

MANTUA SIMPLY WONDERFUL



MANTOVA CITTÀ D'ARTE E DI CULTURA



MANTUA. SIMPLY WONDERFUL

Those who arrive in Mantua are captivated by its unique, timeless allure and welcoming atmosphere. This city offers a breathtaking view when seen from the shores of its lakes. It appears as though it is suspended above the water, the protagonist of an almost surreal landscape composed of history, art and nature. Mantua is a city to be visited with calm, consideration and serenity. The city squares, small alleys and cobblestone streets invite the visitor to slowly take in every one of its monuments and historic buildings in order to understand why it has been declared by UNESCO a *World Heritage Site* along with the neighbouring town of Sabbioneta.





MANTUA AND SABBIONETA: WORLD HERITAGE SITE

July 2008 saw Mantua and Sabbioneta enter the World Heritage List as a site of unique importance. Both cities enjoyed a period of great urban design during the Renaissance, as desired by the very ruling family, namely the Gonzagas: two different but complimentary models were applied for each location. In fact, Sabbioneta is a newer city realized by Vespasiano Gonzaga in the second half of the sixteenth century as the ideal capital for his duchy; instead, Mantua presents itself as the transformation of an existing city that changed its ancient configuration, which dated back to the Etruscan-Roman age and was modified in the Medieval era, to adhere to the ideals of Renaissance urban planning. Two cities, one unique site, a cultural heritage of the past, essential to safeguard and pass down to future generations.





Roman Domus



Lovers of Valdaro

A CITY WITH MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY

Legend would have us believe that the city was founded by the Greek soothsayer Manto and named after her. More likely, the name is derived from the Etruscan infernal divinity Mantu, with evidence from archeological discoveries in the Mantuan territories such as Forcello (in the near town of Bagnolo San Vito).

The Etruscan Mantua covered an insular area from the Mincio River to approximately where *Piazza Sordello* is located today; thank to its elevated position, this territory was also inhabited later by the Romans. Evidence of this has been recently found in perimeter walls and mosaics typical of a Roman *Domus*, along with many other treasures displayed at the National Archeological Museum.

The most ancient history of Mantua stretches back to the *Amanti* ("Lovers"): human remains from the Neolithic Age, buried together as though they were embracing each other in Valdaro, near the city, showcased at the National Archeological Museum. This find has had an impact on the collective imagination beyond the Italian borders, so much so that the American band *Quitting Heaven* dedicated their song *Skeleton Kiss* to them.

Piazza Erbe,
Palazzo della Ragione
and Palazzo del Podestà



THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Around 1000 AD, Mantua was taken over by the Canossa family, and householder Bonifacio made it their capital city. His daughter Matilde is responsible for the oldest church found in the city, the *Rotonda di San Lorenzo*, which was restored in the early twentieth century. It has a peculiar circular layout and contains the women's gallery along with traces of the original fresco decoration in Byzantine style. The death of Matilde brought about a period of freedom in Mantua. The first expansion of the city was carried out by Alberto Pitentino in 1190, who modified the course of the Mincio river thereby forming the lakes that surround the city. Many of the city's towers were built in this period: the one constructed by the Acerbi family, called *Torre della Gabbia* ("Cage Tower"), is a sixteenth-century walled structure with an external enclosure made of iron bars, where prisoners were put to shame for their crimes; The *Palazzo del Podestà*, restructured in the fifteenth century by Luca Fancelli, who preserved the thirteenth-century facade, contains the statue of *Virgilio in Cattedra* ("Virgil at the desk"); The *Masseria*, where the oldest fresco depicting the city is preserved, and *Palazzo della Ragione*, destined for the administration of justice, overlook *Piazza Erbe*, which was then, as it still is today, the location where the market is held. The Church of *Santa Maria del Gradaro*, which was built in 1256 outside the city walls, dates back to the same period.



Temple of San Sebastiano



THE RENAISSANCE IN MANTUA

The Gonzagas became Lords of Mantua in 1328, after driving out the Bonacolsi family. They were responsible for a new urban expansion and the admirable artistic flowering of Mantua. Under the rule of Marquis Ludovico II, the city's renovation began. Many artists worked to modernize and embellish the city, including Andrea Mantegna, who painted the *Camera Picta*, also called "*Camera degli Sposi*" ("Bridal Chamber") for the Marquis; also Leon Battista Alberti took care of the restoration of the *Basilica di Sant'Andrea* as well as the construction of *Tempio di San Sebastiano*, in the area where the Renaissance expansion of the city mainly took place; namely in front of the island where *Palazzo Te*, one of Giulio Romano's greatest works would later rise.

Each building set outside of the oldest part of the city was destined to glorify the regality of the city, including places of service as the sixteenth century *Pescherie*, designed by Giulio Romano, destined for fish trade. At this time, the court was enriched with works by famous contemporary artists and classical finds that constitute the art collections of the city. Evidence of this is still visible at the City Museum of *Palazzo San Sebastiano*, the *Museo Diocesano* and the *Museo di Palazzo Ducale*.

Important examples of architectural urban renaissance are the *Casa-bottega del Mercante Boniforte* in *Piazza Erbe*, in Venetian Gothic style; the *Casa-bottega del Viani*, in *Piazza Marconi*, which preserves the fifteenth-century painted façade of Mantegna's School, which survived almost entirely; the *Casa del Mantegna* with its particular circular layout, now an exhibition center, and the *Casa of Giulio Romano*, which unfortunately cannot be visited.

Basilica of Sant'Andrea





Palazzo Te

Palazzo Te,
Chamber of Amor and Psyche

THE RESIDENCES OF THE PRINCES

The Gonzagas lived in prestigious residences. The oldest and most complex from an architectural point of view is the *Palazzo Ducale*, with its magnificent halls, numerous buildings connected by corridors and galleries, courtyards, squares, gardens (one of which is a hanging one); it is among the most extensive in Europe. As the official residence of the Lords of Mantua until the seventeenth century, the complex has undergone changes and adaptations to the aesthetic taste of the different eras. It houses masterpieces of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries such as the *Sala col Ciclo cavalleresco* by Pisanello, Mantegna's *Camera degli Sposi* inside the San Giorgio castle, the *Studiolo di Isabella d'Este in Corte Vecchia* with its precious cabinetry works, the *Appartamento di Troia* by Giulio Romano in *Corte Nuova* and a complete cycle of Flemish tapestries based on Raffaello's preparation cardboards. At the opposite end of the city lie the private and representative residences of the Gonzaga household. The *Palazzo di San Sebastiano* palace, built in the early sixteenth century by Francesco II, housed the nine paintings that formed the *Trionfo di Cesare* by Mantegna, now preserved at Hampton Court (London). The palace is home to the City Museum, with works that narrate the emblematic moments of Mantuan civilization. *Palazzo Te*, built by Federico II, was the palace of *honesto ocio* ("honest leisure"), where the prince could rest his mind. An absolute masterpiece of Giulio Romano, built between 1525 and 1535, the building houses the Hall of the Horses, dedicated to the fine horses bred by the Gonzaga, the Chamber of Amor and Psyche to accommodate the most distinguished guests for banquets and dinners and the Chamber of the Giants, with its amazing sound and visual effects, which was built in honor of Emperor Charles V, who had given the title of Duke to Federico.



Palazzo Ducale;
Camera degli Sposi



Teatro Scientifico del Bibiena

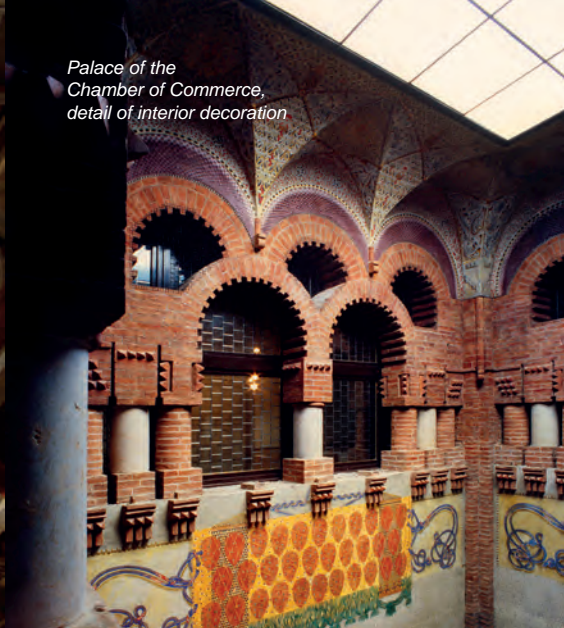
THE FRENCH AND AUSTRIAN DOMINATION

With the fall of the Gonzaga family, Mantua passed under the dominion of Austria and France.

In 1775 the *Palazzo Accademico* was enlarged and became the center of the Royal Academy of Sciences and Fine Arts, founded by Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, known today as the *Accademia Nazionale Virgiliana*.

A few years before, the *Teatro Scientifico* had been built inside this palace: a small baroque masterpiece created by architect Antonio Galli Bibiena. The theatre had only been opened a few days when the then fourteen-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart held a concert there. Maria Teresa is also responsible for the founding of the public library, the so called *Teresiana*, inside the *Palazzo degli Studi*. There is also the *Palazzo d'Arco* (1782-92), in perfect neoclassical style, now a museum, which houses antique furniture and furnishings as well as beautiful paintings. The garden faces the *Zodiac Room* with a series of frescoes dating back to the sixteenth century. In 1810 the building hosted the Napoleonic trial of Tyrolean hero Andreas Hofer, condemned and executed at the Cittadella di Porto (now Cittadella), where a garden was dedicated to him. Between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, indeed, Mantua was annexed by the Cisalpine Republic and occupied by Napoleon's troops. The French ruling period was responsible for the renovation of *Piazza Virgiliana*, transforming it in a public garden with a bust of the Poet, substituted by the current monument in 1926.

Palace of the
Chamber of Commerce,
detail of interior decoration



Lunetta Frassino

FROM THE ITALIAN UNIFICATION TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Throughout the period of the Risorgimento, under Austrian rule, Mantua built fortified structures and became part of the defensive system of the Quadrilatero, together with the fortresses of Peschiera, Verona and Legnago. A winding path around the city allows one to visit the remaining military structures from *Lunetta Fossamana*, *Frassino* and the *Fort of Pietole*, located in the town of Virgilio.

Between 1851 and 1855, a group of Mantuan patriots (the *Martyrs of Belfiore*) were executed for plotting against the Hapsburg Empire, and for this the city has dedicated a memorial and a monument to them. In the City Museum of *Palazzo San Sebastiano*, the weapons, clothes, personal items and documents of the protagonists of the time are on display.

During this period, 1822 saw the opening of the historic *Teatro Sociale*, which hosted famous actors and artists as well as Garibaldi and Vittorio Emanuele II, honored with plaques on the facade.

Among the twentieth-century buildings, the eclectic works of Aldo Andreani, a Mantuan architect and sculptor, stand out. In addition to many private homes, such as the home of Tazio Nuvolari in via Chiassi, Andreani worked on the building and decoration of the Palace of the Chamber of Commerce in 1914 and the reorganization of municipal buildings in *Piazza Erbe*, completed in 1944.

Basilica of Santa Barbara*Jewel with the monogram
of the name of Jesus,
german manufacture, 1562*

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS AND SACRED ART

Numerous churches in Mantua have notable artistic and architectural value as well. Of note, in the historical center, is the XI century *Duomo* (Cathedral of St. Peter), which was restored after a fire in the fourteenth century and restored again by Giulio Romano in the sixteenth century. In 1756, Nicolò Baschiera replaced the late Gothic medieval facade with the current shapes of late Baroque style.

Inside the monumental complex of the *Palazzo Ducale*, the *Basilica Palatina di Santa Barbara* was commissioned by Duke Guglielmo for the religious functions of the court and built by the Mantuan architect Giovanni Battista Bertani in the second half of the sixteenth century. The church, designed to enhance optimum acoustics for every type of sound, holds the extraordinary organ of Graziadio Antegnati of 1565.

At the center of the city is the *Basilica di Sant'Andrea*, a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture, designed by Leon Battista Alberti in 1472 and finished in 1765 with the inclusion of the dome designed by Filippo Juvarra. The basilica, built on the church of an ancient Benedictine monastery, hosts the funerary chapel of Mantegna. Behind it, in Piazza Leon Battista Alberti, some remaining parts of the cloister and of the monastery are still visible. Important and valuable examples of sacred art are preserved in the Francesco Gonzaga Diocesan Museum in *Piazza Virgiliana*. The museum also hosts masterpieces of painting, French enamels and precious tapestries, works of gold and silver of the Gonzaga household and an exceptional collection of Renaissance armor from the *Santuario della Madonna delle Grazie*.



Sanctuary of the
Madonna delle Grazie
and Pavement Artists at work

PILGRIMS IN MANTUA

The *Basilica di Sant'Andrea* has always been a place of pilgrimage because its crypt houses the *Sacred Vessels*, the phials containing the Precious Blood of Christ. Legend has it that Longinus, the Roman soldier who pierced Christ on the Cross, collected the blood and brought it to Mantua. The relic is exhibited to the faithful and carried in a procession through the city on Good Friday.

Another destination of pilgrimage is the *Santuario della Madonna delle Grazie*, in the village of Grazie di Curtatone which is south of the city, built by Francesco I Gonzaga in 1399 as a votive offering to the Virgin Mary for the end of the plague. In Lombard Gothic style, with alterations and new decorations made in the sixteenth century, it contains a vivid example of the popular faith: the wooden structure has life-size statues made of papier-mâché from the seventeenth century and anatomical votive offerings made of wax. On the ceiling hangs a stuffed crocodile which, according to popular tradition, a boatman left as an offering after having been from the aggression of the animal by the grace of the Virgin. This is actually a Nile crocodile that radioactive carbon analysis shows to be contemporary to the building's creation. On *Ferragosto* (a national celebration occurring on the 15th of August) the ancient *Fiera delle Grazie* takes place in front of the Sanctuary, with an international competition of street artists who paint religious subjects using chalk.



Natural Reserve Valli del Mincio

FROM GARDA TO THE PO THROUGH THE PARCO DEL MINCIO

The course of the river Mincio, an outlet of Lake Garda, is an area of great natural, historical, cultural and devotional importance that has been under protection by the establishment of the *Parco del Mincio* since 1984. The park stretches from Lake Garda to the river Po through the gentle slopes of the morainic Mantuan hills, characterized by numerous fortified villages, the partially farmed plains with marshy stretches next to the city of Mantua, until it ends in the great river Po. Mantua and the Mincio River have shared a link since ancient times. Around the city, the river widens and extends into three lakes: *Superiore*, *Mezzo* and *Inferiore*. The water system dates back to 1190 at the hands of Alberto Pitentino, which recovered entire areas from the swamp.

THE NATURAL RESERVES AND PARKS

The Mincio river, in its gentle flow towards the Po, gives life, among the towns of Rivalta, Grazie di Curtatone and Mantua, to the Mincio Natural Reserve, where the river creates one of the most important wetland areas in northern Italy, sprinkled with reeds, sedges and in the summer, lotus flowers. The area is part of the project EDEN 2009.



Centro Parco Bertone



Natural Reserve of Vallazza

On the right bank of the Lago Inferiore begins the Natural Reserve of Vallazza. It is a vast complex of important natural wetlands as evidenced by the different stages and spontaneous river bends. These landscapes of enchanting beauty are a maze of canals and small ponds where one can find various types of water lilies, hibiscus and water caltrops.

Next to this amazing vegetation is the typical fauna of the marsh: herons, coots, little egrets, reed warblers, *squacco* herons, kites, mallards, swans and many other rare species. A few kilometers from the city is the Bosco Fontana National Reserve, which is what remains of the ancient forests which a covered the Po Valley few thousand years ago. At the heart of the forest, which offers an exceptional variety of plants, is a charming late-sixteenth century palace which was built by Vincenzo I Gonzaga when the forest was a hunting reserve of the family. In the Municipality of Goito, there is Bertone Park, a visiting center of Parco del Mincio; with its stunning views and a tiny lake, it creates a perfect atmosphere for a pleasant walk in the countryside. It is a park garden in which to admire exotic and native trees, some of which date back 150 years. It has been the centre for the reintroduction of the white stork since 1994.

Inside the heart of the Mincio Valleys is the Centro Parco Rivalta, where you can visit the Ethnographic Museum of River Crafts. The museum documents the interdependence and balance between human life and the swamp's territory.



Mantua–Peschiera bike trail



Bosco Fontana

CYCLING

Mantua offers a network of cycling routes within the city, which makes it possible to quickly reach the different cultural centers, and an equally extensive network of cycling routes immersed in an exceptional natural environment.

The main path is the pedestrian trail that winds around the city along the shores of the three lakes. The route travels through *Parco Periurbano* until it reaches the left bank of *Lago Superiore* and the gardens of Belfiore, and on the right the shore of *Cittadella*, where the sixteenth century *Porta Giulia*, designed by Giulio Romano, is found. From here, you can continue the trip to the *Rocca di Sparafucile*, where you can enjoy a picturesque view of the city. On the shores of Lago di Mezzo is also the *Parco della Scienza*, a path equipped with interactive devices to experiment with a variety of scientific phenomena. Cycle routes depart from the city to the tourist destinations of the province and Lake Garda. The *Mantua-Grazie* bike trail is approximately 7 km long, starting at the *Lago Superiore* and following the provincial road leading to Grazie di Curtatone. The *Mantua-Peschiera* bike trail extends for about 43 km on mostly flat terrain and allows many stops of cultural interest such as Bosco della Fontana, Borghetto, Castellaro Lagusello and Peschiera, a fortified town on Lake Garda. The *Sabbioneta-Mantua* bike trail is 47 km long, it connects the two cities which have been declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Along this stretch is the bridge of boats at Torre d'Oglio, Commessaggio with the Torrazzo built by Vespasian Gonzaga and finally Sabbioneta, the ideal city.



Lotus flowers

River trip



BY WATER

Ever since its inception, Mantua has had a very close relationship with the water that makes up its character. Over the centuries, water has been a means of military defense, a vital element for the economy, a way for trade and commerce, but also a danger to the public because of the frequent floods. Even today, the city is closely tied to its lakes and public parks, which stretch along the banks.

The lakes offer a special opportunity to get to know the landscape and the aquatic environment through guided excursions by boat and barge. To the north is the *Lago Superiore*, where one can reach Belfiore and the villages of Grazie and Rivalta; from the south one can navigate the *Lago di Mezzo* and *Lago Inferiore* towards the Po River, where one can arrive at the valley of Governolo and then on to Ferrara and Venice. There are many tourist excursions and tours with expert guides available from the various shipping companies, especially during a full moon. Some boats allow you to load bikes on board and also offer catering services, enabling guests to taste the local dishes in a spectacular setting. Do not miss the excursion on *Lago Superiore* to admire the *lotus flower*, the plant imported from the East by the naturalist Anna Maria Pellegrini in 1921 which has become one of the symbols of the city, blossom in July and August.



Palazzo del Podestà,
Virgilio in cattedra



Basilica of Santa Barbara,
Antegnati's organ

A CITY OF MUSIC AND POETRY

It was February 24th, 1607 when, in a hall of the *Palazzo Ducale*, tenor Francesco Rasi sang the first notes of *Orfeo*. The work of Claudio Monteverdi marks the transition from Renaissance music to Baroque music and is considered the first true masterpiece in the history of opera.

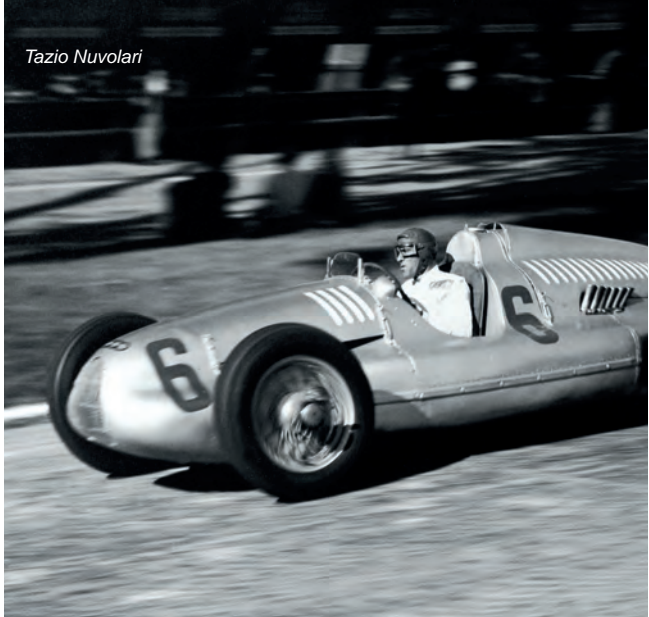
The love for music, both secular and sacred, has always been very strong in Mantua. The Gonzagas were patrons of great musicians such as Palestrina, who composed the famous *Nine Messe Mantovane* for the Basilica of Santa Barbara, which also hosted Antegnati's prodigious organ provided by Duke Wilhelm. Young Mozart, in 1770, performed in Mantua in the Bibiena Theatre, which his father, Leopold, described this way: "*Today I saw the most beautiful theatre in the world*". The link between the Gonzagas and music continued through history as Giuseppe Verdi, in 1851, composed the *Il Rigoletto* opera, found in the *libretto* by Francesco Maria Piave and set in the court of Mantua. In September 2010, RAI live broadcasted a worldwide viewing of Verdi's drama which was shot in Mantua, with Plácido Domingo as Rigoletto. The RAI Symphony Orchestra was conducted by Zubin Mehta.

70 BC opened Mantuan literary history with the birth of Virgil. The greatest Latin poet was a pillar of Western culture, and he recalled his Mantuan origins in the beginning of the famous epitaph *Mantua Me Genuit*. The medieval statue of *Virgilio in Cattedra* at the *Palazzo del Podestà*, the Renaissance portraits of the poet, the *Piazza Virgiliana*, the forest and monument named after him give evidence of the love the city has for the great Mantua poet. Mantua was also the home of the poet Teofilo Folengo who began his work imitating the Latin verses of Virgil and later became the greatest exponent of macaronic sixteenth century poetry.

Learco Guerra



Tazio Nuvolari



A CITY OF SPORT

Mantuan sports are linked to speed of both the body and the machine. In 1902, the cyclist Learco Guerra was born in Mantua, who, thanks to his racing technique and great physical strength, earned the nickname "Human Locomotive". Learco Guerra was the first rider to wear the pink jersey in 1931 Tour of Italy, winning the opening stage of Milan-Mantua.

Another sporting hero is Tazio Nuvolari, an Italian legend of international auto racing acclaim. He was born in Castel d'Ario in 1892, and was named the "*Mantovano Volante*" or "*Nivola*" in order to emphasize his propensity for dynamism and speed. He began his career as a motorcyclist but passed over to car racing, competing in over three hundred races. He won two *Targa Florio*, two *Mille Miglia*, the Vanderbilt Cup, the Grand Prix of Tripoli, two Grand Prix of Italy and the Grand Prix of Germany. The Tazio Nuvolari Museum, which is housed in the *Chiesa del Carmelino* church, displays the awards and personal Memorabilia such as helmets, gloves, goggles, overalls and his inseparable yellow jersey. The "*Mantovano Volante*" evokes the futurist movement and its founder Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, who presented his famous "Futurist Manifesto" in Mantua on April 6th, 1911, which extolled speed, dynamism and flight, 12 days before his Paris release.



Tortelli di zucca



Risotto alla pilota

A CITY OF DINING

Mantuan cuisine has its roots in the Gonzaga royal tradition mixed with popular dishes. Fine, yet simple dining while making use of all the natural resources Mantua has to offer.

Visitors must have at least one meal in one of the many *Trattorie* or restaurants available in order to taste *tortelli di zucca*, traditionally served on Christmas Eve, *agnolì in brodo*, meat filled Ravioli, and *risotto alla pilota*, whose name comes “*pilarini del riso*”, with local sausage served with *puntèl*, a type of steamed pork. The staple of Mantua is pork: *salame mantovano* with garlic, *gras pistà*, namely beaten pork fat with garlic and parsley served on steaming polenta and *cotechino* served with mashed potatoes or lentils. Particularly delicious among the second plates are *stracotto d'asino* and *luccio in salsa* both served with polenta and *cappone alla Stefani* from the old recipe that the Gonzaga royal chef served on fresh salad, raisins and pine nuts.

Mantua is the only place where *Grana Padano* and *Parmigiano Reggiano* are produced, both of which are delicious with *mostarda mantovana di mele campanine*. Dessert is the traditional cake *Sbrisolona*, made with corn flour, almonds and lard, but don't forget to taste the *Elvezia*, which was invented by Swiss confectioners in Mantua during the eighteenth century as well as the *Anello di Monaco*, a typical Christmas sweet of German ancestry.

To top it off there are the white and red wines of the Mantua moraine hills which are enjoying increasing recognition and the *Mantuan Lambrusco DOC*.



Radio Bruno's concert



Farmers Market on Lungorio and Pescherie
by Giulio Romano

A CITY TO LIVE

To get deeply familiar with Mantua, one should walk the city to discover all the hidden details, from one portico to another, from one *piazza* to another, peering inside the palaces and the beautiful and unexpected historical gardens.

Living in Mantua means to know its inhabitants, attend the meeting places, walk along the lakes, go to the theatre, attend concerts in palaces and town squares, shop, visit the markets and taste the delicious local cuisine. Institutions and cultural associations in Mantua hold events, shows, concerts, conferences and exhibitions, all year round, within the landmarks of the city, which are the focus of an ongoing dialogue between the ancient beauty and modernity of cultural languages.

With its many parks and gardens, the *Belfiore* Park, the *Periurbano* Park, the *Bosco Virgilian* and the Old and New *Belfiore* gardens by Joseph Roda, *Valentini* gardens, the garden of *Lungorio IV Novembre*, *Piazza Lega Lombarda*, *Piazza Virgiliana*, the city is perfect for relaxing and dining outdoors. There is an antique market, for lovers of curiosities and antiques, every third Sunday of the month. The weekly market is held on Thursdays in the old town and the farmers market is on Saturday morning on the *Lungorio* adjacent to the *Pescherie*, where you can buy cheese, fresh pastries and other typical products directly from the producers. Due to the richness of its cultural and monumental heritage, Mantua requires a stay of several days in order to immerse yourself in the cozy atmosphere of this charming Renaissance city.



Madonna della Vittoria



National Historical Museum
of the Fire Brigade

THE MUSEUMS

There are many museums and cultural sites that are worth a visit. Among them, the National Archaeological Museum, which houses exhibits from the Mantua territory; the public collections of *Palazzo Te: the Ugo Sissa Collection*, a rare collection of Mesopotamian art and culture, the *Acerbi Collection*, an important collection of Egyptian artefacts, the *Gonzaga collection* of coins and measuring systems from the sixteenth century, and finally the *Mondadori Collection* of modern art with paintings by Zandomeneghi and Spadini; the *Torre dell'Orologio* and the *Museo dell'Opera* with access from the *Palazzo della Ragione*, which preserves the original gears of the fifteenth-century astronomical-astrological clock by Bartolomeo Manfredi; the National Historical Museum of the Fire Brigade, unique in Italy which hosts equipment from the eighteenth to the twentieth century; the *Casa della Beata Osanna Andreasi*, patron of Mantua, an example of a fifteenth-century mansion; the *Accademia Nazionale Virgiliana*, an important cultural institution hosting an archive and library of international value with a unique collection of surgical instruments of the eighteenth century; the *Madonna della Vittoria*, formerly a church with remnants of Mantegna decorations currently exhibited in the hall; the *Galleria Arte e Arti* in the Chamber of Commerce, holding a large collection of works belonging to the Chamber; the *Museo Numismatico* and *Galleria d'Arte della Fondazione Banca Agricola Mantovana* with collections of ancient coins and medals of the Gonzagas and Mantua as well as Mantuan paintings from the twentieth century of global significance; the *Galleria Museo Valenti Gonzaga* with frescoes by the Flemish painter Frans Geffels and lavish decorations by Giovan Battista Barberini; the *MASTeR*, (Mantua Environment Science Technology and Research) interactive workshop for educational purposes and a space for experimentation, research and scientific animation.



EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

In different periods of the year, palaces, squares and parks of the city are home to many cultural events and exhibitions. Dance, theatre, music, entertainment, art and literature, but also handicrafts, gastronomy, leisure and sport are the focus of Mantuan events. Among the most important, from January to April, the *Mantova Jazz festival*, a famous jazz event that has taken place in the city for over thirty years with a rich program of shows.

In spring, the *Mantovadanza* event is held; it is dedicated to dance with competitions, workshops and performances in the theatres and the splendid squares of the historic center: art is linked to innovation, imagination and the expressive ability of the artists.

For almost twenty years, the *Festivaletteratura* has been held in September. It is one of the most anticipated national cultural events for those who love reading. Five days of *readings*, literary readings, performances in the palaces and squares of the city with writers and artists from around the world. Literature and poetry are combined with art and entertainment, creating a lively atmosphere and pulsating with creativity and energy. *Segni d'Infanzia*, an international art and theatre festival, aimed at children and all those who love theatre, research, and language of the arts, is held in the fall. Artists from various European countries and the world perform in shows and workshops. Mantua is also known for important art and culture exhibits organized by the *Centro Internazionale d'Arte e di Cultura of Palazzo Te*, the Museum of Palazzo Ducale, other museums and exhibition spaces of various public and private cultural institutions in Mantua.

*Orchestra da Camera di Mantova
sull'Arcipelago d' Ocno*



In addition to cultural events, there are many occasions for sport lovers, such as the *Gran Premio Nuvolari*, a regulated race for historic cars, the *Minciomarcia*, a non-competitive traditional race through the streets of the city, the Italian *Rowing Championship*. The city of Mantua enjoys twin city status with Bressanone, Casale Monferrato, Nevers and Charleville Mézierès (France), Madison (U.S.A.), Oradea (Romania), Omihachiman-Azuchi (Japan), Paderborn e Weingarten (Germany), Pushkin (Russia). In June, the *Mantova & Friends* festival is held; it is dedicated to the Twin Cities with shows, cultural events and groups of artists representing different countries. *Tempo d'Orchestra*, *Mantova Teatro*, *Mantova Creativa*, *Mantova Film Fest*, *Mantova Medievale*, *E... state a Mantova* and the Christmas event *Mantova Mille Luci* are only some of the many reasons to visit and live in the city all year round.

Gran Premio Nuvolari





*Segni
d'infanzia*



Mantova Medievale



MantovaFilmFest

mantovafilmfest

mantova fest

CITY OF THE GOOD LIFE



Castello di San Giorgio



*Palazzo Ducale,
cortile della Cavallerizza*



*Palazzo Ducale,
Giardino dei Semplici*



Palazzo Te,
Sala dei Giganti



Casa del Mantegna



Biblioteca Teresiana






By AIR

The nearest airport is located in Villafranca of Verona, 33 kilometers from Mantua. The main domestic flights are planned from Rome, Bari, Naples, Cagliari, Catania and Palermo. International flights are planned from Vienna, Paris, Moscow, Monaco, Frankfurt, Cologne, Amsterdam and London.

aeroportoverona.it
 Brescia (60 Km), Parma (60 Km),
 Bologna (100 Km), Bergamo (100 Km),
 Milan (185 Km), Venice (160 Km)

By TRAIN

Mantua is 45 minutes from Verona and 55 minutes from Modena when taking the Modena - Verona route and 2 hours from Milan which passes through the provincial capital's central railway stations of Milan-Cremona Suzzara - Ferrara, Monselice -Padua. The station is a few minutes walk from the historic centre.

 **Piazza Don Leoni, 14 (MN)**
 **892021 - callcenter**
 **www.trenitalia.com**

By CAR

Mantua can be reached via the: Autostrada A22 exit Mantova Nord 4 kilometers from the centre of Mantua or Mantova Sud at 11.5 km from the centre, Autostrada A4 exit at Desenzano, Sirmione, Peschiera, Verona Sud Autostrada A1, exit Parma Est, Reggio Emilia and Modena.

CAMPERs AREA

Sparafucile Via Legnago 1/A (MN)
 **www.aster.mn.it**





Curtatone - via della Fiera
 (Grazie di Curtatone)
 **www.camperclubmantova.it**

TOURIST BUS AREA

CHECK POINT TOURIST BUS
 Strada Cipata (MN)
 **www.aster.mn.it**

TOURIST INFORMATION

 **INFOPOINT**


 P.zza Mantegna, 6 - 46100 Mantova
 +39 0376 432432
 www.turismo.mantova.it
 info@turismo.mantova.it

INFOPOINT CASA DEL RIGOLETTO
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 +39 0376 288208
 info@infopointmantova.it



- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 1 MUSEUM COMPLEX OF PALAZZO DUCALE
(Palazzo Ducale, San Giorgio Castle, National Archaeological Museum, Basilica Of Santa Barbara) | 8 PALAZZO DELLA RAGIONE and THE CLOCK TOWER | 16 NUMISMATIC MUSEUM | 24 CHURCH of SANTA MARIA DEL GRADARO |
| 2 DUOMO (Cathedral of San Pietro) | 9 ROTONDA of SAN LORENZO | 17 VALENTI GONZAGA GALLERY and MUSEUM | 25 MASTer |
| 3 RIGOLETTO'S HOUSE | 10 PALACE OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | 18 HOUSE OF THE BLESSED OSANNA ANDREASI | |
| 4 BIBIENA ACADEMIC THEATRE | 11 THE NORSA SYNAGOGUE | 19 TAZIO NUVOLARI MUSEUM | |
| 5 "TERESIANA" LIBRARY | 12 FRANCESCO GONZAGA DIOCESAN MUSEUM | 20 ANDREA MANTEGNA'S HOUSE | |
| 6 FIRE BRIGADE HISTORICAL MUSEUM | 13 MADONNA DELLA VITTORIA | 21 TEMPLE OF SAN SEBASTIANO | |
| 7 BASILICA of SANT'ANDREA | 14 PALAZZO D'ARCO MUSEUM | 22 PALAZZO SAN SEBASTIANO | |
| | 15 TEATRO SOCIALE | 23 PALAZZO TE | |



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND CITY PROMOTION

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📍 **Infopoint Casa del Rigoletto**
📍 Piazza Sordello 23, Mantova
☎️ +39 0376 288208
✉️ info@infopointmantova.it

USEFUL INFORMATION

🌐 comune.mantova.gov.it
🌐 cittadimantova.it
🌐 mantovasabbioneta-unesco.it
🌐 turismo.mantova.it
📘 Mantova città d'arte e di cultura
📷 cittadimantova
📺 Città di Mantova
🐦 Città di Mantova
📌 Città di Mantova

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