



Best Events DMC
Destination Management Company



VICENZA & GAMBELLARA HISTORY AND ELEGANCE



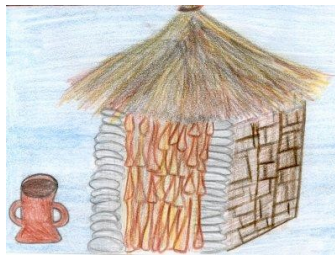
€URO 237.00 PER PERSON FOR 2 NIGHTS
VALID APRIL TO OCTOBER 2010

BACKGROUND

The most ancient traces of man's presence in Berici Hills were found in caves on the eastern side of the hills, where nomadic or semi-nomadic hunters would shelter. Near the lakes were discovered the earliest traces of Neolithic agricultural societies (4th millennium b.C.): cups, bowls and chisels in Pianezze di Fimon, fine square-shaped pottery in Villa del Ferro, Val Liona and in the archaeological site in Fimon-Molino Casarotto, in what is today a reclaimed portion of the lake. During the Bronze Age (2nd millennium b.C.), mainstream Polada culture was a distinctly stilt-house-based society. The dwelling-sites in Pascolone and Ponte sulla Debba have delivered tons of one-handed cups, bowls and spindles. In Fondo Tomeliero remnants of pile-house floors, cups with elaborated ribbon-like terramaricolo decorations and two bronze bipennis were found.

From the beginning of the Iron Age in 900 b.C. Palaeo veneti culture became predominant. Indo-european people, originally from Illiria and Palaeoveneti, lived in hut villages, cultivated land and bred animals (cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, and especially horses). They were skilled wood-carvers, worked pottery and bronze, spinned and wove fabrics, and had commercial relationships with the Etruscans and transalpine peoples.

Palaeoveneti gathered for open-air religious ceremonies on hills, near water-courses and in trafficked places. They opened Via Postumia in 148 b.C.





Roman influence became paramount in this region, so much so as in 49–42 a.C. all Palaeoveneti cities became municipia, thus acquiring Roman citizenship. Roman Age findings are common in Berici Hills area. For instance Lobia terminus stone, inscribed stones in Lonigo, an ex-voto stone dedicated to Aesculapius and Fortunius's gravestone in Barbarano, plus household material and coins in Brendola.



After the conversion to Christianity churches were built: S.Maria in Barbarano, S.Mauro in Costozza, S.Felice in Altavilla, and Pieve in Lonigo and the end of Roman rule and Longobard invasion, Longobard lords lavished gifts and privileges on churches and monasteries. S.Felice's Benediktines greatly helped to improve the condition of an abandoned countryside turned into a wasteland with their monasteries of S.Mauro in Costozza, S.Vito in Secula, Brendola e Noventa, S.Maiolo in Lumignano.

Longobard rule from (568–774) deeply affected local legislation, toponomastics (Fara, Gazzo, Stodegarda). After the breaking-apart of Charlemagne's empire and Hungarians' raids, the Count Bishop finally managed to hold in his grip both religious and political power and was granted by the German Emperor the right of building castles to protect his possessions in Grancona, Altavilla, Orgiano, Costozza, Valmarana, Nanto, Brendola, Barbarano and Zovencedo.

At the beginning of the Comuni Era (12th century), Vicenza attracted under its rule surrounding towns and allied with nearby cities against Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, winning independence. But soon internal strife broke out between the supporters of the Vivaresi family and of the Maltraversi family while successive Bishops kept attacking the Commune with the hope of gaining their power back In the war against Treviso and Padua the population became the victims of raids and massacres. Many Berici Hills towns were repeatedly plundered until 1404 when Vicenza, lest she fell into the Lords of Padua's hands, gave herself up to Serenissima Republic of Venice, in exchange of territorial and judicial integrity. Thus began an age of relatively enduring peace and wealth, interrupted by occasional epidemic, two disastrous earthquakes and an even more disastrous passage in 1510–1513 of Venetian and imperial troops during the Cambrai War, when civilians were killed in the numbers at the massacres of Costozza and Mossano.

With the ensuing peace the industry flourished once again (woolen mills, handcraft, pottery industry, stone-cutting, silk-worm breeding), as well as commerce. In 1796 the Republic of Venice could not stand up against the pretensions of the French and Austrian armies fighting on her territories. The Campoformio Treaty (1797) assigned Veneto to Austria, to whom it was subjected uninterruptedly (1806–1813 and 1848) until the Third War for Italian Independence (1866) began.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY

In these lands you will find many examples of architecture such as in Lonigo Villa Pisani a masterpiece of Palladio, and The Rocca Pisana of Scamozzi similar to the Villa Rotonda in Vicenza, opera of Palladio. In Montecchio Maggiore you can admire the Castle of Romeo and Giulietta and above all Villa Cordellina-Lombardi, one of the most beautiful villas in Veneto with an outstanding garden.



For the nature lovers, in spring and autumn we suggest you discover this landscape by bicycle or trekking, a graceful experience with slow rhythms amongst the ancient vineyards.

Another itinerary we would like to suggest is visiting the Caldiero a “Comune” (municipality) in the Province of Verona , located about 90 km west of Venice and about 15 km east of Verona. Caldiero borders the following municipalities: Belfiore, Colognola ai Colli, Lavagno, San Martino Buon Albergo, and Zevio. Caldiero was known in ancient Roman times as Calidarium, stemming from its thermal baths. Later it was held by the bishops of Verona who, in 1206, sold it to the commune. In 1233 Ezzelino III da Romano destroyed the castle and in 1805 a battle was fought nearby between the French and the Austrians soldiers.

ACCOMMODATION

The Pallazetto Ardi, run by Michela and Carlo, is the best country house tradition our hospitality extends to offering accommodation to. The farm lies between Verona and Vicenza and Venice is not too far away either as thanks to the nearby railway station in Lonigo, you can get there quickly. The Pallazetto can also hold company conferences with space for up to about 30 people. For those who love the feel of bygone days, choose to opt for one of the two double rooms on the main residential floor of the old building with its huge beams, square pattern wooden floors and antique furniture along with beautiful views of the countryside.





PACKAGE DETAILS

Includes:

- 2 nights accommodation including breakfast
- 2 dinners
- Cooking lessons
- Complimentary bicycle hire

The package does not include:

- Local guides, car hire and transfers from and to airports
- Extras (minibar, phone, laundry) and tips plus all what is not included in the 'Package includes'.

HOW TO GET HERE

By car – Motorway A4 Exit Monetebello. Take SS11 with direction Verona, Approx 1.5 km take on left direction Stradella del Ciron..

By train station of Vicenza, Railway station of Lonigo – Locara (5 mins from farmhouse)

By plane by Venice Marco Polo airport (approx 90km), or Catullo airport of Verona (approx 40km)

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.

FOR RESERVATIONS:

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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.