



# LAKE GARDA, VERONA & MANTUA

## 3 PERFECT DAYS

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### 🍷 DAY 1 // A GOURMET'S LAKE

Lake Garda is ripe for culinary explorations. A fleet of ferries enables minivoyages of discovery in a landscape rich in food and wine. Torri del Benaco's museum (p209) is a charming introduction to the lake's olive oil and lemon-growing heritage, while just inland Bardolino's vineyard trail allows you to hunt out that perfect vintage – Guerrieri Rizzardi (p211) holds delightfully atmospheric tastings. Dinner is a gourmet treat; perhaps at nearby Il Giardino delle Esperidi (p213), which serves the best local delicacies and some 700 wines.

### 🍷 DAY 2 // CULTURE-FIX VERONA

Exploring the sumptuous medieval and Renaissance art in the Castelvecchio (p215) could easily take all morning, while Verona's architecture-rich piazzas (p216) are perfect for a post-lunch stroll. Countless wine cellars offer a different slice of cultural life; Bottega del Vino (p219) is a great place to start. If you've booked for the opera in the Roman Arena (p215), it starts around 9pm – prepare for a spine-tingling time. The locals dine afterwards; the Tre Marchetti (p220) is just next door and, luckily, it's open until 4am.

### 🍷 DAY 3 // MANTUA'S ART AND ARCHITECTURE

From fine art to frescos, in Mantua it's hard to know where to begin. Perhaps with the overwhelming painted giants in Palazzo Te (p223) or the sheer opulence of the Palazzo Ducale (p223), but the extraordinary Teatro Bibiena (p226) is another strong contender. You could wonder at the exquisite architecture of Mantua's interlocking central squares (p227) then dine out in one – at Masseria (p230) you can experience the culinary art that is *tortelli di zucca* and admire the views.

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