

## 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.

The **Pro Loco of Castelnuovo** will be able to enhance its associative image even better with this guide-brochure!

Above all, this will be a useful contact tool and concrete support in dialogue with all the aggregative realities of the territory.

Best regards

**The President of the Consortium**

**Pro Loco Baldo Garda**

**Dr. Albino Monauni**



*July 2020 - Pro Loco Consorzio Baldo Garda delegates meeting.*



## 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

# CASTELNUOVO DEL GARDA



## Municipality of Castelnuovo del Garda

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Inhabitants 13.261 - altitude 130 m a.s.l.

Area 34,68 km<sup>2</sup> - Distance from Verona 20,7 km.



English

**PRO LOCO**



Castelnuovo  
del Garda

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## 1. THE TERRITORY IN HISTORY

Shepherds and farmers of Celtic origin had inhabited the territory of Castelnuovo since prehistoric times. The Romans arrived here in the 2nd century BC. Julius Caesar passed through on his way to conquer the Gauls. In the area the Romans had built a watchtower by the name of Beneventum, which later became Quadrivium as it was a crossroads between north-south and east-west. The town was destroyed in 1154 by Frederick the Barbarossa, who as emperor of the Holy Roman Empire had come to Italy to re-establish the obedience of the rebellious cities that had claimed unshared privileges.

Subsequently the population erected a new fort called Castrum Novum from which the name of Castelnuovo derived over time. Between 1300 and 1400 the Scaligeri family, then the Visconti dominated the territory. The symbol of Castelnuovo is in fact the **Torre Viscontea**, a reminder of the ancient castle, built in 1387 by Gian Galeazzo Visconti.



In 1405 the Venetians arrived with the Count of Carmagnola who emerged as an ambiguous figure in the pay of both the Visconti and the Venetians who however, being wary, beheaded him.

The Lansquenets passed through here in 1631 with their destructive raids, even more fatal in those years due also to the rampant plague that had brought death and famine throughout Europe.

The 1700s saw several clashes, first between the Prussians and the French in 1701, between the Austrians against the Napoleonic French in 1796 and in the following century, here at home, the battles of the Risorgimento .

Castelnuovo experienced its most tragic moment on April 11, 1848 when the town was put to fire and sword by Radetzsky's

# CASTELNUOVO DEL GARDA

Austrians who, having left Verona, wanted to give a grim warning because of the support that the inhabitants of Castelnuovo had given to the vanguard of the Lombard patriots led by Luciano Manara.

These patriots had departed from Salò and after landing in Cisano reached Castelnuovo and here had incited the inhabitants to rise up by erecting barricades.

A monument in white Carrara marble recalls the episode of 11 April which saw the killing



of numerous inhabitants by Austrian troops in nefarious reprisal.

With the annexation of Veneto to Italy (October 1866) the town took the name

of Castelnuovo di Verona and subsequently in 1970 it took the name of Castelnuovo del Garda, which sounded more attractive for tourists, boasting a short strip of municipal territory washed by the waters of the lake in Campanello-Ronchi.



## 2. TO SEE

Religious architecture:

**Parish church of Santa Maria Nascente** in Castelnuovo, near the Visconti tower, completely rebuilt with an octagonal plan by the architect Luigi Trezza between 1808 and 1830. It has preserved the beautiful Romanesque bell tower from the 1400s.

**Parish church of Santa Maria** in Oliosi (rebuilt in the first half of the 1800s)

**Parish church of Cavalcaselle** (dedicated to Saints Philip and James) in neoclassical style, built in 1756 by the architect Adriano Cristofoli.

**Church of Sant'Andrea** a Sandrà (1400). It is a parish church that according to ancient parchments dates back to the years 843-856. The name of Sandrà is derived from the veneration of Saint Andrea.

The two chapels of the fifteenth century on Mount San Lorenzo, one dedicated to **San Lorenzo** and the other to the **Madonna degli Angeli**, which has always been considered the sanctuary of the parish.



Civil architecture:

**Torre Viscontea**, symbol of Castelnuovo, the last remnant of the ancient castle built by Giangaleazzo Visconti in 1387 after defeating the Scaligeri family. In the years between 1700-1800 the battlements, the weight clock and the belfry were added.

**Villa Cossali Sella**, on the Brescia-Verona state road. Built between 1400 and 1500 it is dominated by an important Colombara tower (Dovecote).

**Villa Arvedi d'Emilei** in Cavalcaselle. The complex dates back to the early 1400s. The current appearance dates back to the second half of the 1600s with the new owners, the Emilei family.

**Villa Bagolini known as Valcerea** near Oliosi surmounted by an imposing Colombara tower.

**Villa Tantini** in Oliosi

**Villa Negri Mosconi, known as "il Saletto"**. The first nucleus dates back to 1400 and was built by the Saletti counts of Sandrà . The current appearance is due to changes made in the 1700s by the new owners, the Mosconi family.

**Casa Benati** in Oliosi. Historic place where the episode of the Flag took place.

**Mongabia location**: obelisk and plaque in memory of the Battle of 1866.



*Piazza della Libertà with War Memorial*

## 3. FOOD AND WINE

The primary role of the territory is the production of Bardolino and Custoza DOC wines. But the symbolic wine of the town is the “Moro del Castel”, a variety of Cabernet Sauvignon with an intense ruby red colour, produced with “Morella” grapes from which the name derives.

From September to December, restaurants and trattorias in Castelnuovo present original recipes made with the “Moro”: drunk bread-biscuits-breadsticks-fillet-braised meats -tortelli-risotto etc.

The vinification of “Moro del Castel” continues the ancient tradition of depositing the must in the castle’s barrels after the festive collective pressing by the people. This gives the name too!

The “Moro del Castel” is produced today by the Cantina di Castelnuovo with a trademark protected by the Municipality.



## 4. EVENTS AND FOLKLORE

**Festival of the Flag.** The 3rd Sunday of June in the hamlet of Oliosi. An anniversary celebration in memory of the heroic episode of the Flag which occurred on June 24, 1866 during the Third War of Independence. The Third War of Independence was underway, when a handful of Italian soldiers from the Forlì brigade, intercepted by the Austrian cavalry, barricaded themselves inside a farmhouse in the town of Oliosi. The Austrians set fire to it to force them to surrender. Before surrendering, the Italian soldiers thought of saving the flag, which they tore into several pieces and kept hidden under their jackets.



After the war and imprisonment, these soldiers found each other again and assembled the various pieces, thus saving the flag. It was sewn up and delivered to the regiment with a solemn ceremony on October 25, 1866 in Piazza San Marco in Venice.



**Grape Festival** the 3rd Sunday in September with food and wine stands along the streets of the centre.

**The Carnival** of Castelnuovo is represented by the historical figures of Duke Giangaleazzo Visconti and Duchess Isabella of France. The carnival committee started in 2005 with the aim of animating the town even in the unfavourable winter months of February-March.



**Antica Fiera** The 3rd weekend in November in Cavalcaselle, on Monte di San Lorenzo. It started as a fair for donkeys and shepherds, waiting here during the transhumance (cattle drive) to be ferried across the Mincio that flows just below. It still appears today as an original blend of agricultural tradition, folklore and various merchandise stalls.



**Weekly markets:** Tuesday morning in Castelnuovo, Wednesday morning in Sandrà, Sunday morning in Castelnuovo with local agricultural products at Km zero

## 5. ITINERARIES

### Stroll along the “Lungo Lago”

of the three equipped beaches that overlook the lake: Campanello, Gasparina and Ronchi where Gardaland, the largest theme park in Italy, is located

**Monte di San Lorenzo** has always had a particular role in the events of the area: it was an observation point for lookouts in Roman times and during the wars of independence, a possible military hospital in the First World War and an excellent refuge due to its privileged position in the Second World War.

At the gates of Castelnuovo, towards Pastrengo, is the **Parco Natura Viva** with a drive through safari park : a dive into nature and in the protected fauna.

In Colà, just outside the municipal area of Castelnuovo stands the **Garda Thermal Park**. It is a natural wellness centre equipped with ponds, swimming pools, fountains, all illuminated for night swimming.

**Graspo del Moro MTB route** 37 km long, with a moderate difference in height, which can be covered in about 4 hours. It winds through the vineyards of the fine local wine, the “Moro del Castel”, touching Sandrà (Church of the ‘700) then towards the shores of the lake in Ronchi (Gardaland), Monte San Lorenzo in Cavalcaselle (Chiesetta degli Angeli), in Oliosi on the places of the Flag. Return to Castelnuovo.

**Paradiso del Garda Golf Club** - via Coppo 2 B - for entire days outdoors, surrounded by greenery.

**Gardaland Amusement Park** in Via Derna 4 (Location Ronchi) with the Sea Life Aquarium.

