Lake Como proposal checklist

Everything to tick off before you ask, from the first idea to the hour after the yes. Written by Anton and Sabina, two filmmakers who live in Como and have filmed more than 50 proposals on the lake.

Two to three months before

- [ ] Choose the season and two or three possible dates. Spring to autumn dates fill early.
- [ ] Pick the kind of place: a villa garden, a quiet village corner, a private boat or a hotel terrace.
- [ ] Book your photographer or filmmaker first, then everything else around their date.
- [ ] Check the villa's rules: most gardens need a paid photo or film permit booked in advance. Villa Monastero asks for at least 14 days.
- [ ] Book flights into Milan Malpensa, Linate or Bergamo, and a place to stay near your spot.

One month before

- [ ] Book the villa slot, the boat with a captain (and a second boat if you want it filmed from the water), flowers or dinner.
- [ ] Decide the cover story: a walk before dinner, a boat trip, a "photoshoot", a sunset drink.
- [ ] Agree the plan with your filmmaker by WhatsApp or email only, never on a shared calendar.
- [ ] Plan a reason for your partner to dress up, and choose your own outfit and comfortable shoes.
- [ ] Check sunset time for your date and plan the moment in the last hour of good light.

The week before

- [ ] The ring goes in your carry-on, never in checked luggage. Swap a bulky box for a slim one or a pouch.
- [ ] Agree a rain plan: a covered spot, another time of day, or a second date if everyone's calendar allows.
- [ ] Save your filmmaker's number, the pin of the spot and the photo of where to stand.
- [ ] Tell as few people as possible. Share the news after the yes.

The day before

- [ ] Check the forecast together with your filmmaker and confirm plan A or plan B.
- [ ] Confirm times with the villa, the boat captain, the florist or the restaurant.
- [ ] Decide which pocket the ring goes in, and practise taking it out once.
- [ ] Think of three things you want to say: a memory, why them, the question.

On the day

- [ ] Charge your phone and keep the pin of the spot ready.
- [ ] Leave early: ferries, parking and paths take longer than maps say.
- [ ] Walk to the exact spot so your partner faces the camera.
- [ ] Stop, turn to your partner, say the name, then kneel.
- [ ] Open the box with the ring facing your partner.
- [ ] Ask the question. Then wait: the yes takes a second.
- [ ] Stay for portraits after the yes, while the emotions are real.
- [ ] Keep half an hour free before dinner.

Pack for the day

- [ ] The ring, in a zipped inside pocket
- [ ] Two clear umbrellas, just in case
- [ ] Shoes with grip for stone paths and boats
- [ ] A light layer for the evening on the water
- [ ] Tickets or the villa booking confirmation
- [ ] Tissues. You will need them.

Want us to film or photograph it?

We plan the surprise with you, stay out of sight until the question and deliver your photos and film within two weeks. Photos start from €1,000, and so does a film; travel around Lake Como is included.

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