

# For the love of... Lago di Como

by Laura Dunn

It's not just birthdays that Hollywood superstar George Clooney and I have in common. We also share a love for a little village nestled on the shores of Lago di Como - that's Lake Como to you or I. The village of Laglio with just 930 inhabitants (including George), sits with breathtaking views on the western coast of Lake Como. With views to the north of snow-capped mountains and to the south along the sunny shore of the lake with a vista of hills and villages dotted along the coast.

It seems that George and I both share the view that Lake Como must be the perfect place in the world to live. Luckily, for George, he has called it home since 2001, having acquired a luxurious villa once owned by the Heinz family. For me, it remains a part of my ever expanding and highly unrealistic 'life plan'.

Spend a week traversing the shores of Lake Como and you might just agree that George and I are onto something.



Relais Villa Vittoria, just a stone's throw from George's villa, made a perfect base for our week of exploring. The white washed walls, muted interior colour scheme and 'rooms with a view' were an instant tonic to the hustle and bustle of Abu Dhabi life. With just a few rooms, the Relais is the epitome of a boutique hotel. A few large rooms boast a lake view and others (like ours) have only a partial lake view and are dubbed 'cosy rooms', which is exactly what they are.



If lazing by the infinity pool overlooking the lake is not enough entertainment for one week then cruising around in your rented Alfa Romeo will certainly be enough to keep you busy. There is plenty to see.

A word of warning to you though. Navigating the tiny streets bordering the lakes by car is not for the faint hearted and makes the Abu Dhabi driving experience look positively sedate. You could be driving along merrily with one lane flowing in either direction then all of a sudden the road narrows and a little Fiat is racing towards you. *Is the road wide enough for you both? Is he going to stop? Close eyes, breathe in, did we make it?*