

NOT TO BE MISSED

History, tradition, art and culture, sport, old flavours, wellness and nature, featuring rivers, lakes and mountains: let's start with a selection of the 20 places not to be missed. You will discover all the rest by travelling across the land of Bergamo.

1 - CRESPI D'ADDA

The "company town" has been declared UNESCO World heritage site in 1995. Walking among the houses and admiring the cotton mill of the Crespi family is like going back to the early XX Century, experiencing the life and habits of the past. The village was established in the late XIX Century and it's an absolute rarity for its perfect state of preservation.

2 - CLUSONE

It's the heart of Seriana Valley. The tower of the Town Hall Palace stands out, featuring the XVI Century mechanical clock that keeps marking the exact astral movements. Don't miss the renowned Oratory of Disciplin: here the frescoes depicting the 'Triumph of Death' have drawn researchers and enthusiasts from all over Italy.

3 - LOVERE

It's one of the most beautiful villages in Italy, its origins date back to the Celts domination. Afterwards came the Romans, the Langobards, the Frankish and the Republic of Venice: Lovere has always been a crucial hub for business and communication. Today you can take a walk all along the lakeside, take a boat for an excursion on the Iseo Lake and admire the masterpieces of the Accademia Tadini picture gallery.

4 - SAN PELLEGRINO TERME

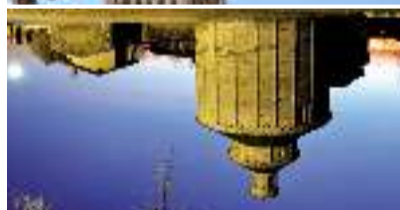
San Pellegrino's springs are well known all over the world. This small town, located 20 kilometres far from Bergamo, has still so much to say. The stories of princes and queens dating back to the times when the town became a popular resort for the European elites, thanks to the reputation of its thermal baths, its Casino and its Art nouveau Grand Hotel.

5 - LEMINE, THE HEART OF ROMANESQUE STYLE

The so-called "Lemine", where the villages of Almenno are, is renowned for its Romanesque buildings and its old legends. Inside the San Giorgio Church, besides the beautiful frescoes, you can admire the rib of a dragon: legend has it that the Saint himself killed it, but it's actually the bone of a whale. Moreover, the Santa Tomè Rotunda is also a rare example of circular ground plan church, probably built on an ancient pagan temple and used for Templar rituals.

6 - MALPAGA CASTLE

Bartolomeo Colleoni, a great mercenary captain, purchased this castle in 1456 when it was almost a ruin and decided to turn it into an impregnable fortress and a beautiful residence, too, following the model of princely courts. You can still perceive the remarkable history of this place: the castle is perfectly preserved and still hosts many important events.



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20 - SCALVE VALLEY

Pristine environments lovers cannot miss the di Scalve Valley. Cross-country skiing enthusiasts will surely appreciate the Schilpario trail, while Colere is the perfect place to find beautiful ski slopes. Another unique experience is the visit to Schilpario's mines, where you can explore 4 kilometres of tunnels, either walking or on board of the original wagons of the mine railway.

19 - CALEPIO VALLEY

Towers, castles and vineyards. Its name probably comes from the ancient Greek "Kalos Epias", meaning "good, sweet land". The climate is mild thanks to the near Iseo Lake, which creates the ideal conditions for the production of a famous DOC wine: the Valcalepio. Nearby, another exquisite wine is produced: the Moscato di Scanzo. In the XVIII Century it was the world's most expensive wine, greatly appreciated by the British, too.

18 - TRESORE BALNEARIO AND LAKE ENDINE

From the massive tower of Bianzano Castle the view is spectacular: you can devise the Lake Endine among the mountains of the Cavallina Valley, dotted with lovely hamlets. Not far from it there is Trescore Balneario, with the remains of the medieval fortifications, the thermal baths and the Villa Suardi's frescoes by Lorenzo Lotto

17 - SOTTO IL MONTE

Back in 1881 Sotto il Monte used to be a small rural centre: here, from a sharecroppers' family, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born, who became Pope John XXIII - the "Good Pope" - in 1958. From then on, his hometown changed a lot in order to welcome an ever-increasing amount of tourists. Today you can visit Pope John's house of birth, besides a museum dedicated to him.

16 - SARNICO

Sarnico is the best place to enjoy the calm of the Lake Iseo: a walk along the lakeside, a glance to the art nouveau buildings on the coast, a boat excursion to Montisola, Europe's biggest lake island. If you like sport emotions better, the lake also offers the opportunity to practice windsurf, rowing or wake-board.

15 - SANT'OMOBONO

A pure nature disguises ancient hamlets where time seems to have stopped: this is the upper Imagna Valley. Sant'Omobono, founded in the Middle Age, is one of the main villages. From here, you can go up to the "valley's roof" of Fuipiano and meet the Three beeches ("Tre faggi"), a real monument of nature. Besides, every history lover will surely appreciate the old rural residences of Arnosto.

14 - ROMANO DI LOMBARDBIA

The fortified village of Romano formerly belonged to the Visconti family who built the fortress (the "Rocca"), which was later used by Bartolomeo Colleoni to defend his territory. In the surrounding areas you can also find some other places related to the renowned warlord, such as the old centre of Martinengo or the small castle of Solza, where he was born.

13 - GROMO

"The small Toledo": that's how Gromo was called in the Middle Age, due to its local artisans who used to skilfully work the iron to manufacture weapons, shields, armours. If you prefer the power of nature to the historical routes, go visit to the near Valbondione and admire the opening of the Serio river waterfalls: 315 meters high!

12 - ADDA RIVER

The Adda river is proud of a very special estimator: Leonardo Da Vinci. The renowned genius from Tuscany created the hand-operated ferry, unique in its kind, connecting the riversides of Villa d'Adda and Imbersago. In Paderno, a daring XIX Century bridge overpasses the river. In Trezzo you can also visit the Visconti Castle, used as a place of defence when the Adda represented the frontier between the Duchy of Milan and Venice.

11 - CORNELLO DEI TASSO

This hamlet is nestled in a very secluded area of the Brembana Valley, far from the traffic. This allowed it to keep its medieval features. The history of this remote place is incredibly fascinating: it's the birthplace of the poet Torquato Tasso's ancestors, as well as the genial founders of the modern postal service and the first stamp ever.

10 - CARAVAGGIO

The parents of Michelangelo Merisi, aka the Caravaggio, were born in this village of the Bergamo plain, considered the most ancient in the Gera d'Adda area. Today it is the seat of the Madonna di Caravaggio Sanctuary, built in the very same place where - according to the tradition - in 1432 the Virgin Mary appeared to a young farmer. Every year, millions of pilgrims come visiting the Sanctuary.

9 - CASTIONE DELLA PRESOLANA

The Presolana peak (2521 meters) is also known as the "Orobie Queen", due to its spectacular calcareous walls, similar to the ones of the Dolomites. It's a real paradise for ski and climbing lovers. The magic of these places began to draw tourists since the beginning of the last century: many Art Nouveau-style mansions in the hamlets of Bratto-Dorga represent a significant proof of that time.

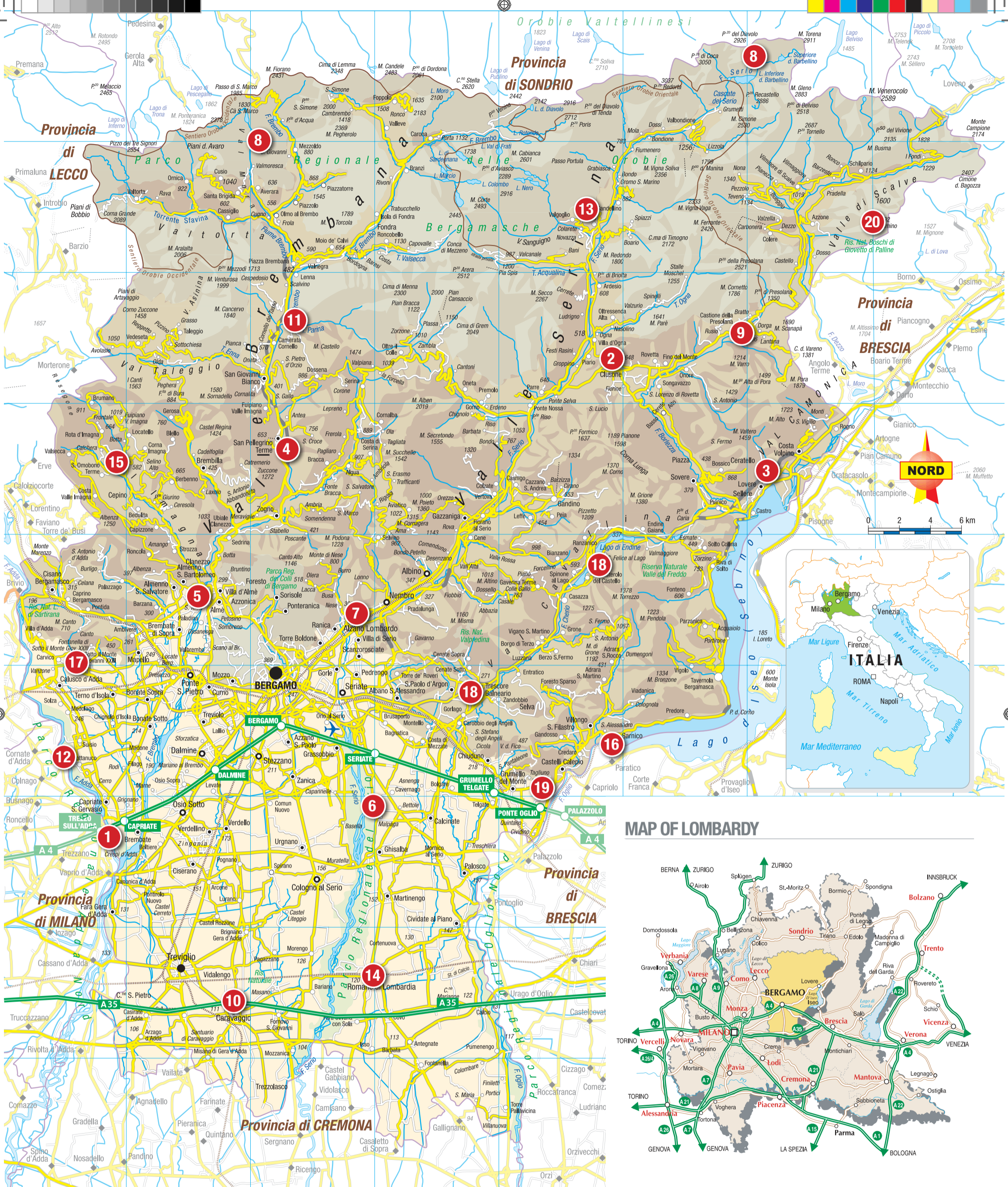
8 - BREMBO AND SERIO

Over thousands of year, the river Brembo and river Serio have been shaping two wonderful valleys: Brembana Valley and Seriana Valley. There are plenty of activities to do: from the ski resorts and to the mountain huts, to the trekking tracks and the cycle lanes across the nature. Besides, you can also find several industrial archaeology sites, touristic resorts and quiet hamlets for everyone who's looking for some peace.

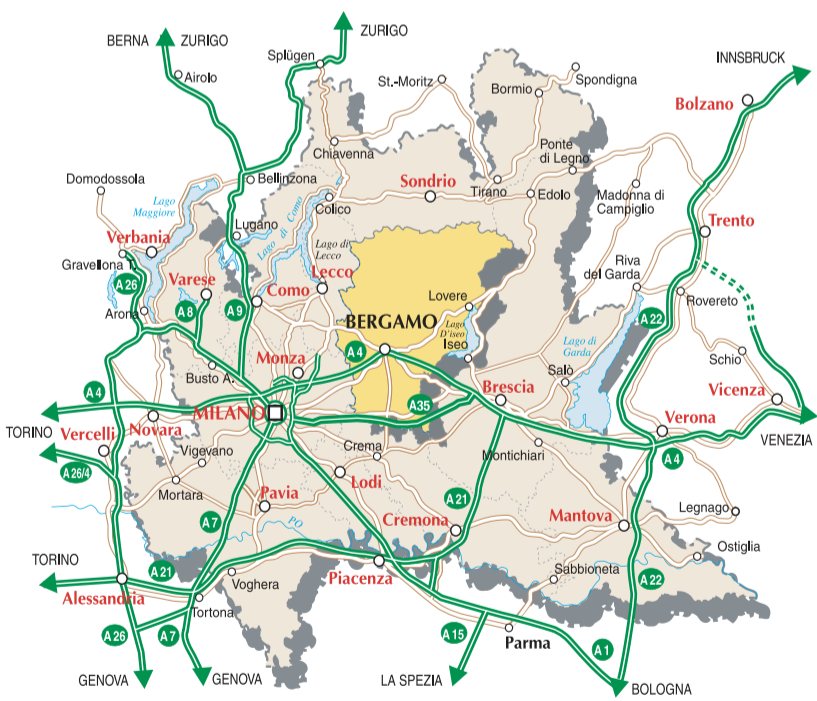
7 - ALZANO LOMBARDO

An itinerary combining nature, history and art winds all along the river Serio. Alzano Lombardo is its first stopover, with the cathedral realized by the architect-chief of Milan Duomo and the sacristies decorated with Fantoni's wooden masterpieces. Going up the river flow you can also find the sacred heart proofs of Gandino and the Textile Museum in Leffe.





MAP OF LOMBARDY



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