

# EXPECT THE WORLD

# Virtuoso

# Traveler

FEBRUARY | MARCH 2018

**COULD  
YOU BE A  
CRUISER?**

*(The answer might  
surprise you.)*

# Caribbean Calling

WHERE TO  
GET AWAY NOW

**LOUNGE ACT:**

*Lazing the  
day away on  
the Dominican  
Republic's  
Juanillo Beach.*

**PLUS:** CHILE'S LAKE DISTRICT BY BIKE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY VENICE,  
FLOATING BREAKFASTS IN BALI & MYKONOS BY LAND OR BY SEA

# ON LAKE TIME

Haute springs eternal on Italy's Lago di Como.

**The tree-lined shores of Lake Como** have been a fashionable retreat since Roman times. It's easy to understand why, says Virtuoso travel advisor Damien Martin of Leawood, Kansas, who calls the resort area, set in the foothills of the Alps in northern Italy, an "amazing combination of natural and human-made beauty." The key to the Como lifestyle, Martin says, is to slow down, given that "it's impossible to go anywhere without having to stop and marvel. You imagine how gorgeous it is," he adds, "and then you arrive and see that it's even better." Following his recent visit with Italian Dream, one of Virtuoso's on-site tour connections, we asked Martin to share a few of his favorite ways to dive into the destination.

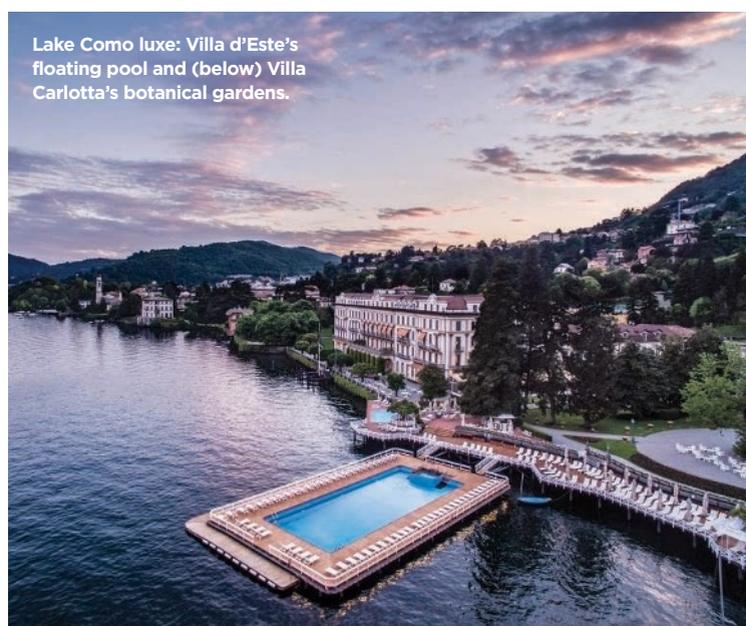
## CONSUMMATE COMO

For Martin, the perfect day on the wishbone-shaped lake

starts with a hike around the hamlet of Cadenabbia for a view of Bellagio, the famous silk center known as Como's "pearl." Then it's time to get out on the water: "A **boat tour** is a must," he says, "so you can gawk at the Alps soaring into the sky and stop to visit one of the lavish lakeside villas, such as Villa Carlotta, with its famous botanical gardens." (Virtuoso guests staying at **Grand Hotel Tremezzo** enjoy complimentary entrance.) Finally, head to Isola Comacina, the lake's lone island, for dinner at iconic Locanda dell'Isola Comacina, which has served the same menu since 1947.

## MANGIA, MANGIA

Speaking of dining, **risotto** is the dish in northern Italy; Lombardy locals prefer the rich and creamy alla Milanese version with saffron. The fish is always fresh



Lake Como luxe: Villa d'Este's floating pool and (below) Villa Carlotta's botanical gardens.

and fantastic, notes Martin, who favors two venues in the village of Lezzeno: Ittiturismo da Abate and Crotto del Misto, with its eighteenth-century wine cellar. **Il Gelato di Zoe** in Argegno is a must for dessert, he adds.

## DAY-TRIPPING

If you can peel yourself away from Como's posh shores, head to **Lake Lugano** and the Swiss city of the same name. Nearby you'll find the famous FoxTown outlets, where you can shop for Versace, Dolce & Gabbana, Fendi, and more top labels. Saint Moritz and other Alpine towns are within easy reach, as is the fashion capital of **Milan** (also the capital of the Lombardy

region), which, Martin notes, is "criminally overlooked by most American travelers."

## THAT'S AMORE

"It's difficult to find a more romantic setting than Lake Como," muses Martin, who suggests the area to honeymooners and couples in general. For "the epitome of old-world opulence," he recommends a stay at **Villa d'Este** in Cernobbio, in a lake-view room in the intimate **Queen's Pavilion**. With waterfront dining, a floating pool built atop the lake, and 25 acres of parkland, the hotel invites guests to relax and indulge in *la dolce far niente* ("the sweetness of doing nothing").



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