



VICENZA, THE WALLED TOWNS AND THE GREAT WAR

A 2-day tour through Vicenza, Marostica and Bassano: the main artistic cities of Vicenza's province

DAY ONE

Arrival in the morning at 9.00 a.m. in Piazzale Matteotti (Vicenza)

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 façade 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, and Palazzo Thiene and in the main square **the Palladian Basilica**, symbol and iconic building of Vicenza.

Later in the morning, departure to Marostica, one of the most suggestive Medieval villages of Italy, and visit to the **Poli Distillery**, traditional artisan factories in the area: 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 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!

Lunch in a traditional restaurant in Marostica, with local recipes.

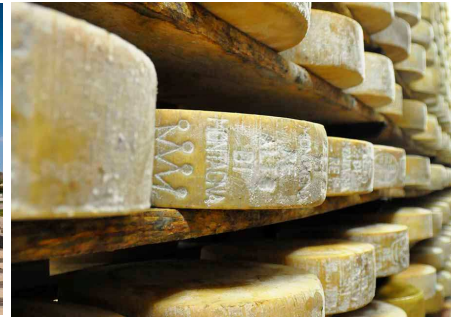
in the first afternoon visit to **LINEASETTE CERAMICS – Marostica**: Lineasette is happy to welcome you in the ample showroom in the centre of Marostica, where you will have the chance to approach the passion and the enthusiasm driving us since 1977 to create, with a rigorous handicraft production technique, 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.

Later, walk in 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.

In the late afternoon 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 destination of the alpine troops.

Dinner in a typical restaurant in the city and overnight stay in Bassano del Grappa





DAY TWO

Transfer and arrival at 9.00 a.m. in Asiago.

Asiago is a mountain region in the Province of Vicenza in the foothills of the Alps. This land was the site of a major battle between Austrian and Italian forces on the Alpine Front of World War I.

The tour starts with the visit of the **Asiago War Memorial – Leiten** located in the town of Asiago. Surrounded by mountains that were the site of several World War I battles, the monument houses the remains of over 50,000 Italian and Austro-Hungarian soldiers and is a popular destination for travelers to the region. Leiten is the name of the hill on which the memorial sits.

In the late morning, visit to the **Caseificio Pennar di Asiago**: the Pennar cheese factory is located on the Asiago plateau, at 1070 meters above sea level and it's a pleasant stop in Asiago. It was founded in 1927 following the post-war reconstruction on the ruins of another ancient dairy. It produces a wide range of cheeses, with a rigorous disciplinary respecting the environment: everything must take place in the mountains from milking to its transformation into cheese and subsequent refining. No preservatives are used, not even natural ones. The tour will show to visitors the production of cheese and will end with the tasting of local cheeses.

Lunch in a typical restaurant in Asiago, with local recipes.

In the early afternoon, visit to **The Historical Museum of the Great War 1915-1918** in Canove – Asiago. Built in a place that has been the scene of bloody and prolonged clashes, the Museum collects over 1000 photographs and war artifacts, over 5000 personal effects such (clothing, tools, furnishings, decorations, official documents, personal testimonies and so on).

Afterwards, transfer to **Villa Godi Malinverni** in Lugo di Vicenza, the first Villa built from Andrea Palladio in 1542; together with the other Palladian villas, it was added to the Unesco World Heritage list in 1996.

Visit of the Villa: a lot of magnificent painters (Gianbattista Zelotti, Battista del Moro and Gualtiero Padovano) adorned it with frescoes, the main floor is divided into two perfectly symmetrical spaces with four rooms on each side. The park also belongs to this Venetian villa, with its century old trees, the lake with swans, the Italian gardens with basins and fountains, statues and columns by Marinali and Albanese.

Free time and end of service.

Price per person: **€ 225**, for a group of 45 participants (it includes 1 gratuity for the accompanying person) and excluding bus transport service. The package includes: a local tour guide, entrance fees and guided tours of the museums, palaces, villas and/or monuments in the programme, visits to local craft companies, lunches and dinner at the restaurant, overnight stay in a 3 or 4-star hotel.

