



Discovering what's new in tourism in 2021

Lake Maggiore, Lake Orta, Lake Mergozzo,
Ossola Valleys.

A microcosm of emotions waiting to be explored!

Start of the 2021 tourist season

The romantic atmosphere of the lakes, the grandeur of the mountains, the outdoor and wellness experiences and the excellence of food and wine.

The Tourist District of the Mountains, Lakes and Valleys in northern Piedmont, just a stone's throw from the Swiss border and the cities of Milan and Turin, is the **ideal destination for a quality, relaxing stay**.

From the famous **Lake Maggiore** with the enchanting Borromean Islands, to the clear waters of the tranquil **Lake Mergozzo**, to the enchanting scenery of **Lake Orta** with the charming Island of San Giulio: **one of the most beautiful destinations in the world**.

All around, the **Ossola Valleys** offer to mountain lovers vast expanses of woodland, small alpine lakes, high peaks and spectacular parks, including **Monte Rosa, Val Grande National Park, Alpe Veglia-Devero and Alta Valle Antrona Nature Parks**.

And let's not forget our fantastic towns and villages that have been awarded the prestigious **Orange Flags** (by the Italian Touring Club to Arona, Cannero, Cannobio, Macugnaga, Malesco, Mergozzo, Santa Maria Maggiore, Orta San Giulio and Vogogna) and the **Blue Flags** awarded to the seaside resorts of Arona, Cannero, Cannobio and Gozzano, the **only places in the whole of Piedmont to receive this important recognition**.

In the post-Covid-19 era, holidays will necessarily be more sustainable, close to nature and inclined to movement, in search of open-air attractions and outdoor proposals to be enjoyed in full respect of the environment, both in summer and in winter: our territory lends itself to a thousand activities of this type, among lakes, parks, hills and mountains of impressive beauty, recognised and appreciated also at an international level by foreign tourists who choose to visit us due to their preference for "active tourism" and who represent 79% of total tourism in the area.

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Among lakes and mountains in the area

The main tourist attractions

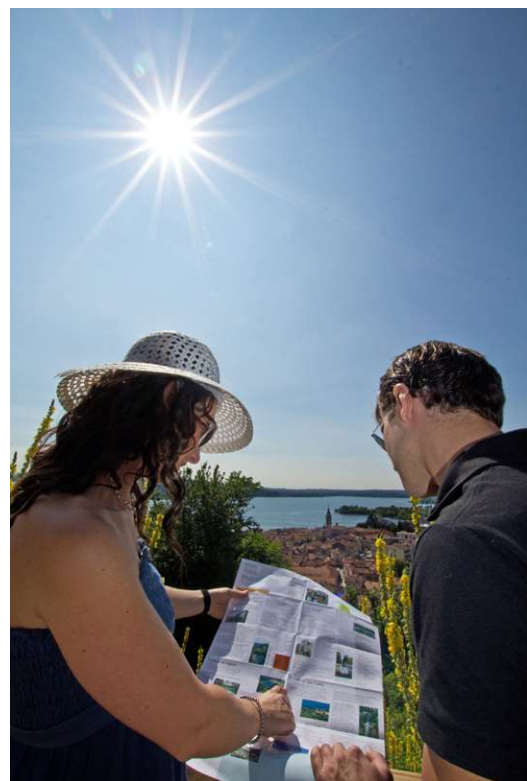
The **Rocca di Arona Park**, usually open to the public from mid-March, is an architectural and scenic jewel that was the birthplace of San Carlo Borromeo. Open during this first period from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (except on Fridays and Saturdays, when it closes at 9 p.m.). From May to October, the Park opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 8 p.m., except on Fridays and Saturdays, when it closes at 10 p.m. and later.

In the park, it will be possible - among other things - to follow a small botanical trail and observe the animals present: donkeys, Tibetan goats, ducks, mallards and water turtles near the pond.

As always, the season will feature numerous events including theatre, music, markets, gymnastics days, book presentations, conferences, exhibitions of various kinds, guided tours and much more, all of which are of course to be confirmed due to the current health emergency (info and updates: www.parcoroccaarona.com).

We move not far from the Rocca di Arona to reach the "**San Carlone**", the enormous statue dedicated to San Carlo Borromeo (35.10 metres in total) that stands on the hill next to the Rocca. On the occasion of the spring reopening of the Colosso di San Carlo, guided tours of the Statue and the Church of San Carlo will be organised in collaboration with "Prontoguide - visite e cultura": a unique opportunity to appreciate the beauty of this incredible monumental complex, learn about the history and deeds of San Carlo Borromeo, and admire Lake Maggiore from an unusual and far-reaching vantage point. The visits will last approximately one hour, must be booked in advance and will take place on the following days: Sunday 14 March, Sunday 11 April, Sunday 9 May and Sunday 13 June 2021. (www.statuasancarlo.it).

Visit our website www.distrettolaghi.it and - in the "EBOOK" section - browse or download the MAP and INSTITUTIONAL BROCHURE as well as all the THEMATIC GUIDES we have published!





The Villa Taranto Botanic Gardens will be open every day, including public holidays, from March to November.

March will see the first spring flowers: edgeworthias, prunus, magnolias, forsythias, narcissus and tulips. Later in the season, large patches of hundreds of rhododendrons and azaleas can be admired, while in the summer months the queen of aquatic plants, the tropical water lily *Victoria Cruziana*, will always fascinate tourists. And more: dahlias and green labyrinths to be discovered! Also this year you will have the possibility to buy a season ticket to visit the Gardens during the whole season or during the whole summer.

Here is the calendar of events that will take place during the opening period, weather permitting: the spring Camellia exhibition, with a guided tour (booking required and for a limited number of participants), the exhibition of more than 1,500 succulent plants, the egg hunt during Easter week, the Bulb Festival starting on Saturday 10 April (hyacinths-narcissus-tulips-muscariums), musical days with Piedmontese choirs, Sunday brunch (booking required) at the Bistrot and the dahlia exhibition. (Information: www.villataranto.it).



At the address www.distrettolaghi.it/laghi you will find the section dedicated to the 3 magnificent lakes in our territory, LAKE MAGGIORE, LAKE ORTA and LAKE MERGOZZO with suggestions, routes, hospitality information and scheduled events.



Borromean Lands



The museums and the natural and cultural treasures of **Terre Borromeo** are scheduled to open on 19 March. It will be possible to discover all the novelties of the season at Isola Bella, Isola Madre, Parco Pallavicino and Parco del Mottarone until 1st November, always making sure to check the website www.isoleborromeo.it or contact the call centre (number +39 0323 933478) to be updated on opening days and times, according to government and regional regulations.

With the arrival of spring, the **Borromean Islands** open their gardens as the blossoms begin to release their essences, both in the English-style botanical garden on Isola Madre where you can also admire exotic plants, and in the avenues and flowerbeds of the Italian-style Baroque garden on Isola Bella. Among the first flowers appearing on the scene are camellias and azaleas, but also daisies, mimosas and the lesser-known *Cornus kousa*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Davidia involucrata* and *Allium*.

At Palazzo Borromeo, on Isola Bella, it will be possible to visit the exhibition "Vitaliano VI. The invention of Isola Bella", curated by Alessandro Morandotti and Mauro Natale. The exhibition celebrates the creator of the ambitious project that defined what the island is today: the vessel that emerges from the waters of Lake Maggiore, a source of admiration and amazement for visitors from all over the world.

For those wishing to stay a few days, the offer of the prestigious Isola Bella Apartment has been extended with a new flat in the historic village where the fishermen's houses once stood.

In Stresa, **Parco Pallavicino** awaits children and nature and animal lovers to introduce its new guests: the piglet "Bacon" and the dwarf donkeys.

The food and wine offers in the Terre Borromeo locations also cater for different needs, ranging from the Fornello Bottega con Cucina, the bistro for a tasty break on Isola Bella, to the La Piratera restaurant opened last year on Isola Madre with a lake menu and the Rifugio Genziana restaurant on Mottarone to enjoy the genuine ingredients of the Ossola cuisine.

Reaching Terre Borromeo destinations with a ticket is ideal for skipping queues and organising your own Borromeo Experience. The platform booking.isoleborromeo.it is available for the purchase of tickets and taxi-boat transport.



Terre Borromeo and Alpinia Garden



For those who are looking for an authentic contact with nature under the banner of sport and fun, the **Mottarone Adventure Park** opens the summer season with several new features: from tree climbing to two Net Experience playgrounds dedicated to the three to ten year age group, in addition to the existing four.

The Mottarone Park will also be the setting for important sporting events:

- on 9 May, the International Vibram Trail Mottarone, a footrace on the paths connecting Stresa to the summit
- on 4 September a playful event on folding bikes, organised by endurance athlete Nico Valsesia in collaboration with Redbull.

All information about Terre Borromeo's attractions can be found on the new website www.isoleborromeo.it or by calling + 39 0323 933478.

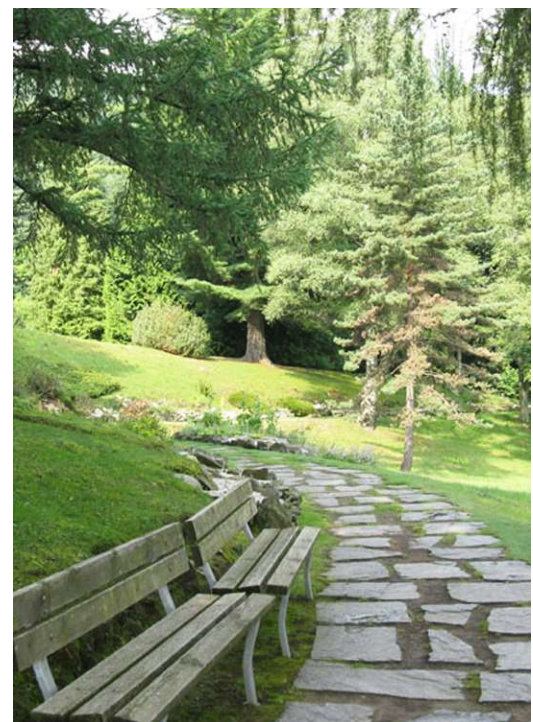
At <https://booking.isoleborromeo.it/> you can compose your own #Borromeoexperience, buying single or combined entrance tickets, guided tours, boat transport and much more.

Usually open from April (all day from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.) the **Alpinia Garden**, a 40,000 square meter natural balcony along the slopes of Mottarone, where you can relax while admiring Lake Maggiore thanks to the enchanting view from the Belvedere Hut and remaining in close contact with nature.

The Alpinia route is circular, with the two initial paths joining up: on the left you first pass through the woodland, while on the right from the main flower garden and a direct access to the panoramic view. Along the route, halfway along the Garden, there is a natural water spring coming from the summit of the Mottarone (1,492 m), with very pure water that is refreshing in the summer months. This garden features more than 700 different species of plants, most of them alpine, but you can also find species from the East and America.

The symbol of Alpinia is the Gentian, an alpine flower with a characteristic purplish-blue colour, small and bell-shaped, rare and beautiful.

(info and updates: www.giardinobotanicoalpinia.altervista.org)



Devotional sites

Our Sacred Mounts, UNESCO World Heritage Sites

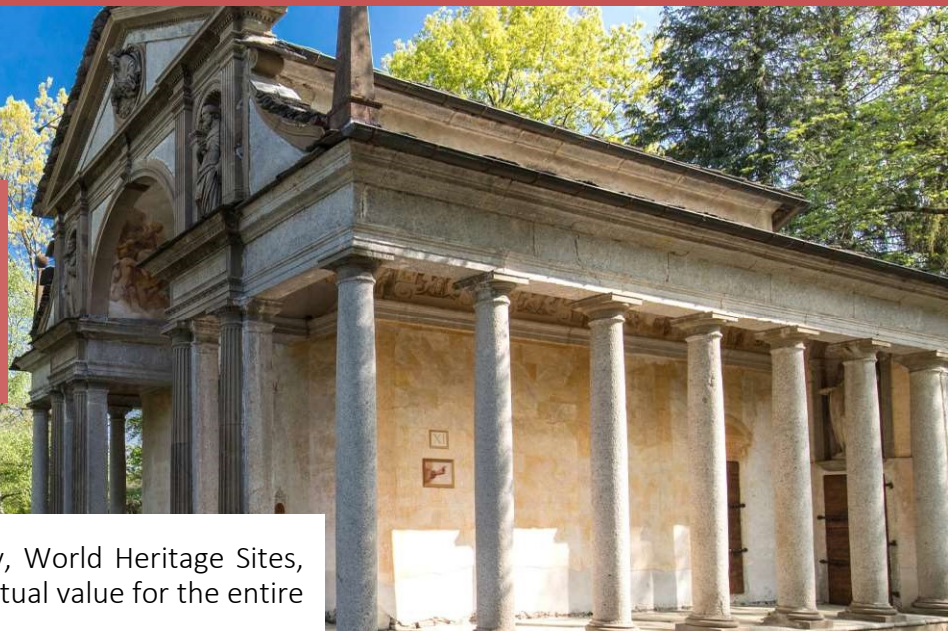
The three Sacred Mounts of our territory, World Heritage Sites, represent a great artistic, cultural and spiritual value for the entire community (info: www.sacri-monti.com).

The **Sacred Mount of the S.S. Trinità di Ghiffa**, located in a Special Nature Reserve managed by the Sacred Mounts Management Authority, is a religious complex built to celebrate episodes from the Old and New Testaments. In 2020, the roof of Chapel 3 was scheduled to be restored.

The **Sacred Mount of Orta** is a monumental complex dedicated to Saint Francis, located on the top of a hill behind the town, which together with Monte Mesma and Colle della Torre di Buccione is a Special Nature Reserve managed by the Sacred Mounts Management Authority. The 20 chapels narrating the life of the "Poor Man of Assisi" follow one another along a spiral path. From the forecourt of the medieval Church of S.S. Nicolao and Francesco you can enjoy one of the most beautiful views of Lake Orta. Two restorations started last year: Chapel 1 (external plastering and interior decoration) and Chapel 16 (roof renovation project).

The **Sacro Monte Calvario** complex in **Domodossola** - with its 15 chapels dedicated to the Passion of Christ - stands on the historic Mattarella Hill overlooking the Ossola capital. Don't miss the chance to spend days of peace and silence among faith, nature and art: the hospitality offered all year round by the Casa di Ospitalità Religiosa del Sacro Monte Calvario (info and general calendar of events: sacromontecalvario.blogspot.com/p/calendario-generale-2020.html). The restoration of the decorations in Chapel 5 of Sacro Monte was scheduled to be completed in 2020.

Moreover, all three Sacred Mounts - together with the Management Authority - will propose, during 2021, initiatives and events also in virtual form, which will be communicated during the various seasons.



The most anticipated events of 2021-2022

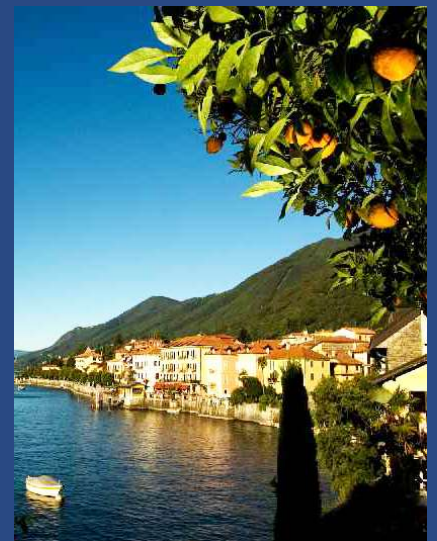
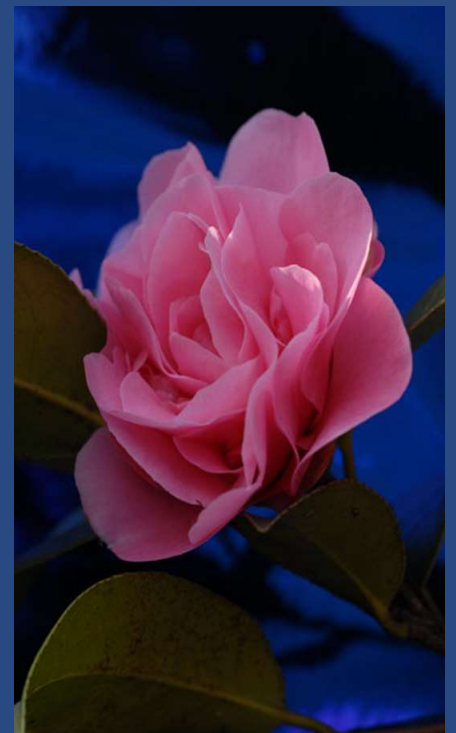
Due to the ongoing health emergency it is understandably impossible to predict a fixed calendar of events for the year 2021.

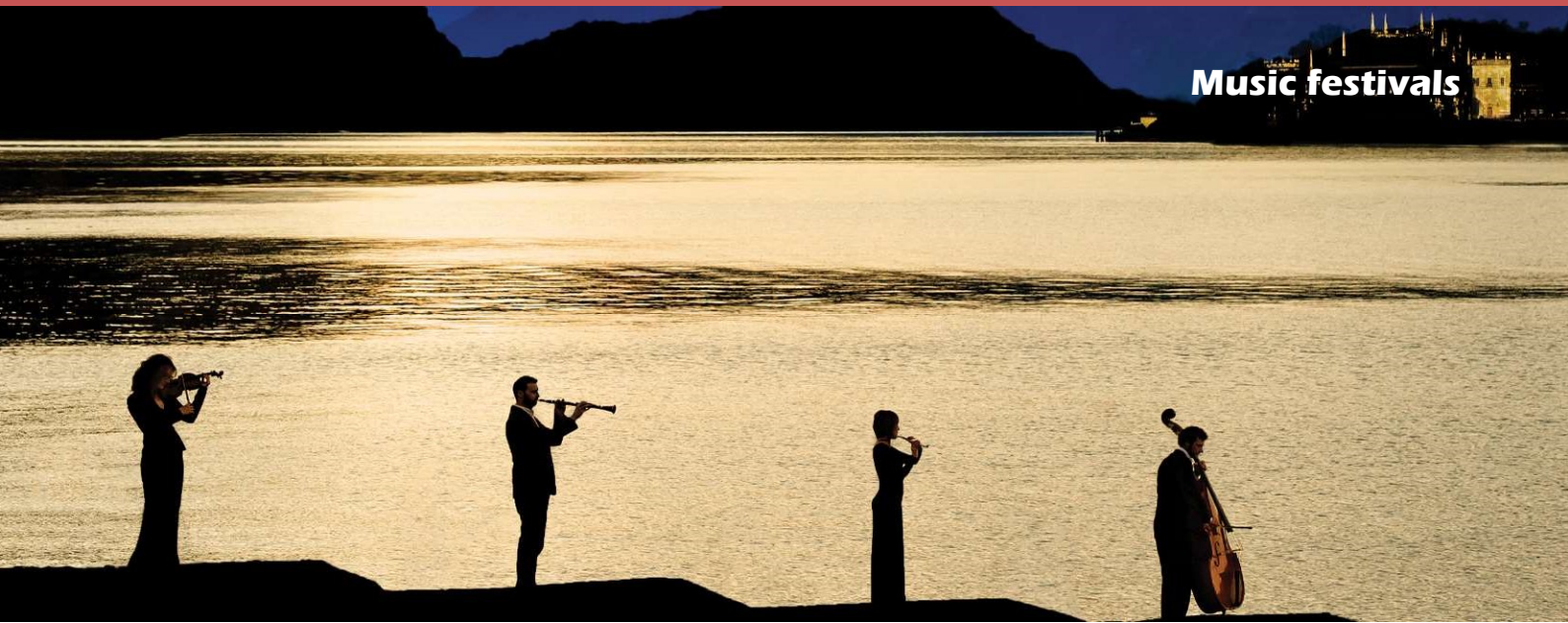
Below is a list of the main classical, musical, gastronomic and sporting events that generally take place in our area. Some currently confirmed and some - unmissable - postponed to the next tourist season 2022!

The 2021 edition of **Gli Agrumi di Cannero Riviera** will take place, in virtual form, from 6 to 14 March with a wealth of events: virtual tours of the gardens, tutorials and lessons on cultivation, composition, citrus fruits in the kitchen, in art and history, experiences and projects (info and calendar: www.cannero.it).

Verbania will save the exhibition that has opened the tourist season of the entire area for a century, the **Camellia Exhibition**, an annual event that will be repeated on 27 and 28 March 2021. A classic event that opens the flowering season. A tour to discover more than 300 varieties of camellias of different colours, shapes and sizes, preserved in the historic gardens in and around the city, on the shores of Lake Maggiore. The programme usually includes expert-guided tours of the magnificent parks of Villa Taranto, Isola Madre, Villa Rusconi Clerici, Villa Giuseppina and Villa Anelli, motorboat tours to admire private gardens from the lake, plant exhibitions organised by the Consorzio Fiori Tipici del Lago Maggiore, tasting of tea made from camellia buds, sales of flower-themed books and objects, and workshops for children. There is also a strong desire to repeat the "**Winter Camellia Exhibition**" in the autumn.

Thanks to the collaboration between the Municipality of Verbania and the Italian Camellia Society, Verbania will host the world congress of the International Camellia Society in the spring of 2023. At the same time as Verbania, don't forget - for 2022 - the events dedicated to the Camellia organised in the municipalities of **Cannero Riviera** (VB) and **Gozzano** (NO). The latter town, which overlooks Lake Orta, cyclically holds its traditional **Camellia and Spring Flower Show**, an event with free admission.





Stresa Festival: music on Lake Maggiore is green.

From 9 to 25 July and from 19 August to 5 September.

The summer of Lake Maggiore is tinged with "green": it is the lucky moment for those who love nature that, combined with the power of music, offers an exciting and stimulating experience. It is an inviting route along the natural and musical routes of Europe, between landscapes and notes that imprint old and new suggestions, a destination that has always been sought after for natural beauty and musical occasions.

The Festival is even more intensely tied to its territory and confirms a bond that has its roots in sixty years of history: a distinctive sign and source of inspiration is the deep and continuous dialogue with the precious sound spaces that overlook the lake and become a home for music and artists.

Mario Brunello, the Festival's new artistic director, draws a map that tends to enhance open-air events and in which the music brought by the artists is the ideal meeting place. In addition to the enchanting Borromean Islands, locations such as Villa Pallavicino, the Rocca di Angera, the Sacro Monte of Orta San Giulio, Mottarone and the Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso become the perfect setting for meeting the artists, their music and stories, nature and landscapes of unforgettable charm.

Full programme available from May at www.stresafestival.eu

For information and updates subscribe to the newsletter or send an email to comunicazione@stresafestival.eu

From June to September, the peaks, alpine pastures and mountain refuges of the high Piedmont region are transformed into inimitable open-air stages for concerts and engaging performances: this is the winning recipe of **Musica in Quota**, the much-loved festival which will offer a dozen appointments - all with free admission - from 19 June to 5 September 2021. Programme and info on www.musicainquota.it



Foto di Lorenzo di Nozzi



ph. Lorenzo di Nozzi © Stresa Festival

Music Festivals



The **Di Parola in Musica Festival** is back again this year, organised by the Zebo Orchestra, Zero Emission Baroque Orchestra. The concerts (4 narratives and 2 chamber concerts) will take place in the municipalities of Cannero Riviera, Baveno, Stresa, Belgirate from 24 July to 19 August 2021. Free admission (info and dates: www.orchestrazebo.com).

We continue with the 2021 programme of **Un Paese a Sei Corde**, the 16th edition of the travelling festival in the Cusio and Alto Novarese area dedicated to acoustic and classical guitar in all its forms. This year the events will take place between mid-June and mid-September, the month in which there will also be a major event dedicated to lutherie (info: www.unpaeseaseicorde.it).

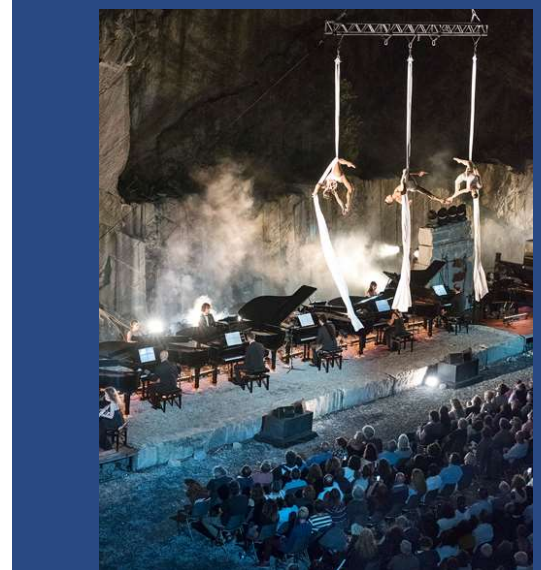
Also confirmed is the **16th International Organ Festival "Sonata Organi"** (artistic direction by maestro Christian Tarabbia), from 5 to 26 June. The artists who were unable to perform last year will be involved again, and the theme of the various events will be "Baroque Schools". Each artist will present authors and aspects of Baroque organ literature specific to their homeland. Among those present: the German Franz Günthner, the French organist Frédéric Munoz, the organ and baroque violin duo of Stefano Molardi and Gian Andrea Guerra and the Belgian Jan Vermeire (www.sonataorgani.it).

Tones on the Stones, a unique event that for years has enriched the panorama of Piedmontese festivals, is transformed and becomes a real season with a series of events that are different from each other, but always innovative and engaging. From the beginning of July to the beginning of September, there will be not only shows (the big shows to celebrate 15 years of the festival, conceived and directed by Maddalena Calderoni, are a must), but also activities for people's well-being, appointments dedicated to the mountains and many other surprises (updates on www.tonesonthestones.com).

Also: the **Villa Nigra Opera Festival** may soon return to the beautiful natural stage of Villa Nigra (Miasino) (info and updates on www.facebook.com/VillaNigraOperaFestival).

The 21st edition of the **Miasino Classic Jazz Festival** - not being able at the moment to know the summer situation and to confirm the dates of the events - gives us an appointment for 2022 (www.facebook.com/miasinojazz).

The same situation applies to the numerous events scheduled on Lake Orta: the **Cusiano Festival of Ancient Music** (Orta San Giulio and Pella), the **Orta Festival** and **Orta Jazz**.



The historic **Ossola Guitar Festival**, with free, travelling concerts in July and August, is currently being organised (updates on artexe.org).

Themed exhibitions, guided tours and music

LAGO MAGGIORE
LETTERALTURA
FESTIVAL DI LETTERATURA DI MONTAGNA, VIAGGIO, AVVENTURA

All events, exhibitions
and shows

6th Season of **Lakescapes**, the widespread Theatre of the Lake, with 13 appointments in five towns (Meina, Lesa, Castelletto Ticino, Dormelletto and Oleggio Castello) together with the "Accademia dei Folli" Ensemble. The Festival will start in late spring 2021 with musical and theatrical events as a means of enhancing the territory and spreading culture: great classics revisited, new productions by the Accademia dei Folli, portraits of great artists who have fascinated entire generations, and, new for 2021, two events dedicated to children.

From 28 May to 6 June 2021, the Centro Culturale La Fabbrica in Villadossola (VB) will host the 23rd edition of the most important book fair in northern Piedmont, **Fabbrica di Carta**. The theme of this new edition will be the historical novel: protagonists from the world of culture, new publications, workshops for children, exhibitions and meetings will be the ingredients of the rich programme. Free admission. Info on www.fabbricadicarta.it

In Santa Maria Maggiore, in the Vigizzo Valley, "**Sentieri e Pensieri**", the summer cultural event under the artistic direction of Bruno Gambarotta, will be back for the 9th edition. Once again this summer, many authors, artists and protagonists of the Italian cultural scene will take to the stage of the festival and create a rich calendar of encounters. Appointment from 19 to 24 August 2021. A renewed and enlarged venue - already successfully tested in 2020 - and a precise security protocol will provide maximum serenity to the public also for this edition. Information and programme at www.santamariamaggiore.info.

The 15th **Lago Maggiore Letteraltura** Festival is the mountain, travel and adventure literature festival that will take place from Sunday 19 to Sunday 26 September 2021 in Verbania, at the "Il Maggiore" Event Centre and Villa Giulia in Pallanza. The two themes chosen for this edition are "body" and "bicycle". Meetings with writers, sportsmen and experts, theatre performances, music, exhibitions, bicycle rides and activities for the very young; the event will feature various stands, in particular the Festival Bookshop, to give special attention to books and reading. A "small creative writing competition" with the same themes as the Festival will also be promoted. The festival will be preceded in August by numerous book presentations, meetings with various personalities from the literary and sporting worlds in the "Aspettando Il Festival" review. The programmes are still being finalised (info: www.associazioneletteraltura.com).



Culture, Literature, Theatre, Performing Arts



The Book Fair **Editoria & Giardini** (Publishing and Gardens) will be back in 2022. It is the only Italian book fair dedicated to gardens, a nationwide event that brings together scholars, experts and enthusiasts to take part in the various scheduled initiatives (www.editoriaegiardini.it).

The **Teatro sull'Acqua** (Water Theatre) in Arona turns 11! The 2021 edition of the festival directed by Dacia Maraini will be held from 7 to 12 September with the traditional setting of an exclusive production on water, the Teatro in Villa festival, the Teatro in Strada and meetings with authors in Piazza San Graziano. There will be many new features to be announced closer to the start of the festival.

There will also be cultural events dedicated to **Gianni Rodari** and to the initiatives related to this author proposed by the Municipality of Omegna: from May 2021 (until June) a number of online meetings called "Dialoghi rodariani" (Rodari Dialogues) will be held, featuring book presentations and talks by experts in children's literature. September will see the **Agorà Philosophy Festival** dedicated to Rodari, followed by the autumn event (October) "**Gianni Rodari Festival of Children's Literature**", the "**Rodari Award**" and, still in autumn, the eagerly awaited **opening of the Museum**. Finally, let's not forget that on the occasion of 2020, the Rodarian year (100 years since the birth of the writer from Omegna), the Municipality of Omegna has created a website dedicated to the illustrious writer: www.rodari2020.it.

Since 2013 **CROSS Festival** has been bringing to the shores of Lake Maggiore an intense programme of contemporary performance languages. From 11 to 20 June 2021, with an interesting appendix in September, the 9th edition of the Festival will combine the best of its experience with the most striking aspects that have emerged during the health emergency, in an increasingly close relationship with the territory, its businesses, society and the many aspects of its culture (info: www.crossproject.it).

Together with *Cortinametraggio*, it is the only International Festival of Short Films in the Italian Alps: now in its 21st edition, **Malescorto** is an unmissable event for lovers of the genre and beyond. The 20th edition of Malescorto, staged in 2019, confirmed the festival's international prestige, with almost a thousand short films arriving from all corners of the world.



Gianni Rodari
100 ANNI OMEGNA

Le reti museali del territorio: la ricca offerta culturale

The **Museo Manzoniano** in Lesa - at Palazzo Stampa - is a neoclassical villa where Alessandro Manzoni stayed with his second wife. Inside you can visit the Sala Manzoni, where books, manuscripts and parchments concerning the life and works of the illustrious writer are collected. The Museum will be open during the summer season, subject to COVID-19 health regulations and protocols.

In Stresa there are two important cultural sites, **Villa Ducale** (the oldest villa in Stresa) and the "Pietro Canonica Museum". The first, located on the lakeside, was built by the Bolongaro family around 1770, and from 1850 to 1855 became the home of the Abbot and philosopher Antonio Rosmini - considered the greatest Italian thinker of the 19th century - and today it is the seat of the International Centre for Rosminian Studies with the task of promoting culture in general and Rosmini's thought and work. Villa Ducale is usually open from Monday to Friday from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 pm. The entrance is free, group visits by appointment only. The **Pietro Canonica Museum** in Stresa is dedicated to this artist, who in 1953 donated a group of plaster casts and marbles to the town, which are now housed in a specially dedicated room in the Town Hall. The Canonica exhibition space is usually open from the end of March to the end of October on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., admission is free (www.stresaturismo.it).

The Italian "home" of Acqua di Colonia, conceived and marketed by two emigrants from Vigevano, is in Santa Maria Maggiore: the "**Casa del Profumo Feminis-Farina**", a multimedia and multi-sensory museum that has already welcomed thousands of visitors since its inauguration in March 2018. The opening of the small museum is guaranteed with sanitised routes and all necessary safety measures. Info and details at www.santamariamaggiore.info.

The **Museo del Paesaggio** of Verbania was founded in 1909 by Antonio Massara. Today, the Museum offers the public painting and sculpture collections on various aspects of art and history of the province. The Museum, in compliance with the Prime Ministerial Decree in force, will organise the openings of Palazzo Viani Dugnani with the collections dedicated to the Russian sculptor Paolo Troubetzkoy, the 19th century picture gallery and the 20th century nucleus of works by Mario Tozzi and Arturo Martini. For exhibitions: from 13 June to 26 September 2021 the exhibition "Carrà and Martini. Myth, vision and invention. The graphic work", with works from the Museum's collection and a private Milanese collection. More than 90 works will be exhibited. The Museum is already open to the public, every Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (www.museodelpaesaggio.it).



The Granite Museums

Mergozzo is a "land of stone" with a landscape that combines the transparency of the lake waters with the imposing presence of Montorfano, to which the Granite Ecomuseum is dedicated. The Granite Ecomuseum involves the entire Mergozzo area and its surroundings, including the quarrying areas of the pink Candoglia marble, the white/green Montorfano granite and the pink Baveno granite. For 2021, the renewal of the cultural review "La pietra racconta", exhibitions and various events.

The Municipality of Baveno also boasts the presence of the Granum Museum, which narrates the millenary history of the extraction of the "Granites of the Lakes".

Info:
www.ecomuseogranitomontorfano.it
FB: @ecomuseogranito

Discovering ancient traditions and local history



The **Antiquarium Museum of Gravellona Toce**, for 2021, reopens to the public from Monday to Friday by reservation only and for a maximum of 2 people at the same time (3 if there is a child under 14). The guided tour is organised by the "Felice Pattaroni" Cultural Archaeological Association and is free of charge: +39 0323 848386 ext. 7 or servizisociali@comune.gravellonatoce.vb.it).

Interesting news for the new year at the **Meina Museum**, the cultural park on Lake Maggiore dedicated to nature, with the opening of the new multimedia route "IMAGO - explorations between the micro and macro world". It is a multimedia journey centred on explorations starting with those related to the territory between history, art, popular myths, environment and new frontiers of knowledge. Each hall will immerse the visitor in a parallel world of large video projections, holograms, three-dimensional and multi-sensory experiences, videomapping and innovative 4D effects. The tour is in Italian; screenings with English subtitles will be possible on request. The experience at the Meina Museum continues with other activities: the old greenhouses, the nurseries and "MICROMACRO", a photographic exhibition on butterflies and insects. There are also QR-CODE signs in the park providing information on the main botanical species, also in English. Visits will resume as soon as the decrees will allow it in full safety. Limited access. (info: www.museomeina.it).

The Documentation Centre of the **Casa della Resistenza** (Parco della Memoria e della Pace) in Verbania Fondotoce was set up in 2010 with the aim of protecting and enhancing the photographic heritage relating to the Resistance, and more generally to the history of the twentieth century in the Verbano Cusio Ossola area, through a gradual process of census, digitisation and cataloguing.

From month to month, the centre will offer some online initiatives on its official website www.casadellaresistenza.it and on the Facebook page of the Association, where you can view events, contents and download free material.

Finally, we would like to point out that - if permitted by the health regulations in force - the **Archeomuseo of Arona** will be open all year round during the usual hours: Tuesday 10-12 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday 3-6 p.m. A new thematic showcase dedicated to Arona in prehistoric times will also be set up to highlight the materials found in recent excavations (www.archeomuseo.it).

Museums Networks

Ossola has a rich and widespread museum heritage, expressed in numerous small and medium-sized exhibitions, about forty, united in the Associazione Musei d'Ossola, to create a network that enhances, promotes and creates a synergistic relationship between the cultural heritage of these museums. We would like to point out the creation of "APProdi Museali", an APP that will allow users to access the network's museums directly from their smartphones, downloading the audio guides onto their devices and making it possible to enjoy and organise a visit independently. The APP will be available from summer 2021. Initiatives planned for the coming months: theatrical performances, courses, contests, the "Festival of Illustration" and the "Conference on Alpine fortifications". (amossola.it). The Alto Verbano Museum Network includes the museum sites of Palazzo Parasi (Cannobio), the Ethnographic and Brush Museum and the Citrus Park (Cannero Riviera), the Hat Art Museum (Ghiffa), the Ethnographic Museum of Gurro and the Cannobina Valley (Gurro), the Lake and Mountain Ecomuseum Documentation Centre (Lunecco) and the Tactile Natural Science Museum (Trarego Viggiona) (info: unionelagomaggiore.it/musei.asp). The Lake Orta and Mottarone Ecomuseum (Cusius Ecomuseum) is made up of a group of small sites and museums organised along three main thematic itineraries: material culture, art and nature. (lagodorta.net).

Events and festivals, a feast of local food and wine

Below is an approximate calendar of food and wine events that are usually scheduled throughout the year (although the normal events are not confirmed as yet).

At Oleggio Castello (NO) we find **Sapori in Festa** (26 September 2021), a day dedicated to the family, nature and seasonal food and wine (comune.oleggiocastello.no.it).

Also on Lake Maggiore, **Arona Street Food** is proposed in June, with many food trucks, real restaurants on two wheels. We also recommend **Ossola in Cantina** (to be confirmed), a day in the mountains of northern Piedmont, discovering the wine-growing landscapes and the open cellars of the Ossola Valley. We continue with the medieval commemoration **Terre d'Agogna - Assedio alla Torre** (Siege to the Tower) in Bolzano Novarese (2022), the **Fiera di San Bernardo** in Macugnaga (2, 3 and 4 July 2021), **Sapori di Lago** in Baveno (August) and the **Potato Fair** in Montecrestese (August). On the subject of festivals, the calendar usually includes the **Sagra del Mirtillo** (Blueberry Fair) in Bognanco (August), the **Festa dell'Uva** (Grape Festival) in Masera (the 96th edition should take place from 9 to 13 September 2021), the **Sagra del Fungo in Trontano** (Mushroom Fair) (September), **Fuori di Zucca** in Santa Maria Maggiore (16 and 17 October 2021), the **Mostra Pomologica of Verbano Cusio Ossola** (Fruit growing Fair) (already confirmed in Villadossola on 17 October 2021) and the **Sagra della Zucca** (Pumpkin Fair) in Omegna (October). In Nebbiuno we recommend the **Strawberry Festival** in June and the **Transhumance Festival** in October. Not to be missed is the gastronomic event **Gente di Lago e di Fiume** (Lake and River People), to be held on 3 and 4 October 2021 at Isola Pescatori on Lake Maggiore, featuring star chefs, fine recipes and scientific information.

Event confirmation: www.distrettolaghi.it/eventi



International Chimney Sweep Gathering 2021: waiting for updates and confirmations between April and May. All information at www.santamariamaggiore.info

Family events, magical moments and the anticipation of Christmas

The Grotta di Babbo Natale (Santa's Grotto) confirms for 2021 events for children and families throughout the year and with new formulas based on current safety protocols. It will start on Easter Monday, 5 April, with the Castello delle Sorprese (Castle of Surprises) in Oleggio Castello (Lake Maggiore), with a new magic route within the Castle, an area dedicated to Disney Princesses, Superheroes and Harry Potter and plenty of space in the park for picnics. The Castle's opening dates: 5 - 10 - 11 - 17 - 18 April 2021. Also reconfirmed are the summer events that already in 2020 attracted many families to the lakes and mountains of our territory: cruises on Lake Maggiore for families, open-air picnics with a gold search and fantastic characters at Lago delle Rose in Ornavasso, and new appointments with medieval games. All the summer events, as in summer 2020, will be oriented towards the enjoyment of outdoor experiences, in contact with nature, and the rediscovery of local sites and traditions, with excursions also on Monte Rosa and nights in tents for families. At the beginning of September, the Lago dei Draghi (Lake of Dragons) will return to Omegna, the event dedicated to Lake Orta and its mythical creatures, scheduled for 4-5-11-12 September. From 27 November to 27 December the Santa's Grotto and Stresa Christmas events kick off.

Updates and information on all family events will be available at www.grottadibabbonatale.it

Trail and Ultratrail in the mountains. Panoramic races and Ski mountaineering

Lake Maggiore Experience: sports and outdoor competitions



The Valle Anzasca Ski Club and the "Damiano Lenzi Fans Club" are looking forward to 2022 with the "**Rosa Ski Raid**" ski mountaineering race, which will take place in Macugnaga, in front of the majestic Monte Rosa (www.rosaskiraid.it).

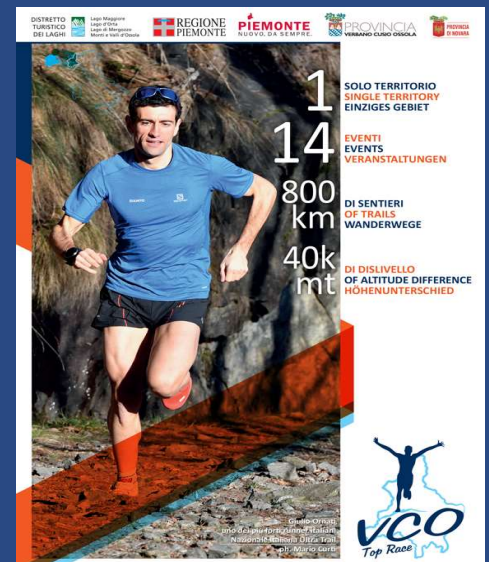
Also in 2021, Lake Maggiore will be the destination of thousands of runners who enhance the area through sport, especially running: the **13th Lake Maggiore Half Marathon** (18 April 2021, 21km and 10km, between Verbania and Stresa) and the **10th SPORTWAY Lake Maggiore Marathon** (7 November 2021) will be back, with an important novelty: a return to their origins with the start in Arona (and finishing in Verbania). Four distances will be available: 42km, 33km, 21km and 10km. Both competitions have earned the title of "race with the most scenic route in Italy" (lmhm.it and lagomaggioremarchon.it).

Also the "**Monterosa EST Himalayan Trail**" also returns - for the 3rd edition - on 17 and 18 July 2021! The 5 distances 14K, 22K, 38K, 60K and 105K are confirmed. To enjoy the highest mountain wall in Europe, the MEHT is a Trail Running event in the presence of the East Face of Monterosa, the highest in Europe and the only one in Himalayan style. The starting and finishing point is the typical Walser village of Macugnaga, a unique setting ([info: www.MEHT.it](http://info:www.MEHT.it)).

There is also something new: the 1st edition of the **ULTRA Trail of Lake Maggiore**, on 18 September 2021, which will cover the distances of 37K and 81K. The first UTLM ideally links the lake to the mountains, passing through the Val Grande National Park. A trail running event capable of promoting the entire area crossed by the race routes, the nine municipalities touched by the races and the splendid territory between Lake Maggiore and the Val Grande peaks.

The **Vibram®UTLO 2021** will take place on 15, 16 and 17 October 2021, further details will be made official in the coming months. Let's recall the numbers of the 2019 edition, which made the UTLO the 2nd most important trail event in Italy: 2.200 registered participants, 500 of them from abroad, 45 nations from 5 continents (www.ultratraillo.com).

And let's not forget the numerous sporting competitions that every year choose our area as the ideal location, both for the variety of sites and the beauty of the views: Triathlon, acrobatic paragliding, rock climbing, car rallies, road and mountain bike races, canyoning competitions, sailing regattas and golf tournaments.



VCO TOP RACE 2021

We would like to inform you that the appointment with the trail circuit will be postponed until 2022, due to organisational uncertainty caused by the health emergency. Below is the calendar of the only events scheduled for 2021, confirmed and/or being finalised:

6 June - Valle Intrasca Marathon (in pairs)

Date to be confirmed - Stragranda Monte Rosa (Valle Anzasca)

Date to be confirmed - La Sfadia'a (Craveggia)

25 July - Val Brevettola Sky Race (Montescheno)

1 August - Mozzafiato Trail (Cannobio)

Date to be confirmed - Lake Maggiore Zipline Trail (Alpe Segletta)

Boats and Motorboats, Cable Cars and Trains

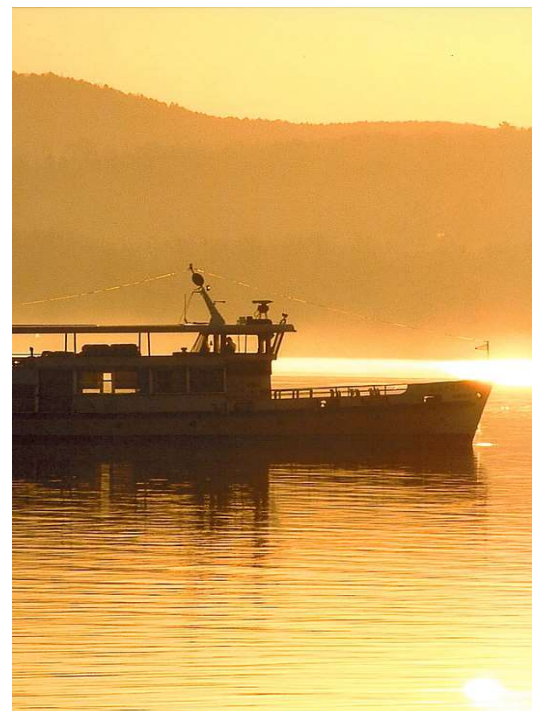
Transport for tourists

New for the season is the arrival - for **Navigazione Lago Maggiore** - of a new boat, which will bring the number of vessels on our lake up to 37; this is a new 200-seater hybrid motorboat equipped with lithium polymer batteries that will guarantee the possibility of sailing in electric mode with a lower environmental impact also in terms of noise emissions. As far as services are concerned, the international line between Switzerland and Italy, for which Navigazione Lago Maggiore is the exclusive operator, will restart and the return trips from the Swiss ports of Locarno, Ascona and Brissago will allow foreign tourists to reach the markets of Luino, Cannobio and Stresa to discover the beauty of the area. The customary "supplementary runs" in mid-March will intensify all connections before the new spring/summer timetable starting on 28 March 2021. Connections between Arona and Stresa and services to the Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso will also start up again, as well as connections to the Borromean Islands scheduled every half hour. The vehicle ferry service between the Intra and Laveno shores will be guaranteed with daily runs starting at 5.00 am until 11.30 pm with the last evening run. Also important will be the resumption of the **Lago Maggiore Express** service, the beautiful excursion that with a single ticket guarantees to navigate along the entire lake and use the train to travel through the Centovalli and the splendid Val Vigezzo. Navigazione Lago Maggiore also intends to offer the Laveno Express (Historical Train and Piedmont Steamship) on several Sundays during the summer season, subject to agreement with the FS Foundation.

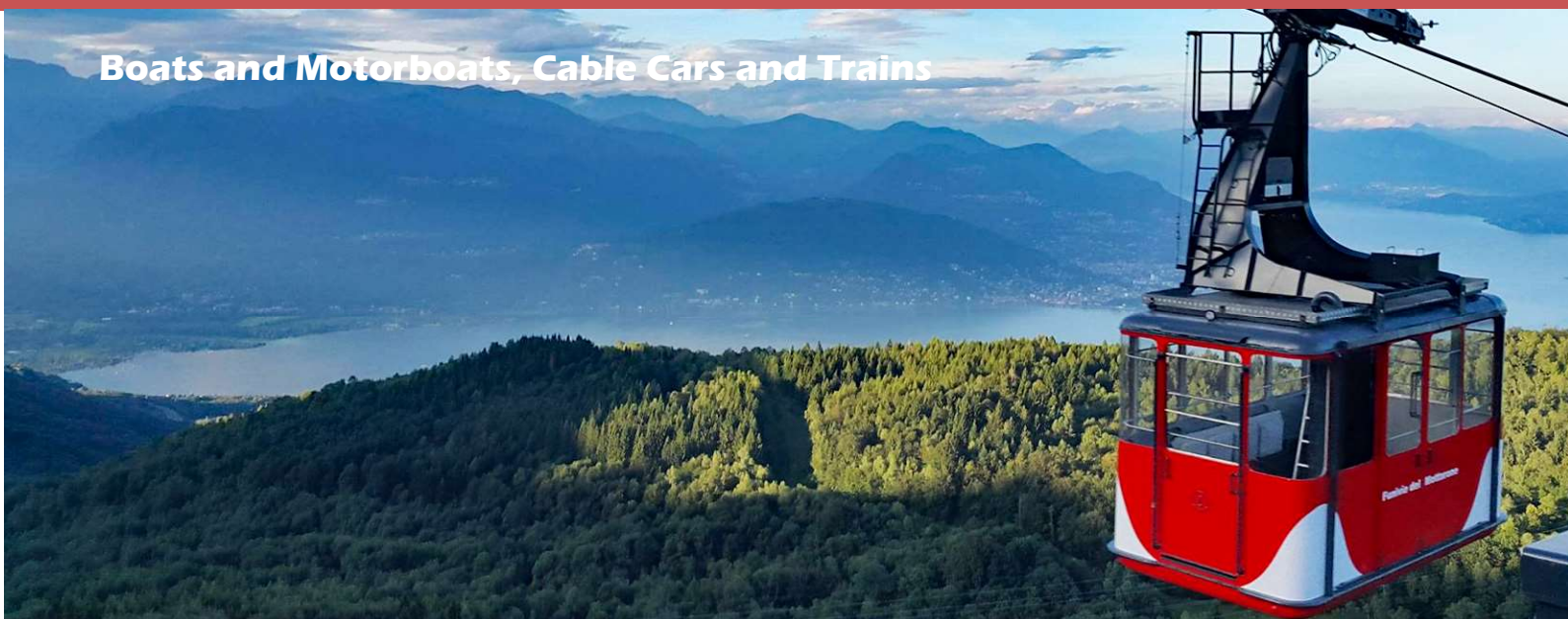
For the new season, Navigazione Lago Maggiore has decided to offer numerous services to Italian and foreign tourists, to give a sign of confidence and recovery to all tourist activities in the area, trusting that the emergency health situation will be resolved as soon as possible (www.navigazionealaghi.it).

The navigation service on Lake Maggiore is also offered by the **motorboat operators of the Private Consortia**, which provide high quality and comfort and are characterised by the flexibility of the fleet and attention to customer needs.

Let's move geographically to remind that the entire **Lake Orta** is served by **Navigazione Lago d'Orta** with daily lines (from 3 April) between Pella, Isola di San Giulio and Orta San Giulio. The Free Circulation Ticket will allow you to experience a full cruise on the entire Lake Orta (€ 9.20, also available online). Finally, complete cruises around the lake are confirmed, departing daily from Omegna at 9.00 am and 2.15 pm (info and bookings: info@navigazionealagodorta.it).



Boats and Motorboats, Cable Cars and Trains



The Island of San Giulio and the surrounding area of Orta can also be reached by the motorboats of the **Orta San Giulio Public Service Navigation Consortium** (shuttles run every 15 minutes every day; rates, timetables, proposals and news on the official website www.navigazioneorta.it), which take visitors on a discovery of evocative and meditative views, such as the marvellous Basilica of San Giulio.

Have you ever experienced the thrill of a "virtual dive" into the panoramic Lake Maggiore? Experience it on board the **Mottarone Cable Car**, which connects Stresa-Alpino-Mottarone with a 20-minute ride that will take you to an altitude of 1,492 metres to enjoy a stupendous panorama of 7 Lakes, the immense Po Valley and the marvellous circle of Italian and Swiss Alps with the Monte Rosa range (4.463 mt.) (www.stresa-mottarone.it).

The **Vigezzina Centovalli Railway**, listed by Lonely Planet as one of the most beautiful in the world, is the scenic line that, through the wonderful landscapes of the Vigezzo Valley and the Centovalli, connects Domodossola, in the Ossola Valley, to Locarno, in Canton Ticino. The railway is in the Hall of Fame of Tripadvisor, and offers numerous on-board experiences, including the unmissable Treno del Foliage - a "must" for lovers of nature and the charms of autumn, scheduled every year between mid-October and mid-November - and the **Lago Maggiore Express**, a circular tour by train and boat to discover the lush landscapes between the lakes and mountains. We would also like to point out that trips on the historic train will be offered again in 2021, one Sunday a month between April and October: each trip will be a special occasion to experience a journey in an atmosphere of times gone by, a plunge into the past to be experienced by travelling on the route between Locarno and Camedo, with the possibility of choosing from a variety of ticket offers and combining them with a panoramic trip between Domodossola and Locarno. The 2021 fares remain unchanged, with the possibility of purchasing tickets combined with the cable cars for excursions and splendid walks in contact with nature and boarding the white and blue trains to discover the villages and mountain pastures of the Vigezzo Valley, benefiting from the convenient summer fares.

For information, offers and reservations: www.vigezzinacentovalli.com.



Water Sports, Golf and Adventure Parks

Fun and leisure
between lakes
and mountains

At the **Aquadventure Park** in Baveno, as soon as the health situation permits, the outdoor novelties will be launched, starting with the Rock Wall, on which new climbing routes and an assisted trail will be set up. The adventure will continue with trampolines, paintball, falconry, e-bike hire, heated swimming pool, waterslides and lake view beach (www.lagomaggioreadventure.com).

Le Pigne Adventure Park in Ameno, close to Lake Orta, is set in a beautiful wood of chestnut, oak and fir trees. You can walk among the trees up to 12 metres high, between Tibetan bridges, Nepalese bridges, lianas, swinging rings, swinging beams, walkways, barrels and tyrolienne. New features in 2021 include the Giant Bench built on top of Monte Duno, the itinerant sculpture trail "The Forest Dwellers", the Bungee Dance, an orienteering trail in the forest with different difficulty levels and the Relaxation Area, with hammocks and deckchairs (info: www.lepigne.it).

Visiting **Monte Zuoli** you can admire the extraordinary panorama of Lake Orta but also enjoy a fitness and MTB trail, rock climbing and the playground facilities of the "Torta in Cielo" (visitomegna.it/places/montezuoli).

The **Praudina Adventure Park** is a reference point for an adrenaline-filled experience of fun in the midst of nature, with adventure trails and three ziplines among spruce trees. The centuries-old pine forest of Santa Maria Maggiore in the Vigizzo Valley is home to the suspended trail. The park is open from June to September. (info on www.santamariamaggiore.info/praudina)

The **Wonderwood** adventure park in Trarego Viggiona will open on 1 April 2021. New in 2021: 3 new paths for children from 90 cm in height and the first *Big Bench* in the Lakes area (Lake Maggiore and Varese) located on Monte Carza, a giant bench that will allow you to become a child again and admire the panorama of Lake Maggiore from a different perspective. More new attractions are on the way for families and four-legged friends (wonderwood.co.uk).

We also recommend **Alpyland**, the adrenaline-filled, panoramic bobsleigh track at the top of Mottarone in both summer and winter (alpyland.com).

Those who want to experience a flight 350 metres above the ground can do so on the **Lago Maggiore Zipline** at Aurano (VB), an 1850 metre long steel cable on which to fly at over 120 km/h for a minute and a half of pure fun (lagomaggiorezipline.it).



Bognanco and Premia thermal baths

Wellness, relaxation and care for all ages



Bognanco and its thermal baths, with over 150 years of history, are located in a corner of Piedmont bordering Switzerland, in a green valley full of waterfalls and streams, the Val Bognanco. The qualities that attracted the attention of the whole of Italy, Europe and America at the time remain unchanged to this day: since 1963, the spa has welcomed more than 20 million visitors, 10 millions of whom have enjoyed the hydropinic treatments. Other facilities include a Turkish bath, experience showers, reaction bath, Finnish sauna, swimming pools, SPASstream, herbal tea room and Relaxation Room (www.bognanco.it).

Premia Terme, in Alta Valle Antigorio, is a modern facility with indoor and outdoor thermal pools fed by a spring that gushes out at a temperature of about 42° and offering important therapeutic and moisturising properties. Cycles of spa treatments are offered in agreement with the National Health System or on payment. In addition, hydromassage beds, cervical jets, a vascular course and an area dedicated to children: fun and relaxation for the whole family (www.premiaterme.com).



LIVE YOUR LAKE MAGGIORE EXPERIENCE!

Lake Maggiore, Lake Orta and Lake Mergozzo, surrounded by the splendid Ossola valleys, await you for a 360° holiday. Let yourself be welcomed and pampered in one of the more than 900 accommodation facilities and over 1,400 tourist locations in our region, take advantage of the endless opportunities for outdoor activities and entertainment, savour the local culture linked to excellent wines and food specialities, become a protagonist by experiencing first-hand the stages of great and unforgettable events!

With almost 4 million visitors a year, more than 79% of whom foreigners, the Distretto Turistico dei Laghi area - strategically located along important international connecting axes between Italy and Switzerland, Milan and Turin - is the leading destination in Piedmont in terms of international tourism, as well as being one of the most important Dolce Vita destinations in Northern Italy!



Distretto Turistico dei Laghi & IAT

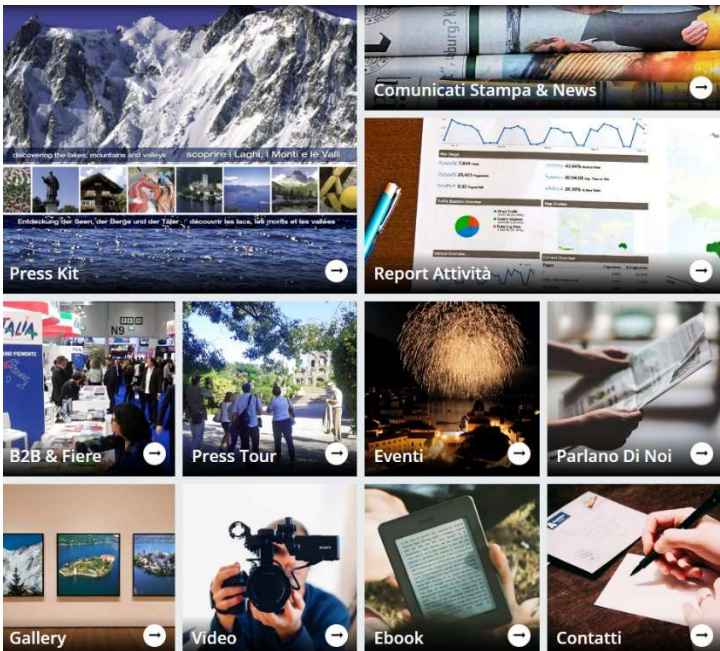
The Distretto Turistico dei Laghi is the Local Tourist Agency officially appointed by the Piedmont Region to provide information, promotion and hospitality for the territory of LAKE MAGGIORE, LAKE D'ORTA, LAKE MERGOZZO and VALLI DELL'OSSOLA.

The new Info Centre of our Local Tourist Agency welcomes tourists and visitors 7/7 days a year and, thanks to its trained and multilingual staff, provides tourist information concerning its entire territory. Come and visit us, we will be waiting for you!

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