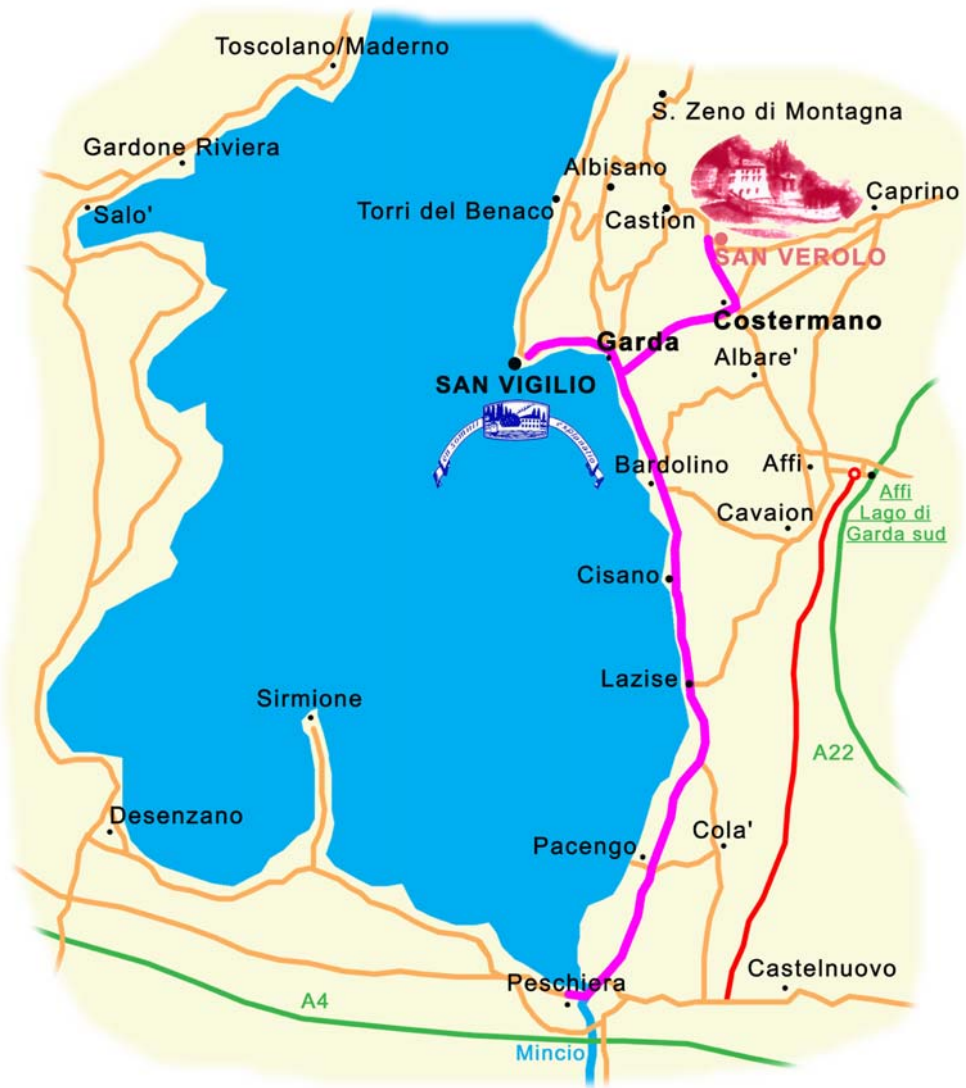


SAN VEROLO



**LAKE GARDA
to the south**



itinerary of approximately 55 km altogether

Places to visit:

- ⇒ GARDA
- ⇒ BARDOLINO
- ⇒ CISANO
- ⇒ LAZISE
- ⇒ PESCHIERA

We suggest a first stop at nearby Garda, still at the centre of lake politics and economy since, in the XII century, its name was given to the whole lake which until then had been known as *Benàco*. A rich town



throughout the centuries, it has been embellished with elegant palaces and even today, walking through the historical centre, you can admire the extraordinary beauty of its stone-paved alleys and tiny squares lined with pretty little shops. The most illustrious historical monument is Chiesa di Santa Maria, of ancient origin but with the present structure dating from the XVI century. Inside you will find XV-century frescos, a papal seal dated 1138 carved into the marble and a wooden crucifix dating from 1500.

Garda is also renowned for its long gritty beach, crowded in summer by hundreds of bathers, as well as the splendid Punta S. Vigilio which you can reach on foot when the water level is low by following the beach and crossing the reed bed. If you cannot get there on foot, go in the car to this enchanting promontory. It is only a few kilometres north of Garda. Leave your car in the car park in the



midst of an olive grove, and follow the long avenue leading to the gates of the XVI-century Villa Guarienti, work of Verona architect Michele Sanmicheli, not open to the public. The paved footpath descends towards the lake as far as the harbour revealing the authentic magic of an enchanting lake scenario. From the cypress-lined avenue you can also reach Baia delle Sirene, a vast gritty beach edging the meadows and olive groves, where you can enjoy the crystal waters considered the purest on the lake (*paid entry ticket required*).

After Garda, a visit to [Bardolino](#), perhaps the locality best known abroad, not only for its undeniable beauty, but mostly for the wine of the same name, *Bardolino*, celebrated very frequently in local sagras. The town is very attractive with a lakeside walk decorated with colourful flowerbeds, the traditional fishing boats moored to the jetty, the old pastel-coloured buildings facing the lake, and the narrow alleys in the historical centre much frequented in all seasons.

At Bardolino you can also visit two splendid ancient churches: Chiesa di S. Severo, a Romanesque parish church dating from the XI century, and Chiesa di S. Zeno, of even more ancient origin. The first contains precious frescos from the XI and XII centuries while the second, dating from the VIII century is a Latin cross structure supported by six red marble columns.



As we mentioned, perhaps it is Bardolino wine that is famous throughout the world, so we cannot ignore the wine museum, Museo del Vino, not to be missed if you want a closer encounter with the wine and its history. Here you can see the ploughs, presses, decanting pumps, amphoras, and barrels used in the fields and cellars for producing the wine.

The museum was founded by Cantine F.lli Zeni, situated on the hillside behind the town.

(open: from mid-March to end October, every day, h. 9.00-13.00/14.00-18.00; for information, call: 045 6228331)

Another museum worth visiting is in Cisano, going south towards Lazise: this is the Museo dell'Olio, dedicated to the delicious oil produced on the hills around Lake Garda. This fascinating exhibition can be found at the Oleificio Cisano del Garda oil press, where you can observe the various phases in production, as well as some particularly interesting sections regarding ancient methods of production. There is also a shop where you can buy olive oil and local specialities.

(open: h. 9.00-12.30/15.00-19.00; closed on Sundays and Wednesday afternoons; for information, call 045 6229047).



Next stop is [Lazise](#), one of the most popular towns on the Verona shores, again with a labyrinth of small roads in the historical centre, a beautiful lakeside promenade

paved with geometrical mosaics and a huge square paved with porphyry slabs. Pretty little shops enliven this enchanting medieval pearl with its Scaligeri castle in the grounds of Villa Bernini park but which unfortunately is privately owned and not open to the public. However you can visit the tiny [Chiesa di S. Nicolò](#), dating from the XII century, where you can still admire the precious XIII-century frescos attributed to the Giotto school.

Before ending the journey at Peschiera, last stop, we would like to mention the splendid [passeggiata](#) (footpath) connecting all the towns we have mentioned so far, from Garda to Lazise. This breath-taking walk follows the lake shore, a few steps away from the wonderful gardens of the lakeside villas, the reed beds and the beaches.

And here we are in [Peschiera](#), a town bursting with history, recorded in the chronicles of the Italian Resurgence for being one of the bulwarks of the Quadrilateral, with Verona, Legnago and Mantova. Forever contended for its strategic position, it was fortified in the XVI century under the Serenissima Venetian Republic. The powerful walls, built in stone and brick and still well preserved, welcome visitors to Peschiera. The narrow streets of the historical centre are lined with shops of all kinds.

A special mention must be made of the Mincio river which flows out of the lake and, at Peschiera, starts its journey towards the flat land of Mantua.

An excellent cycling path has been laid along its banks and a distance of about ten kilometres brings you to [Borghetto](#), a tiny medieval borough crossed by the Mincio. If you decide

to follow this simple flat pathway along the placid waters of the river, about half way you can go to visit the small town of [Monzambano](#), with its XII-century castle open to visitors on Sundays and public holidays from March to October.



LOCANDA SAN VIGILIO Via S. Vigilio, 1 GARDA / tel. 045 7256688
(average cost, excluding wine: € 60.00. Open every day)

Uncontaminated nature, olive groves and avenues of age-old cypresses, the fresh and limpid waters lapping in the delightful harbour, silence and harmony in a corner of paradise conserved intact by Man: this is the magical scenario enveloping Locanda San Vigilio, situated in the most enchanting point of Lake Garda. The menu includes international dishes, with exciting first courses and a wide variety of main dishes where fish, from the sea and from the lake, are the great attraction. An excellent wine list.

ANTICA LOCANDA ULIVO

Corso Cangrande, 22 LAZISE / tel. 045 6470205
(average cost, excluding wine: € 20.00. Closed on Thursdays)

Walk down the paved alleys of Lazise to reach the quiet gardens among the olives and protected by crenellated walls where, in the evening, guests are invited to take their place ... and you're there. In this historical place with its medieval walls, you can taste traditional dishes and specialities that cannot be found elsewhere. Don't miss the Forca, meat roasted on the characteristic spit, served with rice and sauces of many kinds. They also serve pizza. Wines are local, from the Verona hinterland.

L'OSTERIA

Via F. Cavallotti, 7 - PESCHIERA / tel. 045 7550545
(average cost, excluding wines: € 15.00 - open only in the evening, Saturdays and public holidays also at mid-day, closed on Tuesdays, always open from June to September)

Situated in the historical centre of Peschiera, it has two rooms, one of which for non-smokers, a tavern with its original stone walls. This is the ideal place for tasting typical regional cuisine. Excellent first courses, cleverly created by the Chef, discovering the most ancient culinary traditions of this region. But space has been left to innovation ... such as the Pietra, leaving the guest free to cook his own meat and vegetables on the volcanic stone griddle on his table.

They also serve pizza.



testi e impaginazione: Orietta Gaspari - cartografia e foto: Flavio Vallenari
contatti: oriettagaspari@libero.it - vflav@libero.it
realizzato per **LOCANDA SAN VEROLO**, giugno 2003