



FRASSANELLE VENETO

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FRASSANELLE

Conte Papafava

The historical estate of Frassanelle is an undisclosed oasis of peace within the Veneto region. The 150 hectare property consists of a Venetian Villa, a 19th century english-style park, a carefully designed 18 hole golf course and organically grown land. It lies 20 km south of Padua within easy reach of the famous historic villas of the Veneto, many of them built by the great Italian architect Andrea Palladio, as well as the northern Italian cities of Venice (50 km), Vicenza (23 km), Verona (90 km), Ferrara (80 km), Mantua (98 km) and the Lake district. Frassanelle reveals its delights slowly and elegantly. Leaving the hurly-burly of Venice behind you, the drive takes you on a simple country road through a 19th century English-style park and 50 hectares of organically cultivated land.

The main villa will appear dramatically on top of one of the hills, as though shielding the 18th century agricultural centre of the estate and the beautifully restored farmhouse, La Bencontenta, which can now be rented by the week.

The estate of Frassanelle has belonged to the Counts Papafava since the 13th century, well over 700 years. The „fattoria“ farm buildings of the estate are surrounded by the English style park, organically grown fields and - literally bordering on the estate - the Natural Park of the Euganean hills. The striking main building with a columned courtyard was built in the 18th century, some alterations dating from the 19th century. What used to be granaries, storerooms and living quarters of the employees have now been turned into comfortable and well-equipped apartments. Most attractive feature of the building is the courtyard with its elegant loggia articulated by a series of columns, which are grown with a profusion of geraniums and lemon trees in antique terracotta vases. Tables and chairs will invite you to spend some time here, reading-up your guide books while having breakfast or relaxing with a glass of the excellent local red wine after a rewarding day of sight-seeing. Some of the other outhouses have been turned into equestrian stables which house race horses. The wine cellar is now a reception room which is rented out for weddings or other festivities. Our guests have not been bothered by either, but you should however be aware of the other activities on the premises.

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National Holidays:

1st of January: New Year
 6th of January: Epiphania
 Easter
 Easter Monday
 25th of April: Liberation Day
 1st of May: Worker Feast
 2nd of June: Republic Feast
 15th of August: Assumption of Virgin Mary
 1st of November: All Saints
 8th of December: Immacolata Concezione
 25th of December: Christmas
 26th of December: St. Stephan

Wednesday: remember that in Italy most food shops are closed on wednesday afternoon.

Monday: clothes shops are closed in the morning and hairdressers/beauticians are closed all day.

August: this is the month most Italians still choose for holidays, so most shops are closed for minimum one week, usually the middle one, but there is no fixed rule and every individual makes its own decision.

Supermarkets and Markets are normally open also in August.

The closest villages to Frassanelle are:

Montemerlo: (as you leave the property turn right into Via Frassanelle, drive ahead until the stop, turn right: you are in Via Roma, keep driving straight ahead, this road leads you to the village).

Bresseo: (after the village of Montemerlo go on and turn left towards Padova, keep going until the stop, the main road in front of you is Via Euganea; shops are on your left and right hand side).

Tre Ponti: (after the village of Montemerlo go on following the main road until the stop, the main road in front is Via Euganea and you are in Tre Ponti which means Three Bridges.)

Bastia: (as you leave the gate turn left in Via Frassanelle, keep going until you reach the stop, turn left: you are in Via Roma, if you keep going you will reach the center of Bastia with the church in front of you).

Fossona: (as you leave the gate turn left in Via Frassanelle go ahead until the stop and turn left, keep going straight, at the roundabout follow the indications to Cervarese S. Croce, keep going straight till the traffic light. The shops are just after the traffic light on your left hand side).

Nearest Supermarkets open also on Wednesday afternoon:

Di Più Discount with a very good butcher: Montemerlo, Via Roma 320, tel. 049 9903847. Open from Monday to Friday 8.30am -12.30pm / 15,30 pm-7.30pm. Saturday 8.30am -7.30pm. (after the stop in Via Frassanelle turn right, 300 metres later on your right).

SISA: Tre Ponti - Via Euganea 39, tel. 049 9900021. Open from Monday to Saturday 8,30 am-12,45 am / 3,30 pm-7,30 pm. (out of the estate turn right, first stop on the right, pass the village of Montemerlo, second stop on the right towards Teolo, 200m after on the right).

Other Supermarkets:

Il Punto: Bresseo - Via Euganea 29/31, tel.049 9900046. Open from Monday to Saturday 8am-12,45pm / 3.30pm-7.30pm. Closed on Wednesday afternoon. (at the stop turn left, it is immediately on your left)

Ali: Montegalda, Via 2 Giugno 4, tel. 0444 737707. Open from Monday to Saturday 8.30am-12.45pm / 3.30pm-17.45pm. Closed on Wednesday afternoon. (on the road towards the MILAN-VENICE motorway it is on your right hand side).

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Supermarkets open over lunchtime and on Wednesday afternoon:

Coop: Selvazzano Dentro, V. Euganea 144, tel.049 638977. Open from Monday to Saturday 9am-8pm. (from Bresseo driving towards Padova is on your left 200 m after the traffic light of the village of Selvazzano).

Billa: Selvazzano Dentro, Via Euganea 146, tel. 049 8056058. Open from Monday to Saturday 8.30am-8pm. (from Bresseo driving towards Padova it is on your left 200 m after the traffic light of the village Selvazzano).

Le Brentelle in Sarneola di Rubano, Via della Provvidenza 1, tel. 049 8731611. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 8am to 10pm, Monday from 14pm to 10pm. This shopping centre is close to the highway exit of Padova Ovest, and therefore convenient if you are spending the day in Venice.

Indications: as you leave the highway, turn left towards Vicenza. Follow the indications for Vicenza and Rovigo. When you are on the road SS11, after 11 traffic lights **Le Brentelle** is on your left. Indications from Frassanelle: Go to Fossona, at the traffic light turn right towards Padova, keep going straight ahead, at the first traffic light turn left toward Mestrino, keep following the main road until you are on the Statale Padova- Vicenza (SS 11), turn right towards Padova. Drive for 5,5 km, the restaurant is in Rubano on your left hand side.

Ipermarkets and Markets open also on Sunday:

Centre of Bastia: Sunday's market from 9am to 12,30am: you can find everything you need from food to clothes.

Aliper Ipermarket: Abano Terme, Via Previtali, 30, tel. 049 8668222. Open every day of the week 9am-10pm. Reach Bresseo and take a left turn after the stop towards Padova, keep going straight until the traffic light, turn left towards Abano. This will take you to the by-pass of Abano. Indications: Turn right, keep going straight ahead past 4 crossroads and then turn to your left following the signs for "Aliper". You will find the shopping mall to your right.

Organic Food:

Bio Market Antica Fattoria, Bresseo, V. Montemerlo 6 A, tel. 049 9901753. Open from Monday to Saturday 8.30am-12.30pm / 3pm-7.30pm. (before the stop on your left hand side).

Butcher:

Beghin: Bresseo, Via Euganea 48, tel. 049 9900008. Open from Monday to Saturday 7am-1pm; Thursday, Friday and Saturday also 3.30pm-7pm. (after the stop in front of you).

Fish :

Maniero Simone: Teolo, Via Euganea 74, tel. 049 9903561. Open from Tuesday to Saturday 8am-12.30pm, Thursday and Friday 4pm-5.30pm (at the stop turn right towards Teolo, 200 m ahead on your left).

Baker:

Magagnin, Bastia, Via Roma 21, tel. 049 9910605. Open from Monday to Saturday 7am-1pm/4pm-7pm. Closed Wednesday afternoon. (before the traffic light on your right).

Pastries and Cakes:

Magagnin, Bastia, Via Roma 21 (049 9910097) open 7,30-13/15-19,30 closed in the afternoon on Wednesday and Sunday. (before the traffic light on the right)

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Ladies and Gentlemen Hairdresser:

Bresseo: Line Effe di Frison Claudio, Via Euganea 72, tel. 049 9900330. Open from Tuesday to Friday 9-12,30/15-19 Saturday 9-19. (at the stop turn left and immediately on your right hand side near the dry cleaner).

Beautyician-Cosmetician:

Bastia: Harmony and Beauty, Via Roma 47/e, tel. 049 9914062. Open from Tuesday to Friday 9am-7,30pm Saturday 9-15. On the round about on your right.

Nails:

Montegrotto Terme, via Fasolo G., 10/A: 049 8912797

Padova: Paola or Violetta 049 8774730

Shopping centers:

Le Brentelle: same as the supermarket. Le Brentelle is also a shopping centre. Some of the shops you find here are: Benetton, Max & Co, Forpen, Timberland, Intimissimi.

Padova Ovest: as you leave the highway, turn left towards Vicenza. Follow the indications for Vicenza and Rovigo. When you are on the road SS11, after 11 traffic lights Le Brentelle is on your left. Indications from Frassanelle: Go to Fossana, at the traffic light turn right towards Padova, keep going straight ahead, at the first traffic light turn left toward Mestrino, keep following the main road until you are on the Statale Padova-Vicenza (SS 11), turn right towards Padova. Drive for 5,5 km, the restaurant is in Rubano on your left hand side.

Le Piramidi: in Torri di Quartesolo, Via Pola 20. Tel. 0444 267044. Open Tuesday to Saturday 9am -8.30pm, on Monday 2pm-8.30 pm. This is a big shopping centre where you can find shops as Carpisa, Foot Locker, Sisley, Stefanel, etc. In front of Le Piramidi there is **Warner Village cinema**, where once a week you can watch brand new movies in English. To know titles and timetable, call this number: 0444 267063. From Frassanelle: at the gate turn left and go towards Bastia. Before reaching Bastia, take the road to your right following the indications for Cervarese S. Croce. Then take the road towards Montegaldella. At the roundabout in Montegaldella take the first exit to your right, and keep going straight towards Longare and then Torri di Quartesolo. In Torri di Quartesolo you will find indication to "Le Piramidi", which is in the industrial zone.

Outlets: McArthurGlen: in Noventa di Piave, via Marco Polo 1. Tel. 0421 5741. More than 100 shops of the best brands, with reduced prices from 30% till 70%. Open from Monday to Saturday 10:00am till 8:00pm. It is an ideal shopping point for our guests coming from Croatia, Slovenia and Austria. On the motorway A4, directed towards Venezia, they should take the exit San Donà di Piave. From Frassanelle: in Grisignano di Zocco take the highway A4 Milano-Venezia, pass Venezia and take directions for Trieste, take the exit San Donà- Noventa. Then, follow the indications.

Take Away Pizza:

Chaplin: Bastia, Via Roma 7, tel. 049 9910524. Open every day except from Tuesday 17,30-22. (just before the traffic light on your right hand side).

Party Pizza: Fossana, Via Roma 126, tel. 9916014. Open from Tuesday to Sunday 18- 22. (after the traffic light on your left hand side near the Post Office).

La Rustica Bruschetteria e Pizzeria: Bresseo, Via Bresseo 87, tel 049 9903223. Open from Tuesday to Sunday 6pm - 11pm. Pass the village of Montemerlo and go towards Padova before arriving to the stop in Bresseo on your left.

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Markets:

Sunday: Bastia, from 8am to 1pm.

Monday: Montegalda, from 8am to 1pm.

Tuesday: Bresseo, from 8am to 1pm.

Wednesday: Grisignano, from 8am to 1pm.

Thursday: Saccolongo, from 8am to 1pm.

Saturday: Padova, Prato della Valle, all day long.

Antiques Markets:

Noventa Vicentina: Piazza Municipale, every 1st Sunday of the month. Info. 0444 861353.

Vicenza: Piazza dei Signori, every 2nd Sunday of the month. Info. 0444 323863 - 3475980930.

Motegrotto Terme: Viale Stazione, every 2nd Saturday of the month. Info. 0498928711.

Padova: Prato della Valle, every 3rd Sunday of the month. Info. 049 8205361.

Piazzola sul Brenta: in front of the beautiful Villa Camerini, every 1st Sunday of the month. Info 329 2372475.

Banks:

Cassa Risparmio Padova e Rovigo: Montemerlo, V. Roma 319, tel. 049 9903100.

Open 8.20am-1.20pm / 2.35pm-3.35pm (in front of the church).

Cassa Risparmio Padova e Rovigo: Bastia, V. Roma 64C, tel. 049 9910007. Open

8.20am-1.20pm / 2.35pm-3.35pm (before the traffic light on your left hand side).

Private Taxi:

Mr. Costantin fax 049 9900011 tel. 049 9900373 cel. 339 4546247

Mr. Costantin Junior speaks a little English cel. 328 2183245

Mr. Odino cel. 335 485586

Taxi:

Abano Terme: Largo Marconi, tel. 049 8669345 fax 049 8669581

Abano Terme: Via Montirone 14, tel 049 667842

Car Mechanic:

Montemerlo: Zuin Carlo, Via Roma 323, Tel. 049 9900503. Open from Monday to Saturday 8am to 12,30pm / 2.30pm to 7pm. (after the new church in the big square on your left hand side in proximity of the gas station).

Car Rental:

Padova: MAGGIORE, Piazzale Stazione 15/bis (Square in front of the main station) Padova Tel. 049 8758605

Dry Cleaner:

Bresseo: Pulisecco Babolin Maria, Via Euganea 44, tel. 9900166. Open from Tuesday to Saturday

8,30-12,30/15,30-19,30. (at the stop turn left and immediately on your right hand side near the hairdresser).

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Wellness:

The Spa Abano Terme and Montegrotto Terme

Abano Terme and Montegrotto Terme were known for their curative waters in Roman days, the mineral-rich water comes subterraneously from the Alps and shoots to the surface at a temperature of 70-80 degrees.

One of the best spa hotels in **Abano Terme**, the **Hotel Ritz Terme**, via Monteortone 19, tel 048 8633444 and 049 8633100 www.ritz.it. Specialises in therapeutic (mud, galvanotherapy, lymphatic draining, massages, hot baths and more) as well as wellness and beauty treatments (sauna, steambath, solarium, facials and more).

In **Montegrotto** we highly recommend the **Hotel Terme Bellavista**, Via dei Colli 5. Tel. 049 793333 www.bellavistaterme.com. The Spa offers the following treatments: mud, ozone thermal water baths, special massages and re-education massages, hydro massage, inhalation, aerosol therapy and Physiokinesi therapy, massages: traditional (anti-stress, draining, toning, anti-cellulite, firming, relaxing and lymphatic draining), Oriental (Shiatsu, Watsu, Ayurveda, Californian, hot stone, plantar reflexology and Reiki treatment). You can also feel your energy recharging with alternative Chinese medicine: Twina-Chinese massage and your tensions disappearing under the finger pressure of a Thai masseuse. Beauty treatment programmes include facial cleansing, mud masks and massages, vitamin serums for facials, breast firming treatment, body treatments, anti-cellulite, computerized lymphatic drainage, body peeling and cooling leg wraps for varicose veins.

Original Hammam from Tunisia:

Veggiano: Hammam di Kouka, Via Pedagni 8. tel 049 9001441 333 2018243

www.hammamdikouka.com unfortunately only italian version. Mrs Kouka is from Tunisia and speaks French.

Chiropratic:

Vicenza: Dr Patricia De Luca: Contrà del Gusto 7, tel 0444 323999 cel. 340 8923235

Vicenza: Dr Marco De Luca: Contrà del Gusto 7, tel 0444 323999 cel. 340 2223573

Massages:

At home: Luisella 049 810448

In Saccolongo: Mara e Patrizia 049 8016760

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Culinary Matters. In most, but not all, of the Euganean Hills - some are just wooded - there are restaurants, trattorias and taverns providing delicious local food. Gallina padovana (chicken à la Padua), for instance, coniglio (rabbit), polenta con soppressa (polenta with brawn), risotto with erbe dei colli (wild local herbs) or baccalà (salt cod). And, of course, pasta in all its variations. To conclude, a formaggio Asiago or a Grana padano. Guests dine in the midst of local environment, delighting in the fragrant forest air.

CHEESE

La Capreria di Enrico Grandis, Via Carbonare 51, Montegalda. Tel. 0444 634125, www.lacapreria.it
Excellent fresh and matured cheeses produced from organically raised goats. Open 9,00 am to 12,00 am and from 3 pm to 6 pm. Closed on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday.

WINERIES

Bastia

Jolly Bar, Via Roma 5, Bastia - Tel. 049 9910002

Next to the red lights of Bastia. They have an excellent choice of Italian wines with more than 100 different labels. Open from 7am to 12 pm, except for Thursdays 7am to 8pm. Closed on Monday.

Padova

Wine Bar Godenda, Via Squarcione 4, Padova, Tel. 049 8774192.

Located in a side street of the Piazza delle Erbe, this elegant and modern wine bar serves a good selection of wine to accompany tasteful appetizers and dishes. Open from 10am to midnight. Closed on Sunday.

La Corte dei Leoni, Via P. d'Abano 1, Padova, tel. 049 8750083. We suggest this place for its large selection of wines and good dishes. Full meal excl. of wines Euro 30-35. Tables are set out in the courtyard in summer. Closed on Sunday and Monday lunch.

La Mia Cantina, Piazzale Santa Croce 21, Padova, tel. 049 8801330 (this is a shop, no tasting here). Open from 8am to 1.30pm and from 4pm to 8pm, closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Enoteca Severino, via del Santo 44, Padova, tel. 049 650697. Wine shop with tasting. Open 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 9pm. Closed on Sunday.

Bollicine, Via Euganea 344/B, Selvazzano Dentro, tel. 349 8217272. Wine shop with tasting; here you can eat some appetizers and sandwiches. Open from 7am to 2.30pm, and from 5.30pm to 1am. Closed on Wednesday. How to reach it: from Frassanelle you go towards Bresseo, in Bresseo turn left towards Padova. You will find it before the first traffic light, on your left.

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WINE ESTATES

Castello della Montecchia, Via Montecchia 16 - 35030 Selvazzano Dentro. Tel. 049 637294. Wine shop and tasting. Open from Tuesday to Saturday 9am to 12 am and 2,30 pm to 18,30 pm. This estate has been winning international accolades over the past 10 years. The owners Emo Capodilista are first cousins of the Papafava family. For further information visit the website www.lamontecchia.it. Rentals on the estate of Montecchia are handled by Trust&Travel. To reach La Montecchia, in the village of Bresseo turn left towards Padova. At the first traffic light turn left.

Vigna Alta, Villa dei Vescovi, Luvigliano. Tel. 049 9933105. Open 10.30 am to 12.30 pm and 3 pm to 7 pm. Closed on Sundays. Wine shop and tasting. One of the best estates of the Euganean hills. After Montemerlo follow the indications for Tre Ponti and then Luvigliano. Once you have reached the walls which surround this famous property, turn right. The estate's shop is on the right of the entrance to the villa. For visits to the Villa dei Vescovi see our chapter SURROUNDINGS.

Tenuta Sant'Albano, Treponti, Via Euganea. Tel. 049 7385037. Open all days from 9 am to 12.30 pm, and from 2.30 to 7.00 pm. If you like good Prosecco di Valdobbiadene at a very interesting price this is the right place.

DISTILLERIES

Brunello, Via Giuseppe Roi 27, Montegalda, Tel. 0444 737253. Excellent distillati and fruit conserved in grappa. In Montegalda turn left towards Vicenza. You will find the distillery to the left after 1 km, next to the restaurant Culatta.

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TOP RANGE

3 Michelin stars *** **Le Calandre** - Statale Padova Vicenza - Loc. Sarmeola - Rubano - Tel. 049/630303
Closed Sunday and Monday. Go to Fossana, at the traffic light turn right towards Padova, keep going straight ahead, at the first traffic light turn left toward Mestrino, keep following the main road until you are on the Statale Padova- Vicenza (SS 11), turn right towards Padova. Drive for 5,5 km, the restaurant is in Rubano on your left hand side.

1 Michelin star * - **Relais Club della Montecchia**: Tel 049-8055323, Via Montecchia, 16 Selvazzano Dentro
Closed on Monday and Tuesday. The Golf Club hosts one of the better restaurants in the area. It is run by the family Alaimo, the owners of the famous 3 star restaurant Le Calandre.

MIDDLE RANGE - NEAREST SURROUNDINGS

Frassanelle Golf club restaurant - tel. 049/5226056. Closed on Tuesday. The restaurant of the Frassanelle Golf Club lies within the property. A rural setting as well as wonderful views onto the Euganean hills make it a pleasant choice. The cuisine is simple and of excellent quality, all ingredients are fresh and vary according to the season.

Il Pozzetto, Tel. 049 9915395. Via Pozzetto 64, Bastia. Closed on Monday evening and all day on Tuesday. Largish restaurant with garden, simple Italian cooking. We like the gnocchi, tagliatelle ai piselli freschi (pasta with fresh peas), the faraona arrosto (roasted guinea fowl). At the gate turn left, at the stop sign turn left again. The restaurant is immediately on your left.

Il Bastione, Tel. 049 9910507, Via Pozzetto 32, Bastia, Closed Monday dinner and all Tuesday. Specialised in sea food. € 30,00/35,00 plus drinks. At the gate turn to the left, at the stop sign turn left again. Go on for 400 m and you will find the restaurant after the Pozzetto on your left.

Da Bepi alle Scuole, Tel. 049 5226212 - 049 5226060, Via San Giorgio 1, Rovolon. Closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. This restaurant is on the hills above Frassanelle, beautiful view, the food is genuine and simple. At the gate turn to the left, at the stop sign turn left again. Go straight until Bastia than follow the signs to Rovolon. The restaurant is before the village of Rovolon on the left hand side.

Fardigo, Tel 049 5226205, Via S. Giorgio 51, Rovolon. Closed on Monday and Tuesday. In summer open also on Monday. Open in August. € 28,00 Drive past Bastia and than to the left to Rovolon, on your right opposite the church.

Monte Grande, Tel. 049 5226248, Via S. Giorgio 11, Rovolon. Closed on Tuesday. Suggested by our guests, good food, good service and very beautiful view especially recommended in summer for its very large terrace. Drive to Bastia and than to the left to Rovolon go past the church in Rovolon you will see the indications on your right.

Ai Castelli, Tel. 049 5226245. Via S. Giorgio 41, Rovolon. Usually open only during weekends. Also open in August (always better to reserve in advance). Drive past Bastia and than go left to Rovolon after the church on your right.

Agriturismo La Buona Terra, Tel. 049 991 5497. Via Repoise 73, Montemerlo. Open usually during weekends. Open in August. Country fare, with local specialities, organic and very tasty food. € 25,00 plus drinks. Please reserve. At the red lights in Fossana turn right towards Padova, then take the first turn to the right and follow the indications.

Ristorante l'Hosteria Modenese, Tel 049 9916027. Via Fossana 7/12, Fossana, Cervarese S. Croce. Open every day 9am - 3pm and 4pm - 1am also in August This restaurant is also a take away and a shop for very good quality gastronomic specialities. Unfortunately the open area is by the road and very noisy. But the food is nothing particular, but we suggest this restaurant because it is always open, not expensive and the selection of cheeses and salami(sausages) and hams served with a fried bread is very good and we recommend it. At the traffic light in Fossana turn left and immediately right.

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Trattoria da Giovanni, Tel. 049 9902012. Via della Busa 9, Luvigliano. Closed on Monday and Tuesday all day (open on the 15th of August and most of the month). By booking in advance you can have a very good fish meal. Drive to Tre Ponti before the village of Luvigliano on your right.

Trattoria da Cirillo, Tel 0444 636025, Via F. Lampertico 13, Montegaldella. Closed Wednesday evening and Thursday all day. This restaurant is known for its Baccalà (cod) Vicenza style. Cost between Euro 30 and 35 plus drinks. www.trattoriadacirillo.it. Drive to Montegaldella, turn to the left towards Nanto and Bastia. Keep driving for another 1,3 km, you will come upon the restaurant on the left.

Trattoria Culatta, Tel. 0444 636033. Via G. Roi 47, Montegalda. Open every day for lunch except Tuesday, and in the evenings of Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Excellent traditional trattoria famous for its baccalà, mushroom soup and pasticcio della casa (oven baked pasta). € 30,00 plus drinks Go to Montegalda and take a left turn towards Vicenza. The restaurant lies on this road after about 1 km.

Ai 3 Scalini, Tel. 0444 636385, Via Castello 1, Montegalda, Closed on Monday evening and Tuesday all day. Highly recommended by our guests. Full meal € 25,00/30,00

Pizzerias:

La Cascina, Tel. 049 9900 709, Via Euganea 27, Bresseo. Closed on Monday and Saturday lunch. Pizzas only in the evenings. Drive to Bresseo, turn left towards Padova, shortly thereafter on the right, next to the football field.

Ristorante Pizzeria da Giò, Tel 049 999901394, Via Euganea 32, Tre Ponti. Closed on Sunday. Open in August Drive pass Montemerlo always follow the main road to the stop in Tre Ponti the pizzeria is on your right at the stop.

EUGANEAN HILLS

Trattoria al Sasso, Tel. 049-9925073, Via Ronco- Castelnuovo. Closed on Wednesdays (Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday only dinner Saturday and Sunday lunch and dinner). In summer open all days except for Wednesday also for lunch. Open in August. Slightly more elegant country restaurant in Euganean hills with excellent food and wine list. The scenic drive as well as what you find upon arrival make this a worthwhile visit. Full menu € 35,00 plus drinks. To reach the restaurant drive to Bresseo and turn right towards Teolo. In Teolo take the left turn towards Castelnuovo. In Castelnuovo follow the indications for the restaurant you will find it on your left.

La Tavolozza, Tel. 049 5211063, Via Boschette 2, Torreglia. Closed all day on Wednesday and for lunch on Thursday. Open in August. Traditional Veneto's kitchen and seasonal kitchen. Nice outdoor area. Drive to Tre Ponti then follow the indications to Luvigliano then to Torreglia; at the roundabout go right towards Galzignano after few hundred metres on your left.

Antica Trattoria Ballotta, Tel 049 5212970, Via Carromatto 2, Torreglia. Closed on Tuesday. Closed the last week of July. Usually open in August. Highly recommended by our guests. See the website www.ballotta.it Drive to Tre Ponti then follow the indications to Luvigliano and Torreglia.

Da Mario, Tel. 049-794090, Corso delle Terme 4, Montegrotto Terme. Closed Tuesday and at lunch on Wednesday. Open in August. This is one of our favourites in the area. The extremely high quality of the dishes is based on traditional recipes and the wine list is excellent. € 35,00 plus drinks. Drive to Bresseo, turn left towards Padova and then right towards Abano. As you reach the large by-pass of Abano, turn right towards Montegrotto. As you reach Montegrotto keep going, Mario is opposite the Hotel Garden.

Castello di Valbona, Tel. 0429 97022, Valbona di Lozzo Atestino. Closed on Monday, Tuesday and November. Open in August. Please make a reservation. Restaurant, Pizzeria and pub in one of the best preserved 13th century fortified buildings in the whole province. A very good chance to see an ancient castle in its almost original state. Go to Bastia and past Vò, follow towards Este, turn right towards Lozzo Atestino, pass Lozzo Atestino and follow the sign on the right to Castello di Valbona.

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Ristorante Sapio, Tel 0429-602565, Via Madonetta 2/C, Este. Closed on Monday. To reach the town of Este drive to Bastia and follow the indications for Vò and Este.

Ristorante Antica Torre, Tel 0429-3484, Via Cornaro 11, Este. Closed on Tuesday. To reach the town of Este drive to Bastia and follow the indications for Vò and Este and finally for Montagnana. As you reach the small locality of Ponte della Torre turn left.

Ristorante La Torre, Tel 0429-73752, Piazza Mazzini 14, Monselice. Closed on Tuesday. From Abano Terme follow the indications to Monselice. **Ristorante La Montanella**, Tel 0429-718200, Via Costa 33,

Arquà Petrarca. Closed on Tuesday evening and Wednesday all day. To reach Arquà Petrarca drive through: Treponti, Luvigliano, Torreglia, Galzignano.

PADOVA

L'Anfora Tel. 049-656629, Via de Soncin, 13 Padova Centro. Closed on Sunday. Osteria and wine bar in the town centre. At lunch they serve a small variety of well chosen dishes at low prices, whereas in the evening it becomes a meeting point for aficionados who gather around the famous spuncioni (warm and cold appetizers). There is a wide range of meat, fish and vegetables. No tables outside. Average price excl. of wine € 32. To see their menu, inclusive of prices, and then wine list, please see the website www.osterianfora.it (only italian version).

Caffè Pedrocchi, Via 8 Febbraio 8, Padova Centro, Historical coffee house in the old centre of Padova, famous throughout Italy, you should at least have a coffee here.

Osteria Dal Capo, Tel. 049 663105, Via degli Obizzi 2. Closed on Sunday. Choice of typical venetian dishes served in a fresh and pleasant surrounding. No tables outdoors. Average cost excl. of wine

La Vigna, Tel. 049 87 19 709. Specialised in fish. Riviera Paleocapa 94. Closed on Thursday. Excellent fish dishes, always fresh. Large outdoor area. € 50,00 plus drinks

Ristorante Al Cicheto, Tel 049 8719794, Via Savonarola 59. Closed Monday lunch and all Sunday. Closed all August Very romantic little restaurant. Good food and friendly people. € 30/35

Enoteca Corte dei Leoni, Tel. 049 8750083, V. Pietro D'Abano 1. Closed on Sunday and Monday lunch. Especially good for its vast choice of wines. Outdoor area in the courtyard

Bacaro and Cambusa Luigi De Gaetano, Tel 049 656740 Mobile 338 6510093, Via S. Andrea 12. This is a small and pleasant restaurant which combines traditions from Venice and from Naples. I like very much having lunch here on Sunday.

Restaurant and Pizzeria Pe Pen, Tel. 049 8759483, Piazza Cavour 15. Closed on Sunday. Very good pizzas, good restaurant, friendly and fast service. Large outdoor area in the Cavour square.

Pizzeria da Stecca, Tel. 049 686463, Via Giordano Bruno 42. Closed on Monday. Large selection of very good pizzas, from the most traditional to surprising novelties.

Osteria Ai Fabbri, Tel. 049 650336, Via dei Fabbri 13. Closed on Sunday. Located in the city centre, close to Piazza della Frutta, this osteria offers traditional dishes from Veneto and Toscana, and a good selection of meat and fish (the baccalà is particularly tasting).

Trattoria al Prato, Tel. 048662429, Via Prato della Valle 4. Closed on Wednesday. Set in a lovely spot of the city, overlooking the biggest and one of the most famous squares in Europe, Prato della Valle. Also outdoor area. Average cost, wine included: € 32

VERONA

12 Apostoli, Tel 045 596999, Corticella S. Marco 5, Verona. Closed on Sunday evening and on Monday. Top quality: one of the best in Verona.

Antica Bottega del Vino, Tel 045 8004535, Via Scudo di Francia 3, Verona. Closed on Tuesday. Always open during the Arena Opera's season. Very good middle range restaurant.

Trattoria al Pompiere, Tel 045 8030537, Vicolo Regina d'Ungheria 5, Verona. Closed on Sunday and Monday lunch. Second best middle range.

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Trattoria Antiche Carampane, Tel 041 5240165, S. Polo 1911 (near campo S. Polo). Closed on Sunday and Monday. Typical Venetian restaurant with outside tables on the calle. The inside is small but very comfortable, the fish is excellent.. Please make a reservation.

Harry's Bar, Tel 041 5208822 www.cipriani.com, S. Marco 1323 (near piazza S. Marco). Closed Monday. Very famous high class restaurant founded in 1931 by Giuseppe Cipriani. €100,00/180,00 per person. At lunch you can try the famous Bellini cocktail and the delicious egg, chicken or shrimp sandwiches.

Osteria Da Fiore, Tel 041 721308, S. Polo 2202/A. Closed on Sunday and Monday. The best and freshest seafood in Venice. Excellent risotto. To choose your menu ask for advise the Maitre Maurizio Marin husband of the Chef Mara Zanetti. Expensive (€ 95 per person) but worth it.

Ristorante Enoteca La Colombina, Tel. 0415222616, Cannaregio 1828-1831. Closed on Monday. Very nice location, the open area is in Campiello del Pegolotto, under 50 € per person for a complete meal . The menu combines traditional venetian dishes and creative cuisine. Please make a reservation. Our guests are entitled a 15% discount on the listed prices (please show our voucher).

NEAR ASOLO AND BASSANO

This area is rich with very good restaurants. I know one in Mussolente and one in Monfumo, 2 villages near the shop Eger where I buy the fabrics for the agriturismo.

Antica Trattoria da Cioro, Tel. 0424 577041, Via Ten. Eger 3, Mussolente (Vi). Just excellent! Very simple and unexpensive trattoria.

Ristorante da Gerry, Tel 0423 545077, Via Chiesa 6, 31010 Monfumo (Vi). Closed on Monday. This restaurant is on the hills and the view is beautiful. The food is also very good and different from what you can taste in Padova.

ROVERETO

For our guests crossing the Alps in Brennero I suggest:

Enoteca Casa del Vino della Vallagarina, Tel 0464 486057, Piazza S. Vincenzo 1, 38060 Isera. Closed only on the 25th of December! Only a few minutes from the motorway A22 exit Rovereto Sud if you are going to Brennero, Rovereto Nord if you are coming to Frassanelle. Very large selection of excellent wine. You can also eat the dish of the day usually very good.

GARDA

Osteria Can e Gato, Tel 347 6770876, Corso V. Emanuele, 50. From October to March closed on Thursday, always open the rest of the year. Located in the lovely village of Garda, on the East shore of Lake Garda , this cozy little restaurant offers a good selection of local wines to be tasted together with appetizers such as cheese or sopressa, and some special dishes such as spezzatino (stew), and fondue of meat or fish.

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Excursions in the neighbourhood. Venetia is steeped in history and culture, city like Padua, Vicenza, Verona, Mantua, Ferrara and, of course, Venice are within easy reach. The numerous Veneto villas, are a real must. The most famous of these - La Badoera, La Malcontenta, La Rotonda, Villa Maser, Villa Emo and the Villa Cornaro Rush, for instance - were designed by Andrea Palladio (1508-1580) who combined the classical proportions of antiquity with the ground plans of the traditional Venetian palaces. Seventeen are the work of Palladio, but on the Brenta Canal north of Padua alone there are 125 villas, many of which evoke his vocabulary. The most outstanding among them are the Contarini Simes and Pisani Villas - both more princely residences than villas in the strict sense - and La Malcontenta. They are all easily accessible from Frassanelle. Many of them are open to the public.

Apart from the famous towns and the extraordinary villas, we suggest visiting some smaller towns, all of them reachable in less than 1,5 hours by car. Bassano del Grappa lies below the Grappa mountain. Close by Asolo is a medieval jewel located north of Bassano. Furthermore you have Marostica, a fortified hamlet famous for the biennial chess game with human figures, held in commemoration of a medieval challenge to win the hand of the chatelains daughter. Montagnana is one of the most famous and better conserved medieval citadels of Europe. Possagno is where the world famous sculptor Antonio Canova was born. In the museum, next to the house where he was born, you can see the plaster models and designs of his major works of art.

HALF AN HOUR BY CAR FROM FRASSANELLE

Abbey of Praglia: The terracotta-coloured Abbazia di Praglia nestles on Lonzina Hill. The largest Benedictine abbey in Italy, this was founded in the 11th century, acquiring its present form - with the exception of the older campanile - in the 15th century. Of particular interest are the cloisters and the Church of the Holy Virgin. The monks produce and sell honey, face creams, soaps and herbal teas. Getting there: on the road to Padova, a little after Bressio you will find indications to the right. Open: guided tours only: Saturday and holidays: regular hour 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30 pm. Daylight saving: 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30 pm. Week day: regular hour: 2.30, 3.10, 3.50, 4.30 pm. Daylight saving: 3.30, 4.10, 4.50, 5.30. Closed on Monday, New Year's day, Epiphany, Easter Triduum, Easter Sunday, Pentecost, Assumption, All Saints Day, Immaculate Conception, Christmas and Christmas Eve. Sunday Mass: 9.15 and 11.00 solemn. 16.30 (17.00 daylight saving) www.praglia.it

La Campanella is a garden center founded by Anna Maria Sgarabottolo which specialises in old and English roses. Only a few minutes from Frassanelle, before you reach Bastia, turn right towards Cervarese S. Croce, keep going until you reach indications for both Bastia e Cervarese S. Croce. Turn left here, the garden center is shortly thereafter to your left. Anna Maria has planted a beautiful rose garden. In May, the garden is a true firework of colours and smells. Afficionados will find it interesting in every season, here you will find a large selection of the most beautiful old roses and their hybrids. Tel. 049 9910905 www.vivaiolacampanella.com

Villa Capodilista: Visits only upon request: Tel. 049 637294. Originally a hunting lodge built in 1568, this was the brainchild of Dario Varotari, a painter and architect, pupil of Veronese. The rooms are covered in mannerist frescoes: scenes from mythology and family history, putti, grotesques and vignettes. In keeping with the open, hilly situation, Varotari designed a severely square building with identical facades, each with extended double-storey loggias. The formal severity produces a delightful contrast with the playfully theatrical loggias, their frescos and their elaborately decorated pediments. The internal layout of the rooms follows the symmetrical principle. The four rooms on the ground floor and the four rooms on the first floor are connected by a splendid staircase with four ramps. The basically square structure of the hedge-lined Italian garden is broken up by semicircular extensions, so-called exedra. Villa Capodilista belong to the estate La Montecchia. www.lamontecchia.it

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Villa dei Vescovi, in Luvigliano: the villa is curren being refurbished it is expected to be re-open to the public in Spring 2010. Constructed between 1535 and 1542 on an embankment in the Eugean Hills this imposing villa stands out against the surrounding rural landscape. Much more than a mere villa built to serve agricultural functions, it is notable for its design, which reinterprets Roman models and encapsulates a perfect sense of harmony between art and nature a sense that is also evident in the interior design, which features an important cycle of Raphaelesque frescos painted between 1542 and 1548 by Lamberto Sustris. For reopening cheque the www.fondoambiente.it Getting there: drive through Montemerlo e follow the indications for Teolo. At the stop cross the road (SP 89) and continue towards Luvigliano.

The gardens of Villa Barbarigo, Valsanzibio: In the 1600's Antonio Barbarigo, brother of St. Gregorio, enlarged and transformed the exterior of the villa by drawing out a large water garden inspired by the antique Romans. The garden is decorated with 70 statues of which 40 are attributed to Marengo.

Furthermore there are 4 ponds, 3 water follies, 16 fountains and a boxwood maze. Getting there: from Luvigliano drive towards Torreglia and then Valsanzibio. Open from March to November, 10am to 1pm and 2pm until sunset. Tel. 049 8055614 responsabile Dr. Rossi Tel. 328 6482894. www.valsanzibiogiardino.it

Casa Petrarca, Arquà Petrarca: "Here, in the Eugean Hills, I live in complete peace of mind, free from noise, misunderstandings or cares, reading, writing and praising God", wrote Petrarch from Arquà Petrarca - still simply called Arquà at that time - to his brother. That was in 1373. The following year the poet died in his study. The room can be viewed, as can the entire Casa Petrarca with its Renaissance frescos. Open March 1st to October 31st, 9am to 12pm and 3pm to 6,30pm. Between November 1st and Februry 28th , 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm. Closed on Monday, Christmas, day after Christmas, New Year's day, 1st of May. Tel. 0429718294.

Castello di San Martino: very close to Frassanelle, the oldest part of this small castle goes back to the year 1000. Later on the Carraresi amplified the building. The Venetians used it as a port along the river. Today the building has been transformed into a museum of the river Bacchiglione with finds going from the age of iron to the middle ages. Getting there: turn to the right towards Padova at the traffic lights in Fossana. The first road to the left is Via San Martino, the castle is a little futher down this road. The castle and the museum are open April 1st to September 30th . Saturday 3pm to 7pm, Sunday 10am-1pm and 2pm-7pm. From October 1st Saturday 2pm-6pm, Sunday 10am-1pm and 2pm-6pm Tel. 049 9915425.

Responsable Sig.ra Debora Coron 348 8746424 or 0429 647157. www.musei.padova.it

Villa Beatrice d'Este, Monte Gemola, Baone: The Villa was given this name after the blessed Beatrice d'Este stayed here in the 12th century. At the time the building was a monastery. In the 1600's a Venetian merchant transformed the religious building into a worldly Villa. The barchessa was added in the 19th century. Today the Villa is the museum of the Colli Euganei. Open: April 1st to September 30th: Saturday 3pm to 7pm, Sunday 10am-1pm and 2pm-7pm. From October 1st Saturday 2pm-6pm, Sunday 10am-1pm and 2pm-6pm Tel. 049 9915425. Responsable Sig.ra Debora Coron 348 8746424 or 0429 647157.

www.musei.padova.it

Museo di Cava Bomba, Cinto Euganeo. The 19th century furnaces of Cava Bomba is an highly interesting example of an former factory for the production of lime. The space houses a geo-paleontological museum which illustrates the geological phenomena and the fossil finds of the Eugean hills. Open: open April 1st to September 30th . Saturday 3pm to 7pm, Sunday 10am-1pm and 2pm-7pm. From October 1st Saturday 2pm-6pm, Sunday 10am-1pm and 2pm-6pm Tel. 049 9915425. Responsable Sig.ra Debora Coron 348 8746424 or 0429 647157. www.musei.padova.it

A real must: Panoramic route to Vicenza: take to road which from Montegalda turns left towards Vicenza. It will take you along the banks of the Berica and shortly before you reach Vicenza past the famous Villa Rotonda by Palladio and Villa Valmarana ai Nani with fabulous frescoes by Gianbattista and Giandomenico Tiepolo. The 2 villas are linked by a very nice foot path in the country, visitors can walk from one villa to the other. On the way, in Montegalda, you will come past the excellent trattoria Culatta.

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Villa Rotonda by Palladio c. 1556: Vicenza, via Rotonda 29. Although the Villa Rotonda is the universal icon of the Palladian villa, in reality its owner considered it as an urban residence, or – more appropriately – a suburban one. Paolo Almerico in fact sold his own palace in the city in order to move just beyond its walls, and Palladio himself publishes the Rotonda amongst the palaces, not the villas, in the Quattro Libri. Otherwise the villa is isolated on the crest of a small hill and originally there were no agricultural dependencies. Visit: garden: 15 March - 4 November: from Tuesday to Sunday 10am-12am / 3pm-6pm. Villa: 15 March - 4 November: Wed. 10am-12am / 3-6 pm. With booking (min. 25 persons) after 4 November and in other days. Tel. +39 0444 321793 / Fax +39 049 8790879 (preferable) +39 049 8791380.

Villa Valmarana ai Nani: Vicenza, via dei Nani 8. The Villa is a marvellous architectural and artistic sight composed by three buildings and a wide 18th century park. In 1757, Tiepolo and his son Giandomenico were invited to Vicenza to fresco rooms in the Villa Valmarana and in the adjoining guest quarters, the so-called 'foresteria'. Their patron was Count Giustino Valmarana, a scholar and theater enthusiast. Tiepolo frescoed the vestibule and four ground-floor rooms, while his son executed the decoration in the adjacent guest house. Giandomenico's lively genre scenes featuring peasants and merchants were intended to form a marked contrast with Giambattista's noble and tragic themes in the Villa, borrowed from famous works of Greek, Roman, and Italian literature. Visit: March 10 - November 8 2009 from Tuesday to Sunday 10am - 12am / 3pm - 6pm. On request, you can also ask to visit the villa in different periods. Tel: 0444321803. www.villavalmarana.com

Villa Barbarigo, Noventa Vicentina. If you go to Vicenza through the panoramic road (see below) you must take a detour and visit this amazing villa. Among the villas erected near Vicenza for Venetian patricians, Villa Barbarigo distinguishes itself because it was built for a dogal family. For this reason it deserves the title of Villa of the Dogi (definition that in the past some authors had not correctly attributed to all the venetian villas). Here everything cooperates to glorify the Barbarigo family: the majesty of the architecture on four floors, the scenographic and solemn façade crowned by daggers and flanked with two wings of porticoes, the wide cycle of frescoes that fills an area of approximately 430 sqm. Frescoes by Antonio Foler, Antonio Vassillachi the Aliense and Luca Ferrari from Reggio. Visits: every day from 9,30 to 12,30 am.

Castello di Valbona, Valbona di Lozzo Atestino. The Castle is situated along the road leading to Noventa Vicentina. It belongs to the most interesting and best preserved fortified buildings in the whole province and offers a chance to visitors to see an ancient castle in its almost original state. It seems to have its origins in the 13th Century perhaps built on the order of Ezzelino da Romano. It became the property of count Lozzo, passed to the Comune of Padova and to the Carraresi. The structure of the castle does not seem to have served so much as a feudal residence as a significant defence structure, capable of withstanding the Vicentine raids. In the castle can be visited if you go to the restaurant, or pizzeria and pub. Tel. 0429 97022. Closed on Monday and Tuesday and November. Open in August.

The Castello Catajo is situated in the immediate vicinity of Frassanelle, beside the Euganean Hills, on the main Padua-Rovigo road. Its builder, Pio Enea Obizzi, inventor of the howitzer (Ital. oblice), took part in the siege of Lepanto (1571) in which the Turks were defeated. This explains the somewhat Oriental, fortress-like architecture. The park is magnificent with a pond covered in water lilies, in the shade of massive, centuries-old trees. With their waxy leaves and their showy flowers the magnolias, in particular, catch the eye. The castello is open from April to August, Tuesday and Sunday from 3pm to 7pm. March, September, October and November: Tuesday and Sunday from 2.30 pm to 6.30 pm. Tel. 049 9100411. www.castellodelcatajo.it

The remarkable Villa Emo (at Rivella, just near Monselice) can be viewed by appointment. The garden is accessible on certain days: (April and October: Thursday and Saturday 2pm to 7pm, Sunday 10am to 7pm) the ornamental garden is not far from the main road, but nevertheless remains a world of its own.

"The average traveller would not dream what marvellous parks and gardens lie hidden behind commonplace castle walls on a country road", as the authoress Tryphosa Bates Batcheller once aptly remarked. Tel. 0429 781970.

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Castello di San Pelagio: on the same road between Padova and Rovigo, north of the Castello del Cataio, you will find the interesting Museum of the Air (Museo dell'Aria), which assembles documents, models and aeroplanes from the time of Leonardo da Vinci to our days. You will find the exposition about Gabriele D'Annunzio highly interesting. It was here that he planned his famous flight to Vienna in 1918. The garden is also very beautiful with its 2 mazes (a third one is under construction) is a real attraction for children. Open: from February to November all week except for Monday, 9am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 5.30pm (winter) or 7pm (summer). Tel. 049 9125008. www.museodellaria.it

Butterfly Arc: in Montegrotto Terme a vast greenhouse is the habitat of 100 different types of butterflies from all over the world. Visitors can wander through this oasis of palmtrees, orchids, aloccasias and passiflora. Nearby you will find a mythological garden inhabited by gnomes, elves, fairies, magicians, witches, kings and queens, all figures taken from ancient naturalistic legends. Open: April to September, 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2.30pm to 5.30pm. February, March and October, November 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4pm. In February and November the Arc is open only for some days please call: 049 8910189. www.butterflyarc.it

1 HOUR / 1 HOUR AND A HALF BY CAR FROM FRASSANELLE

Abbazia di Carceri, Via Camaldoli 4, Carceri. Very old and impressive abbey. The first church built here by the Augustinian monks goes back to 1107. The abbey has a cloister from the 1400', beautifully decorated in Pietra d'Istria (stone from Istria). Part of the original library from the 15th century, built by the Camaldolese monks, can still be visited. Open from Monday to Friday only upon reservation. Guided tours : on Saturday from 3pm to 6.30 pm; on Sunday from 11am to 12am and from 3pm to 7pm. Getting there: go to Este and then follow the indications for Carceri.

Villa Contarini: Piazzola sul Brenta (on the way to Cittadella and Bassano) antique market on the last Sunday of the month. The magniloquent baroque appearance that the Villa Contarini displays today is, in all probability, the result of the seventeenth-century transformation of a villa designed by Andrea Palladio in the 1540s for Paolo Contarini and his brothers. Traces of Palladio's work linger on in maps and archival documents, although little is now visible of a building which was transformed in several campaigns from 1662 on. In 1676 the right wing was enlarged and remodelled, with a two-storey order of rustic columns and telamons, and a program of ostentatious sculptural decoration which invades the principal villa block too. A map of 1788 shows that by that date the porticoed hemicycle defining the great piazza already existed. The 50 hectares of parkland are entirely open to visitors. The flowerbeds, lakes, fish ponds, lawns and garden features, woods and wetlands form a protected environment, home to many species of birds and small mammals. Visit: the inside of the villa only guided tours: May 1 to September 30: weekdays 9- 12am / 3-7pm, Sundays and holidays 3-8pm; December 1 to February 29: 9-12am / 2-5pm; November and March: 9-12am / 2-6pm; April and October: 9-12am / 2.30- 6.30pm tel. 049 5590347/238 – fax 049 9619182. www.villacontarini.com

The river Brenta Villas: Once along this waterway sailed the "burchielli", boats that carried the Venetian nobleman; nowadays all the boats that cruise along the Brenta Canal are called "burchielli". These boats carry from 70 to 135 passengers. The guided cruises usually include boat trips from Padua to Venice or viceversa (Padua, Strà, Dolo, Mira, Oriago, Malcontenta, Fusina, Venezia); and the visits to Villa Gradenigo of Oriago, to Villa Widmann or Barchessa Valmarana of Mira, to Villa Pisani of Strà, to Villa Foscari Malcontenta by Palladio. Also included in the programs a visit of the Ancient Mills of the 16th century, historically very important for the economy of this area. Some programs include departure or arrival in the historical centre of Padua at the new landing stage of "Porte Contarine" lock or at the old fluvial port "Portello" with its Steps of the 16th century. A daily cruise from 09.00 to 18.00 proposes: navigation, visit to three Villas, visit to the 16th century Mills in Dolo and the guide; lunch is optional and it is served in a restaurant. Special short cruises and half day public and private group programs are available. Tel: 049 8760233 Mon-Fri 9.00am-12.30pm/3.00pm-6.30pm www.battellidelbrenta.it

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Possagno: Gyptothea museo Canoviano: Piazza Canova, Possagno (TV). Possagno is the native village of the neo-classical sculptor Antonio Canova (1757- 1822). The Gyptothea (greek term for collection of plaster casts) was built in 1836 just by Canova's native house and it preserves moulds and plaster models, terracotta, wax scale models, some marble statues and about 300 works of Canova's Roman studio. In 1957 the architect Carlo Scarpa extended the Gyptothea with a new and modern annex which contains some of Canova's most famous and precious scale model. Canova's house is preserved as it was during his last years of life. The mortal remains of the great artist are hosted in one of his masterpieces the magnificent neo-classical Temple. Tel: 0423 544323. Open from 9.30 am to 6pm. Closed on Monday, Christmas, Easter, New Year's day.

GOING TO VENICE

by train:

This is what I suggest: go to Montegrotto rail way station, park the car in the free parking area. You have a train every hour and the journey takes 47 minutes. Time tables from Montegrotto: 9:16 - 10:16 - 11:16 - 13:16 - 14:16 15:16 from Venice: 15:57 - 16:57 - 17:57 - 18:57 - 19:57 - 21,24 (this train takes 1,23 hours and is more expensive) - 23:30 (this train takes 1,21 hours and is more expensive). Ticket price in 2008: € 5,10 first class, and € 3,40 second class children up to 12 € 2,55 first class and € 1,70 second class. For more informations go to www.trenitalia.it the station in Montegrotto is called Terme Euganee. Directions: as you arrive in Montegrotto turn right in Via Roma, take the second on your right following the indication to "stazione", than take the first on the left towards "stazione"; at the end of this round there is the rail way station but you'd better park your car in the free parking area which you find half way through this road on the right.

by car:

Time: 1 hour. Since February 2009 there is a new motorway which bypasses Venice so there are no more traffic jams but it is always best to avoid the rush hours at the toll (8/9,30 am and 5/7 pm). From Frassanelle to the toll is about 45 minutes. Take the A4 in Grisignano to Venice. 8 km after the exit Padova Ind. / Bologna there is the gas station Arino Est, immediately after it, be careful and keep the right lane, otherwise you will find your self in the new motorway which bypasses Venice. Pass the toll bar and follow the indications for Venice. From the land the only vehicle access road to Venice is the Ponte della Libertà (Liberty Bridge), this is a straight road 4 km long with two lanes in each direction. Parking areas in Venice are located in Piazzale Roma, Tronchetto and just before the Liberty Bridge.

Piazzale Roma: City Parking Garage (Auto rimessa Comunale): Piazzale Roma, Santa Croce 496, 30135 Venice. Tel 041 2727211 ticket office 041 2727307. Open 24 hours. It is the first one you find on your right. Prices for 24 hours (period can not be divided): from € 24,00 to € 31,00 depending on the period and on the length of the car. If you reserve on line 15 days before arrival you can have discounted rates: www.veniceconnected.com.

Piazzale Roma: S. Andrea - TEMPORARILY NOT AVAILABLE. Small secured parking lot, uncovered - S. Croce 461, 30135 Venezia. Tel. 041.2727304. Open 7am - 12pm. This parking is behind the City Parking Garage as you reach Piazzale Roma always keep your right. The garage is small and you might have to wait in line before parking up to 30 minutes. Sometimes the line starts at the level of the entrance to the City Parking Garage you have to join the right queue. Prices: € 4,50 every 2 hours.

Piazzale Roma: Garage S. Marco : Piazzale Roma 467/F, 30135 Venezia. Tel 041 5232213. This parking is on the right of the square, as you arrive in Piazzale Roma go by the main parking Garage the Autorimessa Comunale, than go right you will find in front of you. Prices for 12 hours € 24,00 for 24 hours € 30,00 periods are not divisible. You can reserve your place on line: www.garagesanmarco.it

Tronchetto: Venezia Tronchetto Parking 30125 Venezia (VE) - isola Tronchetto tel. 041.5207555 - fax 041.5285750 Before reaching Piazzale Roma, follow the street signs and then turn right to reach Tronchetto. You can reach Venice from Tronchetto by taking the ACTV boat line 82 (2 from Jann. 2008) which brings you into the heart of the city. Expect to pay € 20,00 for 24 hours.

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Parking before the Ponte della Libertà (Liberty Bridge) S. Giuliano Car Park: this is a parking area just before the bridge Ponte della Libertà on the right. This parking lot is made up of many independent car parks. Usually the following ones are the prices and the opening hours, but please cheque before entering the car park: for 6 hours: € 8,00 all day: € 12,00 open from 6am to 2am , from here you have to take a bus to cross the 4 km bridge and reach Piazzale Roma. The bus ticket is € 1,00 per person and you can buy it at the exit of the car park. The bus stop is very near the car park but it depends on which car park you have choosen.

For more informations on car parks in Venice go to www.asmvenezia.it Public transport: In Piazzale Roma and Tronchetto you find all the shore terminal for the public navigation lines (ACTV) to reach any area in the city as well as on the islands. The public transport in Venice is very expensive a single fare in a water bus is € 6,50 (you can buy the ticket also on board for the same price). A limited oneway non-resident's ticket can be bought at a cost of €2.00 at Hellovenezia ticket offices and authorised outlets. Valid for a crossing of the Canal Grande only on line 1, from one landing stage to the next landing stage. You can find more informations and tourist packages in www.hellovenezia.com and www.actv.it .

Taxi Boat:

Consorzio Motoscafi: 24 h a day service: tel. 041 522 2303 www.motoscafivenezia.it

Consorzio taxi Venezia: 24 h service: tel. 041 723 112 www.veneziataxi.it

Suggestion for guided tours in Venice

WALKINSIDEVENICE - classical and unusual tours for the discerning travelers. English, German and Spanish.

Contact: e-mail: info@walkinsidevenice.com, phone/fax: + 39 041 524 1706,

website: www.walkinsidevenice.com

VISITING PALLADIO'S VILLAS

The following informations are taken from www.cisapalladio.org and www.ville.inews.it . We suggest to consult them for historical details and more informations.

La Rotonda c. 1556: Vicenza, via Rotonda 29. Visit: garden: 15 March - 4 November: from Tuesday to Sunday 10-12 am or 3-6 pm. Villa: 15 March - 4 November: Wed. 10-12 am or 3-6 pm. With booking (min. 25 persons) after 4 November and in other days. Tel. +39 0444 321793 /+39 0498790879 ;

Fax (to be preferred) +39 049 8791380

Villa Saraceno c. 1543: Vicenza, Finale di Agugliaro, Via Finale 8. Visit: 1 April - 31 October Wed 2-4 pm (reservation if more of 20 persons), 1 November - 31 March only with booking. Tel./Fax +39 0444 891371

Villa Repeta c. 1557: Vicenza, Campiglia dei Berici, Via Andrea Palladio 1. Visit: only upon request.

Tel. +39 0444866032

Villa Pojana c. 1546: Vicenza, Pojana Maggiore (near Montagnana), via Castello 41. Visit: until 1st November 2009: open from Wed. till Fri. 10-1 am, 2- 6 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10am-6pm Tel. +39 0444 323014.

From 2nd November open only upon booking from Wed till Sunday. You'll have to send the booking by fax to the number: 0444 322869 or send an email to info@villapoiana.it

Villa Thiene c. 1542: Vicenza, Quinto Vicentino - (1542) Piazza IV Novembre, 4. Visit: Monday to Friday 9am-1pm; on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 3-7pm tel. 0444584224/0444584225/0444584211

Villa Pisani c. 1542: Vicenza, Bagnolo of Lonigo, via Risaie 1. Visit: open all year, only upon request.

Tel. +39 0444 831104 .

Villa Pisani c. 1552: Montagnana, Via Borgo Eniano 1, not open to the public, but you can see it from the outside.

Villa Piovene c. 1539: Vicenza, Lonedo di Lugo Vicentino, Via Palladio 51, Visit Every day 2-7pm

Villa Godi c. 1537: Vicenza, Lonedo di Lugo Vicentino, Via Palladio 44, Visit: from 1st March till 31 May and from 1st October till 30 November: Tue., Sat., Sun. and holidays: 2-6pm tel. From 1st June till

30 September: Tue, Sat., Sun. and holidays: 5-7pm. If you are in a group, it is better to call and book. Tel. 0445 860561/ 339 3429942

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Villa Chiericati c. 1550: Vicenza, Vancimuglio di Grumolo delle Abbadesse, Via Nazionale 1, Visit: April 1 to October 31: every day 9-12am / 3-7pm. November 1 to March 31: every day 9-12am / 3-5pm
tel. 0444 387076

Villa Caldogno c. 1542: Vicenza, Caldogno, Via Zanella 1, Visit: From 1st March till 31 October :

Friday 3 - 6 pm, Saturday 9 - 12am. Groups only upon reservation. Tel (Municipal library): 0444 905054.

Villa Badoer c. 1554: Rovigo, Fratta Polesine, Via T. Tasso 3. Visit: Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays: 10-12 am/3:30-6:30 pm. Free guided tour : 10:30 am- 4pm (booking needed for groups). Opening and guided tour even on other days, on request. Tel: 0425 21530.

Villa Contarini c. 1546: Padova, Piazzola sul Brenta, Via L. Camerini 1, Visit: May 1 to September 30:

weekdays 9-12am / 3-7pm, Sundays and holidays 3- 8pm; December 1 to February 29: 9-12am / 2-5pm;

November and March: 9-12am/ 2-6pm; April and October: 9-12am / 2.30-6.30pm

tel. 049 5590347/238 – fax 0499619182

Villa Cornaro c. 1552: Padova, Piombino Dese, Via Roma, Visit: May 1 to September 30: Saturday 3.30-6pm

tel. 049 9365017 <http://www.boglewood.com/palladio/>

Villa Barbaro c. 1554: Maser (10 km from Asolo), Visit: January-February: Sat. 10am-5p, Sun. 11am-7pm;

March, July and August: Tue., Thu., Sat.: 10am-6pm, Sun. and holidays: 11am-6pm; from April till end of

June, and September and October: from Tue to Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. and holidays: 11am-6pm; November

and December: Sat. And Sun. 2:30-5pm. Tel. +39 0423 923004/3. www.villadimaser.it

Villa Emo c. 1558: Treviso, Fanzolo di Vedelago, Via Stazione 5. Visit: From 1st November till 31 March:

from Mon. To Fri. 2-4pm, Sat., Sun. and holidays: 2-5:30pm. From 1st April till 31 October: From Mon. to

Sat.: 3-6:30pm; Sun. and holidays: 10-12:30am/3-6:30pm. Groups with more than 15 people only upon

booking. Tel. 0423 476334/414 fax 0423 487043

Villa Zeno c. 1554: Treviso - Via Donegal, Donegal di Cessalto. Visit: by appointment only for groups of 10

people or over. fax 0422 752688 e-mail: liasora@doge.it <http://www.liasora.com>

Villa Foscari or La Malcontenta 1559: Venezia, Malcontenta di Mira, Via dei Turisti 9, Visit: May 1 to

October 31: Tuesday and Saturday 9-12am. Open also on other days only upon request. Tel. 041 5203966 /

041 5470012 fax 041 2770204 www.lamalcontenta.com

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Museums in Padua

Palazzo della Ragione: the Palazzo della Ragione was once the location of the law court. The “salone” upstairs has a beautiful wooden ceiling and the walls are entirely frescoed with astrological themes. It is impossible not to notice the huge wooden horse, created on Count Annibal Capodilista’s will for an extraordinary feast in 1466. Visiting hours: Winter weekday/public holiday visiting hours: 9am - 6pm, last entrance 5.30pm. Summer weekday/public holiday visiting hours 9am - 7pm, last entrance 6.30pm. Closed on Mondays. Piazza delle Erbe, Padova www.padovanet.it

Scrovegni Chapel: a Padova tour can not miss this true masterpiece of pictorial art, this chapel, frescoed by Giotto between 1303 and 1305, was commissioned by the wealthy banker Enrico Scrovegni. On the walls you will find scenes from the Gospels and the life of Jesus, while the counter-façade shows the magnificent Last Judgement. Visiting hours: visits must be booked in advance. To book, call 049 2010020 or on www.cappelladeglisrovegni.it. Piazza Eremitani, Padova.

St Anthony of Padua: the Basilica is the symbol of the city and its construction started in 1232 and went on until 1310. You must see the Chapel of St Felix, with frescoes by Altichiero in the second half of the 14th Century, and the Saint’s relics, in particular his chin and tongue, perfectly preserved. Visiting hours: to book a guided tour call 049 8789722 or on www.basilicadelsanto.org. Piazza del Santo 11, Padova

Anatomical Theatre: a tour of Padua must include the oldest anatomical theatre in the world is situated in Palazzo del Bo, today the location of the Faculty of Law in Padua. The room was built in 1594 and is perfectly preserved. It is structured in the shape of an amphitheatre; the central area still has the original dissecting table and all around the tiers of galleries. Visiting hours: Winter weekday(from November)/public holiday visiting hours (only guided tours): Mon, Wed, Fri: 3.15pm; 4.15pm; 5.15pm; Tues, Thu, Sat: 9.15am; 10.15am; 11.15am. Tel. 049 8273044-47. Palazzo del Bo, Via 8 Febbraio 2, Padova.

Musei Civici degli Eremitani: The Museum is located in the cloister of the ancient friary of Eremitani friars. Among the most famous masterpieces we might recall the precious Cross by Giotto, the paintings on wood by Guariento and works by Bellini, Tintoretto, Veronese and many others. One of the most important collections in the museum is the “Quadreria”, given by Count Leonardo Emo Capodilista in 1864, which includes noticeable works by Giorgione, Tiziano, and paintings by Palma il Giovane and Quentin Metsys. Piazza Eremitani 8, Padova. Visits: tel. +39 049 82045450/51 - fax +39 049 8204585.

VICENZA

Olympic Theatre: this splendid monument, designed by Palladio in 1580, is also the oldest enclosed theatre in the world. Its structure imitates that of the classic Greek and Roman theatres and, owing to its grandeur, it is particularly suitable for staging tragedies. Visiting hours: from 29th August the theatre can be visited from Tuesday to Sunday from 9am to 5pm, unless closed for special reasons. Piazza Giacomo Matteotti, Vicenza.

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MUSIC AND THEATRE

Music weeks at Teatro Olimpico May / June - The Cultural Association Amici del Teatro Olimpico, founded in 2008, supports and organises the Music Weeks, creating every year a rich and wide-ranging calendar that draws a large public from Italy and from abroad. The calendar of season May/June 2011 can be seen on the link <http://www.olimpico.vicenza.it/it/programma.php>

Venetojazz - June / September - This association was born 20 years ago and involves 40 cities, to organise one of the most important jazz festivals in Italy. During these years Venetojazz has seen the performances of artists like Miles Davis, Keith Jarrett, Tina Turner and many others. Starting from June and until the middle of September the "campi" in Venice, the gardens and parks of several venetian villas, besides castles and city squares are the background to many concerts, creating a calendar that jazz lovers cannot miss. Concert calendar on www.venetojazz.com.

Vicenzajazz May - Vicenza jazz takes place in May for about ten days, during this time the Teatro Olimpico, piazza dei Signori and other impressive places in Vicenza act as a stage for the concerts, starting in the afternoon and going on until late in the evening. An entertaining and unusual way to discover Vicenza! Calendar on www.vicenzajazz.org.

Arena di Verona 17 June -3 September - The Arena, known worldwide for its spectacular architecture and the outstanding acoustics, offers to its spectators a glimpse of history and together a dream scenery where to watch concerts and especially the most famous grand operas such as Aida, Turandot, Traviata and many others, which every year draw a huge public from all over the world. Calendario e prenotazioni per il festival lirico all'indirizzo www.arena.it

Teatro La Fenice, Venezia - Besides being one of the most famous buildings in Venice, also known thanks to the unfortunate series of accidents which saw it destroyed by fire several times, La Fenice offers every year a calendar rich in events. Opera and ballet season is particularly well-known and attended by Italian and international public. Calendar and reservations on www.teatrolafenice.it

POPULAR AND RELIGIOUS FEASTS IN PADUA AND SURROUNDINGS

Este, Padua

Flowers festival April/May - This colourful festival, where you can find plants and flowers from all over Italy, is against the impressive backdrop of the gardens of Este castle. Every year, in spring, the flower festival draws a great number of exhibitors and visitors, thanks to attractions such as theatre performances, art exhibitions, cooking lessons and much more. Info: www.esteinfiore.it

Padua

Procession of St. Antony 13 June 2011 - The procession will start at the end of the Solemn Mass of 17.00.

The parade will start at about 17.45 / 18.00 from the Basilica del Santo and then follow this path to the streets of Padua: Piazza del Santo, Via del Santo, Via San Francesco, Canton del Gallo, Via Roma, Via Umberto I, Prato Valle, Via B. Luke Belludi, to return to the Piazza del Santo, where he recites the Prayer to Saint Anthony and the blessing will take place with the relic of the saint.

Montagnana, Padova

Palio di Montagnana September, first week - The Palio is one of the oldest popular traditions in the Veneto. It recalls the celebrations that took place after the death of the tyrant Ezzelino da Romano, in 1259. It consists of a horse race accompanied by old folkloristic games, such as the wearing "gonfalone race" (gonfalone meaning banner). It is held on the first week of September and lasts about one week, during which several events are organised: you can join a medieval dinner, stroll through the oddities of the craft market, enjoy the fascinating nocturnal show of the burning fortress. Calendar and info: www.palio10.comuni.it

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Vo' Euganeo, Padua

Wine and grapes festival: September, second week - The wine festival in Vo' is one of the most representative and attended events in autumn thanks to its many activities and attractions, such as the bike tour on the hills and the tastings of local wines and cakes, and above all the spectacular parade of floats entirely made of grapes. You cannot miss such an alternative Carnival! Info about dates and calendar: www.stradadelvinocollieuganei.it Tel. 049 9940027

Monseice, Padova:

Giostra della Rocca 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays of September - Nine "contrade" (quarters) perform against each other in the traditional competitions of medieval feasts (archery, strenght test with the millstone, run, chess tournament, joust with the spear, horse race and costume parade) Infos: Pro Loco Monseice, Piazza Mazzini Tel. 042972380. Comune di Monseice, Ufficio Turistico, Via Roma, 1 Tel. 0429783026.

Grisignano di Zocco, Padua:

Fiera del Soco: 9-15 September 2011 - One of the oldest country fairs in the Veneto, the Fiera del Soco combines historical recontruction and modern feast in an event that involves the whole village and its citizens. Concerts and other public shows are held, besides medieval games and a puppet theatre for children. There is also a huge open air craft market winding through the town centre for more than 2 km. Those who love good cooking will find many rest stops where it is possible to taste and buy typical products. Complete calendar at: www.fieradelsoco.it

POPULAR AND RELIGIOUS FEASTS IN VENICE (Summertime)

Vogalonga Middle/end of May - This amateur boat race, started in 1978 by a group of rowing fans, is now one of the most lively and involving events in Venice. Once a year, in spring, thousands of boats challenge each others on a 30 km race, ending at Punta della Dogana. Though the Vogalonga is quite a recent tradition, it has become more and more famous in the past few years until reaching 6000 members in 2009. www.vogalonga.com

Festa della Sensa 5 June 2011 - The Sensa Feast is one of the oldest celebrations in Venice, taking place on Ascension Day, on a Sunday, and the day before. Venetians celebrate on this day the symbolic Wedding of Venice to the Sea and two important historical events: the victory of the venetian fleet over Dalmatians in 1000 and the peace treaty ratified between Pope Alexander III and Federico Barbarossa in 1177. Infos: Comune di Venezia: Tel. (+39)0412747737 Assessorato al Turismo - Promozione e Manifestazioni: Tel. 0412747739 www.veneziamarketing.it

Festa del Redentore July 16th/17th 2011 - Festa del Redentore is an ancient celebration, dating back to 400 years ago. To recall the end of the terrible plague which between 1575 and 1577 killed almost 50.000 venetians. Every summer and for two days hundreds of boats are decorated and meet in St Mark's Basin and Giudecca Canal. A must see is the great firework show lasting 45 minutes. www.veneziamarketingeventi.it

Regata Storica 4 September 2011 - The historical regata, taking place in September, is one of the most involving and exciting popular feasts in Venice. It is an historical commemoration divided into two main parts: the wedding of Venice to the Sea and the boat race. A parade of traditional historical vessels, fronted by the tipycal boat Bucintoro, compete along the Canal Grande until St Lucia. Info and tickets: www.veneziamarketingeventi.it

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Venetia is rich in attractive sightseeing destinations which are also fun for children. First of all of course Venice, where children can run and play without any danger of being hurt by cars. A journey in a Gondola along the canals is a magical experience which a child will remember all his life. For the older ones the arena of Verona recalls the roman gladiators. But also medieval castles can be fun.

Following castles are in the immediate vicinity:

Castello di San Martino: very close to Frassanelle, the oldest part of this small castle goes back to the year 1000. Later on the Carraresi amplified the building. The Venetians used it as a port along the river. Today the building has been transformed into a museum of the river Bacchiglione with finds going from the age of iron to the middle ages. Getting there: turn to the right towards Padova at the traffic lights in Fossana. The first road to the left is Via San Martino, the castle is a little further down this road. The castle and the museum are open April 1st to September 30th . Saturday 3pm to 7pm, Sunday 10am-1pm and 2pm-7pm. From October 1st Saturday 2pm-6pm, Sunday 10am-1pm and 2pm-6pm Tel. 049 9915425. Responsible Sig.ra Debora Coron 348 8746424 Tel.0429 647157. www.musei.padova.it.

The Castello Catajo is situated in the immediate vicinity of Frassanelle, beside the Euganean Hills, on the main Padua-Rovigo road. Its builder, Pio Enea Obizzi, inventor of the howitzer (Ital. oblice), took part in the siege of Lepanto (1571) in which the Turks were defeated. This explains the somewhat Oriental, fortress-like architecture. The park is magnificent with a pond covered in water lilies, in the shade of massive, centuries-old trees. With their waxy leaves and their showy flowers the magnolias, in particular, catch the eye. The castello is open from March to November. March, September, October, November: Tuesday and Sunday from 2:30pm to 6:30pm. From April to August: Tuesday and Sunday from 3 pm to 7pm. Tel. 049 9100411. www.castellodelcatajo.it.

Castello di San Pelagio: on the same road between Padova and Rovigo, north of the Castello del Catajo, you will find the interesting Museum of the Air (Museo dell'Aria), which assembles documents, models and aeroplanes from the time of Leonardo da Vinci to our days. You will find the exposition about Gabriele D'Annunzio highly interesting. It was here that he planned his famous flight to Vienna in 1918. The garden is also very beautiful with its 2 mazes (a third one is under construction) is a real attraction for children. Open: from March to November. Wed. And Thu. 9am-1pm, Fri. and Sat.: 9am-1pm/2:30-6:30pm, Sun. and holidays: 10am-7pm. Tel. 049 9125008. www.museodellaria.it

Ca' Marcello Only a few kilometres south of the Castello del Catajo, in Monselice, lies the Ca' Marcello. Ca' is the Venetians' abbreviation for Casa (house) - an understatement indeed, for this is the heavily fortified castle of Ezzelino III da Romano, a local tyrant in the 13th century. The Ca' Marcello is the only well preserved example of a lordly residence of that era in the Veneto. Remarkable, too, are the six chapels on the Via Sacra alongside the castle hill. Open from Tuesday to Sunday. Guided tours daylight saving: at 9am, 10am, 11am, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm. Regular hour: 9am, 10am, 11am, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm winter. Closed on Monday. Tel. 0429 72931. www.castellodimonselice.it

The gardens of Villa Barbarigo, Valsanzibio: In the 1600's Antonio Barbarigo, brother of St. Gregorio, enlarged and transformed the exterior of the villa by drawing out a large water garden inspired by the antique Romans. The garden is decorated with 70 statues of which 40 are attributed to Marengo.

Furthermore there are 4 ponds, 3 water follies, 16 fountains and a boxwood maze. Getting there: from Luvigliano drive towards Torreglia and then Valsanzibio. Open from March to November, 10am to 1pm and 2pm until sunset. Tel. 049 8059224 or 049 8055614 responsible Dr. Rossi Tel. 328 6482894.

www.valsanziobiogiardino.it

Butterfly Arc: in Montegrotto Terme a vast greenhouse is the habitat of 100 different types of butterflies from all over the world. Visitors can wander through this oasis of palmtrees, orchids, aloccasias and passiflora. Nearby you will find a mythological garden inhabited by gnomes, elves, fairies, magicians, witches, kings and queens, all figures taken from ancient naturalistic legends. Open: April to September, 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2.30pm to 5.30pm. February, March and October, November 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4pm. In February and November the Arc is open only for some days please call: 049 8910189. www.butterflyarc.it

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Gardaland, Peschiera sul lago di Garda: Gardaland is the biggest amusement parc in Italy, a sort of Italian Disneyland on the shores of Lake Garda. Tel. 045 644 9777. For prices and opening times, please visit the website, www.gardaland.it.

Parco Natura Viva - Parco Natura Viva was founded back in 1933 and covers 64 hectares of hills inland of Garda Lake, in Bussolengo, Verona province. It is member of the most important organizations for the protection of endangered species. You can visit Parco Natura Viva by walking, it hosts many animal species from all five continents, most of them are critically endangered in their natural habitat. Thus Parco Natura Viva is involved in various international projects which aim is breeding and preservation of those very rare animals. Among many others, you'll recognize Snow Leopards Amur, Tigers, Maned Wolves, Spectacled bears, Madagascar Lemurs and their unique predator, the Fossa. For prices and opening times, please visit the website <http://www.parconaturaviva.it/index-en.php>

Take a boat along the Brenta canal - A charming cruise, through nine swing bridges and five locks real "water lifts", allowing the descending of an almost 10-metre high water slope between Venice and Padua. The guided cruises usually include boat trips from Venice to Padua or from Padua to Venice; the visits to the Villa Gradenigo of Oriago, to the Villa Widmann or Barchessa Valmarana of Mira, to the Villa Pisani of Strà, to the Villa Foscari Malcontenta. The most informative website we could find is www.battellidelbrenta.it.

Riding at Villa Trento - The riding club at Villa Trento (www.villatrento.it) is located on the grounds of the 16th century villa Trento. The atmosphere is informal and easy, children are more than welcome for either lessons or excursions, English spoken. Villa Trento lies in the vicinity of our estates La Montecchia and Frassanelle

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TAKE IT CHEAPER

Tourists Reductions For Veneto Region

PADOVA CARD

Price: 48-hour card € 15,00; 72-hour card: € 20,00. It is valid for one adult and a child under 14. It is personal, non transferable and no refund if lost or stolen.

Exclusive benefits of Padova Card include:

- Free entry to: Scrovegni Chapel (except booking fee: € 1,00), Eremitani Museums, palazzo della Ragione, Piano Nobile Caffé Pedrocchi and Museo del Risorgimento, San Michele Oratory, Botanic Garden, Baptistery of the Cathedral, Loggia and Odeo Cornaro, palazzo Zuckermann, Petrarch's house in Arquà Petrarca, International Museum of Artistic Glass in Montegrotto Terme.
- Free use of APS public means of transportation both in and around Padua and from Padua to the Euganean Spa and back.
- Free parking for cars and motorbikes at selected parking places in Padua.
- Reduced ticket to some of the most important monumets, museums, villas castles and historical gardens of the province of Padua.
- Reductions, welcoming cocktail or freebies in hotels, B&B, agriturismo, restaurants and bars included in the card.
- Discounts on shopping.
- Discounts and facilities on various tourist services, guided tours, hop-onhop-off City sightseeing Bus, boat tours, car and bike rentals.

WHERE TO BUY PADOVA CARD

- Tourist Office - Railway Station, Padua tel. + 39 049 8752077 (Monday-Saturday 9.15-19.00; Sunday 9.00-12.00)
- Tourist Office - Galleria Pedrocchi, Padua tel. +39 049 8767927 (Monday-Saturday 9.00-13.00 15.00-19.00)
- Tourist Office - Piazza del Santo (in front of the Basilica of St. Anthony), Padua tel. +39 049 8753087 (seasonal opening, March-October daily 10-13 15-18)
- Abano Terme Tourist Office Via P.d'Abano, 18 - tel. + 39 049 8669055 (Monday- Saturday 8.30-13.00 14.30-19.00. During High Season the office is open also on Sunday 10.00-13.00 15.00-18.00)
- Montegrotto Terme Tourist Office tel. +39 049 8928311 (Monday-Saturday 8.30- 13.00 14.30-19.00. During High Season the office is open also on the second Sunday of the month 10.00-13.00 15.00-18.00).

Buy Padova Card on line: you can also buy Padova card on line on the website www.padovacard.it, or if you wish Frassanelle staff can buy it for you (in this case we will need your data and the details of your credit card).

PALLADIO CARD

Palladiocard is an initiative of the Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio (offices at Palazzo Barbaran, Vicenza) organized by arrangement with the owners of some palladian sites.

Price: € 10,00. The card is valid for individual tourists only, not for groups. The card allows for direct access to 6 Palladian sites and for a reduced price at other sites from 10th April to 1st November 2009.

Direct access sites:

Villa Badoer, Palazzo Barbaran, Villa Contarini, Villa Emo, Villa Godi Malinverni, Villa Poiana

Reduced price access sites:

Villa di Caldogno, Villa di Maser, Villa Pisani Bonetti, Palazzo Valmarana Braga

The PALLADIOCARD booklet is sold for use by the holder only. When you purchase your tickets, please write your name and surname in the spaces provided. When you enter each site, you will have to show an ID card.

The PALLADIOCARD tickets will be valid for 10 days, starting from the date indicated on the back cover of the booklet (date when the first ticket is used).

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With Palladio card you can purchase at a reduced price (6 €) the comprehensive ticket for the following sites:

Teatro Olimpico, Palazzo Chiericati, Museo civico Pinacoteca, Museo naturalistico archeologico Museo del Risorgimento e della Resistenza, Gallerie di Palazzo Leoni Montanari, Museo Diocesano

WHERE TO BUY PALLADIO CARD

You can buy Palladio card in all of the above mentioned Palladian sites and in the following tourist offices in Vicenza:

Piazza Matteotti, 12

36100 Vicenza

Tel. 0444/320854 - fax 0444/327072

Opening time 9-13 14-18

Piazza dei Signori, 8

Tel. 0444-544122 - Fax. 0444-325001

Orario di apertura 10-14 14,30-18,30

Buy Palladio card on line: you can buy a voucher for Palladio card on line on the website

www.palladiocard.it, or Frassanelle staff can buy it for you on request (in this case we will need your surname, email, and the details of your credit card). After printing the voucher, you can collect your Palladio card at Palazzo Barbaran, in Contrà Porti 11, in Vicenza. Tel. +39 0444 323014

fax +39 0444 322869.

VENICE CARD

Venice card will allow you to visit the main attractions of this beautiful city at a reduced price.

You can choose between the Transport card, allowing you for nonrestrictive use of Actv public means of transportation, and the Transport and Culture card, which includes also some reductions or free access to touristic sites.

Prices:

Transport Card 3 days: Junior € 47,00; Senior € 48,00

Transport Card 7 days: Junior € 67,00; Senior € 68,00

Transport and Culture Card 3 days: € 66,00; Senior € 73,00

Transport and Culture Card 7 days: € 87,00; Senior € 96,00

- free or reduced access to 12 museums

- free or reduced access to 16 churches

- reduced access to other structures

To see prices, the authorized retailers and all of the sites enjoying the reductions of Venice card we suggest you to visit the website www.hellovenezia.com.

VENICE CONNECTED

Venice connected is a card that can be bought only on line which allows you to have reduced prices on several tourist attractions, together with public transport, toilet services and car parking.

Prices are based upon a calendar related to the sustainability index and vary according to the tourist flow.

To see prices, sites with reduced access and calendar please visit the website www.veniceconnected.com.

WHERE TO BUY VENICE CONNECTED

You can find Venice connected by the following retailers:

Marco Polo airport - Hellovenezia Office, Opening hours 9 AM - 11 PM. Info: Tel: 0412424

Isola nova del Tronchetto - Hellovenezia Office, Near to the ferry embarkation point, Opening hours, 7 AM - 8 PM. Info: Tel: 0412424

Municipal Garage - ASM desk of the municipal garage, Piazzale Roma, Opening hours 8.30 AM - 5 PM
Info: Tel: 0412424

Santa Chiara - Second embarkation point from the Ponte della Costituzione, Piazzale Roma, Opening hours 7 AM - 9 PM. Info: Tel: 0412424

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Santa Chiara - Second embarkation point from the Ponte della Costituzione, Piazzale Roma, Opening hours 7 AM - 9 PM, Info: Tel: 0412424

Train station - Ferry embarkation point to the left of the station, Station forecourt, Opening hours 7 AM - 11 PM. Info: Tel: 0412424

Buy it on line: you can also buy Venice Connected on line on the website www.veniceconnected.com.

Frassanelle staff can also buy it on line for you (in this case we will need your personal data and the details of your credit card). In both cases, you will get a voucher that will allow you to collect Venice connected by the above mentioned retailers.

SPORT

GOLF

The Frassanelle Golf Club: Via Rialto 5/A, 35030 Rovolon. Tel. +39 049 9910722 Fax +39 049 9910691, <http://www.golffrassanelle.it>, info@golffrassanelle.it The course has been drawn out within the nineteenth century park of Villa Papafava dei Carraresi by Marco Croze, one of the best golf architects in Italy. He drew out a course with 18 holes adding some difficulties to the already existent ones, ensuring the golfer to fully enjoy himself on every hole. The Club House has been restored from a rural cottage of the 1700s and it has been furnished with much care and detail in a style that brings to mind the one of english club houses. The architecture together with the characteristics of the landscape make the Golf Club Frassanelle one of the most "English" Golf Clubs in the Veneto region. THE COURSE: (18 holes par 72 with a development of 6.180 metres) has been designed with modern principles, with insidious, undulated greens for the presence of the numerous water obstacles like lakes and streams. Each hole requests maximum concentration and a game strategy completely different from the one used on the previous hole.

DAILY FEES : The guests of the estate of Frassanelle are granted a discount on the green fees of the Frassanelle Golf Course. Please make your reservations ahead of time (2 weeks ahead) via fax to the Golf Club tel. +39 049 9910722, fax +39 0499910691 indicating the date, number of persons and eventual extras (clubs, car), reminding that you are guests of the Frassanelle estate.

The Veneto has 18 golf courses all in all (see the website below), 2 of which are in the nearest vicinity. Golf della Montecchia and the Padova Golf Club are more or less 10 and 20 minutes by car.

Web site with full description of the golf courses in the Veneto:

<http://www.english.abanolink.it/fitnesssport/golf/golf.asp>

Golf La Montecchia: Via Montecchia 12, 35030 Selvazzano Dentro. Tel. 0039-049-8055550, Fax 0039-049-8055737, www.golffmontecchia.it 8 km from Frassanelle The Golf of Montecchia is a 27 holes championship golf course. It is located in the estate of Conti Emo Capodilista with its old castle and elegant villa (XVI century). The course that is stretched across a surface of 82 hectares has been realised from the design of the Irish architect Tom McCauley. The course is a modern and free design with many water obstacles. The Club House is very welcoming and comfortable, it is located in one of the ancient, large buildings of the property.

THE COURSE: (27 holes par 72 with a development of 6.318 metres) is completely flat, but very technical and it requires a good concentration from the golfer who has to pay particular attention to the water obstacles that make the play more difficult. Another particular of this ground is the innovative drainage system, that makes it possible to play even when the weather is not good. This allows the passionate golfer to play also under the rain. Directions: out of the property turn right, first stop left, always straight until traffic light, turn right towards Padova keep going straight in Selvazzano turn left for Montecchia)

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Padua Golf Club Via Noiera 57, 35030 Galzignano Terme (Valsanzibio). Tel: 049 9130078, <http://www.golfpadova.it>, 15 km from Frassanelle. With its 18 holes (par 72, SSS 72, length 6.053 m) it constitutes a third attractive alternative for golfers. The ground is located at the foot of the Euganean Hills, near Villa Barbarigo, dating back to seventeenth century. It was built in 1960 by the English architect John Harris, it stretches across a surface of 70 hectares with a series of studied obstacles to give the game more charm. The course is developed on the inside of a real park, with more than 8000 trees and bushes that fit in with the surrounding landscape.

THE COURSE: (18 holes par 72 with a development of 6.053 metres) is extremely varied and very technical, with canals, lakes, bunkers, scattered everywhere making a more difficult game for the golfer.

The welcoming Club House has a restaurant, pool and tennis court. **Directions:** (out of the estate turn right, at the first stop right, keep going until the 2nd stop after the village of Montemerlo, turn right and immediately left towards:

TORREGLIA and LUVIGLIANO. As you are in Luvigliano keep the left and go around the wall of the magnificent Villa dei Vescovi, which you will see on your right. Turn left towards Torreglia. As you get to the stop go left towards GALZIGNANO. At the roundabout go right towards GALZIGNANO. As you arrive in Galzignano turn left towards: ARQUA' PETARCA, at the roundabout turn right towards VALSANZIBIO, shortly after you find the golf entrance on your right hand side).

Venezia Golf Club: Strada Vecchia 1, 30126 Alberoni Lido di Venezia. Tel: 041731333

www.circologolfvenezia.it. 2 hours journey minimum. The Venice Golf Club was born in the locality of "Alberoni" on the island of Lido- Venice in 1928. It was realized by the Scottish architect Cruickshank. The best golf players in the world have played on this course, we are speaking of Arnold Palmer, who still is the owner of the course record with 67, as to say 5 under par. But he is only one of the many: Henry Cotton, Johnny Miller, Severiano Ballesteros, Tony Jacklin, Lee Trevino and many others of the old generation have been playing golf here. Among the younger ones, Bernard Langer, José Maria Olazabal, John Daly, Angel Cabrera, Colin Montgomery, Ian Poulter.

THE COURSE: (18 holes, Par 72 with a development of 6.199). From the original project the sandy soil is still the old one but greens are now a lot more undulated and many more water hazards are now part of the link. Hole number 9 is mythical and published on all the most prestigious golf magazines because of its setting on the lagoon. Hole number 11 is considered the best par 5 in all Italy. Many of the other holes have their special story to tell, for all of them it is important to be precise and able to hit the ball out of the woods some now and then. Last tip: pay attention to the wind, it can change the way you have to approach to the hole and if you don't understand how and when you have to change your strategy it can be too late to go back home with a nice score. 6.199 metres. Par 72 metres. **Directions:** Take the A4 in Grisignano to Venice. 8 km after the exit Padova Ind. / Bologna you will find the gas station Arino Est, immediately after it be careful and keep the right lane, otherwise you will find you self in the new motorway which bypasses Venice. Pass the toll bar and follow the indications to Venice. As you have crossed the laguna bridge and just after the traffic light turn right towards Tronchetto / ferry boats - Lido. The ferry leaves every 50 min from 6,40 am the journey takes 35 min. As you are in the Lido island follow the indication for Alberoni.

TENNIS

- Selvazzano, Via Montecchia, tel. 049 637866

They have 4 hard courts and the cost per hour for the court is € 5,50. The management of the tennis club can also supply rackets, please let them know 2 days ahead. 2 courts are available between 3 pm and 8 pm. From 8 pm to 11 pm, 3 courts are available. Please book ahead. A trainer is also available, cost depends on whether the lessons are individual or for a group of people. The telephone number is 049-8055740.

- Park Tennis Club, Abano Terme, Via Colli Euganei 22, tel.049 812411

Open from March to November 8am - 12pm. Trainer available.

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THERMAL SWIMMING POOLS

In Montegrotto Terme we recommend 2 beautiful pools with wonderful views onto the Eugenean hills:

- **Hotel Preistoriche:** Montegrotto, Via Castello 5, tel 049 793477 (irregular shaped pool, partly inside, partly outdoors.) Sunday-Thursday 10am-10pm Friday and Saturday 10am-12pm. € 22,00 per person Monday-Saturday €27,00 per person Sunday and national holidays. www.termepreistoriche.it

- **Hotel Terme Bellavista:** Montegrotto, Via dei Colli 5. Tel. 049 793333 www.bellavistaterme.com. 3 swimming pools (1 indoor one outdoor and 1 half in door and half outdoor) and a very good restaurant. Open every day 9am-7pm. € 20,00 per person.

- **Hotel Ritz Terme:** Abano Terme via Monteortone 19, tel 048 8633444 and 049 8633100 www.ritz.it. Open every day 7.30pm-11.00pm. € 10,00 per person.

HORSE RIDING

- **Villa Trento:** Cervarese S. Croce, Via Roma 1, 35030 villatrento@libero.it Instructor: Sascha: tel. 328 2293318. Other n° 328 6489530 and 328 5437509. English, German and French speaking . On the main road to the motor way Milano - Venice, on the right just past the village of Cervarese S. Croce.

- **Alfa Farm:** Longare, V. S. Gaetano 28, tel 0444 555418 / mobile: 339 8465458 Only Italian speaking

BIKE RENTALS

- **Michele Marcolin:** Bastia di Rovolon Via Albettoniera 2, 35030. Tel 0499910642 biciemoto@tiscali.it Open Saturday: 8 am / 7,30 pm. Sunday: 8 am / 12.30 pm. Monday morning closed. All other days: 8 am / 12,30 pm - 15 pm / 7,30 pm. When you arrive at the traffic light in Bastia go right the shop is on the right facing the square.