



VILLA D'ESTE

LAGO DI COMO



PRESS KIT





## A LEGEND ON LAKE COMO

Villa d'Este is located in Cernobbio, on the shores of one of the most romantic lakes in the world and surrounded by a panorama of rare beauty. More than a hotel, a destination. More than an historical palace, a tradition. **More than a place, a legend.**

Everything at Villa d'Este recalls the **art of living**: the beauty and elegance of the location are the perfect backdrop for exceptional service, thanks to the staff's care and attention to detail that will satisfy even the most demanding guests. Enjoy the **"dolce vita"** on the foothills of the Italian Alps close to Como – the Italian capital of the silk industry and just 30 minutes from Milan.

Many **celebrities and stars** have stayed at Villa d'Este over the years: Alfred Hitchcock, Rita Hayworth, Orson Welles, Elizabeth Taylor, Nick Hilton, Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner, the Duke and Dukess of Windsor, Bruce Springsteen, Orlando Bloom, Jennifer Aniston, George Clooney, Al Pacino... just to mention a few.

A proud member of **The Leading Hotels of the World**, Villa d'Este is the flagship of the homonymous hospitality group and is owned by an eminent family of Italian entrepreneurs who also own a luxury resort in Florence, Villa La Massa.

In 2022 Villa d'Este has celebrated its **150th Season** with many exclusive events and the exceptional opening during winter time, initiative that has been very successful, and that will be repeated annually.





## TIMELESS ELEGANCE

The [history](#) of Villa d'Este began back in 1568, when Tolomeo Gallio, the wealthy cardinal of Como with a passionate interest for art, commissioned the architect Pellegrino Pellegrini (known as "The Tibaldi") to build a sumptuous villa overlooking the lake set to become one of his summer residences.

The villa was owned by the Gallios for more than two centuries, then it became **property of different eminent personalities** over the years: Marquess Calderara, Count Domenico Pino, the Princess of Wales and future Queen of England Caroline of Brunswick, Prince Torlonia, Baron Ciani, Czarina Maria Feodorowna.

In 1873 Villa d'Este was transformed into a **luxury hotel**, becoming a discerning holiday destination for the European aristocracy and upper middle class and an essential stop-over for the Grand Tour.

**Today**, crossing Villa d'Este's threshold feels like entering a world apart, where ancient splendour is eternalized in the architecture and atmosphere that denote **timeless elegance**: lavish halls, decorated vaults, plasters, arches, statues, paintings, Murano chandeliers.





## AN INSPIRING PLACE

Strolling around the **25 acres of luscious gardens** surrounding the villa, one of the most picturesque examples of Baroque scenography in Italy and considered a National Historical Monument since 1913, you will come across a series of architectural and landscape wonders: **the Shepherd's Arch, the Temple of Telemachus, the fortress, Hercules' perspective and the iconic Mosaic.**

Among **century-old trees** and countless varieties of plants and flowers, you will find the **Chef's Garden**, where herbs and aromatic plants are lovingly grown by the Executive Chef Michele Zambanini, who uses them to prepare his dishes.

The garden is part of "**Grandi Giardini Italiani**", a network that includes the most significant botanical treasures in Italy, taking care of their preservation and appreciation.

Like the great artists that stayed at Villa d'Este during its long history, abandon yourselves to the fascination of the lake, be seduced by the beauty of the ambiance, and find your inspiration.





## SUITES AND PRIVATE VILLAS, EXCLUSIVE CHARM

The 152 [rooms](#) and [suites](#), with views over the lake and the park, are divided between the **Cardinal Building** and the **Queen's Pavilion**. The rooms are refined and spacious, with period furniture, marble bathrooms, velvet and brocade fabrics... the atmosphere recalls old-time private residences.

For a more intimate and independent stay, it is possible to rent one of the **four [private villas](#)** located on the hotel's premises and conceived respecting the atmosphere of the patrician residences on Lake Como and the tradition of Villa d'Este: **Villa Cima**, on the banks of the lake, and **Villa Malakoff**, a jewel dating back to the 19th century, both featuring 4 bedrooms; **Villa Garrovo**, with 6 bedrooms and a private gym; the **Mosaic House**, for two people and located in a lovely corner of the iconic Mosaic.

The privacy and exclusivity of a private residence is combined with all the hotel's services: simply luxury.





## CULINARY EXPERIENCE

Luxury is also for dining. Villa d'Este's [restaurants and bars](#) welcome guests in refined ambiances, with cuisine perfect for any time of the day under the expert guidance of Executive Chef Michele Zambanini and thanks to the flawless service that identifies the hotel's style.

**La Veranda** located in the Cardinal's Building, the fine-dining Veranda restaurant offers glorious views of the lake, gardens and Mosaic. The retractable windows remain open throughout the summer and, weather permitting, diners can savour dinner on the lakeside terrace. Classic and contemporary Italian cuisine is ennobled with international touches. Executive Chef Michele Zambanini blends ceaseless research and the finest ingredients with the utmost respect for seasonal produce. In this formal, elegant setting, guests experience haute cuisine alongside a curated wine selection, in addition to professional service tailored to the desires of every guest.

**The Grill** located near the Queen's Pavilion, the Grill is a cosy and casual restaurant. In the summer, guests can dine in the garden beneath the shade of centuries-old trees, while enjoying picturesque lakeside views. Grilled meat and classic fish dishes take centre stage on the menu, alongside a choice of appetizers that showcase Mediterranean culinary traditions centred on the sea and land. Enticing pairings can be found on the wine list and the service is attentive and never pretentious.



## CULINARY EXPERIENCE

Il **Platano** is a refined Wine-Centric Experience that conveys exclusivity, culinary excellence, luxurious wines and attentive service.

Seasonal specialities, market specials and culinary rarities from Chef Michele Zambanini will be rotated throughout the spring and summer. Eight immaculately curated dishes are served as guests have the opportunity to craft their own tasting experience, choosing from 3, 4 or 5 courses, all paired with sublime wines. The menu is influenced by ingredients from all over the world, taking inspiration from European, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and Asian cuisines to match the wines from different perspectives.

Inspired by our Wine Manager Alex Bartoli and intended for connoisseurs, the Platano Wine-Centric Experience alternates rare labels, prestigious brands by the glass, vertical vintages and themed pairings from wine regions all over the world. Attentive service with a friendly and personalized approach guides guests during a unique Villa D'Este experience





## CULINARY EXPERIENCE

The **Canova Bar** has been regarded as the most glamorous place to sip a cocktail on Lake Como since 1873. The sumptuous interior makes the bar an exclusive spot to people-watch and to be seen at any time of day. Throughout the summer, guests are invited to sit alfresco on the lake terrace, beneath majestic chestnut trees and surrounded by the scent of jasmine. Here, the ritual of the aperitif, accompanied by the finest nibbles, becomes a sophisticated opportunity to marvel at the extraordinary natural setting while live music plays in the background.

The **Sundeck** is a superb place for a light lunch or a snack paired with an exquisitely made cocktail in the warmer months. Sunlight and the singular scenery accentuate the experience, while every expectation is surpassed through discreet service. Every day at 5:30pm, the Sundeck becomes a Champagne Bar as the sun slowly sets during golden hour and guests indulge in a memorable aperitif of oysters, fish crudo and the finest bubbles.

**Il Platano**, the most intimate of Villa d'Este's restaurants, proposes creative Italian cuisine. For a drink or a light snack, guests may choose between the elegant **Bar Canova** and its lake terrace or, during the warmest months, the more relaxed **Sundeck** by the floating pool.





## THE SPORTING CLUB

An inner passage through the Mosaic leads from the Cardinal Building to the hotel area dedicated to sport and wellness lovers.

The [Sporting Club](#), much appreciated by hotel guests and a highly select group of members, provides all the services to take care of your wellbeing: a gym with state-of-the-art equipment, sauna, Turkish bath, 8 lakeview tennis courts (6 clay), jogging path, squash court, electronic golf simulator, putting green, an indoor heated swimming pool, an outdoor heated pool for children and the iconic heated swimming pool floating on the lake.

For **water sports** lovers: windsurfing, water skiing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking and SUP.

Within a few kilometers from the hotel there are 6 **golf** courses, including the well-renowned Golf Club Villa d'Este, a 18-hole course considered one of the most difficult "par 69" in Europe.





## THE BEAUTY CENTER

The [Beauty Center](#) is located on the first floor in the Cardinal Building.

It is a refined and relaxing place, characterized by green marble, essential decorations, soft lighting, and the bubbling water of the wall waterfall that evokes a relaxing atmosphere.

Perfect for those who want to rediscover psycho-physical balance and for those looking for a soothing environment.

Here, expert physiotherapists and beauticians pamper guests with massages and personalized facial/body treatments, further enhanced by the use of sophisticated technologies.





## VILLA D'ESTE LA BOUTIQUE

Following the success of the hotel's onsite gift shop, Villa d'Este has launched its **e-commerce** platform, Villa d'Este La Boutique ([www.villadestelaboutique.com](http://www.villadestelaboutique.com) – Instagram: [villadestelaboutique](https://www.instagram.com/villadestelaboutique)).

It has been thoughtfully created to offer an **exclusive selection** of personalised products and accessories for men, women, children and pets, as well as home goods.

This refined collection of products are Italian-made and celebrate Villa d'Este's elegant style and attention to detail.





## EXCLUSIVE EVENTS

Every year Villa d'Este hosts [exclusive events](#):

**Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este.** One of the most prestigious events dedicated to historical cars worldwide, every year celebrating all-time creativity and design since 1929. Tradition and modernity transform Villa d'Este into a high-level automotive showcase. The event has been organized in collaboration with BMW since 1999.

**July 4th.** In order to celebrate the American Independence Day, every year Villa d'Este organizes a memorable evening with aperitif on the lake terrace, gala dinner with live music in the Mosaic garden, show and grand finale with fireworks on the lake.

**July 14th.** Aperitif on the terrace, gala dinner in the Mosaic garden and spectacular fireworks for an exclusive evening in memory of the Bastille Day.

**August 15th.** Celebrate the midsummer night on the enchanting shores of Lake Como with an aperitif on the terrace, gala dinner with music entertainment and grand finale with fireworks on the lake.





## VILLA D'ESTE STYLE

Also, Villa d'Este hosts a series of [events](#) dedicated to elegance and style, tradition and innovation:

**Villa d'Este Style – One lake one car.** This exclusive event celebrates the Alfa Romeo 6C 2500 SS Coupé Villa d'Este, the only car in the world named after a hotel, created in 1949 by Carrozzeria Touring in just 25 prototypes and in the same year winner of the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este. In 2011, the hotel bought one of the last existing models and since then every year it organizes an exclusive event gathering the owners of the other Coupé Villa d'Este, in a day dedicated to elegance, style and around Made in Italy.

**Villa d'Este Style – Vintage Yachting.** One of the most prestigious events dedicated to the fascinating world of vintage and classic boats, where style, elegance and tradition meet. Villa d'Este itself owns the "Vaporina Cranchi" (a typical wooden boat dated 1960), the "Abbate Villa d'Este Super" (dated 1961), and a "Lucia" (the Lake Como traditional boat dated 1971, built by "Cantiere Ernesto Riva" in Laglio). These unique and special boats are also included in the ASDEC Nautical Historical Register.

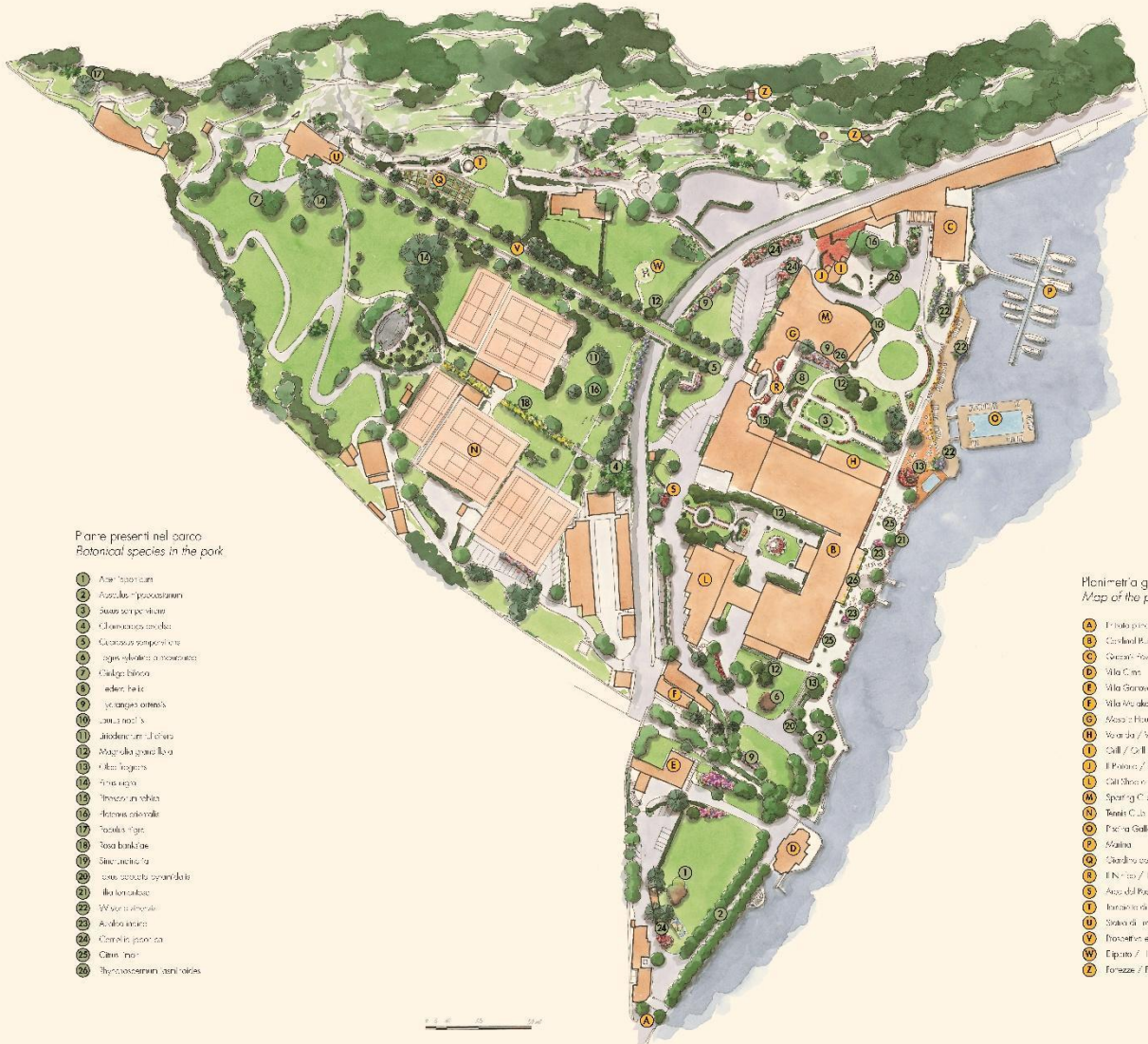
**Villa d'Este Style – Electric Yachting.** This exclusive event dedicated to electric mobility, sustainability and innovation on the lake is organized in collaboration with "Fondazione Alessandro Volta" - to celebrate the bond between Alessandro Volta and the city of Como - and "Cantiere Ernesto Riva". During its first edition, in 2021, the hotel presented "E-Next - Villa d'Este", a new electric model designed for day cruisers and sporting use, inspired by the runabouts of the 60s, with a contemporary design by Studio Frers.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

- Villa d'Este is located 52 km from Milano Malpensa Airport, 73 km from Milano Linate Airport and 34 km from Lugano-Agno Airport in Switzerland. The international train station in Como is located a 10-minute drive away from the Hotel.
- The Hotel features 152 rooms and suites divided between the Cardinal Building and the Queen's Pavilion. Throughout the Hotel you can hear music in full diffusion.
- Four private villas, located within the resort's park, offer ultimate privacy: Villa Cima (650sqm/7.000sqf, 4 bedrooms), Villa Garrovo (700sqm/7.535sqf, 6 bedrooms), Villa Malakoff (300sqm/3.200sqf, 4 bedrooms) and the Mosaic House (90sqm/970sqf, 1 bedroom).
- Helicopter pad and all types of limousine and boat transfer services can be arranged.
- The heated swimming pool floating on the lake is a trademark of Villa d'Este. The Hotel also features an outdoor children's swimming pool as well as a heated indoor pool.
- Sporting Club: fitness facilities with a workout room (opened 24 hours), 8 lakeview tennis courts (6 in clay), squash court, golf simulator, sauna, Turkish bath, putting green. In the park, there is also a jogging trail with cardio fitness guides.
- Water sports: windsurfing, waterskiing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking and SUP are available on site.
- 6 golf clubs, included the renowned Golf Club Villa d'Este, are within a short drive of the Hotel.
- The Beauty Center offers 6 treatment rooms for exclusive massages and facial/body treatments.
- Restaurants and Bars:
  - Veranda
  - Grill
  - Il Platano
  - Sundeck
  - Bar Canova
- 8 meeting rooms and 3 banquet rooms for exclusive events and meetings.
- A variety of excursions may be arranged to nearby Bellagio, Tremezzo, Milan and Switzerland, as well as visits to some of the most beautiful villas on Lake Como.
- Covered and outdoor parking. 3 recharging stations for electric cars (2 of which are for Teslas) and 1 recharging station for electric boats are available on site.
- Gift Shop and e-commerce Villa d'Este La Boutique.





Piante presenti nel parco  
Botanical species in the park

- 1 Anemone pulsatilla
- 2 Anemone pulsatilla
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- 26 Anemone pulsatilla

Planimetria generica del parco  
Map of the park

- A Entrance / Main entrance
- B Clubhouse / Building
- C Covered Parking
- D Villa Carlo
- E Villa Genova
- F Villa Venezia
- G Villa di Fiesole
- H Villa di Fiesole
- I Villa di Fiesole
- J Villa di Fiesole
- K Villa di Fiesole
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- Z Villa di Fiesole





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