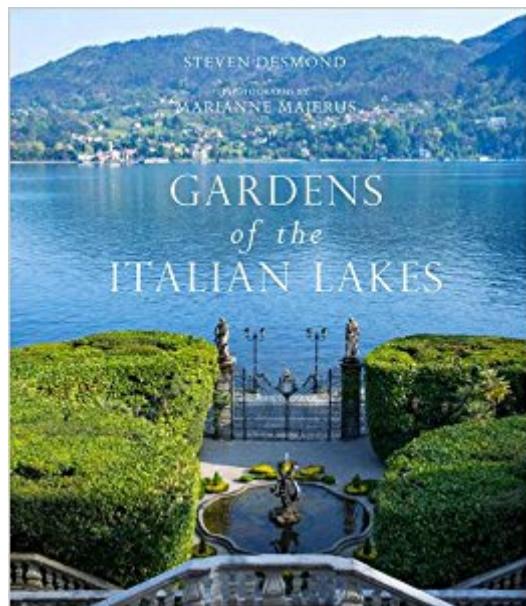


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Gardens Of The Italian Lakes



Synopsis

The gardens of the Italian Lakes are a favourite destination for garden lovers and groups. The gardens around Lake Como and Lake Maggiore, in the far north of Italy, are admired throughout the world for their beauty and variety in a magnificent natural location. This book sets out to become the standard work on these gardens as there is nothing of this kind on the market at the moment. It will appeal both to the specialist and enthusiast preparing for a visit. The common factor for all these gardens is their setting in this landscape of exceptional scenery. Lake Como is a deep lake hemmed in like a fjord by towering mountains. Lake Maggiore has more the character of an inland sea, with ferries crossing to the famous island gardens for an afternoon in another world. Both lakes are lined with the towers, villas and grand hotels that speak of a complex history including key events in Italy's struggle to achieve nationhood, inspiration for a string of illustrious writers and composers, and a long line of distinguished visitors. The gardens include: Villa Melzi, Bellagio: an early 19th-century romantic park on the lake shore; Villa Carlotta, Cadenabbia: a terraced 17th-century property with woodland; Villa del Balbianello, Lenno: a famously picturesque loggia; Villa D'Este, Cernobbio: a 16th-century cascade garden with royal connections; Villa Cicogna Mozzoni, Bissuschio: an intact 16th-century villa garden; Villa Della Porta Bozzolo, Casalzuigno: a rural baroque garden; Isola Bella, Stresa: a well-known island garden; Isola Madre, Stresa: an island retreat of flowers and birds; Villa San Remigio, Pallanza: an Edwardian garden made by two lovers; Villa Taranto, Pallanza: one of the world's great woodland gardens.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Frances Lincoln (May 3, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0711236305

ISBN-13: 978-0711236301

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 1 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #130,266 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Region #74 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Garden Design #213 in Books > Travel > Europe > Italy > General

Customer Reviews

'The stories behind each garden are laced with detail and historical insight and the descriptions of each garden as they are today is told with a familiarity that can only come from a seasoned visitor. Long may these inspiring gardens - so beautifully captured in this book - live on.' - The English Garden

STEPHEN DESMOND is a gardener, writer and lecturer with a special interest in the historic gardens of continental Europe. He has led more than thirty specialist tours to the gardens of the Italian Lakes. He lectures at the University of Oxford and for NADFAS, advises on the conservation of historic gardens and writes for Country Life. MARIANNE MAJERUS is a prestigious and prolific international photographer of gardens and winner of the Garden Media Guild Features Photographer of the Year Award 2013 as well as the GMG Photographer of the Year 2010. A contributor and sole photographer of many gardening books, her new title Highgrove: A Garden Celebrated was a best-seller in 2014. Marianne lives and has a studio in London.

A MUST for anyone interested in Italian gardens or the Italian Lakes. Stunningly beautiful photos and lively, fact-filled text. The photos of the Villa Del Balbianello are so ethereal that this garden could easily be called the most beautiful garden on earth. The text is plentiful and describes each garden in a fascinating and engaging manner. My only quibble: the inclusion (ten pages!) of Alpina Garden and Botanic Garden at Brissago. The only remarkable things about these two gardens are the views outward across the lake. The book is beautifully and thoughtfully designed and produced, from the overall layout to individual page designs to photo captions to the printing quality. The book as a whole offers a glorious experience of the Italian Lakes, from close-up looks at the antique garden ornaments to sweeping views of the lush plantings to the magnificent views across the lakes. This is a book to be treasured and savored.

Far exceeded my expectations, both the text and the photography. Written in a lively style and relates many fascinating facts about the construction and history of the gardens as well as the characters of the owners. Abundant, luscious photos dripping with colour and a good read - highly recommend for anyone planning a visit to this corner of the world. .

We had the pleasure of taking a tour of the Lakes with brilliant and witty Stephen Desmond. The book is wonderfully informative and beautifully illustrated . A must for garden lovers and romantics

and a perfect gift for those planning to visit or those who cherish memories of this enchanting area of Italy

Gorgeous color photos, presumably of the finest gardens around Lakes Como and Maggiore. My favorites were Isola Bella, Villa Taranto, and Villa del Balbianello.

Lovely coffee table book with gorgeous photos of the gardens. Very informative and descriptive so you can imagine yourself there.

Beautiful photo's and wonderful description on some glorious places around lake Como

Lovely book full of beautiful pictures.

A beautiful book that inspires and helps in designing gorgeous gardens. Devine pictures and well written.

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