



A BALCONY BETWEEN TWO LAKES

Paths, historical-artistic testimonies and an arboretum dedicated to the Righteous to discover the beauty of Comunità Montana Lario Intelvese

This is one of the most beautiful and visited places in the world and offers a varied natural landscape that can be discovered thanks to the dense network of itineraries on foot, by bicycle or on horseback.

The territory of the Comunità Montana Lario Intelvese, not far from the cities of Milan and Lugano, is a secluded oasis of relaxation where one can still share the spirit that unites small communities. Travelling through the territory, up and down mountains and valleys, one can admire interesting views: from the waters of Lake Como and the Isola Comacina (Comacina Island) to Lago Ceresio (Ceresio Lake) of Lugano and the mysterious Grotte di Rescia (Rescia Caves).

From the mountains one can enjoy



SANTA GIULIA - CLAINO



FERRUCCIO RIGOLA, PRESIDENT OF COMUNITÀ MONTANA LARIO INTELVESE

sweeping views, first and foremost from the summit of the Sighignola, in the Alta Valle Intelvi, known as the “Balcone d’Italia” (balcony of Italy), which extends as far as the remote mountains of Switzerland. “The already remarkable natural heritage of this area - explains the president of the Comunità Montana Lario Intelvese Ferruccio Rigola - in recent years has been enriched by the Progetto Interreg Marks, an acronym for “Monumental Arboretum for the Historical Network and Knowledge-Management of Innovative Multifactory and Artistic Spaces between Italy and Switzerland”, which aims to promote the knowledge,

preservation, management and valorisation of Alpine culture as material heritage and historical memory, realised in cooperation with many Italian and Swiss partners, but which could only be accomplished thanks to the broadest cooperation between all the municipalities in the area”. Through a guided path, which overlaps and intertwines with the dense network of paths, the trees of the Arboretum Intelvi take on the role of guardians of memory, in the same places where the fleeing Jews passed. The arboretum is part of the Gardens of the Righteous Worldwide, under the international aegis of Gariwo, so that the vitality of the trees may be

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PANORAMA FROM SANT'ANNA, ARGEGNO

the memory of those Righteous who gave their lives because they believed in a world of peace and without discrimination: The Righteous of all times will forever be remembered thanks to the trees and plaques dedicated to them. Completing the Arboretum’s itinerary are the Land Art installations, a modern expression of art that since 2014 has been witnessed by the Sentiero delle Espressioni (Path of Expressions), with carved wooden creations in the forests of Lombardy: that of Valle Intelvi, above Schignano (famous for its Carnival), and the Foresta del Monte Generoso (Forest of Monte Generoso), with its rare wood of golden laburnums. The Alpe Grande area is also home to the Arboreto delle Diversità (Diversity Arboretum), where special plantings of local species replace trees that have dried up due to the presence of the bark beetle. One of the routes

best known to hikers is undoubtedly the Via dei Monti Lariani, which intertwines with the network of mule tracks built by Italian troops during World War I, known as the Linea Cadorna (the Cadorna Line), of which we can see the remains of trenches. In this area, history has left many traces. Every church or small chapel can hide precious architectural surprises, interesting stuccoes and frescoes created by the Magistri Cumacini e Intelvesi (Magisters from Cumacini and Intelvesi) who, between the Middle Ages and the Baroque Age, were highly appreciated throughout Europe. Also not to be missed are the splendid gardens of Villa Erba, Villa Carlotta and the Fai Villa Balbianello (visit can be arranged). On Monte Generoso, also accessible from Switzerland on foot or by small train, is the Grotta dell’Orso (Bear Cave) where, thanks to virtual

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reality, you can take a trip back in time and discover that Neanderthal man left traces here. “The Comunità Montana Lario Intelvese is an area that fascinates visitors from all over the world for various reasons. Not least, the gastronomy. Here you can eat well, typical local products can be found for sale in farms and agritourisms or tasted in local restaurants”, Rigola concludes.



GOING TO GALBIGA



SENTIERO DELLE ESPRESSIONI - SCHIGNANO