

GT Experiences

A REALM OF UNFORGETTABLE TRAVEL

# VENETO & FRIULI

Where The Wine Becomes Poetry





## VERONA

# VENETO & FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

## 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS

Venice, Verona, Trieste, Cison di Valmarino, the route of Collio, Aquileia, Asolo, Borghetto (Valeggio sul Mincio), Fagagna, Portobuffolè, Gradisca d'Isonzo, Palmanova, Spilimbergo, Ruttars, Cormons

### TOUR INTRODUCTION

Gentle hills of the Prosecco and the routes of the Collio wines, in a territory full of suggestive natural scenery .. an immense historical and artistic heritage jealously held in the enchanted city of Venice, Verona and Trieste, unique in the world .. wonderful Medieval villages where time seems to have stood still, traditional ancient flavors and charming hotels set in exclusive historical houses are just some of the fabulous emotional proposals of our amazing tours for your daydream holiday.

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1

Arrival at the airport and transfer to Cison di Valmarino area. Visit the borgo – 2 hours. Arrival to Cison di Valmarino Area. Acomodaton in historical house.

Cison di Valmarino, from Ottone I to Pierre Cardin, from Conte Brandolini and Anthon Van Dyck to Antonio Canova and Queen Margherita. The elegant and charming village of Cison di Valmarino retains many historic sites and an important architectural and artistic heritage which the testaments its ancient role of political, administrative and cultural center. It offers visitors a spectacular blend of nature and history. In the alpine region, the Brandolini Castle, built on a spur overlooking the town and the valley, contains within its walls 2.000 years of history. Dinner at leisure, return to historical house for an overnight.

#### Day 2

Option of transferring to Possagno and visit the Museum of Canova, or Fanzolo di Vedelago and visit of Villa Emo del Palladio, or transfer to Maser and visit Villa Barbarigo del Palladio

After breakfast depart for Asolo, the city of a hundred horizons. Defined by the writer Carducci “City of a hundred horizons,” Asolo is one of the most beautiful cities of Italy, gathering within the ancient walls that branch out from the castle, a fortress of the XII century that preserves evidence of its long history in every corner. Magical town with its rolling hills, Asolo was the ideal destination of poets and writers, artists and travelers, who have found inspiration and harmony here. Asolo is part of the “City of Wine” thanks to its typical wine making process and the respect for the environment and local identities. Tasting tour through the hills of Prosecco and light lunch.

A sublime light lunch tasting to enjoy traditional cheese and salami, combined with honey “del Grappa”, local herbs and radish, cherry or fig marinated mustard. To complete the menu, a tasting of a





## ASOLO

selection of local wines, including Prosecco Superiore DOCG Asolo.

Visit the Temple of Canova and the Gipsoteca of Possagno. We propose an interesting tour around the spectacular and exciting collection of plaster casts of Antonio Canova, guarded in his birthplace of Possagno, in the Venetian foothills. The white of his works reached the height of its splendor with the visit of the Temple of Canova, the church that he wanted to achieve for its citizens and where he is now buried.

The Palladian Villa Emo in Fanzolo di Veduggio. One of the most beautiful Venetian villas of Palladio and a UNESCO world heritage. The villa was designed for the noble Emo family in the mid '500 by Andrea Palladio and decorated with frescoes by Gian Battista Zelotti, a pupil of the famous artist Paolo Veronese. The interior decoration of the villa is linked to the agricultural scenes and allegorical scenes of elation and punishment of conjugal love, in a typical Renaissance style, but also celebrated scenes from mythology and the life in the fields.

The Palladian Villa Barbaro at Maser Masterpiece of Andrea Palladio, Villa Barbaro, with frescoes by Veronese and statues and stucco of Victoria, represents an artistic bond of great value, and a UNESCO world heritage. The villa is located halfway up the hills of Asolo, not far from a source that, according to the tradition, was a place of worship and perhaps also home to a temple. We will visit the halls containing one of the most extraordinary fresco cycles of the Venetian '500, made by the famous artist Paolo Veronese, with a particular focus on the architecture of the villa, considered one of the most valuable assets of the Venetian Renaissance.

Cooking class with lunch or dinner, in an elegant Venetian villa in Asolo. A unique experience!

Cooking class with renowned chefs in a magnificent Venetian Villa '600 at the foot of Asolo. Tasting of traditional Treviso recipes, based on seasonal food. The course takes about 2 hours and will be followed by lunch or dinner with the dishes prepared, in combination

with excellent local wines, famous all over the world. Lunch at leisure and return to Cison di Valmarino area for your overnight. **(B)**

### Day 3

After breakfast depart for Verona, the kiss city! Verona is a city made in layers, where on a base made of impressive Roman monuments and fascinating ruins, engage elegant Romanesque churches, towers, picturesque squares, houses and Renaissance and Gothic palaces, richly decorated during the long and prosperous Venetian period. Visiting the city you can admire all its aspects and its treasures hidden in the streets, in the secluded squares and under the arcades of the past. During the guided tour of Verona we will see the famous houses of Romeo and Juliet, picturesque Gothic masterpiece of the Scaligero period, Piazza dei Signori, a veritable open air museum of architecture, Piazza delle Erbe with the fountain of Madonna and the beautiful buildings that surround it, the Arena, the Roman amphitheater of the first century, and much more. Borghetto (Valeggio sul Mincio), a land-





## CISON DI VALMARINO

scape of great beauty on the River Mincio. **(B)**

### Day 4

After breakfast, depart for Portobuffolè, the village of lovers. Located on the banks of the river Livenza, Portobuffolè is a real jewel of the Renaissance which houses an amazing historical and artistic heritage. Under the Venetian domain this charming village got its maximum heyday, becoming an important river port. Rich in history, its center is a jewel in the open air with wonderful streets and buildings. Among the most important buildings and monuments are undoubtedly the home of Gaia da Camino, Porta Friuli and the Duomo. Among the Venetian villas in the municipal area of Portobuffolè we find Villa Giustinian Salice, currently converted into an elegant hotel-restaurant and Villa Turon.

Depart for enchanting Venice UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city of Venice is definitely one of the most picturesque, charming and beautiful cities in Italy and the world. Its origins date back to the barbarian invasions, when some people of Veneto cities took refuge in

the islands of the lagoon in 451 AD. It is located four kilometers far from the mainland, in the vast Adriatic lagoon that bears its name. The water present in every corner of the city, canals, buildings that seemed to come out from the sea, the ferries, speedboats, boats and the famous gondolas make Venice absolutely unique.

This wonderful city of art is an incomparable cultural, artistic and tourist center and is rightly a UNESCO World Heritage Site, not only for its artistic treasures, but also for the extraordinary interpenetration between human activities and natural landscape lagoons. We will visit the Grand Canal, San Marco Square, the Basilica of San Marco and the Rialto Bridge. **(B)**

### Day 5

Breakfast at your hotel. Depart for Spilimbergo, the land of mosaics. Spilimbergo, awarded as the “jewel of Italy” in 2013, takes its name from the Carinthian Spengenberg counts, that settled here around the eleventh century. Not to be missed are the Castle and the Cathedral of Santa Maria Maggiore,

one of the most important Gothic buildings in Friuli. Inside there is a cycle of frescoes of the fourteenth century with stories of the Old and New Testaments.

Of great value is also the organ of the sixteenth century. But Spilimbergo is best known as “the city of mosaics.” It is the capital of mosaic art in Friuli Venezia Giulia, with a Mosaic School that is unique all over the world.

Depart for Pamanova, Venetian masterpiece of 1200 army architecture, is a fortress city designed and built to defend the regional borders from foreign threats, especially Turks. It is a unique model city, nine-pointed starshaped perfectly symmetrical, with a central square. **(B, CT, WT)**

### Day 6

After breakfast, depart for Cividale del Friuli, between artistic treasures and Lombard atmospheres Cividale del Friuli, whose Lombard itinerary is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a treasure trove of art: walking through its historic center you can enjoy a special atmosphere, full of suggestions.





## VENICE

Cividale has jewelry that are not found elsewhere and maybe the most notably is the Lombard Temple, one of the most extraordinary early medieval western architecture. Altar Ratchis and the Baptistery of Callisto are outstanding examples of Lombard art, visible in the precious Christian Museum and Treasure of the Cathedral; in fact Cividale del Friuli was the seat of the first Lombard Duchy in Italy. But the town has always been a meeting point of cultures and peoples, from the Celts to the Romans, from the Carolingian to the Patriarchate of Aquileia.

Depart for Trieste, the mitteleuropean city Trieste is the fulcrum of the border mitteleuropean culture, with an eye to the Adriatic Sea and the other to the harsh karst headland. Surrounded by the scents of the Mediterranean, it is bright and shining more than ever when the air is made crisp by the wind. The beautiful buildings of Trieste are in neoclassical, Art Nouveau, Eclectic and Baroque style. They fit in well with Roman remains, eighteenth century and Hapsburg buildings.

Depart for Duino and enjoy a visit to the Duino Castle, a breathtaking view on the Gulf of Trieste Built on a karst rock overlooking the sea, with breathtaking views over the Gulf of Trieste, Duino Castle is a great tourist destination: its beauty is enhanced by the warm and joyful of the owners, members of the family of the Princes of Thurn und Taxis. Rich in history with popular legends, inextricably linked to the past of the surrounding area, which saw the glorious historical events and visits of famous people, Duino Castle, located a few kilometers from Trieste, is characterized by an incomparable romantic charm.

**(B, WT)**

### Day 7

Breakfast at your hotel. Depart for Ruttars, charming town in the heart of Collio. On top of the namesake hill, Ruttars is known for its wines and for its excellent trattorias (typical Italian restaurant). In the ancient part of the town, lies the Tower of Marquard (sec. XII), while on the slopes of the hill looms the mediaeval outline of the Castle Trussio (sec. XIII), which now houses an elegant restaurant.

Depart for Cormons, Habsburg cultural center Collio Cormons is the main center of the enchanting hilly area called Collio, a beautiful Hapsburg town; it is surrounded by small and picturesque villages on the border with Slovenia, such as Dolegna del Collio, San Floriano del Collio, Savogna d'Isonzo, where the Slav is spoken. Here the distance from the mountains and the sea is very short: the microclimate, unique for ventilation and temperature range, fits perfectly with the "ponka", the typical terrain of the Collio, ideal for growing grapes.

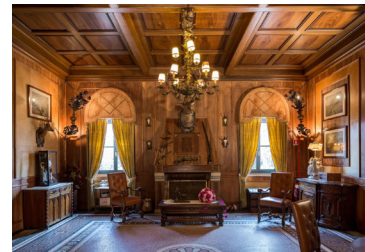
Cooking class at historical house in Gradisca d'Isonzo. An unmissable experience in a beautiful historical house to find out how to prepare tasty dishes from the Friuli culinary tradition. The experience includes 3 hours of lessons held by a famous chef, with the preparation of appetizers and 3 courses that you will taste for lunch. A nice apron and a useful and interesting book with the recipes of the dishes prepared will be yours at the end of the class. **(B, CC)**

### Day 8

After breakfast, depart for the airport for your return flight home.



# ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE CASTLES



## What's Included

- Round-trip airport to hotel transfers.
- 7 nights hotel accommodation in historical house
- Daily Breakfast
- Option of transferring to Possagno and visit the Museum of Canova, or Fanzolo di Vedelago and visit of Villa Emo del Palladio, or transfer to Maser and visit Villa Barbarigo del Palladio
- 1 wine tasting
- 1 wine tasting with typical products
- Visit the borgo in Asolo
- Guided tour in Verona of Piazza Bra. Arena, Piazza delle Erbe, Piazza dei Signori, House of Juliet with its famous balcony (half-day)
- Visit the borgos in Borghetto - Valeggio sul Mincio and Fagagna
- Visit Parco Sigurtà (from Mar - Nov.)
- Visit the borgo in Portobuffolè
- Sightseeing tours of (Grand Canal, Piazza San Marco, the Basilica of San Marco, the Rialto Bridge) – half-day
- Visit a Chocolate factory and tasting of local products

- Visit a ham factory and tasting of typical products: a cutting board of cold cuts and cheese mixed with a glass of wine
- Aquileia - Visit the town and the National Archaeological Museum – half-day
- Half-day sightseeing tour of Trieste
- Visit the Castle of Duino and wine cellar
- Cooking class in historical house
- Visit the borgo of Gradisca d'Isonzo

## Not Included

- Car rental with chauffeur available on request
- Drinks
- City tax (if expected)
- Extra, tips, and anything else that is not listed under “the price includes”

## Legend

<b>B</b>	Breakfast
<b>CC</b>	Cooking Class
<b>WT</b>	Wine Tasting



## OPTIONAL TOURS

Cison di Valmarino, from Otto I to Pierre Cardin, from Conte Brandolini and Anthon Van Dyck to Antonio Canova and Queen Margherita

The elegant and charming village of Cison Valamarino Retains many historic evidences and an important architectural and artistic heritage Which Testimony its ancient role of political, administrative and cultural center. It offers visitors a spectacular blend of nature and history. In the Alpine region, the Brandolini Castle, built on a spur overlooking the town and the valley, contains Within its walls 2,000 years of history.

**Asolo, the city of a hundred horizons**  
Defined by the writer Carducci “City of a hundred horizons”

Asolo is one of the most beautiful cities of Italy, gathering within the ancient walls that branch out from the castle, a fortress of the XII century that preserves evidence of its long history in every corner. Magical town with its rolling hills, Asolo was the ideal destination of poets and writers, artists and travelers, who have found inspiration and harmony here. Asolo is part of the “City of Wine” thanks to its typical wine-making process and the respect for the environment and local identities.

**Visit the Temple of Canova and the Gipsoteca of Possagno**

We propose you an interesting tour around the spectacular and exciting collection of plaster casts of Antonio Canova, guarded in his birthplace of Possagno, in the Venetian foothills. The white of his works reached the height of its splendor with the visit of the Temple of Canova, the church that he wanted to achieve for its citizens and where he is now buried.

**The Palladian Villa Emo in Fanzolo di Vedelago**

One of the most beautiful Venetian villas of Palladio and a UNESCO world heritage. The villa was designed for the noble Emo family in the mid ‘500 by Andrea Palladio and decorated with frescoes by Gian Battista Zelotti, a pupil of the famous artist Paolo Veronese. The interior decoration of the villa is linked to the agricultural scenes and allegorical scenes of elation and punishment of conjugal love, in a typical Renaissance style, but also celebrated scenes from mythology and the life in the fields.

**The Palladian Villa Barbaro at Maser Masterpiece of Andrea Palladio**

Villa Barbaro, with frescoes by Veronese and statues and stucco of Victoria, represents an artistic bond of inestimable value, and a UNESCO world heritage. The villa is located halfway up the hills of Asolo, not far from a source that, according to the tradition, was a place of worship and perhaps also home to a temple. We will visit the halls containing one of the most extraordinary fresco cycles of the Venetian ‘500, made by the famous artist Paolo Veronese, with a particular focus on the architecture of the villa, considered one of the most valuable assets of the Venetian Renaissance.

**Verona, the kiss city!**

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of the past. During the guided tour of Verona we will see the famous houses of Romeo and Juliet, picturesque Gothic masterpiece of the Scaligero period, Piazza dei Signori, a veritable open-air museum of architecture, Piazza delle Erbe with the fountain of Madonna and the beautiful buildings that surround it, the Arena, the Roman amphitheater of the first century, and much more.

**Borghetto (Valeggio sul Mincio), a landscape of great beauty on the River Mincio**

Borghetto, in the Municipality of Valeggio sul Mincio, is a beautiful village built in 1400 around a series of water mills to grind corn and grow rice along the river Mincio. It offers visitors a landscape of great natural beauty. It is a seamless integration between land and river that showcases the fascinating and impressive fortifications of the old Visconti Bridge, located in defense of a strategic ford. Enjoy great views of the wheels of water mills, and the charming melody of flowing waters.

**Fagagna, lovely medieval village at the foot of the Alps**

Greeted by the flight of storks of the Quadris, you will discover the village of Fagagna, a lovely medieval small town located in the rolling hills in the province of Udine. From the hill, with the castle ruins of the village, you will discover beautiful landscapes and breathtaking views.

Fagagna derives its name from the Latin fagus, beech, in reference to the forests that once surrounded this area of Friuli Venezia Giulia. The village of Fagagna, among the most beautiful villages in Italy, is made up of seven ancient and separate suburbs whose focal point was



given by the Castle, donated by Ottone II to the Church of Aquileia.

### Portobuffolè, the village of lovers

Located on the banks of the river Livenza, Portobuffolè is a real jewel of the Renaissance which houses an amazing historical and artistic heritage. Under the Venetian domain this charming village got its maximum heyday, becoming an important river port. Rich in history, its center is a jewel in the open air with wonderful streets and buildings. Among the most important buildings and monuments are undoubtedly the home of Gaia da Camino, Porta Friuli and the Duomo. Among the Venetian villas in the municipal area of Portobuffolè we find Villa Giustinian Salice, currently converted into an elegant hotel-restaurant and Villa Turon.

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### Ruttars, charming town in the heart of Collio

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restaurant. Guided visit of Nuoro, in the heart of Barbagia

### Cormons, Habsburg cultural center Collio

Cormons is the main center of the enchanting hilly area called Collio, a beautiful Habsburg town; it is surrounded by small and picturesque villages on the border with Slovenia, such as Dolegna del Collio, San Floriano del Collio, Savogna d'Isonzo, where the Slav is spoken. Here the distance from the mountains and the sea is very short: the microclimate, unique for ventilation and temperature range, fits perfectly with the “ponka”, the typical terrain of the Collio, ideal for growing grapes.

### Gradisca d'Isonzo, a small Renaissance gem

Gradisca d'Isonzo, is an enchanting village, full of Renaissance palaces and public institutions. Here in 1500, Leonardo da Vinci was able to experience new techniques of defense, ensuring to the village protection and safety. Besides the architectural beauty, here are numerous culinary delights such as salami and cheeses, and the prized DOC wines produced by the many vines nestled in the rolling hills of the Collio, as Sauvignon, Merlot, Refosco and Pinot.

## GASTRONOMY

### Tasting tour through the hills of Prosecco and light lunch

A sublime light lunch tasting to enjoy traditional cheese and salami, combined with honey “del Grappa”, local herbs and radish, cherry or fig marinated mustard. To complete the menu, a tasting of a selection of local wines, including Prosecco Superiore DOCG Asolo.

### Visit a winery in Cormons and tasting of 2 wines accompanied by local salami and cheeses

Cormons is the “heart” of the Collio. Since ancient times it was famous for the production of wine and fruit. Here,

we find the famous “Vine of the world”, over 400 grapes coming from 5 different continents. The grapes are harvested together to produce the “Wine of Peace”, which, every year, is issued to heads of state from around the world as an invitation to peace and brotherhood.

### Cooking class with lunch or dinner, in an elegant Venetian villa in Asolo. A unique experience!

Cooking class with renowned chefs in a magnificent Venetian Villa ‘600 at the foot of Asolo. Tasting of traditional Treviso recipes, based on seasonal food. The course takes about 2 hours and will be followed by lunch or dinner with the dishes prepared, in combination with excellent local wines, famous all over the world.

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