

The

Lago di Como Log

Thursday, 27 September 2007

Day 4 of 11

Arrive in Bellagio on Lake Como

Bellagio!!!



...as seen on town's site on the World Wide Web.

Bellagio...



...as seen in real life, 27 Sept. 2007 from the Lake Como ferry.

OK. So life in the real Italy finally intrudes on life in the make-believe one shown in the travel brochures.

The fact that it's trying to turn into winter here on the edge of the Alps doesn't mean we're giving up on the vacation. But we did our best to try and botch it.

We started out this morning by checking our rail tickets and discovered that the

train we actually held reservations on from Vicenza to Milan, where we were to

connect to Varenna on Lake Como, left 1½ hours earlier than the one we had told the Army about. So our seats left the station before we ever checked out of the Ederle Inn.

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Here's our full itinerary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept 23	24 Fly to Italy	25 Arrive in Venice	26 Vicenza Dedication of Margaret Williamson Memorial Garden	27 Vicenza to Lake Como	28 Lake Como	29 Lake Como to Rome
30 Rome	Oct 1 Rome to Florence & Tuscany	2 Tuscany	3 Tuscany to Milan	4 Fly to United States	5	6

How not to catch a train

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We made our apologies to the ticket agent at the Vicenza station, and she managed to get us seats on the train we originally thought we were booked on. The information board showed the *Cisalpino Canaletto* from Venice to Milan was running five minutes late.

Out on platform three, the diagram showed our car third behind the locomotive, and we went to that end of the platform. At the scheduled time of our train, another train pulled up headed in the wrong direction. The signs on the cars listed Venezia (Venice) as the destination, but that was the origination of our train.

Except that if we were somehow wrong – nearly unimaginable – we might be in the running for the most times missing the same train in the same day (Italian division). So as the conductor was about to reboard, we asked him where our train was going.

“Milano.”

Glad we asked.

We dragged ourselves, our bags and the kitchen sink aboard just in time but three cars behind where we were reserved. It took three trips through the restaurant/bar car to get all our junk to the proper cabin, but we made it.

As we rolled along the southern edge of the Alps toward Milan, the gray morning sky

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Today we traveled to Bellagio on Lake Como, just above Milan and 12 miles from Switzerland



Would it be OK to call?

When it's this time in California / it's this time in Italy	When it's this time in N.C. / it's this time in Italy
9 a.m. / 6 p.m.	9 a.m. / 3 p.m.
Noon / 9 p.m.	Noon / 6 p.m.
3 p.m. / Midnight	3 p.m. / 9 p.m.
6 p.m. / 3 a.m.	6 p.m. / Midnight
9 p.m. / 6 a.m.	9 p.m. / 3 a.m.

Making our way across northern Italy by *ferrovia* (rail)



Safe at last on the train

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first lowered, and then began to drop some serious rain. Our connecting train dropped us in the lakeside town of Varenna in a downpour, and the mountains were in the fog.

The people accompanying us on our train-ferry connection to Bellagio included Irish, U.S. and Indian (Dubai residents) nationals. Nan's seatmate from Kenya left the train one stop before we did.

We're hoping to finally cure our jet lag with a couple of unscheduled days here in the wet (and snowy) mountains



Where we're staying

Hotel Bellagio, run by the Leoni family, which also owns the Hotel du Lac, is a two-star place with 29 rooms two blocks off the harbor front. Completely renovated in 2005, it's a good bet for modern comfort in the old city center.

– Rick Steves' Italy 2007

Today's picture page



Bellagio ferry



Waiting for the ferry.

Heading across Lake Como to Bellagio, which is on the small dark hill just above the orange life ring. The ferry trip was about 15 minutes.

