# Shere



### **BEAUTIFUL HEART**

### A rainbow holiday

Michela Bonafoni interviews Alessia Crocini, president of the organisation 'Le Famiglie Arcobaleno' The metaverse as explained to my grandmother

An interview with Giosuè and Simone

The astonishing seabed of Caorle





### THE GATES OF OUR BIHOLIDAY VILLAGES HAVE CLOSED.

A season full of novelties, fun and new experiences has come to an end, as indeed happens every year.



Caterina Biasuzzi Product Manager Bi Holiday

#### WHAT NOW?

It is no secret that for us this is a moment that holds mixed emotions within it: on the one hand, the melancholy of seeing our villages slowly emptying and, with the coming of autumn, changing their appearance, still fascinating but with a different light and energy.

On the other hand, however, we are thrilled to be able to initiate all the new things that until now have only been on paper and within our imagination and we can't wait to see them come to life... one step at a time, brick by brick, breath by breath. This is that feeling you get when preparing for a gift to give to someone; when you feel joy at seeing the surprise in the eyes of the person receiving such a gift. In our case, the people we are addressing are all of you, all those who have come to visit us to spend a weekend, a holiday or even just a day in our company. or those who have merely shown any interest in us, and perhaps simply postponed the meeting to a date to be determined.

This is, in fact, our fuel: the satisfaction of those who stay at Biholiday facilities, to whom we strive to guarantee not only comfortable and convenient accommodation - be it a pitch or an accommodation unit - but also a unique experience, a memory that will last forever, a holiday that is not and will never be just a holiday.

Whether you have known us for some time or have only recently discovered us, it is to all of you that we try to convey in a visible and tangible way what our corporate values are, values in which we firmly believe and which are our guiding light for choices in the delicate stages of decision-making. We try to do it in a cheerful, colourful and non-invasive way, because that is how it should be: it is precisely that detail that makes us unique and close to the expectations of all of you.

In the 2023 season, there have been structural - and other changes for both villages; all our innovations are carried out not only with respect for the natural and cultural environment in which we are located, but are also aimed at transforming the improvement into something that tomorrow can help reduce the environmental impact.

I would like to tell you about a project from 2023, which embraces both villages in a unique and avant-garde way: an example of valorisation of the area in which the villages are located.

This is the "bricola-batana" art project: what seemed to be nothing more than discarded "objects", through the expert hands of local artists - the Venetian Enrico Marcato and the Istrian Monica Petrovic - have been transformed into real works of art to be given a second life, creating an invisible but indissoluble bond between the San Francesco Village and the BiVillage.

(For those unfamiliar with the term "bricole", they are one of the most characteristic features of Venice, nautical structures to mark waterways. The popular "batana", on the other hand, is a typical boat of the Istrian coast, a small fishing boat, characterised by a flat bottom, suitable for shallow, rocky waters).

The idea behind this project is, in fact, to connect the two villages of the Biholiday group through a coloured thread of art sensitivity, placing Marcato's "bricola" at the BiVillage and the "batana" painted by Monica Petrovic at the San Francesco Village, both near the sea as in an exchange of glances towards "the brother village".

Through these characteristic elements, we wanted to give a sense of belonging and brotherhood between the two facilities, each hosting the characteristic element of the other.

This is just one example of the many projects we have carried out in the winter of 2022 to welcome you in the summer season and try to make you breathe what we believe in

### BUT WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT YESTERDAY, WHAT LIES AHEAD TOMORROW?

The curtains have closed, but behind the scenes we are setting up a new stage: for both villages there are many, many new projects, which are the result of careful research by our creative and corporate team, but also of conversations and ideas coming from you.

#### WHAT LIES AHEAD, THEN?

As of this winter season, we will start "the master plan", i.e., a complex six-year renovation project for both facilities. During this time, you will be able to observe a continuous change of the BiVillage and the San Francesco Village, and we can guarantee that the changes will be much greater than you can possibly perceive.

Our aim is to provide the villages with all the elements to be upto-date facilities, capable of conveying a logical thread of beauty and values on which the company is founded. That is why, in order to be able to realise all this, the time needed is extended, providing you with evolving villages between now and the next few years.

But isn't that what the beauty of our work is all about? For us, it is. I don't want to reveal too much, otherwise I would spoil the surprise - or surprises.

All I can tell you is that there will be some beautiful new features in the common areas, including squares and pathways, as well as renovations and upheavals of accommodation units and new areas with state-of-theart mobile homes. For our campervan friends, on the other hand, we are going to revise the sanitary facilities, although this is a project we have had in place for a few seasons now, and we will continue to try to offer pitches more and more focused on comfort.

We are going to review the greenery within the villages, in order to ensure lushness, but above all safety, through the analysis of all the plants present in the areas.

As you well know, one of our values is sustainability; we are moving more and more in this direction, trying to create our own energy through photovoltaic panels and the installation of home automation, which will be a fundamental part of smart units, while using artificial intelligence to reduce consumption.

Many, many more novelties will be waiting for you from the beginning of the 2024 season.

### SO, WHAT CAN I SAY?

For all those who got to meet us in person, we thank you for making the 2023 season unique and unforgettable. We truly hope that we have given you a summer full of joy and happiness, and that we will be part of your everlasting memories.

We sincerely hope that this is a goodbye until next year, and if you have any doubts or curiosity, we look forward to your e-mails.

FOR ALL THOSE WHO WILL DISCOVER US FROM NEXT SUMMER: WELCOME!

We look forward to meeting you in person and introducing you to the Biholiday world. We hope to make you feel part of our group, and to make you experience activities and emotions that will accompany you, your families, and your four-legged friends for as long as we are together.

See you soon,

Caterina

### Find out all the latest news and stay up to date on our offers



ITALIA - Caorle - villaggiosanfrancesco.com





CROAZIA - Istria - bivillage.com





## Schere 1 Schere

### Topic index

A rainbow holiday	pag.	06
Istria and its food	pag.	10
The metaverse as explained to my grandmother	pag.	14
Sport and well-being: a conversation with IMOCO volleyball player Vittoria Alice Piani	pag.	20
Travelling on four legs Practical tips for a holiday abroad with your dog	pag.	24
Coliving e Coworking. Digital Nomad	pag.	30
The astonishing seabed of Caorle	pag.	32
BiHoliday embraces art	pag.	36
Vanlife Philosophy Embracing freedom to live life on the road	pag.	42
Flavours of Caorle: a food and wine journey through seafood tradition	pag.	46
Pula. A brief history of a city and what not to miss	pag.	48

## A rainbow holiday

Michela Bonafoni interviews Alessia Crocini, president of the organisation 'Le Famiglie Arcobaleno' (Rainbow Families)





Alessia Crocini President of "Famiglie Arcobaleno"

### INTRODUCE US TO YOUR WONDERFUL FAMILY

My name is Alessia Crocini, I'm 48 and I live in Rome. I work in the fields of communication, writing and teaching, but I am also a civil rights activist and for the past year I have been the president of 'Famiglie Arcobaleno', an association that brings together parents, would-be parents and supporters of the rights of families consisting of two mothers or two fathers or LGBTQI+ single parents.

I am the mother of an eightand-a-half year old boy born from the relationship with my ex-partner thanks to a **MPA** (medically assisted procreation) done in Spain. We can say that **every rainbow** family begins with a journey because there is no law in Italy that allows two parents of the same gender to bring sons and daughters into the world, so most of us would-be mothers travel to Spain, Denmark, the Netherlands. while fathers go through the process of surrogacy mostly in Canada or the USA. Our families begin on a journey and the hospitality of people working in the transport and tourism sector can really make a difference at such important times in our lives.

Currently, mine is an extended and recomposed family as my partner has three children (!) and when we go on holiday



together, we are a team of two women and four children ranging in age from 8 to 15, with different needs and interests.

### WHAT SOCIAL CONSTRAINTS DO YOU ENCOUNTER IN YOUR DAILY LIVES?

The limitations encountered by a family with same-sex parents are sometimes the same as those encountered by any 'sui generis' family: I am thinking of single parents and adoptive parents, of recomposed, multiethnic or immigrant families, of very young or elderly couples. Every bearer of difference provokes in others a reaction of surprise and often inadequacy , not out of bad faith, but often due to simple lack of knowledge and preparation. It would be enough not to assume that

every child has two parents of different genders, that parents and children have the same geographical origin, the same skin colour, the same DNA, the same surname.

For rainbow families, things have definitely improved over the years compared to 5 or 10 years ago: the law on civil unions, the increase and greater visibility of same-sex couples with children generated a positive change that is still ongoing. The only negative factor remains the legal one, as there is no law in Italy that allows both parents of a same-sex couple to recognise their sons and daughters at birth. Despite this, in everyday life, society's acceptance and openness towards our families is definitely ahead of the laws.

The lack of legal recognition for both parents can cause practical problems because in my case, for example, only the mother who gave birth is the mother of our child and this obliges me to travel with proxies, photocopies of documents, and permits from the Police Headquarters to fly with a minor. And this can often lead to inappropriate and embarrassing questions for me and my child from the staff at the check-in or reception of a hotel.

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND AS A MOTHER IN A TOURISTIC PLACE?

I believe that in tourism, and particularly in an accommodation facility, **staff training is an important first** 



step to welcome a rainbow family in the best possible way: not assuming the number and gender of parents, creating inclusive forms for example for mini clubs where instead of 'mum/dad' there is the more inclusive wording 'parent or guardian', welcoming customers by not assuming that a woman has a husband and vice versa.

### WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING YOUR HOLIDAY?

A family with same-sex parents chooses a holiday according to their personal tastes (sea/mountain, village/camping) but in the case of a trip abroad they certainly do not neglect the situation regarding the LGBTQI+rights of the country they are about to visit, with a goal of

protecting minors first of all.

It is difficult for a family to know before they leave, except by word-of-mouth from other rainbow families, what the level of hospitality and preparation of the staff will be in a particular holiday village or family hotel, and in that case you either rely on luck or end up doing live training within the accommodation facility!

### HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATE TRAINING ARE FOR RECEPTION AND TRAINING STAFF?

As a parent, I would be happy to find staff prepared for every type of family, especially those who are in close contact with children and young people, so as not to put them in embarrassing or painful situations.

### DO YOU THINK THERE ARE STILL MANY STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO ACHIEVE INCLUSIVE TOURISM?

Do you think that the 'Famiglie Arcobaleno' association can collaborate in recommending methods of communication and internal organisation in a tourist structure?

I think something is moving in Italy to create more inclusive environments in the tourism sector, but there is still much room for improvement.

The association 'Famiglie Arcobaleno' has always been involved in training for the public administration, schools

of all levels, and the health and legal professions, and I am sure it can contribute to improving the level of inclusiveness of tourist facilities. Prejudices usually arise from non-knowledge; instead, encounter and dialogue create virtuous circles that increase the level of well-being by creating open and welcoming environments.

that when my son calls 'MUM' at the beach and two of us answer, the reactions of the people around are perhaps curious or surprised, but certainly not hostile

Italy is still at the bottom of the list in Europe for LGBTQI+ rights, but it is also the country where our boys and girls are always warmly welcomed and I can say

The San Francesco Village in Caorle (Italy) and the BiVillage in Fažana (Croatia) are excellent destinations for families seeking a relaxing and fun-filled holiday.

Both campsites offer many activities specially designed for children, such as animation, games, creative workshops and water sports.

One of the main attractions offered by the villages are their swimming pools, both for adults and children, with water slides and hydromassage tub areas.

With direct access to the beach, you can enjoy the sun and sea in a safe and controlled environment.

There are also **special events** 

organised for families, such as theme evenings and parties, where children can have fun together with their peers under the supervision of the campsite staff.

For the little ones, the villages also offer a mini-club, where they can participate in creative workshops and participating in games with qualified employees. This way, parents can enjoy some free time, knowing that their children are safe while having fun.

There are many dining options, including bars and restaurants, where you can enjoy Italian and international cuisine.

To summarise, the San Francesco Village in Caorle and the BiVillage in Fažana are an excellent choice for those seeking a fun and relaxing holiday.

With a wide range of activities for all ages, quality services and a welcoming atmosphere, they are able to meet the needs of all the families who choose them as their summer holiday destination.



### FROM FAZANA'S "SARDELLA" TO VODNJAN'S "BUMBARA"

If you say Fazana you say sardella. A country where the devotion to sardines is present in all corners and of course in all cuisines. At the beginning of the season - in April - the first part of the "School of salting" begins: participants are asked to prepare sardines to be salt-cured in specific jars that then remain sealed until August; once opened, they are tasted and certificates are awarded to participants. The School of salting sardines is always accompanied by a big celebration involving all the streets of the town. There is more than sardines in Fazana and this part of Istria. Let us introduce a gastronomic tour of this wonderful part of Croatia. Let's start from the sea





### TIME FOR SCAMPI AND "DONDOLA" CLAMS

The scampi that are caught in the Kvarner Gulf are excellent and here they are prepared in buzara-style; excellent grilled fish with monkfish, sea bass, oysters and spider crabs; also queen scallops, Mediterranean scallops, "dondola" clams (sea truffles). Meanwhile, grandmothers in the kitchen remind us that if we want to prepare the typical fish soup, we need at least seven kinds of fish; and squid-ink risotto which is another great traditional dish here.

### THE EXCELLENCE OF PROSCIUTTO (BUT HOW TO TURN DOWN SAUSAGE)

For lovers of earthy dishes, Istria gives us excellent prosciutto (its bone, when possible, ends up in soups and stews, providing exceptional flavour). But sausages also give us all the flavours of the Istrian hinterland.

And then there are the entrees.

For example the typical "fuzi". The dough is prepared with flour, eggs and salt. From the dough, a flaky pastry is obtained, which is rolled up and cut into two-fingerwide strips; the dough is then cut and rolled onto itself in such a way that it takes on a shape resembling a spindle. White meat sauces go very well together with Istrian goulash (chicken, beef, game meat) prepared in a thick sauce also known as Istrian "žqvacet".

### "PLJUKANCI" PASTA AND TRUFFLES: ISTRIAN FLAVOURS

Also worth tasting is the "pljukanci" pasta: to be seasoned Istrian style with prosciutto, ricotta cheese, rocket, cherry tomatoes, all blended with white wine and, as soon as they are served at the table, to be accompanied by a shower of fresh truffle shavings. When in season, wild asparagus is a delicacy: eaten in the "fritaja" - typical fritters - or as the main element of a good pasta dish. Then of course there is "jota",



which is a typical soup made with potatoes, beans and sauerkraut.

#### **SEA-SCENTED OIL**

The coast of Istria is overlooked by olive trees that yield excellent quality olive oil. To be enjoyed with bread alone, but also to be purchased in the shops in and around Fazana - along the oil routes - to stock up on the scents of a holiday that has just ended. This is because the sea breeze caresses the olives, which then, once pressed, release a product with a unique aroma.

### DINING AROUND THE BAKING BELL

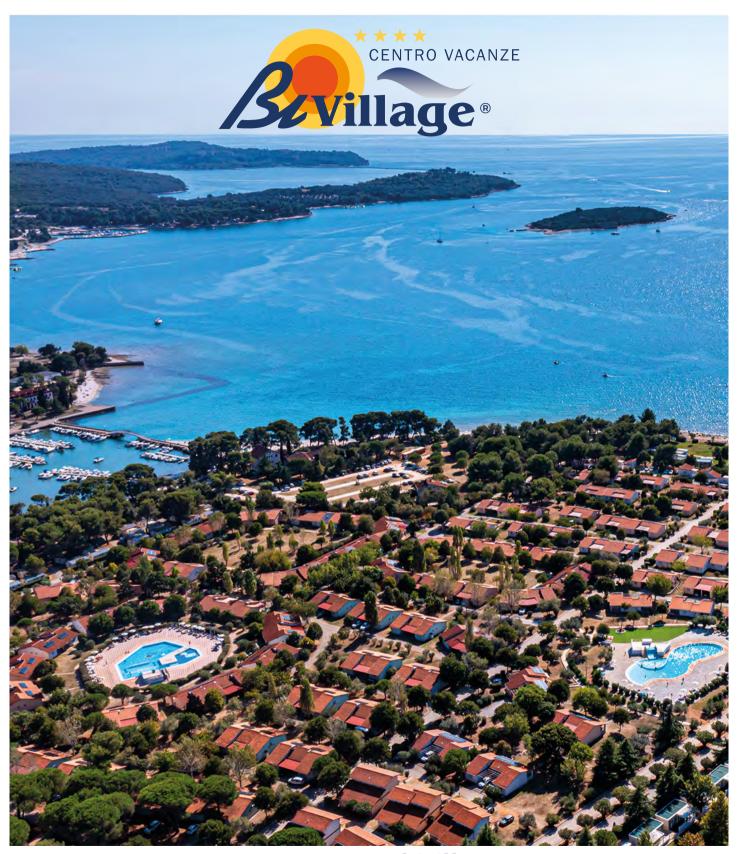
One of the typical Istrian cooking methods includes "peka" (slow cooking under a baking bell). A cooking method as old as time: there are very ancient testimonies

related to this cooking style. Basically, it is an earthenware or metal bell placed on top of a plate where the food to be cooked is placed. The embers heat the food on the plate, but the special feature of the peka is the shape of the bell: it is made in such a way that hot embers can be placed on top for slow and even cooking. In peka - but outside the restaurants you can also find written "zvono". "čripnja" and "sače" - they cook mainly veal, lamb, but also freshly caught octopus. The result is a tender meat rich in aroma and flavour

#### A BUMBARA, PLEASE

What about dessert? Order a bumbara. A typical dessert from Vodnjan, whose inhabitants are known as "bumbari", and it consists of eggs, sugar and almonds: a delight. Or taste

"povetica": a strudel with walnuts and apples that is typical of the festivities but can now be enjoyed all year round. And to finish, there are tasty "cukerančić" biscuits to dip in Malvasia, the most typical of Istrian wines.



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# The metaverse as explained to my grandmother.

An interview with Giosuè and Simone



### HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT OF THE METAVERSE TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER?

#### Giosuè

Like a movie. I would tell her to close her eyes and think of herself right inside the TV box showing the movie. The advantage over the movie, however, is that this time she will be able to **perform interactive actions:** she will be

able to walk, interact with actors, buy products, participate in conversations, and much more. All of this by means of visors (like glasses), which immerse her in this dimension, and joysticks, remote controls, with which she can actually perform those interactive actions mentioned before – shopping, conversations, participation in events...

If my grandmother had ever seen a video game, I would tell her to think of herself as the character I play with the joysticks, i.e. the remote control. What I do is move within a **reconstructed world,** where I meet other characters, enter houses, forests, eat virtual food, and wear clothes that I can change... Well, the metaverse allows this, but in an enhanced manner. While the video game

is played within the TV frame, with the visors (glasses) in the metaverse the user will be able to turn 360° and see an entirely immersive world. There are metaverses that are even attempting to introduce smells, tastes and the senses, which the most common technologies simply lack.

believe also that many arandmothers use video calls to see their children and grandchildren around the world. One of the limitations of these calls is that often, in order to see what is going on around the family members, it is necessary to turn the camera, rotate the mobile phone, and move around the room: with immersive realities, these operations are minimised and one can enjoy a round, panoramic, multisensory and immersive experience.

From the armchair at home, from the bed or from the wheelchair, these grandmothers (and not only!) will be able to take many journeys. It started with phone calls, then video calls, and who knows, maybe one day the metaverse will be the most used mode. I don't think it will take long, in the meantime: buckle up!

#### Simone

If I had to explain the concept of the Metaverse to my grandmother, I would tell her that whenever we find ourselves interacting with something that is not only physical, we are in the Metaverse. People often associate the Metaverse with virtual reality, but this is only one aspect. One

can speak of the Metaverse as the Extended Reality or, for a more academic definition, one can say that the Extended Reality is the gateway to the Metaverse. It can be anything from digital overlays in the physical world, like a simple Snapchat filter, to VR experiences or mixed reality games like Pokémon GO. To simplify. all technologically enhanced realities are, in fact, the Metaverse. Another wav to understand the Metaverse is simply to see it as the next evolutionary step of Internet. The term may have been introduced for marketing purposes, but the technology behind the Metaverse is not necessarily innovative and will probably follow the same path as other past trends.

Let us use the analogy with the World Wide Web. Remember the 90s? Accessing the Internet then required a pro-active effort, like disconnecting the telephone line and connecting to a noisy 56k modem... With the spread of wearable devices, IoT and constant connectivity via smartphones, we are now always connected and no longer have to actively "enter" the Internet. The Metaverse will probably follow this trend and become an integral part of our daily lives, like our refrigerator or washing machine, without even having to think about accessing it. So, grandma: we will be in the Metaverse when we no longer think of the Metaverse....

WHAT WILL BE THE GREATEST BENEFITS OF THE METAVERSE FOR THE PUBLIC?

#### Giosuè

As I mentioned in the previous question, we usually think of travel as something ordinary, predictable, almost natural. Yet, this is not the case. "Travelling" is not so democratic. It may be expensive, tiring, debilitating, or unthinkable for some people.

The metaverse can be used from home, from the wheelchair, from the remotest of municipalities and geographies; by now you know the necessary equipment: visors, joysticks and an internet connection. Not that this is affordable for everyone, but the speed with which these tools fall into out-datedness is such that the costs come down quickly.

Precisely because of its limited requirements, the metaverse is used in a variety of fields. There are universities that, for instance, hold dual lectures (in the classroom and in the metaverse), allowing students who do not live in the city to cut down on rent and relocation costs and **enjoy an immersive, yet home-based lecture.** This means that anyone, from anywhere, can attend (even) the best universities in the world, from home, thus **cutting costs considerably.** 

Therefore, from tourism to education, rentals, transport and the environment, the metaverse presents itself as an interesting – and certainly improvable – opportunity for different fields, knowledge and industries.

#### Simone

This is an interesting question. We



are already seeing the benefits so-called "Industrial of the Metaverse" in various sectors, including R&D, healthcare and automotive industry. I like to categorise the Metaverse into two types: self-referential and instrumental. The self-referential Metaverse refers to those use cases where the Metaverse is the ultimate goal rather than just a means to achieve it. For example, when playing a video game like Call of Duty, the experience and all related economic activities begin and end within the game. However, if we see the **Metaverse** as a tool or a medium, its potential becomes even more interesting. Simply put, the Metaverse can bring value if and when it solves real IRL problems. An example of the virtuous use of the Metaverse that I recently encountered comes from Italy, so I am particularly proud of it. ourteen

young patients at the Santobono Hospital in Naples were able to watch the Champions League final between Real Madrid and Liverpool through VR visors, feeling as if they were watching the match from the perspective of the players at the Stade de France stadium in Paris instead of from a hospital room. This was a brilliant social use of VR technology in a hospital setting, to make children smile and offer them a unique and memorable experience.

### HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE THIS NEW HIGH-TECH FRONTIER TO BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR DAILY LIVES?

### Giosuè

In October 2021, Marck Zuckerberg announced that his group – which besides Facebook also includes Instagram and Whatsapp – would be called "Meta" – short for meta-verse. The announcement was followed by a video, which shows just how the technologies we are used to using – Whatsapp, Instagram and primarily Facebook – are intended to evolve and become immersive. Therefore, there are plans for our Facebook profiles to soon have an avatar – already many have created one by themselves – that will enter a world with services, activities, and events.

Although there are no already concrete and executive cases of this process of "metaversalisation," in some way, all of **us are already actors** in the waiting queue.

#### **Simone**

The answer is not clear-cut. Technologically speaking, **we** are getting there. However, we

may still be a few decades away in terms of widespread technoacceptance. Have you ever read anything by Douglas Adams? Besides being the author of the hilarious Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, he was a great advocate of innovation. In a 1999 essay entitled "How to Stop Worrying and Learn to Love the Internet", published in the Sunday Times, Adams outlined some guidelines for our relationship with technology. He believed that anything that exists when one is born is considered anvthina invented normal. between the ages of 15 and 35 is seen as innovative and exciting and anything invented after the age of 35 is, well... unnatural! Do the math... For many people, the Metaverse might seem unusual and unnatural. However, having an open and receptive attitude towards technology is crucial if you do not want to be left behind.

### WHICH POINTS WILL WE HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO?

#### Giosuè

There have been situations in which avatars have carried out acts of violence and forcible touching towards other users... This may sound comical and perhaps surreal when put like that, but let us not forget that behind those avatars there is always a human being, and therefore victims and executioners. It is the same as with social media and the famous "keyboard lions" – it is true that we do not see them physically, but we still perceive their malicious intentions to insult us, expose us, and denigrate us publicly... Therefore, it will be necessary for

the postal police, our legislators and the digital communities themselves to denounce, report, formalise and control these worlds, which as such need rules, vigilance, ethics, deontology and social responsibility.

#### Simone

Interoperability, no doubt. This is certainly a crucial aspect of the development of the Metaverse. Without it, investing in a particular metaversal platform may lead to disappointment, as there is a risk that it will become obsolete within a few years. To achieve a decentralised, open and cohesive Metaverse, it is crucial to ensure that digital assets, such as 3D environments, avatars, NFTs, terrains, avatar skins and other elements, can be seamlessly transferred between platforms.

This means, for example, playing a game, earning a digital good, selling it on a secondary market, receiving payment in crypto currency, buying an avatar skin in another game and wearing it in any virtual world one wishes. This **interoperability is the very** 

### essence of decentralisation and the foundation of Web 3.0.

Although we still have a long way to go before we reach this level of interoperability, it is a crucial step towards the development of the Metaverse.

### WHAT WILL NOT BE REPLACED BY THE METAVERSE IN OUR REAL WORLD?

#### Giosuè

I assure you that the metaverse will make us more and more passionate about our beloved (?) humanity. Those immersive sessions, gradually increasing in performance, efficiency and evolution, will entail, in addition to the many hours spent in those worlds, a parallel sense of saturation. claustrophobia and need for oxygenation, which we already experience when we enter other immersive dimensions: think about zoom calls, the hours spent in front of a video game, or simply in front of the TV. When we realise that we have spent hours in front of those screens, we long for fresh air, a walk, a real chat at the bar. Well, I believe that the





metaverse will make that second phase more and more unique and rare, to the point where I believe "detox days", i.e. technology detox days, will be instituted. So probably more metaverse, but also more humanity!

#### Simone

I just can't think of anything... Most people seem to perceive reality as a binary concept, with the distinction between what is real and what is not. However, it is important to recognise that this perspective is limited and may soon become obsolete. In his book "Reality+", the techno-philosopher David Chalmers proposes a new way of understanding reality, in which extended reality is considered as real as physical reality.

With technology progress, Chalmers predicts that the

Metaverse will soon become so indistinguishable from our physical world that even trying to distinguish between the two will become meaningless. I call it the "Roblox Effect": for my son, playing with an avatar in a virtual world 1.000 km away or with a friend in the physical world makes no difference. The boundaries between perceivable reality and virtual reality will blur and the distinction between the digital and physical worlds will be erased sooner than we think or want...

### WHAT ARE THE MAJOR BENEFITS OF THE METAVERSE WITHIN ART/ TOURISM?

### Giosuè

We've talked about this before, but I'll give a few more concrete examples to understand this technology even better. A few months ago, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the state of Tuvalu, an archipelago in the Pacific Ocean, sent out a very strong message: during COP27, the international event to coordinate on the current and future environmental challenges, this politician, Simon Kofe, decided to deliver his speech from the ocean, pulling up his trousers to make visible the rising waters due to **climate change.** 

addition to this. Kofe announced that the entire state would be digitised (precisely mapped and digitised in its geography) and released into the metaverse. Because of the potential disappearance of the country, in fact, this technique, although contestable, will always make it possible to "visit" it. Thus, future citizens of Tuvalu will always be able to enjoy their country, the way it was, the way it looked... Although the case seems strange to us, imagine Italy: 7500 kilometres of coastline also threatened by these dangers. While the metaverse cannot save these "Atlantis-like" places of the world, it certainly provides a side solution, one of recovery and preservation.

#### **Simone**

There are many of them, actually! he Metaverse has several benefits for the tourism industry, such as enhancing direct booking experiences in virtual worlds with seamless graphical user interfaces, promoting urgency to purchase, providing immersive MICE experiences, attracting audiences vounger through gamification, increasing direct sales, community engagement, AR overlays on historical real-world destinations, targeted advertising through data collection. overcoming the limitations of Web 2.0, DAOs, native advertising, travel experiences for those with mobility limitations, interactive staff training, improved levels of privacy through blockchain, and sustainable alternatives to mass travel. to name a few.

The Metaverse's impact on tourism is evolutionary rather than revolutionary. It will not completely replace the journey, but it will undoubtedly play a role, especially in the early stages of the traveller's journey. Currently, we choose hotels based on photos, videos and reviews, but the Metaverse has the potential to provide a more immersive experience. We could get a "taste" of a destination and book a hotel

room or a table in a restaurant, all from the comfort of our own home. This can be considered an advanced form of "try before you buy". We are only beginning to discover what the Metaverse has to offer, and the potential of its impact on tourism is huge.



Giosuè Prezioso is a professor and researcher with international experience and currently Director of Studies at the Unicollege University of Turin



Simone Puorto is a visionary consultant and speaker with 25 years of experience in the industry. He is a sought-after MBA lecturer

### **GAMING ROOM Bivillage**

The BiVillage in Fažana, in Croatia, offers plenty of outdoor activities that can be enjoyed with the whole family, but since last year, there is something new for all those who love video games and wish to approach the metaverse: a new gaming room.

In the Meta Z game room, you will find the latest gaming equipment, including Playstation 5, gaming PCs, VR and accessories, to enjoy games of all kinds and difficulty.

The game room is open daily from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM by prior reservation and has 55" and 75" 4K screens available.

There are a lot of activities you can do inside: from participating in the many organised tournaments, to challenging your friends, or you can play or experience the thrill of virtual reality individually.

The BiVillage is the dream destination for sea lovers who don't want to give up their passions even on holiday. You can challenge other guests staying at the village or make new friends in a cheerful and friendly atmosphere.

# Sport and well-being: a conversation with IMOCO volleyball player V. A. Piani

Vittoria Alice Piani, IMOCO VOLLEYBALL PLAYER



Hi, my name is Vittoria Alice
Piani, I am 25 years old and I am
a professional volleyball player.
I'm a player with the Imoco
Volley Conegliano team, Italy
and World Cup champion!

I started playing volleyball when I was only 14 years old, and I haven't stopped since then. In 2015 I won the gold medal in the Under-18 World Cup with the youth national team and in the following years I played with various teams in both the A2 and, especially, A1 leagues.

My passion for volleyball started when I was just a child. Ever since I was a child, I have always loved moving and venting my energy through sport. When I watched my first volleyball game, I was fascinated by the dynamism of the game and the team working together to achieve a common goal. From that moment on, I knew I wanted to be part of it.

Volleyball has been a key part of my growth. It taught me important life lessons, such as the importance of teamwork, perseverance and stress management. Ever since I was young, I have learnt to deal with defeats and to accept that you cannot always win. These experiences have strengthened me and taught me how to overcome obstacles in life.

Furthermore, volleyball has helped me develop personal discipline. I

had to train constantly to improve my technical and physical skills. This taught me the value of hard work and determination, helping me to manage my time effectively, balancing training with my studying and other tasks.

### THE BENEFITS OF SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Practising sport is one of the healthiest activities a person can do. As a matter of fact, there are many benefits associated with regular physical activity, both for the body and the mind.

The first, and perhaps the most obvious, benefit of doing sport is the improvement of physical health.

Regular physical exercise can help prevent many diseases. This is because physical activity



increases blood flow, improving metabolism and **helping to keep our immune system strong**.

In addition, sport can help increase muscle strength and flexibility, thus helping to prevent injuries and improve the overall quality of life. At the same time, exercise can help reduce stress on joints, thus improving their long-term health.

But the benefits of doing sport do not only involve our bodies. Physical exercise can also have a positive impact on our mental health.

For example, physical activity can help reduce stress and anxiety, improve your mood and increase self-confidence. This is because it stimulates the release of endorphins in the brain, which

are the so-called "happiness hormones".

Practising sport can also help us sleep better, regulating our body's circadian rhythms, improving our ability to fall asleep and stay asleep during the night. Better quality sleep, in turn, can help reduce stress and anxiety, improve concentration and memory, and increase our energy and ability to focus during the day.

Eventually, it can help improve socialisation and interpersonal relationships. Participating in sports activities or fitness groups allows you to meet new people and build positive relationships based on shared interests and activities, contributing to an individual's mental health and sense of community.

In conclusion, there are many

benefitsassociated with practising sports, both for our bodies and our minds. Regular physical exercise can help prevent disease, improve physical and mental health, increase socialisation and improve overall quality of life. Therefore, it is important to try to integrate physical activity into our daily routine, even if only with small changes such as walking instead of driving or using the stairs instead of the lift.



THE SAN FRANCESCO VILLAGE IN CAORLE IS A MAGICAL PLACE WHERE SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS CAN SATISFY THEIR EVERY DESIRE FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND FUN.

This charming resort located on the beautiful Adriatic coast offers a wide range of activities for all ages. Whether you are an enthusiast or simply want to spend some active time outdoors, you will certainly find something here to suit your taste.

· Water and beach sports: Given the Village's privileged location by the sea, water sports are a major attraction. You can try windsurfing and let yourself be carried away by the waves, or take up kayaking. On the other hand, if you're not a sea lover, how about a nice match of beach volleyball?

- Sport at the village: You can shoot around on our new padel courts, or try your hand at tennis, five-a-side football, archery, basketball and volleyball.
- Cycling: Explore the surroundings of the village on two wheels with fascinating cycling routes that will take you to discover the beauty of the surrounding area.
- Gymnastics and pool activities: The resort also offers water and

pool activities, such as water aerobics and other types of gymnastics, to keep you fit and entertained at the same time.

• Gym: Use our newly renovated fitness room, or try our cross-fit or pilates classes!

These are just some of the many sports activities available at the Village. Regardless of your preferences, you will always find something exciting to do here. Remember, sport is a great way to relax, socialise and take care of your physical and mental well-being. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing unforgettable moments of sport and fun with you.



### **CAMPINGS - RESORTS - FUN**









ET FRIENDLY SPORT ACTIVITIES FUN PARK ACCE







GREEN FRIENDLY BIKE FRIENDLY POOLS PARK









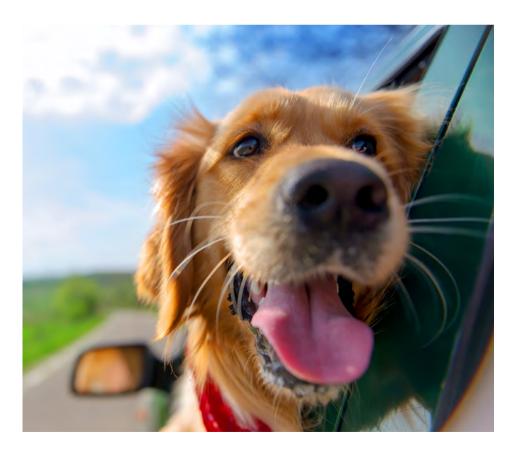




**CAORLE - ITALY - villaggiosanfrancesco.com** 

### Travelling on four legs Practical tips for a holiday abroad with your dog

Andrea Petroni - Travell Blogger



Travelling with your dog is an enjoyable and enriching experience, but it requires some attention and precautions.

In this article, I will explain what to do before leaving for a foreign destination, when travelling and how to behave at the beach and in the mountains, so that you and your four-legged friend can have one of the best holidays of your lives

### TRAVELLING WITH A DOG ABROAD

Travelling with your four-legged friend **in Italy** is definitely **easier** than travelling abroad, but only **in terms of documents and means of transport.** 

There are now many petfriendly countries that



welcome your furry friends with open arms, but you need to check and plan everything in advance to avoid wrong choices that would ruin the holiday for you and your pooch.

If you are planning a trip abroad, there are a few things to keep in mind to ensure the safety and comfort for your four-legged friend while travelling.

Here is some useful information on everything you need to know when travelling abroad with your dog:

### DOCUMENTS AND VACCINATIONS

Before leaving, make sure your dog has all the necessary documents and vaccinations for the destination country.

In general, most countries require the dog to have a **European pet passport,** certifying its identity, vaccines and anti-parasite treatment.

Some countries may require additional documents or vaccinations, such as the rabies vaccine or malaria prophylaxis. Always check the specific requirements of the country of destination by obtaining information either at your travel agency, embassy or by asking your veterinarian.

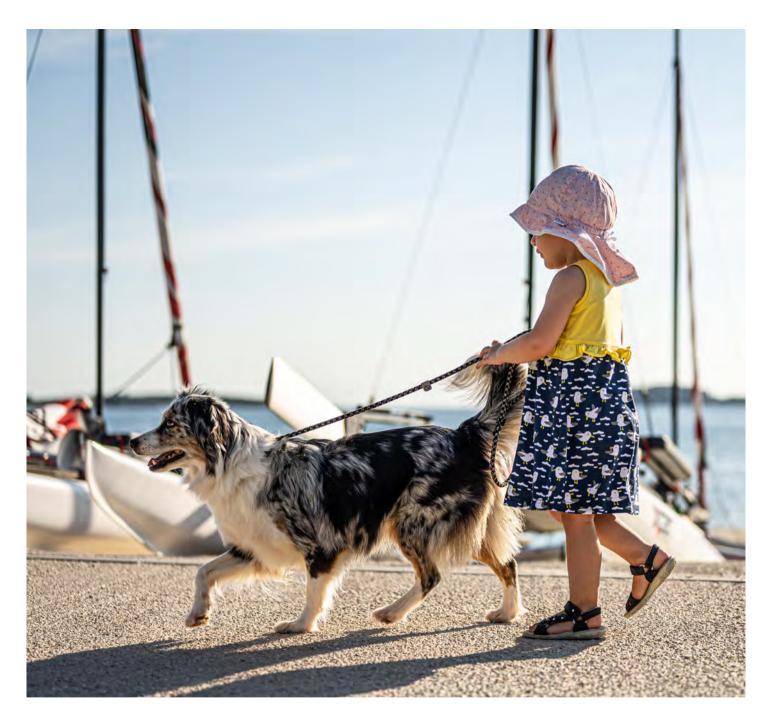
#### **DOG TRANSPORTATION**

When travelling, your dog must be transported **safely and comfortably.** 

If you are travelling by **plane**, contact the airline to find

out what their policies are for transporting pets and book a seat for your dog in advance, but be careful: **not all of them allow dogs on board.** The general rule is that only dogs weighing a maximum of 10 kg (including the carrier) may be transported in the cabin; bigger dogs are





transported in the cargo hold with all that this entails.

### **FOOD AND WATER**

During the trip, make sure to bring enough food and water for your dog's needs. In general, it is advisable to take the dog's usual food to avoid stomach issues and diarrhoea. If you travel by plane, check the airline's rules for transporting food and water for pets.

### TRANSPORT OF MEDICINES

#### **AND ACCESSORIES**

If your dog needs medication or special accessories, such as leashes or harnesses, be sure to take them with you on your trip. Check the local rules for importing medicines for pets, as some substances may be banned in some countries.

### LOCAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS

Before travelling, check the local rules and restrictions concerning dogs in the destination country. In some countries, dogs may not be allowed in certain areas, such as national parks or beaches.

In addition, some establishments, such as restaurants or hotels, may not accept dogs. Check carefully before making your reservation. You can contact the tourism authorities of the places that you plan to visit, they will provide you with all the information you need.

#### DOG CARE AND HYGIENE

While travelling, be sure to take care of your dog, keeping it clean and hygienic. Have bags for faeces collection with you and behave as you would in Italy. Respect for others must always be at the top of your priorities.

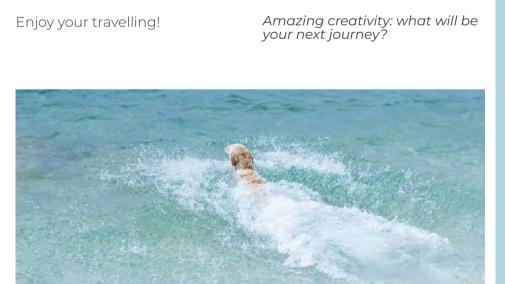


Andrea Petroni turned his passion into a job years ago. He is the creator of the vologratis. org project, which was launched at the end of 2009 and has quickly become one of Italy's most important travel bloggers.

He loves travelling with his family: his wife Valentina, little Nicholas and Victoria and his basset hound Gastone.

Since 2017, he has also been an author of travel literature: through his books, he keeps advising travellers and tourists on hidden gems to visit in Italy and around the world.

Today he is a multi-million view travel content creator!



#### **PET-FRIENDLY VILLAGES**

If you love the sea and don't want to give up the company of your four-legged friend, **BiHoliday villages** are the ideal solution for the whole family's holiday.

You will enjoy an unforgettable stay in a natural and welcoming setting, with many services dedicated to you and your pet.

BiHoliday facilities are the ideal place to experience the sea and nature with your faithful companion, in a relaxed family atmosphere.

Book your pet-friendly holiday now and get ready to have fun!

### Our villages

The BiVillage (Fažana, Croatia) and the San Francesco Village (Caorle, Italy) are located within walking distance of beautiful beaches, both of which have been awarded the Blue Flag!

Each village has a portion of beach reserved for those travelling with their pet: the Bi Dog Beach and, at the San Francesco Village, you will also find a dedicated agility area.



# Bi Card: The exclusive Bi Holiday loyalty card



### Become part of our family and enjoy the advantages!

By booking directly on our website or contacting our operators, your **personal Bi Card** will be activated and you'll be able to use our **exclusive digital fidelity card** to benefit during your stay at any village in Bi Holiday's property.

### Discover all advantages

**Collect Bi Coins** by booking your stay and shopping in the Village!

- · The card is valid for 2 years\*,
- for every 100€ of purchase, you'll get 10 Bi Coins on your Bi Card:
- Extra Bi Coins: you'll get a bonus for purchases over 1000€! For every 500€ you spend, you'll have 50 additional Bi Coins; for purchases over 3000€ you get an additional gift: extra 100 Bi Coins on your Bi Card (one-time bonus)! For booking a stay in the other Bi Holiday Group Villages, you'll get an extra 50 Bi Coin bonus.

### How do I get it?

Obtaining your Bi Card is easy: it will be automatically activated when you book your stay online on the group's holiday villages' websites or via a direct quote request.

Discover our holiday villages and book today so you don't miss out on the opportunity!

Notes: Bi Card is valid for direct clients only and cannot be exchanged for cash.

Bi Card and Bi Coin can be used to purchase services provided directly at San Francesco Village and BiVillage.

The value of 1 Bi Coin is 0,50€.

### Coliving e Coworking. Digital Nomad

Maja's experience in Tenerife



The concepts of **coliving** and **coworking**.have been on the rise in recent years, related to the theme of the **Digital Nomad**. Digital Nomads are people who **exploit the potential of remote working**, finding themselves living together with other workers in common spaces and in **locations even far from the company's base**, for a variable length of time.

### THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY Getting to know the environment and the community

Days are organised to the fullest so that you can make the most of all the potential the place has to offer and get in touch with the local community, learn about the culture and nature in the surrounding area

and **experience** what the locals recommend as must-see.

The **sense of community** and the **bond** created by this experience is very strong indeed.

### A DAY AS A DIGITAL NOMAD It always starts with a coffee

Atypical day starts as always with a cup of coffee, the difference being that you are not in your kitchen.

Imagine yourself on a roof terrace, in front of you a **magnificent view** and the spectacular sunrise from behind a mountain. And it's only morning!

Breakfast is not to be missed, prepared for everyone by volunteers, who make sure that it is a balanced and healthy meal. Homemade banana bread, homemade granola, lots of local fruit, boiled eggs, avocados and fresh bread from the artisan bakery next door among other things. Then after breakfast we start working.



### PRIVACY AND CONCENTRATION

The interesting thing is that, on average, there are **about 15-20 people** in a coliving. Despite this, **privacy and concentration** are always guaranteed. Workspaces are usually divided into formal and informal: in one there is the rule of silence, in the other you are free to call, participate in calls and meetings. In addition to this, there are private rooms ("call rooms") or "call boots".

### **LUNCHTIME** *Kitchen Dance*

By lunchtime there is always a lot going on in the kitchen: to avoid getting in the way, we started the "kitchen dance".

For **lunch** you can decide whether to prepare it yourself or to agree with a group of people, choosing a different person each day who will be the cook for everyone.

Some days of the week, lunch is organised by the members of the coliving and prepared by volunteers. The variety of dishes is very rich and it is possible to taste new and sophisticated dishes, always with a selection suitable for vegans, vegetarians and eco & sustainable friendly.

### BACK TO WORK Flexible and varied working hours

After lunch, we start again with work full of energy. The colivers come from **different countries**, and the **working hours** are also different. Some are very flexible, for example the one for freelancers. Others follow schedules as in their own offices.

In the afternoons there are always activities organised by the hosts or volunteers, during which colivers can participate as they choose. There are daily yoga classes, evening meditation, workouts, and various skill shares where even colivers can share their skills and expertise (e.g. short classes in photography, bachata, digital, etc.).

### FAMILY DINNER Once a week, we hold a family dinner

A coliver prepares dinner for everyone. This is the time when you spend time together, getting to know different cultures. For example, we organised a Greek style dinner. a South African braai dinner, a Vietnamese dinner and a Croatian style dinner with a small masterclass on how to prepare dumplings. Family dinners are a great time to get to know everyone at their best. With everyone's cooperation, clearing the table becomes a job that only takes a few minutes!

### MOMENTS OF FUN Activities and initiatives

At weekends there are always organised activities such as hiking, kayaking, surfing lessons, snorkelling and boat trips to chase dolphins. There are also initiatives aimed at keeping the place where we stay clean, such as cleaning the beaches. The days usually end after dinner with conversations and convivial moments in the garden or on the terrace, accompanied by a cup of tea before bed.

In coliving, the hours of silence are scheduled from 23:00 to 8:00 in the morning.

## The astonishing seabed of Caorle

Vittorio Emanuele Dalla Bella is 61 years old and has been a fisherman for over 35 years

Tegnue are rocky **formations** rising upwards from the seabed, typical of some North Adriatic areas

They can be seen in **various shapes**: sometimes alone, i.e. far apart from each other, or grouped together.

They are mainly formations of limestone origin, which can rise up to several metres and are very different from the classic "elevations", which are largely composed of mud and sand.

#### ORIGIN OF THE NAME

The name "tegnua" is mainly related to the words "hold" or "stop" and derives from the fact that fishermen's nets are held by the roughness of the seabed.

In **seafaring jargon**, they are also called "tresse", due to the intertwining of one with the other that characterises them.

### TO GET A "TEGNUA"

**Getting a tegnua**, at least until a few years ago, very often meant **damaging** the fishing net even in a devastating way.

The arrival of high-tech equipment, initially the "Loran" and now the GPS, has ensured that over the years they have been almost entirely signposted, so currently, at least as far as trawling is concerned, they are secured from any danger.

Today, only **divers** approach these million-year-old sites, and

they are the only beings, apart from the fish that live there, who can enjoy their **spectacular beautv.** 

The **Northern Adriatic**, although small, is among the seas with the most of them in its shallow waters.

The "tegnua" is a **heritage** and a **reservoir of marine life** that has no equal, so if well managed and protected, lobsters, scorpion fish, conger eels and dozens of other **fish species** will be able to continue to inhabit the seabed for many years to come.



#### **DISCOVERING CAORLE**

**Caorle** is a picturesque village on the **Venetian coast** in the Veneto region.

This charming seaside resort boasts an historic centre characterised by narrow cobbled streets, colourful houses and an authentic atmosphere that embodies the essence of tradition.

The **city centre** is actually a real **jewel** that attracts visitors from all over the world.

Its **origins** date back to **Roman times**, when it was an important trading centre and a port of call for the Adriatic Sea routes.

Over the centuries, the city has been influenced by various civilizations, such as Byzantine, Lombard and Venetian, which have left an indelible imprint on its architecture and culture.

The city is dominated by charming, colourful houses with façades painted in vibrant shades such as pink, blue and yellow. These traditional houses, some of which date back to the 16th century, give the old town a picturesque and unique appearance.

The main square, called **Piazza Vescovado**, is the beating heart of the old town. Here you will

find **St Stephen's Cathedral**, an imposing Romanesque church dating back to the 11th century, with an onion-shaped bell tower rising above the cityscape.

The cathedral is a place of great historical and religious importance for the city, and its interior holds some **very valuable artworks.** 

In addition, strolling through the narrow streets of the old town, visitors can discover **old craft workshops** and souvenir shops selling typical local products.

There are also cosy **restaurants** and cafés where you can enjoy delicacies typical of the Veneto region, such as the famous "cicchetti", small appetisers accompanied by a glass of wine.

A visit to the old town would not be complete without a walk along the **promenade**. The **golden beach** stretches for several kilometres along the coast and offers the possibility of relaxing in the sun or taking a swim in the crystal-clear waters of the Adriatic Sea.

During summer, Caorle bustles with **cultural** and **folklore** events that attract tourists and locals alike. he most famous celebrations is the **feast day of St Roch**, the town's patron saint, held **on 16 August.** 





# BiHoliday embraces art

Daniele Pajar

# ART AS A LANGUAGE OF VALUES

BiHoliday embraces Art as a language of values, as well as expressing that Art-Activism which today allows us to talk about socially significant issues.

These include BiHoliday emphasising the value of an area and its respect for everything that surrounds it, such as the reuse of materials (and the revival of the briccole is an actual example of this).

But the project does not end here. There is also a second part that will be revealed shortly, and that will complete the Italy-Croatia journey, in the opposite direction

#### ART 4 TOMORROW, THE CULTURAL PROJECT CONNECTING SAN FRANCESCO VILLAGE AND BIVILLAGE

We asked two artists to interpret this journey, drawing a path between Italy and Croatia

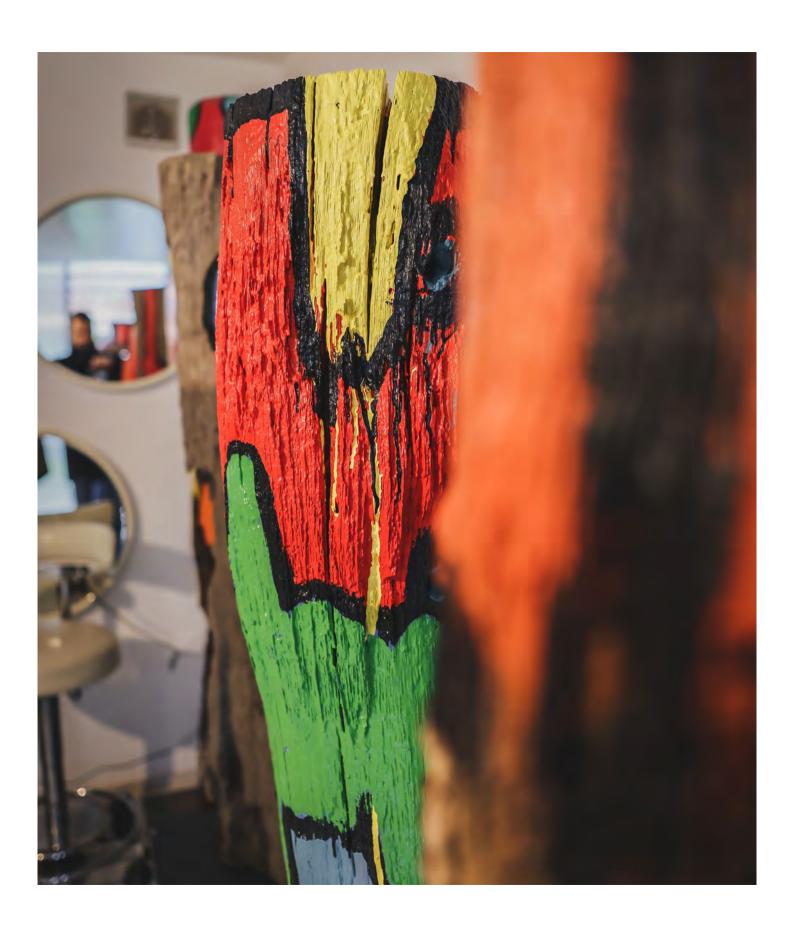
An invisible line that unites, through water, two nations and in particular two seaside towns.

Enrico Marcato and Monica Patrovic, are the artists who have been selected to draw this line between Italy and Croatia as part of the "Art 4 Tomorrow" project initiated by BiHoliday.

#### WHAT ARE BRICCOLE?

Briccole are wooden poles – installed up to thousands already at the time of the Serenissima, on which the city physically stands. They characterise the Venetian lagoon and have many uses: they are precious "signposts" fundamental for finding one's way among the shallows, they are instruments used to moor boats along the canals, they are also supports – they can be recognised by their T-shaped head – indispensable for holding up piers.

Three briccole, first exhibited in Venice on the occasion of the recent Biennale Arte exhibition, have been resettled from the atelier of the artist Enrico



# Marcato to a **stretch of coastline** in Croatia, at the BiVillage.

The artworks have been placed in such a place that guests of the village and anyone walking along the promenade will be able to admire them. In order to give the idea of the project, a smaller measuring briccola was brought to Munich and exhibited for presentation.

# WHERE ELSE IS IT POSSIBLE TO SEE ARTWORK BRICCOLE OTHER THAN IN CROATIA?

Many of them are held in private collections. However, in **Miami** you can see them, standing **outside the Cipriani Restaurant**.

In Montreal, Canada, they are located at the Aldo Bensadoun Foundation. Then some are in Paris, in Ibiza. And now also in Croatia.

# FROM CROATIA TO ITALY, BY "BOAT"

We now move to Croatia where we meet **Monica Petrovic.** 

A painter and restorer, working at the Archaeological Museum of Istria. In addition to this activity, she combines the creation of works of art, in particular through painting. She was asked to give **new life to a "batana".** 









#### WHAT IS A "BATANA"?

It is a small **flat-bottomed** boat characterised by very low banks.

It is moved by rowing or by hoisting a mast with a so-called lug sail. It is typical for navigation in the northern Adriatic because its flat bottom enables it to navigate very shallow waters.

#### **UPSIDE-DOWN**

"Painting has always fascinated me" explains the artist, emphasising that "working on the transformation of the boat was a great challenge". As a matter of fact, once the colours and shapes to be drawn were decided, the work was done with the boat upside down.

So it was necessary to imagine the end result "straight" and then put it on the upside-down "batana".

The central element of this art project – as already emphasised – is cultural exchange: the boat built in Fažana is now in Caorle, at the San Francesco Village, and Marcato's "briccole" in Fažana at the BiVillage.

# THE ART-ACTIVISM OF BIHOLIDAY

Art, history and the concept of travel: a great cultural mix that finds its expression in this project: "BiHoliday embraces art," explains Ilenia Cherubin, Bi-Holiday Group CEO, "as a language of values. As well as expressing the kind of Art-Activism that allows us to talk about socially important topics today".

Among them BiHoliday emphasises the value of a territory and its respect "with everything that is related to, for example, reuse".

# Vanlife Philosophy Embracing freedom to live life on the road

We are Annika and Mathias, German travel photographers.





If you ask us, our friends or any other person living in a van what it means to live there, you will most likely get the same answer: **freedom.** 

The vanlife philosophy is about exploring the world and embracing a nomadic lifestyle.

It is about **living life on one's own terms**, without being tied to an eight-hour job or a specific location.

You can go wherever you want and still make a home wherever you end up.

This lifestyle is incredibly freeing and has been adopted by those seeking to **escape the hustle** and bustle of modern life, like us!

It is a lifestyle that **encourages personal growth**, exploration and adventure, as most of the time we don't know where we will end up and every day is a discovery, finding ourselves in new places and meeting people we have never met before.

We do not have to worry about

the daily grind or the stress of everyday life as we can focus on what interests us, being free to explore the world at our own pace.

#### **TAKING YOUR TIME**

Vanlife encourages people to explore, always creating **new memories**, and to **take their time**, instead of always rushing.

It also encourages us to live a **minimalist** lifestyle, appreciating even the simple things that life has to offer, as a van like ours has only limited space available and you can **only carry what is strictly necessary.** 

For example, before life in the van, we never expected that a washing machine and freshly laundered clothes could make us so happy!

The experience of living in a van is different for everyone, and there is no two people who can experience the same, but one thing we all have in common is the excitement that comes from being on the open road.

Many vanlifers find that they have a strong connection with the places they visit, the people they meet and the nature that surrounds them as they travel, and they seek out more and more destinations that can give them these feelings, and so do we.

The vanlife philosophy also involves a lot of do-it-yourself, in fact building your own van is an integral part of this lifestyle and also a great way to save money as well as to have the freedom to design your own home to your liking.

#### **BUILDING YOUR OWN VAN**

Building starts from the design of the interior to the customisation of the exterior, all the way to the installation of



electrical and water systems, and that is exactly what we did!

After buying our **empty T5**, we created our own little home on four wheels

There is everything we need:

running water, electricity, a bed and space to store our luggage. We can even climb to the roof using a fixed ladder, on which we have installed another water tank with storage boxes and a solar panel for self-generating electricity.

The interior is designed to have a large seating area during the day, transforming into a bed during the night with a few simple steps.

It was also important to us that the **design** was **photogenic**, small details such as garlands and fairy lights make our van even cosier.

When arriving at a **tourist destination** such as a holiday village, van travellers must consider how to park and how to access services such as



electricity, water and sewage. It is therefore important to find out about these aspects before arriving in order to ensure that your stay is as **comfortable and trouble-free** as possible.

Furthermore, it is essential to be aware of all **local laws and regulations** that may apply.

Life in a van becomes much easier when we choose a **pitch** in a holiday camp.

For example, since we do not have a toilet in our small van, we are grateful to have a toilet and shower, which are obviously available on the campsite.



Even **cooking** or **washing dishes** is more fun when you have hot running water at your disposal and do not have to worry about safety.



#### **BIHOLIDAY VILLAGES**

BiHoliday resorts are located in **Caorle**, Italy, and in **Fazana**, Croatia.

In addition to the availability of mobile homes, apartments and a hotellerie service, they have numerous pitches for tents, caravans and RVs, ideal for those wishing to spend a holiday in nature and relaxation.

Pitches are spacious and shady, with electricity connection and shared toilets and showers (also equipped with private bathrooms).

A service RV area, with black and grey water drainage, is also available.

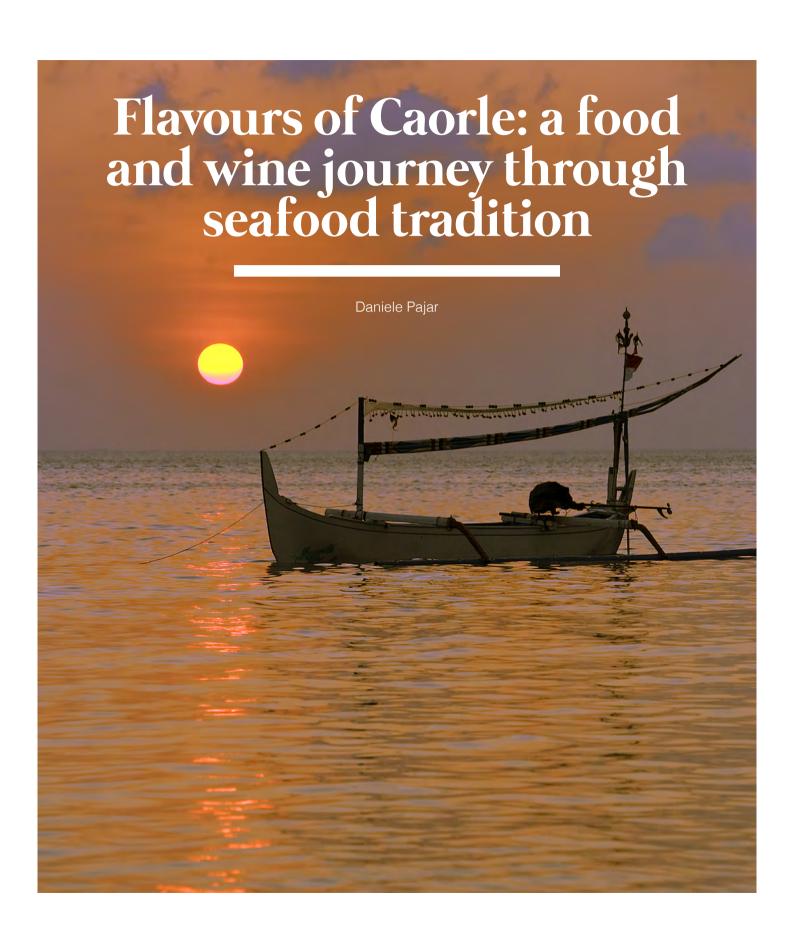
The Villages offers a wide range of activities for their guests, including large swimming pools with slides, an aquapark, tennis courts, five-a-side football, beach volleyball, padel etc, a mini-club and an outdoor fitness area.

In addition, the villages organise animation for both adults and children, with games, tournaments and evening shows.

For those wishing to explore the surroundingarea, San Francesco Village is strategically located close to Venice, Caorle and its beaches, the Livenza River and the many tourist attractions nearby.

The **BiVillage** is just minutes from **Fažana** and **Pula**, overlooking the beautiful **Brijuni Islands archipelago**.

Moreover, our staff is always available to provide information and assistance to guests, ensuring a pleasant and comfortable stay.



In the streets of Caorle, **the scent of fish**, prepared by skilled hands, heralds an unusual gastronomic experience: the flavours of typical seafood cuisine await you.

A classic of tradition is the "broetto". It is difficult to find a definitive recipe: every fisherman prepares it - even on a boat - in his own wav. Here are the basic rules for cooking it: large pot ready to sizzle with olive oil and garlic. Then room for fish based on the catch of the day. What is certain is that cuttlefish, as well as eel, cannot be missing when cooking; and then there is room for other fish. such as mullet, but also monkfish. St. Pierre or a few lesser slipper lobsters. At this point, water and tomato puree should be added. Everything is cooked for half an hour over a not too high heat. Once the cooking is finished, the "broetto" is served accompanied by toasted white polenta.

For those who want even different flavours, "moscardini" are a delicacy not to be missed: they are small octopuses that love the Adriatic seabed and are fished throughout the season; they are boiled in water and can be served with tomato sauce, in a salad with potatoes and olives; enjoyed as they come out of the pot with a squeeze of lemon or with a tasty green sauce made from parsley, they are a unique experience.

Another typical dish of the Caorle area is undoubtedly the eel - which we have already seen as a protagonist in the "broetto" - which can be cooked over the open fire of the spit, known as

"speo". And don't forget spaghetti with clams or pasta with squidink.

We continue our journey with the queen of the Adriatic Sea: the sardine. If in Istria, in Fazana, this oily fish is preserved in salt (there is a real Academy for salting), the recipe for sardines in Saor always aims at preserving the product for sea voyages, but using a very particular mix of ingredients; the sardines are in fact fried and then brought together with "saor": that is, onions cooked in vinegar with an addition of pine nuts and raisins. Taste after at least 24 hours

At this point, let us pay a little attention to these places so beloved also by Hernest Hemingway (here he wrote the book Across the River and Into the Trees). Because this experience of Caorle cuisine is best enjoyed inside a "casone".

What is a "casone"?

It is the place where farmers, fishermen and even hunters found shelter during their activities in the lagoon. They are located along canals, rivers and sandbanks and can often be reached by boat and sometimes only under favourable tidal conditions.

Restored with passion, the "casoni" are often for private use. Some of these are open to the public and it is here that extraordinary gastronomic surprises are hidden, all to be experienced.

Obviously, one does not live by tradition alone, and so Caorle

cuisine over the centuries has evolved, bringing many innovative, sophisticated elaborations based on fish and more to the table. Inland vegetable gardens offer seasonal fruit and vegetables of exceptional quality.

#### There is plenty of wine.

Check out the Docg Lison, Malanotte del Piave, Doc Venezia, Lison-Pramaggiore and Piave wines. Every year, food and wine events and village festivals celebrate local excellence and offer an exceptional insight into local cuisine. All to be experienced.



# Pula. A brief history of a city and what not to miss

Monika Petrović

Pula is one of the most dynamic Croatian centres in Istria, the small triangular peninsula bordering the northern waters of the Adriatic Sea, and is known, like the rest of the Istria region, for its mild climate, calm sea and unspoiled nature.

Like any seaside town, its history is a layering of different **peoples, traditions, constructions and bombings**, making it one of the most interesting centres in the entire area.

#### PULA AND ITS ARENA

Although a legend says that the first inhabitants of Pula were **Jason and the Argonauts**, the actual founding of the city took place thanks to the **Romans**, who conquered the area in **177 B.C.** and built the city around

**46 B.C.** as a **colony of Roman citizens** (known then as Pietas Iulia).

The city's glorious Roman past can still be felt as you stroll through its streets, dotted with **emblematic monuments**, first and foremost its **amphitheatre**, the best-preserved ancient monument in Croatia.

The amphitheatre, also known as the Arena of Pula, dominates the entire city centre and is its most iconic symbol. It is the sixth largest surviving amphitheatre and was built between 2 B.C. and 14 A.D. at the behest of the first emperor, Augustus.

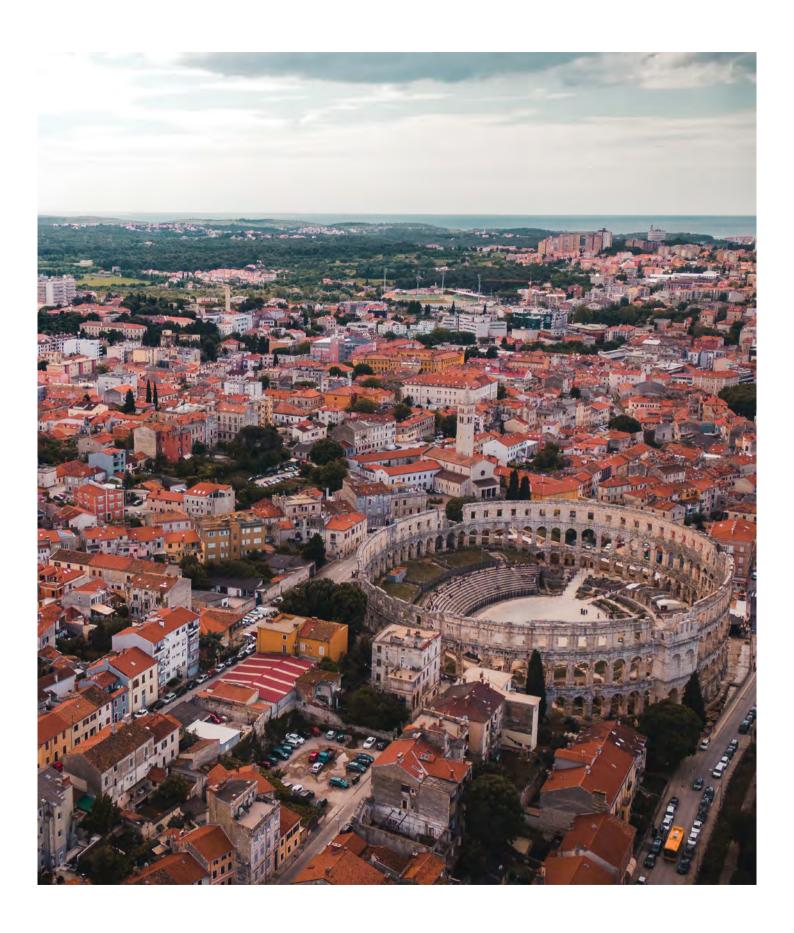
However, the shape we see today is the result of an **extension ordered by Vespasian**, the same emperor who built the

Colosseum. Vespasian wanted the Arena to host **gladiator fights** that could be admired by **23,000 spectators.** 

# THE REASONS FOR THE ARENA'S RENOVATION

However, the story goes that the intention to bribe the public was not the only reason behind this renovation; there was a very personal one: to pay homage to a woman, Cenis, a native of Pula and the emperor's official mistress.

The Arena, named after the Latin word harena (the sand on which gladiators used to fight) is the only one surviving today to preserve the **square corner towers** that characterised this type of building.



Here, aromatic water was stored in special cisterns, two per tower, which was used to supply some fountains or to be sprayed on people during hot days.

The amphitheatre was located just outside the Roman walls, on sloping ground, an inconvenience overcome by its architects with a basement higher towards the sea, on which two levels of round arches supported by massive pillars and, above these, an attic, pierced by quadrangular openings, still stand today.

The entire building was made of **limestone**, unfortunately partly used in later centuries to construct other buildings in the area.

#### AN INTERESTING FACT

In the Renaissance period, when the city was under the rule of the Venetian Republic, known as La Serenissima, some nobles even suggested dismantling the entire amphitheatre stone by stone in order to rebuild it in Venice.

Fortunately, the Venetian senator **Gabriele Emo** vigorously opposed this, and the inhabitants of Pula, in order to thank him, dedicated a **statue** to him, which can still be admired near this imposing monument.

#### THE TEMPLE OF AUGUSTUS

The Arena is not the only evidence that Pula was a flourishing city of the Roman Empire, with its lively harbour



and ancient forum. One of the most important buildings of this area still exists today: the **Temple of Augustus**.

This elegant monument of soaring dimensions was built between 2 B.C. and 14 A.D. at the behest of Octavian Augustus, who had already commissioned the Arena.

The sacred building, with its fine Corinthian columns, experienced similar vicissitudes to those of the Parthenon in Athens: transformed into a church and then into a granary, it was eventually damaged by the Allied bombing raids during the Second World War, a period when the city was in the hands of the German army.

Fortunately, a **careful restoration** has fully restored its beauty.

The atrocities of war only

in very rare and fortunate circumstances can bring benefits: this is the case of an **extensive floor mosaic**, discovered by the very same Allied bombs that collapsed part of the forum temple.

Its **decoration** sees an orderly alternation of geometric motifs and natural elements belonging to flora and fauna; however, among these more common subjects, the central panel of the left-hand section stands out, depicting the **punishment of Dirce**, a subject that was not very common in ancient times.

# THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH OF THE SERGII

There is one last Roman monument that deserves to be seen for its incredible state of preservation and for how much it has been loved over the years by artists, among them the famous Michelangelo Buonarroti.



This is the triumphal Arch of the Sergii; the matron **Salvia Postuma** had it built in honour of her husband **Lucius Sergius Lepidus** next to one of the city gates between 25 and 10 B.C., as the dedication inscription on the attic reads erected

It is a **single-arched** arch, framed by two pairs of elegant, slender columns of Corinthian style. Its decoration is much more refined than that of the contemporary Arch of Augustus in Rimini: quadrigas, putti holding festoons laden with flowers and fruit, and the ever-present winged Victories, always which have been essential elements of this type of monuments.

# NOT ONLY TREASURES FROM ROMAN TIMES

Pula does not only preserve artistic treasures from the Roman period. In the city centre, there are several monuments that testify to the **Medieval period**, Venetian rule, and later periods: **Austro-Hungarian**,

Italian, Nazi and Yugoslav.

# THE TOWN HALL AND THE PULA CATHEDRAL

The Town hall, located in the Forum Square, which was repeatedly altered in the following centuries, and the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was also enlarged and underwent several subsequent interventions, date back to the medieval period.

One of these, dated between 1671 and 1707, led to the construction of the bell tower, for which a large amount of material from the Roman Arena was used.

#### THE CHAPEL OF SANTA MARIA FORMOSA AND THE MONASTERY OF ST FRANCIS

Two other sacred buildings should certainly be mentioned for their value: the first is the **Chapel of Santa Maria Formosa**, part of an abbey complex that was later demolished. It is one

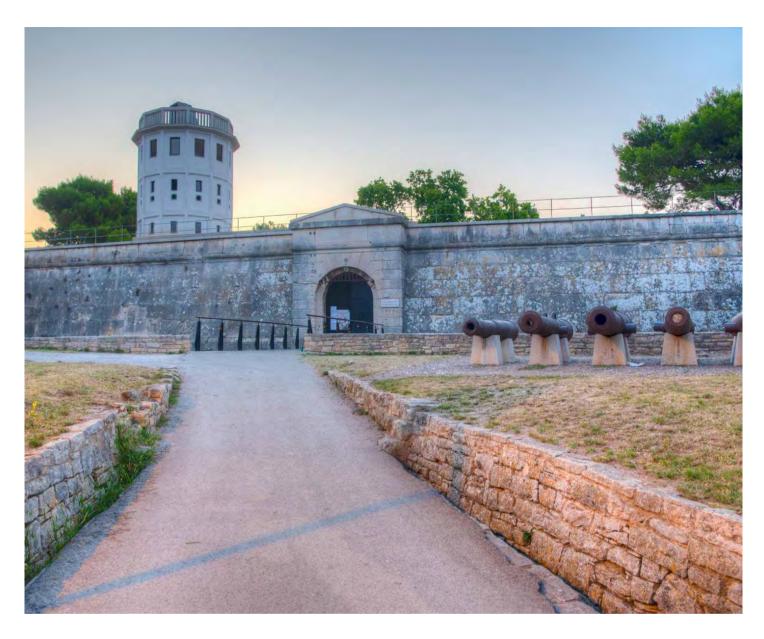
of the main early Christian monuments in Byzantine style in Istria, whose appearance was very similar to that of the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia in Rayenna

It was inspired by this small Italian masterpiece, with the difference that for the Pula Chapel, **stone** and not brick was used as a building material.

The interior must have been extremely majestic, decorated with precious mosaics, the remains of which can be seen in the Archaeological Museum of Istria.

The second building worth mentioning is the Monastery of St Francis, whose church was built in the early 14th century and features the characteristic simple style of Franciscan complexes, with late Romanesque elements combined with Gothic decorative details.





# THE CASTLE AND THE FORTRESSES

Moving on to the period when Pula was under **Venetian rule**, it is worth mentioning one monument of great importance, from which one can enjoy a stunning view of the city: the Castle, a Venetian fortress located on the **top of the main hill** overlooking the harbour.

Its quadrangular shape surrounded by four pike-shaped bastions was designed around 1630 by the French architect Antoine De Ville, commissioned by the Venetian government, which was interested in defending Pula, a centre of fundamental importance for maritime traffic in the Northern Adriatic, from possible external attacks.

This is not the only military monument in the city, there are several fortresses dating back to the Austro-Hungarian period that can be visited today; they were part of an efficient and complex defensive network designed to protect the most important military harbour in the empire. These include the Varudella fortress, reconfigured to house the city's aquarium, the largest in Croatia.

#### THE STATUE OF JAMES JOYCE

It is impossible to end this walk in search of the **beauties of Pula** without mentioning one of the last artistic masterpieces the city has endowed itself with. It is the **bronze statue of James Joyce**, placed between the tables of the café "**Uliks**" (Ulysses in Croatian) just like the title of his most famous novel.

The artwork, created by the famous Croatian sculptor Mate Čvrljak in 2003, pays tribute to the Irish writer who for a brief period of his life taught English just a few steps away from this café from which he continues to sip his coffee even today under the shadow of the Arena.

There would still be many details to be told about the city of Pula and its varied and unique heritage, but to really discover them, all you have to



do is **stroll through its streets, explore** its museums, **attend** its events, and immerse yourself in its history.

# BIVILLAGE AND THE BRIJUNI ISLANDS

The BiVillage, located in Fažana on the coast of Istria opposite the Brijuni Islands, is the ideal place for those who wish to explore this beautiful archipelago.

The village offers a wide range of tourist activities, including excursions to the Brijuni Islands.

This group of 14 islands was proclaimed a national park in 1983. Each island has its own natural beauty and the national park offers numerous activities for visitors, such as hiking,

horseback riding, boat trips and scuba diving.

One of the most exciting attractions on the main island is the Safari Park, where visitors can see exotic animals such as zebras, elephants, etc.

In addition to nature and wildlife, the Brijuni Islands also offer a rich cultural history.

The first historical mention dates back to 384 AD and during the following centuries, the archipelago was inhabited by peoples such as the Romans and the Venetians. Throughout

history, it was also used as a military base during World War I and as the summer residence of the Yugoslav President Tito in the 1950s and 1960s.

Today, the Brijuni Islands are an important tourist destination in Croatia, offering visitors an unparalleled experience of nature, culture and history.

The islands are easily accessible from the mainland and offer high-quality accommodation, restaurants and bars where you can enjoy local cuisine and fine Istria wines.

