

## PRESENTATION

### Greetings from the President

This guide-booklet aims to give occasional or passing tourists snippets of information for a first time panoramic approach to the place and enough suggestions to encourage them to take a day trip by bicycle or on foot.

It is not a commercial product and does not claim to replace the technical and noble literature of official guides.

We wanted to stay in the Pro Loco style, made of concreteness and aggregative activities “from the bottom”, in the perspective of the Pro Loco mission, namely the promotion of popular-social tourism, starting from the history of the territory, from things to see and taste, turning at the same time to events, folklore and itineraries.

In the appendix the enjoyment aspect of street cuisine and festivals is also highlighted with the presentation of the typical dish of the territory.

This illustrative brochure of Bussolengo concludes the original overall project, which was gradually introduced with the basic guidebook in Italian “Tourist itineraries from Baldo to Garda” of 2017 (translated into German 2018 and English 2019), which illustrated the twelve Pro Loco of the Consorzio Baldo Garda, but did not include Bussolengo because it has been only recently established (2019).

Now this brochure specific to Bussolengo satisfies the same visibility with the other Pro Loco consortiums and at the same time it constitutes a prototype for the next 2020 project which provides for the individual printing of a similar trilingual brochure-guides for each Pro Loco of the Consortium.

Subject to sufficient funds from the hopefully renewable regional tender.

Best regards

**The President of the  
Consortium  
Pro Loco Baldo Garda  
Dr. Albino Monauni**





## Real volunteers

*Those gentlemen with a dark blue vest  
are from the Pro Loco for sure  
With great passion they look after  
The organisation of the parties*

*How many things need to be done  
to do to see that everything works  
safely and securely  
for the good of the community*

*Posters and banners,  
Enel, Siae and billboards  
in addition to the assembly of the tents  
and the kitchens to be prepared*

*Another great concern  
is to give each one his / her duty  
who will be at the cash register,  
who will do the dishes  
who will be in the kitchen,  
who will clear up*

*In Pro Loco all you need is a willingness  
to work for free, there's a job for  
everyone, and then, only when  
the party is over, there is risotto  
in good company..*

Bruna De Agostini



# BUSSOLENGO



## Municipality of Bussolengo

Piazza XXVI Aprile 21 – 37012 Bussolengo

Telephone 045 6769900 [www.comune.bussolengo.vr.it](http://www.comune.bussolengo.vr.it)

Inhabitants 20.331 altitude 127 m a.s.l.

Area 24,5 km<sup>2</sup> – Distance from Verona 15 Km.



**Pro Loco Comune di Bussolengo**

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## 1. THE TERRITORY IN HISTORY

Located at the mouth of the Adige valley, in an extremely important strategic position since ancient times, Bussolengo has seen the passage of populations since the copper and bronze ages (about 3,500 years ago).

According to tradition, the most plausible origin of the name dates back to the Roman era with the name of "Buxus longus",

a territory so named because it is rich in box trees and stretched along the river. According to other sources, the toponym is of Germanic origin and derives from "Gussinlingus", a proper Lombard name of a local lord. In the year 899, King Berengar would have had a castle built that dominated the Adige, at the point where the Orlandi hospital now stands. In the years at the turn 1000s, under Germanic influence, the country continued to grow and to benefit from the excellent geographical position, placed as it is halfway between the city of Verona and Lake Garda, sheltered by the mountains and a point of connection between Northern Europe and the Po Valley. The territory then became a possession of the Scaligeri and Visconti, so in the early 1400s the territory passed to Venice, which fortified it to better control the traffic of goods. The Bussolengo economy experienced a good development in this period: the road network was considerably improved and the "Cattle Fair" was established.



In 1630 Bussolengo knew its worst period because of the plague that decimated the inhabitants: from 1.827 they were reduced to 827 inhabitants. Around 1711, an epidemic raged for two years throughout the area, which however did not reach the farms of Bussolengo which remained unscathed. The epidemic ended just on Valentine's Day to who, perhaps also for this reason, the people of Bussolengo have remained very devoted over time.

In 1797 the fate of Bussolengo was closely linked to the collapse of the Republic of Venice, invaded by the Napoleonic armies who engaged in a battle with the Austrians in 1799 near Pol on the Adige. When Napoleon fell, the territory passed to the Habsburgs and then in 1866 it was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy.

### Some curiosities:

- *On St. Valentine's Day, 1944 Bussolengo was hit by American allied bombs that, dropped on the fairground rides of the festival, claiming several civilian victims.*

- *In Pol di Bussolengo, close to the Adige river, in 1942-43, there was a prison camp which housed New Zealand prisoners of the allied troops. These prisoners were used partly as labourers for the construction of the Biffis canal.*

In the last seventy years the breeding of cattle, once so prominent, has been going down, confined to the area of the village of San Vito. The industrial and commercial sector of the large-scale retail trade (industrial area at the south of the Municipality) has become predominant.

For many years, Bussolengo was an important manufacturing hub with its widespread family-run shoe factories, including at home-based clothing manufacturers.

## 2. TO SEE

Civil architecture:

**Villa Spinola** of the 15°-16° century, on the road that leads to Pescantina in a dominant position

over the Val d'Adige, sweeps over Valpolicella. The three-story building has a portico surmounted by a large loggia. The wonderful park below is still a sought after location for events and shows.



**Capital with four legs**, on the Gardesana road towards Verona, there is a mysterious ruin dating back to the Roman period. It is surely the remnant of a building that was destroyed. Legend has it that it was built by Caio Mario after his victory against the Cimbrian in 101 BC.



In the main square XXVI April, of Venetian form and setting, stands the **Town Hall** built in 1500 and renovated in 1852. The **bell tower** (56.5 m) in red stone stands on an ancient tower from the era of the Scaligera family. At the centre of the square is the **fountain** (1823) with two pools with lions, designed by Luigi Trezza.

Near it rises the **Monument to the Fallen** (1930), consisting of a conglomerate of pyramid-shaped boulders. Next is the so-called **Balcony of wishes** which, expressed here, are realized on New Year's Day.



Religious architecture:

**The Parish Church of Santa Maria Maggiore (St. Mary Major)** is located in the centre of Bussolengo.



It dates back to 1199 and has undergone various modifications over the centuries. The last addition was in 1974 when a large new concrete nave was built.

**The Church of San Salvar** from the 9th century and the oldest Church of Bussolengo is in an elevated position on the road to Palazzolo.

**The Church of San Valentino (Saint Valentine)**, medieval of the thirteenth century. Contains frescoes by artists of the school

of Giotto and a wooden Pietà from the sixteenth century. In ancient times the church was the destination of pilgrims who turned to the Saint for healing from diseases and for cattle epidemics.

**Church of San Rocco**, located on the edge of the town near the cemetery. On the walls there are frescoes from the 1500s.



**Santuario della Madonna del Perpetuo Soccorso (Sanctuary of the Madonna of Perpetual Succour)** (Church of the Friars) of the 18th century with attached **Franciscan Cloister**, an excellent examples of monastic architecture with frescoes from the 1500s.

### 3. FOOD AND WINE

A typical product of the cuisine of Bussolengo is a dish of tripe, a soup of meat and broth (also with parmesan cheese) that is consumed as a tradition in some places on a Thursday, market day. The tripe is also a pivotal dish at the Valentine's Day festival, which also includes a competition with a certificate of merit for the best tripe.

All the dishes of the Venetian tradition are also in vogue, above all **boiled meat with pearà** (a type of bread and pepper sauce). More recently, Valentine's Day Kisses (little dry cakes) have been marketed in local pastry shops.



# Tourist guide for the Baldo Garda area

With the creation of a suitable irrigation system, agricultural activity, the cultivation of the kiwi and in particular the production of peaches developed, so much so that on the street signs is written



“**Terra delle pesche**”. (**Land of peaches**). As the main fruit of the area **The Summer Festival** (in early August), which is intended to promote the peach in all its culinary variations, is dedicated to it.



## 4. EVENTS AND FOLKLORE

The main event of Bussolengo is the **Saint Valentine's Day Fair** which is held for a month at the turn of Valentine's Day on February 14th. The Fair is more than five hundred years old. Initially it was a cattle fair, but in recent years the animals have completely disappeared to leave place for agricultural machines and cars. There is also an extensive Funfair with gastronomic stands, facilities for singing and theatrical performances.

In the heart of Bussolengo (XXVI Aprile Square) in December the Christmas square





is created with an ice skating rink and wooden houses for craftsmen with typical local products. Not far from the centre on the road to Pastrengo at the same time the **Christmas Village** in the private greenhouses of the local Flower nursery comes to life. Themed routes are organized for the many tourists from outside the town.



**The Bussolengo Carnival** boasts a long tradition dating back to the early 1800s. However it has been from the 1960s onwards that the Bussolengo Carnival has been characterized by the masked characters “Shoe upper the King of Sgalmara” in homage to the then most important artisan activities of shoemaking. Then came the mask of “El Maragia”.

In the 2000s the masked group of pirates McKekin of the Trebianello's was born and more recently, the same group, converted by beer, has mutated the name to “I Birati”



With **La Rosa di San Valentino (The Rose of Saint Valentine)** brand, the Bussolengo community wanted to mark quality products, services and events, all inspired by the concept of ETERNOAMORE (EternalLove).

## 5. ITINERARIES

A **cycle-pedestrian path** that starts from Chievo, passes through Bussolengo along Via Mazzini and Via Roma to connect with the path to Pol at the power station.



It touches Rivoli, Canale, Rivalta and arrives in Belluno. At the height of the Rivalta hamlet, you can pass to the left of the Adige near Peri to enter onto the Adige-Terra dei Forti cycle path.



The **weekly market** deserves a wander through its numerous stalls. Held on a Thursday morning it mostly involves the streets of the historic centre.

**Cultural itinerary:** starting from the Church of San Rocco (Cemetery) full of frescoes, Villa Spinola, Franciscan Cloister (Church of the friars).

**Parco Natura Viva** certainly deserves to be visited for a conscious dive into nature and protected wildlife.

In October the **scarpinada de San Crispino** takes place, a non-competitive cross-country race dedicated to Saint Crispin, patron saint of shoemakers. You go on the discovery of ancient paths immersed in the countryside away from the traffic.



**PARCO  
NATURA  
VIVA** Nature,  
all ways.