


Heart of Venetia

Single center or independent cycling

- Stay in a delightfully friendly, family-run *agriturismo* with private swimming pool – a true Breakaway favorite!
- Lots of circular cycling choices through olives, vines and cherry orchards – fully researched route notes provided
- Tranquil lakes, pretty villages, ancient villas, beautifully green countryside
- Options to visit Venice, Verona, Padua and Vicenza



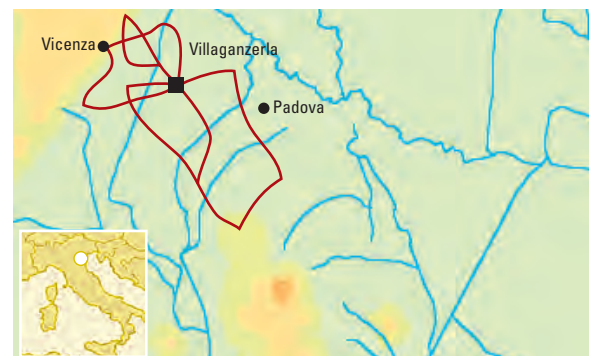
An outright winner when introduced last summer, this single center independent cycling holiday offers a real insight into Italian country living, and is perfect for people not wanting to pack up and move on every couple of days.

Base for the week is the  charming 13 room farm-hotel, Agriturismo l'Albara, nestled just outside the tiny village of Villaganzerla, in the heart of the Venetian countryside, and surrounded by olives, poplars and cherries. Run by the affable Valfrido and Angelina, and their daughter, Romina, and son, Federico, this is one of the friendliest places in our programme – don't be surprised if you are invited fruit picking or whisked away to the grappa distillery just down the road!

The area is excellent for cycling as the valley floor here is criss-crossed with lots of quiet country lanes. We've put together a selection of circular routes, of varying lengths, so you can be as active, or not, as you choose. There are a number of Palladian villas on your doorstep, and the area is rich in pretty rural villages, unchanged over the years. Further afield, the "must see" regional highlights – such as Venice, Vicenza and Padua – can all be reached on a full day out. Or, of course, you can just laze by the pool* and soak up the warm Italian sun!

Staying in an *agriturismo* is less formal than staying in a hotel, but certainly no less comfortable. The bedrooms here are cheerfully decorated with wrought iron bedsteads, brightly colored throws and polished wooden floors. The dining room is light and airy and serves fresh, regional cuisine according to what's in season. Everything – even the wine – comes from the farm!

* Note: Pool typically open June - early September only.



Book now on 1-800-567-6286 or visit www.breakaway-adventures.com for more information

HEART OF VENETIA | DAY BY DAY



Day 1 Arrive in Villaganzerla

Our rep meets you at Vicenza and takes you (30 mins) to your friendly farm-hotel in Villaganzerla where, time permitting, he will fit you out with a bike and go through the various cycling choices with you before dinner.

Day 2 Bastia Market - 23km/15mi

Sunday is market day (morning only) in Bastia – so we've built in an easy cycle along quiet country lanes criss-crossing the Paduan Plain to get you in your stride. Take time to stroll round the stalls before heading off to the tiny village of Lovolo - charming village square with its ancient lime kiln – for lunch. Your return route takes you through the delightful hamlet of Monticello as you wind your way back to Villaganzerla.

Day 3 Lake Fimon - 33km/22mi or 38km/25mi

Today's route takes you along wonderfully tranquil valley lanes and on to Lake Fimon, a totally undiscovered gem surrounded by shaded woodland. There are lots of little spots for picnicking by the water's edge, or you can take lunch at one of the lakeside *trattorie*. It's a lovely 5km/3mi circular cycle around the lake, before you meander back amidst the green backdrop of lush valleys and rolling hills to your *agriturismo*.

Day 4 Villas and Vineyards 25km/17mi

Heading north this morning, your first stop is the lovely village of Costozza – named after the network of caves in the cliffs above - with its impressive campanile, beautiful villas and extensive formal gardens lined with statues. Ice cream lovers should call in at the locally renowned *gelateria* before looping south and on to Lumignano - famous locally for its annual pea festival! Your route then follows the Strada del Vino as you wend your way through rows of immaculately tended vineyards, against the rolling backdrop of the Berici hills. This is the only area outside Hungary where the red Tocai Rosso grape is grown. Stop off for some tasting, perhaps in Castegnero or Nanto – striking Venetian bell tower - before pedaling east and back in time for a dip before dinner.

Day 5 Vicenza and the Villa Rotonda 33km/22mi

A cycle path (those feeling lazy can catch the bus!) takes you to Vicenza, nicknamed "Venice of the Terra Firma" for its marvellous architecture – Palladio designed dozens of the city's buildings from the Basilica Palladiana in the main square to the Teatro Olimpico – there's plenty to explore. On the way home you can visit the famous Villa Rotonda and its surrounding gardens.

Day 6 Free day exploring

Why not give the bike a rest today and head off to one of the great Italian cities? Venice, Verona and Padua are all easily accessible by train from Vicenza (short bus or cycle ride). Alternatively, if you prefer to avoid the crowds, perhaps take the bus to Bassano - home to the region's famous grappa; there is even a museum here in its honor!

Day 7 The Abbey of La Praglia 37km/25mi

In the morning, we'll give you a lift (with your bike) to Teolo, in the heart of the National Park of the Euganean Hills. A former Roman settlement, Teolo's heyday was in the C15 when it became the summer home of Venice's Doges escaping the heat of the coast. Many *palazzi* and formal gardens from the period remain. Your cycling starts with an exciting freewheel down through the Euganean Hills and on to the Renaissance Abbey of La Praglia, still home to an order of Benedictine monks. You then cycle to 'Castello di San Martino', a popular spot for a shady picnic, and then back along quiet country lanes by the Baccaglione River to l'Albara.

Day 8 Leave Villaganzerla

We give you a lift to Vicenza after breakfast so that you can connect with your flight home.

Note: Please note that, from spring 2011, cycling helmets are compulsory in Italy for children under 16. As we cannot provide these, we strongly recommend that you bring your own.



Dates and Prices

Departs Saturdays

Tour Only

2012 departures

May 5, 12, 19, 26	\$2,329
Sep 8, 15, 22, 29	\$2,345
Oct 6, 13	\$2,345
Jun 2, 9, 16, 23	\$2,398
Jun 30, Jul 7, 14, 21, 28	\$2,419
Aug 4, 11, 18, 25, Sep 1	\$2,419
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$1,432

Singles: Add \$30 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.

Child: Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

Holiday type: Independent cycling, single center, no minimum group size.

Departs: Saturdays from May 5 to Oct 13.

Duration: 8 days (7 nights).

Meals: Continental breakfast and evening meals.

Other details: For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

Tailor-made travel choices

Nearest Arrival Airport: Venice Marco Polo Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

The above prices include our standard transfers: Vicenza train station by 17:03 (transfer to hotel, 30 mins, provided). **Return:** Vicenza train station by 09:56.

Rail options: Venice Mestre to Vicenza 16:32/17:03. Return: Vicenza to Venice Mestre 09:56/10:28.

Second Class Italian Rail: Add \$105 per person, round trip.

First Class Italian Rail: Add \$175 per person, round trip.

Tour only: Transfers included from Vicenza train station at 17:03, and back to Vicenza train station departing train station at 09:15.

C07VN

