

TRAVEL

A PERFECT STAY

Lakeside hotels in the best possible taste

Lake Garda caters to every taste. Outdoorsy types will be attracted by the water sports, from kite surfing to canyoning, while culture-lovers will relish the sights and museums. Scores of events take place around the lake during the summer, including the Tener-a-mente Festival (anfiteatrodelvittoriale.it) in the amphitheatre of Gardone Riviera's Vittoriale degli Italiani. Local cuisine makes the most of the area, with mountain cheeses, cured meats, wild game and fish from the lake featuring on the menu. Surrounding vineyards produce excellent Garda wines such as Valenesi Charetto Doc. Below is my pick of the best hotels for food lovers.

Kiki Deere

vegetable garden provide the restaurant with organic ingredients; the B&B also produces its own olive oil. There's an emphasis on vegetarian and vegan cuisine, although there are other options too, including a selection of meat mains that use free-range chicken, pork and veal. Gluten-free dishes are also available.

Doubles from £90
telegraph.co.uk/duedimoro



2 Grand Hotel a Villa Feltrinelli

Nestled on a hillside overlooking Lake Garda, this laidback eco-friendly B&B follows the principles of sustainable architecture. Walls have natural clay plaster finishes, while cotto tiles give the place a rustic touch. The cosy rustic dining area features wooden interiors and an open-fronted kitchen where chef and co-owner Luca can be seen hard at work. The B&B's fruit orchard and herb and

Set in eight-acre grounds on the western shore of Lake Garda, this exclusive hotel is located in a historic 19th-century villa. Interiors have been lavishly restored and feature frescoed ceilings, Venetian mirrors and Art Nouveau lamps. The 21 rooms are decorated with antiques and custom-made furnishings. Meals are served in the dining room and in a covered pergola overlooking the lake. Food



can be ordered throughout the day anywhere on the property, and breakfast is available at all times. The two Michelin-starred



restaurant serves exceptional Italian cuisine and fresh lake fish dishes. After-dinner drinks can be enjoyed in the octagonal-shaped Bob's bar with floor-to-ceiling windows.

Doubles from £858
telegraph.co.uk/villafeltrinelli

3 Locanda San Vigilio

Set amid olive groves, cypress, agave and oleander trees, the 16th-century manor house is in an enviable lakeside location on the tip of Monte Baldo, a peninsula stretching out into the lake. With only seven rooms and five suites, the atmosphere is intimate and exclusive. The hotel has an inviting swimming pool framed by olive trees with lovely lake views. Within the hotel grounds is a lemon grove, one of the oldest in the country. The restaurant serves exceptional Italian cuisine with an emphasis on fish dishes. There is also an informal café on the lakefront open to external

Locanda San Vigilio has an intimate atmosphere on its own small peninsula

guests, serving light meals and drinks.

Doubles from £150
telegraph.co.uk/locandasanvigilio

4 Villa Arcadio

The hotel, set on a hillside of olive trees and fruit orchards, is located in a former convent dating from the 13th century. Original fresco details are visible throughout the villa, both in the communal areas and in some rooms. Interiors are decorated with the owners' antiques and works of art dating from the 16th century to the present day, including beautiful grandfather clocks and marble statues. The experienced chef prepares

excellent seasonal dishes with a twist using fresh ingredients from the hotel's vegetable and herb garden.

Doubles from £200
telegraph.co.uk/villaarcadio



5 Villa Cordevigo

Nestled among olive groves five miles east of Lake Garda, this 18th-century Venetian villa has well-appointed rooms embellished with rich fabrics and period furnishings. The historical residence is set within 100 hectares of land that is home to gorgeous Italian gardens with 16th-century statues. Best of all is the Michelin-starred restaurant run by chef Giuseppe D'Aquino, who favours ingredients from his native Naples, such as tomatoes, Mediterranean fish and mozzarella, which he skilfully combines with local Venetian products. The extensive wine list features fine labels from all over Italy.

Doubles from £175
telegraph.co.uk/villacordevigo



A PERFECT DAY

Do

Boats criss-cross the lake, including hydrofoils and car ferries. The most frequent services stop off at the major resorts of Limone, Riva and Malcesine in the north, and Desenzano, Sirmione and Gardone in the south. The latter is home to Il Vittoriale degli Italiani, the former residence of Gabriele d'Annunzio, one of Italy's greatest 20th-century writers. The house's dark interiors feature bizarre objects, including an Austrian machine gun and a biplane that d'Annunzio used over Vienna in the First World War. The writer's mausoleum is in the estate's lush gardens. The best time to visit is on weekdays when the property is less crowded.

vittoriale.it.

Drink

Located on a promontory that stretches out into the lake, Taverna San Vigilio

(locanda-sanvigilio.it/it/tavern) is a romantic spot to enjoy an aperitivo as the sun sets. Tables are dotted along a tiny harbour and snacks are served all day long. Between June and the end of August a buffet is laid out in the olive groves that flank the property on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Eat

The Michelin-starred La Casa degli Spiriti has wonderful views of the lake from its hillside spot on the eastern shore. The menu focuses mainly on fish and seafood dishes, with the likes of Sardinian tuna and roasted grouper with capers and candied onions. There are plenty of options for meat-lovers too, including a seven-course tasting menu (£130) featuring vitello tonnato, a cold dish of thinly sliced veal covered with tuna and caper sauce, along with milk-fed veal served with asparagus and potatoes. A more informal bistro on the rooftop terrace serves brunch and pasta dishes.

casadeglispiriti.it.

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2016/2017 Departure Dates	FROM	AVAILABILITY
01 Nov '16	£5,995	4 rooms left
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