

# *Villa*



# *Mandriola*



Via S. Caboto, 10 – 35020 Mandriola

Albignasego (Padova) - ITALY

Home. +39 049 68 09 72

Mob. +39 348 27 47 326

[www.villamandriola.com](http://www.villamandriola.com)

# C O N T E N T S

<b>P A D O V A</b> .....	2
Some useful information on Padova .....	4
The Scrovegni Chapel (Giotto's art.).....	6
Palazzo della Ragione.....	6
The Botanic Garden .....	7
Saint Anthony Basilica.....	7
Prato della Valle.....	8
University (il Bo') and Caffè Pedrocchi (Via VIII Febbraio) .....	8
The Euganean Hills .....	8
Monselice.....	9
Arquà Petrarca.....	10
Cittadella.....	10
Este.....	10
Montagnana.....	11
Euganean Spas.....	12
Restaurants .....	13
Shopping .....	14
Supermarkets .....	15
<b>V E N I C E</b> .....	16
- Art & History .....	16
Worth Visiting.....	16
<b>V E R O N A</b> .....	18
Worth Visiting.....	18
<b>L A K E G A R D A</b> .....	18
General information about:.....	19
- Restaurants .....	19
- Bars and Cafes .....	19
- Police and Medicine .....	20
- Public Holidays in Italy .....	20
<b>K N O W Y O U R P A S T A !</b> .....	21

# P A D O V A

Web: [www.turismopadova.it](http://www.turismopadova.it)

Better known as the city of St. Anthony, Padua is one of the major art cities in Italy, characterised by 3000 years of history.

Since the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Patavium was the most important centre of the Veneto region and then it became one of the most prosperous cities of the Roman Empire. In 602 the city was totally destroyed by the Langobards and the rebuilding proceeded very slowly.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century Padua became a free city. In the following two centuries it reached the height of its political power thanks to the reign of the Carraresi (1338-1404) and it experienced a great cultural, economic and religious frenzy.

The medieval town walls, the large civil and religious buildings, especially the Basilica del Santo and the University are the evidence of an extraordinary period, marked by artists as Giotto, Guariento, Giusto de' Menabuoi and Altichiero.

In 1405 Padua became part of the mainland of Venice, but thanks to Donatello and Mantegna it maintained artistic superiority until the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, under Venetian dominion, Padua experienced a great renewal: new public buildings and majestic churches were built.

With the construction of Prato della Valle toward the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Venetian dominion ended after four hundred years. In 1866 it became part of the Italian kingdom and took part to the two world wars, suffering from numerous bombings. After the war the city developed quickly and became one of the main economical centres of northern Italy.

Padua is one of the most visited tourist destination in Italy; the religious heritage is extraordinarily rich. First of all the Basilica of St. Antonio, this majestic church was built in 1232 and inside it contains masterpieces of the highest artistic value. Other important churches are the Basilica of St. Giustina and the Cathedral (Duomo) with the adjacent Baptistery of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The Baptistery has been frescoed by Giusto de' Menabuoi.

A unique masterpiece in the world is the Scrovegni Chapel, the inside has been completely frescoed by Giotto between 1303 and 1305 containing scenes about the life of Jesus and Mary.

Padua has many important civil palaces and buildings too. The most important one is the "Palazzo della Ragione" built in 1218. Its grandeur is incomparable with any other public building, erected in the European cities during the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Padua has a historical University complex with the Palazzo del Bo, the Anatomy theatre, the Botanical garden, the Specola and several museums.

Padua has beautiful squares such as Prato della Valle, Piazza della Frutta and delle Erbe, "Piazza dei Signori" where the visitor can discover the architectures, the porticos, Palazzo della Ragione, the clock tower, the Loggia della Gran Guardia...and to conclude the most famous Coffee House in Padua, the Pedrocchi.

South the Province of Padova, where the sweet roundness of the Euganean Hills melt and mix with a valley rich of orchards and wine yards, there is a land full of culture and tradition, that custody the memories of a great past.

Attracted by the mild climate, since the old past, men occupied this fertile land rich of water. Its strategic position and its beauty appealed to ambitious conquerors, elegant noblemen and noblewomen, poets and writers of every time.

Francesco Petrarca, the great Italian poet of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, inspired by the beauty of the land, loved composing his rhymes while navigating the Euganean Riviera to reach his vineyard in Arquà.

Longed for by noble Venetians, the Euganean Hills were enriched by fabulous villa where they could spend their holidays: palaces, monumental gardens, and huge parks, with box-wood mazes, frescoes, statues, old trees and water games, everything planned by great architects of different epochs.

The Province of Padua is a land representing a trip in the past through strongholds, castles and abbeys; a romantic itinerary following the route of the castles, a refreshing pause in the silence and the harmony of an abbey, to contemplate the old imposing walls of Este, Monselice and Montagnana- the Walled Towns.

The Euganean Hills constitute a naturalistic oasis, protected by the Institution of the Regional Park, characterized by an extremely rich and vary vegetation and by a land offering precious fruits in any season: delicious jujube, cherries, strawberries, blueberries, pomegranate, figs, fresh herbs, grapes, special honey and oil made following the old tradition of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The D.O.C. Wine Route of the Euganean Hills starts from here. A paradisiacal gourmet - where grapes and local traditions mix with the best products of the land, of the courtyards, vineyards and the spontaneous herbs.

Among the first courses the Risotto is a must: the traditional tasty Risotto made in the Paduan style, a special one is prepared with chicken entrails and wild herbs; not to mention the traditional risotto (rice) with "peas", quails and radish; of course, the pasta is always home made: "bigoi" with duck

sauce, “tagliatelle” with goose and pumpkin, pappardelle, pasticci and much more; the second dishes can vary from the stuffed duck to the tasty famous Paduan hen, from a rabbit to the spit of pigeons, and then, fried chicken, stewed meat, mixed grill to finish with cakes and fresh jam tarts, along with egg flip sweets made with moscato wine and the special “pinza” a home made cake made with different dried fruit. Everything is accompanied with good wine, obviously D.O.C., from the Euganean Hills.

Numerous restaurants, working farm houses, cellars and mansions welcome and care the guests inviting them to discover the million tastes and wines of such a land.

As well as the main cities, it is also worth visiting the little towns: the medieval walled towns of Castelfranco Veneto and Cittadella; Bassano with its famous wooden bridge; Asolo with the Canova Temple; the impressive Villa Contarini in Piazzola sul Brenta, towards the north; the walled towns of Este and Montagnana; the Monselice citadel; the charming Arquà Petrarca, the Poet's village; the 17<sup>th</sup> century park of Villa Barbarigo in Valsanzibio, towards the south. All these places are within 30km of Villa Mandriola between Padua and Venice.

If you want to spend a day at the seaside there is Sottomarina, with the nearby fishermen's town of Chioggia, half an hour away from the Villa by car, or Jesolo at about an hour.

### ***Some useful information on Padova***

Padova is situated in the centre of Veneto. Even today the town welcomes the tourists with its suggestive medieval atmosphere. Every corner of the old town centre reveals its historical and artistic aspects.

Many artists had left some most important works of art: frescoes by Giotto in Scrovegni Chapel (14<sup>th</sup> century), the Duomo and the Baptistery with frescoes by Giusto de' Menabuoi, the Basilica complex with the masterpieces by Donatello (15<sup>th</sup> century) and Tiziano (the Renaissance), the Piazza Eremitani with Chapel containing frescoes by Andrea Mantegna. The surroundings of Padua are famous for their artistic, archaeological, cultural and natural heritage.

The latest peculiarities of this area are excellent gastronomic specialities and wine-making, highly appreciated both by experts and regular clients.

Be aware that in the center of Padova is not allowed to enter by car (for any enquiries please do not hesitate to ask).



### **We invite our guests to take in consideration the following events:**

- ▣ from 8a.m. to 1p.m. during weekly days - in the heart of Padova (exactly in Piazza delle Erbe and Piazza della Frutta) take place a very nice and important fruit and vegetables, cereals, flowers, household goods market (one of the biggest in Veneto);
- ▣ on Saturdays in Prato della Valle take place a huge clothing, books, footwear, household goods market and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month the square held an interesting market of antique furniture and books;
- ▣ Sunday morning at 11a.m. in Sant'Antonio Basilica there is a vocal mass very nice and characteristic;

### **The Scrovegni Chapel (Giotto's art.)**

The Scrovegni Chapel, a masterpiece in the history of painting in Italy and Europe in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, is to be considered the most complete series of frescoes executed by Giotto in his mature age. Colour and light, poetry and pathos. Man and God. The sense of nature and history, humanity and faith are mingled in narrating the stories of the Virgin Mary and Christ in a unique way. Giotto completed the frescoes in the Chapel at the beginning of 1306. At that time: "...the chapel presents very simple architecture: a rectangular hall with a barrel vault, an elegant gothic triple lancet window on the façade, tall, narrow windows on the southern wall, and a polygonal apse, later raised to contain the belfry". The frescoes follow three main themes. The lower parts of the walls contain a series of frescoes illustrating Vices and Virtues in allegory.

Details: **Phone n.:** 049 2010020 **Opening hours:** 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Web: [www.cappelladeglisrovegni.it](http://www.cappelladeglisrovegni.it)

### **Palazzo della Ragione**

Commercial and civil centre of Padua, the Palace of Justice, also called Il Salone, was built between 1218 and 1219. It is a huge building, which together with the Basilica of St. Anthony, has become the symbol of Padua. The original building was enlarged in 1306-09 by Frà Giovanni degli Eremitani, who raised the walls and added the two external loggias and covered the whole structure with a truly impressive lead inverted ship's keel roof. The interior was also altered and, once the pillars and walls that divided it into three large rooms were demolished, it became a kind of huge covered square, the largest hanging hall in Europe (m 80 x 27). As ancient documents report Giotto was commissioned to decorate the interior, but his frescoes were destroyed by fire in 1420 and replaced by those realized by Nicolò Miretto and Stefano da Ferrara and other masters. The cycle consists of 333 frescoes covering

the four walls and it represents a rare example of medieval astrological cycle. The scenes were inspired by the famous man of letters and physician Pietro d'Abano. The frescoes can be divided into two sequences: the lower sequence is interrupted by windows and framed by an architectural motif of small painted arches. The upper level is divided into three rows one above the other.

The frescoes in the three upper rows all contain the following sequence: an apostle, a month of the year, a sign of the zodiac, a planet and constellations around the sides. The lower section has no unified theme it depicts saints, bishops, doctors of the church, virtues and the arts. On the north-eastern corner of the Salone there is the "stone of shame" for insolvent debtors. On the opposite side there is a great wooden horse constructed in 1466 for a noble tournament. It seems to be a copy of the horse realized by Donatello for the equestrian statue of the Gattamelata which stands on Piazza del Santo in front of the Basilica of St. Anthony.

Details: **Phone n.:** 049 8205006 **Opening hours:** 9 to 19. **Closed on:** Mondays

Web: [www.turismopadova.it/Monumenti/palazzo\\_regione](http://www.turismopadova.it/Monumenti/palazzo_regione)

### **The Botanic Garden**

Created in 1545 on the property of the Benedictine monks of St. Justine, the Botanical Garden of Padova is the oldest existing university botanical garden in the world. The Senate of the Venetian Republic approved its foundation for the cultivation of medicinal plants, which then constituted the largest portion of the so-called "simple" herbs, i.e., medicaments of natural origin.

This is why early botanical gardens were called *Horti simplicium* ("Gardens of Simples"). The identification of plants used for medicinal purposes by renowned botanists of ancient times was uncertain, and frequently led to mistakes and even frauds, which caused great damage to people's health.

The Garden was constantly enriched with plants from all over the world, particularly from countries where the Venetian Republic had possessions, or with which it traded. This is why Padova played such an essential role in the introduction and study of several exotic species. (In Winter the garden is closed on Sunday)

Details: **Phone n.:** 049 8272119 or 049 8272127 **Opening hours:** 9 to 13 and 15 to 18.

Web: [www.ortobotanico.unipd.it](http://www.ortobotanico.unipd.it)

### **Saint Anthony Basilica**

The most famous of the Paduan churches is the basilica dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua, locally simply called "Il Santo". The bones of the saint rest in a chapel richly ornamented with carved marbles, the work of various artists, among them of Sansovino and Falconetto; the basilica was begun

about the year 1230 and completed in the following century; tradition says that the building was designed by Nicola Pisano; it is covered by seven cupolas, two of them pyramidal. On the piazza in front of the church is Donatello's magnificent equestrian statue of "Gattamelata" (Erasmus da Narni), the Venetian general (1438-1441), which was cast in 1453, the first full-size equestrian bronze cast since antiquity; it was inspired by the Marcus Aurelius equestrian sculpture at the Capitoline Hill in Rome.

Web: [www.basilicadelsanto.org](http://www.basilicadelsanto.org)

### **Prato della Valle**

One of the best known symbols of Padua is the "Prato della Valle", a 90.000 sq meters elliptical square believed to be the biggest in Europe, after Red Square in Moscow. (See above for some information regarding activities link with the square).

Web: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prato\\_della\\_Valle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prato_della_Valle)

### **University (il Bo') and Caffè Pedrocchi** (Via VIII Febbraio)

The University of Padua, which was established in 1222, is one of the oldest in the world (the second in Italy after Bologna University) and keeps several places of great historical value: the famous Teatro Anatomico (Anatomy Theatre, 1594), which is the oldest in the world; the 14<sup>th</sup> -century Medicine room; the Sala dei Quaranta, where Galileo's desk is kept; the Aula Magna and the 16<sup>th</sup> -century old cloister, both decorated by students and professors' coats of arms; the statue of Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia, the world's first female graduate (1678) and the Cortile Antico (mid-sixteenth century). In its ancient and glorious University fundamental contributions to the progress of science and technology have been made thanks to the presence of enlightened and ingenious personalities.

Standing near the Bo is the most famous Coffee House in Padua, the Pedrocchi, a neoclassical building.

Web: [www.unipd.it](http://www.unipd.it)

### **The Euganean Hills**

Just visible from Padua and Venice, have been celebrated for their picturesque beauty and their hot springs.

The Euganean Hills (at 10Km from the Villa) are most inviting for those who wish to keep in shape or enjoy sports. In fact, this context, which mixes modern facilities and beautiful natural environment,

lends itself to numerous activities, such as golf, horse riding, cycling, rock-climbing, jogging or simply walking along the paths of the hills.

Among the hills you will find historical monuments, villas, castles, museums, ancient abbeys and monasteries. And last but not the least; you will be surprised to discover the excellent local cuisine, which combines wholesome food and genuine wines. Here nature has helped create the special flavours of the traditional dishes, offering, especially in spring and in autumn, numerous varieties of wild herbs, mushrooms, produce of the undergrowth and vegetables to be used in risottos, omelettes and other specialties

Web: [www.parcocollieuganei.com](http://www.parcocollieuganei.com)

## **Monselice**

The town has an enchanting historical centre which develops around the slopes of the Citadel Hill. The defensive function and the setting out of the citadel (Rocca) date back to the Roman times, and was later enlarged and completed by the Langobards in the fifth century. In the year 1239 the town was further fortified by will of Emperor Frederic II, who ordered extensive fortification works and the building of the castle. The town was later contended by the most important families who dominated the region in the fourteenth century, the Estensi, the Carraresi and the Scaligeri until in 1338 it was conquered by the Da Carrara noble family of Padua.

In 1405 following an enervating siege lasting a full year it became part of the Serenissima Republic of Venice, a domination which lasted until the end of the eighteenth century. The beautiful walk from piazza Mazzini to the top of the hill reveals the most important historical events of the town through its main monuments. The first stop is at the Chiesa di s. Paolo (St. Paul's church), which keeps an early medieval crypt with 13th-century frescoes. Taking the Via del Santuario you reach the Castello (Castle) a fortress dating from the late Middle Ages, re-built by Ezzelino da Romano in the 13th c., enlarged by the Da Carrara family and transformed into a residence by the Marcello Venetian noble family. In 1942 it was made a museum by Count Vittorio Cini who added a rich collection of arms and furniture.

Continuing the ascent is the 16th-century Villa Nani Moncenigo and after it the old Pieve di S. Giustina, which was consecrated in 1256, it houses a number of important works of art and a fine beamed ceiling (1787). After passing through the doorway of the 'count's lion' you reach the wide panorama of the Rotonda. The Porta Romana (Roman gate) erected in 1651 marks the entry to the Jubilee Sanctuary of the Seven Churches designed by Vincenzo Scamozzi on commission from the Duodo Venetian noble family. The mansion of the Duodo family, Villa Duodo, and a spectacular

exedra mark the end of the route. From here a stairway and path lead to the top of the hill (150m) dominated by the imposing Mastio Federiciano (Frederick's stronghold).

Web: [www.comune.monselice.padova.it](http://www.comune.monselice.padova.it)

### **Arquà Petrarca**

In the Euganean Hills, at Arquà, which now bears his name attached to it, Petrarch found peace and harmony towards the end of his life. He discovered the village in 1369, there; he stated in his letter to posterity, "I have built me a house, small, but pleasant and decent, in the midst of slopes clothed with vines and olives," - a house that may be seen there today.

Web: [www.arquapetrarca.com](http://www.arquapetrarca.com)

### **Cittadella**

The ancient town of Cittadella, with its elliptical and perfectly preserved medieval walls, is one of the most interesting walled towns in Europe. The settlement started life as a military outpost of Padua, which founded it in 1220. The town walls are still intact with a circumference of 1461 m., 12 towers and 12 turrets of various heights, 32 sections and 12 Guelf merlots. The four major towers correspond to the four gates: Porta Bassano, Porta Treviso, Porta Vicenza and Porta Padova (or Porta Nuova, which is decorated by the town clock and the coat-of-arms of the Commune of Padova and of the Da Carrara family). Porta Padova incorporates the Church of S. Maria del Torresino and the Torre di Malta, which was built by Ezzelino da Romano in 1251 as a gruesome prison for his enemies, named also by Dante in the verses of the Divina Commedia (Paradise IX, 54). Besides the walls Cittadella offers a lot to visit such as the works of art inside the Duomo (cathedral) and its Museum, the nineteenth-century Teatro Sociale, with a neo-classical façade projected by Giuseppe Jappelli, the Town Hall, which dates back to the 14th century, the Palazzo Pretorio (Magistrate's Hall), the Podestà palace and the Archaeological Museum housed in the Torre di Malta

Web: [www.comune.cittadella.pd.it](http://www.comune.cittadella.pd.it)

### **Este**

A short drive away is the elegant town of Este. Before the year 589 the river Adige flew through the town and along its banks important religious and cultural Paleovenetian settlements developed in pre-roman age. The town became one of the most important Italian centres after the year 1000 thanks to the presence of the Estensi family, who erected their castle and fortified the town. The circle of walls

was later enlarged by the Da Carrara family and by the Venetians. The fine rooms of the Atestino National Museum house a great number of items from Paleovenetian and Roman times, and a beautiful collection of ceramics. The imposing remains of the castle, which scenographically descend from the top of the hill downwards for about one kilometre, are one of the main attractions of the town.

In the 13th-century the castle became one of the most important centres of troubadour poetry as many Italian and foreign troubadours and minstrels met at the court of Azzo VI of Este. The religious heritage of the town is very rich, too. The Cathedral keeps a beautiful painting by Giambattista Tiepolo (1759) and the tomb of Blessed Beatrice d'Este, the daughter of the Marquis of Este, who died in 1226 when she was only 26 years old. Her beauty and virtue had enchanted many poets, who dedicated their lyrics to her. The charm of this town attracted poets and artists even in more recent times: in the 16th-century a great numbers of artists gathered at the dwelling of Alvise Cornaro a rich and generous patron of art and culture of Venetian origins; in the 19th century the great romantic English poets Byron and Shelley spent a long and intense holiday at Villa Kunkler; the 20th century registered the presence of Bruce Chatwin and Emma Tennant at Villa Albrizzi. Este is worldwide famous for the production of artistic ceramics.

Web: [www.comune.este.pd.it](http://www.comune.este.pd.it)

## **Montagnana**

In the south-western part of the province of Padua there is Montagnana. The fortified city centre remains one of the best preserved and most charming examples of a walled city in Europe. The walls have a circumference of about two kilometres with two gates and 24 towers. S. Zeno Castle, one of the two gates, was erected in 1242 and now hosts the Town Museum. The other gate, Rocca degli Alberi, is a real jewel of military architecture. It was erected in 1360 by the will of Francesco I the Elder of the Da Carrara family. The narrow porticoes streets of the town lead to the wide Vittorio Emanuele Square, dominated by the Cathedral (works of art by Sansovino and Paolo Veronese inside). Close to Porta Padova is Villa Pisani a work by Andrea Palladio (1553-1555). Montagnana is situated at the centre of the Veneto Berico Euganeo Sweet Ham production area

The glorious past of the town of these beautiful medieval towns is recreated in spectacular historical re-enactments and medieval festivals, during which costumed performers, musicians, flag-wavers, invade the streets, play games from the middle ages, compete the palio (horse-race) to win the prize, and recreate the typical medieval atmosphere in vigorous and colourful tournaments, picturesque markets and medieval fairs. The most important medieval events are: Palio of Trambaque at Cervarese

S. Croce Castle (May), Estensi's Days in Este (June), Palio of Montagnana (1st Sunday in September), Rocca's Joust in Monselice (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September) and Voices from the Middle Ages in Cittadella (end September-early October). The year ends with the Medieval New Year in Montagnana (last Sunday in December).

Web: [www.comune.montagnana.pd.it](http://www.comune.montagnana.pd.it)

## **Euganean Spas**

The secret is in the spa water, which falls into the category of deep underground waters. They are of meteoric origin and derive from the uncontaminated basins of the Lessini Mountains in the foothills of the Alps, passing through calcareous rocks and into the subsoil at a depth of approximately 80 kilometres route that takes an average of 25/30 years. During this time they take on mineral salts and finally reach the Euganean Spas where they spring forth at a temperature of 87°C. The abundance of the dissolved substances makes this water a unique thermal resource, one of its kinds in the world. From the chemical point of view these waters are classified as hyper thermal sodio-bromidiodic waters.

The healing virtues of the Terme Euganee waters were already appreciated by the Euganean people, who over 2000 years ago had a sacred lake here for the veneration of the God Aponus, the god of thermal waters. During the Roman age (1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> c. A.D.), the Fons Aponi (Aponus'spring) became very important and famous. The spas were attended both for healing and religious reasons: the legend says that one of the roman Emperors went to the Fons Aponi to have the response of the Gerione oracle, a mysterious god who said the future through the hot waters.

The imperial palace, a partly-covered amphitheatre also used for shows on water, patrician villas and residences, places of cult, reflection walks, and rich thermal baths: this is how the Fons Aponi appeared in Roman times. The growing interest in the spas led the Da Carrara family, rulers of Padua in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, to promote a deep survey of the waters.

The survey was led by the University of Padua and it continues still today thanks to the studies of the Centro Studi Termali Veneto Pietro D'Abano (Spa Study Centre). Through in-depth study of the primary components of the thermal resources –water, algae, and meds - the Study Centre performs systematic research into the thermal medicine and constantly monitors the effects of fang-therapy in order to guarantee the utmost quality.

The spa hotels are specialized in the various spa treatments: fang-therapy, balneal-therapy, hydrokinetic therapy and inhalation therapy. Besides the astonishing abilities to aid and restore, the

thermal waters are also used in beauty treatments. Thanks to the modern, accommodating bath establishments, you can regain your vigour, relax and achieve that lost sense of well-being.

Web: [www.parcocollieuganei.com](http://www.parcocollieuganei.com)

## **R e s t a u r a n t s**

Web: [www.ristorantoripadovani.it](http://www.ristorantoripadovani.it) or [www.padovainvita.it](http://www.padovainvita.it)

Food in Padova is a cut above the average fare in Venice. The food is simple and made from fresh ingredients.

Our favorite restaurant in Padua is the Osteria Dal Capo on Via Dei Soncin, across the piazza del Duomo. Via Dei Soncin is a narrow, alley-like street directly across the piazza from the front of the Duomo. The sign on the door says the Dal Capo opens at 6pm, but ignore it, they won't serve you until 7:30 pm. Moderate prices, good house wine. The menu changes daily and features typical Veneto cuisine. English is spoken, although it's best if you know a little Italian.

Before dinner you might try going for an aperitivo (cocktail, try the typical spritz - a 6% alcoholic drink that is characteristic of Padova - and some Italian sandwiches "tramezzini") we invite you to go to bar Nazionale in Piazza delle Erbe or at one of the two cafes that compete for customers in the Piazza Capitaniato to the north of the Duomo. One you'll notice attracts the young folk, the other the older crowd. There are also few wine bars further through the squares "piazza"

Other excellent restaurants in Padova are:

### **AL CAMPANILE**

Via Pizzolo, 3 (Arcella)

Tel: 049604318 (closed Wednesday)

Elegant surroundings, home-style cuisine of the Veneto region Specialty: Strangolapreti ai porcini (Strangle the Priest with Mushrooms), Coppa al mascarpone.

### **AI CASON**

Via Sarpi, 40 (Savonarola)

Tel: 049662636

Familiar surroundings, typical Veneto cuisine. Specialty: Bollito e arrosto.

### **ANTICA TRATTORIA PACCAGNELLA**

Via del Santo, 113

Tel: 0498750549

Elegant surroundings, Paduan and Venetian cuisines. Specialty: Petto d'anatra al vin raboso, bigoli con ragu di gallina imbriga, baccalà and house desserts



**ANTICO BROLO**

Corso Milano, 22

Tel: 049664555 (closed Monday and Ferragosto's week)

Elegant surroundings, traditional / innovative cuisine. Specialty: Chateaubriand all'aceto balsamico, house desserts.

**LA PICCOLA TRATTORIA**

Via S. Agnese, 21

Tel: 049 656163 (closed Sunday and first 3 weeks of August)

The menu is varied and changes weekly. The cuisine is typically Sardinian, somewhat refined.

**CASA VENETA**

Vicolo Ponte Molini, 11

Tel: 0498758699

Elegant, characteristic restaurant. International and regional cuisine. Specialty: Tagliolini gamberi e zucchine, sfogliata di frutta alla crema.

**CALANDRE**

Located in Sarameola di Rubano, around 8Km from the center of Padua

Via Liguria

Tel.: 049630303 (closed Sunday and Monday)

**GIOVANNI**

Via Maroncelli 22

Tel.: 049772620 (closed Saturday until 6pm and Sunday)

**SAN PIETRO**

Via San Pietro 95

Tel.: 049 8760330 (closed Saturday and Sunday)

**DOTTO DI CAMPAGNA**

Via Randaccio 2/6 - Located in Torre - 20Km from the center of Padua

Tel.: 049 625469 (closed Sunday and Monday)

**TRATTORIA DA RENZO**

Strada battaglia 47

Tel. 049 681364

***S h o p p i n g***

Tradition, variety, reliability, elegance and courteous service when dealing with tourists staying in Padova or just passing through. This is a motto and a promise. It has been adopted by the BOTTEGHE DEL CENTRO (Centre shops) that has inherited and intends to carry on a line of activity inspired by an age-old commercial calling that has created a style, established a class and continues to thrive on the exquisite taste of the Veneto.

So, from street to street and from square to square, the unique character of the act of buying and selling is perpetuated, assuming the form and fascination of a ritual that exalts the "culture of trade"

which combines in Padova with the loftiest expression of art and monumentality, environment and custom. All this with an air of charm, habitual civility and a warm reception for tourists.

Average opening times: 9.00 - 12.30 / 15.30 - 19.30 with Mondays morning close.

## ***S u p e r m a r k e t s***

Very close to Villa Mandriola there are 3 different supermarkets:

The nearest one is **“Cose Buone”**.

Close Wednesday and Sunday.

How to reach it: turn right at the Villa’s gate; go to the end of the street. At the end of Via Caboto turn to the left, and the first right. After 15 meters on the right there is the delicatessen shop.

### **Ipercity**

Web: [www.ipercity.it](http://www.ipercity.it)

How to reach it: turn left at the Villa’s gate; than right. After 1.500m you will find on the right the store.

### **PrixQuality**

How to reach it: turn left at the Villa’s gate; than right. After 300m you will find on the right the PrixQuality’s green building.

# V E N I C E

Web: [www.turismovenezia.it](http://www.turismovenezia.it)

One of the few cities in the world that can be truly described as unique. See for yourself the gondolas gliding through narrow canal streets and the ornate bridges of Venice where delightful architecture spans centuries. The marvellous palaces and churches dotted along the canals whilst flirtatious gondolas languidly accommodate lovers and remember nostalgically the days of Casanova and the jovial carnival masquerades.

## **- Art & History**

The many highlights of Venetian architecture and art have entranced visitors for centuries. When you think of Venice, you cannot help but think of waterways, gondolas and beautiful Turner watercolours. Separated mainly by the Grand Canal, the two halves are connected by only three bridges, including the most famous Rialto Bridge.

This 12th century bridge, arching over the Grand Canal, is one of Venice's most famous sights. Basilica di San Marco is probably the most photographed church in the world, located in Piazza San Marco, the popular St Mark's Square (patron saint of Venice) and the 100m high Campanile Di San Marco. The Ponte dei Sospiri, better known as the Bridge of Sighs – was thought to be where lovers met, but which actually led to the prison house and reputedly takes its name from the sighs of prisoners being led to trial. The great church of San Giorgio Maggiore is so magnificent it has an island all to itself and Palazzo Ducale (or Doges' Palace) with its pale pink exterior. The imposing Santa Maria della Salute is dominated by its octagonal dome and rests its vast weight over one million timber piles. The 13th century Basilica di Santa Maria is home to the city's most famous paintings by Titian). You could also take a waterbus to visit the islands on the lagoon, Venice Lido (where Visconti filmed 'Death in Venice'), Murano and Burano. There are also many galleries housing priceless works of art.

## **Worth Visiting**

Itinerari Segresti del Palazzo Ducale (tour of Doge's Palace); the Grand Canal; the Basilica di San Marco and Piazza San Marco; the Lagoon, Murano, Burano, the Lido and La Giudecca; gondola rides; Campanile and Torre dell'Orologio; Le Fenice theatre; Campo Santo Stefano; Dorsoduro; Squero di San Trovaso; the Rialto; Ca'Foscari; Palazzi Giustinian; the Ghetto; Campo San Zanipolo; Greek Quarter; Arsenale.

**Carnival in Venice** (February/March). Celebrations in costumes and masks; entertainment in streets and squares. Music, mimes and fireworks. Web: [www.carnivalofvenice.it](http://www.carnivalofvenice.it)

**“Il Redentore”** The Feast of the Redeemer (Third Sunday in July) Procession of gondolas commemorating the end of the epidemic of 1575.

**Historical Regatta** (First Sunday in September) Traditional competition between two-oar racing gondolas and procession of ceremonial boats.

# VERONA

Web: [www.tourism.verona.it](http://www.tourism.verona.it)

The vibrant riverside Verona is a city of music and romance, with so many sights to be discovered. Verona will be eternally linked with Shakespeare's star crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet, yet there is so much more to do wandering amongst the cobbled streets. At night you may hear reverberating music from the famous Roman amphitheatre, home to the world's most famous opera festivals, or just the chatter of road and piazza side cafés.

Whilst in Verona, there are so many sights to be discovered. Visit Sant Anastasia, the huge lofty church situated in its namesake piazza, see San Giorgio in Braida, a lovely domed Renaissance church housing beautiful frescoes by Veronese and Tintoretto. The statue of Dante, whose gaze seems fixed on the forbidding Palazzo del Capitano, is displayed in the Piazza dei Signori. The cloister of San Francesco al Corso displays the crypt of the Tomb of Juliet and her house on No. 27 Via Cappello. Giardino Giusti is one of Italy's fine Renaissance Gardens and last but not least the Duomo fronted by a magnificent Romanesque portal.

## **Worth Visiting**

Arena (1st century BC.); Basilica di San Zeno Maggiore (12th century); Juliet's house; Castelvecchio (14th century), Parco Natura Viva (the biggest zoo in Veneto) and Gardaland (the largest amusement park in Italy).

# LAKE GARDA

The easternmost and largest of the lakes that stretches from the plains towards the Dolomites. Its' romantic shores have inspired poets and painters since the Roman era. The palatial hotels, the exotically palm tree lined esplanades, slender cypress and lemon groves have long given this enchanting place a Mediterranean holiday feel. Sirmione, entwined with Roman ruins and old olive groves, is on the southern end of the lake. To enter its enchanting old town, one must cross a small bridge beside the ancient 13th century Scaligeri Castle, one of the most memorable Italian castles. Sigmund Freud, David Bowie and Peter Gabriel, among others have enjoyed Gardone.

The lakeside promenade is lined with wonderful cafés. Maderno has one of the finest beaches on Lake Garda, and excellent car connections to resorts along the lake. Its pretty village has retained much of its traditional charm and 12th century monuments. Web: [www.lagodigarda.it](http://www.lagodigarda.it)



# **General information about:**

## **- Restaurants**

As with bars, will be closed at least one day a week and some may only open in the evenings; prices often vary considerably between lunch time and evening and between weekdays and weekends. The borders between ristorante/trattoria/osteria have become very blurred - do not expect much variation in prices or indeed menus nowadays.

Standard format is antipasti (appetisers varying from seafood to cold meats to pickles to crostini), primo piatto (pasta, risotto, soup, broth), secondo piatto (meat or sometimes fish), accompanied by contorni (salad, vegetables, potatoes in some form) and followed by dolce (ice-cream, fruit, or often local tart).

Water is usually bottled ("naturale" still or "gassata" sparkling) and wine will be "rosso" red or "bianco" white. It is assumed that wine will be of the 'house' variety - anything else will need to be asked for specially.

There is usually a small cover charge and service is usually included in the bill. Foreigners are sometimes expected to tip. Menus are quite rare; you will usually be given a recitation of the day's dishes so have your phrase-books ready and waiting.

## **- Bars and Cafes**

Italian bars come in a variety of guises; some are part of a restaurant, others are half bar/half shop. Some will sell cigarettes (a large capital T outside), some will sell newspapers. All will be closed at least one day per week, some (mainly in large towns and cities) will require you to pay and obtain a receipt (scontrino) before ordering, but more normally you will need to recite everything you have eaten and drunk and pay upon leaving.

Many bars will also sell stamps, bus and lottery tickets and most will be happy to fix you a snack at most times of the day. Children are very welcome, tipping is not the norm, and, as far what coffee to order: Un caffè, espresso or caffè semplice, is just that - a small, strong coffee. If you want just a drop of milk in it then ask for a caffè macchiato. A cappuccino has a 'hood' of hot, foamy milk, and is not typically drink by Italians after midday, and certainly not after a meal, when a caffè corretto ('corrected' coffee) - a small coffee with grappa, sambuca, brandy or some such thing added - is considered pretty much the thing.

## **- Police and Medicine**

The three main branches are the Carabinieri; black-uniformed, semi-military and machine gun toting 'national' police, La Polizia, the local 'serious' crime force and the Vigili Urbani; effectively traffic-police. All are to be seen carrying out random spot-checks and all can be contacted by dialing 113. The fire-brigade is on 115.

Should you need urgent attention, rather than attempting to locate a doctor, head for your nearest hospital (ospedale) and go directly to pronto soccorso (outpatients) where you will probably need to join a queue. All chemists will have a night time and Sunday opening rota displayed on their door. It is standard for Italians to administer their own injections and syringes may be purchased at most supermarkets.

If you do want to visit a doctor and have brought form E111 from another European country, you will have to take this to the U.S.L (Unita' Sanitaria Locale) to obtain a book of vouchers which are good for visits to the doctor and for prescriptions. Note that there is a nominal charge for prescription drugs and blood tests.

## **- Public Holidays in Italy**

New Year's Day	1 January
Twelfth-night	6 January
Good Friday	6 April
Easter Sunday and Monday	8 - 9 April
Liberation Day	25 April
Labour Day	1 May
Republic Day	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of June
Whit Sunday and Monday	4 - 5 June
Saint Antony Solemnity (Padova)	13 June
Maria Ascension Day	15 August
All Saint	1 November
Immaculate Conception	8 December
Christmas	25 - 26 December

# KNOW YOUR PASTA!

