



REGIONE DEL VENETO



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Imagine Veneto
Veneto is everything you
could imagine



Veneto
The Land of Venice

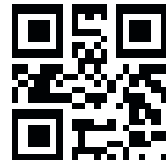
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Veneto Region: thousands of emotions to experience

There is a reason if Veneto is the Italian region that has the highest tourist influx. Actually, there are many reasons: first of all, its extensive, diversified and high-quality reception, thanks to a welcoming organization designed and conceived to offer only the best to its visitors; then its immensurable environmental and artistic heritage; modern sports infrastructures; health and wellness; its excellent land and sea cuisine; among the best wines in the world; the appeal of its ancient history; its friendly and warm people... Veneto is anything and everything: the extraordinary splendour of the Dolomites, mountains to enjoy in the winter on ski slopes and in the summer on breath-taking hiking itineraries; its seaside with many sandy beach resorts, lively night-life, sports and unforgettable wine and food experiences; its green hills, with ancient hamlets and wine routes; and Lake Garda, an amazing world unto itself to enjoy day trips, baths, events and amusement parks. With countless astonishing nuances, ideal for a weekend getaway as well as for a long holiday, Veneto is a tourism-oriented territory, as its many excellent hotels, holiday farms, bed & breakfasts, apartment hotels, relais, historical villas, luxury camp-sites, amazing restaurants and classy stores clearly show.

In the Veneto land, you can also enjoy a spa holiday - internationally known and appreciated and boast high-standard equipment - or you can discover our art centres, among the most visited in Italy: magical Venice, Palladian Vicenza, Verona with its Arena and legendary opera season, Padua with Giotto's frescos and the Basilica of Saint Anthony, Treviso with its ancient palaces, its waters, its prestigious exhibits, Belluno with its elegant historical centre and its majestic Duomo, Rovigo with its refined Loggia dei Notari and its rich Art Gallery... Then there are places of international standing, such as the beautiful Asolo, much loved by Eleonora Duse, cities surrounded by finely preserved medieval walls, such as Cittadella and Montagnana, amazing nature reserves to discover by bike or on foot, smaller cities full of precious treasures, the routes of the Great War between the Asiago Plateau and Monte Grappa, Bassano with its Wooden Bridge suspended over the Brenta river and Jacopo da Ponte (known as "Bassano") paintings... Beauty, history, nature, art, flavours, colours and magnificent landscapes everywhere. A journey with countless destinations, one more interesting than the other, each one marvellously unforgettable.



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View of the Canal Grande toward the Chiesa della Salute - Venice

Venice, a gem to treasure

Classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987, Venice and its lagoon are a one-of-a-kind ecosystem that must be preserved and protected, given its unique vulnerability. This is precisely why the city supports a sustainable tourism to protect its integrity. There are many associations, agencies and institutions that offer a conscious tour of Venice, by suggesting alternative routes to a “hit and run” tourism in search of a more secretive and authentic Venice.

A city for all seasons

The thing about Venice is that it will always surprise you, in any season. Whenever you choose to go, the city will be ready to welcome you, surprise you and let you have a good time. Every season has its perks, its special atmospheres, its international events: the Venice Film Festival at the end of August, the Carnival with its merry calendar in the winter, the Vogalonga and Marriage of the Sea ceremony in spring, and the Festa del Redentore in the summer. However, the city of the Doges is perfect to visit and enjoy also in its every-day life... washing lines on windows and terraces, the clamour of people passing by, houses and palaces as lace on water...

Unusual itineraries

If you already know San Marco, Rialto and Palazzo Ducale in Venice, or if you already visited Palazzo Grassi with its art exhibitions and the churches embellished by Tiziano and Tintoretto's paintings, take some time to visit the most unusual parts of Venice, such as the quaint Fish Market, or leave the Canal Grande behind and sail with a gondola on the innermost streams along silent squares and roads. Then pamper yourself by visiting the Venice of luxury brands, which includes the 16th century Fontego dei Tedeschi, the former Palazzo delle Poste renovated by Rem Koolhaas and transformed into a prestigious shopping temple with haute couture brands and Venetian high craftsmanship shops. It has an amazing architecture: three arcaded floors with inner courtyard, illuminated by a gigantic skylight from above and a freely accessible breath-taking terrace with an impressive view of the city. Countless emotions in Venice. Don't miss the Jewish ghetto with its ancient synagogues. You can get there easily from Ponte delle Guglie in Strada Nuova to dive into its peculiar atmosphere. From here, you can reach the Fondamenta Nuove and a long route streaked with peculiar sights, such as Campo dei Mori, named after the four 13th century statues enclosed in the façade of a house on the corner.



View of the Canal Grande and of the Ponte di Rialto - Venice

Going to “bàcari”, a Venetian custom

“Bàcari” are the meeting spots of the real Venice. If you want to get to know the truer and more secret city, take a tour of the authentic Venetian corners, atmospheres and flavours, off the usual tourist routes. You can recognize a typical bàcaro, or bacarèto, by some unmistakable details: an old sign, a long bar, its warm, rustic and “seasoned” dark wood furniture, the conversations among the clients almost always in heavy Venetian dialect. Unleash the foodie in you and choose between the many “cichèti” - small meat, cold cuts, cheese and fish tapas - make sure to taste the meatballs, the creamed codfish, the Venetian-style “spienza” (spleen), the small octopus, the “sarde in saor”, the marinated or fried anchovies, the pumpkin “in saor”... One last thing, douse it with a glass of “honest” wine.



Typical “cichèti” plate

Beauty and fun

The city will wait for you while you take a break: it is the largest pedestrian zone in the world; no stress, just the desire to stroll, look, being charmed by a shop window, a palace, a square where the only sound is children laughing and playing... Therefore, in Venice surprises are everywhere and you always bump into something interesting: antique stores, workshops where you can witness a papier-mâché mask being made, niche bookshops and tailor's shop specialized in creating 18th century clothes, those that you usually see parading along the alley during the Carnival period. Let's not forget the entertainment: the Casino with its gaming tables, the famous Harry's Bar on Calle Vallaresso for happy hour and the Fenice, the beautiful theatre which has risen from “its ashes” after a tremendous fire destroyed it. Its broad agenda offers many occasions to listen to some fine music or to see a quality show.



Masks in the Bacino di San Marco

Art and culture

You can't miss the Magazzini del Sale in Dorsoduro, renovated by Renzo Piano by the will of sculptor and painter Emilio Vedova and his wife, who wanted to transform them in a cultural centre to house exhibits and events. The great artist Vedova used to work here, at the Zattere, and his lab, which is open to visit, was set in a 16th century "squero", an ancient workshop where shipwrights built Venetian boats. Talking about artworks, Venice boasts several modern and contemporary arts temples: Ca' Pesaro with works by Klimt, Rodin, Kandinsky and Klee, the Guggenheim Museum with works by Picasso, Mondrian, Mirò, Ernst, Duchamp, Giacometti and Magritte, Palazzo Fortuny with the precious artworks and collections of its namesake owner, and the Biennale, of course, with its art, architecture, dance, theatre and music programs...



Monks of the Basilica of San Marco

Venice Lido, the Venetian beach

The Venice Lido awaits you with other vibes; a unique place for its Liberty villas and luxury hotels, the exclusive background of the Venice Film Festival which summons enthusiasts from all over the world at the end of August. The Lido, with plenty of historical and naturalistic surprises, such as the ancient monastery of San Nicolò, the picture-perfect town of Malamocco

and the WWF Oasis "Dune degli Alberoni", has always been the Venetian beach. With its sandy beaches and its sloping seabed, it is perfect for families with children. It houses the impressive "cabanas", the fabled large cabins with veranda and tent on private beaches, fully-fledged beach "living rooms" to relax and hang out. There are also nice free beaches: Alberoni and San Nicolò, with their sandy dunes, the popular Blumoon and, lastly, Murazzi, for those who prefer the reef.



Venice Lido



Golden Lion - Venice Film Festival

The islands, a tour you don't want to miss

Venice would not be Venice without its amazing lagoon, a world of heart-breaking environments, intense landscapes, ancient fishing valleys, untapped sandbanks and silent islands swept by majestic or rapid storms of seagulls, mallards, stilt plovers, little terns, egrets, white and grey herons, coots and marsh harriers. An archipelago to explore by boat, perhaps booking a day trip that will let you discover an astounding world. There are many docks: the popular Murano and Burano, the glass and embroidery islands, and minor islands such as Sant'Elena, on the eastern edge of the city, in the Castello district, in the lesser-known Venice. And also San Michele, with its monumental cemetery, Giudecca with folk atmospheres and yet home of the star-studded Cipriani, San Servolo transformed into an internationally-renowned cultural centre, San Lazzaro with its Armenian Mechitarist monks, San Giorgio in front of San Marco, Torcello full of archaeological finds, churches and museums, San Erasmo that houses the Venetian gardens, and, south of Burano, the isolated and spiritual San Francesco del Deserto. There are other two gems to complete this island hopping: San Clemente and Mazzorbo, two oases of peace where first fruits and rare native grape varieties are farmed, enhanced by exclusive hotels and Michelin-starred restaurants.



Aerial view of the lagoon



San Giorgio Island



Canal in Burano

Venetian beaches, the European sea

An endless succession of sandy shores gently sloping in blue water, Venetian beaches are a paradise for seaside holidays. Perfect to enjoy the sea and the sun, every year they quench the desire for relaxation and fun of millions of tourists from all over the world, by housing the best opportunities for pleasant stays and also an exciting array of possibilities, ranging from cultural and sporting events, to entertainment for all ages.

From Rosolina to Pellestrina

A veritable universe richer and more varied than could be imagined, starting from Rosolina Mare, surrounded by a thick pine forest rich in wildlife, overlooking a large beach in a sea perfect for enjoying long baths.

Then Chioggia, the small Venice, which, apart from the large Sottomarina beach,



Beach



A walk on the promenade - Bibione



Beach establishment

houses a lively historical centre with its bustling Thursday market and the evocative fishmonger with freshly caught fish. And fish is the true protagonist of the quirky country festival where you can taste the best recipes of Chioggia cuisine in mid-July. Off the coast, a fantastic surprise for scuba divers: the *tegnùe*, amazing reefs built over thousands of years by calcareous red algae, inhabited by sponges, colonial ascidians, anemones, hermit crabs, lobsters, damselfish, redbfish, congers, corvinas... Pellestrina Island is also worth a visit: with a maximum width of 200 meters, yet 13 kilometres long, it will win you over with its fishing villages suspended between the lagoon and the Adriatic Sea, ancestral worlds where you can enjoy a stroll or bathe and take a break tasting seafood and a nice glass of white wine.

From Punta Sabbioni to Bibione

An amazing destination for nature lovers, Cavallino Treporti shore is perfect for those in search for outdoor vacations with all the comforts. It houses over thirty high-end campsites on an endless beach, all offering the best to their guests: swimming pools, sports structures, entertainment, shows, hiking, biking and boat itineraries to discover the lagoon, the fishing valleys, Treporti, the 18th century Lio Piccolo town and the fortifications from the Austrian period and from the two Great Wars: strongholds, barracks, bunkers and fortified towers to explore among gardens and fabulous landscapes.



The astonishing Jesolo is much different, with its endless evening promenade, full of food and shopping temptations, restaurants, pizzerias, ice cream shops, bakeries, boutiques, jewellery stores, leather shops, shoe stores and any type of entertainment. Jesolo offers a wide range of entertaining options: water parks, funfairs, discos, aquariums with tropical fish, exhibits of rare and exotic animals, mazes, boat trips, golf courses, shows, cultural events, an international sand sculpture festival... For those looking for a quiet holiday in an ancient and thick pine forest, the ideal choice is Eraclea, surrounded by the dunes of the shore painted by the pink of the tamarisks; while you are here, take a trip to the natural reserve of the Laguna del Mort, a magical location to visit by foot, bike or horse to discover its sweetest and most evocative corners. At the beginning of October, it houses the Festa dei Dogi, a trip back in time among beautiful period costumes and ancient crafts. If you want to enjoy your holidays in a small city with large beaches and ancient traditions, then your destination should be Caorle, a picture-perfect town with multi-coloured houses and cobblestone alleys, where



Jesolo



A walk on the shore

thousand-year-old fishing traditions are externalized, and with a nice historical centre with many things to see, such as the Duomo with the original cylindrical bell tower, and the Sanctuary of the Madonna dell'Angelo, on a steep promontory overlooking the sea. All around the charm of the lagoon that inspired Hemingway, the old casoni, the reflections on the water, the nature oasis of Vallevicchia... Don't miss "La Luna nel Pozzo", an international street theatre festival at the beginning of September. Our last beach destination is Bibione, an ideal location for families, which was founded just sixty years ago, in balance with nature. Very quiet, it offers biking routes among pine and oak forests and an excellent wellness centre right on the beach. It houses great events, including the White Asparagus Festival in April and the September Fest dedicated to grapes and wine. Lastly, in the inland, there is Concordia Sagittaria, the ancient Julia Concordia, a nice destination to stroll around and to visit its many ancient monuments: St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Roman bridge and walls, the baptistery and the museum full of archaeological finds.



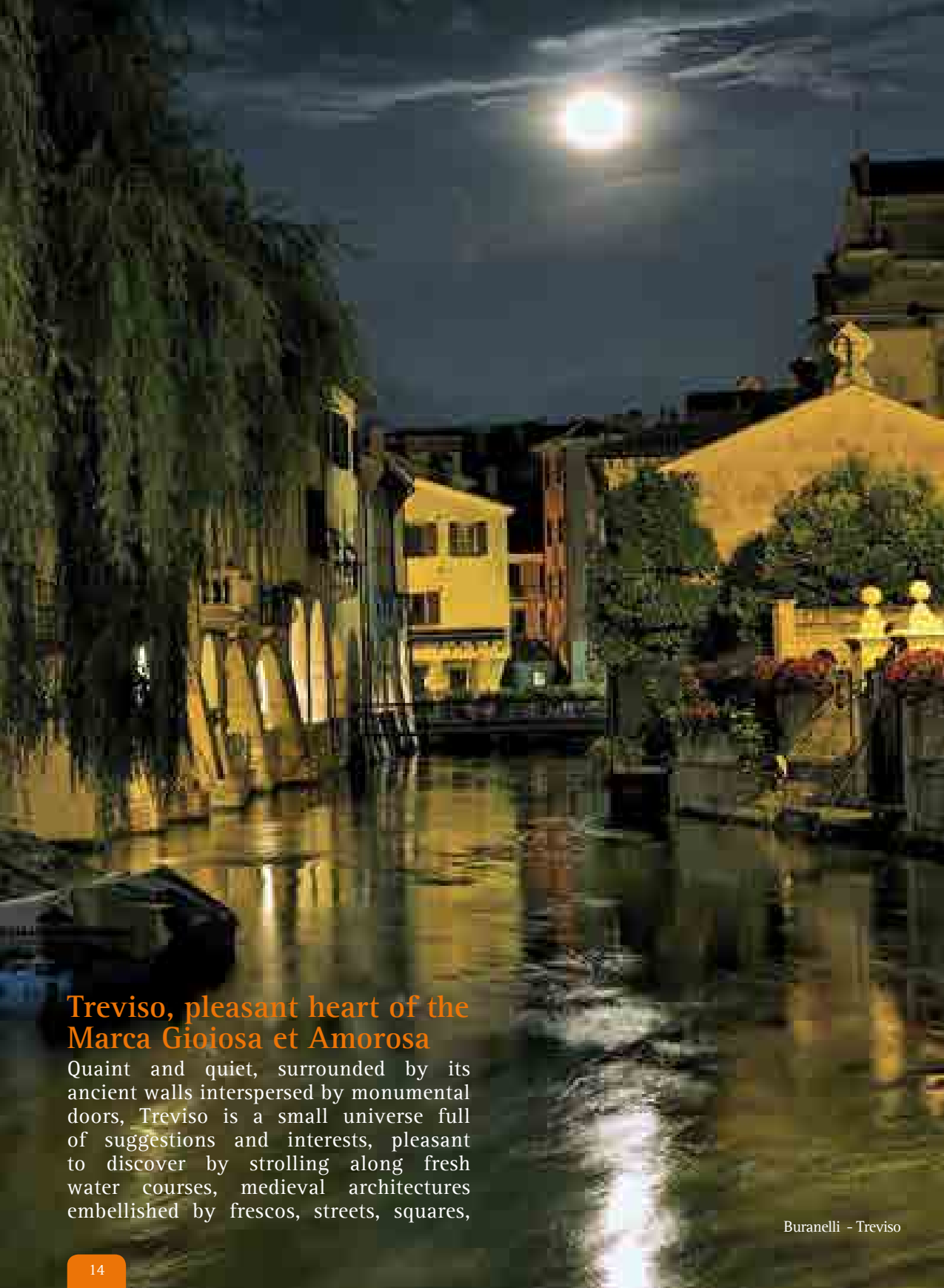
Sailing school - Caorle



Casoni - Caorle



Caribe Bay - Jesolo



Treviso, pleasant heart of the Marca Gioiosa et Amatora

Quaint and quiet, surrounded by its ancient walls interspersed by monumental doors, Treviso is a small universe full of suggestions and interests, pleasant to discover by strolling along fresh water courses, medieval architectures embellished by frescos, streets, squares,

Buranelli - Treviso

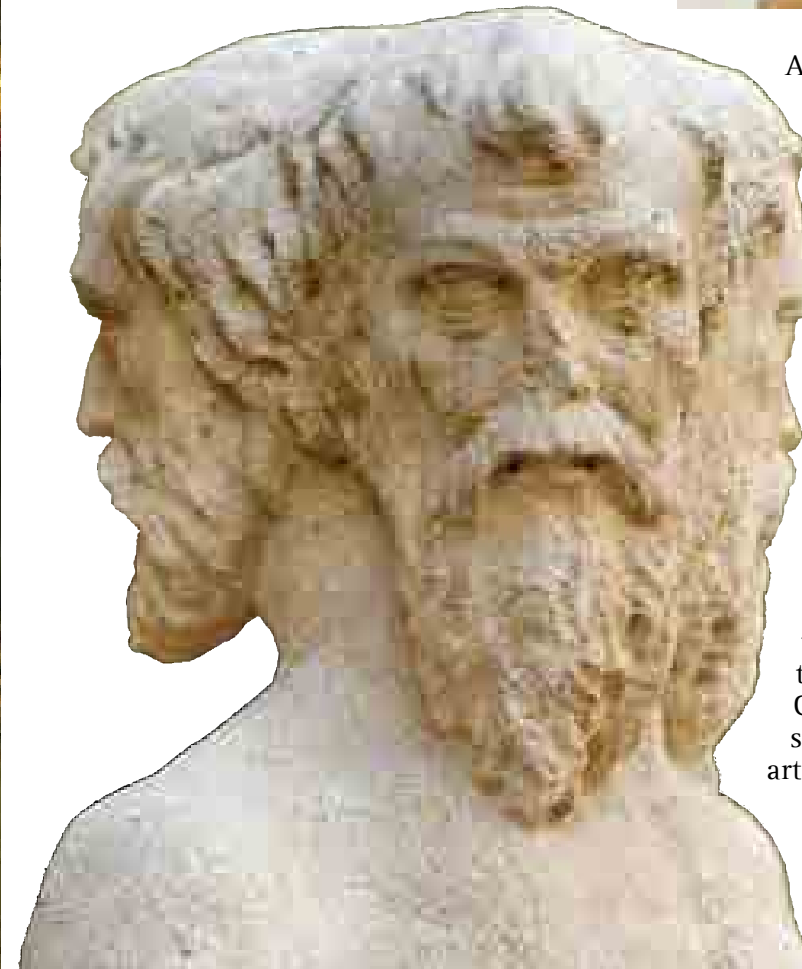
alleys and colonnades under which elegant store windows, cafés and inviting bakeries peep out...

At its heart, you will find Palazzo dei Trecento, Loggia dei Cavalieri, the Duomo with Titian's Annunciation and San Nicolò church with the Capitolo hall with frescos by Tommaso da Modena, as well as the enchanting view of the Sile and Cagnan rivers merging, the magic of the Buranelli canal, the picture-perfect Pescheria Island with the fish market, the mill wheels that have been turning for centuries...

Don't forget to visit the renovated Bailo Museum, housing artworks from Impressionism to Avant-Gardes, the Casa dei Carraresi, which hosts prestigious international exhibits, and Santa Caterina dei Servi di Maria museum complex, with the 14th century frescoes of the stories of St. Ursula and many other masterpieces.



Detail of a fresco in St. Catherine church



At every turn, you will be tempted by the fine regional cuisine, the result of a high-level wine and food culture which has developed over the centuries starting from the Treviso territory products, the Marca Gioiosa et Amatora territory that we recommend you to visit for its many environmental, artistic and architectural treasures, but also for the many quirks and pleasures it can offer, starting from Portobuffolè, one of the most beautiful Italian towns.

A gem perfectly preserved in its medieval urban structure, it will take you back in time to taste the atmosphere when the famous Gaia da Camino built her here her small palace, where she received artists, musicians and scholars.

Tre Visi fountain

The Prosecco Hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene, UNESCO World heritage site

Just a short distance from Portobuffolè, you will find Conegliano, with its medieval castle and the Torre della Campana, the Duomo with the altarpiece by Cima, who was born here, and the elegant series of Renaissance palaces embellishing an historical centre that is worth visiting. The beautiful Conegliano, which in June hosts the Dama Castellana with characters in period costumes, is also the entryway to the legendary Road of His Majesty the Prosecco and the Hillside Wines, a paradise for wine aficionados who, zigzagging between the amazing hillside landscapes sketched by the vineyards, leads to Valdobbiadene, with pleasant wine tours and strolls amidst nice small towns in the middle, where there is no shortage of genuine and tasty wine and food encounters.

Conegliano and Valdobbiadene hills

Prosecco and radicchio

Among the many gifts Mother Nature has given men in this fertile land, enhanced by farming techniques and processes improved over time, Prosecco Superiore DOCG wine and Radicchio Rosso di Treviso IGP Tardivo hold a prominent spot. The first one, decorated with the DOCG marking and recognized all over the world as the king of cocktail hour, thanks to its fresh, fruity and sparkling flavour, is perfect also to drink while dining. The second one is the king of radicchio: sprouted in resurgence water courses, its lanceolate shape and its pleasantly bitter taste are unmistakable. Crunchy when raw, it is well suited to become the protagonist of the entire menu, from starters to entrées, from main dishes to desserts.



Prosecco DOCG



Radicchio Tardivo di Treviso IGP



Vittorio Veneto

Art places

From Valdobbiadene, you are only a short drive away to reach the Montello, a vast and relaxing forest hill, realm of bikes and mushroom feasts, and Asolo, a scenic and fascinating town dominated by the thousand-year-old stronghold who sheltered and inspired poets, writers, great travellers and artists, including the great Eleonora Duse. There is another place not to be missed nearby, the magnificent Villa di Maser, UNESCO World Heritage Site and Palladio's masterpiece, with frescoes by Paolo Veronese, its magical nymphaeum and the peculiar vintage carriage collection. A short stroll from here you will get to Possagno, to witness the spectacular building that houses Canova plaster cast museum, an extraordinary collection of plaster casts, terracotta models and marbles by the famous sculptor, Antonio Canova. And the amazing journey continues by coming down the hill and reaching Castelfranco Veneto, a fabulous walled city and Giorgione's birthplace. Its ancient streets are full of surprises, from the Teatro Accademico to the prestigious Palazzo del Monte di Pietà and the Duomo of St. Maria Assunta, where, in the Costanzo chapel, one of Giorgione's masterpieces awaits you, the Castelfranco Madonna.



Centre of Asolo

Canova

Born in Possagno in 1757, Antonio Canova was the greatest Neoclassic sculptor. His marble masterpieces are exhibited in the greatest museums in the world, but his home town is the perfect starting point to understand his art better, with his home, plaster cast museum, library and archive full of sculptures, models, drawings, paintings and memoirs of this gifted artist.



Possagno Temple

Belluno

Its location in the heart of Valbelluna, surrounded by the majestic peaks of the Dolomites charmed the Celts who called it “Belo-dunum” or splendid town. Today, the clear light of the mountains that has been declared a **World Heritage by Unesco** is the backdrop to a city that fascinates and surprises, starting from the buildings that are a mix of northern forms and Venetian gothic and that generate a unique effect, up to the antique fountains that characterize the Old City.

Beautiful palaces of power such as the Palazzo dei Rettori, the Palace of Justice, the Bishops’ Palace and the Red Palace overlook the Piazza del Duomo.

The Cathedral with the bell tower stands out with its characteristic onion-shaped dome surmounted by the Angel.

Continuing through the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park, you arrive in Feltre, pre-Roman city located along the Via Claudia Augusta.



Zumelle Castle - Mel

Tiziano Vecellio’s sublime art

Tiziano Vecellio (Titian) was born in Pieve di Cadore between 1488 and 1490 and died in Venice in 1576. Giorgione’s pupil, he is considered one of the greatest Italian Renaissance artists, and rightfully so. Official painter of the Serenissima Republic, he opened a studio in Venice that was a point of reference for the most important customers of that time. Unique due to its very personal use of colours, he is also famous for the peculiar touch of red characterizing his artworks: the so-called “Titian red”. (Itinerary page 25)



Titian's home

Alpago

Entrance way to the magical world of the Dolomites, Belluno rises above a cliff spur at the confluence of the Piave River and the Ardo torrent, in a beautiful setting featuring the majestic Dolomites and the Prealps. South of the Belluno province, the Alpago area comprises three municipalities: Alpago, Chies and Tambre. Famous for the Lago di Santa Croce and the beautiful Cansiglio forest, this area is a popular tourist destination due also to its many sporting activities. In the winter there are toboggan runs and snow-covered trails to enjoy with snowshoes. In the summer, the Alpago area becomes a paradise for mountain bikers, horseback riders and demanding golfers, who can enjoy the Cansiglio Golf Club, one of the most beautiful in Europe. For water sports aficionados, the Lago di Santa Croce is ideal for sailing, windsurfing and skiing. Foodies will not be disappointed either: the area is full of gourmet food: salami, cheese, home-made dairy products and the Mame d’Alpago, typical beans so delicate that they can also be paired with seafood dishes.



Horse-riding tourism



The Dolomites of Popèra Group



Dolomites, the fabulous “Pale Mountains”

Dolomites, the fabulous “Pale Mountains” Amazing mountains, listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2009, the Dolomites are a wonderful mix of nature and culture, breathtaking landscapes, traditions and legends, emotions and pure excitement... Located in the northern part of the Veneto region, in the Belluno province, in a continuous sequence of spectacular peaks, an ancestral beauty shaped by men and their history over the centuries. It is a popular tourist destination, renowned internationally also for its leading businesses, in the eyewear sector in particular, where trending brands express the highest values

of made in Italy. Homeland of artists, poets and scholars, appreciated for its refined woodcarving still practiced in many workshops, the Dolomites area treats its visitors with a wide range of fascinating itineraries that, throughout the year, allow you to discover endless treasures, from archaeological sites to rustic folk museums, from village festivals to historical re-enactments, from the typical mountain cuisine to the Ladin culture, that have been settled for thousands of years in the valleys around the Gruppo Sella. And then again the naive atmospheres of the ancient Alpine villages and, during the Christmas period, the colourful Christmas markets that brighten the most popular cities and towns.





In the Ampezzo Dolomites Natural Reserve

At sunset, the massive peaks of the Tofane, the Nuvolau, Croda and Cristallo groups and the Pomagagnon and Sorapiss massifs turn pink giving life to one of the most extraordinary views in the world. We are at the heart of the Ampezzo Dolomites, where the unquestioned gem is Cortina D'Ampezzo, a worldly town with a picture-perfect historical

centre, luxury hotels and exclusive boutiques. A land full of fabulous legends and ancient folklore, amazing in the summer for those that enjoy strolling, biking, hiking or horse riding, and wonderful in the winter for winter sports aficionados, thanks to its four ski areas with hundreds of snowy ski runs surrounded by dream mountains.

Cortina d'Ampezzo

Alpine Charm from Cadore to Agordino

The Cadore area too offers amazing landscapes, characterized by high nature value environments. An excellent starting point to get to know this area is Pieve di Cadore, where you can visit Titian's birthplace. From here, you can reach the quaint city of Auronzo and then, proceeding north-east toward the Friuli region borders, Comelico. A fantastic world, Cadore boasts mountains and places of indescribable beauty: Misurina with its lake, the spectacular Tre Cime di Lavaredo, Somadida nature reserve and the Marmarole. Mount Pelmo, an emblematic Dolomites peak, is a massive connection between the Cadore and the Valle del Boite, the Agordino and the Val Fiorentina and Val di Zoldo. Further west, after Cortina d'Ampezzo, there are the Sella ad Arabba, Marmolada, Civetta, Focobon and Moiazza peaks for mountains lovers, enclosed in a wide territory, from Val Pettorina to Val Cordevole, from Val Biois to Val di Zoldo, with the towns of Rocca



S. Lucano Valley

Pietore, Alleghe, Falcade, Agordo... A true paradise in all seasons, ideal in summer for hikers looking for breath-taking thrills, exciting in winter thanks to its amazing ski slopes included in the scenic and variegated Dolomiti Superski ski carousel.

Summer and winter sports

Venetian mountains are an extraordinary natural heritage. But they are also a world of opportunity for winter and summer sports enthusiasts. Rocky walls to climb, Alpine cottages to reach

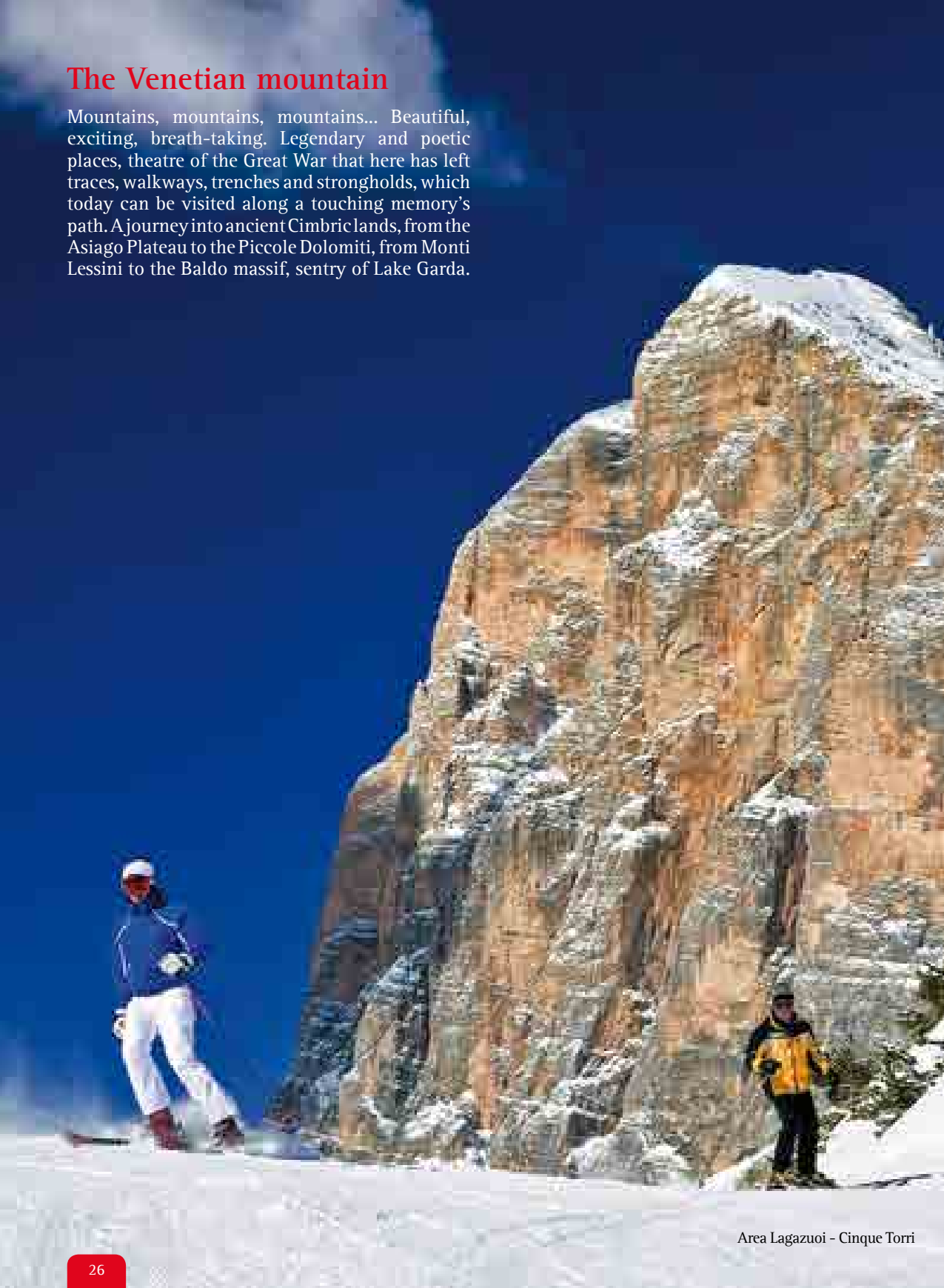
along itineraries winding around grasslands and forests, lakes to enjoy water sports, plateaus to glide from, cycling paths... And in the winter an endless white circus to ski, stroll with snowshoes, skate and do aerial acrobatics with your snowboard. Everything, more, everywhere.



Snowboard

The Venetian mountain

Mountains, mountains, mountains... Beautiful, exciting, breath-taking. Legendary and poetic places, theatre of the Great War that here has left traces, walkways, trenches and strongholds, which today can be visited along a touching memory's path. A journey into ancient Cimbric lands, from the Asiago Plateau to the Piccole Dolomiti, from Monti Lessini to the Baldo massif, sentry of Lake Garda.



Area Lagazuoi - Cinque Torri

The Asiago 7 Comuni Plateau

With one thousand meters of average altitude, this amazing Alpine paradise is truly a mountain suitable for all, perfect for families but also for sports and hiking enthusiasts. It is called Sette Comuni, and its main cities are Asiago, Eneo, Foza, Gallio, Lusiana Conco, Roana and Rotzo, each one with many different places of interest: large pasturelands, fir forests, springs, sunny plateaus and magical paths in the woods. In the winter, it becomes a fabulous snow-covered landscape, to be discovered, loved and lived, full of winter sports runs, from skiing to snowboarding, from hockey to ice skating. Due to its peculiar geographical conformation, the Plateau is perfect for cross-country skiing. A testimony to this are the 7 Nordic skiing centres, over 500 kilometres of run in a unique and virgin environment that are also practicable with snowshoes. Among

these, the Piana di Marcesina, the "Italian Finland", a white circus for cross-country skiing, and the Melette 2000 skiing centre. In the summer, the Plateau becomes a limpid air paradise, an amazing universe to discover by foot, by horse or by mountain bike on cycling paths. Also of interest are the World War I Museum, the Military Shrine of Asiago, the Cuchi di Cesuna Museum, dedicated to the typical terracotta whistles, and the Cimbric Culture Museum in Roana. The most curious tourists can enjoy many other wonders, such as the prehistoric petroglyph in Val D'Assa, the picture-perfect Valle dei Mulini near Gallio, the "Prehistoric Village" of Monte Corgnon within the open air museum of Lusiana, the Sentiero del Silenzio, with 10 art installations each one with a poem or essay dedicated to the tragedy of the war. Discover the Plateau: here the mountain is also a terrace overlooking the Venetian plains, an amazing sight that reaches the sea and Venice lagoon.

Asiago, the Plateau cheese

Processed only with milk from the local stables, Asiago cheese is the savoury Plateau gem, a true "mountain produce", as stated by the fire brand imprinted on the wheel. An excellent product of the ancient dairy tradition, Asiago cheese is

characterised by a fresh, milky and slightly flowery odour, and by its sweet and pleasant taste. The milking, processing and ageing on red fit board is carried out on the mountains, in the DOP territory, between Veneto and Trentino, at an altitude comprised between 600 and 2,300 metres, in the natural setting of Alpine pastures.



Asiago cheese

Piccole Dolomiti

An authentic paradise, Vicenza mountains are mostly dominated by the Piccole Dolomiti, a marvellous location for relaxing holidays, ideal for those who love skiing, canoeing along the Brenta river rapids, and living in close contact with nature in all seasons. The most popular locations are Tonezza del Cimone, starting point to discover the beautiful landscapes dominated by the Spitz, Toraro, Campomolon and Cimone peaks - the latter was a fierce battlefield during the Great War - by foot or by skies. In Pontara you will find cross-country skiing rings, an easy one in the "Valle dei Ciliegi" and a more difficult one between beech and larch forests, along the summer naturalistic and

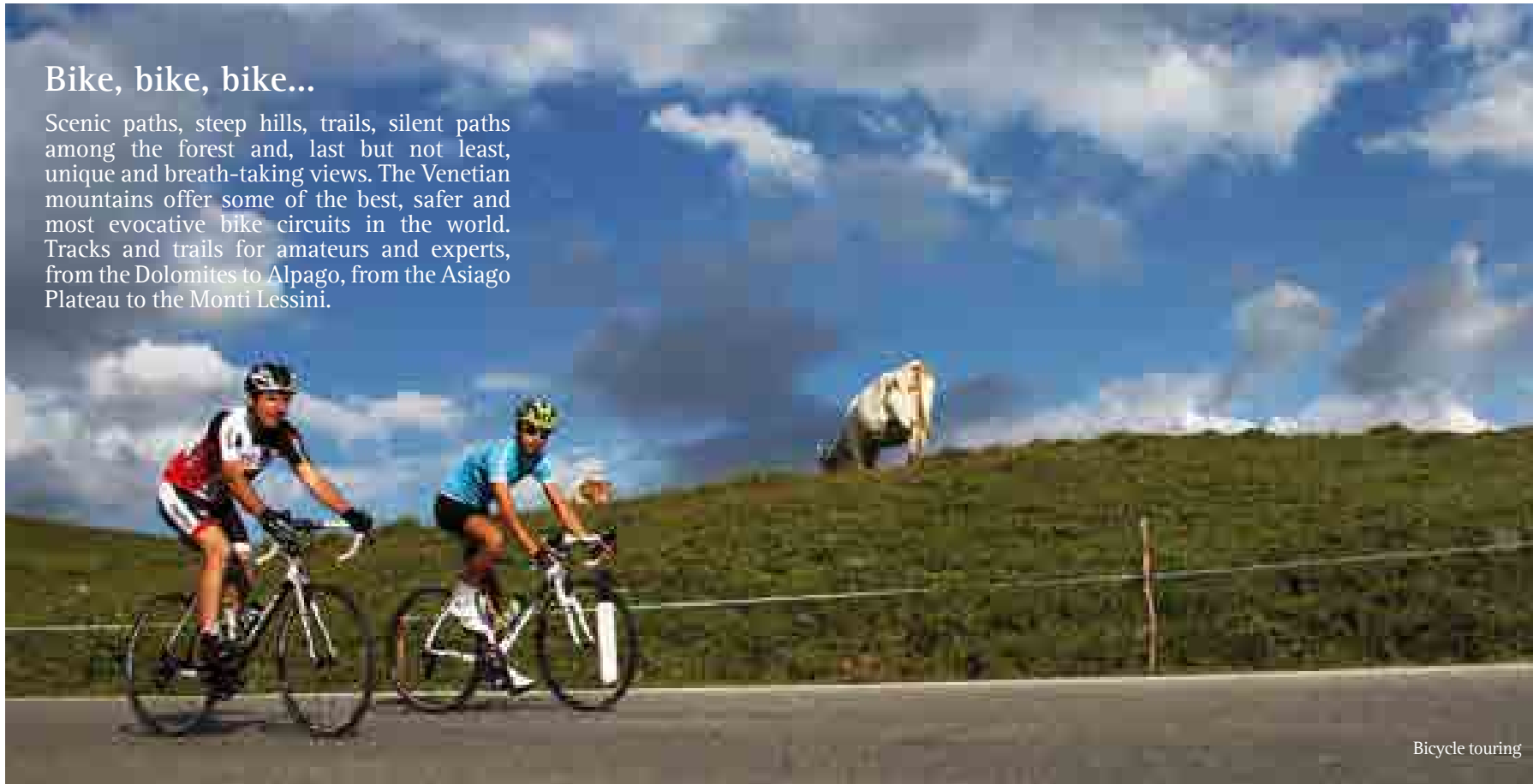


Mountain bike route

educational Excalibur route. For those who love downhill skiing, there is the Altopiano dei Fiorentini, with five fabulous ski runs with a snow park to do acrobatics in the snow. Beautiful and equipped for Nordic and downhill skiing, there are also Recoaro Mille and Le Montagnole cross-country centre, a fantastic opportunity for those who wish to test themselves with routes of varying degrees of difficulty among an enchanting landscape. At the end of the spring, when the snow melts, the mountains wake up for a new life, and to explore them you will need an expert Alpine guide who knows the territory well. With a fascinating natural beauty, these mountains are an open-air museum of the Great War, with walkways, trenches, finds and evocative strongholds.

Bike, bike, bike...

Scenic paths, steep hills, trails, silent paths among the forest and, last but not least, unique and breath-taking views. The Venetian mountains offer some of the best, safer and most evocative bike circuits in the world. Tracks and trails for amateurs and experts, from the Dolomites to Alpi, from the Asiago Plateau to the Monti Lessini.



Bicycle touring



Rock climbing

Recoaro Terme

Capital of the Vicenza mountains, Recoaro Terme is surrounded by nature in the green background of the “Conca di Smeraldo”. Renowned for the lushness and wholesomeness of its nine types of mineral bicarbonate-alkaline waters, its history starts at the end of the 17th century, after Count Lelio Piovene stumbles upon “St. Anthony’s miracle water”. Charming, with the typical appearance of a classy and elegant 17th century thermal station, with the Main Thermal facility in a refined Liberty style surrounded by twenty hectares of lush park and by the mountains, a special place for summer and winter amusement: strolls, hiking and mountain biking, climbing, exciting snowy days... It also houses many folk events, such as the “Chiamata di marzo”, at the end of February, inspired by ancient Cimbric traditions, the Festa dell’Acqua in August, and the “Gnocchi con la fioreta” food fair on the first Sunday of September.



Snowshoes



Recoaro Thermal Station

Lessinia and Monte Baldo

From above, the Monti Lessini look like a large triangular and rocky plate streaked by long and narrow valleys. In the Eocene period, Lessinia was lapped by the Tethys Ocean, the endless ocean that separated land from Eurasia and North Africa. Millions of years have gone by, and we have evidence of that ancient sea in Bolca, a town renowned throughout the world for its rich collection of marine and land fossils coming from the Pesciara and Monte Postale deposits.

Over 10,000 hectares of the Monti Lessini have been part of the Lessinia Regional Park since 1990, a large territory which guards an amazing variety of naturalistic, historical and archaeological evidence of immense value.

There are many natural monuments of carsic origin to see, from the Spluga della Preta abyss - one of the deepest one in Italy - to the “rocky cities”, such as the Valle delle Sfingi and the Ponte di Veja - one of the most spectacular and massive natural arcs in Europe - to the Grotta di Fumane, which bears trace of the passing of the Neanderthal Man and of the first Homo sapiens. The park is very popular among hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders and nature and winter sports aficionados.

These wild mountains inhabited by a rich and variegated fauna, are also a Cimbric land with an exquisite food and wine tradition, famous for its wines, Alpine cheese, fruit trees such as cherry and chestnut trees, prized honey, cured meats and salami.

On the north-western side of the Lessinia we find the Monte Baldo, overlooking the charming Lake Garda with its blue water. A unique view, between water, land and sky to enjoy on the amazing rotating cabs of the Malcesine-Monte Baldo cable car.

Fun in the summer and fantastic in winter to ski on the runs overlooking the lake or to stroll with snowshoes in the snow, the Baldo is truly a magical place, perfect for a quiet and fun holiday surrounded by nature.



Monte Baldo



Valpolicella Wine



Sopressa Vicentina DOP

The Riviera degli Ulivi

The Venetian side of Lake Garda offers many places and thrills; it is an endless source of magical surprises, among wonderful Mediterranean localities softened by a mild climate. Here, amidst the blue water, the green country outlined by olive trees and vineyards and the high mountains on the background, enchanted towns await you, full of interesting sights and attractions of any kind, welcoming you with thousands of opportunities for a relaxing and wellness holiday, full of culture, art, fun and good cuisine, renowned for freshwater seafood dishes, excellent local extra virgin olive oil and fine local wines, such as Lugana and Bardolino... There are very other few places in the world that can offer such wonderful sights of an ancient, yet modern and organized territory, ready to bring you a customised, perfect a unique stay.

Mediterranean and Alpine Malcesine

Admired by Goethe at the end of the 18th century, Malcesine offers a unique

scenario due to its contrasting natures, from the lake to the sea of olive and oleander trees that surrounds it, up to the high peaks of the Monte Baldo, that dominates and protects it. The view of its castle on the top of a cliff overlooking the lake has a great visual impact, while its pleasant historical centre with the enchanting cobblestone alleys is full of fine villas and ancient buildings, such as the Palazzo dei Capitani. Ideal for water sports enthusiasts, the town is also perfect for mountain lovers: its modern rotating cable car allows to reach in just a few minutes - with enthusiastic views over the increasingly far lake - the peak of Monte Baldo, where everything is possible: skiing in the winter and, in all seasons, hiking, mountain biking, and slowly paragliding toward the lake.

Malcesine also offers a packed program of events, such as the spectacular shows in the open-air theatre at the foot of the castle and the Festa dei Ciclamini in august, that, in the nearby Bissone, sees the Bisse - traditional rowing boats of Lake Garda - competing against each other.

Extra virgin olive oil

A masterpiece, the result of the close cooperation between men and Lake Garda microclimate, which for centuries has allowed to cultivate the northern-most olive trees in the world, Garda extra virgin olive oil is unique and unmistakable, characterized by an exceptional quality. Protected since 1997 by the DOP marking, it is processed from the local Casaliva cultivar and from other historical olive varieties, and it has a delicate yet persistent and satisfying taste.



Panning shot of the Lake Garda

Brenzone sul Garda, the lake and the mountains

Comprising many small fishing villages and towns clinging on the spurs of Monte Baldo, the Brenzone territory is ideal for those who wish to do something different every day, by going sailing or windsurfing, by mountain biking or hiking and trekking, also thanks to the renovated Prada-Costabella cableways. With its modern accommodation facilities welcoming its guest in a silvery paradise full of centuries-old olive trees, it offers amazing sights, such as the Romanesque church of San Zen de l'Oselèt in Castelletto and the coeval church of Sant'Antonio in Biaza; between these two towns, a spectacular Via Crucis takes place on Good Friday.



Bardolino DOC

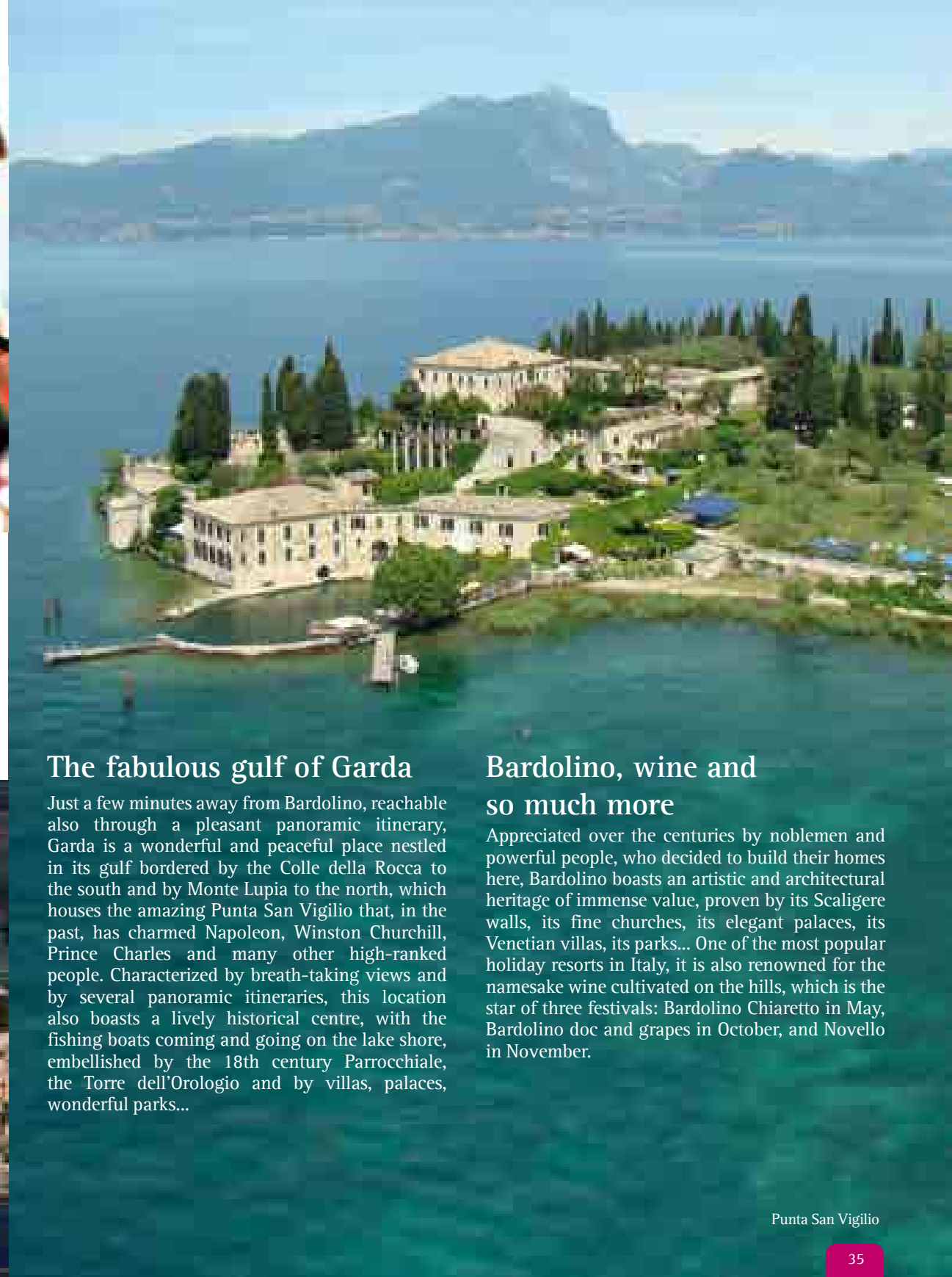
Torri del Benaco, between the Middle Ages and luxury accommodations

A preferred destination also by high-ranking guests, such as King Juan Carlos of Spain, and renowned artists, such as Maria Callas, Torri del Benaco preserves, between the turreted walls of the Castello Scaligero, the medieval

atmospheres of its ancient hearth, which houses luxury accommodations perfectly balanced between a contemporary and ancient equation. The dream-like small port, embellished by prestigious Venetian palaces, invites you to enjoy man-made amenities within a splendid natural context, surrounded by olive trees, vineyards, lush forests and long beaches.



Lake Garda



The fabulous gulf of Garda

Just a few minutes away from Bardolino, reachable also through a pleasant panoramic itinerary, Garda is a wonderful and peaceful place nestled in its gulf bordered by the Colle della Rocca to the south and by Monte Lupia to the north, which houses the amazing Punta San Vigilio that, in the past, has charmed Napoleon, Winston Churchill, Prince Charles and many other high-ranked people. Characterized by breath-taking views and by several panoramic itineraries, this location also boasts a lively historical centre, with the fishing boats coming and going on the lake shore, embellished by the 18th century Parrocchiale, the Torre dell'Orologio and by villas, palaces, wonderful parks...

Bardolino, wine and so much more

Appreciated over the centuries by noblemen and powerful people, who decided to build their homes here, Bardolino boasts an artistic and architectural heritage of immense value, proven by its Scaligere walls, its fine churches, its elegant palaces, its Venetian villas, its parks... One of the most popular holiday resorts in Italy, it is also renowned for the namesake wine cultivated on the hills, which is the star of three festivals: Bardolino Chiaretto in May, Bardolino doc and grapes in October, and Novello in November.

Punta San Vigilio



Bardolino Marina



Sigurà Park

An active vacation

Lake Garda is an open-air gym, with water, wind, hills and high mountains, perfect for sports lovers and for those who want to get back in shape. Here you can swim, sail, canoe, windsurf and kitesurf, trek and climb, play tennis and golf, bike on the lake shore and have fun with your mountain bike, ski and hand glide... All within just a few kilometres, which also house less challenging yet healthy hikes surrounded by an amazing landscape.



Sailing



Paraglider



Golf

The proud and picture-perfect Lazise

In 1983, it was one of the first Italian Municipalities to achieve an autonomous status from the emperor, and Lazise preserves proud traces of its illustrious past, such as the castle, which, as a treasure chest, encloses the ancient and charming historical centre with its many shops and restaurants, overlooking the lake and embellished by the small church of San Nicolò and by the ancient Customs, which is now a concert hall where an important opera and classical music festival takes place every summer. Outside the walls, you can enjoy hiking, biking, horseback riding, cultivated hills and well-organized campsites.

Peschiera, where the Mincio river flows out

The first enchanting contact with the Lake Garda awaits you in Peschiera, a charming city with high pentagonal walls,

UNESCO world heritage site, that enclose a fabulous historical centre with its many picture-perfect bridges, water fronts, streets, squares and alleys. On the lake shore, it houses the dock and the marinas, an inviting pedestrian walkway and three kilometres of beaches surrounded by shady trees: a paradise to enjoy quiet and relaxing days between one water sport and the other.

Livened in August by the Palio delle Mura - a spectacular rowing race with the typical Garda gondolas, Peschiera offers many opportunities: a biking path that reaches Mantova along the Mincio river, the famous sanctuary of the Madonna del Frassino, one of the largest amusement parks in Europe with thrilling rides and a great aquarium, an award-winning garden park and a safari park in which the fantastic biodiversity of our planet is the protagonist.

Verona and its province

Enclosed in a territory full of historical vestiges and beautiful landscapes, Verona is one of the most popular and renowned art cities in Italy. Not far from the Lake Garda, it welcomes visitors at the foot of green hills delimited by Monte Baldo and by Monti Lessini to the north, two fantastic scenarios for those who love to trek and hike in a fabulous succession of vineyards, orchards, olive groves, pastures and larch forests. Built in ancient times in a cradle on the Adige river banks, this splendid city is symbolized by the historical Roman arena, which in the summer hosts great shows, concerts and opera seasons. Juliet's house is also popular, with its romantic balcony that recalls the most famous love story ever written by Shakespeare. Verona, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000, offers unforgettable itineraries immersed in different historical periods: Piazza delle Erbe, with its harmonious mix of Roman, medieval and Renaissance architectures, Piazza dei Signori, the elegant parlour of Verona, the Castelvecchio Fortress, which today houses the Museum of Modern Arts, the Ponte Scaligero and the Arche Scaligere, superb Gothic funeral monuments of the Scala Seignory. Let's not forget the Roman Theatre and Archaeological Museum, the charming Renaissance Giardino dei Giusti and, among the religious buildings, the Duomo with its precious frescoes and the Roman Basilica of San Zeno Maggiore. A starting point for many interesting itineraries in one of the most versatile territories of the Venetian province, Verona is only a few kilometres away from some of the most important vine growing areas.



Juliet's house balcony

Wine and flavours

The province of Verona boasts some amazing DOC and DOCG areas. Among these, the Valpolicella area, where the excellent Amarone and Recioto wines are born and aged, and the Soave area, renowned for its white wine, with the charming namesake city dominated by the ancient high castled on the site on the hill, with its evocative



Evening view of Verona

turreted and castellated walls descending along it. In these mostly hilly lands you can travel along the picture-perfect Wine Routes to discover a great wine and food tradition. There are countless high-quality restaurants, trattoria and taverns where you can taste regional dishes, such as boiled beef with "pearà" sauce, polenta "pastissada", gnocchi, lake seafood... Among the many typical products, there is the precious extra virgin olive oil, cheese, truffle, asparagus, the rice coming from the rice fields of Isola della Scala and Valeggio tortellini, a delicacy for true gourmets.

Rice, a gourmet treasure

In the rice fields located in the Lower Veronese area - and on Isola della Scala in particular - rice has been cultivated for centuries, but its most prestigious variety is the Vialone Nano IGP, a crossbreed created in 1937. This semi-fine Japonica rice is ideal for soft and creamy risotto and risotto soups, such as the traditional "risi e bisi" a typical Venetian dish.



Risotto



Music and the Arena

Among the best preserved Roman monuments, the Verona Arena was built on the 1st century AC. It is widely renowned in Europe and throughout the world for its opera season, which is hosted every summer

in this amazing scenario, and always opened by a new and spectacular edition of Giuseppe Verdi's Aida. A stage under the stars that also hosts classic ballets, pop concerts and jam sessions of international appeal.

Verona Arena



Amarone, a wine of unquestionable nobility

Obtained by grapes left in fruit cellars for three-four months, Amarone is the most precious wine of Valpolicella, unique and unmistakable, with a deep red colour tending toward garnet with ageing. Its scent recalls cherries, currant, chocolate and spices, while its intense taste, with notes of dried fruit, is dry and round, with a full, warm and vigorous body. A wine with a strong personality that can be aged for over twenty years.

Drying of grapes

Towns, gardens and castles along the Mincio river banks

Easily reachable from the Peschiera del Garda highway exit, at the foot of the massive castle featuring four Scaligere towers, Valeggio sul Mincio is a charming town famous for its savoury tortellini and for the beautiful Sigurtà Garden Park: created in 1400 from a century-old "orchard surrounded by high walls", it belonged to nobleman Gerolamo Nicolò Contarini, who built a splendid "Domus Magna" here. The park, located along the Mantova-Peschiera del Garda bicycle path, is a collection of amazing landscapes to discover by foot, by bike or on board a fun little train. Just a short distance from Valeggio there is Borghetto, one of the most magical Italian towns. An ancient village of watermills, it is filled with unique and picture-perfect views: windmill blades on water, small waterfalls, typical medieval houses and a landscape ranging from the Mincio river to Garda morainic hills. It still preserves the sturdy walls and the beautiful Visconteo bridge from the Scaligera era. Today is a serene place, with charming B&Bs, cafés and restaurants with terraces overlooking the river.



Valeggio castle

The Veronese plains

Crossed by the Adige river and by many other water courses, the Veronese plains coincides mainly with the Lower Veronese area and its Valli Grandi, an area full of springs where the Vialone Nano rice - IGP product since 1996 - has been cultivated for centuries. In these amazing lands, inhabited since the Bronze Age - and testimonies of this era can be seen at Verona Archaeological Museum and other minor museums in the province - there are many outlets: industry and handicraft on one hand, with the high-end furniture sector of Bovolone and Cerea in particular, and agriculture on the other hand, with products such as asparagus and radicchio. A wide and interesting territory, to discover also by bike along fascinating bike paths that will lead you into the lush nature of beautiful and evocative parks and natural reserves. A tour full of surprises winding through castles, oratories and ancient churches. Don't miss the picture-perfect fortified tower of Legnano, a memento of the medieval fortress, the Scaligera tower and the Sanctuary of the Madonna della Bastia in Isola della Scala, the land of rice, and a 14th century manor in perfect conditions in the town of Bevilacqua.



Villa Dionisi - Cerea



Valeggio sul Mincio's tortellini



Soave Castle



Palladio

The White House and Capitol Hill, symbols of power in Washington, are both neo-Palladian buildings. This says a lot on the influence that Palladio's works had on the history of western architecture, with his many extraordinary masterpieces all built according to his philosophy: "...supreme civilization is reaching a perfect balance with nature...".

Vicenza, a golden treasure box full of masterpieces

The oasis of harmony and beauty that awaits visitors in the Vicenza territory includes all the different expressions of pleasure, from the aesthetic one generated by architectures and natural context, to the more vulgar one stimulated by good food. Ranging from plains to hills to Alpine peaks, it offers endless itineraries worthy to be travelled with curiosity and interest. Everything starts from the golden Palladian city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to spread out to the wonderful natural background of the Berica area, to the charming atmospheres of Bassano del Grappa and Marostica, to the romantic medieval splendour of Montecchio

Maggiore, to the historical memories of the lively Thiene, to the extraordinary post-industrial world of Schio and to the amazing mountain landscapes, from Monte Grappa to the Asiago Plateau to the Piccole Dolomiti.

A string of amazing backgrounds

Strolling along the streets of Vicenza historical centre means to lose yourself in a world where architecture has written some of its most beautiful and significant pages. The Palladian imprint is clear, but there are also eminent examples of different styles, from Romanesque to Gothic, from Renaissance to Baroque up to



Palladian Basilica



Piazza dei Signori and the Basilica terrace

the Neoclassical style. Here, in this small and precious city famous throughout the world for its great goldsmithing tradition, every corner has a surprise in store: an elegant palace, a magnificent church, the sweet riverside, a green garden, a classy store window, an inviting café... A true open-air show which culminates with the two Palladian wonders built by the great architect at the beginning and at the end of its astounding career. At the heart of the city, the Basilica, his majestic and juvenile white stone work, lightened by the arcs on the façade, characterized by wide internal spaces ideal for exhibits and by the colonnade on the ground floor, which houses many high-end stores. A little farther away,



the Teatro Olimpico, designed by Palladio on the brink of death following the canon of Roman theatres, yet making it unique thanks to original optical patterns, skilful chiaroscuro and fantastic perspective effects and spatial depth. Lastly, don't forget to pay a visit to the Basilica Santa Maria, on Monte Berico, and to the magic Villa Valmarana dei Nani, on the Colle di San Bastian nearby, with frescoes by Giambattista and Giandomenico Tiepolo.

Statue of Agrippina Minore
Archaeological and Natural Museum



Villa Capra called La Rotonda - Vicenza

The kingdom of landscapes

Stretching south of the county capital, the Terra Berica must be experienced slowly, taking the time to admire and take in everything this small yet rich location has to offer. While travelling among meadows and forests, vineyards and olive groves, valleys, hills and water courses,

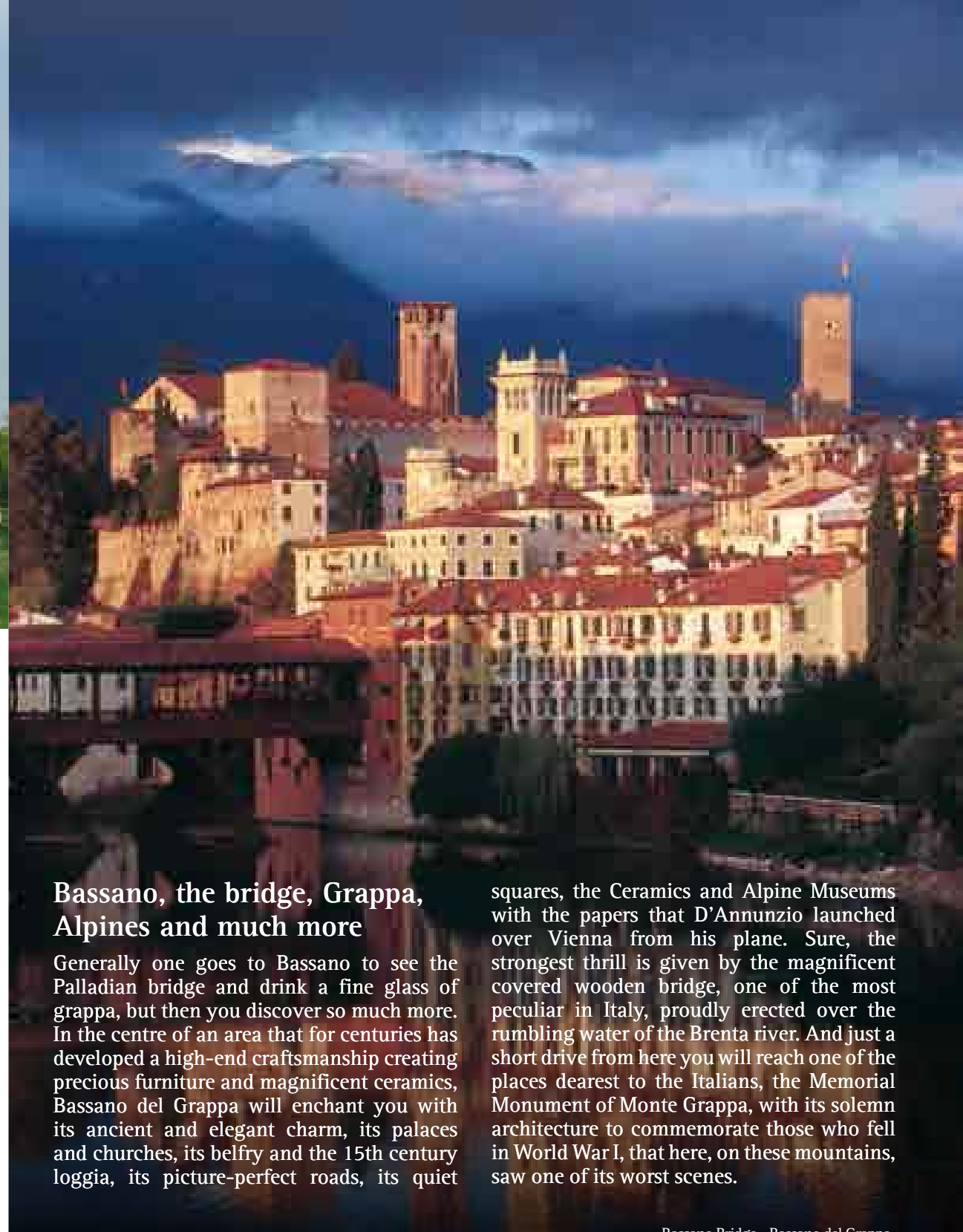
take the time to relax on the Fimon lake to enjoy its flora and fauna, between one retreat, church and villa and the other, such as the many villas by Palladio, La Rotonda, Villa Pojana, Villa Pisani, Villa Saraceno... Ideal also for biking itineraries and for exciting trekking routes, the Terra Berica will surprise you also with its cuisine, based on the excellent farm products and accompanied by fine local wines.



Colli Iberici truffle



Villa Pojana - Interiors



Bassano, the bridge, Grappa, Alpines and much more

Generally one goes to Bassano to see the Palladian bridge and drink a fine glass of grappa, but then you discover so much more. In the centre of an area that for centuries has developed a high-end craftsmanship creating precious furniture and magnificent ceramics, Bassano del Grappa will enchant you with its ancient and elegant charm, its palaces and churches, its belfry and the 15th century loggia, its picture-perfect roads, its quiet

squares, the Ceramics and Alpine Museums with the papers that D'Annunzio launched over Vienna from his plane. Sure, the strongest thrill is given by the magnificent covered wooden bridge, one of the most peculiar in Italy, proudly erected over the rumbling water of the Brenta river. And just a short drive from here you will reach one of the places dearest to the Italians, the Memorial Monument of Monte Grappa, with its solemn architecture to commemorate those who fell in World War I, that here, on these mountains, saw one of its worst scenes.

Bassano Bridge - Bassano del Grappa



Bassano del Grappa Asparagus

Sold in bunches tied with a willow branch - called "stroppa" - where the three-colour brand with the Palladian bridge is included, the Asparago Bianco di Bassano DOP differs from all the other types of asparagus for its typical and exquisite bitter-sweet taste. Soft, it can be eaten whole and it is excellent paired with Bassanese-style eggs and as a fine ingredient to prepare starters, entrées and main courses.

Asparagi bianchi di Bassano DOP

The spectacular chessboard

Keeping with the legend that tells the story of the living chess game played in 1454 between Rinaldo da Angarano and Vieri da Vallonara over Lionora's hand, on the second weekend of September of even years, Marostica relives the atmospheres of this amazing feat, with parades of precious

period costumes, flag wavers and jugglers. A magnificent feast in on equally magnificent background: the square where the event takes place is a medieval architecture gem that it's worth seeing, with its upper castle overlooking the city and its walls descending along the hill sides to embrace the entire historical centre and the lower castle.



Chess game - Marostica



Historical re-enactment - Thiene



Castle - Thiene



Villa Pojana - Pojana Maggiore



Villa Cordellina - Montecchio Maggiore

The Alto Vicentino area: arts and industry

At the foot of the mountains, the area north of Vicenza offers many interesting sights. Characterized by the presence of many water courses, and for this reason historical seat of large textile, wool and leather processing industries, it features a natural context with low hills interspersed with lively cities, such as Thiene, with its hearth embellished by a princely manor with turreted walls, a unique blend between a medieval castle and a Venetian palace. Here, every two years, on the first Saturday of October, the Mercato Franco of 1492 takes place, where among period costume characters, ancient trades and primordial recipes, you can shop only with Colombine, the ancient coins of the Terra di Thiene. Take a chance to visit Schio, the Italian Manchester of the second half of the 19th century, that preserves a rich industrial archaeology heritage quite well-preserved. And then the beautiful Valdagno, which up to a dozen years ago was a top quality textile production centre, and the quiet Malo, both towns with several interesting sights and stories to tell.



Icon of the Museum of Sacred Art - Thiene

Padua, at the heart of the Veneto Region

City of Saint Anthony and Giotto, seat of one of the oldest Universities in the world, it offers a wide range of interesting things to do in a pleasant context animated by lively squares, ancient and magnificent architectural sites, and high-end artistic workshops. You can easily visit Padua by foot, strolling along its streets, alleys and bridges, and enjoying relaxing and spectacular sights among water courses, medieval towers and enormous clearings. Here you will find Giotto's masterpiece, the Cappella degli Scrovegni, the Duomo Baptistry painted by Giusto de' Menabuoi and Guariento's angels at the Civic Museum, the Palazzo della Ragione with its immense upper hall which often houses important exhibits, Prato della Valle with its elliptical pattern surrounded by water and crowned with over eighty statues and, above all, the magnificent Basilica del Santo, a unique and beautiful place of worship, full of towers and domes dominated by the saint's statue, with Gattamelata equine statue forged by Donatello on the outside and with an extraordinary series of masterpieces on the inside. Don't miss the Caffè Pedrocchi, since the beginning of the 19th century an iconic place in the city and a classy meeting point, and, right nearby, the Bo, the main University building, where, among ancient coats of arms and evocative halls, you will also see the perfectly-preserved ancient Anatomy Theatre and the chair of Galileo Galilei, the great scientist who lived here and who,

according to the legend, studied the stars from the Specola, the high tower of the Carrara castle, that is worth a visit for its amazing sights and for the astonishing astronomical museum it houses. Lastly, pay a visit to the Musme, the new-born and cutting-edge Museum of Medicine, and the 16th century Botanical Gardens, UNESCO World Heritage Site, which has been extended with a futuristic exhibit dedicated to the flora from the five continents.

Seven centuries of frescoes

Perhaps not everyone knows that Padua is the city with more frescoes, precious artworks created over seven centuries, from 1300 to 1900. And above all, that Padua is the world capital of 14th century painting, mostly thanks to Giotto: he painted the famous Cappella degli Scrovegni with the wonderful cycle dedicated to the stories of Mary and Jesus. This great artist and his school were critical for Padua's artistic history, which, also in the 14th century, comprised other masters, such as Giusto de' Menabuoi, who painted the Duomo's Baptistry and Belludi chapel in the Basilica del Santo, to Guariento, who painted the chapel of the Reggia dei Carraresi and of the Eremitani church. Only a few fragments are left of these two masterpieces, but you can admire Guariento's beautiful tables dedicated to the hosts of angels at the Civic Museum. Altichiero da Zevio's frescoes also date back to the 14th century: San Giacomo's chapel in the Basilica del Santo and the Oratorio



Armed host of angels (Principati) by Guariento da Arpo, Eremitani Civic Museum



Piazza dei Signori - Padua



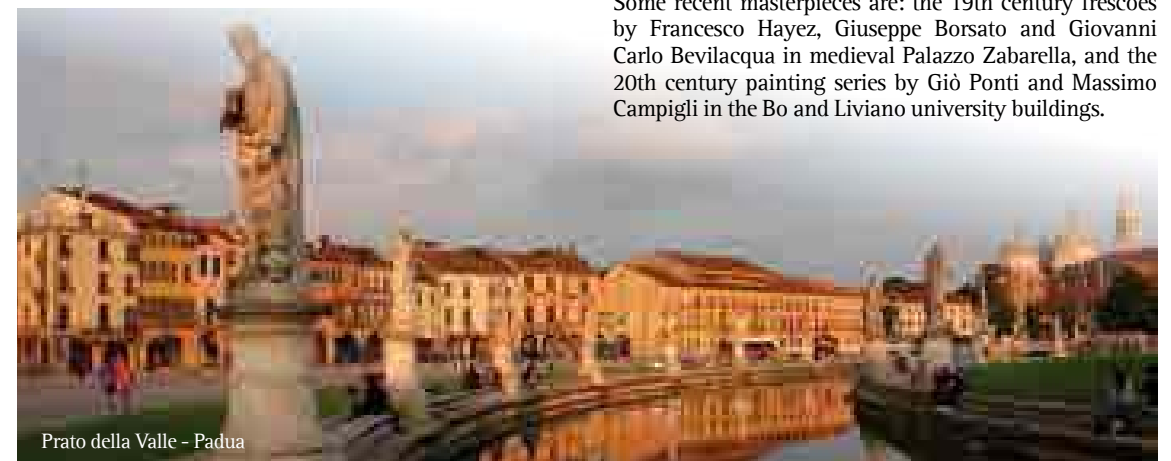
Anatomy Theatre

di San Rocco nearby, which Altichiero built along with Jacopo Avanzi. Also the Scuola di Sant'Antonio, or Scoletta del Santo, is part of the Basilica, with three paintings made by a young Tiziano Vecellio at the beginning of the 16th century. The Paduan 15th century offers many more magnificent painting series, such as those in the Palazzo della Regione, restored by the

Paduan Nicolò Miretto with the help of Stefano da Ferrara based on previous drawings by Giotto, and Mantegna's frescoes in the Cappella Ovetari, which unfortunately were mostly destroyed by a bomb during World War II. Also dating back to the 15th century are the frescoes of the Palazzo Vescovile, Jacopo da Montagnana's frescoes in the Cappella di Santa Maria degli Angeli and Bartolomeo Mantegna's on the nine hundred square meters along the Salone dei Vescovi. Apart from the aforementioned works by Tiziano, in 16th century Padua saw the beginning of the amazing series by the Scuola del Carmine of Domenico and Giulio Campagnola, as well as Girolamo del Santo's frescoes dedicated to Virgin Mary's life in the church of San Francesco and Dario Varotari's frescoes in the Scuola della Carità. A must-see is the Loggia Cornaro with the Odeo painted by Gualtiero Padovano and Labert Sustris, who probably also contributed to decorate the Sala dei Giganti in Palazzo dei Carraresi, painted by two other masters of the time: Domenico Campagnola and Stefano Dall'Arzere. Furthermore, Padua also boasts amazing 17th and 18th century frescoes, such as Pietro Liberi's frescoes painted in 1665 in the Sagrestia del Santo, and the spectacular Paradiso painted by the French Guy Louis II Vernansal in 1729 in the Chiesa di San Gaetano. Some recent masterpieces are: the 19th century frescoes by Francesco Hayez, Giuseppe Borsato and Giovanni Carlo Bevilacqua in medieval Palazzo Zabarella, and the 20th century painting series by Giò Ponti and Massimo Campigli in the Bo and Liviano university buildings.



Cappella degli Scrovegni



Prato della Valle - Padua

Colli Euganei and Terme Euganee

The tour of the Euganea area starts from Battaglia Terme, a thermal station with a thousand-year-old history characterized by the canal that crosses it, where we recommend you to visit the Museum of Navigation. From here, after having admired the solemn size of the Castello del Catajo, in just a few minutes you will reach the Colli Euganei Park, where the first place you will meet is Arquà Petrarca, a small and charming medieval town where the famous poet lived the last days of his life. And the magic continues in Valsanzibio, where Villa Barbarigo will astonish you with its spectacular gardens animated by water plays. And so on, hill after hill, along a fantastic series of landscapes to visit also by bike, dominated by the Monte Venda and interspersed by small towns, wineries, regional restaurants and noble palaces, with the massive Villa dei Vescovi of Luvigliano on the foreground. Lastly, don't



Thermal mud bath

forget to pay a visit to the Abbazia di Praglia, a fascinating Benedictine monastery with a high religious, historical and architectural value.

Now it is finally time to enter the heath of the thermal area and immerse yourself in the classy atmospheres of the renowned Abano and Montegrotto, which, along with Galzignano and the aforementioned Battaglia, are one of the most popular thermal areas in Europe, due to the therapeutic effects of their mud and water, and also for the refined quality of their top level accommodation facilities. In these pleasant towns crossed by relaxing promenades you will find everything that can guarantee a long-standing and excellent reception: star-studded hotels with thermal water pools, therapeutic centres and spas, elegant restaurants, stores, boutiques, ice cream shops, bakeries and sports facilities, such as tennis and golf courts, swimming pools, horse riding rings...



Mud preparation



Colli Euganei



Thermal water



Thermal swimming pool

Between Monselice, Este and Montagnana

Recognizable from afar for the hill that dominates it, isolated and with a stronghold on the top, Montelice is interesting to visit for its elegant historical centre with the massive civic tower, its 13th century castle with the evocative Sala della Bifore and the amazing kitchen with medieval furniture and accessories, and the scenic Via Sacra delle Sette Chiese which, surrounded by doors and chapels, slowly ascends to the Oratorio di San Giorgio.

From here, you can reach the ancient Este, beautiful with its castle and churches full of masterpieces, such as the Intercessione di Santa Tecla by Giambattista Tiepolo and the National Atestino Museum, focused on the ceramics art that here has reached extraordinary results.

And then proceed toward Montagnana, surrounded by the spectacular and well-preserved walls. Don't miss the central square with the late-Gothic Duomo and the amazing palaces, Castel San Zeno, Palladio's Villa Pisani and, in the first weekend of September, the Palio between amazing period costume characters and horses.



Monselice Castle



Villa Contarini - Piazzola sul Brenta



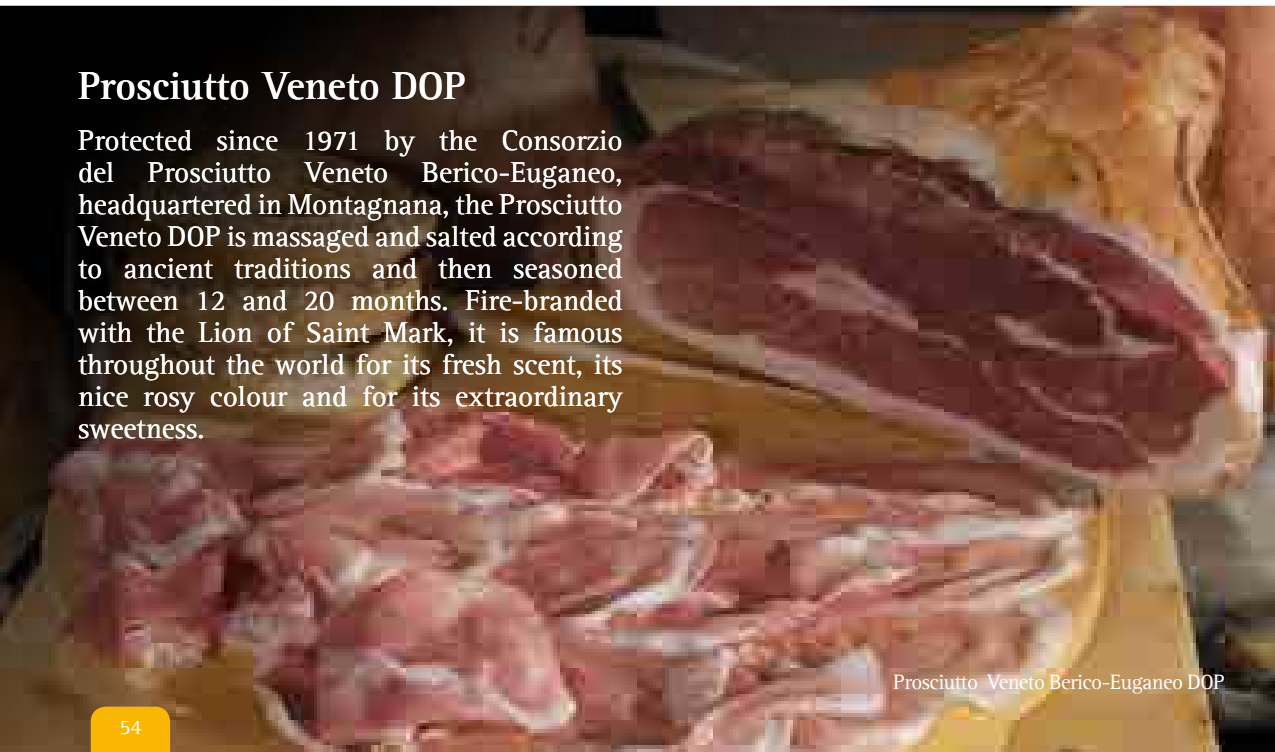
Cittadella walls

Villas and walled cities

Near Padua, Piazzola sul Brenta lets you spend some time among history and architecture: the magnificent Villa Contarini, with its oldest section built according to Palladio's projects, with its painted halls, the extraordinary music hall and a large park with winter gardens, promenades, small temples and a relaxing lake. Just a short drive away we stumble upon Cittadella, enclosed in its perfectly-preserved medieval walls. Here, in its evocative historical centre full of high-end stores and fine restaurants, among 13th century atmospheres, you will experience the excitement of going back to a time where the community built this place, guarded by solid doors to provide sanctuary against enemy raids.

Prosciutto Veneto DOP

Protected since 1971 by the Consorzio del Prosciutto Veneto Berico-Euganeo, headquartered in Montagnana, the Prosciutto Veneto DOP is massaged and salted according to ancient traditions and then seasoned between 12 and 20 months. Fire-branded with the Lion of Saint Mark, it is famous throughout the world for its fresh scent, its nice rosy colour and for its extraordinary sweetness.



Prosciutto Veneto Berico-Euganeo DOP



Montagnana walls



Aerial view of Rovigo

Rovigo, capital of the Polesine

Inhabited since the 6th century BC, as demonstrated by important archaeological findings in the area, Rovigo was a Roman "mansio" at the heart of an important crossroads between the roads that connected Ferrara and Padua to the Mantua area. Heart of the city is Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, with its elegant Clock Tower, Palazzo Rovella, which houses the Accademia dei Concordi Art Gallery, Palazzo Roncale and the 15th century Loggia dei Notari embellished by a nice façade with arches, Renaissance paintings and wooden bas-reliefs. Don't miss the Duomo and the Church of the Beata Vergine del Soccorso on Piazza XX Settembre, also known as La Rotonda. The temple features a painting of the Virgin Mary holding a rose with baby Jesus on her lap, a 15th fresco which has become the town landmark.



Olivetani Cloister - Rovigo



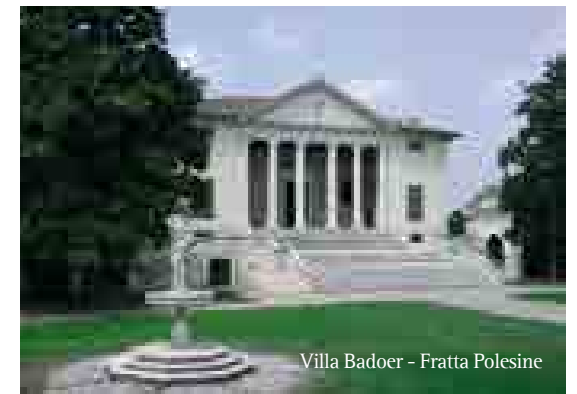
Grandi Fiumi Museum

Take some time to visit the Grandi Fiumi Museum, to have an idea of the relationship between man and rivers since the Bronze Age. And the Polesine - a vast countryside inhabited in ancient times by Paleovenetians - extends rights between the Adige river and the Po river. To get to know the history of this territory better, go see Adria National Archaeological Museum, full of findings dating back to the Greek, Etruscan and Roman times.

After leaving Adria with its evocative canal, penetrate the Polesine area and reach Fratta Polesine. This stop will surprise you: Villa Badoer, called the "Badoera", designed by Palladio and today a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Archaeological Museum with findings from a proto-historic necropolis, and Giacomo Matteotti birth home and museum.



Adria



Villa Badoer - Fratta Polesine



Ca' Vendramin Museum



Po Delta – Rosolina

A full immersion in nature

Porto Tolle is the starting point for unforgettable hikes and biking itineraries, with a series of rings unravelling in several directions. Proceed along banks, slopes and farms to reach many destinations: Donzella Island, Scardovari - an old fishing village - and, along a panoramic route, the Sacca di Scardovari, a large lagoon renowned for its clam and “Cozza di Scardovari DOP” farms. Here you can admire the cavane, typical fishing huts, and venture into natural reserves where ducks, bitterns and warblers lived in cane thickets. Very interesting also Ca’ Venier island, where you can see the Po di Maistra banks, near the largest idrovora plant on the island. The landscape is characterized by fishing valleys, casoni and bitterns, and is also interesting for the presence of herons, sheldrakes and stilt plovers.



Cozze di Scardovari DOP

Po Delta, a magical world

One of the largest Italian rivers, the Po river ends in the province of Rovigo, a way out that, from a scenic standpoint, offers a unique and unmistakable sight. The river, which was called Eridano in ancient times, here meets the Adriatic sea, south of the Venetian lagoon, in a land, known as “swamp valley”, which was once characterized by swamps and mires and inhabited since prehistoric times. Today, the Po Delta comprises the entire hydraulic system that regulates the river streams toward the sea, a layout that first originated after the earthquake in 1570 and after the Taglio di Porto Viro, a massive hydraulic structure created by the Venice Republic in 1603 to protect the lagoon from its progressive sitting up. This has created a very peculiar environment, comprising the Ca’ Venier, Donzella and Polesine Camerini islands, which today house many different water birds and also rice IGP farming areas and Dop mussel farms. Lastly, there is the magical Albarella island, an exclusive location for wonderful holidays surrounded by nature, sports and luxury relaxation.



Albarella island



Sunset at Porto Caleri



Visiting the Delta Park

In the 16th century, when the Serenissima Republic saw its fortune at sea decline due to the new routes open by Cristoforo Colombo's feat and by the first circumnavigations of the globe, Venetian nobleman focus on the fertile countryside. And they did it in their own way, by building amazing villas along the new canal that Venice had just built along the ancient natural course of the Brenta river, from Stra to Padua and Fusina, where the river flowed out looking at San Marco bell tower from afar. For a couple of centuries, until the 18th century, that bucolic civilization took shape, that civilization that you can admire by travelling along the river or on the river with the Burchiello that, even though today is a modern tourism motorboat, at that time was a luxury boat that, in the countercurrent route between Venice and Stra, was towed by men and horses. The Riviera del Brenta territory is a unique heritage, that can be enjoyed by simply gazing at the left and right bank and vice versa to admire the incredible series of fantastic houses with their refined architecture, immersed in green parks and gardens full of flowers.

Riviera del Brenta

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Unforgettable visits

Many villas of the Riviera del Brenta are private houses or have been transformed into hotels, restaurants and venues, but some of the most popular, beautiful and important ones are open to the public and worthy of a visit. The show beings in Stra, in the 18th century Villa Foscari Rossi, with its beautifully painted guest quarters, and, in the precious halls of the main residence, with the Footwear Museum, which testifies the great tradition of this district, one of the leading places in the world for high-end women's shoes. There is another masterpiece to see in Stra: Villa Pisani, a massive and fascinating example of 18th century Baroque style, with its 114 rooms still with their original furniture, the ballroom painted by Tiepolo, the enormous park decorated by statues with its lemon grove, its stables, the boxwood labyrinth...

Among villas and barchesse

After passing through the picture-perfect Dolo centre, you are just a short drive away from Mira, where three locations hold significant pages of the history of Riviera del Brenta. One is Villa Widmann, which housed Carlo Goldoni, Stravinsky and Gabriele D'Annunzio, and which will astonish you for its French Rococo style, the rich decorations of its ballroom, and the harmony of its park full of statues, fountains, pines, lindens and a large lake. The second place is the Barchessa Valmarana, with period furniture and mythological and bucolic frescoes, while the third one is the Barchessa Alessandi, where you can enjoy G. Antonio Pellegrini's frescoes, who - described as the Venetian Rococo's master in European courts - anticipated with these works the European 18th century pictorial language.

Villa Giustinian - Mirano

And lastly the Malcontenta

To end our itinerary among the sights of the Riviera del Brenta we meet an old acquaintance again: Palladio. Villa Foscari - called the "Malcontenta" is his project: a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it was the favourite residence of several Venetian nobleman for their relaxing and joyful vacations, among prestigious architectures in the green coolness of the park overlooking the placid water before plunging into the Venetian river.



Villa Widman Foscari - Mira



Villa Pisani - Stra



Villa Pisani - Stra

See you in Veneto

The tour we have set out in these pages is now over, but we are sure that, if you followed our suggestions, you are already thinking about the next excuse to join us in Veneto and see the landscapes you missed, lay down on that beach you did not have time to reach,

climb that peak you saw from afar, visit that art centre that many people recommended, taste that dish and drink that wine that you did not have the chance to try this time around. Because this is Veneto, a treasure chest of endless masterpieces impossible to get to know in just one holiday. It is a delight

to come back here, again and again, in all seasons, to get to know this region better and better, in all its aspects: the sea in the winter, the mountains painted by autumnal colours, snowed or sun-kissed peaks, the green hills in spring, the quieter cities more enjoyable in August... Here every moment is magical, ideal to imagine what your heart

desires and go wherever you mind takes you, along the coast, in the beautiful countryside, among gentle slopes or surrounded by astounding peaks. Veneto will always welcome you and offer you a pleasant stay among thousands of surprises, letting your imagination free to lead you in places full of the pleasure of travel, excitement and fun...



Info and useful numbers

Emergency service

First aid: 118
Carabinieri: 112
Police: 113
Fire fighters: 115
Guardia di Finanza: 117
Emergency at sea: 1530
A.C.I. - Automobile Club: 803,116
Mountain rescue: 118 – 112

Tourism

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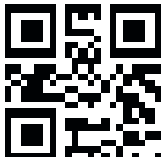


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www.trenitalia.com



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On the cover: View of Madonna della Salute from the Canal Grande - Venice



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