

CLASSIC TRAVELLING



LAKE GARDA & STELVIO PASS TOUR



WHY COME ON A CLASSIC TRAVELLING TOUR?

Classic Travelling takes away the hassle and guesswork from a touring holiday. Your free time is precious and so you want to know that you will be driving the best roads in the area, staying at charming hotels, and that your car will have suitable parking each night. You want to know what there is to do, see and visit on each day of your trip, without having to do hours of research, or missing anything of interest.

The tour is organised, but you aren't. This is no regimental exercise and you are free to spend your days as you wish, at your own pace, doing exactly what you want. All we ask is that you arrive at the accommodation we have booked on your behalf each evening.

We provide you with this tour book to help you make the most of your trip. This book contains your route directions and maps, accommodation information, and describes everything we think may be of interest to you, that you will be passing by each day. The tour book also gives you a little bit of history to the area, and may include some little anecdotes or stories about the places you are passing through. The idea of the book is to help you have all the information you need in just one place, and not be cluttered with various guide books, leaflets and maps.



HOW TO USE THIS TOUR BOOK

Route & Directions:

- Each day has a detailed, written route plan to follow, accompanied by maps. There is an overview map to show each day's journey followed by more detailed maps, where necessary. All the routes Classic Travelling recommend have been marked on the maps. However, obviously you are free to alter your route as you wish, for example to make more time to see some of the sights. You may also wish to have a road atlas with you.
- It is best to use the written directions in conjunction with the maps, rather than solely relying on one method or the other. We have tried to make the written directions as accurate as possible, but sometimes the maps may be better at helping you with directions. It depends on how you like to navigate. The route maps in this book are an aid to see the route and translate this to a road atlas, not necessarily a sole tool of navigation.
- Where applicable there are also directions to the hotels, as given by each establishment. Classic Travelling is not responsible for unclear mapping/directions where it has been provided by the hotel. All the distances given are approximate.
- All places in the directions highlighted in **CAPITALS** are described in more detail in the 'Visit' section. Places highlighted in **bold** are places that you travel through on route.

Handy Hints:

- To make the most of each day we recommend that you read about each day in advance, say the night before. This will help you to pick and choose the sights that appeal to you, and help you plan your day.
- Everyone has a different method, but it may help to plot our recommended route on the road atlas as well as relying on our directions. This way you know in advance where you're heading for, and will also help you see if there is anything you want to deviate from our route for.
- It is best to use the written directions in conjunction with the maps and atlas, rather than solely relying on one method or the other. We have tried to make the written directions as accurate as possible, but sometimes the maps will be better at helping you with directions.



Accommodation:

The establishment name, address, website and telephone number are all given. There is also a photo of each establishment to help you recognise it when you arrive. There is a brief description of each hotel.

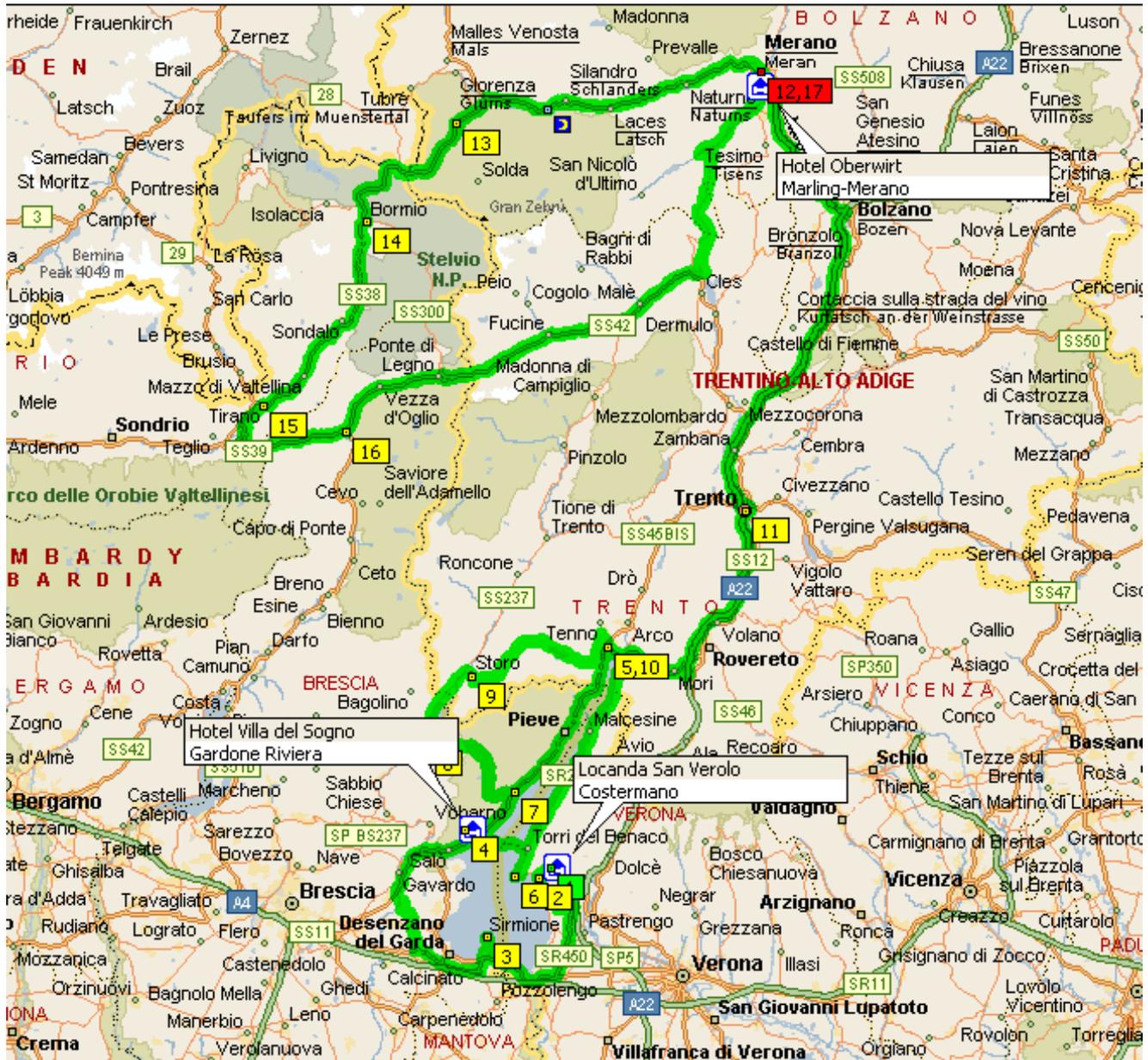
Visit:

This section of the tour book details historical and cultural notes on the places you will visit and travel through as well as most of the things there are to do, see and visit on each day of your trip. However these are just suggestions. It is recommended that you read this thoroughly at least a day before, in order for you to plan your day according to taste. On some days there may be too much to be able to do in the day, so choose what appeals to you most.

Please note: Classic Travelling has tried to make the information for this tour book as accurate as possible, but it is provided 'as is' and Classic Travelling accepts no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by anyone resulting from this information. You should verify critical information like visas, health and safety, customs, and transportation with the relevant authorities before you travel.

Information in the tour book is from the Rough Guide series, as well as personal experience from having driven this tour, and visited many of the areas, and also from many books, leaflets and websites.

ROUTE MAP



OVERVIEW ITINERARY

| Day | Hotel | Address | Phone | Website |
|-------|----------------|-----------------|--------|-------------|
| 1 & 2 | xx Hotel | Costermans | +39 xx | www.bxx.it |
| 3 & 4 | Grand Hotel xx | Gardone Riviera | +39 xx | www.xx.it |
| 5 & 6 | Hotel xx | Merano | +39 xx | www.xxt.com |

AN INTRODUCTION TO ITALY WITH INFORMATION FROM 'ROUGH GUIDES'

Of all European countries, Italy is perhaps the hardest to classify. It is a modern, industrialized nation. It is the harbinger of style, its designers leading the way with each season's fashions. But it is also, to an equal degree, a Mediterranean country, with all that that implies. Agricultural land covers much of the country, a lot of it, especially in the south, still owned under almost feudal conditions. In towns and villages all over the country, life grinds to a halt in the middle of the day for a siesta, and is strongly family-oriented, with an emphasis on the traditions and rituals of the Catholic Church which, notwithstanding a growing scepticism among the country's youth, still dominates people's lives here to an immediately obvious degree.

Above all Italy provokes reaction. Its people are volatile, rarely indifferent to anything, and on one and the same day you might encounter the kind of disdain dished out to tourist masses worldwide, and an hour later be treated to embarrassingly generous hospitality. If there is a single national characteristic, it's to embrace life to the full: in the hundreds of local festivals taking place across the country on any given day, to celebrate a saint or the local harvest; in the importance placed on good food; in the obsession with clothes and image; and above all in the daily domestic ritual of the collective evening stroll or *passeggiata* – a sociable affair celebrated by young and old alike in every town and village across the country.

Italy only became a unified state in 1861 and, as a result, Italians often feel more loyalty to their region than the nation as a whole – something manifest in different cuisines, dialects, landscape and often varying standards of living. There is also, of course, the country's enormous cultural legacy: Tuscany alone has more classified historical monuments than any country in the world; there are considerable remnants of the Roman Empire all over the country, notably of course in Rome itself; and every region retains its own relics of an artistic tradition generally acknowledged to be among the world's richest.

Travelling around in Italy:

Travelling by car in Italy is relatively painless, though cities can be hard work. The roads are good, the motorway, or *autostrada* network very comprehensive, and the notorious Italian drivers rather less erratic than their reputation suggests – though their regard for the rules of the road is sometimes lax to say the least. The best plan is to avoid driving in cities as much as possible; the congestion, proliferation of complex one-way systems and occasional incidents of naked aggression can make it a nightmare.



Parking is very often a headache too. If you get fed up of driving around and settle for a space in a *zona di rimozione* (tow-away zone), don't expect your car to be there. A handy gadget to have is a small clock-like dial which you set and stick in the windscreen, to indicate when you parked and that you're still within the allowed limit: Parking at night is easier than during the day, but make sure you are not parked in a street that turns into a market in the morning. Increasing numbers of cities operate a colour-coded parking scheme: blue zone parking spaces (delineated by a blue line) usually have a maximum stay of one or two hours. White-zone spaces (white lines) are free and unlimited in some cities, but reserved for residents in other cities; yellow-zone spaces are almost always reserved for residents. Note that walled towns which exclude cars often allow tourists to drive into the city to drop off baggage at a hotel. Car parks, often small enclosed garages, are universally expensive, costing €20 a day in big cities;

Most motorways are toll-roads. Take a ticket as you come on and pay on exit; in automatic booths the amount due is flashed up on a screen in front of you. Major credit cards are accepted; follow the "Viacard" sign. For unleaded petrol, look for the sign "Senza Piombo".

As regards documentation, if you're bringing your own car you need a valid driving licence plus an international green card of insurance. It's compulsory to carry your car documents and passport while you're driving, and you may be required to present them if stopped by the police – not an uncommon occurrence.

Rules of the road are straightforward: drive on the right; at junctions, where there's any ambiguity, give precedence to vehicles coming from the right; observe the speed limits – 50kph in built-up areas, 110kph on country roads, 130kph on motorways and don't drink and drive. Roundabouts can be tricky until you get the hang of them as cars entering the larger ones have right of way, unlike smaller ones, on which you give way to the right.

Opening Hours:

Most shops are closed from about 1pm to 4pm and then stay open until 8pm (maybe half an hour either way.) Restaurants are required to close for one day a week, often a Monday. Most museums also close one day a week

LANGUAGE:

| Italian | English | Italian | English | Italian | English |
|---|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|--|
| Everyday words and phrases: | | | | | |
| <i>Ciao</i> | hello, bye (informal) | <i>buongiorno</i> | good day/morning | <i>grazie</i> | thank you |
| <i>Scusi</i> | excuse me, sorry | <i>prego, per favore</i> | please | <i>Si</i> | yes |
| <i>come sta?</i> | how are you? | <i>Arrivederci</i> | goodbye | <i>Bene</i> | well, OK |
| <i>Molto bene</i> | very well | <i>sono...</i> | I am, my name is... | <i>No</i> | No |
| <i>non</i> | not, don't | <i>Il bagno</i> | bathroom/toilets | <i>mi piace</i> | I like |
| <i>un negozio per...</i> | a shop for... | <i>il bancomat</i> | cashpoint/ATM | <i>La banca</i> | bank |
| <i>Questo</i> | this, this one | <i>comprare</i> | to buy | <i>by</i> | In |
| <i>Caro</i> | expensive | <i>economico</i> | cheap | <i>piccolo</i> | Small |
| <i>Piu</i> | more | <i>meno</i> | less | <i>e</i> | And |
| <i>Qualcos'altro?</i> | anything else? | <i>Nient'altro</i> | nothing else | <i>il biglietto</i> | Ticket |
| <i>Molto/molti</i> | much, a lot/many | <i>solo un po'</i> | just a little | <i>adesso</i> | now |
| <i>non mi piace</i> | I don't like | <i>il conto</i> | the bill | <i>Quanto costa?</i> | How much? |
| <i>non voglio</i> | I don't want | <i>vorrei</i> | I would like | <i>Ha?</i> | Do you have? |
| <i>va bene</i> | that's fine | <i>Non ho...</i> | I don't have... | <i>Ho</i> | I have |
| <i>capisco</i> | I understand | <i>non capisco</i> | I don't understand | <i>Buono</i> | Good |
| <i>Per favore chiami la polizia</i> | Please call the police | <i>Per favore chiami un dottore</i> | Please call a doctor | <i>Per favore, telefoni subito per un'auto ambulanza</i> | Please call for an ambulance at once |
| Food & Drink: | | | | | |
| <i>Vino della casa</i> | House wine | <i>Una bottiglia</i> | a bottle | <i>Vino rosso/bianco</i> | red/white wine |
| <i>carne</i> | meat | <i>pollo</i> | chicken | <i>pesce</i> | fish |

| Italian | English | Italian | English | Italian | English |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Directions and road signs: | | | | | |
| <i>dov'e...?</i> | where is...? | <i>Dove c'e...?</i> | where is there...? | <i>lontano</i> | far |
| <i>La strada</i> | street | <i>il duomo</i> | the cathedral | <i>andare</i> | to go |
| <i>Diritto</i> | straight ahead | <i>a destra</i> | on the right | <i>a sinistra</i> | on left |
| <i>Voglio andare a</i> | I want to go to | <i>uscita</i> | exit | <i>Chiuso corsia</i> | road closed |
| <i>caduta massi</i> | beware, falling rocks | <i>Alt</i> | stop | <i>Lavori in corso</i> | road works |
| <i>strada interrotta</i> | road closed | <i>zonadisco</i> | disc zone (parking) | <i>pericolo</i> | Dangerous |
| <i>senso unico</i> | one way | <i>senso vietato</i> | no entry | <i>semaforo</i> | traffic light |
| <i>Potete indirizzarmi al piu vicino... ?</i> | Can you direct me to the nearest... ? | <i>Posso sostare qui ?</i> | Can I park here ? | <i>Quanto dista... ?</i> | How far is it to... ? |
| Motoring words and phrases: | | | | | |
| <i>ruota</i> | wheel | <i>la gomma</i> | tyre | <i>panne</i> | car trouble |
| <i>la macchina</i> | The car | <i>il motore</i> | the engine | <i>il fari</i> | The lights |
| <i>i freni</i> | The brakes | <i>La frizione</i> | The clutch | <i>sterzo</i> | Steering |
| <i>pagamento/pe daggio</i> | toll payment | <i>mi faccia il pieno per favore</i> | fill it up please | <i>There is something wrong with...</i> | <i>Vi e qualcosa che non va...</i> |
| <i>La mia macchina e in panne</i> | My car has broken down | <i>Occorre regolare il carburatore</i> | The carburettor needs adjusting | <i>La mia macchina non si mette in moto</i> | My car won't start |
| <i>E possibile farla rimorchiare al piu vicino garage ?</i> | | | Is it possible to have it towed to the nearest garage ? | | |

TRAVEL CHECKLIST

- Verify travel documentation thoroughly.
- A valid 10-year passport is required for every person travelling
- If you are not an EU citizen check your visa requirements
- All drivers must carry a valid, full driving licence (if this is a European Communities version, an International Driving Licence is not required)
- A Green Card and Motor Insurance certificate is recommended. Motorists should carry evidence of motor insurance (insurance certificate). A Green Card provides additional proof that the minimum legal third party cover is held – but check with your insurance provider. For further advice please contact your insurance company.
- Keep your travel insurance documents - vehicle and personal - in a safe, accessible place
- Ensure you obtain an EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) form from the Post Office in the UK. Many insurers insist on this being used before a claim is made on your Personal Travel insurance. Alternatively you can apply online at www.ehic.org.uk
- Take your vehicle registration and insurance documents
- A GB or national identification sticker is compulsory when driving in Europe
- Wearing your seat belt is compulsory
- The use of radar detector equipment is illegal
- Petrol, diesel and LPG are available. Leaded petrol is not available. Most petrol stations accept credit cards. Check with your card issuer before travel
- **Fines:** On-the-spot for infringement of traffic regulations. Vehicles illegally parked may be towed away.
- **Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) on ordinary roads, up to 68 mph (110 km/h) on dual carriageways, and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways.

| COMPULSORY PRODUCTS | RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS |
|---|----------------------|
| Warning triangle - compulsory for all vehicles with more than two wheels | Fire extinguisher |
| A reflective jacket MUST be carried and worn if the driver and / or passenger(s) need to exit a vehicle which is immobilised on the carriageway of all motorways & main/busy roads. The jackets MUST be carried in the passenger compartment of the vehicle (not the boot). | First aid kit |
| Headlamp converters for all RHD cars (except E-types with covered lights) | |
| Spare bulbs | |

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Day Two:

Enjoy a circular tour of the northern part of Lake Garda and wandering around the various little towns along the lake and taking it easy, relaxing in the local vicinity.

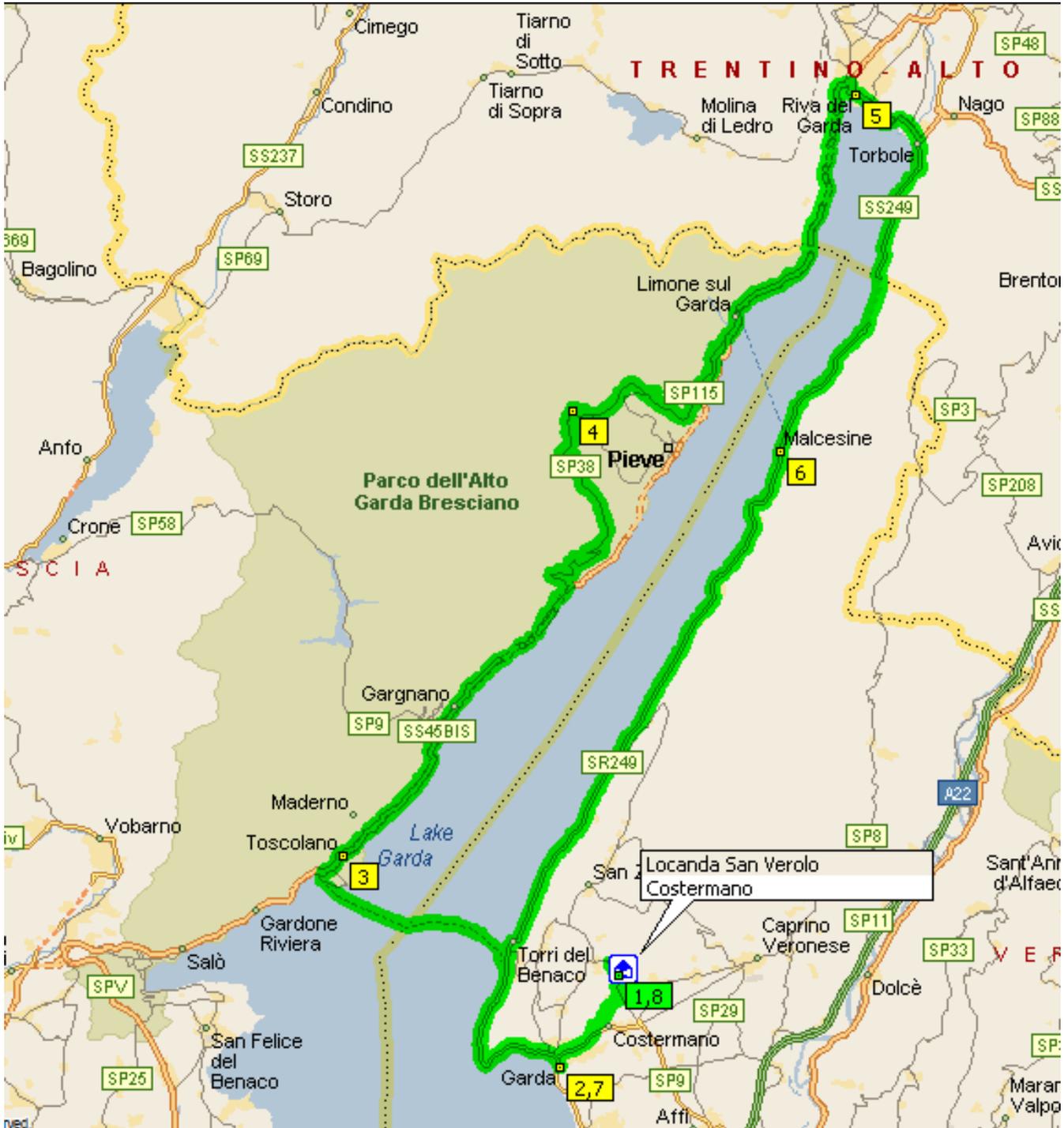
| DIRECTIONS | ACCUMULATED MILEAGE |
|---|----------------------------|
| Places you pass through are in bold . Places described in the 'visit' section are in CAPITALS . | |
| Leaving Costermano and turn right, signed Garda, at the 1 st roundabout and keep following this road into the centre of GARDA . In Garda, at the roundabout, turn right signed for Riva del Garda. | 3.5 miles |
| Drive north on the S249 towards Riva. In TORRI DEL BENACO take the ferry to Toscolano-Maderno . The ferry port is located on your left, just before the <i>scagliero</i> (castle), with the turning just opposite the Hotel Al Caminetto. It is not clearly signed. The ferries travel frequently (every 40 minutes) across the lake. | 8 miles |
| At Toscolano-Maderno turn right onto the S45b heading towards Riva del Garda. | |
| Pass through GARGNANO and through a series of tunnels. Just after some of the tunnels turn immediately left, signed for Tignale. Follow this road to TIGNALE and then Tremosine . There are wonderful views of Lake Garda all the way up this road | 25 miles |
| Once up on the plateau go straight over, signed for Riva DG and Vesio. Suddenly the town road is cobbled, but continue and follow the signs for Riva and then Limone. | 32 miles |
| In Limone rejoin the S45b heading north for Riva and Trento. | 39.5 miles |
| From RIVA DEL GARDA pick up the signs for Trento and then Verona and follow these out of town. The signs are also for TORBOLE S249, which is the direction to follow. | 41.5 miles |
| From Torbole follow the S249 along the eastern shore of Lake Garda, signed for MALCESINE and Garda. Stay on this road all the way to Garda. | 67.5 miles |
| In Garda turn left signed for Brennero/Modena and Autostrada. It is also signed for Costermano. Keep following the signs for autostrada A22 and pass the village boundary for Costermano . | 71 miles |

Distance: 71 miles

Driving Time: 3 hours

Accommodation:

XX Hotel – as before



Circular tour of Lake Garda



To Tremosine and Tignale

Visit:

Garda is a traditional holiday resort and the main town on the Riviera degli Olivi – the Veronese shore of Lake Garda – sitting at the centre of a large gulf in the lake. The lakeside and Piazza Catullo form the bustling heart of the town, where people meet and stroll. During the Venetian Republic, Garda was one of the leading lake centres, as is evident in the grand buildings of the old centre: Palazzo dei Capitani, built in the 14th and 15th centuries, was the residence of the Captain of the Lake, who represented the authority of Venice along this shore; the Portico della Losa, built in the 16th century as a landing stage for Palazzo Carlotti, is behind it.

The hills behind Garda were once a favourite holiday destination of the Veronese nobility, and their splendid mansions can still be seen there. Several routes offer views of the hills and old villages.

San Vigilio is one of the most fascinating locations on the lake. The area extends into the lake and is green with olive trees and cypresses and has been inhabited since Roman times. It is probably named after a monk and saint, Vigilio, who lived here in the 13th century. Alternatively, according to a romantic legend in keeping with the spirit of the place, Vigilio was a satyr who loved the nymph



Stella; his love was unrequited, and in a rage he turned her into the rock that emerges from the water beyond the peninsula. Punta San Vigilio is reached along a long avenue lined with centuries old trees and at the end is the spectacular Villa Guarienti, built in the mid 16th century to a design by Michele Sanmicheli, a famous Venetian architect. Privately owned, and only visible from the outside, it stands imposing and austere in a geometric Renaissance garden. Descending along a cobbled street, you come to a small harbour overlooked by Locanda San Vigilio, one of the most exclusive hotels of the lake, whose past guests include Winston Churchill and Prince Charles, and sister hotel of Locanda San Verolo.

On the road between San Vigilio and Torri del Benaco is Villa Albertini, reworked in the 19th century as a castle. During the first War of Independence, King Carlo Alberto stayed here, and it was here that, on 10 June 1848, he ratified the act annexing Lombardy to Piedmont.

At 172m long, the **Aril** is the shortest river in the world. It can be seen flowing from the rock on the left of the Gardesana road. A mule track leads from the village through olive and oak trees to the old hermitage of SS Benigno e Caro, 830m up in an exceptionally scenic position.

Torri del Benaco was an important Roman fortress, built in a strategic position between Peschiera and Riva. A later stronghold with crenellated towers was built in 1383 for Antonio della Scala, and this still survives. Inside is a small folk museum, which looks at local industries such as lake fishing, olive oil and quarrying. On the south side of the stronghold, visit the Serra dei Limoni lemon-house, dating from 1760. At the centre of the village is Piazzetta Calderini, lined with a castle and old Venetian mansions, shaded by olive and plan trees and overlooking a harbour.

Gargnano is well-known to sailing enthusiasts. Every September this is the starting point of the Centomiglia, the most prestigious regatta raced on Italian lakes. Set in beautiful surroundings of vegetable gardens, olive groves and old lemon houses, this was (between 1943 and 1945) the capital of the Social Republic of Salo; its ministers stayed in the local mansions. Palazzo Feltrinelli,

overlooking the lake, was the headquarters of the republic and Villa Feltrinelli was the residence of the Mussolini family.

Sitting at a height of 555m on the plateau of the same name, **Tignale** consists of six small villages surrounded by olive trees, orchards, meadows and woods arranged on terraces high above Lake Garda. This haven of tranquillity commands a spectacular view of the lake. Gardola is the seat of the *commune* and from here climb 1 mile to the sanctuary of Madonna di Monte Castello, perched with the nearby hermitage on a 700m rock overhanging the lake. It was built on the ruins of a castle erected by the della Scala family, and houses the Casa Santa, a shrine dating from the 9th century.

The Tremosine plateau is known as the 'lake terrace' because of its exceptionally scenic position, which dominates the entire lake basin from above. It is reached along a spectacular road that winds through tunnels along the gorge excavated by the Brasa stream. Pieve is the capital of the *commune*, 18 hamlets lying in beautiful surroundings, of which only one sits on the lake – Campione del Garda. These tiny villages feature typical vernacular buildings and minor masterpieces of architecture and art such as the church of San Giovanni Battista at Pieve, with an 11th century bell tower.

Riva del Garda is the main town on the north shore of the lake and it occupies a splendid position at the point where the lake meets the Brenta Dolomites and the Mediterranean vegetation of olive, lemon and palm trees contrasts with the rocks that descend sheer into the water. It's an elegant resort with ancient origins which, in the 13th century, became a major mercantile port. Because of its strategic position, Riva was long fought over by the della Scala family of Verona, the Visconti family of Milan, and the Venetians. Evidence of the past is preserved in the old centre. Riva is blessed with a mild climate and the *ora*, the wind that blows from the north, giving it an incredibly clear sky.

Torbole sits at the centre of the so-called 'windsurf triangle', created by the air turbulence of Campione, Riva and Malcesine. Even Goethe spoke with vivid admiration of the strong winds and the resort's position on the lake. Today windsurfers come from all over Europe and the lake's waters are used for international competitions.