

CAVAION V.SE



Municipality of Cavaion Veronese

Piazza G. Fracastoro, 8 - 37010 Cavaion V.se (VR)

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Inhabitants 5.935 - Altitude 250 m a.s.l.

Surface 12,91 km² - Distance from Verona 31 km



Pro Loco San Michele Cavaion V.se

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1. THE TERRITORY IN HISTORY

The territory of Cavaion is mainly hilly and includes part of the southern relief of Mount Moscal with Monte San Michele at an altitude of 335 m a.s.l. and part of the hills of the morainic amphitheatre of Garda all the way to the Adige in the Sega area, located at 85 m a.s.l.



The climate of the area is sweet, of the Mediterranean-Po valley. In the ancient and middle Bronze ages there was a settlement at the morainic pond of Ca' Nova. Ceramic materials, terracotta and bronze objects, carved bones, amber and vitreous paste pearls in forms of fusion were found here. All these finds are now kept in the Municipality's Archeological Museum. The discovery of the remains of farm villas and a necropolis near the road between Garda and the Via Claudio-Augusta (loc. Bossema), testify to scattered settlements in Roman times. The territory, after having hosted some presence of the Goths, in the course of the 6th-7th century was part of a Longobard "arimannia" (*land given to soldier who had fought well by the King*), with the fortification of the Fort on the San Michele. Starting from the 9th century, during the domination of the Franks, the territory passed to the judicaria gardensis. The town was mentioned for the first time in 1130 as Caput Leonis, with the denomination Capalionis, Cabaliono and Cavaion at the turn of the late 1100s and early 1200s. The toponym firstly took the meaning of a haystack with two slopes, from which the image of the horse back shaped hill derives, while from the 1500s it is understood to have derived from a quarry, with reference to the numerous quarries in the area. From 1193 the territory was administered by the Abbey of San Zeno, the Municipality of Verona and some Veronese monasteries, while



during the 13th century it became an autonomous municipality, called Castelnuovo dell'Abate, with its own statute approved in 1260. In this period the urban aspect began to be outlined according to the typical elements of the **tower-houses**, built in stone and arranged in courts, of the **broli** (*the grass verges*), of the **stone walls** and the **introi**, the pedestrian connections between the streets of the centre. From 1405 the Venetian domination gave a strong boost to the economic activities also catalysed by a port built on the banks of the Adige in the locality of Sega. In this period (1600-1700) the civilization of the villa spread, with the construction of Palazzo Trombetta, Villa Cordevigo, Villa Bonazzo and Palazzo Ravignani. With the fall of the Republic of San Marco in 1797 under the blows of the Napoleonic armies, Cavaion followed the fate of the Veneto region, first subjected by the Austrians and then annexed to the Kingdom of Italy. In 1859 **Cavaion as a municipality** had 1,330 inhabitants. During the 20th century the inhabited Centre of the town developed around via Cavalline and via Fracastoro. In the second post-war period there was a considerable urban and residential expansion which led to the number of inhabitants rising to over 4,000 at the beginning of the 21st century. Currently it has almost 6,000.



2. TO SEE

The **Civic Tower**, built in '899 for the concession of Berengario became the municipal headquarters after 1260, today it is part of the complex of Palazzo Trabucchi. It was restored in 1885, while the villa is in neoclassical form with a beautiful park.

Of the **medieval church** of Saints Faustino and Giovitta, documented in the 16th century, only the façade with the Romanesque rose window remains. The stone walls that surround the "brolì" (*grass verges*) and the suggestive "introi" (*pedestrian alleyways*) date back to 1300 and 1400.

Corte Torcolo, has an entrance surmounted by a stone arch, a sixteenth/seventeenth century palace with rustic outbuildings. It was once a centre for the hand crushing of oil and today houses the library and the civic hall.

In Sega is the characteristic **Corte Porto**. Also interesting is the **chapel of the Santa Croce in Villa**, popularly called the leor (hare), because it was built in the open countryside, in a territory rich in game. Among the villas, is the evocative **Villa Cordevigo** placed in the countryside in a pleasant place with a centuries-old garden. It is presented in eighteenth-century form erected on a previous fifteenth-century building and on the remains of a Roman villa. Next to it is the chapel of San Martino, a noble chapel of 1543, which houses a rare collection of relics of saints, collected in 1770 by the bishop Marcantonio Lombardo. In the course of the '700 rose **Villa Ravignani**, immersed in a park of olive trees bounded by seregni walls, round and well-polished stones of glacial origin. From the same period are **Palazzo Trombetta**, and the



neoclassical **Villa Bonazzo**. With materials recovered from the semi-destroyed Bastia, (a Longobard fort), **the parish church of San Giovanni Battista** built in 1812, where it is possible to admire an altarpiece by Antonio Badile (the Master of Paolo Veronese), four valuable wooden statues of the Evangelists, the paintings above the four altars rich in marble painted between the '400 and the '700 and the nineteenth-century paintings on the ceiling.

Archeoparco della Bastia, Archaeological Museum and Ca Nova pond.

The museum exhibits many ceramic materials found in the Ca' Nova Pond. They are considered unique testimonies to the ancient and middle bronze

age in northern Italy. The collection also includes bronze objects, dagger blades, chipped stones, carved bones, amber and glass paste beads, tablets and a large number of loom weights. They all document a remarkable period of time, from 2,000 to 1,600 up to about 1,400 BC. In the museum there are also interesting Roman findings from Bossema and from various locations in the Garda hinterland.



3. FOOD & WINE

Cavaion boasts a thriving agricultural area, famous for the traditional production of olive oil from Lake Garda, Bardolino DOC wine, Bardolino novello, Chiaretto sparkling wine, but also asparagus. The typical dishes of the Cavaion tradition are: risotto with asparagus, with Amarone, with duck, pappardelle with game, bigoli al torchio, gnocchi, game, rabbit, lamb, kid, mixed boiled meat with pearà (sauce made from breadcrumbs, beef marrow, pepper and broth), pastissàda de caval (a dish based on horse meat), grilled or barbecued meat, stuffed duck, truffles, spaghetti with bleak or sardines (from the Lake).

“La fogassa su la gradela”, the “poor” dessert of our grandparents, became a typical Cavaion dessert in 2015, as it was revalued and produced with a precise regulation DE.CO (Municipality Name).

4. EVENTS AND FOLKLORE

On the evening of the Epiphany the hills are lit with the auspicious “**brujel**” (bonfire). There are many events throughout the whole year. **The Carnival**, with a large parade of masks and floats arriving at Corte Torcolo.

The Asparagus festival

On the third Sunday in May in the context of the “Asparago d’oro” (the golden asparagus) competition, prizes for the best Bardolino DOC wine



and olive oil of Lake Garda are also awarded. There are kiosks for the tasting of typical products of the area and of local cuisine. Every evening there is music of various styles. It is interesting to mention the origins of the festival.

The Asparagus Festival was born from a particular misunderstanding which happened in 1968. At a reception at the Italian Embassy in Brussels asparagus from Cavaillon in Provence was served, which was particularly appreciated by the guest. An Italian diplomat, deceived by the pronunciation of Cavaillon (= Cavaion), sent a letter of appreciation to the Municipality of Cavaion. The Pro Loco then had a good think as to how best exploit this undeserved reputation and established the Asparagus Festival which, however, has had

the merit of increasing and qualifying the production of this vegetable in the municipal area.

“O-live jazz” at the end of June in Corte Torcolo.

Festival of the Madonna

del Carmine. On the third Sunday of July, the ancient festival dedicated to the Madonna del Carmine is held. The contest of Bardolino Classico DOC wine and Bardolino Chiaretto Sparkling wine DOC takes place on this occasion.

“August in Cavaion between music and history” Concerts in villas on Thursdays in August.

In the hamlet of Sega there is the festival of the **Patron Saint. Gaetano** at the end of August.

“WardaGarda” first week of September in Corte Torcolo.

Dop Oil Festival. In Corte Torcolo, from July to September, there is a full programme of theatrical, cinema and recreational events.



5. ITINERARIES

Healthy route. From the church square go up to the small church of San Michele della Bastia, through olive groves, woods and the ruins of the fortress and convent.

A Walk from Cavaion to the Well of Love and to Caorsa.

From the parish church you reach the Well and the nearby hamlet of Caorsa, from which you return to the parish church.

To remember the legend of the “Well of Love”, linked to the homonymous district where there is an ancient well with a stone wellhead.

It is called the well of love because around it there are various legends that speak of the conflicted love of a boy and a girl. It is not known when these stories began. What is known is that at the well two young people met and it was there that their great love blossomed. They should have been married, but the marriage was never celebrated. There are those who say that their love was not acceptable to family members and who instead speak of an unexpected disappearance of the of



the girl. Left alone, the young man was almost mad with grief. He retired to a chapel on Monte Baldo to live as a hermit. The only relief for him was the beauty of nature which reminded him of the beauty of his beloved. It seems, however, that his prayers were heard, when one day returning to the well where he had first met the love of his life, he saw her again and the two embraced each other. The endings of this story are different. The tragic version sees the two throw themselves into the well to die together and live their infinite love story in paradise. Others, on the other hand, dream of a happy ending for which love deserved to be lived also in the here and now.

Ceriel-val Sorda. It is an interesting scenic route on the Garda that descends into the evocative moraine valley that goes from Incaffi to Bardolino.

Val del Tasso-Boscon. It is a valley crossed by the route of the old Verona-Caprino railway line, which from the Cavaion industrial area goes down to Sega.

Cordevigo-Piazzilli-Naiano. It is a scenic and historical-architectural path between agricultural farmhouses and vineyards.

The **Ca Nova pond**, an interesting wetland and archaeological site. By **bicycle** from Cavaion-Villa Bardolina-Piazzilli-Sega road. An interesting cycle path in the Cavaion countryside with beautiful views of the historic centre. The route connects with Bardolino, with the Biffis canal cycle path and with the Adige to Sega.

