'll fall in love with the entire lake, its colorful villages and blue water, and the green mountains surrounding it.



WHERE & WHEN

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