

# Holiday Homes at Lake Orta

## Booking Procedure - Terms & Conditions - 'All In' promise - Policies

Version 110 effective from 29-3-2015. Amendments 25-8-2016, 11-2-2017, 6-12-2017 and 2-1-2018.

### Booking Process

Our booking process is as follows:

- please email (or telephone) indicating the number in your party and the period and property (or properties) you are interested in, with the ages of any under-21s in your group;
- a **30% booking deposit** is required to reserve an apartment;
- we confirm your booking by email or post (email will be used wherever possible, except if you request a written receipt);
- the **balance plus a returnable security deposit** is due eight weeks before the first day of occupancy;
- on receipt of the balance we send you a receipt and location pack containing:
  - directions to arrive at the property;
  - key location and access arrangements;
  - an inventory, so you can see in advance exactly what's there;
  - comprehensive notes about the property, recommended local restaurants, notes on local shops and other local facilities;
  - set of local walks, most of which start from your front door.
- your returnable security deposit is returned (less deductions if any) by bank transfer after your stay, generally within 48 hours of your departure (plus the time for the bank transfer).

### Terms

A **30% booking deposit** is required to reserve accommodation, and full payment (including a returnable security deposit) is required within eight weeks of the first day of occupancy.

A returnable security deposit of **£100** is required, to cover breakages or any other unpaid costs or expenses. If you are paying in euros, the returnable security deposit is **€120**. If you are paying in US dollars, the returnable security deposit is **US\$150**.

*For Villa Heureka, the security deposit is **£200 / €240 / US\$300**.*

### Payment - UK Residents

**Direct Bank Transfers** are encouraged, please ask for details of our account.

**Cheques** should be in pounds sterling .

- For apartments in Villa Gelsomina, cheques should be payable to **Villa Gelsomina Limited**
- For all other apartments, cheques should be payable to **William Schwitzer**

Your returnable security deposit will normally be returned by direct bank transfer.

### Payment - non-UK Residents

If you are located outside the U.K., the following payment methods are available:

- If you are located in the euro zone, **direct bank transfers in euros** to our euro account are encouraged, please ask for our account details. *Bank charges for euro transfers are usually very low or free.*

- If you are located outside Europe, **credit card payments online in US\$** are welcome through **PayPal**. Please ask for details of how to make payment online by PayPal. *Using this payment method, you do not incur any charges.*
- **Bank transfer** ("wire transfers") to our sterling account are welcome, please ask for details. *Please note that if using this method, you should opt to pay all bank charges incurred.*

Your returnable security deposit will be returned:

- Within the euro zone, we will return your security deposit by **direct bank transfer**. *No bank charges are incurred.*
- If you paid by PayPal, we will return your security deposit by **PayPal**. *You do not incur any charges.*
- If you are outside the euro zone and paid by bank transfer, we will return your security deposit by **direct bank transfer**. *Please note that if using this method, the bank charges will be deducted from the amount sent.*

When paying by **PayPal**, the balance payment is only required within **six** weeks of your arrival date. *This allows us to use the PayPal refund facility to return your security deposit without further PayPal charges.*

## Quotations

Please note that prices in US\$ or euro € on our web sites are subject to variation as a result of exchange rate movements, so please always check with us for an up-to-date quotation.

Quotations are generally guaranteed in the currency in which they are quoted, however we reserve the right to recalculate balance payments based on the pound sterling price in force at the time of the quotation and the latest exchange rates, if exchange rate movements are more than 10%.

## Stays shorter than a week

We accept stays shorter than a week, depending on the apartment and time of year, as follows.

Apartment	October through April	May through September
Panorama, Paradiso, Dolce Vita, Ciao Sole!, Ciao Italia!, Casa Fiori, Villa Heureka	min. 5 days	min. 7 days
Isola	min. 4 days	

*Where there is a gap shorter than the above minimum period, we will of course be happy to accept a booking to fill the gap.*

Our pricing basis for stays less than a week is as follows.

Apartment	Cost for stays less than 7 days
Panorama, Paradiso, Dolce Vita, Ciao Sole!, Ciao Italia!, Villa Heureka, Casa Fiori, Isola.	10% reduction off weekly price for each day less than a week

## Validity of Offers

When we confirm that an apartment is available, the offer is valid for 48 hours, unless we state differently. If we do not hear from you within 48 hours, we will assume that you are no longer interested, and may offer the apartment to someone else.

If you need more time to decide, please let us know within/every 48 hours, allowing us to confirm back to you that you still hold the option on the apartment.

We cannot hold more than one apartment for you (unless of course you are interested in booking more than one). If you need more time to decide between apartments, ask us to hold your first choice apartment.

Once you have confirmed that you want to book, we will then agree the time is necessary to pay the booking deposit, usually a few days. Please confirm by email when you have made payment.

If we do not receive payment in the agreed timescale, and have not heard from you, we will contact you and give you 48 hours to confirm that you are still interested.

## Alterations to bookings

Changes to the number of occupants must be notified to us in good time, so that we can provide the correct linen and towels, but do not incur any charge (except where we have quoted you a special rate dependent on the number of occupants). The stated maximum occupancy of the apartment cannot be exceeded under any circumstances.

Changes to arrival and departure days, where we are able to accommodate you, attract a booking alteration fee of **£10 / €12 / US\$15**. Reductions in the length of stay will be treated as for cancellations (see below).

## Cancellations

The returnable security deposit (if already paid) will always be returned in full.

*Up to eight weeks before occupancy:* we refund payment made, less 25% of the total weekly rental;

*From eight to four weeks before occupancy:* we refund payment made, less 50% of the total weekly rental;

*Within four weeks of occupancy:* no refund is normally made.

Cancellations should be emailed or phoned, and followed up by letter explaining the circumstances of the cancellation.

## 'All In' promise

We ask for a returnable security deposit (as detailed under Terms and Conditions above). Other than that, and the one exception in the table below (cots for Isola), **our prices are fully inclusive of all services, there are no hidden extra charges.**

'All In' promise	Costs are:
Bed linen	<b>included</b> (except for cots)
Towels	<b>included</b> (but not beach towels), 2 towels per person
Final cleaning	<b>included</b> (but we ask you to leave the apartment in a reasonable state; if the apartment is not left in a reasonable state we reserve the right to charge final cleaning costs from your security deposit)
Electricity	<b>Included</b>
Gas	<b>included</b>
Telephone	<b>included</b> (where available, which is for incoming and local calls only)
Extra person	<b>included</b> up to the stated maximum for the apartment which cannot be exceeded; must always be notified to us (see above under Alterations and below under Guests); unless we make a special offer with a maximum number of occupants.
Cot	<b>included</b> (subject to availability) except for Isola for which there is a charge of £30 per week or part week. <i>Note that linen is not provided for cots.</i>

## Winter Heating

For all apartments, charges for hot water, gas for cooking, and winter heating are **included**, subject to reasonable use i.e. if usage is unreasonable we reserve the right to charge from your

security deposit at **€1.00 per cubic metre** for the full amount of gas used. Please therefore do as you would at home, e.g. turn the temperature setting down if you are out for the day.

## Availability of Facilities and Services

Where essential equipment in your apartment (i.e. the boiler for hot water and heating, the cooker, or the fridge) are broken or unavailable, we aim to fix these as soon as possible, and if we are unable to fix these within one working day (excluding weekends and Italian public holidays), we will endeavour to provide alternative accommodation to a similar standard. Should this not be possible, any refund will be limited to the cost of the accommodation that is unavailable.

All other facilities and services are provided on a best endeavours basis. We will do our best to provide the services and facilities advertised, but we do not accept liability where these are unavailable through no fault of our own. In particular, please note:

- Swimming pools can occasionally be unavailable, if, for example after heavy rain or contamination by guests, the water quality deteriorates. For all apartments with pools, we regularly check the pH in order to actively maintain the quality of the water, however once the water quality is thrown off balance it can take 24 hours or longer to bring it back to normal levels. You can help us in this regard by reporting immediately any observed change in the water quality.
- We are dependent on external services for water, electricity, gas or telephone. In this regard please note that water and electricity supplies in this rural part of Italy are occasionally affected by adverse weather conditions, and no liability will be accepted where these services are unavailable.
- If any non-essential equipment or fixture (including the washing machine, hair-drier, iron, local or satellite television, video player, DVD player, or any other fittings or fixtures) are broken or unavailable, we will endeavour to fix or replace them within 2 working days (excluding weekends and Italian public holidays). However if we are unable to fix or replace these non-essential items, no refund will be made.
- In apartments where offered, wi-fi internet access is provided on a best endeavours basis, and no responsibility will be accepted if signal strength is insufficient, or if you are unable to gain access for any reason whatsoever, so please do not rely on availability of internet services.

## Access to Internet Router

Where a router providing a wifi internet service is physically situated in your apartment, you are not authorised to switch it on or off or make any adjustment to any switch or setting on the router, except under our explicit guidance following a request for assistance. This applies to all apartments, even if the service is only for your apartment.

The router should be on when you arrive, and the network name and password detailed in your location pack are all you need to access the service. If for any reason this is not the case, please double check your set up first, and if you believe there is a problem with the router or the service, please contact us through the assistance numbers provided.

In you modify or reset the router settings and we need to attend in person (during or after your stay) to re-establish the service we reserve the right to charge up to the full amount of your security deposit.

## Guests

The names of all occupants of your apartment or villa, together with the ages of all under 21s, must be given to us, and we must be kept informed of any changes. We do not allow you to invite guests into your holiday home, the grounds, or (where applicable) the swimming pool. You are not allowed to have any sort of party or event in your apartment, however informal.

## Contact Details

The full contact details of all occupants are required, for us to be able to contact each family group at home and whilst in Italy (non-urgent communication whilst you are in Italy would normally be by text message so that you don't incur any cost). Where there are unrelated adults that live at different addresses staying in the same apartment, we require the full contact details of each adult. The requirement to be able to contact you directly applies even if your booking is made by an agent, or by a close relative staying in another of our apartments.

## Pets

In a few apartments we allow pets (always check with us when making a booking). Where we do, your dog is welcome, but must be well behaved and able to comply with all of the following points:

- your dog must be friendly to strangers, not bark unnecessarily, and not bark at all between 2200 and 0800;
- your dog should not be on sofas and armchairs;
- no evidence must be left in the garden, grounds, condominium, or nearby.

Please do not make a booking with us unless you are able and intend to fully comply with each of these points.

## Smoking

Smoking is allowed except where indicated for specific apartments (please always check with us when making a booking).

Even where smoking is allowed, we would prefer if you could try and smoke outside, as the smoke can linger in apartments, be difficult to eliminate from furnishings and your apartment, and thereby risk annoyance to the occupants after you.

Where heavy smoking has taken place inside the apartments and we have to wash covers/carpets, we reserve the right to charge these extra costs from your security deposit.

Any cleaning up of cigarette butts inside or outside the apartments will always be considered extra cleaning, and will be subtracted from your deposit.

## Grounds Maintenance

To maintain the gardens of Villa Gelsomina, we need to periodically cut the grass and undertake other work in the grounds. In the spring and summer this is necessary about once every 2 weeks. In the summer period from June to September, we try to limit grounds maintenance at Villa Gelsomina to the Saturday changeover period, but this is not guaranteed and is not always possible. Any noise from lawnmowers or strimmers is wherever possible limited to the period 0930 to 1700.

If we know in advance that grounds maintenance work needs to be undertaken mid-week, we will advise you by text the day before. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused, but regular grounds maintenance is necessary, and occasionally work may need to take place mid-week, in which case we ask for your understanding and patience.

## Local Taxes

We pay all applicable local taxes on your behalf. For Villa Gelsomina we pay the *Imposta di Soggiorno* (Tourist Tax) charged by the *Comune di Ameno* (deliberation n. 2 of 26/3/2015) at the current rate of €1 per adult per night, reduced to €0.50 from the 6<sup>th</sup> day of your stay. Children less than 13 years old are exempt. Ask if you require a receipt.

## Previous Versions of Terms and Conditions

For reference, older versions of our Terms & Conditions are available (as PDF files):

**Version 110 revised 2-1-2018** <http://www.LakeOrta.com/pdf/tandc110.pdf> (*this version*)

**Version 109 effective 5-5-2014** <http://www.LakeOrta.com/pdf/tandc109.pdf>

**Version 108 effective 5-1-2014** <http://www.LakeOrta.com/pdf/tandc108.pdf>

**Version 107 effective 18-4-2013** <http://www.LakeOrta.com/pdf/tandc107.pdf>

**Version 106 effective 1-12-2011** <http://www.LakeOrta.com/pdf/tandc106.pdf>