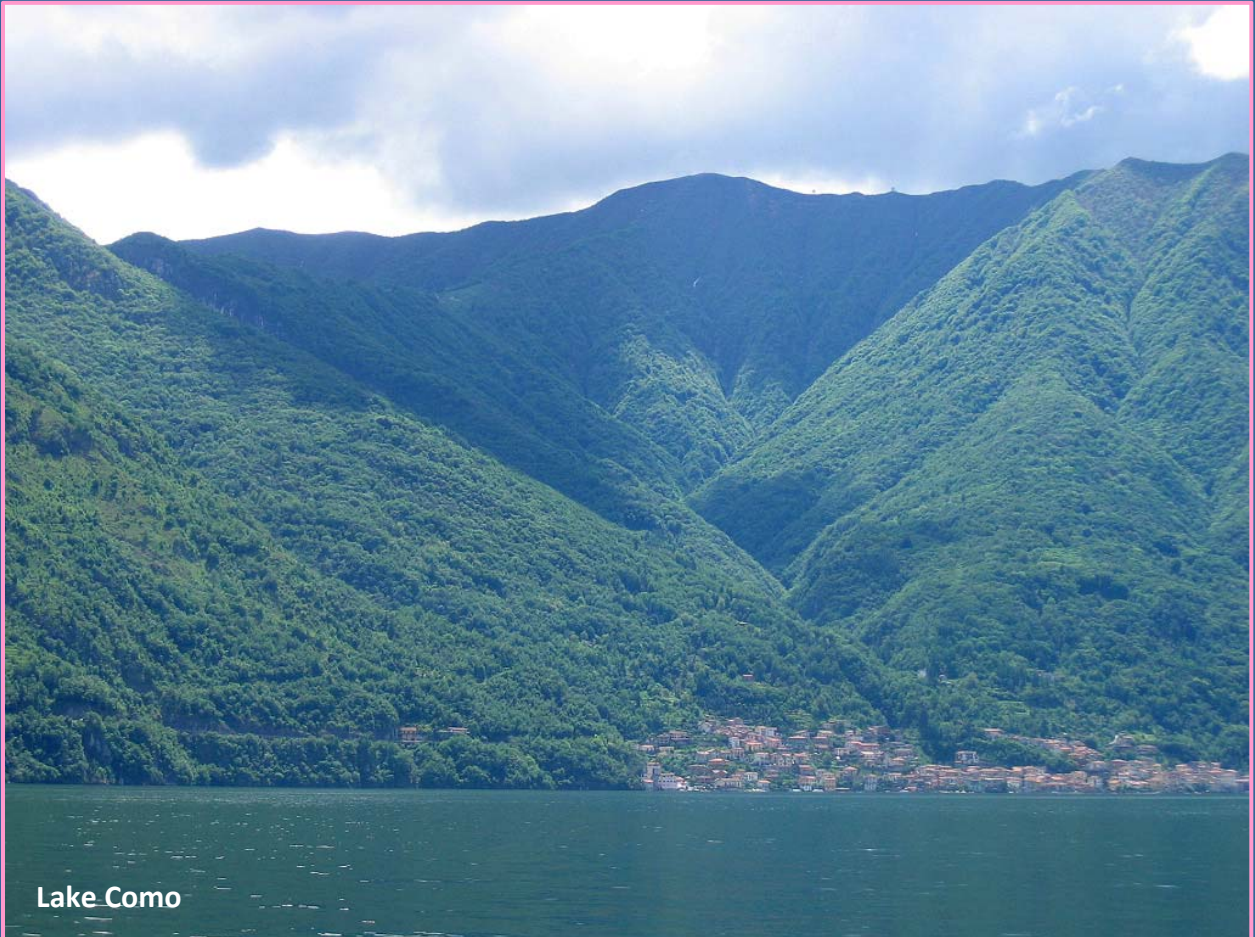


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# Newsletter

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Lake Como

## *Back Home Again in Wylie, Texas*

Marcia and I have just returned from two weeks in Europe. We stayed four days in Stresa, Italy; four days in Interlaken, Switzerland; and four days in Innsbruck, Austria. It was quite an experience. Even got to spend one minute in Liechtenstein...well, a little more than that, but the castle is the main thing. In Austria, I showed one of our tour guides our last name and she said, "Oh yes, Pa-tote-schnik, is Austrian but it could also be Czech, Slavic or even Polish." So, there you have it folks! All of the countries have their own unique special qualities but as we listened to various speakers telling us of their country, we were struck by the similarities between our countries. We all have the same concerns: immigration, taxes, health care, changing demographics, drugs, breakdown of the family, jobs, same sex marriages, retirement benefits, war, peace, too much government, dishonest politicians...on and on it goes. I did ask our Austrian guide if the Austrians would be willing to pay

significantly less income tax in exchange for fewer government services. "Absolutely not," she said, "we Austrians like to be cared for." And, so they are...from the crib to the grave...of course, they pay for it, big time. From here, it looks like America is certainly heading in the same direction. My opinion...I think we are willing to accept less freedom for more..."Please take care of me." On a lighter note, when Marcia and I arrived in our hotel room in Stresa, we stood in our room for about 10 minutes trying to figure out how to turn the lights on. Finally giving up, I called the front desk and discovered that the room key had to be inserted in a slot on the wall. Presto, all the electricity came on. Take the key out, all the electricity to the room goes off. One time, I stayed in the room watching TV as Marcia decided to go down to the lobby. Without thinking, she took the room key with her...and after one minute all the lights went off...and there I was sitting in the dark. Pretty neat, don't you think?

## *Now, back to work*