

ENGLISH



# THE SMALL PEARLS

in the province  
of Belluno



**DOLOMITI**  
THE MOUNTAINS OF VENICE



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My country.  
It's home, roots, colours, breaths, blood,  
horizon that belongs to me.  
It's a road that always leads where  
you need to be, in that exact spot of  
happiness.

— **Fabrizio Caramagna**

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# CADORE COMELICO AMPEZZO



... Deh, as long as the Piave river to the green chasms in the perennial flight of the centuries flows to upset the Adriatic Sea with the remains of the black woods, that the pines gave to the old basin of San Marco towered in war down among the Echinadi; and the setting sun paints the peaks of the pale dolomites pink at sunset, the Marmarole mountains, dear to Tiziano Vecellio, the palace of dreams, shine with light, salvation for the spirit...



— Giosuè Carducci, *Cadore's Ode* 1892

# CIBIANA DI CADORE

## The town that paints its own history

Cibiana di Cadore (1005 metres above sea level) is a typical village among the Dolomite peaks, located in the Boite Valley, not far away from the Forcella Cibiana, and known as the town that paints its own history because of the many murals that are frescoed and painted on the façades of the houses, made by international and local artists. All these works are an outdoor museum that is enriched with new subjects every year. They represent a tight symbiosis among art and urban and architectural arrangement. This idea arose in 1980 in order to recover traditions, professions and stories of the cultural heritage of the town as a collective memory of public access thanks to the figurative arts, enhancing in this peculiar way the residential heritage and also decorating the town as they used to do in the medieval cities in Italy.

The main church of the 14th century dedicated to Saint Lawrence and the little church of Saint Nicolò in Cibiana di Sotto are of artistic and religious interest. Economically connected to the wood and iron manufacturing, the blacksmith activity in Cibiana was known also in some European countries. Cibiana was also a town that was dedicated to professional sports and particularly it was distinguished for ski jumpers. First of all, Nilo Zandanel who was world record holder with 144 metres of height. He was the standard bearer of the Italian team in the Cortina d'Ampezzo Olympic Games in 1956.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

On the peak of the Mount Rite, you should not miss two things: the "Messner Mountain Museum", better known as "Museo nelle Nuvole" (Museum on the Clouds), created by Messner at 2187 metres of altitude. Built on the ruins of the defensive walls of the Great War and dedicated to the "rock" element, the museum tells the history of the Dolomites' exploration and climbing. In the gallery of the main aisle there are paintings and works coming from the Reinhold Messner's collection, that represent the Dolomites, from the Romanticism to the contemporary art. Absolutely not to be missed, there is the panoramic terrace of the World Heritage Dolomites, recently built and inaugurated in the summer of 2019. Here the view on the Dolomites is incomparable.

### CURIOSITY

Here historically the key industry was born and Cibiana has been the capital of this production for many years. Today the history of iron and its manufacturing is told in the "Museo del ferro e della chiave" (Museum of the iron and of the key). From the iron processing to melt cannonballs for the Most Serene Republic of Venice, they switched to produce clock hands, files and razors, but at the same time the town became the most renowned centre of the key production. Around the end of the 19th century, 50 "fusine" (local name for forges) were active. In Cibiana there is still today a company that produces thousands of keys every day and is a leader at an international level.



# COSTALTA DI CADORE

## A wooden statue in a wooden house in a wooden town

The town of Costalta, the wooden town, is placed at the foot of the Mount Zovo, in a small panoramic terrace on the valley below. It's a hamlet of the municipality of San Pietro di Cadore, that rises at 1038 metres of altitude and borders with Austria in the north and with Friuli Venezia Giulia in the east. The view opens on the Tre Terze mountains, the little, the middle and the big, and on the mounts Ferro, Rinaldo, Carro and Curiè. In the hamlet of Costalta, the church of Saint Anne is very interesting: it was built in the 16th century and was restored by the engineer Pante in the 18th century. Since 2010, the hamlet has been included in the list of the "Heart's Places" by FAI (Italian Environment Fund).

In the town there is also the beautiful "Albergo diffuso (dispersed hotel) Costalta", one of the first projects of dispersed reception in the Dolomites. In the surroundings you should not miss the Poli De Pol Palace, where nowadays the municipality of San Pietro di Cadore has its offices. It's almost certainly the northernmost Venetian villa from Venice. Built between 1665 and 1667, it was probably made by the architect Baldassarre Longhena, the architect of the Basilica of Saint Mary of Health in Venice.



### NOT TO BE MISSED

"CostaltArte" — "Una statua di legno, in una casa di legno, in un paese di legno" (CostaltArt – a wooden statue, in a wooden house, in a wooden town) is an event born in 2000 to enhance the town with wooden sculptures made by Italian, international and local artists, next to the typical wooden houses.

The difference in artistic styles just from the first event had an international echo. "CostaltApp" - free app for iOS and Android to get to know the town, its history, its artistic and landscape beauties, giving information about the events that the town proposes.

### CURIOSITY

"Casa — Museo etnografico Angiul Sai" (Angiul Sai ethnographic house – museum), example of Cadorine traditional architecture, can be visited today and was born with the aim to keep a typical aspect of the territory: the wood. The building has a square plan, with external stairs and wooden balconies: a typical building made with "blockbau" technique (overlapping logs one on top of another).

The museum path starts with a series of information panels about mountain architecture and continues with the visit to the different typical house spaces. Since 2013 the museum has become virtual and interactive.

# DOSOLEDO

## The town of Saint Apollonia carnival

In the northernmost part of the province of Belluno, at the border with the province of Bolzano and Austria, there is the municipality of Comelico Superiore (1210 metres), with its hamlets Candide, Casamazzagno, Dosoledo, Padola, Sega Digon and Sopalù. Dosoledo stands out for the church of Saints Rocco and Oswald: here in 1844 Segusini finished the first neoclassical church in the Comelico area and you can see the Palladian influence already in the façade. The neoclassical style is clear above all in the presbytery, where there are the Corinthian columns, decorated by splendid capitals. The vaults are decorated with frescoes by Giovanni De Min, well-known artist from Belluno, while in the nave there is the nineteenth-century altar dedicated to Saint Apollonia, patron saint of the town to whom is dedicated also the carnival. But the most valuable work is certainly the altar, consecrated to Our Lady of Sorrow, by sculptor Andrea Brustolon, created in 1722 - 23: carved in pear wood, it has a central higher niche, where you can see Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, while at Her feet the body of her dead Son, taken down from the Cross and supported by an angel, lies.

You should not miss a stroll along the "via dei fienili" (barn way): this amphitheatre of farm buildings, adjusted in 2015, seems to embrace the town of Dosoledo. Located as to form a kind of protection frame towards the valley, they are the proof of the solid country vocation of the people living here, making the visitor feel the simple atmosphere and the deep culture of mountain people. On the threshold of each house the family "signs" peer out.

### CURIOSITY

The "maskarada", the carnival fancy-dress party, occurs in the hamlet of Dosoledo on Sunday near the 9th of February, when Saint Apollonia, the patron saint of the town, is celebrated. The masks that open the parade are the "lachè" and the "matazin" with high velvet hats ("calota"), necklaces, pins, jewels, silk ribbons and coloured handkerchiefs; they are prestigious, kind and refined characters. The "matazèra" was introduced in 1953 to create the poor and ordinary counterpart to the "matazin". The "maschere da vecia" (masks for old women) are wooden masks with poorer dresses who close the parade.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

**"Algudnei"** — Multimedia cultural space located in the "palazzo della Regola" (palace of the Rule) in Dosoledo, where the results of the researches about Ladin territory and culture in the Comelico area are divulged. The museum has six sections: the Carnival, of ancient tradition, the Rules, that manages the common good of the area, the Re-manufacturing, territorial re-planning technique, used also after the different fires occurred during the 19th century, the Great War, the Ladin and the Clòmpar, dedicated to the figure of the tinsmith creating buckets, pots and pans, whose ability was so significant that he was requested also in the regions of Northern Italy and abroad until the 1960s. The made-up word to indicate this project, "Algudnei", combines in just one term the Ladin words *algu d nei*: something of us and of our valley.



# LORENZAGO DI CADORE

## The town of the Popes

It has been a holiday resort for famous people since the end of the 19th century. Surely, Pope John Paul II is the most famous of all: he chose the Mirabello Castle as his summer holiday resort.

Lorenzago is a municipality of the Centro Cadore, placed in a green valley at the borders with Friuli Venezia Giulia and at the foot of Mount Cridola. The town, crossed by the Piova and Cridola creeks, tributaries to the Piave, is literally scattered with Palaces and Villas that once were the dwellings of famous families from the Cadore area and are now a precious architectonic heritage. Territory with tourist vocation, Lorenzago founds its existence also on craftsmanship and on the eye-wear industry, that has developed in the Cadore area since the end of the 19th century. From Lorenzago one of the two branches of the “Pope Way” starts (the other starts from Canale d’Agordo): it’s an itinerary that, along the Piave, connects the town to the city of Belluno, then continuing towards south.



### CURIOSITY

**“Il quadrato del Segusini”** — the municipality is mainly divided in two bigger towns, Villagrande and Villapiccola, tragically damaged by a violent fire in 1855 and after re-built following the project by architect Segusini, replacing the traditional wooden houses with safer stone houses. The re-manufacturing by the architect took place in a “Roman square” urban planning system, that was innovative and modern in those times and is an architectural pride still nowadays. This allows the town to have the typical structure of the Roman military camp.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

The “Wood of the Popes”, so called for the outdoor Sanctuary inaugurated the 24th of August 2015, placed in a basin behind the Mirabello residence. It can be reached through the “Pope Path”, that retraces the places where John Paul II and Benedict XVI used to spend their days and moments of prayer. The “Wojtyla Pope Museum”, created in 2005, has Saint Father’s photographs and relics that date back to his stays in Lorenzago, and was subsequently enlarged with a room dedicated to Pope Benedict XVI.

# VIGO DI CADORE

## Among national artistic monuments and great war places

Vigo di Cadore is a town that perfectly combines art and nature. It's placed at 951 metres of altitude at the foot of the Mount Tudaio on the left side of the river Piave. The economy of this territory has always been linked to timber trade and eye-wear industry and more recently to tourism, developed thanks to the landscape and cultural heritage that Vigo offers. Several religious architectures, scattered along the streets of the village, are of great artistic interest, while the Cadore Historic Library, founded in 1892 by professor Antonio Ronzon, whom it's dedicated to, with its ancient parchments, its "Laudi" (odes) and its manuscripts about Cadore history, allows to know the culture of this valley. And, talking about history, you should not miss to see Rin de Soandre Military Works, that can be reached through a comfortable driveway from Piniè hamlet. We advise the climbing to Tudaio fort for the more experienced trekkers.



### CURIOSITY

**Col Ciampon, in the places of the Great War** — it can be reached from Laggio di Cadore with an easy stroll along the beautiful military road. The place, that is at 1050 metres of altitude and has been recently restored, was part of a set of defences built just after 1866 on all the surrounding hills to control the Stretta di Tre Ponti (Three Bridges Strait). During the Great War, the "point of support" was increased with covered placements in blockhouse, cannon emplacements, artillery observation posts and encampments that housed 120 men: an Italian second line fort, belonging to the defensive system called Cadore - Maè Fortress.

### DA NON PERDERE

National monument and site of unique artistic and cultural relevance in this territory, the church of Saint Ursula, that dates back to the 14th century and has Gothic style, has frescoes both inside and in the outside façades and hosts a work attributed to the famous Domenico Tintoretto. It's deservedly defined as the "Scrovegni Chapel" of the Cadore. The church of Saint Margaret rises on the amazing plateau of Salagona and dates back to the 12th century. It keeps medieval art works. The setting recalls the early churches of the area that, at an architectonic

level, were quadrilateral plan common rooms with modest sizes, facing the east-west axis, that gave great importance to the rising sun symbol, related to "Christ as new light for the world". Within the church the frescoes, as Giorgio Fossaluzza well describes, are one of the "[...] tappe, tra le ultime di un lungo percorso della pittura veneziana bizantineggiante visto in moltissime varianti nella Terraferma" (stages, among the last ones of a long itinerary of the Byzantine Venetian painting, seen in many variations in the Mainland). Since 2010 the site has been included in the "heart's places" by FAI.

# VINIGO DI CADORE

## “Dolomites’ terrace” and cabbage town

Vinigo di Cadore, probably the most ancient settlement of the Cadore area, together with the hamlets of Peaio (Italo Marchioni’s home-town, the inventor of the ice cream cone), Vodo and Case Sparse, forms the municipality of Vodo di Cadore, surrounded by the green at the foot of the Mount Pelmo, in the Boite valley, in High Cadore. The hamlet of Vinigo enjoys a breath-taking view on the surrounding peaks and for that reason it’s called the “Dolomites’ terrace”. In particular, the view on the Mount Pelmo perfectly explains why this rock monolith is called “God’s Throne”. In the hamlet of Vinigo an amazing agriculture still commands the territory, enhancing this small fertile plateau with flowers, fruits and cereals. The typical product is the renowned cabbage.

### CURIOSITY

The cabbage is the typical food of Vinigo. It has a sweetish taste and various healthy properties, it can be eaten raw, stewed or canned as sauerkraut. The farming of the Vinigo di Cadore cabbage is concentrated in an area of 6000 square metres, divided in small parcels, and starts with the sowing during the month of April. The harvest occurs at the beginning of November, period where the autumn frosts foster the closing of the cabbage heads, increasing its crunchiness.

The end of the summer is one of the best periods to take a picture of the “Pias”, the giant garden. Vinigo di Cadore cabbage is included in the products that are described in the Cheese Road and in the Belluno Dolomites’ Tastes and since 2013 has been included in the list of the Traditional Food Products (PAT) of the Veneto region. To support and safeguard its own heritage, the municipality of Vodo di Cadore established a Municipal Designation of Origin DeCO in 2005.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

The church of Saint John the Baptist was qualified national monument. Built from 1493 and enlarged in the 18th century, is characterized by a simple and linear structure: it has just one nave, with the annexed presbytery, hosts five altars and has a vault ceiling. The high altar, with the altarpiece that represents the Madonna with Child between the Saints John the Evangelist and John the Baptist, attributed to Francesco Vecellio, is of considerable interest. The school of Titian shows all its ability in this church.



# ZOPPÈ DI CADORE

## The land of the first ice cream makers

At the foot of the majestic Mount Pelmo and nestled in the valley where the Rutorto creek flows, there is the village of Zoppè di Cadore (1416 metres). It's the smallest municipality of the province of Belluno, the least populated and the highest. The village has a little ethnographic museum that analyses the coal production activity. On the Pelmetto, the minor peak of the Mount Pelmo, there is an archaeological area of great interest: in a big rock crumbled down from the south-western side, some traces of at least three different dinosaurs are impressed and are visible still today, and date back to approximately 220 million years ago.

### CURIOSITY

Zoppè is famous also for the ice cream and ice cream makers tradition: from here the first ice cream maker in the province of Belluno left for Vienna, where he started his activity. There are documents that tell how in 1865 Antonio Tomea Baretta from Zoppè di Cadore was in Vienna waiting for the authorization to sell ice creams in the Prater with a small cart.

This epic of the ice cream production in Europe by ice cream makers from Cadore and Zoldo gave the impetus to create the most ancient International Exhibition of the Handmade Ice cream that happens every year, from 1959, between the end of November and the first days of December in Longarone Fiere, the exhibition centre of the Venetian Dolomites.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

The church of Saint Anne, built between 1530 and 1540, was small, so that the space that it occupied is nowadays the sacristy of the church. After some restoration and enlargement, the structure is wide and harmonious, even if linear and simple. Almost entirely damaged by a fire in 1896, the current structure of the church has only one room where there are four minor altars, besides the high altar, an orchestra pit located above the main entrance, a sacristy and the bell tower. Even if the fire in 1896 destroyed part of the church and its works, fortunately the altarpiece of the high altar, attributed to the famous artist from Cadore, Titian, or to his school, remained undamaged and it's possible to admire it in all its beauty.



# TOFFOL — L'ANDRIA

## The village of the ancient mills

The ancient village of L'Andria, in the municipality of Selva di Cadore, was one of the first stable settlements in all the Fiorentina Valley, thanks to two factors: the excellent position with respect to the sun and the abundance of water. The creek Loschiesuoi, that flows just past the town of Toffol, brought great quantities of water during all year. Just on the sides of this creek, there were the ancient mills, the forges and the sawmills. Along the path that twists and turns among the villages that compose Vila of L'Adria, you can still see many buildings that characterized mountain peoples' life, until the end of the 1960s. You can admire the ancient barns and Ladin-style houses (surely to mention the "ciesa dei Paloc", built in 1612), the "faer" to dry the broad bean, the "travai" to shoe the cattle and two little churches: one dedicated to the Madonna of the Snows and one to Saint Oswald. Along the creek Loschiesuoi, there is the ancient mill that was restored and is still working, the lime storage and the "ciaucera", the furnace where once the stones were cooked to create lime. Above, shaped in the barns, you can admire the typical "barcone" (windows).



### NOT TO BE MISSED

In the surroundings of the towns of Toffol and L'Andria, the church of Saint Fosca deserves to be visited, near Pescul in Selva di Cadore. Mentioned for the first time in a parchment in 1286, the church of Saint Fosca for many years was favoured by its position along the cart track that led to Forcella Staulanza, essential for the transport of iron, mineral that was extracted in the Fursil area. Outside there is a huge and beautiful fresco representing Saint Christopher.

### CURIOSITY

**Il Molin dei Padre** — Built in 1879 by the Lorenzini family (I Padre), it was the first of the hydraulic works that follow one another along the creek Loschiesuoi: a sawmill, a furnace and five mills. The dual roller wheels, made with lark wood, allow to move two grindstones for wheat, broad beans and rye, and a barley press. Subsequently, and until the 1960s, a connection was inserted to the gear of the second wheel and this allowed to activate the machines of the sawmill located at the second floor of the building.



# AGORDINO FODOM VAL DI ZOLDO



Come and have a close look at this wonder, I beg you. It is, unquestionably, one of the most beautiful, powerful and astonishing gifts from our planet... Are they rocks or clouds? Are they true or the products of a dream?

— **Dino Buzzati, "Le montagne di vetro"**  
[The Glass Mountains]



# SOTTOGUDA

## At the foot of the Queen of the Dolomites



Sottoguda is an ancient village in the municipality of Rocca Pietore, at the foot of the Marmolada, honoured with the prestigious recognition of “One of the most beautiful villages in Italy” in November 2016. It’s characterized by the different “tabiei”, wooden barns widespread in the Dolomite area of Ladin culture, used by farmers to store hay and to shelter the cattle and the farming tools. The village is surrounded by an evocative beechwood, “el bosch di faièr”, one of the highest in Europe. The most ancient building in Sottoguda, the only one spared in the fire of 1881, is the small church dedicated to Saints Fabian, Sebastian and Rocco, consecrated in 1486 after the vow made by the people against the plague. Another building, symbol of the little community of Sottoguda, is the former primary school, dedicated to Carlo Delacroix, that can be visited nowadays during all year as it’s the place where the Tourist Office is.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

The gully of the Serrai of Sottoguda is a natural canyon, that is long almost two kilometres and a half, dug by the creek Pettorina that connects the towns of Sottoguda and Malga Ciapela. While once this was the only road that climbed up the Fedai Pass, the Serrai today have been declared natural reserve. During winter, when the falls freeze and cover the rockfaces, the gully becomes an ice climbing gym among the most appreciated in Europe.

After the Vaia storm, at the end of October 2018, the area is temporarily closed, waiting to be feasible again.

You absolutely should not miss the climb to the Queen of the Dolomites, the Marmolada from Malga Ciapela, just few minutes from Sottoguda.

### CURIOSITY

The wrought iron manufacturing boasts a centuries-old tradition in Sottoguda: the availability of the mineral in Colle Santa Lucia, at the Fursil mines, gave rise, already in ancient times, to a manufacturing of everyday tools and weapons. The artistic wrought iron manufacturing was born in 1920s, thanks to the ability and unique style of the De Biasio brothers.

The profession was passed on generation by generation and the ornamental objects, unique and incomparable, are still sold in the shops in Pian. Butterflies, flowers, ladybugs, wood grouses, owls and dragons welcome the tourists, seduced by the colours and the beauty of these works. Also, the art of wood carving, an ancient profession, widespread in the past to create everyday objects, stands out today in the creation of Dolomite handkerchief objects as sacred sculptures, sculpted reliefs, paintings, gnomes with long beards, trolls and home objects. From this experience, an original idea was born in Sottoguda: the laser carving, refined by hand, of jewels realised using natural cherry or beech wood, all decorated with hot applied original Swarovski® crystals. A perfect mix of creativity and ability of the young artisans in the town.





# ANDRAZ

## The most ancient village in Fodom

Andraz, at 1414 metres of altitude, is one of the several hamlets scattered in the municipality of Livinallongo del Col di Lana and is about three kilometres from the main town, Pieve, and ten from Arabba. Nestled on the slopes of the Col di Lana, at the foot of the Falzarego Pass, from here you can enjoy the village of Laste and the Mount Migogn, looking far away at the Sasso Bianco and, in the opposite direction, the Lagazuoi. A narrow street twists and turns through the tabià, the typical wooden barns in the valley, and the characteristic houses where today almost 50 people live. On the western border of the town, there is the church, built in the 15th century and dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Some tombstones on the wall outside and a wooden cross just near recall the fallen soldiers of the First World War: in Pian di Salesei, Castello and Andraz there were three military graveyards built in 1915.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity and dating back to the middle of the 15th century, was blessed in 1478 and consecrated in 1649, after an almost complete restoration. Its three Baroque altars are noteworthy: the one on the left, in golden wood, coming from the small chapel of the Andraz Castle, the one on the right, dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, and the high altar, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, patron saints of the town of Andraz, Castello and Palla - Agai. The bell tower, finished in 1673, shows peculiar features of the Baroque style and a typical bulbous pinnacle covered in wood shingles.

### CURIOSITY

Andraz shares its name with the Andraz Castle, that rises in a strategic position near Castello, at seven kilometres from the village, heading to the Falzarego Pass. The term "Andraz" derives from the Ladin language and means hole, cave, shelter. After the year 1000, the first settlement rose near a big rock dragged there by the ancient glacier. Over time, the building changed form and role, according to the historical and cultural events of the surrounding area. Today, the visit to the castle allows to discover the cultural and historical heritage that characterizes these lands.



# CANALE D'AGORDO

## Remembering Pope Luciani's smile

Canale d'Agordo is surrounded by the Pale di San Martino, the Focobon group and the Cime d'Auta, while a little further on you can see the Pelmo and the Civetta. The town is nestled on a wide alluvial terrace at the entrance of the Gares Valley, at 976 metres of altitude, along the Biois Valley. One important profession, within a mainly rural background, was the manufacturing of the minerals that were quarried from the mines in the Gares Valley: for that reason, the name of the municipality was Forno (Furnace) di Canale until 1964, indicating the importance of this industry. The artistic heritage is noteworthy and is kept mainly in the church of Saint John the Baptist, that dates back to the 14th century and was enlarged in the 17th century. A short distance away from the archpriest church, there is the Tancon square, that was recently restored, with the beautiful Casa delle Regole (House of the Rules), recently restored too. The town is the starting point of the Pope Way that connects it to Belluno, heading after towards south. The carnival of Canale d'Agordo is known as "La Zinghenesta": it takes the name from the most beautiful girl in the town, that every year is elected queen of the carnival and of the party.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

Albino Luciani Museum (MusAL) is placed in a fifteenth-century palace, next to the church of Saint John the Baptist. The permanent exhibition has the goal to describe Pope John Paul I's life and teaching, through the knowledge of the cultural background where he grew up. A modern multimedia path with sounds, videos, illuminated cases, information panels and an audio-guide service in seven languages makes the itinerary accessible to English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish and Italian people. Through this amazing path we can truly approach Albino Luciani's extraordinary figure.



### CURIOSITÀ

Canale d'Agordo is the place that saw the birth of the first cooperative dairy in Italy (1872), by father Antonio Della Lucia, born in Frassenè Agordino, with the idea to raise the miserable living conditions of the local population thanks to solidarity and cooperation. The experiment succeeded and shortly thereafter cooperative dairies, based on the same principles and with the same goals of father Antonio Della Lucia, rose in all Italy. Today in the former diary there is a museum that has the goal to show the important dairy reality to the public with a didactic approach.

# COLLE SANTA LUCIA

## Paes Ladin / Ladinia town

Colle Santa Lucia is a small Ladin town at 1453 metres above sea level, placed in a wonderful panoramic position on top of a mountain that overlooks the surrounding valleys, surrounded by some of the most beautiful peaks in the world, recognised World Heritage by UNESCO: the Pelmo, the Civetta and the Marmolada. The main village, Villagrande, has the church dedicated to Saint Lucy, built in the 14th century and subsequently modified different times until becoming as it is nowadays. Colle Santa Lucia was known once with the German toponyms Puchberg or Wersil (later Fursil). We have had the first news about the town since 1145. The area was included in the episcopal principedom of Bressanone (connected to the county of Tyrol) and administrated by a captain living in the Andraz Castle. The history of the town has always been linked to its mines: in 1177 the first mention about the Fursil mines appears and in the same year the village was given to the abbey of Novacella with the right to collect taxes. During the Napoleonic period, Colle Santa Lucia passes through an uncertain period from an administrative point of view. With the establishment of the Austrian Empire, in 1803, the bishop of Bressanone loses the temporal power against some Tyrolese counts; but then it goes under the Kingdom of Bavaria, then to the Kingdom of Italy, and then again to Tyrol. During the 20th century, the town passes through other political disorders. At that time, part of the Austrian Tyrol, after the Great War, harshly fought also in these areas, Colle Santa Lucia together with Livinallongo and Cortina d'Ampezzo were annexed to the Kingdom of Italy. Then in 1923 the municipality was annexed to the Veneto region and afterwards to the province of Belluno. He century-old connection to Tyrol was definitely broken in 1964, when the parish passes from the diocese of Bressanone to the one of Belluno - Feltre.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

Chizzani Bonfadini House or "Cesa de Jan" is an ancient building, dating back to 1612, in the main street of the town. It's recognizable thanks to its sixteenth-century window bars. Once site of the administrative offices of the Fursil mines, today hosts the Ladin Cultural Institute, a cultural association, born in 2004, that works in support to the historical Ladin population of Colle Santa Lucia, Cortina d'Ampezzo and Livinallongo del Col di Lana. The "istitut Cultural Ladin Cesa de Jan" is open all year and promotes history and culture through the creation of specific thematic exhibitions, some permanent and some temporary.

### CURIOSITY

The Fursil mines, exploited until the 18th century, were an essential economic source for many centuries, always contended between the Bishop of Bressanone and the Republic of Venice, because of the iron, primary source to produce weapons. Today part of the Vauz mine, dating back to the 17th century, it can be visited with specialised guides. The entrance to the Fursil main mine is currently being completed and it will become the Tourist Information Centre. The road de la Vena (of the Vein) is an ancient path to transport the iron from the mines to the Andraz Castle, where there were the melting furnaces. It is also part of the longer path named "the iron way", that connects all the villages, from Colle Santa Lucia, where there are the several Fursil mines, to the melting furnaces in Valparola.



# FORNESIGHE

## “La Gnaga” village

Fornesighe, in the Zoldo Valley, is known also as the town that never burned down, with its wooden houses, the most ancient of which date back to over a hundred years ago, because it survived the several fires that often damaged the small mountain centres. Almost totally made by wood, that you can clearly see in the outside stairs and the balconies, the town keeps the characteristics of the typical mountain architecture. Here mining was practised, and for that reason many place names clearly recall the presence of iron melting furnaces, on which once the economy of the area was founded. The town is famous also to produce handmade ice cream. In the surroundings you should not miss the Museo del Ferro e del Chiodo (Museum of Iron and Nail) in Forno di Zoldo, that retraces, through the exposition of archaeological-industrial finds, documents and illustrations, the iron processing and, in particular, the production of nails that was a source of wealth for the Zoldo area from the 16th century. Moreover, you should visit the Pieve di San Floriano, with the outside walls decorated with discoloured frescoes made by the school of Titian. Inside, there are different prestigious works, in particular wooden works made by some famous carvers born in the valley. Among all, the altar of the Souls, magnificent early work by the carver Andrea Brustolon (1687), stands out, decorated by the altarpiece of the purging souls by Agostino Ridolfi.



### NOT TO BE MISSED

In the square in front of the church, there is the former diary, where on the façade you can see the fresco made by Vico Calabrò, that represents moments of ordinary life as the grass cutting, the attention for forage and milk and its derivatives processing. Today it hosts the Piodech Zoldan, a cultural association that deals with the promotion of the local folklore. Inside there is also a small ethnographic museum that shows tools for milk and its derivatives processing, carnival masks and an exhibition of inlay work. You should not absolutely miss the sunset from Fornesighe.

### CURIOSITY

The “Gnaga” is the typical mask of the Zoldo carnival, and also the name how it’s known. The appointment, that occurs usually in the first weekend of February, during which handkerchief, sculpture and gastronomy mix together, started from the end of the 19th century and was created by Valentino Toldo who started the habit of the carnival parade. The “Gnaga”, old hunchbacked woman with wooden clogs, who has a “gerla” (pack basket) where a confident young man comfortably rests, is the metaphor of the new and the old and represents the passage from winter to the new season. The scariest mask

is the Om Salvarech (Savage Man), the terrible “man of the forest”, characterized by a hairy body and bulging fangs. Besides art and folklore, the Carnival in the Zoldo Valley finishes with a dance and the typical dishes.

# GOSALDO

## The village of the ancient language

Gosaldo is an evocative small village, placed between the Agordo basin and the high valley of the Mis creek, that seems framed among the Dolomites of the National Park and the Dolomites of Agordo, looking at the Pale di San Martino. Gosaldo survived centuries of mineral mining, especially mercury; the vermilion was quarried from the Vallalta mine, that in the middle of the 19th century was among the first ten mines in Europe that quarried the greatest amount of mercury. At the end of the 19th century, the downfall of mining started, and it culminated in the first years of the 1960s, definitely ending when the Vallalta mine was destroyed by the terrible flood in 1966. Today the site is accessible thanks to volunteers' heartfelt work and to the presence of the "Forgotten Mountain" thematic trail. Probably, just the need to find an alternative to the hard mining work, or to increase the meager income, caused in this part of the Agordo area the restoration of a very peculiar manufacturing sector: the manufacturing of chairs and covering them with straw. The activity of the chair makers, documented in the area since the 16th century, took great importance around the end of the 19th century, when the mining crisis led almost all the male population to learn again this profession. The job of the chair maker in Agordo, called "contha" or "caregheta", is wonderfully told in the small Ethnographic Museum in Gosaldo. In Tiser, homeland of the chair makers, there is also the parish church of Saint Bartholomew, that dates back to the 14th century and was restored many times, in particular for the presence of two wooden statues of the Saints Peter and Paul, created by Valentino Panciera Besarel in 1855.

### CURIOSITY

Each "contha" was jealous of his art, linked to peculiar abilities: the structure of the chair must be assembled with the smallest usage of nails, that were at that time a luxury good, and the majority of the joints was then fixed interlocking themselves, in this way guaranteeing solidity. To avoid that the secrets of the manufacturing were figured out by others, the chair makers used a made-up language: the "scapelament del contha". It was a code language that was incomprehensible for those who didn't know it. This fascinating secret language risked disappearing but luckily has recently found passionate scholars who have done what they could to save it from the oblivion.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

The village that rose near the Vallalta Mining Centre was called with the unusual name of "California", probably due to a kind of gold fever. It rose at the middle of the 19th century near a humble tavern, called "At California's", recalling the American State with the same name: the tavern became a restaurant and hotel and this made this place the ideal destination for those who were looking for a quiet holiday deep in the green. Since 1921, California was efficiently connected to the near towns of Tiser and Don, and also to the Valbelluna, with a bus line that passes through the Mis canal. Everything stopped in the night of the 4th of November 1966: the flood of the previous days increased excessively the water rate of the creeks Mis and Gosalda and the flood devastated everything, destroying California and damaging all the Mis Valley. The population ran for their lives in the higher villages, but the flood marked the valley so deeply that it was impossible to recover the original settlement. Today there are only the ruins of the houses, that rise in the middle of the wood that grew around.



# VALLADA AGORDINA

## Admiring the most beautiful “Last Supper” of the Dolomites

Vallada Agordina, between the Biois valley and the slopes of the Mount Celentone, includes typical villages, where you can still find old examples of rural housing, as the ancient houses and barns, the “tabià”. Also the different frescoes that decorate the walls, in particular in Toffol and Cogul, are noteworthy. The religious buildings are several: there are chapels and churches in all the villages. Just outside the town, there are the fourteenth-century parish of the Brotherhood of the Beaten, the chapel of the Gat, recently restored, and the graveyard where the famous mountaineer and Senator of the Republic Attilio Tissi and the poet Valerio da Pos, who lived between the 18th and the 19th century, whose verses were appreciated by Vincenzo Monti and Giosuè Carducci, are resting in peace.



### CURIOSITY

The Alta Via dei Pastori (High Route of the Shepherds) is a hiking path which runs through the mountains that surround the Biois Valley. This path is not particularly difficult, allowing everyone to be lost in centuries-old forests where to see some animal is common. Then you'll reach the high-altitude pastures, where a series of “malghe” show the proof of the mountain pasture activity that has always constituted a source of livelihood for the inhabitants, indissolubly linking them to their territory. Along the route you can see some of the most famous peaks of the Dolomites, that have always attracted mountaineers from all over the world: the Marmolada, the Civetta, the Agner, the Focobon, the Cima d'Auta, including the Tofane and the Cristallo from afar.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

The church of Saint Simon is nestled on a tree-covered crag of the Mount Celentone, overlooking the valley. In 1984 it was declared national monument. Documented since the 12th century, inside you can admire some frescoes by Paris Bordon, among them a wonderful “Last Supper”. Here, Paris Bordon outdid himself. Inside there is a beautiful fourteen-century pipe organ by Callido. It's dedicated to the Saints Simon and Judas Thaddaeus, in which honour the town festival is celebrated at the end of October.



# ALPAGO VALBELLUNA FELTRINO



In our region there are valleys that I never have seen nowhere else ... Instead these exist: with the same loneliness, the same implausible cliffs hidden by dangling trees and bushes over the abyss ...the waterfalls ... ... Many hidden corners keep intact and wild the charms of the Nature. And , in that land, even if no one thinks about it, over the Piave valley, the tales of spirits and magicians are handed down

— Dino Buzzati, *La mia Belluno*



# MEL

**Where you can still imagine the heroic deeds of a glorious past.**



Since 2003 awarded Bandiera Arancione (orange flag) by the Touring Club Italiano and since 2017 included in the “Most Beautiful Villages in Italy”, at the third place on the chart of the competition called “Borgo dei Borghi” (Village of the Villages) in 2018, Mel, village of the municipality of Borgo Valbelluna, is in the middle of an area with an historical, cultural and environmental background of unique value, the Valbelluna, on the left bank of the river Piave. Its history goes from the Paleo-venetians to the Gauls, to the Romans, and they left several remnants as tombstones, inscriptions, coins and above all the important Claudia Augusta Altinate Way, that connected the Adriatic to the Danube. Today, you can travel this route both walking and mountain biking, crossing the Praderadego Pass, thanks to a well tracked and signposted path. The town offers an Archaeological Civic Museum, accessible also to people with sensory disabilities, and a Paleo-venetian necropolis with remains that goes from the 8th century to the 5th century BC. To be mentioned, the amazing event Mele a Mel (Apples in Mel), that occurs every year in the middle of October, allows to visit the historical villas of the town centre and their beautiful gardens.

## CURIOSITÀ

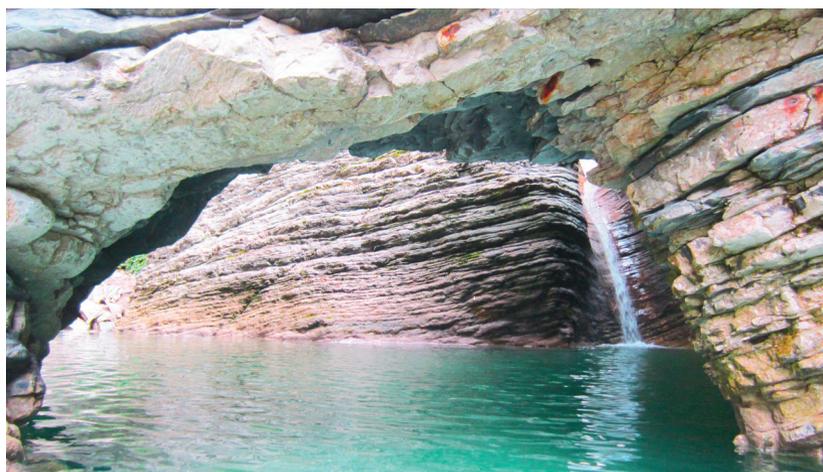
The Grotta Azzurra (Blue Grotto) is a jewel with turquoise water, hidden in the middle of the woods of the Valbelluna, between the Zumelle Castle and the town of Villa di Villa. The starting point is exactly the Zumelle Castle, where it's possible to leave the car in a wide car park. From here, you follow the signs and in about 20/30 minutes walking you reach the grotto. You walk amid the wood in the first part, continuing then along the rocks of the creek Rui. The path is suitable for everyone, also for families with children.

You must not miss in the surroundings of Mel, the Brent de l'Art, in the village of Sant'Antonio di Tortal. Wonderful gorges created by water over the millennia that alternate little falls to emerald water springs.

You should not miss also the beautiful Pisota fall, past the village of Cordellon, deep in a lush vegetation landscape.

## NOT TO BE MISSED

**The Zumelle castle** — the current aspect of the castle, visible from the road that connects Mel to Lentiai, on the left bank of the river Piave, is the result of several interventions and restorations occurred over the centuries. Today the castle shows strong crenelated walls, overlooked by a high tower. Besides being a place for events and educational tours, the castle tells its story in the best way during the Fiera della Perdonanza (Forgiveness Fair), that every year during the month of July allows the visitors to revive a slice of the thirteenth-century life, within the magic background of the Zumelle castle. Retracing the centuries of history of the Castle, you'll find tales and important historical events that have all the Valbelluna and the high Treviso area as protagonists, thanks to its strategic position in relation to the Praderadego Pass, that connects the two territories. You should not miss also the Volt de Val d'Arc, a monument of nature to nature, imbued with history and legend, at the border of the municipalities of Borgo valbelluna (Belluno) and Miane (Treviso). According to the legend, Sofia in Da Camino, valiant countess of Colfosco, offered the Castle and the County of Zumelle to the bishop of Belluno in 1177; this bipartition created many problems when defining the new borders between the Treviso area and the Belluno one and caused troubles until the 6th of June 1838.





# ARSIÈ

## The village where one of the most ancient fairs happens

Arsiè rises in the extreme south-west border of the province of Belluno at 314 metres above sea level, in a wide green valley, known as plain of the Ligont. In the area that today is occupied by the lake, corn and tobacco were cultivated almost everywhere, while at the edges some small villages rose that are now partly submerged by water. From the village of Rocca d'Arsiè you can reach the Carazzagno valley, a forgotten valley, clinging on the high shores of the lake. It offers the charm of an ancient lost world, especially on the abandoned village of Contrada Fumegai.

Also the villages of Incino and Corlo are incredibly fascinating. They overlook the canyon on the Cismon creek, just after the dam. Another distinctive feature of Arsiè are the strongholds that date back to the period before the Great War. Placed at 1472 metres above sea level in Cima Campo, Forte Leone (fort of Leone) was built between 1906 and 1912, but was never used during the war, because it was cut out from the front after the events in Caporetto: the damages that you can notice were done by the retreating Italian garrison, not to leave it in enemy hands. The fort overlooks a long stretch of the middle part of the Valsugana and offers broad views on the Mount Grappa, the Pale di San Martino and the Asiago Plateau. Also the Fort of Cima Lan, whose construction works started in 1908 but weren't finished for the outbreak of war, had little importance in the conflict and during the Italian retreat it was blown up for the same reasons. Nevertheless, those forts were part of the important "Brenta - Cismon" defence line: they are partly visible and preserved and surely deserve a visit.

### CURIOSITY

**The Fiera delle Anime:** it's the most important event of the town and is characterized by its ancient origins, combining the religious aspects to customs and traditions. After the constitution of some new parish for the separation from the Pieve di Arsiè, the then parish priest was induced to gather all the former parishioners once a year, remembering their dead still buried in Arsiè. In this way the "Festa delle Anime" arose and was made official by a seal of Pope Alexander VII the 15th of October 1666. Since the period coincided with the end of the mountain pasture, the feast became soon a moment for trades of animals and farm products. So, the Fiera delle Anime arose and is very participated still today. It occurs every year the third Sunday of October.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

**La Casa Museo Maddalozzo:** The Maddalozzo House Museum: established in a typical rural house that remained pretty unchanged for centuries, the setting up of the museum shows exactly the way of living in the past through the ordinary places, a proof that reminds the farmers' hard work and a simple and essential lifestyle. At the ground floor you can visit the courtyard, the stable, the cellar, the pig-shed and the milk laboratory. At the first floor the kitchen, the workshop and the balcony, where cobs and beans were dried. At the second floor the bedrooms, the wet nurse's room, the needlework corner and the room for the silkworms. At the third floor the attic and the barn.



# CHIES D'ALPAGO

## An ancient village where to taste a delicious Slow Food Presidia

Chies d'Alpago is placed on the orographic left bank of the creek Tesa and is overlooked on the north by a long mountain range that from the Mount Teverone (2347 metres) reaches the Mount Cavallo (2251 metres), marking the border with the Friuli Venezia Giulia region. The municipality is scattered with interesting villages, all linked to the ancient territorial management of the Rules, born in this area from 1280. Established in the former Primary School of Chies, the Museum of Natural History of Alpago shows a rich collection of minerals, fossils, animals, plants and some Paleovenetian remains found during the excavation in the site of Pian de la Gnella and helps the visitor to discover and analyse the history of the area, also thanks to the technology for the people with sensory disabilities. This area has always been very important throughout history and in the 14th century there was indeed, in the current hamlet of Alpaos, just above Lamosano, the Castle of Bongaio, of which today unfortunately you can see just some ruin. It belonged to Endrighetto di Bongaio (beginning of the 14th century - April 1349), who was a representative of the feudalism in Belluno, an emblematic figure in the events of the Veneto region during the first years of the 14th century, who had success after the crisis of the episcopal authority and the troubles between the powers of the plain area and of the alpine-tyrolese area.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

#### "Chies e le sue montagne"

— Travelling exhibition (through the many hamlets of the municipality of Chies d'Alpago) dedicated to the "vertical world and its knights" and that would like to enhance the Alpago territory and make known stories and figures of the mountain areas in the world, facing each year different subjects. It occurs in October since 2001.

### CURIOSITY

#### The sheep and the lamb of the Alpago.

The local sheep is very important for the Alpago tradition. It is characterized by the short ears and the thick, subtle and wavy coat that totally covered it. This local sheep is considered with three predispositions, because it's appreciated for the production of milk, wool and meat, in particular in the younger examples. The lamb, famous for the very tender meat that is delicious baked with potatoes, is included in the Slow Food Presidia and is farmed wild, fed with forage, or semi-wild, completing the feeding with local hay and cereal flours.



# QUERO VAS

## As in a time machine from the paper mill to the mausoleum



The municipality of Quero Vas encloses the two banks of the river Piave, where it leaves the mountain area of Belluno to enter the plain of Treviso, insinuating itself in the so called “Strait of Quero”, with the Grappa Massif on the right and the Mount Cesen on the left. The history of Quero is strongly influenced by its geographical position that made the town a strategic communication and border point. The first establishment dates back to the Roman age, while the construction of the fortress of Castelnuovo dates back to the first dominion of Venice, in 1376. It was made by the captain of the Most Serene Republic of Venice, Jacopo Cavalli. After the War of the League of Cambrai, the fortress started to decay, being designated first as tavern, then as hotel and finally as oratory for the Somascan Fathers, religious order founded by Saint Jerome Emiliani (or Miani). The archpriest church of Quero deserves to be mentioned: the building, documented since the 13th century, has always had the role of parish church and was restored and enlarged in the first years of the 16th century. Although the troubled events that marked its existence, there are some paintings attributed to Palma il Giovane and to Francesco Salviati, the four Baroque altars, a Madonna by Jacopo Bassano, the “Descent to Hell” by Domenico Tintoretto and the “Transfiguration” by Cima da Conegliano. You should not miss also a visit to the parish church in the near municipality of Alano di Piave, to admire the wonderful altarpiece by Tizianello. In Quero there is also the German Military Cemetery, where 3465 dead of the German and Austro – Hungarian army of the First World War rest in peace. The mausoleum is, clearly visible from afar, on the Maor Hill, that overlooks the valley of the Piave and it’s open to the public. Built entirely with porphyry blocks coming from the Rolle Pass, designed by the architect R. Tischler, was inaugurated in 1939.

### CURIOSITY

In the hamlet of Vas there is a complex of industrial archaeology of considerable interest, the Paper Mill, whose events are strictly connected to the historical, social and economic memory of the territory. The factory was active since the middle of the 17th century and its production was favoured by the clear water of the creek Fium, necessary to produce quality white paper, as well as by the river Piave as means of communication. The paper mill of Vas, today rediscovered and enhanced, became one of the greatest and most important paper factories of the North of Italy, whose products were exported in all the Mediterranean area. Managed by different families during the centuries, it ceased its activity in 1963. In Caorera, the Museum of the Piave “Enzo Colognese” deserves a visit: it has its origin in the collection of testaments connected to the Great War, made by the priest of Caorera, Father Antonio Pavan. The reconstructions of the airplanes of the Great War (with a flight simulator) is noteworthy, together with the finding of a “barca da ponte” (bridge boat) and a beautiful set-up of military uniforms.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

**Monte Fontana Secca** was the scenario of a tragic battle the 22nd of November 1917, when the Austrians occupied the peak and built trenches, clearly visible along the cart track that runs along the crest, and the Italian line retreated towards the valley, with several human losses. The area is included in the Natura 2000 ecological network of the European Union. It’s also recognised as SIC (Site of Communitarian Importance) and SPA (Special Protection Area) within the Grappa Massif. At 1461 metres of altitude, there is the Malga Fontana Secca, typical example of mountain pasture linked to the ancient tradition of the transhumance. Thanks to the donation of the brothers Collavo in 2014, the area is included in the goods of the FAI, that is working on a project of landscape-environmental recovery for the reactivation of the mountain pasture and the redevelopment of the pastures and the forest areas.



# SAN GREGORIO NELLE ALPI

## A wonderful terrace of the National Park of the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park

Placed at 530 metres above sea level, San Gregorio nelle Alpi overlooks a territory that expands from the border with the municipality of Santa Giustina to the slopes and the peak of the Mount Pizzocco, one of the pearls of the Park, destination for hikes both for families and experts. To the west the creek Veses marks the border and was essential for centuries in giving energy to several hydraulic factories (sawmills, mechanical garages, mills), today rediscovered thanks to an interesting bicycle and pedestrian path that enters the national park of the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park. The municipality is scattered by several villages that have some typical houses, several manor villas and many churches, full of art treasures. San Gregorio had the luck to house in its church an exceptional altarpiece made in 1519 by Alessandro Bonvicini, known as the “Moretto da Brescia”, who, with the warm and dense colours of the Venetian painting, perfectly represents a painting taste connected to Giorgione. You absolutely should not miss the wonderful frescoes of the little church in Fumach.



### NOT TO BE MISSED

The mountain hut Casera Ere, at 1297 metres above sea level, is at the southern side of the Mount Pizzocco and is easily reachable by walking along the CAI (senior Italian alpine club) path number 853. This mountain hut offers an evocative view on the Valbelluna and represents a stopping point when climbing up to the Mount Pizzocco or to the Mount Piz or to the Palia Bivouac shelter, at 1577 metres of altitude. The hike is perfect to be done in summer but also in winter with snowshoes.

### CURIOSITY

The “Museum delle zoche and della tarsia” (of the roots and marquetry) shows a series of temporary exhibitions dedicated to local artists, besides a collection of roots of centuries-old trees and of wood marquetry, created by skilful local sculptors. The Museum has also a permanent exhibition of ancient prints (about a hundred starting from the 16th century to the 19th century), given by the count Damiano Miari Fulcis, honorary citizen of San Gregorio nelle Alpi.

# SOVRAMONTE

## Among the ruins of ancient castles in a wonderful plateau.

Sovramonte rises on a plateau at the right side of the state road that from Feltre goes to Fiera di Primiero, beyond the creek Cismon, between the Mount Vallazza (2167 metres) and the Mount Avena (1454 metres). The municipality, of noble origins due to the remains of some castles, today is part of the National Park of the Dolomites of Belluno. Climbing up the slopes of the Mount Vallazza and reaching the hamlets of Salzen and Aune, you find the ancient track of the Roman road Claudia Augusta Altinate, that connects the Adriatic to the Danube, today accessible by walk, mountain bike and on horseback, thanks to a signposted path. The Croce d'Aune Pass (1011 metres) is one of the main entries to the National Park of the Dolomites of Belluno and is located between the Mount Avena and the southern crags of the Vette Feltrine. It's a place that was populated since the prehistoric times: as a matter of fact, a Palaeolithic site was found there, that includes a burial of a hunter dating back to 12,000 years ago, at the end of the Rosna Valley, towards Fiera di Primiero.

The area is famous for the Pom Prussian (Prussian Apple), Traditional Agri-Food Product included in the Quality Card of the National Park of the Dolomites of Belluno, that every year at the end of October is enhanced in Faller di Sovramonte during the traditional Fair of the Prussian Apple.



### CURIOSITY

In the hamlet of Zorzoi, on a sheer drop over the deep valley of the creek Cismon, there was the Castle of Schener, of which today there are just some remains: wanted by the Republic of Venice against the empire, watching the passage towards the Trentino region, was once connected by a cart track in bad conditions. For that reason, the goods were transported only on the back of men or animals and from here the name comes: Scherano or Schener (back). The building was finished in 1494, using also seventy durmast oaks cut in the area. Destroyed in 1510 by the soldiers of Maximilian of Habsburg, it was re-built some years later. During the Great War, after being abandoned for long time, it was demolished by the troops in order to use the materials to build trenches.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

The church of Saint George in Sorriva is located on a small hill in a strategic position, populated at least since the 7th century, given the finds here discovered. The church is among the most important and ancient places of worship of the area of Feltre: inside, you can admire great frescoes from different ages, of which the most ancient ones date back to the 15th century, made by different artists among which Giovanni di Francia and Marco da Mel. Connected to the church, there is the typical festival of the "menestra de San Dordi" (soup of Saint Dordi). In Sorriva di Sovramonte, the festival of Saint George is a recurrence that since 1631 is celebrated every year to thank the end of the plague. The rituals, the gestures, the choreography have never changed since then. During the plague of 1631 (the one described by Manzoni in the Betrothed), in the town everyone died except two families of shepherds that were in the mountains with the sheep. When they came back in the town, they buried the dead outside the village and made a vow to Saint George: if he had protected them from the plague, they would have made a soup to offer to the wayfarers.

# TAMBRE

## The village of the “Gran bosco da reme di San Marco” (Great forest for oars of Saint Mark)

Tambre historically owes its success to the strict connection with the state-owned forest of the Cansiglio. This was historically called “Great Forest for oars of Saint Mark” because from here the wood used for the oars of the navy of the Republic of Venice came. Today it is one of the most important environment sources of the entire Veneto region. Placed between the 1000 metres of the plateau and the 2250 metres of the Mount Cavallo, this natural lung with 7000 hectares of forests of beeches, spruces and silver firs is included in the SCI (Site of Community Importance) and it's a Natura 2000 Special Protection Area (SPA). So, it benefits of a special protectionist regime that makes timber cutting very restricted and accurately controlled. The “Anna Vieceli” Museum of Men in Cansiglio, with the ethnographic and Cimbrian culture centre, has great importance. It tells the human life in Cansiglio from the Prehistoric age until today, with particular attention to the history of the German-speaking Cimbrian population, arrived in Cansiglio in the 18th century, called by the Republic of Venice to work with wood, leaving from the Asiago plateau and establishing in some villages that can be visited still today. The nature trails are several and you can enjoy them in all the seasons walking, horse riding, mountain biking, cross-country or alpine skiing. For those who love golf, there is a 18 holes course, interesting for the natural roughness of the karstic soil that characterises the area.

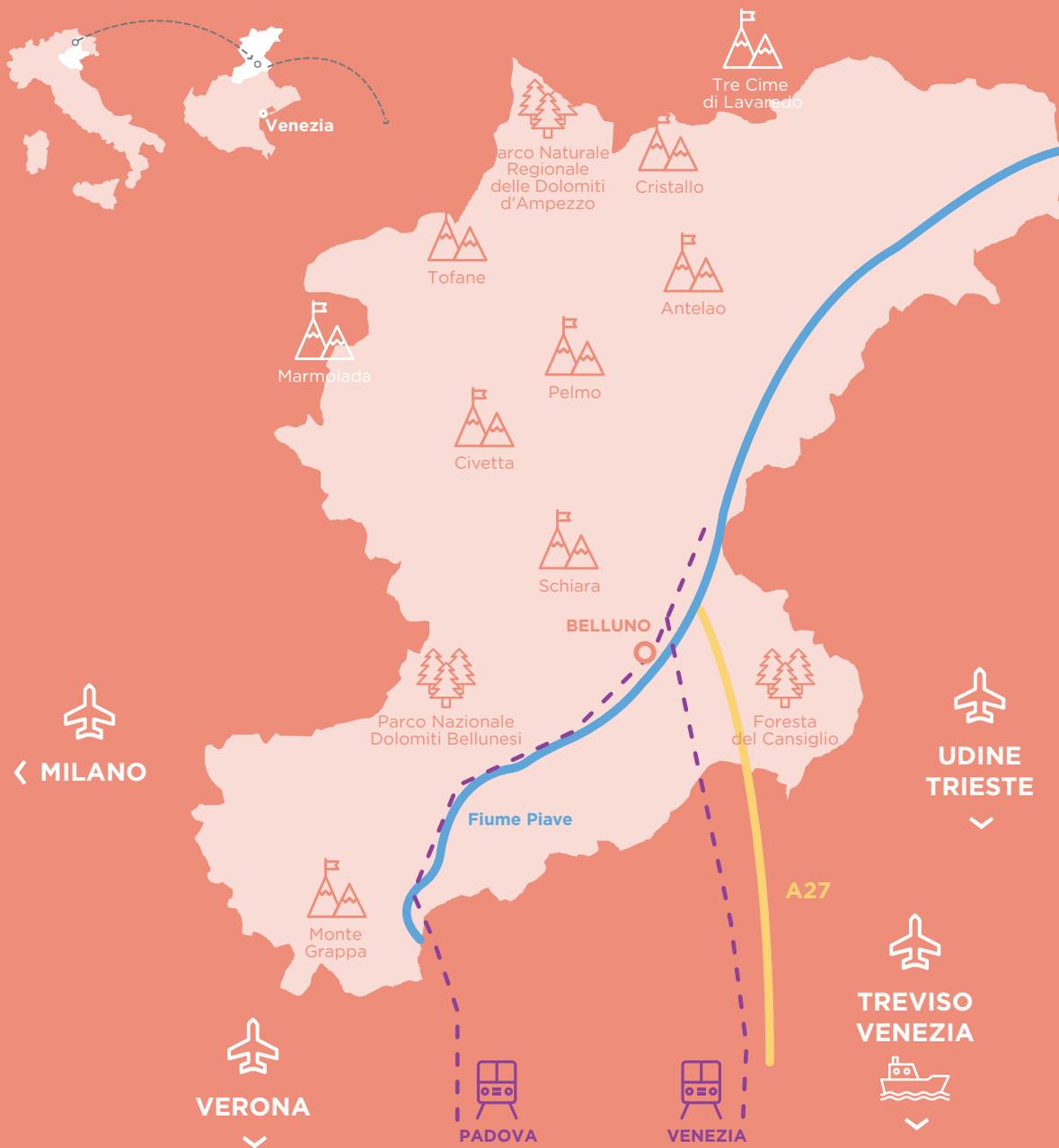
### NOT TO BE MISSED

**The Bellow of the Deer** — The ancient forest of the Doges is the ideal place where the deer in autumn meet for the impressive love rituals. Every year the conquer of the female herds becomes an incredible challenge that has the most peculiar voice in the typical sound that the males emit. They also fight and that happens usually in the middle of the night! The mating period goes from the middle of September to the middle of October. The best moments to see the deer in love are sundown and sunrise. You should not absolutely miss to visit the House of the Book in Sant'Anna of Tambre. A small house with a peculiar attraction: the walls are made of books as bricks, the fence with pencils, the benches are small books, the chimney a fountain pen, the entrance gate a pair of glasses. This is a work by the creative genius of the sculptor Livio de Marchi. scultore Livio De Marchi.

### CURIOSITY

The “House Museum of the Alchemist” is a building of the 16th century, located in Valdenogher, the only survivor of the historical architecture in Alpago. Inside, there is the reconstruction of the places where, according to the tradition, a noble man lived, who was sentenced to death in Alexandria of Egypt for his alchemical practice, and in Alpago found shelter. The rooms are full of books, recreations of alchemical images, stills and videos that tell the Alchemical practice, passing through the three floors of the building that symbolize the three stages of Alchemy, Nigredo, Albedo and Rubedo, necessary to reach the famous Philosopher stone. The House Museum is one of the very rare still preserved examples of house dedicated to this mysterious practice and hosts a small but interesting library with volumes about Alchemy, that can be consulted to examine in depth the interesting subject.





## HOW TO GET THERE

### TRAIN

The two railways that get to the province of Belluno are Venezia Santa Lucia - Belluno - Calalzo di Cadore P.C.C. And Padova Centrale - Feltre - Calalzo di Cadore P.C.C.

### CAR

A27 Venezia - Belluno motorway, exit Belluno and Pian di Vedoia

### PLANE

The nearest airports are Venezia Marco Polo (95km), Treviso Antonio Canova (75 km), Verona Valerio Catullo (175 km), Trieste Ronchi dei Legionari (155 km), Milano Malpensa (360 km).

### CRUISE

Regional port of Venice (110 km)



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