



CORTE SERRAGLIO

Appartamenti - Apartments



- TRIPS -

IL SERRAGLIO

HOLIDAY FARMHOUSE



Serraglio is located in a building whose oldest parts date back to the 13th century. It has a square courtyard, bordered by three buildings and a wall.

It is called Serraglio because it was originally a fortification with crenelated walls that extended from Valeggio sul Minicio to Villafranca and that was built by the Veronese toward off the attempted attacks of armed gangs from Mantua. It was an impressive complex at the time, and was considered to be among the most flawless fortifications in Europe. The fortifications lasted until the 19th century, when the Austrians destroyed them to facilitate the growth of various crops.

Only a few remains of these structures have survived. The present-day Serraglio was designed to serve as barracks for troops.

It is situated in the heart of the small and picturesque valley of the river Tione and is surrounded by beech and oak forests.

The Serraglio square has been restored on two sides. We offer many interesting trips from "Il Serraglio."





CORTE SERRAGLIO

Appartamenti - Apartments

TRIPS



VALEGGIO SUL MINCIO

(A MEDIEVAL TOWN – 7 KM AWAY)



Valeggio sul Mincio is in the Province of Verona (in the Veneto Region), on the border with the Province of Mantua (in the Lombardy Region).

It is protected by an impressive castle which, albeit built by the Veronese, is of medieval origin, and is situated along the river Mincio.

The origin of the towns of Valeggio and Borghetto can be traced back to the Lombard era: indeed, the names themselves of these towns mean level ground and fortified settlement, respectively.

Between the end of the 10th century and the beginning of the 12th, the Valeggio area belonged to the Kingdom of Germany.

St. Peter's Parish was built in this period. In the 12th century, St. Mary's monastery was built along the river Mincio: this would later become the Preceptory of the Order of the Knights Templar. The impressive medieval fortifications that you can find in the area - other than the Castle, the Visconti Bridge, and the Serraglio defence line - were built between the 13th and 14th centuries.

In 1405, Valeggio became part of the Republic of Venice, losing in time its role as a strategic military garrison. It became a flourishing agricultural and milling centre, as well as an important centre for the silkworm market.

The medieval village of Valeggio is almost intact, and has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



VERONA

(A HISTORICAL CITY – 23 KM AWAY)



Thanks to its artistic and architectural wealth, the city of Verona is a centre of art and of important monuments, and fully deserves a three-day visit.

Among its most well-known sights are the Arena and Juliet's house, a 13th century building located in the historical centre.

The Roman Amphitheatre, which is better known as the Arena, is the landmark for which Verona is famous throughout the world. Probably built around the 1st century, the Arena, just like all amphitheatres, was a place for gladiatorial shows. It is a solid, imposing structure: the exterior wall is covered in bricks and stones from the Verona region, creating a shimmering chromatic effect; the interior is a concentric pattern of rows that have a strikingly majestic impact on visitors. In the summer, the Arena hosts exceptional quality shows almost every night, especially operas and renowned ballets.

To find out more about shows at the Arena, please visit www.arena.it. Must-sees are:

- The Duomo, which is located in a small yet delightful piazza, surrounded by unique and harmonious buildings.
- The Church of San Zeno Maggiore, which is one of the greatest examples of Romanesque architecture in Italy.
- The evocative Piazza delle Erbe, which dates back to the Middle Ages.
- The Castelvecchio and the Verona Bridge, examples of military architecture.

The city is also rich in splendid palaces that house important art collections: Palazzo Pompei, Palazzo Canossa, Palazzo della Torre, Loggia del Consiglio and Palazzo Maffei, Palazzo Giusti del Giardino.



PESCHIERA DEL GARDA

(A VILLAGE ON LAKE GARDA – 12 KM AWAY)



The small town of Peschiera is located on the Verona shores of Lake Garda. It is home to many historical palaces, and has a well-equipped port where many boats offer tours of the lake.

You can even reach Riva del Garda, a charming little town to the north of the river basin, in the Province of Trento. A train runs through Peschiera del Garda, with its well-equipped station, and from Peschiera you can reach the tourist destination “Gardaland” (2 km away), Italy’s largest amusement park, which is popular especially among children and teenagers (www.gardaland.it).



LAZISE

(A VILLAGE ON LAKE GARDA – 17 KM AWAY)



On the Verona shore of Lake Garda stands also the picturesque village of Lazise.

Lazise is a very lively place, with an interesting nightlife. The historical centre is a pedestrian-only area. Even today, by looking at the old city walls, you can grasp the tremendous power that the Venetians enjoyed in the 14th century. The centre, which is crowded and dynamic, can be reached through three gates. The old port, which is part of the historical centre, is very beautiful, and gives Lazise a slightly nostalgic allure. Around the main square and on the lake-front, you can find a wide range of restaurants and cafés. The narrow streets of the historical centre are packed with shops and ice-cream parlours.

About 7 km from Lazise, you can drive through the “Parco Natura Viva”, near Bussolengo. It is a unique occasion to get to know and closely observe animals from the African Savannah.





CORTE SERRAGLIO

Appartamenti - Apartments

SIRMIONE

(AN OLD VILLAGE ON LAKE GARDA – 23 KM AWAY)



The small town of Sirmione is very famous for its Roman remains, for Catullus' poems and for its hot springs. Standing at the tip of the cape of the Sirmione peninsula is the largest and most important Roman palace in Northern Italy, called "Grotte di Catullo" (Catullus' Grottoes); it was built between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD. Located at the entrance to Sirmione is a Veronese castle, built in 1200 to defend the peninsula.

Thanks to the sulphuric hot springs of the region, rich in bromide and iodine salts, Sirmione's therapies are famous for treating the respiratory system, and for local, well-equipped Wellbeing Centres.

GARDONE RIVIERA

(A TOWN ON LAKE GARDA – 54 KM AWAY)

This town is situated on the Brescia-facing, thus western shore of Lake Garda. At Gardone Riviera you can visit Il Vittoriale, the monumental citadel brimming with historical and architectural finds, which was home to the Italian poet Gabriele D'Annunzio between 1921 and 1938.

It is a complex network of buildings, streets, squares, theatres, gardens and waterways. According to D'Annunzio himself, it was built in memory of his "inimitable" life and of the feats of the Italians in World War I.

It was designed by the Architect Giancarlo Maroni, and has been a national monument since 1925.

ISOLA DEL GARDA

(AN ISLAND ON LAKE GARDA – 47 KM AWAY)



Located on the Brescia shore of Lake Garda, only a few swim-strokes away from San Felice del Bernaco, for centuries this town was a tribute to the highest form of mysticism

- indeed, St. Francis had built a small community here. Nowadays, it owes its charm to an extraordinary villa built in neo-Gothic Venetian style, designed by the Architect Luigi Rovelli around the early 20th century. It is an impressive and harmonious building, rich in stunning architectural details. At its foot, terraces and Italian gardens slope down towards the lake. It is surrounded by lush and pristine vegetation, rich in local and exotic plants, rare essences and unique flowers.

The island's wonderful natural park was created in 1880. Its botanical importance is emphasised by the presence of essences from all over the world.

The island also boasts a number of Mediterranean trees and shrubs. In the central terrace facing the Villa, the garden is laid out in Italian classical style with masterly trimmed hedges representing various figures, including the emblem of the De Ferrari family who created the garden. This park remains today a well-kept secret, and has only recently been opened to the joy of its visitors.

Booking is required:

- www.isoladelgarda.com - info@isoladelgarda.com.



CORTE SERRAGLIO

Appartamenti - Apartments

MANTOVA

(A HISTORICAL CITY – 36 KM AWAY)



The important city of Mantua was the seat of the Gonzaga Duchy. It boasts magnificent palaces and museums and is, above all, an original mix of history and art.

The city is a treasure chest of works of art and is rich in extremely valuable masterpieces by world famous artists: suffice it to mention Mantegna, Pisanello, Giulio Romano, Leon Battista Alberti, to evoke many other artists, painters, town planners who contributed to its indisputable cultural worth. Each of them left an indelible mark that can still be admired by visitors.



An ancient city, its roots dating back to the Etruscans, Mantua achieved its splendour during the era of Italian city-states, especially during the long domination of the Gonzaga dynasty (1328-1707).

A few important buildings date back to the city-state era and to the short era of the Bonacolsi rule, such as the Bonacolsi Palace, the Podestà Palace, Palazzo della Ragione and the churches of San Lorenzo (called “la Rotonda”) and of the Gradaro.



Palazzo Ducale is a symbol of the Gonzaga dynasty: it is one of the largest and most elaborate royal palaces in Italy, with its roughly 500 rooms and halls, numerous squares, courtyards and gardens.



CURTATONE

(A TOWN ON THE MINCIO RIVER – 40 KM AWAY)



Curtatone is bordered to the north by the river Mincio, which opens up near this area to form Lake Superiore, the main lake around the city of Mantua.

From here, you can book a trip along the Mincio canal with its lush vegetation and picturesque views. The lotus flower ‘miracle’ repeats itself every year, in July and August, on Lake Superiore, slightly below Grazie. This wonderful water plant of Asian origin, whose roots (or, more precisely “rhizomes”) are buried in mud, reaches the surface with extremely long stalks from which large, round leaves open up. Their diameter can even exceed one metre and are called “caplàs” or hats, by Mantuans.

The pink lotus flowers can be as large as magnolias, and when in full bloom, they turn the quiet surface of Lake Superiore into a landscape that is very reminiscent of the Far East.

At Curtatone, you can also visit the old Abbazia (Abbey) delle Grazie.

The Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin delle Grazie is a church in Lombard Gothic style: it is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and is located in the “Le Grazie” hamlet.

The Basilica towers over the large square where it stands and overlooks the marshy waters of the Mincio, creating an evocative atmosphere for many faithful devotees of the Madonna.

Its interior is full of countless votive candles, while the walls are decorated with niches which, along with life-size figures, illustrate the events which the “grace” received is related to.

According to a curious anecdote, a crocodile was once captured and chained to the church’s vault to block evil forces.

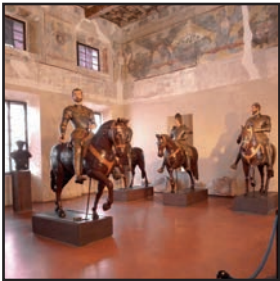


CORTE SERRAGLIO

Appartamenti - Apartments

SABBIONETA

(A FORTIFIED MEDIEVAL CITADEL – 64 KM AWAY)



Thirty kilometres away from Mantua, you can visit the wonderful citadel of Sabbioneta, which was built by Duke Vespasiano Gonzaga Colonna between 1554/56 and 1591, and which has remained intact ever since. It is an almost unique example of the Italian Renaissance “perfect city,” with roads, squares and buildings designed with the well-being of its citizens in mind.

The citadel, which was built according to the humanistic principles of the ideal city, is home to various monuments, such as Palazzo Ducale, or Palazzo Grande, a ducal residence used for public administration purposes; Teatro all’Antica, or Teatro Olimpico (1590), designed by Vincenzo Scamozzi, which was the first theatre of the modern age built specifically for this use; Galleria degli Antichi, or Corridor Grande, which was built to house ancient marble statues as well as hunting trophies; Palazzo Giardino, or Casino, a place dedicated to leisure, which was exquisitely renovated by Bernardino Campi and his assistants between 1582 and 1587; the Churches of Assunta, Inconronata, and Carmine; the Synagogue and the historical Jewish Quarter, which nowadays is no longer inhabited by a single community, with its printing business founded by Tobias Foa in 1567.





CORTE SERRAGLIO

Appartamenti - Apartments



CORTE SERRAGLIO

LOCALITÀ ROSOLOTTI, 37066 SONA (VR)

TELEFONO E FAX: + 39 045 6095977

CELLULARE: +49 175 8844818

E-MAIL: LUCILLA.GALLAVRESI@TISCALI.IT