

la villa
WEDDINGS

CERNOBBIO · LAKE COMO · 2027

The Villa Erba Wedding Guide

The spaces, a sample weekend, a planning timeline and what a wedding at the villa costs.

WELCOME

A lakeside villa with room for everyone you love.

Villa Erba brings together a nineteenth-century villa, a park of some 100,000 square metres running down to the water and a separate contemporary event centre, on one estate in Cernobbio. It is one of the few places on Lake Como that can host a large guest list without splitting the celebration across venues.

This guide is for couples who are considering the villa and want to understand how a wedding there works: which spaces you would use, how a weekend can unfold, when to book what, and where the budget goes.

INSIDE

01	The estate at a glance
02	The villa, room by room
03	A villa with a story
04	Styling the villa
05	Getting there and staying
06	A sample wedding weekend
07	A planning timeline
08	Ceremonies in Italy
09	What a wedding at the villa costs
10	Questions worth asking





Three settings, one estate.

i

The park and gardens

Some 100,000 square metres of centuries-old park, laid out as an English garden down to the lake, with the formal lawns and water basin in front of the villa. Used for ceremonies, drinks receptions and, where the layout and permissions allow, dinner outside.

ii

The historic villa

A grand entrance hall and five connecting rooms on the ground floor, seating up to 450 guests across the rooms, or 700 for a standing dinner. Frescoes, carved ceilings and terraces on every side.

iii

Le Serre

The glass-and-steel event centre by Mario Bellini, inspired by the old lakeside greenhouses. Its circular central pavilion can seat a gala dinner for up to 1,200, with the acoustics for a live band. Availability and hire are confirmed separately.

iv

The pier and helipad

A private dock where boats can moor, so guests can arrive by water, and a helipad on the estate. We always plan road transport as well, so nothing depends on the lake alone.

The ground floor.



ENTRANCE HALL	118 m² · the heart of the villa; drinks, first dance, up to 500 dancing
ROOM 1	82 m²
ROOM 2	110 m²
ROOM 3	67 m²
ROOM 4	78 m²
ROOM 5	50 m²

Areas from Villa Erba's floor plan. The whole ground floor seats up to 450 guests across the hall and five rooms, or 700 for a standing dinner. The villa's Sala delle Feste suits dinners of around 80.

Dinner at Villa Erba is served across connecting rooms rather than in one hall, which keeps every table close to the architecture: painted ceilings, chandeliers and windows onto the park. We plan the seating so that the rooms feel like one celebration, with speeches and the first dance in the entrance hall.





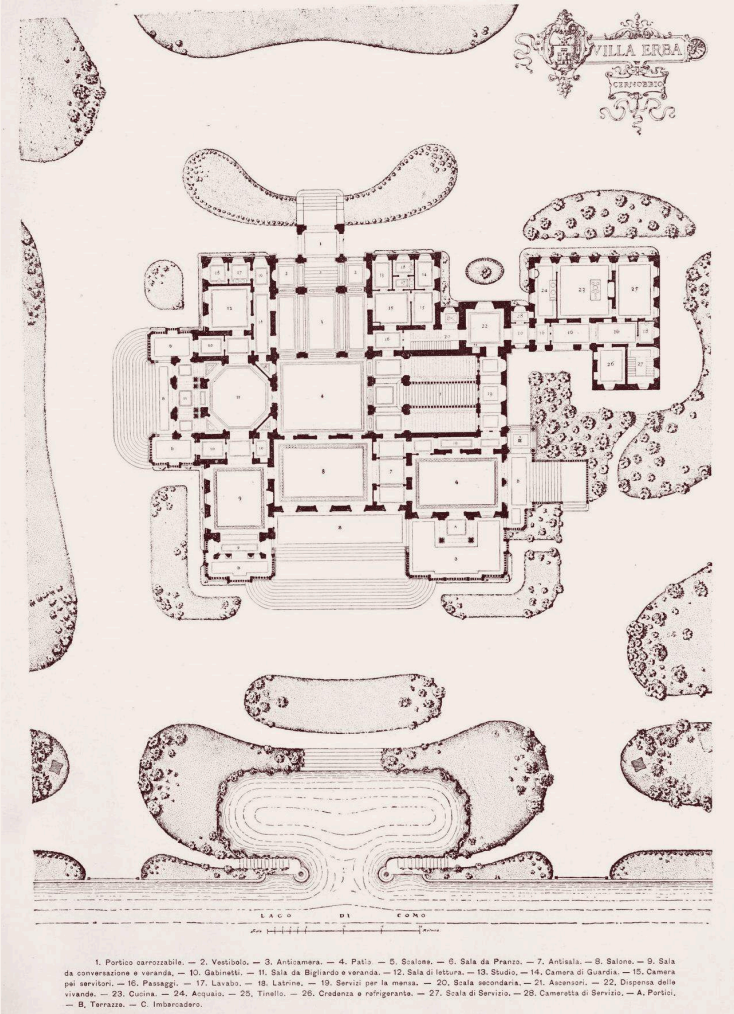
The Erba family's summer house.

Villa Erba was built in the late nineteenth century as the lakeside summer residence of the Erba family. The film director Luchino Visconti, a grandson of the family, spent many childhood summers here, and its rooms later inspired the sets of some of his best-known films.

The first floor keeps the rooms associated with Visconti. On the ground floor, the frescoes, carved and inlaid ceilings and the mannerist rooms are the setting guests remember.

The engraving opposite shows the villa's original plan: the carriage porch, the central hall, the grand staircase, the dining room and the terraces looking down the gardens to the landing on the lake. The same sequence of spaces still shapes a wedding day here.

From the landing on the lake, up the gardens and the terrace steps, into the hall: the way guests arrived a century ago is still the best way in.



1. Portico carrozzabile. — 2. Vestibolo. — 3. Anticamera. — 4. Patio — 5. Scalone. — 6. Sala da Pranzo. — 7. Antisala. — 8. Salone. — 9. Sala da conversazione e veranda. — 10. Gabinetti. — 11. Sala da Biglardo e veranda. — 12. Sala di lettura. — 13. Studio. — 14. Camera di Guardia. — 15. Camera pei servitori. — 16. Passaggi. — 17. Lavabo. — 18. Latrine. — 19. Servizi per la mensa. — 20. Scala secondaria. — 21. Ascensori. — 22. Dispensa delle vivande. — 23. Cucina. — 24. Acquaio. — 25. Tinello. — 26. Credenza e refrigerante. — 27. Scala di Servizio. — 28. Cameretta di Servizio. — A. Portici. — B. Terrazze. — C. Imbarcadero.



04 · STYLING THE VILLA

Designed for the rooms.

The painted walls, chandeliers and parquet already set a strong scene, so the best designs work with them: colour taken from the frescoes, flowers low enough to talk across, candlelight on the gilding.

Long tables and rounds can share one room, and small details, such as printed chair backs or a menu card, carry one idea through the day. We plan flowers, lighting, furniture and stationery together, and agree every installation with the villa in advance.



Close to Milan, right on the water.

Villa Erba is in Cernobbio, on the western shore of Lake Como, a few minutes from the city of Como.

BY AIR	Milan Malpensa about 45 minutes by road, Milan Linate about 60 minutes, and Lugano Agno in Switzerland about 20 minutes. There is a helipad on the estate.
BY TRAIN	Como San Giovanni station is about 10 minutes away, with direct trains from Milan and Switzerland.
BY ROAD	About 1 km from the Lago di Como exit of the A9 motorway, with parking for up to 1,000 cars in the garages next to the estate. We arrange transfers from the airports and between hotels and the villa.
BY WATER	Boat arrivals and transfers from the villa's private pier, where schedules and permissions allow.
STAYING	Hotels in Cernobbio and Como range from grand lakeside houses to smaller family-run places. We set up room blocks so guests can book at an agreed rate.
WEATHER	Every outdoor moment has an indoor alternative, agreed before the wedding, so the decision on the day is simple.





06 · A SAMPLE WEDDING WEEKEND

One day, or a little longer.

Your wedding does not need a fixed format. This is how many couples shape three days at the lake.

FRIDAY EVENING	Welcome dinner or drinks as guests arrive, in a lakeside restaurant or at the villa.
SATURDAY, 4 PM	Ceremony in the gardens, beside the water.
SATURDAY, 5 PM	Aperitivo on the lawns and terrace, with music.
SATURDAY, 8 PM	Dinner in the villa's rooms, then speeches and cake.
SATURDAY, LATE	Dancing in the entrance hall, where up to 500 can dance, or in Le Serre. The villa stands apart from the town, so music can run late; hours beyond 1 am are agreed in advance.
SUNDAY	A relaxed lunch or a boat trip on the lake before guests travel home.

When to decide what.

Popular weekends at the villa are requested well in advance, so the venue comes first. Everything else follows from the date and guest count.

12 TO 18 MONTHS	Choose your date and check availability at Villa Erba. Set the overall budget and appoint your planner.
9 TO 12 MONTHS	Book catering, photography and music. Send save-the-dates and reserve hotel room blocks.
6 TO 9 MONTHS	Develop the design: flowers, lighting, furniture. Plan guest transport. Send invitations.
3 TO 6 MONTHS	Menu tasting, ceremony details and the running order for each event.
1 TO 2 MONTHS	Final guest numbers, seating plans and the confirmed weather alternative.
THE FINAL WEEK	Setup, rehearsal and final checks with every supplier.

If your date is sooner

Weddings can be planned in less time. The deciding factor is whether your date is free at the villa; once it is, we work the other bookings around it.

Planning from abroad

Most of the planning happens by video call and email. We organise a visit to the villa where possible, ideally combined with the menu tasting.

Symbolic or legal: both are possible.

A symbolic ceremony

Held in the gardens or the villa, with the words, readings, music and traditions you choose, and led by a celebrant, a friend or a family member. It carries no legal paperwork in Italy, which makes it the simplest choice for couples from abroad.

Many couples marry legally at home, shortly before or after, and celebrate the ceremony that matters to them at the villa.

A legal wedding

A legally binding wedding in Italy follows the rules of the local municipality and depends on your nationality and documents. Religious ceremonies have their own requirements.

We explain which options apply to you early on, because paperwork can take several months.

Traditions from your families, such as a second ceremony, a tea ceremony, particular music or a blessing, can be built into the day. Tell us about them early and we plan the spaces and timings around them.

In the gardens, a ceremony can face the lake, with the mountains behind. A structure dressed with flowers frames the couple for guests and for the photographs, and the same flowers can move indoors if the weather turns.



The figures couples ask for first.

A COMPLETE WEDDING FOR 100 TO 150 GUESTS

from about €140,000

Venue, catering, planning, flowers and decoration, lighting and sound, music, photography, ceremony and guest transfers for the wedding day, including VAT. Accommodation and flights are not included.

VILLA ERBA VENUE HIRE	€26,000 to €30,000 + 22% VAT, depending on guest numbers
HOURS INCLUDED	5 pm to 1 am; later closing is quoted separately
CATERING	from €220 per guest + 10% VAT, 100 guests minimum
VENUE AND CATERING, 100 GUESTS	from about €56,000 including VAT
VENUE AND CATERING, 150 GUESTS	from about €68,000 including VAT

Based on Villa Erba's 2027 wedding information; confirmed by the venue for your date.

What sets the budget

- Date and season
- Guest count
- Which spaces you hire
- How many events
- Design and entertainment

Costs couples often miss

- Extra setup or breakdown days
- Covered structures for the weather plan
- Late-night extensions
- Italian VAT on supplier invoices
- Airport transfers and supplier meals

Before you choose a planner.

Ask any planner, us included. The answers tell you how the wedding will actually run.

- ☐ Which of the villa's spaces would you use for our guest count, and why?
- ☐ What exactly does your fee include, and how do supplier commissions work?
- ☐ Can we see each supplier's proposal, not just a total?
- ☐ What is the weather plan for each part of the day?
- ☐ How do guests get from the airport, the hotels and back each night?
- ☐ Who will be on site on the day, and from what time?
- ☐ What happens if we need to change the guest count or the date?

HOW WE WORK

1

We start with you. Guest list, dates, budget and priorities, on a first call.

2

We check the villa. Availability, hire arrangements and a first budget built from current proposals.

3

We plan the details. Suppliers, design, bookings, payment schedules, all in one plan.

4

We run the day. One schedule, every team coordinated, so you can be with your guests.



la villa
WEDDINGS

Tell us your date and guest count.

We check both with Villa Erba and reply within two working days.

HELLO@LAVILLAWEDDINGS.COM

LAVILLAWEDDINGS.COM

INDEPENDENT PLANNERS · NOT PART OF VILLA ERBA

© 2026 LA VILLA WEDDINGS