



# Beyond Venice:

small towns,  
great food & wine

Viaggio Italia Travel  
escorted tour

## 2020 dates and prices

5 - 14 April 2020

\$3850

## Highlights

*Join us on a 10-day escorted small group tour roaming beautiful towns scattered throughout the Veneto region of northern Italy; starting in Venice and continuing on to great places including Treviso, Padua, Vicenza, Verona, Bassano Del Grappa, and Sirmione.*

- Personally-escorted 10-day tour with expert local guides in each location
- Stays in Venice, Padova and Verona
- Visit beautiful towns and villages that most tourists miss, including Treviso, Cittadella and Bassano del Grappa
- Take a day trip to the Valpolicella wine district for wine and food tasting
- Explore the small towns on Lake Garda on a day trip, including Sirmione and Bardolino
- Guided walking tours, including evening tours of Venice's quieter areas, the chance to sample some great Venetian cicchetti, and to experience Giotto's frescoes on the Scrovegni Chapel in Padova, explore Vincenzo's Palladian past and look for Romeo at Juliette's balcony in Verona
- Enjoy wine tasting and vineyard tour at the famous Villa Calicantus near Lake Garda
- Great food, great wine, great new friends



Most tourists arrive in and depart from Venice with barely a thought about the places they will have passed on the train or motorway. Yet the area to the west of Venice is full of great towns and offers excellent wine and food experiences.



It's so nice to get away from the busiest tourist areas and to venture out to see the real Italy.

[www.viaggioitaliatravel.com.au](http://www.viaggioitaliatravel.com.au)

## Your itinerary

10 days roaming beautiful towns scattered throughout the Veneto; starting in Venice and continuing on to great places including Treviso, Padua, Vicenza, Verona, Bassano Del Grappa, and Bardolino.

### Day 1 – Welcome to Venice

Guests will be arriving at different times and your hosts will be on hand to assist when you check into your hotel and to help orient you. You will then have free time until 5:00pm, when all our guests will join together for a welcome drink and the chance to talk about your time in the Veneto region. Later we will take a walk to familiarise you with the local area before taking a guided evening tour to explore some of Venice's quieter areas. This will finish at a lovely Venetian restaurant for our first meal together, and the opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers.

**Inclusions:** Welcome drinks, orientation walk, guided evening tour of Venice

**Meals:** Dinner



### Day 2 – A first excursion into the Veneto - Treviso



Treviso is an attractive town in the Veneto region, with a population of around 80,000. A regional train will have you in Treviso in around half an hour. Your group will be met at Treviso by an expert local guide who will take you on a journey that explains Treviso's colourful past and lead you through the town's rambling maze of streets lined with arcaded walkways. The town is circled by a town wall and by waterways and canals that flow around the town, past houses, grassy banks, weeping willows, waterwheels and little parks. The town's defensive walls, moat and imposing gateways are impressive sights. It's a great first step into the Veneto. After some free time to explore the town independently, you'll return to Venice later in the afternoon.

**Inclusions:** Return train pass, guided tour of Treviso

**Meals:** Breakfast



### Day 3 – Cannaregio and cicchetti

Today is yours to explore Venice independently until later in the afternoon. If you've not been to Venice before, there are some 'must dos', and you are a return-visitor you'll know the joys of just getting lost in Venice's myriad of little lanes and canals. Later you will join us for a special guided walk: into Venice's Cannaregio area to explore the peaceful old commercial canals and learn how to enjoy the Venetian approach to the aperitivo: cicchetti (pronounced chi-KET-tee), which are local appetizers that line the counters of little bars all over town at the end of each workday. It's a local tradition to celebrate this time of day with a cool drink and some appetising nibbles, so your tour will end at a lovely authentic Venetian bar to enjoy a quiet drink whilst you sample a range of treats from one of Venice's best cicchetti bars. These can



include treats such as like deep-fried mozzarella cheese, calamari, artichoke hearts, crostini (small toasted bread with a topping), marinated seafood, olives, and prosciutto with melon. It's a great way to experience the local culture, and usually we don't have room left for dinner!



**Inclusions:** Walking tour of Cannaregio tour, including drinks and cicchetti

**Meals:** Breakfast, cicchetti

#### ***Day 4 – Padova or Padua? (It's Padova but the locals don't really mind)***

Today you will leave Venice, taking the vaporetto – or local waterbus – to Piazzale Roma where you'll be taken by private minibus for the hour-long trip to Padova (called Padua in English). You'll arrive at your hotel which is right by the amazing Prato piazza. After settling in you'll enjoy a guided tour of Padova: a city that is both a living religious monument and centre of revolutionary scientific learning. Having one of Italy's major universities means Padova has a young and vibrant feel which you'll get to know as you explore its piazzas and alleyways. You'll also get to visit the amazing Scrovegni Chapel to see the brilliant frescoes created by Giotto in about 1305 and considered to be a masterpiece of Western art. You'll be provided with a Padua Card, which will give you free use of Padova's easy to use tram system as well as entry to a range of museums and galleries to explore in your free time in the city over the next two days. Later you'll join us for a lovely group meal in a local restaurant.

**Inclusions:** Vaporetto pass, private minibus transfer to Padova, 2-day Padua Pass, entry to the Scrovegni Chapel, guided tour of Padova

**Meals:** Breakfast, dinner

#### ***Day 5 – Vicenza: Palladian wonders***



Vicenza – a short drive by minivan from Padova – was a prosperous town under Venetian rule, and its pride was demonstrated in fine architecture, much of which still survives today. The streets and piazzas of Vicenza are dotted with impressive works of influential sixteenth-century architect Andrea Palladio and have resulted in the town being a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994. You'll be met in Vicenza by your local guide, who will take

you on a tour of the town and help you to understand the importance of Palladio: not only in his time but to architectural design across centuries as you explore the old city center, from the wonderful Piazza dei Signori to the famous Teatro Olimpico. After some free time to independently explore Vicenza, we'll return to Padova.

**Inclusions:** Return transfers by private minivan to Vicenza, guided tour of Vicenza

**Meals:** Breakfast



#### ***Day 6 – A day in the Veneto***

Today you will be picked up at your hotel to venture out by small bus further into the Veneto. First stop will be the lovely little town of Cittadella: notable for its remarkable medieval fortifications with the centre of town enclosed within a tall circular wall, studded with towers and ringed by a moat. Next stop will be a guided tour of Bassano del Grappa, best known for its covered bridge over the Brenta, the strong grappa liqueur produced in the area, and locally-produced ceramics. Your final destination today will be Marostica: a picturesque town, with a hill crowned with a large ruined castle with walls descending to enclose the hillside and the town centre below in a protective embrace. Marostica bills itself as the 'City of Chess': every two years a medieval-themed festival is held here, when a giant chess game is enacted with human chess-pieces.



**Inclusions:** Guided tour of Bassano del Grappa, walking visits to Cittadella and Marostica, private bus transport

**Meals:** Breakfast

#### ***Day 7 – Verona: Juliette and that balcony....***

After a few great days in Padova, today you transfer to Verona. You'll be taken by private minivan to your hotel in the historical centre and settling in, you'll take a guided tour of the city. Verona is a bustling centre; its heart dominated by a mammoth, remarkably well-preserved 1st-century amphitheatre, the venue for the city's annual summer opera festival. Add to that countless churches, a couple of architecturally fascinating bridges over the Adige, regional wine and food from the Veneto hinterland and some impressive art, and Verona shapes up as one of northern Italy's most attractive cities. During the tour you'll wander great open spaces such as Piazza Brà and Piazza Erbe and hear the story of how the city prospered under the



rule of the Scaliger family, and you'll enjoy even get to visit Juliette's balcony (but pay attention to the story behind that....).

After the tour, there'll be plenty of time to go exploring. It's an easy city to find your way around and your hotel is very central. Later you'll enjoy a lovely group dinner.

**Inclusions:** Transfer to Verona by private minivan, guided tour of Verona

**Meals:** Breakfast, dinner

**Day 8 – Valpolicella wine adventure**

Today you'll take a small bus tour out into Valpolicella: a hilly agricultural and marble-quarrying region just outside Verona that is famous for wine production. Valpolicella ranks just after Chianti in total Italian DOC wine production. Valpolicella's scenic vineyards start in the fertile plain and climb up to the hills north of Verona, offering a magnificent view over the town. This is an area full of history, culture and some of the best Italian wine. As well as enjoying the countryside, you'll get to visit wineries and learn the subtle differences between some of the various wines for which the area is rightfully famous, as well as stopping for a typical local lunch with a little more of that great local wine to savour.

**Inclusions:** Private bus tour, including wine-tastings.

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch

**Day 9 – Beautiful Lake Garda**

Today you're going to visit beautiful Lake Garda, where you'll enjoy a day visiting some of the pretty small towns that dot its southern shores. The largest lake in Italy draws a cosmopolitan crowd who flock annually to these pretty little villages, whose winding lines and piazzas are filled with shops, bars and restaurants. Our private minibus will collect us from Verona for the trip. First stop is Bardolino on the eastern side of the lake, but on the way you'll stop at one of the region's famous wineries for a wine tasting of organic Bardolino wines, each matched with a different kind of local or homemade food (salami, cheeses, bread, olive oil) as a light lunch. After free time in Bardolino, you'll head down to lovely Lazise, before driving over to Sirmione. This popular town sits on a peninsula that pokes out into the lake and has been inhabited since Roman times. We'll wander the town and enjoy a boat tour to get a great view of the famous castle and the Grotte di Catullo. When you return to Verona later in the day, you can rest up for a while before you head out to enjoy our final night group dinner at a local restaurant.

**Inclusions:** Transport by minibus, wine tasting, boat tour of Sirmione peninsula

**Meals:** Breakfast, light lunch, dinner

**Day 10 – Farewell from Verona**

This is our last morning in Verona. We will be available to assist in your transfers to the airport or the rail.

**Meals:** Breakfast

*\*See next page*

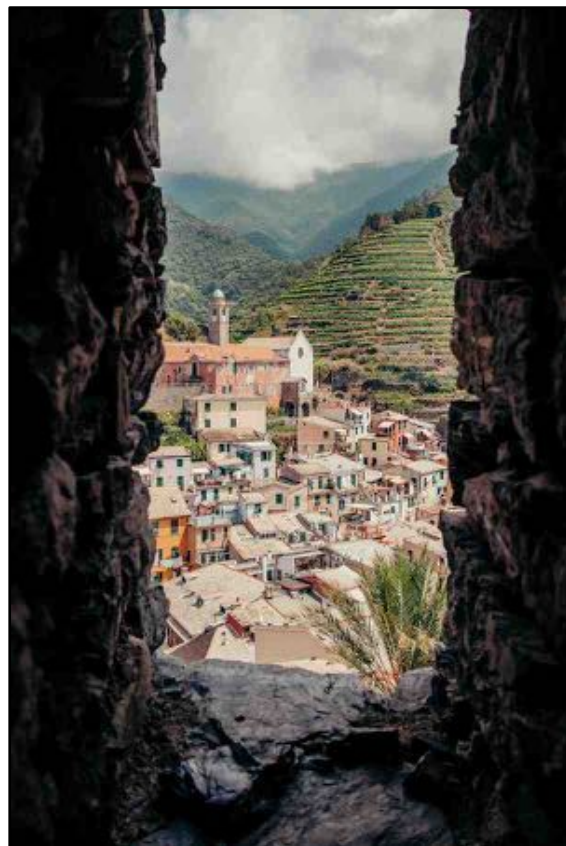
**Any questions? Just ask us!**

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at all about this wonderful tour! We're here to help!

**Viaggio Italia Travel**

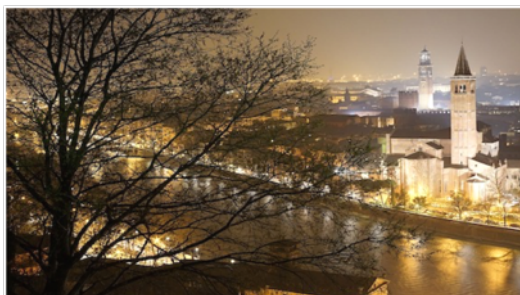
**m:** 0423 283 927

**e:** [info@viaggioitaliatravel.com.au](mailto:info@viaggioitaliatravel.com.au)



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## Useful information

### Tour pace and physical requirements

The tour is easy-paced, and we stay at least 3 nights in each location, so we aren't moving hotels every day. There will be walking tours of up to 3-4 hours in duration and some full day excursions (such as to the Bassano del Grappa). We use regional trains at times, although most transfers are by private minivans. The trains are great, although some trains require a few steps to get on board or to alight. In Venice, we will travel by vaporetto – the local water taxi.

The tour provides a good balance between organised tours and time to explore independently.

### Transport

- Minivans or minibuses
- Train (regional trains)
- Vaporetto
- Local trams and buses
- Boats

### Hotels

All hotels have been personally selected and are reviewed after every tour. Most are 3-4 star hotels.

A single supplement is available on request. We do not add a margin to this – it is simply what hotels charge us.

### Inclusions

- Shared twin hotel accommodation including city taxes
- Maximum 6 guests per tour
- Transfers to and from hotel with luggage
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners (plus cicchetti!)
- Fulltime tour director and licensed local guides
- Day tours and activities as listed in the itinerary
- All entry fees to tour locations and other listed activities

### The tour does not include:

- Drinks and extras in hotel unless indicated in the itinerary

- Anything not mentioned in the "Inclusions" section or itinerary

Please be sure to read our Terms and Conditions, which you can find on our website at:

<https://www.viaggioitaliatravel.com.au/bookings>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We are a family-owned company, and we want to make sure you know all you need to about our tours so that you can be well-prepared and have a great time with us.

Grazie mille!!

*Gary*



m: 0423 283 927

e: [info@viaggioitaliatravel.com.au](mailto:info@viaggioitaliatravel.com.au)

[www.viaggioitaliatravel.com.au](http://www.viaggioitaliatravel.com.au)

