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# WELCOME TO NORTHERN ITALY



**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**  
112 is the emergency phone number throughout Europe.

## IN-PROCESSING

### AVIANO

The Wyvern Welcome orientation is required for all military and civilian employees. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation includes a Benvenuti (Welcome) Tour around the local area.

### USAG ITALY

- **Camp Darby:** Bldg. 113
- **Vicenza:** Bldg. 309, Central Processing Facility (CPF)

If you have not been assigned a unit sponsor, feel free to reach out to the Garrison Installation Sponsorship Liaison at: [usarmy.usag-italy.id-europe.mbx.army-sponsorship@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.usag-italy.id-europe.mbx.army-sponsorship@army.mil)



**Aviano PCS and Welcome Site**



**USAG Italy Newcomers Livestream Videos**



**USAG Italy—Camp Darby PCS Guide**



**USAG Italy—Vicenza PCS Guide**

## FOOD DELIVERY

Here are some food delivery Apps that are commonly used across Italy:

- [Justeat.it](http://Justeat.it)
- [Deliveroo.it/en](http://Deliveroo.it/en)
- [Glovoapp.it/en](http://Glovoapp.it/en)

## GROCERIES

- **CONAD** is a large Italian grocery store chain.
- **Carrefour** is a large French-based grocery supermarket.
- **MD, Lidl** and **Aldi** tend to be smaller, budget grocery markets.
- **Coop** has both large “Supercoop” and huge “Ipercoop” stores.
- **Spar** is another grocery chain with small “Despar” stores and large “Eurospar” supermarkets.

## BUDGET SHOPS

Need an extra pan, cups or dishes at your temporary lodging? Check out these locations for those budget needs.

- ▶ **Aviano Airman’s Attic:** This free store has clothes and household good available for U.S. military ranked E6 and below and their dependents. It is located in Area F. [www.facebook.com/AvianoAttic](http://www.facebook.com/AvianoAttic)
- ▶ **Aviano Thrift Store:** The thrift store has clothes, books, toys and small household goods for sale at budget prices. It is run by the Community Integration of Aviano Organization (CIAO). It is located in Area F. [www.facebook.com/Avianothriftshop](http://www.facebook.com/Avianothriftshop)
- ▶ **ACS Lending Closet:** Army Community Services (ACS) Lending Closets allow you to borrow basic household goods like pots, pans, dishes, highchairs and small appliances.
  - **Camp Darby:** by appointment, call DSN: 645-8502
  - **Vicenza Lending Closet:** Bldg. 108, call DSN 634-5829/5843

▶ **Darby Second Glance Store:** This thrift store sells clothes, books, toys, craft supplies and small household goods at budget prices, gently used and clean to fit all of your clothing and household needs. [www.facebook.com/SecondGlanceCampDarby](http://www.facebook.com/SecondGlanceCampDarby)

▶ **VCC Thrift Store:** The Vicenza Community Club (VCC) sells clothing, toys, household goods and more at their store on Caserma Ederle across from the PX. [www.facebook.com/VCCThriftStore](http://www.facebook.com/VCCThriftStore)

## FITNESS

### AVIANO

There are two fitness centers at Aviano, both are in Area F.

- **Dragon Fitness Center:** A large, new facility with strength and cardio equipment, fitness classes and a parent-child area.
- **Wyvern Fitness Center:** Has traditional weight training and a multi-purpose mat room for wrestling and martial arts courses.

### USAG ITALY—CAMP DARBY

The Fitness Center offers a cardio room, weightlifting and a family fitness room.

### USAG ITALY—VICENZA

There are two fitness centers available.

- **Ederle Fitness Center** on Caserma Ederle has a cardio room, weightlifting equipment, basketball court, indoor pool, family fitness rooms, and fitness classes.
- **Del Din Fitness Center** on Caserma Del Din has cardio equipment, weightlifting equipment, basketball, sand volleyball, an indoor pool, climbing wall, indoor running track and fitness classes.

V O L V O

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*continued from page 6*

## BANKING

Getting an Italian account with an International Bank Account Number (IBAN) is necessary for paying bills and transferring money. It is also helpful for making purchases, getting cash and managing funds between dollars and euros. Note that the DOW will not deposit paychecks into Italian banks.

### USING DEBIT CARDS

- Chip and Pin cards are the norm throughout Europe.
- Smaller Italian businesses may not take credit cards.
- Always carry euros when off-installation.
- Some U.S. banks charge international transaction fees when using debit cards, so check with your bank.

### ON-INSTALLATION BANKING

#### ▶ **Global Credit Union** | [www.globalcu.org](http://www.globalcu.org)

Global Credit Union is one of the largest credit unions in the U.S. and offers members competitive rates and surcharge-free ATMs.

- Located at Aviano, Camp Darby and Camp Ederle. [www.globalcu.org](http://www.globalcu.org)

#### ▶ **Community Bank** | [dodcommunitybank.com](http://dodcommunitybank.com)

Provides convenient and affordable banking services and financial information to help support service members, base organizations and mission readiness.

- Located at Aviano, Camp Darby, Caserma Ederle and Caserma Del Din.
- Call toll-free: 00-800-BANK-EASY (00-800-2265-3279) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on holidays.

#### ▶ **Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL)** | [www.bnl.it](http://www.bnl.it)

BNL is an Italian bank that offers U.S. military member services.

- Located at Caserma Ederle

### MOBILE BANKS

Online banks are a great tool to get local bills paid and often offer competitive exchange rates and low fees. They have international banking apps that allow you to create a European account with an IBAN so it is possible to pay rent or bills in euros.

#### ▶ **Wise** | [www.wise.com](http://www.wise.com)

Wise safeguards customers' funds to make sure they're always available whenever they're needed and offers simple to use web and app access to money.

#### ▶ **N26** | [www.n26.com](http://www.n26.com)

N26 is a 100 percent mobile, fully-licensed bank, which provides the same level of security and regulations as traditional banks. Their European banking license protects your funds up to €100,000 by the German Deposit Protection Scheme.

### PAYING BILLS

Italian bill paying is different than in the U.S. There are three methods you can use.

#### ▶ **Pay in cash.** Bring your bill and cash payment to a tobacco store (*Tabaccheria*) or bank teller. Expect a small fee.

#### ▶ **Online bank transfer.** Set up a payee account with an IBAN number via your local Italian bank or European online bank.

- ✓ Verify the euro amount and date for payment.
- ✓ Include your account number (codice cliente) and bill number (numero Fattura).

#### ▶ **Online via the billing company's website.** This can be done with an Italian-issued credit card, or an IBAN.

## TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS

Local provincial authorities determine who is exempt from paying the Imposta sul Valore Aggiunto (IVA), the Italian national tax. For this reason, different locations have varying policies.

### AVIANO

Military members stationed at Aviano are able to receive non-taxed utilities using the Home Fuels program in Area F Bldg. 1409.

### USAG ITALY

Military members, contractors and civilian employees stationed at USAG Italy are eligible for the Utility Tax Exemption Program (UTAP) and the Imposta sul Valore Aggiunto (IVA) Tax Exemption Program for specific household items or car parts over 150 euros. Visit the Tax Relief Office in Bldg. 204 on Camp Darby for details.



**Italy Tax Relief Office**

## CELL PHONES

### WI-FI COMMUNICATION

When you first arrive, it is helpful to use one of these popular texting apps that are free to use over Wi-Fi.

- WhatsApp
- Facetime
- Signal
- Facebook Messenger

### ITALIAN PROVIDERS

Most people prefer using either a pay-as-you-go service or pre-paid plan with a local provider in Italy. Both allow you to purchase a European SIM card that includes a large amount of data to use within a single month. You can then set up automatic monthly payments with a web account, or add data as needed online, and at grocery and convenience stores.

#### ▶ **Common providers:**

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| • Vodafone | • Iliad      |
| • Tim      | • Kena       |
| • WindTre  | • VeryMobile |
| • Ho       |              |

### U.S. NUMBER

Some U.S. providers offer international rates that you can add onto your current plan. This option allows you to keep your U.S. phone number but may require occasional verifications to ensure you can receive messages. ■



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# GET TO KNOW the AVIANO area

By Kat Nickola



Many people stationed at Aviano find homes near Sacile and Pordenone. These thriving Italian towns have much to offer and are fun to explore.

## SACILE

In the Middle Ages, the garden village of Sacile grew along a trade route that protected the crossing of the Livenza River. At this time, a small shrine was built that would later be replaced with the **Duomo di San Nicolo**. Inside its typical Venetian architecture are some incredible 15th-century frescoes. The Duomo makes a great starting point for a walk around town. Down the road is the **Torrione di Pra Castelvecchio**, a portion of the medieval city wall that is tucked into the Giardini Ortazza Park that straddles the river. There is a small pedestrian-only bridge that makes a scenic stroll to the other side.

As part of the former Republic of Venice, the town of Sacile became a haven for noble families who built their palaces along the Livenza River. You can see a series of opulent political frescoes by visiting the **Palazzo Ragazzoni** near the park. Now an event center, the palace courtyard hosts a local market on Thursday mornings.

Crossing back over the river will bring you to the heart of this scenic village. Many of the restaurants and bars around the **Piazza del Popolo** have patios that open onto the **Livenza River**, which seems to surround the town. Sacile's historic center is actually built on two islands within the river. For a quintessentially Italian experience, finish off your day in Sacile by having a drink or tasting some gelato at one of the many riverside terraces.

## PORDENONE

The Noncello River that runs adjacent to Pordenone was an important byway during the Middle Ages. After a dock called the Portus Naonis developed on the river's edge, the town grew around it and became an active trading site. It is still a great place to go shopping. The cobblestoned **Corso Vittorio Emanuele II**, or "Corso" leads north from the river and into the old city center. It is a walking street with plenty of Italian charm. The road is lined with colorful, historic shuttered buildings, outdoor cafes and many local specialty shops.

Elite families residing in Pordenone were an active part of the Italian Renaissance, and their artistic patronage can still be seen in the city's center. Many of the building facades have colorful frescoes or friezes that were restored for the city's "Corso Facades Project" in 1991. One such building is the **Palazzo Ricchieri**, which now houses the **Civic Art Museum**. Nearby is the **Duomo di San Marco** with its stark façade, beautiful bell tower and extensively decorated interior. Across the street is the impressively Gothic Town Hall, which was built in the 1300s.

Take some time along Pordenone's Corso to sit and enjoy the plentiful outdoor cafes. Local food and wine are on show since the town is a member of the Slow Food movement. Try a Friulano or Ribolla wine, a local prosciutto or a cheese and potato pie called a "frico." On Wednesday and Saturday mornings, tents are set up in the area of **XX Settembre Square**. This City Market is the perfect place to mingle with locals, find some deals and try the local Italian cuisine. ■

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# GET TO KNOW the **VICENZA** area

By Tamala Malerk



Being stationed in Italy is quite an adventure, and there are plenty of chances to experience Italy in the Vicenza area. Vicenza, as a city, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and right in your backyard.

## TWICE WEEKLY MARKET

What better way to live like an Italian than to shop at the local market? Every Tuesday and Thursday, the Piazza dei Signori comes alive with vendors selling cheese, sausage, flowers, clothing and more. The Thursday market is bigger than the Tuesday one. No matter which day you go, get there early. Food is often sold out around 1 p.m. and vendors start closing down at 2 p.m.

## PIAZZA DEI SIGNORI

Translated as the “Square of the Lords,” this elegant place will make you feel like a lord or lady of old. It is home to the aforementioned market as well as many events and shows throughout the year.

## RIGHETTI (SELF RESTAURANT RIGHETTI)

It’s up to you to keep up with your food and drink consumption at this “honest” restaurant in Vicenza. Located inside a 17th-century palace just a few steps from the Piazza dei Signori, enjoy a rotating daily menu of Italian fare. You order directly from the cooks and close at the cashier after the meal.

## THE JEWELRY MUSEUM

While in Vicenza you can visit the first jewelry museum in Italy. The two-story museum features 11 exhibition rooms and a bookshop. Kids will enjoy the educational activities, and everyone can enjoy the guided tours. The museum often hosts workshops and family activities.

## BASILICA PALLADIANA

Architect Andrea Palladio designed palaces, villas and buildings across Vicenza. The Basilica Palladiana is one of his most famous structures. The basilica was originally a medieval town hall. Today, it houses shops, bars, a walkable roof terrace and the Jewelry Museum. Other Palladio projects in Vicenza include the Teatro Olimpico, Villa Capra ‘La Rotonda’ and Palazzo Chiericati.

## MATTEO GRANDI

For an elegant night out, check out the Michelin-starred restaurant, Matteo Grandi, located in the Basilica Palladiana. You can enjoy a seasonal four-course menu and select wine from their extensive wine menu.

## ROMEO AND JULIET

In a plot that later formed the famous Shakespearean play, Vicenza is the home of the original author of “Romeo and Juliet,” or Romeo and Giulietta as they were originally known. Luigi da Porto wrote the story as a novella and it features familiar characters such as Tybalt, Paris, Friar Lawrence and Mercutio. It was published in 1531 after Porto had died. You can visit his burial site in Vicenza at the Church of Santa Corona. The famous “fair Verona where is lay our scene” is only 30 minutes down the road. ■

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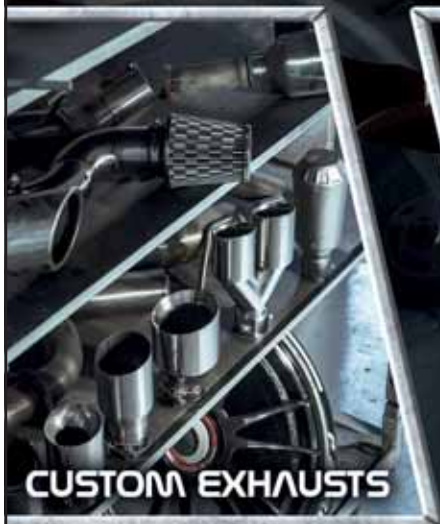


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# GET TO KNOW the **CAMP DARBY** area & LIVORNO

By Kat Nickola



Being stationed at Camp Darby means having access to quaint canals and a thriving waterfront.

## EXPLORING LIVORNO:

Camp Darby is in Livorno, Italy. Livorno made a name for itself as a cosmopolitan port town during the Renaissance under the guidance of the Medici family. In 1577, it was designed as an “ideal town” by architect Bernardo Buontalenti. He had previously built Livorno’s massive **Fortezza Vecchia**, or old fortress, which you can still see today standing guard on the waterfront. Past the fortress, canals were created to allow for incoming trade ships. There are plenty of local boat owners who dock their vessels along the same canals in the **Venezia Nuova District**.

The port city came under the watchful eye of Ferdinando I de’ Medici, who was the Grand Duke of Tuscany. He gave Livorno special privileges as a “port franco,” or free port. This meant that international goods could be traded here without taxes. Soon the city developed an international and diverse population. The Medici family built an extensive new fort, the **Fortezza Nuovo**, along the canals on its own huge island. The fort has fallen into disrepair, but it is interesting and free to explore and contains one of Italy’s famous protected street cat enclaves.

The **Via Grande** is the city’s main shopping road that stretches from the port to the **Piazza della Repubblica**. Modern stores and restaurants line the road in shady covered arcades. While you are here, be sure to try some seafood. The **Mare Matto** stand near the waterfront has delicious budget options and a few chairs for an al fresco experience. Livorno’s iconic dish is a mixed seafood stew called *cacciucco*, and the best is found at **Trattoria Da Galileo**.

The Livorno waterfront is where the action has always been in this city, and the ever-expanding port continues this heritage. When you are ready to explore further afield, you can get in on the maritime action by taking a ferry from the **Porto di Livorno** to Corsica, Sardinia or Sicily. The massive ferries are operated by four different companies and offer overnight rooms, car decks and entertainment on longer sailings. ■

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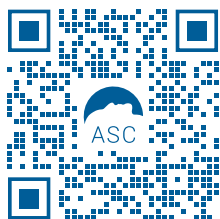
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# TRANSPORTAT

## IN NORTHERN ITALY

### DRIVER'S LICENSES

#### AVIANO AIR BASE REQUIRES AN AFI LICENSE FOR ALL DRIVERS.

The Allied Forces in Italy (AFI) license is only valid in Italy. Obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP) for trips outside of Italy.

- The active-duty sponsor must be issued their AFI license before dependents may apply.
- All drivers must be 18 years old or older.
- Download study material from [31fs.com/driving-overseas](http://31fs.com/driving-overseas).
- Complete the online test. It has 100 questions, and you may only miss 10 to pass.
- Submit application online.

#### USAG ITALY REQUIRES A SETAF LICENSE FOR ALL DRIVERS.

The Southern European Task Force (SETAF) license is only valid in NATO countries, though not all recognize it. An International Driving Permit (IDP) or Italian driver's license is recommended for trips outside of Italy.

- Drivers must be 18 years old or older.

#### You have the option to take the SETAF course and exam in person or online.

- In person: Take the driver's orientation class at the Central Processing facility, take the SETAF license test and submit documentation at the Driver's Testing Office.
- Online: Register at [jko.jten.mil](http://jko.jten.mil), take the USA-007 U.S. Forces Driver's Training Program for Europe course and pass exam, print both pre-course and final exam certificates and submit with documentation at the Driver's Testing Office.

#### Required documents:

- ✓ AEF 1901T
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- ✓ Military ID
- ✓ Copy of Orders
- ✓ SETAF course certificate

For details and class or exam scheduling visit [www.afsbeurope.army.mil/Logistics-Readiness-Centers/LRC-Italy/Drivers-Testing-Italy](http://www.afsbeurope.army.mil/Logistics-Readiness-Centers/LRC-Italy/Drivers-Testing-Italy).

#### INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT (IDP)

To drive outside of Italy, it is recommended that you obtain a yearly IDP from [www.aaa.com/vacation/idpf.html](http://www.aaa.com/vacation/idpf.html) for \$20.

#### ITALIAN DRIVER'S LICENSE

It is possible to get an Italian driver's license which is valid for five to ten years, depending on your age. This license will allow you to drive in any European country. These cost roughly 270 euros and requires an application, a SETAF/AFI license, a Codice Fiscale and copy of your passport. Visit the Driver's Testing Office for applications and details.

#### MOTORCYCLES

If you want to ride a motorcycle while in Italy, you must have a motorcycle classification on your U.S. license, have an AFI/SETAF license, attend a motorcycle safety course or have an approved rider course card. Motorcyclists can only operate a motorcycle of 35 kW or less.

### VEHICLE REGISTRATION

#### AVIANO

At Aviano, vehicles must be registered at the 31st Security Forces Squadron AMVRO before the vehicle can be picked up from the Vehicle Processing Center (VPC).

#### Steps for registering and picking up a shipped vehicle at Aviano:

1. Receive the vehicle arrival email from VPC. Complete the attached 302 customs form. Receive an email with a cover plate assignment.
2. Set up insurance.
3. Complete registration online or make a reservation to complete it in person. Required paperwork:
  - ✓ PCS orders / Logistical Support Letter (DOW civilians) / DOCPERS (contractors)
  - ✓ CAC or Dependent ID
  - ✓ U.S. driver's license
  - ✓ AFI driver's license
  - ✓ Five euros in cash
  - ✓ Proof of insurance (with VIN, policy number and dates)

4. Receive a registration completion email. Pick up vehicle registration and plates.
5. Go to the VPC to install plates and pick up the vehicle. Bring safety equipment to place in the car (orange vest, triangle and first aid kit).
6. Safety inspection at VPC.
7. Submit safety inspection at the registration office and receive fuel card authorization to take to AAFES for Fuel Card (primary vehicle only).

#### USAG ITALY

- **Camp Darby:** The vehicle registration office in building 113. Vehicles are picked up at the Livorno VPC.
- **Vicenza:** Vehicles are registered and picked up at the VPC in Torri di Quartesolo. A shuttle bus is available to the VPC.

#### USAG Italy (Camp Darby and Vicenza) steps for registering and picking up your vehicle:

1. Receive the arrival email from VPC.
2. Register the vehicle. Required paperwork:
  - ✓ Military ID
  - ✓ SETAF driver's license
  - ✓ U.S. driver's license
  - ✓ Proof of ownership (title)
  - ✓ Shipping document
  - ✓ PCS orders, DOCPERS (contractors), Logistical support letter (DOW civilians)
  - ✓ Cash for registration fees
  - ✓ Power of Attorney, if needed
3. Get a license plate number.
4. Set up and print proof of insurance.
5. Pick up registration and plates at the office. Bring proof of insurance and all other documentation.
6. Vehicle Inspection at the VPC.
7. Install License plate (best to bring tools to the VPC).
8. Vehicle Safety Inspection. Bring all paperwork and required vehicle safety items: orange vest, warning triangle and first aid kit.
9. Submit the inspection form to registration office and get fuel coupon to take to AAFES for Fuel Card (one vehicle only).

# ION



## Check out our European Road Guide

This useful guide is loaded with detailed information about driving laws throughout Europe. It includes rules of the road, road signs, accident procedures and how to register vehicles. Bonus content includes key phrases in other languages and a chart of European road signs to make sure you're ready to hit the road.



## VEHICLE INSPECTION

### AVIANO

Vehicles assigned to Aviano are required to pass an initial safety inspection. Following that, annual inspections are needed for vehicles 6 years or older.

#### Things to double-check before an inspection:

- Vehicle registration is valid.
- Safety equipment is in the vehicle: First-aid kit, warning triangle and reflective vest.
- Lights are all in working order.
- Tires are not excessively worn. During winter, all-season or M+S tires must be used.
- Brake pads are not worn.
- Windshield is not cracked.
- Vehicle body is not missing parts.

### USAG ITALY:

All vehicles assigned to USAG Italy are required to be inspected and registered annually.

*continued on page 18*

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**TOWING SERVICE 24/7**

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- **CAR UNLOCKING SERVICE**  
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- **TRANSPORT TO**  
**DRMO/SALVAGE/JUNKYARD**
- **ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE**  
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(SNOW, MUD, FLOOD, ICE, ETC.)

**\*\*\* NEW SERVICE \*\*\***

**AVOID DUI – HAVE YOUR CAR**  
**SAFELY TOWED HOME**



*continued from page 17*

## BUYING A CAR

You have the option to buy a new or used car from dealers and private sellers in Italy. There is no tax when buying a vehicle from another military member.

- Any vehicle that doesn't have U.S. specifications (specs) cannot be shipped to the U.S.
- Used automatic transmission vehicles may be difficult to find.
- Get approval through a bona fide financial institution if financing a vehicle.

## FUEL CARDS

NATO Forces Fuel Cards are only available to be used with one primary vehicle. The cards exclude Italian taxes, which saves roughly 40 percent of fuel costs.

### NATO FORCES FUEL CARD

The vehicle's engine size, engine base, horsepower and fuel requirements determine the monthly fuel allowance. After registering your vehicle, you will receive fuel card approval. Take this to your local AAFES to get your Fuel Card.

#### ► Where to get gas

- There are no gas stations on U.S. military installations in Italy.
- Two Italian gas station companies will accept your fuel card: AGIP and ENI.
- Use your fuel card like a debit card at the pump. At some stations, attendants will operate the card machines.
- Fill up at "Fai da te" or "Iperself" pumps to avoid paying extra for full service.

#### ► Italian Fuel Terminology

- "Benzina" - Unleaded gas
- "Gasolio" - Diesel
- "Fai da Te" - Self-service station
- "Servito" - Full-service station
- Blue pump - Diesel+
- Green pump - Super unleaded gas (95 Octane)
- Yellow pump - Super-S (98) or Super+ (100)

## DRIVING IN ITALY

- Winter tires (M+S/All Weather) are required from Nov. 15 to Apr. 15.
- Italians do not consider it rude to tailgate.
- Horns are used excessively, so it is difficult to determine who they are intended for. Try to notice what is happening and ignore the extra beeping.
- Hazard lights are used to indicate that traffic is slow, and attention is needed.
- Turning right on red is illegal unless marked.
- The Italian law allows you to overtake traffic to pass on the left only.
- Some intersections have no stop lights, stop signs or traffic control. In this situation, the vehicle on the right has the right of way.
- Traffic circles or roundabouts are common. When entering a circle, yield to traffic already driving (from the left) in the circle.
- Drunk driving is an extremely serious offense in Italy. In Italy, a blood alcohol level of 0.05 is positive proof of drunk driving. If you are under the age of 21 or have been a licensed driver for less than three years, the legal limit for alcohol in your system while driving in Italy is 0.00. ■



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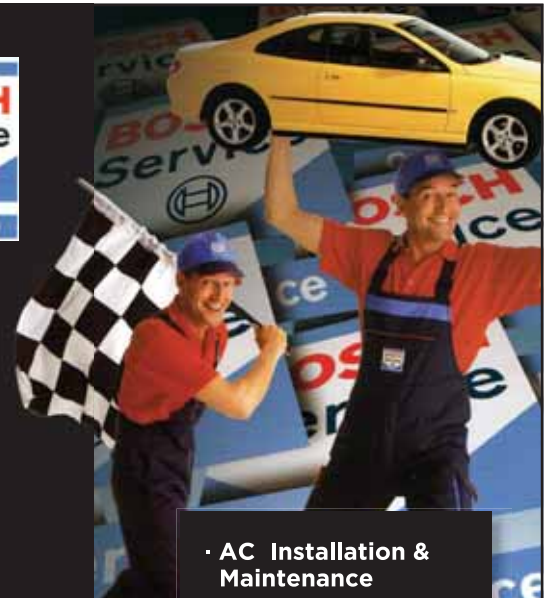
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# HOUSING

## IN NORTHERN ITALY



There is plenty of variety when it comes to housing in Italy. Whether you end up living on-installation or find a house locally, it will be exciting to settle into your new home.

### ON-BASE HOUSING

#### AVIANO

There is no government housing for accompanied personnel on base at Aviano. You will receive an extensive Housing Brochure at the Wyvern Welcome that outlines the steps that must be taken to secure a rental home. Spouses are also welcome at the briefing.

**Aviano Housing Management Office**  
Area F (Flightline), Bldg. 1409,  
Phone: +39-0434-30-2272

Unaccompanied airmen E-1 to E-3, and E-4 with less than three years of service will be assigned to an on-base dormitory at the UH Campus near the flight line in area F.

Key and essential personnel have access to governmentally-leased housing that is within 15 minutes of the base.

#### USAG ITALY—CAMP DARBY

You will meet with Housing representatives during mandatory In-Processing. There is no family housing on Camp Darby, however, government-leased homes will be offered. Barracks are available for single soldiers.

If no government-leased housing is vacant, you must secure a private housing rental. Lists of approved homes are available at the Housing office.

**Camp Darby Housing Office**  
Bldg. 725, Phone: +39-050-965-8635

#### USAG ITALY—VICENZA

You will receive a *Housing Day 1 Briefing*. Spouses are welcome to attend. Additionally, soldiers meet with a Housing representative at the Central Processing Facility (CPF), Bldg. 309, to determine eligibility.

**Vicenza Housing Office**  
100 meters outside the "Housing Gate" (Gate 4)  
Phone: +39-0444-71-2725

##### ► Family Housing

Government family housing is available on-post in the Villaggio Della Pace community. The community includes the DoWEA schools, child development center, youth centers and a shoppette. You will not receive an Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) if you are assigned on-base family housing.

##### ► Government-leased Housing

Government-leased homes are typically entire apartment buildings or multi-home units leased by the U.S. government. The housing office is responsible for assigning homes to incoming families. The government pays for rent, utilities and maintenance, much like traditional on-post housing. You will not receive an Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) if you are assigned government-leased housing.

If no family or government-leased housing is available, you will need to seek a rental home off-base.

### OFF-BASE HOUSING

Many newcomers to Northern Italy find private housing in the local community. Homes must be assessed and approved for use by your installation Housing Office before you sign a lease. If you lease a private house, you will be responsible for paying rent and utilities and are expected to provide basic maintenance. You will receive an Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) to defray these housing costs

### FINDING A HOME

- Search for available and approved rentals at [www.homes.mil](http://www.homes.mil). Houses come and go quickly, so check the site daily.
- You may choose to use a realtor: However, you are responsible for realtor fees (usually one month's rent and 22 percent tax), and the Housing Office will need to approve your final choice.

### VIEWING A HOME

#### Aviano

Arrange to view a home by using the contact information in the house listing on [www.homes.mil](http://www.homes.mil). If you do not have a vehicle, your sponsor should assist in transporting you to house viewings. All units must be inspected by a housing specialist before the approved Rental Agreement can be signed. Expect to pay a deposit to hold the home.

#### USAG Italy

Request to view a home in-person at the Housing Office. This request holds the home for you until you can view it. You may have two homes on hold at one time. Housing will schedule a time for a taxi and interpreter to take you to view the home; this service can only be used to view five homes. You have 24 hours after viewing a home to notify the Housing Office of your intent to rent. Lease signing will be scheduled at the Housing Office with a lease counselor and the landlord, you will then be driven back to the house to note any problems and receive the keys. You must pay a deposit before moving in and submit a copy of the payment to the Housing Office.



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- **Proximity:** Expert knowledge of areas near the base, international schools, and city centers.

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**calandro.alberto@gmail.com**

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*continued from page 20*

## ALLOWANCES

Visit [www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances](http://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances) to find current allowance rates.

### TEMPORARY LODGING ALLOWANCE

Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) reimburses temporary quarters costs while you are searching for a home or waiting for government housing. To be eligible, service members must be actively seeking housing.

- Personnel must get TLA approved through the Housing Office before submitting to their Command.
- Utility activation after signing a lease can take 10-15 days, so account for this time within your TLA maximum to avoid paying out of pocket.

### OVERSEAS HOUSING ALLOWANCE (OHA)

The HSC will provide your OHA form for starting the allowance when you sign a lease.

- Rental allowance is a reimbursement of your exact monthly lease cost.
- The utility allowance is a flat rate amount given monthly to defray costs of electric, gas, water, garbage and other recurring home maintenance costs. It is not intended to cover phones, internet, gardening, cleaning, pools, etc.

Personnel can contact their Command to request an advance OHA payment to cover security deposit, first month's rent or other startup charges.

## LOANER FURNISHINGS

### AVIANO

Temporary loaner furniture is available from the Furnishing Management Section (FMS) so you will have basic items like beds, dressers, a table and a couch while you wait for your household goods shipment. In addition, appliances are available to borrow for the duration of your tour. These consist of a washer, dryer, refrigerator and stove.

### USAG ITALY

At your lease signing, you will choose what temporary furniture you would like delivered to your new home. This includes basic items like beds, dressers, tables and couches, plus appliances like a washer, dryer, stove and refrigerator. You will need to call the Furniture Warehouse to have temporary furnishings removed from your home. This may be done twice, typically before your household goods arrival and before you move out.

## UTILITIES

Installation and setup fees for utilities can be high. Italian bills are sent every two months and are usually due within one week. Keep a record of all rental and utility payments in case they get lost or misrouted.

### ELECTRICITY AND HEATING

#### Aviano

Visit the Home Fuel Office to set up natural gas and electricity rental agreements. This tax exemption program can greatly reduce your utility costs.

Homes heated with *Gasolio* (diesel fuel or oil) may also be able to use the program if they do not share a heating system with adjacent apartments or units.

#### USAG Italy

At your lease signing, an appointment will be made for an interpreter to accompany you in person to the electric company. Be prepared to pay a fee and deposit. Roughly 10 days later, your initial bill and contract will arrive in the mail. These must be taken to the Housing Office so they can submit the contract on your behalf.

You are responsible for establishing and paying your heating bill. This is usually in the form of natural gas or oil. Visit your Tax Relief Office to sign up for the Utility Tax Exemption Program (UTEP) to avoid paying taxes on heating fuel.

### WATER

Water bills are typically paid directly to your landlord and may only come every two, three or six months.

### INTERNET

Your landlord is your best resource for finding good internet service at your new home. Be prepared to wait. Installation appointments are often scheduled two to four weeks out and are commonly cancelled and rescheduled. Even after it is installed, services may take up to a week to begin working.

Commonly used providers:

- TKS
- Trivenet
- Tim
- Infostrada
- Wind
- Telemar
- Vodafone
- Open Skies
- FastWeb

### TELEVISION AND STREAMING SERVICES

- **American Forces Network (AFN)**—Provides programming from current U.S. networks, movies, and sports programming via its streaming service at AFN Now. Download the App and sign up at [afn-now.myafn.mil](http://afn-now.myafn.mil).
- **Streaming Services**—Show availability will be based on your location. Example providers include Amazon Prime, Netflix and Hulu. ■



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# HEALTHCARE

## IN NORTHERN ITALY

### EMERGENCY ROOMS

**There is no emergency care, or ER, available on U.S. military installations in northern Italy.**

### BE PREPARED

European emergency number: **112**

Italian ambulance number: **118**

International SOS interpretation services: **800-915-994**

Open Pharmacies: visit [farmaciaditurno.eu](http://farmaciaditurno.eu)

### CLOSEST EMERGENCY ROOMS

#### AVIANO

**Pordenone Hospital**  
(Azienda Sanitaria Friuli Occidentale–ASFO)  
Via Montereale 24, 33170 Pordenone

- In-hospital patient liaison: 0434-36-5701
- Aviano-based patient liaison: 0434-30-5408

#### CAMP DARBY

**Pisa University Hospital**  
(Cisanello Ospedale & Pronto Soccorso)  
Via Paradisa 2, 56124 Pisa

- Darby-based patient liaison: 050-54-8346

#### VICENZA

**San Bortolo Hospital**  
Viale Ferdinando Rodolfi 37,  
36100 Vicenza

- In-hospital patient liaison: +39 0444-75-3300



### AVIANO 31ST MEDICAL GROUP

The 31st Medical Group offers primary care for active-duty service members and their dependents while stationed at Aviano Air Base. All other patients may be seen on a space-available basis; however, services are very limited, and it is best to establish primary care at a local Italian clinic.

Medical in-processing occurs every Wednesday during the in-processing briefings. Bring your PCS orders to enroll all dependents in TRICARE.

**TRICARE Office** | Bldg. 121 (clinic), Area 1, Room GD04.

### USAG ITALY CLINICS

#### CAMP DARBY

A small, limited medical clinic on Camp Darby only treats active-duty service members. Patients may be referred to the health clinics in Vicenza or Aviano. Dependents should establish care at a local Italian doctor.

Soldiers will complete medical in-processing during briefings. However, they need to complete TRICARE registration for dependents through International SOS by phone: +44 20-8762-8384.

#### VICENZA

The U.S. Army Health Clinic at Vicenza treats active-duty soldiers and their dependents while they are stationed at USAG Italy. Civilians, DoWEA employees, contractors and their family members must seek healthcare in the local Italian community.



### GIVING BIRTH IN ITALY

Giving birth in an Italian hospital can be a wonderful experience. Before delivery, you can choose which local hospital fits your birthing needs, and you will be able to tour the hospital and meet the staff.

#### DELIVERY OPTIONS

- Local Italian hospital.
- At your own expense, and without a TRICARE referral, you may travel to the U.S. If you choose to do this, you will need to remain in the U.S. until the new baby's identification documents are established.

#### FIRST STEPS AFTER GIVING BIRTH

- Obtain a Social Security Number for your baby.
- Enroll your baby in DEERS.
- Enroll your baby in TRICARE.
- Get your baby a Command Sponsorship Memo.
- Take passport photos.
- Get a no-fee U.S. passport.
- Get a U.S. tourist passport.
- Get a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA).

**Our Health & Medical Guides will help you navigate the healthcare system while in Italy.**



Aviano Health & Medical Guide



Vicenza Health & Medical Guide



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Via Bonifacio 3, Camisano Vicentino (VI)

*continued from page 24*

## DENTAL CARE

Dental care is available to active-duty service members at Aviano and Vicenza. Dependents may be seen, infrequently, on a space-available basis. There is no on-post dental care at Camp Darby. With TRICARE Dental insurance, via United Concordia, patients not seen on installations can establish quality, affordable care at dentists in the local Italian community.

### FINDING AN ITALIAN DENTAL CLINIC

For preferred providers, visit [www.uccitdp.com/tp2opd](http://www.uccitdp.com/tp2opd).

Web Enrollment  
[milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil](http://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil)

TRICARE Dental Overview  
[www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Dental](http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Dental)

United Concordia Dental Program  
[www.uccitdp.com](http://www.uccitdp.com)



## MENTAL HEALTH

### CHAPLAINS

The chapel is a good place to start if you don't know where to go; they will help you find the resource that fits your needs. Chaplains offer counseling for all personnel regardless of religious preference. Discussions with chaplains are 100 percent confidential.

- Aviano Chaplain: +39-0434-30-5211
- Camp Darby Chaplain: +39 050 54 7267
- Vicenza Chaplain: +39-0444-71-4792

### MILITARY & FAMILY LIFE COUNSELORS (MFLCS)

MFLCs offer free non-medical anonymous sessions with specialists for adolescents, children and families. For youth, contact the MFLC via the DoWEA schools.

- Aviano: Contact the MFRC at +39-0434-30-5407 for MFLC appointments.
- Vicenza: Contact ACS at +39-0444-71-5800 for MFLC appointments.
- For youth, there are MFLC resources available at DoWEA schools and youth centers.

### MILITARY ONESOURCE

Confidential, short term non-medical counseling is offered for free via Military OneSource for active-duty members and their dependents. Visit the website to access options via phone, chat or video.

- [www.militaryonesource.mil/non-medical-counseling](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/non-medical-counseling)

### WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT (WWP)

WWP offers a range of free mental health programs for active-duty servicemembers, Post-9/11 veterans, and their families. WWP is a private, non-profit organization, and participation in its mental health programs is confidential. Services include a non-clinical telephonic supportive "Talk" program and virtual clinical counseling for individuals, couples, families and children over seven. WWP offers two-week, in-person clinical treatment programs in the U.S. for active-duty personnel and post-9/11 veterans that are free of charge, including travel, meals and lodging, and WWP can assist with removing barriers to attendance. In Europe, Project Odyssey is a 12-week mental health program for warriors or couples, using an adventure-based learning model with both virtual and in-person components.

- [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)

### THE VETERANS CRISIS LINE (VCL) AND MILITARY CRISIS LINE (MCL)

Available 24/7 for free confidential mental health support.

- Call: 844-702-5495
- DSN: 988
- Text: 838255
- Online chat: [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net) ■

## EMERGENCY ITALIAN PHRASES

I need help .....	"Ho bisogno d'aiuto."
I am currently at .....	"Mi trovo a..."
I have had an accident. ....	"Ho avuto un incidente."
There has been an accident. ....	"C'è stato un incidente."
Can you please help me? .....	"Potete per favore aiutarmi?"
Can you please send me an ambulance? .....	"Chiamate l'ambulanza per favore?"
I have been injured. ....	"Sono ferito."
There are injured persons requiring immediate help. ....	"Ci sono persone ferite che hanno bisogno d'aiuto."
The injured person is unconscious. ....	"La persona ferita e' svenuta/ha perso i sensi."
The injured person is bleeding. ....	"La persona ferita sta sanguinando."
I don't speak Italian. ....	"Non parlo Italiano."
I speak English. ....	"Io parlo inglese."
Please write it down. ....	"Per favore scrivilo."



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# SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

## POST OFFICE

Military postal facilities use gateways in the United States to connect your mail with the United States Postal Service (USPS). Shipping costs and procedures are roughly the same as those in America. All mail must have the following to be sent or received:

- First and last names of both sender and receiver.
- Recipient or sender names must match those affiliated with the military postal box.
- A customs form to ensure the contents abide by local area restrictions.

Visit [www.usps.com/international/customs-forms.htm](http://www.usps.com/international/customs-forms.htm) to fill and print a customs form. Post Office personnel can also help you fill a customs form at the facility; however, this can be time-consuming. Click-N-Ship services are also available at many military postal facilities.

**Aviano Post Office** | Area F, Bldg. 1478,  
Phone: 0434-30-7119

**Camp Darby Postal Service Center**  
Bldg. 771, Phone: 050-965-8182

**Vicenza Postal Service Center**  
Caserma Ederle Bldg. 302, Phone: 0444-71-4948

**Vicenza Post Office** | Del Din Bldg. 2,  
Phone: 0444-71-4961

## AFN

The American Forces Network (AFN) broadcasts locally and online via the AFN Go app available at [www.afngo.net/anfeurope](http://www.afngo.net/anfeurope).

- **Aviano:** 106.0 FM
- **Vicenza:** 105.3 FM

## USO VICENZA

The United Services Organization has an office in Vicenza on Caserma Ederle, Building 9A. The facility offers family programs, seasonal and weekly events, local area information and much more. There is a snack bar, computers, DSN access, printers, Wi-Fi, gaming and a place to relax.

## AMERICAN RED CROSS

The Red Cross offers well-being services for all members of the military community. They have training and certification courses in babysitting and CPR, blood drives, scholarships, and community programs like reading with dogs at the library and craft times for kids. In addition, the Red Cross offers assistance for other emergency needs.

- **Aviano:** [aviano@redcross.org](mailto:aviano@redcross.org), 0434-30-5576
- **Vicenza:** [vicenza@redcross.org](mailto:vicenza@redcross.org), 0444-71-7997

## VOTING OVERSEAS

- Register at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov)
- Select your state of residency and request an absentee ballot. ■



Aviano FSS



USAG Italy MWR



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# RESOURCES

## FOR KIDS

Children may think of moving to Italy as an exciting new adventure. They may also struggle with the big change. Luckily, there are resources to help your kids settle into their new home.

Register kids for on-installation child care at [www.militarychildcare.com](http://www.militarychildcare.com).

### AVIANO

- Two Child Development Centers (CDC) are on base for kids aged six weeks to five years old.
- A School Age Care center provides kids in grades kindergarten through sixth grade structured before and after-school activities and homework help.
- The Youth Programs facility is in Area 1, building 116. Pre-teens aged 9 to 13 may be registered at the Youth Center for after-school activities and clubs, while teens aged 13 to 18 have access to the Teen Center for clubs and a space to hang out. Youth sports and instructional classes are also available, and Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC) are on hand for non-medical counseling.
- The Military & Family Readiness Center (MFRC) helps families connect with EFMP programs.

### USAG ITALY

#### CAMP DARBY

Visit Parent Central Services in Building 726 to register kids for all Child and Youth Services (CYS).

- The Darby CDC and SAC are co-located in Building 726 and offer childcare for kids ages six weeks and up. Before and after school care with homework help is available for students in grades Kindergarten to eighth grade.
- The Darby Youth Center in Building 201 offers a place for young people in grades 6-12 to hang out and attend clubs.
- CYS also offers some sports and fitness classes.



### VICENZA

Visit Parent Central Services in building 108, the Davis Soldier & Family Readiness Center, to pick up a Parent Handbook and make an appointment to register kids for Child and Youth Services (CYS).

- There are two Child Development Centers (CDC). One is in the Villaggio housing area and the second is on Caserma Ederle. They offer full-day, part-day and hourly care for kids six weeks to five years old.
- The Villaggio School Age Center is co-located with the CDC and has before and after-school programming for elementary school kids.
- SKIES Unlimited instructional programs and youth sports and fitness programs are offered at facilities on both Villaggio and Ederle.
- The Youth Center in the Villaggio housing area is for tweens and teens in grades 6-12.
- The Teen Center Ederle is for students in high school.

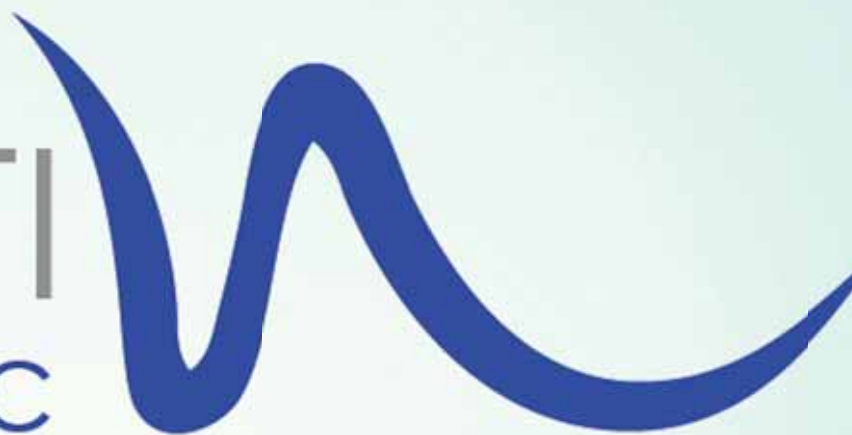
### ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICES (ACS) RESOURCES:

- Family Advocacy, parent-child education.
- New Parent Support weekly classes and home visits.
- Weekly playgroups for children ages 1 to 4.
- Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC) are available for individual or group counseling.
- EFMP support ■



Get your kids a copy of the **Dandelions magazine**. Full of fun activities, creative crafts and interesting stories, this magazine is specially written for military-connected children stationed in Europe.

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# SCHOOL OPTIONS

## SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE

Your installation School Liaison Officer (SLO) is a good first resource for any questions regarding school options while stationed in Italy. While most students attend a Department of War Education Activity (DoWEA) school, homeschooling, private schools and local Italian schools are available.

► **SLO Aviano:**  
[www.31fss.com/school-liaison](http://www.31fss.com/school-liaison)

► **SLO Darby/Vicenza:**  
[www.europe.armymwr.com/slo](http://www.europe.armymwr.com/slo)

## DOWEA EUROPE

DoWEA schools accept enrollments throughout the year to accommodate military families. Enroll at [www.dodea.edu/registration](http://www.dodea.edu/registration).

### AVIANO SCHOOLS

- Aviano Elementary School: Pre-K to 5th grades.
- Aviano Middle High School: 6th–12th grades.

### USAG ITALY

#### ► Camp Darby Schools

- Livorno Elementary Middle School: Pre-K to 8th grades.
- High school students will be registered with the Non-DOW Schools Program (NDSP) which offers funding and assistance so students can attend school at one of five options:
  - Local Italian School
  - Homeschool or online school
  - International School of Florence (ISF)
  - Canadian School of Florence (CSF)
  - A boarding school elsewhere

#### ► Vicenza Schools

- Vicenza Elementary School: Pre-K to 5th grades.
- Vicenza Middle School: 6th–8th grades.
- Vicenza High School: 9th–12th grades.

## HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschooling is a legal option open to all SOFA-sponsored active-duty military, DOW civilians and contractors. Your children may be eligible for auxiliary services offered by DoWEA. Contact your SLO for more information and to connect with homeschool groups.

## ITALIAN SCHOOLS

While stationed in Italy, you have the option to send your children to local Italian schools. All instruction will be in Italian, though most schools will offer remedial language acquisition help. Keep in mind that students will not get American holidays off. You will need a local address to enroll. Visit your installation SLO for local school information.

### ITALIAN EDUCATION STAGES

- **Kindergarten:** “scuola dell’infanzia” or “asilo.” Ages 3 to 6.
- **Primary school or elementary school:** “scuola primaria” or “scuola elementare.” Ages 6 to 11.
- **Lower secondary school or middle school:** “scuola secondaria di primo grado” or “scuola media.” Ages 11 to 14.
- **Upper secondary school or high school:** “scuola seconaria di secondo grado” or “scuola superior.” Ages 14 to 19. There are three types of high school:
  - “Liceo” for high-level theoretical study and university preparation.
  - “Istituto tecnico” is the most common and also leads to a university entrance qualification.
  - “Istituto professionale” is a vocational school for specific trades, crafts and careers. ■



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# GROCERY

## SHOPPING GUIDE

By Kimberly Kephart



Welcome to Italy, where the supermarkets, or supermercatos are as full of life and color as the bustling piazzas and serene landscapes. For those who have just moved to Europe, navigating an Italian supermarket can be a delightful part of your cultural immersion. Let's take a stroll down the aisles and discover what makes shopping in Italy a unique experience.

### FRESH FINDS

The produce section is a testament to Italy's rich agricultural heritage, boasting a rainbow of fresh fruits and vegetables. Here, the concept of 'kilometer zero' reigns supreme, with an emphasis on locally-sourced, seasonal produce. Do not miss the regional specialties like Roman artichokes, Sicilian oranges or San Marzano tomatoes.

Also, remember that many supermarkets require you to weigh and label your produce before checkout. You will grab a bag and a plastic glove, bag your fruits and veggies, then head to the weigh station where the associate will weigh items and tag them for you. At more traditional markets, you will weigh yourself and apply the barcode sticker.



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## STORE

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*continued from page 34*

## DELI DELIGHTS

No visit to an Italian supermarket is complete without a stop at the deli counter. It is a paradise of cured meats like prosciutto di Parma, salami, and an array of cheeses from creamy burrata to sharp pecorino. It is a cheese lover's paradise here in Italy. While it is fun to shop at larger chains, don't forget to stop by your local *Negozio di formaggi* (cheese shop) or *Salumeria* (meat shop) These are the best shops as you'll have the opportunity to try locally made cheese and meats. Use Google Translate to break bread with your shop owner, I promise he will be helpful and happy to assist you.

Another moment to prepare for is the possibility of finding horse meat at the grocery store. While this may be a cultural shock to some, it is deeply rooted in parts of Italy's culture. Horse meat, or *cavallo* is especially popular in Lombardy, Apulia, the Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trentino-Alto Adige/Süd Tirol, Parma and the islands of Sardinia and Sicily. Horse meat is used in a variety of recipes: as a stew called *pastissada* (typical of Verona), served as steaks, as carpaccio or made into bresaola.

## PANTRY STAPLES

The pantry aisles are a treasure trove of Italian culinary essentials. Stock up on various pasta shapes, artisanal sauces, extra virgin olive oil, sardines, spices and aged balsamic vinegar. These staples are the backbone of Italian cuisine and will elevate your home cooking. I was shocked to find several aisles devoted to these staples, especially pasta and pasta sauces. I counted three whole aisles for pasta and two for sauces at my local IPER.



Another item that may interest you is *Pocket Coffee*! Pocket Coffee is a unique item known for combining the rich taste of chocolate with the bold flavor of espresso. Pocket Coffee consists of an individually wrapped piece of dark chocolate filled with liquid espresso, making it a popular treat for those needing a quick boost.

Italy has an abundance of sweet treats that are packaged as well. You'll find items like *cornetto*, a croissant filled with different fillings like chocolate, pistachio and crème.

## BEVERAGES AND WINES

Italian supermarkets offer an impressive selection of wines and beverages. There are aisles full of wine sorted by different regions. From robust reds to sparkling Proseccos, the wine aisles are a journey through Italy's vineyards. Pay special attention because at some supermarkets you can pour your own wine. This is called *Vino Sfuso*, or "Loose Wine." Simply put it is bulk wine! Supermarkets often highlight a local producer, and you can simply bring your own bottles to fill, or they will supply the bottles for you at a low rate. There are even whole shops dedicated to *Vino Sfuso*!

## CHECKOUT AND ETIQUETTE

It almost seems like it is every man for himself at checkout. You will often need to bag your own groceries. Sometimes everything is happening at an alarmingly fast rate. Take a few deep breaths and just do what you can. It is also common to bring your own reusable bags as a nod to sustainability. Patience is key in Italian supermarkets, where the pace is leisurely (except at checkout) and social interactions are savored. ■

*Embrace the Italian  
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just a place to shop; View  
it as a vibrant part of your  
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# Pasta Sauces of Italy

By Tamala Malerk | Map Designed by Stripes Staff

## Pesto Genovese Genoa

Another delicious sauce that is made of a few simple ingredients: garlic, pine nuts, basil, olive oil and cheese (typically a pecorino or Parmigiano Reggiano). This is the OG of pesto sauces. The modern version of this sauce originated in Genoa in the mid-1800s; however, some origins date it back to ancient times.



## Al Burro e Salsiccia Emilia-Romagna

This sauce originated in the Emilia-Romagna area of Italy; yet no one can say when butter and sage were first combined as a sauce because of its simplistic nature. It is commonly used with pasta and gnocchi dishes.



## Besciamella Tuscany

Tuscany created their own version of Bechamel sauce known as Besciamella. This is a rich sauce consisting of butter, flour and milk.



## Al Tartufo Umbria and Piedmont

This is one of the more decadent sauces of Italy; however, its elegance derives partly from its simplicity. Originating from the areas of Umbria and Piedmont, its ingredients include butter, Parmigiano-Reggiano and freshly shaved truffle.



## Bolognese Bologna

Known as "Ragù alla Bolognese" in Italian, this sauce typically consists of ground meat, onion, garlic, tomato sauce, carrots, stock and a variety of seasonings. It comes from Bologna. This sauce dates back to the 1700s and can be customized to taste as long as there is a base of tomato sauce and ground meat.



## Griscia Grisciano

Griscia, more commonly spelled "Gricia" in the modern era, comes from the small village of Grisciano (although today, it may be more associated with Rome). This sauce consists of three ingredients: Pecorino Romano, black pepper and guanciale. Today, there is one place to get Griscia in Grisciano: La Vecchia Ruota.



## Amatriciana Amatrice

This sauce, which originated in the city of Amatrice sometime in the 1600s, is very similar to carbonara and also consists of three ingredients: pecorino, guanciale and tomato sauce. It became so popular that it was served at the Pope's court in the 1800s.



## Carbonara

### Rome

Carbonara consists of three basic ingredients: egg, guanciale (a cured pork product) and pecorino cheese. It originated in the Rome region sometime in the 1940s or 1950s (exact origins are not clear). Although it is believed that there are no written records of it before WWII.



## Cacio e Pepe

### Rome

The ingredients of this sauce are entirely listed in the name: Cacio (cheese from sheep's milk) and pepe (black pepper). Water is also used to help create the saucy consistency. Like carbonara, it also originated in Rome; however, it dates back all the way to ancient Roman times.

## More than marinara!

Scan below for Stripes Europe's interactive Google map and keep these locations handy during your Italian travels.



## Aglio e Olio

### Naples

Another sauce where the ingredients are in the name: *Aglio*, meaning garlic and *olio*, meaning oil. You can vary up your version with seasonings and cheese, but the purest form is just the two ingredients and was known in Naples' cooking as *cucina povera* (poor cooking. It can be traced back to Neapolitan sailors.



## Alla Norma

### Catania, Sicily

This sauce, made from marinara, eggplant, olive oil, spices, cheese and garlic, has musical origins dating back to 19th-century Sicily. Many believe that this sauce mixed with pasta was created for the opening night of the opera, "Norma."

## Pesto Trapanese

### Trapani, Sicily

Here is a Sicilian take on pesto: almonds (instead of pine nuts), tomatoes (instead of basil), Pecorino, red garlic and olive oil. This embraces the Genoese origins (whose sailors brought their sauce to the area) but adds a coastal cultural flair to the sauce.

## Salsa al Limone

### Campania

This is a tangy sauce that promises a little something different for dinner. Celebrating the coastal location of Campania, this zesty citrus sauce is made from lemon, herbs, garlic and oil. You can swap out the lemon for a blood orange if you really want to change things up.



## Allo Scoglio

### Southern Italy and Sicily

"Allo Scoglio" means from the rocks/reefs and is a perfect name for this seafood sauce that originates in the southern Italy area. Sometimes it is referred to as "frutti di mare," which means "fruits of the sea." Ingredients include squid, mussels, clams, shrimp (prawns), tomato sauce, garlic, olive oil and herbs. ■

# FESTIVALS & HOLIDAYS

## IN NORTHERN ITALY

### JAN. 1: NEW YEAR'S DAY

Businesses will be closed on *Capodanno*, a national holiday. The day is typically a rest and relaxation time after celebrations and fireworks late into the evening of Dec. 31.

### JAN. 6: EPIPHANY ▶

This national and religious holiday marks the end of the Christmas season with the biblical story of magi visiting Jesus' after his birth. It is marked with parades, festivals and traditions of *la Befana* – a kindly old woman, and sometimes witch, who brings gifts for children.



highlighting current topics in the wine industry. When you've worked up an appetite, pair wines with haute cuisine prepared by renowned chefs at one of the insider restaurants. Purchase tickets ahead of time at [www.vinitaly.com](http://www.vinitaly.com); guests under the age of 18 are not admitted.

### APRIL 25: LIBERATION DAY

This day marks the success of the Italian Resistance and Allied Forces final liberation of the north of Italy from Nazi occupation and fascist control during World War II. There will be wreath-laying ceremonies at war memorials and cemeteries, plus parades and musical tributes.

### APRIL 25: FEAST OF ST. MARK IN VENICE

In celebration of their patron saint, the population of Venice hold a special mass and a *Regata di Traghetto*, traditional gondola races.



### MARCH 29–APRIL 6: EASTER HOLIDAYS

*La Pasqua*, or Easter, in Italy is a religious festival that begins with a large Catholic mass and procession on Palm Sunday and lasts through *Settimana Santa*, or Holy Week. Processions will also often take place on Holy Thursday and Good Friday before an Easter candlelight vigil begins on Saturday evening, culminating with a celebratory mass on Sunday. Easter day typically finds Italians gathering with family and friends for the day and enjoying a large, long meal. The Easter holidays culminated on *La Pasquetta*, or Easter Monday, which is often a day to get outside and enjoy family time out in the country. Expect businesses to be closed from Thursday to Monday on Easter weekend.

### JAN. 31–FEB. 17: CARNEVALE IN VENICE

With elaborate costumes, intricate masks, fantastic parades and parties the carnival season marks a last hurrah before giving up vices for Lent. The famous *Carnivale* masks of Venice originate in the need for anonymity when mixing social classes with pleasure, and there are frequent competitions for the best mask. Venice's *Carnivale* dates back to the Middle Ages and is now a program of activities with weeks of entertainment with daily concerts, parades and dances during the celebration. The festivities culminate on *Martedì Grasso* (Fat Tuesday) when the Carnival's "Mary" is crowned and the city's symbol, St. Mark's Winged Lion, is recognized at ceremonies in Piazza San Marco. Carnival in Venice ends serenely with the Rowing of Silence as countless gondolas float quietly through the night on a route between the Rialto Bridge and the Bacino di San Marco Grand Canal.



### MAY 1: LABOR DAY

Expect closures on this national holiday that commemorates the labor movement and working-class citizens. Italians attend small local festivals or head outside for a day in nature.

### MAY 14: ASCENSION DAY

The biggest local event is *Festa della Sensa* in Venice. While Ascension Day is traditionally a religious celebration of Jesus' return to heaven, in many places it has become a celebration of local identity. In Venice, the festival features a massive parade of boats, beginning of the boat racing season and a ceremony that reaffirms Venice's symbolic marriage to sea.

### APRIL 12–15: VINITALY IN VERONA

At this world-renowned event, you can sample reds, whites and sparkling wines that got their start in the rich soils of Italy or taste the fruits of lesser-known wine-making countries around the world. If you're interested in learning more about the growing and production process, you can attend demonstrations, forums and seminars



### JUNE 2: REPUBLIC DAY

Businesses will be closed on this national holiday that commemorates the establishment of a new Italian government following World War II. Expect patriotic events and parades.



### JUNE 16–17: FEAST OF ST. RANIERI IN PISA

In celebration of their patron saint, the population of Pisa lights thousands of candles around the city, floating on the river and at the famous leaning tower. The evening ends with a large fireworks display.

### JUNE 27: GIOCO DEL PONTE IN PISA

This vibrant festival in Pisa is a city-wide reenactment parade and medieval competition between the northern and southern Pisan neighborhoods.

### JULY 17–19: FESTA DEL REDENTORE IN VENICE

The Feast of the Redeemer commemorates the plague devastation that occurred from 1575 to 1577 and the subsequent building of the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer. There is a festival, boat race and a world-class fireworks display.

### AUG. 15: FERRAGOSTO

This national holiday, Feast of the Assumption of Mary, marks the beginning of Italian summer closures. The word *Ferragosto* comes from the Latin phrase, “*Feriae Augusti*,” roughly translating to “August rest.”

### SEPT. 13: VOLTO SANTO IN LUCCA

By shutting of the electric lights and lighting thousands of candles, the city of Lucca honors the eve of the Feast of the Cross. The city is home to a famous crucifix, said to be a miraculously carved likeness of Jesus. During the evening festival, a traditional religious procession is lit only by candles from San Fediano Church to the Cathedral of San Martino.

### OCTOBER: CHESTNUT FESTIVAL IN COMBAI

A local highlight, the *Festa dei Marroni* lasts for a month in the Prosecco Hills with markets, food and drinks celebrating the local chestnuts.



### NOV. 1: ALL SAINTS' DAY ▶

Called *Ognissanti* in Italian, this national holiday marks the remembrance of all Catholic saints and is also a day to reflect on one's family heritage. Traditions involve visiting cemeteries to light candles and place flowers like chrysanthemums. A special sweet *focaccia dei morti* (focaccia of the dead) is baked. Expect businesses to be closed for this holiday.



### DEC. 8: FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

A national holiday, businesses are closed on this day that celebrates Mary the mother of Jesus and marks the beginning of the Christmas season. On this day, many Italian families begin preparing for the season, including setting up their traditional *Presepe* (nativity scene), decorating with festive twinkle lights and setting up the Christmas tree. City and village Christmas decorations, festivals and markets usually begin around this time.

### DECEMBER 24–26: CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

These two days of national holiday and business closures mark the main celebration of Christmas. What begins on Dec. 8, continues on Dec. 16 as *La Novena*, or the nine-day period leading into Christmas – a time for caroling, church programs and special performances. On Dec. 24, Christmas Eve is celebrated with a seafood dinner and attendance at mass. Christmas day is all about family time, with gift giving, games and a long, multi-course lunch. Saint Stephen's Day (Dec. 26) is a continuation of the family festivities with some down time; many folks head out to see all the *Presepe* (Nativity scenes) in windows, churches and businesses around town. The Christmas season continues after these two holy days, culminating on Epiphany in January. ■



# PET

## INFORMATION



### AVIANO

Pets must be registered via email with the Aviano Veterinary Treatment Facility within 14 duty days of arrival. The veterinarian is available for pet appointments; however, they do not offer emergency veterinary care. You will need to make an appointment to obtain an EU pet passport.

Contact the clinic for a list of local veterinarians for specialty or emergency "Ambulatorio Veterinario," care.

### USAG ITALY

Within 10 days of arrival, pets must be registered, in person or via email, with the Army Veterinary Center on Caserma Ederle in Vicenza. Pets may be seen at the clinic. It is necessary to contact the clinic for instructions on obtaining an EU pet passport. Camp Darby does not have a vet clinic.

There is a limit of two pets for families assigned to on-post housing. In addition, certain dog breeds deemed potentially aggressive are prohibited. Exotic or farm animals are also prohibited.

### VACCINATIONS

- ▶ **Rabies:** Mandatory annual vaccine for both dogs and cats. Rabies tags must be worn at all times.
- ▶ **Leptospirosis:** This vaccine is highly recommended for all pets. Leptospirosis bacteria has a heavy presence in Italy and can cause kidney failure.
- ▶ **Heartworm Preventative:** Mandatory for dogs and cats.
- ▶ **Flea and tick control:** This is highly recommended year-round.

### ITALIAN PET REGULATIONS

- Dogs may not be chained for longer than eight hours and must not be unattended.
- Dogs may not be left in a kennel or crate.
- Dogs kept on balconies, in basements or in garages must be able to enter the house on their own.
- Shelter, food and water must always be provided for your pet.
- While driving, pets cannot interfere with the driver.
- Dogs must be walked: twice daily for apartment residents, once daily for homes with small yards. If the yard is 120 square meters or larger, walking requirements are waved.
- Dog leashes must be less than five feet long. Dog walkers must clean up after their dog and keep a muzzle on hand.
- Feral cats are protected by Italian law, so consider keeping your house cat inside.
- Dogs, cats and ferrets must have a 15-digit ISO-compliant international microchip.
- Choke chains, pinch collars and shock collars are illegal in Italy and punishable with fines.

### TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET

- The EU Pet Passport must be kept with your pet when traveling throughout Europe.
- The passport must list the pet's microchip number that is registered with the installation veterinarian.
- The passport must indicate a valid rabies vaccination is up to date.
- Most countries require muzzles to be carried for dogs, especially on public transportation.

### PET TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE

When PCSing overseas or outside the continental United States, service members may be authorized a reimbursement for the transportation costs of one pet. The reimbursement cap is \$2,000 and it cannot be shared to cover multiple pets. ■





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# PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

There is plenty to do during your tour in Italy! From on-installation employment or education to volunteer work and travel, your time in Italy has a lot to offer.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) does not allow for dependents to work on the economy or operate home-based businesses in Italy.

At Aviano, visit FFSC for support, and to update your resume or research job and volunteer opportunities.

For information on employment in the Vicenza community, please call the **ACS Employment Readiness Program** at 0444-71-5815/5800

**Telework:** Dependents in Italy with a Missione Visa are authorized to telework for U.S. employers.

**Government positions:** Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) and General Schedule (GS) positions are offered with MWR, FSS and command agencies. Hours range from full-time to flexible part-time with varying employment benefits. Search and apply at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

**DoWEA Europe:** On-installation schools offer full and part-time employment as support staff, substitute teachers and administrative employees. Find certified teaching positions at [www.dodea.edu/offices/HR](http://www.dodea.edu/offices/HR). Find local support positions at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

**Army and Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES):** For position at AAFES facilities like the Exchange and food courts, visit [www.aafes.com/Applymyexchange](http://www.aafes.com/Applymyexchange).

**Defense Commissary Agency (DECA):** Jobs at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

**Defense Contractors:** Job opportunities with contractors are typically advertised via the company's human resources department. Your installation's contracting office and M&FRC or ACS may have information about companies with contracts near you.

## EDUCATION

The Education Center can help all members of the military community further their college education via schools with special DOW partnerships.

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Monday–Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- **ERAU:** [vicenza@erau.edu](mailto:vicenza@erau.edu)  
+39-0444-71-4853  
Monday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **UMGC:** [vicenza-europe@umgc.edu](mailto:vicenza-europe@umgc.edu)  
+39-0444-71-4853  
Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### CASERMA EDERLE EDUCATION CENTER

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- **ERAU:** [vicenza@erau.edu](mailto:vicenza@erau.edu)  
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Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## ONLINE COURSEWORK

Many U.S.-based colleges and universities offer online courses and discounts for military-affiliated students.

- [www.military.com/education](http://www.military.com/education)
- [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)

## VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a wonderful way to get involved in your community. Start by making connections.

- Your local ACS or M&FRC are hubs for activities and events around northern Italy and can help refer you to volunteer positions.
- For information about volunteering opportunities in the community, please call ACS Volunteer Coordinator at 0444-71-5833/5800.
- Visit the Post Office, Red Cross and USO for opportunities.
- Youth Programs rely on volunteer sports coaches.
- Parents can get involved with the parent teacher association at the DoWEA schools.
- Find local spouse clubs, interest groups or sports organizations to join.
- Do you enjoy writing? Submit travel or lifestyle stories to [EuropeSubmissions@stripes.com](mailto:EuropeSubmissions@stripes.com) for publication on the Stripes Europe website.
- Search the Volunteer Management Information System on the Army Family Web portal for volunteer positions at [www.armyfamilywebportal.com](http://www.armyfamilywebportal.com) ■





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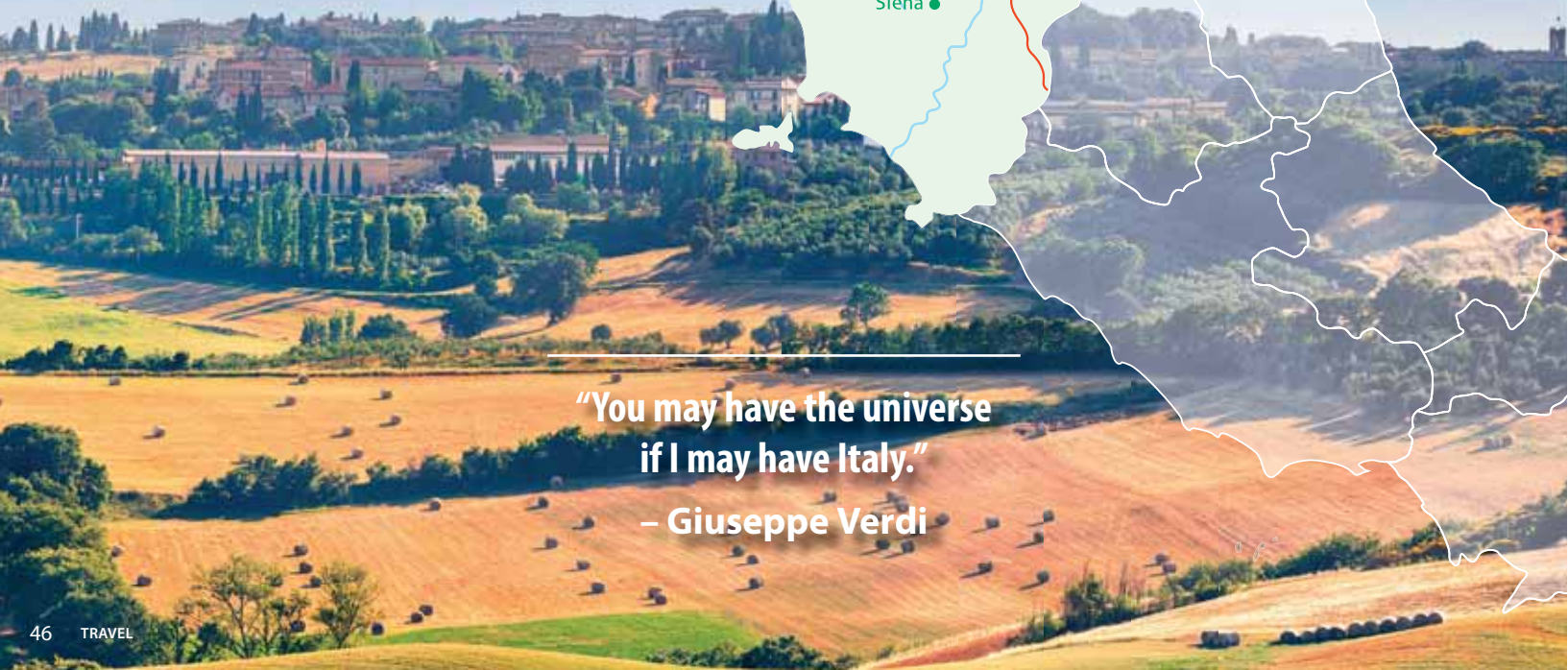
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





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# BASSANO del GRAPPA

A Day Trip for History, Drinks and Mountain Views

By Kimberly Kephart

**T**ucked at the foot of the Venetian Alps, Bassano Del Grappa is not just another pretty Italian town. It is a perfect blend of history, culture and striking scenery, all within easy reach for a rewarding day trip from Vicenza, Aviano or Venice.

Start your visit where the town's identity is most visible: the iconic Ponte Vecchio, also known as the **Ponte degli Alpini**. Designed by Andrea Palladio in the 16th Century and rebuilt several times due to damage from World War I, the covered wooden bridge stands as a symbol of Bassano Del Grappa's past. It is also a gathering place, you will often spot veterans of the Alpini corps sharing stories over a glass of local grappa nearby.

## Try a bit of the local Grappa

**Grappa**, the town's namesake, and signature spirit is serious business here. Take time to visit a distillery or two, Poli and Nardini are historic names, and the same fiery, fragrant brandy made from grape pomace. Even if you are not usually a fan of grappa the process and tradition behind it are worth experiencing.

Right along the main street, you'll find the **Poli Grappa Museum**. This is a great starting point for those who want to learn more about the history of Grappa and of course the different types.

One recommendation is to head into **Antico Laboratorio San Giuseppe** to pick up some gifts for you or your family. If you ask nicely the owners will let you sneak a few sips.



©TRAVELVIEW/STOCK.ADOBE.COM

## Learn about the Alpini at a local restaurant

Just steps from the bridge, the **Taverna Al Ponte** doubles as a cozy spot for lunch and an informal museum dedicated to the Alpini, Italy's elite mountain troops. It's here that you'll have one of the best meat and cheeseboards in a beautiful local atmosphere. You can even get an Aperol Spritz for less than €5.

After you are done, head downstairs to the **Alpini Museum** and learn a little bit about the history of the Alpini. The photos and the artifacts give insight into the role these soldiers played in WWI and WWII, especially in the brutal campaigns fought in the mountains above.

## Tribute to Ernest Hemingway

Speaking of history, American author Ernest Hemingway spent time in this region as an ambulance driver during WWI and he was gravely wounded near the Piave River not far from Bassano del Grappa. The landscapes and wartime atmosphere he experienced in northern Italy deeply influenced his novel "A Farewell to Arms." You can even take time to visit a museum dedicated to his time in the area. **The Hemingway Museum** is small and does not have much in the way of English translation but is honestly worth a small visit!

## Take in the views from the fortress

From the center, it's a short walk up to the **Castello Degli Ezzelini**, a medieval fortress with panoramic views and a small art gallery inside. The castle grounds are peaceful and will give you a higher vantage point over the rooftops and winding streets of the old town.

On good air quality days, the mountains seem to extend on forever and only made more beautiful by the blue glacial color of the Piave River.

## Sunsets on Monte Grappa

If time allows, or if you are up for an afternoon adventure, drive up to **Monte Grappa**. This would be the perfect way to end your day, sunsets here are incredible. The winding road climbs through forested hills to a monumental WWI memorial and offers jaw-dropping views over the Venetian plain. It is a humbling, quiet place that reflects the cost of the wars fought here and rewards visitors with one of the most expansive vistas in Northern Italy.

## Logistics

Bassano Del Grappa is about a one-hour drive from Vicenza and two hours from Aviano. Trains run regularly from nearby cities like Padova and Treviso.

Wear comfortable shoes, have a jacket for higher elevations and assign a designated driver (if sampling grappa).

- **The Alpini Museum** is open Tuesday to Sunday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. | Tickets are €3
- **The Hemingway Museum** is open Wednesday to Sunday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3 to 8 p.m. | Full price: €9, Free admission: Children under 6 years old, people with disabilities

It is wise to remember that many restaurants and businesses close for what is called Riposo. Please keep this in mind when planning your day. You'll likely run into this in smaller towns throughout Italy. It is also wise to carry snacks on the off chance you miss lunch. ■



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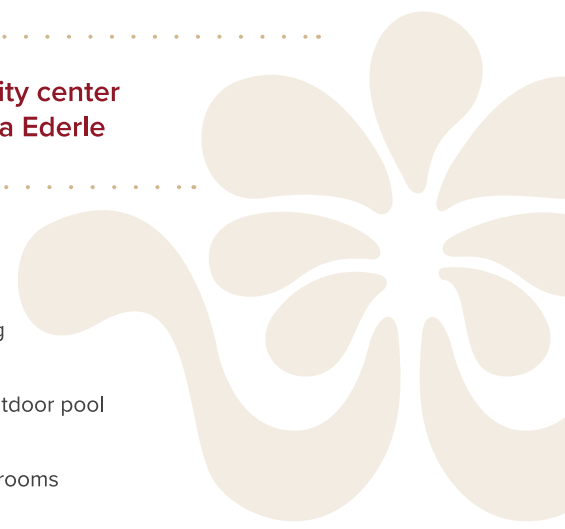
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# POTTERY and ANTIQUE

## *Shopping in Nove*

Story and Photos By Kristen Thoennes

I adore pottery shopping in Europe, so let me introduce you to the pottery village of Nove, Italy. Aside from my spouses' club friends, not many people talk about this seemingly sleepy town not far from Aviano and Vicenza.

If you are staying overnight in Nove, I recommend Le Nove hotel. It's conveniently located near all the pottery shops, has a nice breakfast spread and has A/C. When visiting last August, the A/C was a must!



### POTTERY

If you're like me, and Polish pottery just isn't your style (I know...gasp!), then Italian pottery in Nove might be just the thing for you, too. There you will find a variety of shops selling beautiful pieces from salt and pepper shakers to large serving platters and everything in-between. I am not a big shopper, but on both of my visits to Nove I was able to find pieces that bring me joy.

There are over 100 ceramics stores in the town. Most of them sell regionally-made handcrafted pottery, while some also sell big-name international brands. The local ceramicists each have their own style, so it is fun to wander the shops and find an artist whose work resonates with you.

### PEWTER

On my last visit one member of my carpool group suggested we visit the pewter store. My first thought was, "pewter is for old people." But I went along because you never know what you'll discover. I was surprised by how much I enjoyed the pewter store!

You can tell right away that it's a popular store for military units in the area. You can find a variety of gifts like decanters, ornaments and more. I found the most adorable teeny-tiny greyhound and a Merano glass ornament.

### ANTIQUES

A big reason why my group visited Nove was to shop until we dropped at the Mercato delle Cose d'Altri Tempi. Before my first visit, my friends tried to warn me about how large the market is, but nothing can properly prepare you for the sheer magnitude of the antiques shopping potential! You can really make out with a large haul. There are a variety of food vendors, too, so you can shop all day without skipping a beat.

### EAT WELL

Being in Italy, it's no surprise that you will eat well while visiting Nove. I am still dreaming about the wine and pizza tasting at La Dolce Vigna in Trambacche di Veggiano. The owners were so delightful and welcoming. It's another popular spot

for those stationed at Aviano and Vicenza and I could taste why.

Another recommendation for our wine lovers out there is a visit to Riva Grand. If you enjoy a sweet, white wine their bottle of Loara will be your new favorite! ■





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# Hiking at LAGO DI BARCIS near Aviano

Story and Photos By Melvina Taylor

At the foot of the Friulian Dolomites lies *Lago di Barcis*, located a short 30-minute drive north of Aviano Air Base.

Make amazing memories by soaking in the jaw-dropping views of **Lake Barcis** and hike the trails surrounding the lake to get the most scenic panoramas of the expansive turquoise waters.

## DINT TRAIL

Situated in the Cellina Gorge, the **Dint Trail** is suitable for a variety of different skill levels and time constraints. Bring your pup along so that they can enjoy the views too!

There is a map right at the trailhead that outlines the various routes you can choose, each with its own unique point of interest labeled 1-7. Luckily, one of the best views is at stop number one. Take a picture of the map before setting off so that you have a guide.

The journey to marker one is a simple stroll through mossy woods and rock structures. In about 10 minutes, you will reach the observation deck. Featuring a glass bottom, it can be unnerving to walk across and out past the mountain. For the brave-hearted, look down and see the gorgeous waters of the canyon below. If that is not for you, simply look out at the incredible view towards Lake Barcis. The jagged, sometimes snowy peaks of the surrounding hills slope gently towards the shoreline of the turquoise lake. The crystal-clear waters reflect the blue sky, deep green trees and white fluffy clouds above. It's like something from a picture book.

The many trails at this one location makes it a place you can revisit again and again. Continuing past point of interest number one leads to more and more beautiful scenery, and a higher level of hiking difficulty. Only do what is within your skill level. The trailhead map includes warnings and details about the risks of each trail and what's prohibited. It is an important read before embarking on your hike



## HOW TO GET THERE

There are a few different hikes around Lake Barcis, but the Dint Trail provides the best views. When looking at Lake Barcis on a map, the Dint Trails are on the southeastern corner of the lake. If you type "Sentiero del Dint" into Google Maps, the trailhead will come up.

For parking, look for the cafe named "**Osteria Ponte Antoi**" to the right of the trail. In front of this cafe is a free parking lot. There is also street parking near the trail entrance. The drive from Aviano is easy and scenic with views of the towering mountains and crystal-clear streams. ■



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A full-page background image of the Dolomites mountains. The scene shows two hikers with large backpacks walking away from the camera on a grassy mountain trail. The hiker on the left is wearing purple pants and a red backpack, while the hiker on the right is wearing brown pants and a green backpack. The mountains are jagged and rocky, with some snow patches. The sky is blue with light clouds. The title 'Outdoor Adventure in the DOLOMITES' is overlaid on the image in a white serif font, with 'DOLOMITES' in a larger, bold font. A dotted line separates the title from the author's name.

# *Outdoor Adventure in the* **DOLOMITES**

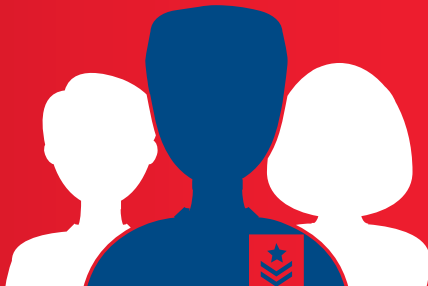
By Kat Nickola

**R**ising like jagged teeth above the bucolic high mountain fields of northern Italy are the iconic Dolomites. A favorite spot for mountaineers and rock climbers, the Dolomites are an outdoor sports paradise.

The Dolomites' limestone mountain range lies within the southern portion of the Alps and is largely protected by national and regional parks that dot the area. The beautiful and unique geological landscape was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2009.



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continued from page 54



## Hiking

The choice for hikes in the Dolomites is endless. The **Giau Pass** near the town of **Cortina d'Ampezzo** is an especially serene area of mountain pastures surrounded by high peaks. At the trailhead, there is an easy family-friendly stroll into the pass or an intermediate hike up onto the rocky Mondeval plateau where a Mesolithic burial was found to be 7,500 years old. For an all-day adventure, the **Cinque Torri** loop passes a First World War open-air museum and continues around the five peaks with open views into the surrounding green valleys.

Another iconic Dolomite hike is the **Three Peaks loop** beginning at the **Auronzo Refuge**, then getting up close and personal with the scree slopes below three of the most distinctive jagged mountaintops in the area. For the committed backpacker, try the 12-day, 125 km Alta Via 1 which traverses the Dolomites from north to south. Starting at **Lake Braies**, this hike can be tackled by staying at mountain refuges along the route. Be sure to book lodging ahead of time and visit [www.dolomiti.org](http://www.dolomiti.org) for hike details.



## Climbing

If you'd rather be climbing the rocks, basing yourself in the valleys near **Cortina d'Ampezzo** is ideal. There are a huge variety of sport climbing crags, especially in the **Falzarego Pass**, with short walk-in times that mean you can be in town for pizza and a beer every evening. Difficulty levels range from beginner routes to a high of 9a, with most climbs in the 8a-8c range. If you're more of a big wall climber, the iconic north face of the **Cima Grande**, at 450 meters and 16 pitches, is a prestigious route to attempt. Other options abound, visit [mountainproject.com](http://mountainproject.com) to find your crag.

During World War I, the Dolomites formed a portion of the incongruous front line between the Italian and Austro-Hungarian forces. Battles were fought in these high mountain passes and

scaling the peaks became a goal for both sides. It was a deadly war, but those fighting in the Dolomites faced the insurmountable challenge of bringing equipment and men into an area prone to rockslides, avalanches and steep cliffs. To tackle the landscape, *via ferrata routes* were built.

Trying a *via ferrata* is another experience born in the Dolomites, and a must-do when visiting. Meaning "iron path," these mountain routes involve iron cables, steps, ladders and other equipment permanently affixed to the mountain. These paths were created during World War I, but are now used, maintained and created for sports. For those without their own climbing gear, numerous outfitters in the area offer tours. The German language website [www.via-ferrata.de](http://www.via-ferrata.de) is a thorough resource for finding routes.

## *Farm Stays*

Both German and Italian are spoken throughout the Dolomites as the area is part of the historical Tyrol region. Now divided between Austria and Italy, Tyrol was a unified region while part of the Holy Roman Empire of the late Middle Ages when it was ruled by various counts.

Nowadays, the high Dolomite pastures and valleys are dotted with peaceful farms and small villages. Agrotourism is popular and booking a farm stay immerses you within the landscape in a way that a hotel can't offer. Many farm stays have small apartments inside a large house on a working farm where you can visit the cows, pet the barn cats and hike right out the front door. The Roter Hahn organization, [www.roterhahn.it](http://www.roterhahn.it), specializes in connecting tourists with farm stays throughout Tyrol.



*continued on page 58*

*continued from page 57*

## *Winter Sports*

In the winter, the Dolomites become a snow-covered mountain dream.

Skiers and snowboarders have their choice of slopes in the Dolomiti Superski region. This is one of the largest interconnected ski resorts in the world. It is actually a conglomeration of 12 distinctive resorts, with a single pass usable at them all. The famous Sellaronda Circuit is an all-day tour on slopes that loop around the giant Sella Massif connecting four of the Ski Dolomiti resorts. It has a medium level of difficulty, with both blue and red slopes, and you can ski the loop in either direction.

It seems like the Dolomites are a hotspot for every mountain sport, and ice climbing is no exception. The tall spires and high alpine waterfalls make perfect ice falls ready for climbers once the freezing season begins. The Val Gardena area is surrounded with ice climbing options. There are high, exposed routes on rock faces, but also deep, intimate spaces in hidden valleys.

The Dolomites are also home to incredible and intense ski mountaineering routes, relaxing and fun sledding hills and cute village ice skating rinks. ■





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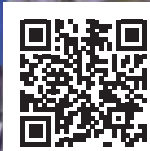
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# Visiting VENICE

By Kate Leahy Voigts

**V**enice is both touristy and local, bustling and tranquil, crowded and deserted; however you understand it, though, this gem is a “must-see” for visitors to the diverse Veneto region. I’ve visited Venice more than a dozen times, and it always surprises and delights.

With this guide, you can enjoy a local cafe, a delicious meal, a gondola ride and an overnight stay, all along a single street. It changes names every block or so as it winds from west to east, but begins as Calle Barcaroli and these recommended experiences are so close together, you can pick the order that works best for you. Now, plan your trip.

## Drinks & People Watching

An authentic Venetian cafe where you’ll encounter more locals than tourists is ① **Al Teatro**. I typically stop here for a stand-up coffee or aperitivo (a spritz or prosecco), before lunch or dinner. One of my favorite visits was just prior to Christmas, when the wise proprietor knowingly pushed the tables against the walls to accommodate the stream of locals popping in for a quick drink or snack to connect with friends and wish a “buon natale” to all before heading home. Regardless of when you stop by the prices are great and the people watching “prima classe!”

## Where to Eat

A short walk from the Al Teatro Café, you’ll find ② **Da Cherubino Restaurant**. The food, service and atmosphere are great, equally so for lunch or dinner. With its casual vibe, diverse menu (including pizzas and salads), it won’t bust your budget. Although Da Cherubino has a large capacity (it’s much bigger than it appears from the street-side), you might consider reserving a table the day prior, or a few hours before your intended show-time because of its popularity.

## Hop in a Gondola

Enjoy the gondola experience. Yes, it’s touristy, but it is also enchanting. Officially called ③ **Gondola Bacino Orseolo**, I recommend grabbing a gondolier at the end of the road where people have nicknamed the canal the “gondola corral.” At this picture-pretty spot, you’ll find 20 to 30 gondoliers queued up throughout the day and well into the evening, ready to deliver a thirty-minute ride which typically runs about 100 euros, regardless of the number in your party. It’s a kitschy, fun, must-do activity, particularly for first-time visitors. As your gondolier poses for great pictures, you can sit back, soak in the sights and enjoy the shouts of “oye!” (pronounced oy-ay) as you cruise through the tight turns of the canal network.

## Stay Overnight

Venice is bursting with overnight accommodation options, from fancy hotels to modest private rooms and apartment rentals, for budgets from luxury to basic. Here are a couple of options, keeping it on one street as promised. First, the ④ **Hotel Cavalletto & Doge Orseolo**

(4-star) is located at the gondola corral. The next option I recommend, only mere steps from Saint Mark’s Square, is ⑤ **Hotel Mercurio Venezia** (3-star). Be aware accommodation prices vary significantly based on the night of your stay. Take advantage of military training holidays and long weekends to stay on a Thursday, Sunday or Monday evening, when you’ll find greater availability and thinner crowds.

If you are lucky enough to stay overnight, head to Piazza San Marco after dinner to enjoy the “dueling” orchestras of the ⑥ **Caffe Florian** and ⑦ **Caffe Lavena**. No need to pay the cafes’ entertainment surcharges or order a 20-euro bellini to enjoy the sounds and sites. You’ll have plenty of company listening and watching while strolling through the square Napoleon dubbed “the world’s most beautiful drawing room,” after the day-trippers have departed.

## Navigating Venice

The city is a maze of tiny streets connecting named and unnamed piazzas. Don’t attempt to GPS your way with an inevitably unreliable cell signal. You might consider buying a “Mappa di Venezia” for 3 euros at the Tourist Information (TI) office just outside the Venezia Santa Lucia train station; it is on the left when exiting. Otherwise, use the ubiquitous yellow and black “Per Rialto” and “Per San Marco” signs to orient yourself. ■



# DISCOVER the Belle Isole of VENICE

By Stacy Roman

**T**here's no denying Venice's beauty. With more than 150 canals snaking their way through the heart of the main island of Venice, it's easy to get lost wandering over bridges and along the waterways. However, the Veneto district is comprised of more than 120 small islands. Head to "belle isole," or beautiful islands surrounding Venice. Here are four favorites to check out.

## Murano.

Located right off the city's coast, Murano is a short 10-minute vaporetto (water taxi) ride across the lagoon. Known for producing exquisite glass, the glassmaking and glass-blowing techniques perfected in Murano date back to the late 13th century. Visitors can stop in the Museo del Vetro to see examples of glass or stop by one of the local glassmakers to see it firsthand. Be sure to stroll along the Grand Canal running through the island, the size of which rivals the one found in Venice.

## Sant'Erasmus.

East of Murano and approximately 35 minutes from Venice via vaporetto is Sant'Erasmus. This peaceful and serene island is opposite in feel to its glamorous counterpart. Rows and rows of crops and vegetables stretch on the horizon, most bound for the city of Venice. This agricultural hub is home to "carciofi violetti," a tender and delicate purple artichoke. Sant'Erasmus is the perfect place to ditch the urban jungle for a few hours.

## San Servolo.

For those who have a fascination with dark history or slightly creepy spots, head to San Servolo. This island is a 20-minute vaporetto ride southeast of Venice. Once home to a Benedictine monastery, the building was transformed into a military hospital and became one of Italy's most notorious psychiatric asylums. Today, the former institution is a museum and is also home to Venice International University.

## Burano.

A little further from Venice than the islands mentioned above, Burano is approximately 30 to 40 minutes north of the city by vaporetto. This lace-making haven is a myriad of kaleidoscopic-colored buildings lining the canals. The intricate lace patterns and designs date back centuries and are often painstakingly crafted by needlepoint. Visitors can wander the canals, view a live demonstration of lace making or sit under the shade with creamy gelato or butter cookies, a local specialty.

It's easy to spend most of your time walking along the dreamy canals of Venice; however, if you have a day or two for adventure, these outer islands are well worth a visit. ■

# EXPLORE

## The Cinque Terre

By Carrie Farrell

**B**uilt around the 11th century, the five villages of the Cinque Terre were, at one time, only accessible by boat or footpath. Hiking between them is still the best way to discover the lemon trees, olive groves and clusters of multicolored houses in this region.

As intriguing as this sounds, I was reluctant to take my 10-month-old. I heard traveling in the Cinque Terre with children was difficult, but I was not going to be deterred, and any uncertainty I had about taking my daughter to the villages was quickly erased.

Visiting this enchanting UNESCO Heritage site is a must, but planning ahead, especially with kids in tow, can enhance your experience. Here's a guide to make your visit smooth and memorable.

## THE 5 VILLAGES

### 1. MONTEROSSO AL MARE

This is the biggest of the five villages and the only one with sandy beaches. If coming via train from Levanto, it is the first village you will encounter. Monterosso is spread out between the “new town” and the “old town.” “New town” boasts a beachfront promenade lined with modern hotels, restaurants and bars. The paths through Monterosso are stroller-friendly with numerous gelato stands and a beachside playground. “Old town” includes restaurants, churches and shops nestled in stone alleyways.

### 2. VERNAZZA

From Monterosso, choose between a two-hour hike or a 10-minute train ride to **Vernazza**, a narrow, one-street town with a church built on the water. The remains of a castle and old wall that once protected against pirates and a small harbor lined with colorful fishing boats make this town a must-see. This was an easy trip with my little one and made for a great lunch stop.

### 3. CORNIGLIA

East of Vernazza is **Corniglia**. From the train station, it takes 365 steps up the cliff, or a long walk on a steep winding road to reach the town center. There is a green park bus you can take to and from the train station; however, the schedules vary and tested the patience of my little one. So, we embraced the vertical challenge and rewarded ourselves with gelato after the climb.

### 4. MANAROLA

Another one-street town, **Manarola** is the smallest of the five. It has a small harbor and rocky beach where you can take a swim. Here you can enjoy a unique spot of land from which the most famous Cinque Terre photos are taken.

### 5. RIOMAGGIORE

This town has one main street, a harbor, a rocky beach, a castle, a church and a dozen restaurants. It also has good train connections and is the closest to the larger city of **La Spezia**. This was an easy excursion and quick train ride from **Monterosso**.

The sweet smell of the sea, stunning views, fantastic food and watching my daughter play with the local kids at the park made the Cinque Terre the perfect family weekend getaway.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

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## HIKING THE VIA DELL'AMORE

The Via dell'Amore (Lover's Lane) is one of the most iconic paths in the Cinque Terre. This romantic one-way trail begins in the village of Riomaggiore and ends in Manarola, offering breathtaking views of the sea and dramatic cliffs. A ticket is required to access the trail; check availability and updates at [www.parconazionale5terre.it](http://www.parconazionale5terre.it).

*Note that parts of the trail may be closed due to maintenance, so verify its status before planning your visit.*

## GETTING AROUND

### FOOT



While hiking the Via dell'Amore and Sentiero Azzuro may be very popular, there are plenty of other trails to take between and around the villages of Cinque Terre. Some trails do require tickets. Information is available at [www.parconazionale5terre.it](http://www.parconazionale5terre.it).

### TRAIN



There is a simple, short train ride from Levanto to and from the villages. Trains run frequently, especially during peak season. Called the **Cinque Terre Express**, it connects all five of the villages. You can purchase a card with unlimited travel from [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com). Kids under the age of four travel free.

### BOAT



Ferries operate between all villages, except Corniglia, offering a unique perspective of the coastline. The yellow #2 "Cinque Terre" line connects the villages to Levanto and other towns westward along the coast, while the #3 "Viareggio" line connects to the coastline eastward towards Pisa. Service is weather-dependent and more frequent from April to October. Check schedules at [www.navigazionegolfodeipoeti.it](http://www.navigazionegolfodeipoeti.it).

### CAR



In the five villages of Cinque Terre, very few places offer parking, and most villages are closed to vehicle traffic. It's possible to find a central parking lot for a daily fee, but staying in Levanto and taking the train can save money and the hassle.





1.



2.



3.

## LOCAL CUISINE

The food in the Cinque Terre is best described as fresh, local and homemade cuisine that soothes the soul.

### 1. PESTO

This region is the birthplace of pesto. Basil is ground with cheese, garlic, olive oil and pine nuts, and then poured over pasta. My daughter loved the pesto lasagna at **La Cantina di Miky** in **Monterosso**. By the end of the trip, they knew her name and always had a highchair ready to go.

### 2. FOCACCIA

This tasty, fluffy bread also originates here. It is simply flatbread with olive oil and salt. Try it at **Panifacio Focacceria** in **Vernazza**.

### 3. TORTA MONTEROSSINA

A wonderful cake named after the village with layers of chocolate and cream. Try it in **Monterosso**. This place became our frequent stop for breakfast. We couldn't get enough of the fresh pastries and cappuccinos.

## TIPS FOR A SMOOTH VISIT:

- Avoid peak hours. The villages can be crowded between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Plan early morning or late afternoon visits.
- Travel off-season. Visit in spring (April-May) or autumn (September-October) for fewer crowds and pleasant weather. Avoid visiting in July and August if you dislike crowds and high temperatures.
- Pack light. Narrow streets and steep paths make heavy luggage inconvenient.
- Dress properly. Skip high heels or unsuitable footwear; comfortable walking shoes are a must.
- Respect the environment. The Cinque Terre is a protected area. Stick to marked trails and avoid littering.
- Skip driving. Parking is limited and traffic restrictions apply in the villages.
- Be respectful. Avoid entering private property or vineyards without permission. ■



# lamialiguria

Just a few hours from **Northern Italy's** main hubs lies a stretch of coastline that feels a world away. **Liguria**, the slender region that arcs along the Mediterranean between **France** and **Tuscany**, is an ideal escape for a long weekend - close enough for an easy drive, yet rich with scenery, history and food that turn a short trip into something memorable.

The gateway to the region is **Genova**, a historic maritime city whose character is shaped by centuries of trade and travel. Its old town - one of the largest medieval centers in **Europe** - is best explored on foot, through narrow alleyways filled with bakeries, cafés and small artisan shops.

Grand palaces built by Genoa's powerful merchant families, now part of a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site, open unexpected glimpses into frescoed halls and hidden courtyards. From panoramic terraces above the harbor, the view stretches from the sea to the surrounding hills, a reminder of how closely nature and city life coexist here.

Liguria is never just about one place. Within a short distance, the landscape shifts constantly. To the west, near the French border, **Bordighera** and **Dolceacqua** offer a quieter, inland atmosphere of stone bridges, olive groves and hilltop castles.

“

*All the Colors of Liguria*

These small towns invite slow exploration - a walk through a medieval street, a pause for local wine, a chance to experience a side of Italy that feels unchanged by time. Along the central coast, **Albissola Marina** reveals another dimension of Ligurian culture: craftsmanship. Known for its centuries-old ceramic tradition, it is a place where workshops still shape and paint by hand. Visitors can watch **artisans** at work and discover how creativity remains part of daily life, not just something displayed in museums. Heading east, the scenery becomes instantly recognizable. The elegant harbor of **Portofino**, with its pastel-colored houses and yacht gently moored in the bay, has long symbolized the **Italian Riviera** lifestyle - relaxed, scenic and effortlessly refined.



Camogli

Genova

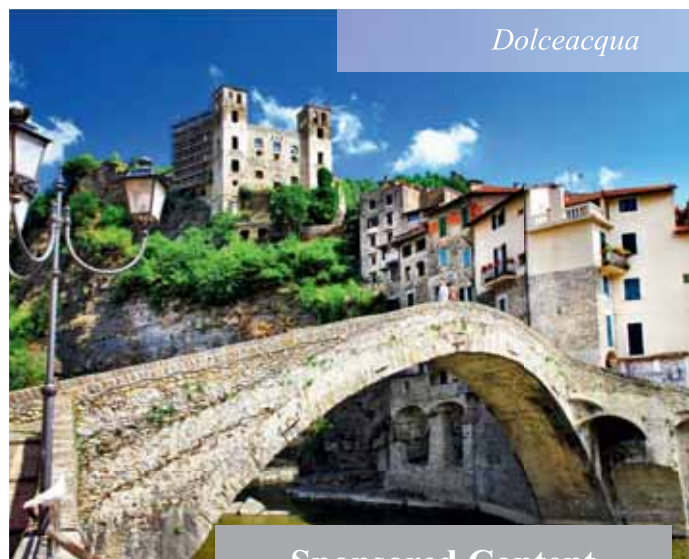


Nearby, the villages of the **Cinque Terre** cling dramatically to the cliffs, connected by trains, boats and panoramic walking paths. For travelers who enjoy the outdoors, this area combines hiking, coastal views and photography opportunities unlike anywhere else in Europe. Yet some of Liguria's most rewarding moments come in places that are less famous. **Camogli**, a small fishing village just a short distance from **Portofino**, is known for its tall, **colorful houses** facing the sea and its relaxed rhythm. It's the kind of place where an afternoon stroll leads naturally into a long dinner by the water, with fresh seafood and the region's signature flavors - **basil pesto, focaccia and locally produced olive oil**. What makes **Liguria** especially appealing for those based in Northern Italy is its variety within a compact area. In a single trip, it's possible to **swim in the Mediterranean**, explore historic towns, walk scenic trails and enjoy authentic regional cuisine without long transfers or complicated logistics.

The **mountains** rise immediately behind the coast, creating dramatic views and making every journey - whether by car or train - part of the experience. **Liguria is not a destination** to rush through.

**It is a place to return** to, discovering a different town, a different walk, a different table each time.

To start planning your visit and explore suggested itineraries, visit <https://lamialiguria.it/en/> and discover how easily Liguria can become your next Mediterranean getaway.



Dolceacqua

# LA SPEZIA



## Sea, Nature and History in the Heart of the Gulf of Poets

Located in eastern Liguria, near the border with Tuscany, La Spezia rises at the center of a gulf of extraordinary beauty, surrounded by hills and mountains that descend dramatically into the Mediterranean Sea.

Inhabited since prehistoric times and later during the Roman era, the city assumed its modern identity in the second half of the nineteenth century with the construction of the Naval Arsenal, which shaped both its urban layout and its strategic importance.

Today, La Spezia is a dynamic and welcoming city, featuring a lively pedestrian center, a rich museum offering, a mild year-round climate and a strong connection to the sea. It represents the ideal starting point for discovering eastern Liguria and its landscape, cultural and gastronomic excellence.



LA SPEZIA  
always different!

## A City to Experience Between Sea and Hills

One of La Spezia's defining features is its extensive hiking network, which allows visitors to move from the urban center to panoramic hilltop views in just a few minutes. The city is centrally positioned along important historical and natural routes such as the Via Francigena, the Sentiero Liguria, the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri and the Alta Via delle Cinque Terre.

The Alta Via del Golfo, a ridge trail encircling the hills around the city, offers spectacular views over the Gulf of Poets and the inland valleys. From here, visitors can reach Porto Venere, the Cinque Terre, the Val di Vara and Lunigiana through well-connected loop trails. These paths can be accessed directly from the city or via public transportation, including boats and buses. Walking along these ancient routes - many of which are still paved with original stone - means rediscovering the deep connection between La Spezia and its historic hamlets, rural churches, fortified settlements and breathtaking viewpoints.



## La Spezia Forte: Rediscovering Historic Heritage

Through the "La Spezia Forte" project, the city is enhancing its historic military heritage, returning places of great cultural significance to the community.

The Parco delle Mura is a panoramic route of approximately four kilometers that follows the nineteenth century defensive walls built to protect what was then Italy's most important naval base. The trail winds through green hillsides and offers wide views over the harbor, the Apuan Alps and the Apennines. Along the route, informational panels explain the defensive system and the engineering solutions developed in the second half of the nineteenth century. Along this path lies the Parco della Rimembranza, inaugurated in 1923 on Gaggiola Hill. Each of its 540 trees is dedicated to a local soldier who fell during the First World War.

Recently restored, the park is now a safe and welcoming green space, symbolizing remembrance and civic identity.

Among the restored structures is the Batteria Valdilocchi, built in 1880 and recently reopened to the public following an important redevelopment project. The Quintino Sella air-raid shelter, which during the Second World War was capable of accommodating up to 6,500 people, is also now accessible thanks to a restoration initiative that includes immersive multimedia installations. These sites tell a complex story and testify to the resilience of the city.



### The Waterfront and Public Gardens

The relationship with the sea is central to La Spezia's identity. The Public Gardens, overlooking the gulf, are among the most beloved spaces for both residents and visitors. Established during the nineteenth century and expanded alongside the urban growth linked to the Naval Arsenal, they still retain an elegant landscape design, enriched with Mediterranean trees and spacious green areas.

### Authentic Flavors Between Sea and Tradition

La Spezia offers a culinary experience deeply rooted in its territory. The market in Piazza Cavour is the vibrant heart of local produce: seasonal vegetables, fresh daily catch, mussels and oysters farmed in the gulf. Freshly baked focaccia often marks the beginning of the day, while traditional dishes include mesciùa, a hearty legume soup of popular tradition; octopus salad; baccalà prepared "alla spezzina" with olives and pine nuts; and testaroli, an ancient pasta specialty served with pesto or extra virgin olive oil.

Street food highlights include farinata, panigacci and sgabei, while the territory's DOC wines—from Vermentino dei Colli di Luni to Cinque Terre DOC and the renowned Sciacchetrà - complete an offering that combines simplicity with quality.

La Spezia is a city to be discovered slowly, where history, nature and tradition coexist in balance, offering an authentic experience in the heart of Liguria.



### Discover La Spezia - Contact Us

#### Comune della Spezia

Piazza Europa, 1, 19124 La Spezia

#### Tourist Information Office (IAT):

Corso Cavour, 20 - +39 0187 727527

infocenterlia@comune.sp.it



[www.visitspezia.it/en](http://www.visitspezia.it/en)



# LEVANTO

The first glimpse of **Levanto** reveals a wide sandy bay framed by green hills and colorful houses. More open and relaxed than the villages of the **Cinque Terre**, it's both **the perfect gateway** to the park's trails and a charming seaside destination of its own.

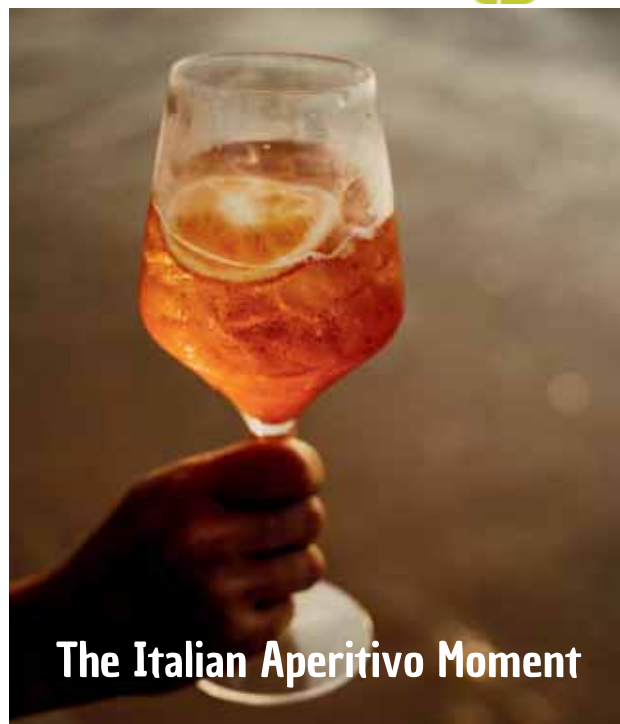


Arrival on the Ligurian Bay

## A Place of History and Light

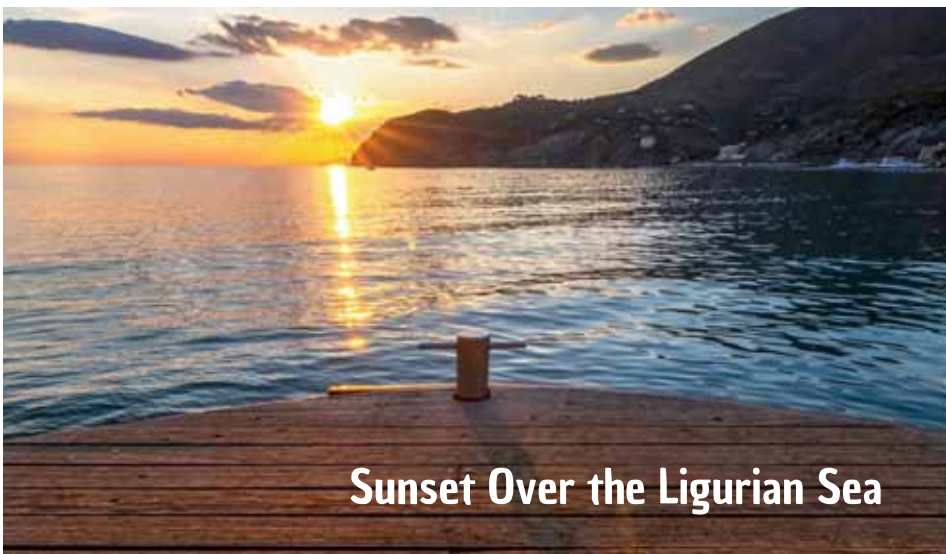
In Levanto's historic center stands the **Church of Sant'Andrea**, one of the town's most recognizable landmarks.

Its black-and-white striped façade reflects traditional Ligurian medieval architecture, while inside tall stone columns and soft light create a calm, atmospheric space.



The Italian Aperitivo Moment

In the **late afternoon** Levanto comes alive as locals and visitors gather for the Italian tradition of aperitivo. A **refreshing drink**, light bites, and relaxed conversation fill the outdoor cafés, offering a simple yet authentic taste of the **Ligurian lifestyle**.



Sunset Over the Ligurian Sea

As the day ends, **Levanto** offers a beautiful natural show. From the **promenade** or a small pier, the sun sets behind the hills, casting golden reflections across the sea while gentle waves fill the evening air.

## PESTO: A LIGURIAN TRADITION

At **Baico Pesto Lab in Monterosso**, visitors can experience the authentic tradition of Ligurian pesto. Using fragrant **Prà basil**, the sauce **is prepared by hand** with a **mortar and pestle**, revealing the secrets of this iconic recipe and offering the chance to taste its fresh, rich flavors.  
<https://www.baico5terre.net>



## PIZZERIA DUCA

*Authentic Ligurian Pizza in Levanto* Enjoy wood-fired pizzas with fresh local ingredients, thin crispy crusts, and rich toppings in a cozy seaside spot, perfect for a casual dinner with wines, craft beers, **and Ligurian specialties.**

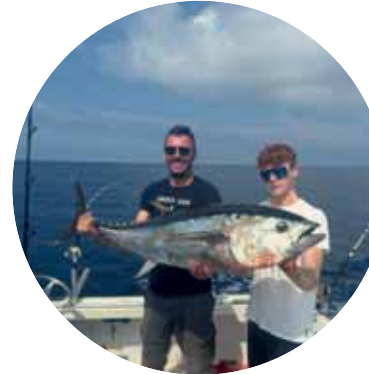
Via M. Vinzoni, 15 Levanto SP  
[duca.pizzeria@gmail.com](mailto:duca.pizzeria@gmail.com) +39 0187 1350367



## PEVEA

*Boat and Fishing Tours in Levanto*

Pevea offers **exclusive fishing trips** and scenic boat tours along the **Ligurian coast and Cinque Terre**, providing a unique way to **experience the sea with expert local guides.**



## Antica Pasticceria Bianchi

**Sweet Delights in Levanto**

A historic family-run pastry shop in Levanto, known for its traditional Ligurian desserts and over a century of craftsmanship.



Via M. Vinzoni, 33, 19015 Levanto SP - 0187 808183

## At Al Bistrot di Monterosso: A Taste of the Sea



If you're looking for authentic flavors, **Al Bistrot di Monterosso** is a must-visit. Located in the heart of the village, it serves fresh seafood and **traditional Ligurian dishes** like **acciughe** alla Monterossina and **pasta al pesto**, prepared with seasonal ingredients.

The warm, **relaxed atmosphere** makes it the perfect place to enjoy the true taste and culture of Monterosso.

<https://www.albistrotDIMONTEROSSO.com/>





## Villa Margherita

### A Retreat of Peace and Beauty

Villa Margherita is a peaceful oasis surrounded by lush greenery, with a garden overlooking the sea and olive trees. **Guests** can enjoy relaxing moments, like breakfast outdoors in the morning sun, while breathing in the scents of the **Mediterranean**. Warm **hospitality** makes every visitor feel at home, offering a genuine taste of Ligurian charm and tranquility.



## Visit MONTEROSSO AL MARE

The largest village of the Cinque Terre, known for its **sandy beaches**, **colorful houses**, and charming **seaside** atmosphere.



## Ristorante Tumelin in Levanto

### Tradition Feels Like Home

Ristorante Tumelin is a place where the authentic flavors of **Ligurian tradition** are preserved.

Dishes like **polpo alla Ligure** and Levanto's golden, crispy focaccia reflect the region's culinary heritage.

With its warm and welcoming atmosphere, dining here offers a genuine taste of **local culture and tradition**.



Founded by Elena Bascherini and Enrico Moggia, **EMBE MEDIA** tells the stories of local businesses and communities in the **Cinque Terre** (Liguria) and the **Upper Tuscany** area, **promoting**, with love and passion, the people, traditions, local cuisine, and culture of the region.



Contact us for any information



# SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE

There is a place in Liguria where the azure of the sea meets the pastel hues of painted facades, creating a harmony suspended in time.

**Santa Margherita Ligure** - "**Santa**," as locals and regulars call it - is not just a tourist destination; it is a full sensory experience, an open-air lounge that embodies the prestige of the **Italian Riviera** without losing its authentic soul.



## The Gateway to Beauty: Portofino, the Regional Park

**Santa Margherita** enjoys a unique geographical privilege: it is the natural gateway to **Portofino**. Whether walking along the scenic pedestrian path flanking the SP 227 road or being lulled by the ferries shuttling between piers, you can reach the world's most famous village in just minutes. However, its appeal extends far beyond glamour. The **town is the ideal starting point for exploring the Portofino Regional Natural Park**, a "green lung" where Mediterranean scrub and sheer cliffs hide spectacular trekking trails, connecting the city to fairytale destinations like the **Abbey of San Fruttuoso**.



## A Strategic Location: Between History and Nature

Staying here means having the best of Liguria at your fingertips. Thanks to excellent rail and sea links, "Santa" is the perfect base for a dynamic stay:

**To the West:** In just 30 minutes, you can reach Genoa, "La Superba," with its *UNESCO* World Heritage sites (the "Palazzi dei Rolli") and the largest medieval historic center in Europe.

**To the East:** A short journey leads to the Cinque Terre, where colorful villages and cliffside terraces offer one of the most famous landscapes in the world.



## Architectural Treasures: Villa Durazzo and Cervara

The town's renowned elegance is mirrored in its historic estates and the parks that frame them. A must-visit is **Villa Durazzo Pallavicini**, a 17th-century complex nestled in a romantic Italian-style park overlooking the marina.

Here, amidst marble statues and exotic plants, one can breathe in the opulence of the great Genoese families. Equally breathtaking is the **Abbey of Cervara**, a former monastic complex overlooking the emerald waters of the Portofino Promontory - a **National Monument and the only monumental Italian garden in Liguria**.

Choosing **Santa Margherita Ligure** means treating yourself to a stay where history, art, lifestyle, and nature blend into a single, unforgettable **Mediterranean dream**.

## Record-Breaking Waters: 15 "Blue Flags"

The quality of life in Santa Margherita is reflected first and foremost in **its waters**. The city proudly boasts 15 "**Blue Flags**" (as of 2025). This award certifies not only the clarity of the sea but also the efficiency of services and environmental sustainability.



## The Legacy of the "Dolce Vita"

Those who know it, know: **Santa Margherita Ligure** is the quintessential home of the "**Dolce Vita**". Since the 1950s and 60s, its squares and **luxury hotels** have hosted the international jet set, artists, and writers from across the globe. Even today, sipping an **aperitivo at sunset** or strolling along the promenade that weaves through the harbor docks means immersing yourself in an **elegant, relaxed atmosphere**.



### **TOURIST INFORMATION - Info point**

Piazza Vittorio Veneto  
Santa Margherita Ligure (Ge)

Phone: +39 0185 287485

Email: [infopoint@comunesml.it](mailto:infopoint@comunesml.it)

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