



VENEZIA - THE VENETIAN VILLAS AND THE RIVIERA BRENTA



VILLA FOSCARI LA

MALCONTENTA - WORLD HERITAGE 500 MORE YEARS, ANDREA PALLADIO!

€URO 145.00 PER PERSON PER NIGHT AND COOKING LESSON
VALID ALL YEAR 2010

STORY OF THE TERRITORY

Five hundred years are an important turning point, especially if they fall on the last quarter of the second millennium, which showed that acceleration of history in which trends and fashions followed one another at increasing speed. To be still en vogue, or better, highly acclaimed, is an achievement only few have reached.

Within the restricted elite of intellectuals, Palladio is the only architect: think of the post modern revival, but think most of all of the attention his works arouses in every new generation of designers.

And his artistic conception reveals new aspects every time; the latest of which, in this time of environmental problems, the relationship between man and nature, between architecture and territory, thus mixing in modern terms the Renaissance concept of the useful and the pleasant.



Villa Pisani

The Riviera del Brenta (Brenta River) is made up of districts and green spots along the ancient course of a river linking Padua to Venice. This was the ideal extension of Venice onto the mainland, almost a continuation of the lagoon city: between the 16th and the 18th century the Brenta Riviera experienced a golden age which turned it into a privileged holiday resort for rich Venetian nobles. They built dozen of villas along its riverbanks, designed and decorated by masters of Italian art, visited by artists, popes, kings and men of culture, envied for their beauty, inhabited as country seats where they celebrated ritual floating processions, sumptuous dinners and festivities lasting until dawn.

Along the River one can admire **more than fifty villas**, once summer residences of the Venetian nobility. Quite interesting are the villages and the ancient bridges along the river.

Villa Foscari, designed by Palladio. The image of the villa's pronaos reflected on the water is still fresh in our minds as we catch sight of the next villages and their villas. The best known are: the seventeenth century "foresterie" (guest



houses) of **Villa Valmarana** overlooking **Villa Widmann Foscari** located on the opposite river bank in Mira Porte; **Villa Angeli** in Dolo designed by Scamozzi; **Villa Soranzo** in Fiesso with the whole frescoed façade; **Villa Pisani in Stra**. Rich as a jewel casket, the villa is of outstanding interest to visitors, with frescoes by **Tiepolo** and **Guarana**, spectacular stables and the celebrated maze, epitomizing eighteenth century Venetian society which, in the game of the history, performed vanishing acts, only to appear once again.



Preferred by **Casanova**, **Galileo Galilei**, **Byron** and **D'Annunzio**, painted by **Tiepolo** and **Canaletto**, discribed by **Goethe** and **Goldoni**, Villa Pisani hosted the French and the Russian Royal Families. **Napoleon**, **the Hapsburg**, the **Savoy** stayed here.

The Riviera del Brenta offers several thematic itineraries to discover the natural beauty and cultural richness of the area, besides the world famous villas along the Brenta River.

An interesting possibility is that of exploring the Riviera starting from its ten small towns, with their different atmospheres, nevertheless united in a common cultural mileu.

Campagna Lupia, with the archaeological museum hosted in the church of St Maria di Lugo and the oasis of Valle Averno, the monumental squero in Dolo, the nineteenth century 'Bridge of vases' at Campolongo Maggiore, Villa Recanati Zucconi at Fiesso d'Artico, the kiln at Sandon di Fossò, the beautiful Villa dei Leoni at Mira are just some examples of the hidden jewels one can meet visiting the Riviera's towns.

Views from shore

The beauty of silent places, the emotional intensity of walking along a natural expanse in a suspended dimension of place and time - this is the lagoon itinerary, starting at Giare di Mira. An unusual way of seeing Venice, from the waterside. It is here, on the southern shores by the hunting and fishing lodges of the south lagoon a few kilometres from Mira, that we come across a delightful old spot where the tidewaters of the Venice lagoon meet the Riviera del Brenta, as depicted in **Goldoni's plays**.

Yet this extraordinary naturalistic treasure - where time seems to stand still and the landscape changes with the ebb and flow of the tide - has so far tended to be by-passed by tourists. At the southern end of the district of Mira, in the vicinity of Giare, a cycling and walking path winds around the sandbanks for a distance of about three km, coasting past old but well-maintained boatsheds set along the creeks.

We are on a truly magic peninsula where features of history and landscape mix: from the remains of dune-like hills known as the humps of Giare to the Scolo Giare; and not to forget the traces of old wetlands and fishing reaches such as the Valle Maffeia and the Vallone which have been here since the beginning of the 20th.

We can, moreover, take picturesque excursions on foot or on bicycle along recently consolidated banks to glimpse the special flora and fauna - the heron, the flamingo, the fish hawk and the beech-marten.

Parco delle Giare is a real park (as the visitor here can see) especially now that the embankments have been restored by the Magistrato alle Acque (the Waterways Authority), the boatsheds now blending so well. The Giare area offers an unusual form of tourism with the possibility of taking advantage of the 'Casa del Sole' Hostel at Via Giare 169.

It's **an ideal trip for anyone loving nature, the sea and art - and only two steps from Venice**. Here you can delve into an un spoilt natural environment where countryside gradually merges into lagoon. Furthermore, in springtime - May - the peninsula turns into a gastronomic and cultural oasis.

Between the South Lagoon and the Riviera del Brenta, a landscape for ecological tourism: Parco delle Giare offers walks or bicycle rides.



A captivating episode in the history of public transport regards the Riviera del Brenta whose tranquil waters saw the introduction of one of the first public services, **the Burchiello**.

This legendary barge with cabin carried all classes of passengers between Padua and Venice in the 18th century, and is mentioned in many contemporary accounts. The stout barge was drawn by a team of horses from the tow-path while two boatmen steered her by the tiller and with a long oar. Even in those days the Burchiello was not exactly carrying poets to Arcady. Rather, like today when there are factories and craftsmen's workshops, the barge traversed a real landscape bustling with life - the herds of cattle and the cowhands, fishermen on the banks - and she was laden with merchandise. Many of the discomforts that travellers in earlier centuries had to bear to travel the same waterway had been improved on and the Burchiello now offered a certain degree of comfort: it became the deluxe cabin cruiser of the epoch and was used by people of standing. Nowadays, all the motor vessels that cruise from west to east and back along the waterway between the two cities are popularly called burchielli. That makes them direct descendants of that 'public Burchiello' on which Goethe arrived in the lagoon on 28th September 1786 - to name only one great artist of the many who used it. **Goethe** spoke of it in the pages of his "**Journey Through Italy**".

In the eyes of other tourists who rely on the motorcar this may seem a bizarre anachronism, something for snobs. In point of fact, considering the waterway and its delicate relation to the environment, it could be said that each boat is a true example of how to respect the ecological balance. Continually plying upstream and down the small fleet of boats is a living eulogy to the slow pace of life and the pleasures of observing the world from the water - as did the Venetians of old, creators of villas and palaces. ***This getting around without giving way to an anxiety to do everything in a hurry, without bending to the psychological pressure of the speedometer - is something that gives us time for reflection, time to ponder; it makes human relations easier, and most important, it changes our outlook and helps us float through life.***

The **gastronomy of the Brenta** boasts a variety of **winning dishes** displaying **inventiveness and tradition**, both fruits of the earth and seafood. The former includes **rural delights** such as pork, duck, pheasant, rabbit, game and the fragrant countryside and market-garden greens. The **sea flavours** begin with the appetizers: truffles, scallops au gratin, spicy spider crab, mussels, clams, shrimps in sauce, cuttlefish eggs, and oysters. The **traditional first course** may be **risi e bisi** (risotto of fresh peas) or one of the countless other types of risotto, fish pie, fish soup. Alternatively there are **ancient dishes** such as sarde in saor (fried sardines in a sweet and sour sauce), Venetian style cuttlefish, creamed cod and polenta, eels in a light tomato sauce with white wine and garlic, and so on. The sea is nearby, and so you can expect fish grilled and fried, grilled eel, stuffed crabs that attract gourmets from the whole of Northern Italy. And from the hinterland come the Veneto wines.

HOSPITALITY

We offer you accommodation at '**Il Girasole**' farmhouse, surrounded by camps of vegetable production. The farmhouse has very comfortable bedrooms. It is in Oriago, Mira.





PACKAGE DETAILS

The package includes:

- 1 night accommodation for MINIMUM 10 guests and MAXIMUM 12
- Overnight including breakfast in farmhouse
- 1 dinner in the farmhouse with local productions
- 1 cooking lesson in another structure with an expert local chef, followed by food and wine tasting.

The package does not include:

- Entrance fees to museums and villas, guided tour, boat ride, bicycle hire, transfers, extras and all that is not included under the 'package includes.

HOW TO GET HERE

By car: motorway A57 ex A4 direction Venezia – exit Mira-Oriago, take direction Ravenna per 1,5 km.

By train: Station of Mestre, then local bus – Riviera-Padova

By plane: Venice Airport, km 18 – Treviso Airport km 45 approx



We also can provide expert guides - rates are on request

Should you require transfer service from the Venice, Treviso, Bologna or Verona Airports, we can offer transfers by private mini-vans up to 8 passengers. It is also possible to arrange a convertible classic car hire service by Sprintage Company. They will let you choose from a beautiful series of convertible classic cars that you will find at the Airport. A detailed map of the area for your tours around will be provided. Alternatively we accommodate corporate companies on business or larger groups too. This therefore is a flexible travel suggestion. The travel schedule can be altered, overnight stays can be added and other services or activities can be arranged. Note that almost all our travel packages can be combined if you want to see more than just one area of the Veneto territory. Please feel free to contact us. Together we will find the perfect solution.

WE CAN OFFER GUIDED TOURS ALONG THE RIVIERA BY BUS OR BY PRIVATE BOAT

WE CAN SUPPLY BIKE HIRE

WE CAN OFFER EXCURSIONS TO VENICE

WE CAN TAKE YOU TO SEE PADOVA

WE CAN TAKE YOU ON A DAY TRIP IN ANY OTHER CITY OF THE REGION

WE CAN ARRANGE A DAY OUT IN THE LAGOON WITH A FISHING BOAT AND LUNCH OUT

WE CAN ARRANGE A COCKTAIL IN ONE OF THE MANY OPEN VILLAS ALONG THE RIVIERA

WE CAN ORGANISE A SPECIAL FISH DINNER IN ONE OF THE MANY FAMOUS RESTAURANTS IN THE AREA

FOR RESERVATIONS:

BEST EVENTS DMC

VIA P. MASCAGNI, 2B – 30035 MIRANO VENEZIA

Email: management@besteventsdmc.com info@besteventsdmc.com

Telephone: 0039+041 +5703893

ECO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

This trip has been organized in partnership with the Organization Coldiretti of the Veneto Region. More than 568.000 farmers are member of this Organization representing 52% of the total number of those registered in the Chamber of Commerce (Board of Trade). Coldiretti is active on the whole Italian territory and not only. Coldiretti helped us to choose especially for you, locations, hotels etc where it's sure that environmental standards are respected and the food that will be served belongs to the category zero km (food miles) meaning that it's produced right there in that region/location without trucks bringing it from the other part of Italy, Europe or any other part of the world.