



Consorzio di Promozione e Commercializzazione Turistica

VERONA and the surrounding area

A guide to the city and Province of Verona





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and Province of Verona

Verona Tuttintorno is proud to present the new edition of "Verona and the Surrounding Area - A Guide to the City and Province of Verona". The publication provides a general overview of the area's riches, and describes 30 fascinating itineraries to explore. The guide represents a collaborative effort between the Consortium and its members: travel agencies, hoteliers, restaurant owners, wineries, the Wine Road association, local government, transportation agencies, and tourist-sector service providers of every kind. The included itineraries offer a myriad of possibilities for enjoying the area's cultural riches, its nearby mountains, lake, and plain, and its world-famous enogastronomic traditions.

Verona Tuttintorno, a consortium of businesses dedicated to promoting local tourism and the cultural, environmental, and enogastronomic patrimony of the City and Province of Verona, also offers up-to-date information and itinerary planning assistance for those wishing to make Verona and the surrounding area their next vacation destination.

Enjoy Verona and the surrounding area!!!



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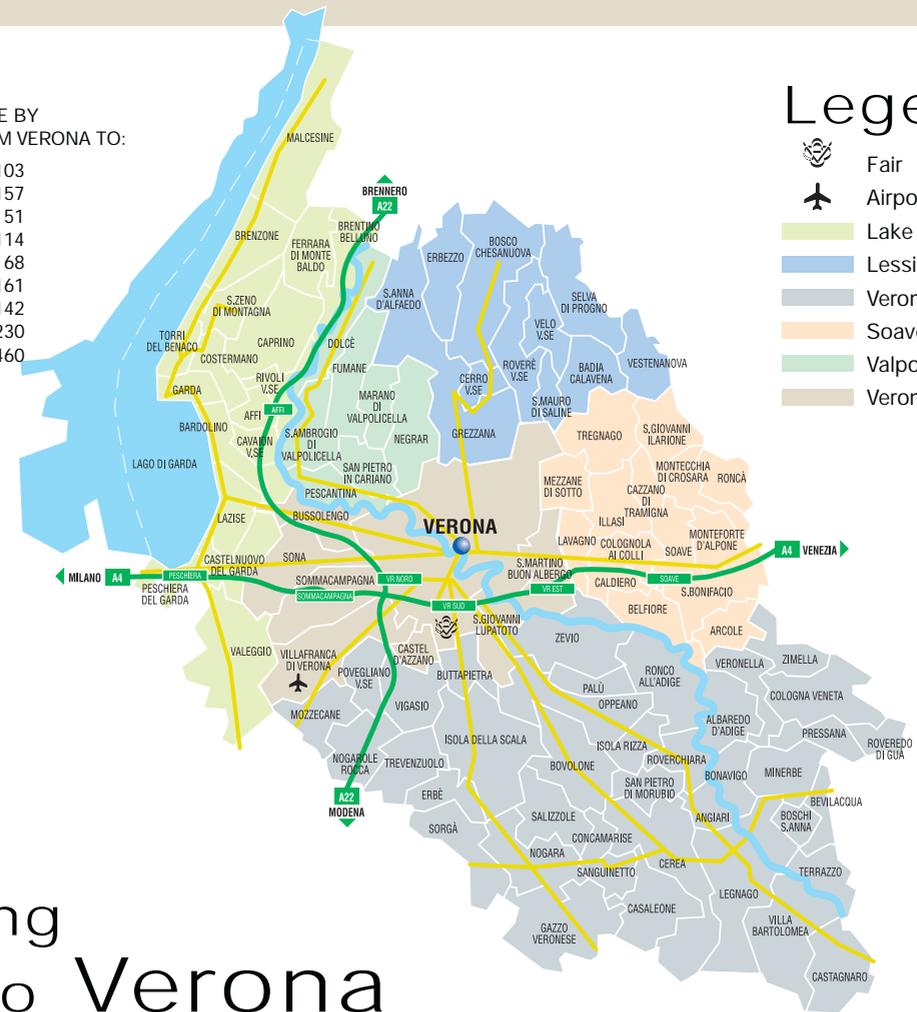
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TRAVEL DISTANCE BY MOTORWAY FROM VERONA TO:

Trento	km. 103
Bolzano	km. 157
Vicenza	km. 51
Venice	km. 114
Brescia	km. 68
Milan	km. 161
Bologna	km. 142
Florence	km. 230
Rome	km. 460



Legend:

- Fair
- Airport
- Lake Garda
- Lessinia
- Veronese Plain
- Soave
- Valpolicella
- Verona

getting to Verona

BY CAR

The A4 Motorway crosses the province of Verona from east to west. There are two city exits, Verona South and Verona North, in addition to exits located throughout the province at Soave, Sommacampagna and Peschiera (Lake Garda). The A4 Motorway is also intersected north to south by the A22 Modena-Brennero Motorway, with exits at Verona Nord for the city and Valpolicella district; at Nogarole Rocca for the Veronese plain; and at Affi for Lake Garda and Mount Baldo. The exit for the Fair is Verona Sud. Other main roads are the SS11 (a state highway) from Brescia or Vicenza, the SS62 from Mantova, and the SS12 from Trento or Modena. The Lessinia district can be reached from Verona along a secondary road for Grezzana-Bosco Chiesanuova.

BY TRAIN

Verona is served by the main train line for northern Italy, the Milan-Venice line. The line offers frequent connections to other cities in the Veneto (Venice, Padua, Vicenza) and Lombardy (Brescia, Milan) regions. The city is also intersected by another important train line which connects Rome to Trento, the Brenner Pass and northern Europe. The central station is Verona Porta Nuova. For information: tel. +39 045 8902021 www.trenitalia.com

BY PLANE

The Valerio Catullo Airport, situated in Villafranca, just 12 kilometres from Verona, is easily reached by Motorway and from the city. The airport offers connections to various locations in central and southern Italy (Rome, Bari, Cagliari, Catania, Palermo) and to principal European countries, including Germany (Berlin, Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt), France, England, The Netherlands, Spain (Madrid, Barcelona), Belgium and Austria. Charter flights also connect Italy to Spain, Greece, Cuba, Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey, Russia, France, Mexico and Morocco.



getting around the City

BY CAR

Access to the historical center (a limited traffic zone) is permitted Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; from 4-6 p.m.; and from 8-10 p.m. Access is allowed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Parking is permitted using "Verona Park" pre-paid parking cards, available at tobacconists and authorized cafés (cost varies from 1-1.50 euro, depending on zone).

Tourists staying in the Green Zone will receive permits for unlimited transit and parking in appointed areas from their hotel or other lodging facility. Free parking is located at the Stadium (Stadio), Piazzale Guardini, via Frà Giocondo, and Viale Colonnello Galiano. For other parking areas please consult: www.comune.verona.it/turismo/muovearsi.htm

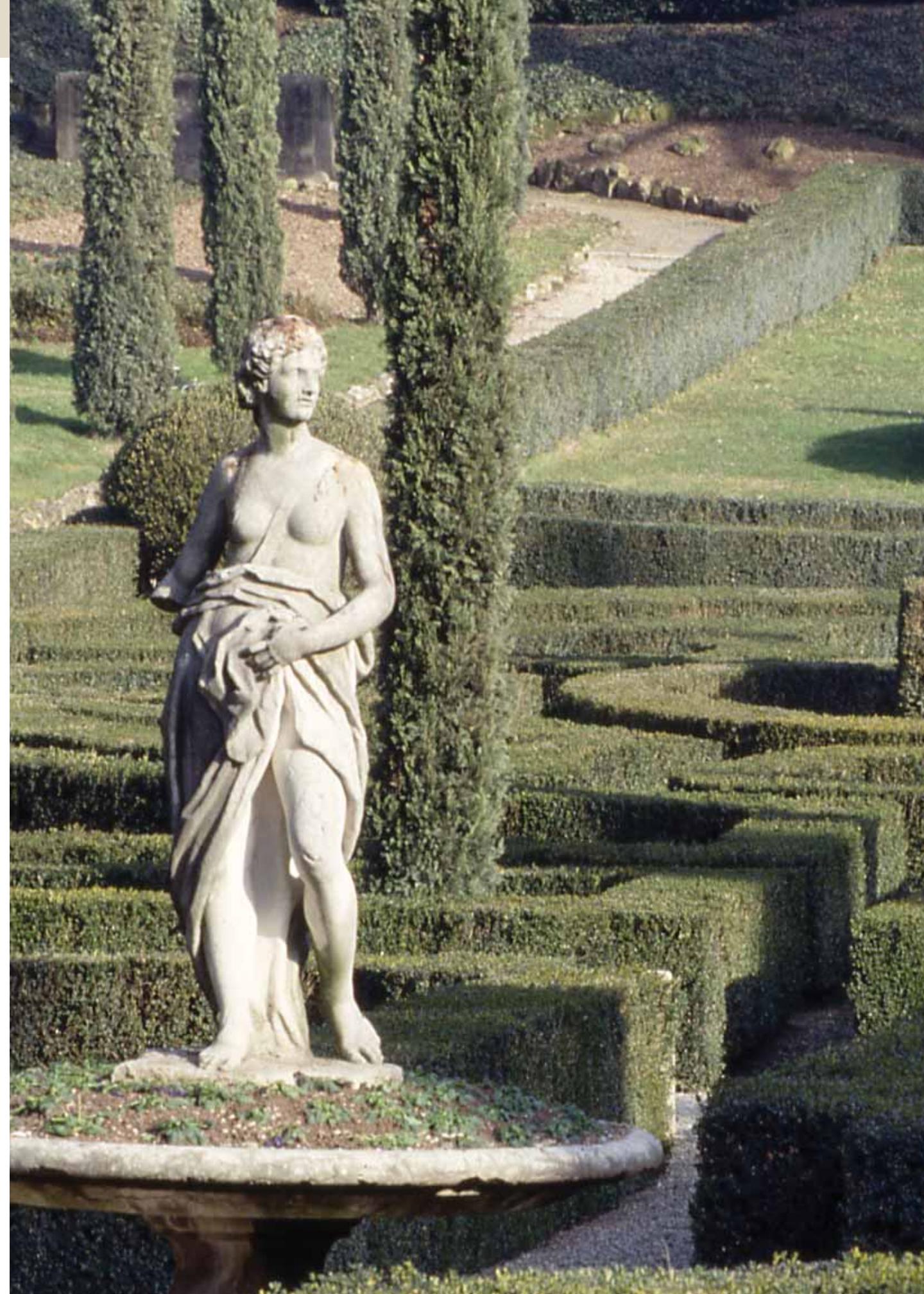
BY BUS

Tickets must be obtained before boarding, and can be purchased at tobacconists and newsagents. A bus ticket costs 1.00 Euro and is valid on all routes for 60 minutes. A daily ticket is also available for 3.50 Euro, and is valid on the entire metropolitan network. For information: Azienda Municipalizzata Trasporti (Municipal Transport Authority) Tel: +39 045 8871111 or info@amt.it

The Veronese province can be reached on the blue suburban buses. The bus station is located in the main square of the central train station. Tickets for these buses must also be purchased before boarding. For information: Azienda Provinciale Trasporti. Tel: +39 045 8057911 or aptvr@apt.vr.it. Enjoy a convenient and comfortable city tour aboard Romeo, a bus offering 90 minute audio tours (with headphones) in English, German, French, and Italian. The service operates from June to September. For information, please telephone +39 045 8401160 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

BY TAXI

Radio taxis operate 24 hours a day. Tel: +39 045 532666. 24-hour service is also provided by taxis at the train station (Tel: +39 045 8004528) and Piazza Brà (Tel: +39 045 8030565). Other taxi stands can be found in Piazza Erbe (tel. +39 045 8349510), Piazzetta S. Giorgio (tel. +39 045 8349500), Borgo Trento Hospital (tel. +39 045 8349511), Borgo Roma Hospital, Verona South and East exits, in Corso Milano, and at the Catullo Airport.





Basilica of San Zeno



Verona, a World Heritage City

Verona is a city of many layers, where ancient Romans, medieval nobles, Venetian signori, Napoleon, and Austrian Hapsburgs, have woven a rich tapestry of art, architecture, and history throughout its urban fabric. The city's great appeal lies in the fact that, from its historic center to the banks of the Adige River, it is both a bustling, modern northern Italian city and a living testament to Verona's glorious past.

Begin your exploration of Verona in the centrally located Piazza Brà, where the enormous Arena, a Roman amphitheatre from the first century A.D., is located. To this day, the Arena still hosts the 22,000 spectators attending the prestigious, annual opera season held there each summer. Located nearby are the Palazzo Barbieri and Palazzo della Gran Guardia. Along the Liston, an elegant pink marble sidewalk that borders one side of Piazza Brà, and along the Via Mazzini, Verona's most elegant shopping avenue, the Veronese enjoy a daily, ritual stroll called the passeggiata.

At the end of Via Mazzini sits one of the city's most famous monuments, Casa di Giulietta, the home of

Juliet, Shakespeare's tragic heroine. A short distance away, on the site of the ancient Roman forum, you will find Piazza delle Erbe, now home to a local market and surrounded by buildings and towers dating from the 12th-17th centuries. The Madonna Verona, a fountain found in its center, is a symbol of the city. Passing underneath an unusual archway (a large rib hangs down from its main arch) you enter Piazza dei Signori, the former seat of the medieval Scaliger reign (the della Scala family palace is found at one end of the piazza). Adjacent, you will see the beautiful Arche Scaligere, sepulchral monuments of Cangrande della Scala and his family.

The characteristic Via Sottoriva takes you to the banks of the Adige and the church of Sant' Anastasia, a repository of medieval and Renaissance works of art. On the other side of the river, just across the Roman bridge Ponte Pietra, rises the Teatro Romano, the Roman theater. Continuing further along the river embankment, you will come upon Verona's cathedral, the Duomo, whose harmonious Gothic interior complements the priceless altarpiece by Titian located inside.

The wide loop of the river that encloses the historical city center ends at a remarkably well-preserved medieval castle, the Castelvecchio, a 14th century work of the Scaligeri, and home to an important local art museum. Further down the river, the itinerary concludes at the Basilica di San Zeno, one of the most beautiful and important Romanesque churches in northern Italy. Masterpieces such as the bronze panels of the main portal and Andrea Mantegna's triptych found at the high altar are indicative of an important period of artistic flourishing in the city.



> Verona a world heritage city > itineraries in Verona

Roman Amphitheater/Arena



Juliet's balcony



Pisanello's Fresco "St. George & the Princess"
Church of S. Anastasia



Opera in the Arena

> itineraries in Verona

Verona

> half-day tours

GENERAL TOUR OF THE HISTORICAL CENTER

A general tour of the historical city center begins at the Arena and continues down quaint cobblestone streets towards Juliet's famous balcony at the Casa di Giulietta. From there, continue on to Piazza delle Erbe, site of the ancient Roman forum, Piazza dei Signori, the old market courtyard of the Cortile del Mercato Vecchio, the so-called Stairs of Reason, or Scala della Ragione, and the Scaliger Tombs at the Arche Scaligere. Return to Piazza Brà along the Corso Portoni Borsari, admiring the still visible Roman gate and city walls.

HIDDEN VERONA

Enjoy a half day, off the beaten track. Begin at the 17th century Giardino Giusti, magnificent green gardens, then visit the nearby church of Santa Maria in Organo, which contains marvellous intarsia work found in the sacristy. Cross the ancient Roman bridge of Ponte Pietra, and stop at the medieval church of Sant' Anastasia, admiring the famous fresco by Pisanello inside.

ARCHEOLOGICAL VERONA

Verona is steeped in archeological history, and there are many Roman monuments to admire throughout the city. Among these are the Arena (Roman amphitheater) and the Roman city walls—especially evocative at Porta Leone, one of the entrances into the ancient Roman city. The ancient Roman forum is today found at Piazza delle Erbe. Cross the Adige River at the Roman bridge known as Ponte Pietra, and visit the Teatro Romano, an ancient Roman theater and Archeological Museum, on the other side.

Rafting the Adige

Discovering Verona from the back of a paddle

> 1 hour and a half program (from June to September)

This tour, offered from June to September, is for those who wish to discover Verona in an original and fun way, travelling by raft along a particularly picturesque part of the river.

- Meet the guides (a rafting guide and a tour guide) at the Castelvecchio Bridge

(Arsenale side) or along the Lungadige Catena in front of the Trattoria all'Adige; prepare rafting equipment.

- Put in at the Castelvecchio bridge and begin a guided tour of the city, paddling past the Ponte delle Navi, Ponte della Vittoria, Ponte Garibaldi, Ponte Pietra and Ponte Nuovo. Enjoy Verona's

bridges, monuments, churches, and palaces in absolute tranquility. (Note: It is possible to stop at certain points along the route.)

- The raft trip ends in the Filippini neighborhood, where your personal belongings will be waiting for you.



Roman Stone Bridge



Mantegna's Triptych - Basilica of San Zeno



Piazza dei Signori



Mazzanti Houses



Via Sottoriva



Roman Theater



Lamberti Tower

itineraries in Verona

The Grand Tour

- Spend the morning visiting the Basilica of San Zeno, one of the most beautiful romanesque churches in Northern Italy. Admire its 12th century frescoed annex, famous bronze door panels, and a triptych by the Renaissance painter Andrea Mantegna
- Follow the Regaste, a boardwalk promenade found along the banks of the Adige River, to the Castello Scaligero, a 14th century Scaliger castle and local art museum.

- Don't miss a walk across the castle's fairy-tale bridge
- Exit the castle/museum and follow the Corso Cavour until reaching the Church of San Lorenzo, a 12th century jewel. Continue on until reaching the Porta Borsari, one of the entrances into the ancient Roman city of Verona. Enjoy a walk down the cobblestone streets of the historical centre, enjoying lunch at one of the city's many osterie, charming wine bars serving typical, local fare.
- In the afternoon, explore the city's many colorful piazzas, including Piazza delle Erbe and Piazza dei Signori, as well as

> a one day program

the Mercato Vecchio courtyard with its marble staircase, the Scala delle Ragione, and the funerary monuments of Verona's ruling nobles, the Arche Scaligere. Pass through the courtyard of the Palazzo del Comune on your way to the Casa di Giuletta, Juliet's house, complete with balcony.

- Enjoy a late afternoon stroll down the Via Mazzini, Verona's most elegant shopping thoroughfare, ending in Piazza Brà, where you can admire the Arena and 17th century Palazzo della Gran Guardia.

Verona by Night

A memorable tour

This three-hour private bus excursion includes a visit to the romantic, illuminated Castelvecchio bridge. From there you will be taken to the surrounding hills to enjoy a nocturnal view of Verona and the Adige River.

> one evening program

Finally, enjoy a pleasant walk through the historical center along some of Verona's most picturesque streets. The evening ends with a glass of wine at one of the city's many wine bars, called osterie.

Escape for two in the city of love

Traditional and Secret Itineraries

> in 2 Days and 1 night

First day: Verona

- Arrive in Verona and check-in at your centrally located hotel.
- Enjoy a leisurely visit to Piazza delle Erbe or Piazza Dante, and stop for an aperitif.
- Enjoy a typical Veronese dinner at a romantic enoteca.
- Take an evening stroll in Piazza Brà and along Via Mazzini before retiring for the night.

Second day: Verona

- Breakfast, followed by a walk through medieval Verona, its charming neighborhoods, beautiful churches, art galleries, wine bars and of course Juliet's famous balcony.
- Lunch on your own in the historical center.
- An afternoon visit to Castel San Pietro, where you will enjoy a panoramic view of the city and river from the top of this picturesque hill.
- Unwind in the hotel, then enjoy a special dinner and evening stroll, hand-in-hand, over some of Verona's most romantic bridges, the Ponte Pietra and Ponte Castelvecchio.

Pre- Opera Evening

Opera, History, and Veronese Cuisine

> a one evening program

- Meeting point: a historical Veronese palazzo, a few steps from the Arena, at 5:30 p.m.
- Enjoy "Opera: A Guide to the Works of Giuseppe Verdi", given by a piano maestro and vocal solists at 6 p.m (in collaboration with the Opera Foundation

- of Verona).
- At 7 p.m., enjoy a superb dinner and excellent local wines in the Palazzo's dining room.
- At 8:30 p.m., depart on foot for the Opera (performances begin at 9 p.m.)





Lessinia, the nearby mountains

The Lessinia district is situated in the northern reaches of the Verona province. The plateau extends as far east as Vicenza, as far west as the Val d'Adige, and as far north as the Valle di Ronchi. In 1990 the area was proclaimed a Regional Natural Park, due to the many natural wonders found there. The Veronese mountain range, with its southerly-exposed Valpantena valley, is a temperate zone located between the Padana Plain and the Alps. The gradual slope of its ridges (100-1800 meters above sea level), the abundant autumn and spring rainfall of the upper Lessinia, its deep torrential streams, the arid karst of its limestone, and thousands of years of human habitation have created an environment of great diversity. The olive groves and Mediterranean vines of the lower hills give rise to the cherry and chestnut orchards of the mid-Lessinia, which then lead to the plateau's alpine

pastures. The sedimentary and volcanic rock (formed in the last 200 million years) are the oldest parts of this rare, environmental mosaic of which the fish fossils of Bolca are the most famous. The story of Lessinia, however, doesn't end with its geological, pre-historic or ethnographic heritage. Several traditional activities, such as alpeggio (specialized dairy and cheese production) and stone masonry continue as economic and cultural pursuits. Some quarries are still operational today, and extract Pietra della Lessinia (the traditional stone of the Lessinia region). The principal centres of the district are: Grezzana, where the prestigious Villa Arvedi is situated; Bosco Chiesanuova and its Museo Etnografico, Erbezzo with the flora and fauna area of Malga Derocon, S. Anna d'Alfaedo, where the Museo Paleontologico is located, and Ponte di Veja, a unique example of a natural bridge formed by a geological

phenomenon. Markings left on the Grotta dell'Orso and other caves formed under this bridge indicate a use by hunters (one of whom may have been "Otzi", found on the Similuan glacier) in pre-historic times. The Parco delle Cascate di Molina, a natural water oasis, full of rare botanical species, boasts gorgeous canyons, lakes and panoramic lookouts found throughout the park. Refreshingly cool in the summer months, the park is also fascinating during the winter, when its many waterfalls freeze over. The Lessinia—easily reached by public transportation and served by a variety of accommodation including hotels, camp sites, and apartments—offers numerous possibilities for both winter and summer tourism. Skiing (on the new lifts of San Giorgio), hiking, and much more are yours for the taking. No wonder the Veronese consider this their "premier mountain".





Antique Rifles



Enjoying the Outdoors at San Giorgio



Località Spiassoi - Roverè



Monte Veronese DOP cheese and Local Salami



Fossil Museum of Bolca

itineraries in Lessinia

The Flavors, Nature, and History of the Lessinia

A one day excursion to the Lessinia Park, an area rich in local traditions and flavors, including Monte Veronese DOP cheese and olive oil. This program also includes a stop in the Valpolicella.

- Depart Verona in the morning for Bosco Chiesanuova. Pause for a tasting session at a local olive oil mill in Grezzana, then

- enjoy a glass of wine at a Valpantena winery; transfer to Bosco Chiesanuova to visit the Ethnographic Museum and 18th century "Baito del Latte" and Coletta.
- Lunch in a typical restaurant serving traditional mountain cuisine.
- In the afternoon, visit a cheese-

producing facility (caseificio), proceeding on to S. Anna d'Alfaedo and Ponte di Veja, a famous natural bridge. Visit the Paleontological Museum.

- Arrive in the Valpolicella district and stop to taste the local wine, known by the same name.
- Return to Verona in the late afternoon.

> A one day program

Mountain Biking in the Lessinia

From Verona to the Lessinia

- First day: Afternoon arrival in Verona, hotel check-in, meet the guide, and enjoy a welcome drink followed by a brief overview of the program and equipment check. Dinner and overnight in hotel.
- Second day: Verona to Roverè. Breakfast, followed by departure for the most difficult leg of the journey, heading towards the hills and Lessinia mountains. Following a sack lunch (extra for a trattoria meal), the ride continues towards Roverè Veronese (800 meters). Hotel check-in, dinner, overnight in hotel.

- Third day: Roverè to Bosco Chiesanuova. Breakfast, followed by departure for Camposilvano, site of the Fossil Museum, the great abyss of Covolo, and the enchanting Valley of the Sphinxes. Continuing through Alpine pastures towards San Giorgio (1500 meters) you enter the Regional Natural Park of the Lessinia at Bosco. Sack lunch (extra for a trattoria meal). Hotel check-in, dinner, overnight in hotel.
- Fourth day: Bosco Chiesanuova to Verona. Following breakfast, a visit to

> in 5 days and 4 nights

the Ethnographic Museum. Departure (entirely downhill) through woodland, cherry tree groves, vineyards, and olive trees. Journey continues towards Verona after a sack lunch (extra for a trattoria meal). Stop at Castel San Pietro to enjoy the panoramic view. Arrival at the Roman arena in Piazza Brà. Luggage delivery and end of program. (Note: It is possible to arrange an extended stay in Verona.)

Hiking in the Lessinia

From Giazza to Verona along the E5 Trail

- First day: Afternoon arrival in Verona, hotel check-in, meet the guide, and enjoy a welcome drink followed by a brief overview of the program and equipment check. Typical dinner, overnight in hotel.
- Second day: Verona to Giazza to S. Giorgio. Departure by bus, following breakfast, for Giazza, in the Val d'Illasi, a center of Cimbro culture. Visit the Cimbro Museum, purchase last-minute items for your sack lunch, and begin

hiking towards the high plateau of the Lessinia. Dinner and overnight in the hotel.

- Third day: S. Giorgio to Ponte Veja. After breakfast, depart for the E5 trail, which traverses the central Lessinia (an area characterized by ancient Cimbro culture and wild valleys). Following a sack lunch, the hike continues to the famous geo-archeological park of the Ponte di Veja, Europe's largest natural

- bridge. Dinner and overnight in hotel.
- Fourth day: Ponte di Veja to Verona. Following breakfast, depart for the last leg of the journey, across the mid-Lessinia and the Valpolicella. The area, blanketed with cherry trees, vineyards, and olive groves, heads in the direction of the wild Borago and Verona. Sack lunch. Arrival in Piazza Brà, where the hike ends.

> in 4 days and 3 nights

In the Hills of the Valpantena

> mountain biking or hiking itinerary of 6.3 km

Leave your car parked at the parish church of Santa Maria in Stelle and proceed along the Via Casai, found to your left. An old horse-cart path, found after passing the last houses, leads you through a panoramic countryside. When

it meets up with an unpaved road in the village of Maroni, continue to the right along the main road, passing the village of Fiocco and stables. Another unpaved path will lead you down through the woods to the village of Ca' Nova.

Continue descending to the right, until reaching the paved road found in the village of Vendri, home to a small church and Villa Vendri. You will reach your original point of departure 10 minutes further down the road.

Towards the Castle of Montorio

> biking or hiking itinerary of 4 km (2 hours)

Discover Montorio, an area rich in history. Leave your car at the supermarket in the village of Ponte Florio (a bus from Porta Nuova also stops here). Cross the small bridge, heading north; the small creek provided water to Verona during the Roman period. Continue on, climbing to the right, until the road flattens out.

At the fork in the road, continue right, where, after a few minutes, you will reach the Montorio Castle. The castle dates from the Scaliger reign (13th-14th centuries). Turn back the same way you came, stopping to admire the church of San Venerio, by way of the so-called John Fort (also called Forte Preara),

erected by the Austrians in 1860. Continue in a northerly direction towards the "Piloton", a mysterious artifact from the pre-Roman period; a still-buried, prehistoric hamlet from the same period is located nearby. Return along the same route to the car.



Soave Castle

Soave, castles and vines

For many centuries, on the lower slopes of the Lessinia mountains located in the eastern province of Verona, the volcanic soil of the Alpone, Tramigna, Illasi and Mezzane valleys has provided the ideal environment for the cultivation of garganega grapes and the production of Soave wine. This wine, considered one of the great Veronese whites, owes much to the volcanic origins and emerging limestone of these hills. In addition to producing fine wine, Soave is also a territory rich in castles, churches and ancient belltowers. An impressive array of historic sites, gastronomic traditions, and picturesque villages are found in the area, as are a number of businesses, sales outlets, restaurants, cultural attractions, and environmental points of interest. Start from the walled town of Soave, located at the foot of a magnificent, medieval castle. Soave was almost certainly reconstructed by the Svevi, followed by the Longobards, and fortified by the Scaliger nobles of Verona.

Examples of their respective rules include the 18th century church of San Bonifacio, the 15th century Palazzo Cavalli (in Gothic-Venetian style), the 14th century church of San Lorenzo (reconstructed in the 18th century), and the beautiful Palazzo di Giustizia and Palazzo Scaligero. Leaving the town towards the east, cross the bridge over the Torrente Tramigna and continue along on the panoramic road towards Colognola ai Colli, a quaint village originally inhabited by Romans, and extending across the charming hills of Soave. From here, a turn towards the south takes you to local hot springs dating from the Roman period (Antiche Terme Romane) in Caldiero. Alternatively, head north to reach the delightful Illasi Valley, where olive trees flourish amongst vineyards and cherry groves; continue the journey up to Pieve di Colognola where the romantic Pieve di Santa Maria, surrounded by vineyards, can be admired. The very ancient center of San Pietro di Lavagno, surrounded by

villas, can also be visited. Return to Illasi, with its suggestive, medieval atmosphere. Admire the villas of the former nobility, such as the Villa Perez Pompei Sagramoso (once the seat of feudal government), whose large park extends up to the castle. Climb to the top of the hill crest and enjoy views of the Illasi valley and Tramigna, then descend to Cazzano di Tramigna meandering through the cherry orchards. A bit further south, near Monteforte d'Alpone, you will find the historic zone of "Soave Classico", the selection area for "cru" wines (Monte Pressoni, Monte Foscarino, Rugate, Ronchetto, Val D'Alpone, Ronca and Bolca). Admire the important parish church of Santa Maria Maggiore, decorated with a neoclassical facade and bell tower, and the Palazzo Vescovile, enhanced by a delightful cloister. In all, an intoxicating journey of discovery to the land of a world-famous wine.



Monteforte d'Alpone



Colognola ai Collii



Località al Pigno



Illasi Castel



Balla Bassanella - Soave



Illasi

itineraries in Soave

The Mezzane Valley

> *mountain biking or hiking itinerary of 12 km*

This itinerary winds along the eastern slope of the valley of Mezzane. Park in the square opposite the local town hall (municipio). Follow the main road north as far as the olive oil mill (frantoio), then turn right onto via Farinati. Turn right onto via degli Olivi which passes through the small hamlets of Tremenello and Giare. Upon arriving at Valdonega, a decidedly steep country road takes you up to the ridge that intersects the via

Cara (a dirt road). Head north along this ancient cattle trail to the memorial capital of S. Vincenzo. Turn left for a quick descent to Mezzane di Sopra, after which you come to a small cemetery. Just after the cemetery, take the road to the left, which passes through meadows and woodlands and ends at Casale. From here, return to the Mezzane town hall (just a few minutes ahead).

The Flavors and Treasures of Soave

Soave is one of the most beautiful medieval hamlets of the entire Veneto region. It is famous throughout the world for the locally-produced wine known by the same name. This itinerary begins with a stroll through the historical center, still surrounded by medieval city walls attached to the magnificent castle located on the nearby hill. Though the castle's origins are indeed ancient, its current appearance owes much to the building

programs of the Scaliger family of Verona and the Venetians. The towns boasts a number of excellent restaurants and typical wine cellars, all which can all be visited. The itinerary continues to Illasi, home to many villas belonging to the nobility. Perhaps the most beautiful of these is the Villa Sagramoso Perez Pompei; it is also a winery. Continuing north, you reach the village of Giazza, located at the foot of the Little Dolomites

> *a one day program*

(Piccole Dolomiti). This is a village rich in Cimbri history (a population from central Europe that lived in the area over 800 years ago). Local olive oil mills and many wrought-iron workshops are located along the roads in the area. The Museum of Wrought Iron can be visited in the town of Cogollo (Tregnago). Make your last stop a visit to the Abbazia di San Bonifacio, an abbey located nearby the Soave autostrada exit.

The Fossils, Villas, and Castles of Eastern Verona

> *a one day program*

This itinerary begins in Illasi, with a visit to the Villa Sagramoso Perez Pompei, built in 1615 and surrounded by a vast park dating from the early 19th century. Remains of the medieval castle are found on the summit of a nearby hill, located within the park, as are statues and centuries-old trees. The Villa Pompei Carlotti, the main portion of which dates

from 1600, stands in the center of the town. The villa is decorated with statues by G.A. Schiavi and frescoes by Antonio Balestra and Andrea Porta. Enjoy a typical lunch along the road for Tregnago. Continue further along, reaching the town of Bolca, home to an extremely important fossil depository, the Museo dei Fossili. A visit to this museum can

be complemented by a "paleontological walk"-the route starts in Bolca, and explores the Pesciara valley, where the Cerato family first excavated the fossils seen at the Fossil Museum of Bolca and Natural History Museum of Verona. Upon your return, enjoy a romantic stroll in the town of Soave.

The Route of the 10 Capitals at Monteforte d'Alpone

> *a one day program*

This is a classic itinerary, designed for those who love to hike or simply take a pleasant stroll. Leaving from Piazza Venturi in the historical center of Monteforte d'Alpone, you quickly reach walking paths, beautifully framed by the vine-covered hills of Soave Classico - Val Ponsara, Val dell'Acqua, Foscari, Monte Pressoni, Monte Cercene, il Pigno,

la Rocca, Ca' de Napa, Zoppega and Salvarenza. The uncontaminated natural beauty of this area has even been recently appreciated by the Italian Environmental Minister. The Route of the 10 Capitals offers panoramic scenery, and views of the surrounding hills that seem frozen in time. The 8 km route, open year-round, is well marked by sign posts. The 10

capitals propose the rituals of an ancient faith alongside those of Mother Nature, and are as follows: 1) Madonna with Child; 2) Saint Peter; 3) Holy Family; 4) Virgin Mary with Child; 5) Saint Vincenzo Ferreri; 6) Bassanella; 7) Saint Joseph; 8) Christ on the Cross; 9) Regina Pacis; 10) San Rochetto.



Villa de Buris



Valpolicella, wine country

Say the word Valpolicella, and images of Recioto and Amarone—wines once enjoyed by Roman emperors, and today even more complex and prestigious—instantly come to mind.

From the vineyard-carpeted valley slopes of spring, to the purple-tinged harvests of autumn, the regal grape makes a difficult journey, and endures a three-month long drying period, on its way from vine to wine. Indeed, the merits and value of this grape can best be appreciated with a visit to the Valpolicella, a 240-sq. kilometer area steeped in local traditions, where natural, historic, and artistic resources also play an important role in the economic strength of the region. The following are some examples: Natural and archaeological marvels: Ponte di Veja, the largest natural bridge in Europe; Waterfalls of Molina; the Ceraino fort; medieval caves of Prun; a six-metre shark fossil displayed in the

Museo di S. Anna.

Prehistoric remains: Grotta di Fumane (the “shaman” grotta dates back 34,000 years); Castellier delle Guàite (oldest ramparts in Europe, dating back 3600 years).

Romanesque monuments: Civic tower of Negrar; Churches of San Giorgio and San Floriano, plus a dozen other minor churches.

Hundreds of Veneto Villas, many with frescoed halls, built by Palladio, Sammicheli, Cristofoli, and others: San Dionigi (Parona); Verità-Serego Alighieri and Turco Zamboni (Arbizzano); Mosconi-Bertani (Novare); Rizzardi (including the famed gardens) (Pojeaga/Negrar); Pullè-Galtarossa (S. Pietro); Porta-Rizzini (Marano); Buri-Avanzi (Bure); Della Torre (Fumane); Nichesola (Ponton); Del Bene (Volargne); Da Sacco (Pescantina). Alongside these marvels of art and nature, you will see fragrant peach and

cherry trees, silvery-green olive groves, terraced apple orchards and leafy chestnut trees. Likewise, in the marble district of S. Ambrogio and in nearby industrial zones, small companies and talented craftsmen produce prized handicrafts and important machinery. Local gastronomic traditions also abound in lively taverns, inns, and restaurants, where the area’s cuisine attains a high level of elegance and refinement. Some local dishes include Paparèle col brodo tajà e figadini; tri lessi con pearà; pasta e fasoi; polenta; agnello in umido. Locally-cured meats and aromatic mountain cheeses are also popular. Typical deserts still incorporate ancestral flavours, from the rustic pissòta to pastafròla, sbrisolòna, torta margarita, nadalini and Easter brasadèle. All are even tastier, accompanied by a glass of Recioto or Amarone.

Prof. Francesco Quintarelli



Local Vinification Techniques



Molina Waterfalls



Hamlet Church of San Floriano



"Green Theater" in the Gardens of Pojega - Negrar



Hamlet Church of San Giorgio Ingannapoltron - Courtyard



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itineraries in Valpolicella

The Land of Red Wines

A full day excursion for those who want to spend more time in the Valpolicella.

- Morning departure by rented car or coach
- Visit the romanesque parish churches of the Valpolicella, San Giorgio and San Floriano

- Visit a local Valpolicella winery and enjoy a wine tasting of the local reds (Valpolicella, Amarone and Recioto) along with typical products of the region
- Enjoy lunch in a typical restaurant
- Visit one of the many local villas like

> a one day program

the 17th century gardens of Villa Rizzardi

- Before retouring another wine tasting of the local reds (Valpolicella, Amarone, Recioto) along with typical products of the region.

A Walk to the Church of San Giorgio

A 3-4 hour hike, with a total climb of 626 meters, in the land of red wine and romanesque churches.

- Departure and arrival point: the church of S. Ambrogio. Set out in a north-easterly direction towards the tower on the hill. The walk proceeds along a horse-drawn cart path, set amongst small vineyards.

After reaching S. Giorgio, visit the famous church, the archeological park, and the museum.

- Continue in a northerly direction to Mazzurega. The trail skirts old, abandoned caves and highlights the geological features of the local marble economy. Arrive at a small farm

> a 3-4 hour hike

(agriturismo). Learn more about vine and olive cultivation, local animals, and the transformation of milk to dairy products.

- Return to S. Ambrogio, heading south along the horse-drawn cart path.

Towards the Ponte di Veja

This itinerary highlights a geological monument of international importance, the Ponte di Veja, Europe's largest natural bridge. From the hamlet of Bollori in the Valpantena, continue north (by car) passing the village of Dorigo. At the fork in the road at Fosse/Erbezzo, continue towards Fosse until the first

hairpin turn, the so-called Ponte Basasenoci. Park the car, and continue on foot until you see signs for the European Trail E5. Descend towards the woods, keeping to the left, towards the Vajo della Marciora. After hiking approximately a half hour, the trail leads to a tiny waterfall and the majestic Ponte

di Veja, standing 29 meters tall. This is a fascinating place, inhabited by man for over 100,000 years. Just ahead, you will find a typical trattoria, offering a warm meal and glass of Valpolicella wine. Return along the same route.

> a 4 km hike

The Mills and Waterfalls of Molina

Discover Molina, an ancient medieval village.

- Explore this hamlet, unique for its houses and roofs built from slabs of the local white stone. The town has many mills, including the Molino of Lorenzo, where you can experience, hands-on,

the work of a miller. In the restored Alpine hut (known locally as a malga) next to the mill, watch milk turned into butter and cheese.

- Enjoy lunch in a typical trattoria.

- In the afternoon, visit the local Botanical Museum which highlights the varied vegetation and uncontaminated natural environment of the Lessinia and Molina area.

> a one day program

The Regional Natural Park of the Lessinia

From history to nature: flavors and treasures of the Lessinia

- Visit the Geopaleontological Museum of Sant'Anna, home to Europe's largest shark fossil, and the Archeological Park of the Ponte di Veja, Europe's largest natural bridge.

- Enjoy lunch in a typical trattoria.
- Following lunch, depart for Molina, a stone hamlet located above the famous waterfalls.
- The afternoon continues with a wine

tasting at a prestigious Valpolicella vineyard.

> a one day program



The Veronese Plain discovery tours

The province of Verona extends southward from the city to the Padana Plain, a vast panorama of lowlands dominated by the cultivation of cereals and rice, and interrupted only by the solemn flow of the Adige River and tributaries of the Po. The lowlands, or Bassa, have a melancholy charm that recall man's relationship to the land, the cyclical nature of the seasons, and the vibrant colours of autumn, dimmed only by the first fog.

Many towns in the area have an impressive history. Romanesque churches are found in Belfiore, Isola della Scala, Erbedello, Cerea and Gazzo. Scaliger fortifications, seen in Valeggio sul Mincio, Villafranca, Nogarole Rocca,

Isola della Scala, Salizzole and Sanguinetto, formed part of the unique and famous defensive system-created by the Veronese noble family dal Mincio at Paludi del Grezzano-known as the Serraglio. Archeological museums of five local communities display many artifacts, and testify to a human presence in the area as far back as the Neolithic era. One of the greatest expressions of local peasant culture can be found near Isola della Scala, where evidence of the area's flourishing rice industry (Vialone Nano IGP), including the Pila Vecia, a 17th century machine used to husk rice, is ample. From the annual Rice Fair held each September/October, to artisan-made agricultural crafts used for rice

cultivation and production, the importance of the local rice crop is abundantly clear. Other agricultural products, including Veronese chicory, Cologna Veneta potatoes, Castagnaro cabbage, and the apples of Zevio, are equally important. In addition, local furniture artisans have found great success. The area has also been a noted center of furniture design and production since the 1920s, and thrives today thanks to a vocational school, Scuola di Ebanisteria, in Bovolone. All of this and more can be found within a panorama of unlimited horizons-the last remaining marshlands of the Great Veronese Valley, where cane, wild grasses, and rare species of flowers and fauna all flourish.



La Ciusara - Bonavigo



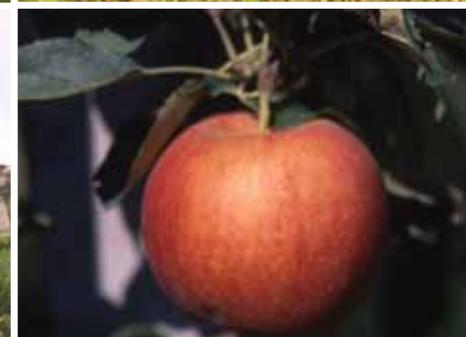
Villa Vecelli Cavriani - Mozzecane



San Salvaro - San Pietro di Legnago



Rice Cultivation



Villa Franco - Cerea



Adige River

itineraries in the Veronese Plain

Discovering the Veronese Rice Paddies

Half day program in Isola della Scala, with typical tasting menus based on local rice dishes

> a half day program

- Depart from Isola della Scala, the most important Italian production zone of Vialone Nano rice. A brief guided tour includes a visit to local rice paddies, where rice cultivation secrets (among them the area's local springs) are

revealed.

- Visit a local rice farm, or Pileria, to see how rice is worked and husked.
- Visit the Bastia church and Scaliger drawbridge which, in the 13th century, protected Veronese territory from the

incursions of the Mantuans.

- Lunch or dinner in a typical local restaurant, with tasting menus based on ten different rice varieties.

The Rice Farms of the Veronese Plain

The Veronese Plain covers a wide area, south of the city, characterized by large rice plantations, churches, historic residences, and castles. It is an internationally recognized marshland oasis. One of the many possible discovery routes in the area begins in Isola della Scala, the most important center for Vialone Nano rice cultivation.

A visit to a local riseria, or rice farm, educates the visitor on the seasonal cycle of this grain, the importance of local springs in its cultivation, and ancient and modern methods of working and husking the rice. All restaurants and several of the riseria in the area offer tasting menus, based on the local crop.

For history lovers, the afternoon can be

spent near the Church of the Bastia, the Scaliger bridge, the Bevilacqua Castle, and the Centro Museale di Legnago, a local museum where important prehistoric remains can be viewed. Along the way, nature lovers can stop at the Palude del Brusà or Busatello marshlands, home to many bird species.

> a one day program

Verona's Southern Border: Villafranca, Valeggio and Borghetto

Half day program amidst the old Scaliger castles along the Lombardy border

> a half day program

The itinerary offers tastes of local gastronomic specialties, including sfogliatine (typical sweets of Villafranca), tortellini of Valeggio, and the local wine, Custoza.

- In Villafranca, at the end of Corso Vittorio Emanuele, the remaining perimeter walls of the Scaliger Castle appear. Stop to taste the exquisite sfogliatine, a must for

anyone passing through town. Visit the nearby Nicolis Museum, offering an exhibition on the evolution of automobile technology and mechanics.

- Walk along the ramparts of the Serraglio, a Scaliger fortification that originated in the marshes of Grezzano, continued to Villafranca and Valeggio, and ended in Borghetto.

- At Valeggio, home of beloved local tortellini, visit the castle and enjoy breathtaking views of the plain and Mincio river at Borghetto.

- Stroll through the small medieval village of Borghetto and enjoy the lovely view of the Visconti bridge that crosses the Mincio River.

Abbeys, Arcole, and Almond Nougat

> a one day program

- The itinerary begins at the Soave autostrada exit, where the nearby abbeys of San Pietro and San Bonifacio, each examples of romanesque architecture and containing numerous works of art, can be visited.

- The journey continues to Belfiore. Approximately a mile from town, along the ancient Roman consular road known

as the Via Postumia, stands the church of San Michele (1143), now called Madonna della Strà. The church is a jewel of romanesque art, and has remained virtually unaltered since its construction. It is a rare example of a rural, Veronese church with three naves.
- Enjoy lunch in the surrounding area, including a glass of the local wine, and

visit the town of Arcole, famous for a Napoleonic battle.

- In the afternoon, the trip continues with a stop in the town of Cologna Veneta, and a visit to a well-known producer of the famous local almond nougat, known as mandorlato.



Malcesine Castle



Lake Garda sun, nature, and much more

The Veronese shores of Lake Garda offer an intoxicating landscape, and burst with colour. Charming small towns, vineyards and olive trees dot the shoreline. A water-lovers paradise, the deep blue waters of the lake and its eastern riviera offer an incredible variety of attractions that can be visited in a half day tour from Verona or the Valpolicella, or on a more leisurely full day tour.

Start at the southeastern corner of the lake, where the waters of Lake Garda mix with those of the Mincio River, in the town of Peschiera. Sixteenth century sammicheliane walls conjure up images of the town in its role as a Venetian stronghold, while lakeshore beaches and a nearby amusement park, Gardaland, all beckon within easy reach. Like Peschiera, many other towns on the lake's eastern shore developed around historic fortifications laid down during Scaliger and Venetian rule. Some examples are Lasize, marked by a charming historic center; Bardolino, noted for its wine, the small romanesque church of San Severo, and the elegant villas of Canestrari and Bottagisio; and Garda, dominated by the unmistakable Rocca

hill, and Venetian architecture. One of the most panoramic and romantic stretches of the lake begins north of Garda, where the headland at Punta San Vigilio encloses a wide bay. The incredible beauty of this area, in addition to the views that can be enjoyed from the summit of Mount Luppia, must certainly have held great charm for those that constructed its nearby namesake church and villa (indeed, the area has hosted many famous guests since the 13th century). After San Vigilio, the eastern shoreline changes dramatically: the lake narrows, as it is closed off by Mount Baldo to the east and the Brescian pre-alps to the west. Another Scaliger castle rises in Torri del Benaco; there, you may also admire the beautiful Palazzo del Capitano del Lago, the indoor lemon nurseries (limonaia), the Torre del Berengario, and the small church of SS Trinità. Picturesque mountain roads lead to Albisano and San Zenò di Montagna nearing the summit of Mount Baldo. This area is characterized by stone houses and narrow lanes, notably in Pai, Castelletto and Biazza. Enjoy Cassone, with its tower and hermitage of SS Benigno and Caro, and the Val di Sogno,

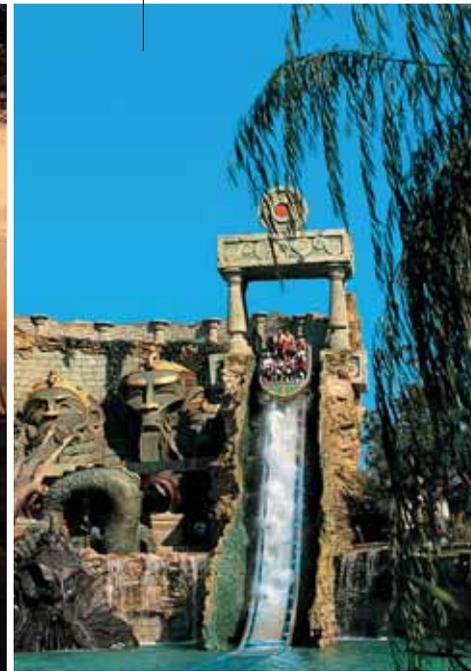
a scenographic inlet enclosed around the islet of Trimelone. The next view opens onto Malcesine, probably one of the lake's most evocative villages, thanks to its superb Castello Scaligero, cobblestone streets, and the interesting botanical species that proliferate in its unique micro-climate. From the center of town, a cableway climbs 1752 metres to Tratto Spino, and offers sweeping views of Lake Garda.



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Port of Garda



Gardaland Amusement Park



Mermaid Bay



Monte Baldo



Malcesine Cableway

itineraries in Lake Garda

From Lazise to Punta San Vigilio

> half day tour

- After visiting the historic center of Lazise and the exterior of its Scaliger Castle, depart for the Olive Oil Museum of Cisano, where antique presses, millstones and implements for olive oil extraction are displayed. Tastings and sales offered.

- From there, visit the the Wine Museum of Bardolino, interesting for its exhibition

of antique and modern vinification tools, explanation of vinification techniques, and wine tastings of local wines.

- Continue to Garda, taking a stroll along its lakeshore boardwalk. Admire the historic center, dominated by the unmistakable Rocca hill. The town offers unforgettable views up the lake towards Punta San Vigilio, where the enchanting

Bay of the Mermaids (Baia delle Sirene) can be found.

- Finally, head for Torri del Benaco. Walk along the lakeshore, pass by the fragrant lemon nurseries, known locally as limonaia, and visit the prestigious Scaliger castle.

Cruising the Lake

Enjoy Mediterranean flora and alpine villages as you travel by boat on the waters of Lake Garda

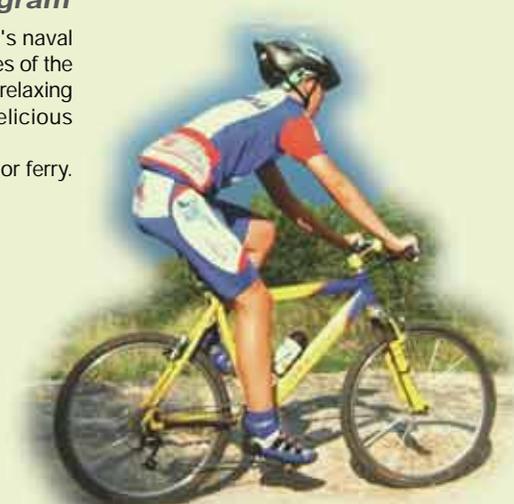
> a one day program

- Enjoy a boardwalk stroll in Garda, then board a ferry and head north. Enjoy the magnificent views in absolute tranquillity.

- Disembark at Malcesine, and enjoy fresh lake trout for lunch. Visit the town in the afternoon, and don't miss the interesting museums related to local flora

and fauna, Goethe, and the lake's naval history, all located on the premises of the Scaliger castle. Conclude with a relaxing walk along the lake, and a delicious gelato.

- Return to Garda by public bus or ferry.



Torri del Benaco, Malcesine and Baldo

> a half day program

- In the center of Torre del Benaco, visit the Scaliger castle, site of an interesting museum, and the adjoining lemon nurseries.

- Towards the north, after passing the small island of Trimelone, the romantic inlet of Val di Sogno and Malcesine come

into view on the horizon. Malcesine, one of the most charming towns on the lake, is dominated by a spectacular Scaliger castle.

- At Malcesine, board the new cableway for Mount Baldo (1752 meters). After a short ride, you will reach the summit with

its breathtaking views of the lake. The local micro-climate enables many extraordinary botanical species to flourish on the slopes of the mountain-in fact, Malcesine is known as the "Botanical Garden of Italy".

The Lake and Hills of Moreniche del Garda

> a one day program

Morainic hills, formed by the Garda glacier at the moment of its expansion, characterize the area located south of the lake (Lasize, Peschiera and Valeggio sul Mincio).

- Depart from Lasize after visiting the

exterior of the splendid Scaliger castle.

- Stop at a winery in Peschiera, a fortified town where Lake Garda flows into the Mincio River.

- Continue to Valeggio sul Mincio, enjoying the town's famous tortellini for lunch. Following your meal, visit the Parco

Giardino Sigurtà, considered one of the most beautiful gardens in the world. In the late afternoon, take a stroll through the medieval village of Borghetto, mirrored by the waters of the Mincio River and crossed by the 14th century Visconti Bridge.

Visit the following websites for more information on events, travel itineraries, sightseeing, and useful services in Verona and the surrounding area:

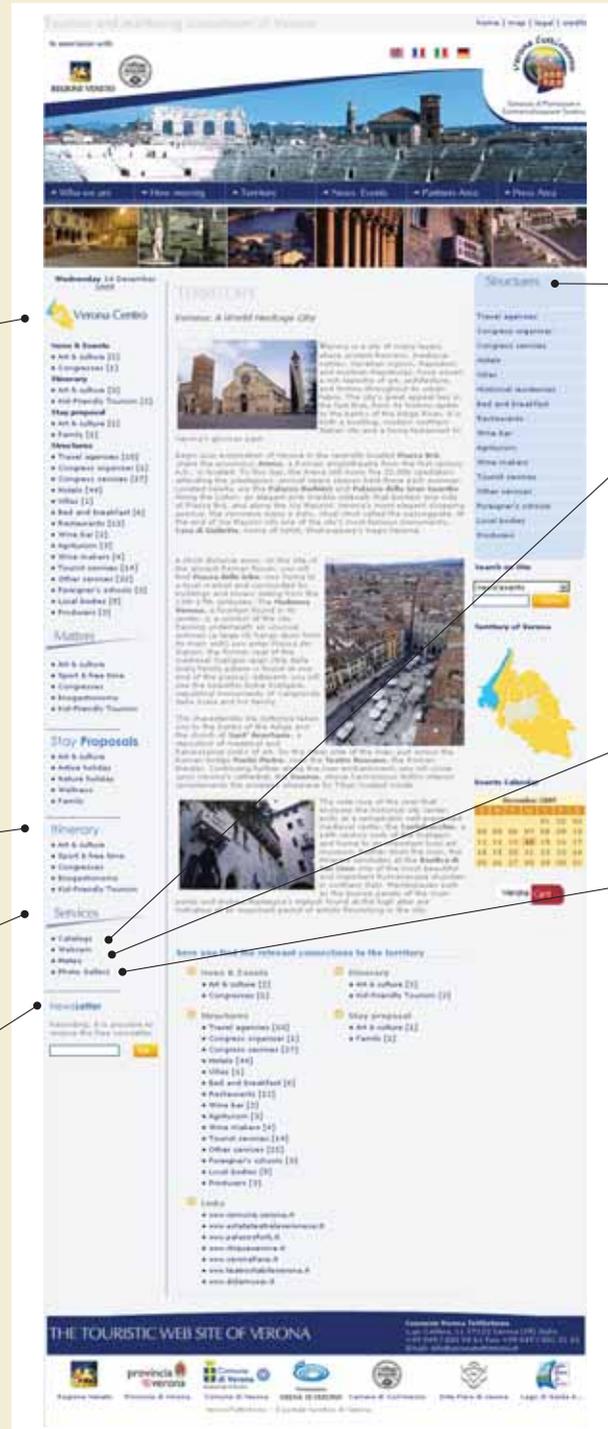
www.veronaitaly.it - www.veronatuttintorno.it

News & Events: current events in and around Verona

Proposed Activities: sightseeing suggestions provided by local travel agencies

Itinerary Suggestions: discovering the many treasures of our province

Useful Services: request or download our catalogues and brochures



Service providers and Facilities: our members at your service

Congresses: your best resource for planning meetings, conventions, and incentive travel in Verona

Cuisine & Wine: local flavors and traditions

Kid-friendly Tourism: advice and suggestions for visiting Verona with children



Credits:

- IDEA AND REALISATION:
 Consorzio Verona Tuttintorno
- GRAPHIC PROJECT:
 Elena Fattorelli e Antonio Cippone - www.fattorelli.it
- PHOTOS:
 Archivio Az. Agr. Guerrieri-Rizzardi
 Archivio Castello di Bevilacqua
 Archivio Chiese Vive
 Archivio Consorzio di Tutela Vini Soave
 Archivio Comune di Verona
 Archivio Ferron Riserie
 Archivio Gardaland
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 Archivio Silvano Dalla Valentina – Soluzioni Omnia Media
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