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Provincia  
 di Padova



terme euganee  
 abano montegrotto



Centro Studi  
 Pietro d'Abano



Parco Regionale  
 dei Colli Euganei



Parco Regionale  
 dei Colli Euganei



GIOTTO



Regione  
 del Veneto



# Colli.

Euganean Hills,  
a universe  
to be discovered.





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### Abano Terme

Via P. d'Abano, 18  
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Viale Stazione, 60  
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### Battaglia Terme

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### Montagnana

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# The trails of the Euganean Hills

The Park Organization, in cooperation with the Regional Forest Service, is engaged in restoring the most important trails: they have been numbered and catalogued, the paths have been cleaned and repaired and marked with signs and provided with rest areas.

## •The Monte Cinto trail

*Starting point:* Museo Geopaleontologico di Cava Bomba a Cinto Euganeo.

*Length:* Km 5.3 (including deviations).

*Difference in height:* 267 metres.

*Degree of difficulty:* average.

*Average time:* 3 hours.

## •The Atestino trail

*Starting point:* Arquà Petrarca.

*Length:* Km 21.5.

*Degree of difficulty:* none although it requires a fair degree of training because the peaks of the slopes exceed 1000 metres in height. Reduced trails are possible.

## •The Monte Lozzo trail

*Starting point:* Lozzo Atestino, town square.

*Length:* 2.8 Km (4.8 if one leaves from the centre of town).

*Maximum Difference in height:* 150 metres.

*Degree of difficulty:* none.

*Average time:* a little more than one hour for the entire circuit.

## •The Monte Grande trail

*Starting point:* Teolo, Passo Fiorine.

*Length:* 4.2 Km.

*Difference in height:* 150 metres.

*Degree of difficulty:* low. It can be covered by people of all ages as long as they are wearing the right clothing and hiking shoes.

*Average time:* 2 hours.

## •The Monte Venda "G.G. Lorenzoni"

*Starting point:* Casa Marina, village of Sotto Venda, Town of Galzignano.

*Length:* approx. 5.5 Km.

*Difference in height:* approx. 240 metres.

*Degree of difficulty:* at some points the trail is quite difficult.  
*Average time:* 3-4 hours not including the 3 Km side trip to the ruins of the Olivetani Monastery which requires approximately 2 hours.

*Most favourable season:* spring and winter.

## •The Monte Ricco and Monte Castello trail

*Starting point:* Monselice railway station.

*Length:* approx. 5 Km.

*Difference in height:* approx. 300 metres.

*Degree of difficulty:* none, it can be covered by people of all ages, even with light shoes.

*Average time:* 2-3 hours.

## •The Monte della Madonna trail

*Starting point:* Rovolon-Via S. Giorgio.

*Length:* short trail 4.7 Km, long trail 5.4 Km.

*Difference in height:* 300 metres.

*Degree of difficulty:* average, it can be covered by people of all ages, as long as they are wearing the right clothing and hiking shoes.

*Average time:* 3 hours 30 mins.

## •The Monte Rosso trail

*Starting point:* via Circuito Monte Rosso.

*Length:* long trail 1.6 Km, short trail 1.3 Km.

*Difference in height:* 155 metres.

*Degree of difficulty:* average, it can be covered by people of all ages, as long as they are wearing the right clothing and hiking shoes. Attention must be paid near the edge of the pit.

*Average time:* 1 hour 30 mins.

## •The Ferro di Cavallo (Horseshoe) trail

*Starting point:* near the Museo di Navigazione Fluviale (Museum of River Navigation) in Battaglia Terme.

*Length:* approx. 8 Km.

*Difference in height:* slight.

*Degree of difficulty:* none. It can be covered by people of all ages as long as they are wearing the right clothing.  
*Average time:* 3-4 hours without the side trip to the top of the hills. The "horseshoe" alone is approximately 3 Km long and takes a just over an hour.

## •The Monte Gallo - Monte delle Grotte and Monte delle Basse trail

*Starting point:* Steogarda, in Via Roverello, at home level. A Park sign marks the starting point of the trail.

*Length:* 3.1 Km. (each way)

*Degree of difficulty:* at some points the trail is quite difficult.

*Average time:* 2 hours.

## •The Monte Fasolo trail

*Starting point:* town of Cinto Euganeo, village of S. Antonio.

*Length:* Km. 2.2.

*Degree of difficulty:* none.

*Average time:* 2 hours.

## •The Monte Calabrina and Monte Piccolo trail

*Starting point:* the La Costa restaurant, taking the road that runs toward Valsanzibio.

*Length:* 5.5 Km.

*Degree of difficulty:* none.

*Average time:* 4 hours.

## •The Monte Cecilia trail

*Starting point:* Baone, Via Lucerna.

*Length:* 5.4 Km.

*Degree of difficulty:* none.

*Average time:* 3-4 hours.

## •The Monte Venda trail

*Starting point:* Casa Marina.

*Length:* 5.6 Km.

*Degree of difficulty:* none.

*Average time:* 3 hours.

# Beauty kept intact for you.

Harmony shaped by Nature; a special ecosystem where different varieties of flora and fauna unfold before the visitor's eye. The hospitality respects this equilibrium while offering comfort and entertainment for all ages. The Euganean Hills are all this: a melding of natural and historic beauty that reflects the idea of an intelligent holiday. Protected since 1989 by a Regional Park, the Euganean Hills cover nearly 20,000 hectares. The sequence of 81 hills of varying heights and shapes creates a particular landscape that immediately catches the traveller's eye no matter what direction he is coming from. There are also so many towns with historic and artistic monuments that can be reached over easily accessible roadways or charming paths set deep in the greenery. Indeed when travelling these paths on horseback, by bicycle or even on foot one perceives the tranquillity of the surrounding area. Perhaps, after a pleasant walk in such a lovely landscape you may want some well deserved relaxation in one

of the area's numerous spas that will cradle you in the beneficial action of their renowned muds. For those who wish to savour the joys of the palate, there is no lack of "temptations". Wholesome flavours also make their contribution to the beauty of the Euganean Hills: a welcoming environment kept intact for you.





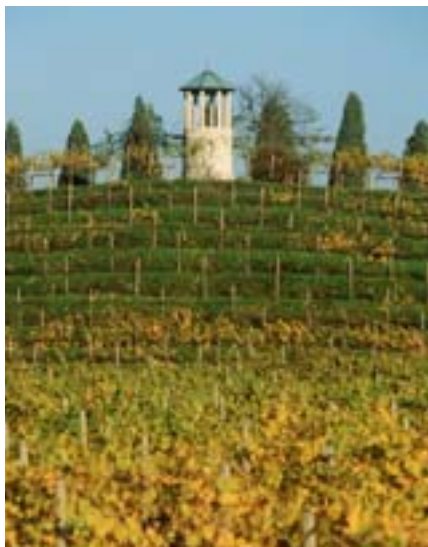
characteristics of the Park derive from the volcanic activity during the Tertiary Era (between 30 and 40 million years ago). Here we can find numerous types of vegetation: from the typical Mediterranean shrublands to chestnut groves and mixed oak woods. Among the protected fauna one can admire a wide variety of birds: from the small, lively robin to the more imposing species such as the sparrow hawk and barn owl. Even agricultural activities are protected: olive oil, for example (which will soon receive I.G.T. certification) or the various types of cheese such as the aged Grana Padano or soft caciotta cheeses laced with herbs.

## Natural resources enhanced by history.

The Regional Park of the Euganean Hills has been called a “permanent laboratory” for environmental protection; not only is it a place where various species can live in perfect harmony, but it is also a system for upgrading agricultural activities and typical products. The geomorphological



# The Euganean Hills toast you.



In the Euganean Hills the famous Veneto wine-growing tradition lives on. There are a full 13 “D.O.C.” (Denomination of Controlled Origin) wines including the well known red wines Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon, whites as Chardonnay and sparkling wines such as Serprino or Moscato Fiori d’Arancio. Naturally, these exquisite “nectars” go well with a wide variety of wholesome dishes: just think

of a simple snack of bread and salami, or more elaborate dishes made from recipes that have been passed down through the generations.

There is so much to choose from: numerous agritourism sites, wine cellars, restaurants and trattorias are waiting to offer you their dishes and toast to the beauty of the Euganean Hills.



## Room also for fitness.

A holiday in the Euganean Hills is also a great opportunity to “get in shape”. Besides the numerous outdoor sports activities available, the area is renowned for its spas. Beauty treatments and cures are performed in the many thermal centres using the area’s famous muds and hot spring waters: why not take advantage of this, shedding the effects of the stress of city life and get back into enviable shape?



# Areas with a tradition for hospitality.



throughout the area that preserve that atmosphere of the Renaissance. Here one can imagine life in the times of the Estensi court or wander through the sumptuous villas owned by the nobles of the XV century Republic of Venice, their splendour still ablaze. And even human activity is preserved to ensure a perfect balance in the ecosystem: crafts, agriculture and wine-growing continue developing, offering the guests of the Euganean Hills unique, wholesome products.

The Euganean Hills hold the vestiges of human civilization that dates as far back as prehistoric times. Indeed, the first settlements date from the Paleolithic age and numerous “traces” of these times are on display in various archaeological museums. During Roman times the entire area saw great development with the creation of roadways and the introduction of new crops. Even then the beauty of the Euganean Hills inspired the genius of Martial and Juvenal. The castles and towns recount memories of a more affluent age. Evidence of the influence of the nearby art cities and seignories of the Veneto region can be seen in the many buildings





# The Euganean Spas: the discovery of great well-being.

The presence of renowned hyperthermal springs contributes greatly to the fame of the Euganean spas. Even the ancient Romans (well versed in the beneficial properties of the waters and muds) built facilities in celebration of these sources of well-being. For example, one can recall a structure (dating back to the Emperor Augustus) which, through complex scenic solutions, was transformed from a theatre into a thermal pool for naumachia (naval battles). The spa waters of the Euganean basin start their journey in the subsoil, in the foothills of the Alps: during their long journey the underwater streams are enriched with particularly



beneficial mineral (including sodium, potassium, magnesium, iodine and silica) and it is heated so that it reaches the surface at a temperature of 87°C. These waters, containing bromide and iodide salts, are mixed with thermal clay to create a mud. Then, after being left in particular tanks to ripen, these muds acquire their unique properties, fundamental to both beauty and therapeutic treatments. Thanks to the modern, accommodating bath establishments, you can regain your vigour, relax and achieve that lost sense of well-being.



# Abano Terme: the world's spa capital.

With its numerous hotels (all with their own thermal baths) and a high number of tourists, Abano Terme has great potential receptivity and can boast to being the world's largest spa city. Historic testimony to the importance of the centre dates back to Roman times in reports by Pliny the Elder. In more recent times, Abano was the favourite holiday site of the nobles of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Indeed, one can still perceive the Central European atmosphere. Those interested in cultural tourism will be perfectly at home: they can admire the façade of the Grand Hotel Orologio, built by Giuseppe Jappelli, also author of the historic Caffè Pedrocchi in Padua. Again in the centre of Abano, there is the Piazza



del Sole e della Pace, the square that houses one of the largest sundials in Europe. Works of art from the 1600s to the 1900s can be admired in the San Lorenzo Cathedral and in the Pinacoteca Civica (Municipal Painting Gallery) in Montirone while the Monteortone Sanctuary (1435) holds works by Palma the Younger.



# Montegrotto Terme: a centre rich in legend.

Writers as far back as the Alexandrian age recounted the epic legend of Phaethon and the sun. These writers identified Montegrotto as the site where the mythological hero fell, giving life to the thermal springs. Another legend brings us to the Colle del Castello foothills, where you can still see the remains of the Tower of Berta, the young peasant whose escapades led to the famous popular Italian saying “I tempi in cui



in the Laboratorio Globale di Arti Classiche (Global Laboratory of Classic Arts). A fun way to visit the most interesting sites in Montegrotto is the tourist train that leaves from the Oratory, runs through the town. It touches on the Roman excavations (the main archaeological area in the Euganean hills with baths and channels that date back to Republican and Augustan times) and Villa Draghi with its park full of centuries-old plants. Among so much culture there is still room for more fun activities: a walk among the suggestive tree-lined avenues where numerous shops offer exclusive shopping areas.



Berta filava” (the times when Berta spun). The contemporary fame of Montegrotto is instead linked to the presence of the spas; these hot baths make it the destination of tourists from all over Europe. Montegrotto has a vocation for the arts and this is seen



# Battaglia Terme: the way to the sea.

This delightful canal was the passageway to the sea for both people and goods and still today it is one of the most interesting sites in Battaglia Terme. In the medieval centre of town with its picturesque bridges over a Venetian-style canal, we find the Museo della Navigazione Fluviale (Museum of River



Navigation). There are numerous artistic monuments such as the San Giacomo Parish Church, built in the 1300s, which houses works by XVIII century artists. An elegant staircase with 135 steps leads up to the XVII century Villa Selvatico-Capodilista with frescoes by Luca Ferrari da Reggio and, above all, the lovely English-style garden designed by Jappelli. A short distance away you can visit the imposing Catajo Castle (350 rooms) frescoed by Zelotti.

# Galzignano Terme: the holiday site of the nobles.



Benacchio, Rizzoli, Saggini, Boggian: these are just some of the noble Veneto families who have lent their names to the villas dotting the Galzignano territory. These historic homes confirm the charm of the area, still considered a choice spot for those who wish to take their holiday relaxing in a special atmosphere. With a good number of hotel and spa facilities, Galzignano is considered a small oasis, in contact with the uncontaminated nature of the Euganean Hills. Villa Barbarigo, with its magnificent Italian-style gardens, located in Valsanzibio is certainly worth a visit.

# Teolo: in the heart of the hills.



Both the condottieri of the army of Barbarossa and the authorities controlling the area for the Republic of Venice chose Teolo because of its strategic position amid the loveliest hills: Venda, Monte della Madonna or Monte Grande (the Palazzetto dei Vicari dates back to those times).

Today, Teolo is the starting point from which to enjoy enchanting landscapes and sites such as the noteworthy Benedictine Abbey of Praglia, the Monte della Madonna Sanctuary and the charming Villa delle Rose in Tramonte.

## Torreglia: a place to soothe the spirit.

The Camaldolensian monks chose to build the Monte Rua Hermitage here in Torreglia, a tranquil site so soothing to the spirit. In fact, admiring the view over the Belvedere della Croce you feel that you can embrace land and sky, from the hills to the plains.

Set in the greenery, it is still possible to see the Fonte Regina spring, one of the main sources of the ancient Roman aqueduct that served Abano and Padua. In the quiet hamlet of Luvigliano we can admire the splendid Villa dei Vescovi, the bishop's palace designed by Falconetto and built by Andrea da Valle. Just a few steps away we find



the headquarters of the Consorzio dei Vini D.O.C. (Consortium for D.O.C. Wines) of the Euganean Hills, the organization that guarantees the quality of the wines produced in the Euganean Hill region.



# Water and clay: natural allies of good health.



Since antiquity, mud therapy has been extremely successful in treating and curing numerous pathologies. Even today, after such marked progress in medical science, the properties of “ripened” muds are studied to understand and increase their effectiveness. For example, at first it was thought that the beneficial action of the substances depended solely on their heat. Vice versa, as a result of in-depth research performed at the University of Padua laboratories and in cooperation with the Centro Studi Termali Pietro D’Abano (Pietro D’Abano Thermal Studies Centre), it was discovered that the effect is the result of the combined action of various microorganisms of plant origin: particularly some micro-algae called Diatoms. Production of the mud used for therapeutic applications requires time during which the micro-algae work, gradually modifying the biochemical composition of the original material. The clay and thermal waters

are “aged” in special tanks for two months. This totally natural process yields the so-called “ripe” thermal muds which can now be used more advantageously in the treatment of various osteoarticular pathologies. In addition to their



therapeutic effects, these muds are totally devoid of side effects. Thermal inhalation treatments are used to treat chronic respiratory tract pathologies (chronic bronchitis) and to prevent other types of disorders from becoming acute.

# An ideal context for keeping in shape.



Golf, swimming or a bike ride?  
The Euganean Hills are most inviting for those who wish to keep in shape or enjoy sports. In fact, this context—the modern facilities and natural environment—lends itself to numerous activities. For example, Golf: the area offers a full 5 Golf Clubs (Padua, Frassanelle, La Montecchia, Galzignano, Colli Euganei) and also the Golf Academy Camp in Montecchia where one it is possible to learn the initial “rudiments” of this sport or perfect your technique under the skilled guidance of the pros. For those who love horseback riding, there is a wealth of choices: trekking routes



and various stables are available throughout the territory, ready to accommodate beginners and experts alike. The passion for equestrian sports is reflected in the numerous national and international riding competitions held in Abano. For those who prefer the bicycle saddle, there are so many trails and routes that can reveal the area’s artistic and naturalistic “treasures”. And for those who wish to put themselves to the test, pushing to the limit, there are walls equipped for climbing or that natural rock-climbing “gym” of Rocca Pendice, something no climber should miss.



After so much activity, you will naturally want to relax, spending some time preparing for an evening in one of the night spots to be found in the Euganean Hills. Thus it is time for a dip in one of the thermal pools: just a few minutes and the warm beneficial waters will dissolve all fatigue.



# Arquà Petrarca: the magic of the Middle Ages.

Time seems to stand still here, keeping all the magic of the Middle Ages intact. Indeed, at Arquà one can admire buildings that were already there at the dawn of the year 1000. Chosen as home by Petrarch (the house, recently restored, holds an exhibition dedicated to the poet) who counted on the patronage of the Carraresi, Arquà developed at the foot of the Castello and Ventolone mountains.



The part of the city at the foot of Mt. Castello offers two religious sites: the Oratorio della S.S. Trinità and the Chiesa di S. Maria Assunta, the church yard holding the tomb of the great poet. Arquà owes its great fortune to the presence of Petrarch and the magnificence of the Carraresi: the city was elevated to a Vicarship and became the point of reference for the aristocracy of Padua and Venice.

# Monselice: a crossroads of civilization.



First the Romans, then the Longobards, the Franks of Charlemagne, the Estensis, the Svevis and finally the Republic of Venice: given its strategic position for the defence of Padua, Monselice has gleaned the styles and cultures of the civilizations of various ages.

The signs of such presence can still be found in the medieval Castle, for example, its library offering the Longobard Antiquarium. Not far from the Cathedral a roadway opens up leading to the Santuario Giubilare delle Sette Chiesette (Exalted Sanctuary of the Seven Churches), an entranceway to Villa Duodo. Those who appreciate a scenic view should not miss the trail leading to Monte Ricco.



# Este: the heart of a thousand-year-old culture.

The Venetic people were the first to elect Este as their cultural centre. Since then the city, renowned for its majestic city wall, has maintained this cultural vocation, hosting such artistic talents as Shelley, Byron (guests at Villa Kunkler) and Debussy. Indeed, the entire city centre has a wealth of artistic and architectural monuments to charm the visitor. The Gothic buildings from the Scaliger age and the City Hall



in Piazza Maggiore; the Museo Nazionale Atestino (Atestino National Museum), one of the most important archaeological museums in Italy, the Cathedral of Santa Tecla that houses an altar-piece by Giambattista Tiepolo. These are only a few of the gems you can behold within the walls of the city that takes its name from the great Estensi dynasty. The villas with their sumptuous gardens are also worthy of note: for example, who can resist admiring the view of the secret *hortus* of Villa Contarini or the park that Giuseppe Jappelli designed for Villa Cornaro-Benvenuti.

# Montagnana: the city of towers.

The two kilometres of medieval city walls broken up by 24 majestic hexagonal towers that stand 19 metres high: the pride of Montagnana, defensive outpost since antiquity. At the Padua gate, the St Zeno Castle is worth a visit while on the opposite side you will

or the Chiesa di San Benedetto (St. Benedict's Church) that preserves a canvas by Palma the Younger. The popularity of the city is also linked to wines and foods with the production of the Veneto Berico D.O.P. (Denomination of Protected Origin) hams.



find the Alberi Fortress. The imposing bastion complex protects such equally imposing works as the Cathedral with a canvas by Paolo Veronese



# Baone: the ancient fief.

From the hill known as Monte Cecilia, in remembrance of a lovely, noble girl, the Medieval lords dominated the territory. Azzo II D'Este and Count Maltraverso ruled this fiefdom which, in remote times, was dominated by the Romans. Indeed numerous Roman finds still bear witness to this domination. The Church dedicated to Saints



Lorenzo and Fidenzio, built on the site of a former Benedictine parish, bears witness to a religious presence. Today this site houses interesting pictorial works from the XVII century Veneto school. Not far from the sacred building, climbing a grandiose staircase, one can admire Ca' Borin which was built around 1690. Villa Beatrice, home of an interesting nature museum, is also worth a visit.



# Cinto Euganeo: where water is “captured”.

It is known that the ancient Romans were well versed in the art of conquest and yet they were also skilled in daring, complex engineering works: one of these can be found in the Euganean enclosure. This is a complex of underground aqueducts that cover a total 130 meters of surface. The centre of this network of canals was located in Monte Vendevolo at the foot



of which we find the “*Buso della Casara*” cavity. To supply the area all the way to Este with water, the flow of the Faedo and San Giorgio

valley springs were captured and channelled to small natural grottoes. This route forced the waters toward the larger artificial grottoes and then brought it to its final destination through a series of stone piping ducts. Another important archaeological find here is “industrial”: the Cava Bomba pit complex. The area was transformed from an extraction site into a geopaaleontological museum presenting artefacts from the Euganean Hill area.



# The Euganean Villas: homes of the nobility.

The entire Veneto region is famous for its villas, proof of the opulence and power of the most important dynasties in the territory. The Euganean Hills area, too, offers some of these buildings; here, centuries later, they still bespeak the atmosphere of those splendid times.

**Villa Barbarigo-Valsanzibio / Galzignano Terme**  
Of particular interest is the lovely Italian garden, the monumental entrance being called "Bagno di Diana" (Diana's bath). On the inside you can admire a labyrinth of boxwood trees, woods hosting the statue of Kronos and the Island of the Conigli (Rabbit Island).

**Villa Dei Vescovi / Luvigliano di Torreglia**  
Completed in the 1500s, this complex is distinguished by a series of broad open loggia. When backlit by the rays of the sun, this loggia projects a particular play of light onto the walls.

**Villa Selvatico-Sartori / Battaglia Terme**  
To gain access to the XVI century villa that dominates the Battaglia Terme landscape you must climb the 135 steps of the XVII century stairway. The building preserves an important cycle of frescoes commissioned by the Marquise Benedetto Selvatico.



**Villa Papafava / Frassanelle – Rovolon**  
The XIX century reconstruction of a pre-existing building, this Villa inspired the literary genius of Fogazzaro. It is located in the centre of a wood containing artificial caves and water plays.

**Villa Emo / Rivella di Monselice**  
The fruit of a design by Vincenzo Scamozzi, this Villa has a large, noteworthy Italian garden that embraces the visitor with its colours and the aroma of a wide range of flowers.

**Villa Emo Capodilista / Montecchia di Selvazzano**  
From the top of a hill, this Villa sumptuously dominates the landscape. The particularly original, square floor plan is enhanced by large frescoed galleries.

**Villa Beatrice d'Este / Baone**  
This villa was originally the convent where Beatrice, the member of the Este family who was proclaimed Blessed, once resided. In more recent times the building was made the headquarters of an interesting Nature Museum.

**Villa Duodo / Monselice**  
It took two centuries to complete this villa. To reach it one must follow the Via delle Sette Chiese (Seven Churches Road), a votive path that leads to the San Giorgio Church.



# The Castles: witnesses to an epic past.

Defend the access routes and the cities from enemy invasion and, at the same time, the symbol of prestige and power: the Castles in the Euganean Hills were built to perform both functions, their majestic stance still exciting us today.

## Catajo Castle / Battaglia Terme

Even though it was built in the 1500s, this Castle bears the outward appearance of a medieval fortress. Inside there are a full 350 rooms and the piano noble or main floor was frescoed by Zelotti, a student of Veronese.



## Carrarese di Valbona Castle / Lozzo Atestino

The perfectly preserved Carrarese di Valbona Castle was once part of a series of fortifications to defend the western border of the area dominated by Padua.

## Monselice Castle

At first this Castle only served as a small fortress. Later it was transformed into the residence of Ezzelino III and then was further aesthetically modified by the Carraresi family. The Carraresi halls and the XIV century fireplaces are worthy of note.

## San Martino della Vaneza Castle / Cervarese S. Croce

Built to defend the banks of the Bacchiglione, this castle was donated to the city of Padua by the Carraresi so that they would be responsible for protecting the Paduan territory.

## Este Castle

Though today only the surrounding wall of this castle remains, it still gives an idea of the original grandeur of the XIV century reconstruction performed by Ubertino da Carrara.



# Lozzo Atestino: a favourite site for kites.



Near the bridge that crosses the Bisatto canal we find the XVIII century Villa Lando Correr: a landscape of green avenues with Venetian age statues. It is a truly pleasant, engaging experience. Equally charming is a visit to the nearby XIII century Valbona Castle, home of a permanent exhibition on the castles in the Padua area.

On a spring day, while travelling down one of the many routes in the Euganean Hills, should you happen to suddenly see a gaggle of fantastic, multicoloured forms, don't be surprised: you are approaching Lozzo Atestino. In fact, every year a myriad of kites start off from the peak of Monte Lozzo, waving joyously, welcoming in the new season. At the top of the hill, near the San Giuseppe Oratory, you will find one of the most suggestive views of the Hills.



# Vo': where the Hills and the Plains meet.

The Latins baptized it as Vadum or "passage": still today Vo' is the point where the slopes of the Euganean Hills meld into the plains territory unfolding toward Vicenza. Given the characteristics of the terrain, made highly fertile by the Venetian land reclamation, Vo' is renowned for its wine production. Signs of the Republic of Venice can still be seen in the noble façade of the imposing Ca' Venier. Vo' is particularly characteristic in that it is divided into several wards, each of which offers the visitor pleasant surprises. One such example is the 'mazo' boulder in the Boccon ward. Tradition has it that



on the 1st of May each year the young men stole flowers from the gardens of their beloved and laid them in the cracks of this rock. The damsels then gathered the bouquets and wore the flowers that matched the

blossom in their suitor's jacket. This rite was a true and proper engagement promise. Another delightful discovery is the square in the Cortelà ward with its parish church at the foot of the Madonna Mountain.



# Rovolon: an ancient centre of faith.

What was considered one of the most important monastic orders in the west—the Benedictines—developed in the Rovolon area. In fact, the country church of St. Peter in Carbonara, which dates back to the year 1000, provides the oldest evidence of the presence of the Benedictine order. On the other hand, in Bastia we find the “Corte del Vegrolongo”, the headquarters of the chamberlainship which managed the monastic properties in the territory. The direction of all activities



was concentrated right in Rovolon, in Villa Ottavia built in the XV century. Today the centre of Rovolon is clustered around the parish church, dominated by the Monte della Madonna. On a clear day, you can see all the way to the majestic alpine peaks from the peak of Monte della Madonna.

# Cervarese: on the banks of the Bacchiglione.

Cervarese owes its importance to its strategic position: the Bacchiglione river has made this town a central hub of river commerce. However, its proximity with Padua and Vicenza transformed it into the site of cruel military disputes. Today, within an economic reality driven by the



tanning and fur industry, the ancient “destiny” of the Cervarese population is brought together in that fortified bastion San Martino della Vaneza Castle, now a museum dedicated to the Bacchiglione River. Architectural testimony of various ages can be seen in the Mulino Galleggiante floating mill (which operated until the late XIX century, but has since been demolished) and the Arena di Montemerlo amphitheatre which, for the last half century, has hosted theatre and cinema cycles. Of additional interest are the Neogothic Villa Serenella and Villa Trento which reveals the design influence of the Palladian school.

# The museums: history, nature and noble endeavours.

## **Petrarch's Home / Arquà Petrarca**

The home where the great author of The Canzoniere poems lived out the last days of his life is still preserved as it was then, with personal objects and curios that recount the life of the poet from Arezzo.

## **Municipal Art Gallery and Commedia dell'Arte Centre / Abano Terme**

The thermal centre hosts the Municipal Art Gallery in Montirone where paintings from the Bassi Rathgeb collection are preserved. Villa Savioli hosts a permanent collection of masks and stage costumes that recount the history of the Commedia dell'Arte.

## **Museum of River Navigation / Battaglia Terme**

The fundamental relationship between Man and River is narrated with captivating images and historic rigour in this museum located in the Ortazzo quarter.



Here the visitor can learn about all the most important moments in the history of navigation.

## **Nature Museum Villa Beatrice / Baone**

Home of the Provincial Nature Museum, within an impressive setting, Villa Beatrice presents an overall view of the territorial ecosystem.

## **Bacchiglione River Museum / Cervarese S. Croce**

Over the centuries the Bacchiglione river bed has held vestiges of the civilizations that developed along its banks. The findings date from the Bronze Age to modern times.

## **Cava Bomba Geopaleontological Museum / Cinto Euganeo**

Located in a particular area and created in an ancient excavation pit, this museum is a true and proper compendium of the geological and paleontological history of the Euganean Hills.

## **Atestino National Museum / Este**

Considered one of the most prestigious archaeological museums in Italy, 11 halls house the findings in the Museo Nazionale Atestino. The proto-historic sections are of particular interest with the famous Benvenuti and Roman situlae.

## **Museum of Steam Machineries / Monselice**

The discovery of steam as a source of mechanical energy accelerated the development of many peoples. This museum hosts a vast collection of machinery for agriculture and land reclamation covering the last two centuries.

## **Butterfly Arc or Casa delle Farfalle - Mostra**

**Permanente dei Fossili "Guido Omesti" (Permanent Fossil Exhibit)**  
**Roman Excavation / Montegrotto Terme**  
The Butterfly Arc or Casa delle Farfalle (House of Butterflies) hosts multi-coloured specimens from all continents. The Museo di Mineralogia e Paleontologia (Museum of Mineralogy and Paleontology) is dedicated to the scholar Primo Guido Omesti. A guided tour of the Roman baths complex which includes a small intact theatre is a must.

## **Contemporary Art Museum / Teolo**

Works by Birolli, Sassu, Zancanaro and other contemporary artists are on display in Palazzetto dei Vicari, home of the Museum dedicated to the art critic and philosopher Dino Formaggio.

## **Air and Space Museum / Due Carrare**

The San Pelagio Castle, from which Gabriele D'Annunzio rose in flight toward Vienna, now hosts a complete exhibition dedicated to one of the greatest challenges of mankind: the quest to conquer the skies and space.



# Delicacies of the Euganean Hills.

Wholesome foods and genuine wines: this summarizes what the Euganean Hills holds in store for the lovers of good food. The area offers many opportunities: from important formal dinners to simple, savoury snacks the area offers everything your palate may desire. The origins of the local cuisine are strictly linked to its peasant culture. Excellent dressed pork specialties, delicious soups (such as the famous bean



soup laced with a drop of Extra Virgin Olive oil), inviting home-made noodles and flavoursome grilled meats. Nature, too, has helped create the special flavours, offering numerous varieties of wild herbs to be used in risottos, omelettes or to be savoured as an appetizer with hard boiled eggs and a good

glass of wine. And remember, as already mentioned, the wines of the Euganean Hills are a fitting companion for such inviting dishes. The area boasts thirteen D.O.C. wines, the quality carefully controlled and certified by the Consorzio Vini Colli Euganei



(Euganean Hills Wine Consortium) and by the Stradon del Vin Friularo. The area also has a long tradition of oil production. Indeed, the oil presses such as the historic press in Valnogaredo which is still in function, turn out the Euganean Oil with its particularly fruity flavour, low acidity and an after taste that hints of sweet almonds. Excellent on fish or to dress a simple salad, the Oils of the Euganean Hills stand out among the best foods of the area.



# Time for festivities.

There is also a more enjoyable way of discovering the beauty and tradition of the Euganean Hills: the numerous folk and sporting events and the many festivals that take place throughout the year. Here is a calendar of the most important events, broken down by seasons and location.

## Spring/Summer

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**Abano:** Concorso "Maschera d'argento", competition for the best Italian carnival masks (May). National horseback riding competition (June). Abano Danza, summer classical and modern dance review (June - July).

**Montegrotto Terme:** Il tempo di Berta - medieval historic re-enactment (September).

**Battaglia Terme:** Festa del Pigozzo, popular festival also called the Sagra dei Cucchi (March). Canale Fiorito, the Canal in bloom festival presenting flowers, decorations and various performances (May). Remada a Seconda: historic procession of boats along the canals (May).

**Monselice:** La Rocca in Fiore, Fortress in Bloom exhibition of floral decorations (May). International Jazz Festival (May). Giostra della Rocca, celebrated games in medieval costume (September).

**Este:** Este in Fiore (Este in bloom), exhibition-market of flowers and plants, procession of historic gondolas along the river (May). Alla Corte degli Estensi, historic re-enactment at the castle (June). International week of chamber music (September). September Euganeo, performances, fashion and popular festivities (September-October).

**Galzignano Terme:** Festa di Primavera, Spring Festival dedicated to Olive Oil (May).

**Vo':** Festa delle Ciliegie or Cherry Festival (May). Navigando tra i Colli (Sailing in the Hills), rowing event and sampling of eel specialties (June). Festa dell'Uva, traditional grape festival with allegorical floats, exhibitions and cultural events (September).

**Cinto Euganeo:** D.O.C. Wine Exhibit in Villa Beatrice d'Este on Monte Gemola (April).

**Torreglia:** Traditional harvest festival (July).

**Arquà Petrarca:** Festa di Maggio (May Festival), dedicated to ancient crafts (May). Arquà Petrarca Literary Award (September).





**Teolo:** Festa del Gnocco, festival dedicated to honour the potato-based specialty served with chicken ragout sauce (April). Festa di San Giovanni, festival of ancient origins dedicated to the Patron Saint of the Monastery (June). Festa del Villeggiante, events and performances dedicated to the holiday makers (July-August).

**Rovolon:** Festa dei Bigoli, culinary happening with cultural and sports events (May). Festa del Pane, event dedicated to bread-making, organized in Bastia di Rovolon (June).

**Baone:** Festa dei Bisi, culinary festival (May). Annual Mountain Biking Event in the Hills (September).

**Lozzo Atestino:** Festa degli Aquiloni kiting festival on Monte Lozzo (May). Bigoli, schissoto e vin s-ciaveto, wine and culinary event where it is possible to sample typical products (June). Sagra di S. Rocco, Medieval Festival with 500 participants in costume (August).

**Cervarese:** Palio delle Contrade di Trambaque, re-enactment of medieval history at the San Martino Castle (May). Estate Teatrale in Arena, performances in the open-air summer theatre in Montemerlo (June-September). Musica al Castello, concert of classical and band music at the San Martino Castle (June-September).

**Montagnana:** Antiques Fair (April-May). Piacere Montagnana!, feast dedicated to the "prosciutto crudo dolce" of Montagnana (a light, savoury, salt-cured ham) (May). Palio dei 10 Comuni, re-enactment of medieval history with parade in costume, torchlight procession and horse races (August-September).

## Autumn/Winter

**Abano:** Abano Teatro, theatrical season hosting the most important Italian repertory companies (January/March). Mercatino de Ninnoli, traditional Christmas Market (December).

**Galzignano Terme:** Sagra del Rosario and Palio dei Mussi: festival with historic procession re-enacting the Battle of Lepanto and with the donkey races competition (October).

**Monselice:** Fiera dei Santi (Festival of the Saints), large agricultural market and Luna Park (November). Festa di S. Lucia (St. Lucy's Festival) in the town of S. Martino (December). Natale sotto la Rocca (Christmas under the Rocca Fortress) (December).

**Este:** Christmas Fair-Market of Este Ceramics (December).

**Torreglia:** Mostra dei Vini D.O.C., fair and sale of food and wines plus performances and events (November).

**Arquà Petrarca:** Festa delle Giuggiole, medieval festival and competition for the best floral balcony decorations (October). "Sotto il segno del Parco", review of itinerant culture, performances and sampling of typical culinary products (October).

**Teolo:** Antica Fiera di Bresseto, event of ancient origin with crafts fair, performances and Luna park (October). Festa dei Maroni, festival to sample the chestnuts of the Euganean Hills (October).

**Lozzo Atestino:** "Carnevale in Piazza", town Carnival with parade of allegorical floats, costumed participants and sampling of vin brulé, a warm spicy wine (February).

**Montagnana:** Medieval New Year's (December).



# Religious sites.



## Olivetani Monastery / Monte Venda

Since the XII century, this has been a site for meditation and retreat. It reached its peak splendour under the Benedictine Monks. The monastery was closed in the 1700s by the Republic of Venice but the remains can still be seen today.

## Our Lady of Health Sanctuary / Monteortone

A votive sanctuary built to commemorate the end of the plague of the XV century. It holds numerous pictorial works by artists including Palma the Younger and Jacopo of Montagnana.

The Euganean Hills holds numerous religious sites. Abbeys and parish churches hold treasures that attest to the intensity and religious vocation of the local people. But even the small chapels have a charm all their own: some of these are found right in the centre of a tranquil natural landscape, inspiring a more harmonious relationship with Creation.

## Praglia Abbey / Teoloo

One of the most important gems of the religious settlements of the Euganean Hills is certainly the Praglia Abbey: a monastery that encloses many areas including four cloisters (botanical, hanging, double and rustic). The oldest core is the Romanesque bell tower. The church, built on a Latin cross, was designed by Tullio Lombardo. The cloisters are worth a particular visit to take in the atmosphere described by Antonio Fogazzaro in his celebrated masterpiece *Piccolo Mondo Moderno* (Little Modern World).

## Mariano Sanctuary / Monte della Madonna

Founded in 1300, this temple dedicated to the cult of Mary, is located at the top of the hill that bears the same name. Restored in recent times, this sanctuary is kept by the Benedictines under the Praglia Abbey.



## Monte Rua Hermitage / Torreglia

An enclosed hermitage which is still home to the Camaldolensian monks. Only men can enter the area, respecting the monastic rules. The surrounding area offers a wonderful landscape and a mystical calm.

## San Daniele Monastery / Abano

Closed by the Republic of Venice and transformed into a villa, the monastery returned to its original function in the middle of the of the last century when it was destined to provide accommodation for the nuns exiled from Istria.



# At the centre of a great holiday.

The Euganean Hills offer the ideal starting point for numerous trips to visit all the areas in the Veneto Region. In fact, you can schedule visits to the most famous art cities such as the romantic Verona or the Palladian city of Vicenza. Naturally it is not far from Venice and you can go there by private car or with the various means of public transportation. You can visit the sites along the Adriatic Coast or walk along the banks of the great River Po. In addition, the renowned Venetian Villas that flank the banks of the Brenta River



and dot the Padua hinterland are awaiting you. You can create your own itinerary to discover the most celebrated Renaissance architecture. If you are attracted by historic events, the towns in the Euganean Hills offer some truly appealing festivals. But above all else, you will be surrounded by the territory of the Province of Padua, offering sites for all tastes. Well-being, wholesome foods, opportunities for leisure and entertainment, sports, nature and a context truly



rich in sites of great interest: this is why those who choose to vacation in the Euganean Hills can be sure that they will get all they could possibly ask for.

# Welcome to Padua.

A city that offers the utmost in culture, entertainment and hospitality: this is Padua, the “città dotta” or “city of learning” of the Veneto. This reputation is obviously due to the presence of one of the oldest Universities in Italy, where such illustrious persons as Galileo Galilei once taught, and home of the perfectly preserved ancient Operating Theatre. Another of the city’s points of reference is certainly the Basilica di Sant’Antonio, which holds the mortal remains of Saint Anthony and which, each year, is the object of pilgrimage by thousands of persons from all over the world. And one must not miss the Scrovegni Chapel with its frescoes by Giotto which have recently been restored



to their original splendour. You could start your itinerary to discover Padua from the squares in the historic centre. Here one finds the City Hall and Palazzo della Ragione (Palace of Justice) which, in the XIII century held the court of law. A short distance away one can stop at Caffè Pedrocchi, once a meeting place for artists, authors and Irredentists. But it is also wonderful to “lose oneself” in the streets of the city, following an itinerary through the characteristic squares that run into the largest square of all, indeed one of the largest squares in all of Europe: Prato della Valle. And for those who wish to learn all the secrets of the most disparate plant species, nothing is better than a visit to the oldest University Botanical Garden in the world. Padua is also found in the aromas and



voices of the marketplaces and shopping in prestigious stores. In a certain sense, there are many facets of Padua to be discovered: for example, you can follow a Giottoesque itinerary; or discover the paleo-Christian origins of Padua; or follow routes that bespeak of XVII century Padua. To think that all these treasures are just a short distance from the Euganean Hills will make your stay all that much more pleasurable.



# USEFUL INFORMATION

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## Euganean Hills Regional Park:

Via Rana Ca' Mori, 8 - Este  
tel. +39 0429 612010 - fax +39 0429 601368  
www.parcocolleuganei.it

## Carabinieri (Police): 112

Corpo Forestale (National Forest Service): 1515

## Vigili del Fuoco (Fire-Brigade): 115

## Strada dei vini (Wines road):

Strada dei vini DOC dei Colli Euganei  
Via dei Vescovi, 41 - 35038 Torreglia (PD)  
tel. +39 049 8223523  
www.stradadeivinicolleuganei.it

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## Main sites of historic-artistic interest.

### Abano Terme

1 City Picture Gallery Montirone,  
Via Pietro d'Abano 20, tel. +39 049 667129

2 Villa Savioli Mask Museum,  
Via C. Battisti, tel. +39 049 810510

### Arquà Petrarca

3 Petrarch's House,  
Via Valleselle, tel. +39 0429 718294

### Baone

4 Villa Beatrice Nature Museum,  
via Monte Gemola, tel. +39 0429 601177

### Battaglia Terme

5 Museum of River Navigation,  
Via Ortazzo 63, tel. +39 049 525170

6 Catajo Castle,  
Via del Catajo 1, tel. +39 049 526541

### Cervarese S. Croce

7 River Bacchiglione Museum, Castello  
di S. Martino della Vaneza, tel. +39 049 9915425

### Cinto Euganeo

8 Cava Bomba Geopaleontological Museum,  
Via Bomba, tel. +39 0429 647166

### Due Carrare

9 Air and Space Museum,  
S. Pelagio Castle, tel. +39 049 9125008

### Este

10 Atestino National Museum,  
Via Negri 9/c, tel. +39 0429 2085

### Monselice

11 Monselice Castle, tel. +39 0429 72931

12 Heat Engine Museum,  
Via F. Petrarca 44, tel. +39 0429 783390

### Montagnana

13 A. Giacomelli City Museum,  
Piazza Trieste 15, tel. +39 0429 804128

### Montegrotto Terme

14 Roman Excavation, tel. +39 049 793384

15 Butterfly Arc Butterfly House,  
Via degli Scavi 21/bis, tel. +39 049 8910189

16 Permanent Exhibition of Fossils,  
Via F. Petrarca 44, tel. +39 049 793487

### Teolo

17 Praglia Benedictine Abbey,  
Via Abbazia, loc. Bresseo, tel. +39 049 9999300

18 Dino Formaggio Museum of Contemporary Art,  
Palazzetto dei Vicari, Teolo tel. +39 049 9925469

### Torreglia

19 Villa dei Vescovi, Via dei Vescovi 4,  
Luvigliano di Torreglia tel. +39 049 5211118

## Golf



### Golf Club Frassanelle:

Via Frassanelle, 22 - Rovolon (PD) - tel. +39 049 9910722

### Golf Club della Montecchia:

Via Montecchia, 12 - Selvazzano Dentro (PD)  
tel. +39 049 8055550

### Golf Club Padova:

Via Novera, 57 - Valsanzibio di Galzignano Terme (PD)  
tel. +39 049 9130078

### Golf Club Terme di Galzignano:

Viale delle Terme, 82 - Galzignano Terme  
tel. +39 049 915100

### Golf Club Colli Euganei Teolo:

Via Monteortone, 46 - Teolo (PD)  
tel. +39 049 9935070

# Euganean Hills.

