Off the Beaten Track: The Italian Lakes

**WALKING TO ORRIDO DI SANT’ANNA**
A 3km walk through a wild, wooded ravine to a gushing waterfall and a rocky, riverside stream where you bathe in blissful solitude on hot summer days.

**THE CENTOVALLI**
The ‘hundred valleys’ is the westward valley route from southern Ticino to Domodossola in Italy. Take in the vertiginous views from a picturesque train, which carves a path through the valleys.

**VALSASSINA**
Get off the well-worn lakeside road and head into the Orobie Alps where farmers still tend their dairy herds in the old walls and produce the world-famous cheeses.

**PARCO NAZIONALE DELLA VAL GRANDE**
The ultimate off-the-beaten-track destination is this High Alpine national park. The largest wilderness area in Italy, its walking trails take you up into mist-covered mountains offering spectacular views.

**WINE TASTING IN VALPOLICELLA**
Opt for a few days of slow travel in the Valpolicella wine region, checking in at various wineries and restaurants to sample some of northern Italy’s most August red wines.

**HORSE TREKKING ON MONTE BALDO**
Saddle-up Western-style on Argentinian ponies at Ranch Barlot and head out for single- or multi-day horse treks in the Alpine meadows high above Lake Garda on Monte Baldo.

**CERTOSA DI PAVIA**
Located in the peaceful countryside 8km north of Pavia, this architecturally stunning monastery is one of Italy’s largest and most opulent, filled with fine art treasures and the tombs of Milanese dukes.

**PIZZIGHETTO**
Make a detour to this perfectly preserved medieval town encircled by rampart walls and explore its ancient historic centre before sitting down to a real rural eating experience at an old dairy farm.

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**DOMODOSSOLA**
Take in the valley route from southern Ticino to Domodossola in Italy. Take in the vertiginous views from a picturesque train, which carves a path through the valleys.

**OMEGNA**
Como is criss-crossed by hiking trails. Escape the lakeside crowds for rocky, riverside stream where you bathe in blissful solitude on hot summer days.

**DELLA VAL GRANDE**
The ultimate off-the-beaten-track destination is this High Alpine national park. The largest wilderness area in Italy, its walking trails take you up into mist-covered mountains offering spectacular views.

**TRIANGOLO LARIANO**
This mountainous triangle of land between the two branches of Lake Como is criss-crossed by hiking trails. Escape the lakeside crowds for cloud-busting views, quiet mountain refuges and some excellent bird spotting.

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