





## The main altar inside San Giorgio's



## Our Table

As the sun begins to drop behind the mountain, it is time to turn to a more important task: dinner. For a small village, Varenna has a wealth of wonderful food. Most typical is Cavatappi (it means “cork puller”), about twenty yards down our street. It has five tables in a room no larger than my grandmother’s dining room. This is remarkable for a restaurant, considering that in much of Italy, a table belongs to you all evening. So, they serve five magnificent dinners and call it a night. But by far the best food we have tasted in Italy is Egiddio’s cooking right in the restaurant of the small hotel where we have stayed each of our three visits: Albergo Milano. Our favorite table is by far the most beautiful spot to have dinner we have seen anywhere in the world.

So, if you've observed that not much happened on this day in Varenna, you'd be right. It could be a full-time job if it paid better; but it is not without its compensations. The mind is enriched with simplicity. The eyes are filled with colors, the ears with natural melodies, and the heart with a particular local sweetness. One could do a lot worse than to be a "doer of nothing" in Varenna.

## Getting There

- A thirty-minute bus ride from Milan's Malpensa airport to Milano Centrale train station
- A breathtaking 55-minute train ride from Milano Centrale to tiny Varenna-Esino station (watch for it, the train stops for ONE minute and, depending on how long the train is, you might not see the station when it stops)
- A 5-10-minute walk to any hotel in town.

## Staying There

(We are returning here for the fourth time in 2010)

- Albergo Milano is a dream, with some of the best views and food anywhere.

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"Buona Sera!"

