

BRENZONE SUL GARDA



Municipality of Brenzone sul Garda

Via XX Settembre, 8 - 37010 Brenzone sul Garda (VR)

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Inhabitants 2.543 - Altitude 69 m. a.s.l.

Surface 50,11 km² - Distance from Verona 58 km



Pro Loco "Per Brenzone"

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1. THE TERRITORY IN HISTORY

The origin of the name Brenzone can derive from the name of the *Brenni*, members of a German tribe, who settled on *Mount Baldo* from where they then descended towards the lake to plunder and carry out acts of vandalism.



The institution of the *Municipality of Brenzone* may date back, with a good probability, to the 12th century with the formal recognition by Federico I Barbarossa, during the first years of his empire on Italy.

In the Middle Ages, first under the *Della Scala family dominion* and then that of Venice, Brenzone saw the birth and consolidation of some important landowner families. Among all of these the *Brenzoni of the Lion family* stands out, whose coat of arms was adopted and maintained as a symbol by the local administrations also in the more recent ages and up to the present day.

Today the Municipality of Brenzone does not have a main centre but is formed of 16 hamlets some small others bigger, located partly on the lake (Castelletto, Magugnano, Porto and Assenza) and partly on the first slopes of Monte Baldo (Marniga, Biaza, Fazor, Boccino, Venzo, Castello, Zignago, Borago, Pozzo and Somnavilla). A little bit higher up we meet Campo, a now uninhabited medieval village, a place full of magic and enchantment.

Since 2014, following a referendum among the inhabitants, Brenzone has changed its name to the more touristically identifiable one of **Brenzone sul Garda**.

Its economy is today essentially touristic and concentrated in the summer on the lake and throughout the year in the mountains.



2. TO SEE

The Castelletto Stone. In 1965 Castelletto became famous thanks to the discovery of a rocky boulder of about 2 cubic metres, with rock carvings, which came about during the construction of a house. These incisions date back to around 4,550 years ago, and are indicative of the tools then in use, of the bronze weapons and of the important role the sun had in religion. The “Castelletto Stone” is preserved and is visible in the Municipality of Brenzone.

The Ethnographic Museum is set up in the birthplace of Blessed Mother Maria Domenica Mantovani, co-founder with Blessed Giuseppe Nascimbeni of the “Little Sisters of The Holy Family” institute. In the historic centre of Castelletto, the



Museum’s building represents an interesting testament to the architecture peculiar to the coastal zone of Upper Lake Garda. The interior, decorated with furnishings of the late 19th century, reproduces a typical dwelling of the time and preserves utensils

Tourist guide for the Baldo Garda area

and tools of the characteristic activities of the place: fishing, raising livestock , sheep farming and sericulture.

The territory of Brenzone is dotted with numerous small churches dating back to medieval times, that is when many monks were sent to the area by the monastery of San Zeno (Verona) to spread the Gospel to the populations by the Lake.

The strong scattering of the population and the presence of more communities divided into districts, gave way to the construction of a large number of churches and of small chapels.

Among the best known is the **Church of San Zeno** in Castelletto, called "**dell'oselet**" (*of the little bird*) a name given due to the weathercock, in the shape of a rooster, placed on the top of the bell tower .



The **Chapel of Sant'Antonio Abate** in the Biasa district is also excellent, it has been recently restored respecting the original Romanesque architecture.

Also of note is the **Church of San Nicola**, in front of the principle square of Assenza, it is rich in frescoes of saints and scenes taken from the Gospels.



Basic in its structure, but richly decorated with paintings is the **chapel in Campo**.



3. FOOD AND WINE

Freshwater fish occupy a prominent place in the gastronomy of the area. In the towns all along the coast of the territory of Brenzone fishing is a living reality linked to rituals and traditions of the past. The typical recipes of the towns that face onto the lake are almost exclusively based on **fish** and in particular: eel, carp, whitefish, pike, sardines and trout. If you climb the slopes towards the mountains however, the gastronomic panorama presents dishes based on meat, game and **cheese**, as well as the produce of the undergrowth such as **mushrooms, truffles** and in the autumn **chestnuts**. Another main product, that characterises the area of Brenzone is **olive oil**. Brenzone, surrounded by centuries-old olive groves, is located in the centre of the Region where Garda DOP extra virgin olive oil is produced.



The typical dishes of the Brenzone cuisine are bleak in brine (*aole salae*) which give life to that wonderful dish, typical of Brenzone, which is "i bigoli con le aole". (*thick spaghetti with bleak*). As an antipasto the aole in sisam, bleak dried and cooked with onions with the addition of a bit of vinegar and a pinch of sugar, constitutes the ancient dish full of the strong flavours of the lake. Bleak, sardines and eels can also be enjoyed en saor, a procedure which in the past represented an excellent method for the conservation of fish.



4. EVENTS AND FOLKLORE

Live Stations of the Cross

On the evening of Holy Friday the Passion of Christ is retraced with a live Stations of the Cross. From the parish church of Saint Carlo di Castelletto an evocative route winds through the historic centre and along the districts to the chapel of Biaza.



Ancient Fair of Santa Caterina and of the New Oil

In the month of November in Castelletto one of the most important events of the municipality takes place. It is an impressive event dedicated, in particular, to extra virgin olive oil.



The magic of the cribs in Brenzone

Something that must be seen at Christmas time are the nativity scenes that are set in Campo, where from the end of November until the beginning of February cribs are the protagonists of the almost uninhabited village.



There are small ones and enormous ones made of terracotta, plaster or fabric spread over the countryside, in dilapidated houses, among trees or even in abandoned stables. It is the magic of the crib in a place where time seems to have stopped away from the noise of cars in the midst of nature of other times.



5. ITINERARIES

Brenzone with its 8 kms of coastline is an excellent starting point for routes involving watersports, from sailing to windsurfing. There are numerous sporting clubs and associations regarding this. We must not forget however, that Brenzone, with its hilly and mountainous districts, is also a place designed for mountain lovers. There are several paths to climb Monte Baldo up to the peaks. Also worth a visit is the hamlet of Campo, an ancient medieval village now almost uninhabited, a place full of magic and enchantment. Years ago, the Campo Foundation was proposed, to safeguard the progressive deterioration of this ancient village and recreate life and traditions that have not been forgotten. Annually, there are various events which have the purpose of raising awareness among local authorities and citizens regarding the recovery of this historical heritage.

