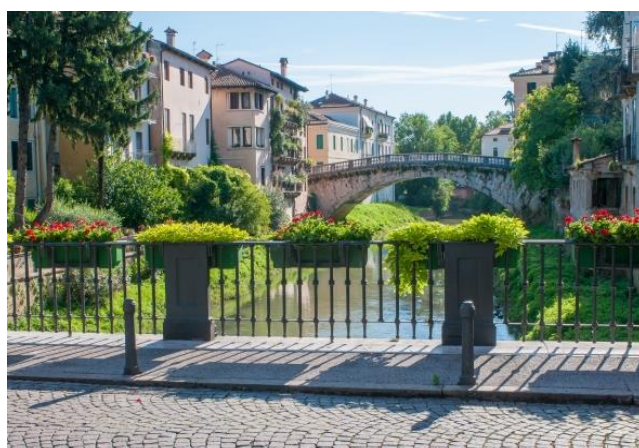


Tour
Information



Hidden Italy





Passports

Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Italy.

Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Italian Consulate-General: "Harp House", 83/86 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4BL.

Tel: (0)20 7936 5900. Fax: (0)20 7583 9425.

Email: consolato.londra@esteri.it Website:

http://www.conslondra.esteri.it/Consolato_Londra

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200



Tickets

Included with this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced all of their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore you must check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling.** Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at a cost from £4.99 per seat.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the reference number provided. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or visit;

www.easyjet.com

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With Easyjet your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 20kg plus **one** cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25 cm. Please note that personal bags (such as handbag or computer case) must be stored within your single piece of hand luggage and that on some busy flights your bag may have to go into the hold, at no extra cost. If you bring **one** piece of cabin baggage no bigger than 50 x 40 x 20 cm, it is guaranteed to always travel with you in the cabin, in the overhead lockers or under the seat in front of you.

Please contact the airline for further information

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

Transfers

On arrival in Venice, transfer by coach to Vicenza (approx. 1 hour) and check-in to your hotel for a 7-night stay.

Departure Tax

The departure tax is included in the price of your flight tickets.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.



Accommodation

De La Ville Hotel, Vicenza

Located in the centre of Vicenza and within easy reach of most of the main sights, the modern four-star Hotel De La Ville offers a restaurant serving excellent food, and comfortable bedrooms with en-suite bathroom with bath/shower, hairdryer, TV, telephone, wi-fi, minibar, and safe.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:
<http://www.hoteldelavillevicenza.com/>



Food

Italian food rivals French in the hearts and taste buds of many gastronomes and the regional cuisine, of which the locals are very proud, wonderfully reflects the climate and local produce. Delicious pizza, pasta and risotto dishes are present everywhere throughout Italy with provincial specialities and sauces.

Natural tastes, traditional, rustic style cooking, and simple and local ingredients form the basis of Veronese cuisine. With a large cultivation of rice in the area – notably the local variety, *Riso Vialone Nano* – risotto is a popular dish. Local recipes include *Risotto all'Amarone*, and *Risotto col tastasal* (sausage meat risotto).

The local pasta speciality is *Tortellini di Valeggio*, tortellini stuffed with beef, pork meats and vegetables, generally served with a sage and butter sauce.

Polenta is a staple food in the Verona region, and accompanies cured meats, salami, cheese, or a meat or fish dish. Grilled meat, notably horse and donkey, a heritage from the barbarian tribes who settle in the area after the fall of the Roman Empire, is very popular in Veronese cuisine. *Brasato all'Amarone* (braised beef with Amarone wine), *Pastissada de caval* (horse meat stew), and herrings (*Polenta e renga*) are also served with polenta.

Another speciality is *lesso e pearà* (Verona's *bollito misto*, thick slow-cooked peppered stew).

Traditional desserts include *Oandoro* (traditional Christmas yeast bread), *Tiramisù*, *Mandorlato* (hard nougat), *Nadalin* (similar to Pandoro).

Strong Italian espresso coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *cappuccino* is requested.

Table service is common in most restaurants and bars. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.



Drink

The world's largest wine producer, Italy is home to some of the oldest viticulture regions. The wines are named according to their grape variety or after their village or area of origin. Excellent wines are produced throughout Italy and Sicily, with local wines offering great value and quality.

One of the most important wine producing area's in Italy, Verona is surrounded by beautiful hilly landscapes filled with vineyards. The main viticulture areas are *Valpolicella*, *Soave* and *Bardolino*. Light, fresh and crisp *Soave*, produced from *Garganega* grapes is one of Italy's most famous white wines. *Valpolicella* and *Bardolino* both use *Corvina*, *Molinara* and *Rondinella* grape varieties, producing excellent red wines. *Valpolicella* is renowned for its dry *Amarone*, produced using dried grapes.

Apéritifs such as *Campari* and *Punt e Mes* are excellent appetisers, while Italian liqueurs include *Grappa*, *Stregga*, *Galliano*, *Amaretto*, *Sambuca* and *Limoncello*.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily



Destination

The Veneto region (pronounced with the stress on the first syllable) is located in the north-east of Italy, along the Adriatic Sea. It's bordered by the regions of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trentino - Alto Adige, Emilia Romagna, Lombardy and a small stretch of Austria in the far north. Although most travellers head straight to Venice, the region also contains other popular tourist destinations, such as Verona, Padua, Vicenza, Lake Garda and the ski resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo. There are also many attractive towns and landscapes which are less well-known but can combine to create an enjoyable and interesting holiday.

The regional capital is Venice (Venezia), and the region is divided into the provinces of Venezia, Padova, Verona, Vicenza, Belluno, Rovigo and Treviso. Around four and a half million inhabitants are spread between the cities, plains, lagoon, hills and mountains.

For long stretches of its history, much of the Veneto was under the control of the rich and powerful Venetian Republic, and you'll see the city's emblem, the winged lion of St. Mark, all around the region.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Vicenza

Vicenza is included in the list of the World Heritage sites and it can be also considered a starting point to reach and visit the most interesting cities of this part of the Veneto. Vicenza is most famous for its trade in precious metals, it's also known as the 'City of gold'. Most of Vicenza's landmarks are close together inside the old town walls. Piazza dei Signori, a few yards south of Corso Andrea Palladio, is the heart of town. It is dominated by two of Vicenza's most striking landmarks, the Basilica Palladiana, the town's medieval law courts, with an imposing later facade by Palladio, and the adjacent Torre di Piazza, a tall and skinny tower.

For more information about Vicenza please visit:
<http://www.italyheaven.co.uk/veneto/vicenza.html>

Mantova

According to Aldous Huxley, Mantova is "the most romantic city in the world" – with the combination of a magnificent skyline of towers and domes and the city's three encircling lakes, it's easy to see why.

Often described as "piccolo Venezia" (little Venice), Mantova has an immaculately preserved impressive medieval centre that includes four connected piazzas watched over by magnificent churches and palazzos.

For more information about Mantova please visit:
<http://www.mantovaturism.it/en/>

Sabbioneta

The town was designed in the 16th century by Vespasiano I Gonzaga to be a perfect example of how a renaissance period fortified town should be laid out, and retains many of the palazzos and buildings, and the town layout from that time. The town did exist prior to its 16th century restructuring, and Sabbioneta originally had Roman origins when it was founded here because of the quality of the agricultural land and because of its position on the "Via Vitelliana" trade route.

The 16th century Sabbioneta you see today consists of a planned grid of streets within a star-shaped hexagon of fortified walls, with the town buildings and design based on an idealised vision of Roman and Greek cities of antiquity. Because of this unusual history it is now protected as a UNESCO heritage site.

For more information about Sabbioneta please visit:
<https://www.italythisway.com/places/sabbioneta.php>

Castelfranco Veneto

Castelfranco Veneto is a small historic walled town in the Veneto region of northern Italy, in the province of Treviso (Provincia di Treviso). The town is situated between Treviso and Vicenza, and it's called Castelfranco Veneto to differentiate it from other Italian towns called Castelfranco. The town has a small historic core which is surrounded by high defensive walls.

The site was developed and fortified by Treviso in 1195; its central area, the Castello consisting of a large square fortification with high walls and a moat.

For more information about Castelfranco Veneto please visit:
<http://www.italyheaven.co.uk/veneto/castelfranco-veneto.html>

Bassano del Grappa

Bassano del Grappa is situated at the point where the flat Veneto plains reach the hills leading up to the Alps; it takes its name from the nearby Monte Grappa. Bassano del Grappa is best known for its covered bridge over the Brenta, the strong grappa liqueur produced in the area, the military history of Monte Grappa and locally-produced ceramics. Like so many of the Veneto's historic towns, this is a prosperous place and is studded with smart clothes and furnishings shops. The architecture reflects Bassano's location: typical Veneto-style arcaded streets and piazzas are interspersed with alpine wooden balconies.

For more information about Bassano del Grappa please visit:

<http://www.italyheaven.co.uk/veneto/bassano-del-grappa.html>

Asolo

The attractive walled town of Asolo is in a picturesque setting in the lower forested foothills of the Dolomite mountains and listed as one of the most beautiful villages of Italy. The surrounding countryside is never far away, and the varied glimpses of the hills that you get as you explore have led the town to be nicknamed the 'city of a hundred horizons'.

Asolo is small, compact and easily explored. Start your visit in the town centre at the cathedral, a medieval gem (although modified in the 18th century) that was built on the site of the original Roman baths.

The cathedral is rather understated in its external appearance but renowned for the important works of art that it contains such as the 16th century 'Assumption' by Lorenzo Lotto, a 19th century copy of the Assumption by Titian, and a 15th century painting of Saint Francis of Assisi.

For more information about Asolo please visit:

<https://www.italythisway.com/places/asolo.php>

Padova

Padova is one of northern Italy's most ancient cities and is home to a world renowned university. As old as it may be, the student population gives the place a wonderfully vibrant atmosphere and it is a real pleasure to stroll the timeworn streets. Highlights here include the wonderful Giotto frescoes at the *Scrovegni Chapel*, the imposing *Duomo* and

Baptistry, the *Palace of Reason*, several beautiful squares and the *Palazzo del Capitano*.

We advise you that if you wish to visit the Scrovegni Chapel, a timed visit should be booked in advance, to do this please visit:

<http://www.cappelladegliscrovegni.it/index.php/en/booking-now/information-on-ticket-reservation>

For more information about Padova please visit:

<http://www.turismopadova.it/en>

Grezzana

A quiet town, lying at the foot of the Lessinian Mountains, Grezzana has been inhabited since the Paleolithic Era, as evidenced by the archaeological finds and rock paintings discovered in the Riparo Tagliente area. Like every other Veronese town, it was first colonised by the Romans and then came under the Scaligeri and finally under Venetian domination. It was the Venetians who built the Rial canal, which drawing water from the "prognò della Valpantena" also feeds the numerous water-mills, amongst which the recently restructured Bellori mill.

For more information about Grezzana please visit:

<http://www.tourism.verona.it/en/our-land/hills/valpolicella/grezzana>

Soave

Soave's white wine is better known than the village itself, which is unfortunate because Soave dates back to Roman times and is one of the best preserved medieval villages in all of Italy.

September and October are particularly lovely time to visit, it is during these months that the vineyard covered hills around town turn into russet colored magnificence.

For more information about Soave please visit:

<https://www.venice-italy-veneto.com/soave.html>

Montecchio Maggiore

The real roots of Romeo and Juliet might be in Montecchio Maggiore, because the history of the famous lovers apparently has its origins here. Surrounded by a green landscape, the remains of two powerful Scaliger castles from the 14th century, tower in the air over the small town. The nobleman Luigi da Porta from Vicenza, who was recovering from severe injuries from a battle in the town, was inspired by the two castles and wrote the story of Romeo and Juliet. This story was later

picked up by William Shakespeare who adapted it and helped the lovers achieve unexpected fame worldwide.

From the Castello della Villa, also called Castello di Romeo, which is attributed to the Montecchi family, the castle walls and the tower still stand. In the courtyard, there are regular concerts and theatrical performances. The Castello di Bella Guardia or Castello di Giulietta, which is attributed to the Capulet family, now houses the restaurant "I Castelli di Giulietta e Romeo," from where you have a wonderful view over the surrounding area while eating. Inside there are some frescoes showing the life of the couple.

For more information about Montecchio Maggiore please visit:

<https://www.zainoo.com/en/italy/veneto/vicenza/montecchio-maggiore>

Ferrara

Ferrara is a city in Italy's Emilia-Romagna region. It's known for the buildings erected by its Renaissance rulers, the Este family. These include the moated Este Castle, with its lavish private chambers. The family also built the Diamanti Palace, which is clad in diamond-shaped marble blocks and home to the National Picture Gallery. The Romanesque Ferrara Cathedral has a 3-tiered facade and a marble bell tower.

For more information about Ferrara please visit:

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/ferrara-italy-travel-guide-1507256>

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Reading Suggestions

Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*

A trip to this part of Italy cannot be better prepared than with (re)reading the story of the area's most famous lovers, Shakespeare's masterpiece of a tragedy, a story of passion, of rivalry and of eternal love.

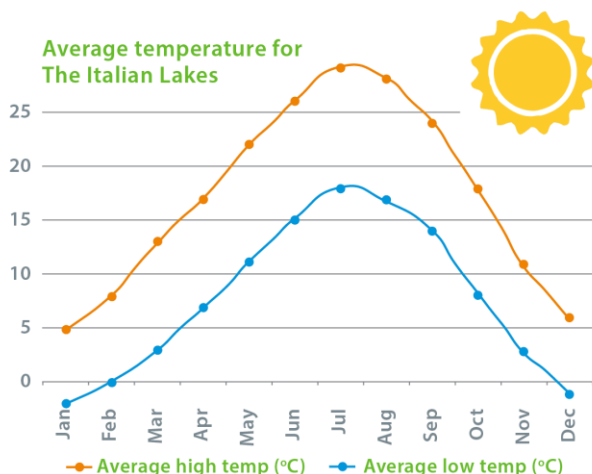
Witold Rybczynski, *The Perfect House: A Journey with the Renaissance Master Andrea Palladio*

Andrea Palladio, the Shakespeare of Renaissance architects, who gave us the word 'Palladian' but about whom little is known. A journey along the Brenta River in northeastern Italy, just a short distance from Venice, reveals the origin of the architecture of the private house, an art first practiced by Andrea Palladio. Until Palladio began designing simple, gorgeous, perfectly proportioned villas, architectural genius was reserved for temples and palaces. Palladio not only designed and built, he wrote. His 1570 architectural treatise was read and studied by great thinkers as diverse as Thomas Jefferson and Inigo Jones, and it proved to be critical to the design of Monticello and the White House.



The Basics

Climate – The weather at this time of year in the region can be cool, but there is always the chance of the odd shower or thunderstorm. Our best advice is to come prepared.



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT +1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Italian

Religion – Roman Catholic

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Easter Monday; Liberation day (25 Apr); Labour Day (01 May); Republic day (02 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' Day (01 Nov); Immaculate Conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephens day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable

form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops & Museums – Department stores are open 0830-1930 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1230-1530. Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Although very common in tourist towns in Italy, please note that street vendors selling all kinds of designer knockoffs are illegal and could land you with a hefty fine. Care should also be taken when buying antiques since Italy is renowned for skilled imitators.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good flat/grip walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 20 7431 8201 or

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079 or

00 44 1235 850720

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate general Milan

Via S. Paolo, 7

20121 Milan

Italy

Tel: +39 (0)6 4220 2431

Fax: +39 (0)2 8646 5081

Italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Open Mon-Fri 0930-1230 and 1400-1600. Phone lines open 0900-1700. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +39 (0)6 4220 2413.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Building, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: info@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PRINTING. IT IS MEANT AS A GUIDE ONLY
AND WE CANNOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERRORS OR SUBSEQUENT CHANGES.