

# STRESA & LAKE MAGGIORE



Borromean Gulf - Lake Maggiore

The famous town of Stresa enjoys a splendid location on Lake Maggiore in the Borromean Gulf, overlooking the eponymous islands, the main attraction in the region.

Its beautiful countryside, architectural gems and mild climate combine to make Stresa one of the most popular tourist attractions in Italy. The Borromèes Islands with their stunning palaces and ornamental gardens, are an unmissable destination for aesthetes.

Luxury villas and opulent Art Nouveau hotels line the elegant lakeside, which is ideal for a tranquil stroll. Since the late 19th century Stresa has been renowned for its sophisticated atmosphere and genteel visitors, and today still enjoys an impressive roster of cultural, musical and meeting events.

A visit to Stresa is the ideal way to blend relaxation and culture in an enchanting setting that evokes the atmosphere of the belle époque. From Stresa it is easy to reach the three Borromèes Islands, which are steeped in artistic, historical and botanical appeal. On the **islands of Bella and Madre** there are sumptuous palaces and rare plant gardens where peacocks, parrots and pheasants roam wild against an exotic backdrop reminiscent of faraway lands. In contrast, the **Isola dei Pescatori** famous for the charming simplicity of its old fishing village, which is considered one of the most picturesque spots on Lake Maggiore.



Isola Bella - Lake Maggiore



Villa Pallavicino - Stresa

As well as being a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century palace, **Villa Pallavicino** boasts a zoo in its huge, 50-acre park; here, among the ancient trees and flower-lined avenues, live more than 40 different species of mammals and birds. In Stresa itself, the elegant and attractive waterfront offers unforgettable views of the Gulf of Borromeo.

Walks along the shore offer the perfect opportunity to take in both the Art Nouveau hotels on the shore and the three Borromèes Islands. The view is equally superb from the

summit of Mount Mottarone (1491m), which dominates Stresa and offers a unique panoramic outlook. Mottarone is known as the 'Mountain of the Two Lakes' thanks to its strategic position between Lake Maggiore and the equally beautiful Lake Orta. The cable car to the top of Mottarone also stops off at Alpino, where the alpinia Botanical Gardens offer a terrace with sweeping views of Lake Maggiore.