

## VENICE & ISLANDS

We leave Jesolo between 7.50 – 8.20

At approx. 10 miles from Jesolo we arrive by coach at the end of the short peninsula of Cavallino where we leave the coach for scenic cruise across the lagoon of Venice.

This cruise to Venice takes about 30 minutes We arrive in Venice at 09:30 and we can enjoy the views of some of the most important island of the lagoon such as Lido, the beach of Venice and the place where the Film Festival is held. It has a Casino during the summer months which moves to a palazzo on the Gran Canal in winter. Then there can be seen also the island of St. Andrea with its barracks and St. George right in front of St. Mark's square.

Once in Venice we begin our programme which consists of a walking tour with our tour guide (about 30 / 45 mins) after which you will have free time.

Meet the boat @ **14:45** PM at the same harbor where we arrived and head for Murano.

Famed as the home of Venice's glass-blowing industry, Murano's banks are full of furnaces and shops selling their products, and right in one of these furnaces we watch a performance of these manufactures observing a real glass master at work.

After seeing how they make a couple of items we have the time to visit the show room for those who want to buy a souvenir. There is also the possibility to have a look at the second oldest church built

in the lagoon, which is very close to the glass factory.

After this stop, that normally lasts about 45/50 minutes, we go on to Burano.

This second journey takes about 30 minutes and when we get out of the boat we walk to the mainstreet straightaway. It is a narrow street full of lace shops, which soon opens out to reveal the brightly painted houses of the village. The clients can enter any shop to see how the women of Burano make their lace,

each of them specialising in one particular stitch, and buy the typical cake, a kind of hard biscuit eaten as dessert once dipped into white sparkling wine.

Free time in Burano until **18:00**, when we go back onto our boat and return to Punta Sabbioni.

The arrival to Jesolo is at 19.00.

## VERONA AND LAKE GARDA

It is a full day excursion, with departure from Lido di Jesolo at 7.30 in the morning and return at 18.30/19.00

Actually it is one of the most interesting and beautiful excursions, where culture mixes with the delights of a relaxing journey through the countryside of Veneto region, the charme of architectural buildings in Verona and the astonishing beauty of **Lake Garda** with its mediterranean vegetation made of olive oil trees, cypresses, magnolias, oleandrums and lemon trees. On the banks of the lake we'll stop and visit the romantic peninsula of **Sirmione** with its narrow streets within the old medieval walls and its Medieval castle.

We'll get to Verona at about 11.00 a.m. after a short break along the motor-way.

Along the motorway to Verona we pass by the cities of **Padova-Vicenza**: they cannot be seen from the motorway. Vicenza has the same history of Padova.

In Vicenza one of the world's most famous architects was born: Andrea Palladio (1518-1580). He studied the roman architecture and the palaces in Rome, then created a new style, based on classicism. Lots of

buildings in England are Palladian style. He designed churches and palaces in Venezia and Vicenza and lots of villas as well.

After Vicenza on a hill on the right, the two **castles of Romeo and Juliet**.

Between Vicenza and Verona, on the top of a hill, you can see the small, picturesque medieval town of **Soave**. It has been a castle from 14<sup>th</sup> century, here an excellent white wine called Soave is made on its many hills. At about 11.00 a.m. we get to the city of Verona.

**VERONA**: Population 220.000: Prehistoric town, flourishing during the can be seen and the best grapes grow on the sunny hills.

Roman epoche.

The height of prosperity and splendour were during the years 1300 with the Della Scala lords.

Verona has always been an important centre for art and cultural life, often compared to Florence.

Verona, the capital of the province, is now an important road and railway junction and the agricultural centre of Veneto with enormous "freezers" for fruit and vegetables.

Once in Verona you will have time to have a walk with the city-guide in the centre and see the colourful and lively **Piazza delle Erbe** that was the old Roman Forum of Verona with its old frescoes houses, the **house of Juliet** with the famous balcony of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, **Piazza dei Signori** with the old city Hall and the nearby **Scaligere Tombs** or Tombs of the fabulously rich lords of Verona, **Piazza Bra**, which is the centre of modern Verona. In Piazza Bra you will see **the Arena**, that is the second largest amphitheatre in Italy after the Colosseum, built in the first century and in the past times used for Roman performances, contests between animals or between gladiators, now used for opera performances. Least but not last you can see **Castelvecchio**, also called Scaligeri castle built in 1354 by Cangrande, the place where the Carraresi family, lords of the city, lived.

After about a couple of hours dedicated to Verona we leave the city and in 30 minutes we get to **Sirmione**, a tiny town on the banks of Lake Garda.

Once there clients will have free time for their lunch and to visit the old town.

In the afternoon there is the possibility, for those who want, to do a boat trip of about 20 minutes on the far side of the lake. On a clear day you can see Desenzano and the Bay of Salò, which is where, after 1943 until 1945 Mussolini ruled over the Republic of Salò. Also from the lake can be seen the remains of a Roman villa belonging to Catullus, a famous poet and philosopher. Sirmione has a Lido for swimming, some thermal springs under the lake itself, a medieval castle and beautiful shops.

The departure from Sirmione is at about 16.30, and the arrival in Jesolo is at 19.00.

**Full day excursion**

## TREVISO AND WINE TASTING

With this excursion we will take you first to Treviso, one of the most lively towns in the Veneto region, just one hour drive from Lido di Jesolo; crossed by canals and the river Sile, with plenty of artistic buildings from several historic periods, Treviso offers to the tourist many a reason for an interesting visit: from the medieval Piazza dei Signori, with the Palazzo dei Trecento and the town hall, to the porticoes and the impressive walls, the many palaces facing onto the waters, to end with the numerous churches, jewel-cases of precious century old paintings and decorations. In addition to the elegant and attractive shops of everyday, on Saturday there is also the market, offering thus a surplus in curiosities and colours. Around midday we will not neglect the chance to taste a typical Italian dish in one of the many trattoria, for a light lunch (not included).

Free time at leisure in Treviso until about 13.00 hrs., then departure to Roncade, a small town just a few kilometres away, where we will visit the Giustinian Castle, property of Barone Ciani Bassetti. Since the castle is still inhabited, the visit is restricted to the garden and to some areas only, to end with the cellar, which is one of the most important in the region. A guided tour and a short explanation of the wine production will take place, followed by the tantalising taste of the wines

bottled at Roncade castle. The wine tasting will be accompanied by snacks of cheese and salami with bread. return to Lido di Jesolo, where we shall arrive round 16.00 hrs.

## MASTERCHEF ITALY

It's a half day excursion with departure from Jesolo in the morning around 9.00

This market excursion in Jesolo is the perfect way to explore our culinary tradition and local markets, gaining an insight on the typical products of Veneto with a food and wine expert.

Accompanied by the local guide, we will wander through the open-air market in Jesolo, which is packed with stands of fruits, vegetables, cheese and of course fish. We will have free time in the market and the guide will be available to help with questions and point out favorite places of interest for delicious speciality, beautiful clothing, shoes, fashion jewelry and more.

After a lovely morning in the market, we will rejoin the coach and drive to a local agriturismo. There we will experienced an unforgettable cooking lesson and a tastefull meal.

In Chef cooking class, you will discover the secrets of Venetian cuisine, learn how to make the world wide famous pasta and gnocchi.

Each product will be explained with an eye toward the ingredients that you have seen in the market and cooking techniques.

Lunch will follow, including second course, dessert and Venetian wine.

Return to Lido di Jesolo around 14.00- 15.00 in the afternoon.

## CORTINA AND THE DOLOMITES

Just for complete change of climate and scenary we suggest, expecially during the hot days in July and August but also in the mid season, a day excursion to **Cortina**, the well known winter ski resort among the **Dolomites**.

The excursion starts from Jesolo in the morning between 7.40-8.10. After about 70 kl the countryside you can see how rapidly the countryside changes and the flat cultivated fields leave the place to the brownish mountains called Prealpi.

En route we stop at the **Santa Croce Lake** for refreshment where clients have the pportunity to take some photos of the lake and its surroundings.

We go on passing by Longarone, the town sadly remembered for the tragedy which occured in 1963 when over the newly built dam an enormous wave of water caused by a brushed away in less than 10 minutes three towns killing most of their inhabitants.

After Longarone we enter into one of the most peculiar areas of the region, the green and romantic Cadore, homeland of the painter Tiziano and nowadays favourite holiday place for italian presidents.

The high, massive, pink coloured peaks of Sorapis, Pelmo and Antelao announce that we are getting nearer and nearer to Cortina. We arrive there at about 12.00 in time for lunch (not included in the price).

Those who wish can take their packed lunch up in the cable car (optional) and consume it on the top of the mountain in the cosy bar restaurant or have a snack there. The view which clients can enjoy from there of the valley and the mountains all around is really astonishing and worth while.

Free time to look around the most elegant ski resort and the olympic sports town in year 1956.

At 15.00 we leave Cortina and after half an hour we get to the **Lake of Misurina**, a small blue alpine lake, surrounded by some of the most impressive dolomitic peaks. Time for a short stop and

a tea.

On the way back our last stop is on route again at Santa Croce Lake .

Return to Lido di Jesolo in time for dinner.

**Full day excursion**