

Rich in natural, historical, and artistic charm, the shores of Lake Orta are the perfect destination for couples to experience the most romantic day of their life.

# Fairytale Weddings on Lake Orta

There's much for couples to uncover in the northern lakes region of Piedmont. From culinary delights to charming hamlets and a bounty of outdoor activities, there's a lot to fall in love with. The area brims with magical landscapes: Lakes Maggiore, Orta, Mergozzo and the Ossola Valleys, making this idyllic area of Italy a paradise for couples. As if it couldn't get any better, these destinations are easily reachable from the main cities of Milan and Turin, from which you can fly in and start your journey by car or train. For a wow-worthy alternative to the typical Italian getaway, get enveloped in the beauty of the Piedmontese Lakes District.

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## Find bliss on Lake Orta

On our radar is the blissful Lake Orta, a picturesque locus in upper Piedmont to the west of Lake Maggiore, rich in history, art, culture, and natural wonders. Both along its shores and the gentle slopes surrounding this basin are marvellous villages, churches and viewpoints that deserve to be visited. For lovers of the outdoors, good food and shopping, there is no shortage of opportunities when vacationing on Lake Orta.

Are you looking for a one-of-a-kind wedding and honeymoon experience away from the crowds? Lake Orta lends itself beautifully, and we couldn't recommend it more. Whether you want to pair your stay with a tour of the surrounding holiday resort towns or prefer to immerse in the wealth of Lake Orta, you won't leave disappointed. On the shores of the lake are the romantic Orta San Giulio with its mystical island, Pettenasco and its tranquil riviera, Omegna, home of the design houseware district and the birthplace of writer Gianni Rodari. On the southern shore are the quaint villages of Gozzano, San Maurizio d'Opaglio, Pogno and Pella. On the western riviera, one is fascinated by Madonna del Sasso, with its sanctuary located on a rocky outcrop offering breathtaking views, and the characteristic villages of Arola, Cesara, Nonio, Quarna Sopra and Quarna Sotto. On the eastern shore, on the slopes of Mottarone, Armeno, Miasino, Ameno, and Bolzano Novarese are fascinating sites to explore. Abounding in countless holiday proposals, you'll go home with unforgettable memories spent between historic and beautiful towns, crystalline waters and verdant mountains.



## Dream Itinerary

Medieval atmosphere, imposing ornate palaces, characteristic slated roofs, Baroque churches, and ancient towers are the peculiarities that make Orta San Giulio one of 'Italy's Most Beautiful Villages'. There's much to witness for history buffs. In Piazza Motta, one can admire the 16th-century Palazzotto della Comunità with its low portico and large hall on the first floor. Along the lakeside promenade and cobbled streets, you'll stumble across ancient villas such as Palazzo Penotti-Ubertini, Palazzo Gemelli and Villa Bossi. Behind the square, the 'Salita della Motta' leads to the Church of Santa Maria Assunta, a beautiful hilltop spot for panoramic weddings amongst the timeless beauty of Orta San Giulio. Overlooking the hamlet, the UNESCO World Heritage Site Sacro Monte di Orta, part of the Sacred Mountains of Piedmont and Lombardy, offers couples the opportunity to shoot an unforgettable wedding album with beautiful scenes of the lake in the background.

You can continue your tour and reach Pella, located just opposite Orta San Giulio. Boasting a scenic lakeside promenade leading to the collected Piazza Motta, you can admire a beautiful medieval tower and the iconic bell tower of the parish church of S. Albino, inside which there is a painting by Peracino. It is precisely in Pella that the oldest building of worship on the western shore of the lake stands, the Church of San Filiberto. You can truly savour Italian history as you walk along the pathways of Pella and with mountain peaks reflected in the waters, there's plenty to feast the eyes. If you're up for more adventures, the ancient humpback bridge over the Pellino River invites you to discover the picturesque corners of the hamlets of Alzo, Monte San Giulio, Ronco and Ventraggia. From Pella, one climbs to one of the most striking balconies in the lake region, Madonna del Sasso; from the churchyard of its sanctuary, one enjoys an incomparable view of the entire lake, Mottarone and the peaks of the Val Grande National Park. Last but not least, in the northern part of Lake Orta lies Omegna, an unmissable stop during your journey around this basin. The capital city of the region, known since the 19th century for its history linked to renowned Italian design brands such as Lagostina, Bialetti and Alessi. The town's origins are, however, much older, as evidenced by the cup-marked boulders discovered on Monte Zuoli, the hill above the town that offers a breathtaking view of the lake. Strolling through the streets of the centre, one can admire colourful historical buildings adorned with porticoes, the Quartier Vaticano, the medieval Porta Romana and, not far away, the Ponte Antico of Sforza-Visconti origin, located along the road leading to the wild and green Strona valley. Finally, the beautiful promenade along the Nigoglia stream gives Omegna a touch of Venetian charm.



ORTA SAN GIULIO  
MARCO BENEDETTO CERINI



SAN GIULIO ISLAND  
MARCO BENEDETTO CERINI



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## Weddings between the Lake and Hills

Lake Orta's charm and limitless options make it the perfect destination for sealing your vows. With its variety of fairytale settings, postcard views, historic residences and charming hotels, you are bound to find your dream wedding location. To elevate your guests' experience, there are a variety of accommodations to suit all tastes: luxury hotels, boutique B&Bs, and authentic villas, each one characterised by high professionalism and first-class service.

Agriturismi, intimate restaurants and starred chefs, both on the lakeside and the surrounding gentle slopes, offer signature recipes and excellent farm-to-fork products to make your catering stand out. Couples wanting to extend their stay or host a wedding weekend on Lake Orta will find a plethora of options to please everyone with a choice of splendid stays and activities to keep guests busy and intrigued during their permanence. The varied landscape allows couples to enjoy slow-paced ventures such as art, culture, food and wine, as well as thrilling outdoor sports for all the adrenaline junkies. The cultural scene on the lake is endless. With museums that extend from the Stonecutter's Museum, honouring the laborious work of granite cutting in the region, to the impressive Calderara Collection exhibited in a marvellous 17th-century villa house set in the hamlet of Vacciago di Ameno. Here, the outdoors are always in full operation. For couples requesting relaxing moments, there are lidos throughout the lake offering a place in the sun to chill and enjoy quality time. There's also a myriad of options for anyone seeking a more exhilarating outing, from scenic walks to horseback riding as well as adventure parks, ziplining and hiking, you can explore the ins and outs of this stunning region. No journey to Italy is complete without tucking into



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its gastronomy. The food and wine options across Lake Orta are mouthwatering. Couples might want to come with an empty stomach as you'll be welcomed by a selection of genuine, quality products all from the area. Fresh fish produce is available in local restaurants cooked to perfection by talented chefs. Excellent dairy products are obtained from the pastures and these include the Mottarone toma cheese, which can be combined with fine jams and tasty local types of honey for a tantalising alfresco grazing table option.

When it comes to dessert, the tables cannot fail to include the traditional sweets, including the delicious shortbread from Omegna filled with gianduja called Imperialine, Damine and Reginette and, of course, the Pane di San Giulio, a rye bread filled with sultanas and dried fruit, prepared fresh on the Island of San Giulio by the Benedictine nuns on the Saint's patronal feast on 31 January. To conclude this culinary journey, a glass of Amaro del Mottarone or herbal liqueur skilfully crafted by local producers according to ancient recipes is a must. A small bottle of Amaro makes for a perfect farewell gift for your guests. When it comes to creating the most magical of weddings, Lake Orta does not fail in any way. From mesmerising backdrops, top-notch hospitality, fun-packed activities and a multitude of offerings to feed the mind and soul, you'll fall head over heels for this romantic corner of the world.

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