



POLITECNICO
DI MILANO

IABMAS 2012

6th International Conference on
Bridge Maintenance, Safety and Management

Stresa, Lake Maggiore, Italy, July 8-12, 2012

Tour for Accompanying Persons

LAKE MAGGIORE, THE BORROMEAN ISLANDS AND VILLA TARANTO

Monday, July 9th, 2012

1. Tour Description



Starting from Stresa by private boat, the tour will first stop at the town of Verbania, a stone's throw north of Stresa, indeed worth the visit to **Villa Taranto's Botanical Gardens**. The beauty of this park is like a wave of emotions enchanting your senses with its brilliant colors, the persistent scents of flowers and plants and the relaxing sounds of this exceptional natural setting.

"The beautiful garden does not have to be big, but it should be the realization of one's dream, even though it is only a couple of square meters large and it is situated on a balcony". So explained Captain Neil Mc Eacharn, the man who created these marvelous gardens. Many thousands of plants, brought from the far corners of the world, and rare collections, some of them unique in Europe and acclimatized after long laborious efforts, have been arranged with art in this beautiful setting, between the mountains and the lake.

At the end of the visit of Villa Taranto's Botanical Gardens, the boat will head to the Borromean Islands, a must-see destination for every visitor to Lake Maggiore.



The group will visit **Isola dei Pescatori** (the Fishermen's Island), the most picturesque of the islands, so called in reason of the main activity people had here in the past. While the traditional occupation of fishing still exists, tourism has become central to the economic life of the island as its picturesque charms have made it a popular destination: particularly for day-trippers but also for more extended visits. In addition to the hotels,

restaurants and gift-shops there are boutiques selling craft products. That is the perfect place to have lunch and taste the local fish specialties provided by the numerous restaurants on the island.



After lunch you will reach **Isola Bella**, named for Isabella countess Borromeo. In the 17th century the family built an attractive summer palace and they built up a beautiful ten-terraced garden whose flowers and plants from all over the world enrich this gorgeous park. The baroque palace contains a wealth of artifacts: original furnishings, gold and silk Flemish tapestries, period weapons, sculptures, paintings and frescoes from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

By 4.30 pm the boat will ship you back to Stresa.

2. Tentative Tour Scheduling

09.30 am	Departure from Stresa by boat
10.00 am	Visit of Villa Taranto
12.00 am	Visit of Fisherman's Island - Lunch
03.00 pm	Visit of Isola Bella
04.30 pm	Return to Stresa

3. Booking and Payment

The tour is managed by Palazzo dei Congressi di Stresa.

The ticket cost is 75 Euros per person. This includes the cost of the boat to the Islands, Verbania and return, English speaking guide, entrance to palaces and botanical gardens.

Lunch starting from Euro 28,00 per person is not included in the cost. However, accompanying persons registered at the Conference are entitled to receive a packet lunch without additional costs. The packet lunch must be required one day in advance and personally taken before leaving for the tour. Please refer to the Secretariat Desk on site.

The tour is intended for a minimum of 15 participants. In case this minimum number is not reached, registered participants will be refunded.

To join the tour please fill in the **registration form** and send it to:

Palazzo dei Congressi

Ms. Nicoletta Bisi

Piazzale Europa, 3 - 28838 Stresa (VB), Italy

Phone: +39-0323-30389 - Fax: +39-0323-33281

E-mail: segreteria@stresacongressi.it

Deadline for booking is July 2nd, 2012. After this date tickets will be subject to availability.

Should you have any inquiry about this tour please contact Ms. Nicoletta Bisi at: segreteria@stresacongressi.it