



CON L'EUROPA PER CRESCERE INSIEME



TERRE DEL MINCIO

THE MINCIO PARK BETWEEN LAKE GARDA
AND THE PO RIVER

Corners, villages and places to discover in the
"The lands of good living"



MANTUA - LOMBARDY - ITALY



Discovering the Mincio River and its treasures

We are in the heart of the Po river Valley, on the eastern edge of the Lombard Region. The Mincio River runs between the Garda Lake and the Po Valley, surrounded by protected lands and consists of medieval villages, nature reserves, cycle paths, river routes, hilly landscapes, cultivated horizons, authentic flavors and the cradle of the Renaissance.

Nature, history, culture and “human capital” are all available to each visitor, permitting everyone a choice of their preference: in less than 80 km by foot, by canoe, by bike, by riverboat, by car or simply at a table prepared with delicacies of the land.

These pages offer some suggestions and information to the visitor in order to help organize a wonderful stay in the Terre del Mincio, “The lands of good living.”, between the Garda Lake and the Po River.



TEN THINGS TO DO



1

Discover Mantegna, L.B. Alberti and Giulio Romano through their greatest masterpieces: the Bridal Chamber, the Basilica of Sant'Andrea and Palazzo Te in Mantua



2

The Far East in the Po valley: a boat trip to admire the August blooming of lotus flowers on Lake Superior in Mantua



3

Witness from April to May the first flight of young stork from the Bertone reintroduction center



4

On a summer evening enjoy the most beautiful sunset from the shores of Lake Superior in Mantua



5

Cycling from Mantua to Peschiera del Garda, follow the path and make a stop in the palaces and castles of Gonzaga and Monzambano

6

On Ferragosto, admire the masterpieces of madonnari in the churchyard of the Grazie di Curtatone Sanctuary



7

Contemplating the spring blooming of permanent grasslands and tasting Grana Padano cheese with mostarda



8

Rent a canoe from Rivalta sul Mincio park and paddle in silence through the reeds towards the nesting grounds of the red herons



9

Visit the vineyards of the Garda Lake moraine hills in the high Mincio, and a tour of the wineries, in autumn



10

Travel the river by boat from Mantua to the Po using the canals and on to Governolo to visit the Bertazzolo basin and the "River Museum"



1 GARDA LAKE MORAINIC HILLS



*We are in the “Chiantishire” moraine. Due to the comfortable lake climate, it was the Gonzaga Family’s primary summer residence. An area that is placed between the plain and the hills of Garda Lake and is dotted with **medieval villages**, Gonzaga **palaces** and elegant **villas** that are all legacies of glorious days of the past as well as being a treasure trove of **extraordinary archeological finds**. The common denominator of all these varied locations is excellence.*

FROM GARDA TO MANTUA BY BICYCLE: THE MANTUA-PESCHIERA BIKEWAY

43,5 Km long, the Mantua-Peschiera bikeway winds along the river paths of the River Mincio, between Peschiera del Garda and Mantua. Level, bidirectional and entirely paved with asphalt, the bikeway follows one side of the famous fortified quadrilateral that the Austrians created in the first half of 1800. Beginning on the western bank of the Mincio at Peschiera railway viaduct, arriving in Monzambano you will switch to the eastern bank of the river at Monzambano Dam. After a short distance you will arrive at Borghetto sul Mincio, a small village characterized by its water mill and the ruins of the Visconti Bridge.

From here you go to Pozzolo where you can choose to continue along the path following the canals to Mantua or decide to take a different route that leads to the town of Volta Mantovana.



CASTLES, FORTS AND A TREASURE TROVE OF NATURE

Peschiera del Garda was a Roman fort, a Castle, a fortress bastion of the Venetian Republic in the sixteenth century and then the Napoleonic fortress of the legendary Habsburg Quadrilateral. It was under the rule of the Republic of Venice that the fortress acquired its pentagon shape and the surrounding walls. During the "Guerre di Indipendenza" (Independence war), the Austrians fortified the area with a number of impressive military structures. **Ponti sul Mincio**, where Mincio leaves Garda Lake is a territory renowned for the production of D.O.C. wines and is overlooked by a **Castle** that dates back to the twelfth century. The stronghold was an important historical defensive structure with walls built from river rock, battlements, gables, lateral walkways and fortified towers. Nearby is the **Ardietti Fort**, a powerful Austrian structure constructed between 1856 and 1861. It was modeled on the architectural design of the Forte San Michele in Verona.

Monzambano, a town on the eastern banks of the Mincio, is dominated by antique churches and castles. Water and 88 meter



high hills blend here, a feudal road leads to a dark, stern castle which was used to defend the population from invaders during the tenth century. The "Dal castello al fiume" (from the castle to the river) route is highly recommended.

The traveler to **Castellaro Lagusello** is accompanied by vineyards through one of the most picturesque corners of Mantua. A member of the **Borghi più Belli d'Italia** (most beautiful villages of Italy) club and the **Bandiera Arancione Touring Club**. This castle, dating from 1100-1200, was built on high ground overlooking a small, heart shaped lake. It was constructed with powerful battlement walls and ten castle towers. Of the original structure the city walls, four towers, sidewalks and two rustic homes remain intact. The Castellaro Lagusello Nature Reserve Moraine Complex Is a European Nature 2000 network (SCI) SITE. The reserve is characterized by moraine hills, the lake basin, meadows, woodlands, riparian and aquatic vegetation. A micro-realm teeming with life which is populated by the Bittern, smallest of the herons, the kingfisher, and the European bee-eater which is a brightly colored bird that builds its nest in a wall overlooking the east side of the bog.



One of the most picturesque corner of the province of Mantua **Cavriana Fortress** was the most fortified defensive structure in the province of Mantua. Still intact today are the wall ruins, a gate and a defense tower that was converted into a bell tower in the 17th century.

Surrounding the structure is a forest full of trails. Registered as a Unesco World Heritage Site, the small village of Bande is the location of an important archeological, Bronze Age, stilt house community, where many relics and nine enigmatic tablets have been found. These artifacts are preserved at the *Museo archeologico dell'Alto Mantovano di Cavriana* (Archaeological Museum of Mantua Cavriana). The museum is housed in the Villa Mirra, a prestigious manor that belonged to the Gonzaga



family as well as others. The relics were discovered by local archeologists.

The **castle** ruins and towers in **Volta Mantovana** are the testimony of the importance of this area against the Scaligeri and Visconti threats.

The aristocratic **Palazzo Gonzaga Guerrieri** with its austere sixteenth-century façade was built by the Marquis of Mantua, Ludovico Gonzaga and Barbara of Brandenburg as a country villa in the mid-1400s. The **manor gardens** have maintained their distinctive Italian style with a harmonious blend of hedges and statues. This palace has many areas accessible to the public, ancient cellars and other charming underground rooms as well as accommodation of the municipal office.



2 THE PLAIN AND MINCIO VALLEYS



About halfway between Garda Lake and Po River, the course of Mincio arrives in Mantua plain. Here the river enlarges and gives birth to the extraordinary **Mincio Valley wet lands**. This area, an EDEN destination, is a similar gem to the Camargue and the Po Delta. The “Valli del Mincio” is one of the largest and most important wetlands to be found in Northern Italy. Against the backdrop of Mantua, with Mantua on the background hydric meadows, reeds and sedge fields dominate a maze of marshy areas populated by colonies of herons, birds of prey, loons and ducks. A mosaic of colors adorns the EDEN: with splashes of water lilies, hibiscus and floating islands of lotus flowers that explode with color during warm weather. This is a land of water and earth that is characterized by its **agriculture**, meadows, majestic mansions and rural courts.

GOITO, A SMALL RENAISSANCE CITY WITH A THOUSAND TREE PARK AND WHITE STORKS

Before the Mincio Valley the visitor arrives in Goito, the land of the Bersaglieri (sharpshooters). Goito gets its name from a Goth settlement and is the birthplace of Sordello, a troubadour singer that was immortalized by Dante. During the Renaissance this town’s history was linked to events in Mantua and the Gonzaga’s. The Naviglio canal, that was began in 1455 and is believed to have taken advantage of an earlier Mincio canal, was used by the aristocracy to travel to their manors. “**Ponte Della Gloria**” (Bridge Of Glory) in memory of the victory of the Bersaglieri commanded by General La Marmora During the First War of Independence. Here the visitor will also find La Giraffa an extensive villa with a willow garden on the bank of the river as well as the neoclassical Villa Moschini that has a large park designed by the architect Borsotto. Nearby, in Massimbona, one can visit an antique **watermill** built around 1150 with granite mills. A rock dam from the Gonzaga’s dates back to the time of Michelangelo. The best way to explore and enjoy the charming nature of this middle section of the Mincio is to follow along the Arimanni path.



Parco delle Bertone is a romantic 19th century garden with **hundred years old plants** coming from all over the world. There is the majestic bicentennial Ginkgo biloba which is 40 meters high and the tallest specimen of its kind in Italy. The park is run by the Parco del Mincio.

The visitors center has an audiovisual room, playroom, nature library and bio bar. The Park Center is open on Weekends and holidays from March to October. Within the park is the Center for the Reintroduction of the White Stork which has been active since 1944. The project, in close collaboration with the Swiss White Stork Altru Society (Switzerland) falls under the International White Stork Working Group - Western Population. It was started with the intention of creating a **stable core of nesting storks**. The public is invited at the release program in spring and late summer.

In Marmirolo the visitor will find a fifteenth century civic tower. These ruins are from an antique castle which overlooks the town square and the Nouveau-Moorish designed town hall. Here the Gonzaga's owned both lands and buildings. An example that still remains is the small palace in the Bosco Fontana (Fontana Wood), used as a hunting lodge by Vincenzo I Gonzaga towards the end of 16th century. The Bosco della Fontana is what remain of the ancient big forest that once covered the Po Valley.

Here you can find an area covered with Oaks, Hornbeam, Beeches and Black Alders and extends over an area of **233 hectares**. Today it is a **Riserva Naturale Biogenetica** (Biogenetic Nature Reserve) managed by the State Forestry Department.

Pozzolo is at the northern edge of the forest on east river bank. It is a picturesque little village with its history written on the water. The local church, built in 1768, is dedicated to the Nativity of the Virgin Mary: it houses sixteenth-century paintings, furnishings and a group of marble statues of the Madonna and Child from the 14th century.



AN EUROPEAN EDEN AND PRIZED VILLAGES

Near the outskirts of Mantua are the remains of the **Favorita**. Here is a Gonzaga palace built by Nicholas Sebregondi between 1615 and 1624. Destined to the court of Ferdinand Gonzaga, All that remains today is a beautiful ruin. In the **pristine village of Soave** one can travel the country lanes and take in the **scenery of the Mincio Valley**. A vast wetland formed by the Mincio which subsequently widens to form the three Mantua lakes that surround the city. This is a Nature Reserve of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It is an European Nature 2000 Network site and bird sanctuary. Some of the endangered and protected birds the visitor can find here are all seven species of herons, migratory, wintering and nesting. The "Mincio Valley" is a large, wetland reservoir of biodiversity and among the largest in Italy, awarded with the recognition of "**Eden 2009 - Tourism and protected areas**" selected from a shortlist of 5 from 75 national locations. Therefore it is an official **EDEN** destination which stand for "European Destinations of Excellence": true **treasures of biodiversity**, created with a combination of plains and wetlands, populated by rare, endangered or protected plants and animals. The environment is characterized by hydric meadows and reed beds, habitats that are endangered due to natural silt invasion. In total there are 60 plant species being protected here, Water Yarrow, White and Yellow Water Lily, Water Chestnut, Hibiscus, Iris marsh, Sedge meadows, Marsh Gentian and large floating islands of Lotus can all be found here as well as rare species of birds. 55 different species of birds make their home here, including all types of herons, colonial birds of prey, grebes and ducks. The Mincio River communities of Rivalta Sul Mincio and Grazie di Curtatone community is on the west bank of the river while Soave di Porto Mantovano community is on the east bank.



RIVALTA SUL MINCIO

Largest town in the Rodigo community with its history inseparable from the river. The town is characterized by beautiful old houses', narrow streets and the church, very close to **Mincio** River which is the place where the inhabitants made their living as fisherman and harvesting reeds and sedge.

A concentration of tourist destinations begin at the rivers bend. The Mincio Park Visitor Center and River Crafts Ethnography Museum is housed in an old, red painted building. The exhibition is divided into several sections illustrating the geomorphology of the area, the story of local human history is told here, from the first stilt houses, Etruscan settlements, medieval water canals, the renaissance and finally to the present day. A kitchen with period furnishings shows what life was like for the people of the river. Structures for hunting, fishing boats and gear, tools and vessels used in the harvest of cane and edge and a section dedicated to building and repairing boats recount the lives of the swamp dwellers. A large space is dedicated to the flora and fauna of the area. The visitor can have an unusual view of the valley from the top floor of the center. A hostel adjacent to the Park Center offers **overnight accommodation** as well as: a snack bar, an exhibition area dedicated to wine tasting, **bicycle and canoe rental, river trips that include the swamp** and the "ex-games" observation area of the flora and avifauna.



GRAZIE DI CURTATONE

Is one of the "most beautiful villages in Italy". It is located at the point where the river begins to widen, to subsequently form Superior Lake. Francesco Gonzaga, the fourth Mantuan captain, built a sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin Mary in 1399, while the plague was raging in the city. In the Sanctuary there is a polygonal apse and a wood stucture leaning against the walls of the nave with statues made by **different materials** while a stuffed **crocodile** hangs from the ceiling. There is also a funeral chapel designed by Giulio Romano for the author Baldassarre Castiglione and a monumental altar with a 15th century byzantine style painting of the "our Lady of Grace" on the surface. The churchyard holds an annual competition for chalk designs and a dedicated local museum that preserves this kind of art by duplicating the best of it on panels. Also in Grazie di Curtatone, the Forum Boarium has been fully renovated and turned into a **tourist-information center and exhibition hall**.



3 MANTUA LAKES AND THE CITY OF THE GONZAGAS



Leaving behind the meandering water with its floating isles of reeds and sedge the river becomes a lake that embraces the city of Mantua. Home of the Gonzaga family and an **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, Mantua is a treasure of art and incomparable charm. In 1586 Torquato Tasso wrote that “this is a beautiful city worthy of traveling a thousand miles to see.” Five centuries later that sentiment still holds true, its renaissance skyline seems to float on its three surrounding lakes when approached from the San Giorgio Bridge. The current hydraulic arrangement was structured in 1190. It is an ingenious design by Alberto Pitentino which still regulates the water surrounding the city. Adding poetry to human genius, large floating islands of Water Lily and Lotus color Lake Superior during warm weather.

MANTUA WORLD HERITAGE

Please refer to a local tour guide of Mantua for further informations of the many cultural heritage, museums and palaces that can be found here. This is a rundown of some of the places found in the heart of the historic city center that are not to be missed.

The San Giorgio castle was constructed between 1390 and 1406 by Francesco Gonzaga. It is a true fortress built at the convergence of the middle and lower lake, and was designed to protect the city with four great towers and a deep moat surrounding the structure. Inside the castle, the visitor will find, the famous “Camera Picta”, “the Bridal Chamber”, decorated by Mantegna between 1465 and 1474 which is one of the finest works of the Renaissance. The castle is adjacent to the **Palazzo Ducale** Museum, one of the largest and most complex Italian architectural projects. A museum for over a century it was truly a **city within a building** and was the Gonzaga family



residence from 1328 until 1707. The Lords of Mantua added many buildings to the ancient structures that still look out on the Piazza Sordello such as the palace church dedicated to Saint Barbara, gardens and internal squares. The Tuscan architect **Luca Fancelli** is responsible for the Domus Nova and much of the decorations in the castle. Marquis Francesco II Gonzaga's wife, Isabella d'Este, decorated many of the small rooms which housed much of her extraordinary collections. Their son, Frederick II, first Duke of Mantua, entrusted the construction of the "Apartment of Troy" to **Giulio Romano** in the New Court. There are also exceptional frescoes by **Pisanello** (1432-1438) that depict episodes of the legend of King Arthur. The cathedral, commonly known as the "**Duomo**", houses the intact body of the **St. Anselm**, Bishop of Lucca, patron saint of the city and diocese, who lived in the 11th century. The Cathedral was renovated in 1545 by Giulio Romano who was inspired by St. Peter's Basilica of Rome. The **basilica at St Andrew's Cathedral** was designed by **Leon Battista Alberti** who was the Mantua Prince Architect in the 15th century. The basilica was completed in 1494 and maintained the cathedral's original design. Filippo Juvarra designed the 80 meters high dome between 1733 and 1765. The rich interior painting bears the signatures of Andrea Mantegna, his pupil Antonio Allegri, known as Correggio, Giulio Romano and his students, Domenico Fetti, Francesco



Borgani, Giorgio Anselmi, Rinaldo Mantovano, Felice Campi and Andreasino. **Sacre Vases** containing vials of Christ's blood, collected by the legionary Longinus, along with soil from the land of Golgotha are housed in the crypt which was designed at the end of 16th century by Anton Maria Viani.

Nestled between Piazza Broletto and Piazza delle Erbe is the **Palazzo del Podestà** which was the site of the municipal government of Mantua for many years. It was built in 1227 and converted in 1400 by Luca Fancelli. It is now under renovation. On the side that faces Piazza Broletto, in a niche, you can see the statue of Virgil in the chair (s. XIII). At the corner, the two, three-light windows and the balcony above the vault are the remnants of the Arengario. The piazza Erba in front of the square is designed on the **Palazzo della Ragione** and Clock Tower. Built by the medieval city in the twelfth century, it was intended to be the center of ministry of justice and the mercantile exchange. Dating back to the turn of the century are the wonderful **frescoes** of the upper hall, with maritime and militaristic scenes, religious subjects and an early depiction of a comet. It is attached to the Palace the Clock Tower was built in 1472 by L. Fancelli and completed in 1473 with Bartolomeo Manfredi's **magnificent astral clock** with zodiac signs, moon's phases of the moon, the days suitable for different work activities and finally, the position of the sun in the zodiac signs.



Next to the tower is the **Rotonda di San Lorenzo**. According to tradition, the church is one of many built by Matilda of Canossa (1046-1115). Its form is evocative of Christ's tomb. It represents a rare example of **circular Romanesque Padana architecture**, with the ambulatory and women's gallery decorated with contemporary frescoes.

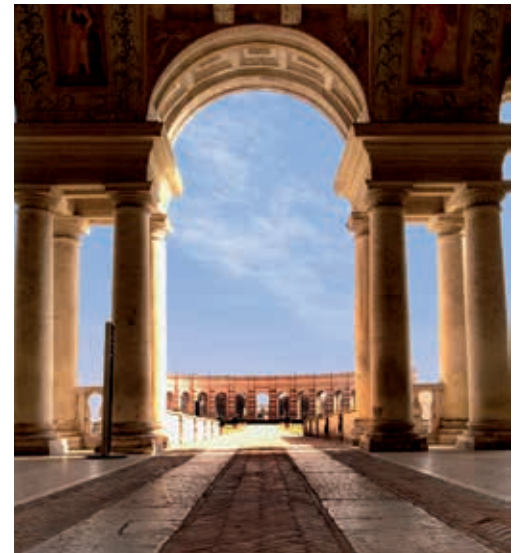
Not to be excluded: The **Bibiena theater**, an exemplary construction of rococo style **theater architecture**. The theater was inaugurated in 1769 with a concert played by a very young **Mozart**; **Mantegna's House**, an original example of **Renaissance** civil architecture, designed on a perfect geometric pattern, with a cylindrical courtyard enclosed by a square building. The **Museo Archeologico Nazionale** (National Archeological Museum) is owned by Mantua Province and is an active art center. The Museum was originally a part of the Gonzaga court and then became a silkworm market in the nineteenth century. An exhibit called "**Archeologia del territorio mantovano**", (Mantua Archeology), offers different sections of Mantua history, showing finds from pre-historic times, the Byzantines, Goths and Lombards. The "Valdaro Lovers" 2 human skeletons, embraced since the Neolithic era, and discovered near Mantua in 2007, are housed here. Another museum can be found at the **Palazzo San Sebastiano**, in the palace of Francesco II Gonzaga with Mantegna's "Trionfi di Cesare". This Mantua City museum holds works that tell the history of the city through **Humanism and the Renaissance**. And not to forget: the **palazzo D'Arco**, a fine example of **neoclassical architecture**, that was left to the city by the Countess Giovanna d'Arco, Marquise of Guidi di

Bagno. Here the visitor can enjoy, the original furnishings, the prestigious art gallery, library, kitchen and the Zodiac salon which was frescoed in 1520 by Giovanni Maria Falconetto; also, the church of San Sebastiano, commissioned by the Marquis Ludovico II Gonzaga to the Lateran Canons and designed by Leon Battista Alberti ten years before his masterpiece, the Basilica of St. Andrew. A **mainstay of the Renaissance**, today it is a chapel dedicated to the fallen soldier of the Fatherland.

The **Palazzo Te** is a **Giulio Romano masterpiece**, built between 1525 and 1535 and designated as a family refuge named the "onesto ozio" (honest idleness). Inspired by ancient Roman villas it is one of the finest examples of renaissance architecture. The genius of Giulio Romano has its roots in the culture of Raphael and Michelangelo. The observer is invited to enjoy a vibrant and exciting visit.

Do not miss: the Honour Courtyard, the Horses Hall, the Psiche Chamber, the Winds and the Eagles Chambers, the priceless Stucco's Chamber and the Giants' Chamber. The upper floor houses significant documents and artistic collections.

Present in Sordello square there is a Roman Domus with a wonderful mosaic floor: Excavations have uncovered the better part of a large room and a second smaller room with a polychrome mosaic floor. Surrounding the city of Mantua's historic center, along the banks of its three lakes is **parco Periurbano**. An oasis enjoyed by cyclists, fitness enthusiasts, hikers and strollers who can enjoy the science path, the teaching space outfitted with interactive equipment and the prime nesting area of Italy for the Virgiliano Museum in Pietole houses the **archeological**



4 THE TOUR TO THE PO RIVER



A starting point for beginning a hiking tour of the “Vallazza”, a nature reserve that forms downstream from Mantua and which expands to a vast wetland after the Lago Inferiore. An important conservation area, it is the home of 42 species of birds including various colonial herons, cormorants, grebes, ducks and Kingfisher. This is the last nature reserve the Mincio has to offer before it continues its path to the Po. Nestled between levees its bed can exceed the surroundings areas elevation before it reaches its final destination. This part of the river is populated by several communities including Bagnolo San Vito, Roncoferraro and Governolo where, in Dante’s words, the Mincio “falls into the Po”.

VIRGILIO - THE PIETOLE FORTRESS

Starting in **Ceresè**, a quick detour to the north leads to Pietole, known by scholars as **Andes**, birthplace of the Latin poet Publio Virgilio Marone. From the Virgilio monument, down the levee bank towards the river is the stone “**sasso di Virgilio**” where Virgilio would rest during his hikes. In Pietole Vecchia, along the banks of the river, is the Virgiliana, one of the most beautiful country residences in the area around Mantua. The Napoleonic Fort of Pietole, built in 1808 by the French General François de Chasseloup-Laubat can be found here. It was built along with the fortifications in Belfiore and San Giorgio as a comprehensive project to defend the city of Mantua. There are an impressive series of underground tunnels beneath the fort.



collection of **Vincenzo Prati** and contains urns from a bronze age necropolis, roman era coins discovered in 1873 and a section dedicated to the poet **Virgilio**.

THE ETRUSCAN ARCHIAOLOGICAL FORCELLO AND THE NAVIGATION LOCKS

The Etruscan site, Forcello, the **principle Etruscan city known in Lombardy**, is located near San Biagio in **Bagnolo San Vito**. It is the northern most Etruscan settlement identified in Lombardy and dates back to the Archaic period.

Excavations at the site are going on. There is also a multimedia exhibition, a laboratory for research and informations panels around the dig.



The community of **Roncoferraro** has nine villages and a constellation of courtyards and scattered villas on the Mincio's now northern bank. The town of **Governolo** is where the Mincio ends its journey into the Po. A vital location for Italy's waterways, it is the location of the mariner school and the center for the Po River's navigators.

In 1198 the engineer **Alberto Pitentino** raised the base of the river in order to sustain the lake levels surrounding the city. Even older than Pitentino's engineering work, there's Galliano's Tower, built under Matilde from Canossa rule. The Parishes of S. Erasmus and Agostino church holds the painting "S. Leone and Attila meeting" by F. Borgani (1614). The **Diffuso Conca**, of **Bertazzolo museum** in Governolo is located in the former river bed of the Mincio.



It is home to the ancient navigation lock system constructed by Gabriele Bertazzolo in the 16th century under orders of Vincenzo Gonzaga. The Diffuso Museum-Bertazzolo's Basin is located in the suggestive ex- riverbed of Mincio River in Governolo and shows the ancient hydraulic structures realized at the beginning of 17th century by G. Bertazzolo for Vincenzo Gonzaga. These waterworks were integrated with the new one built in the 20th century under Vittorio Emanuele III rule. And is currently where the Mincio empties into the PO. For tourists visiting the



area, there is the **l'ostello dei Concari**, a hostel recently built in the renovated old waterworks buildings. It can be found near the Europe eurovelo 7 and 8 cycling routes intersection. The place where Mincio flows into the great Po River is Sacchetta in Sustinente, where tourists can visit the church of the village with a very rich interior and decorated chapels. Also to see in this area is the Mantova – Venezia canal and lock system that connects the two waterways that have a 4 meter difference in elevation.



GENERAL INFO

I INFOPOINT TERRE DEL MINCIO, IAT E OASI

Infopoint, Cavriana and the wine museum

Via Porta Antica 23 - Tel. 0039 0376 811411

Infopoint, Volta Mantovana

Ex casa del Giardiniere - Via Beata Paola Montaldi 15
Tel. 0039 0376 839435 - info@voltamn.it - www.voltamn.it

Infopoint, Grazie di Curtatone

Ex Foro Boario - Via Francesca 31 - Tel. 0039 0376 349250

Infopoint, Governolo-Bagnolo San Vito

c/o Museo del Fiume Correggio Micheli - Via Nino Bixio 10
Tel. 340 8806468 - www.comune.roncoferraro.mn.it

IAT, Mantova Call center

Pizza Mantegna - Mantova - Tel. 0039 0376 432432 - www.turismo.mantova.it

GUIDED MINCIO NATURE TOURS

For visits to the Regional Mincio Park, to the Bertone Park center and the Center for the Reintroduction of the White Stork
Tel. 0039 0376 391550 - int. 20
didattica@parcodelmincio.it - www.parcodelmincio.it



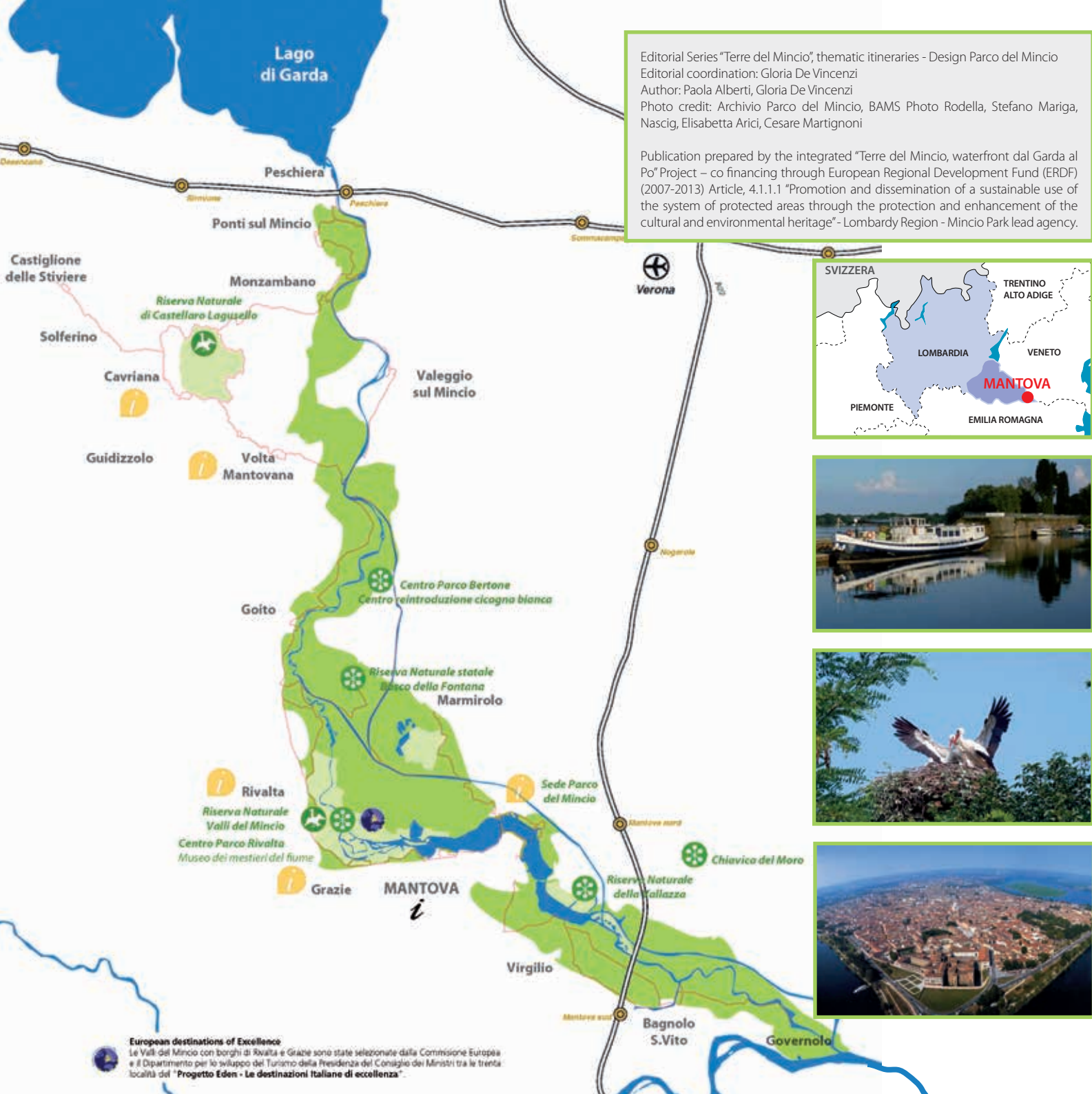
BIKE TRAILS

There are 900 km of cycling routes, with 36 principal routes, that cross the Mantua area. The courses also connect to the surrounding provinces. There are many routes to choose from in the Mincio protected areas and in the "Terre del Mincio". They can often be integrated with easy to navigate unpaved roads and they cover the entire regional park. The most popular route is the Mantua-Peschiera which connects the city of the Gonzaga's to Lake Garda. South of the city the routes follow along the levee's until they reach the Po. Many intermediate routes can be used to reach various location such as: the Bertone Visitor Center, the Bosca Fontana (immediatly after leaving the city heading toward Lake Garda), the visitors center and museum in Rivalta sul Mincio (coming from Mantua follow along the path through Grazie and then to the village of Rivalta) The course around the Mantua lakes, through Periurbano Park, is another opportunity to learn about the natural environment that borders the City of Mantua. Itineraries and maps can be found at www.terredelmincio.it/itinerari-bici, www.provincia.mantova.it, www.podilombardia.it



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European destinations of Excellence

Le Valli del Mincio con borghi di Rivalta e Grazie sono state selezionate dalla Commissione Europea e il Dipartimento per lo sviluppo del Turismo della Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri tra le trenta località del "Progetto Eden - Le destinazioni Italiane di eccellenza".



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