



NEW LEVEL OF MARKETABILITY: WORK ABROAD, LAKE COMO, ITALY

Each summer, 10 students from Niagara University's College of Hospitality and Tourism Management work in six to eight luxury hotels in Lake Como, located in northern Italy on the border of Switzerland. Among the participating properties are the world-renowned Villa d'Este, commonly called "Hollywood on Lake Como," located in Cernobbio; and the Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni, located in Bellagio, "the jewel of Lake Como." The Villa d'Este has been ranked by Forbes Traveler as the number one hotel in the world. Both of these hotels are commonly ranked in the top three European resorts by Condé Nast and Travel and Leisure.

All the properties are small, often about 40 rooms, so you develop unique and personalized relationships with your guests. There is no better place than Lake Como to learn what exceptional customer service is and to put it in practice.

Additionally, you learn important international skills. The hospitality and tourism industry is the world's largest industry. It employs 10% of the worldwide labor force. Most of the growth in the industry is outside North America. An international perspective is a must today!

In this global industry you need to understand how to work with people from different cultures – as this will be part of your job. You will, likely, work abroad at some time in your career and possibly work for a foreign owned company. The large hospitality and tourism companies are truly international: Marriott has operations in about 85 countries and Carlson conducts business in 140 countries.

This is not a tourist or tour bus program. This program is about real cultural immersion. It gives you an authentic international experience as you work a 40-hour week abroad, speak the language (Italian), live in workers quarters of the hotel, and have meals with your co-workers.

This program builds real confidence in someone. It is a great accomplishment professionally and personally. Professionally this is an outstanding addition to anyone's resume. To have international work experience in a high quality setting provides work experience that differentiates you from other job applicants. To gain this experience half-way around the world is a great personal achievement. This gives you tremendous personal confidence and shows an employer that you have real determination, are independent, are willing to relocate, are interested in learning about other people and cultures, are adaptable and flexible, etc. Who would not be interested in hiring this kind of person?

You are living in one of the most beautiful parts of the world and have great cities like Florence, Rome, and Venice on your doorstep. You may even see actor George Clooney at his Lake Como villa!