

Lake Como (*Lago di Como*), Lombardy, Italy

Lake elevation is 650 feet above sea level. Summits of surrounding Alpine “foothills” reach heights of 5,500’. Lake depth is 1,350’ at deepest point.

20 miles long north to south. Surface area is 36,000 acres. [For comparison, Lake Lanier is 38,000 acres. Lake Hartwell is 56,000 acres.]

47 cities, towns, and villages surround the lake.

Largest city is Como (Pop. 83,000), founded by Romans in 59 B.C. Como is approximately 35 miles north of Milan (Pop. 1.3 million, Metro area population 7.4 million).



Bellagio “the Pearl of Lake Como” is an old resort town. Inhabited in prehistoric times, Bellagio was the summer residence of Roman patricians and then of Lombardy’s noble families. Artists, poets, writers, and musicians including Pliny the Younger, Longfellow, Twain, Shelley, Stendhal, Flaubert, and Faure have been enchanted by Bellagio.



Bellagio as seen from a departing ferry.



Bellagio from above



Note small parking lot in piazza at left of church. The Town of Varenna is in the distance.

Borgo (old walled section) of the Town of Bellagio is 17 acres. It accommodates:

- 220 homes with a population of about 600.
- 7 hotels with 222 rooms ranging in size from 10-52 rooms.
- 18 places to eat.
- 2 wine shops
- 4 small grocery stores.
- 25 clothing and accessory stores.
- 5 jewelry stores.
- 6 souvenir shops.
- 2 book stores.
- 4 art galleries.
- 2 antique stores.
- 2 churches.
- 1 Pharmacy, Dentist office, Optometrist office.
- An indeterminate amount of other office space.
- Library, Town Hall, Police Station, Post Office, Tourist Info Office, Public Rest Rooms.
- School
- Ferry Landing and Bus terminal.



Frequent ferry service is available from Bellagio to other municipalities around the lake.



The 17 acre Borgo section of Bellagio contains 14 streets that run essentially east-west, and 6 streets that run north-south. 49 intersections result from this network, giving this area a vicinity of 2.9.

F.A.R. was indeterminate.



Built on a hill sloping up +/- 25 degrees from the lake. All but two of the 14 east-west streets are pedestrian only stair streets.



Stair Streets



2 of the 6 North-South streets accommodate automobiles through the Borgo section of Bellagio. This is Via Garibaldi at the top of the slope. During my visit, I also observed numerous delivery trucks and one parade negotiate this street.



Piazza Mazzini connects to Lungo Manzoni, which together accommodate automobile movement at bottom of slope, adjacent to lake. Most of the Town's hotels and restaurants overlook this area. The Hotel Metropole (the 5-story pink building at the far end of the piazza) was the first hotel. It opened in 1825.



Dining along Piazza Mazzini

East side adjacent to the lake>>>>



Under the arcade, which runs along the piazza's west side.



Most retail is accommodated in small spaces (<500 s.f.). Examples:



Photo Shop



Art Gallery



Jewelry Store

Examples of Residential



Residential



Civic Town Hall



Library



Attention to Detail (Clockwise from right): Oleanders trimmed as trees. Garbage can. Water meter covers and manhole covers with cobble veneer. Virtually all buildings have a base (12-30" high) which projects ¼ - ½ inch from the wall and serves as a continuous "kick plate", protecting the buildings from pedestrian and automobile wear and tear.



Nearby Towns in the Landscape.

