



VILLA D'ESTE

LAGO DI COMO





## A LEGEND ON LAKE COMO

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In Cernobbio, on the banks of the most romantic lake in the world, stands Villa d'Este. More than a hotel, it is a destination; the definition of tradition; the embodiment of a legend. Rita Hayworth and Orson Welles; Elizabeth Taylor and Nick Hilton; Linda Christian and Tyrone Power; Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner; The Duke and Duchess of Windsor; Ari Onassis and Maria Callas. It was here that their romances began.

Villa d'Este is the art of fine living. Located at the foot of the Italian Alps, near Italy's silk and fashion capitals, Como and Milan, it beckons you to leave the hustle and bustle of the city behind and indulge in the dolce vita lifestyle.

Built in 1568 as the summer residence of Tolomeo Gallio, a wealthy Cardinal with a great passion for art, the Villa remained in his family for two decades. In 1815, it was purchased by Caroline of Brunswick, Princess of Wales and wife of King George the IV of England. The Villa was transformed into a luxury hotel in 1873 and quickly became the destination of choice for European aristocracy on a Grand Tour.

Villa d'Este celebrates over 140 years of grand hotel tradition with a philosophy rooted in exceptional guest service and a staff that is trained and dedicated to meet the needs of the world's most discerning clientele... King Albert of Belgium, Queen Beatrix of Holland, Queen Sonia of Norway; Woody Allen, Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones; Bruce Springsteen and Madonna; Sir Paul Smith, Donna Karan, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein and Oscar De La Renta; Kenneth Branagh, Robert De Niro and of course, Villa d'Este's neighbour, George Clooney.

Members of the The Leading Hotels of the World, Villa d'Este and its sister property in Florence, Villa La Massa, are the crown jewels of an entrepreneurial Italian family that owns the Villa d'Este Hotels. Together with Danilo Zucchetti, the group's Managing Director, and his team, they proudly conserve the heritage and great tradition of service of both estates.



## THE COLORS OF THE SEASON WITH A VIEW OF THE LAKE

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Fall victim to the beauty of the Lake as so many artists, musicians, poets, writers and dreamers have before you. Franz Liszt, Gustave Flaubert, Stendhal, Alessandro Manzoni, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Edith Wharton all found inspiration here.

The 10 hectares of gardens, a magnificent example of Italian renaissance landscaping, are a national treasure, yet provide the backdrop against which life unfolds during a visit to Villa d'Este. The Mosaic and the watchful eye of Hercules are vantage points from which to take in the colours and imagery of the Lake- famous the world over.

A boat tour on the Lake is a must. No cruise is complete without a stop at Villa Carlotta in Tremezzo to take in the aromas of its botanical gardens; or a viewing of a true explorer's treasures at Villa Balbianello in Lenno. After all this, the gentle sway of the floating pool on the lake lulls you to rest.





The Mosaic at Villa d'Este, an Italian national monument.





## ETERNAL SPLENDOURS

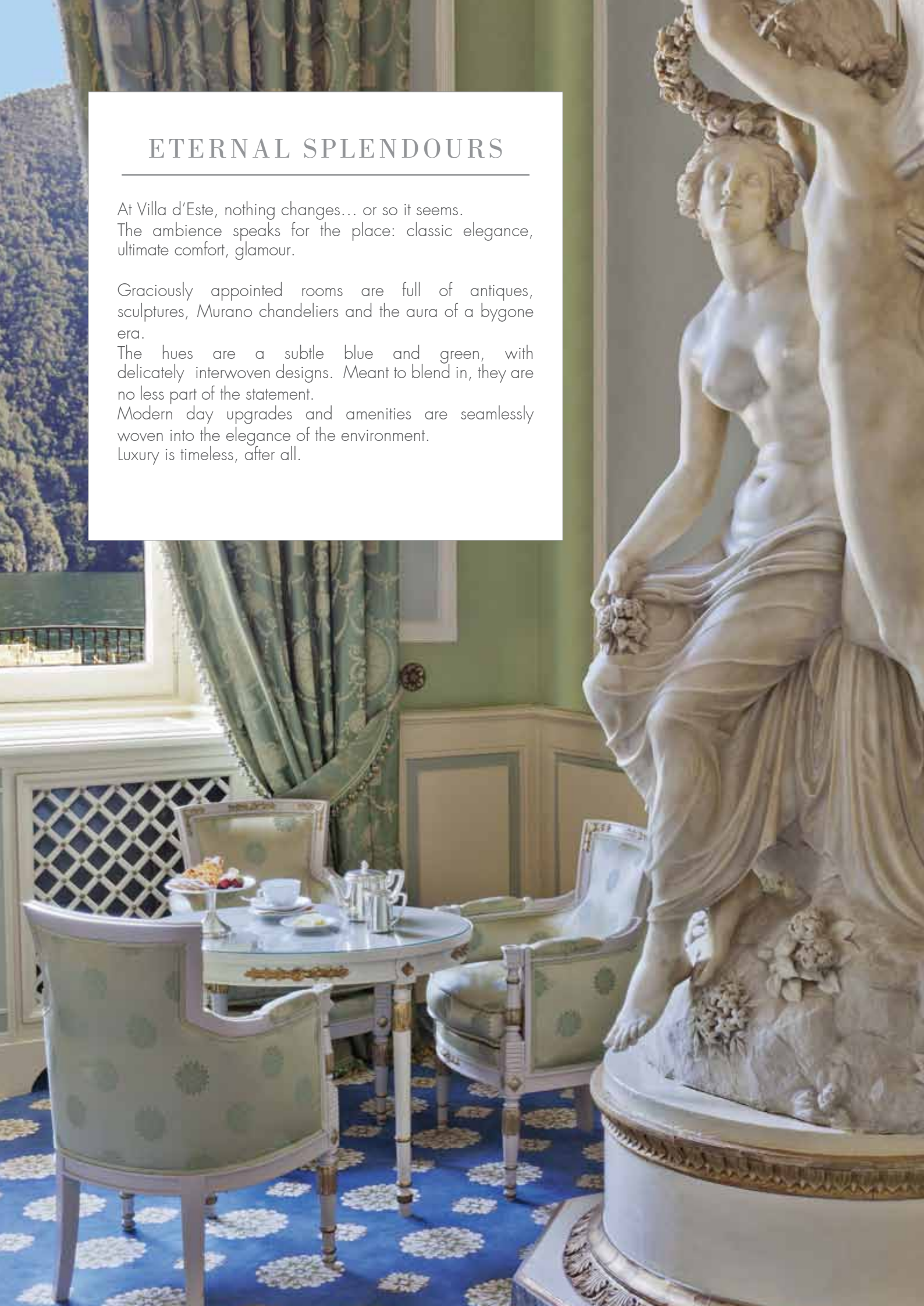
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At Villa d'Este, nothing changes... or so it seems.  
The ambience speaks for the place: classic elegance,  
ultimate comfort, glamour.

Graciously appointed rooms are full of antiques,  
sculptures, Murano chandeliers and the aura of a bygone  
era.

The hues are a subtle blue and green, with  
delicately interwoven designs. Meant to blend in, they are  
no less part of the statement.

Modern day upgrades and amenities are seamlessly  
woven into the elegance of the environment.  
Luxury is timeless, after all.







Grandeur and tradition.



Eternal elegance.

## SUITES AND VILLAS: EXCEPTIONALLY CHARMING AND PRIVATE

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The Cardinal Building houses guest rooms and suites, with lake views or park views. The Queen's Pavillion offers the same with windows and terraces facing the lake and the boats that silently glide by day and night.

No two rooms are alike in size or décor. The art, the custom linens and drapery - all deliberately placed there and carefully maintained throughout the years.

Four 19th century villas offer ultimate privacy and all of the comforts of the hotel within a private home. Villa Cima, on the lake, Villa Malakoff, Villa Garrovo and the Mosaic House set back amidst the gardens are the perfect home away from home - haute living at its best.





## ROMANTIC DELICACIES

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## GASTRONOMIC DELIGHTS

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It's suppertime. Guests meander through the elegant salons of the Villa, gentlemen in jacket and tie and ladies in their dazzling couture, they admire and are admired....it is like a silent movie. A "Bellini" lakeside as the sun sets on another day kicks off the evening's gastronomic journey. Cut to the next scene as you enter the Veranda and witness a ballet of maitres and sommerliers in their finest suits attending to every detail.

World-class dining at the Veranda is defined by Chef Michele Zambanini who combines tradition and refinement with his innovative personal style. The Chef's Garden: picking fresh organic herbs and vegetables grown in the garden just below the statue of Hercules - there are so many ways to create a memory.

The Grill's view of the park from tables under century-old trees offers a more relaxed ambience. In the summer guests can dine at the cosy Il Platano, a small gem at the hotel which has just 25 seats.

As the journey winds down for the night, a nightcap at the Canova Bar is in order, as the piano man plays guests' favorite songs.







Exit left stage. As you ascend the grand marble staircase to retire listen to the final applause.





## RECREATION... VILLA D'ESTE STYLE

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The Sporting Club is tucked away in the Cardinal Building, connected by a secret passageway. Discretion is guaranteed.

Indoors there is the option of the fitness room, sauna, steam room, indoor pool, and squash court and golf simulator.

Outdoors there are hiking trails with cardio circuit maps, a children's pool, a tennis center with eight courts that face the Lake.

The trademark floating pool below, the tolling bells from nearby towns, staff in tennis whites... It's a scene from a classic movie.

Water sports abound: water skiing, canoes, kayaks, SUP, sailing and windsurfing.

The Villa d'Este Golf Club, famous for its challenging course, is 12km away. Six other courses are within a short drive. No rest for the weary.



## BEAUTY ON EARTH

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On the first floor of the Cardinal building there is an oasis where a blend of aromas and colors invite a glance through the glass doors.

Upon entering, white robes dash in and out of Zen-like spaces, music plays and highly trained therapists in their mandarin-collared uniforms customize treatments for each individual. The goal is to restore your mind and body - true beauty.

No visit to the Villa is complete without a stop at the Tessabit boutique, where one of a kind haute couture makes for the ultimate treat. A peek into the salon of the Frattini family will undoubtedly lead to the purchase of a unique piece of jewelry that will become an heirloom, forever linked with Villa d'Este. Once purchases are made, it's off to Lilo and Pierre's Salon to put the finishing touches on the look before the evening's debut.







## THE ULTIMATE PLACE TO RECONVENE

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A few notable events draw friends from around the world year after year:

**The Villa d'Este Style.** The Coupé "Villa d'Este" (an Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 SS) was built by Touring in 1949 and won the "Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este" the same year being elected the most iconic car design of the time. Only 25 units were built and still coveted today by collectors from all over the world. Every year in April the owners of the Coupé Villa d'Este as well as design enthusiasts and collectors from around the world gather on the shores of Lake Como, at Villa d'Este to celebrate a full day passionately dedicated to Italian design and culture.

**Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este.** Since 1929, in May, the events celebrates automotive design, creativity within tradition and innovation. For three days the gardens of Villa d'Este are adorned by beautiful cars and people with a shared passion for automobiles - old and new. The event has been sponsored by BMW since 1999.

**The Summer Festivals.** The dolce vita is never more in vogue than during the summer leisure months, when the Villa d'Este on three separate evenings pulls out all the stops for an evening gala of fine wine, dining and dancing under the stars complete with a fireworks finale. Guests come together to celebrate **US Independence Day on July 4th**, **Bastille Day on July 14th** and **Ferragosto on August 15th**. A classical music festival provides a complement to these appointments.

In September, when life is back at work, the **Ambrosetti Forum** meets at Villa d'Este. A global economic and political forum, this event draws heads of state and intelligentsia to Lake Como, and has done so for 40 years.

In November, just before the Villa sleeps for the winter, the **Villa d'Este Wine Symposium** takes over the grand salons. The event draws international winemakers, producers and oenophiles who debate happenings in the wine industry and conduct unique tastings for three days.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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Villa d'Este is located 67Km from Milano Malpensa Airport, 83km from Milano Linate Airport and 34Km from Agno-Lugano Airport in Switzerland. The international train station in Como is located 10 minutes by car. The Hotel offers 152 rooms and suites located in the Cardinal Building and the Queen's Pavilion. Each room is decorated with fine antiques and art, has marble baths, air conditioning, satellite television, personal media centers and many have park or lake views and terraces.

Four private homes within the Villa d'Este estate that provide the most intimate getaway: Villa Cima (650 sqm./7.000sf., 4 bedrooms), Villa Garrovo (700 sqm./7.535sf., 6 bedrooms), Villa Malakoff (300 sqm./3.200sf., 4 bedrooms), Mosaic House (90 sqm./970sf., 1 bedroom apartment). Enjoy all of the services of the hotel plus the option of a personal chauffeur. Helicopter pad is available for arrivals and all types of limousine transfers can be arranged.

The floating pool on the Lake is a trademark symbol of the dolce vita at Villa d'Este. A kid's pool as well as a heated indoor pool are available. Fitness facilities are complete with a workout room, 8 tennis courts, a squash court, golf simulator and a nature hiking trail with cardio fitness guides along the way.

Water sports abound: windsurf; waterskiing, sailing, SUP, canoeing and kayaking are all available onsite. Six golf courses are within a short drive of the hotel. The Beauty Center offers a respite from the hustle and bustle of life with treatments to heal the mind and body.

Excursions may be arranged to nearby Bellagio, Isola Comacina, Villa Carlotta in Tremezzo and into Milan and Switzerland. Magnificent banquet rooms are available for seminars, cocktail receptions and other events.

### Dining

Veranda: Serving breakfast through dinner, formal and fine dining.

Grill: Traditional Italian cuisine, casual indoor and outdoor dining.

Il Platano: casual dining, open only during summer months.

Sundeck: Light refreshments during summer months.

Bar Canova: pre and post dinner cocktail lounge and piano bar.

Villa d'Este opens from March until November.



## A TEAM DEDICATED TO EXCEPTIONALLY PERSONALIZED SERVICE

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