

Lake Viverone offers traditions, history and the delight of food and wine

Italian lakes: incomparable natural sceneries

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Lake Viverone

In the heart of Piedmont in the province of Biella, in an area not far from the entrance to the Valle d'Aosta, Lake Viverone appears as if by magic.

This stretch of water originated from the dissolution of an ancient glacier and is set in the imposing amphitheatre of the Serra d'Ivrea, the longest morainial range in the Alpine chain.

Viverone, a paradise for bird watchers, is a veritable jewel of nature, and its banks are populated in winter with water birds from Northern Europe. It also offers history, traditions, and the delight of food and wine, such as Erbaluce di Caluso, a noble wine to be tasted in the cellars of Roppolo Castle. The lake is an important archaeological site; on its shores many prehistoric artifacts have been found, particularly from the Bronze Age. There are also the remains of a prehistoric lake village, one of the major archaeological discoveries of the 20th century.

Near Ivrea is the picturesque area of the Five Lakes: Sirio, Pistono, Nero, Campagna and San Michele - tiny lakes hidden amidst walls of lush vegetation.



Lake Viverone at night

Biella

Biella offers a great artistic heritage ranging from Roman to Romanesque architecture. This can be seen by the splendid Baptistery and the high St. Stephan belltower. The medieval village of Piazza, built on the

top of a hill, is of particular interest for its old mansions, its arcades and paved streets, where ancient doors were once used to lock the village. The Church and the cloister of St. Sebastian is a magnificent example of Renaissance architecture and includes beautiful paintings.

The Museum of the Territory represents an ideal starting point for the discovery of Biella. Here you can admire the goldmine of the Roman age in the Bessa Natural Reserve, where high piles of stones and golden mining waste take on a unique and mysterious look.

There are also many examples of minor Romanesque architecture in the morainic hill, such as the St. Secondo Church in Magnano and the St. Maria Assunta in Netro.

The Middle Ages have left behind the beautiful village in Masserano, and the popular "Ricetto" of Candelo, a perfectly preserved fortified village made by its inhabitants in the 14th century.



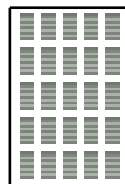
Tradition of fine wine

The Sanctuary of Oropa

The greatest examples of 17th century architecture are the sanctuaries, scattered on the slopes of the mountains and linked together by long and quiet streets, which offer magnificent views of the splendid chain of Oropa. This holy place is tied to the worship of a black Madonna, commonly called the Holy Virgin of Oropa. According to



Biella - Piazza Martiri



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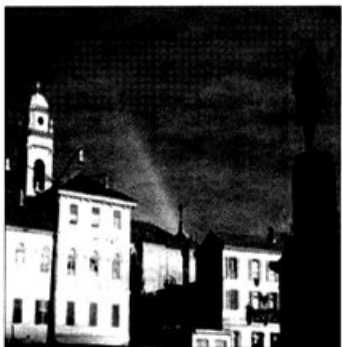
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