

RIVA SAN VITALE



OUTREACH & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
STEGER CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP
VIRGINIA TECH.

Switzerland



SESQUICENTENNIAL

in Switzerland

150
1872-2022

The Sesquicentennial in Switzerland group wishes to recognize Fondazione Olivio Ferrari board members for their kind and generous support of this celebration and the various events.

Thursday, June 23

Arrive in area (most via Milan airport or Lugano Train Station)

Arrive in Riva San Vitale | Steger Center for International Scholarship

- 4:00 pm **Preserving History for the Future Talk**
Hear from historian Marcus Pyka about Riva and the role of the villa in its history, Joined by Dr. Sara Steinert Borella, Executive Director of the Steger Center, who will discuss renovations and vision for the future.
- 5:00 pm **Walking Tour of Riva San Vitale** with stop at gelateria
- 6:00 pm **Welcome Reception and Wine Tasting at the Villa Maderni Garden**, musical accompaniment by Ticino Musica. Welcome reception brought to you thanks to the generous contribution of Keith and Teresa Steger, longtime supporters of the Steger Center for International Scholarship.

Friday, June 24

Breakfast at hotel or on your own

Meeting times to follow

Featured Activities (Choose one option; Most programs offered again on Sunday.)

Option 1: Local Food, Local Culture: The Case of Ticino

Take a walking tour in the Val di Muggio to visit a caseificio where they prepare cheese and share in a talk about the evolution of Ticino's local food culture by Dr. Sara Steinert Borella, executive director of the Steger Center

Option 2: European Affairs in a Swiss Context

Enjoy a boat tour on Lake Lugano and visit the Swiss Customs museum in Gandria. Dr. Scott Nelson, associate professor of political science will lead a talk about Switzerland and its tenuous relations with the European Union.

Option 3: Geology Walk to Monte San Giorgio (offered only on Friday and weather permitting)

Hike up Monte San Giorgio with Dr. Bob Bodnar, University Distinguished Professor of Geosciences and academic advisor to the Steger Center. Enjoy the view and hear why it is a UNESCO world heritage site.

Option 4. Rovio, Past and Present

Enjoy a talk and visit with Dr. Markus Breitschmid, Professor of Architecture. Dr. Breitschmid is a registered architect in Switzerland and a member of the Swiss Institute of Architects and Engineers

Lunch is provided. Dinner is on your own.

Saturday, June 25

Breakfast on your own

Featured Activities (Choose one track)

Track 1: Visit to Bellinzona

8:55 am Meet at Lugano Train Station and depart for Bellinzona (9:02 IC2, direction Zurich)
9:16 am Arrive and meet at the train station; Stroll the Bellinzona Saturday Market
11:00 am Castles Tour, beginning at the Castelgrande

Track 2: Exploring Lugano

9:45 am Meet at at Piazza Riforma, Lugano
10:00 am Architectural Walking Tour of Downtown Lugano led by Dr. Heinrich Schnoedt, Associate Professor of Architecture

Lunch on your own in Bellinzona or Lugano

5:00 pm Return to the Steger Center for **Alumni Panel and Discussion**

6:00 pm **Garden aperitivo and networking**

7:00 pm **Gala Dinner and VT150 Celebration**

Join us as we celebrate Virginia Tech's 150th anniversary. Meet or catch up with friends, family, faculty, and alumni. Dr. Guru Ghosh, Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs will offer welcome remarks.

Sunday, June 26

Breakfast on your own

Meeting times to follow **Featured Activities** (Select a second option; full activity descriptions found on page 1)

Option 1. Local Food, Local Culture: The Case of Ticino with Dr. Sara Steinert Borella

Option 2: European Affairs in a Swiss Context with Dr. Scott Nelson

Option 3: Rovio, Past and Present with Dr. Markus Breitschmid, Professor of Architecture

Option 4: Family outing: Lake Lugano cruise followed by walk through Gandria (especially suited for families with children.)

Farewell