

CASA FRANZISKA · BASSANO · LAGO MAGGIORE

A GUIDE TO

Around Casa Franziska

*Walks, swims, markets, cafés and restaurants the
locals use.*

PIAZZA DELLA VITTORIA 1
BASSANO (VB), IT

NO. I · COMPANION GUIDE

These are the places I go when I am here.

*Some are 5 minutes from the door.
Some are an hour.*

Bassano sits at 550 metres above sea level, looking down on Lake Maggiore, surrounded by forest. A small road leads up here. A car is a must here, all distances indicate the time for travel in car. The lake is 10 to 15 minutes down the hill. Switzerland is a few minutes north.

Next to the house is a stone fountain dated 1668. If you follow that path a few meters down you find the lawn that belongs to the house. See the white space on the photo. A wonderful spot for a picnic and watching the sun set.

Franziska



Bassano from above. The white area is the lawn that belongs to the house.

Coffee, gelato, cake.

Bar Pasticceria Cerinotti, Maccagno

The original shop, across from the Unes. Cerinotti is famous for the best gelato in town and the best cakes. The locals stand at the counter. They have a second shop in Luino now too.

Caffè Clerici, Luino

20 to 30 minutes away, at the start of Luino on Piazza della Libertà. On the lake. Great for an espresso or a Franciacorta.

The lake.

The shore here is stones and grass, no sand.

Maccagno, Parco Giona

A long lawn opening onto the water, looking across at the Castelli di Cannero. Crowded in July and August. Out of high season, one of the best public beaches on the lake.

Colmegna

3 km south of Maccagno. Smaller, quieter, narrow shore, mostly pebbles. A small restaurant for lunch.

Cannobio, Lido di Cannobio

20 minutes north over the border. Blue Flag water, a long grassy park, pebbles down to the lake. You can also reach Cannobio by ferry from Luino, which is half the fun.

Orrido di Sant'Anna, Cannobio

15 minutes inland. A river gorge with natural pools below a 17th-century chapel. The water stays at 10 to 15 degrees in August.

La Darsena Windsurf & Wingsurf, Tronzano

10 minutes north along the lake. Lessons, rentals, a beach, a bar.

Hiking.

The trails start at the door.

Bassano to Ristoro Lago Delio

My favourite. 1.5 to 2 hours up from the front door, through chestnut woods to the upper lake. The Ristoro is a simple mountain trattoria with a terrace with a stunning view looking back down at Lake Maggiore. Platter of cheese and ham, or pasta, polenta, and a fresh Italian beer is perfect after the hike up. Walk back the way you came, or loop further up to pass by Lago Delio. However, the way down is steep, recommended only when trained and good knees. Ristoro Lago Delio might be closed in winter, check before.

Higher days

Past Lago Delio, on to Monte Borgna (1158 m), Monte Cadrigna (1300 m), the Passo della Forcora. Clear days reach the Swiss Alps.

Cannobina valley path, from Cannobio

Flat, shaded, along the river. After 40 minutes you reach the Ponte Ballerino, a swaying suspension bridge across the gorge. You can carry on as far as Sant'Anna, 5 km each way.

Casual eating.

Ai Tigli, just below the village

Honest food. Pizza is good (I order it for take away to eat on my balcony).

Osteria del Pesce, Luino

Simple, fresh fish from the lake, on the lakefront. Good for a long lunch.

Finer eating.

Mazzardit, on the lake

Beautiful spot, great cuisine. Fresh fish from the lake, terrace on the water. Book ahead in summer.

Bistro' de Melo, Maccagno

Not beautiful but great food. Very small place. Off season not open, call before you go.

For finer cooking on the Swiss side, see Ascona,

Markets.

Wednesday, Luino

The biggest weekly market on Lake Maggiore, running since 1541. Along the lakefront and through the old town. Get there before 10 to park. Until about 4 pm.

Sunday, Cannobio

The prettiest. About 300 stalls along the entire promenade. Food on the Lido side, leather and clothes along the promenade. 8 am to 1 pm. Arrive early. Easiest by car, or by ferry from Luino.

Saturday, Intra (Verbania)

The locals' market. Smaller, less touristy.

Switzerland.

15 minutes to the border.

Ascona

40 minutes. The lakefront promenade is the most beautiful on the lake. Restaurants along the water. Tuesday market May to October.

Locarno

45 minutes. Piazza Grande is one of the great squares in the Alps. The funicular up to Madonna del Sasso takes 10 minutes. From there, the cable car higher to Cardada and Cimetta.

Lugano

1 hour. Bigger, more elegant. The lakefront is grand, the old town worth a walk.

Italy.

Milano

2 hours by car or by train (Luino to Milano Centrale). Better as an overnight than a day.

Varese

1 hour. The historic centre is handsome and quiet. The Sacro Monte di Varese is a UNESCO pilgrimage path with 14 baroque chapels, an hour walking up. Villa Panza in town houses a contemporary American art collection.

Borromean Islands

1 hour 15 by car, near Stresa. Isola Bella, Isola Madre, Isola dei Pescatori. Boats run all day.

Practical.

Groceries

For groceries, the Unes in Maccagno is what we use. A small antipasti, fresh fish and fresh meat counter. Small, yet it has all we need and good quality. For a bigger selection, Carrefour in Luino.

There is a small shop in Pino (village half way on the mountain up to Bassano). Unfortunately the selection is very small and it does not meet my expectations in terms of fresh food.

The road

Roads are narrow and the road up to Bassano is small. Drive slowly after dusk. Deer and wild boar come out of the forest in the early evening.

*If there is anything else you would like
to know, mail or WhatsApp me.*

Franziska

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