



LAKE COMO

Painting Workshop & Creative Retreat

Bellagio • Varenna • Menaggio • Pescallo • and the gardens and lakeside landscapes of Lake Como

A week of painting, discovery & inspiration

Based in and around beautiful Bellagio, this workshop combines relaxed painting sessions with ferry journeys, gardens, lakeside villages and the spectacular mountain scenery of Lake Como.

OUR HOME BASE

Hotel Centrale, Bellagio — a beautiful 3-star, family-run hotel with a private garden. Bellagio is our central base, positioned where the three arms of Lake Como divide towards Switzerland, Como and Lecco. From here we will travel each day to our painting locations, using our minibus when appropriate and, most often, the regular lake ferries. The ferry pass is included.

Workshop length: 7 to 10 days. For longer workshops, additional painting locations around Lake Como can be included.

ARRIVAL IN MILAN

Arrival airport: Milan Malpensa (MXP). You will be collected by our minibus and transferred to Bellagio — approximately 1½ hours, traffic permitting.

Meeting point: Terminal 1, International Arrivals exit doors. Look for Raffaele holding a TUSCANY IN THE FRAME sign. If you arrive earlier than the group, you may need to relax at the nearest airport café until the planned collection time. If you arrive at Terminal 2, please make your way to Terminal 1.

Typical collection time: around 3:00 pm. Please provide your flight details when booking. If your arrival is later, let us know so that we can plan the transfer accordingly.

SAMPLE 8-DAY ITINERARY

This is a sample programme and may be adjusted according to weather, ferry schedules, group interests and the best light for painting.

DAY 1 — ARRIVAL & WELCOME

Collection at Milan Malpensa at approximately 3:00 pm, followed by our minibus journey to Bellagio. Settle into the hotel and take some time to relax and freshen up. 7:00 pm: informal welcome drink, followed by dinner at a local Bellagio restaurant. An opportunity to meet the tutor and the rest of the group, talk through the workshop and share what you hope to achieve during the week.

DAY 2 — BELLAGIO, HARBOUR & GARDENS

A gentle introduction to Bellagio and its beautiful gardens and lakeside streets. We will walk along the Lake Promenade, with the possibility of beginning with a demonstration by the tutor before moving into loose sketching and painting of Bellagio Harbour and the town. Lunch at your own leisure. In the afternoon we may continue along the promenade or visit the Gardens of Villa Melzi.

DAY 3 — VARENNA & VILLA MONASTERO

Ferry trip to Varenna, painting the views of this charming coastal town, its boats and the lake with the Swiss mountains beyond. In the afternoon, visit the Gardens of Villa Monastero. You can explore the Mediterranean plants, trees and flowers, or simply find a quiet spot to sit and sketch.

DAY 4 — PESCALLO

Visit Pescallo, a small and peaceful fishing village with a picturesque harbour. A wonderful opportunity to capture reflections of fishing boats against the imposing mountain landscape. Lunch at a local trattoria, followed by more painting in the afternoon. We will finish early enough to return to the hotel for some relaxation and the evening meal.

DAY 5 — A FREE MORNING IN BELLAGIO

A morning at leisure to discover the fascinating back streets, cafés and shops of Bellagio. Alternatively, there may be the opportunity to paint from the rooftop of our hotel. For those wishing to explore further, a fast boat to Como takes approximately 50 minutes (around €50 return, subject to current fares). Dinner at your own leisure.

DAY 6 — EARLY PAINTING & THE HILLS ABOVE BELLAGIO

An early-morning painting session in Bellagio, followed by lunch. In the afternoon, a short trip into the hills above Bellagio and painting from the grounds of Hotel Il Perlo, where we have fantastic views across the unique landscape where the three arms of the lake meet. Dinner at Hotel Il Perlo. We will finish early and meet with the tutor for an appraisal of your work and personal feedback on your workshop experience with Tuscany in the Frame.

DAY 7 — MENAGGIO

Ferry trip to Menaggio, another delightful lakeside town with beautiful views across the lake and mountains. Paint boats, flower-filled terraces, cafés, people and the relaxed atmosphere of this charming town.

DAY 8 — DEPARTURE

Transfer by minibus from Bellagio to Milan Malpensa. Departure time will be determined according to the group's flight schedules.

THE LAKE COMO EXPERIENCE

The workshop is designed to be much more than a series of painting sessions. Lake Como gives us an ever-changing combination of water, mountains, architecture, gardens, boats and village life. The pace is intentionally relaxed, allowing time to paint, explore and enjoy the surroundings.

For 8-10 day workshops, we have a number of additional locations around this beautiful lake and can extend the programme with further painting excursions according to the interests of the group.

A NOTE FROM TUSCANY IN THE FRAME

Our aim is to create a welcoming and inspiring experience where you can concentrate on your painting while also enjoying the beauty, food, gardens and character of Italy. Whether you are an experienced painter or simply looking to develop your skills in a wonderful setting, each day offers new subjects and opportunities.

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We look forward to welcoming you to Lake Como.