



CONNECTITALIA - NZ

<https://www.connectitalia-nz.com>

VIP TOURS of ITALY

Escursione ai Laghi della Lombardia

Come with us!

ABOUT CONNECTITALIA-NZ LTD

Our company's mission is to promote greater liaison between Italy and New Zealand, reflecting the different but complementary backgrounds of the company's two directors, Beniamino Petrosino and Anne Scragg. Our principal focus is planning and escorting exclusive small group tours in Italy offering a cultural experience with a difference. Our tours are most definitely not of the whistle-stop "Today is Tuesday so it must be Belgium" kind. We pride ourselves in providing you with the time and comfort to really enjoy what you are seeing and doing and you will never feel rushed. Our tours start and finish in Italy so you are most welcome to join us from anywhere in the world. Whether you are travelling on your own or with others, you can expect individual care and attention from two escorts who are willing to go the extra mile to ensure you have an unforgettable time. We also encourage travellers wanting to visit New Zealand from overseas to contact us and we will be very happy to provide you with a New Zealand tour package tailored to meet your particular needs and interests. We use accredited tour operators to ensure our tours are trouble free and we insist on the highest standards of customer service in all situations throughout our tours. Your comfort and security are of paramount importance to us. Whether you are planning a trip to Italy or a trip to New Zealand with us, it will be our pleasure to look after you throughout your tour. We are confident you will enjoy a unique cultural experience and a lot of fun along the way.

OUR AMBASSADORS

Richard Scragg



"In 2017 and 2019 I travelled with Connectitalia-NZ throughout the north and south of Italy and had an absolutely marvellous time. Every day produced a new highlight.

If you want to enjoy the Italy the Italians know, Connectitalia-NZ has the tours for you. Your principal tour escort Beniamino comes from the Mezzogiorno and you will be immersed in Italian culture in all its varied aspects.

You will stay in carefully chosen first class accommodation in out of the way places and travel in a comfortable private vehicle with your own driver. You will see some amazing historical sites and stunning countryside. As you enjoy local food and wine, you will learn the fascinating history of what you are eating and drinking. I am proud to promote Connectitalia-NZ. tours, which offer visitors to Italy the experience of a lifetime."

Richard Scragg is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Auckland. He began his working life as a practising barrister and solicitor, joined the Institute of Professional Legal Studies as a Senior Instructor and then embarked on an academic career at the University of Canterbury where he became Dean and Head of Law before joining the University of Auckland.

Robert Watson



"Following a brief career in the law I travelled and worked in Europe spending time in northern Italy where I taught and visited some of its great gardens. On my return to NZ I studied landscape architecture as a post graduate student at Lincoln University.

This course included the history of Italian gardens for which I have a passion. I have since then returned to Italy on several occasions and visited more of its gardens for the sheer pleasure of being there and to better understand their place in the history of garden design.

I am delighted to be an ambassador for Connectitalia-NZ's wonderful tours and an escort on its stunning Garden tours. I hope you will join us!"

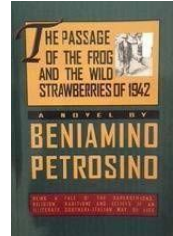
Robert Watson is a landscape architect based in Christchurch and he has been involved in a wide variety of major projects around New Zealand over the last 35 years. He is a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Landscape Architects and an Assessor for the NZ Gardens Trust. Robert's work has won numerous prizes including a Gold award at the 2009 Ellerslie Flower Show for a garden he designed for the Canterbury Horticultural Society. Another of Robert's projects is the renowned Broadfields Garden, a NZ Garden Trust Garden of International Significance, for which he was a finalist in 2015 NZILA Awards.

VACANZE ITALIANE – Come with us!

Beniamino Petrosino



I am the founder of CONNECTITALIA-NZ. I came from Italy to live in New Zealand in the 1980's and have worked as a chef, restaurateur and consultant in the hospitality industry in New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia and the United States of America. I have taught Italian in schools and privately and also English to refugees. In 2003, Hazard Press published my novel "The Passage of the Frog and the Wild Strawberries of 1942" set in the Mezzogiorno regions of Italy where I grew up and it would give me great pleasure to introduce you to this magical land and its people.



In late 2015 I met Anne Scragg when she became one of my Italian language students. In 2016 we ran a successful cultural programme in Christchurch showcasing many special Italian foods and wines and introducing our guests to delightful Italian locations off the beaten track. Now Anne and I take our guests to see the enchanting places we have talked about and ensure they have a cultural experience like no other. Our future plan is to secure a home in Italy so you will even be able to put down your luggage and forget about it!

Anne
Scragg



I initially trained as a lawyer and worked in private practice for some years. I had a few years off work while my family was young and then returned to work as an adjudicator and mediator. Over time I became involved in designing and establishing specialist dispute resolution schemes in the public and private sectors. In 2015, I retired from a senior management role with the intention of doing something entirely different. One day my husband came in from the letterbox with one of Beniamino's business cards and I thought Italian language lessons might be just what I needed!

I have been to Italy several times and have loved every visit. I am confident I know what non-Italians need and want when travelling and I want to share my passion for Italy with others. I also want to show our guests from other countries the treasures that my homeland, New Zealand, has to offer and would be delighted to work with you to plan your trip through the land of the Lord of the Rings.

Exclusive Tours of Italy

"Over the last few years, we have got together to bring people a genuine glimpse into Italian culture and customs. Now our intent is to take you there for an experience unlike any other."

For any queries email
info@connectitalia-nz.com

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Escursione ai Laghi della Lombardia

A Journey to the Lakes of Lombardia with Beniamino and Anne



Northern Italy - 14 days (13 nights)

NZ\$ Price TBA (single supplement may apply)

On this tour, you will:

- gain real insight into Italian life and customs
- enjoy maximum freedom to do what you want while being appropriately looked after
- enjoy luxury accommodation in fabulous locations
- **not** be getting up every day at 7am and moving on to your next stop
- have the opportunity to learn some Italian from an experienced teacher and put your learning into practice
- mingle with the rich and famous – who knows, we might even see George Clooney
- cruise along gorgeous lakes gazing in awe at the majestic alpine scenery
- visit the Palazzo Borromeo and 10 tiers of terraced gardens at the spectacular Isola Bella
- see where Stradivarius created his masterpieces
- visit the home of the best Italian champagne – food and wine will be a major feature of this tour
- **not** have absolutely everything mapped out for you – there will be surprises along the way that you will want to tell all your friends about when you get home and **MOST IMPORTANTLY** you will have fun!

Escursione ai Laghi della Lombardia

Tour Outline:

Start Date: TBA

End Date: TBA

Commencement and conclusion of the Tour: Milan

Note: The tour package is a land package only. Flights to suit your individual needs can be arranged for you through us or you can make your own travel arrangements if you prefer.



The tour group will meet at our elegant hotel situated in the heart of the historic centre of Milan. We will stay in Milan for three nights. After a half day with a local guide to help us get our bearings, we will be spoiled for choice for things to do. In fact, you may want to extend your time in Milan immediately after our tour and we will be happy to make arrangements for you. We will talk to you about this before we finalise our tour arrangements.

Some of the highlights to visit in Milan include the magnificent pink marble Duomo with the largest stained-glass windows in Christendom, fabulous art galleries and museums including the Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia set in a 16th century monastery. It is a fitting tribute in a city where Leonardo da Vinci did much of his finest work. Of course, we mustn't miss out on seeing his most famous painting, The Last Supper, one of the world's most iconic images.

You can't mention Milan without commenting on fashion and shopping and the Galleria Vittorio Emmanuele II is one of the oldest and probably the most glamorous shopping mall in the world, housed within a four storey double arcade full of exquisite shops and restaurants.





And of course, there is La Scala. We can organise tickets for a performance in this iconic opera house for those who dream of Maria Callas. And you must try the Panettone!



On 2 June, we leave Milan and set off in our minibus with our local driver to Lago di Garda for our base for the next 4 nights. We will be staying in a delightful hotel with lake views situated in the historical centre of Sirmione, close to the thermal springs and the Roman Grotte di Catullo.

From Sirmione we will be visiting medieval villages and passing through vineyards and olive groves. Anne is looking forward to tasting the pink Chiaretto from Bardolino. We will also take ferry trips up the lake enjoying majestic Alpine scenery. Another place that is definitely on Anne's list for visiting is Franciacorta, the home of the closest rival to champagne and generally regarded as Italy's finest sparkling wine.



Of course, it's not all about the wine. We are a very short distance from Juliet's balcony in Verona and some of you might want to visit the magnificent Roman amphitheatre there.



Music lovers will also enjoy a visit to Cremona, where Stradivarius put together his first violins. There are now over 100 violin making workshops clustered around Piazza del Comune, which is considered one of the best-preserved medieval squares in Italy; church buildings on one side and secular buildings on the other.



On 6 June, we will set off for the fabulous hill town of Bergamo on our way to Lake Como. We will have to stop for a coffee at least in the Piazza Vecchia in the old walled town, described by Le Corbusier as "the most beautiful square in Europe."

Our base for 4 nights from 6 June to 10 June will be an absolutely divine hotel in Bellagio, on the shore of Lago di Como. This is a luxury 5 star hotel complete with lakeside terraces for al fresco refreshments. We suggest you take binoculars so you can keep a look out for George Clooney ☺ We will travel up the lake on ferries visiting gorgeous villages with their stone staircases, cypress groves and beautiful gardens. We can also wander along ancient mule tracks visiting picturesque villages off the usual tourist route.



The town of Como remains one of Europe's most important producer of silk products so if you are looking for gifts to take home, top quality scarves, ties and fabrics can apparently be purchased here for a fraction of the cost you'd pay elsewhere. While we are in Como, we'll take the funicular railway to the village of Brunate, climbing 1000 metres in seven minutes to enjoy breath-taking views of the lake.



Whether you want to spend time on your own or travel around with the group during our stay is completely up to you. On 10 June we will leave Bellagio for Stresa on Lago Maggiore where we will spend two nights with Ernest Hemingway - While there we will visit the fabulous Isola Bella shaped like a vessel with a villa at the prow and 10 tiers of terraced gardens dropping down to the lake. We will also visit the famous cheese aging caves at Arona. On 12 June, we will return to Milan after what we are confident will be an unforgettable experience.



Tour inclusions

- All accommodation costs sharing a double or twin room including breakfasts. Note - a single supplement may apply for single travellers wanting their own room. We will discuss this with you prior to confirmation
- All tour travel costs including de-luxe coach or minibus transport and associated charges such as fuel, tolls, taxes, with local drivers
- Daily sightseeing: It will be completely up to you whether you want to participate or spend the day at leisure
- Ferry services on Lakes Garda, Como and Maggiore, pending summer schedule but including up to 3 sectors per lake with a local guide
- One group dinner including wine and soft drinks at a venue to be confirmed
- Local tour guides – Milan, and Lakes Garda and Como

Tour exclusions

- Meals and beverages other than those included
- City taxes, room service meals and mini bar refreshments
- Telephone/internet charges
- Porterage and Gratuities
- Individual sightseeing not undertaken as part of the tour
- We do not arrange travel insurance. Comprehensive travel insurance is highly recommended.

For Tour Package email
info@connectitalia.co.nz

