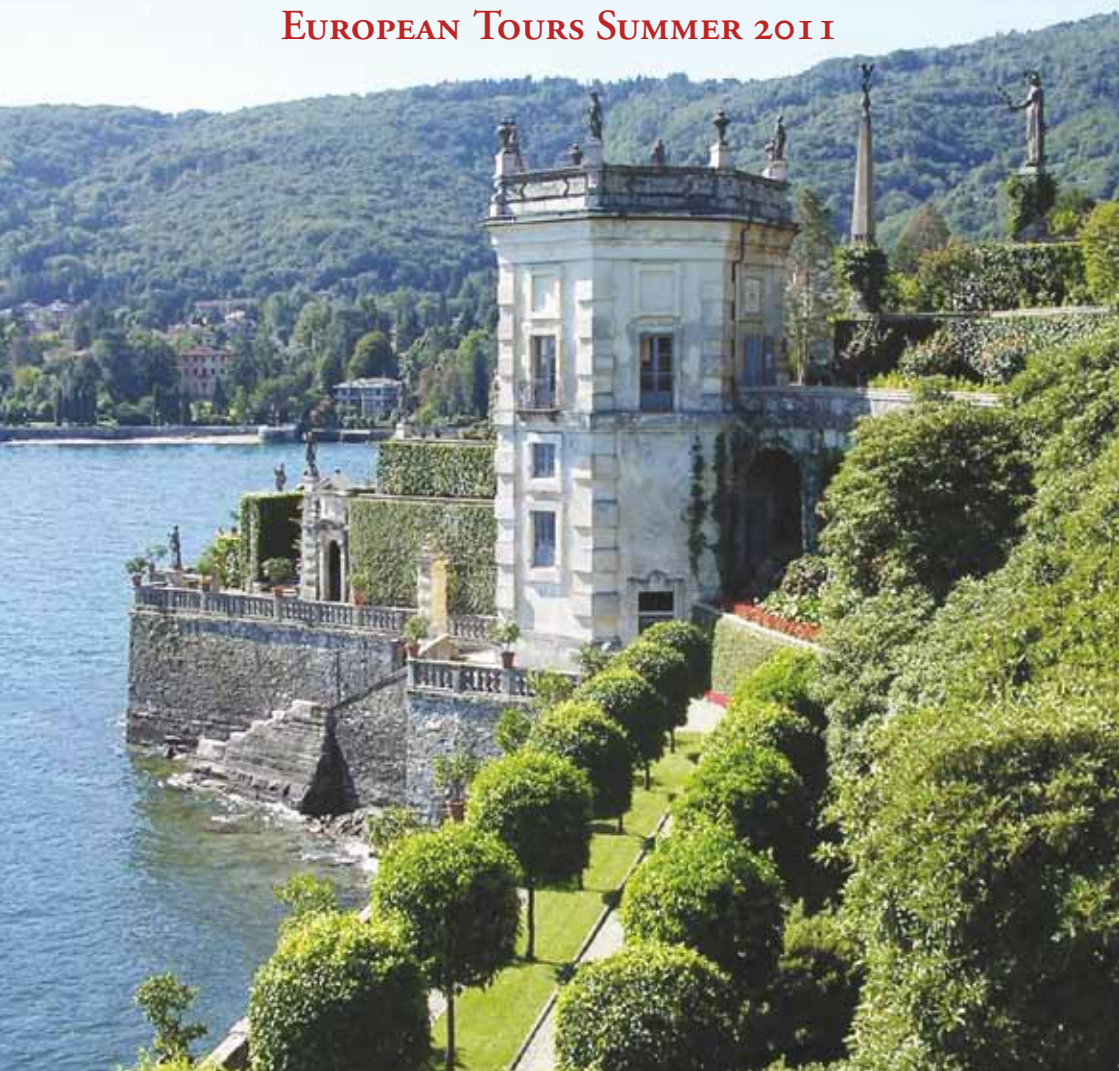


# BORDER LINES ABROAD

EUROPEAN TOURS SUMMER 2011



THE GARDENS OF THE ITALIAN LAKES

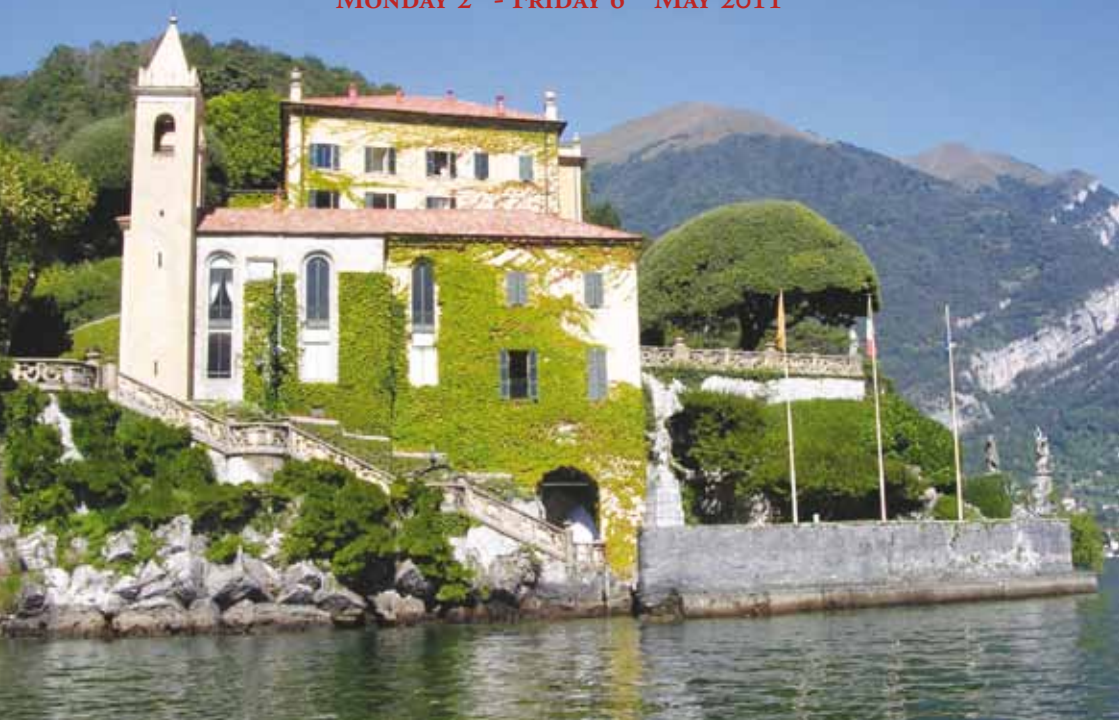
MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> - FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY

THE GARDENS OF TOURAINE AND THE LOIRE

THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> - MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

# THE GARDENS OF THE ITALIAN LAKES

MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>- FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011



The Italian Lakes have exerted their magic for centuries. The Romans, lured by the views of snow-capped mountains plunging into sunlit waters, built lakeside villas there. Romantic poets in the eighteenth century delighted in the wild alpine scenery tempered by the warmth of the Mediterranean sun. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the wealthy from almost all European nations built their villas and created their gardens here, in an irresistible blending of Italian formality with naturalistic planting of exotic trees and shrubs in the English manner.

This five-day tour of Lake Como and Lake Maggiore explores the finest of these villas and gardens. We fly to Milan and are immediately welcomed into a private villa for lunch, en route to Bellagio where we are based for the first two nights.

On the second day we go by private launch to Villa Balbianello, built on a promontory with stunning views along the lake. After lunch on the east side of the lake we visit a very private villa, the oldest on Lake Como, whose owner will show us his garden and villa.

The following day we leave Bellagio and on the way to Lake Maggiore, we visit two private villas. The first, once the residence of the Austrian Viceroy, has a formal garden overlooking Lake Como crammed with tender exotics, which merges imperceptibly into an English-style romantic garden. At the second, we will be given lunch in the villa, before a tour with the owner to see its lovely sixteenth century frescos. We then continue to our hotel on Lake Maggiore.

On the fourth day we take a boat across the lake to Isola Madre to see the nineteenth century planting of exotic trees and shrubs that replaced the original orchards around the Renaissance villa. We return to Pallanza to visit the Villa San Remigio, built on a hill-top at the beginning of the twentieth century and, in the afternoon, to tour the garden at Villa Taranto, created by an expatriate Scotsman to house his collection of specimen plants. Rarities such as *Emmenopterys henryi* thrive in the mild climate along with Gardenias and *Caesalpinia*.

On the last day we cross the lake by private boat to Isola Bella, to visit the astonishing baroque palace and garden. Magically, terraces crammed with sculpture and ornament rise from the surface of the lake, walls softened by *Ficus pumila*, richly planted with Camellias, *Pittosporum* and myrtles, tulip and camphor trees. We have lunch on Isola Pescatori before returning to Milan airport for the flight home.

**Total Cost:** The five days, two nights on Lake Como and two nights on Lake Maggiore in 4 star hotels (two people sharing), five lunches, all entrance fees and tours of the gardens and travel by boat and luxury air-conditioned coach (flights to and from Milan are NOT included), will cost £1,475.00 pp. For anyone requiring the single use of a double room, there will be a supplement of £250.00



# GARDENS OF TOURAINE AND THE LOIRE

THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> – MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011



The gently flowing Loire and its tributaries cut wide valleys through the undulating limestone plain which rolls south from Paris. On the banks of these clear-running rivers were built some of the loveliest of French châteaux surrounded by lush valleys and flower-decked villages which have earned the region the name of the Garden of France.

This five-day tour takes in, not only the spectacular gardens at Villandry and Chenonceau, but also a number of exciting contemporary gardens that demonstrate the skill and enthusiasm of French horticulturalists. We are based in a four-star hotel in the centre of Tours, the ancient capital of Touraine, where the streets around the cathedral and the Place Plumereau retain their medieval charm.

On the first day we fly directly to Tours and check into our hotel in time for dinner. The following day we drive to a private garden which has been created around a series of pools, within the shelter of the surrounding woodland. The natural planting of Acers and birch, rising above beds packed with perennials is balanced with great panache by hedges of box and hornbeam clipped into soft mounds. After lunch we visit the garden of La Chatonnière, hidden in the folds of the hills. A leaf-shaped potager lies under a bank thickly planted with roses. In front of the chateau is a garden crammed with grasses and late-flowering perennials. We end the day with a visit to Villandry. The scale of the garden and the care with which it is maintained make this recreation of a Renaissance potager a truly remarkable garden.

On the third day we change the pace with a visit to the Garden Festival at the Château de Chaumont. This fascinating festival, which displays 25 gardens designed to a specific annually-changing theme, has been running since 1992. In the afternoon we visit a private garden, where the entrance is framed with immaculate hedges interspersed with Koelreuteria, heavy with red and yellow seed pods. The highlight is the large horseshoe-

shaped garden, where wide curved borders are divided by yew buttresses which separate the different colour sections.

On the Sunday, we drive to Chenonceau, where the château built over the River Cher is complemented by the beautifully maintained gardens. We head to Amboise for lunch in the town which is dominated by the remains of the royal château. In the afternoon we visit a very different water garden, created over the last twenty years on islands in natural woodland. Wooden bridges cross the slow-flowing canals, giving glimpses of clear water reflecting the autumn colour of maples and *Vitis coignetiae* as well as the hollies for which the garden is famous.

On the last day we visit La Fosse, an arboretum created in the eighteenth century and cared for by succeeding members of the Gerard family. The park is partly ornamental with an orangery and a circular belvedere topped by a dovecote. In the autumn cyclamen carpet the ground, and Acers, Liquidambar and Parrotia give spectacular colour. We drive to the Château de Valmer, created by Jacques Gerard's sister, the comtesse de Saint-Venant, a noted botanist and landscaper. The garden was originally laid out around the château which burnt down in 1948 and whose walls have been recreated in yew. The terraces remain, and on the lowest of them Alix de Saint-Venant has created a four-square potager.

After lunch at the Château de Valmer we depart for Tours airport and return flight to Stansted.

**Total Cost:** The five days, including four nights at a 4 star hotel in Tours (two people sharing), dinner on the first night, three lunches, all entrance fees and tours of the gardens and travel by luxury air-conditioned coach (flights to and from Tours are NOT included), will cost £1,380.00 pp. For anyone requiring single use of double room, there will be a supplement of £250.00





## BORDER LINES ABROAD BOOKING CONDITIONS



### Making your Booking

Please complete the booking form and forward it to Border Lines Abroad, together with your non-refundable deposit of £250.00 per person made payable to Border Lines Abroad. A holiday confirmation invoice will be sent to you within three weeks of receipt of your booking form, showing the outstanding balance of the holiday cost. We shall send you a final invoice and further information relevant to the tour about ten weeks before departure. You must pay this final invoice within ten days of the invoice date; otherwise we may treat the booking as cancelled and apply our cancellation charges.

### Insurance and Health

You are personally responsible for your own health and medical treatment. You must confirm to Border Lines Abroad that you carry adequate travel and medical insurance with repatriation cover.

### Cancellation

You may cancel your tour at any time, provided the cancellation is communicated in writing. As this incurs administration costs we retain the deposit and in addition will apply cancellation charges as shown below:

| Period before departure | Sum of cancellation charge shown as % of the holiday price |
|-------------------------|--|
| More than 60 days       | Deposit only   |
| 60 - 42 days            | 50%  |
| 42 -21 days             | 80%  |
| 21 day or less          | 100%   |

### Alterations to the Tour

We will do our utmost to provide the tour arrangements that have been confirmed, but we must retain the right to modify or cancel any tour, accommodation or arrangement, if unforeseen circumstances amounting to Force Majeure arise. In such circumstances we will inform you as soon as possible and should the change be such that it alters the nature of the tour, we shall give you the choice of an alternative tour or a full refund of all money paid.

### Tour Cancellation

Tours are costed on a minimum number of passengers travelling together. If this minimum number is not reached, we shall either cancel the tour and offer a refund in full or, subject to clients' agreement, we shall operate the tour at the necessary supplement. In the event of James Bolton being unable to accompany the tour, then we reserve the right to cancel the tour and offer clients a refund in full. If we have to cancel your holiday at any time, we are liable only for monies you have paid Border Lines Abroad at the time of cancellation.

### Complaints

We would be grateful to receive any complaints at the time they occur and we will endeavour to resolve them as quickly as possible.

### Baggage and Personal Effects

These remain your responsibility and risk at all times. Border Lines Abroad will accept no liability for loss, damage or misdirection of your baggage or effects.

### Tour Leader

The tour leader, in conjunction with the appropriate medical advice, if applicable, has the right to disqualify any client at any time during the course of the tour, if considered necessary for the medical well-being or safety of the individual or in the tour leader's opinion, the client's actions are materially affecting the enjoyment of the tour for the remainder of the group. Any decision with regard to any reimbursement for any part of the tour not completed will be decided by Border Lines Abroad.

### Liability for agents

Border Lines Abroad is not responsible for the performance of the services provided by carriers, hotels and agents and is not liable for any damage or compensation payable to any clients in respect of any loss or injury sustained by such a client, howsoever caused.

## BORDER LINES ABROAD

CLAPTON MANOR CLAPTON-ON-THE-HILL CHELTENHAM GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL54 2LG

TEL 01451 821804

MOB 07816 786019

EMAIL: james@border-lines.co.uk

WEBSITE: www.border-lines.co.uk



## BORDER LINES ABROAD BOOKING FORM



**The Gardens of the Italian Lakes 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> May at £ 1,475.00pp**  ✓

**The Gardens of Touraine and the Loire 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September at £1,380.00pp**  ✓

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name and Address of each Person(s) Booking (as written in your passport(s))

Title

First Name

Surname

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Address

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Post code

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a disability or special needs? Yes/No

If yes, please give details \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Room                      Number of Rooms

Twin Bedded Room                      \_\_\_\_\_

Double Bedded Room                      \_\_\_\_\_

Single Room                      \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose \_\_\_ non-refundable deposits @ £250.00 per person, £ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques should be made payable to 'Border Lines Abroad' and sent, with this form to:  
Border Lines Abroad, Clapton Manor, Clapton-on-the-Hill, Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire GL54 2LG

Some of the gardens on both tours are extensive and involve walking significant distances.  
Those considering the Italian Lakes tour should be happy to get in and out of water taxis.  
Please note that you are responsible for booking your own air travel. We will advise you which  
flights we will meet.

I have read and accept the booking conditions opposite.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# BORDER LINES ABROAD

TOURS TO THE FINEST GARDENS IN EUROPE

In addition to these tours, Border Lines Abroad is happy to arrange bespoke tours to Europe, particularly to Andalucia, Provence or Tuscany.



## BORDER LINES

TOURS TO THE FINEST GARDENS IN BRITAIN

Border Lines will be offering 15 day tours to the very best private gardens in Britain in 2011. We are planning visits to gardens in Berkshire, Cheshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Sussex, and Wiltshire. Details of these tours will be sent to you in the New Year.

We are delighted to arrange bespoke days in Britain for private groups. Please contact James Bolton at the address below if you would like further information on any of our tours.

### BORDER LINES ABROAD

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