**Franciacorta e Lago d’Iseo - 2 giorni**

**Franciacorta and the Lake of Iseo – 2 days**

**1st Day: Franciacorta**

Franciacorta is one of the most important Italian zone of sparkling wine: it extends between the Iseo Lake and Brescia and here were born some of the **best bubbles of Italy**. Its history here is strongly characterized from the presence of big monastic authority that had here, even before Year 1000, big properties that made big tillage piece of work, reclamation and cultivation of the territory.

It seems that the original name was “**Corte Franca**”. These lands around the end of the Year 1200 were ecclesiastical property. Around the Lake of Iseo the Benediktian monks, after a hard work in the vineyard, they enjoyed the essential from the imperial tributes.

Visit of the complex of **Abbazia** **Benedettina Olivetana of San Nicola** from where was constructed the “franchacurtis”, one of the most religious monumental building. The next complex is the **Convento Dell’Annunciata** pointed on the Mount Orfano in the community of **Rovato** and the **Pieve of Sant’Andrea**, on **Iseo**, which supervise the fresch of San Michele Arcangelo of Francesco Hayez. The antique monastery of **San Pietro of Lamosa** inside **Provaglio of Iseo**, on the peat bog of Sebino. Next is the visit of one of the famous cellars in this particular area, with a guided degustation from a winr glass of Franciacorta Brut and Franciacorta Brut Satèn Millesimato combined with a tasting of salumi and local formaggio. Dinner and overnight.

**Franciacorta**: is the 1st Italian wine refermented in bottle that obtained, back in 1995, the denomination DOCG(denominazione di origine controlata e garantita). It is produced from Chardonnay and/or Pinot Nero and/or Pinot bianco grapes in 3 types: Franciacorta, Franciacorta Satèn and Franciacorta Rosé, plus the Millesimato and the RIserva, which predict even longer improving. The historic cellars are more than 100, big part of them situated in buildings of big artistic and architectonic interest.

**2nd Day: Lake of Iseo**

**Iseo**, a small town developed on a shore of a lake, still conserves the shape of an antique medieval village where stand out Castle Oldofredi, the Parish church of Sant’Andrea and the most central Piazza Garibaldi. After the lunch, visit of **Sulzano**, a colourful village on lake where the water brushes the antique houses, which is characterized with small hidden streets and typical landings for the fisherman’ boats. We take a boat to arrive at the famous “**Montisola**”(Monte Isola), the unmissable stage in the visit of Iseo. On Montisola are not allowed cars, the only way to visit it is on a bike or by bus. The lucky one who has strong legs can traverse the coastal on foot enjoying the green silence and the spectacular panoramic views of the coasts of Brescia and Bergamo. On the highest point of the island on 600m highness, you can find the sacred place of Ceriola, from where the panoramic view leaves you fascinated.

**Curiosity**: it has an extension of around 5kmq and circumference of around 9km and is **the biggest lake isle of Europe**. Its name confirms the shape: Monte Isola, in fact it is absolutely not a “flat” island, its highness goes from minimum 187 to a maximum of 600 m ASL It is one real mountain in the middle of a lake!