



## A SHIMMERING MIRROR IN NATURAL AND PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS

# LAKE VIVERONE

**A blue valley lying in the hills and mountains at the foot of the morainic amphitheatre of Ivrea**

**S**ituated in the district of Biella, Vercelli and Ivrea, one of the most interesting landscape of the foothills of the Alps, Viverone Lake is 6 kilometres wide, the biggest lake basin of the large morainic amphitheatre of Ivrea. The Lake, fed by spring water flowing from its bottom, is situated at 230 metres above sea level, and on average is 20 metres deep and has an elliptical perimeter of about 10 kilometres. The surrounding area, mostly in the province of Biella, still preserves the floating vegetation of the water chestnut, the water lily, the ditch reed, together with rare willow trees, swamp oaks and ash trees. Between Ivrea and Biella, the Bassa Serra morainic area includes, besides Viverone, Zimone, Salussola, Dorzano, Piverone and Cavaglià. The formation of a Faunistic Protective Oasis, in 1970, has granted the lake and its surroundings the possibility to become a very interesting international ornithological area because of the presence of some new rare aquatic species such as bitterns, dark kites, grebes, mallards and gulls. The lake abounds in pike, whitefish, perch, catfish and tench and the lakeshore offers welcoming accommodation facilities and various opportunities for relaxing by walking and practising sporting activities (tennis, horse riding, gokart, minigolf, swimming, cycling and fishing). A ferry service runs between the places on the lake of Lido, Masseria, Comuna and Anzasco. Viverone is an important starting point for trips around the Biellese region, going towards Monferrato and Valle d'Aosta as well as an important spot for transit tours in the Alps and beyond.

## **VISITING VIVERONE AND ITS INTERESTING SURROUNDINGS**

### **ROPPOLO CASTLE**

The castle of Roppolo was built in 963 after the Earl Aymone from Cavaglià was invested with his title by Ottone I. Later it belonged to the Bicchieri family, to the Savoia and to the Valperga from Masino. Under Pietro Bicchieri's rule, the castle became an important garrison until it was abandoned and damaged during the French Revolution. Today it is a property of the Morasengo family from Novara that, after restoring it, established the Enoteca Regionale della Serra. The rooms of the ground floor and the first floor of the castle are now available for arranging parties, meetings, working lunches and cultural conferences.

### **S. MICHELES' CELL IN VIVERONE**

S.Michele's Cell, still partially preserved and situated in La Cella territory, has been called "S.Marco's Cell" since 1500. It was approved by Pope Eugenio III's Papal Bull dated 1151 and its monks had the right of fishing in the lake. Today both the church, that partially has the original romanesque structure, and the bell tower still remain. The interior was rebuilt at the beginning of the XX century in the Baroque style.

### **SANTA MARIA DELLA CURA**

Built between Viverone and Roppolo Piano, S. Maria della Cura was the Parish Church of both the villages until 1789. Its 15-century Gothic styled structure with a nave and wide ogival crosses has a carefully preserved ancient trussed vault.

### **THE NEW PARISH CHURCH**

A 19th-century rebuilding of the ancient Church of S. Nicolò, is now the Parish Church. It houses some interesting sculptural works such as the pulpit, the choir, the body of the church and the organ by Fratelli Serassi. The painting of the Lady of the Assumption on the high altar dates back to the beginning of 1600.

### **LA MADONNA DEL ROSARIO**

When in 1789 the inhabitants of Roppolo Piano wanted to be separated from Viverone, they decided to raise their Oratory of Madonna del Rosario to the status of Parish Church.

### **PARAVANO**

In a wood near the farmhouse named "Cascina di S. Lorenzo", it is possible to see the foundations of an ancient medieval church built in XI-century in a place whose name is testament to its Roman origin.

### **LA TORRE DI MONTALDO O DI S. LORENZO**

Raised on a pre-existent foundation from around 1600, not far from the medieval rural district of S. Lorenzo, the Tower of Montaldo was an important strategic lookout to the eastward hills of the morainic Serra, in the region of Viverone, Roppolo, Dorzano, Salussola e Cavaglià.

### **ENOTECA REGIONALE DELLA SERRA**

Via Castello, 2 - 13883 Roppolo (BI) tel. 0161/98501 - 8.30/12.30 – 14.30/18

The Enoteca, established in 1981, is situated in the Castle of Roppolo, on the hills facing Viverone Lake. Today it is a place for the selection, promotion and selling of about 170 different kinds of wine, sparkling wine and grappa, housed in the XVI-century cellars with red-brick vaults and stone walls.

The wines, produced in the provinces of Torino, Biella, Vercelli and Novara, are accepted by the Enoteca only after a strict selection by an ONAV commission. Courses, conferences, shows, tastings and tours around the wineries are organized here. The grape-harvest festival (Aug./Sept.) and various other gourmet and folk celebrations take place at the castle. The D.O.C. wines of this area are the Erbaluce di Caluso (one of the few white Piemontese wines), the Erbaluce Spumante Brut, the Caluso Passito, the Caluso Passito Liquoroso and the

new white and red Canavese, made from Nebbiolo and other grapes.

## **THE OROPA BOTANIC GARDEN**

At an altitude of 1200 m, above the Sanctuary, the Botanic Garden of Oropa aims at making the mountain and alpine flora well known, especially the beech that characterizes the woods around Oropa. The Botanic Garden also promotes teaching and cultural activities and the preservation of the local flora. The Council of Biella has entrusted the WWF Italia – Biella Section – to run this Botanic Garden. Buses to the Sanctuary regularly leave from the square in front of the railway station of Biella. Open from May to September (from 10 am to 6 pm). Closed on Monday.

## **TOURIST SERVICES**

### **SKY NAUTICHE**

Via Lungolago, 22 – 13886 Viverone (BI) -Cell. 3487089765 – 3356321029

The Sky Nautiche offers 2 landing stages and 3 motorboats, a sailing school with Nationally licensed trainers, wake-board specialized. Equipped relaxing area. Bar and buffet service. It's an affiliate of the F.I.S.N. Club. Open from April to the end of October.

### **SOCIETA' DI NAVIGAZIONE**

Via Lungolago, 11 - 153 - 13886 Viverone (BI) - Tel. 0161/987077

The Public Navigation Service organizes educational and social tours for students and groups of people. They also offer mooring and haulage for motorboats. Boats and motorboats for hire.

### **NAUTICA ZOLA**

Frazione Comuna, 2 -3886 Viverone (BI) - Tel. 0161/98189

Placed in a large area by the lakeside, it offers various sailing services: boat mooring, servicing, repairs, boat dry-docking. There is a fuel pump on the quay.

### **BAGNI COMUNALI ROSA DEI VENTI**

Via Lungo Lago, 4 - 13886 Viverone (BI) - Tel. 0161/987497

Beach equipped with umbrellas and chairs, shaded by forest trees, to enjoy one or more peaceful sunny days at the beautiful Viverone lakeside.

### **SERENISSIMA VIAGGI S.R.L.**

Via Provinciale, 34/a - 13886 Viverone (BI) Tel. 0161/987087

They propose holidays in Piemonte and in the Biellese area and touristic promotions of Viverone Lake. They also organize individual and group tours and sporting activities (sailing, horse riding, hang gliding, etc.)

## **CUISINE**

Dishes are prepared with typical local products: polenta, chestnuts, fish (the whitefish is very famous!), salami, honey and mustard, together with local dairy products and suitable wines (we recommend the Rolej wine, from the vineyards spread in the morainic amphitheatre of the Serra di Viverone hills). The Biellese area is very rich in cheese, the Toma is the most well known and is made from cow milk.

## GETTING TO VIVERONE

From Milano or Torino: take the A4 Motorway, leave it at Santhià and drive along the SS228 towards Ivrea for about 6 kms. From Aosta: drive along the SS26 to Ivrea, then along the SS228 towards Vercelli for about 14 kms. You can also take the A5 Aosta/Torino motorway, then the connection A5/A4 and leave it at Albiano.

### **TOURIST OFFICE - BIELLA**

Via Quintino Sella, 12 – 13900 BIELLA (BI) – Tel. 015 8480646

Info and news about accommodation,  
sports, culture and entertainment for a relaxing holiday among the green hills and clear waters of the lake.