

# The Telegraph

## Travel | Destinations



By **Kiki Deere**, DESTINATION EXPERT

## Vista Palazzo Lago di Como

### Como, Lake Como, Italy [View on a map](#)

8/10

Telegraph expert rating



"Como's first five-star urban boutique hotel exudes elegance and warmth, with cosy interiors featuring bespoke Italian furnishings. At sunset, soak in the pretty lake views from the fourth floor balcony counters, or sink into one of the plush armchairs in the snug lounge."

**8**/<sub>10</sub>

### **Location**

It has a great location on Piazza Cavour, a large pedestrianised square on the Como lakefront. You're a stone's throw away from the historical centre, with all of the city sights reachable on foot and the boat terminal just across the road, with regular services to destinations around the lake. Milan is a one-hour drive south, while the slopes of St Moritz and other ski resorts are a two-hour drive away (this is one of the very few hotels on the lake that is open year-round).

**8**/<sub>10</sub>

### **Style & character**

It's set in a salmon pink Venetian-style building dating back to the 1800s, with a discreet entrance opening onto Piazza Cavour. It's an elegant boutique hotel with only eight rooms and eight suites, offering smart interiors that showcase the best of Italian craftsmanship: bespoke mahogany cabinets in the communal areas, handmade sinks and fittings in the bathrooms, and tailor-made velvet armchairs and sofas in deep bold shades – sapphire blue, crimson and amber, to name a few – that exude plenty of warmth.

The top-floor restaurant and bar is intimate and cosy, with a small library (there's a very limited selection of books; it's more of a snug living room), the kind of place where you can sink into a sofa and while away a few hours with a drink or book in hand.

**7**/<sub>10</sub>

### **Service & facilities**

This is very much an urban boutique hotel; don't expect a lakefront swimming pool or a spa. Facilities are limited to the attractive fourth-floor bar, restaurant and lounge, where you can enjoy lovely views of the lake from the two itsy-bitsy terraces with counter seating.

Plenty of services can be organised on request, including in-room massages, personal trainers, shopping trips around Como and Milan, wine tasting in nearby Franciacorta and, of course, private boat tours of the lake in stylish mahogany Riva boats; more adventurous types can enjoy seaplane trips above the lake. Staff are welcoming and professional, offering expert friendly service.

9/10

## Rooms

The 18 rooms are attractive and tastefully decorated, with tailor-made Italian furnishings including elegant textiles by Dedar, hand-made wooden and brass lamps, and a sprinkling of iconic Italian lighting products (Arco floor lamps by Castiglioni; Cosmic Leaf by Artemide). Above the beds, you'll find attractive wall fabrics (floral green motifs in some, elegant black and golden bird and floral designs in others), while thick curtains, elegant wooden floors and velvet armchairs in bold colours create a warm and homely atmosphere.

The bathrooms are the highlight: they're gorgeous, with white marble and striking onyx counter tops and sinks in a range of attractive hues – eau de Nil, mustard, dove grey, charcoal black, wine-red, and bottle green – as well as elegant freestanding bathtubs and large rain showers equipped with Etro toiletries.

8/10

## Food & drink

The fourth-floor restaurant and bar is a cosy spot to enjoy a meal; for a more informal bite, take a seat at one of the terrace counters. Using seasonal ingredients from the peninsula (lemons from Sicily, tomatoes from Campania, fassona and chianina beef from Piedmont and Tuscany respectively), Executive Chef Stefano Mattara serves up creative takes on traditional Italian dishes such as sardine in saor, a sweet and sour sardine dish typical of the Veneto region that is served here in an onion cooked in hot ashes and embers, cresting a rich smoky flavour; scooped out with a teaspoon, the caramelised onion filling is particularly tasty.

Outside meal times, there's an all-day menu offering simple international dishes such as burgers and club sandwiches. Breakfast is a relatively simple buffet spread (cereal, fruits, pastries, cold cuts and cheeses), although other dishes can be ordered à la carte (at an extra cost), from pancakes to omelettes and eggs Benedict.

6/10

## Value for money

Double rooms from €600 (£531) in low season; and from €700 (£620) in high. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi.

## Access for guests with disabilities?

There are two adapted rooms.

## Family-friendly?

The tranquil atmosphere of the hotel is best appreciated by adults, although families are welcome. There are two adjoining suites per floor, and complimentary cots can be provided. Children are greeted with cuddly soft toys.

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