

DISCOVERING BRESCIA

and its province





An important history



The joy of a holiday



The passion for sport



Discovering the city and province of Brescia:

Unspoilt woods and mountains in the Alpine valleys, three lakes each with its own character - Mediterranean Garda, Nordic Idro and calm, romantic Iseo.

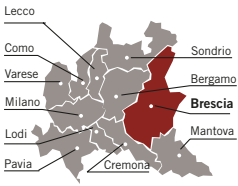
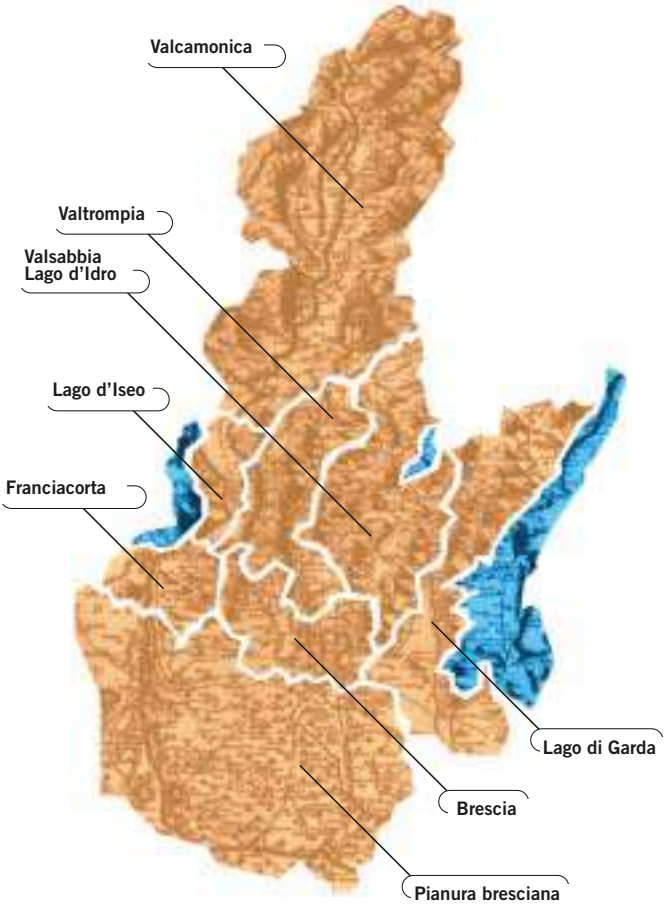
The gentle hills of Franciacorta and the expanse of the Lombardy Plain where country villas and castles stand among the lines of poplars.

And of course the city of Brescia itself with its rich architectural and artistic history.



These are the settings the visitor will enjoy while touring the province where artistic and cultural interests can be mixed with the relaxation of a winter or summer holiday spent discovering nature, enjoying sport or simply appreciating fine food and wines.





Brescia,
its art
and history



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Brescia

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Lake Garda



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Valsabbia
Lake Idro



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Brescia, its art and history

- Rock-carvings at Capo di Ponte, Valcamonica (6000 B.C. - 1st c. A.D.)

- Rock-carvings at Luine (Darfo Boario Terme)

- Grotte di Catullo at Sirmione (1st c. B.C. - 1st c. A.D.)



- in Brescia: The Capitolium and Forum (1st c. A.D.)
The Theatre (3rd c. A.D.)
The Roman domus (2nd - 3rd c. B.C.)



10.000 B.C.

753 B.C.

753 B.C.

476 A.D.

PREHISTORY

PREHISTORIC SITES:

- Remedello
- Soiano del Lago
- Lonato
- Cidnean Hill in Brescia

MUSEUMS:

- Gavardo Museum

THE ROMAN ERA

MUSEUMS:

- Santa Giulia. The City Museum in Brescia
- "Anton Maria Mucchi" Archeological Museum in Salò
- The Archeological Museum in Cividate Camuno



- Other rock-carvings in Valcamonica at Ceto, Nadro, Paspardo, Cimbergo



- Roman villa at Desenzano (4th c. B.C.) (4th c. A.D.)



- Monastery of Santa Giulia in Brescia (8th - 15th c.)



- Duomo Vecchio in Brescia (11th c.)

- Church of San Salvatore at Capo di Ponte (11th c.)



- The Broletto in Brescia (13th c.)



476

1400

THE MIDDLE AGES

MUSEUMS:

- Santa Giulia.
The City Museum



- Abbey of San Pietro in Lamosa in Provaglio d'Iseo (11th c.)



- Sirmione Castle (13th c.)

- Frescoes by Pietro Da Cemmo:
Convent
dell'Annunciata
at Ossimo
(15th c.)



- Palazzo della Loggia
in Brescia
(1492-c.1570)



- Padernello
Castle
(15th c.)



1400

1580

THE RENAISSANCE

MUSEUMS:

- Tosio Martinengo
Art Gallery in Brescia



- Santa Maria
della Neve
at Pisogne:
Frescoes
by Gerolamo
Romanino
(1532-1534)



- Masters
of Brescian
painting
(Vincenzo
Foppa,
Gerolamo
Savoldo,
Gerolamo
Romanino,
Moretto)



- Villa Lechi at Erbusco (17th c.)



- Teatro Grande in Brescia (18th-19th c.)

- Way of the Cross at Cerveno (18th-19th c.)



- The Vittoriale at Gardone Riviera (house of G. D'Annunzio 1921-1938)

1580

1800

1800

1950

BAROQUE ERA and NEOCLASSICISM

19TH and 20TH CENTURIES

MUSEUMS:

- Risorgimento Museum in Brescia
- The Tower at S.Martino della Battaglia



- "Manna from Heaven" and "The sacrifice of Melchisedech" by G.B. Tiepolo in the Parish church at Verolanuova (1738)

- Villa Fenaroli at Rezzato (1735-1760)



- Piazza della Vittoria in Brescia (1932)



B r e s c i a

and its **surroundings**



Brescia is the custodian of a rich heritage of art and history from prehistoric times to the modern day and heir to a culture of traditional crafts, industry and trade which today puts it at the top of the Italian economic league. Brescia welcomes tourists with museums, shows, exhibitions, fine cuisine, shopping, nature and sport. For a holiday that combines culture, relaxation and enjoyment, it is the place to come.



- 1 Piazza del Foro with the Capitolium and Palazzo Martinengo
- 2 Santa Giulia City Museum
- 3 Piazza Paolo VI with the Broletto, Duomo Vecchio e Duomo Nuovo
- 4 Church of San Francesco
- 5 The Pallata Tower
- 6 Piazza della Loggia
- 7 Teatro Grande
- 8 Tosio Martinengo Art Gallery
- 9 Church of Santi Nazaro e Celso with Titian's Polyptych
- 10 The Castle with the Ancient Arms and Risorgimento Museums



Brescia's history

1200 B.C. The first settlement was made, probably by the Liguri tribe, on the Cidnean Hill.

4th c. B.C. The Gallic Cenomani tribe settled at the foot of the Cidnean Hill and made the town their centre.

89 B.C. Brixia became a Roman colony.

27 B.C. Emperor Augustus conferred the title "Colonia Civica Augusta" on the town. Under the Roman Empire the town became one of the main Cisalpine centres and took on growing importance as a trading and



The name Brescia

is derived from Brixia whose Celtic root "brig" means hill. The first local settlement was made on the Cidnean Hill where the Castle stands today. A second high point which overlooks Brescia is Monte Maddalena (875 m high) whose summit can be reached via a panoramic road.

manufacturing centre.

568 - 773 The town was one of the 36 Lombard duchies in Italy.

774 - 888 The town passed into the hands of the Franks.

12th-13th c. Comunale Period - Brescia was a Guelph town between the two Ghibelline towns of Bergamo and Cremona and was often involved in border fighting. Faced by the danger of Federico Barbarossa, it joined the Lombard League.

14th-15th c. The Period of the Signorie was tumultuous for Brescia: the city was fought over by various families (Angioini, Visconti, Malatesta) who dominated it for different periods.

1426 Brescia became part of the



"Luigi Marzoli"
Ancient Arms Museum:
display sword



Venetian Republic where it remained, with short breaks, for four centuries. **1797** After rebellion in Venice the Brescian Republic was established and became part

of the Cisalpine Republic under the Treaty of Campoformio signed by Napoleon. **1814-1859** Brescia passed under the Lombard Veneto rule but in **1849** during the heroic "Ten Days", which won it the name of the "Lioness of Italy", it

rebelled against the Austrians (who abandoned it 10 days later). **1859** Brescia was annexed into the Kingdom of Italy. **1943-1945** Salò became the capital of the Social Italian Republic which included Brescia until the fall of Fascism.



- 1 Piazza del Foro
- 2 Capitolium Theatre
- 3 Basilica
- 4 Santa Giulia-City Museum



Aerial view of the Capitolium

Roman Brescia

Roman Brescia is likely to be an unexpected pleasure for the visitor. Found right in the heart of

the city is one of northern Italy's most interesting archeological sites. Since the beginning of the 19th century public and private Roman buildings have

the Capitoline Temple, the Theatre, the Basilica as well as private houses with mosaics and frescoes (particularly impressive are the *Domus del Ninfeo* and the *Domus dell'Ortaglia* in the Museum of Santa Giulia). In what is still called piazza del Foro (Forum Square) - the centre of Roman civil and religious life - the two main streets of the city crossed, the

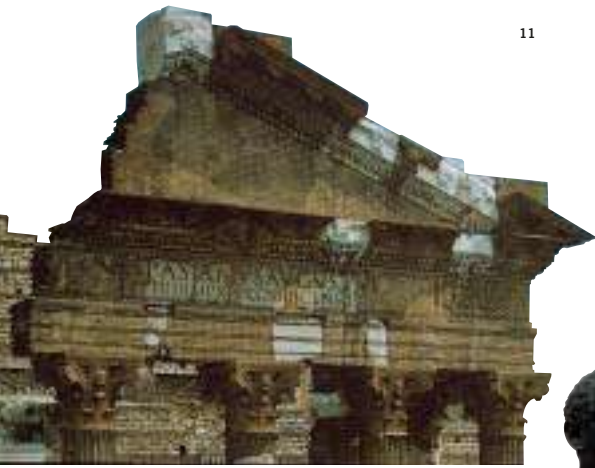


been uncovered and restored to public view. The visitor can see the impressive remains of the Forum,



Mosaic from the Domus dell'Ortaglia

Santa Giulia. City Museum: The Winged Victory, a bronze statue that recent studies consider as an original Greek find (1st c. B.C.) and no longer as a Roman one of the 3rd c. A.D.



The Capitulum with dedication to its founder, Emperor Vespasian



Santa Giulia City Museum: Male bust (3rd c. A.D.)

decumanus maximus (now via dei Musei) and the *cardo* (now via Agostino Gallo).

The **Forum** was finally finished in the Flavian Era between 69 and 96 A.D. To the north of the Forum stands the **Capitolium** (Capitoline Temple) built by Emperor Vespasian in 73 A.D. In the Lapidarium on the ground floor tablets, altars and architectural fragments are displayed. The central cella is interesting for its collection of inscriptions mounted on the walls around 1830 and includes reproductions of some of the most important walled tablets in public and private buildings in the city and its province. To the south of the Forum stands the 1st century A.D. **Basilica** whose remains are still visible embedded in the wall of a building in piazza Labus.



Santa Giulia City Museum: The Prisoner, gilded bronze (2nd c. A.D.)

Just behind the Forum, and set slightly back with respect to via dei Musei, is the **Theatre** which was built in the 3rd century A.D. Although it was seriously damaged in an earthquake in the 5th

Part of the Decumanus Maximus, the Roman city's main road



Santa Giulia City Museum: Funerary stele

century, it was still used afterwards and public meetings were held there even in the Middle Ages.

The Theatre was the third largest in northern Italy after Verona and Pola and could hold fifteen thousand spectators. Today, the cavea and parts of the stage can be seen.

Important finds from the Roman Age, such as the bronze Vittoria Alata (Winged Victory), probably the best-known ancient sculpture in north Italy and the six large gilded bronze heads from the

Imperial era, are kept in the Roman section of Santa Giulia. City Museum.



The Roman theatre



- 1 Monastery of Santa Giulia S. Salvatore S. Maria in Solario
- 2 Tower of Porta Bruciata
- 3 Church of S. Faustino in Riposo
- 4 Church of S. Francesco
- 5 The Pallata Tower
- 6 Church of S. Maria del Carmine



Gold crosses from the Santa Giulia treasure

From the early Middle Ages to the Gothic period

From the Roman Era we pass to the Middle Ages, or rather from piazza del Foro to via dei Musei. Via dei Musei is largely flanked by one of the most impressive early Middle Ages' monastic buildings in north Italy, the **Monastery of Santa Giulia**, originally dedicated to San Salvatore. Founded by the Lombard king, Desiderius, on a site where there was once a Roman house, the monastery was continually enlarged up until the Renaissance. It was run a community of Benedictine nuns until their suppression in 1798. The complex of buildings that mirrors Brescia history, houses



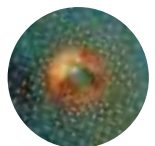
Cloister in Santa Giulia Monastery

Santa Giulia. City Museum where visitors can trace the history of the people living in the area of Brescia starting from the first settlements of the Bronze Age up to the Renaissance passing



Church of Santa Maria in Solario: great hall

through the Roman Age and the Medieval one. The Longobard church of **San Salvatore** dates from the early Middle Ages. The church still



Santa Giulia Monastery: the lantern of Santa Maria in Solario and detail



Church of San Salvatore,
detail of the columns in the crypt

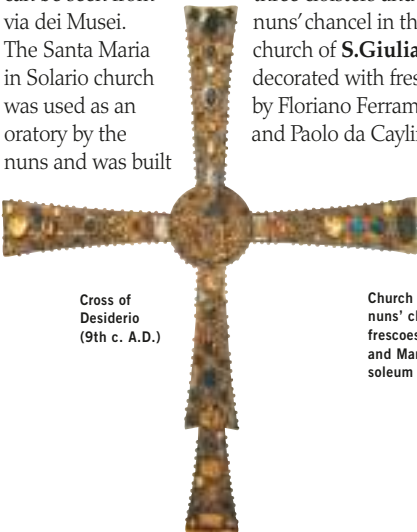


preserves fragments of stucco and frescoes from the 11th century. During the 12th century, the church of **Santa Maria in Solario** was built. Its



Weathercock of Bishop Ramperto
(9th c. A.D.)

octagonal lantern is decorated with a small loggia and small arches and can be seen from via dei Musei. The Santa Maria in Solario church was used as an oratory by the nuns and was built



Cross of
Desiderio
(9th c. A.D.)

on two floors. The lower floor houses the *Lipsanoteca*, a 4th c. decorated ivory box. The upper floor is decorated with 16th century frescoes by Floriano Ferramola and others and exhibits the Lombard *Cross of Desiderius* (a rare 9th century work in gold studded with cameos, gems and coloured glass and in whose centre a disk is set bearing a triple portrait from the 4th century). From the second half of the 1400's on, the monastery was enlarged and transformed until it assumed its current renaissance style architecture. Two of these additions were the three cloisters and the nuns' chancel in the church of **S. Giulia**, decorated with frescoes by Floriano Ferramola and Paolo da Caylina.

Ermengarda

Desiderata, daughter of Desiderius, shut herself away and later died in the Monastery of San Salvatore after her husband, Charlemagne, king of the Franks, repudiated her. Her unhappy story and the fall of the Lombard dynasty are described in the poem "Adelchi" by Alessandro Manzoni. The writer changed Desiderata's name to Ermengarda and dedicated one of his most poetic verses to her: "*Sparsa le trecce morbide/sull'affannoso petto...*".



Decoration with peacock (8th c. A.D.)

Ivory reliquary box
(4th c. A.D.)



Church of Santa Giulia:
nuns' chancel with
frescoes by Ferramola
and Martinengo mau-
soleum (16th c.)



The Broletto with the Tower Pegol



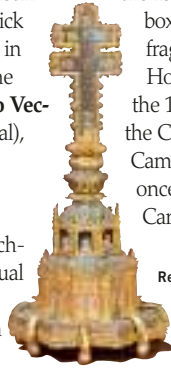
During the Middle Ages the civil and religious centre of the town moved from the Forum to what was then called piazza Mercato and what is now known as piazza Paolo VI. Around the sq. stand the **Broletto** which houses the city council administrative offices, the **Duomo Vecchio** and, situated between the two, the 18th c. **Duomo Nuovo** with its impressive façade. The Broletto is one of the most notable medieval Lombard structures and it is topped by the Tower of *Pegol* (the stone south face dates from the 13th c.) and has been expanded and

The Broletto gets its name from the place it was built which was once an enclosed orchard ("brolo" in Italian), or according to another theory, from the Latin "mercatum broli" (vegetable market).

rebuilt from time to time. It now encompasses various other buildings, including the 15th c. church of St. Augustin whose beautiful brick façade can be seen in the lane of the same name. The **Duomo Vecchio** (Old Cathedral), also known as the **Rotonda**, is one of the few round Romanesque churches in Italy. Its unusual shape was probably based on

Ghibellines) made in red Veronese marble, and the 16th c. wooden choir stalls, pictures by Moretti, Romanino and Marone. On the rare occasions it is exhibited, the *Treasure of the Holy Crosses* can also be admired; it includes masterpieces in gold such as the 11th c. *Stauroteca*,

the 15th c. Reliquary box holding a fragment of the Holy Cross, and the 11th c. banner, the *Croce del Campo*, which was once borne on the *Carroccio*.



Reliquary box of the Santa Croce (15th c.)



Detail of Bishop Maggi's sepulchre

that of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Built at the end of the 11th c., it has an attractive interior with a large circular central area surrounded by a pillared walkway. Among the masterpieces in the cathedral is the *Sarcophagus of Berardo Maggi* (bishop of Brescia from 1298 to 1308 who managed to bring an end to the war between the Guelphs and



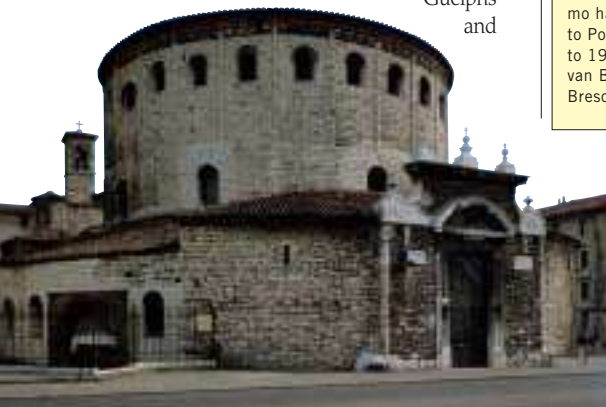
Duomo Vecchio: the deambulatory

Piazza del Duomo

The square known for centuries as piazza Duomo has been dedicated to Pope Paul VI (1963 to 1978), originally Giovan Battista Montini of Brescia.



The oldest part of the Broletto (13th c.)



Duomo Vecchio, called the Rotonda

Other things to see

❖ Church of S.Faustino in riposo • *Via dei Musei*

A small circular church with a curious conical cupola in brick built at the end of the 12th c. It stands at the end of via dei Musei, next to the tower of the Porta Bruciata. The interior was redecorated during the 18th and 19th c.

❖ Church of San Francesco • *Via S.Francesco*

This 13th c. church is the most beautiful Romanesque - Gothic church in Brescia. It is rich in interior decoration with 14th and 15th c. frescoes by Moretto and Romanino, a 15th c. wooden choir stall and attractive marquetry. The cloister is also very beautiful.

❖ The Pallata Tower • *Via Pace*

This is one of the symbols of Brescia: it is 31 m high and dates from the 13th c. The Bagnadore's fountain was placed at its base in 1596 which allegorically commemorates Brescia and its two rivers, the Garza and the Mella.

❖ Church of Santa Maria del Carmine

• *Contrada del Carmine*

This interesting Romanesque - Gothic church was built in the 15th c. and reworked a century later. It has an unusual decorated brick façade.



- ❶ Piazza della Loggia with Palazzo Loggia
- ❷ Art Gallery Tosio Martinengo
- ❸ Church of S. Giuseppe
- ❹ Church of S. Maria dei Miracoli
- ❺ Church of S. Giovanni Evangelista
- ❻ Church of S. Maria delle Grazie



Palazzo della Loggia

The Renaissance

Piazza Loggia

is one of the most beautiful Venetian style squares outside of Venice itself. Its construction was initiated in 1433 by Marco Foscarini, the Venetian mayor of

Brescia, when it replaced a maze of lanes in the medieval city; its completion took over a century. Built around the square were the Loggia, the Monte Vecchio and Monte Nuovo di Pietà, and the

porticoes surmounted by the Clocktower. The **Loggia** was started in 1492 and finished circa 1570, it is a symbol of the city and main office of the City Council. Some of the greatest architects of the

time helped in its design including Sansovino and Palladio. Its sculptural decoration in Botticino marble is particularly impressive. The building's original lead roofing was lost in a fire in 1575 which also destroyed the three large ceiling paintings by Titian. After a series of temporary solutions, the cupola seen today was built in 1914, inspired by the Renaissance model.



Monte di Pietà

The Monte Vecchio di Pietà - Together with the Monte Nuovo di Pietà, it stands on the south side of the square. It was built between 1484 and 1498 and features an elegant small lodge.

The façade of the Monte di Pietà

is Italy's oldest lapidary museum. It was in 1480 that the City Council decided to conserve the Roman memorials and fragments that were uncovered during excavations in Brescia and province by making them part of the building walls.

Clocktower



The Clocktower -

It stands facing the Loggia in the centre of the colonnade built in 1595. The mechanical astronomic clock is very beautiful and features the signs of the Zodiac and the Sun.

The "Macc de le ure"

(the Crazy Time-keepers): is the familiar name in Brescian dialect for the two wooden figures covered in metal who since 1581 have been struck the bell at the top of the Clocktower.

The Polyptych by Titian

In the church of Santi Nazaro e Celso one of Titian's early masterpieces is kept, the Averoldi Polyptych of 1522. It is given this name because it was commissioned by the Brescian nobleman Altobello Averoldi. It is made up of 5 panels: Christ resurrected in the centre, flanked by the Angel and the Virgin, and below, Santi Nazaro e Celso with donor, and San Sebastiano.



Great painters of the Renaissance

Between 1400 and 1500 an important and unique school of art developed in Brescia which fused Lombard and Venetian culture and styles.

Vincenzo Foppa

(1427 - 1515 ca.)

Foppa was the principal Lombard and Brescian painter whose style was followed by many others, for example, Paolo di Caylina, Vincenzo Civerchio and Floriano Ferramola. He also inspired the three great Brescian painters of the 16th century, Gerolamo Savoldo, Gerolamo Romanino and Alessandro Bonvicino (called "Moretto").

Gerolamo Savoldo

(1480 - 1548 ca.)

Savoldo was more influenced than the others by Venetian styles. Few of his works remain in Brescia: "The Adoration of the Shepherds" and "The Flute-player" can be seen in the Martinengo Art Gallery.

Gerolamo Romanino

(1484 - 1559 ca.)

Romanino was the most original Brescian painter with a strong narrative vein. He loved frescoes and there are many of his works in the city and the province (particularly Valcamonica).

Alessandro Bonvicino

(1489 - 1554 ca.)

He was called Moretto and considered the most classical of the Brescian painters. His works are influenced by Titian and are particular for fineness of detail and harmony of composition.

Lattanzio Gambara

(1530 - 1573)

He was the son-in-law and pupil of Romanino. He was a tireless worker who specialized in frescoes.

The Tosio Martinengo Art Gallery

Housed in the 16th century Martinengo da Barco building in piazza Moretto, the art gallery holds one of the most important collections of Italian paintings. The works exhibited run from the 13th to the 18th centuries. The collection centres on paintings by the great Brescian Renaissance masters (Foppa, Ferramola, Romanino, Moretto

and Savoldo) beside which are masterpieces by Raphael, Paolo Veneziano, Solario, Francia, Lotto, Gambara and Pitocchetto. The art gallery was established in 1908 following the fusion of the Galleria Tosio with the Galleria Martinengo, and has since been enriched by other bequests and acquisitions. It now includes many works originally from city churches and private houses too.

"Christ Blessing":
Raphael



"The Supper in Emmaus":
Romanino



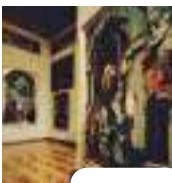
"The Flute-player":
Gerolamo Savoldo



"The Standard of Orzinuovi":
Vincenzo Foppa



"The Supper in Emmaus":
Moretto



Tosio Martinengo
Art Gallery



Otherthings to see

❖ Church of San Giuseppe • *Vicolo San Giuseppe*

The church is part of a large complex of 16th century conventual buildings. The façade is enriched by three portals and there are three splendid cloisters decorated with frescoes between 1500 and 1700. Housed in the complex is the Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art. Inside there are 20 chapels dedicated to arts and professions.



❖ ❖ Cloister of the Monastero Santi Cosma e Damiano

• *Via dei Mille* - The large 15th century cloister has been largely rebuilt but retains its harmony. Names of Brescians killed at war are inscribed on the columns: that's why it is called "The Memorial".



❖ Church of S.Maria dei Miracoli • *Corso Martiri della Libertà* -

A jewel of renaissance Lombard art, the church has an elegant marble façade decorated by the same masters that worked on the Loggia. Inside there is a picture of the Madonna, considered to have miraculous powers.

The Castle



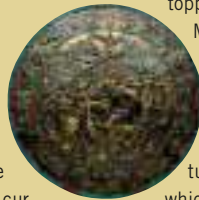
their houses. Surrounded by gardens, the Castle is really a fortified citadel with towers, ramparts, out-houses, courtyards, drawbridges and underground tunnels built between the 13th and 16th centuries. The Mirabella tower was built during the Comunale Period (22 m high) but it was the Visconti family which gave the Castle its current character, erecting in 1343 the fortified keep of the Castle right on top of the hill surrounded by a

crenellated wall and a deep ditch crossed by drawbridge. Around this central stronghold, the Venetians built bastions, storerooms for provisions (called "Grande e Piccolo Miglio") and the monumental entrance topped by the St.

Display shield (1563)

Mark's Lion between 1400 and 1500. They also dug out a series of tunnels, some of which can still be walked through.

The Castle, from which there is a magnificent view of the city, houses the Ancient Arms Museum, the Risorgimento Museum, the Cidnean Observatory and, in the storerooms, two large model railways.



The most distinctive way to reach the Castle is up the cob-

bled Contrada Sant'Urbano which climbs from piazzetta Tito Speri up the Cidnean Hill. This short but steep walk, flanked by old houses, takes the visitor in just a few minutes from the city centre to where the first settlers in Brescia built





Details of "The Last Supper": Moretto

❖ **Church of San Giovanni Evangelista**
 • *Contrada San Giovanni* - Originally early Christian, the church was rebuilt in 1400. Inside it has fine works by painters from the Brescian school. The chapel of the Holy Sacrament is decorated with paintings by Moretto and Romanino.



❖ **Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie** • *Via Grazie*
 This church has a splendid renaissance doorway which preserves the wooden 1490 doors and a sumptuous interior decorated with frescoes and baroque stuccoes. A cloister connects the church to the Sanctuary, rebuilt in neo-Renaissance style in 1876 by Arch. Antonio Tagliaferri.

❖ **Church of San Pietro in Oliveto** • *Via del Castello* -
 Flanked by two 16th century cloisters, this church has an elegant Renaissance façade and a Romanesque apse. Inside there are paintings by Paolo da Caylina the Younger and Andrea Celesti.



The Ancient Arms Museum



The museum is dedicated to Luigi Marzoli who gave his extensive collection to the City Council. It is kept in the most attractive part of the Castle, the 14th century Visconti keep, and is one of the most important collections

Escort troops

in Europe. It contains 500 weapons and pieces of armour made in Italy and elsewhere in Europe between 1300 and 1700: helmets, sallets, lances, battle and parade armour, swords, shields and a valuable collection of firearms.

These are rare items, masterpieces for their workmanship and the elegance of their decoration. Many were made in Brescia and were early products of the flourishing local arms industry. The museum is

also worth a visit for the original 14th century frescoes in many of its rooms, and for the remains of a pre-existing Roman temple which can be seen inside.

The Risorgimento Museum

This museum tells the story of the Italian Risorgimento with particular regard to Brescian history and the episode of the Ten Days in which the city fought heroically against the



Austrians who were bombarding the city actually from the Castle itself. It is housed in the "Grande Miglio", built in 16th century by Venetians.



"Maximilian-style" knight's armour



The foyer of the Teatro Grande

Teatro Grande



- 1 Teatro Grande
- 2 Duomo Nuovo
- 3 Querinian Library

The 17th and 18th Centuries

Between the mid-17th and mid-18th centuries, several important buildings were constructed which are still features of the city today: the Teatro Grande, the Duomo Nuovo and the Queriniana Library. Also built during that period were the porticoes in via Dieci Giornate which are a

favourite spot for window-shopping and promenading.

The **Teatro Grande** has been the centre of the city's musical culture. The entrance to the theatre is in corso Zanardelli. Its façade dates from the end of the 18th century while the auditorium, with five levels of boxes, was renovated during the 19th century. Its foyer is especially beautiful, designed by Antonio Marchetti (1761-69) and decorated with mirrors, frescoes and stuccoes.

The **Duomo Nuovo** (New Cathedral) Situated between the Broletto and the Duomo Vecchio, the imposing white marble façade of the Duomo Nuovo dominates piazza Paolo VI. It took over two hundred years to complete, from 1604 to 1825: its dome is the third highest in Italy. Equally impressive is the interior where



The Duomo Nuovo

Piazza del Mercato

Lively piazza del Mercato was where linen and cloths were bought and sold. It is surrounded by 15th and 16th centuries porticoes. The church of Santa Maria del Lino looks over it.



works by Moretto, Romanino and Palma the Younger can be seen, as well as important sculptures including the Renaissance sarcophagus of Sant'Apollonius.

The **Querinian Library** - This collection is housed in a severe-looking building designed in the mid-18th century by Antonio Marchetti;

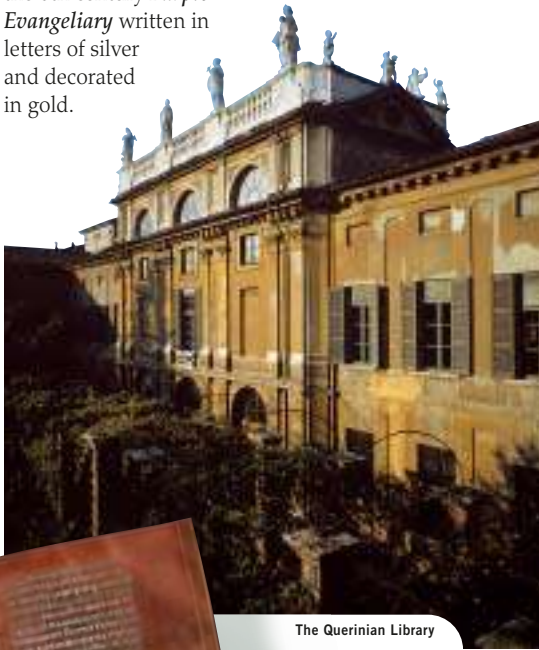


the collection was instituted at the wish of Cardinal Angelo Maria Querini, Arch-bishop of Brescia. The reading rooms are very beautiful where the original book-cases and decorations have been preserved. There are over three hundred thousand volumes and important collections of manuscripts, codices and incunabola. Among the most valuable items is the 6th century *Purple Evangelary* written in letters of silver and decorated in gold.



Palazzo Martinengo

in piazza del Foro dates from the 17th century. It is the seat of temporary exhibitions as well as of the Tourist Department of the Province of Brescia. An interesting archeological itinerary winds along its basement.



The Querinian Library



The Purple Evangelary



- 1 The Corn Market
- 2 Casa Chiappa
- 3 Palazzo Tosio
- 4 The Conservatory

From Neo-Classicism to the Twentieth Century

After 1800, the city's appearance began to change: the city walls were no longer required for defensive purposes and were little by little dismantled and excavations begun which led to the discovery of the Capitoline Temple. The **Corn Market** in piazzale Arnaldo was one of the most important buildings during this period. The white stone colonnade demonstrates the neo-classical taste of the age and was raised to allow wagons to be loaded. Many large and imposing buildings were put up around 1800 that today are still part of Brescian life. For example, there is **Casa Chiappa** in

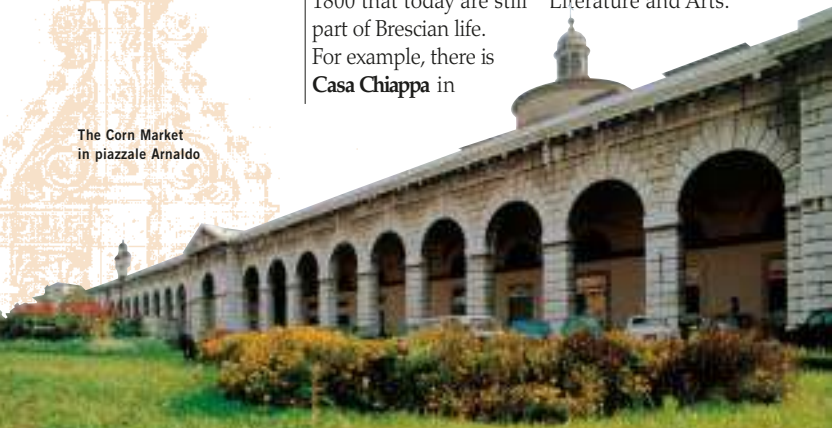


The Statue of Arnaldo

In the centre of piazzale Arnaldo stands a large bronze statue of Arnaldo da Brescia, a popular monk who spoke out against the corruption of the Church at the beginning of the 12th century. He was accused of heresy and burned and his ashes scattered in the river Tiber at Rome at the wish of Pope Hadrian IV who wanted to prevent Arnaldo from being venerated. The statue was cast in 1882 by Odoardo Tabacchi.

piazza Paolo VI, a severe though original example of neo-classicism; the **Conservatory**, in corso Magenta; and **Palazzo Tosio** in via Tosio, designed by the most famous architect of the day, Rodolfo Vantini, who also designed the city cemetery, and now the home of the Athenaeum and the Brescian Academy of Science, Literature and Arts.

The Corn Market in piazzale Arnaldo



Other museums

THE CIVIC NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Via Ozanam, 4

Collections covering mineralogy, paleontology, botany, zoology and micology.

ASSOCIATION OF ART AND SPIRITUALITY

Via Monti, 9

The collection exhibits over four hundred works, mostly of graphics, by important contemporary artists such as Chagall, Dalí, Matisse, de Chirico and Picasso.

The collection was formed by Paolo VI, the Pope from Brescia.

THE DIOCESAN MUSEUM OF SACRED ART

Via Gasparo da Salò, 13

It exhibits items of the diocese of Brescia from the 4th to the 19th c. Particularly interesting a collection of liturgical vestments and religious works.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY CINEFOTOCLUB

Cs. Matteotti, 16/b - 18/a

Unique in Italy, it recounts the history of photography through a huge collection of still and movie cameras, accessories and over 12.000 photographs.

THE KEN DAMY MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY

C.tto S. Agata, 22

Dedicated to contemporary photography, it gives exhibitions of major Italian and foreign photographers.

MUSEO DELLA MILLE MIGLIA

c/o Manestro di S. Eufemia

Via delle Rimembranze, 3
Old cars, items and movies tell the emotion of the famous car race that took place between 1927 and 1957.

Piazza della Vittoria

This square was built by knocking down a large part of the medieval city. It was designed by the Fascist architect Marcello Piacentini in his monumental and neo-classical style and



was inaugurated in 1932. It is closed on one side by the huge central Post Office covered with travertine stone, and dominated on another by a 60 m tower. Opposite the tower stands the Quadriportico with the Tower of the Revolution above. It is from this square that the famous car race, the historic Mille Miglia, starts each spring.

Liberty

There are not many Liberty buildings in Brescia but those few are interesting. This style aroused much interest at the 1904 Brescia Exhibition. The two architects who were best able to interpret it were Arnaldo Trebeschi and Egidio Dabbeni. Where can the visitor find Liberty buildings in Brescia?



Facade in via Gramsci designed by Egidio Dabbeni

Try Casa Migliorati at 3, via Trento or Palazzo Pisa at 29, corso Magenta.



Piazza della Vittoria

Facts about Brescia

- The province of Brescia is the largest in Lombardy; its 4.782 km² make up a fifth of the region.
- Brescia has 200.000 inhabitants and is the second largest city in Lombardy.

- The province of Brescia is one of the most important in Italy economically: it has been famous since the 15th century for its arms production and now is heavily industrialized particularly in the steel and engineering industries.

- There are three valleys in the province, Valcamonica with river Olio, Valtrompia with river Mella and Valsabbia with river Chiese and three lakes, Lake Garda, Lake Iseo and Lake Idro.

Two steps from the city centre.....



The Hills Park

Woods, meadows, orchards, farmhouses and villas, trattorias and elegant restaurants at only ten minutes from Brescia centre. The Maddalena Hill (875 m) with the Ronchi, St. Giuseppe and St. Onofrio Hill, the Campiani (Mounts Ratto and Picastello) and St. Ann Hill belong to the Hills Park, the green lung of the town. They are ideal places for spending a day resting in the open air, walking along various paths, but also having

The Tomb of the Dog

is a curious white marble monument on the side of the Ronchi. It was designed by Vantini to take the remains of Angelo Bonomini who left his fortune to the Civil Hospital but it did not turn out like that. Tradition has it that a dog was buried there instead!



The Tomb of the Dog on the Ronchi

lively hours in restaurants and trattorias where one can taste the dishes of the local or of the international cuisine.



Rezzato - 18th c.
Villa Fenaroli

Botticino

There are two reasons for visiting this village just a few km from the city on the way to Lake Garda: its beautiful marble, known all over the world (visit the Museum of Marble) and the Botticino D.O.C., a complex red wine.

Serle

From Botticino the visitor can follow the road up to San Gallo (where the Hermitage of the Trinity stands) and from here can reach the hills of Serle, covered by woods and ideal for walks or mountain-biking. The trattorias are particularly enjoyable in autumn (tasty are game and mushrooms).

Unusual Brescia

Here is a short tour of some of Brescia's more curious sites and monuments with their associated tales.

• THE ERCOLE TOWER:

This tower stands at the corner of via Cattaneo and via Cereto. It was probably built during the 12th century on the remains of Roman buildings near to a temple dedicated to Ercole (Hercules) from where its name is derived. It was one of the towers that impressed Ezzelino da Romano when he captured the city in 1258.

• THE PALLATA TOWER:

The Pallata Tower stands on the corner of via Pace and corso Mameli and is one of the most important medieval monuments in the city. Tradition has it that it once housed the City treasury and for a short time served as the women's prison.





Shopping

Smart boutiques, antique shops, jewellers, gift shops, furniture shops, bookshops, art galleries, gift shops: all can be found in corso Zanardelli, via X Giornate, corso Magenta, corso Palestro, corso Mameli and corso Garibaldi which are traditionally the major shopping streets, but there are also the narrow, picturesque lanes that snake around piazza Loggia and piazza Paolo VI. Antique shops are for the most part grouped around via Trieste, via dei Musei and via Cattaneo. On the second Sunday in each month there is the Flea Market under the arcades in piazza Vittoria.

Hotels, restaurants and bars

Hotels are found for the most part near the motorway exits, near the train station and on the roads to lake Garda and Valtrompia.

Brescian cooking can be enjoyed in restaurants and

tre. The most popular **bars, ice-cream shops and coffee shops** are found in the shopping areas and city squares (from piazza Paolo VI to piazzetta Tito Speri and in piazza Arnaldo).

Information

**Provincia di Brescia
Assessorato al Turismo
Ufficio IAT di Brescia**
Via Musei, 32
Tel. 030 3749916
Fax 030 3749982
www.provincia.brescia.it/turismo
promozione.turismo@provincia.brescia.it

**A.G.T.A.
(Authorized Tourist Guides
Associations)**
Call centre
Tel. 030 3749916

**Comune di Brescia - Ufficio
Turistico**
Piazza Loggia, 6
Tel. 030 2400357
Fax 030 3773773
infopoint@comune.brescia.it

**Groups Reservation Centre for
the Civic Museums**
Tel. 030 2977834 - 33

• MOSTASSÙ DELLE COSSERE:

This is the dialect name given to the stone face on the wall between corso Mameli and via delle Cossere. The story goes that in 1311, when Emperor Enrico VII conquered the city after a siege lasting four months, he promised to cut off the noses of the Brescians; luckily he stopped at defacing the statue which is why the Mostassù delle Cossere has no nose!

• MONUMENT TO SANTI FAUSTINO E GIOVITA:

The monument is found halfway down via Avogadro. It was built in the 16th century to commemorate the apparition of the saints on 13 December 1438 when they helped Brescians besieged in the Castle by the troops of Niccolò Piccinino.

• SALONE VANVITELLIANO:

On the first floor of palazzo Loggia holes can be seen in the walls made by Austrian cannon fire from the Castle during the "Ten Days" of 1849.

To reach Brescia

BY TRAIN

Brescia is on the following railway lines

- Milan - Venice
- Lecco - Bergamo - Brescia
- Cremona - Brescia
- Parma - Piacenza - Brescia
- Rome - Bergamo
- Rome - Cremona - Brescia

BY CAR

Motorway A4

Milan - Venice

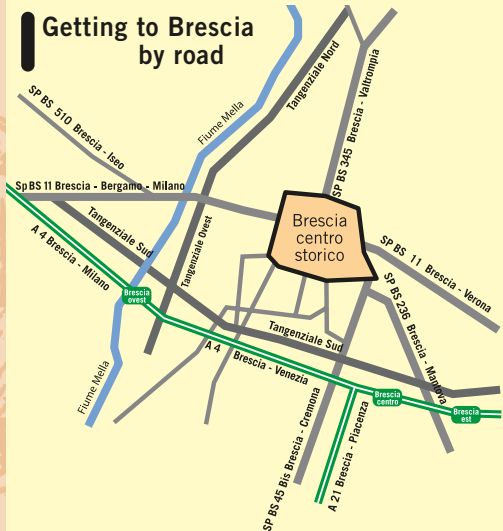
Motorway A21

Turin - Piacenza

BY PLANE

The nearest airports are **Milan** (Malpensa and Linate) **Bergamo** Orio al Serio, **Verona** Villafranca and **Brescia** Montichiari.

Getting to Brescia by road



Lake Garda



With its clear, clean and warm water, sunny beaches, mild climate and Mediterranean vegetation, Lake Garda is like a small sea set between the last spurs of the Alps and the Lombardy plain. Garda has been a favoured spot since Roman times and has been lauded by poets and writers through the ages, for example, Catullus, Goethe, Joyce and D'Annunzio. It unites its natural beauty with the traces of its history, from Roman remains to Liberty.



Garda was called *Benacus* by the Romans and is the largest Italian lake. It measures 52 km in length while the width from Desenzano to Peschiera is 17,5 km; in total it covers 370 km² and its deepest point is 346 m. There are five islands: Garda, San Biagio, Olivo, Sogno and Trimelone.

Three regions meet on its shores, Lombardy, Veneto and Trentino. At Garda, welcoming visitors is an ancient tradition.

There are beaches with playgrounds for children, discotheques and sports facilities for the young and active, quiet, picturesque villages and large bustling towns.

The variety of choice will suit all types of holiday-maker.

Sirmione

The Brescian side of the lake begins at Sirmione which has been famous since ancient times for its health-giving spa water. The peninsula on which it stands sticks out into the water about 4 km and is one of the most enchanting places on

the lake. In Roman times villas were built there including that of the poet Catullus who wrote of the beauty of the lake in his verses. Nature and history: Sirmione is full of art treasures and history starting with the Scaliger Castle through which one must pass to reach the town centre. The town itself is closed to private traffic

(except for hotel guests) but a shuttle takes the visitor to the end of the peninsula, the Grotte di Catullo, starting off from the square outside the **spa** (see "Spas and health"), surrounded with a big park and famous throughout Europe for its cure for rhinogenous deafness. **Scaliger Castle** was built in the 13th centu-



Ancient map of Sirmione

Scaliger Castle in Sirmione



Grotte di Catullo



ry by Mastino I della Scala, lord of Verona, as a berth for the Scaliger fleet. It has a large dock and the surrounding walls cut the town off from direct contact with the mainland. Completely surrounded by water, the Castle is a miniature architectural jewel of towers, courtyards and a drawbridge. After passing the Castle, the visitor enters the narrow lanes and small squares of the town itself lined with boutiques, antique shops, bars and restaurants and from there continues past the spa to the **Grotte di Catullo** on the tip of the peninsula, where there are the remains of a big Roman villa. It was

built in early Imperial times and is the largest Roman villa uncovered in north Italy measuring 167 by 105 m. In the Villa a Museum has been opened. It keeps many finds recovered in excavations, in submerged lake-dwellings along the peninsula shore and in other settlements of the area. The most recent theory proposes that the villa may have been where the Roman Emperors, on their journeys around the northern provinces, met the most important political, civil and military leaders of the day. Sirmione also boasts interesting churches such as the 15th century **Santa Maria Maggiore** and **San**

Pietro in Mavino, the oldest church in the town (8th century).

Desenzano

Desenzano stands in the centre of a wide bay and is sheltered behind by a semi-circle of hills. It is one of the best-known tourist towns on the lake and also a famous sailing and bathing centre.

The town centres around the lakeside promenade, **piazza Malvezzi** (where an antiques market is held on the first Sunday in the month-excepted



January and August), **Porto Vecchio** and the porticoed streets lined with bars, boutiques and restaurants. The town was founded by the Romans, fought over during the Middle Ages between Brescia and Verona and passed into the hands of the Venetian Republic in the 15th century. It has preserved the remains of this history starting with a **Roman villa** (4th c. B.C. - 4th c. A.D.) which boasts splendid mosaic floors. At 22, via Crocefisso, an **Antiquarium** houses the finds discovered during excavations on the villa. Older objects dating from the Bronze Age that have been found

Desenzano: mosaic from the Roman villa

Sirmione peninsula



Desenzano:
Porto Vecchio



The historic hills

The hills that ring Sirmione and Desenzano were the scene of the 1859 battles of Solferino and San Martino which were the most decisive of the Italian Risorgimento.

At **San Martino** there is a round tower (74 m), erected in 1893, with seven frescoed rooms built on top of one another, a Museum and a Ossuary (bone museum). On alternate years the battle of 24 June 1859 is remembered with a celebration in costume.

Solferino fort is older, built in the 11th century and rebuilt in the 17th, where the Museum and the Ossuary can be visited near the International Red Cross memorial which was built in 1959 using marbles coming from all over the world to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the organization.

around the Desenzano area can be seen in the **Giovanni Rambotti Archeological Civic Museum** in the 15th century convent Santa Maria de Senioribus. The most interesting find is an oak plough, 2,20 m long, dating from 2000 B.C., the oldest yet found. The upper part of the town is dominated by the **Castle**, rebuilt during the 14th and 15th centuries, around which the narrow medieval lanes of the town intertwine. In the lower part of the town near piazza

Malvezzi, the **Cathedral** (the building of which began in 1586) houses *"The Last Supper"* by G.B.Tiepolo and paintings by A.Celesti and Zenon Veronese.

Lonato

Five kilometres inland from Desenzano, Lonato is dominated by a large medieval **fortress** which has a magnificent view over Garda. The Podesta's House which stands inside the fortress was rebuilt in 1910 in neo-Gothic style and fitted out with furnishings of that period. It is also

the seat of the **Ugo da Como Foundation** and houses an art gallery and a library holding over 50.000 volumes and hundreds of precious incunabula,



codices and illuminated manuscripts. Finally, the Fortress also houses the **Ornithological Museum**. The 18th century **Cathedral** has works by Andrea Celesti and Bernardino Licinio and the **church della Vergine del Corlo** (14th century) has paintings by Marone and Moretto. Nearby there is the **abbey of Maguzzano** which was destroyed in 922 by the Hungarian tribe and rebuilt between the 12th and 15th centuries.



Soiano

Valtenesi

Valtenesi is the hilly area of vineyards and olive plantations that slopes down to the lake between the bays of Padenghe and Salò.

It is made up of seven districts - Padenghe, Moniga, Manerba, San Felice, Puegnago, Polpenazze and Soiano. Ancient villages, castles and villas can be found nestling in the fields and on the lakeside there are small villages where hotels, houses to let, campsites and beaches await the tourist. Valtenesi produces some of the best Brescian wines (Gropello and Charetto for example) but is also famous for its extra-virgin olive oil.

Both the wines and oil can be bought directly from their producers (see "Brescian wines" and "Local foodstuffs")

and it may be possible to stay on some of these farms.

Padenghe

Like many of the villages in Valtenesi, Padenghe is overlooked by a **Castle**; this one dates back to the 10th - 15th centuries.

Other buildings to see are the small church of Sant'Emiliano (12th c.) and the large and imposing **Villa Barbieri** (Town Council) which harmonizes nicely with the nearby **Parish church**.

Moniga

Moniga is a very elegant village. At its edge stands a **Castle** with round towers and crenellations which was built as a defence against the Hungarian tribe invasions in the 10th century. Inside there are old houses and it is one of



Padenghe Castle

the best conserved examples of its kind in southern Garda. Passing through the old centre one reaches the port lined by bars and trattorias. Moniga is known for its excellent restaurants, sunny beaches and Chiaretto wine, the production of which was introduced by the Venetian senator Pompeo Molmenti at the end of the 19th c.

Manerba

The areas in Manerba are: Pieve Vecchia, Solarolo, Montinelle, Gardoncino e Balbiana. Manerba is spread over one of the most outstanding promontories on Lake Garda.

Known as "**Rocca di Manerba**" (Manerba

Rock), on the top of which the remains of a defensive medieval settlement have been brought to light. This area forms the "Parco Naturale della Rocca e del Sasso". Below the rocky outcrop, which falls sheer into the water, there are lovely little bays with pebble beaches and a causeway that joins the mainland to the tiny **San Biagio island**; it is altogether a perfect area for canoeing. Not far away there is the port of Dusano and beaches at "Il Torcolo" and "La Romantica" suitable for small children. The **Romanesque church of Santa Maria** is worth visiting for its frescoes and Roman

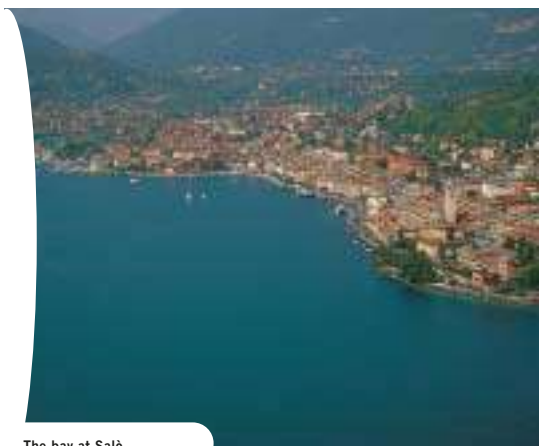
tombstones.

San Felice

The peninsular of San Felice is also beautiful with **Garda Island** just in front. There used to be monasteries on the island between the 13th and 18th centuries then a Venetian Neo-Gothic style villa built at the beginning of this century has replaced them. Just outside the village stands the **Sanctuary of the Madonna del Carmine** (mid-15th century with fine frescoes) while in the centre the **Parish church** has an altarpiece by Romanino featuring the "*Madonna with San Felice and other saints*". The nearby beaches are also very pretty, especially the **Baia del Vento**, where it is possible to swim.



The Fort of Manerba



The bay at Salò

Vineyards and castles

The best way to enjoy the hills of Valtenesi is simply to roam around, either by car, bicycle or just on foot. One itinerary is to leave from **Portese** on the bay of Salò and head towards Valtenesi through **Cisano** and **Puegnago** (overlooked by the remains of an ancient medieval castle). The square there gives a fine panorama over Valtenesi and the lake. Continuing towards Polpenazze, the small **lakes of Sovenigo** are worth a detour for the lush flora and bird-watching opportunities. In July and August lotus flowers are in bloom which tradition says were brought from Japan. **Polpenazze**

hosts one of the most popular Wine Festivals in the province each year; important prehistoric finds have been recovered from the area where a community settled 6000 years ago. One such find is a 4 m wooden canoe carved out of a tree trunk; a cast of the canoe can be seen with an original piece in Gavardo (piazza San Bernardino, 2) with other Bronze Age objects. A visit should be made to the Parish church built within the walls of the medieval castle and to the church of San Pietro in Lucone, which is famous for its organ and frescoes.

After leaving Polpenazze along the pretty road, the visitor arrives at **Soiano** with its 10th century castle and 16th century church of San Michele.

In summer there are public performances in the castle and there is a magnificent view over the lake from the main tower.

Salò

Salò is an elegant and popular holiday resort sitting in a marvellous position on the bay of the same name where it is protected from northerly winds.

It was founded in Roman times with the name of *Salodium* and in the 13th century was the administrative centre of the "Magnifica Patria" which reunited the villages on the Brescian side of the lake with a part of Valsabbia.

This glorious past is mirrored in Salò's beautiful historic centre with its large houses built between 1400 and 1600 and the 15th century late Gothic

Cathedral with its rich



Salò: the Cathedral portal

Palazzo Martinengo was built in the 16th century by the Marquis Sforza Pallavicini at Barbarano in a park graced with ornamental fountains.

renaissance portal. Inside there are canvases by Romanino, the school of Paolo Veneziano, and Andrea Celesti. There is a series of summer concerts given in the churchyard with appearances by major European orchestras. Close by, the **Palazzo Fantoni** (XVI century) houses the Athenaeum library, documents of the Magnifica Patria, the **Nastro Azzurro Museum** and the **"Anton Maria Mucchi" Archeological Museum**. This last collects curiosities from the Risorgimento to the

The climate is exceptionally mild and the vegetation luxuriant and Mediterranean (bougainvillea, oleander, mimosa, palms and lemons). There are lovely villages, a rich historic and artistic heritage and facilities for all sorts of sports, above all sailing and windsurfing. All these characteristics make the Garda's western riviera one of the best-known tourist destinations by Italian and foreign holiday-makers. The road that runs alongside the lake through galleries and look-out points is simply spectacular.

Second World War during which Salò was the capital of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana from 1943 to 1945. Along the lakeside there are bars, ice-cream shops, restaurants and boutiques, that's why it is the favourite place where to go for a walk.

Gardone Riviera

With its lakeside walk,

San Marco Tower at Gardone Riviera



large villas and grand hotels, Gardone Riviera preserves a charm of times past, it has been a famous destination for international tourism since the end of the 19th century. The most recently constructed part of the town is Gardone di Sotto, the pedestrian section alongside the water where bars, ice-cream shops and boutiques jostle for space. In the centre of a large public garden stands Villa Alba

and lower, on the lake shore, the Torre di San Marco, once the Vittoriale dock. In 1900 the tsar's doctor Arthur Hruska created a botanical garden now property of the **André Heller Foundation**. In just 15.000 m² there are over 3.000 varieties of plants and flowers from all over the world which match with artificial structures, contemporary sculptures and surprising scenographic effects. The



older section of the town, Gardone di Sopra, still has its large villas surrounded by gardens and its 18th century **Parish church**; it was here that poet Gabriele d'Annunzio built the property called "Vittoriale", which became a national museum on his death. From the Vittoriale there is a pretty walk along via Belvedere to Fasano.

Toscolano Maderno

Divided by the river Toscolano, Maderno and Toscolano (now a single unit) are popular tourist centres loved by sportsmen and sailing enthusiasts.

Their shoreline is the longest on Garda and behind it lies a 9 hole golf course (see "Sport"). The places to see at Maderno are the 12th

century church of **San-t'Andrea** with a work by Paolo Veneziano and the later **Parish church** which has a painting by Paolo Veronese. Before arriving in Toscolano, a small detour should be taken to the **Valle delle Cartiere** where a paper-making industry flourished after 1300. Toscolano, the original **Benacum**, was the most important Roman centre and the remains of

Vittoriale: the mausoleum is in the foreground



Vittoriale

Gabriele d'Annunzio (1863-1938) had two aims in mind when he built "Vittoriale" - to have a place to live and to create a monument to his own genius and audacious deeds during World War One. The site is an extraordinary set of buildings sur-

rounded by its own park overlooking the lake. It was designed by Gian Carlo Maroni and encloses the Priory

(the poet's house from 1921 to 1938), an open-air theatre (which holds a Summer season of D'Annunzio works each year), the poet's tomb and mausoleum, avenues lined with the urns of his wartime companions and a series of extraordinary objects such as the bow of the cruiser Puglia built into the hill, the speedboat MAS 96

Piazzetta Dalmata





Maderno

and 17th century pictures by the Venetian painter, Andrea Celesti. Nearby there is the **Sanctuary of the Madonna del Benaco** with 16th century frescoes.

a villa with mosaic floors can be visited. The 16th century

church of Santi Pietro e Paolo has a baroque portal, 16th century wooden sculptures

which he used in the "Buccari Escapade" and the aeroplane in which he flew over Vienna, on the 9th of August 1918,



The prow of the "Puglia"

to drop subversive leaflets. The Priory shows just what sort of mind D'Annunzio had and the life he lived with its Liberty furni-



D'Annunzio's study

ture, thousands of objects, and the works of art, books and paintings with which he liked to surround himself. The Library is very interesting for the collected works of the poet, rare editions of his favourite writers, and musical scores including signed copies of works by the famous musicians Debussy and Wagner.



Gabriele d'Annunzio



Maderno:
the Romanesque church
of Sant'Andrea



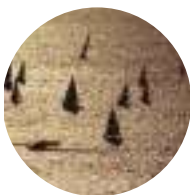
Gargnano

The strong winds that always blow in this area means that Gargnano is well-loved by sailors (see "Sport").

Each year in September the most important lake regatta in Europe is held here, the **Cen-tomiglia** (see "Events & folklore"). Visits should be made to the 13th century **church of San Francesco** and to

Villa Feltrinelli

where Mussolini lived during the period of the Repubblica di Salò. There are lovely excursions to make inland through the lemon-groves, along the panoramic road to Valvestino (see "Valsabbia") and another that goes to Monte Magno. After Bogliaco, the road Gardesana passes through the lovely, classical **Villa Bettoni** built in the 18th century.



Bogliaco di Gargnano:
18th c. Villa Bettoni-
Garden.



Tignale:
Sanctuary of the
Madonna di
Monte Castello

Tignale and Tremosine

Tignale and Tremosine both overlook the lake on plateaus where olives and fruit grow: here there is one of the most beautiful view above Lake Garda. They both stand in the Alto Garda Bresciano Park (see "Parks and Nature") and are ideal for holidays set in the heart of the countryside. To reach Tignale and Tremosine, take the turnings off the lakeside road after Gargnano and after Campione respectively. **Tignale** is at an

altitude of 550 m on sunny terraces that slope down to the banks of the lake. On a rock above Gardola overlooking the lake stands the Sanctuary of the Madonna di Monte Castello with a lovely gilded wooden altar dating from the 15th century.

The road that leads up to **Tremosine** is spectacular as it cuts through rocks in the cleft carved out by the river Brasa. Equally spectacular is the position of Pieve on a rock sheer above the lake. Picturesque, like all the other villages in the area, Tremosine has ancient houses and a 12th century church renovated in the 17th century.



Limone

Limone

Thanks to its excellent climate, one of the mildest and healthiest on the lake, citrons and lemons, from where the village takes its name, have been grown here since time immemorable. Today many lemon-

groves, built of stone with high pillars, have fallen into disuse but their unmistakable outline on the terraces are now part of the countryside. With its many hotels and residences, Limone is famous not just for its climate, but is also studied by

scientists because its inhabitants carry the "apoprotein A1 Milano", a killer of cholesterol. The village has a characteristic historic centre with old houses facing onto the water's edge and the port. The 17th century **Parish church** and

Typical
stone lemon-groves



the medieval church of **San Pietro** which stands in an olive grove should both be seen.

Sport

Lake Garda is a true paradise for lovers of watersports, particularly windsurfing and sailing, but also for those who want a different type of active holiday: cycling, mountain-biking, horse-riding, tennis, paragliding, canoeing and trekking (see "Sport" and "Parks and nature").

Garda's lemon groves

Citrus fruits used to be one of Lake Garda's many food products. Today the walls and pillars of the lemon-groves, called *limonaie*, are monuments to a rural architecture (unique in Italy) that characterized upper Lake Garda, from Gargnano to Limone. Lemon-groves can still be visited: the "Pra de la Fam" at Tignale (it has been rebuilt and put back into use for educational purposes) and the "Limonaia del Castel" at Limone.

Thanks to its temperate climate, Lake Garda is surrounded by typically Mediterranean vegetation: palms, laurels, "agavi", mimosa, juniper, jasmine, bougainvillea and oleanders. During spring are all in bloom. On the banks and inland olives, grapes and lemons grow. Its olive oil and wines are very famous (see "Food and wine").

Visiting museums

From archeology to D'Annunzio: there are many museums and places of historical and artistic interest to visit on the lake. The following are the main ones (for descriptions, see the separate localities).

SIRMIONE

Grotte di Catullo: Archeological zone and Museum
P.za Orti Manara
Scaliger Castle

SAN MARTINO

Tower, Ossuary and Museum
Via Ossario



DESENZANO

Roman Villa
Via Crocefisso, 22
Rambotti Archeological Museum
Chiostro S. Maria de Senioribus, Via Anelli, 7/C

LONATO

Ugo da Como Foundation Art gallery-Podesta's house-Ornithological Museum Fortress
Via Rocca, 2

MANERBA

Archeological Museum
Loc. Montinelle,
P.le V.Simonati
SALÒ

Nastro Azzurro Historic Museum
Via Fantoni, 49
"Anton Maria Mucchi" Archeological Museum
Via Fantoni - Via Brunati
GARDONE RIVIERA

Vittoriale degli Italiani
Via Vittoriale
André Heller Foundation Botanical Garden
Via Roma
Museo del Divino Infante
Via dei Colli, 34
TOSCOLANO MADERNO

Centro di eccellenza Museo della Carta
c/o casa di Luseti
Valle delle Cartiere
Ghirardi Botanical Garden
Via Religione
TIGNALE

Lemon-Grove "Pra de la Fam"
Highway 45 bis-Gardesana Occidentale
Alto Garda Bresciano Regional Park
Visitors Centre

Hotels, tourist villages, campsites

Grand Hotels, comfortable family hotels, country accommodation, flats and houses to let, campsites and tourist villages, all are excellent on Lake Garda. There are approximately 22.000 beds in the various hotels (from 1 to 5 stars). There are also over 40.000 beds in tourist villages, campsite, flats, country accommodation and B&B situated in pretty locations on the lakeside or inland.

Lake Garda ferries

An enjoyable way to move from place to place is on the many ferries that connect the villages and towns. There are also full-day or half-day trips available by boat.

Information available from:
NAVIGARDA,
Piazza Matteotti, 2
Desenzano
Tel. 030 9149511
www.navigazione.laghi.it

Eating out

Garda cuisine is naturally based on lake fish with hints of inland cooking and accompanied by excellent local D.O.C. wines. All year round, fish is the most popular dish but seasonal dishes are always available, often the result of a combination of Brescian, Veronese and Trentino cooking. The most exclusive delicacy of Garda cooking is the truffle, both white and black, found in the hills



of Valtenesi. Extra-virgin olive oil and the wines are the best-known and appreciated products on the lake and can be bought directly from the producers. More difficult to find are lemons and citrons which at one time were cultivated on the hills of upper Garda.

To reach Lake Garda

BY TRAIN

Milan - Venice
(get out at Desenzano)

BY CAR

Motorway A4

Milan - Venice, Sirmione, Desenzano and Brescia
Est exits

Motorway A22

Rovereto Sud and Affi exits

Highway 45 bis

Brescia - Salò

Highway 11

Brescia - Desenzano

BY PLANE

The nearest airports are: Brescia Montichiari d'Annunzio, Verona Villafranca Catullo, Bergamo Orio al Serio, Milan Linate and Venice (Marco Polo).

Information

IAT OFFICES

Sirmione

V.le Marconi, 6
Tel. 030 916114
030 3748721
Fax 030 916222
iat.sirmione@
provincia.brescia.it

Desenzano

Via Porto Vecchio, 34
Tel. 030 3748726
Fax 030 9144209
iat.desenzano@
provincia.brescia.it

Salò

Piazza Sant'Antonio, 4
Tel. e Fax 0365 21423
iat.salò@tiscali.it

Gardone Riviera

Corso Repubblica, 8
Tel. 030 3748736
Fax 0365 20347
iat.gardoneriviera@
provincia.brescia.it

Toscolano Maderno

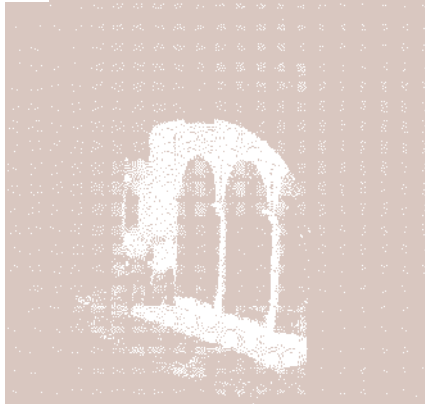
SS 45 Bis angolo via Sacerdoti
Tel. 030 3748741
Fax 0365 641330
iat.toscolanomaderno@
provincia.brescia.it

Valtenesi

Via Gasmann, 39 -
Manerba d/G
Tel. 0365 552786
Fax 0365 658156
iat.valtenesi@hotmail.it



Valsabbia Lake Idro



The woods, rocks, mountain streams and waterfalls of Valsabbia are all untouched by the hand of man. The valley is the ideal place for a holiday dedicated to relaxation, sport and the discovery of both large and small works of art and history. The river Chiese flows down from the Adamello range of mountains and runs into Lake Idro, one of the prettiest in the Alps, while higher up the valley skiing facilities and in spring on and off skiing are available at Gaver.



Gavardo

Gavardo stands at the entrance to Valsabbia and has a typical old town centre with houses that face onto the River Chiese.

The history of the area and nearby Lake Garda is celebrated in the Archeological Museum of Valsabbia (piazza San Bernardino, 2)

The old villages of Valsabbia have often preserved their original buildings and works of art. Frescoes, inlays and wrought-iron, sculptures and paintings from the Middle Ages to the 19th century, produced by artists both local and from around Lombardy and Veneto, decorate parish churches and public and private buildings.

with collections of fossils and prehistoric, Roman and medieval finds.

Sabbio Chiese

The village is dominated by the **Sanctuary** and its two churches which have been built on the remains of the medieval **Castle** in which 16th century frescoes can still be seen.



Nozza di Vestone



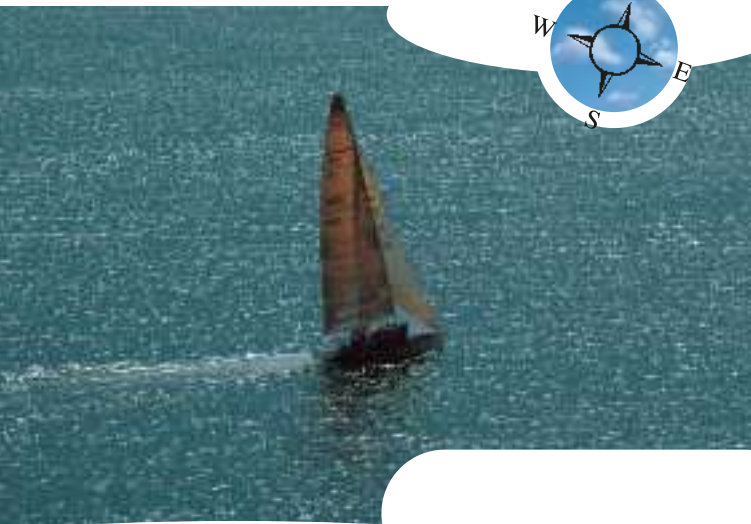
Vestone

Vestone is one of the largest towns in the valley. The 16th century **Parish church** with its stone doorway, the frescoed church of **San Stefano** in **Nozza** and the 15th century church in **Promo** are all worth seeing. A few miles away there is **Mura** where a masterpiece of a wooden altar by “*Boscai family*” can be seen in the Parish church.



Polyptych by Martino da Gavardo in Promo church

The Sanctuary at Sabbio Chiese



Altar maggiore
della Parrocchiale d'Idro

Lake Idro

Lake Idro, at 370 m is the highest in Lombardy and it is edged by mountain sides that fall sheer into its waters and by gentle beaches suitable for swimming, sunbathing and games. It is well equipped for all types of sport and is ideal for sailing and wind-surfing. Tourist villages and campsites alternate with villages where hotels, country boarding houses, restaurants, trattorias and discotheques are found.

Idro

It has not lost its old character with its stone houses, narrow lanes and gardens reflected in the lake waters. The parish church of **San Michele** with its beautiful inlaid by "*Boscai family*" woodwork and the 14th century church



dedicated to **Santa Maria ad Undas** should both be visited.

Anfo

Anfo is visited for its beaches but is also has a lovely village centre with the church of **S. Antonio** and its 14th and 15th century paintings.

A little outside the village stands the "**Rocca**", a stronghold built by the Venetians in 1486 and rebuilt by



Anfo

Napoleone in 1802, which was the scene of fighting during the Venetian and Napoleonic periods.

It was here that Garibaldi had his headquarters in 1866.

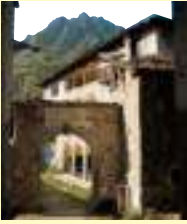
Marquetry

Marquetry has been practised for centuries in Valsabbia. The skills were passed from father to son and there is not a church that does not boast an altar, balustrades, choir stalls or a confession box that displays the art of the inlay. The first famous exponent of marquetry was Lodovico da Nozza in the 1500's. Then followed the Prandini family from Nozza, the Obertini family from Odeno and the Bonomi family from Avenone. The most famous family were the Pialorsi from Levrance known as the "*Boscai*" (woodworkers) who worked from the 16th to the 18th centuries. Their skills can be seen in the organ, chancels and ciborium of the larger altar in the Parish church of Idro, the fittings of the Parish church in Bione and the altar in the Sanctuary of the Madonna di Casto.

Bagolino

Bagolino sits in the centre of a hollow at 800 m and is both a summer and winter resort. Its old stone houses with wrought-iron window frames seem piled one on top of another and open onto small squares with fountains at their centre. There are true

A typical element of Valsabbia architecture is the **loggetta** or small open-air gallery. The majority were built during the 15th century and many examples can be seen in Sabbio, Agnosine and Bagolino. Particularly beautiful is the loggetta in the 16th century Sanctuary at Sabbio.



masterpieces in its churches, like the splendid 15th century cycle of frescoes by Da Cemmo in the Romanesque church of



Bagolino

Val Dorizzo, north of Bagolino



Carnival

San Rocco and the baroque inlaid altars by "*Boscai family*" in the **Parish church**. The village is best known for its **Carnival** which takes place on the Monday and Tuesday before Lent (see "*Folklore*"). Try its local cheese, the "*Bagòss*".



Rest

Valvestino

One of the most attractive and interesting spots for nature-lovers is the Valvestino valley between Lake Idro and Lake Garda dominated by Monte Tombea. The easiest way to reach it is from Gargnano on the west bank of Lake Garda but it can also be reached from Valsabbia from

"The Crucifixion" by Pietro Da Cemmo in San Rocco church at Bagolino



Capovalle.

The valley, with its uncontaminated woods, rocks and a lake, has two small villages: **Magasa**, from where excursions can be made to the plateaus of Rest and Denai, and **Valvestino** itself.

It is an ideal starting point for outings through the woods and rocks and along the sides of the small lake.

Waterfall
in Valle di Vaia



Walks in the mountains

There are walks of all types and difficulties possible from the valley villages up to over 3000 m in altitude: for example, towards the passes of Cavallino della Fobbia, Baremone, Crocedomini, or to the mountain huts of Cima Rest, Baremone, Blumone, Gaver, Monte Censo, Dosso Alto and Maniva. There is a lovely walk from Bagolino to Lake Vacca.

Lake Ravenola



Caldoline summit



Winter skiing

Modern ski-lifts and good pistes can be found at **Gaver**, about 15 kilometres from Bagolino, which are in operation from December to April. The landscape is very beautiful.

Off-piste skiing, one cross-country ring (5 kilometres) and a snowboard slope are also available.





Presegnò



River Caffaro



Hotels and campsites

There are around 800 beds available in the well-equipped hotels around Lake Idro and the ski resorts.

There are many excellent campsites and tourist villages around the lake itself with a total of more than 4.600 places while apartments can be rented in the larger tourist centres.



Eating out

The dishes available in the valley are seasonal, simple and genuine: mountain mushrooms and game in autumn, grilled chicken and other meats in summer. These solid mountain dishes can be alternated with perch or lake trout from Lake Idro or the delicate brown trout found in the mountain streams.

The cheeses are tasty, starting with the delicious "Bagòss" from Bagolino and the various goats' cheeses (see "Local Foodstuffs").

To reach Valsabbia

BY CAR

Highway 45 bis
Brescia - Gavardo - Tormini

Highway 237
Brescia - Colle S. Eusebio - Barghe

Valsabbia is connected by panoramic roads from:

Lake Garda (via Valvestino to Idro)

Valtrompia (from Marmentino to Nozza)

Valcamonica (across the Croce Domini Pass to Bagolino but only open from May to October)

*Continuing beyond Ponte Caffaro brings you to the **Val Giudicarie** in Trentino.*

Val Sabbia is well served by bus from Brescia and lake Garda.

Information

**Provincia di Brescia
Assessorato al Turismo
Ufficio IAT - Brescia**

Via Musei, 32
25121 Brescia
Tel. 030 3749916
Fax 030 3749982
promozione.turismo@provincia.brescia.it
www.provincia.brescia.it/turismo

Ponte Caffaro

is now the border between Brescia and Trentino provinces but up till 1915 it was the border between Italy and Austria.

Handcrafts

Handmade items can still be found in Valsabbia, for example, pewter (Bagolino), trays, bowls and copper saucepans. Objects made from wood are also common, either simple or inlaid. All these items are made using the same care and methods of the ancient handicraftsmen.

V a l t r o m p i a



The Valtrompia is a land of contrasts, at the lower end its iron and steelworks and related industries form the pump of the Brescian economy, while the middle and upper valley is where the industries thin out and are replaced by woods, peaks, nature and peace.

The hypothetical divide between these two is Gardone Valtrompia, internationally famous for its production of arms.



built in the 15th century on the wish of San Bernardino da Siena, for its cloister and frescoes by Paolo da Caylina il Vecchio.

Well-known all over the world for its household articles production **Lumezzane** is also an active cultural town. The Torre Avogadro Civic Gallery is the seat of important exhibitions, while the Odeon Theatre puts on a rich programme. Moreover, the Astronomical Observatory "Serafino Zani" is the seat of meetings, lessons and guided visits, especially for school groups.

The wealth of minerals and abundance of water were responsible for the establishment of ironworks hundreds of years ago. Mines, blast furnaces and forges have modelled the valley landscape. The recent recovery of this historical and cultural heritage and the making of educational laboratories and museum itineraries have led to the delineation of the Iron and **Mines Route**, the stages of which are: the St. Aloisio mine at Collio, the Medieval tower at Bovegno, the Marzoli mine at Pezzeze, the blast furnace at Tavernole sul Mella and the Hammers at Sarezze. Info: Agenzia Parco Minerario dell'Alta Valle Trompia Tel. 030 9280022 www.miniereinvaltrompia.it



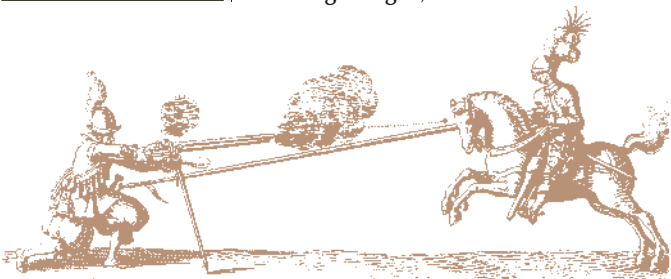
Gardone Valtrompia

For almost five hundred years the name of Gardone Valtrompia (the largest town in the valley) has been linked to the production of armour and firearms. Since Brescia was part of the Venetian Republic, which encouraged such production, the arms produced here have

been considered among the best in the world. The Ancient Arms Museum in Brescia describes the history of its products where hundreds of examples are displayed. Even today, Gardone is the largest producer of hunting guns and small arms in Italy (see "Handcrafts"). The parish church of **San Marco** should be visited for its 17th and 18th century paintings, and the church of **Santa Maria degli Angeli**,

The Pope's house

Pope Paul VI was born in Concesio at the entrance to the valley.





The church of San Filastrio at Tavernole

Bovegno

Bovegno is at a height of 684 m so is suitable for mountain lovers who suffer from excessive altitude. The old part of the village is called Castello where the parish church of **S.Giorgio** is found among the austere houses. The church has a fine wooden altar by Pjalorsi and admirable paintings.

The San Martino hill behind, where the remains of the Castle can be seen, and a 16th century **Sanctuary** offer plenty of scope for walks while more difficult climbs can be made on Monte Muffetto, Monte Ario or up to Colma di Marcuolo.



Collio

Originally known for its iron mines and silver-bearing lead, today Collio is the largest winter sports centre in the valley. From the beginning of winter until late spring one can ski from Collio, passing through S.Colombano, as far as Maniva (see "Sport"). In summer Collio is a starting point for pleasant excursions such as up to Corna

Blacca, Monte Colombine, Maniva and Cima Caldoline.

Winter and summer holidays

Pezzero, Pezzaze, Marmentino and Irma are all pleasant, quiet resorts for a winter or summer holiday which combines relaxation with sport and nature.



The church of San Rocco at Collio

Farmhouses in Valtrompia



Farmhouse architecture

In middle and upper Valtrompia, in villages or standing apart on the slopes, many old farmhouses can be found which reflect a way of life which has now almost disappeared. They are often arranged around a central courtyard with a barn, stall, outhouses and wood stall; made of stone, they sometimes have iron-scrolling over the windows and frescoes on the façade. Polaveno is the best preserved farming centre in the valley but attractive farmhouses can be seen at Marcheno and in the small villages around it, Lodrino, Cimmo, Pezzaze valley and in Val Marmentino.

To reach Valtrompia

BY CAR

Highway 345

Brescia-Croce Domini pass

BY BUS

Brescia - Valtrompia
(departure from SIA Bus Station)

Information

Provincia di Brescia Assessorato al Turismo Ufficio IAT - Brescia

Via Musei, 32
25121 Brescia
Tel. 030 3749916
Fax 030 3749982
promozione.turismo@provincia.brescia.it
www.provincia.brescia.it/turismo



Hotels and mountain huts

There are about 1000 hotel beds in Valtrompia and as many again in campsites, apartments to let, country accommodation and B&B. Walkers can take advantage of several mountain huts which are mostly open seasonally.

Eating out

The most typical Valtrompia dishes are game and mountain trout. Soft mountain cheeses and salami are the best of the local products (see "Food and wine").

Outings in the mountains



There are many well-signed paths through the woods at the bottom of the valley, in the pastures half-way up and around the summits of the

mountains. Monte Guglielmo in particular (1949 m) has dozens of paths.

For those who like the high mountains, there are Corna Blacca (typical Dolomite mountain), Colombine, Dosso Alto and Muffetto.

Other routes guide the visitor around old villages, for example, Cimmo at the foot of Monte Stalletti, and interesting parts of the countryside. Finally, there are spectacular ski-runs open until late spring at Maniva and on Monte Guglielmo it is available on and off skiing (see "Sport").



Passo Maniva

The Brescian plain



The Brescian plain extends to the south of the city. It remains relatively unknown by most tourists yet it has its own charm which is discovered as one travels among its castles, villages and agricultural towns. The best way to appreciate the plain is by following its rivers, trying the simple, tasty traditional dishes and visiting the churches and museums to admire their works of art.



Montichiari

Dominated by the cupola of the local church and the castle, Montichiari is an elegant though ancient town; in the surrounding area pre-Roman objects, Roman bronzes and mosaics have been found.

The present **Bonoris Castle** was built on the ruins of an ancient medieval fortress and the **Parish church** was built in the 1700's by Gian Battista and Antonio Marchetti and designed by Sorattini.

Inside is the "*Last Supper*" by Romanino. Not far from the town and on a hill stands the church of **S. Pancrazio**;

built in the 12th century, it is a fine example of Romanesque architecture.

Leno

Desiderius, king of the Longobards, founded a monastery here in 758 which became one of the most important in north Italy.

Today, only the two lions at the entrance to the **Parish church** and some objects (among which are a few gold

Longobard crosses) remain from the original buildings, destroyed for good in the 18th century.

The museum is housed in the town council building and has objects that date from prehistoric times to the Longobard period.

In **Porzano** it is possible to visit a church, which houses a painting by Moretto.

Montichiari: the Romanesque church of San Pancrazio



River Oglio

The Oglio rises in the mountains of Valcamonica, crosses through Lake Iseo and runs slowly through the Brescian plain. It is in part protected, because it flows through a big natural Park (see "Parks and nature") and is a pleasant place for leisurely walks or bicycle rides. There are many itineraries to reach it, but the most interesting are two: the roads that leave from Bompensiero and Roccafranca.

The Sanctuary of Carpenedolo

A jewel of a building, the Sanctuary of the Madonna di Castello at Carpenedolo is ascribed by Brescia's greatest 18th century architect, Antonio Marchetti.



Manerbio

This town was called "*Vicus Minervae*" in Roman times and was an important fortified post in the 10th century. Today Manerbio is a large agricultural and commercial centre.

The **Civic Museum** holds archeological objects found on the Brescian plain including some from Celtic tombs (from which come also the silver medallions of Manerbio now in the Roman Civic Museum in Brescia). The 18th century parish church of **San Lorenzo** contains fine works of art including "*Madonna with Child and Saints*" by Moretto.

A few kilometres away there is **Villa Lechi** at Montirone with a beautiful Italian-style garden.

It was built between 1738 and 1746 and is undoubtedly one of the most sumptuous houses in the province. It is still private property.

In Seniga

stands one of the most important Romanesque buildings in the Brescian plain: the 13th c. Church of Santa Maria in Comella.



Verolanuova

Verolanuova is a successful agricultural and commercial town. Its

Parish church has two paintings by Giambattista Tiepolo measuring 66 m², the "*Sacrifice of Melchisedech*" and "*Manna from Heaven*" which the Venetian artist executed in 1738.

Palazzo Gambara in the centre is an impressive 17th century building which now houses the Town Council offices.



"Manna from Heaven" by Tiepolo in Verolanuova Parish church

Orzinuovi

Situated strategically over the river Oglio, Orzinuovi has maintained its military origins in its modern town layout although very little remains of the fortifications built by Sanmicheli, Venice's architect. The heart of the town is the central square which dates from the end of the 12th century and where every month an Antiques market is held.



Travagliato

Of the great works of art on the Brescian plain, three of the greatest are to be found in Travagliato: "*The Road to Calvary*" and "*Deposition from the Cross*" in the Parish church, and the fresco "*Our Lady of the Assumption*" in the Sanctuary of Santa Maria dei Campi. All three are by Vincenzo Civerchio, the first two painted in 1490 and the third in 1517. Every year the town holds "Travagliato Cavalli", one of Italy's most important horse fairs.

Chiari

Chiari is an important town in the west of the province with a pleasant historic centre of 17th and 18th century buildings. The **Cathedral**, dedicated to Santi Faustino e Giovita, dates from the 15th century but was greatly rebuilt 300 years later. The **Repossi Art Gallery** has paintings and prints of the Lombard and Veneto schools from the 15th to the 20th century.



Travagliato: "Deposition from the Cross" and "Road to Calvary" by Civerchio

Villas and castles

Visiting museums

BORGO SAN GIACOMO

The Mill at Motella

Ornithological Museum

"Serafino Fiamenghi"

c/o Palazzo Volta
fraz. Acqualunga

CHIARI

Reposi Art Gallery

Via B. Varisco, 9

CILIVERGHE

Mazzucchelli Museums

Villa Mazzucchelli -
Giacomini west wing

DELLO

Rosina Storchio

Opera Museum

Via Guindani, 6

MAIRANO

Museum of Rural

Living

c/o Palazzo Rossignol
Loc. Piedevizio

MANERBIO

Archeological Museum

c/o Palazzo Luzzago
Piazza C. Battisti, 2

MONTICHIARI

Ancient Arms Museum

Piazza Teatro, 6

Giacomo Bergomi Museum

Local ethnographic
collection

c/o centro Fiera del Garda
Via Brescia, 129

Antonio and Laura Pasi-

netti Art Gallery

Via Trieste, 56

REMEDELLO DI SOPRA

Archeological Museum

c/o ex chiesa dei
Disciplini
Via Cappellazzi, 1

The Battle of Maclodio

Every five years the village of Maclodio invokes the memory of the battle of 1427 when the Venetian troops captained by Carmagnola defeated the Visconti army. This is a large, popular festival with a procession in 15th century costumes and a cavalry tournament.



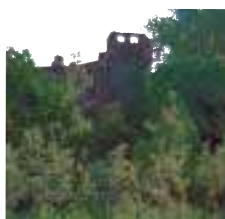
Martinengo Castle
at Villachiara (15th c.)



Meano Castle
at Corzano (15th c.)



Padernello Castle
at Borgo S. Giacomo
(15th c.)



Barco Castle
near Orzinuovi (15th c.)



Lechi Castle
at Calvisano (16th c.)



Villa Fenaroli
at Seniga (17th c.)

Ponteviso Castle
(rebuilt in 20th c.)



Eating out

The plain produces good and varied cheeses (grana padano and taleggio for strong flavours, crescenza, stracchino and robiola for mild, soft cheese) and meat products (salami, cotecchini and other sausages), all of which can be bought directly from the producers.

In Calvisano there are fishing breeding: salmons, sturgeons, eels. The restaurants and trattorias offer typical Brescian cooking influenced by neighbouring provinces - Mantova, Cremona and Bergamo - for example, "tortelli di zucca", i.e. ravioli with pumpkin (see "Food and wine").

To reach the Brescian plain

BY TRAIN

Strecken FFSS

Milan - Venice
Brescia - Parma
Brescia - Lecco
Brescia - Cremona

BY CAR

Highway 236

Brescia - Mantova

Highway 45 bis

Brescia - Cremona

Highway 11

Brescia - Chiari

Highway 668

Montichiari - Orzinuovi

All main towns are well served by bus from Brescia.

Information

Provincia di Brescia Assessorato al Turismo Ufficio IAT - Brescia

Via Musei, 32
25121 Brescia
Tel. 030 3749916
Fax 030 3749982
promozione.turismo@provincia.brescia.it
www.provincia.brescia.it/turismo

Franciacorta



Franciacorta is an area of gentle hills covered with vineyards, medieval towers and patrician villas. It lies in a sunny hollow to the south of Lake Iseo and has been dedicated to wine-making since the Romans started to cultivate the vine. Heirs of the tradition, today's wine-makers produce high-quality wines, the most famous being "Franciacorta", the king of Italian sparkling wines.



Rodengo Saiano

Rodengo Saiano has been a single district since 1927. It is situated about 15 kilometres from the city and is of ancient origin: Saiano was actually established under the Romans and Rodengo during the Longobard era. One place that simply must be visited is the **abbey of San Nicola** which is one of the most impressive monastic sites in Italy. It was founded in the 11th century by Cluniac monks but passed into



There are many theories about the origin of the name "Franciacorta".

The most widely accepted is that it derives from "*franchae curtes*". In the Middle Ages there were many communities of monks who enjoyed particular privileges (such as exemption from paying tax) on condition that they worked the land they were entrusted with. The term "*Franzacurta*" appears for the first time in the Brescia Council Statutes of 1277 while the geographic definition of the area dates from 1429 when, in the Statutes of the Venetian Doge Francesco Foscari, the limits were proscribed which today match those defined by the Wine-makers Regulatory Board for the production of Franciacorta wine.



The vestry

The cloister in the Olivetan Abbey in Rodengo Saiano

Not just wines, however: the area also boasts excellent cuisine, hand-crafts, art, history, sport (from golf to horse-riding), folklore, charming hotels, country accommodation and B&B to help the visitor relax in beautiful countryside a short journey from the city.



the hands of the Olivetans in the mid-15th century. The Abbey is built around three large cloisters and is decorated with works by the greatest artists of the Brescian school of the 16th and 17th centuries (*Foppa's school, Romanino, Moretto, Gambara and Cossali*). Inside there is a book-restoration workshop and today, the monks still produce a liquor based on herbs.



Provaglio d'Iseo

The last district in Franciacorta before Lake Iseo, Provaglio provides a delightful view over the Sebino Peat Moss. The origin of the district is strictly connected with the presence of the the Cluniac Monastery of **San Pietro in Lamosa** founded in the 11th century. This monastery is one of the most interesting Romanesque remains in the province of Brescia. The oldest part is the church of San Pietro next to which a baroque chapel was built. There is an excellent view of the nearby peat moss from its churchyard. Over the village it has been recently recovered the area of the **Castle of San Rocco** built by the Oldofredi family.

Monastery of San Pietro in Lamosa



Corte Franca

Corte Franca is the heart of Franciacorta and is divided into four villages - **Borgonato, Colombaro, Nigoline** and **Timoline**. Large, old residences alternate with renowned wineries surrounded by attractive vineyards. Among the more beautiful are the Villa Berlucci in Borgonato, Villa Lana of Conti Terzi in Colombaro (in whose gardens stands the highest Cedar of Lebanon in Italy and 300 years old), Palazzo Monti della Corte and Palazzo Torri in Nigoline and Villa Pizzini in Timoline.



Viniculture room
in the Agricultural
Museum Ricci Curbastro
at Capriolo



which now are difficult if not impossible to find. They represent the roots of Franciacorta's present culture.



Erbusco: Romanesque church of Santa Maria Assunta

Capriolo

Capriolo is typically medieval with the remains of its ancient walls and castle.

It stands on a hill, with a second hill, S.Onofrio, immediately behind, and has a clear view over the vineyards of Franciacorta and Lake Iseo. In its old section there are ancient farmhouses and other rural buildings made from large round stones, and aristocratic villas such as the 12th century Palazzo Ochi and 16th century Palazzo Lantieri de Paratico.

The **Agricultural and Wine Museum Ricci Curbastro** at 37, via Adro contains hundreds of objects, tools and equipment which were used at one time in the fields, the wine-cellar and houses and



Erbusco Parish church (17th c.)

Erbusco

Erbusco is one of Franciacorta's main manufacturing centres. It is also the seat of the Consortium that manages the D.O.C. Franciacorta wines. Its origins are very ancient, as shown by the prehistoric

and Roman finds discovered on its territory.

Since the 15th century Erbusco has been one of the Brescian nobility's favourite country resorts and it can boast one of the most beautiful and important villas in the area: **Villa Lechi**, built during the 16th and 17th centuries, whose unmistakable outline with its wide galleries can be seen from way off. The old village is picturesque and inside the remains of the castle stands the church of **S.Maria Assunta**, one of the best examples of Lombard Romanesque architecture, decorated with elegant 15th century frescoes. Its ancient Carnival is still famous.

Erbusco:
Villa Lechi



The square in Rovato



Rovato

Rovato is called "the city" in Franciacorta. It has always been an important agricultural and commercial centre and is famous for the quality of its livestock. Local cuisine centres on



Chiostrò del convento dell'Annunziata

tasty boiled meat dishes which form the basis of meals in the local trattorias. But it is not just for "manzo all'olio" (beef cooked in oil) that Rovato is worth stopping at: in the ancient centre can be seen the large square lined with colonnades (by Rodolfo Vantini), the **Town Hall, Palazzo Porcellaga-Quistini**, the Venetian walls with their imposing crenella-

Palazzo Porcellaga-Quistini



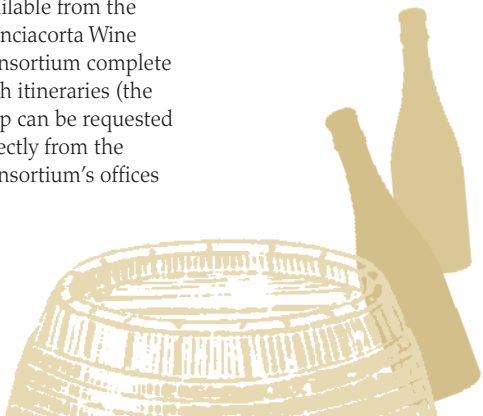
tions and the church of **Santo Stefano** with its 15th century frescoes. Just outside the town, the 15th century Convent of the Annunciation can be found on **Monte Orfano**. It is one of the most beautiful convents in Lombardy, an oasis of peace with artistic masterpieces (including "*The Annunciation*" by Romanino) and where there is a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside.

Visiting the wineries

The wineries in Franciacorta are a must to visit. There are two reasons - the excellent wines and the splendid buildings where they are made, usually historic aristocratic residences or renovated farmhouses.

An excellent guide is available from the Franciacorta Wine Consortium complete with itineraries (the map can be requested directly from the Consortium's offices

in Erbusco).





The wines

Franciacorta D.O.C.G.

This is the Champagne of Italy and in 1995 was the first to receive the D.O.C.G. denomination, the highest Italian recog-



inition for wines of exceptional quality. There are four types:

Brut, Extrabrut, Millesimato and Satèn.

Terre di Franciacorta Rosso D.O.C.

- This is produced using mainly Cabernet franc, Merlot and Cabernet sauvignon grapes but also Barbera and Nebbiolo in small amounts.

Terre di Franciacorta Bianco D.O.C.

- This wine is mostly made from Chardonnay grapes with the addition of Pinot bianco.



Sport

Bicycle

There are many cycling routes, covering hundreds of km, that snake through the peat moss, hills and vineyards.



Golf

There is a 27 hole course at Nigoline.



Horse-riding

There are many riding-courses making starting points for riding through the countryside. Riding clubs: Erbusco, Paratico, Gussago, Cellatica, Passirano and Rovato.



Swimming

Water parks, swimming pools, slides, water-mas-sages - all can be found at the water parks at Timoline and Rovato.





Villas and castles

Franciacorta was the Brescian nobility's favourite location for their country houses and the countryside is dotted with villas surrounded by

picturesque gardens. Most of them are in private hands and so cannot be visited but their façades and parks can be seen from the road. There are also many castles and

Monticelli-Brusati:
Villa Montini-Pisa



Handcrafts

Wrought ironwork is as much a tradition in Franciacorta as wine. The "*brusafer*" have been embellishing gates, balconies, benches, signs, and coats of arms of the houses of Franciacorta since 1600. Today the craftsmen produce works of art in their small workshops.

towers in Franciacorta. The older ones generally date from the Middle Ages. On reservation you can visit: **Bornato Castle** surrounded by crenellated walls, bastions and a dykes. Besides its interior, also open to the public is its 17th century Italian garden; **Palazzo Torri** in Nigoline is a fortified residence of the 17th c. with a beautiful garden. Known as "*Villa di Delizie*" it was an important artistic and literary circle at the end of the 19 th. c.; **Palazzo Porcellaga-Quistini** in Rovato is a 17th c. villa, where

you can admire a roses and peonies nursery.



Hotels and country accommodation

Franciacorta offers small atmospheric and charming hotels as well as country accommodation and cosy B&B.

Spa

Franciacorta's spa is at Ome where modern facilities provide the waters from two springs whose therapeutic effects have been enjoyed for over a hundred years (see "Spas and Health").



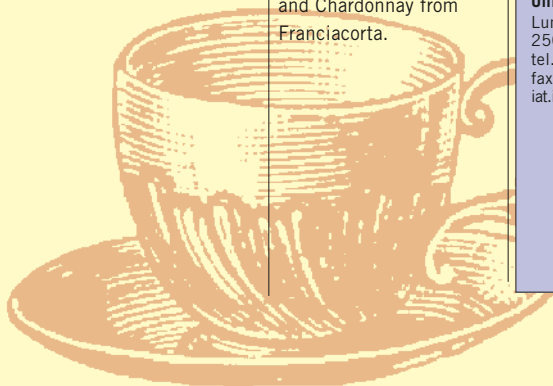
Eating out

The choices include fish dishes from Lake Iseo and meat dishes from the hill areas. The most famous dishes are "manzo all'olio" (beef cooked in oil) and "tinca ripiena" of Clusane (stuffed tench).

Boiled meats and spit-roasts (for which the restaurants and trattorias of Gussago are renowned) are excellent. Besides wines,



Franciacorta also produces acquavita (called grappa): the most typical are the Colli Bresciani and the Pinot and Chardonnay from Franciacorta.



To reach Franciacorta

BY TRAIN

FS

Milan - Venice

FNME

Brescia-Iseo-Edolo

BY CAR

Highway 510

Brescia-Iseo

Highway 11

Brescia - Rovato - Milan

Motorway A4

Milan - Venice
(exits Ospitaletto, Rovato or Palazzolo)

BY PLANE

The nearest airports are **Milan** (Malpensa and Linate) **Bergamo** Orio al Serio, **Verona** Villafranca and **Brescia** Montichiari.

Information

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iat.iseo@tiscali.it

Lake Iseo



Every lake is a world of its own and Lake Iseo is one of the most charming and romantic for the changingness of its moods, its amphitheatre of surrounding mountains and for its central island, Monte Isola (one of the largest lake islands in Europe) which rises green out of the lake's deep, blue waters. The constant breeze which plays over the lake is perfect for lovers of sailing, windsurfing, kite surf, paragliding and hang-gliding and anglers will delight in the abundance of fish in the clean waters. Lake Iseo is ideal for people who want sport, relaxation and unspoilt nature as part of their holiday.



Iseo

Iseo town's historic centre, elegant shops, modern sporting facilities and excellent restaurants make it a popular tourist resort. Among the monuments that are worth visiting are the parish church of **Sant'Andrea** dating from the 12th century with its beautiful Romanesque bell-tower, the 11th century **Oldofredi Castle**



Romanesque church of Sant'Andrea

The land on the east side of the lake lies in the province of Brescia while the western side belongs to Bergamo. The Brescian land is very varied.

There is the peat moss near to Iseo town which is protected and of interest for its botanical and animal life, then there are steep, green hills that line the road as far as Marone, and overhanging rocks that accompany the visitor to Pisogne. For history lovers, Sebino (the name given to the lake by the Romans) teems with treasures to be discovered: churches and Romanesque abbeys, castles, frescoes (not to be missed are those by Romanino in the church of the Madonna della Neve in Pisogne) and ancient village centres still perfectly preserved.

which has been transformed into a cultural centre, the church of **Santa Maria del Mercato** with fine 14th and 18th century frescoes, the church of **San Silvestro** with its macabre dance and the church of **San Giovanni** ex baptistery. The remains of the original lakeside inhabitants have been preserved by the nearby peat moss. For sports and relaxation facilities, the visitor cannot do better than visit Sassabaneke (one of the biggest leisure centres on Lombard lakes) at the entrance of the town which offers swimming pools, tennis courts, restaurants, gymnasiums, a marina and a camp-site.

The town itself has numerous restaurants that serve fish fresh from the lake while Clusane, another lakeside little town, specializes in tench and every year has a festival dedicated to the fish.



The peat moss

Just outside Iseo town, the visitor can make an unusual excursion to the peat moss, a protected area unique in Europe.

It is a naturalistic reserve created by the Region of Lombardy

that extends for 2 km². The best time to visit peat moss is late spring when the thousands of water-lilies are in flower (see "Parks and Nature").

The best place to admire them at a single glance is from the courtyard of the ancient Cluniac Abbey of San Pietro in Lamosa at Provaglio.

Sulzano

Lovers of sailing will find all they need at Sulzano but the visitor can also choose to go up the mountain behind where he will see old country houses and unspoilt villages hundreds of years old, and enjoy glorious views over the lake. Another option is to take the ferry-ride to Monte Isola. In Sulzano itself a fine and panoramic walk will take you to the 15th century church of **S.Maria del Giogo**.

Sulzano and Monte Isola



Monte Isola

Monte Isola

Monte Isola is truly a world of its own in the middle of this beautiful lake. It covers 5 km² and in that small space rises to an altitude of 600 m. It is among the largest lake islands in Europe.

It is easily reached by ferry from either Sulzano, Iseo or Sale Marasino. In just a few minutes the boat arrives at the pretty fishing villages of

Peschiera Maraglio or

Carzano which have maintained their charm just like the other villages on the island - Sensole, Siviano, Cure and Menzino: typical sights are nets left to dry along the shore and narrow roads flanked by houses with loggias and stone entrances. Of course there are restaurants offering the island's speciality, grilled sardines, which

Monte Isola:
fish laid out to dry



are really shad and bleak dried in the sun for ten days, soaked in oil for a few months and then grilled. Outside the villages the visitor is struck by the quiet. No four-wheeled

vehicles are allowed on the island except for public services. The walks and swimming from the small beaches are superb. One can easily circle the island by bus (end of the line

in Peschiera Maraglio), bike or on foot. The top of the island gives stupendous views of the lake and mountains. It is here that the **Sanctuary of the Madonna della Ceriola** is built and, at Menzino, the **Oldofredi-Martinengo Castle**.

Near to Monte Isola two small jewels float on the water, the islands of **Loreto** and **San Paolo**.



Sale Marasino

Sale Marasino is a typical lakeside village. The old centre grew up around the 18th century cathedral dedicated to **San Zenone Vescovo** and Santa Maria Assunta, the interior is decorated with frescoes by Francesco Monti. The walk down to the lake passes through the park of the 16th century **Palazzo**

Martinengo whose façade is decorated with a colonnade which suggests a loggia. The remains of a 1st century A.D. Roman villa stand in the park. Nearby villages worth visiting are **Conche**, with a beautiful 18th century church of San Giovanni Battista, and **Curetto**, with its 1521 church of San Pietro.

Marone

Marone is on the road north. It is a perfect place for walking and biking. From the village numerous paths leave that climb up over 1000 m towards **Monte Guglielmo** and the **Croce of Marone**. As in Sale Marasino, Marone can also

boast the remains of a 1st century A.D. Roman villa. From here on, the small beaches give way to rocks that drop sheer into the lake - the best view is seen from the **church of S. Pietro in vincoli** built on an outcrop over the village of Vello. It is this part

Pregasso church

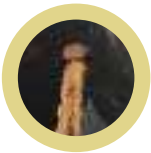


Marone: Santa Madonna della Rota

of the lake that is favoured by windsurfers, particularly between **Vello** and **Toline**, where a breeze is always to be found. The ancient coast road from **Vello to Toline**, 5 km of wonderful landscape, has been transformed in a cycling route.



Zone



Zone has a very unusual feature: the locals call them “*stone witches*” but geologists prefer the term “*erosion pyramids*”. They are columns up to 30 metres high of soil topped, and protected, by a rock. Water and wind have eroded the surrounding soil over thousands of years leaving the pyramids seemingly more precarious than a house of cards. They are the largest in

Europe and should not be missed (see “Parks and Nature”).

Zone, above Marone, itself is a delightful village of old wood and stone houses dating from the 17th century. It is a quiet summer resort of restaurants and an excellent starting point for making excursions up to

Corna Trentapassi and the **Monte Guglielmo** where along a path there is the Goblins Wood; animals and fantasy characters are carved in tree trunks. Of historical and artistic interest are the **Parish church** and the small 15th century church of **San Giorgio** at **Cislano**.



The pyramids at Zone



Romanino's frescoes

The 15th century church of **Santa Maria della Neve** preserves one of the most interesting 1533 cycle of frescoes by the Brescian painter, Gerolamo Romano, known as Romanino which tells the story of the Passion. Other frescoes by Romanino in Valcamonica can be seen in Bienno and Breno.



Woods at Passabocche

Cycle routes

There are many cycle routes around Lake Iseo. Here are some suggestions.

- On Monte Isola bicycles are a pleasant way to make the tour of the island, in fact here private traffic is not admitted.
- For the mountain-bike lovers there are many enjoyable routes in Val Palot and Zone.
- A good way to reach the lakeside villages without having to cycle along the busiest stretches of the road which circles the lake is to carry the bikes on the Brescia-Iseo-Edolo train line - FNME (Information: Tel. 030 9849266 www.lenord.it) or use the summer tourist railway FBS Palazzo-Paratico. (Information: Tel. 0338 577210 www.ferrovieturistiche.it).

Pisogne

Pisogne is the gate to Valcamonica and the meeting point between lakeside and mountain life. The village is very old. There are interesting buildings like the 7th century church of **Santa Maria in Silvis**, the medieval **Bishop's Tower** and the church of **Santa Maria della Neve**. The centre of the village is the elegant **piazza Corna Pellegrini** lined with

typical porticoes and old houses. From spring to autumn it is the scene of concerts, plays and festivals. There is a lovely walk from Pisogne to **Val Palot** where there is a splendid view of the lake.





Fishing boats and nets

Two hundred years ago the inhabitants of Monte Isola started to produce fishing boats and nets. Today, that tradition has spread to the shores and they are no longer all hand-made but it still forms an important part of the Sebino economy. From 1500 women traditionally made the nets by hand and **nets** made with original tools can still be found on the island. The local fishing-boat, the "**naècc**" is still made in some local boat-yards but the number has dwindled with the number of fishermen. Now the island boat-builders make small recreational craft while yards in other parts of the lake (for example in Sarnico in the province of Bergamo) are famous for larger, high quality boats.

Boat trips

A delightful and different way to see the lake and the villages is by water. Ferries leave from Iseo, Sulzano, Sale Marasino, and Pisogne (in the province of Brescia)

which stop off at Monte Isola and the villages on the Bergamo side of the lake.

Information available from:

Navigazione Lago d'Iseo
Tel. 035 971483
www.navigazione lagoiseo.it





Accommodation facilities

Good quality hotels from 1 to 4 stars can be found all round the lake and inland (over 2.500 beds). There are many well-equipped campsites and tourist villages which are mostly found around Pilzone and Clusane (around 8.300 beds). Apartments can be rented all around the lake and in the town centres. There are three mountain huts, several B&B and farmhouses.

Eating out

Grilled or oven-cooked lake fish form the basis of most cooking in the area. The most common fish are tench (stuffed, baked and accompanied by polenta), salmerini, coregoni and eels (salmerini and coregoni are found only in Lake Iseo). The other kinds of fish that are dried in the sun, soaked in oil and grilled are delicious served with polenta. However, in autumn the restaurants also offer game, mountain mushrooms, casseroles, boiled meats and gnocchi; in spring there are ravioli and herb filled omelettes. All these are accompanied by Franciacorta wines and the excellent extra virgin olive oil. On Monte Isola excellent smoked salami are made and delicate soft cheeses in Val Palot (see "Food and wine").

To reach Lake Iseo

BY TRAIN

FNME

Brescia - Iseo - Edolo
Connection train and bus
Brescia - Edolo

BY CAR

Highway 510

Brescia-Iseo

Motorway A4

Milan - Venice (exits
Rovato or Palazzolo)

*Continuing north
past Pisogne you reach
Valcamonica.*

BY PLANE

The nearest airports are
Milan (Malpensa and
Linate) **Bergamo** Orio al
Serio, **Verona** Villafranca
and **Brescia** Montichiari.

Information

Ufficio IAT

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V a l c a m o n i c a



Valcamonica truly has much to offer: two unspoilt national parks - Adamello and Stelvio - among the most important in the Alps, an impressive network of paths and mountain huts for walkers and climbers, three well-known ski stations (Ponte di Legno-Tonale, Borno and Montecampione) and many others less well-known, summer skiing on the Presena glacier, spas at Darfo Boario and Angolo and a World Heritage national park that documents art and history from 10.000 years ago.



Montecampione

Situated at the mouth of the valley and easily reached from Brescia, Montecampione is the most recent tourist development in Valcamonica and is perfect for winter skiing (see "Sport") or for a summer walking or sports holiday. It was designed during the 1970's in a panoramic position. It has two centres, Alpiatz at 1200 m and Plan at 1800 m.

Darfo Boario Terme

The writer Alessandro Manzoni thought highly of it but before him, even as far back as the famous 16th century naturalist Paracelsus, many praised the water of Boario which is famous for its powers to cure liver, and other, problems. Marketed since the early

From Lake Iseo to Tonale, Valcamonica is a string of villages and towns where tourism has been developed around nature; it is an ideal winter or summer destination for mountain lovers. To pep you up at any time there are hot water springs in **Boario Terme** and **Angolo**.

Boario spa



Right beside the Boario Spa, **Via Mala** starts. It is cut out of the rock and looks down onto the Scalve Valley. In **Gorzone**, **Luine Park** is well worth a visit for the prehistoric carvings in the rocks and the medieval Federici Castle. At **Angolo Terme**, the visitor can relax or be active in the big park with swimming-pool surrounding the Spa where the San Silvestro and Fonte Nuova waters rise (ideal for inhalations). **Lake Moro** is very beautiful with its charming village of Capodilago, which can be reached walking only four kilometres or so from the Spa.

Gorzone: medieval Federici Castle



1900's, the waters gush from four springs in the modern resort situated in a park of over 140.000 m².

It is fitted out for all types of sport and leisure to get you back to fitness (see "Spas and health").

With over 30 hotels, boutiques, restaurants, and old villages to be explored nearby, Darfo Boario Terme is the main town in the valley and one of the most important conference centres in Brescia region; indeed, its Congress Centre is one of the most mod-

ern and best equipped conference centres in Lombardy (see "Conferences"). Boario is also the seat of the Archeopark, a large open air interactive museum with prehistoric settlements rebuildings.



Esine: frescoes by Pietro Da Cemmo, church of Santa Maria Assunta

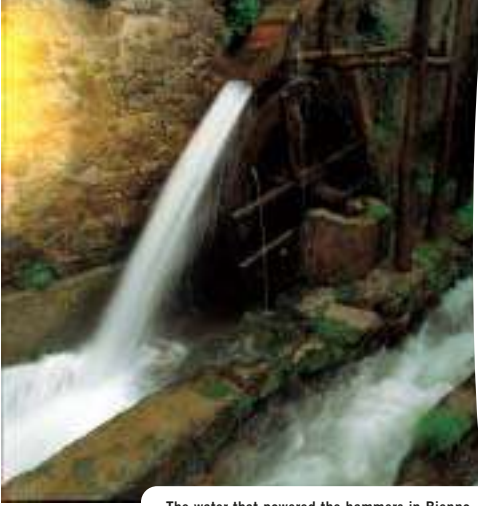
Barberino Park

Barberino Park is excellent for walking and mountain-biking to see the only karsic lakes in Valcamonica.

Esine

Esine is one of the many small villages in Valcamonica that boast a true art treasure. Its church of **Santa Maria Assunta** is a national monument. It was built in the 1400's and chimes the oldest bell in the valley (dated 1535); it is decorated with a cycle of frescoes by Pietro Da Cemmo.

Also by the school of Da Cemmo are the frescoes in the **chapel of San Rocco** attached to the beautiful Romanesque church of the Holy Trinity.



The water that powered the hammers in Bienno

Bienno

Crenellated towers and old houses with stone loggias and doorways, Bienno has maintained its medieval features intact. In the centre of the village is the **church of Santa Maria Annunciata** with frescoes by Romanino and Da Cemmo and the Parish church with the 17th century organ made by the Antegnati

brothers, one of the most perfect in Europe. However, the real curiosity of the village is the **old forges** where the visitor can see how iron used to be worked using only hammers powered by the rush of the waters. Once there were over 80 forges in the valley and today the methods of three hundred years ago are used in Bienno. In fact the local smiths still use

the ancient methods of working.

To know the history of the old forges the visitor can go to the

Forge Museum.

There is also an old **mill** in use to grind the grain into flour.



The old windmill in Bienno

Hero Prince: Archeological Museum in Cividate Camuno (1st c. A.D.)



Cividate Camuno

Once upon a time this tiny village was the "*Civitas Camunorum*", the centre of the valley's affairs during Roman times. The archeological remains of the **Theatre and Amphitheatre Park** bear this out (baths, theatre, houses, burial grounds etc.) but also the valuable finds now on display in the **National Valle Camonica Archeological Museum**. There are floor mosaics, vases, sarcophagi and a rare

statue of Minerva made from Carrara marble, almost 2 metres high and dating from the 5th century B.C.



Roman tower

Borno

Sitting in the centre of a sunny hollow, Borno is one of the most appreciated tourist resorts in Valcamonica. In the winter the visitor can ski from 1700 m on Monte Altissimo (see "Sport") and in summer there



Monte Altissimo

are dozens of walks and outings available, from simple strolls to difficult climbs.

Its historic centre is very beautiful and there are many typical shops. Five kilometres away in Piancogno is the 15th century

Convent of Annunciata with its harmonious cloisters

Piancogno: frescoes by Da Cemmo in the Convent of Annunciata

and church frescoed by Pietro Da Cemmo. The road over to Val di Scalve has magnificent views.

Breno Breno is overlooked by the remains of the medieval **Castle** built around the year 1000 on the high point that has been inhabited since Neolithic times. Ancient finds indicate that this is not only the oldest inhabited place in the valley but in all the Lombardy Alps. In Breno's centre, the Renaissance **church of Sant'Antonio** is decorated with frescoes

by Romanino while the **Parish church** has paintings by Moretto, another Brescian master of the 16th century. The history of the village and the valley is described in the **Camonic Civic Museum** - picture-gallery where objects, paintings, prints, manuscripts and statues are displayed.



Breno Castle



The "Road to Calvary" in the Way of the Cross in Cerveno

Cerveno

Standing under one of the most beautiful mountains in the valley, the Concarena, Cerveno guards, in the Parish church, a major example of art and popular faith in all of the Alps: the **14 chapels of "The Way of the Cross"** in which around 200 full-size statues tell the story of Christ's Passion. Most of the statues, realistic and even grotesque, were the work of Beniamino Simoni who completed the work on 11 of the stations (1752-1761).

The others were sculpted by Donato and Grazioso Fantoni (1764) and Giovanni Seleroni (1869).



Wooden statue: the school of Fantoni

Sculptors and craftsmen

Arts and crafts: sculpting and inlaying wood are ancient traditions in this valley as shown in the altars, chancels and statues that embellish the churches, but also in workshops which still today produce objects and furniture made with great skill (see "Handcrafts").

Valley woodworking skills were particularly renowned between the 15th and 18th centuries with works by the Ramus family of Edolo and Fantoni being their greatest exponents. The most beautiful works are to be found in the higher part of the valley:

Edolo, Monno, Incudine, Stadolina, Canè, Ponte di Legno and Precasaglio.



Cerveno Parish church: altar frontal by Fantoni



Capo di Ponte

Looked after by UNESCO, the rock-carvings at Capo di Ponte are mostly found in the **Naquane National Park**, the largest in Europe dedicated to rock art. Over 30.000 figures have been carved into a hundred or so rocks,

the most impressive being the "Big Rock" with over 1.000 figures, some overlaid on others.

These were carved from Neolithic times until the Iron Age. Also in Capo di Ponte are the two **Cemmo Rocks** which initiated



Rock-carvings

Valcamonica has the highest concentration of rock-carvings in the world (over 200.000 have so far been discovered). They tell the story of this valley over a period of 10.000 years from Paleolithic to Roman times. They are unique in that the story of the Camuni tribes is continuous from primitive tribes of hunters to a people more or less assimilated into the Roman world. For generations the Camuni carved their symbols of everyday life, hunting, war, religious and propitious rites onto rocks to document their history.



Cemmo: 12th c.
San Siro parish church



Where can rock-carvings be seen?

Capo di Ponte

National Park of Rock-Carvings

Loc. Naquane

The Cemmo Rocks Archeological National Park

Loc. Pian delle Greppe
Cemmo

Seradina and Bedolina Local Archeological Park

Loc. Seradina e Bedolina

Camonic Centre of Prehistoric Studies

Via Marconi, 7

Educational Museum of Prehistoric Art and Life-Archeodromo-Experimental Archeology Centre

Via Pieve San Siro, 4

Ceto, Cimbergo and Paspardo

Regional Reserve of Rock-carvings

Entrances at Ceto, Loc. Nadro (where there is also a museum)

Darfo Boario Terme

Archeopark

Loc. Gattaro

Lake Moro - Luine Supermunicipal Park

Ossimo

Anvoia Rock-carving Park

Sellero

Sellero Local Park

Sonico

"Coren de le fate" Rock-carvings Park

In the Adamello Regional Park.



research on Camonic art in 1900.

On one of these is the oldest known illustration of a cart. Not far away is the **parish church of San Siro** which, with Capo di Ponte's other lovely church, **San Salvatore's**, is one of the most interesting early medieval buildings in north Italy.

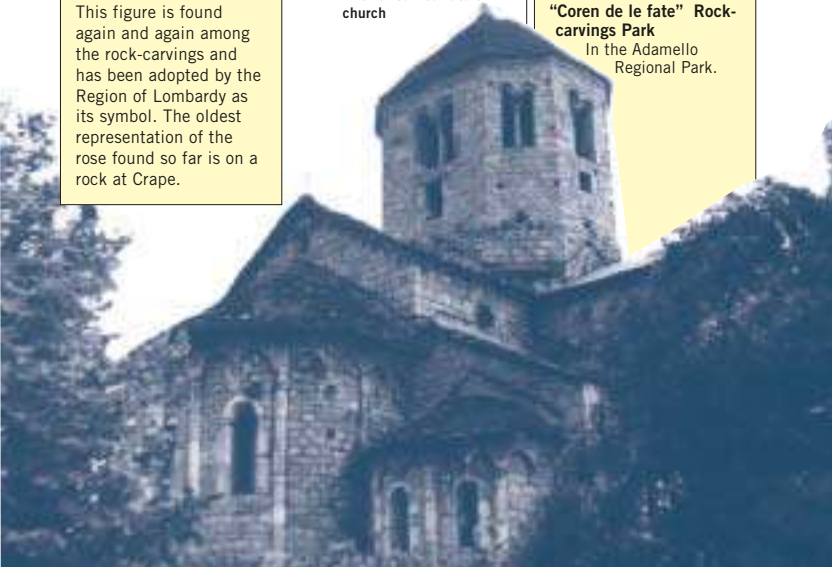


The Camonic rose

This figure is found again and again among the rock-carvings and has been adopted by the Region of Lombardy as its symbol. The oldest representation of the rose found so far is on a rock at Crape.



Capo di Ponte:
11th c. San Salvatore church





Ponte di Legno

This is one of the oldest ski stations in Italy but also a famous summer resort throughout the Alps. Its position is splendid on a sunny plateau at 1260 m above sea-level overlooked by the Adamello range. The historic centre is very picturesque, there is a lively little square, many pubs, restaurants, shops and local handcraft workshops. There is no end of things to see in the surrounding country: Case di Viso, Pezzo, Canè, Vescasa and S. Apollonia with their stone houses; the Val Grande and the Valle



Edolo

Edolo lies at 700 metres in the heart of a vast hollow where Corteno valley and high Valcamonica meet. It is the most densely populated centre of the upper valley and an excellent start-point for trips along the river Oglio or towards the Adamello and Stelvio parks. Two renowned excursions are to Lake Avio and the top of the mountain Piz Tri.



Temù and Veza d'Oglio are two typical villages near Ponte di Legno for those who love peace, long summer walks and downhill and cross-country skiing in winter. Ski lifts are also found at **Corteno Golgi - San Pietro Aprica** (the Brescian part of the Aprica ski area) which is the north-western tip of Valcamonica.

Corteno Golgi (named after Camillo Golgi, Nobel Prize-winner for medicine in 1906) is a very old village and a summer tourist resort. It lies in the heart of a valley of great natural interest and is the starting point for excursions into the Brandet and Campovecchio valleys (see "Parks and Nature").

delle Messi, the lakes of Montozzo, Avio and Aviole with their unspoilt countryside,



flowers and animals; and the Parks of Adamello and Stelvio for climbers and walkers. For sportsmen there is mountaineering, jogging in the woods, mountain-biking, horse-riding, tennis, archery, summer skiing on the Presena glacier, golf on the 9-hole course at Valbondione, 1500 metres high, and fishing in



the rivers. In winter Ponte di Legno is a well-equipped resort with pistes for all levels of skier and has artificial snow, cross-country skiing, connection to the Pass at Tonale to make up a single ski area, ice-skating, swimming pools, discotheques and games rooms (see "Sport").



Tonale

Tonale

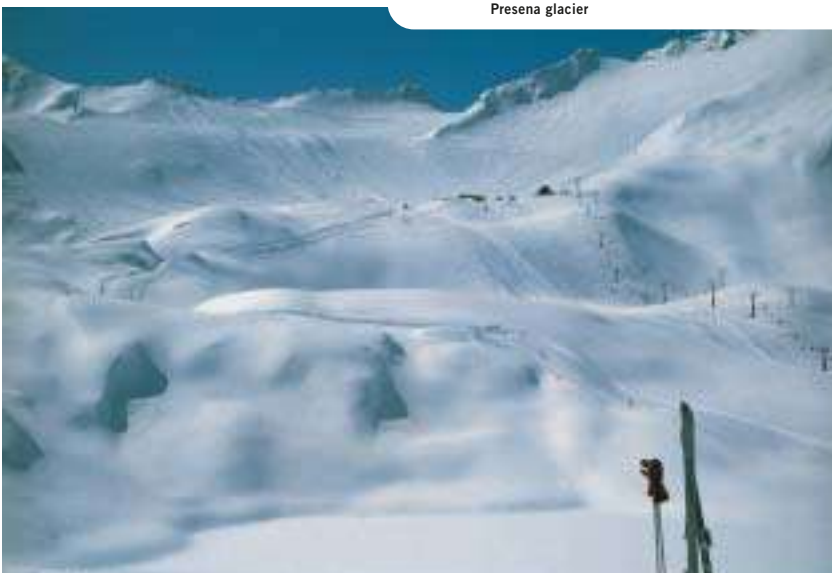
At 1884 m high and connected with Ponte di Legno by a twisting, panoramic road, Tonale is the second resort in the ski areas of upper Valcamonica and upper Val di Sole. It has around 30 ski lifts, a capacity of 30 thousand people/hour,

80 km of pistes with artificial snow, the possibility of dog-sledding, off-piste and cross country skiing. It is a perfect resort for skiers, particularly as the snow is guaranteed all year round by the Presena glacier (summer skiing). Tonale is modern and

made to measure with the pistes finishing near the hotels and apartments (see "Sport").



Presena glacier



Pian di Neve of Adamello

Lake Baitone
in the Adamello range

Outings in the mountains

Prudenzini mountain
hut in Val Savio

There are innumerable outings possible in the Valcamonica mountains. Whether they are quiet strolls through the woods or cross-mountain hikes from one hut to another, difficult climbs or cross-country skiing, there is no shortage of choice. Besides the two Natural Parks of Adamello and Stelvio, splendid walks can also be taken - in beautiful and imposing natural surroundings - at Mortirolo, the Grom and

Messi valleys, Val Grande, Val Malga and Val Canè. Valsaviore is in the centre of the Adamello Park.

It is of interest to lovers of wildlife and mountain climbers.

Leaving from Cevo or Savio, it is possible to reach the Valsalarno and Prudenzini mountain hut; this is a popular route when climbing the Adamello from the glacier in the Pian di Neve.

Hotels and campsites

Staying in Valcamonica means being able to choose from around 10.300 beds of all types of hotel category, not to mention the alternatives of campsites, apartments to rent or the accommodation offered by several mountain huts. Many of the hotels are to be found in the centres of Darfo Boario Terme and Ponte di Legno but there are always choices available throughout the rest of



the valley.

Eating out

Cheeses are the most typical produce of the valley: fresh or seasoned, strong or mild can be bought directly from producers, from shops or from dairies. The most well-known soft cheese is "Rosa camuna" in the form of a cross and the most famous comes from Val-saviore. Hand produced salamis and sausage products are also excellent as is salted meat, all available in butchers' shops. The best dishes available in the valley, simple but wholesome, are "casoncelli" (stuffed pasta), mountain

<p>Visiting museums</p> <p>There are many museums in Valcamonica dealing with different subjects.</p> <p>BERZO INFERIORE</p> <p>Casa del Beato Innocenzo Via Redentore</p> <p>BIENNO</p> <p>The Forge Museum Via Artigiani, 13</p> <p>The Mill Museum Via Glere</p> <p>BRENO</p> <p>Camuno Museum P.za Ghislandi, 4</p> <p>Archeological Park of the Minerva Sanctuary Loc. Spinera</p> <p>CIVIDATE CAMUNO</p> <p>The Val Camonica Archeological Museum - Archeological Park Via Roma, 23</p> <p>The Theatre and Amphitheatre Archeological Park Via M.Tovini</p> <p>CORTENO GOLGI</p> <p>Camillo Golgi Museum Via Brescia, 1</p> <p>LOZIO</p> <p>Ethnographic Museo Casa dei Nobili Loc. Villa</p> <p>MALENGO</p> <p>"Le Fudine" Iron Ethnographic Museum Via S. Antonio</p> <p>OSSIMO SUPERIORE</p> <p>Ethnographic Museum Via Marconi, 1</p> <p>PONTE DI LEGNO</p> <p>Museum of Sacred Art Via Castellaccio c/o Casa Parrocchiale</p> <p>TEMÙ</p> <p>Museum of the 1st W.W. fought in Adamello Via Adamello, 1</p> <p>VEZZA D'OGLIO</p> <p>Adamello Park Museum Via Nazionale, 132</p> <p>VIONE</p> <p>Ethnographic Museum "L Zul" Elementary schools Via dott. Italo Tognali</p>

mushrooms and meat in tomato sauce all accompanied by polenta. A speciality is "cuz" (pieces of lamb) from Corteno. The "grap-pas" are also enervat-

To reach Valcamonica

BY TRAIN

FNME

Brescia - Iseo - Edolo

BY CAR

Highway 510

Brescia - Darfo Boario T.

Highway 42

Bergamo - Darfo Boario Terme and Tonale Pass

*Continuing north-east after Tonale Pass, highway 42 reaches **Trentino**.*

*Continuing north-west after Aprica Pass, highway 39 reaches **Valtellina** and **Switzerland**.*

*Crossing Croce Domini Pass (open from May to October) you reach **Val-trompia** and **Valsabbia**.*

*Vivione Pass leads to **Val di Scalve**.*

*The Gavia Pass (open from June to September) connects **Val Camonica** to **Valtellina**.*

*The Mortirolo Pass (open in summer) leads to **Valtellina***

Information

Provincia di Brescia - Assessorato al Turismo:

IAT Office

P.za Einaudi, 2
25047 Darfo Boario Terme
Tel. 030 3748751
Fax 0364 532280
iat.boarioterme@provincia.brescia.it

IAT Office

P.za Martiri della Libertà, 2
25048 Edolo
Tel. 030 3748756
Fax 0364 71065
iat.edolo@provincia.brescia.it

IAT Office

C.so Milano, 41
25056 Ponte di Legno
Tel. 030 3748761
Fax 0364 91949
iat.pontedilegno@provincia.brescia.it

ing, flavoured with berries, gentian and juniper (see "Brescian wines").

S p o r t



From skiing to sailing, golf to rock-climbing, bungee-jumping to trekking - there are facilities for all sports in the city and province of Brescia. Either alone or with a guide/instructor and for any level from beginner to expert: there is as much choice as anyone could wish for.



Snow

There are many famous, well-equipped ski resorts in the province of Brescia from which interesting excursions can be made.

Upper Valcamonica

In Valcamonica up in the glaciers of the Adamello range, **Temù Ponte di Legno Tonale-Presena** (1258 m - 3100 m) are among the best known resorts in Italy (see "Valcamonica").

Here there is also summer skiing on the Presena glacier and spectacular outings can be made in the Adamello mountains. The **Presena** glacier has no fissures and is protected from the wind: it is one of the most interesting resorts for summer skiing.

To reach the top, take the cableway from Tonale. The ski school is very famous. Cross-country skiing is possi-



Temù Ponte di Legno

Tonale - Presena

- 32 lifts (more than 34.000 people per hour)
- 100 km of slopes
- 4 cross-country rings (30 km)
- Ski schools (downhill and cross-country), snowboarding and sleddog
- 110 instructors
- Planned snow
- Permanent competition piste
- Fantaski kindergarten
- Off-piste
- Motor-sled racing
- Summer skiing
- Ski pass Lombardia
- Ice-skating
- Swimming

ble at both Tonale and Ponte di Legno but also outside both resorts. For those seeking something more unusual, there is the Italian **Dog-Sledding** School (unique in Europe) where you can learn to drive sleds pulled by huskies and make exciting trips through the mountains.



Montecampione

(1200 m - 2000 m)

In the heart of Valcamonica but close to Brescia and easily reached from all north Italy, Montecampione has pistes that arrive right outside the hotel and apartment doors and is an ideal resort for an all-round sport holiday (see "Valcamonica").

Montecampione

- 11 lifts (16.300 people per hour)
- 30 km of slopes
- Piste with timer (2 km) not managed
- Ski and snowboarding schools (70 instructors)
- Planned snow guaranteeing 20 km of pistes
- Ice-skating
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Ski pass Lombardia



Other Valcamonica resorts:

Borno

(1000-1700 m)

- 7 lifts
- 20 km of slopes
- Ski school with 20 instructors and special children's courses
- Planned snow
- Ski pass Lombardia

S. Pietro Aprica - Corteno Golgi

(1162-1972 m)

- 2 lifts
- 15 km of slopes
- 1 cross-country ring (7,5 km)
- 1 snowboard slope
- Ski pass Lombardia

Val Palot - Pisogne

(1060-1350 mt)

- 2 lifts
- 3 km of slopes
- 1 cross-country ring (2,5 km)
- Planned snow
- Ski pass Lombardia

In Valcamonica there are many **skiing itineraries** to choose from: among the best is the climb up Adamello through the Mandrone glacier and the Pian di Neve, the excursions to the Pizgana glacier, the Piz-Tri to the Mortirolo and the Valle delle Messi.

The upper Valcamonica is the snowed-covered paradise for true winter sports enthusiasts. They can do some of the newest winter sports such as **ice climbing**. Especially beautiful are the water falls of Rio Aviolo in Val Paghera-Val d'Avio at the level of the village of Vezza d'Oglio. There are numerous waterfalls in the Val d'Avio-Temù that penetrate the Adamello group.



**Other resorts
not far from
Brescia:**

Gaver - Valsabbia

(1563 - 2100 m)

- 5 lifts
- 15 km of slopes
- 1 cross-country ring (5 km)
- Ski school
- 1 snowboard slope
- Planned snow
- Ski pass Lombardia
- National Sleddog championship

Collio Alpe Pezzeda

(900 - 1800 mt)

Valtrompia

- 4 lifts
- 20 km of slopes
- Ski school
- 1 cross-country ring (3 km)
- Planned snow

Monte Maniva

(2000 mt)

Valtrompia

- 6 lifts
- 30 km of slopes
- 1 cross-country ring (3 km)
- 1 snowboard slope
- Ski school





Water and Wind

Sun, clear and clean water, uncrowded beaches and sports facilities of all types (from swimming-pools to tennis courts).

The Brescian lakes are just the place for relaxing but active holidays. The lakes of Garda, Iseo and Idro are known all over Europe for sailing and windsurfing, not only for swimming.

Sailing

Lake Garda has a long sailing tradition and has produced Olympic skippers. It is the home of the "Centomiglia" and has many sailing clubs (for example: "Circolo Vela Gargnano" in Bogliaco and "La Fraglia Vela" in Desenzano) and schools. The winds vary around the lake;



at the southern end they are lighter but up at the northern tip the winds are stronger and more unpredictable.

Lake Iseo, with its long sailing tradition, never lacks for winds and has many sailing schools including the famous "Associazione Nautica Sebina" at Sulzano. Lake Idro may be smaller but it is still an excellent place to sail.

Wind and Kite surfing

Particularly liked by windsurfers is the area of the upper Lake Garda, which benefits from a strong north wind.

The triangle between Limone, Riva and Malcesine is one of the capitals of European Windsurfing. Recently in Campione, near Tremosine, but also on lake Iseo, a new and exciting sport, the kite surf, is getting more and more appreciated. The best area on Lake Iseo for windsurfing is to be found at Vello between Pisogne and Toline where the rocks drop sheer into the water. The advantages of Lake Idro for windsurfing are twofold: the constant mountain winds and the absence of large boats.



The waters of Garda are also popular with sub-aqua enthusiasts, particularly near the Rocca di Manerba, and there are several diving schools.



Sport and Nature

Golf

There are 6 excellent courses in the province and 3 practice ranges at Lake Garda, in the hills of Franciacorta, in the mountains of Valcamonica and in Brescia.

Arzaga Golf Club in Carzago di Cavalgese della Riviera in Valtenesi. Inspired to the model of American resorts, the courses-Arzaga I, 18 holes designed by Jack Nicklaus II and Arzaga II, 9 holes designed by Gery Player-unwind around the medieval castle of Dru-golo amidst natural

Golf II Colombaro

In Salò, at the farm "Il Colombaro", there is a course of 9 holes and a big driving range.



Golf Club

Franciacorta

at Nigoline di Cortefranca. This course (60 hectares) has 18 holes and is a favourite in



Circolo Golf Bogliaco

This is the oldest course around the lake dating from 1912. The course has 18 holes (plus a practice area) and is based in a hollow 100 m above the lake. Surrounded by Mediterranean vegetation it offers a splendid vista of the lake.

vegetation, ponds and particularly difficult bunkers.

Gardagolf Country Club

at Soiano del Lago. This is a 27 hole course (110 hectares) in the hills of Valtenesi. It too has fine views across the lake from various points.



Italy among

expert players.

Golf Club Ponte di Legno

at Ponte di Legno. Situated at an altitude of 1530 m in Valbione, the course has 9 holes (double departure).



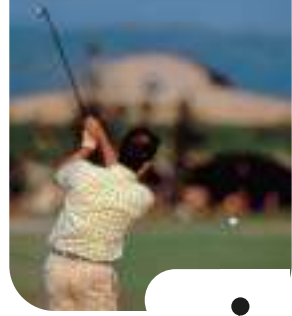
Brescia Golf Country Club in Brescia (via Stretta, 48) It is located in the north of the city, has 3 holes and a practice area.

Golf Club Serenissima in Brescia (centro sportivo Rigamonti, via Serenissima, 34 loc. Bettole di Buffalora).

The club stands on the south-east edge of the city, has 3 holes (double departure), a driving range with 18 different tees and a practice bunker.

Montecampione Alpiaz Golf Club (Via Pradasole) A promotional 6 holes course at 1200 mt, set in

the touristic resort of Montecampione the start of the Vallecamonica.



Climbing

The arc of mountains that spreads across the northern part of the province offers mountain-climbers and free-climbers a wide variety of choice. The more expert will enjoy the challenges of the Adamello range: around lake Salarno and in Valle Adamè there are some extremely difficult routes among the granite faces. Between Limone and Riva, or leaving from Gaino, there are less strenuous climbs but just as beautiful for the views

where the lake meets the mountains. To simply keep one's hand in, there is nothing better than the natural practice rocks at Virle, Rezzato, Monte Maddalena, just outside of the city and Darfo in Valcamonica. On the east shore of lake Iseo, sheer limestone faces over the lake or more accessible rocks are an excellent practice opportunity. Much exciting are: the Buca del Quai at Iseo and the Corna delle Capre at Zone.





For holiday-makers who wish to combine sport and nature (see "Parks and nature" and "Country accommodation"), the following are always available:

Mountain-biking
Cycling
Excursions
Rock-climbing
Trekking
Horse-riding
Pony-trekking

Foot and cycle paths

A 400 km of well-marked network of protected or along quiet country roads cycle tracks cover the whole province. Running along waterways or winding through vineyards, meadows and bushes they lead to discover suggestive corners of the territory, from the valleys, the plain and the lakes.



Hang-gliding and Para-gliding

Even in the city there is a great launch place, at the top of Monte Maddalena. Outside of the city there are popular sites around the lakes, at Montecampione and upper Valcamonica. Other spots are at Sale Marasino, Monte Colmo and Barghe in Valsabbia.

Canoeing

There are several rivers that can be canoed. For placid outings, the river Oglio near Acqualunga in the plain is popular while more difficult are the Oglio runs between Edolo and Cedegolo, stretches of the river Mella in upper Valtrompia, and the Druanello which finishes in lake Valvestino.

A good slalom run is on the river Chiese at Vobarno.

Horse-path Adamello-Garda

A path of about 140 km joins the Adamello Regional Park and the Alto Garda Bresciano Park. It winds along the most beautiful landscapes of upper Lake Garda and Lake Idro up to Valle Camonica woods and meadows through villages and rural hamlets.



Parks and nature



The province of Brescia contains many natural features of interest perhaps unexpected by the tourist: for example, the pyramids of Zone, the Peat Moss of Sebino or the woods and peaks of the Adamello and Stelvio parks. However, besides the parks and protected areas discussed in this chapter, there are no end of places in the mountains, around the lakes, surrounding the city and in the plain where holidays in complete contact with nature can be spent.



Adamello Regional Park

The Adamello park covers 50.000 hectares in the eastern part of the province of Brescia in Valcamonica from Tonale Pass to Crocedomini Pass. It is an area of natural interest which fills the space between Stelvio Park (adjacent to the Swiss Engadine Park) and the Adamello-Brenta Park in Trentino. Altogether these cover 250.000 hectares, the largest protected area in the Alps. The park's natural heritage is also an historical one. The area of Capo di Ponte holds the highest

concentration of rock-carvings in the world (see "Valcamonica") while the upper valley contains the remains of the trenches and fortifications of the First World War. Mountain crests and chains branch out

Brescia province is an area of great natural interest - the three regional parks (the Adamello, upper Garda and Oglio), the national park (Stelvio) and the many protected areas.



The North Face of Adamello

from the central glacier are perfect for climbing and on and off skiing. Corno Miller (3373 m), Monte Fumo (3409 m), the Baitone (3330 m) and the Frisozzo (2897 m) are some of the peaks that make up the crown around the Adamello which at 3539 m is the highest point of the park. The woods of chestnut, alder, ash, hazel and birch trees on the

Lake Mortirolo with "Baitone"





valley floor or those of larch or spruce at over 1000 metres are ideal for walks. Higher up among the rocks from late spring mountain flowers such as gentian and edelweiss are everywhere. The park is the ideal habitat for many mountain animals and birds including deer, marmots, weasels, stoats, dormice, woodpeck-

ers, cuckoos, capercaillies, partridges and rock ptarmigans. High up, chamois can occasionally be seen.

Excursions

All kinds of excursions are possible from short trips to treks lasting several days, walks in the woods to difficult climbs.

There are many lovely paths especially the Alta Via dell'Adamello (the Adamello High Path) which crosses the whole park. There are many mountain huts where you can stop off for a night or just have a meal and a drink.

Stelvio National Park

The southern side of Stelvio National Park takes in Val Grande, Valle di Canè, Valle delle Messi and the Valle di Viso in Valcamonica. The Val Grande can be reached along an old mule track from Vezza d'Oglio where old stone huts with slate roofs can be seen. After Sant'Apollonia in the Valle delle Messi, there are paths through the larch woods to the Bivacco

Case di Viso



Linge, Pietra Rossa Pass and Gavia Pass along the Alta Via Camuna (the Camonica High Path). The starting point for outings in Val di Viso is the village of Case di Viso from where paths lead to the Ercavallo Lakes, Bozzi mountain hut or Smugglers' Pass. The flowers are beautiful - in all Stelvio Park over 2.300 species of flower have been recorded, many of

which are rare and protected like scarpetta di Venere, giglio martagone, saxifrage or silene acaulis which flower among the rocks at high altitude.



Pizzo dei Tre Signori

The animals

Stelvio is home to all types of Alpine animals such as chamois, ibex (disappeared in the 18th century but reintroduced during the 1960's) and deer. Marmots, hares, foxes, squirrels, stone-martens, weasels, stoats and badgers are all present. The most important bird is without doubt the golden eagle, the symbol of the park, which can be seen on Brescian territory in the Valle delle Messi and Val Canè.



Fawn



Marmot



Redstart



Roe-deer



Ibex



Val Brandet



Saxifrage



Menyanthes Trifoliata



Red Rhododendron



Lilium Croceum

Sant'Antonio Valleys

The Valle di Campovecchio and Val Brandet open out from Sant'Antonio, small hamlet at Corteno Golgi, and together make up a beautiful natural park. The large meadows on the valley floor and the hillside pastures are dotted with wood and stone barns and huts of a design found only here. Their typical feature is a construction of crossed trunks which support the top beam. The valley fauna include chamois, deer, marmots, kestrels and other birds of prey.

Silene



The woods at Giovetto di Paline

The reserve is spread over Monte Giovetto, the eastern part lying in the province of Brescia and the western in the province of Bergamo. To get there from the

Brescian side, leave from Borno. The reserve, from 800 to 1800 m, is completely covered with woods and is important for being the habitat of many colonies of formica rufa (natural predator of processional pine

moth, a damaging parasite of conifers) whose nests up to 1 m in height are easily seen in the trees.



The pyramids of Zone

The pyramids of Zone form one of the most unusual sights in the province. They are found near to the village of Zone on the road from Marone. Some of the pyramids are 30 m high and 8 m in circumference. They are capped by a

rock which protects the soil immediately below it while the rest is washed away by erosion. They are the remains of an ancient glacier which covered the whole of Lake Iseo valley one million years ago. When the glacier withdrew, the waters began to erode the soil which, being a mixture of clay and gravel, did not crumble easily. The less easily accessible soil, that below the rocks, remains entire while the rest is slowly washed away (see "Lake Iseo").



Caldera Zeff, "Bus delle Boche"

Caves and caverns

There are natural caves in the province of Brescia throughout northern Brescia starting with those on the Cariadeghe plateau right outside Brescia between Caino valley and Botticino. More than 50 sink-holes and caves have been found so far, paradise for speleologists. The best known caves are the "Bus del Quai" above Iseo, "Bus di Budrio", Serle and Gavardo caves.

The Peat Moss at Sebino



South of Lake Iseo are the most important wet-lands in the province. They were formed towards the end of the 18th century as the peat was taken away for use as fuel. The excavations in the peat formed the large basins, now filled with water, that have been taken over by wildlife for their habitat. They form an ecosystem of their own with canes and rushes surrounding expanses of water

covered by water-lilies and thronged by insects, herons, cormorants, brown kites and shovelers.

There are paths laid out across the peat moss with bridges, walkways, bird-hides and picnic areas.

The pleasantest walk is probably the circular one starting and finishing at the Monastery of San Pietro in Lamosa at Provaglio (see "Lake Iseo").



Denervo covered with frost

Alto Garda Bresciano Regional Park

Situated on the west bank of Lake Garda there is a park that is unique for its contrasts. The lakeside maintains a Mediterranean environment and vegetation while inland the scenery turns quickly Alpine with tall peaks (the Denervo, the Pizzocolo and the Carone) and deep valleys (San Michele di Tremosine and Valvestino).

The park runs along the shore from Salò to Limone (the way between Garnano and Limone is particularly suggestive) where the trees include oleanders, olives and citrons; higher up though there are

larches, pines, rhododendrons and heather, typically Alpine.

There are many walks to make in the park at all levels of difficulty. Paths and rough roads leave from each village suitable for horses, mountain-bikes and Shanks pony.

Of special interest is the Valle delle Cartiere (Papermakers' Valley) in Toscolano where the remains of ancient industrial buildings can be seen: in fact here it is possible to join historic and naturalistic requirements. Also interesting are the plateaus of Denai and Rest in Valvestino with their barns with thatched roofs, the only ones in Lombardy.



Oglio Nord Regional Park

One of the many places in the Brescian plain for walks and bicycling is Oglio Nord Park which stretches from Palaz-

To learn more about Brescian parks and nature please contact the **Friends of the Parks and Natural Reserves Association** (Associazione Amici dei Parchi e delle Riserve Naturali) at the Natural History Museum at 4, via Ozanam, Brescia, Tel. 030 2978672.

zolo to Ponteviso along the river. There are lovely woods at Barco (Orzinuovi) and Marsica (Villachiera).



Events Folklore



Do you have got time on your hands?

With the choice of amusement parks, discotheques, shows, concerts, traditional festivals, gastronomical exhibitions and sports matches, you need never be at a loose end.



Few kilometres from Brescia, at **Timoline in Cortefranca** there is a water-park filled with swimming, diving and splash pools, slides and water jets. It is so big that it isn't difficult to get lost. At Sebino, near to **Iseo**, Sassabanek offers facilities for

tennis, swimming, canoeing, sunbathing, picnics and has a large children's playground. It is possible to spend a whole day being in contact with the nature. Thrill-seekers will enjoy the high speed go-karts at **Lonato**, one of the best Italian circuits, where



international events take place and karts are available for hire. Brescia and province are famous all over Italy for their discotheques. Also popular are the **beer-houses**, the bestknown is Wührer at the now disused brewery of the same name, and the "**osterie**" (hostelries) where local wines



are available in an informal, relaxed atmosphere.



Live **music** can be heard in many bars, which are not only in the town centres, but also in the surroundings and each year music **festivals** (blues, gospel, heavy metal and jazz) are organized in different towns around the province.

Theatre and shows: the main city theatres, put on a rich programme of drama and music each year.

Opera, orchestral concerts and the **Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli International Piano Festival of Brescia and Bergamo**, which has been held at the Grande each spring since 1964, are standard fare. For a night of particular beauty, the outdoor summer performances at the **Vittoriale** at Gardone Riviera are a delight. Just as rewarding are the **programmes of events** which each town and even village organizes each summer - shows,

concerts, outdoor parties, historical re-enactments, wine, beer and food festivals, sports and folkloristic shows.



Not to be missed

The historic "Mille Miglia"

Of all the many events held in Brescia, the most famous is without doubt the historic Mille Miglia, the car race from Brescia to Rome and back for cars built between 1927 and

1957, years of the original editions of the competition. The course is crowded with hundreds of thousands of spectators to watch the most beautiful cars in the world, Mercedes, Bentley, Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, Porsche, Maserati etc. but also the Isotta Fraschini and the more modest Fiat Topoli-

no. It was in 1927 that the race "of the Freccia Rossa" was created by four friends (Renzo Castagneto, Maggi, Mazzotti, Canestrini). It became an immediate success with the public and was repeated 27 times until in 1957 when an accident which involved the racing car driver De Portago brought the race to an end for safety reasons. In 1977, on the fiftieth anniversary of the original race (not to forget champions like Taruffi, Nuvolari, Biondetti, Moss, Villorosi, Fangio and Marzotto), another group of friends decided to bring the historic Mille Miglia back to life, not as a race but as a participation event. Besides being of major sporting interest,



the Mille Miglia, which leaves from viale Venezia every year, brings together people from all over the world; not just automobile enthusiasts but personalities from the worlds of sport, the media and politics who vie for the opportunity to get a seat driving one of these magnificent machines.

The "Centomiglia"

Another sporting event at international level is the Centomiglia, the sailing



race that has been held on Lake Garda at the beginning of every September since 1951. This is the most prestigious and famous sailing competition on inland waters in Europe and there are always hundreds of entrants. The course runs between Bogliaco (start and finish point), Riva, Sirmione, Desenzano and Salò and is a marvellous spectacle in the sun against the backdrop of the mountains.



Moreover...

Not to be missed the **Festa di Santa Giulia** in may and the **Più Festival** in June in Brescia; the sweet smelling spring festivals **Franciacorta in Fiore** in Cazzago San Martino and **Il Giardino di Delizia** at Palazzo Bettoni Cazzago in Bogliaco. For the gourmands **Salogolosa** in may in Salò, the **Settimana della Tinca al Forno** in Clusane in July and **Franciacorta in Bianco** in October in Castegnato.

Traditional festivals



The Fair of Santi Faustino e Giovita

This, the largest and busiest fair in Brescia, is held on 15 February each year. Santi Faustino e Giovita are the patron saints of the city and many miraculous events are attributed to them including the liberation of the city from the Visconti troops. Hundreds of market stalls fill the city centre from morning to night and the area around the 2 saints' church in a fun day for all.

Stalls at the San Faustino e Giovita Fair



The Santa Crus di Cervo

This religious representation of the Way of the Cross is held every ten years in the middle of May in Cervo in Valcamonica.

The Santa Crus is a folkloristic event, but also proof of the lively popular religiousness. It is held so rarely because of the scale of organization required; nearly everyone in the 600 person community is involved.

The rite is linked to the presence in Cervo of the *Sanctuary of the Via Crucis* (see "Valcamonica") whose



sculptures inspire the costumes and scenic representations during the procession through the streets of the village which involves the walking crowd.

The Festival of Santa Croce at Carzano di Monte Isola

This festival is held at Carzano every five years in September and is spectacular for the amount of equipment involved:

the route passes under four hundred wooden arches decorated with paper flowers, so beautiful that seem to be real.



Dancers
at Bagolino
Carnival

handwoven shawls and wooden clogs. Faces are covered (deriving from the original spirit of Carnival which celebrated the rebirth of the land and life) so that not even the sex of the person could be recognised.

Carnival at Bagolino

The Bagolino festival is celebrated on the Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It is famous throughout north Italy for its music, songs and dances which fill the village from morning to night following a ritual

that has remained unchanged for centuries. Typical are the costumes of "Carnevale Bagòs": dancers' and players' ones are black with a large red velvet hat decorated with ribbons and family jewels, the other participants wear old farming clothes with long skirts,



Fireworks

Summer is the most popular time to see firework displays, usually organized to celebrate Patron Saint's days and August Bank Holiday. The most spectacular are usually on the lakes where the colours are reflected in the water. Traditional displays on Lake Garda are held at Limone, Salò, S.Ercolano at Maderno and Sirmione; on lake Iseo not to be missed the ones in Iseo.

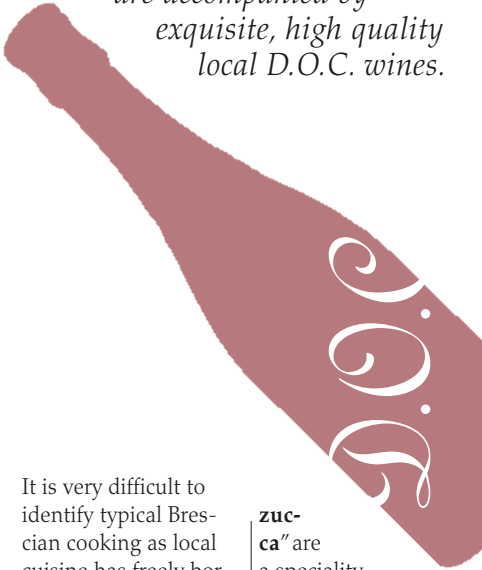


Fireworks over
the bay of Maderno

Food and Wine
Country Accommodation
Handcrafts



Spits, game, boiled meat, but also lake-fish. And: ravioli, soups, mountain mushrooms, polenta, cheeses and sausages... Brescian cooking has hundreds of dishes to offer in which the cooking traditions of the mountains, plain and lakes are mingled and all of which are accompanied by exquisite, high quality local D.O.C. wines.



It is very difficult to identify typical Brescian cooking as local cuisine has freely borrowed from nearby provinces.

Typical is "*casonsèi*", eaten in both Brescia and Bergamo provinces, large home-made ravioli filled with egg, seasoned cheese or ricotta ("*puina*"), spinach or meat, and seasoned with sage-flavoured butter.

In the Brescian part of the Lombardy plain, "*tortelli di*

zucca" are a speciality. They are a variant on the dish from Mantova and are tortelli pasta filled with pumpkin and macaroons. Another dish claimed by the Brescians, the Bergamaschi and the inhabitants of Valtellina is "*polenta taragna*", named after the long stick ("*tarai*") used to stir the large copper pots. This is



Lakeside cuisine

This is mostly based on simple methods of preparing lake-fish.

The carp ("*carpione*"), that finds its habitat in Lake Garda, cooked with peas and tomato sauce, is still the unquestioned king of Garda cooking even if it is getting more difficult to find on restaurant menus. Perch, bleak (cooked in onions) on lake Garda, grilled "*sardine*" on Montisola and stuffed and baked tench, typical in Clusane on lake Iseo, are all delicious.



dark corn-meal (*polenta*) made from yellow cornflour and a handful of buckwheat into which fresh cheeses such as "*gorgonzola*", "*robiola*", mountain "*stracchino*" (a soft cheese) are added at the end of the cooking with melted butter.

In Valsabbia, Bagolino cheese, "*Bagòss*", is used. Similarly, the origin is disputed of a wide variety of "*polenta consa*" (*polenta* with cheese added), often served on the lakes



Polenta

with "*aole*", a small fish called bleak. Brescian cooking has created an approach known, unfortunately, as "*povertà*", literally poverty, referring both to the variety of ingredients used and the elaborateness of the preparation. Surprisingly, the results are excellent and full of flavour.

Snails



"**Polenta**" was once the daily food of the poor and eaten alone. Today it is still popular and eaten with meat or fish. Recently the polenta di Castegnato has become quite well-known. It is made with ancient not treated corn ground at the millstone. Country dishes served with polenta are "**cotiche in umido**", pork crackling in tomato sauce; "**stufato**", beef-stew; "**trippa**", tripe; "**lepre in salmì**", salmi of hare; "**coniglio**", rabbit; "**capretto alla bresciana**", finely chopped pieces of kid sprinkled with white wine when three-quarters cooked; "**manzo all'olio**", beef cooked

in oil; "**uccellini scappati**", roulades of pork with sage; the choice Brescian dish in autumn. Also popular are "**lumache alla bresciana**", snails cooked with spinach and grated Parmesan cheese; "**trippa alla camuna**", tripe pre-



pared in minestrone with pinto beans; "**rane alla camuna**", frogs cooked in milk and butter; "**frittate**", omelettes, "**risotti**" and "**minestre**", soups made with herbs ("**virzuli**") or mountain asparagus ("**spàres de mont**") or rice and chicken giblets (the so-called "**minestra sporca**", "dirty soup"), "**radici amare**". Also part of the Brescian cooking are the dishes based on

stale bread which, instead of being thrown away, is used as the main ingredient in tasty, filling meals. The best known is "**zuppa di mariconde**" (bread crumbs soaked in milk, mixed with egg and Parmesan, then cooked in chicken broth). Similar but



served without broth are "**gnocchi di pane**". Part of the same family of recipes is "**strangolapreti alla bresciana**", small gnocchi made of spinach, bread, egg and cheese, seasoned with melted butter, grated cheese and sage. Bread is also used in the standard filling for boiled chicken; it is so simple that it does not use either meat or eggs but only stale bread, broth,



grated cheese, garlic, spices and nutmeg. Stale bread is also used to prepare "*capù senza ale*"; small bundles are prepared of the leaves of a large savoy cabbage filled with grated bread, egg, grated cheese, parsley and spices which are then fried in butter, oil and tomato sauce.

Desserts

The most famous must be "*bossolà*", related to the more famous Veronese cake, "*pan-doro*". It is made from a light pastry based on butter and eggs and baked in the shape of a dome with a hole in the middle. "*Brescian biscuits*" are light and delicate and can be found in old-fashioned bakers' shops. "*Sca-litù*" is a speciality of Valsabbia, prepared with cornflour and figs. Not to be forgotten are "*chisol*", "*stricaganàse*", "*bar-chitine del Signùr*" and "*persicata*", bars of peach jelly, which it is said were invented by a woman who wanted her son away at war to be reminded of the taste of the local peaches. As it was not possible to send fresh fruit which would go rotten during the journey, the canny lady invented what is still known as "*persicata*".



"Bossolà"



Local foodstuffs

There are many gastro-nomic products in the province of Brescia. Most important is olive oil, produced on the shores of both Lake Garda and Lake Iseo. Both areas, however, produce oil that is held to be among the best in Italy. Garda oil is nearly all extra-virgin, tasty and delicate, rich in nutrition and easily digestible. It is com-



monly used in restaurants and can be bought either where the olives are pressed or directly from the producers. The small production of oil of lake Iseo with its fruity flavour has also

reached good levels and it is possible to find it on the market regularly.

The **cheeses** are many and various depending on the

soil, climate, humidity, summer pastures, and type of forage available. Best known is Bagolino's local cheese, the "*Bagòss*", produced by hand in the local pastures. It is a hard cheese ripened over two years and is excellent grilled. Typical of the hills surrounding northern Garda is "*formaggella di Tremosine*", a soft, fragrant cheese. "*Garda*" is a hard, semi-cooked, single-cream cheese which is either grated or eaten as it is depending on how long it has been allowed to ripen. Another soft cheese comes from Val Camonica, it is known as "*Rosa camuna*" and has an unmistakable

flavour. Wherever there are pastures in the mountains, local butter can be found, made with fresh cream and "*puina*", cottage cheese. "*Fiurìt*" should also be mentioned which is a rather liquid form of cottage cheese. The dairies in lower Brescia, in the Lombardy plain, produce "*robiola*", "*stracchino*" and "*grana padano*". The first two are soft cheeses and the

third similar in consistency and taste to Parmesan. Another type of product which is very common are “**insaccati**”, meat products such as sausages, salami and cotechino (spiced pork sausages for boiling): these are often made by hand on farms. Valcamonica has a long tradition of such products and Cedegolo is famous for its pork and mutton sausages.

larly in the areas around Lake Garda and Lake Iseo and on the hills around the city itself. Today Brescia province is the second largest wine producer in Lombardy. It is famous for its ten recognised areas of production that have been awarded the denomination “D.O.C.” (controlled denomination of origin):

Botticino, Capriano del Colle, Cellatica, Franciacorta, Terre di Franciacorta, Garda Bresciano, Garda, Garda Classico, Lugana and S. Martino della Battaglia.

Of particular renown is **Franciacorta** which obtained the ultimate accolade for Italian wine, D.O.C.G., reserved for wines of the highest quality, for its traditionally produced sparkling wine: Satèn, the best of Franciacorta, Terre di Franciacorta VQPRD Rosso, to accompany grilled and game meats and Terre di Franciacorta VQPRD Bianco for hors d’oeuvres and

dishes based on fish from Lake Iseo. The **Garda** area boasts three D.O.C. zones in which are made Lugana Bianco from Trebbiano grapes, ideal as an aperitif, with hors d’oeuvres and fish, and Lugana Spumante, the sparkling version of Lugana Bianco.

Garda Bresciano D.O.C. also produces many wines: Garda Rosso, to be drunk young and Garda Rosso Superiore, to be laid down, are drunk with roasts, braised meats, mixed grills and game; and Chieretto, produced in the lower Valtenesi, which uses the same grapes as Garda Rosso but which uses a different method so producing white wine suitable to be drunk with hors d’oeuvres and white meats. There is also Garda Bresciano Novello (wine drunk immediately after production), Garda Bresciano



Brescian wines and recognised areas of production

Wine has been made in Brescia since the times of the Romans, particu-





Rosé (intense, fruity sparkling wine), Gropello (to drink with fowl, grills, pork and cheese), and Garda Bresciano Bianco, which is ideal for lake-fish and shellfish. The gentle hills south of Lake Garda provide the **San Martino della Battaglia** production area. Using Tocai grapes, it gives fresh, dry, low acidity wines to be drunk as an aperitif, with hors d'oeuvres, fish and delicate dishes. A liqueur-like wine is also produced which is served at the end of a meal with dry biscuits or cakes. To complete the picture, there are the D.O.C. wines of **Cellatica** and **Botticino** produced on the hills that surround Brescia, and the Trebbiano and Rosso of **Capriano del Colle**.



Country accommodation

Holidays in the countryside dedicated to discovering a different rhythm of life, genuine local foods and drink and traditional customs are becoming more and more popular. The choices available in Brescia province are various: from small hillside offerings hardly out of the city to those placed high in the mountain meadows, from farm-

houses in the gentle countryside of Franciacorta or Valtenesi to large estates in the



Lombardy plain. What they have in common is that they all offer their own products (cheeses, sausages, honey etc.)





which can be tasted or bought directly in family surroundings around a winter fire, in an open-air gallery or in the shade of a vine in summer.

The food is always based on local cooking and the quality and prices are excellent. Some country holiday organizations will arrange for the visitor to spend some days away either staying in apartments or rooms

or campsites.

The pastimes are usually based around games and sport: tennis, table-tennis, archery, bowls, fishing etc. Many companies organize horse-riding and, if required, lessons. Trekking is common for those who wish to spend the day (or days) immersed in nature, far from roads and other people.

And for lovers of art, history and nature, bicycle and walking itineraries are available for those who wish to discover unspoilt villages, paintings, frescoes, sculptures and fine examples of local architecture.



Handcrafts

Arts and crafts workshops where traditional products are made with skills handed down from generation to generation are still reasonably com-

mon around the province.

In **Valtrompia** there are many artisans who practise the ancient art of metal engraving which has been performed there since 1500 on armour and swords and which





helped to make the Venetian army famous. Today, the craftsman traces the design onto the metal parts of hunting rifles using a hammer and chisel creating a work of art out of each item. In **Franciacorta** the fine wrought-iron

The local fishermen's boat, the "**naèl**", is still made by hand in the small yards of Monte Isola (see "Lake Iseo"). It is a long, tapered boat very functional for fishing and different from those in other lake areas around Italy as it is based on a sea-going design. The story goes that the creator of this boat was a carpenter who had been freed from a Venetian gaol where he had been imprisoned for stealing secret designs of Venetian boats. He adapted the design of a gondola to fishing purposes and the "**naèl**", was born.

gates to large houses testify to the diffusion of this traditional art. Wrought-ironwork is still practised today but not perhaps all done by hand.

The production of iron objects is also linked to **Valcamonica**, particularly to Bienno.

Originally established during the 17th century, some are still in operation, but their products were dedicated to functionality rather than beauty - hoes, buckets, shovels and other household and agricultural objects.

Montisola on Lake Iseo is still the centre for netmaking.

The skills of weaving threads of silk, linen, hemp and cotton and then dyeing the results the colour of rust with chestnut skins were taught by mother to daughter for centuries. Marquetry and woodworking is typical of the mountain areas of the Brescian valleys which has produced an artistic heritage visible in the village churches. Woodworking is still popular and can be seen in the production of everyday objects such as bowls, walking sticks, clogs, chopping boards and ladles etc., especially in **Valca-**

Besides handworking of pewter and copper at Bagolino, there are still crafts alive relating to the "Bagolino Carnival". For example, the clogs ("sgalber") are engraved and the aprons ("gede") woven on a frame, both by hand.



monica at Darfo Boario Terme and Ponte di Legno where it is not difficult to find shops dedicated to wooden articles. Typical of Valcamonica are "**pezzotti**" of Monno, woven on 18th century frames.



Spas and health



The five comfortable and well-equipped spas at Sirmione, Boario, Angolo, Vallio and Ome offer complete holidays or short breaks for getting back into shape and relaxing the mind and spirit. All you have to do is choose the most suitable setting, mountains or lakeside, not just for traditional thermal cures but also for combining sports, history and visits to the art treasures nearby.



Sirmione

The benefits of Sirmione spa waters have been recognised since ancient times and today spa is famous for its excellent cure and wonderful position (in the hearth of Lake Garda). The lake's mild climate only helps the treatment (see

"Lake Garda"). Sirmione spa boasts the highest classification recognised by the Italian government, Level 1A. It is famous throughout Europe for its cure for rhinogenous deafness but the

Sirmione spa

P.za Virgilio, 1 Colombare
25019 Sirmione
Tel. 030 91681
Fax 030 916192
Toll-free number
800 802125
www.termedisirmione.com

Open:

- Catullo Spa
- April to October**
Virgilio Spa
- All year round**
- Rhinogenous Deafness Centre at Virgilio Spa in winter at Catullo Spa April to October

Aquaria - Thermal wellness centre

at Catullo Spa
open: all year round
Tel. 030 916044

hyperthermal sulphur-salsobromiodic mineral waters are also exceptional for pulmonary, osteoarticular and peripheral venous vasculopathic problems. Besides the two spas ("Catullo" in the town centre and "Virgilio" on the tip of the peninsular), inhalation, mud-treatment and massages can be taken in some of the town's hotels which have their own spa departments.

Sirmione:
Catullus spa



Boario Terme

Boario's waters have been known for centuries to be beneficial for liver, intestinal and bilious problems (see "Valcamonica"). Today its facilities, also classified Level 1A, are also known to cure a number of other complaints such as hypertension and are useful for rehabilitation and convalescence.



The Liberty cupole of Boario spa

There are four springs (Antica Fonte, Igea, Fausta and Boario) which produce Bicarbonate sulphate-calcic mineral water but other cures available are massages, mud treatment, respiratory and motory gymnastics and other treatments which combine movement, open-air sport, swimming in the thermal pool and the thermal aesthetic centre. The gardens surrounding the spa are over 150.000 m² in size with jogging routes marked out.



Boario spa

P.le Terme, 3
25041 Boario Terme
Tel. 0364 525011
Fax 0364 525444
www.termediboario.it
Open:
all year round

Angolo Terme

The two springs at Angolo, San Silvestro and Fonte Nuova (see "Valcamonica"), produce sulphate-bicarbonate-alkaline waters which are excellent for stomach, liver, kidney and intestinal complaints and for preventing arteriosclerosis. The spa is set in a large park and equipped for thermal baths, mud treatment, inhalation and nebulization treatments.



It has a centre for aesthetic medicine and a gym. The surrounding park has tennis courts, running tracks, minigolf, a

children's playground and a thermal swimming-pool with underwater jets, water-slides, games and a solarium.

Angolo is at the entrance to the Valle di Scalve (one of the most suggestive Alpine valleys) and has a mild climate. It has a typical mountain vegetation,

despite being at an altitude of 480 metres.

Angolo spa

V.le Terme, 53
25040 Angolo Terme
Tel. 0364 548244
Fax 0364 548705
www.termediangolo.it

Open:

March to November

Vallio Terme

Vallio is a quiet village in Valsabbia. It is known for its low in mineral content bicarbonate-alkaline water used for curing infections of the urinary tract, chronic inflammations and colitis as well as locomotory and skin problems. A 1.500mt easy health route unwinds through the pine-wood of the spa. It has been especially studied for motor and respiratory

rehabilitation. Vallio is close to Brescia and at only 15 km from lake Garda.

Vallio spa

Via Sopranico, 9
Tel. 0365 370102
Fax 0365 370112
www.acquacastello.it
Open:

May to October

Ome

At Ome in the vine-covered countryside of Franciacorta, the Fonte del Maglio produces low in mineral content bicarbonate - calcic

Terme di Franciacorta

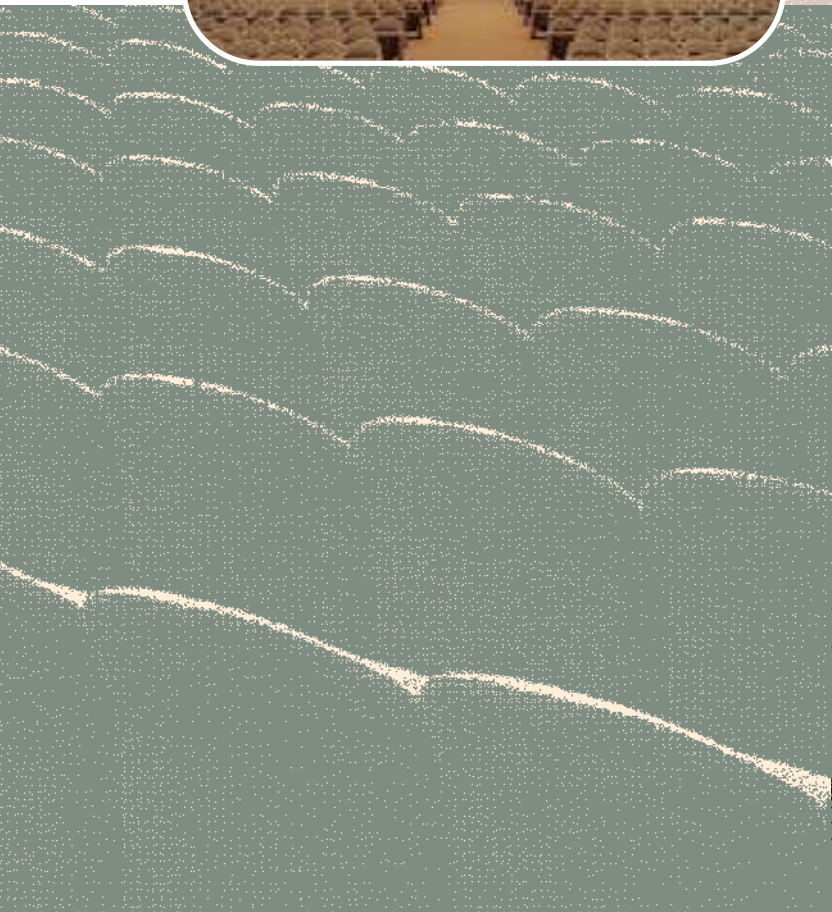
Via Maglio, 27
25050 Ome
Tel. 030 652622
Fax 030 6852821
www.termedifraciacorta.it
Open:

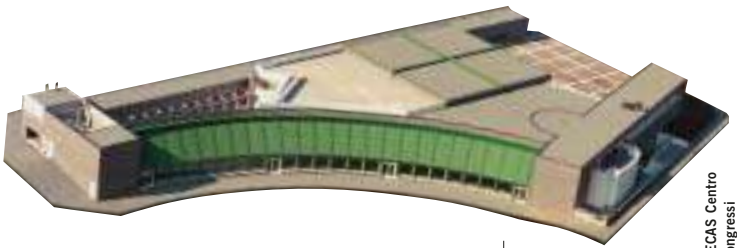
all year round

water. It is recommended for kidney, liver, respiratory tract and bilious complaints as well as diabetes and obesity.



C o n f e r e n c e s



SECAS Centro
Congressi

Brescia and its province offer a wide range of alternatives for public and private conferences, meetings, demonstrations and lectures. There are many congressional - centres and there are also many hotels equipped for big meetings.

shows, exhibitions and performances and has parking for 500 vehicles. On Lake Garda there are two large conference centres: the Centro Congressi in the historic Villa Alba in Gardone Riviera and the Centro Congressi in Sirmione. The latter has a large room with stalls and gallery as well as a modern equipment. It can also count on the rich accommodation offer of the town.

Apart from in the city itself and its immediate surroundings, there are many conference facilities to be found in places of tourist interest. Therefore conferences can be combined with history, culture, sport

fitness and nature as well as local cuisine and wines. The modern, multi-functional Centro Congressi at Darfo Boario Terme in Valcamonica is equipped to host business conferences, sports meetings,

Villa Alba





SECAS Centro Congressi

Conference facilities in Brescia

AUDITORIUM

Via Balestrieri, 6
Tel. 030 3749983
Fax 030 374408

- 1 room 559 pax

AUDITORIUM CAPRETTI

c/o Istituto Artigianelli
Via Piamarta, 6
Tel. 030 293571-49512
Fax 030 3776362

- 1 room 300 pax

AUDITORIUM DI SANTA GIULIA

Via Piamarta, 4
Tel. 030 2400640
Fax 030 2990267

- 1 room 228 pax

AUDITORIUM SAN BARNABA

P.tta A. Benedetti
Michelangeli
Tel. 030 2978250
Fax 030 3777961

- 1 room 396 pax

BRIXIA EXPO

Via Caprera - uscita A4
Brescia Ovest
Tel. 030 3463484
Fax 030 3463480

- 1 room 220 pax
- 1 room 20 pax
- 1 room 10 pax

CAMERA DI COMMERCIO

Via Einaudi, 23
Tel. 030 3725367
Fax 030 3725368

- 1 room 673 pax
- 1 room 83 pax
- 1 room 25 pax
- 1 room 16 pax

CENTRO PASTORALE PAOLO VI

Via G. Calini, 30
Tel. 030 3773511
Fax 030 48229

- 1 room 200 pax
- 1 room 140 pax
- 1 room 100 pax
- 4 rooms 60 pax
- 8 rooms 35 pax
- 7 rooms 20 pax

FRANCISCANUM

Via Callegari, 11
Tel. 030 37271
Fax 030 47295

- 1 Auditorium 382 pax
- 1 room 60 pax

MUSEO DI SCIENZE

Via Ozanam, 4
Tel. 030 2978661
Fax 030 3701048

- 1 Auditorium 214 pax

PALABRESCIA

Via Ziziola, 91
Tel. 030 348888
Tel. 030 3541010

- 1 room 2000 pax
- 1 room 300 pax

ROOM FORESTI

c/o Museo Diocesano
Via Gasparo da Salò, 13
Tel. 030 40233
Fax 030 3751064

- 1 room 200 pax
- 2 rooms 50 pax

ROOM PIAMARTA

Via San Faustino
Tel./Fax 030 43752

- 1 room 100 pax

TEATRO SANCARLINO

Corso Matteotti, 6
Tel. 030 3749983
Fax 030 374408

- 1 room 99 pax

DARFO BOARIO TERME SECAS-CENTRO CONGRESSI

Via Manifattura
Tel. 0364 534342
Fax 0364 536545

- n. 1 room 500 pax
- n. 1 room 200 pax
- n. 1 room 70 pax
- n. 3 rooms 20/50 pax

Exhibition area (1500 m²)
Panoramic terrace (250 m²)

DESENZANO DEL GARDA PALAZZO DEL TURISMO

Via Porto Vecchio, 36
Tel. 030 9911027
Fax 030 9914217

- n. 1 room 120 pax
- n. 1 room 40 pax
- n. 1 room 20 pax

SIRMIONE PALAZZO DEI CONGRESSI

Piazzale Europa, 5
Tel. 030 9906158
Fax 030 9197994

- n. 1 room 489 pax
- n. 1 room 30 pax

MONTICHIARI CENTRO FIERA

Via Brescia, 129
Tel. 030 961148
Fax 030 9961966

- n. 1 room 550 pax
- n. 1 room 150 pax
- n. 1 room 30 pax

PALAGEORGE

Via G. Falcone, 24
Tel. 030 9961665
Fax 030 9650045

- Sports Hall 5000 pax

The brochure "Meeting and Congress" in the province of Brescia is to be asked to the tourist information offices (IAT)

Provincia di Brescia – Assessorato al Turismo

Via Musei, 32
25121 Brescia
Tel 0303749916-438
Fax 0303749982
promozione.turismo@provincia.brescia.it
www.provincia.brescia.it/turismo

IAT – Tourist Information Offices

Brescia

Via Musei, 32
25121 Brescia
Tel 0303749916 Fax 0303749982
promozione.turismo@provincia.brescia.it

Lake Garda

Sirmione

Viale Marconi, 6
25019 Sirmione
Tel 0309161114 - 0303748721
Fax 030916222
iat.sirmione@provincia.brescia.it

Desenzano

Via Porto Vecchio, 34
25015 Desenzano del Garda
Tel 0303748726
Fax 0309144209
iat.desenzano@provincia.brescia.it

Salò

Piazza Sant'Antonio, 4
25087 Salò
Tel e Fax 036521423
iat.salo@tiscali.it

Gardone Riviera

Corso Repubblica, 8
25083 Gardone Riviera
Tel 0303748736
Fax 036520347
iat.gardoneriviera@provincia.brescia.it

Toscolano Maderno

SS 45 bis, angolo via Sacerdoti
25088 Toscolano Maderno
Tel 0303748741
Fax 0365641330
iat.toscolanomaderno@provincia.brescia.it

Valtenesi

Via Gassman, 39
25080 Manerba del Garda
Tel 036552786 Fax 0365658156
iat.valtenesi@hotmail.it

Valle Camonica

Darfo Boario Terme

Piazza Einaudi, 2
25047 Darfo Boario Terme
Tel 0303748751
Fax 0364532280
iat.boarioterme@provincia.brescia.it

Edolo

Piazza Martiri Libertà, 2
25048 Edolo
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Fax 036471065
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