

Tatler Travel Guide – January 2017

Circulation: 84,515

1 DAY

2 DAYS

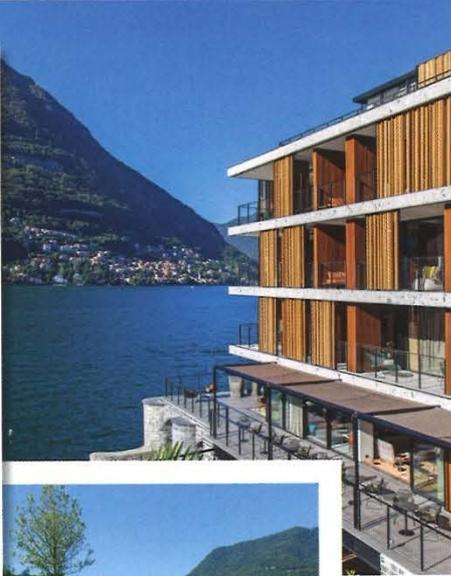
3 DAYS

4 DAYS

5 DAYS

IL SERENO LAKE COMO, ITALY

Lake Como: its pleasures are wondrous, its vistas beautiful. If Milan is a teenager in biker boots, *il lago* is a duchess in pearls. Tradition is the thing. Il Sereno, though, is a whippersnapper set to shake the lake. Spanish designer Patricia Urquiola is famed for her use of colour and texture – here copper, wood and stone – and her furniture: the hotel's lofty lounges and sundecks are crammed with her curvaceous sofas and wicker chairs, to glorious effect. Thirty wood-pannelled suites are all muted hues and pillowy armchairs and take-10-years-off-you mood lighting. Each has a vast terrace from which to survey the water and the pontoon where three Riva boats bob. There's a jade-green infinity pool, and shady cabanas in which to retreat from the sun with a plate of penne pomodoro and a glass of something crisp and cool. All afternoon, boats put-put past, their occupants rubber-necking the glorious building, with its vertical garden creeping up the wall. Finally, something to give George Clooney a run for his money as the most handsome thing in these parts. **BOOK IT** Elegant Resorts (elegantresorts.co.uk; 01244 897517) offers 10 nights from £3,825, including breakfast, flights and transfers.



WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Walk to nearby *Il Vapore* for a lakeside dinner alfresco, under trees strung with twinkling fairy lights.

NAYARA SPRINGS ARENAL, COSTA RICA

You have a vision of Costa Rica. Of emerald rainforests, of flowers as big as satellite dishes and heat and volcanoes and misty, jungly mornings. That's Nayara Springs. A treetop bridge leads from the main resort over enough lush tropical flumduggery to make a Kew Gardens employee weep. At the end is this, the newest, smartest addition to the Nayara brand. Villas are huge and eclectic: a Moroccan rug here; a Venetian mirror there; a floor of Mexican hand-painted tiles. There are outdoor double showers and private terraces with plunge pools fed by the volcanic springs that bubble up from the ground. Oh yes – the volcano, Arenal, looms just far enough for comfort (it's currently 'resting' and hasn't erupted since 2010). Wind along the lush paths to Asia Luna, the Asian-Peruvian fusion restaurant, or to Nostalgia bar for wine-tasting. Visit the spa for the scratchy-soothing volcanic mud massage, then sink into its outdoor plunge pool – HOT, remember – and stare at hummingbirds flitting about the hibiscus. It's a vision. **BOOK IT** British Airways Holidays (ba.com; 0344 493 0122) offers 10 nights from £2,050, including flights.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Go zip-lining – there is nothing like flying through the canopy at up to 25mph. A parrot's-eye view of the jungle.



ALEXANDER GILKES'S
MIAMI

FIRST THING I DO

I head to Miami each year for the art fairs. As soon as I arrive, I pick up my scooter to help me weave through the bottlenecks. Then I get a coffee at one of the Cuban cafés, such as *Enriqueta's*, and have a quick dip in the sea.

MUST-PACK ITEM

A linen jacket with ample pockets for passes and business cards.

PERFECT DAY

A visit to the Rubell Family Collection, the Bass Museum and Moca Miami. **FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT** The rooftop bar at Soho House – and at Art Basel they build a marquee on the beach with sofas on the

sand. I like to eat at Byblos for a colour-drenched, flashy Miami scene and take a mal-coordinated slip

and slide around the ice rink at the Edition hotel.

BEST HOLIDAY BUD

One of my business partners, Rodman Primack. He is head of Design Miami, and one of the few locals I know.

TOP THING TO TAKE HOME

An item of clothing from the Webster boutique.

I'LL ALWAYS MAKE TIME FOR

A long morning walk down the beach. There are so many characters!

LAST THING I DO

Take a final dip and grab a bite at my favourite Greek restaurant, *Mandolin*. *Alexander Gilkes is co-founder of online auction houses Auctionata and Paddle8*

