

MANTUA SIMPLY WONDERFUL



MANTOVA



Piazza Sordello

MANTUA. SIMPLY WONDERFUL

Those who arrive in Mantua are captivated by its unique, timeless allure and welcoming atmosphere. A city which enjoys a breathtaking panorama when viewed from the shores of its lakes. It appears as though it is suspended above the water, a protagonist of an almost surreal landscape, composed of a balance of history, art and nature.

Mantua is a city to be visited with ample time, consideration and serenity. The city squares, passageways and cobblestone streets invite the visitor to slowly take in every one of its monuments and historic buildings in order to understand just why it has been declared by UNESCO as a *World Heritage Site* along with the neighboringneighbouring town of Sabbioneta.

Mantua weaves history, art and culture together everywhere and it is surrounded by an unparalleled natural atmosphere. Unique and magical places that make Mantua simply wonderful.





Sabbioneta



MANTUA AND SABBIONETA: WORLD HERITAGE SITE

July of 2008 is the month when *Mantua* and neighbouring *Sabbioneta* were introduced to the list of World Heritage Sites as a unique point of importance. Both cities enjoyed moments of great design importance during the renaissance. Designed and created by the same ruling family, the Gonzaga, two different but complimentary models were applied for each location. In fact, Sabbioneta is a newer city realized by Vespasiano Gonzaga in the second half of the sixteenth century as the ideal capital for his duchy; Mantua instead presents itself as a transformation of an existing city, which changed the ancient urban configuration. Founded during the Etruscan-Roman epoch and modified in the medieval era, then to adhere to the ideals of Renaissance town planning. Two cities, one unique site, a cultural heritage of the past, essential to safeguard and transmit to future generations.





Roman Domus



Lovers of Valdaro

A CITY WITH MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY

Legend would have us believe that the city was founded by Manto a Greek mystic. Most likely the name is derived from the Etruscan infernal divinity Mantu with evidence from archeological discoveries in the Mantuan territories such as Forcello in the town of Bagnolo San Vito.

The Etruscan Mantua covered an area from the Mincio River to approximately where the Piazza Sordello is located today. Thanks to its elevated position it was also used by the Romans. Evidence of this has been found recently in perimeter walls and mosaics typical of a Roman *Domus* along with many other treasures displayed at the National Archeological Museum.

The furthest history of Mantua stretches back to the “*Amanti*”, Lovers of Valdaro, human remains from the Neolithic Age, buried together in an embrace which were found within the city of Valdaro. This find has had an impact on the collective imagination beyond the Italian borders so much so that the American band *I Quitting Heaven* dedicated their song *Skeleton Kiss* to them.



Piazza Erbe, Palazzo della Ragione and Palazzo Podestà

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Around 1000 a.d, Mantua came under the control of the Canossa's and became their capital. Matilda of the Canossa's is responsible for the oldest church found in the city, the *Rotonda di San Lorenzo* which was restored in the twentieth century. A circular layout, The church contains the women's gallery along with traces of the original fresco decoration of the Byzantine influence. The death of Matilda brought a period of freedom for Mantua. The first expansion of the city is due to Alberto Pitentino in 1190 who modified the course of the Mincio River forming the lakes that surround the city. Many city's towers were built in this period. The tower found at Acerbi called "the Cage" is a sixteenth-century walled structure with external reinforcement where prisoners were pilloried; The *Palazzo del Podestà*, restructured in the fifteenth century by Luca Fancelli, who preserved the thirteenth-century face of the statue of *Virgilio in Cattedra* "Virgil at the desk"; The *Masseria*, where the oldest image of the city is preserved in its fresco, and *Palazzo della Ragione*, destined for the ministry of justice, overlooking Piazza Erbe, which was then, as it still is today, the location of the market. The Church of *Santa Maria del Gradaro* which was built in 1256 outside the city walls.



Rotonda di San Lorenzo



Temple of San Sebastiano



Home-workshop of The Merchant Boniforte

THE RENAISSANCE IN MANTUA

The *Gonzaga* became lords of Mantua in 1328, after driving out the Bonacolsi family. They were responsible for a new urban extension and the admirable artistic flowering of Mantua. Under the rule of the Marquis Ludovico II *Renovatio Urbis* began. Many artists worked to modernize and embellish the city, including *Andrea Mantegna*, who painted for the Marquis the *Camera Picta* “Bridal Chamber” as well as *Leon Battista Alberti*, who designed the restoration of the *Basilica of Sant’Andrea* and the building of the *Temple of Saint Sebastian* during the Renaissance expansion. Opposite from the island of Te is Palazzo Te which rises from the garden of delights, work of *Giulio Romano*. Each building is set just outside the oldest part of the city and was destined to enhance the regality of the city, including places of service as the sixteenth century *Pescherie*, designed by *Giulio Romano*, created for the fish trade.

At this time the court was enriched with works by famous contemporary artists and classical finds that constitute the art collections of the city. Evidence of this is still visible at the City Museum of Palazzo San Sebastiano, the Diocesan Museum and the Museum of Palazzo Ducale.

Important examples of urban renaissance are the *Casa del Mercante Boniforte-shop* in Piazza Erbe, in Venetian Gothic style; the *House-studio of Viani*, in Piazza Marconi, which preserves the fifteenth-painted façade, School of Mantegna, almost completely whole; the *Casa del Mantegna* with its particular circular layout, now an exhibition center and the *House of Giulio Romano* (not open internally).

Basilica of Sant’Andrea





Palazzo Te, facciata sulle peschiere



*Palazzo Te. Camera di Amore e Psiche
Particolare del banchetto nobile*

THE RESIDENCES OF THE PRINCES

The Gonzaga lived in prestigious residences. The oldest and most complex, from an architectural point of view, is the *Palazzo Ducale*, with its magnificent rooms, numerous buildings connected by corridors and galleries, courtyards, squares, gardens, one of which is hanging, is among the the most extensive in Europe. Official residence of the Lords of Mantua until the seventeenth century, the complex has undergone changes and adaptations to the aesthetic taste of the different eras. Houses masterpieces of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries such as the Hall with the Ciclo cavalleresco of Pisanello, Mantegna's the Camera degli Sposi in the Castle of St. George, the Studio of Isabella d'Este in the Corte Vecchia with its the precious cabinetry works, the Appartamento di Troia by Giulio Romano in New Court and Raphael's complete cycle of woven Flemish tapestries. At the opposite end of the city lie the private residences and representative services of the Gonzaga. The *Palazzo di San Sebastiano*, built in the early sixteenth century by Francesco II, housed the nine paintings that make up the *Trionfo di Cesare* by Mantegna, now preserved at Hampton Court (London). The palace is home to the City Museum, with works that tell the emblematic moments of Mantuan civilization. *Palazzo Te*, built by Frederick II, was the palace dell'*honesto Ocio*, where the prince could find intellectual restoration. Absolute masterpiece of Giulio Romano, built between 1525 and 1535, the building houses the Sala dei Cavalli, dedicated to the fine horses bred by the Gonzaga, the House of Eros and Psyche to accommodate the most distinguished guests for banquets and dinners and the Chamber of the Giants, with its amazing audio and visual effects, which was built in honor of Emperor Charles V, who had granted the title of Duke Frederick.

Palazzo Ducale, Camera degli Sposi





Teatro Scientifico del Bibiena

THE FRENCH AND AUSTRIAN DOMINATION

With the fall of the Gonzaga family, Mantova passed under the domination of Austria and France.

In 1775 the Palazzo Accademico was enlarged and became the center of the *Royal Academy of Sciences and Fine Arts*, founded by Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, today it is the Accademia Nazionale Virgiliana. A few years before, the *Teatro Scientifico* had been built, a small baroque jewel created by architect Antonio Galli Bibiena. The theatre had only been opened a few days when the then fourteen year old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart concert held a concert. Maria Teresa is also responsible for the founding of the public library, the so called Teresiana inside the Palazzo

degli Studi. In neoclassical style there is the *Palazzo d'Arco* (1782-92), now a museum, which houses antique furniture and furnishings as well as beautiful paintings. The garden faces the *Zodiac Room* with a series of frescoes of the sixteenth century. In 1810 the building hosted the Napoleonic trial of Tyrolean hero Andreas Hofer, condemned and executed at the Cittadella di Porto (now Cittadella), where there is a garden dedicated to him. Between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, in fact, Mantua was annexed by the Cisalpine Republic and occupied by Napoleon's troops. The French ruling period was responsible for the renovation of the *Piazza Virgiliana* which is a public garden with a bust of the Poet. The current monument dates back to 1926.



Precious books of the Biblioteca Comunale Teresiana



*Palace of the Chamber of Commerce.
Detail of interior decoration*



Lunetta Frassino

FROM THE ITALIAN UNIFICATION TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Throughout the period of the Risorgimento, under Austrian rule, Mantua built fortified structures and became part of the defensive system of the Quadrilatero, together with the fortresses of Peschiera, Verona and Legnago. A winding path around the city allows one to visit the military structures which remain from *Lunette Fossamana*, *Frassino* and *the Fort of Pietole*, located in the town of Virgil.

Between 1851 and 1855, a group of Mantuan patriots (the *Martyrs of Belfiore*) were executed for plotting against the Hapsburg Empire. The city has dedicated a memorial and a monument to them. In the *city Museum* of Palazzo San Sebastiano, the weapons, clothes, personal items and documents of the protagonists of the time are on display.

During this period in 1822 the historic *Teatro Sociale* was opened, it hosted famous actors and artists as well as Garibaldi and Victor Emmanuel II, honored with their plaques on the walls.

Among the twentieth-century buildings, the eclectic works of *Aldo Andreani*, a Mantuan architect and sculptor, stand out. In addition to many private homes, such as the home of Tazio Nuvolari in via Chiassi, Andreani worked on the building and decoration of the *Palace of the Chamber of Commerce* in 1914 and the reorganization of municipal buildings in Piazza Erbe, completed in 1944.



Basilica di Santa Barbara



Jewel with the monogram of the name of Jesus German Manufacture, 1562

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS AND SACRED ART

Numerous churches in Mantua have notable artistic and architectural value as well.

Of note, in the historic center, the XI century *Duomo* (Cathedral of St. Peter), which was restored after a fire in the fourteenth century and restored again by Giulio Romano in the sixteenth century. In 1756 Nicholas Baschiera replaced the late Gothic medieval facade with the current forms of late Baroque.

Inside the monumental complex of the Palazzo Ducale, the *Basilica Palatina in Santa Barbara* was commissioned by Duke William for religious functions of the court and built by the Mantuan architect Giovanni Battista Bertani in the second half of the sixteenth century. The church, designed to enhance optimum acoustics for every type of sound holds the extraordinary organ of Graziadio Antegnati of 1565. At the center of the city is the *Basilica of St. Andrew*, a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture, designed by Leon Battista Alberti began in 1472 and ended in 1765 with the inclusion of the dome designed by Filippo Juvarra. The basilica, built on an ancient church of the Benedictine monastery, hosts the funerary chapel of Mantegna. Behind it, in Piazza Leon Battista Alberti, remains of the cloister of the Benedictine monastery are visible. Important and valuable examples of sacred art are preserved in the *Diocesan Museum Francesco Gonzaga* in Piazza Virgiliana. The museum also hosts masterpieces of paintings, French enamels and precious tapestries, works of gold and silver of the house of Gonzaga and an exceptional collection of Renaissance armor from the Sanctuary of the Madonna delle Grazie.



The Sacred Vessels



Sanctuary of the Madonna delle Grazie and Pavement Artists at work

PILGRIMS IN MANTUA

The Basilica of Sant'Andrea has always been a place of pilgrimage because it houses in its crypt the *Sacred Vessels*, the phials containing the Precious Blood of Christ. Legend has it that Longinus, the Roman soldier who pierced Christ on the Cross, collected the blood and brought it to Mantua.

The relic is exhibited to the faithful and carried in a procession through the city on Good Friday.

Another destination of pilgrimage is the *Sanctuary of the Madonna delle Grazie*, in the village of Grazie di Curtatone which is south of the city, built by Francesco I Gonzaga in 1399 as an offering to the Virgin Mary for the end of the plague. In Lombard Gothic style, altered and decorated in the sixteenth century, it contains a vivid example of the popular faith: the wooden structure has life-size statues made of papier-mâché from the seventeenth century. On the ceiling hangs a stuffed crocodile which, according to popular tradition, a boatman left as an offering after having been saved from the aggression of the animal by the grace of the Virgin. This is actually a Nile crocodile that radioactive carbon analysis puts it at the same time as the building's creation.

On Ferragosto the ancient Fiera delle Grazie takes place in front of the Sanctuary with an international competition of *pavement* and street artists who paint religious subjects using chalk.



Natural Reserve Valli del Mincio

FROM GARDA TO THE PO THROUGH THE PARCO DEL MINCIO

The course of the river Mincio, an outlet of Lake Garda, is an area of great natural, historical, cultural and devotional importance which has been under protection since 1984 by the establishment of the *Mincio Park*. The park stretches from Lake Garda to the River Po through the gentle slopes of the morainic Mantua hills, characterized by numerous fortified villages and cultivated into the plains area with marshy stretches next to the city of Mantua, until it ends in the great river Po. Since ancient times there has been a strong link between Mantua and the Mincio River. Around the city, the river widens and extends into three lakes: Superiore, Mezzo and Inferiore. The water system dates back to 1190 at the hands of *Alberto Pitentino* who removed the marshes.

The Natural Reserves and Parks

The Mincio River, in its gentle flow towards the Po, gives life to the towns of Rivalta, Grazie di Curtatone and Mantua. The *Mincio Nature Reserve* where the river creates one of the most important wetland areas in northern Italy, is dotted with an expansive area of reeds, sedges and in the summer, lotus flowers. The area is part of the project EDEN 2009.

On the right bank of the Lake Inferiore begins the *Natural Reserve of Vallazza*. It is a vast complex of valued, natural wetlands as evidenced by the different stages and spontaneous river bends. These landscapes of enchanting beauty are a maze of canals and small ponds where one can find water lilies, nannuferi, hibiscus and swamp water chestnuts.



Centro Parco Bertone



Natural Reserve of Vallazza



Swan on the lake

Next to this amazing vegetation is the presence of the typical fauna of the marsh Herons, Coots, Egrets Warblers Squacco, Kites ducks, swans and many other rare species. A few kilometers from the city is the *National Reserve Bosco Fontana*, it is what remains of the ancient forests of a few thousand years ago which covered the Po Valley. At the heart of the forest, which offers an exceptional variety of plants, is a charming late-sixteenth century palace which was built by Vincenzo I Gonzaga when the forest was a hunting reserve of the family. In the Municipality of Goito the *Bertone Park* is at the centre of the Mincio Reserve. With its stunning views and the tiny lake, it creates a perfect atmosphere

for a pleasant walk in the countryside. It is a park garden in which to admire exotic and native trees, some of which date back 150 years. Since 1994 it has been the centre for the reintroduction of the white stork.

The heart of the Mincio is *Rivalta*, where you can visit the Ethnographic Museum of River Crafts. The museum documents the interdependence and balance between human life and the swamp.



Mantua–Peschiera bike trail



Bosco Fontana

CYCLING

Mantova offers a network of cycling routes within the city, which makes it possible to quickly reach the different cultural centers, and an equally extensive network of cycling routes, immersed in an exceptional natural environment.

The principle path is the pedestrian trail that winds around the city along the shores of the three lakes. The route travels through *Parco Periurbano* until it reaches the left bank of lago Superiore and the gardens of Belfiore, and on the right the shore of Cittadella, where the sixteenth century *Porta Giulia*, designed by Giulio Romano, is found. From here you can continue the trip to the *Rocca di Sparafucile*, where you can enjoy a picturesque view of the city. On the shores of lago di Mezzo is also the *Parco della Scienza*, a path equipped with interactive devices to playfully experiment with a variety of scientific phenomena. Cycle routes depart from the city to the tourist destinations of the province and Lake Garda. The *Mantua–Grazie bike trail* is approximately 7 km long, starting at the lago Superiore and follows the provincial road leading to Grazie di Curtatone. The *Mantua–Peschiera bike trail* extends for about 43 km on mostly flat terrain and it allows many stops of cultural interest such as Bosco della Fontana, Borghetto, Castellarò Lagusello and Peschiera, a fortified town on Lake Garda. The *Sabbioneta–Mantua bike trail* is 47 km long, it connects the two cities which have been declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Along this stretch is the bridge of boats at Torre d' Oglio, Commessaggio with the Torrazzo built by Vespasian Gonzaga and finally Sabbioneta, the ideal city.



Lotus flowers



River trip

BY WATER

From its inception Mantova has had a very close relationship with the water that makes up its character. Over the centuries, water has been a means of military defense, a vital element for the economy, a way of trade and commercial traffic, but also a danger to the public because of the frequent floods. Even today, the city is closely tied to its lakes and public parks that stretch along the banks.

The lakes offer a special opportunity to know the landscape and the aquatic environment through guided excursions by boat and barge. From the north is the *Lago Superiore* where one can reach Belfiore and the villages of Grazie and Rivalta; from the south one can navigate the *Lago di Mezzo* and *lago Inferiore* towards the Po River, where one can arrive at the valley of Governolo and then on to Ferrara and Venice.

There are many offers of tourist excursions and tours with expert guides, especially during periods of the full moon, available from the different shipping companies. Some boats allow you to load bikes on board and also offer catering services, permitting guests to taste the local dishes in a spectacular setting.

Do not miss the excursion on lago Superiore to admire the *lotus flower* blossoms in July and August, the plant imported from the East by the naturalist Anna Maria Pellegreffi in 1921 and has become one of the symbols of the city.



Palazzo del Podestà, Virgilio in cattedra



Basilica di Santa Barbara, Antegnati's organ

CITY OF MUSIC AND POETRY

It was February 24th, 1607 when, in a hall of the Palazzo Ducale, tenor Francesco Rasi sang the first notes of *Orfeo*. The work of *Claudio Monteverdi* marks the transition from Renaissance music to Baroque music and is considered the first true masterpiece in the history of opera.

The love for music, secular and sacred, has always been very strong in Mantua. The Gonzaga were patrons of great musicians such as *Palestrina* who composed the famous *Nine Messe Mantovane* for the Basilica of Santa Barbara which also received Antegnati's prodigious organ provided by Duke Wilhelm. Young *Mozart*, in 1770, performed in Mantua in the Bibiena Theatre, which his father, Leopold, described this way: "*Today I saw the most beautiful theatre in the world.*" The link between the Gonzaga and music continued through history as *Giuseppe Verdi*, in 1851, composed *Il Rigoletto* opera, found in the libretto by Francesco Maria Piave, set in the court of Mantua. In September 2010, RAI, live broadcasted a worldwide viewing of Verdi's drama which was shot in Mantua, with Plácido Domingo as Rigoletto. The RAI Symphony Orchestra was conducted by Zubin Mehta.

70 BC begins Mantuan literary history with the birth of *Virgil*. The greatest Latin poet was a pillar of Western culture and he recalled his Mantuan origins in the beginning of the famous epitaph *Mantua Me Genuit*. The medieval statue of Virgilio in Cattedra at the Palazzo del Podestà, the Renaissance portraits of the poet, the Piazza Virgiliana, the forest and monument named for him give evidence of the love the city has to the great Mantua poet. Mantua was also the home of the poet *Teofilo Folengo* who began his work imitating the Latin verses of Virgil and later became the greatest exponent of macaronic sixteenth century poetry.



Learco Guerra



Tazio Nuvolari

CITY OF SPORT

Mantuan sports are linked to speed of both the body and the machine. In 1902, the cyclist *Learco Guerra* was born in Mantua which, thanks to his racing technique and great physical strength earned the nickname “Human Locomotive”. Learco Guerra was the first rider to wear the pink jersey in 1931 Tour of Italy, winning the opening stage of Milan-Mantua.

Another sporting hero is *Tazio Nuvolari*, an Italian legend of international auto racing acclaim. He was born in Castel d’Ario in 1892, and was named the “Mantovano Volante “ or “Nivola” in order to emphasize his propensity for dynamism and speed. He began his career as a motorcyclist but passed over to car racing competing in over three hundred races. He won two Targa Florio, two Mille Miglia, the Vanderbilt Cup the Grand Prix of Tripoli, two Grand Prix of Italy and the Grand Prix of Germany. The Tazio Nuvolari Museum, which is housed in the Chiesa del Carmelino displays the awards and his personal Memorabilia such as helmets, gloves, goggles, overalls and his inseparable yellow jersey. The “Mantovano Volante “ evokes the futurist movement and its founder Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, who presented his famous “Futurist Manifesto” in Mantua on April 6th, 1911, which extolled speed, dynamism and flight, 12 days before his Paris release.



Mostarde and cheese



Salame and Lambrusco

CITY OF DINING

Mantuan cuisine has its roots in the Gonzaga royal tradition mixed with popular dishes. Fine dining, yet simple while making use of all the natural resources Mantua has to offer.

Vistors are obliged to have at least one meal in one of the many Trattorie or restaurants available in order to taste *tortelli di zucca*, traditionally served on Christmas Eve, *agnolì in brodo*, meat filled Ravioli, and *risotto alla pilota*, whose name comes “pillarini del riso”, with local sausage served with *puntèl* a type of steamed pork. The staple of Mantua is pork: *salame mantovano* with garlic, *gras pistà* beaten pork fat with garlic and parsley served on steaming polenta and *cotechino* served with mashed potatoes or lentils. Particularly delicious among the second plates are *stracotto d’asino* and *luccio in salsa* both served with polenta and *cappone alla Stefani* from the old recipe from the Gonzaga royal chef served on fresh salad, raisins and pine nuts.

Mantua is the only place where *Grana Padano* and *Parmagiano Reggiano* are produced, both of which are delicious with mostarda mantovana di mele campanine. Dessert is the traditional cake *Sbrisolona*, made with corn flour, almonds and lard, but don’t forget to taste the *Elvezia*, which was invented by Swiss confectioners in Mantua during the eighteenth century as well as the *Anello di Monaco*, a typical Christmas sweet of German ancestry.

To top it off there are the white and red wines of the Mantua moraine hills which are enjoying increasing recognition and the *Mantuan Lambrusco DOC*.



Piazza Erbe in the evening



Farmers Market on Lungorio and Pescherie by Giulio Romano

CITY TO LIVE

To get deeply familiar with Mantua, one should walk the city to discover all the hidden details, from one portico to another, from one piazza to another peering inside the palaces and the beautiful and unexpected historical gardens.

Living in Mantova means to know its inhabitants, attend the meeting places, walk along the lakes, go to the theatre, attend concerts in palaces and town squares, shopping, visit the markets and taste the delicious local cuisine. Institutions and cultural associations in Mantua hold events, shows, concerts, conferences and exhibitions, all year round, within the landmarks of the city, which are the focus of an ongoing dialogue between the ancient beauty and modernity of cultural languages.

With its many parks and gardens, the Belfiore Park, the Periurbano Park, the Bosco Virgilian and the Old and New Belfiore gardens by Joseph Roda, Valentini gardens, the garden of Lungorio IV Novembre, Piazza Lega Lombarda, Piazza Virgiliana, the city is perfect for relaxing and dining outdoors. There is an antique market, for lovers of curiosities and antiques, every third Sunday of the month. The weekly market is held on Thursdays in the old town and the farmers market is on Saturday morning on Lungorio adjacent to the Pescherie where you can buy cheese, fresh pastries and other typical products directly from the producers. Due to the richness of its cultural and monumental heritage, Mantua requires a stay of several days in order to immerse yourself in the cozy atmosphere of this charming Renaissance city.



Madonna della Vittoria



National Historical Museum of the Fire Brigade

THE MUSEUMS

There are many museums and cultural sites that require a visit. Among them, the *National Archaeological Museum*, which houses exhibits from the Mantua territory; the public collections of Palazzo Te: the *Ugo Sissa Collection*, a rare collection of Mesopotamian art and culture, the *Acerbi Collection*, an important collection of Egyptian artefacts, the *Gonzaga collection* of coins and measuring systems from the sixteenth century, and finally the *Mondadori Collection* of modern art with paintings by Zandomeneghi and Spadini; the *Torre dell'Orologio* and the *Museo dell'Opera* with access from the Palazzo della Ragione, which preserves the original gears of the fifteenth-century astronomical-astrological clock by Bartolomeo Manfredi; the *National Historical Museum of the Fire Brigade*, unique in Italy which hosts equipment from the eighteenth to the twentieth century; the *Casa della Beata Osanna Andreasi*, patron of Mantua, an example of a fifteenth-century mansion; the *Accademia Nazionale Virgiliana*, an important cultural institution hosting an archive and library of international value with a unique collection of surgical instruments of the eighteenth century; the *Madonna della Vittoria*, formerly a church with remnants of Mantegna decorations currently exhibited in the hall; the *Galleria Arte e Arti* in the Chamber of Commerce holding a large collection of works belonging to the Chamber; the *Museo Numismatico* and *Galleria d'Arte della Fondazione Banca Agricola Mantovana* with collections of ancient coins and medals of the Gonzaga and Mantua as well as Mantuan paintings from the twentieth century of global significance; the *Galleria Museo Valenti Gonzaga* with frescoes by the Flemish painter Frans Geffels and lavish decorations by Giovan Battista Barberini; the *MASTeR*, (Mantua Environment Science Technology and Research) interactive workshop for educational purposes and a space for experimentation, research and scientific animation.



Mantova Film Fest



Festivaletteratura

EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

In different periods of the year, palaces, squares and parks of the city are home to many cultural events exhibitions. Dance, theatre, music, entertainment, art and literature, but also handicrafts, gastronomy, leisure and sport are subjects for Mantuan events. Among the most important, from January to April, the *Mantova Jazz festival*, a famous jazz event that has taken place in the city for over thirty years with a rich program of shows.

In spring the *Mantovadanza* event is held, it is dedicated to dance with competitions, workshops and performances in the theatres and the splendid squares of the historic center: the art is linked to innovation, imagination and expressive ability of the artists.

For almost twenty years the *Festivaletteratura* is held in September. It is one of the most anticipated national cultural events for those who love reading. Five days of *readings*, literary readings, performances in the palaces and squares of the city with writers and artists from around the world. Literature and poetry are combined with art and entertainment, creating a lively atmosphere and pulsating with creativity and energy.

Segni d'Infanzia, an international festival of art and theatre, aimed at children and all those who love theatre, research, and language of the arts, is held in the fall. Artists from various European countries and the world *perform* in shows and workshops.

Mantua is also known for important art and culture exhibits organized by the *Centro Internazionale d'Arte e di Cultura of Palazzo Te*, the Museum of Palazzo Ducale, other museums and exhibition spaces of various public and private cultural institutions in Mantua.



Mantovadanza



Tempo d'Orchestra



Exhibitions at Palazzo Te



Gran Premio Nuvolari



Mantova Medievale

In addition to cultural events there are many occasions for sport lovers, such as the *Gran Premio Nuvolari*, a regulated race for historic cars, the *Minciomarcia*, a non-competitive traditional race through the streets of the city, the Italian *Championship of rowing*. The city of Mantua enjoys twin city status with Bressanone, Casale Monferrato, Nevers and Charleville Mézierès (France), Madison (U.S.A.), Oradea (Romania), Omihachiman-Azuchi (Japan), Paderborn e Weingarten (Germany), Pushkin (Russia). In June, the *Mantova & Friends* festival is held, it is dedicated to the Twin Cities with shows, cultural events and groups of artists representing different countries. *Tempo d'Orchestra*, *Mantova Teatro*, *Mantova Film Fest*, *Mantova Medievale*, *E...state a Mantova* and the Christmas event *Mantova Mille Luci* are only some of the many reasons to visit and live in the city all year round.



Theater events in Mantua



Palazzo Te, Fruttiere



Segni d'infanzia



Castello di San Giorgio



Piazza Lega Lombarda



Palazzo di San Sebastiano



Palazzo Ducale, cortile della Cavallerizza



Sunset on the lake



Palazzo Te



Palazzo Te, Camera dei Giganti



Palazzo Ducale, Giardino dei Semplici



Casa del Mantegna



HOW TO GET THERE

• By Air

The nearest airport is located in Villafranca of Verona, 33 kilometers from Mantua. The main domestic flights are planned from Rome, Bari, Naples, Cagliari, Catania and Palermo. International flights are planned from Vienna, Paris, Moscow, Monaco, Frankfurt, Cologne, Amsterdam and London. www.aeroporto.verona.it Other airports nearby are: Montichiari, Brescia (60 Km), Parma (60 km), Bologna (100 km), Bergamo (100 km), Milan (185 Km).

• By Train

Mantova is 45 minutes from Verona and 55 minutes from Modena when taking the Modena – Verona route and 2 hours from Milan which passes through the provincial capital's central railway stations of Milano - Cremona Suzzara - Ferrara, Monselice - Padova The station is a few minutes walk from the historic centre.

F.S. - Trains - Train Station - Piazza Don Leoni, 14

Information, reservations and ticket purchases - Trenitalia Call Center: 892021 - Train Times: www.trenitalia.com

• By car

Mantua can be reached via the: Autostrada A22 exit Mantova Nord 4 kilometers from the centre of Mantua or Mantova Sud at 11.5 km from the centre, Autostrada A4 exit at Desenzano, Sirmione, Peschiera, Verona Sud Autostrada A1, exit Parma Est, Reggio Emilia and Modena.

• Campers

Equipped rest areas: Sparafucile - Via Legnago 1 / A (Mantova) - info: www.aster.mn.it City of Curtatone - via della Fiera (Grazie di Curtatone) - info: www.camperclubmantova.it

• Tourist bus Area

CHECK POINT BUS TURISTICI - Strada Cipata (Mantova) - info: www.aster.mn.it

TOURIST INFORMATION

IAT Mantova

Piazza Mantegna, 6 - 46100 Mantova - T. 0376 432432 - www.turismo.mantova.it - info@turismo.mantova.it

Infopoint Casa del Rigoletto

Piazza Sordello, 23 - 46100 Mantova - T. 0376 288208 - info@infopointmantova.it



- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 Palazzo Ducale,
Castello di San Giorgio
e Basilica di Santa Barbara | 7 Biblioteca Comunale
Teresiana | 13 Madonna della Vittoria | 19 Casa della Beata
Osanna Andreasi | 25 Chiesa di Santa
Maria del Gradaro |
| 2 Museo Archeologico
Nazionale | 8 Museo Storico Nazionale
dei Vigili del Fuoco | 14 Museo Diocesano
Francesco Gonzaga | 20 Casa di Giulio Romano | Sightseeing boats |
| 3 Duomo | 9 Palazzo della Camera
di Commercio | 15 Palazzo d'Arco | 21 Casa del Mantegna | Bike paths |
| 4 Casa del Rigoletto | 10 Rotonda di San Lorenzo | 16 Teatro Sociale | 22 Tempio
di San Sebastiano | APAM Bus Station |
| 5 Accademia
Nazionale Virgiliana | 11 Palazzo della Ragione
e Torre dell'Orologio | 17 Museo Numismatico
e Galleria d'Arte
Fondazione BAM | 23 Palazzo di
San Sebastiano | Train Station |
| 6 Teatro Scientifico
del Bibiena | 12 Basilica di Sant'Andrea | 18 Galleria Museo
Valenti Gonzaga | 24 Palazzo Te | Taxi |
| | | | | Information point |

**Comune di Mantova
Culture Area, Tourism
and Promotion of the City**

Via Frattini, 60

46100 Mantova

T. + 39 0376 338627-680-645

F. + 39 0376 2738072

www.comune.mantova.gov.it

turismo@comune.mantova.gov.it

Info and insights

www.cittadimantova.it

www.mantovasabbioneta-unesco.it

www.palazzote.it

www.museodellacitta.mn.it



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MANTOVA