

Main itinerary, leg A FROM CONEGLIANO TO REFRONTOLO

Romans, Lombards, Franks, Venetians, none of the peoples who have spent time on this land have been immune to its charms. What nouns should we use? Sentiment, idyll, sweetness? It's almost too little, too trite. Such is the enchantment of these places, which look like they've been created by a naïf painter's brush. Corners have been chamfered, everything is made to measure, smoothed, each detail stands out on the canvas. A farmhouse, a vineyard clinging to a steep slope, a chapel, the remains of a fort, a flower-filled meadow. The combined charms of this vine-growing, agricultural, wooded, pastoral landscape reawaken slumbering emotions. Our travels along Italy's oldest Wine Road begin in Conegliano. The original ancient road has been altered slightly 14 to create the current route. The starting point



will be the School of Wine (Istituto Enologico) founded in 1876 by Antonio Carpenè. For a few years now, it has also housed the faculty of agriculture, which does the Decree Course in Viticulture and Oenology. Once you've toured its Winery, take the road running past the School, which climbs up to the rural village named Collalbrigo: after travelling just a few hundred metres from the centre of Conegliano, you'll notice how the scenery immediately



flaunts its beauty. The view opens up, revealing the surrounding hills - gently rolling and covered in vines, they are dotted with trees, whilst small wooded patches can be glimpsed in the valleys. In the distance, the bell towers belonging to numerous churches become a point of reference for visitors. As you continue northwards, the road meets the original route at a place called Guizza. Continuing to the left, you enter the Feletto region. The first town

you will meet is Rua di San Pietro di Feletto, immediately followed by San Pietro. The old rural villages of Antiga, Borgo Pol, Borgo Agnese and Borgo Colle are worth a quick visit. Tip: the churchyard of the ancient parish church Pieve di San Pietro is an ideal place to stop off on a clear day and enjoy the magnificent view. The next stretch of road leading to Refrontolo affords a succession of panoramic glimpses, whilst you leave the parish church behind you, nestled amongst the extensive emerald-green vineyards set in a hill-ridge pattern. Refrontolo, which we know was once a popular holiday spot amongst the Venetian Republic's nobles - by virtue of its healthy climate - is also home to Passito DOC, the strong sweet wine celebrated by Mozart in his Don Giovanni. Once past Refrontolo, following the road as it descends, you can see the sign for Molinetto della Croda: this is without a doubt one of the most evocative stages of the journey.

