JOURNEY THROUGH THE VENETO

VINEYARDS, VILLAS AND VENICE

1 - 14 June 2027

OVERVIEW

AUD 10, 970
P.P. (double/twin-share)

AUD 12, 870
P.P. (solo traveller)

Nestled in northeastern Italy, the Veneto offers a picturesque escape with enchanting landscapes and rich history. The Republic of Venice, known as "*La Serenissima*", was a sovereign state that existed for over a thousand years. This tour explores some territories ruled by the republic on mainland Italy that correspond to today's Veneto region.

Explore the city of Venice, boasting stunning canals and marvellous architecture. Visit charming small cities like Verona, Vicenza, and Padua, famous for their romantic ambience and exceptional cultural heritage. Discover the rich agricultural heritage and typical products, including rice, cheese and prosecco. Indulge in the region's renowned cuisine and world-class wines, making Veneto a truly captivating destination.

On the tour, we stay in just four bases: three nights in Venice, three nights in the Prosecco Hills, four nights in Vicenza and three nights in Verona.

Since 2007, we've been designing itineraries for people who are fascinated by Italy and believe that a holiday is best experienced in good company. Our small groups (maximum of 12 people) and carefully chosen itineraries ensure you will have a delightful and authentic Italian holiday.

We travel at a relaxed pace, with plenty of free time, so you can make the most of your time in Italy without racing from one city to another.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN VENICE

Our tour begins with three nights based in Venice, the capital of the Veneto and, historically, the centre of the vast Venetian maritime republic, a leading power in medieval and Renaissance Europe.

Arrive at our hotel and check in. We meet in the evening for aperitivi and welcome dinner.

Overnight: Venice

DAY 2 - AN INTRODUCTION TO VENICE

This morning, we begin our Venetian adventure with a walking tour led by a local expert. Our guide will provide a fascinating introduction to Venice, revealing how this remarkable city was built and how it evolved into the marvel it is today. You'll hear captivating stories about Venice's rise and decline, and learn about the unique aspects of its history and architecture and discover the stories behind the grand palaces and gain insights into the city's rich cultural heritage.

Following our morning guided tour, the afternoon is free for you to explore at your leisure, allowing you to discover Venice's hidden treasures at your own pace. You may choose to visit San Marco or the Doge's Palace (please consider booking in advance - ask Philippa for help!).

Overnight: Venice

"I have been on many big bus tours in the past- I will never go back to that! This trip has opened my eyes to this new way of travelling – it is great!!
The places we visited on this trip were truly beautiful and breathtaking vistas. There was a great balance of guided tours vs free time. The hotels were nice as well – and the location couldn't be better!!."
Nadia (2023)

DAY 3 - VENICE'S ARTISANS

This morning, we'll explore a different side of Venice—one shaped not by grand monuments but by the work of its artisans. For centuries, skilled craftspeople were the backbone of everyday life in the city. Today, only a handful remain, quietly continuing their trades in small workshops tucked away from the busy tourist routes.

With our local guide, we'll visit some of these studios, where traditional techniques are still used to produce masks, paper, glass, and other beautiful objects. These visits offer insight into the crafts and a way of life under real threat. Meeting the artisans and learning about their stories is a chance to understand Venice through the people who help preserve its cultural identity.

Overnight: Venice

DAY 4 - THE VENETIAN LAGOON

Today, we're taking a relaxed journey into the heart of the Venetian Lagoon aboard a private boat. Burano greets you with its vibrant colours, pretty houses, and lanes; Torcello, with its ancient church, offers a window into the lagoon's beginnings, with dazzling mosaics and weathered stones. It's a day to sense the daily rhythms, where history isn't distant but right there in the peeling paint and aged bricks.

After our boat adventure, our transfer will take us to our new base in the Prosecco Hills.

Overnight: Rolle (Prosecco Hills)

DAY 5 - PROSECCO HILLS

Today, we begin exploring the Prosecco Hills, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its steep vineyards and quiet charm. We'll visit the village of Cison di Valmarino, with its elegant stone houses and long history, and stop at nearby Follina, home to a striking 12th-century abbey that once served pilgrims and monks.

We'll take a scenic drive through some of the most iconic parts of the Prosecco wine road, where vines cling to hillsides and the landscape changes at every bend. Along the way, we'll stop for a guided tasting at a renowned boutique winery, where you'll learn more about the production process and taste the wines that have made this region famous.

Overnight: Rolle (Prosecco Hills)

DAY 6 - RURAL TRADITIONS IN THE PROSECCO HILLS

Today, we head deeper into the countryside to explore some of the lesser-known corners of the Veneto. Our first stop is Valmorel, where we'll visit the Latteria Turnaria. This small community-run dairy still produces cheese using traditional methods. It's a rare chance to see how local life and cooperative practices continue in this tucked-away village.

We'll also visit the medieval church of San Pietro di Feletto, where you can admire centuries-old frescoes, and stop at the Molinetto della Croda, a picturesque old watermill nestled into the hillside. It's a gentle day, full of quiet charm and rural stories that bring another side of the Veneto to life.

Overnight: Rolle (Prosecco Hills)

DAY 7 - FROM PROSECCO HILLS TO VICENZA, VIA ASOLO AND MAROSTICA

This morning, we'll say goodbye to the Prosecco Hills as we set out for our next base in Vicenza. We'll stop at the picturesque town of Asolo, often called the "town of a hundred horizons" thanks to its breathtaking hilltop views. Asolo has long attracted poets, artists, and even royalty, including Queen Caterina Cornaro of Cyprus, who retired here and helped establish the town as a centre of Renaissance culture. It's a perfect spot for a morning coffee and a gentle stroll through the town's historic centre.

In the afternoon, we'll stop in Marostica, a town famous for its medieval castle and unique piazza paved like a chessboard. Marostica's history is rich with legend: every two years, the piazza hosts a giant chess game played with live costumed players, commemorating a 15th-century event. After soaking up the town's charm and enjoying some free time, we'll continue to Vicenza, where we'll check into our hotel and settle in for the next few days.

Overnight: Vicenza

DAY 8 - VICENZA AND THE LEGACY OF PALLADIO

Today, we'll delve into the elegance and history of Vicenza with a guided walking tour led by a local expert. Our morning will take us through the city's graceful streets, focusing on the legacy of Andrea Palladio, the renowned Renaissance architect whose designs shaped much of Vicenza's character. A morning highlight will be our visit to the Teatro Olimpico, Palladio's stunning indoor theatre, with its intricate stage set and perfect proportions.

In the afternoon, we'll reconvene to visit Villa Valmarana ai Nani, a noble residence perched just outside Vicenza. While not by Palladio himself, the villa reflects the elegance of the Palladian style and is best known for its remarkable 18th-century frescoes by Giambattista and Giandomenico Tiepolo. The father's grand mythological scenes and the son's more playful, everyday vignettes offer a vivid glimpse into Venetian life and taste at the time. Outside, a row of stone dwarfs—i nani—lines the garden wall, lending the villa its name and a touch of eccentric charm. After our visit, we'll return to Vicenza for the evening.

Overnight: Vicenza

DAY 9 - EXPLORING THE EUGANEAN HILLS AND VALSANZIBIO

This morning, we'll leave Vicenza behind for a scenic drive through the Euganean Hills, known for their volcanic slopes, vineyards, and natural beauty. We'll visit the Valsanzibio Gardens, one of

Europe's finest examples of a Baroque garden. Designed in the 17th century, the garden is a maze of elegant fountains, hidden pathways, and classical sculptures. In this peaceful escape, every turn reveals a new perspective.

After our visit, we'll return to Vicenza, with the afternoon free for you to enjoy at your leisure. Whether you prefer to relax at a café, explore more of the city's streets and shops, or soak up the atmosphere, the rest of the day is yours.

Overnight: Vicenza

DAY 10 - PADOVA AND THE SCROVEGNI CHAPEL

Our itinerary for the day is to explore Padova, a delightful city that has been integral to Veneto's history since pre-Roman times. Accompanied by our guide, we will marvel at this city: the interconnecting piazze, the beautiful urban fabric, and one of the oldest universities in the world, all of which helped earn the city's historical centre UNESCO World Heritage status.

The highlight of the day will be the Scrovegni Chapel. Giotto's fresco cycle is one of the most significant pieces of early Renaissance work to have reached us today. The artist used techniques and introduced aspects into his work (human emotions, realism) that were groundbreaking then and awe-inspiring to this day.

Overnight: Vicenza

DAY 11 - LAKE GARDA, THE VALPOLICELLA HILLS AND ON TO VERONA

Our time in Vicenza comes to a close as we head towards Verona, with a day full of stunning scenery and local flavours. First, we'll make our way to the shores of Lake Garda, stopping in the charming lakeside town of Lazise. With its medieval walls, pretty harbour, and relaxed atmosphere, it's perfect for a gentle stroll and perhaps a coffee by the water.

Leaving the lakeside behind, we'll continue into the Valpolicella Hills, a landscape of rolling vineyards and stone villages. At the hilltop village of San Giorgio di Valpolicella, you'll enjoy breathtaking views over the countryside and back towards the lake, accompanied by a relaxed lunch in a local spot.

The day continues with a visit to a Valpolicella cantina, where you'll sample some of the region's celebrated wines and learn a little more about the traditions of this renowned wine region. As the afternoon draws to a close, we'll arrive in Verona, check into our hotel, and get ready to explore the city.

Overnight: Verona

DAY 12- VERONA AND OPERA UNDER THE STARS

Enjoy a slow morning in Verona with no scheduled activities—perfect for a relaxed breakfast, a walk along the Adige River, or a browse through the shops and markets. In the afternoon, we'll take a guided walking tour with a local expert, bringing Verona's layered history to life. From Roman ruins and medieval lanes to Renaissance palaces and frescoed churches, this city blends the ancient with the elegant in a way that's uniquely its own.

In the evening, we'll come together for one of the highlights of the tour: a performance of La Traviata at the Arena di Verona. Set inside the city's iconic Roman amphitheatre, this open-air opera is a spectacular experience and a true celebration of Italian culture.

Overnight: Verona

DAY 13 - GARDENS, COUNTRYSIDE AND A PEACEFUL VILLAGE

After a late night at the opera, today unfolds at a gentler pace. We leave the city behind and head for the countryside to visit Parco Giardino Sigurtà, a vast landscaped park known for its sweeping lawns, reflective pools, and bursts of seasonal colour. You'll have time to explore at your own pace—whether it's a quiet walk along shaded paths or simply enjoying the peace of this beautifully maintained garden.

Next, we make our way to Valeggio sul Mincio, a charming village known for its fairytale setting and rich culinary tradition. We'll enjoy lunch at a local trattoria, where handmade tortellini take centre stage, followed by time to stroll through the cobbled streets or along the river. Later in the afternoon, we return to Verona for a final relaxed evening.

Overnight: Verona

DAY 14 - FAREWELLS

The tour finishes this morning in Verona. Verona is well-connected to Venice and Milan by the fast train network, and Verona Airport has flights to many European capitals. Get in touch if you'd like advice on arranging your onward travel.

Overnight: NA (B)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

STAY

❖ 3 nights in Venice in a lovely, quiet hotel off the tourist track

❖ 3 nights in Rolle in the Prosecco Hills in an agriturismo immersed in the vineyards

❖ 4 nights in a hotel in the centre of Vicenza

❖ 3 nights in a hotel in the centre of Verona, just moments from the Arena and Piazza Bra

INCLUSIONS

❖ A dedicated tour leader will be on hand for the duration of the tour

❖ Breakfast daily and 5 lunches and 5 dinners (wine, or something softer if you would prefer, included with all lunches and dinners)

❖ All land travel in Italy in private, air-conditioned mini-coach

❖ Entry fees to all attractions listed in the itinerary

❖ Expert, local guides at many of the attractions

❖Tickets to an opera performance at the Arena in Verona

❖ All gratuities and local taxes

WEATHER

June is a beautiful time to visit this part of Italy. It is the start of summer, so temperatures during the day can be warm, but the evenings are still cool.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

We don't place any age limits on clients and welcome anyone with good physical fitness. Specifically, you should be comfortable on your feet for up to 3 hours with short breaks and confident on the cobblestones and uneven surfaces.

BOOKING

If you would like to book a place on this or any other tour or have questions about the itinerary, please don't hesitate to contact Luca or Philippa at Italian Tours.

P 02 9358 4923

E ciao@italiantours.com.au