

LOCALGUSTO TRAVEL

Friuli Venezia Giulia: From the Alps to Adriatic Sea (with Medieval Palio of San Donato)

18th August – 24th August, 2020



Tarcento Vineyard Dinner

Tour led by Patty Sommer, Udine Local



"From the moment we woke up to the moment we went to bed, Patty was there to assist us along the way with every perfect and brilliant detail...absolutely loved her charismatic nature, her depth of travel expertise, and her ability to immerse us in the specific culture and authentic experience of every place that we visited" Emma Cottier, Victoria, Canada

DAY 1: Tuesday 18th August, 2020

Depart for **Venice, Trieste or Treviso**, Italy and transfer to your hotel in **Udine**

Udine, our home base, is a joyous surprise to most visitors, known as the 'Living Room' of the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia because of its cosy piazzas, elegant atmosphere, classy bars, cafes and restaurants. Our favourite place to stop and have a drink is Osteria Al Cappello where on a summers night you can sit in the street and order a drink and tapas through an open window without even going inside. So nice!

Welcome Dinner this evening is at 7.30pm in the heart of this relaxing town.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY 2: Wednesday 19st August, 2020

Today we experience the glorious contrasts of this region of Italy as we visit the Alps and plunge into nature. We depart in the morning for **Monte Lussari** (1790m) travelling the final stage by cable car, up and up, to enjoy spectacular views and a meal in the '*rifugio*'. At the top you can see three countries in the blink of an eye – Italy, Slovenia and Austria. Subject to availability we will visit the interior of the Sanctuary of the Madonna, its origins dating to a miracle in the mid 1300s, when a shepherd found his flock of sheep kneeling around a bush in which he then discovered statues of the Virgin and Child.



Monte Lussari

(photo credit FVG Live)

On the way home we make a stop at **Laghi di Fusine**, one of the best examples of an Alpine lake, crystal clear water and energising pure air. Later we also stop in **Venzone**, voted the most beautiful town in Italy in 2017 and used in filming a recent Inspector Montalbano episode! Learn about the extraordinary recent history of this sensational walled town and enjoy an 'aperitivo' in the main piazza beside an old Venetian palace.

DAY 3: Thursday 20th August 2020

In the morning we will take a short tour on foot of our base, **Udine**, a university town shaped by the Venetian style of architecture. Elegant and refined Udine has everything you picture in an Italian town – art, architecture, great food and amazing stories.



Udine – Piazza della Libertà

(photo credit FVG Live)

After some time for lunch and shopping we drive to **Tarcento** in the late afternoon where we will learn to cook '**frico**', a delicious local speciality made with cheese and potatoes and later enjoy the regions' cuisine together in a dreamy, romantic, outdoor, vineyard setting.

Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 4: Friday 21st August 2020

We've seen the mountains, today the sea, but first we stop in **Aquileia** an ancient Roman town famous for its well-preserved mosaics and ruins, and a guided tour from a local expert.

Then on to the Adriatic and **Grado**, a unique, historic island for some free time in the old town and its charming, tiny streets. Then hop aboard a boat for a trip to a '**casone**', local fishermen's huts, where they catch and cook fish on the spot for lunch.



Grado

(photo credit FVG Live)

Have you ever had a coffee inside a star? On the way back to **Udine** you will as we stop for a coffee in **Palmanova**, a star shaped fortress town built by the Venetians. Practical, and at the same time stylish, so typically Italian. Your evening in Udine is at your leisure.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5: Saturday 22nd August 2020

Today we travel back in time but first we tour the local wine country with photo stops at some of the most beautiful locations in the Collio area where the best local wines are produced. We will visit Marco Felluga and Russiz Superiore for wine tasting and nibbles, amazing locations and enchanting settings.



In the afternoon we travel to the town of Cividale del Friuli, a great place to visit anytime but sensational during the Palio of San Donato a local festival taking us back to medieval times.

You will see locals dressed in medieval costumes, taking part in contests representing their '**contrade**' (medieval town districts), street shows, knights, jugglers, drummers, crossbows, parades and fire. Shop and eat at the local stalls and stores all dressed up to look like medieval times.



Cividale Del Friuli – Medieval Palio di San Donato

(photo credit FVG Live)

There is much more to see here in a town founded by Julius Caesar himself in 50BC. Cross the stunning Devil's Bridge for sensational views of the Natisone River and maybe visit a

very rare example of a Lombard Temple dating back to the 8th Century. Your local guide will be on hand to give you lots of ideas.

You will have plenty of time to explore, eat, watch, maybe even participate before our evening transfer back to **Udine**.

Included Meals: Breakfast and Aperitivo

DAY 6: Sunday 23rd August 2020

This morning we check out of our hotel in **Udine** and travel to the capital of the region - **Trieste**. Take a tour on foot of this enigmatic city with a local guide and hear the stories of its seafaring history, its famous writers (James Joyce and Italo Svevo) its sensational literary cafes and learn about the over 30 different types of coffee you can order.

In the afternoon you are free to explore this city at your leisure be it beach time, Miramare Castle or shopping in the old town.



Trieste – Statue of James Joyce

(photo credit FVG Live)

This evening we will have a farewell dinner together in an '*osmiza*', a very special, rustic style trattoria in the Karst area, a must do for locals in the summer. These are family owned, only sell goods they produce themselves, are marked open by a single branch hanging from a country road and perhaps most remarkably are only permitted to open for 40 days a year. Discover the fascinating story behind one of the area's best kept secrets and eat like the locals!

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7: Monday 24th August 2020

Today it's time to say goodbye. Departures are available from Trieste Airport a short distance away to London and onwards and direct to other locations via Treviso or Venice throughout the day with a number of carriers (see below).

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- The services of an Insider Guide from the local region throughout (not including tips which are at your discretion)
- All your Accommodation based on twin/double rooms
- Meals as listed above
- Coach Touring, Entrance Fees, Visits, Local Guides as listed above
- Transfers to and from Trieste airport

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights to and from the tour start point in Udine
- Single Room Supplement Total (€100)
- Personal Holiday Insurances
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Drinks, Snacks and Personal Incidentals
- Tips and Gratuities
- Transfer from other airports (but we are happy to help you source these and can combine travellers to save costs)

COST PER PERSON SHARING €1,299

For a booking form or if you have any questions please contact:

info@localgustotravel.com

Want to Stay On Before or After the Tour?

If you are looking to stay in Italy before or after the tour and want a customised package of places to stay and things to do please let us know and we would be delighted to assist you.

Who Flies Where?

Direct

Ryanair – Dublin to Treviso [Transfer to Udine 90mins approx.]

Air Lingus – Dublin to Venice Marco Polo [Transfer to Udine 90mins approx.]

Direct

Ryanair – London Stansted to Trieste (easiest connection to tour start) [Transfer to Udine 40mins approx.]

British Airways – London to Venice Marco Polo [Transfer to Udine 90mins approx.]

If you need assistance with flights please get in touch and we would be happy to help. If multiple people are arriving on the same flight we can assist with arranging a group transfer to the start hotel.