

# Villa Vita INTERNATIONAL

*proudly presents*



## Stresa Sights -- Mountains and Lakes

Nestled between snow-capped Alps and the azure waters of Lago Maggiore, Stresa beckons visitors with eighteenth-century villas and gardens, medieval castles, music festivals, and the wonders of the three Borromean Islands. Perfect for first-time visitors, this Stresa package highlights the very unique splendor of the lake region of Piemonte, its foods and its wines, its breathtaking scenery and its culture.

**1st Day:** Arrive in **Stresa** and settle into your lakefront hotel room, close to the center of town and the departure point for boats to the islands. Stroll to the piazza for your welcome aperitivo at Buscion Wine Bar.

**2nd Day:** Begin by visiting the mesmerizing **Borromean Islands**. Private water taxi will take you to **Isola Bella** (“Beautiful Island”) with its outlandish baroque palace and Italian gardens, to **Isola dei Pescatori** (“Fishermens’ Island”), the quaint home to local fishermen for hundreds of years, and **Isola Madre** (“Mother Island”) with its grand villa and English garden. A private guide can be arranged to explain the wonders of the **Palazzo Borromeo**. Enjoy a relaxing lunch overlooking the lake in a famous restaurant on one of the islands (prebooked). Your three-island tour returns you to Stresa in the afternoon, to enjoy the town and a dinner of your choice in one of many restaurants.

**3rd Day:** In the morning visit **Villa Taranto** in Pallanza, lovingly created by a Scottish sea captain and now considered one of the most important botanical gardens in Europe. After a cappuccino break on the bank of tiny **Lago Mergozzo** continue to **Lake Orta**, said by some to be the most romantic of Italian lakes. Orta S. Giulio is a gem of history and art; medieval buildings in the town centre, Isola San Giulio with its Romanesque church and narrow alleys, the Sacre Monto dedicated to Saint Francis of Assisi, and much more await. End the day with a dinner of traditional Piemontese cuisine (prebooked).

**4th Day:** After a good breakfast travel up the mountain by cablecar! The summit of **Mt. Mottarone** offers 360° views of the Alps, seven lakes, and on a clear day, even the Duomo in Milano! Hike a bit, then enjoy lunch in a restaurant where local mountain dishes are served. Return via cablecar with plenty of time for shopping, strolling, then dinner and gelato in town.

**5th Day:** Breakfast and departure.

**And... depending on the time of year and the day of the week, enjoy the weekly markets in Stresa and the opportunity to attend a performance of the world famous Stresa Festivale Musicale!**

**SERVICES INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE:**

- 4 nights in a lakefront room with en suite bath;
- Breakfast at your hotel.
- Aperitivo wine tasting at a favorite local wine bar;
- Private water taxi for sightseeing in the Borromean Gulf;
- Private car and driver for visiting Pallanza, Lago Mergozzo, and Lago Orta.
- Lunch in a restaurant on Isola Pescatori or Isola Bella (3-course meal, drinks not included);
- Piemontese dinner in a restaurant with a view (3-course meal, drinks not included);
- Lunch (tasting-session) in a restaurant on the Mottarone Peak (3-course meal, drinks not included).



Entry tickets to the palaces on the islands (Isola Bella and Madre, Euro 16.50), Villa Taranto (9.00 Euro), and the Mottarone Cableway (18.00 Euro) are not included.

Rates are based on availability, season, and number of travelers. Please call or write for more information.

***Villa Vita*** International - 866-590-8181 [info@villavita.net](mailto:info@villavita.net)

*"I've had the incredible good fortune some years ago of getting to know this wondrous place called Stresa, and life has not been the same since. Since that time I've made it a goal of mine to learn all I can about this city on Lago Maggiore, and then, to share what I know and love about it with others. I started my blog, Stresa Sights, because I recognized a need to get the word out about Stresa. There's so much that is special here, and I believe that anyone who visits will quickly feel this way also. I spend some time in Stresa now, and the rest of my time in West Chester, Pennsylvania. I'm very proud to be collaborating with Gina and Villa Vita International, creating individualized and memorable vacations in Italy."*

-- Dana Kaplan, Founder

See Dana's fascinating and informative Blog . . .

*. . . a resource that will educate you, entertain you, and hopefully inspire you to come here.*

Please feel free to write, to question, to comment and to follow us."

[stresasights@gmail.com](mailto:stresasights@gmail.com)     [StresaSightsBlog](http://StresaSightsBlog)

~\*~

*also see Short Stories by Dana Kaplan*

**RITRATTI ITALIANI**

RITRATTI ITALIANI... PORTRAITS OF ITALY. THESE ARE MY LITTLE STORIES AND THOUGHTS, WRITTEN IN BOTH ENGLISH AND ITALIAN, OF THE TIMES I'VE SPENT NELLA BELLA ITALIA.