

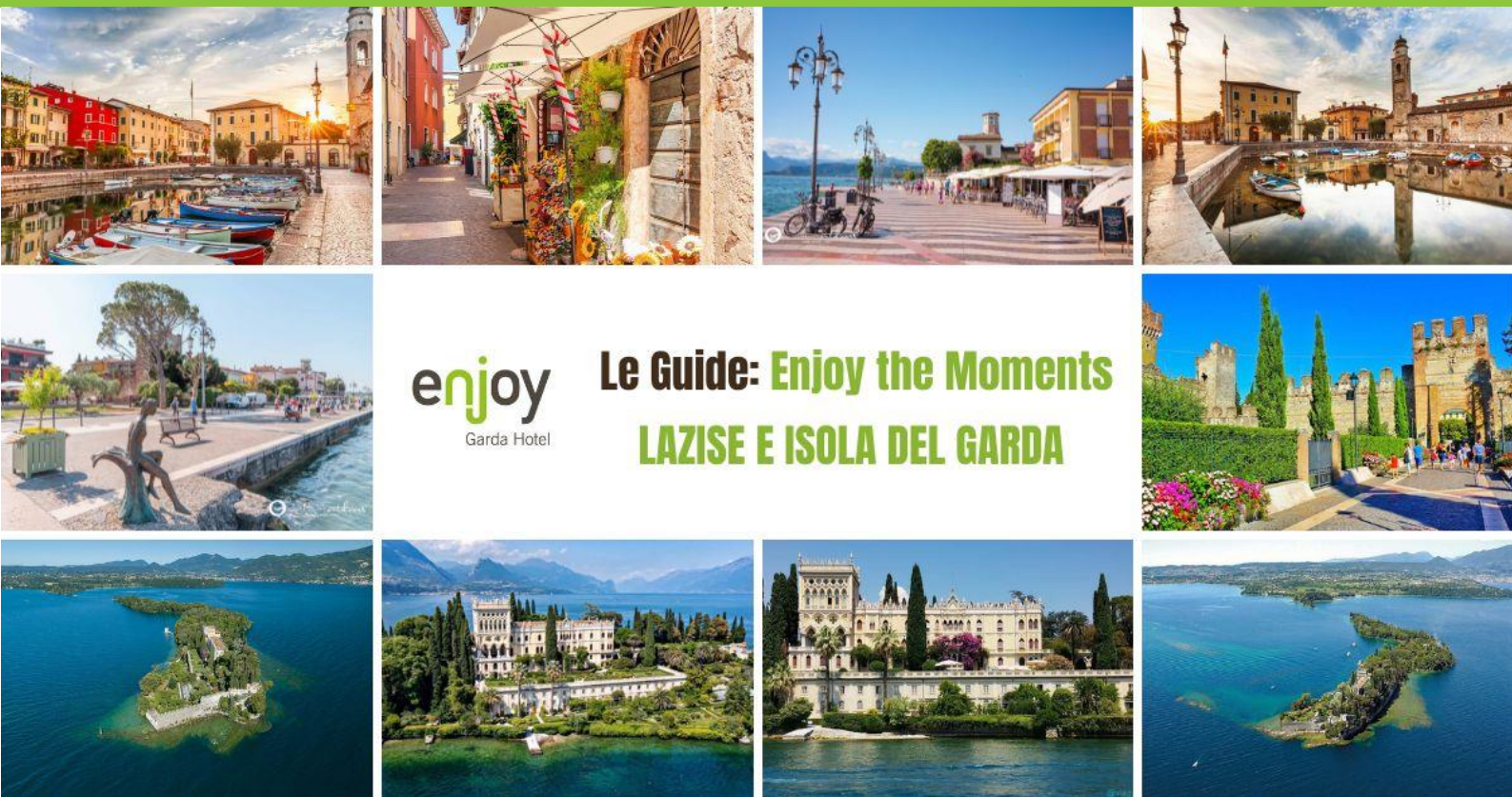
ENJOY GARDA HOTEL

# A GUIDE TO LAZISE AND ISOLA DEL GARDA



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Garda Hotel

# A GUIDE TO LAZISE



## A few words about Lazise

Lazise is a small town that is particularly popular with tourists visiting Lake Garda. Founded by the ancient Romans during the Middle Ages, it became the first free commune in Italy and in the 10th century it became very important from a commercial point of view.

Its oldest core dates back to the Middle Ages and is surrounded by walls erected by the Scaligeri family in the 14th century.

Lazise and its hamlets are also home to numerous Renaissance villas (the Moscardo and Da Sacco villas in Colà, Villa De Beni in Pacengo) and 19th-century romantic villas (the Buri, Pergolana, Bagatta and Bottona villas in Lazise, Villa Alberti in Pacengo, the Fumanelli and Cedri villas in Colà). These are private homes that cannot be visited inside, but some are partially visible from the outside.

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## How to get there

You can get to Lazise in **2 ways**:

- By car (easiest), driving 9 km along the Garda road that runs along the lake.
- By ATV bus. You can take lines 164 or 483, getting off at the Peschiera del Garda station stop, which is a 5-minute walk from the Enjoy. Check the timetable on the official website [www.atv.verona.it](http://www.atv.verona.it)

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## Where to park

If you decide to go by car, you will need some information on public car parks. Generally speaking, from March to the beginning of November, the car parks closest to the centre of Lazise are chargeable from 8 a.m. to midnight, while during the remaining months of the year they are free. Keep in mind that during the summer season it can be difficult to find a space, especially on weekends.

The **main public car parks** are.

- **Parking Marra:** located in Piazzale Marra and with 474 spaces is the largest car park in Lazise. It is also the most expensive because it is close to the historic centre. We recommend paying in cash because many users have repeatedly reported malfunctions with the cash machine, which charged the toll more than once for each stop.

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- **Parking San Martino:** located in Via San Martino with 85 spaces, including 5 for motorbikes. You can reach the centre in just a five-minute walk. Small caveat: you can only pay in cash, on arrival. Do not confuse it with the private car park opposite, which is much more expensive.
- **Parking Barum:** this is located along Via Balladoro and offers 102 spaces. It is a little further from the centre compared to the first two, but you will be in the heart of Lazise after a 10 minute walk. You'll pay on arrival.
- **Parking Casara:** facing Via Alberto Della Scala, you can get there by taking Via Casara. From there it is about an eight-minute walk to the centre. It has 102 spaces and you pay on arrival, in cash.
- **Parking Viale Roma:** very small and often full, it has only 19 spaces. It is a six-minute walk from the centre, but we recommend you keep it as a last resort. You'll pay on arrival.

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## Activities we recommend

Go to Lazise to relax and spend a day in the open air among characteristic alleys and walks along the lakefront, breathing in the echoes of its medieval history.

Here's some things to do:

- Stop in front of the **imposing Scaliger Castle**, a true symbol of the town. You should know that it was built in medieval times on the remains of the Roman era and has been modified several times over time. Despite the changes you can still observe its medieval structure with a rectangular plan and five towers. Unfortunately, the castle is privately owned and therefore it is not possible to visit it, but we recommend you take a tour of the walls, which are very well preserved.
- Go and visit the **small harbour and the large Piazza Vittorio Emanuele**, which overlooks it: they represent the centre of the town and at sunset they offer colours that deserve a photo. Two important elements overlook the small port: the Dogana Veneta and the Romanesque parish church of San Nicolò.
- **The Dogana Veneta** encompasses centuries of history: it was a control point for goods entering and leaving Venetian territory, but also a place where cotton was spun, a market, an arsenal, a nitro production centre for gunpowder and the seat of the Casa del Fascio. Finally, in 1973 it was restored and has now become a space where works of art can be exhibited and cultural initiatives open to the public can be organised.
- **The Church of San Nicolò** is located next to the Customs House and is a Romanesque parish church dating back to the 12th century. It was dedicated to St Nicholas of Bari, who was the protector of sailors and fishermen. It too has undergone numerous changes of use over time, becoming a warehouse, barracks, dwelling, theatre and cinema. In 1953 it became a place of worship again, also taking on the role of a war memorial. Today you can visit it freely, to admire the baptismal font from the end of the 15th century, made in an octagonal shape with white stone, decorated with the emblem of a dove holding in its beak the inscription: 'A te principium tibi desinet'.

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## Activities we recommend

- **A wooden crucifix** dating back to the 15th century, the author of which is an unknown artist from Verona. A painting of the Pietà, above the portal, dating back to the 16th century and donated to the church by the Tabasini family.
- Once you have visited the port, take a nice **walk along the Marconi lakefront**, which is particularly spacious and well-kept. It is popular with tourists, who often rest on the benches or sit at the tables of the bars and restaurants that crowd the lakefront. You too can take advantage of this to take a break: here you can find everything from an ice cream sundae to a characteristic lunch with lake fish. Be aware, however, that shade is rare and in the hottest months of the year you won't last long in the sun.
- Once you have finished your walk, lose yourself in the **small streets inside the town**, characterized by places and shops where you can buy some typical products, such as extra virgin olive oil from Lake Garda.
- Before ending your tour in Lazise visit the **Church of Saints Zenone and Martino**, located very close to Piazza Vittorio Emanuele. The building dates back to the 13th century and is dedicated to S. Zeno, protector of the Veronese church, water and fishing. At the end of the 18th century, it was rebuilt to a design first by architect Luigi Trezza, and later by Francesco Ronzani. Strolling through the naves you will come across the San Martino altarpiece painted by Dusi (1828), the Via Crucis by Testoni (1831) and the Sacro Cuore altarpiece by Miolato (1950). The three statues on the gable of the façade are the work of Spiazzi and depict Saints Martin, Fermo and Rustico. A few relics, an altar, the baptismal font and a small tabernacle in Gothic style have been preserved from the old church present before reconstruction.

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## Typical dishes

In Lazise there are several places and restaurants where you can taste lake fish, the true prince of dishes in the area. There are numerous specialities, but we particularly recommend the **risotto with tench, pike Gonzaga style, fried chub meatballs, sardines in saor and grilled whitefish**. The latter you may also find under the more characteristic name of **coregone**. Other typical dishes are **lake trout in sauce and grilled carp**, but these have become harder to find.

## Traditional festivals

One of the most popular festivities is the famous **Regata delle Bisse**, a Venetian-derived rowing boat race in which four rowers stand without a helmsman. The competition is held in stages and the one in Lazise takes place between

July and August. You can find all the details on the official website <https://legabissedelgarda.com/>



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## Traditional festivals

During that same period, there is also the Third of July, a festival during which the **Cuccagna del Cadenon** is organised. This is a night race in the port of Lazise, which is based on the tradition of the cuccagna pole, which is covered in grease. The pole is placed horizontally on the water and one must reach the flag at the end.

On 5 August, the village of Colà hosts the **Festival of Our Lady of the Snow**, to whom the village church is also dedicated. The festival lasts a total of four days.

Usually the third week of August sees the long-awaited **Festa dell'Ospite**: three days of events, entertainment and food and wine that invade the streets of the village, starting from Piazza Vittorio Emanuele.

To end the year on a high note, a pyromusical show - fireworks over the lake to the rhythm of music - is offered on 26 December. If you want to see it, you can take a seat on the Lungolago Marconi.

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## Spas, zoos and amusement parks

There are also splendid parks in the vicinity of Lazise where you can spend a truly memorable day. Each of them requires you to spend several hours there to fully enjoy it, with the exception of the Sea Life aquarium located next to Gardaland. If you have two hours left after your tour in Lazise, you can go and discover this fascinating themed aquarium, suitable for adults and children. It has a very large car park, for which you have to pay a fee.

### **Here are all the attractions within 10 km of Lazise:**

- Caneva Aquapark
- Movieland
- Gardaland
- Sea Life
- Colà Thermal Park
- Natura Viva Park

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## Other useful advice

- If you can, avoid going to Lazise on Wednesdays: it is **market day** and you run the risk of not finding parking, especially in high season.
- **For children:** near Porta San Marco (also known as Porta del Lion, you will easily recognize it because of the symbol of the Lion of San Marco) and the Marra car park there are two play areas: a public one and a paid one called Play Village. The former is ideal for a quick stop, while the latter is perfect if you want to keep your child entertained for a little longer.
- At the Play Village you will find miniature golf, merry-go-rounds, inflatables and other **fun activities** suitable for even the youngest children. The only downside is that there is little shade in summer, so take that into account.
- **To stop and rest:** you will find several benches along the lakefront, both in the part of the town centre (Lungolago Marconi) and in the promenade that passes in front of the small green area of the Cavazzocca Mazzanti park and continues on to the villages of Cisano, Bardolino and Garda. Yes, if you felt like it, you could easily walk all the way to Garda, but be warned: it is about 9 km.
- **Feel like a beach?** Just outside the centre of Lazise, not too far from the Marra car park, there is a stretch of pebbles and sand almost a kilometer long, divided into a public beach and an equipped beach, where you could spend a few pleasant hours. It is very busy during the high season, partially due to the presence of campsites overlooking it.

# A GUIDE TO ISOLA DEL GARDA



## A few words about Garda Island

The Island - one kilometre in length - is the largest in the whole of Lake Garda and is **located in San Felice del Benaco**, in the province of Brescia.

Its history is fascinating to say the least, since it has been a refuge for pirates, a place where monks devoted themselves to prayer and the headquarters of the Savoy soldiers.

And, St Francis of Assisi, St Anthony of Padua and Dante Alighieri have also passed through here.

After many vicissitudes, Isola del Garda became the **property of the Cavazza family**, which has been organising guided tours since 2001 to show tourists the beauty of the Venetian neo-Gothic style villa, combined with the lush greenery of the park and the different plant species in the Italian and English gardens.

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## How to get to the island

Since it is private property, you cannot go to the island on your own, but you must book a guided tour, organized directly by the owners of the villa. The ticket also includes transport, to and from the island.

- There are departures from various towns around Lake Garda, but for your convenience we recommend that you visit it by setting sail directly from Peschiera del Garda or include it as the last stop during your visit to Lazise. Please note that each town offers generally only one departure per week, at a single time. If you want to go there, you should plan your trip quickly, especially as the Cavazza family requires a reservation at least one day before the visit, except in high season when you need four days in advance.

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## How to get to the island

- We advise you to buy your ticket directly on the official website [www.isoladelgarda.com](http://www.isoladelgarda.com), while if you have any questions or want to book an exclusive private visit you can contact them by writing to [info@isoladelgarda.com](mailto:info@isoladelgarda.com). Please note, however, that an exclusive visit requires booking well in advance and is not possible at all times of the year.
- Time: the transfer to the island depends on the point of embarkation, but in the case of Lazise and Peschiera del Garda it can take 40 to 50 minutes one way and the same amount of time on the return. The tour of the island takes about 2 to 2.5 hours.

## What the ticket includes

- A welcome drink.
- A tasting of the DOP Garda Bresciano olive oil produced by the Cavazza family.
- A guided tour of the gardens and a small part of the villa. Family members often accompany you.

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## Other important things to know

- Once on the island, three groups are formed, depending on the language spoken. You can follow the route, listening to a guide who speaks Italian, English or German.
- You can bring your dog, as long as it is small. You will have to carry it with you or in your bag.
- Tickets are non-refundable, unless the excursion is cancelled by the owners or the transport company. In that case you can still change the date or request a voucher to be used within two years. Check the updated conditions.
- On some limited days of the year special events are organised, sometimes even in the evening. To check the dates of upcoming events, visit the official website [www.isoladelgarda.com](http://www.isoladelgarda.com).
- Some tourists are disappointed because it is not possible to take a full tour of the building, but keep in mind that the owners live there and therefore need privacy within their home environments.

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## Gardens and art

The gardens are perhaps the most fascinating part of the whole island, because plants from all over the world coexist here .

In front of the villa stretches a terrace with Italian-style gardens, adorned with moulded hedges, among which sprouts the coat of arms of the family that created them: the De Ferrari family. Palm trees from the Canary Islands grow next to the villa.

On the lower terrace are the English-style gardens, where fruit trees grow, producing lemons, pomegranates, pears, persimmons, oranges, grapefruits and prickly pears.

The owners are particularly sensitive to art, which is why they have scattered watercolours painted by Pierangelo Capretti along the path of the villa, while they have placed wooden sculptures by Gianluigi Zambelli in the park, which blend in with nature, almost as if they were living creatures.





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