



REGIONE DEL VENETO



Terme e Colli.

EN

THE THERMAL BATHS OF
ABANO AND MONTEGROTTO
AND THE EUGANEAN HILLS



Veneto
The Land of Venice

www.veneto.eu



THERMAE
ABANO
MONTEGROTTO
COLLI EUGANEI NATURAL PARK



WELCOME ON THE EUGANEAN HILLS

Rolling hills with timeless charm suddenly rise in the Po Valley.

The Euganean Hills are characterized by a geometric and orderly profile, with perfect conical shapes and isolated peaks alternating with gently rounded slopes. This is the result of complex geomorphological phenomena that have unfolded over time, giving rise to a collection of approximately a **hundred volcanic heights** formed during the Tertiary Era (30 to 40 million years ago). These formations have been shaped by climatic evolution and human activity.

Thanks to its unique microclimates, this area supports a remarkable biodiversity, where alpine vegetation and **Mediterranean scrub** thrive in

close proximity. Humans have cultivated these lands since ancient times.

Viewed from above, the Euganean Hills Regional Park spans approximately nineteen thousand hectares of harmonious landscape mosaic, showcasing forests, vineyard-covered terraces, olive groves, orchards, as well as small villages, villas, castles, monasteries and hermitages set here and there.

Among these hills, hot water springs began to gush out in ancient times. Once places of worship for the ancient Venetians, these sites later gained renown as thermal baths where visitors can restore psychological balance and natural well-being.

ASTONISHING NATURE

All you need to do to discover the luxuriant flora of the Euganean Hills is to walk along one of the more than 30 equipped and secured trails that wind along the hillsides. By following a circular path halfway up the ridge, you can observe how the evergreen vegetation on the southern flank quickly fades into the cool, shady chestnut grove on the northern side. The lush Mediterranean vegetation of Euganean Hills includes arbutus, arboreal heather, cistus, broom and pungent asparagus, as well as more than 35 species of wild orchids, while the alpine-type vegetation counts the prestigious martagon Lily among its specimens. Some distinguishing features from the moorland, such as juniper and aquiline fern can also be found here.

The most valuable botanical species in the Euganean Hills is the rare *Ruta patavina* (haplophyllum patavinum). This steppe-type species has spread from Istria to the Bosphorus. In small calcareous stations within a sunny, barren environment which is unique to the Italian territory it preserves its small range in the Euganean Hills. The natural surroundings of the Euganean Hills offer extraordinary landscapes in every season. During winter, the charming phenomenon of thermal inversion takes place, when the hilltops benefit from beautifully sunny, almost spring-like days, while the lowlands below are covered by a thick blanket of fog.

To learn more, visit:

www.visitabanomontegrotto.com

www.parcocolliueganei.com



MONTEGROTTO TERME - VILLA DRAGHI



ARQUÀ PETRARCA - LAGHETTO DELLA COSTA

VERY WELCOMING PLACES THROUGHOUT THE AGES

An optimal habitat for human life since ancient times, Euganean Hills area preserves remarkable evidence of human civilization from prehistory onward. Its location in the heart of the Po Valley between two great rivers, mild climate, rich vegetation and various animal species determined the human presence since the **lower Palaeolithic** (35,000 years ago).

Archaeological excavations and historical studies carried out in the area have returned the main features of the civilization of the **ancient Veneti**, who had one of their capital cities, Este, in the Euganean Hills. On exhibition at the Atestino National Museum, the **Situla Benvenuti** (600 B.C.)

is an exceptional piece of early Iron Age art from the culture of the ancient Veneti representing a masterpiece of pre-Roman European art. During Roman times the development of the entire area began with the construction of a road network, the strengthening of residential settlements,

THE VIA ANNIA, WHICH BRANCHED OFF FROM THE VIA EMILIA AT LEGNAGO TO HEAD TOWARDS AQUILEIA, PASSED THROUGH MONSELICE.

THE FRANCESCO PETRARCA AND THE EUGANEAN HILLS LITERARY PARK

The Francesco Petrarca and the Euganean Hills Literary Park was officially established in 2012: a succession of environmental oases, ancient abbeys, castles, villas, rural retreats and other outstanding landmarks, such as Francesco Petrarca's house in Arquà, the thermal baths formerly celebrated by the poet Claudianus, the villa owned by Byron and Shelley in Este or the Praglia Abbey described by Fogazzaro, to name but a few, al-



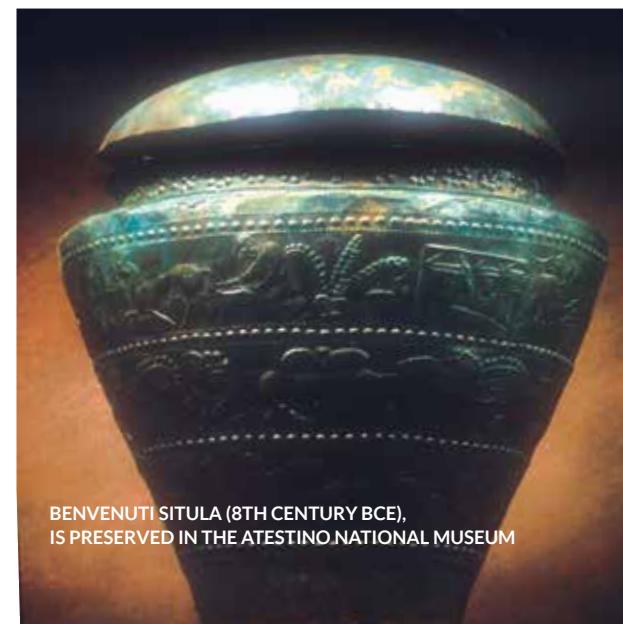
lows the visitor to enjoy an experience where literature merges with unique colours, scents and landscapes. The Euganean Hills have always held a special appeal and fascination for poets and writers. Their beauty has been incomparably immortalized in verse and prose, many of which can still be read today along a poetic pathway adorned with literary plaques.

www.parcopetrarca.com

LOCATED BETWEEN MONSELICE AND ARQUÀ PETRARCA, THE LAGHETTO DELLA COSTA IS ONE OF THE 19 PREHISTORIC PILE-DWELLINGS IN ITALY RECOGNIZED AS WORLD HERITAGE SITES BY UNESCO.

the introduction of new crops and the built of the **Aponus' baths**. In the Middle Ages, a large number of courts, parish churches, monasteries, castles and strongholds arose, many of which still exist and can be visited. The great poet **Francesco Petrarca** spent the final years of his life in Arquà. His house, which is a museum today, quickly turned into a cultural pilgrimage destination. At the beginning of the fifteenth century, the entire Euganean territory became part of the dominion of the Serenissima Republic of Venice, a rule that persisted until the arrival of Napoleon's troops in 1797. During the four centuries of Venetian domination, an extensive reclamation effort was implemented and splendid mansions, the renowned **Venetian villas**, were built, surrounded by beautifully groomed gardens. The **balance** between natural landscape and man-made setting was not jeopardised by the demographic growth seen in the last century. Today, more than ever, the Euganean Hills are a welcoming destination, an ideal place for a relaxing getaway that harmonizes multiple passions – from outdoor life to in-depth cultural experiences, from spa wellness to food and wine exploration.

For more information:
www.visitabanomontegrotto.com
www.parcocolliuganeie.com



BENVENUTI SITULA (8TH CENTURY BCE), IS PRESERVED IN THE ATESTINO NATIONAL MUSEUM

THERMAL WATERS, A UNIQUE TREASURE

The Euganean Hills enclose the Euganean Thermal Baths, the largest thermal basin in Europe. Here, beneficial and healing waters naturally bubble to the surface at temperatures reaching up to 80°C. During a long journey underground at depths of up to 2,000-3,000 meters, they become enriched with mineral salts. The abundance of dissolved substances makes this water unique in the world, classified as hyperthermal salt-bromine-iodine.

This water is the basis for all the therapeutic and aesthetic treatments available in several specialized hotels in the Euganean Thermal Baths, ranging from **balneotherapy** to **mud therapy**, from **hydro kinesitherapy** to **inhalation therapies**, as well as a wide array of **aesthetic and relaxing treatments**.



Thermal treatments can rightfully be defined as 'natural therapies'. They are based on thermal (mineral) **water** and **mud** derived from the maturation process of soils or clays, resulting in the development of **algae and microorganisms that have a healing effect on our body**. Thermal treatments are constantly evaluated according to the criteria of conventional science; their effectiveness is proven by extensive research, akin to the rigorous testing conducted on pharmaceuticals before they are released to the market.

The thermal treatments offered by Abano and Montegrotto Terme are conducted **under strict medical supervision**, in environments ensuring compliance with the standards set by the National Health Service (S.S.N.), while also providing the necessary comfort for a relaxing thermal stay.

To learn more, visit:

www.visitabanomontegrotto.com

CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC EXPERIENCES AT THE SPA

Mens sana in corpore sano! For comprehensive mental and physical well-being, we invite you to explore the rich and varied historical and artistic heritage within the Euganean Thermal Baths, amidst spa treatments and dips in the pool.

Within a few kilometres, you'll discover evidence of Roman times in the archaeological excavations of Montegrotto and on Montirone hill in Abano, alongside beautiful aristocratic villas, historic gardens, ancient monasteries, famous shrines and small yet valuable museums, such as the art gallery of Villa Bassi, the Sartori Mask Museum and the Butterfly Arc.

VILLA BASSI MUSEUM



AN IDEAL SETTING TO KEEP FIT

What about golf, swimming pool, hiking or a cycling tour? The natural environment of the Euganean Hills harmonizes with a variety of sports facilities and activities.

Cycling tourism: the Euganean Hills are a great park for bike enthusiasts! Flat bike paths, especially the E2 cycling ring of the Euganean Hills, make it easy to ride through the park, while the dense network of forest roads winding through woods and vineyards is perfect for MTB enthusiasts. With steep climbs, gentle plateaus, and low-traffic roads, the Euganean Hills are an open-air gym for cycling professionals.

Hiking: around 30 ancient trails have been recovered and secured by the Euganean Hills Regional Park, now offering walking experiences that connect history with landscape and nature with physical well-being. The suggested extensive routes are all loop trails with varying degrees of difficulty, ranging from easy paths suitable for everyone to challenging ones for experienced hikers. These trails can be completed in times ranging from 2 to 8 hours, with the High Route of the Euganean Hills taking about 12 hours.

Golf: There are as many as 5 golf clubs located in the Euganean Hills (Padua, Frassanelle, La Montecchia, Galzignano, Euganean Hills) and a Golf Academy (i.e. Montecchia practice field), where you can learn the basics of this sport or refine your techniques with the assistance of experienced golfers.

Per maggiori informazioni:
www.visitabanomontegrotto.com

SPAS AND SPORTS

Each thermal hotel in Abano, Montegrotto and Galzignano Terme offers a diverse daily program of non-competitive indoor and outdoor fitness activities. Moreover, many hotels are equipped with tennis courts, soccer fields, bocce courts, mini-golf, ping-pong tables, city bikes and bicycle rentals, modern and fully equipped gyms, elegant indoor and outdoor thermal pools (some of which are even Olympic-sized for swimming en-



thusiasts), Jacuzzis and jogging parks. Thermal waters and exercise amidst greenery are an ideal combination for professional sportsmen. Some hotels offer a variety of therapeutic treatments for muscle fatigue or to maintain the results achieved during intensive sports activities. After a match or workout, athletes will find relief and relaxation by taking a dip in the thermal pool.

CYCLING TOURISM

The bicycle is the ideal means for discovering the historical, artistic, and scenic beauty of the Euganean Hills. Simply follow the E2 cycle route, along with other cycle paths and minor roads. The E2 'Ring of the Euganean Hills' cycle route allows you to complete a circular tour of the

hills, enriched with historical, hydraulic, architectural and naturalistic landmarks. The 63 km route is mostly flat, with only a brief gradient in the northern section, and is equipped with tourist signs. Some sections feature separated and paved bike paths, while others consist of 30 km/h-moderate mixed traffic and, to a lesser extent, gravel paths. As the route passes through small towns, you don't need to carry food and water supplies with you; plenty of rest stops are indeed available.



GOLF

Golf Club Frassanelle: Via Rialto 5/A
Rovolon (PD) - tel. +39 049 9910722

Golf della Montecchia: Via Montecchia, 12
Selvazzano Dentro (PD) - tel. +39 049 8055550

Golf Club Padova: Via Noiera, 57
Valsanzibio di Galzignano Terme (PD)
tel. +39 049 9130078

Golf Galzignano: Viale delle Terme, 82
Galzignano Terme (PD) - tel. +39 049 9195100

Golf Club Colli Euganei:
Via Bosco, 21 - Cervarese S. Croce (PD)
tel. +39 389 4591141

E2 CYCLE ROUTE - RING OF THE EUGANEAN HILLS





DELIGHTFUL CULINARY EXPERIENCES

Authentic food and genuine wines encapsulate the promise of the Euganean Hills for those who appreciate fine dining. This seemingly simple cuisine is the result of diverse traditions, cultures and peoples. Generously provided by nature, its basic ingredients have been cultivated by man for centuries.

The hillsides are rich in **olive groves, vineyards and orchards** filled with cherries, pomegranates, jujubes, figs, plums, peaches, pears, apples, as well as hazelnuts, almonds and chestnuts.

Among vegetables, asparagus, peas and radicchio are especially cultivated.

Spontaneous herbs, mushrooms and wild fruits are gathered from undergrowth and meadows to create the basis for savoury culinary specialties, such as risottos, omelettes, roasts, sauces, condiments and compotes.

From farmhouses to trattorias and restaurants, traditional products and typical recipes are infused with the creativity of Euganean chefs.

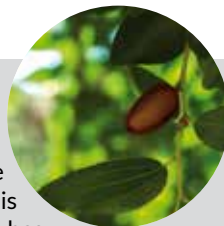
Typical specialties include **'bigoli al torchio'** (traditional pasta made using a press), risotto with wild herbs, pasta and beans, **'risi e bisi'** (tradi-

tional dish made of rice and peas), gnocchi and tagliatelle.

Among the main courses, there is a constant presence of dishes linked to the **farmyard animals**. Polenta is always served with options such as 'polenta e osei' (polenta served with small birds), **polenta** with mushrooms and polenta with cod. For dessert, a treat from the ancient Venetian tradition: **zaeti** cookies made with cornmeal, accompanied by a glass of **'brodo di**

JUJUBES

Bright red fruits that ripen in early autumn, jujubes resemble olives in shape and their flavour is reminiscent of a crisp pear. Jujubes are used as the base for 'Brodo di Giuggiole', a liqueur also appreciated by the poet Petrarch and referenced in the proverbial saying 'going into jujubes', indicating a state of great satisfaction.



giuggiole' (a broth made with jujubes), artisanal grappa or maraschino liqueur.

Come savour the Wine: 12 DOC wines, 'Colli Euganei' red wine, Merlot, Carménère and Cabernet, alongside the **'Fior d'Arancio'** DOCG in sparkling, dry and passito versions.

Oil: Euganean productions have delicate, herbaceous and slightly floral fragrance. In addition to oil, in local mills you will often find olive oil-based cosmetics.

Honey: the 'nectar from heaven,' is obtained through traditional techniques under strict organic regulations and controls. It comes in the thousand-flower or single-flower variety. Euganean Hills Honey is included in the list of traditional products according to the directives of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Prosciutto Veneto Berico-Euganeo: This delicious raw ham comes from the thighs of

top-quality pigs raised on the plains between the Euganean Hills and the Berico Hills, cured for 12 months. Some charcuteries welcome visitors for tours.

To learn more, visit:

www.colliuganeidoc.com

www.stradadelvinocolliuganei.it



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

The lively festivals and ancient village fairs offer a delightful and flavourful chance to delve into the local traditions, culture, and eno-gastronomy of the Euganean Hills. Listing them all in such limited space is nearly impossible; we present a small selection and encourage you to explore the rest by contacting the local tourist offices.

April

Este: 'Este in fiore' (Este in bloom)
Monselice: Springtime hues and tastes

May

Abano Terme: The Mask at the Spa
Baone: 'Festa dei Bisi' (Pea Festival)
Battaglia Terme: Flowery Canal and 'Remada a Seconda' (traditional rowing event)
Monselice: 'La Rocca in Fiore' (the Citadel in bloom)
Montagnana: Ham Festival
Montegrotto Terme: Flower Festival
Valsanzibio: Spring Festival
Rovolon: Bigoli Festival
Teolo: Gnocchi Festival
Torreglia: Bigoli Festival
Zovon di Vò: Cherry Festival
Vò: Vò Gustando (wine and food stroll)

June

Cervarese Santa Croce: 'Palio dello Sparviero' (Sparrowhawk Race)
Torreglia: 'Festa della Mira' (annual Euganean culture and landscape festival)
Torreglia: Festival of Pappardelle and 'Gran fritto' (traditional dish consisting of a variety of fried foods)
Vò: Beer Festival

July

Cinto Euganeo: Bread, pizza and bubbles
Monselice: Goblets under the stars
Rovolon: Beer Festival

Torreglia: Feast of threshing
Valle San Giorgio: Feast of threshing

August

Battaglia Terme: Fair of San Bartolomeo
Cinto: Starlit goblets
Teolo: Holidaymaker's Festival

September

Cervarese Santa Croce: 'Festa del Bò' (feast of the ox)
Monselice: 'Giostra della Rocca' (medieval tournament)
Montagnana: Palio of the Ten Municipalities
Montegrotto Terme: Berta's re-enactment (medieval historical re-enactment)
Montegrotto Terme: Autumn hues
Vò: Grape Festival

October

Arquà Petrarca: Jujube Festival
Monselice: Autumn's colours and flavours
Teolo: Chestnut Festival
Torreglia: DOC Wine showcase
Vò Vecchio: Cod Festival

November

Monselice: Feast of All Saints
Torreglia: DOC Wine showcase

December

Traditional and artistic cribs, Christmas markets and events.

EXPLORING MEDIEVAL TIMES

The Middle Ages were a particularly turbulent and vibrant period for the Euganean Hills area. Numerous castles, walled cities and monasteries arose during this period. To commemorate the most significant events of that era, stunning medieval re-enactments are still held today.

- June: "Alla Corte degli Estensi" in Este
- June: "Palio dello Sparviero" at Cervarese Santa Croce Castle
- September: "Giostra della Rocca" in Monselice



CONFLUENCE OF FAITH ROADS

The western side of the Euganean Hills Park is bordered by the Battaglia Canal, along which an ancient medieval route was also used by pilgrims crossing Italy and Europe to reach the main Christian shrines in Rome and Santiago de Compostela. This 10 km-stretch, which coincides with a section of the E2 Cycle Route, is part

www.veneto.eu/IT/Cammini/

of the Path of Saint Anthony and the Via Romea Germanica. It is also used as a connection to reach the Camino de Santiago and link up with the Romea Strata and the Via Francigena.

MAIN SITES OF HISTORICAL AND ARTISTIC INTEREST

Abano Terme

International Museum of the Mask Villa Savioli
Villa Bassi Rathgeb Museum
San Daniele Monastery

Arquà Petrarca

Petrarch's House

Baone

Villa Beatrice Natural History Museum

Battaglia Terme

Museum of River Navigation
Catajo Castel
Villa Selvatico

Cervarese S. Croce

Museum of the Bacchiglione River, Castle of S. Martino della Vaneza

Cinto Euganeo

Museo Geopaleontologico Cava Bomba

Due Carrare

Air and Space Museum, San Pelagio Castle

Este

Atestino National Museum
The defensive Walls of the Carrarese Castle and its public gardens
St. Thecla Abbey Cathedral
Abbey cathedral of Santa Maria delle Grazie with Tiepolo altarpiece

Galzignano Terme

Valsanzibio, Historic Garden of Villa Barbarigo
Euganean Hills Museum

Monselice

Monselice Castle
Sanctuary of the Seven Churches

Montegrotto Terme

Roman Archaeological Area
Butterfly Arc, The House of Butterflies
Ancient Thermalism and Territory Museum

Rovolon

Frassanelle Park

Teolo

Praglia Benedictine Abbey
Dino Formaggio Museum of Contemporary Art

Torreglia

Luvigliano, Villa dei Vescovi

Vò

Muvi - Wine Museum
Villa Contarini Giovanelli Venier - venue of the Holocaust and Landscape Museum



ABANO TERME - GRAND HOTEL OROLOGIO

ABANO TERME: THE HEART OF THERMAL WELLNESS

With a substantial number of hotels all equipped with thermal facilities and a high influx of tourists, Abano Terme holds the record of the largest spa town in the world. Historical evidence of its significance dates back to the Roman period, as documented in writings by Pliny the Elder. In more recent history, Abano was a favoured destination among the nobility of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This historical legacy imbues Abano with a lingering atmosphere of Mitteleuropean charm that is still palpable today. Those interested in cultural tourism will therefore be perfectly at ease: they can admire the facade of the Grand

Hotel Orologio, designed by Giuseppe Jappelli, who also created the historic Caffè Pedrocchi in Padua. In the historic centre of Abano, visitors can explore Piazza del Sole e della Pace, home to one of Europe's largest sundials. Art enthusiasts can admire masterpieces ranging from the 1600s to the 1900s at the Cathedral of San Lorenzo and the Municipal Art Gallery at Montirone. Established in 1435, the Sanctuary of Monteortone houses works by Palma il Giovane. Villa Bassi Rathgeb, a 16th-century mansion, showcases frescoes on its main floor and boasts a collection of over 400 artworks.

ARQUÀ PETRARCA: ENCHANTMENTS OF THE MIDDLE AGES

Nestled on the slopes of the Castello and Ventolone Mounts, the charming village of Arquà, one of the most beautiful in Italy, has preserved its medieval character intact. Its name and fame are tied to Francesco Petrarca, who chose it as his home in the last years of his life (1371 - 1374). The Da Carrara family, rulers of Padua, gave the poet this house, which is now a museum and remains well-preserved in the centre of the village. Not far away stand the ancient Oratory of the Holy Trinity (12th century) and the Loggia del Vicari (13th century). Finally, not to be missed is the thousand-year-old parish church of Santa Maria, on whose parvis lies Petrarca's tomb, made of red Verona marble and trachyte. Arquà Petrarca proudly holds the TCI (Italian Touring Club) Orange Flag, a quality label for environmental tourism.



ARQUÀ PETRARCA - THE POET'S HOUSE

THE ANCIENT FIEF OF BAONE



BAONE - VILLA BEATRICE D'ESTE

From the hill known as Mount Cecilia, named after a beautiful and noble maiden, the rulers dominated the surrounding land in the Middle Ages. Throughout ancient times, Azzo II d'Este and Count Maltraverso were the regents of this fief, which had seen Roman occupation, as evidenced by numerous artifacts still visible today. On the other hand, the church of Santi Lorenzo e Fidenzio is a hallmark of religious presence. Built on the site of a former Benedictine parish church, it houses interesting paintings of the seventeenth-century Venetian school. Not far from the sacred building, you can admire Cà Borin, built around 1690 and preceded by a grand staircase. Villa Beatrice is definitely worth a visit; erected in a magnificent panoramic location as a hermit settlement, it was named after Blessed Beatrice d'Este, a noblewoman from the Este family who lived here with her community in the early thirteenth century. The villa now houses an interesting Natural History Museum.

BATTAGLIA TERME: THE PATH TO THE SEA

This town is characterized by the presence of the Battaglia Canal and its connections to the river network that has linked the Euganean Hills with the Venetian lagoon and the Adriatic Sea for centuries. It is distinguished by its extraordinary buildings and artifacts. The significance of navigation led to the establishment of the Museum of River Navigation, the only one of its kind in Italy. This museum showcases artifacts, photos, and historical documents that depict the vanished civilization of the 'barcari' (boatmen) and 'squeraroli'

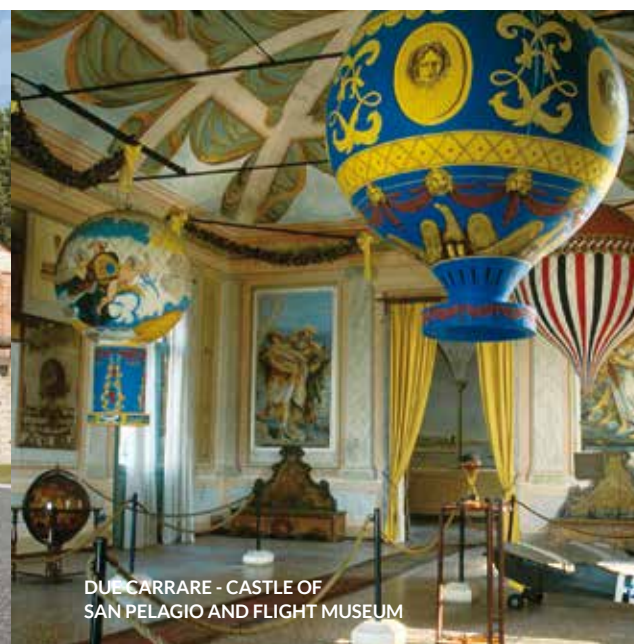
(specialized craftsmen). Along the banks of the Canal, you'll find splendid noble residences, such as the Catajo Castle, a monumental and scenic residence commissioned by Pio Enea I degli Obizzi in 1570, and Villa Selvatico Capodilista (1593) which boasts a park designed by Giuseppe Jappelli in 1818. The navigation lock is also of great interest; built in 1923, it stands as an extraordinary landmark of hydraulic engineering, enabling boats to overcome a maximum height difference of more than 7 meters.



BATTAGLIA TERME - CATAJO CASTLE



CERVARESE S. CROCE - CASTLE OF SAN MARTINO DELLA VANEZA



DUE CARRARE - CASTLE OF SAN PELAGIO AND FLIGHT MUSEUM

CERVARESE: ALONG THE BACCHIGLIONE RIVERBANKS

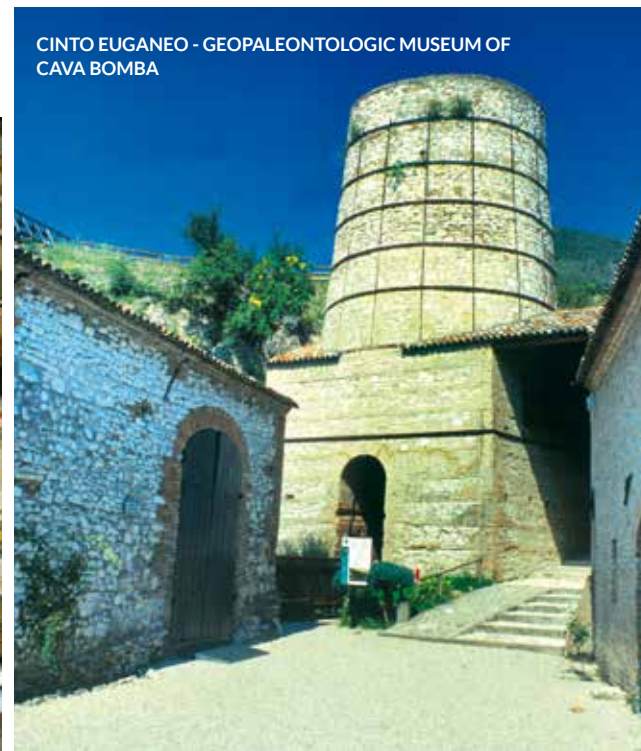
The importance of Cervarese lies in its strategic location: situated along the Bacchiglione River, the town served as a pivotal hub for river trade. However, its proximity to the border between Padua and Vicenza also made it a battleground during periods of military conflict. Today, amidst an economy driven by the fur industry, the historical destinies of Cervarese converge at the Castle of San Martino della Vaneza. Originally a fortified stronghold, it now houses a museum de-

icated to the Bacchiglione River. Architectural remnants from different historical periods, yet sharing a unique characteristic, include the Floating Mill (operational until the late nineteenth century, now demolished) and the Montemerlo Arena, an amphitheatre that has hosted theatre and film festivals for almost fifty years. Also of interest are the neo-Gothic Villa Serenella and Villa Trento, revealing the influence of the Palladian school.

DUE CARRARE: THE CRADLE OF THE DA CARRARA FAMILY

Following the unification of Carrara San Giorgio and Carrara Santo Stefano, the town of Due Carrare was founded in 1995. This toponym derives its name from the powerful Da Carrara family, which ruled over Padua throughout the fourteenth century. The ancient abbey church of the Da Carrara family still stands today, along with mills, extensive land estates, military fortifications and settlements that developed into safe trade routes between Padua, the Euganean Hills and the lagoon. During the rule of the Serenissima

Republic of Venice, Venetian patricians constructed luxurious villas in the area. The Castle of San Pelagio, home to a captivating museum on the history of flight, exemplifies the transition from fortress castle to noble villa. Equally unique is the riverside village of Pontemanco, which evolved from two medieval mills that continued operating until the post-World War II era.



CINTO EUGANEO - GEOPALEONTOLOGIC MUSEUM OF CAVA BOMBA

CINTO EUGANEO: WHERE WATER IS 'HARNESSED'

We all know that the ancient Romans excelled not only in the art of conquest but also in the creation of bold and complex engineering works. One such marvel is located in the area of Cinto Euganeo: an intricate aqueduct system with an underground development spanning over 130 meters. At the heart of this canal network lies Mount Vendevolo, where the renowned 'Buso della Casara' (the cheesemaker's hole) is situated on its slopes. To supply water to the area up to Este, the flow from

the Faedo and Valle San Giorgio springs was captured and channelled into small natural caves. These channels directed water into large artificial caves, from where it was transported to its destination through stone pipelines. The Cava Bomba complex is a notable example of 'industrial' archaeology. Originally a mining settlement, it has been transformed into a geopaleontologic museum, exhibiting artifacts from settlements in the Euganean Hills.

ESTE: UNVEILING A MILLENNARY CULTURE

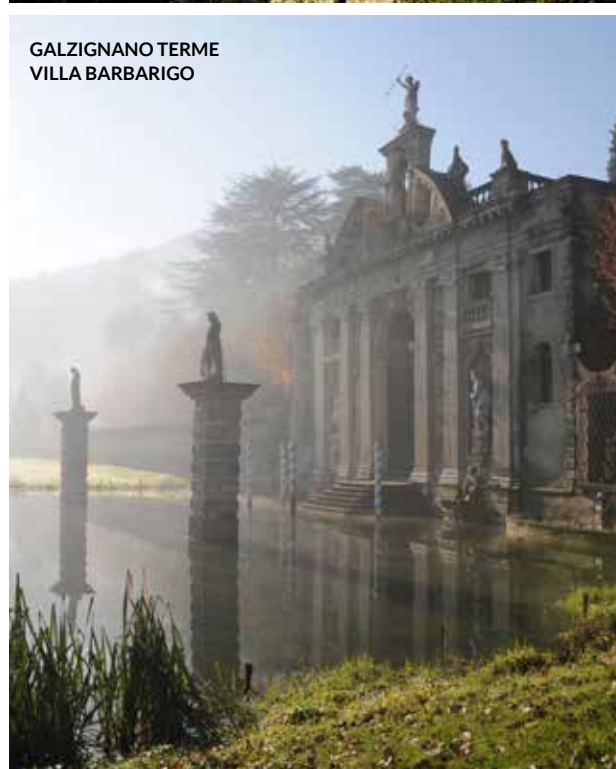
The Paleovenetians were the first to elect Este as the centre of their culture. Ever since, the city, distinguished by its majestic city walls, has maintained its cultural vocation, hosting in more recent times artistic talents such as Shelley, Byron (accommodated at Villa Kunkler), and Debussy. After all, the entire town centre is rich in artistic and architectural treasures that captivate visitors. Remarkable highlights include the Gothic palace from the Scaliger period and the Town Hall building in Piazza Maggiore, along with the Atestino National Museum, one of Italy's most important archaeological museums. The Cathedral of Santa Tecla is also notable, housing an altarpiece painted by Giambattista Tiepolo. These are just a few of the gems found within the walls of a city named after the great dynasty of the Este family. Equally noteworthy are the villas adorned with magnificent gardens. You cannot help but marvel at the secret hortus of Villa Contarini, for instance, or the park designed by Giuseppe Jappelli for Villa Cornaro-Benvenuti.



ESTE - DA CARRARA FAMILY'S CASTLE AND CITY WALL

GALZIGNANO TERME: THE NOBLE RETREAT

An ancient settlement located on the southeastern slopes of Mount Rua, Galzignano Terme preserves an almost unspoiled natural environment, primarily featuring rural dwellings. The beautiful historic garden of Villa Barbarigo can be found in the locality of Valsanzibio. Surrounded by an enchanting hillside amphitheatre, it was created in the second half of the seventeenth century by the Venetian nobleman Francesco Barbarigo, father of St. Gregory Barbarigo, as a symbolic path to guide man toward salvation. The garden, designed by pontifical fountain-maker Luigi Bernini, maintains its original layout intact, featuring a surprising universe of fountains, streams, fishponds, statues, boxwood walls and a labyrinth. Also referred to as the 'country of Golf,' Galzignano Terme offers a total of 36 holes distributed across two different courses, placing it at the top of the national rankings for the number of 'paths' in relation to its territorial extension and population.



GALZIGNANO TERME VILLA BARBARIGO



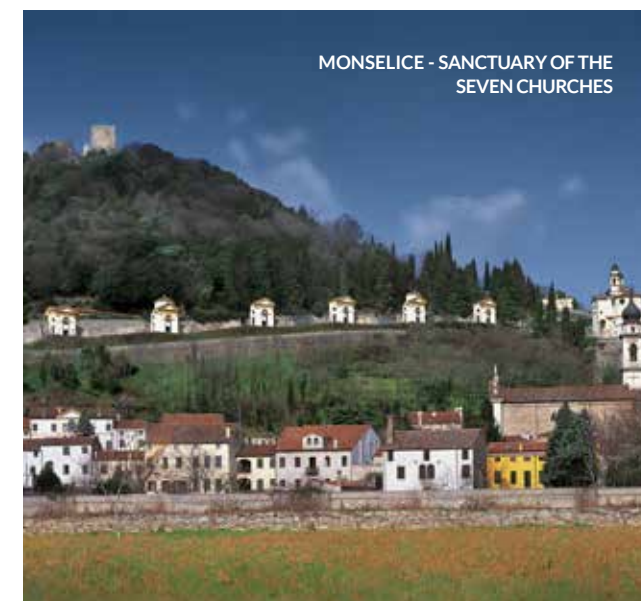
LOZZO ATESTINO

LOZZO ATESTINO: THROUGH WOODS, VINEYARDS AND CANALS

Lozzo Atestino is situated on the slopes of Mount Lozzo, a hill with an unmistakable silhouette, forming a perfect cone completely isolated from the other Euganean Hills and extending towards the Berici Mountains. The most plausible hypothesis regarding the origin of its name relates to the original state of the territory being a 'lucus' (sacred forest); mountain was once actually covered by an immense forest, as evidenced by certain toponyms, such as Rovere and Ronchi. The territory is also characterized by numerous canals and drains, such as the Bisatto Canal and the 'Scolo' of Lozzo (a drainage canal). Due to its strategic location on the border with the province of Vicenza, the Castle of Valbona was constructed around 1228. Conceived as a military defensive fortress, it remains well-preserved to this day. Other significant historical and artistic buildings include the simple yet majestic Villa Lando-Correr (sixteenth century), surrounded by a park of secular plants, the neoclassical archpriest church, the ancient church of Valbona and the small country church of Chiavicone, consecrated to the Redeemer.

MONSELICE: A JUNCTION OF CIVILIZATIONS

Thanks to its strategic position in defending Padua, Monselice has historically absorbed the styles and cultures of various civilizations across different eras. Traces of these influences can still be discovered in layers, along a splendid promenade that winds along the slopes of Colle della Rocca. Beginning with the imposing medieval castle, constructed between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries, the complex comprises several buildings. The manor houses a prestigious armoury with over nine hundred pieces and a rich collection of artwork and furnishings. Additionally, the Library hosts the Lombard Antiquarium. Shortly beyond, you will encounter Villa Nani, the ancient Parish Church of Santa Giustina, and the evocative Jubilee Sanctuary of the Seven Churches, a sacred route designed by Vincenzo Scamozzi and commissioned by the noble Duodo family between the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The beautiful Villa Duodo concludes the route. The mighty Federician Keep, erected at the behest of Emperor Frederick II of Swabia in 1239, stands atop the hill. Other valuable monuments include the sixteenth-century Villa Pisani, the San Paolo Museum, where one of the oldest depictions of St. Francis is preserved in the crypt, the historic garden of Villa Emo, as well as the Castle of Lispidia. For those who enjoy trekking in nature, the Mount Ricco trail is not to be missed.



MONSELICE - SANCTUARY OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

MONTEGROTTO TERME: LEGENDS ALL AROUND

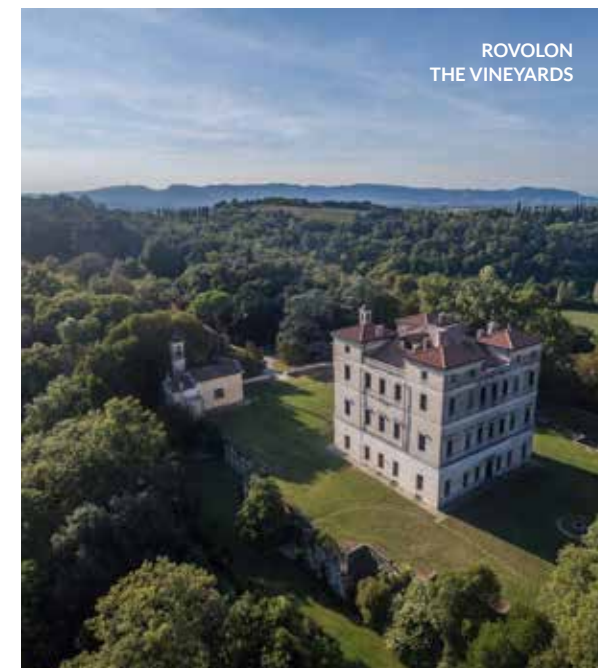
The epic legend of Phaeton and the sun was already narrated by writers from Alexandrian times. It was these very authors who identified Montegrotto as the place where the mythological hero fell, giving rise to the thermal springs. Another legend leads us to the slopes of Colle del Castello, where the ruins of the Tower of Berta can still be seen. According to folklore, the young peasant girl Berta is associated with the famous adage: 'The times when Berta spun.' On the other hand, Montegrotto is renowned today for its thermal baths, making it a favoured destination for tourists from across Europe. A very enjoyable way to explore the most interesting places in Montegrotto is aboard the tourist train that departs from the Oratory and tours the town, passing by the Roman excavations (the main archaeological area of the Euganean Hills, featuring tanks and canals dating back to the Republican and Augustan periods), the Butterfly Arc and Villa Draghi, whose park is filled with centuries-old plants.



MONTEGROTTO TERME - ROMAN COLUMNS

ROVOLON: AN ANCIENT SPIRITUAL HEARTLAND

The Benedictine Order, one of the most significant monastic orders in the West, flourished in the Rovolon area. The rural church of St. Peter in Carbonara, dating back to the year 1000, represents the oldest evidence of the Benedictine order's presence. Additionally, the 'gastaldia Corte del Vegrolongo', an administrative unit located in Bastia, was responsible for managing the monastic properties in the territory. All administrative activities were centralized in Rovolon at Villa Ottavia, built in the fifteenth century. The town centre of Rovolon is now clustered around the parish church, overlooked by Mount Madonna, from whose summit it is possible to gaze out towards the majestic Alpine peaks on clear days. A notable attraction is the nineteenth-century Villa Papafava, owned by the Da Carrara family and situated within the expansive Frassanelle park. The park is adorned with ancient plants and features a small lake, a neo-classical temple designed by the renowned Paduan architect Giuseppe Jappelli and a picturesque cave constructed in 1880. This cave forms an underground path spanning approximately 200 meters across various levels.



ROVOLON THE VINEYARDS

MONTEGROTTO TERME - THERMAL COMPLEX



TEOLO - PRAGLIA ABBEY

TEOLO: AT THE VERY HEART OF THE HILLS

Nestled among the picturesque hills, including Venda, Mount Madonna and Monte Grande, Teolo boasts ancient origins. According to tradition, it was the birthplace of the great Latin historian Titus Livy. During medieval times, it became one of the major settlements in the Padua area, hosting the Podesta seat. Later, under Venetian rule, it served as an important vicariate with administrative duties over a vast territory. Today, it is one of the favourite destinations for hiking tourism and

day trips. Among the attractions in the area, the ancient Praglia Abbey stands out as a must-see. As one of the oldest and still active Benedictine monasteries in Italy, it holds great historical significance. In addition to the church by Tullio Lombardo, visitors can explore the abbey's cloisters, the Chapter House and the monumental refectory. This abbey is also renowned worldwide for its significant work in the restoration of ancient books and illuminated manuscripts.

TORREGLIA: A PLACE OF INNER PEACE

Chosen by Camaldolese monks for the construction of Mount Rua hermitage, Torreglia is a peaceful location where the spirit is soothed. In fact, gazing upon the landscape from the Cross viewpoint, you feel enveloped by the land and sky, from the hills to the plains. Amidst the lush greenery, the ancient Fonte Regina stands as a testament to its vital role in supplying the aqueduct that served Abano and Padua during Roman times. Dipped in the tranquillity of the hamlet of Luvigliano, you can admire the splendid Villa dei Vescovi, designed by Falconetto and built by Andrea da Valle. Declared a national monument, this mansion is now owned by the FAI (Italian Environmental Fund).



TORREGLIA - LUVIGLIANO - VILLA DEI VESCOVI



VO' - VILLA CONTARINI GIOVANELLI VENIER



VO' - THE VINEYARDS

VÒ: WHERE THE HILLS MEET THE PLAINS

The ancient Vadum (a passageway or river port) was a significant hub of commerce and trade along the Adige River. A secondary branch of the river flowed along the western side of the hills until 589. Today, it marks the point where the slopes of the Euganean Hills meet the plains extending towards Vicenza. The fertile soil in this area, enhanced by Venetian reclamation efforts, continues to enrich the region. Vò is renowned for its wine production, celebrated annually on the third Sunday in September with the traditional Grape Festival. Signs of the splendour of the Serenissima Republic of

Venice are still visible today. Vò is peculiarly divided into different hamlets, each offering pleasant surprises for visitors. For instance, in the hamlet of Boccon lies the 'mazo' boulder. Legend has it that every 1st of May, young men would place flowers, stolen from their beloveds' gardens, between its cracks. Maidens would then pick a flower matching the one slipped into their jacket by the suitor. This ritual symbolized a genuine promise of betrothal. Another captivating find is the small square in the hamlet of Cortelà, featuring its parish church at the base of Mount Madonna.

OUR DESTINATION

Natural park

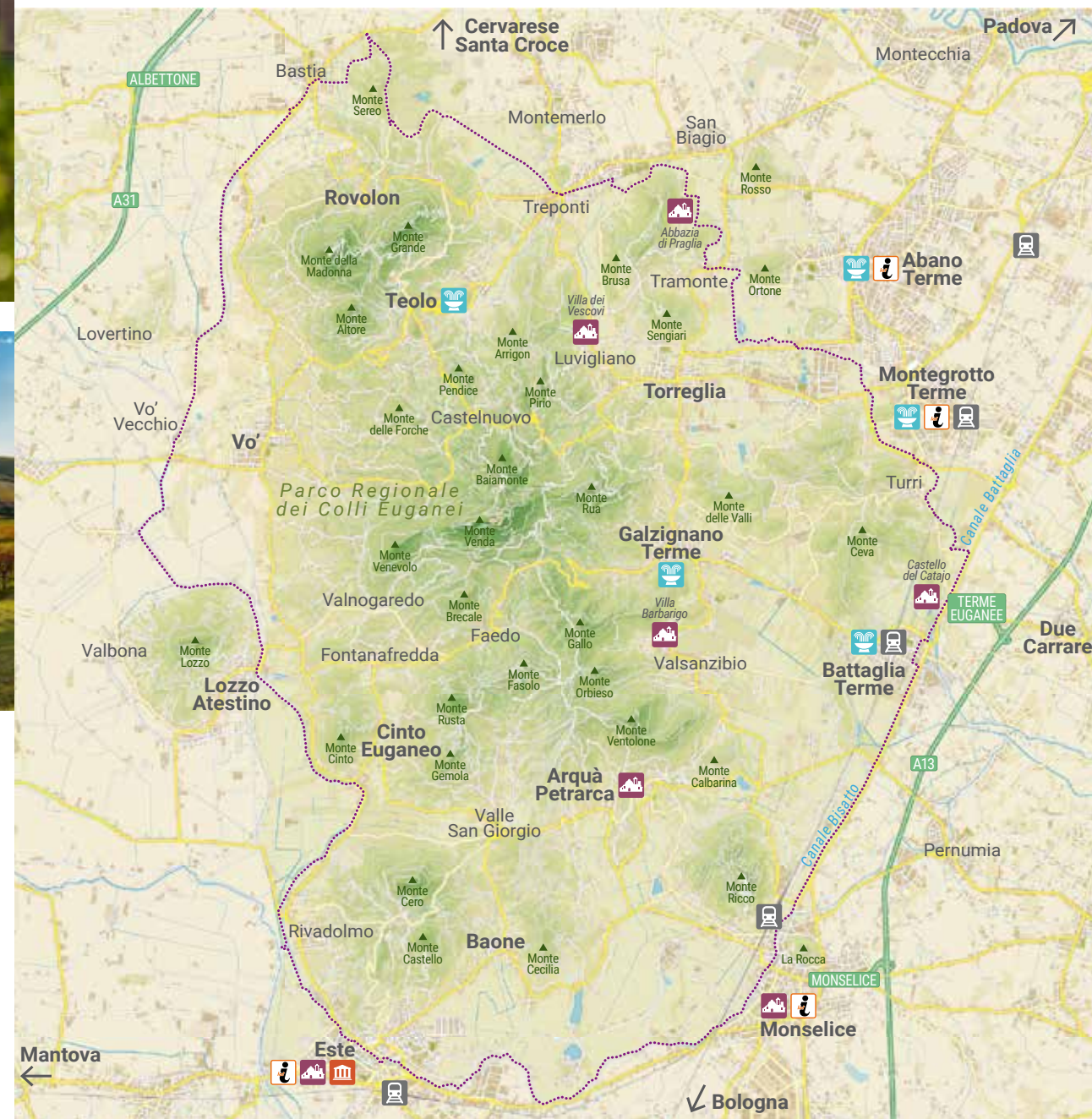
15 municipalities, over 30 equipped and marked trails; over 1600 plant species; Castles, Monasteries, Venetian Villas.

Thermal baths

Millenary tradition, over 200 thermal pools, Spas with hyperthermal water and mud treatments.

In proximity of

Padua, 12 km | Vicenza, 40 km | Venice, 50 km





TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

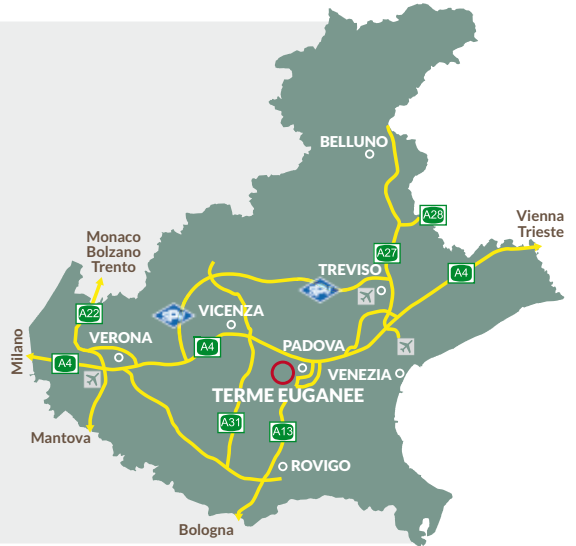
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how to reach the thermal baths of Abano and Montegrotto and the Euganean Hills Regional Park

-  Padua and Euganean Thermal Baths station with bus connections and railway stations of Battaglia Terme, Monselice and Este
www.trenitalia.com | www.italotreno.it
-  Marco Polo / Venezia | 50 km - www.veniceairport.it
Canova / Treviso | 70 km - www.trevisoairport.it
Catullo / Verona | 90 km - www.aeroporto.verona.it
Marconi / Bologna | 110 km - www.bologna-airport.it
Collegamento alle Terme con bus di linea, treno e taxi.
Connections to the Thermal Baths available by bus, train, and taxi. Venice and Treviso airports served by shuttle buses from the Abano and Montegrotto Thermal Baths.
-  **A13 Motorway** Padova - Bologna, Monselice exit, Terme Euganee exit
A4 Motorway Milano - Venezia, Padova Ovest exit
A31 Motorway Vicenza - Rovigo, Albettonne - Barbarano exit