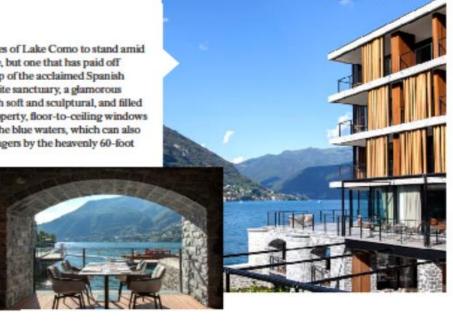
IL SERENO LAKE COMO

Opening a modern boutique hotel on the shores of Lake Como to stand amid the much-loved grander dames was a bold move, but one that has paid off for the Sereno Hotels group. It enlisted the help of the acclaimed Spanish architect Patricia Urquiola to design the 30-suite sanctuary, a glamorous blend of wood, copper and stone, which is both soft and sculptural, and filled with handsome furniture. Throughout the property, floor-to-ceiling windows give panoramic views of boats criss-crossing the blue waters, which can also be appreciated from one of the fern-green loungers by the heavenly 60-foot

infinity pool. In the evening, dine on luscious spaghetti carbonara or freshly caught lake fish at Ristorante Berton Al Lago, before venturing out for a romantic trip in one of the hotel's wooden Riva boats, as the village lights twinkle in the hills around you. LH

Elegant Resorts (01244 897517; www.elegantresorts.co.uk) offers three nights at II Sereno from £1,540 a person B&B including flights.



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