

Hotel Belvedere – The Destination:

The Hotel Belvedere is located in the southernmost canton of Switzerland, Ticino, directly at the foot of Locarno's local mountain. The unique surrounding nature is characterized by its mild Mediterranean climate. Here Mediterranean plants thrive from palm trees to world-renowned camellias and lemon trees, all what the heart desires. All this, as well as Lake Major, and its vicinity to Italy create the area's flair.

The pilgrimage church **Madonna del Sasso** (consecrated after an apparition of the virgin Mary) is accessible by cable car from the hotel's own station „Belvedere“. An incredible view of the city Locarno and the surrounding mountains awaits. The area is also renowned for its yearly **Film Festival** – which is, after Venice, the oldest in the world.

Above Locarno the local mountain **Cardada-Cimetta**, is a **hiking, ski and sledding paradise**, made accessible through star architect Mario Botta's cable railway. Also **mountain bikers** find a wide range of attractive trails around here.

Architect **Mario Botta**, whose studio is located in Mendrisio, just 60 km south of Locarno, is one of the most important figures in global contemporary architecture. Within easy reach from Locarno one finds the Mogno church in Valle Maggia, the Cardada outlook platform and Santa Maria degli Angeli Church on Monte Tamaro – all designed by him.

The 13th century **Castello Visconteo**, a castle whose original walls are over one fifth intact rests directly next to the city center. In addition the pilgrimage site Orselina is a must.

A swim in the lake, water sports or day trips to Lake Major's nearby islands of Brissago, as well as the modern **Lido Locarno and Termali Salini & Spa**, unique oases for leisure, sport and wellness enriches the offering. The Lido is open the entire year featuring various swimming pools, water slides, recreational pools which are the most modern and complete in the entire Ticino region.

A true paradise awaits mountain bike riders and bikers in general in Canton Ticino. For instance, the funicular and cable car helps to reach Mount Cardada – a place which will offer an outstanding view over the Alps as well as a starting point for a ride on the mountain bike. For those who love to get off to a friskier start, Piazza Grande in Locarno will be a good kick off point for an MTB ride. Should one prefer biking on the road instead, the Maggia Valley will be the best choice for a romantic tour. The Hotel Belvedere is a certified bike hotel and one can rent a whole variety of bicycles and a trailer here.

From the beginning of the advent season until January it's time for **Locarno on Ice**. The Piazza Grande in Locarno in this period undergoes a transformation and is turned into one big ice skating rink. A variety of other activities are available throughout the year. Beginning with the **Camellia-Show** (March-April), held in the splendid city park or on Castello Visconteo's facilities, continuing with **Moon & Stars Locarno** – magical evenings on Piazza Grande in Locarno, in which concerts from pop and rock musicians are heard (July), and concluding with the city's renowned **Film Festival** (August), in which Locarno becomes center stage of world cinema.

Last but not least do not forget to stroll around Locarno's city center with its exclusive designer boutiques, nearby Ascona or a shopping trip to **Outlet Center Fox Town** in Mendrisio.