Imagine a region of Northern Italy that borders Venice in the east, the Dolomites in the north, breathtaking Lake Garda to the west and the ancient cities of Shakespeare’s Italy to the south. That’s Veneto—a region noted for prosecco, art cities and stunning landscapes. Our homebase is Castelfranco Veneto, with its charmingly tiny old town, complete with medieval walls, towers and a moat. We’ll visit Verona for a look at its incredible architecture before lunch at an agriturismo on Lake Garda. Enjoy an excursion with stops in Marostica, Bassano del Grappa—with its famous ancient wooden bridge and Asolo, one of Italy’s most famous medieval borgos and a legendary watering spot for the rich and famous. Explore the Palladian villas of Vicenza and spend a day in incomparable Venice. A highlight of this holiday is an excursion to Cison di Valmarino—Borghi più Belli d’Italia (one of “the most beautiful villages in Italy”) and Treviso—with its medieval city walls, lots of pretty canals, narrow cobbled streets and frescoed churches.

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled Alitalia Airlines flights from Boston to Venice, via Rome (land only pricing available if you prefer to make your own air arrangements)
- Seven nights’ four-star accommodations: Hotel Alla Torre, Castelfranco Veneto or similar hotel
- Welcome beverage
- Thirteen meals: seven breakfasts, two agriturismo/winery lunches, four dinners with wine at local restaurants
- Wine tasting with snacks at Duca di Dolle Winery
- Escorted round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

Features

Excursion to Verona with guided tour. Visit Agriturismo Valle degli Ulivi family-run farm for olive oil tasting and lunch. Visit to Sirmione on Lake Garda. Full-day excursion to Marostica, Bassano del Grappa and Asolo. Excursion to Vicenza to see the Palladian villas. Excursion to Cison di Valmarino village, winery visit with light lunch and tour of Treviso. Excursion to Venice.

Rates

$2,999 per person double occupancy
Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Single supplement is $195. We have a limited number of single supplements available at just $100. Call to reserve. Triple accommodations may be available upon request.
Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change.
Passport required. Per person deposit is $300.

Hotel Alla Torre

Piazza Trento e Trieste, 7, 31033
Castelfranco Veneto TV, Italy
Phone: 011 39 0423 498707

Located in the heart of the historical center of Castelfranco Veneto – near the old clock tower and medieval walls – Hotel Alla Torre is a 4 star hotel with 54 elegant and stylish rooms and offers all the amenities. Hotel Alla Torre is close to all the town’s sights, shops and restaurants. Relax in Hotel Alla Torre’s charming hall or enjoy drinks in the bar. The hotel’s large breakfast room features famous paintings and you will be served a rich continental breakfast with homemade cake here in the morning. Hotel Alla Torre’s rooms are well-furnished, with some boasting wooden-beam ceilings and stone walls, as well as LCD satellite TV. All are air conditioned and have inexpensive Wi-Fi internet access.
Saturday, May 16: Depart Boston
Depart Boston Logan Airport, on Alitalia's non-stop, direct service to Rome. Dinner is served with complimentary wine/beer. Relax and enjoy the inflight entertainment while crossing the Atlantic.

Sunday, May 17: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Venice
Continental breakfast will be served before landing. In Rome, clear immigration and proceed to our connecting flight to Venice. After passport control and immigration, proceed to baggage claim and retrieve our luggage. We will then pass through customs and meet our representative who will assist with boarding the transfer vehicle to the Hotel Alla Torre in Castelfranco Veneto. Enjoy a welcome beverage on arrival and a welcome dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (D)

Monday, May 18: Excursion to Verona
After enjoying our buffet breakfast at the hotel we are off to Verona, the hometown of “Romeo and Juliet”. Our local guide will help us explore the city’s highlights. Afterwards we set out for the Lake Garda area for a visit to the Agriturismo Valle degli Ulivi - a family run farm located on the western bank of the lake where they grow olives in the family tradition and produce 14 varieties of olive oil. During the visit we’ll enjoy a tasting
of their extra virgin olive oils and lunch with wine will follow. As we return to Castelfranco we’ll stop in Sirmione on the southern bank of the lake. *(B, L)*
Tuesday, May 19: Marostica – Bassano del Grappa - Asolo
The first stop on today’s itinerary is Marostica—known as the “chess city”. The “piazza” is the hub of the city where a human chess game is celebrated with players in medieval costumes. Next up is Bassano del Grappa, straddling the banks of the Brenta river, with its famous wooden bridge “Ponte Vecchio” – which has been rebuilt several times always according to the original design by Palladio. Here we’ll visit a grapperia, where we will learn the traditional method of grappa making—grappa is a distilled from the “vinaccia” the skins of grapes remaining after they are pressed to make wine. Asolo is one of the most fascinating historic cities in Veneto. Embraced by the ancient walls that stretch out from its 12th-century fortress, this elegant town is located on a hilltop and is a destination favored by poets and artists. Tonight we’ll enjoy dinner with wine at a restaurant in Castelfranco. (B, D)
**Wednesday, May 20: Vicenza & the Palladian Villas**

On today's excursion we'll explore the Palladian villas and Vicenza. Among the many masterpieces by Palladio, Villa Capra la Rotonda is definitely the most important one, known and studied all over the world. The Rotonda is one of the most extraordinary buildings in the history of architecture as it represents the perfect harmony of square and sphere. Palladio managed to merge them into a timeless architectural structure. We continue on to Villa Valmarana ai Nani—composed of three buildings—the Palazzina (Owners’ Residence) built in 1669, the Foresteria (Guest-House) and the Scuderia (Stables) built in 1720. They are embraced by a large historical park with rose gardens, a "giardino all’italiana." The Villa takes its name from the statues of 17 stone dwarfs, originally placed in the garden. We’ll have free time for lunch on our own before we continue with a walking tour of Vicenza featuring the city highlights. (B)
Thursday, May 21: Cison di Valmarino & Treviso
After breakfast we depart for Cison di Valmarino—one of the most beautiful villages in Italy—with a splendid castle that stands on the imposing spur of Col de Moi, about a hundred metres from the city centre. Here we’ll visit the winery of the Duca di Dolle and enjoy their prosecco and other wines of the estate along with local meats and snacks. In the afternoon we visit Treviso. The heart of the city is Piazza dei Signori, surrounded by the mighty Palazzo dei Trecento and the overlooking Bell Tower. Not far from the Square is the elegant Loggia dei Cavalieri decorated with chivalric scenes. Calmaggiore Street leads to the Cathedral, home to frescoes by Pordenone and an altar painting by the famous Titian. St. Nicolo’s Church and the Sala del Capitolo, with frescoes by Tommaso da Modena, are also worth a visit, together with the Medieval Churches of St. Francesco and St. Lucia. (B, L)
**Friday, May 22: Venice**

Soon after breakfast at the hotel we are off to Venice. Upon arrival by coach we transfer to a motorboat and travel on the Venetian canals to arrive at San Marco. Here we’ll meet our local guide who will show us the area of Piazza San Marco, the brick Campanile (Belltower), the Basilica of San Marco with its splendid mosaics, the Clock tower and the Doges Palace. We’ll have time for lunch and to explore on our own before returning to Castelfranco. Enjoy dinner with wine at a local restaurant. *(B, D)*
Saturday, May 23: Day at leisure in Castelfranco Veneto
Today we have the whole day to explore on our own before a Farewell dinner tonight, with wine, at a local restaurant. (B,D)
Sunday, May 24: Return flight to Boston
This morning transfer by motorcoach to the Venice airport for our return flight to Boston via Rome. (B)
PREPARING FOR YOUR TOUR

**Identification**  
U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months’ validity beyond the date of your return to the U.S. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.  
Make several copies of your passport. Carry one copy with you and leave one with someone at home. If your passport is lost or stolen, having a photocopy will make replacement easier.

**Money Matters**  
Verify that your credit/ATM cards are valid for the duration of your tour and that they can be used internationally. We suggest that you bring a few days worth of foreign currency with you in case you are unable to get dollars changed or have access to an ATM upon arrival. Notify your bank/credit card companies that you will be traveling abroad so that your overseas purchases are not confused with fraudulent charges.

**Tipping**  
Tips to tour managers, drivers, guides and waitstaff are not included in the price of your trip. Tipping should always be at the travelers’ discretion and should be a reflection of your satisfaction with the service provided. Following are some guidelines for your convenience.

- **TOUR MANAGERS**: 5E per person per day  
- **BUS DRIVERS**: 5E per person per day  
- **LOCAL GUIDES**: 2E per person  
- **WAITSTAFF**: 10E per person per week  
- **TRANSFERS ASSISTANTS** (if different from Tour Manager): 5E each way
Medications  Be sure you have a sufficient supply of prescription medications. Obtain written prescriptions for any medication you will be taking on the trip, and for eyeglasses, should replacements be necessary.

Packing   Enclosed is a packing “cheat-sheet” to help you get started. Be sure to tape your name and address inside your luggage in case your baggage tag is lost.

Layers are essential when sightseeing on tour as the weather can change significantly during the day and over the course of the trip. Be sure to bring comfortable walking shoes.

Accommodations While The Travel Club makes every effort to ensure special room requests, special requests are at the discretion of the hotel and cannot be guaranteed.

On tour Generally, longer programs can be filled with long travel days on a coach (rest stops included), and a lot of walking and standing (possibly on uneven surfaces), and some destinations may have altitude or other environmental concerns. Please remember that many historic areas, especially in Europe, cannot accommodate large coaches on their streets and walking tours are the only way to see the area. Whenever possible, we specify such information in your pre-departure itinerary. It is also important to be aware that many sites, especially in Europe, are not designed to accommodate wheelchairs or mobility aids.

Flights The Travel Club assumes no responsibility for applying frequent flyer miles. Please be aware that some Frequent Flyer Miles may not be applied toward certain classes of service under which tickets have been issued. However, you may contact the airline directly to attempt this on your own. Information on your tickets cannot be obtained prior to departure, so please remember to retain your boarding passes, as you may need to submit that information to the airline to redeem your miles.

Because we reserve GROUP air space, some airlines will not allow you to check on your reservation or make requests directly with the carrier prior to departure. In some cases passengers cannot make seat assignments prior to check-in at the airport. While we make every effort to ensure your requests, we cannot guarantee them. It is at the discretion of the air carrier to fulfill any special requests. In addition, many carriers do not allow seating to be assigned until check in at the airport.

Travel Insurance Protecting yourself against unexpected medical emergencies before traveling (your own, a family member’s, or a travel companion’s) is a smart investment – so we strongly urge you to consider purchasing traveler’s insurance. Show of the Month Travel Club recommends CSA Travel Protection for your travel insurance needs. (A brochure was forwarded to you when you reserved this trip.) PLEASE NOTE: You must contact the insurance company directly to purchase a policy and with customer service issues and questions regarding potential or existing claims. They will provide you with the most comprehensive information and assist you with processing.