

L. B.

# BELLAGIO

Grand Hôtel Bellagio

& Casino  
Villa Serbelloni



L. BREITSCHMID  
PROPRIETOR



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Grand Hôtel Bellagio  
& Dépendance  
Villa Serbelloni

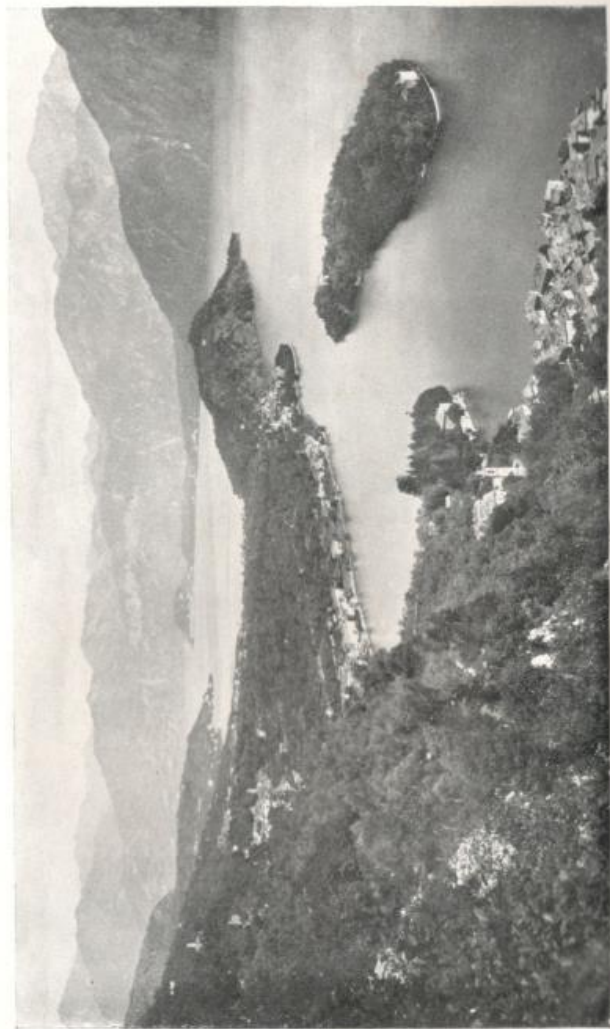
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L. Breitschmid,  
Proprietor.

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Villa Serbelloni.



The Lake of Como.



A bit of Paradise fallen from Heaven upon earth", so, in the figurative language of the south, the Italians call the landscape of the North Italian lakes. We are able to comprehend the fascinating pictures and enthusiastic verses poetry devotes to these lakes, when we, cool-blooded Northerners as we are — descend from the pine-wooded Alpine valleys; when we greet, in Locarno or Lugano, the country of ever blooming vegetation, of dark-eyed women, costly wines, and glide along these lovely blue lakes. Journeying in the neighbourhood of these Italian lakes, may be compared to a delightful ramble that fills the mind with the most noble impressions. On the banks are neat villages and also high on the mountain-slopes, where they hang on like martin-boxes; churches and chapels here reflected in the water, and there standing among distant villas and gar-



dens in incessant variation. Silvery olive-woods and chestnut-groves rival in picturesque beauty the oak-forests of Germany, laurels and agaves grow among the rocks, camelias and magnolias in the gardens, and there is above all that „intense light“, as Dante expresses it, which characterizes the sky of his country. Thus the fertile country lies fascinatingly before you and strolling from place to place, you are puzzled which of the three lakes to give the preference to. The „Lac majeur“ is adorned by the islands: Isola madre, Isola bella and Isola dei pescatori. The lake of Lugano equals the lake of Lucerne, and is favoured with all possible charms of nature. The lake of Como, skirted with pretty villas and villages along the shores, excels all similar lakes. In the course of time those tourists who wander with ravished eye and enthusiasm through the landscapes of the North Italian lakes, summer after summer, have felt the desire to choose favourite stopping places, whose fame for beauty they have thought fit to enlarge upon. If you ask the guides or the travellers themselves, where the principal charm of the three lakes lies, you will always get the same answer: „Bellagio!“ An Italian poet gives his feelings utterance in the following verses:

Spread out as on a stage arrayed  
We see towns, trees, air, light and shade  
Like work by old magician made.

Indeed as if by magic, Bellagio is situated at the utmost corner of this charming piece of earth, between the two parts of the lake of Como and in front of the three partitions of the lake. It is renowned since the time, when Pliny the younger was the owner of that pretty villa called „Tragedia“ on the „bilacus“. During all these centuries, Bellagio has been praised for its beauty and loveliness, and now-a-days it is the famous gathering-place of international tourists.



Bellagio.



From Lugano to Bellagio.

Most travellers bound for the pretty town of Bellagio, arrive from the North by the St-Gotthard railway, and greet at Lugano the South for the first time. This town with its true Italian character, the round summit of the San Salvatore, the double peak of Monte Camoghé and the silvery river Ceresio, impress upon your mind the idea that you would prefer the slower steamboat to the quick train, in order to be able to enjoy a thorough view of the surrounding landscape.

As soon as the steamboat leaves the pretty quay, above which the town is built in terraces, and is gliding along on the blue water, you perceive on your left the renowned villa Ciano with its splendid park, whose overhanging trees almost touch its cooling waves. Then among verdant terraces of the Monte Bré lies buried the picturesque hamlet of Castagnola where one villa seems to rise above another, while on the opposite shore at the base of the wooded slopes of the Monte Generoso the vinegrottos and hotels of Caprino become visible. Now there opens up the basin of Lugano, and we enter the mountain enclosure of Porlezza, reminding us of the lake of Uri. It is very strange to see a town built on rocky terraces, on the left shore our eye is attracted by the white houses of Gandria, in whose rocky foundations wild aloes grow.

The Swiss-Italian frontier crosses the lake at the romantic village of Ocla. We have now arrived within the political domains of Italy. The custom-house officers get into our boat and are searching for cigars, but this cannot disturb our enjoying the beautiful scenery. One can smoke very good cigars in Italy, though they are more expensive. Passing along, we notice the valley of Valsolda, the village Castello appears like a castle on a hill and then we see the pretty village San Mamette. The steam-boat crosses the lake and lands at Osteno from whence good walkers can reach in about four hours the top of Mount Generoso, famous for its delightful view. Now we arrive an hour after our departure from Lugano at Porlezza, at the east end of the lake of Lugano.

After this we may take the narrow gauge-railway (p. 29) which connects Porlezza with Menaggio, the lake of Lugano with that of Como. Sometimes riding through idyllic, sometimes through wild country and along the placid lake of Piano, the pretty cars soon bring us up to the height of Grandola (p. 29), which separates these two lakes. And then we pass the romantic valley of the Senegra-brook and down to the lake among mountains, villages and villas. This sudden and promising view is certainly one of the most agreeable surprises in travelling about the Italian lakes, and above all, Bellagio is the gem in this lovely picture which extends from the Alps of Valtellino to Lecco. This bewitching bit of earth enchains and fascinates our mind and thoughts.

We stop first at pretty Menaggio, the market town and principal place of Tremazzina (p. 28, 29), called the garden of Lombardy, but the crystal mirror of the lake, being here at its greatest width, separates us still from our beautiful stopping place. But here is the steam-boat crossing it, and we start at once for the Punta di Bellagio, the pearl of the pretty Brianza. This trip will no doubt leave upon your mind a lasting impression, and you will often recall that charming scenery in later years. Especially in April and May, when all the trees at Bellagio are in full bloom, their sweet odour fills the air, and at a distance the tints and hues of the whole landscape grow deeper and bluer.

Bellagio may be compared to a diamond, and the lake of Como the magnificent setting, and as we know that the value of a precious jewel increases by its exquisite setting, so the lake enhances the brilliancy of incomparable Bellagio. It may therefore be justifiable to say a few words respecting the lake so picturesquely surrounding this interesting place Bellagio.



Lake Como.

The lake of Como is considered the most brilliant in colours and since Virgil has glorified it in his work „The Georgics“, the Italian poets have never failed to give vent to their feelings in composing a great many stanzas on its beauty. The heroes of Manzoni's *Promessi sposi* have lived on its shores and are immortalised with the poet. The lake of Lugano and the „Lac majeur“ have been called, besides their common denomination, in poetry Ceresio and Verbano, thus the Italians speak of the lake of Como as the Lario after Virgil's *Lacus Larius*. The lake at Bellagio divides into two southern branches, and lies 213 meters above the sea. From its north end as far as Como it measures 48 kilometers, 1 kilometer = 3280.9' Eng., in length. The width varies from 1–4 kilometers, and its area is 154 kilometers square 1 km<sup>2</sup> = 250 acres. Switzerland and Italy share the Lac majeur and the lake of Lugano, but the lake of Como belongs entirely to Italy. The principal rivers flowing into it, are the Adda and the Mera, but the latter leaves the lake again near Lecco. The lake of Como has the largest abundance of fish of the Italian lakes and besides 20 different kinds of fish, the trout and a small but fine fish called in Italian „Agoni“ are prevalent. The climate is extremely mild and the temperature is not above 90° Fahrenheit, and seldom gets lower than 37° F.

The lake of Como is much frequented, particularly the section between Como and Bellagio; the impetuous lake of Lecco not so much, as it is less preferred by



tourists. Ten elegant steam-boats and four hundred freight and pleasureboats carry on the extensive traffic, which has greatly increased since the opening of the St-Gotthard railway. Silk-growing and silk-weaving prosper in the villages round the lake. The politeness of the natives renders business with them very pleasant.

The lake of Como is superior in beauty of scenery and picturesqueness to the Lac majeur and the lake of Lugano, but the greatest charm is added by the numerous villas which surround the country between Bellagio und Como. Many families from Milan and large farmers from Lombardy besides many other rich people from all parts of the earth, have built houses there. These villas adorned with every possible luxury, are distinguished by their architectural beauty, blooming gardens and big parks. But all the pretty villages and pleasant little towns with their nice churches and chapels which embellish the shores and hills, bear testimony to the prosperity of the people. The mountains with their precipices and cataracts and chestnut-woods make the picture still more attractive. The rich southern vegetation, protected by the Alps and the surrounding mountains, thrives here as abundantly and luxuriously, as it does only at Rome and Naples, but not on the Lombardian plain.

All this charm of southern beauty, loveliness and poetry for which the lake of Como is credited, is concentrated in this eldorado of Bellagio.

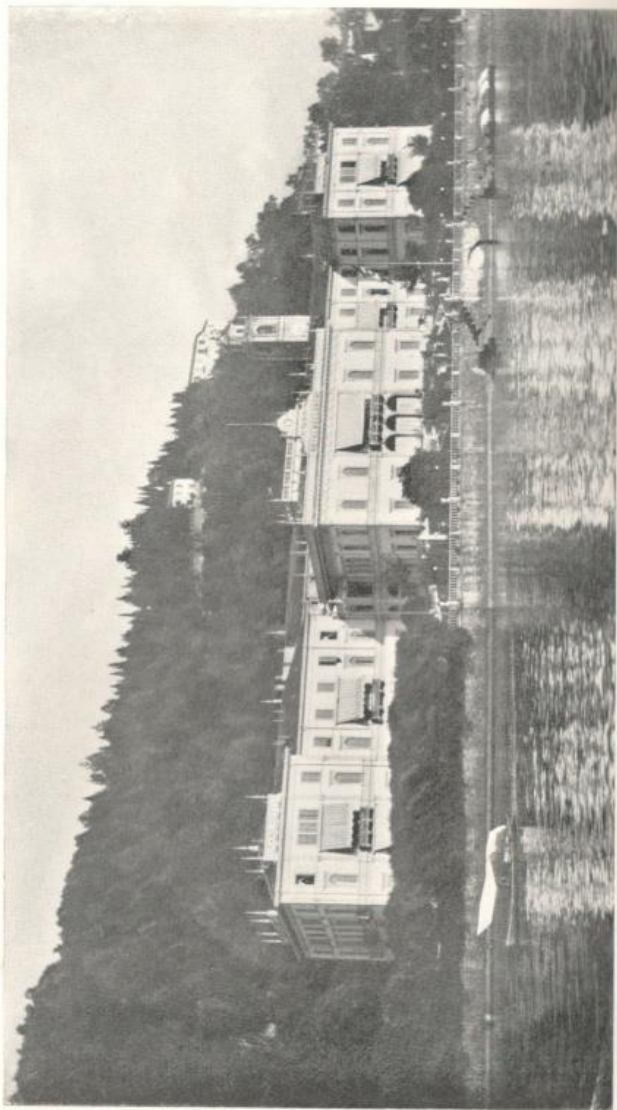


Villa Serbelloni.

### Bellagio.

The large village with 3500 inhabitants of pure Italian type is charmingly situated ascending in terraces from the strand towards the promontory and is overlooked by a portly steeple. Bellagio is the rendez-vous of all travellers who pass from Italy of the north, and vice-versa. Closely connected with the fame of Bellagio is the splendid hotel „Grand Hotel Bellagio“, well known to all travellers to Italy. Bellagio together with the opposite shore of Cadenabbia, to the peninsula of Balbianello (p. 27) is the finest part of Lake Como. The winged building is visible from afar to the passenger on the steamer. It is an unalloyed pleasure to reside in this beautiful hotel. The Grand Hotel Bellagio was formerly the luxurious Villa Frizzoni. It is erected in the modern style with the most elegant fittings and may truly be called a modern model hotel. The large magnificent promenades and gardens belonging to the hotel show off all the beauty of this blessed spot. There grow cedars, cypresses, plane-trees and all sorts of lovely flowers. From April till November the visitors enjoy the most agreeable life, and they get acquainted with the peculiar customs and habits of the natives.

The streets of Bellagio are narrow and in picturesque disorder, as is the custom in Italy, but on the quay



Grand Hôtel Bellagio: L. Breitschmid, propriétaire.



The Quay of Bellagio.

there are some nice cafés and shops of all kinds of articles in olive wood, corals, lava, shells, tortoise-shells and antiquities. The natives are of Italian vivacity and whoever is fond of popular life, often gets a chance of overhearing many an interesting conversation. He will get to know these gondolieri, fishermen, flower-girls, and pedlars as smart people who are extremely fond of music like all their countrymen. The unequalled position in the centre of the three parts of the lake makes Bellagio prominent above all other places near the lake of Como. On account of this exquisite position it has often been called Constantinople in miniature and it has also been compared to the cape of Misene and to the Parthenopian shore of Portici. It is really beyond any comparison, the lovely view of the Alps shining in their radiant whiteness across the azure blue waters of the northern gulf. The mountains are those of the Valtellino and the Disgrazia with its majestic peak. They look down from their lofty heights on the lake of Como, op-



posing the severe climate of the north to the exuberant scenery of the south. The different ever changing hues and tints of light on the lake and the rich vegetation make Bellagio appear to the Northerners like a vision from another world. In the gardens you will find laurels,



A Street at Bellagio.

cypresses and myrtle growing, besides pine-trees, oleanders, camelias, magnolias, pomegranates, olive-trees, opuntias, agaves, mimosas, aloes, cactus, juccas, trumpet-flowers, strawberry- and tea-shrubs, sugar-plants and palms, oranges and lemons. In April and May when a great many of these ever green plants are blooming, they fill the air with their sweet fragrance, and Bellagio is veiled in clouds of perfume. Nobody is therefore surprised to

see a great many people taking up their abode at the „Grand Hotel“ where 30 parlours and 200 bedrooms offer accommodation for them. It opens in the beginning of March and closes in November. All want to enjoy this delightful scenery thoroughly and its big park offers indeed such attractions that everybody who once has visited it, likes to come again. The park of the hotel on the slope of the promontory adjoins that of the villa Serbelloni which has lately become a „Dependance“ of



Park and Grand Hôtel Villa Serbelloni (L. Breitschmid, proprietor).

the Grand Hotel Bellagio. If Bellagio does pass for the gem of the lake of Como, the Villa Serbelloni may be safely considered the jewel of Bellagio. Splendid zig-zag paths lead to the hotel through the lovely park;\*) which affords a charming view of the lake, the resplendent villages on the shores and the mountains, and you will hardly be aware of the quarter of an hour's walk up hill. The park of this villa might be taken for a teeming forest fitted with seats on such spots where you will enjoy the prettiest landscape. That place is really striking where

\*) All persons not stopping at the Grand Hôtel Bellagio are charged each time 1 Franc admission.



the eye can overlook all the three parts of the lake, but there are also other spots from whence the view either on the high mountains or the placid lake is indeed a splendid one. Especially from a bow-window formed by



Park of the Villa Serbelloni (L. Breitschmid, propr.).

cedars and pine-trees, you can rest your eye on the northern part of the lake. In the woody park there are still the remains of an old castle, the abode of feudal knights which was destroyed in the 14th century. Emerging from a tunnel you will be rewarded by the most extensive view of the lake and mountains. You may fancy yourself standing on a balcony and taking a bird's eye view of the lake with its smiling scenery. Walking among this southern-like vegetation you reach the villa above, from which you will see the peninsula of Bellagio

with its villas, countryhouses, and hamlets, which altogether combine one of the most charming landscapes of Italy.

Who was once struck with the happy idea to found a home up here? According to the saying, it was the Marquis Stanga, and his daughter-in-law is said to have thrown the lovers she grew tired of from a rock into the lake. This is a strange reminiscence in sight of this lovely landscape, filling the mind with joy and rapture. Thus Bellagio may be called a paradise. But it cannot only boast of its own beauty, but also of the surrounding country that invites us to lovely walks and drives on all sides. We shall simply mention these here, referring the reader to the „Guide to Excursions from Bellagio“ (p. 19) for further details.



Gardens of the Villa Serbelloni (L. Breitschmid, propr.).

### Walks and rides.\*)

Only a quarter of an hour's easy walk or row brings us to the Villa Melzi (p. 19) on the lake, built in 1810–15 for the Duke Francesco Melzi d'Érit, at present belonging to the Duchess of Melzi. In a pretty chapel of the garden his mortal remains are buried. To the charms of a tropical vegetation, abounding in oleanders and camelias, beautiful magnolias, pinetrees of Chili, araucarias and a great many other rare plants and shrubs, art is adding a

\* See „Guide to Excursions from Bellagio“ (p. 18. f. f.).



Bellagio, Villa Serbelloni and Villa Melzi.

yet greater attraction. In the above-mentioned chapel there is a painting of Comelli's Christ being crucified. In a kind of kiosk you will see an antique Ceres, on a little elevation a bust of Alfieri, one of Dante, Napoleon etc. The mansion itself contains some precious works of art in marble, and some oilpaintings. The furniture is made of myrtle-wood. The entrance-fee is 1 fr. for the park and villa.

In another quarter of an hour you arrive at the little village San Giovanni (p. 19) encircled by blooming gardens. Here are the villas Besana, Trivulzi and Trotti, also worth while seeing on account of exquisite objects of art. The church of San Giovanni is also famous for a painting of Ferrari. A very pleasant walk of a mile and a half along the ridge of the mountain leads you to



Santa Maria; Bellagio.

the Villa Giulia (p. 19, 20) overlooking the lake of Lecco. Those who prefer a row on the water will also get there at almost the same time. The terraces are decorated with the most lovely flowers, especially camelias; the grottos, fountains and trees, all make it one of the finest gardens of the lake of Como. The way leads from the Villa Giulia to the Villa Belmonte whence you enjoy a pretty view of the rock of Serbelloni and the lake of Lecco.



Villa Carlotta.

A charming drive for the guests of Bellagio is to Cadenabbia, a pretty companion to Bellagio. An avenue leads in a few minutes to the Villa Carlotta (formerly Sommariva; p. 25), the queen of Lario. Entrance 1 franc. Up broad steps ascending from the lake you reach the terrace before the mansion richly adorned by tropical plants. Numerous valuable works of art are stored up here. The garden is laid out in terraces, and is certainly one of the finest on the lake of Como. Roses, myrtle and laurel avenues traverse it; the myrtle grows to high trees, magnolias reach the height of 30 m. Lemon- and orange-trees close in like arbours above the



walker, and enormous creepers climbing from tree to tree complete the rare beauty and tropical vegetation.

A still greater and more striking piece of scenery you will enjoy either on foot or in a carriage through the romantic ravine of the Gorla, passing the capella di Biamfini, with a splendid view to Civenna with pretty retrospects and outlooks on the lake. At the nice church of this town you can overlook the whole lake of Lecco and, above, the picturesquely rugged group of mountains (p. 20). Whoever is fond of climbing, will gladly seize the opportunity of ascending „Monte di San Primo“ (pag. 20) where he will be amply rewarded by a striking view of the seven lakes, the plain of Lombardy and the far off city of Milan. The pretty villages of the lake of Como, Como itself, Lecco, well known by Manzoni's *Promessi sposi*, then the hilly country of the Brianza, all these various spots are so numerous that it would require more than one summer to enjoy them all (p. 19—30).

Bellagio is therefore not only a charming spot, it is also the starting place for a great variety of trips by which you will get acquainted with lovely landscapes as well as works of art. They will encourage and urge you to visit this blessed and bewitching spot again and again. Bellagio! — a bit of Paradise fallen from heaven upon earth! May there be a great many who can testify to the truth of this experience.



Park of the Villa Melzi.

## Guide to Excursions from Bellagio.

South-west of Bellagio, an avenue of plane trees leads in five minutes to the closed garden gate of the Villa Melzi, thence the street to the left, around the villa, in 11 minutes, to the entrance (which can also be reached by boat in 11 min.) of the

**Villa Melzi** (see page 15). Supplementing our description on page 15, the palace contains some excellent sculptures by *Canova*, *Vela*, *Albertoli*, *Canova*, *Marelli* and *Thorvaldsen*, also some colored works by *Bossi*; a Madonna by *Luini* and a portrait of Bonaparte by *Appiani*.

The Viale San Giovanni leads on from the Villa Melzi to the **Villa Faldi Pezzoli** (right) at present Trivulzio (see page 16), containing the



San Giovanni-Bellagio.

mausoleum of the last of the Gonzagas, a round Romanesque tower, and splendid park; beginning at the hamlet Guggiate. East of the latter, to the left, a modern Mausoleum in the form of a church tower. Farther on, to the south-west, the road to **San Giovanni**; in the church below, on the lake, a magnificent painting by *Gaudenzio Ferrari*, hanging over the middle altar, representing the Saviour on clouds, surrounded by six angels with implements of torture, below St. Paul, St. Stephan, John the Baptist, St. Peter and kneeling believers; a picture remarkable for its beautiful grouping of color, supposed to have been painted in 1530. To the left of the church is the **Villa Trotti** (page 16), byzantine-lombard style. — Farther along the lake, **Villa Robecchi**, above which, the **Villa Prioni** and **Villa Besana**, in the Pelasgian style, at the foot



of Crosgalli Mt. — Ascending a few steps, beyond the Villa Melzi, is a flight of steps, to the left, lined with cypresses, and leading to a straight path through the meadows (pag. 20) and ending at the **Villa Giulia**, belonging to Count Blome of Vienna (Gardener 50 cts.; shown on Sundays and holidays only). The profusion of flowers is remarkable (famous camellias, oleanders and hortensias). Splendid view of the arm of the lake of Lecco. — The carriage road, leading back to Bellagio, affords a



The Hillside Park of the Villa Serbelloni.

full view of the hillside park of the Villa Grand Hotel Serbelloni, passing the **Villa Belmonte** (p. 17), reached in 5 min. from whence fine prospect,

**Bellagio to Civenna** (2—2½ hrs., p. 18). Carriage road (Landauer 16 l.; 3 hrs. to go and return.). This is one of the most enjoyable promenades in the vicinity of Bellagio, with splendid points of view. Passing (17 min.) the Villa Giulia and along the wooded Garnasea (½ hr.) up to **Gorla** (390 m) a farm, from which point the prospect of the country about Bellagio and the arm of the lake, opens magnificently to the view, in 10 min. the **Chapel Pianchitt**, to the left (446 m), thence turning to the right, to the **Fontana l'Acqua**, with refreshingly cool spring water, thence, between the hills, in 20 min. to the last turn (left the Garnasea, to the right, the **Perlo Valley** and **Monte Navolone**, facing which is the chain of the San Primo); at the end of the ascent is the **Piano di Guello** (611 m) and three villages. From here along a mostly level path, we reach in half an hour **Civenna**, magnificently situated (611 m) above the Lake of Lecco and opposite the craggy Grigne; the charms of which place are enhanced by the close proximity of the **Madonna di Somnucchio** and the **Dosso di Gorone**. Interesting walk up the **Piano Rancio** (999 m) famous for its rich vegetation; on the north side is the **Pietra luna** (Moon Rock) an erratic block, looming up romantically; on the south side, the intermitting source of the Lambro, **la Menarestal**. On descending we gain a sight of the **Pietra Lentina**, a gigantic erratic block in the direction of the Valle del Perlo.

From Civenna, the ascent of the **Monte San Primo** (see p. 18) can be made in 8 hours, over the Piano Rancio and the Terrabiotta Alp (1415 m). On the summit is a stone signal; splendid view of Lake Como, from Como to Torrigna, from Argegno to Gravedona, the Valle d'Intelvi, the Brianza, the Comer Mts. and the Alps. — (Guide from Bellagio up Monte San Primo 10 lira, but not absolutely necessary).

**Monte San Primo** can also be ascended from **Messo** (By steamer from Bellagio 1—1½ hrs.) if it is desired to quickly reach the summit (3 hrs.) by a steep way, over Erno, Vellesco, along the Valetta di Vellesco and the steep **Costiera di Noga**.

Via **Nesso**, in two hours, to the **Piano del Tivano** (1009 m). A good bridle path leads over **Erno** (1 hr.; with a magnificent view of the southern extremity of Lake Como) to Vellesco and Zelbio to the **Osteria Vallossera**, at the foot of the Piano del Tivano, resembling a beautifully green carpet spread out before the imposing heights, to the north of the San Primo, in the east, the Tarbiga and the slopes of the Sormanno Valley, in the south, Monte Braga di Cavallo. An hour and a half to the south west, the small but pretty **Piano di Nesso**, under the summits of the Palanzone and the Preola.

**From Bellagio to Erba** (about 30 km). A charming tour and one well worth while making, either by carriage or on foot. From Bellagio to Civenna (9 km) see above; from here by a winding way of many turns, to the **Oratorio di Ghisallo** (754 m), a chapel, from whence, splendid view of Lake Como, finest point, at the highest turn. Farther on, over the bridge crossing the Lambro (12 km) to Magreglio (737 m) thence over the **Ponte Campedello** (682 m), passing the **Castello di Barni** on the right, to **Barni** (14 km, 628 m; Refreshments). The **Monte San Primo** can also be ascended from here in three hours. From Barni, passing a waterfall on the left (15 km) over the **Ponte di Sasso** (611 m), then passing the Church of **Sant' Alessandro**, lying somewhat higher and dating from the 8th. century, and the cemetery Lasnigos, on the left of the road, to **Lasnigo** (18 km; 569 m) five minutes to the left. Farther on to the right, a little carriage road branches off into the idyllic **Valle di Sormanno**, enframed by mountains, from whence 15 min. walk brings us to the **Ponte oscuro** (430 m), where the **Lambro**, rushing down over a rock, winds foaming under the natural bridge down into the busy manufacturing place (20.5 km) **Asso** (427 m; good inns) containing some 3500 inhabitants and a parish church with frescoes by **Casnedi** and altarpiece by **Giulio Campi**. The road from Asso runs past a beautiful waterfall (right side) **Vallotegna**, continuing on over **Villa Verza** (Large silk spinning establishments) to (22 km).

**CANZO** (387 m; Refreshments), the principal town of the **Val Assina**, with 2000 inhabitants, numerous villas, a theatre, and a promenade to the **Hermitage of San Miro**, famous for its cordial „Vesperto“; view in front of the pyramidal **Corni di Canzo**. The ascent of the **Corno di Canzo occidentale** (1372 m), will be found well worth the while. Proceeding over the carriage road, the **Alpe Prima** and **Alpe Seconda**, we obtain, already at the foot of the Corno, a splendid view, over Lake Como, which view becomes more extensive and magnificent as the traveler proceeds.

Two roads lead from Canzo to Erba, both rich in picturesque views; one leading to the **Lago Segrino** (374 m) a lake rich in fish and pictures quietly situated in the midst of lofty and thickly wooded mountains, on the west shore of which, we continue our way 26 km to **Longone**, thence (98.5 km) over the **Malpensata Bridge**, spanning the Lambro, mountain panorama to **Erba**, 30 kilometers farther.

The other road from Canzo to Erba leads over the **Molini Ravella** to picturesque situated **Casino** (427 m), from which point the ascent is made of the **Colma di Palanzo** (1391 m), the **Monte Palanzone**, an especially fine trip (1435 m), with outlook tower, and the **Bocchetta di Caslino** (938 m). Proceeding from Casino, on the west side of Castelmarte Hill, we have above us, at **Castelmarte** (460 m) a beautiful view, thence 91 km to **Ponte Lambro** (300 m), with many beautiful villas. From here (38 km) over **Lexxa** and **Cresenna** to (50 km).

**Erba** (322 m), a little town of 2000 souls, picturesquely situated on a hill, in the form of terraces. Splendid view over the Brianza from the **Villa Amalia** situated to the north-west. The place is famous for its so-called „Amaretti“ cakes.

**From Erba back to Bellagio**. Either by the already mentioned splendid roads, affording on the return trip, the most charming points of view, and that too incessantly, or one hour by rail (23 km) to Lecco, thence by steamer in 1—1½ hrs. to Bellagio, or from Lecco 40 min. by rail to **Perledo-Varenna**, then in 40 min. by boat to Bellagio. Or from Erba in an hour by rail (23 km) to Como, thence by steamer in 2—2½ hrs. to Bellagio.

**From Erba via Lecco back to Bellagio**, a beautiful tour, especially for the traveler who has already made the trip from Bellagio to Erba, from Erba on foot or by carriage to Lecco, according as the first tour from the opposite direction.

The road from Erba leads through the charming **Piano di Erba** to the most beautiful lake of the Brianza, the **Lago di Pusiano** (260 m), with its delightful little round island covered with cypresses to the village of

**Pusiano** (Refreshments) on the shore of the lake. On the east side of the lake is **Bosisio**, birthplace of the painter *Appiani* and the poet *Parini*; over the pointed arched door of the house of the latter is an interesting inscription in Italian. The church contains an altarpiece by *Gaudenzio Ferrari* (1529). 5 km farther, we come to **Mojano**, 6 km **Casletto**, near the southern shore of Lago Pusiano, then **Molter** (11 km), **Oggiono** (267 m), birthplace of Marco Oggiono, a pupil of Leonardo da Vinci, a large place on high ground above the south side of the picturesque **Lago d'Annone**, well stocked with fish (226 m) and almost divided into two halves by the tongue of land Civata. Thence we come to the village of **Galbiate** (370 m), splendidly situated, with a view, from one side of Lago di Garlate (370 m) and the mountains around Lecco, on the other hand, of the Brianza. From Galbiate the ascent of **Monte Barro** (922 m) can be made in an hour and a half. At **Civate**, 17 km distant (269 m), a place on the north-west shore of Lago Annone, we again have a charming landscape, enhanced in picturesqueness by the little mountain church, **San Pietro** (552 m) founded by the Longobards, and



Lecco.

the jagged **Monte Resegone** (1878 m) one of the most favorite mountains of Lombardy, with grand panoramic view. Near Civate is the wildly romantic **Valle dell' Oro**, with waterfall. We now proceed 19 km to **Valmadrera** (225 m) with the rich church of *Sant' Antonio*, with frescoes by Sabatelli and Casnedi; from here, as well as from Canzo (see page 21) the ascent of the Corno di Canzo can be made. From here (23 km), over the Adda to.

**Lecco**, at the south-east extremity of an arm of Lake Como, and bearing the same name, a busy industrial town of 8000 inhabitants, splendidly and picturesquely situated in the form of an amphitheatre, ascending from the shore of the lake and surrounded on three sides by three groups of rock-faced walls. In the Piazza is a monument to Garibaldi and one to *Alessandro Manzoni*, the celebrated Milanese poet, who died in 1873; reliefs represent scenes from the poet's famous novel "I Promessi sposi". Both monuments are the work of Confalonieri.

A charming excursion is from **Bellagio via Lecco to Bergamo** (by rail from Lecco in 1¼ hrs.), a town of 44,200 inhabitants. Bergamo is famous for having been the residence of the **Tasso** family, which gave the city the father of the great poet, *Bernardo*, born in 1492, himself a poet and from whom was descended the founder of the German postal system of *Thurn and Taxis*. The genial composer **Donizetti**, whose operas are so well known, was born here in 1797. Bergamo is also the birthplace of the celebrated painters **Giovanbattista Moroni**, **Palma il**

**Vecchio**, **Cariani**, **Lorenzo Lotto** and **Previtali**. Few cities afford with their surroundings such a picturesque aspect as Bergamo, with its loftily situated Città alta, so picturesquely lying on the summit of the mountain and surrounded by the buildings of the stately new town; the mountain valleys in the north also affording many charms of nature and art. In the Church of **Sant' Alessandro in Colonna**, the inside of which has been finely restored, an Ascension of the Virgin by *Girol. Romanino*; at the high altar of **San Bartolommeo**, Enthroned Madonna and ten saints by *Lorenzo Lotto*; in the church of **Santo Spirito**, with rich and classic interior decoration in the style of the early Renaissance, is an excellent altarpiece by *Lorenzo Lotto*, *Previtali Caversgno*, *Ambrogio Borgognone* and *Scipione Piazza*; **San Bernardino** and **Sant' Andrea** also contain remarkable paintings by *Lorenzo Lotto*, *Moretto* and *Previtali*; in the Cathedral, a Madonna with two doves by **Giovanni Bellini**; in **Santa Maria Maggiore**, the external architecture of the choir and north portal of which is in the richest Romanic style, is a splendid choir stall work, *Donizetti's Sepulchral monument*; in the **Capella Colleoni** the **Monument to Medea Colleoni**, of Carrara marble, one of the finest sepulchral monuments in Italy, and the **Monument of Bartolommeo Colleoni**, still richer than that of Medea, two sarcophagi, the equestrian statue of *Bartolommeo*, besides other works of art and decorative splendor. — The **Accademia Carrara** contains a famous collection of paintings, among which some first class works by **Raphael**, **S. Sebastiano**; **Bernardino Luini**. Adoration of the Shepherds; **Palma Vecchio**, Madonna with John the Baptist and Madalene; **Andrea Mantegna**; Madonna (Tempera); **Titian** (Moretto ?); Christ bearing the Cross; **Lorenzo Lotto**; Madonna interrupted in reading, looking back, Christ Child and St. Joseph; **Garofalo**; Madonna, St. Rochus, St. Sebastian and many other excellent works of the masters named, as well as first class works by *Gaudenzio Ferrari*, *Velasquez*, *Paris Bordone*, *Tiepolo*, *Leonardo da Vinci*, *Giovanni Bellini*, *Previtali*, *G. B. Moroni*, *Cariani*, *Alessandro Alori*, *Zenale*, *Ghislandi*, *Bartol. Montagna*, *Boltraffio*, *Antonello da Messina*, *Basaiti*, *Dosso Dossi* and others. — The **Broletto** (*Palazzo Vecchio*), containing the Public Library of 100,000 volumes, is remarkable; before the left column of the portico is the *Statue of Torquato Tasso*. — The **Piazza Garibaldi**, in the upper town, is a characteristic feature. — Splendid walk from the *Porta S. Giacomo* to the *Porta Sant' Alessandro*, passing *San Gottardo* and to the right of the old *Castello*, to *Pascolo dei Tedeschi* and to **Piegna**.

**From Bellagio to Bellano and up Monte San Defendente** (1315 m). By steamer in 46 min. from Bellagio to **Bellano**, a town of 3000 inhabitants, birthplace of the poet ("Caduta dei Longobardi", 1650) and the physician *Stignimondo Boldoni* and the poet *Tommaso Grossi* (died in 1853), the author of "Marco Visconti", "Ulrico e Lida" etc. to whom a statue by Tantardini was erected in 1876, near the landing stage. Bellano was formerly the summer residence of the arch-bishops of Milan. The Cathedral, in the Lombard style of architecture, dating from 1348 contains frescoes of the school of *Luini*. The *Orrido di Bellano* (see below), an industrial plant for silk working, woollen and other mills, is well worth seeing. From Bellano we proceed by a very easy bridle path, via Gisazio and Bologna; picturesque view of the basin of Bellagio and the Tremezzina; 2½ hrs. (A day's tour from Bellagio.)

**From Bellano** in 2½ hrs. to the *Mineral Bath Tartavalle*; bridle path via *Bouzeno*, on the left bank of the *Pioverna*, to *Madonna del Mortone* (705 m), thence down to the bridge, from which fine prospect, over the *Pioverna*, between *Tartavalle* and **Taceno** (507 m; see page 24), the first principal town of the *Valassina*, where the *Pioverna* Ravine begins and which terminates in the *Orri-a di Bellano* (see above).

**From Bellano** in 2½ hrs. to *Margno*, bridle path over *Ombriago* (Charming lake panorama), *Vendrogno* (724 m) and *Inesio*, proceeding on a level road over the *Pioverna* Valley; at a sudden turn, a magnificent view of *Margno*, picturesquely situated. From *Margno* (Albergo), carriage road to *Val Cusargo* and *Val Varrone* to *Prenana* (981 m; good Osteria), one of the highest situated parishes of the *Valassina* with 1200 inhabitants (see page 24)



From **Taceno** (see page 23; good Albergo and good Osteria) up **Monte di Muggio** (1755 m) in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.; bridle path to Narro (1067 m), footpath to the Alps *Mombasso*, *Giomello* (1503 m) and *Ciari* (1629 m); the mountain abounds in rich and luxuriant vegetation and affords a grand view of the surrounding mountains and Lake Como. (A day's tour from Bellagio.)

The **Valsassina** is one of the more distant excursions from Bellagio, but a very beautiful one. From Taceno (see above) a 30 km carriage road leads through this interesting valley to Lecco. — **Corteno**, 6 km is first reached (468 m; good albergo) lying at the foot of the mighty **Grigna Settentrionale** (see below), 10 km farther. **Primaluna** (530 m), from whence the *Monte d'Ollino* is ascended in 3 hours (1785 m), next comes the bridge over the Troggia, where in a wildly romantic ravine, one of the most beautiful waterfalls of the Alps, the **Paradiso dei Cani**, rushes down a height of 200 m. Then follows (13 km) **Introbio** (600 m; good albergo) the chief town of the valley with 1000 inhabitants; starting point for numerous mountain tours (good guides): *Forella di Cedrino* (1712 m); *Monte Chiavello* (1832 m); *Cima di Cam* (2085 m); *Biandino* (1580 m); *Pizzo dei tre Signori* (2554 m); fine panorama; the boundary lines of the provinces of Como, Bergamo and Sondrio meet on the latter mountain; the former frontiers of the Duchy of Milan, and the Republics of Venice and Graubünden, whence the name, "tre Signori", 20 km farther on we come to the green plain of **Balisio** (723 m; Osteria), the highest point of the road, overlooked by the picturesque and sharply pointed *Pizzo di Gorio* (1166 m) at the foot of which flows the *Pioverna*, with its source near by. One hour's walk to the east is the hamlet of *Maggio* (768 m), from whence the *Zucco di Desio* (1665 m) can be ascended in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. Now comes a wildly romantic narrow pass, the triassic dolomite rocks of which form phantastic towers and castles, after which, proceeding along green meadows we come (23 km) to **Ballabio** (two Osterias), with lead and iron mines. From Ballabio superiore, the ascent of *Monte Campione* or *Grigna meridionale*, is made in 4 hrs. (2184 m). Just beyond Ballabio the Valsassina ends, rich in iron works and delicious honey. Now over the *Pizzo della Merla* (663 m) 26 km down to *Laorea* (430 m; several Osterias), with a beautiful stalaetite grotto, to *S. Giovanni alla Castagna*; in the church of which place is an excellent altarpiece. Descent from the Cross by *Civerchio*, 1539; thence 28 km to *Castello sopra Lecco* and **Lecco** itself.

From Bellagio to **Regoledo** (437 m). Water cure establishment; a perfect Paradise, abounding in olive, peach, almond, mulberry trees and vineyards, much frequented by the Milanese a istocracy. In half an hour by steamer from Bellagio to *Giltana*, thence up by carriage or mule, (2 L.) in half an hour to Regoledo.

**Bellagio to Varenna, Esino Valley and up the Grigna Settentrionale.** From Bellagio in half an hour by steamer, or one hour by boat, to *Varenna*; a half hour's climb brings us to the Castle ruins, **Torre di Vezio**; in the village church of *Vezio*, frescos of the 14th and 15th centuries. A quarter of an hour to the south of Varenna is the **Fiume Latte** (Milk Brook), beautiful in the spring. — In  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. we reach **Esino** (910 m; albergo not dear) via *Regolo* and **Porledo** (407 m; Fossil fishes of the Triassic Period in the neighboring stone quarries) to **Esino-Inferiore** (5 min. from which place are some interesting Earth Pyramids). Between Esino Inferiore and Superiore is a very good Albergo; splendid view in all directions from the church near by. (From Esino to hut 4, a guide is desirable; charge 7 lira to the summit). The **Esino Valley**, one of the most beautiful of mountain valleys, on Lake Como, is most picturesquely surrounded by mountains, called as follows: *San Defendente* (See p. 23), *Zucco di Lesena*, *Sasso Mattolino* (1557 m), *Cainallo* (1513 m), *Monte Croce* (1781 m), *Cima di Pellaggia* (1540 m); the latter very often ascended, an easy tour of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.) and *Cima d'Ortanello* (1020 m;  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., good road). Over the *Prati d'Agneoglio* (1146 m), a beautiful way to *Tortavalle* (See p. 23). — From Esino an ascent of the **Grigna Settentrionale** in four hours (2410 m; see above). At the top of which mountain, one of the finest panoramic views

over Lake Como, the Plains of Lombardy and Piedmont, the Alps before Bergamo, Monte della Disgrazia, the Comasques, the mountains of the Ticino and Novara, besides the immense Alpine chain from Monte Viso to the Ortler, the Monte Rosa group being especially beautiful, thence as far as the distant Apennines. — The ascent is made over the *Cainallo Alp* (220 m), thence through an extensive amphitheatre of rocky pyramids (Pometto, il Frate and others) to the *Bochetta di Frada* (1616 m), the *Monodine Alp* (1617 m, near which, an ice grotto), thence in three hours to the *Rifugio del Club Alpino Italiano* (1808 m; Key of the hut to be had of the Sindaco of Esino); thence to the precipitous wall of the Grigna, up through the bed of a river to the ridge, between the *Pizzo della Pieve* (2187 m) and the summit of the Grigna.

Two foot-paths, laid out by the Italian Alpine Club, lead up to the summit of the *Grigna Settentrionale* in 7 hours (good guides) from **Mandello** on Lake Lecco (1 hr. by steamer from Bellagio). We have the choice of two routes; either over Santa Maria, Ponte d'Era, Fontana Alp and *Baitello del Relece*, or over Rongio and Chignene. — For veteran tourists, there are also other numerous mountain climbs from Mandello or *Tonassino*, viz. *Monte Croce* (p. 24), *Cima di Pellaggia* (p. 24), *Sasso dei Carbonari* (2157 m), *Grigna meridionale* (p. 24). Above Mandello is the wildly romantic *Val Neria*, enframed in jagged rocks.

Near Mandello is the Station **Abbadia**. Between Abbadia and Mandello, on the green slope of the **Zucco del Pertusio** (1671 m; the summit of which is surrounded by dolomite rocks) are the picturesque hamlets of *Maggiana*, *Lombrino*, *Crebbio* and *Linzanico*.

**Monte San Martino** (1474 m) is often ascended in 3 hrs. from *Abbadia* over *Borbino*, *Navegno Alp*, *Capella Santa Maria* del *Campelli* and the farm of *Pendolina*. (Fine view of Lake Lecco, the Brianza and the plains of Lombardy.)



Villa Carlotta.

### The Western Shore of Lake Como, opposite Bellagio.

**The Villa Carlotta**, near **Cadenabbia** is, perhaps, the finest point on Lake Como, filled as it is with works of art and its incomparably beautiful park (See p. 17). (Opposite Bellagio and reached in 15 min. by boat, or in 10 min. by steamer).

The palace was built in 1747 by the Marquis of Clerici, coming into possession of Count Sommariva in 1802. In 1843 the villa was purchased by the Princess Albrecht of Prussia for the sum of 540,000 marks, who gave it the name of her daughter the Princess Charlotte, Duchess of Saxe-Meiningen, who died in 1855, and at present belongs to the Duke of Saxe-Meiningen.

The Marble Hall contains a **Frieze Relief** by **Thorwaldsen**, **Alexander's** Entry into Babylon, 1.17 m high, 35 m long, modelled in plaster by order of Napoleon I, and after his fall, executed in marble by order of Sommariva, at an expense of 285,720 marks. Alexander in a richly decorated chariot led by a goddess of Victory, is the central





Villa Carlotta.

figure; then armor bearers, his favorite charger Bucephalos, followed by his generals and warriors, an elephant loaded with trophies, and Darius as a captive escorted by Macedonian soldiers. A fisherman is sitting on the bank of the river, goods offered for sale in the market-place, bringing tribute, a shepherd boy is driving a flock of sheep towards the ruler, and the people, bringing gifts of lions, panthers and horses, await him. Altars are in process of erection, and the children of the city are sent to greet the hero, whose chariot is stopped by the goddess of peace. At one end, Count Sommariva and Thorwaldsen are standing under a palm tree. A magnificent work, conceived in the very spirit of the antique.

In the middle of the hall: Venus and Mars by *Aquisti* (died in 1824); on each side, beautiful works by *Canova*; Palamedes, Repentant Magdalene, Amor and Psyche\*, busts of Paris and Venus, also an Amor feeding doves (p. 29) by *Bienaimé*. Portrait bust of Count Sommariva. In the garden hall, to the right: A marble chimney-piece with frieze by *Thorwaldsen*; Feast of Bacchus; on the walls, bas-reliefs, models of Arco della Pace, Milan; Hercules and Minerva by *Pucetty*; History and Poetry by *Aquisti*, Entry of Francis I. into Vienna, by the same artist; two models by *Canova*, Terpsichore and Magdalena, and brother and sister and a portrait bust by *Müller*. — In the garden hall, to the left: *Haged*; Romeo and Juliet; *Lordon*, Dying Attila and other works.

From **Majolica** (5 min. from Cadenabbia) a somewhat steep path leads up to the rock, *il Sasso di San Martino*, through *Griante*, passing the Chapel of *St. Rocco*, to the church of **Madonna di San Martino** (1½ hrs.; 270 m above the level of the sea), from whence, a splendid view of both arms of the lake. *Monte Crocione* (p. 29) 3—½ hr. higher and to the west.

From **Tremezzo** (10 min. to the south; good Albergo, cheap) forming a continuation of Cadenabbia, and up to which a pleasant and shady way, along the shore of the lake, leads, we have, in the midst of luxurious vegetation of the *Tremezina*, a charming view of Bellagio and its environs, the eastern Comasco and Vallassin Alps. Several villas; *Visconti di Ornavasco*, *Boliviano*, *Mack*; on a spur of the mountain stands the church of *San Lorenzo*; *Villa Albertoni*; *Villa Busca* or *Quieto*, containing modern

\* Copy; the original is in the Louvre.

paintings. Above *Azzano*, the following station, are several picturesquely situated hamlets and on a level with *Monte degli Stampi*, with petrifications, ammonites etc.

**Lenno** (½ hr. by steamer from Bellagio, 1 hr. by boat) lies in a charming cove with a very picturesque background. Next to the church door is a Roman gravestone and under the choir is an antique, subterraanean structure with cippolino columns and Old-Christian inscriptions, dating from 572 and 545 A. D. — Near the church is an octagonal baptistry with a font dating from the 11th century. — At the foot of the massive and bare Grosioli Mts. opposite Lenno, is an extensive Grotto, made famous by Picozzi's novel, called *il Buco de' Corpi*, where there are many carp.

From **Lenno** the ascent of **Monte Galbigo** (1697 m) is made in 4—4½ hrs., over Masnate, Acquafredda, Noceo and Monte di Lenno; from



Garden of the Villa Carlotta.

the summit, magnificent panoramic view of Lakes Como and Lugano, Lago Maggiore and the Wallis Alps, similar to the prospect from Monte Generoso.

Near **Lenno**, in a cove of the wooded peninsula, called *il Dosso di Lavico*, to the right, is the red *Villa DeMatè*, where the *Villa Comedia*, belonging to Pliny the Younger, is said to have stood.

On the extremity of the tongue of land, *Punta di Balbianello*, is the **Villa Arconati** (visitors admitted). This is the southern end of the *Tremezina*.

Around the other side of the peninsula, to the west, in the cove, is **Campo** (reached from Bellagio by steamer in ¼ hrs.) in picturesque surroundings. Above is the Pilgrimage Church **Madonna del Soccorso** (419 m), a Mt. of Calvary, splendid view (refreshments at the sexton's), 15 chapels, some of which contain good frescoes, among others; the Dispute of the Doctors by Agostina Silva, and some plastic works. Near by is the pretty waterfall *Perlana*.

From **Campo**, **Monte Galbigo** (see above) can be ascended over *Madonna del Soccorso* and the former monastery of *St. Benedetto* (11th. Cent.).

Near *Campo*, the hamlets *Spurano*, with church of *San Giacomo* (6th. Cent.), the tower of which has a low, tentlike roof, and *Ospedaletto dei Giovi* with a strange looking Gothic tower.

At a short distance, to the west, **Sala**, inhabited by fishermen, with a few villas, among which *Villa Beccaria*, the former residence of Cesare Beccaria (born at Milan 1738) the opponent of the misuse and abuses of criminal law, a statue of whom has been erected on the Piazza Beccaria at Milan. High above Sala we see the ruins of *Ossuccio Castle*. Old paintings on the Sala church. Vegetation here is entirely tropical, as well as on the Isola Comacina opposite.



Lake Como and Isola Comacina.

**Isola Comacina** with remains of old fortifications and the little Church of *San Giovanni*. In this place a general of the Byzantines remained besieged until 590 and did not quit the field until after a six months' siege. Duke Gandolf of Bergamo and King Cunibert took refuge here in 688, the latter strongly fortifying the island. After the flight of Ansprand the little insular town was destroyed. Much later, in 962, the family of King Berangarius took refuge here, but were soon after expelled by the neighboring inhabitants, loyal to the Emperor, for which deed their taxes were remitted them. In the wars of 1118 and 1127 the island was again laid waste by the inhabitants of Como.

Above neighboring *Colonno*, is the *Camoggia Waterfall*, rushing down among olive trees, although the supply of water often gives out.

From **Argegno** (from Bellagio in one hour and five min., bridle path from Tremezzo along the lake) a carriage road runs through the extremely picturesque and extensive and fruitful Val d'Intelvi (3 hrs.). Passing the little church of *San Sisinio* (fine view) in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hrs. we reach *Dixasco*; to the left, cone-shaped *Monte San Zeno*, behind which, the *Sasso Gordona* (1450 m). Then, passing two hamlets, to *San Fedele* (769 m) at the foot of *Monte Loria*, thence to the left, in  $\frac{2}{3}$  hrs. to **Paraviso** (800 m), sulphur bath, thence in 3 hrs. to **Lanzo d'Intelvi** (820 m). 20 min. farther is a good hotel and a splendid prospect of Lake Lugano.

From **Briennio**, with its splendid and numerous laurel terraces ( $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. from Bellagio by steamer) in two hours to the stalactite cave **Bucco del Orso** (792 m) in Jura chalk cliff. Then a second cave, three little lakes and a babbling brook. Many bones of the antediluvian cave bear (*Ursus spelaeus*) have been discovered in the clay strata.

The beautiful stretch of country from Menaggio to Punta di Lavedo is called the **Tremezzina** (in a more restricted sense, from Griante to Tremezzo) and is rightly called the "Garden of Lombardy" (see p. 6). The mountain group of the Crocione forms a sharply contrasting background to the bright and fertile shores of the lake.



Opposite Bellagio, to the north-west (10 min. by steamer, half an hour by boat), is the little town of **Menaggio** (Railway Station of the *Porlezza-Lugano* line, p. 6). In front of the old Church of *Santa Maria*, next to the door, is an old Roman gravestone of Minicius, priest of Titus, Military Tribune, Duumvir etc. Stoppani and Castelli-Pozzessi Palaces. Magnificent prospect over the lake from the lofty situated Castello.  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to the south of Menaggio, close to the lake, is the castlelike *Villa Mylius*.  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to the north-west **Loveno** (good Osteria); the church contains paintings of Luluf's school; above the church is the celebrated *Villa Mylius*, at present *Villa Vigoni* (Gardener 1 l.) containing some good modern sculptures: David by *Manfredini*, Ruth by *Imhof*, Eva by *Baruzzi*, Jesus by *Marchesi*. Mausoleum of *Julius Mylius* with relief; a splendid Nemesis in chariot, followed by two avenging genii with swords and crown of victory, by *Thorvaldsen*; Death of *Julius Mylius*, by *Marchesi*; in the Garden Hall: Widow Vigoni, former wife of *Julius Mylius*,

with her children, by *Argenti*. From the garden above the villa a splendid view of the three arms of the lake. Ascending still farther we come to the former **Casino Massimo d'Azeglio** (now *Caltano*) containing paintings by the statesman and literary savant, who died in 1866, and who wrote here his best novel, "Ettore Fieramosca".—

*Villa Garovoglio* has an excellent Botanical Garden. In *Cardano*, west of Loveno, the **Villa Galbiati**, containing a group by *Canova*, "Clementina di Tito" and sepulchral monument with the angel of the resurrection by *Tantardini*. To the north-west, over Menaggio, the **Cima la Grona** (1660 m), by rail to *Grandola* (the highest situated station of the Menaggio-Porlezza line), thence over *Barna*, little church of *Sant' Amato*, on the degree between *Monte Bregaglia* (2120 m grand panorama) and *Cima la Grona*, four hours. Magnificent prospect over the extensive country of lakes Como and Lugano. From the station *Grandola* up **Monte Crocione** (1636 m) is a climb of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. (guide 3 hrs). Splendid view of Lake Como and Bellagio. The view from *Monte Galbiate* (p. 27) reached from *Monte Crocione* in 50 min. over the ridge, presents a more uninterrupted prospect of the Wallis Alps. The ascent of *Monte Crocione* can also be made from *Cadenabbia* (guide 6. l.) or from *Campo* (p. 27).



Feeding doves.



**Excursion from Bellagio to Como and Brunate, made in one day** Como, the birthplace of Pliny the Younger and *Volta*, Episcopal See, and engaged extensively in the silk manufacture, is situated at the south-west extremity of Lake Como, forming as it does an amphitheatre and surrounded by fertile hills. — The **Cathedral**, one of the finest specimens of the kind in Upper Italy, was begun in 1396, a fine example of the pure Gothic, was enlarged in 1498—1513 and continued in the best early Renaissance style. The Choir was finally begun in 1510 and finished in 1519 and succeeding years, in the high Renaissance. Both transept and choir are the finest structures of the kind in Italy. The façade, with circular arch porch, pointed arched windows and rich rose window, is adorned with statue niches in the wall columns and reliefs in the arch niches. Right and left of the middle portal, in wonderfully beautiful and splendidly ornamented niches, are the celebrated **Statues of the two Plinies**, in a sitting posture. The Caryatides Consoles, underneath the niches with the little reliefs, so real and fresh in their appearance, are especially beautiful; all in the Roman antique. The **south portal**, begun by *Bramante* in 1491, is of great decorative value; the **north portal**, by the *Rodari* brothers, has an exquisite frieze, angels playing on musical instruments and splendid reliefs. — The **Interior of the Cathedral** (87 m in length, 36 m, inc. the Chapels, 58 m in width) somewhat resembles the Certosa di Pavia, although much grander, the immense space of the old Gothic structure exercising an overwhelming effect on the beholder; transept and Choir, in Renaissance style, perfectly harmonize with the rest of the edifice. The octagonal dome was not finished until 1750; the vaulting was decorated in the splendor of modern style in 1838. The following are worthy of special notice: *Altar* with sculptures by *T. Rodari*, the *medallion heads* on the predella, the **Door** by the *Rodaris*, splendidly ornamented, on the lintel, tritons etc then the **Altar of Sant' Abondio** (1490), a work of rare beauty and importance, entirely of carved wood gilded, and embellished by fine figures of St. Abondio, the Madonna, St. Sebastian et al. The *Tempera* Painting **Gaudenzio Ferrari**: Fight into Egypt; *Luini*: Adoration of the Magi (Tempera) and *Luini's* Madonna; Marble Statue of St. Sebastian; *Luini*: Birth of Christ (Tempera), a composition created when the master was at his best, about 1525; *Gaudenzio Ferrari*: Marriage of the Virgin Mary (Tempera); also the **Door** of the side porch, on the Via Pretoria, with rich sculptures, beautiful scenes from childhood etc.

**Other sights** are: The Gothic *Broletto* (Town hall near the Cathedral); the *Basilica San Fedele*; the beautifully restored Church of **St. Abondio**, Lombardian style; the **Campo Santo** and the **Torre Baradello** (431 m above the sea-level), said to have formed part of a fortified castle of King *Luitprand*. The Emperor *Barbarossa* with his spouse are said to have tarried here. Splendid prospect over the plains of Lombardy the *Brianza*, town and harbor of Como and the surrounding mountains.

**To Brunate** (753 m) **Funicular Railway**, 10 min. from the steamboat landing. Trains every half hour, ascent in 20 min. at the top (good hotels) a splendid and comprehensive panoramic view over the plains of Lombardy as far as Milan, the Alps as far as Monte Rosa.



Como.



Lake Como.

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