



VICENZA AND THE WALLED TOWNS

A three-day tour (2 nights) visiting Vicenza, Marostica and Bassano:
the main artistic cities of Vicenza's province

1st DAY

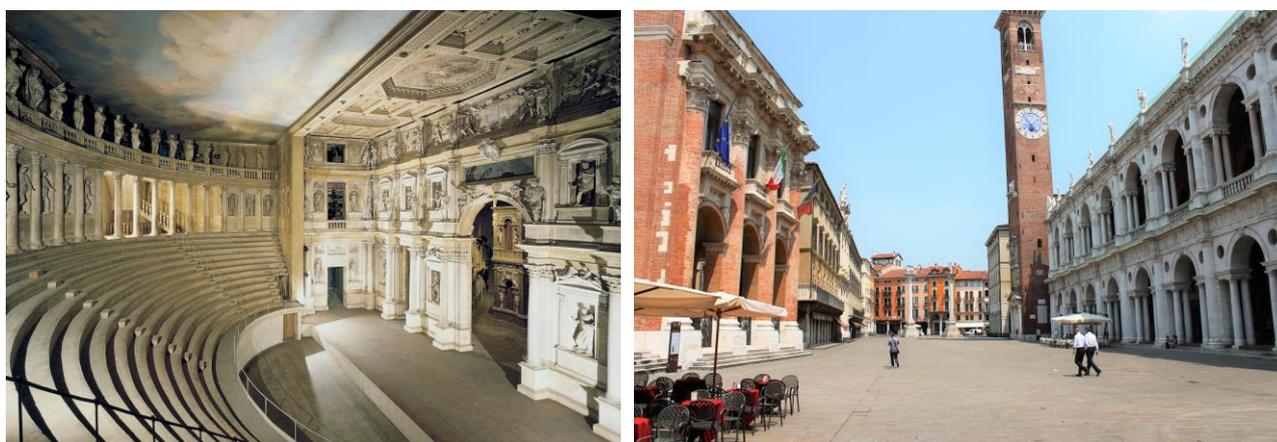
Arrival in the evening and check in at the hotel - Welcome drink
Dinner with local food - Night at the hotel.

2nd DAY

Breakfast at the hotel.

Guided walking tour in the historical city centre of Vicenza with a visit of the **Teatro Olimpico**, one of the artistic wonders of Vicenza and the Art Gallery of **Palazzo Chiericati** that hosts a collection composed by paintings, sculptures and applied arts realized from the 1200s to the beginning of the 2000s.

Walking through the suggestive streets you can admire the palaces that the Unesco included in the Heritage List such as Palazzo Barbaran Da Porto, Palazzo Thiene, Palazzo Valmarana Braga Rosa and in the main square **the Palladian Basilica**, symbol and iconic building of Vicenza. Aperitif in one of the most beautiful and suggestive panoramic viewpoint in the historic centre: the panoramic terrace of the Basilica.



Lunch in a traditional restaurant, meeting the flavours of local recipes.

In the afternoon, visit to the traditional artisan factories in Vicenza (one of the following):

- **BUSATO PRINTING STUDIOS:** the Busato family Printing Studios have been located in a 16th century palace in the historic centre of Vicenza for over sixty years. The owner started his own lithography and chalcography activity, thanks to the uncommon work-experience he had acquired in some of the most important artistic "botteghe" of the Veneto region since 1924. Year after year, the Busato Printing Studios consolidated their fame as a reference point for a

large number of famous Italian and international artists. Thanks to its expertise, it offers you the possibility to interact with local artisans and select a refined present: every single work is hand printed and every single print is unique, thanks to the handwritten serial number and to the artist signature.

- **GOLDSMITH WORKSHOP DANIELA VETTORI:** the atelier is located in the historical downtown of Vicenza, just a short distance from the Basilica Palladiana, emblem of the city and heritage of Unesco. Here Daniela Vettori opened her workshop in 1981 and here she exposes her creations and she personally meets clients to suggest and create unique and customized jewels. In the atelier are also exposed special design silver objects and craft accessories. In this "open-space" Daniela Vettori organizes events, exhibitions and meetings with other artistic figures for cultural and creative exchanges.
- **VENEZIA PATISSERIE:** the products of Venice patisserie are famous over all for its variety: paste or fresh cakes and bakery, Bavarian mousses, biscuits, jams and pretzels. Only with natural ingredients, the pastry shop points on quality and freshness characteristics, aware of their importance for the success of a good product: milk and fresh butter, fresh eggs, fine Belgian chocolate, Apulian almonds, hazelnuts from Piedmont, etc. Tourists have the opportunity to visit the workshop and to taste some representative cookies of Venice tradition.

Free time.

Return in the evening to the hotel, dinner and overnight at the hotel.

3rd DAY

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to Marostica, one of the most suggestive Medieval villages of Italy. The main square **Piazza degli Scacchi** is the setting of the famous human chess game, played in even 2 years. Visit of the Castello Inferiore, the lower castle, with its room of the Council of Arms and of the Governor, and with the exhibition of costumes that are worn during the game.

Transfer to Bassano del Grappa, picturesque town at the foot of the hill. Guided walk to discover the castle **Castello degli Ezzelini**, the boundary walls, the wonderful medieval squares and the famous wooden bridge, the **Ponte Vecchio** (old bridge) or "Ponte degli Alpini", as it is called by the inhabitants of Bassano. It is the symbol of the town and is also linked to the memories of World War I, above all the destiny of the alpine troops.



Lunch in a traditional restaurant, meeting the flavours of local recipes.

In the afternoon, visit to the traditional artisan factories in the area (one of the following):

- **POLI DISTILLERY - Schiavon:** discover a place where production is performed according to tradition, with an eye to the future. Work at Poli Distillery has always been driven by passion and perseverance, two characteristics that play a huge role in the production of each bottle of grappa. You will be welcomed at the Poli Museum by a member of our large family, who will take you for a tour and show you the various production steps while providing you with detailed explanations, so you will see how much work is required to obtain such a high quality product. You will visit the Grappa Museum, the result of years of research and experience, where you will learn about the history of distillation and the spirit culture in Italy. Not only your eyes will be delighted, but your taste buds as well! In fact, you will sample 5 Poli products, each characterized by its own flavours and aromas: fruity, floral, herbal and spicy. The activity will end with an aperitif offered by Poli. Finally, you will also receive a free gift: a pocket-sized bottle of Grappa Poli.



- **LINEASETTE CERAMICS - Marostica:** Lineasette is happy to welcome you in the ample showroom in the centre of Marostica, where you will have the chance to approach the passion and the enthusiasm driving us since 1977 to create, with a rigorous handicraft production technique, porcelain stoneware handmade objects rendered perfectly waterproof by an extremely high temperature firing. All Lineasette creations are the result of a deep and passionate research of ceramic techniques and contemporary designs. Every artifact is a small sculpture with pure and essential traits, as if shaped by natural elements. The making of every single artifact is personally supervised by the designers, who follow every step of its creation, from its design to the end product, to make sure that, in the process, the quality of each handicraft piece is guaranteed.

As an alternative, in the afternoon departure to Thiene, tour of the town and visit of **VILLA FABRIS - Thiene:** it is the venue of The European Centre for Heritage Crafts and Professions. It offers training courses on heritage conservation works, reviving the traditional craft professions. The town of Thiene lies in the north of Vicenza's province and was part of the Republic of Venice, which featured more than 4,000 villas and led to a unique form of social development. Therefore Villa Fabris is fully fledged part of this system, with its large grounds, cellars and stables in the old town centre. In order to promote the culture of integration, the Centre's activities include educational visits - both of a technical nature, with trips to worksites, protected areas and analysis laboratories, and of a historical and artistic nature. In order to maintain a high professional standard, the centre is organized as a real International Campus and it provides accommodation, services, craft and restoration, workshops, classrooms, a library, common rooms and exhibition areas.

Return in the evening to the hotel, dinner and overnight at the hotel.