



*Contact*      Madeline Jhavar, President  
*phone*        (+1) 773 621 3024  
*email*         italybto@gmail.com  
*website*       www.ItalyBeyondtheObvious.com

*Sample Itinerary*

---

**Client Profile** Gillian and Eric MacArthur (Chicago, IL)  
**Travel Dates** June 9-11, 2009

---

## *Sample Itinerary*

**Client** A couple in their mid-40s, second time to Italy, several previous trips to France, experienced travelers

**Pace** “pack in as much as possible but not too frenetic”

**Duration** 3 days of travel once in Italy

**Region** Milan to Venice

**Key Interests** Art, architecture, music, winery tours

**Transport** Private driver instead of renting a car or taking the train. Break up driving with stops to get out and walk.

**Stamina** Spend 2-3 hours per activity, with time to soak up some local atmosphere. Need about 60 minutes at the hotel at the end of the day, to get ready for dinner or evening activities.

**Depth** A few private tour guides, for more detailed activities

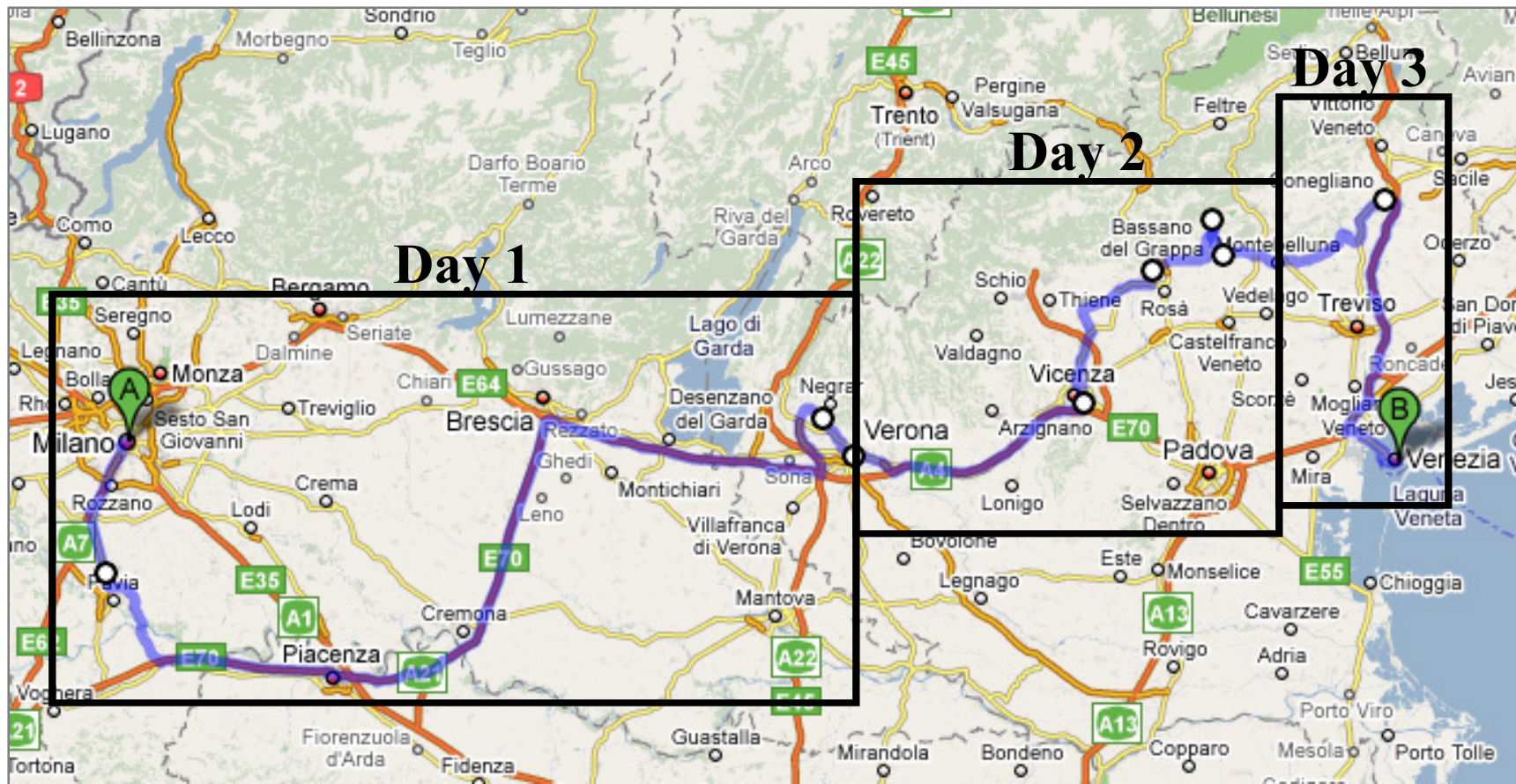
**Lunch** Want to discover own lunch spots

**Dinner** Prioritize high quality local cuisine restaurants, not more than \$175 for two people. No 3-hour meals please.

---

# Trip Overview

## Three Days – Milan to Venice



*Sample Itinerary*



# Day One Certosa di Pavia, Vineyard visit, Opera

*all contact details on last page*



After a delicious breakfast at your hotel in Milan, take a brisk walk around *Piazza Duomo*, and look closely at the Gothic architecture of this stunning cathedral one last time before leaving Milan: you're going to the *Certosa di Pavia* this morning, a monastery that was modeled after this cathedral.

9 am: Your driver awaits, and will navigate the Milan rush hour to take you to the lovely town of Pavia. Arrive at the *Certosa di Pavia* for your **10 am guided tour** on the art, architecture and history of this Carthusian Monastery. Your guide will be holding a sign with your name on it near the ticket office.

After you've had your fill of the monastery, your driver will take you into the historic university town of Pavia: visit the Visconti castle or the University (Christopher Columbus was an alumnus), and find your own lunch.



2 pm: Hop back in the car for the trip to the Accordini Winery, where you have a **private guided tour at 4 pm**. Listen to a detailed introduction to the wine-making process, and sample the famous wines of the Veneto, including the crowd-pleasing *Valpolicella* and the more serious and robust *Amarone*.

6 pm: In Verona, check in to the Accademia Hotel, an oasis of modern comfort in a 16<sup>th</sup>-century Italian *palazzo*. Relax and freshen up before your **7.15 dinner reservation** at the famous Il Desco, only a 10-minute walk from the hotel. Remind your server that you've got opera tickets so that you're finished dinner by 8.30.

8.45 pm: Pick up tickets at will-call for the **9.15 pm opera**, Carmen, at Verona's historic outdoor amphitheater. You've got *poltronissima* seats, with a comfortable cushion for the 3-hour performance.



# Day One Certosa di Pavia, Vineyard visit, Opera

*Photos may not be included in actual itinerary*



The Duomo of Milan



The Carthusian Monastery of Pavia  
La Certosa di Pavia



The Accordini Brothers



The Outdoor Opera in Verona



The Accademia Hotel, Verona

## Day Two Villa Capra, Bassano del Grappa, Canova

*all contact details on last page*



9 am: After a morning walk through the center of Verona (stop in a *bar* and have a *cappuccino* with the locals), your driver is ready to take you to Palladio's famous *Villa Capra*, "*La Rotonda*".

10 am: Enjoy your ***private guided tour*** of the art and architecture of the Palladian *Rotonda*. Your guide will meet you next to the front entrance. Since it's Wednesday today, the inside of the villa is open so your tour includes the frescoes and indoor architecture.

11 am: Depart for the picturesque town of *Bassano del Grappa*. Enjoy the fresh air and mountain scenery for a few hours: walk over the covered bridge, *ponte degli alpini*, or along the lovely *Viale dei Martiri*. Find a place for lunch, and maybe sample some local *grappa*. Note that the shops are closed over the lunch hour, but you'll have plenty of time for shopping tomorrow morning in Asolo.



3 pm: You are en route to the town of Possagno, about 90 minutes away, to spend an hour or two appreciating the gorgeous white marble sculptures at the Canova museum. On your way there, enjoy the drive through the picturesque countryside of the Veneto, and don't hesitate to ask your driver to stop for photos.

6 pm Leave Canova and Possagno for the charming medieval hilltop town of Asolo, where you'll be sleeping tonight.

Check in to your hotel, the world-renowned *Villa Cipriani*, and freshen up for dinner. Before your ***8 pm dinner reservation at the hotel***, sit outside on the balcony and have a drink while enjoying the stunning panorama below.



## Day Two Villa Capra, Bassano del Grappa, Canova

*Photos may not be included in actual itinerary*



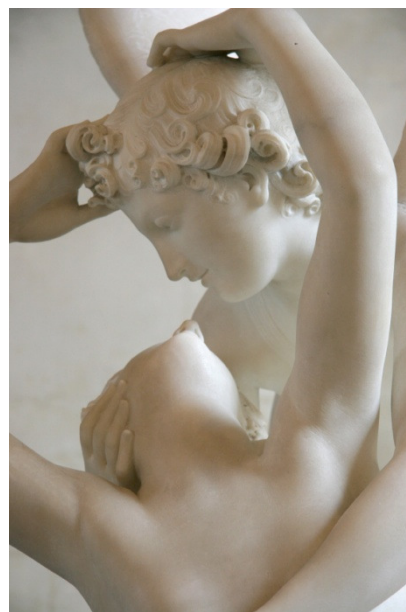
Verona



Villa Capra, "La Rotonda"



*Ponte degli Alpini* in  
Bassano del Grappa



Sculpture of Love & Psyche  
by Antonio Canova

## Day Three      Asolo, Prosecco Winery Tour, Venice

*all contact details on last page*



After a leisurely breakfast and a walk in the hotel gardens, step out the front door of the Cipriani and find yourself in the old center of Asolo. Spend the morning exploring this charming medieval town: shop, or climb up to the *Rocca* to enjoy the spectacular 360 degree view. Visit the castle, the cathedral, or just relax in *Piazza Garibaldi* with a cappuccino.

11.30 am: Your driver is ready to take you to the town of Conegliano, about an hour away and famous for its production of the light white bubbly wine, *Prosecco*. The drive to Conegliano is beautiful so enjoy the scenery on your way. Have lunch in Conegliano along the historic street *via XX Settembre* and then **meet your driver about 2.15 pm** for the very short ride to the nearby Carmina Winery.



2.30 pm: At the winery, learn about the *Prosecco*-making process, from the harvest of the grapes to wine storage, then sample some different types of *Prosecco*. **4 pm:** It's time to head to the mesmerizing city of Venice.

5.30 pm: Say goodbye to your driver and buy your tickets for *vaporetto* 1, 2 or N. After a few minutes' ride down the *Canal Grande*, disembark at *Rialto* and follow the directions (see Map 1) to get to your hotel. It's a short walk, but somewhat challenging with luggage nonetheless.

You've got time to freshen up and explore the neighborhood before your **8pm dinner reservation**. Enjoy this magical time of day in Venice, when most of the tourists have left, the sun starts to set, & locals gather for a pre-dinner *Prosecco*.

8 pm: Enjoy a simple yet delicious dinner at the local favorite *Trattoria Antica Dolo*, a short walk from your hotel (see map). Then hop back on the *vaporetto* through this incredibly safe city (see map), and have a drink at one of the best wine bars in Venice, *Cantinone Gia' Schiavi*.



# Day Three      Asolo, Prosecco Winery Tour, Venice

*Photos may not be included in actual itinerary*



The Hotel Villa Cipriani  
Asolo



Piazza Garibaldi  
Asolo



The Hotel Al Ponte Antico  
Venice



Prosecco country near Conegliano

## Details: Day 1

<b>Milan Hotel</b>	<p><b>Hotel Spadari</b> Via Spadari 11, Milano Tel: 02 7200 2371</p> <p>A luxury boutique hotel right in the center of Milan, you'll love the comfort and convenience of the Hotel Spadari during your stay in Milan.</p>
<b>Driver</b>	<p><b>Limo Italy</b> Tel: 06 656 70608</p> <p>Ask your driver about the history, food and wine of Italy. He's happy to share his knowledge and practice his English, and he knows a lot about the areas you'll be driving through.</p>
<b>Morning Event</b>	<p><b>Certosa di Pavia</b> Via Togliatti 12, 27012 Certosa di Pavia (PV) Tel: 0382 925613</p> <p>Modeled after the Cathedral or Duomo in Milan, the art lover will find it worthwhile to spend time examining every nook and cranny of this ornate Carthusian Monastery.</p>
<b>Afternoon Event</b>	<p><b>Accordini Winery</b> Via Alberto Bolla 9, 37020 Pedemonte Tel: 045 770 1733</p> <p>Enjoy learning about the wine-making process of the Veneto reds. You'll understand why the Amarone is more expensive than the Valpolicella, and get an appreciation for the taste of both of these, as well as some others.</p>
<b>Verona Hotel</b>	<p><b>Accademia Hotel</b> Via Scala 12, 37121 Verona Tel: 045 596 222</p> <p>Housed in a 16<sup>th</sup>-century Italian palazzo, this beautiful hotel is in a great location so you can make the most of your 1 night stay in Verona.</p>
<b>Verona Restaurant</b>	<p><b>Il Desco</b> Via Dietro San Sebastiano 7 Tel: 045 595 358</p> <p>Serving Italian food with a creative flair, Il Desco is a nice dinner out, and goes perfectly with a night at the opera. Make sure to specify <i>ben cotto</i>, unless you like your meat rare, and save room for dessert.</p>
<b>Verona Opera</b>	<p><b>Arena di Verona</b></p> <p>Every summer, this outdoor Roman amphitheater hosts 20,000 people at a time for nightly operas under the stars.</p>

## Details: Day 2

<b>Verona Hotel</b>	<p><b>Accademia Hotel</b> Via Scala 12, 37121 Verona Tel: 045 596 222</p> <p>Housed in a 16<sup>th</sup> century Italian palazzo, this beautiful hotel is in a great location so you can make the most of your 1 night stay in Verona.</p>
<b>Driver</b>	<p><b>Limo Italy</b> Tel: 06 656 70608</p> <p>Ask your driver about the history, food and wine of Italy. He's happy to share his knowledge and practice his English, and he knows a lot about the areas you'll be driving through.</p>
<b>Morning Event</b>	<p><b>Villa Capra "La Rotonda"</b> Via Della Rotonda 45, Vicenza tel. 0444 321793 / 049 8790879</p> <p>The Villa Rotonda is probably the most famous of Andrea Palladio's many Venetian villas. La Rotonda however was built not as a residence but as a house for entertaining. Your guide will meet you next to the front entrance.</p>
<b>Afternoon Event</b>	<p><b>Canova Museum</b> Via Canova 84, 31054 Possagno (TV) - Tel. 0423.544323</p> <p>After studying in Venice, the neo-classical sculptor Antonio Canova produced many sculptures of smooth white marble. Due to his innovative process (described at the museum), he was able to produce a huge amount of sculpture during his lifetime, 300 of which are housed in the Canova Museum.</p>
<b>Asolo Hotel</b>	<p><b>Villa Cipriani</b> Via Canova 298 31011 Asolo (TV) Italy Tel: 0423523411</p> <p>With a beautiful garden, 31 rooms, and a fabulous restaurant, you may not want to leave the Villa Cipriani. However the town of Asolo has attracted many people, including the famous poet Robert Browning, and is worth a wander.</p>
<b>Asolo Restaurant</b>	<p><b>The Restaurant at the Villa Cipriani</b></p> <p>The executive chef's philosophy is that of <i>materia prima</i>, that is: use food that is fresh and in season. He actually has his own garden on the hotel grounds, so ask what's in season before you order.</p>

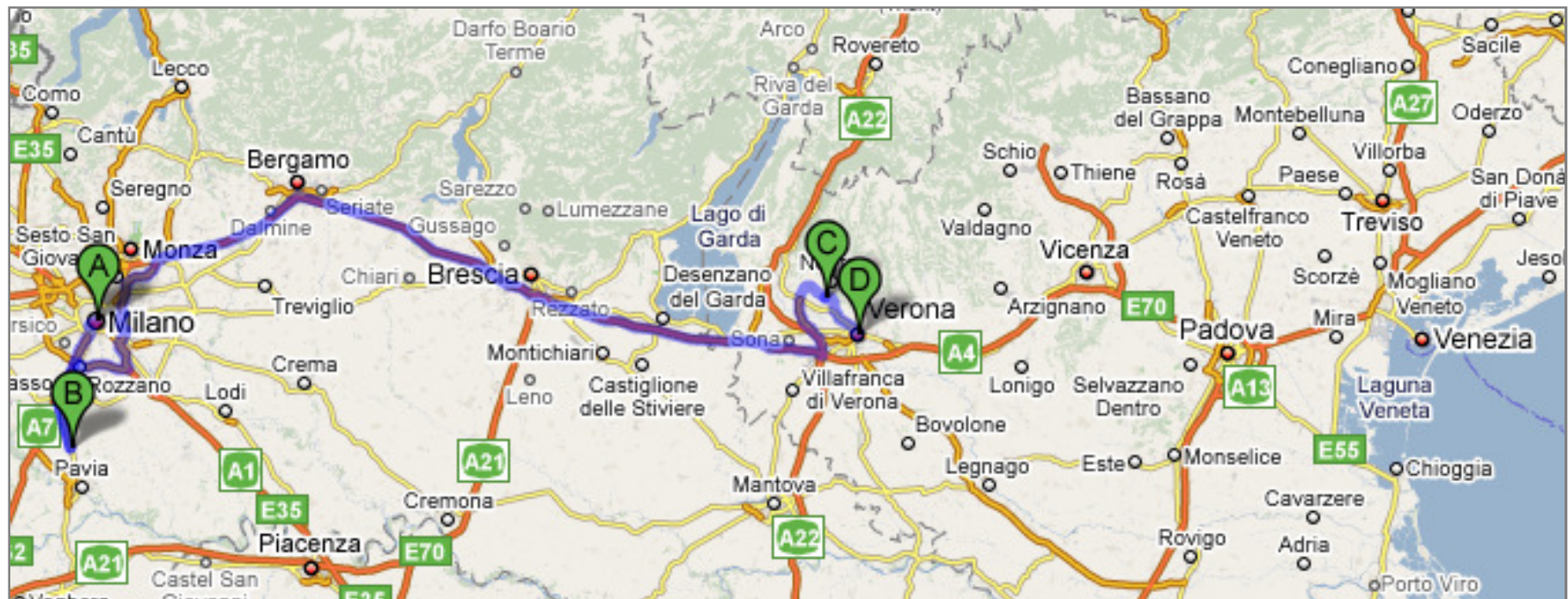


## Details: Day 3

<b>Asolo Hotel</b>	<p><b>Villa Cipriani</b> Via Canova 298, 31011 Asolo (TV) Tel: 0423523411</p> <p>With a beautiful garden, 31 rooms, and a fabulous restaurant, you may not want to leave the Villa Cipriani. However the town of Asolo has attracted many people, including the famous poet Robert Browning, and is worth a wander.</p>
<b>Driver</b>	<p><b>Limo Italy</b> Tel: 06 656 70608</p> <p>Ask your driver about the history, food and wine of Italy. He's happy to share his knowledge and practice his English, and he knows a lot about the areas you'll be driving through.</p>
<b>Afternoon Event</b>	<p><b>Carmina Winery</b> Via Mangesa, 10, Conegliano V., Treviso 31015 Tel: 0438 23719</p> <p>Owned by the Sacchetto family, the Carmina Winery is on 15 acres of land, in the hills just north of the town of Conegliano. With ten different wines, including a dessert Prosecco, there's a lot to learn and a lot to taste at Carmina's.</p>
<b>Venice Hotel</b>	<p><b>Al Ponte Antico</b> Calle dell'Aseo, Cannaregio, 5768 30131 Venezia Tel: 041 241 194</p> <p>Overlooking the Grand Canal, and in the center of Venice but out of the way of heavy tourist traffic, this hotel is in the 14<sup>th</sup> century Gothic <i>palazzo</i>. Known for their warmth, the owners are also incredibly knowledgeable, so take advantage of their restaurant and itinerary suggestions.</p>
<b>Venice Restaurant</b>	<p><b>Antica Dolo</b> S. Polo, 778, 30125 Venezia (VE) Tel: 041 5226546</p> <p>A short walk from the hotel is this Trattoria with excellent Venetian food. If you like eggplant, try the <i>melanzane involtini</i>.</p>
<b>Venice After Dinner</b>	<p><b>Cantinone Gia' Schiavi</b> Dorsoduro 992 Tel: 041 523-0744</p> <p>After dinner, grab a water taxi (<i>see map for detail</i>) and go for a nighttime <i>vaporetto</i> ride down the Grand Canal to Dorsoduro, then it's a short walk to Gia' Schiavi (<i>see map</i>), one of the best wine bars in Venice.</p>

## Day 1

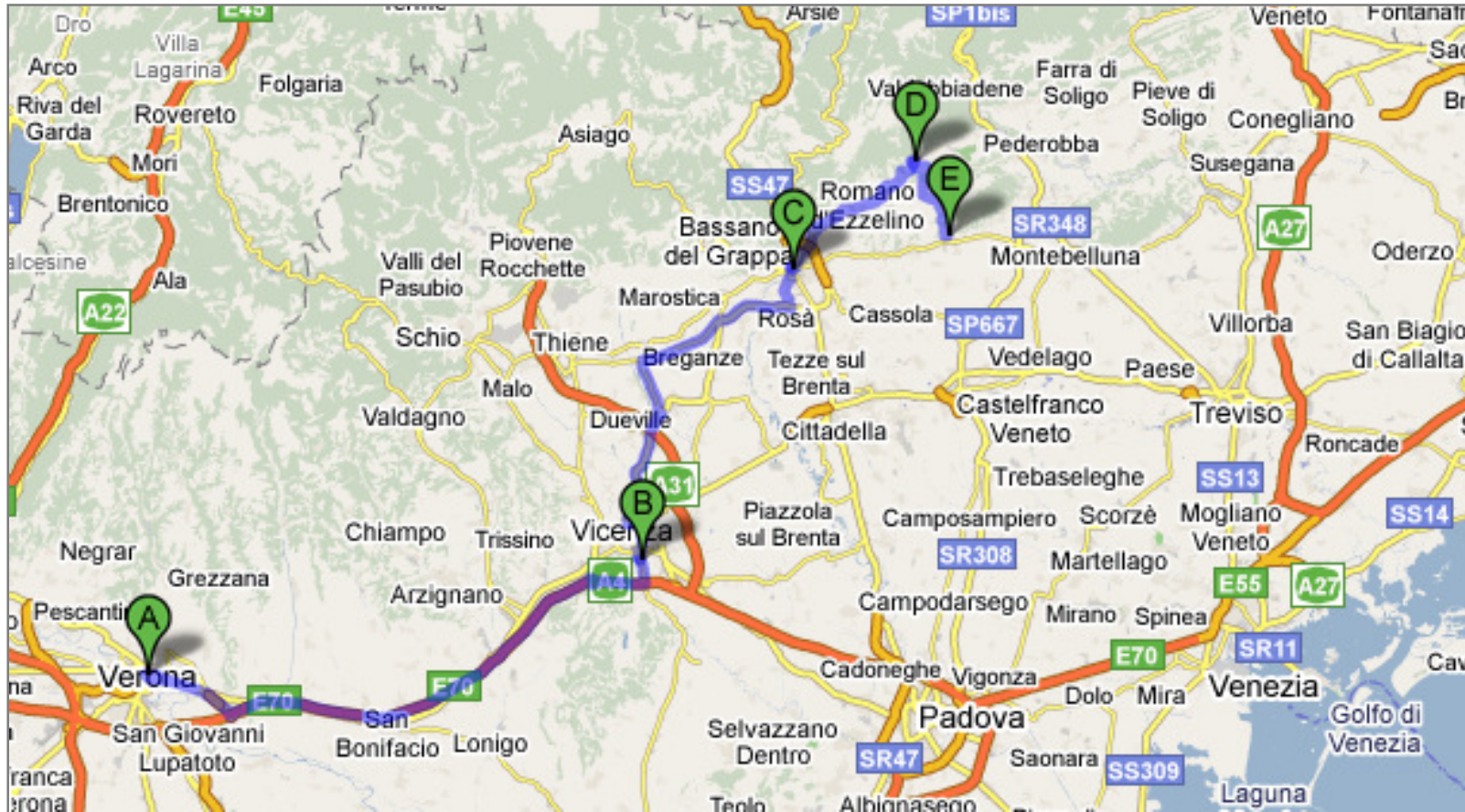
Milan (A), Certosa di Pavia (B), Accordini Winery (C), Verona (D)





## Day 2

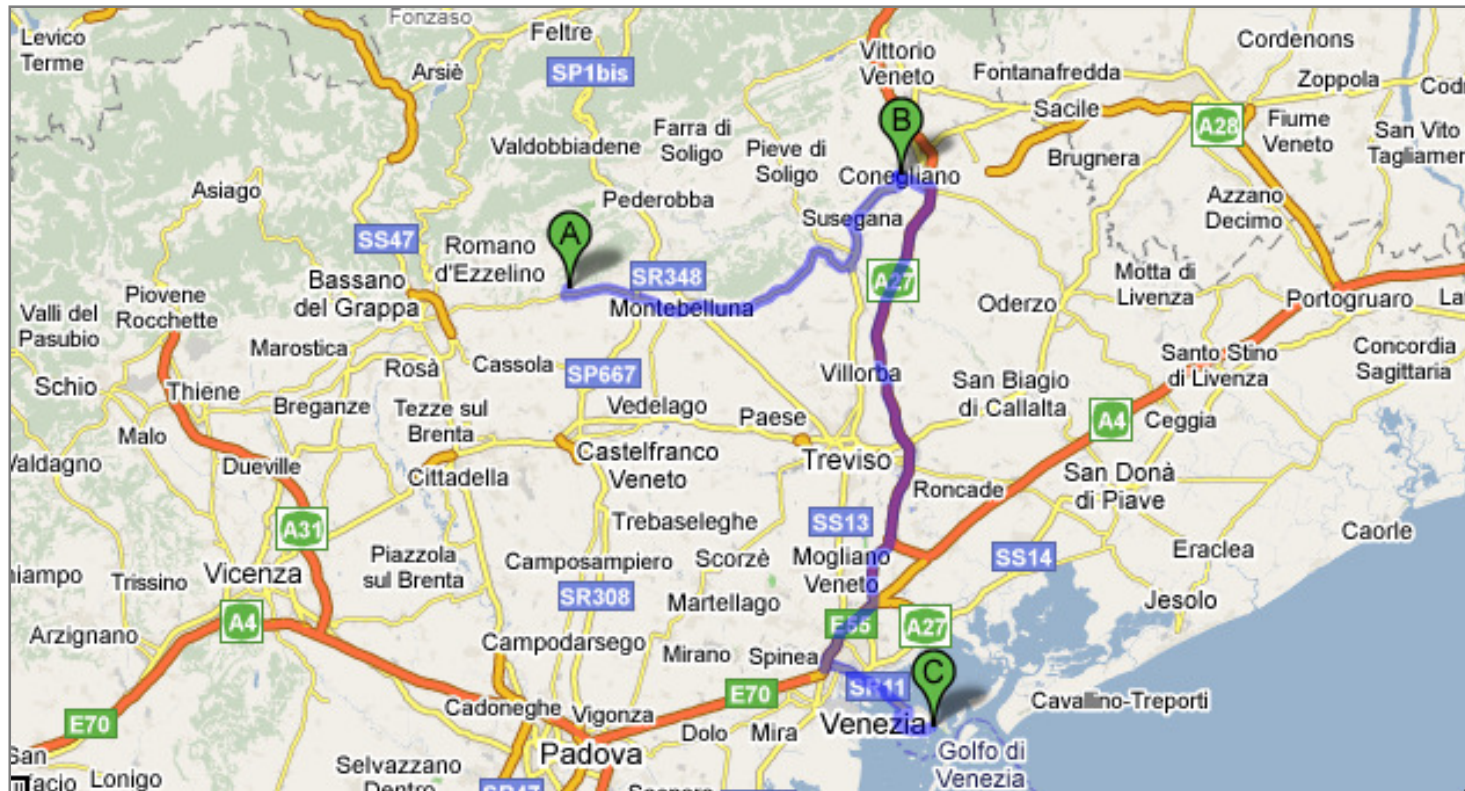
Villa Rotonda (B), Bassano del Grappa (C), Possagno (D), Asolo (E)





# Day 3

## Asolo (A), Conegliano (B), Venice (C)



## Day 3, Venice Transfer to Hotel

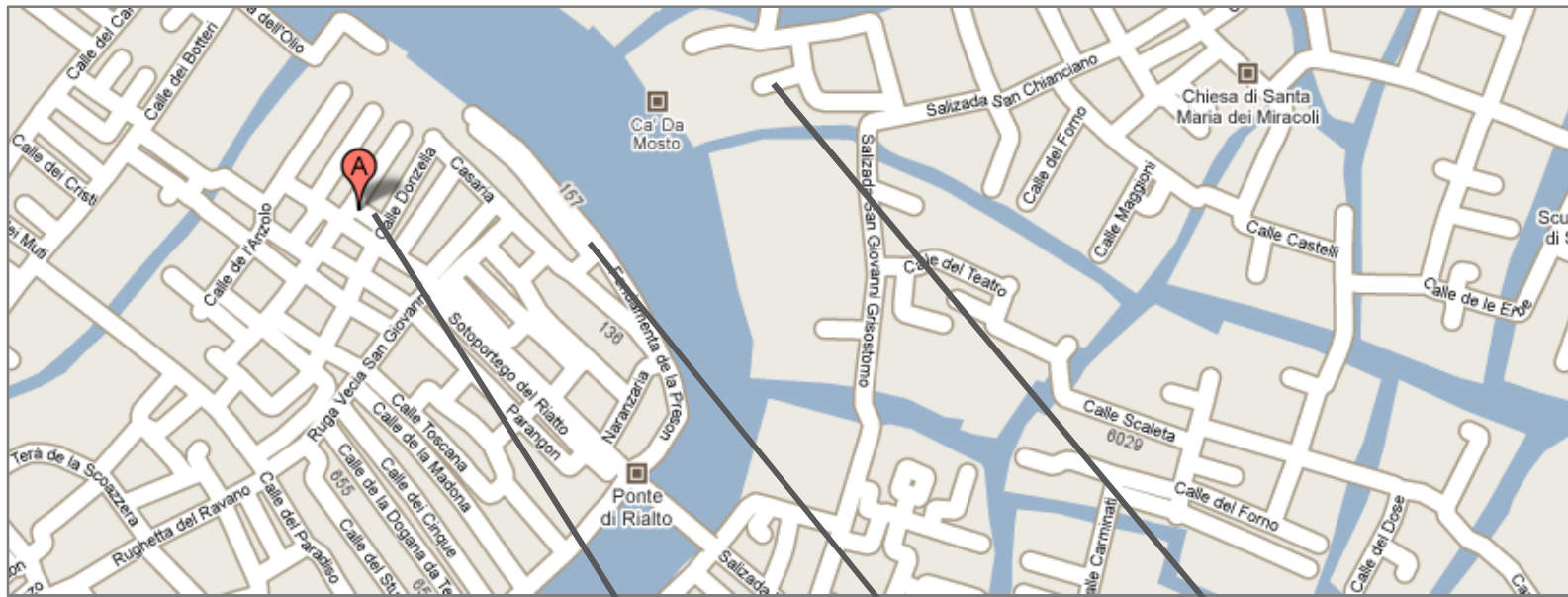


Say goodbye to your driver in *Piazzale Roma*, then take the *vaporetto* no. 1, 2, or N and get off at *Rialto*. Use this map to find your hotel.

Rialto  
vaporetto  
stop

Hotel Al  
Ponte Antico

## Day 3, Venice Transfer to Restaurant



From your hotel, cross the Rialto bridge to dinner at Bar Antico Dolo. After dinner catch the vaporetto from the *Rialto Mercato* stop. See next map.

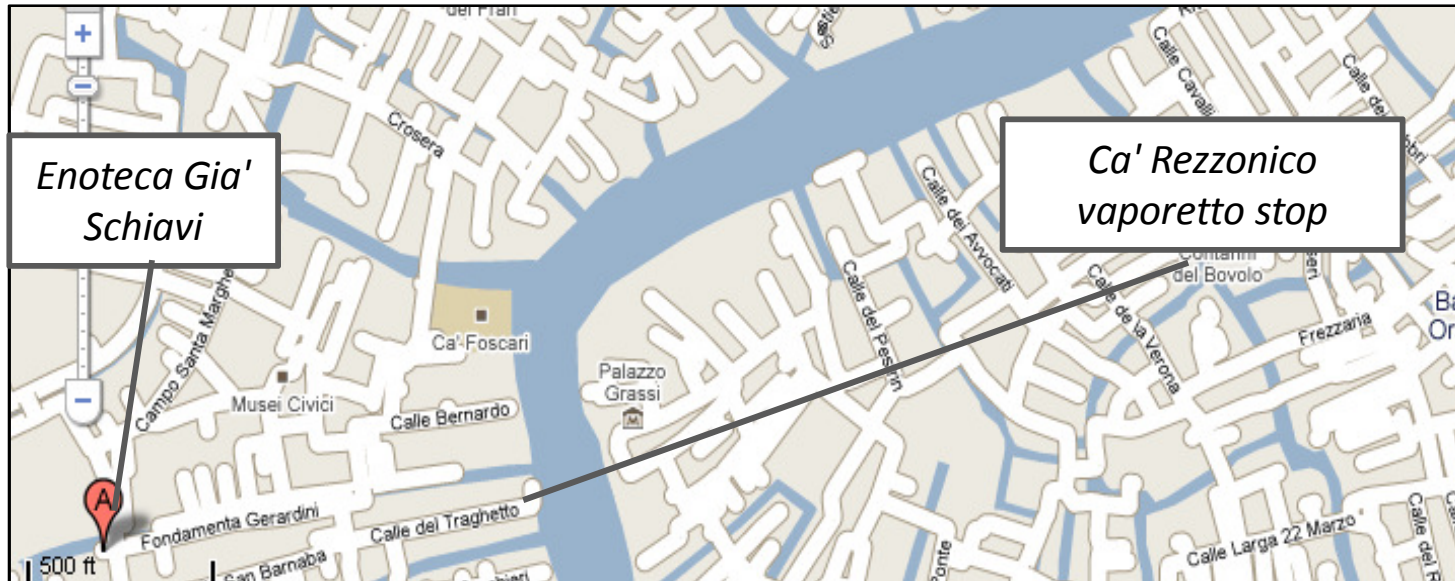
*Bar Antico  
Dolo*

*Rialto  
Mercato  
vaporetto  
stop*

*Hotel Al  
Ponte  
Antico*



## Day 3, Venice Transfer to Wine Bar



Get off the *vaporetto* at the *Ca' Rezzonico* stop and use this map to walk to *Cantinone Gia' Schiavi*. Later, walk back to the *Ca' Rezzonico* stop and take the *vaporetto* to *Rialto*. *Vaporettos* run every 10-15 minutes and then less often after midnight.