

Discovering what's new in tourism 2023



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

A microcosm of emotions to explore!

The 2023 tourist season kicks off

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

The Distretto Turistico dei Laghi Monti e Valli 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 relaxing and quality stay.

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

All around, the crown of the **Ossola Valleys** offers mountain lovers vast expanses of forests, alpine lakes, high peaks and spectacular parks: these include **Monte Rosa**, the **Val Grande National Park**, the **Alpe Veglia-Devero** and **Alta Valle Antrona Nature Parks.**

And let's not forget our fantastic municipalities and villages holding the prestigious **Orange Flags** (awarded by the Italian Touring Club to Arona, Cannero, Cannobio, Macugnaga, Malesco, Mergozzo, Santa Maria Maggiore, Orta San Giulio and Vogogna) and the **2022 Blue Flags** to the seaside resorts of Cannero Riviera, Cannobio and Gozzano, **the only places in the whole of Piedmont to obtain this important recognition.**

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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 in this first period (March - April) from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (except Fridays and Saturdays, when the closing time will be extended to 9 p.m.); from May to October the Park will always open at 10 a.m. but will close at 8 p.m., except Fridays and Saturdays when the closing time will be 10 p.m. and later.

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

As always, numerous events will take place throughout the season, including theatre, music, markets, gymnastic speciality days, book presentations, lectures, exhibitions of various kinds, guided tours and much more, of course all currently being confirmed. Among the events already scheduled: in July a four-day music event with the Israeli artist NOA (and numerous other artists), in September the "Liberi di Essere" day, and in September/October the usual appointments with the "Cori della Rocca" (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 adjacent to the Rocca. The year 2023 will see an extension of opening hours: in particular, an extended opening from Wednesday to Sunday will be guaranteed in April and May. In summer, there will also be special evening openings in July and August. Finally, visitors will be able to take guided tours at fixed times on weekends. Open from 1 March to 5 November (www.statuasancarlo.it).

Visit our website www.distrettolaghi.it and - in the "EBOOK" section - browse or download all the THEMATIC GUIDES we have produced!





The Villa Taranto Botanical Gardens will be open daily, including holidays, from 12 March to 5 November.

March will kick off the first spring blooms: edgeworthias, prunus, magnolias, forsythias, narcissus and tulips. Later in the season, one can admire large patches of hundreds of rhododendrons and azaleas, 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 opportunity to purchase a season ticket to visit the Gardens during the entire season or during the entire summer.

The botanical garden also offers a Café & Bistro service, a picnic area in the areas in front of the entrance, allows pets, accessible paths and a bookshop with a varied assortment.

Here is the calendar of events that will alternate during the opening period, weather permitting: the "Bulb Festival" from 8 to 23 April, "Colours without Borders" from mid-April to mid-May, "Water Flowers" from mid-June to the end of October, "*Victoria Cruziana*" from around 20 June to the end of October, "Dahlia Exhibition" from the last ten days of July to the end of October, "Fall Foliage" from October until the garden closes. (information: www.villataranto.it).

The Villa Taranto Botanical Gardens are part of the **Network of Villas and Gardens of the Distretto Turistico dei Laghi**, a non-profit network of associates that promotes the enhancement of the gardens' cultural, historical, artistic and natural heritage. The Network consists of 13 Villas, Museums, Sacred Buildings, Parks and Gardens - public and private: the Colossus of San Carlo Borromeo, the Rocca Borromea Park, the Sacred Mount of Domodossola, the Sacred Mount of Ghiffa, the Sacred Mount of Orta, the Meina Museum, Villa Anelli in Oggebbio, the Feminis-Farina Perfume House, the Alpinia Botanical Garden, Villa Maioni and Villa Giulia in Verbania, the Vogogna Castle and the aforementioned Villa Taranto Botanical Gardens.

At the link www.distrettolaghi.it/ville-e-giardini you will find the section dedicated to the discovery of botanical gardens, villas and museums in the territory of the Distretto Turistico dei Laghi.

Green and architectural itineraries of historical and artistic significance.



Terre Borromeo



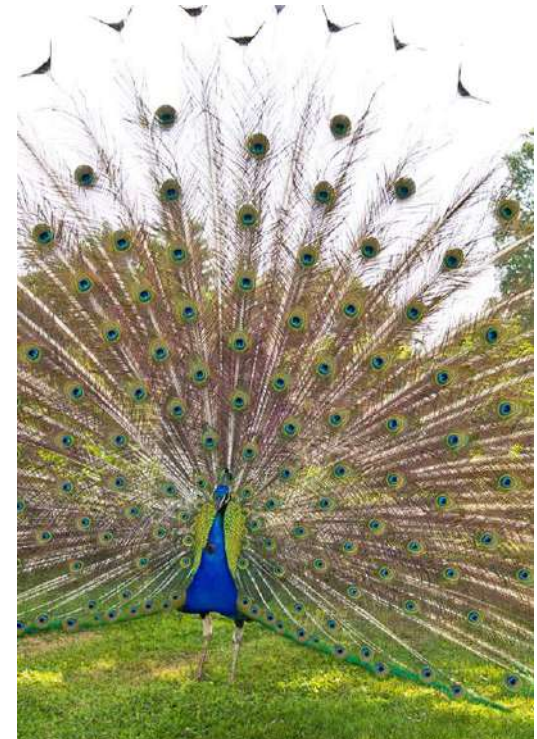
Visit our section
www.distrettolaghi.it/cam
to discover all the virtual
eyes on the ground!

The museum and nature sites of the **Terre Borromeo circuit** on **Lake Maggiore - Isola Bella, Isola Madre, Rocca di Angera and Parco Pallavicino** - will reopen on 16 March 2023. On 6 April it will be the turn of the **Mottarone Adventure Park**, the adventure park in the Mottarone woods.

The tourist season, with novelties, cultural events, musical events and new food and wine proposals, will continue until 5 November.

In Stresa, on **Isola Bella**, the experience of relaxing at the exclusive Delfino, the restaurant symbol of timeless elegance, will be enchanting. Landing on **Isola Madre**, one then enters a fabulous world of exotic fragrances from the English-style botanical garden and enchanted atmospheres among the rooms of the Palace where one can retrace the private dimension of the Borromeo family through various eras. Terre Borromeo also joins the Stresa Festival programme this year: classical and jazz concerts are scheduled at the end of August and in early September to experience the emotion of music in an exceptional setting, lulled by the lake. On Isola Bella the artists will perform on the special acoustic stage the Catapult, made entirely of wood. On Isola Madre, the setting for the concerts is the Loggia del Cashmir.

Parco Pallavicino is also enriching its services to entertain tourists during their visit to this oasis covering 18 hectares, including playful encounters with farm animals and nature walks to admire the more than 60 species of mammals and birds that are welcomed and cared for daily. In June, we would like to point out that Terre Borromeo will organise **a day dedicated to honey** produced by hand in its apiary consisting of about 12 hives, and on 23/04 the **Family Run**, a running race of about 6km, non-competitive and open to all. For residents of Stresa, 16 March, the first day of opening, admission is free. One of the family events to mark in the calendar is the **Treasure Hunt** organised in collaboration with Grandi Giardini Italiani on 10 April, Easter Monday, also at Pallavicino Park. The **Mottarone Adventure Park** offers sport and adventure for everyone! After the reopening on 6 April, 2 new areas will be opened on 1/06:





An aerial zipline course for a full adrenaline rush and fun, and another medium difficulty course with pitches at a height of 7 metres from which to launch yourself in total safety thanks to the continuous lifeline system. Cycling enthusiasts will be able to rent e-bikes or MTBs in the park, at the Bar Stazione, and return them at the summit at the Rifugio Genziana or in Stresa at the Parco Pallavicino. We would like to point out the evening sports event on 10 August "Motty on the moon" (10 kilometre run).

There is great expectation, finally, for the new contemporary art exhibition organised in the evocative restored rooms of the Ala Scaligera at the Rocca di Angera, on the Lombard side of Lake Maggiore. The exhibition will run from 17/04 to 1/10.

We would also like to point out that the new free official Terreborromeo.app is available as of this year, which will provide users with useful references for visiting the Borromeo destinations in one place. (Info: isoleborromeo.it or + 39 0323.933478).

Open from 1 April 2023 (with continuous opening hours from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.) the **Giardino Alpinia**, 40,000 square metres of natural balcony along the slopes of Mottarone, where you can relax while admiring Lake Maggiore thanks to the enchanting view from the Capanna Belvedere and remaining in close contact with nature. The path to Alpinia is circular, with the two initial paths joining: on the left, you first pass through the forest, while on the right, the main flower garden leads directly to the panoramic view. Along the way, halfway along the Garden there is a spring of natural water from the summit of Mottarone (1,492 m), with very pure water particularly refreshing in the summer months. This garden features more than 700 different species of plants, most of them alpine, but it is also possible to find species from the Orient 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.

The Alpinia Garden has a new visitors' centre with a bar and souvenir shop, mountain flowering plants and medicinal herbs. June's schedule includes the customary flower festival with music, folk dance and refreshments (date to be determined). The admission price remains unchanged compared to 2022, € 5.00 full price and € 4.50 for the reduced price (for updates on events and admission info www.giardinobotanicoalpinia.altervista.org).



Our Sacred Mounts, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

The three Sacri Monti (Sacred Mounts) of our territory, a World Heritage Site, represent 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 administered by the Sacred Mounts Management Authority, is a religious complex built to celebrate episodes from the Old and New Testaments.

The **Sacro Monte di Orta** is a monumental complex dedicated to San Francesco, 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 administered by the Sacred Mounts Management Authority. The 20 chapels recounting the life of the "Poor Man of Assisi" follow one another along a spiral path. From the square of the medieval Church of Saints Nicolao and Francesco you can enjoy one of the most beautiful views of Lake Orta.

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: hospitality is offered all year round by the Religious Hospitality House of Sacro Monte Calvario (general calendar of events: sacromontecalvario.blogspot.com/p/calendario-generale-2020.html).

Among the events scheduled for 2023 and already confirmed is the **Peregrinatio**, the traditional walk between the Sacro Monte of Orta and that of Varallo, which will take place on the second Saturday of June: it is a pilgrimage itinerary that retraces the ancient paths that connected the two religious sites.

Visit our website
www.camminidevozionali.it to
discover itineraries and places
of devotion in our area!



Our outstanding Villages



An itinerary among the best villages on Lakes Maggiore, Orta and Mergozzo and in the Ossola Valleys means **diving into an experience of slow and conscious tourism**. It means discovering the hinterland, so close to the unmissable attractions of the area. It means being enriched with jewels of culture, art and history while immersing yourself in the local way of life: **"SLOW CITY" is a journey through the charming villages between the lakes and mountains of Upper Piedmont**.

Lake Maggiore, la Dolce Vita: thanks to its unique jewels such as the Borromean Islands and botanical gardens, it was a source of inspiration for writers, artists and musicians from all over Europe, who made it a favourite destination on the Grand Tour. **Lake Orta**, romance and spirituality: a treasure chest of nature, art and faith. **Lake Mergozzo:** a peaceful corner that over the centuries has been able to donate its splendid marble to the great work of Milan Cathedral. **The Ossola Valleys**, in the Alps: a mountain to be experienced all year round with hikes for young and old and delights of taste, where there is no shortage of hidden treasures just waiting to be discovered.

Discover the **"Orange Flag"** villages on Lake Maggiore: Arona, Cannero Riviera and Cannobio. On Lake Orta with Orta San Giulio. Mergozzo on the lake of the same name and finally Vogogna, Macugnaga, Santa Maria Maggiore and Malesco in the Ossola Valleys. Not only that, because Orta San Giulio, the pearl of Lake Orta, and the medieval Vogogna in Bassa Ossola are also among the **"Most Beautiful Villages in Italy"**. These two labels are synonymous with the protection and enhancement of the important historical, cultural and environmental heritage of these localities. Domodossola is a **"Village of Culture"**: a thousand years narrated in the Ossola capital! And then there are places where people have inherited the culture of the past: we can dive into the tradition of the **picturesque village of Isola dei Pescatori**. Lastly, there are the villages of Macugnaga and Formazza, one at the foot of the majestic Monte Rosa and the other in the presence of the marvellous Toce Waterfall: here the **Walser people** brought their language, customs and folklore to bear witness to a culture without borders, handed down from generation to generation..

Visit the www.distrettolaghi.it/slow_city section to discover stories and traditions among the villages of excellence of Lakes Maggiore, Orta, Mergozzo and Ossola: Orange Flags, Italy's Most Beautiful Villages, Villages of Culture, Lake Villages and Walser. All to be discovered!



The most anticipated events

Below are the main classical, musical, food and wine and sporting events already confirmed for the year 2023 in our territory.

The 16th edition of **Gli Agrumi di Cannero Riviera** returns on 11, 12, 18 and 19 March with visits to Italy's northernmost citrus fruit park and gardens! Visits (free on weekends and by appointment on weekdays) will be accompanied by exhibitions, installations, musical events, themed menus and market-exhibitions. The 2023 edition will be dedicated to Canarone, its history and the properties of this very special citrus fruit, which has allowed Cannero Riviera to be included in the list of Historical Italian Citrus Groves, a tangible sign of the historical and landscape value peculiar to this area (info and calendar: www.cannero.it).

The 55th edition of the "**Camellia Exhibition**" returns to **Verbania** - on Lake Maggiore - on 25 and 26 March: an opportunity to admire more than 200 varieties of camellias, spectacularly displayed in the halls of Villa Giulia, and to visit, in the company of botanical experts, collections of rare specimens of various sizes kept in botanical parks, historic private gardens and nurseries in the Lake Maggiore area. There will also be a market- exhibition of pot plants by local floriculturists. This year's exhibition will be concurrent with the Congress of the International Camellia Society (26-28 March on Lake Maggiore) involving passionate collectors, botanists and floriculturists from all over the world. It will also be the occasion for the inauguration of the "Camellia Library", an educational collection and field-catalogue of the multiplicities within the Camellia genus. A park-museum will be created in the park of Villa Maioni, which the Verbania municipality will name after Piero Hillebrand, a Verbania floriculturist, botanist and above all a master in researching and cataloguing the ancient varieties of camellia to which he dedicated his life (facebook.com/mostracameliaverbania). Simultaneously with Verbania, camellias will also be on display in **Cannero Riviera** (25 and 26 March at the "Pietro Carmine" hall and in the historical centre of Cannero Riviera) and in **Gozzano** (1 and 2 April, 35th edition at the Palazzo Comunale "Ferrari Ardicini"). During the event, a rich set of street food will also be set up in Piazza Matteotti.

Lastly, from 8 to 10 April, Easter is in bloom, with the 2nd edition of **Fiorissimo** (fiorissimo.eu), a market- exhibition dedicated to the world of flowers, plants and professionals, garden decoration and care equipment, artistic handicrafts and natural products. Free admission (bavenoturismo.it).



Music festivals



The Stresa Festival 2023, from 14 July to 8 September, in its 62nd edition, will consist of 25 events divided into a 1st part in July and a 2nd part between August and September. Artistic Director Mario Brunello will always emphasise the importance of the relationship between music and the environment. There will be numerous venues in magnificent locations around Lake Maggiore. The open-air concerts will take place thanks to the spectacular "La Catapulta" Acoustic Stage, designed by Michele De Lucchi: a musical pavilion made entirely of wood, a natural amplifier of sound that aims to use architecture and music to stimulate the audience's environmental awareness. As for the artistic proposal, the July schedule will feature performances by artists such as Arturo Sandoval and Nicola Piovani. Part 2 will feature international orchestras such as the Orchestre Filarmonique de Radio France and the Orchestre de la Loge, the ensembles L'Arpeggiata, La fonte musica, Brixia Musicalis, Camerata RCO and soloists such as Yuja Wang, Angela Hewitt, Alëna Baeva, Sergej Malov, Lucienne Renaudin Vary and Mario Brunello. For contemporary dance, the James Wilton Dance company will bring to Stresa its own choreography of Vivaldi's Four Seasons recomposed by Max Richter, with live music played during the performance. The classical part will embrace a broad musical period, from the late Renaissance to the historical 20th century: Monteverdi, Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Musorgsky, Prokofiev, Ravel and Stravinsky. Once again this year the popular Albums initiative continues, i.e. the artists' meetings with the public in particularly picturesque locations around Lake Maggiore (www.stresafestival.eu).

From June to September, the peaks, alpine pastures and mountain lodges of upper Piedmont will be transformed into inimitable open-air stages for engaging concerts and performances: this is the winning recipe of **Musica in Quota** (Music at Altitude), the much-loved festival that will offer for its 17th edition a dozen appointments - all free of charge - from mid-June to early September (programme and info on www.musicainquota.it).

Also confirmed for summer 2023 is the 21st edition of the **Miasino Classic Jazz Festival**, to be held as always in the noble court of Villa Nigra in Miasino, on the shores of Lake Orta, on the evenings of 5, 6 and 7 August. Guest stars of Italian jazz (www.facebook.com/miasinojazz).





At the link lagomaggiorexperience.it/events you will find the complete and updated calendar of all current and scheduled events throughout the territory

Between July and August, the **Di Parola in Musica Festival** returns, curated by the Zebo - Zero Emission Baroque Orchestra. These are musical performances in the form of storytelling, with Baroque, Renaissance and medieval music, images and acting. 4 different "Concerti Narranti" (Narrating Concerts) (plus one chamber concert) in the municipalities of Baveno, Stresa, Belgirate, Cannero Riviera and Mergozzo. Free admission (info and dates: www.orchestrazebo.com).

Already started last January - and continuing until 26 May 2023 in the municipalities of Baveno and Gozzano - the new theatre review "**BIS! 2 laghi 2 palchi**", by "La Finestra sul Lago" in collaboration with Piemonte dal Vivo through the "Corto Circuito" call for proposals and with the municipal administrations. The main objective is to imagine high quality artistic programming for the communities in the area, capable of stimulating new audiences. Next dates are 24/02, 31/03, 28/04 and 26/05 (info: www.piemontedalvivo.it/corto-circuito/).

The 17th edition of the International **Organ Festival of Arona** will be held over four dates on Fridays 9 (French organist Frédéric Munoz), 16 (Dutch organist Hans Leenders), 23 (young Italian organist Ismaele Gatti) and 30 June 2023 (Spanish organist Arturo Barba), at the collegiate church of Santa Maria, all with free admission. Once again this year, the concerts will be filmed and video-projected on big screens. The Arona events will be followed by summer touring events on 6 August in Nebbiuno, 16 August in Colazza, 26 August in Borgomanero and 9 September in Inverio Superiore (www.sonataorgani.it).

Tones Teatro Natura, born from the conversion of a disused quarry and turned into a space dedicated to performing arts, people's well-being, education and knowledge, presents its 2nd season from spring to September 2023. Immersive shows, concerts with international artists, the 10th edition of the innovative electronics festival **Nextones** and the 3rd edition of the **Campo Base Festival** to promote mountain culture and the relationship between mankind and nature are some of the unmissable events set in the former quarry in Val d'Ossola (www.tonesteatronatura.com).

Also: The **Villa Nigra Opera Festival** will return at the end of July to the splendid natural stage of Villa Nigra (Miasino) (info and updates at www.facebook.com/VillaNigraOperaFestival).



Culture, literature, theatre and performing arts



9th edition for **Lakescapes - Teatro diffuso del Lago Maggiore**, curated by the Accademia dei Folli. The lake and its lands become the natural stage for a theatre that aims to be a place for dialogue, exchange, collective reflection and shared entertainment. The season will start in late spring and end in November. Among the municipalities involved: Lesa, Meina, Dormelletto and Oleggio Castello, others are being defined. The programme features great literary classics (Madame Bovary and Don Quixote), so-called portraits (including Leonard Cohen and Paolo Conte) and the much-awaited white nights in historic villages (this year Solcio and Silvera). Also, in mid-July, a touring show dedicated to the five elements at the Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso. There is also an event for children, Fabula rasa, scheduled at the end of July at Castello dal Pozzo in Oleggio Castello. The show on the legendary Ribot also returns to Villa Cucchetta (Dormelletto), while guest productions include Voce di Donna, proposed by NoveTeatro and written and performed by Melania Giglio. (www.accademiadefolli.com).

From 21 April to 1 May, the Centro Culturale La Fabbrica in Villadossola (VB) will host the eagerly awaited 25th edition of the most important book fair in upper Piedmont, **Fabbrica di Carta**. The theme of this new edition will soon be revealed and will be the focus around which meetings, exhibitions, publishing presentations and workshops for children will revolve. A rich programme of the event, as always with free admission (info on www.fabbricadicarta.it).

The 11th edition of **Sentieri e Pensieri** (Paths and Thoughts), the summer cultural event in Santa Maria Maggiore, in the Vigizzo Valley, returns under the artistic direction of Bruno Gambarotta. Once again this summer, many authors, artists and protagonists of the Italian cultural scene will take the stage at the festival between 18 and 25 August and make up a rich calendar of encounters. The 2nd edition of the Santa Maria Maggiore Podcast Prize (santamariamaggiore.info/sentieri) is confirmed.

Il 17° **Festival Lago Maggiore Letteratura**, è il festival di letteratura di montagna, viaggio e avventura che avrà luogo principalmente a Verbania dal 18 al 24 settembre. Il Festival sarà preceduto da numerosi appuntamenti inseriti in "Aspettando il Festival 2023", in forma itinerante in molte località del Verbano, dal 21 agosto al 10 settembre. Il titolo della rassegna sarà "Gli alberi guardano il treno che passa" affrontando quindi il tema dell'ambiente, della natura e del viaggio (associazioneletteratura.com).





The Salone del Libro **Editoria & Giardini** returns from 27 May to 4 June 2023, the only Italian book fair dedicated to gardening: the theme of the 16th edition of the event will be "The Welcoming Garden" and will host some 3,000 titles from over 400 publishers (www.editoriaegiardini.it).

The **Arona Città Teatro Sull'Acqua Festival** turns 13! The 2023 edition of the festival directed by Dacia Maraini will be held from 5 to 10 September with the traditional setting of an exclusive production on water. There will be many new features that will be announced closer to the start of the festival (www.aronacittateatro.it).

We continue with the 11th edition of **CROSS Festival**, which - thanks to recognition by MiBACT in 2018, making it a National Festival - will take place on 2, 3 and 4 June in Verbania (Lake Maggiore) and will continue with a 2nd part in Ameno. Dates are being finalised (crossproject.it).

Together with Cortinametraggio, it is the only international festival of short films set in the Italian Alps. Now in its 23rd edition, **Malescorto** has become an unmissable event for lovers of the genre and beyond. The international prestige of the festival is evidenced by the hundreds of short films that arrive each year from all over the world. The 2023 edition will be held as always in Malesco, in the Vigizzo Valley, from 24 to 29 July (for info www.malescorto.it).

Finally, in Orta San Giulio (Lake Orta), we would like to point out the important appointment of 2023 with "**Orta in Arte**", cultural events at Sacro Monte between art, history and territory: it will consist of two evenings with illustrious guests from the art and music worlds, in the park of the Sacro Monte of Orta San Giulio. Appointment on 26/05 at 21.00 with Vittorio Sgarbi - "Pasolini-Caravaggio" and on 27/05 at 21.00 with Antonella Ruggiero - "Concerto versatile" (www.ortainarte.it).



Local museum networks: the rich cultural offer

The **Museo Manzoniano** in Lesa - in the Palazzo Stampa - is a neoclassical villa where Alessandro Manzoni stayed with his 2nd wife. Inside, it is possible to visit the Sala Manzoni, where books, manuscripts and parchments concerning the life and works of the illustrious writer are collected (comune.lesa.no.it).

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. From 1850 to 1855 it became the home of the Abbot and philosopher Antonio Rosmini - considered the greatest Italian thinker of the 19th century - and today it is home to the International Centre for Rosminian Studies with the task of promoting culture in general and Rosmini's thought and work. Villa Ducale is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The **Pietro Canonica Museum** in Stresa is dedicated to this artist, who in 1953 donated a set of plaster casts and marbles to the municipality, which are now housed in a specially dedicated room in the Town Hall. The Canonica exhibition space is open from April to October on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., admission is free. Finally, we would like to mention the **Fishing Museum** and the **Andrea Ruffoni House Museum** on Isola Pescatori (www.stresaturismo.it).

The Italian "home" of Acqua di Colonia, conceived and marketed by two emigrants from Vigevano, is in Santa Maria Maggiore: the history of the famous perfume is told in the **Feminis-Farina Perfume House**, a multimedia and multi-sensory museum that has already welcomed thousands of visitors since its inauguration in 2018 (info and details on www.santamariamaggiore.info).

The **Museo del Paesaggio** in Verbania was founded in 1909 by Antonio Massara. Today, the museum offers the public painting and sculpture collections featuring various aspects of the art and history of the province. Exhibitions scheduled in 2023: At Palazzo Viani Dugnani in Pallanza, from 10/03 to 23/04, personal exhibition of works by the artist Hilario Isola, from 1/04 to 25/06 personal exhibition of works by Siro Penagini, from 8/07 to 19/11 personal exhibition of allegories by Paolo Veronese from Villa San Remigio in Verbania. At the Casa Elide Ceretti in Intra from 4/02 to 5/03 there will be a personal exhibition of works by Gianluca Ripepi, from 10/03 to 23/04 a personal exhibition of works by Hilario Isola and from 28/04 to 21/05 the exhibition "Art and War". In addition, from 27/05 to 4/06 the "Cross Festival" event, from 4/02 to 5/03 the personal exhibition by Paolo Chiodoni, and from 1 to 10/09 the "Scintille Festival delle Arti Performative" event (www.museodelpaesaggio.it).

The Granite Museums

Mergozzo is the "land of stone", with its landscape that combines the transparency of the lake waters with the imposing presence of the Montorfano, to which the **Granite Ecomuseum** is dedicated. The Ecomuseum involves the entire Mergozzo territory and its surroundings, including the quarrying areas of the pink marble of Candoglia, the white/green granite of Montorfano and the pink granite of Baveno. For 2023 we report the renewal of the cultural festival "La pietra racconta" (Stone Tales), in its 7th edition, in collaboration with the **Granite Museum Granum in Baveno** (ecomuseogranitomontorfano.it).

Other Museums

In the historic centre of Omegna, a **museum itinerary dedicated to Gianni Rodari**: this writer, journalist, pedagogue and intellectual is considered the greatest fairy-tale writer of the 20th century, born in Omegna (VB) on 23 October 1920 (www.museorodari.it).

We also recommend the **Archaeological Museum of Mergozzo** (VB), a small exhibition of archaeological material from the Mergozzo area (comune.mergozzo.vb.it).





The Gravellona Toce **Antiquarium Museum** is open to the public, free of charge, all year round by appointment (+39 0323 848553 and aacfp@libero.it - Ass.ne Archeologica Cultura F. Pattaroni; +39 0323 848386 - ext. 7 Municipality) and promotes the exhibition "Memories from the Past", dedicated to the excavations conducted by Felice Pattaroni in the locality of Pedemonte from 1954 to 1959, which led to the discovery of the Gallo-Roman Necropolis - 5th century BC. - 5th century AD and part of the settlement. Also in Gravellona Toce, there is also the possibility of a free visit by appointment to the MINIMUSEO of the F. Pattaroni Archaeological Cultural Association (+39 0323 848553 and aacfp@libero.it -), a documentation centre relating to the archaeological excavations themselves, with showcases of natural history and a section dedicated to ancient working tools and household furnishings.

A world of fantasy, nature and exploration can be found at the **Meina Museum** (NO) on Lake Maggiore, in the evocative setting of the Villa Faraggiana Chalet Park complex, with activities between nature and digital: the large 4D multimedia journey "Imago", the Interactive Park, the Ancient Greenhouses and the Magic Area await you all year round (even in bad weather). The Meina Museum is managed by the UniversiCà Foundation, which has realised several cultural venues in Upper Piedmont (info: www.museomeina.it).

The Documentation Centre of the **Casa della Resistenza** (Park of Memory and Peace) in Verbania Fondotoce was set up in 2010 with the aim of protecting and enhancing - through a progressive census, digitisation and cataloguing activity - the photographic heritage relating to the Resistance and more generally to the history of the 20th century in the Verbano Cusio Ossola area. Already from 13 January until 14 April, we would like to point out the initiatives planned for the 2nd edition of "Fragments of Memory": various events will take turns to tell and bear witness to "Fragments" of stories and humanity erased and obscured by the atrocious Nazi-Fascist concentration camp machine. For information and an updated calendar of events: www.casadellaresistenza.it.

Finally, we would like to point out the **Arona Archaeology Museum**, opened in 1997. Located in the left wing of the 19th-century Mercato Coperto in the central Piazza San Graziano, it collects archaeological finds from the city and the Lower Verbano area. Free admission. Hours: Tuesday 10 a.m.-12 noon and Saturday/Sunday 3.30 p.m.-6.30 p.m. (info: archeomuseo.it).

Museum Networks

A land rich in culture and traditions, the Ossola region encompasses a rich, widespread museum heritage, expressed by about forty small and medium-sized exhibition venues, united in the **Associazione Musei d'Ossola** to create a Network that enhances, promotes and synergistically connects the cultural heritage expressed by these museums. We point out - from 6/05 to 4/06 - the 3rd Di-Se Illustration Festival as part of the Interreg project "DiSegnare il Territorio" in Domodossola. A new travelling outdoor exhibition is also planned for the summer (amossoia.it).

The **Alto Verbano Museum Network** will set up a calendar of initiatives (thematic excursions, concerts, mini-cruises and meetings) in the structures active in the network: Palazzo Parasi in Cannobio, the Ethnographic Museum in Gurro and the Cannobina Valley, the Eco-museum of the Lake and Mountains in Lunecco, the Ethnographic and Brush Museum and the Citrus Park in Cannero Riviera, the Tactile Museum of Natural Sciences in Trarego Viggiona, the Museum of Art and the Hat in Ghiffa and Villa Anelli in Oggebbio. (info: unionelagomaggiore.it/museums.asp).

The **Eco-museum of Lake Orta and Mottarone** (Cusius Eco-museum) consists of a group of small sites and museums organised along three main thematic routes: material culture, art and nature. For 2023, various events will be proposed on the theme "Knowledge and tastes of the past", including workshops and the traditional "Let's discover Girolago" (lagodorta.net).

Unmissable events for all tastes

Events, traditions and festivals, a feast of local food and wine

At the link distrettolaghi.it/enogastronomia you will find a showcase of the area's gastronomic excellence!

Below is the calendar of food, wine and traditional events already confirmed for the year 2023.

On 17 and 18/06 in Premeno (VB), on the panoramic hills of Alto Verbano, "**Intrecci**", 2nd edition, the market-exhibition of basketry and handicrafts (lalencistra.it), returns. "**Terre d'Agogna**", the 17th medieval re-enactment in Bolzano Novarese, will take place on 10 and 11/06. We continue with the **San Bernardo Fair** in Macugnaga on 7, 8 and 9/07 and the 29th Montecrestese **Potato Festival** (25-26-27-28/08 2023). In Oleggio Castello (NO) we will find on 30/04 **Natura in Festa** while on 15/10 it will be the turn of **Sapori in Festa**.

On the subject of festivals we then find the **Sagra del Mirtillo** di Bognanco (late summer), the 96th **Festa dell'Uva** di Masera (8-11/09), the **Mostra Pomologica** di Villadossola (8/10/23), **Fuori di Zucca** in Santa Maria Maggiore (14 and 15/10/23). In Baceno, the succulent **MeleMiele festival** always returns in October. Nebbiuno features the **Strawberry Festival** (3-4/06), the **Polenta Festival** (9-10/09) and the **Transhumance Festival** (22/10). Finally, we recommend the sagreossola.it website for further information and updates.

3 important events dedicated to wine: on 5 March from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Stresa (VB) the 1st edition of "**Vino, Sostantivo Femminile**" (Wine, a Feminine Noun), at the Grand Hotel des Iles Borromées: a day of discovery, tastings and meetings dedicated to women in the world of wine (info: www.aispiemonte.it/prodotto/vino-sostantivo-femminile). After the great success of the 1st edition and the forced stop due to Covid, **Ossola in Cantina** returns. A whole day in the mountains of high Piedmont to get to know the heroic producers of wines with great personality. On Sunday 14 May (21 May in the event of bad weather), along a route to discover the wine-growing landscapes of the Ossola Valley, the Ossola wineries will open their doors to reveal the secrets of their production (info and details on www.apao.it and www.facebook.com/apao.ossola). Finally, the **Wine Festival** in Baveno returns in July, two evenings dedicated to the wines of Piedmont (bavenoturismo.it).

In the heart of Lake Maggiore, surrounded by water, on the picturesque Isola Pescatori, an appointment is renewed every year in October: "**Gente di Lago**" (Lake People), now in its 6th edition, is a festival of colour, flavours, customs, art, music and traditions. Typical recipes are embellished with contemporary touches from top chefs and garnished with colour and local history: fishermen, nets, folklore, customs, life in the past (lagentedilago.com).

For confirmation of events: www.distrettolaghi.it/en/eventi



International Gathering of the Chimney Sweep

1 to 4/09. Organised by the Associazione Nazionale Spazzacamini (National Chimney Sweep Association) in collaboration with the municipality and Pro Loco of Santa Maria Maggiore, it is undoubtedly one of the best-loved traditional events in northern Italy, a true tribute to the Vigizzo Valley, cradle of the chimney sweep trade. The highlight, on Sunday 3/09, is the parade with over a thousand chimney sweeps from all over the world. (www.santamariamaggiore.info).

Family events, between magical moments and the anticipation of Christmas

At the beginning of September, we point out in Omegna - on Lake Orta - the motorboat safari on Lake Orta with a sighting of **animatronic dragons** in motion (lagodeidraghi.it), while on land you can ride unicorns. On Easter Monday (10/04) and 15-16-22-23/04 at the Dal Pozzo di Oleggio Castello the **Castle of Surprises** returns with the Musical "The Secrets of Hogwarts". On 22/04 Symphony of water, light and fire for the Castello di Notte. Finally, from 18/11/2023 **Christmas in Stresa** will return and from 25/11/2023 **Father Christmas's Grotto** will open. Also in December: **Christmas cruises** departing from Stresa (grottadibabbonatale.it).

Sports and outdoor competitions

Also in 2023, Lake Maggiore will be the destination of thousands of runners who will also enhance the area through sport: opening the competitions will be the **Rosa Ski Raid** (www.rosaskiraid.it) in Macugnaga on 5/03 (a stage of the Italian Ski Mountaineering Cup with about 180/200 athletes from all over Italy) and, on the same day, the XXV "**Mezza Due Laghi**", the most historic running race in the VCO. The 15th **Lago Maggiore Half Marathon** (14/05, from Stresa to Verbania) and the 12th SPORTWAY **Lago Maggiore Marathon** (5/11, from Arona to Verbania) are back. Both competitions earned the title of "races with the most scenic route in Italy" (lmhm.it and lagomaggioremарathon.it).

On 7/05, departure from Baveno for one of the most scenic trail races in the area, the **Vibram Trail Mottarone**. Athletes will tackle the scenic paths leading to Mottarone.

The organiser "Formazza Event", after the positive experience of the Skyrunning World Championships 2022 and given the remarkable success of the **BUT**, moved the start and finish to the hamlet of Valdo, in the area that has been the scene of the World Championships. Significant route changes for the **Bettelmatt Race** (which will increase from 22 km 950D+ to around 25 km 1440D+). Unchanged is the **Bettelmatt Ultra Trail**, which will follow the route of the World Championships. Finishing touches are being made to the **BUT Super Race** route with a probable 39 km (and an altitude difference of 2600 d+) between thrilling high altitude passages, the Bettelmatt cheese producing alpine pastures and the spectacular Toce waterfall. Appointment on 8/07 (bettelmattultratrail.it).

The 5th **Monte Rosa East Himalayan Trail**, on 29 and /07, has been confirmed. The distances BRUTAL 103K, EPIC 60K, SKY 38K, SCENIC 22K and ZMAKANA 14K (MEHT.it) are confirmed.

The 3rd edition of the **Lake Maggiore Ultra Trail** also returns on 30/09 and 1/10. "From lake to sky...across wilderness!": this is the claim that encapsulates the spirit of the UTLM; from the lake to the mountains, passing through the wilderness areas of the Val Grande Park with a constant view of Lake Maggiore and the surrounding Alpine ranges, with the imposing massif of Monte Rosa (utlm.it) standing out!

The **Vibram®UTLO 2023** will then take place on 13, 14 and 15/10. During the three-day event, the "UTLO Village" will also be open, with the presence of exhibitors and events related to the trail world (ultratraillo.com).

Not forgetting the numerous sporting competitions that choose our area every year for the variety of locations and the beauty of the landscapes: from the Triathlon to acrobatic paragliding, sport climbing, car rallies, bike races, canyoning, sailing regattas and golf tournaments.



Visit our section lagomaggiorexperience.it/trails to discover the outdoor offer of the whole area, bike and trekking routes and much more!



Transport at the service of the tourist

The 2023 novelties of **Navigazione Lago Maggiore**: the restart of the international line between Switzerland and Italy, for which Navigazione Lago Maggiore is the exclusive operator, is confirmed: round-trip trips from the Swiss ports of call in Locarno, Ascona, Brissago and the Brissago Islands will allow foreign tourists to reach the markets of Luino, Cannobio and Stresa to discover the beauty of the area.

An interesting novelty for the 2023 season, in terms of **markets**, is the new connection between the mid-lake airports and Luino - an international market destination - every Wednesday of the summer season: with appropriate connections from the lower lake all customers will be able to reach this destination.

The usual mid-March **supplementary runs** will intensify all connections before the new spring/summer timetable takes effect on 2 April.

Connections between **Arona and Stresa** will start up again, as well as services to the **Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso** and to the **Borromean Islands** every half hour.

The ferry service for vehicles between the **Intra - Laveno** shores will be guaranteed with daily runs from 5.00 a.m. until 11.30 p.m. on the last evening run from Laveno, for all business and school needs in the area.

For the next season we also find the possible resumption of the **Lago Maggiore Express** service, the beautiful excursion that with a single integrated ticket guarantees to sail along the entire lake and use the train to travel through the Centovalli and the beautiful Val Vigezzo.

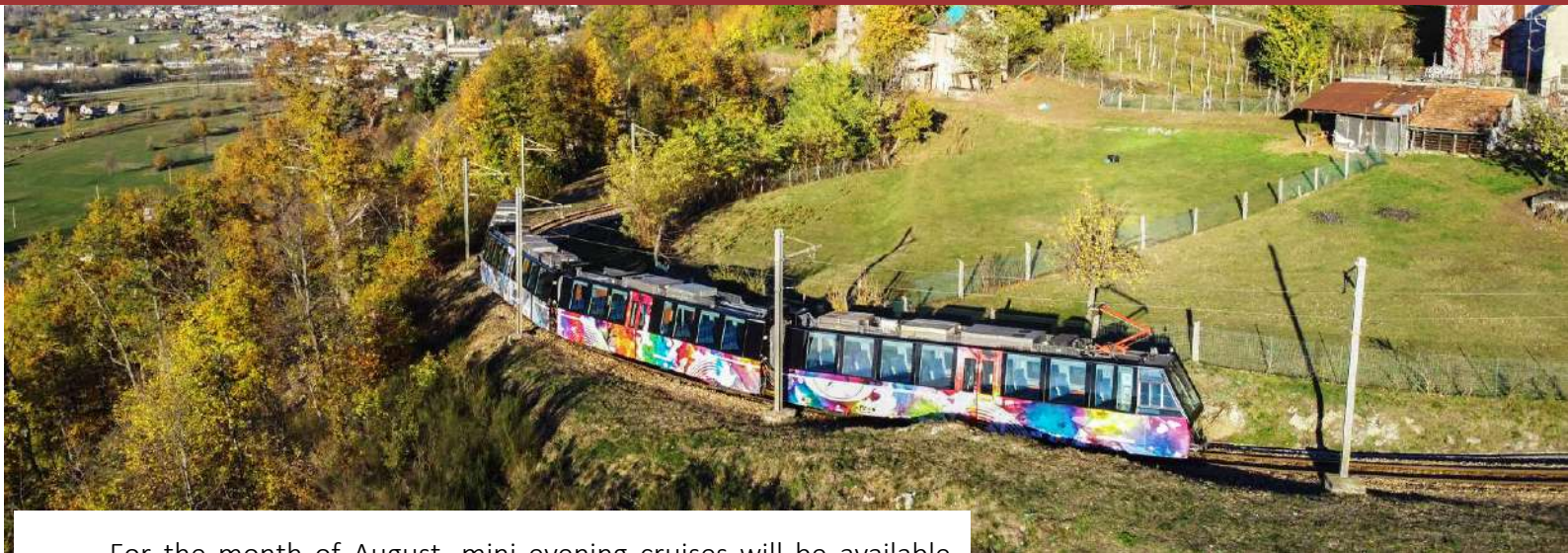
Navigazione Lago Maggiore will field numerous services for the new 2023 season to offer Italian and foreign tourists, giving a sign of confidence and recovery for all tourist activities in the area. It also plans to reopen the smaller destinations as of 2 June.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the availability of Navigazione Lago Maggiore's fleet to provide chartering services for events (both for local authorities and for ceremonies or private events) (www.navigazione lago maggiore.it).

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

Let us move geographically to recall that the entire Lake Orta is served by the Navigazione Lago d'Orta. The daily scheduled public service operates every Sunday in March between Orta - Isola San Giulio - Pella - Lagna and every day from 1 April to 1 October in all locations.





For the month of August, mini evening cruises will be available between the locations of Pettenasco and Orta San Giulio. Tickets can be purchased on the website. On the occasion of the San Vito 2023 festivities, the usual evening cruises will be available from Pella and Omegna to enjoy the fireworks display over the lake. Navigazione Lago d'Orta invites you to discover the new institutional video by clicking here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNt33KN2JPSnE3-lx0XgA7A> (info, purchasing and booking: info@navigazione.lagodorta.it).

The Island of San Giulio and the surrounding area of Orta can also always be reached by the 8 boats of the **Consorzio Navigazione Servizio Pubblico di Orta San Giulio** (www.navigazioneorta.it), which accompany all visitors to discover suggestive and meditative views, such as the marvellous Basilica of San Giulio.

The **Vigezzina-Centovalli Railway**, founded on 25 November 1923, launches its 100th anniversary celebration season with a rich programme of events and celebrations that will continue until the end of 2024. Alongside the famous **Treno del Foliage® (Foliage Trian)**, scheduled as every year from mid-October to mid-November, the season will be enriched by proposals combined with mountain hiking thanks to tickets integrated with the two Swiss cable cars connected to the Verdasio station (for departures from Locarno). A recent innovation is the collaboration with Piana di Vigezzo: railway ticket holders can benefit from a discount on the ascent, simply by showing their ticket.

Also confirmed is the restart in spring of the Lago Maggiore Express and a rich calendar of events to travel on board the historic train between Locarno and Camedo (CH). Lovers of the Vigezzo Valley will always be able to travel in complete freedom thanks to the "Vigezzina no limits" ticket, which offers the possibility of travelling freely between Domodossola and Re for one or two days at a super-cheap price. And for those in search of novelty: boarding the Train of the Four Seasons, conceived by the famous artist Carlo Gloria and inaugurated to mark the start of the 100th anniversary celebrations, will be one more reason to travel to discover the splendid landscapes of the Vigezzo Valley and the Centovalli, which, in every season, offer new emotions. The picture of the new train can be found at the top of this page (www.vigezzinacentovalli.com).



Water sports, golf and adventure parks

Fun and leisure between lakes and mountains

For the more adventurous, here is the chance to experience moments of pure fun in contact with nature by spending unforgettable days at the **Aquadventure Park** in Baveno (Lake Maggiore) with family and friends. Adventure comes to life among via ferrata, trampolines, paintball, falconry, e-bike hire, heated pool, water slides, lake view beach and farm. Among the novelties 2023 is the new area dedicated to tennis, padel, beach volleyball and five-a-side football, which, in addition to implementing the variety and quality of the sports offer, also expands the activities dedicated to team building (lagomaggioreadventure.com).

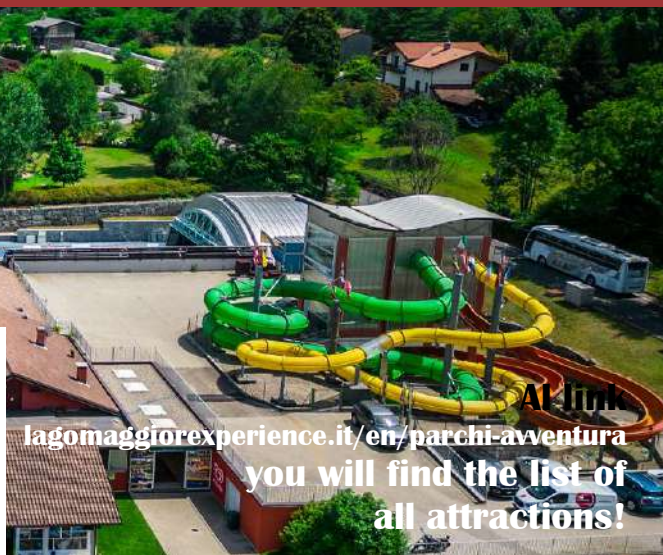
The **Le Pigne Adventure Park** in Ameno, close to Lake Orta, is set in a beautiful forest of chestnut, oak and fir trees. You can walk among trees up to 12 metres high, between Tibetan bridges, Nepalese bridges, lianas, swinging rings, swinging beams, footbridges, barrels and tyrolienne. Among the numerous events in 2023, in cooperation with the MonteOro restaurant, we would like to point out the "Valentine's Day" on 11 and 12/02, the "Day of the intrepid pensioner" on 24/03, the "Art Sundays" every first Sunday of the month, from 17 to 21/06 the "Festival of the Sun", on 10/08 "Waiting for the Stars", on 1/10 the "Grandparents' Day", on 3/12 the "Christmas markets" and on 6/01/2024 the "Gathering of the Flying Hags" (lepigne.it).

The **Praudina Adventure Park** is a landmark for an adrenaline-filled experience of fun in the middle of nature, with adventure trails and three ziplines among spruce trees. Hosting the suspended park is the centuries-old pine forest of Santa Maria Maggiore in the Vigizzo Valley. It is open from May to September, with special events and unmissable activities for children. (info on www.santamariamaggiore.info/praudina).

From 1 April 2023 **Wonderwood**, the family park at 1,000 metres on Lake Maggiore (Trarego Viggiona) will reopen. Among the novelties 2023: the Expedition Alps (discovering the geological eras of Mount Carza), the Gaia Bee Farm and the Pan Pan Park (the area dedicated to those who bring their four-legged friends with them). It will also be a season full of events related to spring bridges, the Night of St Lawrence, the 5th Grottoberfest and the WonderBoo Halloween festival (wonderwood.it).

Also worth mentioning is **Alpyland**, the adrenaline-fuelled and scenic bobsleigh track on the summit of Mottarone in both summer and winter (alpyland.com).

For those who also want to experience a flight not to be missed - from 18 March 2023 - we suggest the **Lago Maggiore Zipline** in Aurano (lagomaggiorezipline.it) and the **Lago d'Orta Zipline** (lagodortazipline.it) in Omegna. Two jumps into the green valley and the blue lake to be tackled in Free Style.



lagomaggiorexperience.it/en/parchi-avventura
you will find the list of
all attractions!



Wellness,
relaxation and care for all ages



At the link
distrettolaghi.it/en/wellness
you will find a virtual
journey dedicated to the
spas in our area!

Bognanco and its thermal baths, with more than 150 years of history, are located in a corner of Piedmont bordering Switzerland, in a verdant valley full of waterfalls and streams, the Val Bognanco. The merits that in the past attracted the attention of the whole of Italy, Europe and America remain unchanged to this day: from 1963 to the present day, the thermal baths can in fact boast the presence of more than 20 million visitors, 10 million of whom have taken advantage of the mineral waters treatments. Other facilities include a Turkish bath, experience showers, reaction bath, Finnish sauna, swimming pool, SPASstream, herbal tea room and relaxation room. For 2023, initiatives and thematic packages are planned dedicated to Women's Day ("Mimosa" package), Carnival in the pool, Valentine's Day ("Celebrate love with us" package), Easter and the 25 April and 1 May holidays with "Pool Special" packages (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 °C, featuring important therapeutic and hydrating properties. Cycles of thermal treatments are offered in agreement with the National Health System or for a fee. In addition: hydromassage beds, cervical jets, a vascular path and an area dedicated to children, providing fun and relaxation for the whole family. For 2023, they will be open every day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (except Tuesdays, the weekly closing day). Already confirmed is the "Valentine's Day" package to celebrate as a couple on Saturday 18 February (www.premiaterme.com).



LIVE YOUR LAGO MAGGIORE EXPERIENCE!

Lake Maggiore, Lake Orta and Lake Mergozzo, surrounded by the beautiful hills of Vergante and the Ossola Valleys, await you for an all-round holiday. Let yourself be welcomed and pampered in one of the more than 900 accommodation facilities and almost 2,500 tourist locations in our resorts, take advantage of the endless opportunities for outdoor and recreation activities, savour local culture and specialities linked to excellent food and wine production, become a protagonist by experiencing first-hand the stages of major and unforgettable events!

With almost 4 million stays a year, 79% of them from abroad, the area of the Distretto Turistico dei Laghi - strategically located along important international connection axes between Italy and Switzerland, Milan and Turin - is the first destination in Piedmont in terms of international tourist presences, besides being one of the most important Dolce Vita destinations in Northern Italy!

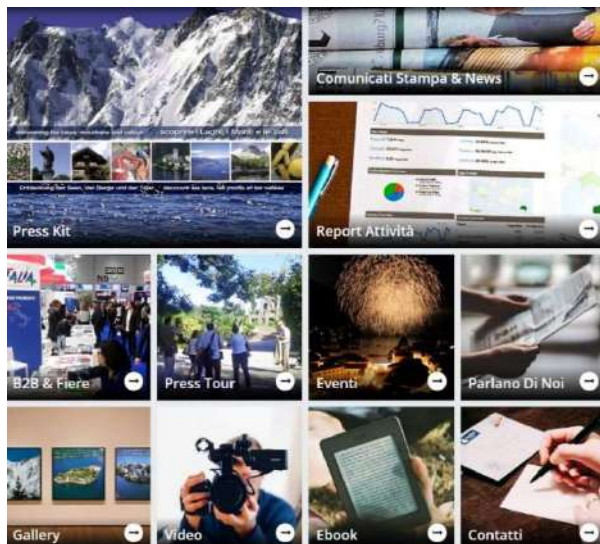
To discover and view the entire accommodation offer in the area, visit www.distrettolaghi.it/en/ospitalita



Media Room

Discover the **MEDIA ROOM** section! Our Press Kit, Press Releases, image and video galleries, trade fairs, Educational Tours and much more are available to journalists and Tour Operators! Discover our marketing and communication activities for the region!

Distretto Turistico dei Laghi e IAT



Our digital services for tourists

Visit the official website **DISTRETTOLAGHI.IT** to discover the digital services of **RECOMMENDER SYSTEM**, **WELCOME KIT**, **VIRTUAL ASSISTANT** and the **PODCASTS** (already present on the Spreaker, Apple Music and Spotify platforms) that narrate the most beautiful itineraries, dedicated to a wide audience.

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www.camminidevozionali.it

