



The Palladian-style mansion of Villa Sandi, a winery in Italy's prosecco country. — AP photos



Photo shows Treviso in Northern Italy.



Photo shows one of Treviso, Italy's many canals.



Photo shows an overview of vineyards in Valdobbiadene, Italy.

Explore the region of Northern Italy that's home to prosecco

You know prosecco as the fruity Italian bubbly that's a fun and affordable way to celebrate the holidays as well as a bright accompaniment to a light meal. But this popular sparkling white drink can also be part of your vacation plans. Just like that other famous fizz, drink, it hails from a region that welcomes visitors who like to travel glass in hand.

From exploring hillside villages to strolling beside the tranquil canals of the city of Treviso, there's plenty to do, eat, see and sip in prosecco country. And since this is still a relatively undiscovered spot, prices aren't at the sky-high pitch of better-known places. Here are a few things to know before you go.

Where to go

Prosecco is made in two regions in Northern Italy—the Veneto, also home to Venice, and neighboring Friuli Venezia Giulia. The main city is Treviso, about a half-hour from Venice by train, an hour by car.

You can make this a day trip from Venice, renting a car, booking a trip through a touring company or hiring a guide and meeting at the rental car office. Here is one list of authorized guides. For longer stays, you can either make Treviso a jumping-off point for the surrounding country or plot a course from town to town. A popular trail is the Strada del Prosecco (prosecco route) which winds from the town of Conegliano to the village of Valdobbiadene.

Where to stay

In Treviso, Relais San Nicolo, close to the Treviso train station and Treviso Cathedral, is comfortable and features unique, period furnishings. Rooms start at about \$100. Check out the wineries and restaurants you plan to visit, as they may have small guest houses attached (see Villa Sandi and Restaurant Parco Gambrinus below).



Photo shows a man holding an umbrella while walking in front of one of the archways of the Palazzo dei Trecento in Treviso, Italy.

What to see

Treviso gets upstaged by grand dame Venice, but this city is worth at least an afternoon's stroll. Check out the Knight's Loggia on Via Martiri della Libertà, a 13th century building which still has the remains of frescoes on its walls. In the center of town you'll find the Piazza dei Signori, with its Palazzo dei Trecento (Palace of the 300), home to the municipal council. The building was bombed in World War II; a jagged scar on the restored wall bears testament.

In the palace loggia you'll find the remains of the Fontana delle Tette, a fountain made in the 16th century in the shape of a woman that, you guessed it, sprayed water from each breast. On special days, the fountain dispensed wine. To see a replica (water only), head northwest on Piazza dei Signori, turn right on Vicolo Podesta and look for the statue to your left in the shopping arcade. It's tucked away in a small courtyard; you may need to ask for directions. Other attractions include the fish market, 22 Via Isola, open mornings except Sundays and Mondays. Also popular, taking a walk or bike ride along the tow path, known as the Resteria, that runs alongside the Sile River.

What to eat

In Treviso, Toni del Spin, 7 Via Inferiore, is a tavern in the historic center serving traditional food with prices around \$25 for a meal excluding drinks. In Valdobbiadene the Salis Ristorante Enoteca, 52 Strada di Saccol, is set on a hillside with a great view of the vineyards of Cartizze, the premium grape-growing region of prosecco country. Main courses start at around \$15. In San Polo di Piave, Restaurant Parco Gambrinus, Via Capitello 18, is known for its crayfish, which are served along with substantial bibs and written "commandments" on how best to enjoy them. Main courses start at around \$25. Rooms are also available in the adjacent inn, about \$100 for a double room. — AP