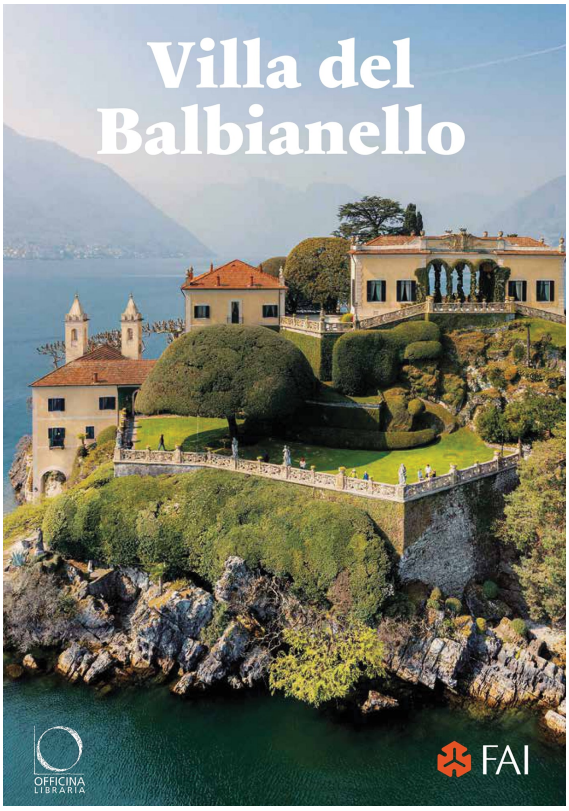
TITLE INFORMATION
Tel: +44 (0) 1394 389950
Email: uksales@accartbooks.com
Web: https://www.accartbooks.com/uk



Villa del Balbianello

Guide

Edited by Lucia Borromeo Dina

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- Guide in a handy format, suited for different kinds of visitors, with many high quality images
- Complete overview of an important historical site on Lake Como, a major Italian tourist attraction (19.7 million tourists in 2025)
- The villa's collections include pieces of Chinese, Maya and Indian art; of particular note is the section of Inuit ivory, comprised of 300 figurines, the largest collection outside Greenland

Perched on the green promontory of Lavedo, Villa del Balbianello overlooks Lake Como, embodying a rare harmony between history and landscape. It developed from a medieval hermitage to Cardinal Durini's 18th-century salon; from the setting for the Risorgimento passions of the Porro Lambertenghi and Arconati Visconti families to the cosmopolitan vision of Guido Monzino – executive, explorer and collector. Each era has left a recognisable mark, still noticeable in the rooms, amidst historic furnishings, travel maps and art collections from diverse cultures around the world. The garden, tended with meticulous care, offers paths through belvederes and terraces that open onto sweeping views, in the shade of expertly pruned plane trees, capable of enchanting travellers, writers and filmmakers (it was the set for scenes of *Star Wars* and *Casino Royale*). In retracing the history of the villa and its protagonists, this guide aims to serve as an essential resource to help visitors appreciate the cultural value of one of the most iconic sites on Lake Como.

Lucia Borromeo Dina, following a long association with the Bagatti Valsecchi Museum in Milan, joined the FAI in 1998. There she established the Conservation Department, dedicating herself to the preservation and scientific cataloguing of the Foundation's artworks and to opening house museums to the public in Lombardy, Veneto, Tuscany and Liguria, including Villa Necchi Campiglio in Milan. She subsequently focused her work on overseeing the publication of guides to individual properties and other FAI publications.

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