



George is rumoured to be planning to marry Amal at his Como villa



## BOUTIQUE SHOPPING IN BELLAGIO

One of the main places to visit is the town of Bellagio, known as the pearl of the lake. Two of my favourite shops are La Manna, on Salita Mella, which is run by Marie-Helene who stocks some lovely and very individual clothes; and Calzature Rolando on Salita Serbelloni, where the shoes might be on the pricey side, but the quality is superb. The owners will even stretch the shoes for you if they feel a touch tight, while you go for lunch. If you fancy something light to eat and want to try some locally produced wine, go no further than Salita Genazzini



Bellagio is perfect for a shop and a stroll

where you'll find Enoteca Cava Turacciolo ([cavaturacciolo.it](http://cavaturacciolo.it)). My recommendation is to order a platter of cold meats and cheese with pots of gooey honey and let the owner talk you through a selection of his excellent wines.

## EXPLORE ON FOOT

While in Bellagio, and especially if you want to avoid the crowds, my top tip is to climb one of the steeply cobbled alleyways and then drop down onto the other side and visit the picturesque fishing village of Pescallo. It's only a 10-minute walk away but makes for a delightful contrast to the tourist-filled streets of Bellagio.

If you want to work off some of the excellent meals you've eaten, then venture along the Greenway - it's a sign-posted walk that stretches along the lake up into the hillside. It goes from Colonno to Griante and takes in the villages of Sala Comacina, Ossuccio, Lenno, Mezzegra and Tremezzo.

So what more can I say about a lake that seduced me from the moment I first set foot there? Just this - go and discover for yourself why it's such a magical place.

**\* Turn over for a review of Erica's latest novel, *Summer At The Lake***



Head up and out of Bellagio for spectacular views

## GET ME THERE!

**\* Citalia (0843 770 4443, [citalia.com](http://citalia.com)) offers four night breaks to Lake Como from just £399 per person. Price includes four nights' half board at the four star Hotel Lenno in a twin room and return flights from London Gatwick. Based on departures 22 September 2014.**

**\* Alternatively, book a villa or apartments with [happyholidayhomes.net/02070990868](http://happyholidayhomes.net/02070990868). Prices start from £144 for a villa that sleeps three, with a three-night minimum stay. EasyJet.com flies to Milan from London Gatwick, Luton and Edinburgh. **

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Como is beautiful all year round



Enjoy the view (and a drink!) at the Grand Hotel Tremezzo