



GT Experiences

A REALM OF UNFORGETTABLE TRAVEL

EMILIA ROMAGNA & VENETO





Venice

ALONG EMELIA ROMAGNA & VENETO

7 DAYS/6 NIGHTS

Venice, Padua, Ravenna, St. Marino Republic, Urbino, Montegridolfo, Gradara, Montagnana, Arquà Petrarca

TOUR FEATURES

Gentle slopes of hills decorated with olive trees alternating with sumptuous vineyards: this is the rich territory of Romagna and the low Veneto territory to explore with our tour. You will enjoy the accommodation among the frescoes of noble residences as a majestic medieval castle and an elegant renaissance house. Visit some jewel cities, such as Ravenna and Urbino, the spectacular Scrovegni Chapel in Padua and the magical Venice, on board of a typical "gondola." You can experience the atmosphere of Dante's Divine Comedy in the Fortress of Paolo and Francesca in Gradara, romantic praises of Francesco Petrarca to his beloved, visiting his home in Arquà Petrarca and breathe in the enchanting medieval Borgo of Montagnana. Taste excellent food and wine as the "Pecorino di Fossa" cheese and the DOPG Prosecco sparkling wines.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrival at the airport of Milan, Venice, Bologna or Rome and transfer to Montegridolfo area. Accommodation in a charming relais. Well proportioned and placed in the rolling hills of Rimini, Montegridolfo is an excellent integration of medieval architecture with the surrounding landscape: the warm color of bricks contrasting with the lush green hills and everything seems to be suspended in time and space, waiting to be rediscovered and relived. The castle, which dates back to the fourteenth century, transformed now in the Town Hall, was built by the noble family of Malatesta to guard against the Ducato di Montefeltro and preserved, thanks to a careful restoration and all of its original charm. The vegetation that surrounds, like a green embrace, the narrow streets of the village that climb the hill, give it an

enchanted atmosphere. Time at leisure, dinner on your own. Back to your hotel for an overnight.

Day 2

Breakfast in your hotel. Departure to San Marino Republic. San Marino, the town of freedom. There are certainly many reasons to visit the small republic of San Marino. In just 61 square meters, San Marino has a large number of architectural and natural resources which are a pleasure to see. The guided tour will show you the beauty that should not absolutely miss inside the walls of the Republic. Let's start from the center: here you will find the Government Palace, the second of the three towers that were built for defensive and control purposes on the top of Mount Titano and that now hosts the Museum of Ancient Arms, the Basilica of the Holy; the Church of San Francesco with the beautiful art gallery and museum located inside; the





MONTAGNANA

Church of the Capuchins; the permanent exhibition of handicraft of the town. You will surely find interesting also the Museum of Modern Weapons, the one of the Vintage Cars and the inevitable Wax Museum and the Museum of Curiosities. Lunch in a typical restaurant. Departure to Gradara. Gradara, the fortress of Paolo and Francesca Gradara and its Fortress are one and the same. At the beginning it was simply a watch tower built by the Griffo family in the second half of the 12th century. Its basic structure dates back to interventions by the Malatesti family which can be traced back between the years 1293 and 1324. The most important parts remain the keep, the “old castle” (the first lordly residence, in the wing of the fortress considered, together with the keep, to be the oldest part) and an arcaded wing of the courtyard. Between 1442 and 1462 Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesti made basically military type enlargements, such as the angular, polygonal tower. Departure to Mondaino. Visit a historical mill and tasting of the famous cheese “Pecorino di Fossa” and typical products.

Dinner on your own. Back to your hotel for an overnight. **(B, L, CT)**

Day 3

Breakfast in your hotel. Departure to Urbino, the city of Raphael Urbino, a World Heritage Site by Unesco, is a city of international importance, and a beautiful Renaissance town, situated in a panoramic position between two hills. Urbino with its narrow streets, its houses and its walls still has the character of five hundred years ago, and it has a dynamic center surrounded by high walls. Well known and visited is the Doge’s Palace, built in the fifteenth century by Duke Federico from Montefeltro, and is characteristic for the little towers that surround the rear. The palace was the seat of the municipality of Urbino throughout the twentieth century until 1985 when, after a careful and important work of restoration. It has been converted into a museum. Very interesting is the house of Raphael, located in the street same at number 57 Raphael St. Here you can admire a fresco of his youth, as well as the rooms and furnishings of the house where the famous painter lived. The Duomo, in neoclassical style, was rebuilt



Urbino

by G. Valadier over a century church (1789-1801). Inside there are works of F. Barocci (Last Supper), Lodovico Viviani and Jacopo Palma. Dinner on your own. Back to the hotel for an Overnight. **(B)**

Day 4

Breakfast in your hotel. Depart for Ravenna, the ancient byzantine capital. Ravenna is an ancient city full of art and culture. Three times, it was capital: in the Western Roman Empire, under the kingdom of Theodoric, and then with the Byzantine Empire in Europe. This important past is underlined by churches and baptismal fonts stored in this city, which contains the richest heritage of mosaics from the fifth and sixth centuries. Eight of its buildings (the Basilica of San Vitale, Mausoleum of Galla





RAVENNA

Placidia, Baptistry of Neoniano, Chapel of St. Andrew, the Arian Baptistery, Basilica of S. Apollinare Nuovo, Mausoleum of Theodoric, Basilica of St. Apollinare in Classe) are now awarded as a World Heritage Site by Unesco. Montagnana, the walled medieval city Montagnana's tall walls surround one of the most beautiful old towns in the region, in fact the Touring Club has finally awarded the Orange Flag to the town, this banner lets tourists know that they are in one of 'Italy's most beautiful towns'. The defensive complex, which makes Montagnana a great example of medieval strongholds, began development in the 14th century, during the Carraresi era. In fact, this historical family from Padova chose Montagnana as the outer point of defense against Scaliger raids from Verona. They commissioned the strong walls, which are about one metre thick and surrounded by a moat which today is a wide green space. **(B)**

Day 5

Breakfast at your hotel. Visit the Borgo. Depart for Padua and the Giotto's masterpiece, the Scrovegni Chapel. The city of Padua offers important monuments

such as the Scrovegni Chapel with Giotto's frescoes, recently restored, the Civic Museums of the Hermits, the famous Basilica of Saint Anthony and the Scuola del Santo with remarkable frescoes of the '500 also by Titian. Prato della Valle, one of the largest squares in Europe, is beautiful. The Botanical Garden, founded in 1545, is one of the oldest in Europe, as well as the University, one of the oldest in the world and founded in 1222. Colorful Squares in the heart of the city house markets (especially food) and Palazzo della Ragione hosts, under the Hall, the shops with culinary excellence and specialties of all kinds. **(B, WT)**

Day 6

Breakfast in your hotel. Departure to Arquà Petrarca, visit the borgo. Departure to Venice. Arquà Petrarca is a medieval town that retains the charm of ancient times and is considered the pearl of the Euganean Hills. Inhabited since Roman times, it acquired importance after Francesco Petrarca, the great poet of the Italian language, because he wished to spend the last years of his life in the serene quietness of this place.

the country preserves the house and the tomb with his remains. In the following centuries the memory of the poet favored the rise of houses and villas of many Venetian families, which constitute today an artistic and architectural heritage



Arquà Petrarca

worthy of being visited and revisited with religious attention.

Venice, the magical city Venice is the magical city par excellence, one of the most scenic and extraordinary stage, where history and art reflected themselves in the calm waters of the lagoon. Here everything means romance and poetry! It's a unique city in the world, reach of paintings, in particular of Titian, Tintoretto and Giovanni Ballini. It was declared by UNESCO as a World Heritage





Montefiore

Site, not only for its wealth of art, but also for the extraordinary penetration between human activities and natural lagoons. During your visit you will admire

San Marco square and the Basilica, Ducal Palace and Rialto Bridge, enjoy Canal Grande and the magnificent landscape. **(B)**

Day 7

Breakfast at your hotel. Departure to the airport of Milan, Venice, Bologna or Rome for your return flight home. **(B)**

Legend

B	Breakfast
L	Lunch
WT	Wine Tasting
CT	Cheese Tasting

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 3 overnights in double/twin room in a charming relais in Montegridolfo B&B treatment
- 3 overnights in double/twin room in a Castle of XIV^o century in Montagnana B&B treatment
- Guided visit of Padua
- Entrance to Scrovegni Chapel
- Gondola tour (30 minutes)
- 1 wine tasting in the medieval cellar of the castle
- 1 typical lunch in a traditional restaurant in St. Marino Republic
- 1 typical visit of a historical mill and tasting of the famous "Pecorino di Fossa" and typical products

NOT INCLUDED

- Car rental (this is available upon request)
- Car rental with chauffeur (available upon request)
- Lunch (only available 1 day)
- City tax to be paid directly in hotel
- Transfer to and from the airport of Milan
- Extra, tips and anything else not listed under "What's Included"



OPTIONAL TOURS

San Giovanni in Marignano, where Malatesta family hid wheat

Duration: half day The elegant village of San Giovanni in Marignano, takes its name from St. John the Baptist, and is located in the center of the lower part of the Conca Valley where the countryside is plain and the river flows into the sea of Cattolica. For the fertility and beauty of the land this ancient village earned the name of "Granary of Malatesta". The surroundings of San Giovanni in Marignano have numerous Roman remains and abound testimonies of the High Middle Ages, while recent archaeological finds make us think of a rich wine production destined mainly for export. Ancient walls surround a village which still preserves three notable buildings: the thirteenth-century church of San Pietro, the Theatre Massari, a beautiful nineteenth-century theater, and Corbucci Palace, residence of the Malatesta de 'Malatesti in the second half of the fourteenth century.

Montefiore Conca, a balcony on the sea in the land of the Malatesta

Duration: half day The charming medieval village of Montefiore Conca, with its majestic castle, stands on one of the highest hills of the Conca valley, allowing an overview of the coast and of the entire lower valley: a unique overview with vibrant colors. Symbol of Montefiore Conca is undoubtedly the castle, built in 1300 by Malatesta: it is a proof of the power of Malatesta's family. With them, began the period of great glory for the village. The noble family wanted the building of the fortress in order both to defend the village against the Duchy of Urbino and both to set up an elegant residence designed to accommodate princes and popes. Inside the village there are also three churches of great historical and artistic interest: the parish church of

San Paolo, one of the Ospedale della Misericordia, and finally the Marian Shrine of Bonora.

San Leo the magician's fortress

Duration: half day The village of San Leo, has ancient origins. It was built on a very big rock, with the perimeter walls steep and perpendicular to the ground. You can arrive at the village just through a little street carved into the rock. On the highest point of this impressive cliff, stands still today the Rocca di San Leo. Inside, it contains a remarkable architectural heritage of the territory of San Leo: the Forte, the pre-Romanesque Pieve, the Romanesque cathedral of XII century, the Museum of Sacred Art in the Medici's Palace, the ruins of several castles, including those of Pietracuta and Piega, the Franciscan convent of S. Igne, and the church of Montemaggio.

Faenza, the city of ceramics

Duration: half day Known at an international level for its ceramics, since 1300, thanks to the important relationship between the lords of Faenza and the Medici's family, it was an important meeting place for political and cultural meetings and for centuries the city was embellished with monuments that still keep their charm. Here we can find a few urban masterpieces like for example, piazza del popolo, bounded by two porticoed wings where there are the Podesta's Palace and the Municipal Palace, Liberty Square with the Cathedral which contains many works of art of the Renaissance and the monumental fountain: its bronze sculptures date from the end of 17th century.

The walled city tour, Cittadella, Este and Monselice

Duration: full day A walk through the narrow streets and squares enclosed by mighty medieval

walls is a blast into the past and into history. In Cittadella, Monselice, Este and Montagnana the hands of time have stopped and we invite you to experience the magical and mysterious atmosphere of the Middle Ages, while discovering traces of the 13th century and relics from the period of the Carrara family. Citadel, the only village in Europe with an elliptical layout, is located about 30 km north of Padua. Here visitors can walk the ancient chemin de ronde (guard patrol path) and see the city and the view from a strategic point, 14 meters above ground level.

Monselice has been called "the door to the Euganean Hills" since ancient times, thus an area where the hills meet the plain. The historical presence of the tyrant Ezzelino III da Romano is still visible in the walls, the castle and the Mastio (Keep).

Monselice was later softened by the presence of Venetian nobles. The beautiful Este is about 30 km from Padua to the south. Castle in the large garden, a venue for shows and events, visitors can rest after a walk through the old town and a visit to the National Museum of Este.

Glimpse of Murano, Burano and Torcello Islands by boat

Duration: 3-4 h Spend some time on the most famous Venetian islands, known throughout the world for their picturesque scenery, craft traditions, and unique history. Departing from near Saint Mark's Square, you will take an enjoyable trip across Saint Mark's Basin, towards the Lido, and then back along the coastline north of the city. On the boat, to live will guide explained the history of the lagoon and the three islands you will visit. Your first stop will be the island of Murano. Sometimes Referred to as the "Island of the Glass," you will visit



one of its famous glass factories and see the glass being manufactured and blown; afterwards head to Torcello, the most ancient of the inhabited islands. Continue to Burano, enjoy some free time in a typical fishing island with colorful contrasts and chocolate-box painted houses.

Venice Grand Canal Boat Tour

Duration: half day

Sail up the Grand Canal on a one-hour guided small group boat tour, and cruise along some of the smaller canals of Venice. The Grand Canal is without doubt the most spectacular 'High Street' in the world. It's lined with beautiful palaces constructed over hundreds of years - as you sail, you can easily imagine what it was like when it was lined with gardens, warehouses, stone masons, and squeri, where gondolas were built.

Discover why there are so many different styles of architecture, and why so many of the buildings are of Moorish or Eastern style. Experience first-hand why poets and writers, such as Shelly, Byron, and Browning, loved Venice so much. Then, nip down some of the city's waterways blackberries secluded, unreachable by foot. Cruise under picturesque bridges, and explore a quieter side to Venice, where the façades of the city can only be seen from the canals.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Wonderful boat trip on the river Mincio

Min. 15 people

Duration: half day

Fascinating boat trip on the River Mincio, entirely dedicated to nature in the most interesting area of the park still intact in its naturalness. Let's embark and descend the river towards Mantua, navigate lenses, slowly? Among reeds and water lilies, among the myriad of canals criss-crossing the vast expanse

of water, and admiring rare species of birds and the sun setting on the river, up to Lake Superior, theater in summer of the spectacular flowering of the lotus flowers. It offers unusual landscapes of a unique nature that presents different perspectives and views in every season, that only those who were born in these places can let you know. The excursions take place from March to November, from the port of Grazie di Curtatone (at the foot of the Sanctuary).

Mantua and Mincio Valleys in mountain bike (departure from Valeggio)

A discovery tour of the Mincio valleys by cycling along a flat course, also suitable for less experienced biker, with a stop in Massimbona to visit one of the oldest water mills dating from the year 1000. You will cycle along the River and its valleys on country roads or streets for the most part unpaved and short sections of cycle lanes or uncrowded paved roads, immersed in nature as far as Rivalta, where you will visit the museum of the river. The trail continues for "Le Grazie" where, through the dense maze of branches and canals that from the Mincio, you can see still wild and preserved areas that allow you to admire the natural vegetation of the marsh areas. By passing along the lakes surrounded by a green park you will reach the historic center of Mantua, ruled for centuries by the Gonzaga dynasty.

Points of interest covered by the tour:

- Borghetto
- Massimbona
- Goito
- Rivalta sul Mincio
- Sanctuary of Grace
- The valleys of the Mincio Natural Reserve
- Mantova

Duration: 7 h

GASTRONOMY

Visit of a typical mill and tasting of extra virgin olive oil with typical Euganean products

Duration: half day In the green of the protected area of the Euganean Hills, between Mount Ventolone and Monte Piccolo. Fine extra virgin olive oil is produced by respecting nature and the biological rules. We introduce you into this fascinating experience with a visit to the summer in particular the olive grove surrounding the mill, where expert staff will show you the processes of production of extra virgin olive oil and let you taste this precious gift of nature and together with local culinary excellences such as toasted bread with various pates, wine, cheese and salami. During the olive harvest in the period from mid-October to mid-December you can visit the mill in operation and experience the olive harvest in the field.

Wine tasting in the castle

Try a wine tasting experience in the enchanted atmosphere of the ancient wine cellar of the Castle! A professional Sommelier will guide you through this sensorial activity. A selection of elegant wines, best local cheeses and cold cuts wait for you!

Show cooking in the Castle

Max. 12 people

Duration: half day

An exclusive cooking class lasts three hours dedicated to all of you ! The creative and quirky chef will unveil its most exclusive culinary secrets . All the ingredients and equipment necessary will be provided by the restaurant , and you do not have to do is become cooks and so impress friends or surprise your partner with exclusive dishes!



EXPERIENCE IT

Discover some of Italy's most beautiful scenery and tastes on board of a vintage car. Rediscover the authentic sensations of driving, feelings that only a vintage car can give you: hearing the roar of the engine, feeling each vibration through the steering wheel and pedals through your entire body, knowing that no two curves are the same. Discover the tastes and sounds of the landscape you are driving through, maybe with the wind in your hair..

Let's live the encounter with a vintage car as an opportunity to appreciate all that surrounding landscapes, a scenic view, a monument, a sunset...
Enjoy feelings, sensations and emotions, capturing the pleasure of each instant behind the wheel!

