



THE NORTERN LAGOON: MESTRE TO PUNTA SABBIONI

FOURTH TOUR: The Northern lagoon: from Mestre to Punta Sabbioni.

DEPARTURE: Mestre

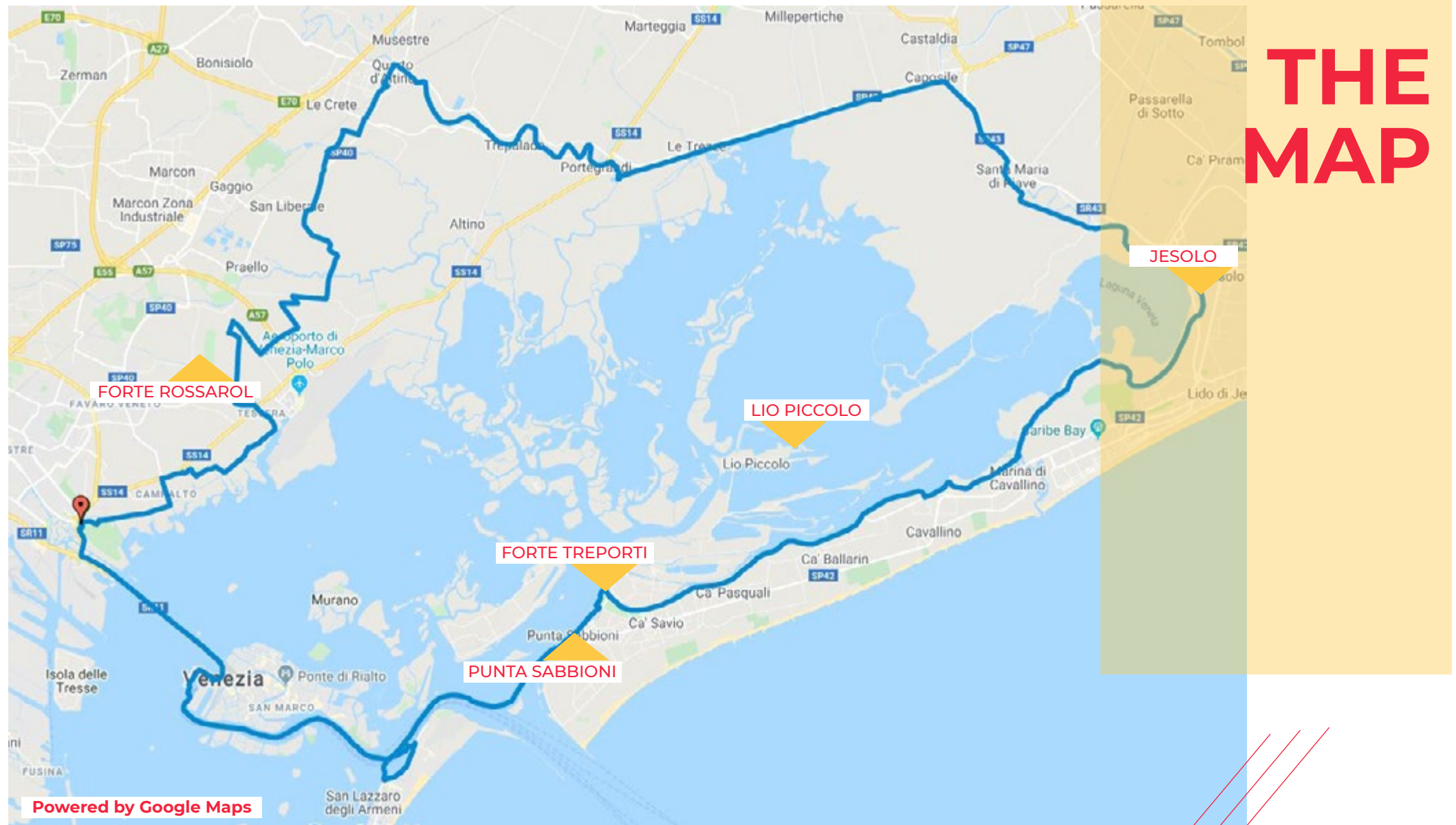
ARRIVAL: Mestre

DIFFICULTY: Easy, bike paths + regular roads

LENGTH: 72 km approx. by bicycle + return by ferry boat

ROAD FUND: Both paved and unsurfaced roads

RECOMMENDED BIKE: all except racing bikes



Getting on at **Parco San Giuliano** we followed the road that takes to Forte Bazzera. After a short stretch on main road, we turned left into Via Pezzana, as if heading toward Forte Rossarol. From there, a low-traffic mixed tarmac/unpaved route and some bike paths took us through a flat countryside to the villages of San Liberale and Marcon.

(In two years time this part of the tour will be provided with a bike path which is presently under construction).

In Musestre, a hamlet of the municipality of Roncade, we stopped to grab a bite in a nice and unexpensive place, open every day for lunch and dinner.

“Any time is fine – the owner told us – just call to tell us you’re coming”, or else you won’t have much to choose from – just like what happened to us.

Nonetheless the stew with peas was very good and at a reasonable cost.

PATH FORTE ROSSAROL



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CYCLE LANE MESTRE JESOLO



In general the menu is rich and with typical Venetian recipes such as bo-voi (small snails).



Back on the saddle we then followed the beautiful bike path on the **Sile river toward Jesolo**, which is particularly green and seems to be far from everything, lined with leafy trees and high-end villas.

Along the way we came across a haute cuisine restaurant, located inside a villa by the river, with a nice park and a dock for boats.

At Musile di Piave, very close to Jesolo, we found a bike-friendly holiday farm where visitors are welcomed through a driveway decorated with bicycle wheels hanging from above!



There are four rooms in all, but groups of cyclists can ask for extra beds. You'll find snacks at any time and a bike shelter equipped for recharging e-bikes.

This place is definitely functional for those who, arriving to Jesolo by bike, want to stay away from the crowd and nightlife of the beach, in favour of the quieter countryside. Nearby are interesting attractions as well: just 8 kilometers of dirt road away you can go for a panoramic ride in a hot air balloon or sail on a boat to Cavallino or to the isle of Lio piccolo.

Jesolo, one of the most famous seaside Italian resorts in particular on the Adriatic coast, is teeming with life: tourists of all ages and nationalities, bars and pubs and discos. The right place for those who expect more from their holiday than just sandy beaches and crystal waters. And yet there are also peaceful corners like the Pineta, where the largest and most luxurious hotels are located.

The following morning we went for a tour in Jesolo which, beyond the pleasures of worldly life and widespread entertainment opportunities, surprised us with an unexpected delightful old town, where we had a second breakfast in the main square.

The owner told us that it was the oldest ice cream parlor in Jesolo. Open all year round and, in addition to the delicious homemade ice cream (homemade indeed, he said!) and inviting desserts, they also make tasty sandwiches and abundant snacks, perfect to energize cyclists.

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After breakfast we left for our next destination: Cavallino Treporti.

Temperature was perfect with cool air thanks to the long and violent storm of the night. The trip from Jesolo to Cavallino Treporti is very short and pleasant. We took a stop at Punta Sabbioni, one of the departure point of ferries to the islands, where we could clearly see the ruins of Forte Treporti in the distance.

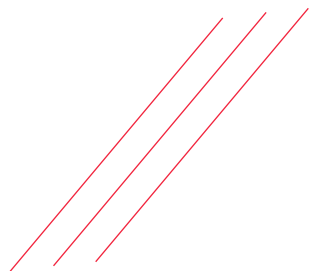
CAVALLINO TREPORTI AND THE LAGOON

The two towns of Cavallino and Treporti are part of the same municipality, under the name of Cavallino-Treporti. The city hall is located at Ca' Savio.

They are separated by several kilometers of a very busy main road, but a wide and

FORTE TREPORTI





protected bike path runs parallel to it. Local economy is based above all on summer tourism: the number of visitors (over 6 million per year) makes of **Cavallino-Treporti** the second largest seaside resort in Italy and the sixth largest in Italy.

Along the coast, with its typical huge beach of fine sand, there are about 30 medium to high quality tourist villages and campsites, often with entertainment; different in size, some of them are among the largest in Europe. We have visited a five-star campsite which, in addition to being classified as luxury, also has bungalows (actually more like small villas with delightful **dehors**), maxi-caravans and a hotel.

The site is really top-quality , designed by a “starchitect” with any possible comforts. These villages are so extensive, well equipped and organized to resemble small towns.

Since 2006, the Cavallino-Treporti coastline has proudly displayed the “Bandiera Blu” (literally blue flag), the prestigious international sign that is awarded to excellent seaside resorts standing out for their respect of the environment, crystal clear

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FORTE TREPORTI



waters and top-quality facilities.

Very different from the coast, the inland is dedicated to agriculture; small or medium size farms, mainly family-run, are committed to keeping up with technology and innovation in order to grow excellent zero mile crops.

The feeling is that there are two parallel worlds in this area. On one side is family tourism: families, opt for the rich offer of entertainment and diverse services: super-equipped beaches, bars, pubs, fast food and traditional restaurants of any kind where you can drink and eat with friends and meet new ones, not to forget shopping malls that get crowded in case of bad weather.

And, on the other side, a completely different environment made up of silence, nature, ancient little villages that seem forgotten and lost in distant times, with top-quality osterias where you can taste

CYCLE LANE MESTRE JESOLO

local recipes with zero mile ingredients; narrow streets that seem resting on the water of the lagoon, moored boats, ferries sailing and small islands looking as green as if they were delicate floating gardens.

A beauty which is common to both sides are the sunsets over the lagoon, unique red shades slowly plunging into the water for a truly exciting show. Something else is common to the mainland and the lagoon: mosquitoes! Anywhere, from 6 pm on, they won't leave you alone. So wherever you are, make sure you are protected and equipped with repellents.

On bad weather days, tourists flock to Venice and the islands of the Lagoon - Burano, Torcello, Murano - which are easily reached by ferry from the terminals of Punta Sabbioni and Treporti-Ricevitoria.

Personally, we opt for integrated mobility: cycling to islands and islets.

LIO PICCOLO AND SACCAGNANA

We left Treporti in the late afternoon taking the road that leads to Saccagnana and Lio Piccolo. This is a tour in itself: narrow streets recalling silver ribbons seemed to be decorating the surface of the water, just like strips of shortcrust pastry on a tart, while the sea, rippled by the wind and pierced by light, created a particular stroboscopic effect – so wonderful.

The first time we passed by the small square in Saccagnana, it looked so tiny that we almost didn't realize what it was: a delightful miniature village, with a small church dedicated to Santa Maria del Carmine.

Proceeding between the glittering of the water and the green of the gardens, we reached Lio Piccolo (Small Lio), in contrast with Lio Maggiore (Big Lio) which is located in Jesolo (note that lio is the dialectal



**PATH
LIO PICCOLO**



equivalent of lido, which means, as you know by now, beach).

Lio Piccolo is just a little less tiny than Saccagnana, with a small church and dilapidated houses showing just a shadow of their original colors (some host photo exhibits on weekends).

Riding on, Via Saccagnana does not offer much to visit, but the sunset light makes this landscape beautiful. Cycling by the lagoon, wandering with no specific destination, it is so nice to be carried away by the mix of emotions created by the sunset light and the sea.

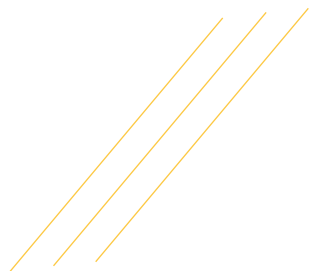
Feeling a bit lazy, we decided to go back to Mestre by ferry, from **Punta Sabbioni** (line 14) to Lido; then from Lido to Venice (Line 6). From Venice to Mestre station, back on our bicycles: a reasonable ride, no more than an overall hour and a half.

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LIO PICCOLO





TOURISM ON BOARD: EXPERIENCING FISHERMENS' LIFE

They wake up early in the morning and go to their hard work, exposed to any kind of weather. But they witness one of the most terrific natural shows, sunrise on the Venice lagoon.

Fishermen go out to sea in their boats, pulling the traps positioned at the beginning of the season: a row of nets reaching down to the sandy bottom and fixed with poles. Fish that get stuck in the mesh provide the gain of the day.

These same fishermen have now started to welcome tourists on board, an activity which is now allowed and organized by special regulation, with the idea of spreading the culture of fishing and life at sea through recreational activities.

Just check for them on the internet! Some of them are active in the northern lagoon organizing tours in this unique environment; taking tourists all the way into otherwise unreachable landscapes (unreachable both by public transportation and on foot) to experience first-hand what it is like to be a fisherman.

A craft job that takes place right there, in those low lands, intersected by a system of winding canals that extend to the mouths of the Sile and Brenta rivers.

Barrens, mudflats, reed beds, islets formed by alluvial deposits are the ecosystem that can be admired from their typical flat-bottomed boats, where many people can get on board.

And they will also have the chance to sip the Veneto Prosecco, tasting the bossolà, the typical bread from Chioggia, or the buranelli, traditional sweets and specialties from Burano.



A cultural stopover at the Andrich Museum THE LOVERS' HOUSE IN THE LAGOON

By Germana Cabrelle

On the island of Torcello, a few steps away from the landing stage of ferry-boat Line 12 (you can catch it in Venice at Fondamenta Nove or in Cavallino Treporti), stands a magic place that deserves a visit.

It is called **Casa Museo Andrich** (Andrich Historic House Museum), also known as "The lovers' house in the lagoon". It used to be the creative workshop of Lucio Andrich, a painter, engraver and sculptor from Agordo in the Dolomites who has been the last mosaic teacher at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice. He lived here with the great love of his life, his wife Clementina, from 1950 until 1980.

In 1965, Lucio Andrich was awarded first prize at the Biennale of engraving. He then broadened his art to express himself with different materials, the most distinctive one being silk, which he would superpose in numerous layers and at various levels and place in front of a source of light to create diverse visions.

On top of being an art gallery inside, the Historic House Museum Andrich has a vegetable garden, a historical garden and a teaching farm outside, with an overall 11,000 square meters of land suspended between water and sky, immersed in the so-called Palude Rosa ("pink marsh").

Considered the most beautiful area in the Venetian lagoon, its name comes from a succulent plant called salicornia, abundant in these salty grounds, which in autumn gets intense pink, recalling brush strokes in a painting of a sunset. From March to September, Casa Andrich is a good place to observe another truly amazing sight, that of pink flamingos flying over sandbanks.

Today, it is the original inhabitants' nephew, Paolo Andrich, who oversees the historical house and its 1,300-piece collection of paintings, silk and pottery artworks, mosaics and engravings, whose extraordinary creative heritage is brought back to us in the form of scarves, acrylic glass panels and... kimonos. "The lovers' house in the lagoon" is a very special mansion, emanating art and poetry from floor to ceiling.

The most precious piece in the house, which is actually named after it, is a tapestry featuring Lucio and Clementina Andrich. This unique work of art has been hand-woven over a period of ten years, approx. 5,000 working hours, and it is alone worth the trip.





RECIPE

BUSSOLÀ OF BURANO

Bussolàs are donut-shaped biscuits typical from the isle of Burano (they are also known as buranellos). An S-shaped variant exists, rightly called Burano "S'es". We are talking about handmade cakes whose main ingredients are eggs, flour, sugar and butter. They were originally baked by fishermen's wives who would provide them with this energetic and tasty food to carry along at sea while far from home (they would on top flavor the biscuits with vanilla and rum, or lemon).

As to the season, they were traditionally prepared for Easter. It is still customary for the ladies in Burano to have their homemade dough cooked at bakers' or pastry shops' ovens on the island during the week preceding Easter, the Holy Week. The same dough can be used to make strudels, small cakes and limoncello-flavored stick biscuits.

INGREDIENTS & DIRECTIONS

- 1 kilogram flour
- 12 egg yolks
- 600 grams sugar
- 300 grams butter, softened
- Vanilla flavor
- Rum

Beat yolks with sugar. Add butter, flour and flavors. Quickly melt to prevent sugar from seeping out while cooking. Place biscuits on oven plate in the desired shape. Pre-heat oven to 180° Celsius and let the biscuits cook for about 20 minutes (exact cooking time depends on the size of bussolàs: they need to be taken out of the oven as soon as they become golden).

VIDEO EXPERIENCE



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