

MIT Alumni Travel Program

VILLAGE LIFE®

AROUND THE **ITALIAN LAKES**

LAKE COMO • LAKE MAGGIORE • LAKE ORTA April 28 – May 6, 2018





Dear MIT Alumni and Friends,

Join fellow MIT travelers in the Italian *città di Como*—your picturesque "home" in *Italia* for a full week. This eight-day VILLAGE LIFE[®] AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES *soggiorno* is an exceptional way to experience the true essence of life in the beautiful and charming regions of Lombardy and Piedmont. Expert-guided excursions explore the artistic and architectural treasures commissioned by Roman patricians, medieval lords and Renaissance princes. Explore the fashionable city of Milan and enjoy a specially arranged viewing of Leonardo da Vinci's renowned masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, hung in the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie. Enriching presentations and the exclusive VILLAGE LIFE[®] FORUM, featuring local residents, offer you personal perspectives on Lombardy cultural heritage and contemporary life. Opportunities to taste northern Italy's acclaimed cuisine and wines and learn basic Italian phrases make your time in Como all the more enjoyable.

Accommodations for this program are ideally located in the heart of charming Como in the prestigious, lakeside PALACE HOTEL, just steps away from the city's Gothic-style Duomo. This historic hotel overlooks stunning *Lago di Como* and welcomes guests with warm Italian hospitality and impeccable service. We are sharing this program with alumni of Tufts University and Arizona State and with members of the Newark Museum. The trip can accommodate 45 travelers, maximum.

If you have any questions or to make a reservation, please call the MIT Alumni Travel Program at 800-992-6749, or email compass@mit.edu. You may also contact the tour operator, Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, at 800-922-3088. I hope you decide to join us.

Sincerely,

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Melissa Chapman Gresh Director, MIT Alumni Travel Program

P.S. Please visit our website at alum.mit.edu/travel for details and updated information on all of our trips. Find us on Facebook at MIT Alumni Travel Program!

Cover: Enjoy a private boat ride across the picturesque, tranquil waters of Lake Orta, the hidden gem of the Italian Lake District.



Stroll along Bellagio's narrow cobblestone streets and experience its authentic old-world charm and beauty.



ITALIAN LAKES



Stay in the heart of charming Como on the shores of this picturesque Italian lake, and experience firsthand the true character of Italy's romantic Lombardy and Piedmont regions. During this specially designed small group *soggiorno*, visit the charming lakeside *città* (towns) and *villaggi* (villages) of Bellagio, Isola San Giulio and Stresa along the shores of Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta. Enjoy an enriching travel experience like no other, an **excellent value** featuring thoughtfully designed exclusive excursions, hotel accommodations specially selected for a unique and impressive location on Lake Como and leisure time for independent exploration. Interact with local people and become immersed in the rhythm of daily life in the Italian Lake District; explore the history and culture, art, cuisine and language. And, **unpack just once**! This popular program is one of the VILLAGE LIFE® series, a comprehensive and intimate travel experience at just the right pace.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS are specially arranged for this custom-designed itinerary:

- Immerse yourself in authentic experiences during included guided historical and cultural excursions, well balanced with ample leisure time to observe daily life in quaint local cafés, along lovely cobblestone streets and amidst the bustle of Como's three-times-weekly colorful outdoor market.
- Hear it from the Experts! Meet a Como scholar who will present a lecture on his *città natale* (hometown) and share his expertise of historical, cultural and contemporary Lombardy. An art historian and lifelong resident of Como will share her knowledge of art, medieval history and the classics during a private lecture on Leonardo da Vinci.
- Experience the best of the Italian lakes in unspoiled Como, on picturesque Isola Bella surrounded by Lake Maggiore and on secluded Isola San Giulio in the midst of Lake Orta, the undiscovered gem of the district.
- Engage with local *lombardi* during the VILLAGE LIFE[®] FORUM where they will share their candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in the majestic Italian Lake District.
- Admire the magnificent 18th-century architecture and elaborate terraced gardens of the Italian National Trust's Villa del Balbianello.
- Visit Isola Bella's 17th-century Baroque palazzo, home to masterpieces by northern Italian artists including Bergognone, Boltraffio and Crespi, and splendid terraced gardens where white peacocks strut among tropical flowers.
- Enjoy a guided walk on Sacro Monte (Sacred Mountain), a UNESCO World Heritage site where 21 chapels dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi stand amidst a spectacular mountaintop garden.
- Visit the vibrant city of Milan and see Leonardo da Vinci's unrivaled masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, in the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie.
- Sample authentic regional specialties during included dinners in the hotel and in a local *ristorante*.
- Learn key phrases in *la lingua italiana* (the Italian language) to make your interactions with local residents all the more enjoyable.



Como features gorgeous architecture at every turn, but perhaps its most iconic building is the Duomo di Como, a 14th-century Roman Catholic cathedral in the city's historic center. Inset above: Statue at Villa del Balbianello.

ITINERARY

Day

- 1 Depart the U.S.
- 2 MILAN,[©] ITALY/LAKE COMO
- Check into the PALACE HOTEL in Como.
- 3 Сомо
 - Walking tour of Old Como.
 - CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:
 - Lecture by Como scholar.
- 4 LAKE MAGGIORE/BORROMEAN ISLANDS/STRESA
 Private cruise on Lake Maggiore around the Borromean Islands.
 CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:
 - Tour of Isola Bella's magnificent 17th-century palazzo and gardens.
 - Explore the charming *strade* (streets) of Stresa at your own pace.
- 5 MILAN• Guided tour of Milan.
 - CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:
 - Visit to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Santa Maria delle Grazie to see Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*.
- 6 LAKE COMO/VILLA DEL BALBIANELLO/BELLAGIO
 Private scenic cruise on Lake Como. CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:
 - Specially arranged tour of the Italian National Trust's Villa del Balbianello.
 - Exclusive VILLAGE LIFE[®] FORUM.
 - Explore charming Bellagio at your own pace.
- 7 COMO/LAKE ORTA
 - Private boat ride across Lake Orta to visit the beautiful Isola San Giulio.
 - Walking tour to medieval Orta San Giulio. CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:
 - ◆ Guided tour on Sacro Monte.®
- 8 Сомо
 - CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:
 - Day at leisure. Opt to stroll Como's
 - colorful market and mingle with lombardi.
- 9 COMO/MILAN/Return to the U.S.
- ◆ VERONA[®] ◆ VENICE[®] Post-Program Option



Como

Founded by the Romans in 196 B.C., Como has been internationally known for its silk-weaving industry since silkworms were first imported here in the 14th century. At one time, Como was the largest European silk producer-dyeing, weaving and designing fabrics to be shipped to the fashion houses of Milan, Paris and London. Enjoy ideally located accommodations for the entire week in the PALACE HOTEL on the shores of Lake Como and in the centro storico (old town) of this charming Italian città. Walk along cobblestone passages past medieval towers and walls, Renaissance palaces and churches, neoclassical 19th-century villas and small family-owned negozi (shops) leading to the Piazza Cavour and the tranguil lakeside promenade. See the magnificent Duomo di Como, considered to be the most beautiful cathedral in Lombardy-it took nearly 400 years to complete and reflects a seamless blend of Gothic and Renaissance styles.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS: A local scholar presents a private lecture about Como from the Roman era to the present, and local art historian and resident Giuseppina Lucini presents exclusive lecture. During the exclusive VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM, residents will discuss contemporary life in the extraordinarily beautiful and historic Italian Lake District.



Isola Bella is the most spectacular of the Borromean Islands, located on the Italian side of Lake Maggiore. Visit a magnificent 16^{th} -century villa and stroll through one of the most beautiful gardens in the world.



Along the stunning shoreline of Lake Como, the picturesque village of Bellagio is comprised of many traditional patrician houses and villas that are surrounded by lush parks with fragrant gardens and poplar trees.

Savor the delights of northern Italian cuisine while enjoying dinner in a local *ristorante*. During time on your own, peruse the fresh fruit and vegetables in the three-times-weekly outdoor market, a local tradition for centuries.

Lago Maggiore

Italy's second-largest lake forms a natural boundary between the regions of Lombardy and Piedmont and is a close rival to Lake Como as the most spectacular in the Italian Lake District. Lake Maggiore's mild climate allows gardens to grow rare and exotic plants in the beautiful landscape beneath the high Alps, particularly on the remarkable Borromean Islands. Enjoy a private boat cruise across the deep, clear waters and amidst its charming islands that served as inspiration for Flaubert, Wagner and Goethe.

Borromean Islands

Cruise among Lake Maggiore's enticing islands graced with elegant villas and striking natural beauty. Isola Bella, Isola di San Giovanni, Isola Madre and Isola dei Pescatori are collectively known as the Borromean Islands, named after the powerful and influential Borromeo family. Visit the exquisitely preserved Isola Bella, commissioned by Count Carlo Borromeo III in 1632 as a magnificent Baroque retreat dedicated to his wife, Isabella.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Walk through Isola Bella's splendid Italianate gardens, where white peacocks stroll among the seasonal blaze of roses, gardenias, azaleas and rhododendrons. Tour the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo, filled with priceless masterpieces by such artists as Tiepolo and the sculptor Canova, and see the spectacular grotto, decorated entirely with mosaics of marine life.

Stresa

An 18th- and 19th-century "Grand Tour" of Europe was considered incomplete without a visit to Stresa to experience its spectacular mountain views, tropical gardens and the resplendent glistening waters of Lake Maggiore. A young Ernest Hemingway, recuperating in Stresa during World War I, was inspired to make it the setting for Frederic Henry and Catherine Barkley's reunion in *A Farewell to Arms*.

Milan

Recognized as the capital of the design and fashion worlds, Milan has an ancient cultural heritage and legacy that blends its ornately preserved palaces, churches and museums with vibrant contemporary life, an abundance of haute cuisine, art and operatic traditions. Visit the world-famous Teatro alla Scala opera house and Milan's exquisite Duomo.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: By special arrangement, visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie to experience the genius and beauty of Leonardo da Vinci's renowned masterpiece, *The Last Supper*.

Lago di Como

Composer Franz Liszt romanticized, "When you write the story of two happy lovers, place them on the shores of Lake Como." Cruise by private boat across the sparkling waters of Italy's deepest—and perhaps most spectacular—lake and learn more about its fascinating history and allure as you pass in front of the quaint coastal village of Bellagio and grand Renaissance villas, built on the slopes of snowcapped mountains.

Villa del Balbianello

Just across Lake Como from Bellagio is the exquisite Villa del Balbianello and its magnificent terraced gardens. Built in 1787 by Cardinal Angelo Maria Durini, this epitome of an Italian lake villa was renovated in the early 20th century by an American veteran of World War I and more recently purchased by Italy's first explorer to summit Mt. Everest, Guido Monzino, who bequeathed it to the Italian National Trust.



Milan's awe-inspiring Gothic-style Duomo is crowned with monumental, intricate spires and is home to some of Italy's finest religious art.

THE PALACE HOTEL

The recently refurbished, classic belle-époque PALACE HOTEL is a delightful establishment with a magnificent setting on the *lungo lago* (lakefront promenade) overlooking Lake Como and is just steps away from Como's beautiful marble Duomo and the medieval, pedestrian-only town center. Venetian stucco artistry, Italian marble and antique furniture provide subtle touches of 19th-century elegance throughout the hotel, while its beautifully landscaped gardens provide the perfect setting to admire enchanting views across Lake Como. The Ceccato Ice Cream Parlor,



with its summer terrace and winter garden overlooking the lake, is an excellent place to enjoy the refreshing flavors of a traditional Italian ice or a cup of cappuccino.

Each of the hotel's 94 comfortable guest rooms is tastefully appointed with a private bathroom, air conditioning, satellite television, minibar and hair dryer. Meals feature well-prepared Italian and local specialties and international cuisine. Table wines are served with dinner. The hotel staff provides exceptional service.

It remains an authentic Italian villa masterpiece and repository of 18th-century French and English furniture, and Monzino's collection of Chinese, pre-Columbian and African art.

Bellagio

Perched on a promontory punctuated by stands of cypress trees, Bellagio is one of the Italian Lake District's most internationally well-known communes and has been a popular European holiday destination since Roman times. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Milanese nobility flocked here to build elaborate villas and cultivate subtropical gardens.

Lago d'Orta

Nestled in the captivating Piedmont region of northwestern Italy, tranquil, glittering Lake Orta is one of the Lake District's best-kept secrets. Enjoy a walking tour to the heart of Orta San Giulio's lovely medieval village center, replete with cobblestone lanes that open up to a picturesque piazza; rich, ochre-hued houses fronted by decorative wrought-iron balconies; and attractive palazzos, once home to Italian nobility. Enjoy time at leisure this beautiful village.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Atop the summit of Sacro Monte di Orta—one of nine sacred mountains in northern Italy and a UNESCO World Heritage site—amidst a picturesque landscape of forested hills, visit several small chapels dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, decorated with elaborate frescoes and built between the 16th and 18th centuries.

Isola San Giulio

Cruise across cobalt-blue Lake Orta in a private boat to diminutive Isola San Giulio, taking in spectacular views of picture-perfect Italian villas and gardens along the way. This intimate island served as artistic inspiration to Robert Browning, Honoré de Balzac and Lord Byron, who all wrote of its sublime beauty. Visit the 12th-century Romanesque-style Basilica San Giulio, whose opulent interior is decorated with richly detailed frescoes painted upon the nave, chapel, vaults and aisles, and stroll the lush grounds of its monastery and old-world villas.

Tesori di Verona e Venezia Post-Program Option

Discover the delightful treasures of two beloved Italian locales—fair Verona and extraordinary Venice. A vibrant Roman and medieval trading center, Verona is the legendary setting for Shakespeare's timeless romance and tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The town is renowned for its well-preserved Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals, delightful piazzas and magnificent Roman monuments. See the spectacular 2000-year-old Roman Arena—the third-largest such edifice in the world, still in use today—and star-crossed Juliet's famous balcony.

In Venice, tour this UNESCO World Heritage site and architectural masterpiece, including the Gothic-style Doge's Palace Visit the charming archipelago of Burano, known for its colorful houses and fishing boats and for skilled lace-making artisans. Accommodations for three nights are in the elegant HOTEL BONVECCHIATI, an 18th-century



The Post-Program Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Included Features

In Como

- Seven nights in the charming PALACE HOTEL on the southern shore of Lake Como.
- Full buffet breakfast each morning.
- Three dinners in the hotel and one dinner in a traditional restaurant, featuring northern Italian specialties with Italian wines.
- Welcome Reception.

Local Expert-Guided Excursions

- Walking tour of Old Como.
- Spectacular, full-day scenic tour of Lake Maggiore, featuring a private cruise of the Borromean Islands.
- Full-day excursion to Milan to visit the world-famous Teatro alla Scala and the exquisite Duomo.
- Private boat cruise across Lake Como to medieval Bellagio.
- Excursion by private boat to Lake Orta's island of San Giulio, including a visit to the 12th-century basilica, renowned for its medieval pulpit made of black Oira marble.
- Walking tour to the beautiful medieval village of Orta San Guilio.

Exclusive Cultural Enrichments

- Exclusively arranged, private lectures: Como history and culture presented by a local scholar and Como native, and a presentation on the life of Leonardo da Vinci by an art historian and
- resident of Como. Visit to UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, with a specially arranged viewing of Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper.
- Specially arranged VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM with local Lombardy residents.
- Visit to Lake Maggiore's Isola Bella with a walk through the gardens of the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo.
- Time at your own pace to explore romantic Bellagio, the most famous village on Lake Como, and to experience Stresa's spectacular views and tropical gardens on Lake Maggiore.
- Guided tour of the fresco-adorned chapels dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi on Sacro Monte, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Private guided tour of the Italian National Trust's magnificent 18th-century Villa del Balbianello.
- Opportunities to explore local markets in Como at your own pace.
- Opportunities to savor northern Italy's traditional cuisine during included meals and on your own.
- Occasion to interact with locals and immerse yourself in Lombardy life.
- ٠ Italian language introduction.

- Enhanced Travel Services
 Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose aprical (4) participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary bottled water is provided on motorcoaches during excursions.
- Hospitality desk in the hotel.
- The services of an experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director throughout the program.
- Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during <mark>guided</mark> excursions. Travel document wallet, name badge and
- pre-departure information.
- Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy ٠ for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.

The romantic allure

Italian Lake District



Lombardy Coat of Arms 1815-1866

For centuries, Italy's Lake District has seduced hearts, minds and souls, including those of Virgil, Napoleon, Byron, Stendhal, Wordsworth, Shelley, Wharton, Verdi, Puccini, Toscanini, Twain and Hemingway. Long before the Romans annexed the region

2000 years ago and began to build their well-ordered towns, it was settled by Etruscans and invaded by Celts. Following the Romans, Middle Ages and Renaissance, nobility built magnificent holiday villas, filled them with priceless art and laid out extraordinary gardens. European aristocrats of the 18th and 19th centuries considered the Italian Lake District an essential stop on their "Grand Tour" of Europe.

Lombardy became one of the richest and most economically developed areas of Italy and Europe, thanks to its agricultural production, trade and banking activities that extended throughout the continent.

To this day, the region remains of paramount importance to Italy. The mild climate and the beauty of snowcapped Alpine peaks descending to serene lake shores continue to lure the rich, the famous and travelers from around the world. From the deep-blue glacial lakes of Como, Maggiore and picturesque Orta to the enchanting Villa del Balbianello, and from colorful Bellagio—"Pearl of the Lake"—to the modern sophistication of Milan, discover the exquisite gem that is the Italian Lake District.

The beautiful town of Stresa on Lake Maggiore has beckoned artists, authors and European aristocracy for centuries.



Nestled on the shores of Lake Como and surrounded by majestic Alpine peaks, the legendary Villa del Balbianello has one of the most beautiful and dramatic settings in all of Italy.

LAND TARIFF excluding taxes*			Early Booking Tariff* through November 2, 2017	Tariff* after November 2, 2017		
Per person, based on double occupancy			\$3795	\$4095		
Singles are available upon request for an additional \$1000.*						
*Taxes are an additional \$195 p	er person ai	nd are subject to change.				
VILLAGE LIFE ARC	OUND TH	ie ITALIAN LAK	ES reservat	TION FORM		
Send to:			Please make my/o	our reservation(s):		
MIT Alumni Travel Program		For further information, call MIT at (800) 992-6749 or	Double occupancy			
600 Memorial Drive, W98-2nd Floor		Thomas P. Gohagan &	(two twin beds).			
Cambridge, MA 02139		Company at (800) 922-3088.	 Double occupancy (one double bed). 			
		l	□ Single accomm			
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Title Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport) MIT Affiliation			single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).			
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Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)			Tesori di Verona e Venezia Post-Program Option			
City	State ZIP Code		Double at \$1695 per person.			
			□ Single at \$239	95 per person.		
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Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s) Tour No. 068-04/28/18-061			be guaranteed).			
Program reservations require a \$200 per person Tesori di Veron By reserving and placing a deposit on Liability, Assumption of Risk and Bind outside back cover of this brochure.	I/We want you to book my/our air from					
Enclosed is my/our check(s) for \$as deposit. Make checks payable to 2018 Village Life around the Italian Lakes.				<i>arture city)</i> lilan, Italy, at an		
□ I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of \$ to:				t to be advised. [‡]		
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Signature as it a						
All FINAL PAYMENTS are req wire transfer by January 23, 20	I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.					



The captivating setting of the Italian Lakes possesses an inexhaustible charm for both travelers and locals alike.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

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of any other third party. In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites from or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, reletance, illume, anidemics or the threat thereof the lack of availability. activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereot, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accent as a trin particinant.

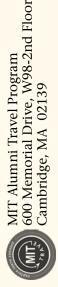
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assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment. DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by November 2, 2017. In the event a "discounted" reservation must be cancelled, no "replacement" reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply. CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel,

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the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a \$200 (\$50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, \$600 (\$200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure; 50% of the published full regular tariffs; from 22 through 44 days prior to departure; 75% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply. **TRIP INSURANCE:** Trip cancellation/interruption insurance is highly recommended and should be considered for your financial protection. Also important, especially for our international travelers is medical insurance and emergency medical evacuation coverage. A comprehensive package will be made available to you upon receipt of your initial deposit. Early purchase may provide coverage of pre-existing medical conditions. **RATES:** Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international art which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases. **REGISTRATION:** CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: TA 0905.

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The MIT Alumni Travel Program provides further information about the Travel Program and the relationship between the Alumni Association and the tour operator online at: http://alum.mit.edu/travel/About.



Thomas P. Gohagan & Company 209 South LaSalle Street Suite 500

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