

# TATLER®

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The new power dressing rules





# BEAUTY

## shore thing

*Nowhere's as calm as Como – Amelia Windsor hits refresh at Il Sereno after the fashion whirl*

The clouds suddenly cleared as Il Sereno came into sight. My sister, Marina, and I both took a long, deep breath – the view across the vast, glinting waters of Lake Como was epic. For a brief moment, I wondered if I should throw my phone into its depths to immerse myself in this beauty, but resisted. I knew I would regret not being able to capture the setting.

The hotel staff (fantastic and perpetually smiley) were waiting as we stepped out of the taxi. They offered us a welcome and wonderfully refreshing drink – cucumber and honey-infused water. The hotel was instantly calming, the lake's watery magic reflected in its cool grey stone, glassy verandas and swimming pool flanked with grass-green loungers.

Perched above the gently lapping water, the spa was another kind of

heaven. Ask for a treatment room facing the boathouse – I had an expert manicure and pedicure gazing across at the pebbly cove. And hearing the murmur of water during Il Sereno's signature treatment – the Valmont Elixir des Glaciers, a 90-minute ritual that included a tingling body scrub and collagen face mask – was a mesmerising experience. I slowly and dozily made my way back to my room, my face and limbs feeling as soft as a baby's bottom.

It's tempting to endlessly linger in the spa or wallow dreamily in the lakeside pool. Don't: the tiny church of Saint Rita, a short stroll away, has the most beautiful frescos, and it would be a shame not to explore the nearby village of Torno. There, we met a pair of friendly ducks who acted as tour guides. We followed them around and, startlingly, back to the hotel, where the staff laughed and informed us that they were permanent residents.

At mealtimes, we ate like kings, enjoying poached eggs and wild greens for breakfast, and locally-sourced lavaret fish with fresh mint and courgettes for supper. By

night, we were lulled to sleep by the gentle splashing of the waves washing up on the shore of the private beach: the perfect soundtrack; I was tempted to record it to listen to at home. By day, it was impossible to tire of the view: sun-kissed villas in shades of pink and orange scattered along the lake's edge, awaiting summer residents. They looked hyper-real, almost too perfect.

Unsurprisingly, it was easy to be at peace. I forgot the outside world. Lost in my surroundings I could have stayed forever, watching the light dance across the surface of the gigantic lake and the shadows gliding across the distant hills. And I barely looked at my phone.

*Serenohotels.com, 00 39 031 5477 800. Carrier offers three nights from £2,225 per person, based on two adults sharing an Alcova Suite, including breakfast, return flights from London Gatwick and return private transfers (carrier.co.uk).*



### TREATMENT MENU

Valmont Elixir des Glaciers  
Ultimate Facial and  
Body Treatment, £350  
for 90 minutes

Il Sereno Relaxing  
Massage, from £66  
for 30 minutes

Manicure, £53

Pedicure, £79



### VANITY CASE



1. The Small Crossbody Rucksack in Scribble Check, £1,150, by **BURBERRY**
2. Clinique Smart SPF 15 Custom-Repair Moisturizer, £49, by **CLINIQUE**
3. Goldie The Roman Night EDP, £82 for 75ml, by **BULGARI**
4. Gloria bikini, £135, by **HUNZA G**
5. Hannah Leopard espadrilles, £149, by **PENELOPE CHILVERS**
6. Circular Metal Twist sunglasses, £210, by **MARC JACOBS**

PHOTOGRAPHS: KAREN COLINS; AMELIA WINDSOR INSTAGRAM