

THE VENETO: THE VILLAS AND PALAZZOS OF ANDREA PALLADIO

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Sponsored by: The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art

Tour arrangements: Classical Excursions



Top Row (left) Palazzo Chiericati, (right) Villa Badoer. Bottom Row (l to r) Loggia del Capitaniato, Palazzo Valmarana Braga, Palazzo Barbaran da Porto frescoes.

“Andrea Palladio,” writes Prof. Bruce Boucher in his book *Andrea Palladio: The Architect in His Time* “is arguably the most influential architect the western world has ever produced.” The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art is pleased to offer a tour of 26 of the great architect’s villas and palazzos that will transport the participants directly to the work of this genius.

Andrea Palladio lived during the 16th century at the height of the Italian Renaissance and ever since his creations have been a source of inspiration for classical architecture especially in Europe and North America.

The German writer and traveler, Goethe, after viewing Palladio’s buildings, wrote to a friend in 1795: “The more one studies Palladio, the more incomprehensible the genius, the mastery, the richness, the versatility and the grace of this man become.”



Top: Villa Emo. Bottom: Villa Barbaro

Vicenza was Palladio's adopted city where he became a stonemason and stone carver, considered unusual background for that time, when other architects were trained as painters or sculptors. In the late 1530s, Palladio came under the patronage and mentorship of Giangiorgio Trissino (1478-1550), a wealthy Vicentine intellectual and talented amateur architect who recognized the younger man's talents. At his villa at Cricola near Vicenza, Trissino established a humanist academy where young aristocrats received a classical education. Palladio, the son of a miller, became a member of the group and there studied classical architecture.

Part of his education then and later included trips to Rome where he studied contemporary buildings and ancient classical ruins, both of which had a great impact on his own designs. Palladio was to become as an architectural scholar "the most learned and exact of his time," states English architectural historian John Summerson.

Although commissioned to take on such special projects as the loggia of the Basilica, the Teatro Olimpico, the Palazzo Chiericati, all in Vicenza, as well as his great Venetian churches, the majority of Palladio's work was city palazzos and, more famously, country houses built throughout the Veneto. According to the architectural historian Howard Burns, "No architect up to that time... had had as many commissions for villas and palaces." Whereas other Renaissance architects created and "changed the rules" as they progressed from project to project, Palladio was able to create a unique system of standardized forms and dimensions that could be modified as needed.

Throughout his forty-year career as an architect, he created drawings and used these, as well as drawings by other architects, as resources for his work. From this material, he produced *I Quattro Libri dell' Architettura* (1570), which was to be reprinted and translated over the centuries, influencing builders and architects alike. The four books

focus on construction techniques and principles, palazzos, villas, public buildings and urban works, and restorations of Roman temples.



Top: Villa Valmarana ai nani and "Rinaldo leaves Armida" fresco by Giambattista Tiepolo. Bottom: Villa Caldogno fresco, Villa Cornaro.

The ICAA tour commences in Vicenza, where we will visit Palladio's magnificent palazzos, with the incomparable La Rotonda, Palazzo Chiericati, Palazzo Porto-Breganze, Palazzo Thiene and Palazzo Barbaran da Porto, that houses the Palladio Museum, among them. Not to be missed are his ingenious Basilica, the origin of the Palladian window and his amazing Teatro Olimpico, a Renaissance theatre based upon the ancient Roman theatre and still in use today.

This is only the beginning. From centrally located Vicenza, we will travel into the Veneto countryside with stops at some dozen villas, such as Villa Godi, Villa Saraceno, Villa Emo, Villa Badoer, Villa Barbaro and its elegant Tempietto, Villa Cornaro, to name a few. These will be viewed under special auspices.

Our guide will be Laura Leonardi, who is a trained expert for the Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio on the architecture, art and cultural history as they pertain to Palladio. She has attended the Università di Trieste, the University of Essex (UK) and the Università La Sapienza di Roma. We can vouch for the fact that she is the only guide I have ever had who received a standing ovation at the end of her tour.



La Rotonda

We will be entertained at private functions, including dinner with the owners of Palladio's impressive Palazzo Valmarana Braga Rosa in Vicenza, as well as private

lunches at Villa Emo Capodilista decorated in the Venetian style and Villa Valmarana ai nani with its spectacular intact frescoes by Tiepolo father and son.

Throughout the tour, we will be provided with four-star accommodations at the Hotel Campo Marzio, an elegant boutique hotel situated in the heart of Vicenza near sites, restaurants and shops.

Land Cost: \$4,350; \$500 single supplement. For inquiries, contact Tom Hayes at Classical Excursions, tom@classicalexursions.com 413-243-4155 or lani@classicalexursions.com 860-454-4867

Due to the private nature of many of the tour sites, they are subject to change while others will be added.