

RIVOLI V.SE



Comune of Rivoli Veronese

Piazza Napoleone n°. 3 - 37010 – Rivoli V.se (VR)

Telephone 045 7281166 - Fax 045 7281114

E-mail protocollo@comune.rivoli.vr.it - www.comune.rivoli.vr.it

Inhabitants 2172 - Altitude 191 m. a.s.l - Surface 18,43 km²

Distance from Verona 33 km



Pro Loco L'Anfiteatro – Rivoli V.se

Piazza Napoleone n. 5

37010 Rivoli V.se

anfiteatropolocorivoli@gmail.com

1. THE TERRITORY IN HISTORY

The peculiar geographical position of Rivoli Veronese at the mouth of the Adige valley and as a garrison of the Chiusa Veneta (*lock*) have made it a very important demic centre since ancient times for its strategic control of the terrestrial and fluvial viability of central Europe with the Mediterranean basin, in particular from the Danubian plains with the fertile Po valley. On the remote Paleolithic slopes on the bottom of the Lagarina Valley the Claudia Augusta Roman road was superimposed in the Roman era, which in the Middle Ages was the imperial road (*today's highway of Abetone and the Brennero*) crossed in the 1700s by the artists of the Grand Tour (most importantly Goethe and Heine).

The archaeological excavations carried out on the fortress at the end of the 1970s, promoted by the local Pro Loco and carried out by the English archaeologists of the University of Lancaster, brought to light, in addition to various furnishings and weapons, also the few remains (perimeter walls and part of the floor) of a small church.

Rivoli was the **battleground on January 14, 1797**, when Napoleon's troops engaged in the Italian campaign, faced the Austrian army, which under General Alvinczy's orders seemed to have the upper hand. The Austrian army, which had numerical superiority (27,000 Austrians compared to 15,000 - 20,090 French), had surrounded the Napoleonic troops, but this turned out to be a mistake. Napoleon, succeeded in overturning the situation bringing back the victory after a bloody battle in which 5,556 men were killed or wounded, of which 2,180 were French and 3,376 Austrian. This battle was important both for the advance of the French into the heart of the Austro-Hungarian



Empire, and for Napoleon with this victory, he demonstrated to the French and to himself that he was an able strategist. To exalt the sacrifice of his soldiers and to remember the glorious victory of Rivoli, Napoleon named a Paris street Rue de Rivoli and built an imposing monument on the battlefield consisting of a column that reached a height of 20 metres. This monument was demolished by returning Austrians in 1814, after the fall of Napoleon. Today, on the plain of Canale, at the point where the glorious monument stood there is a mausoleum, in which lie the remains of the French fighters who fell in the battle. In addition to this, to honour his valiant general, Andre Massena, who was defeated during the battle, Napoleon appointed him Duke of Rivoli. In the entrance of the town hall the bust of Andre Massena, prince of Essling-duc de Rivoli, was placed, donated in 1902 to the community of Rivoli by his nephew who wanted to perpetuate the memory of the brave ancestor. In the centre of Rivoli there is a **Napoleonic museum** which contains a precious collection of weapons, uniforms and documents of the time, as well as a model that reconstructs the dynamics of the battle. During the war of independence this locality was the object of new battles. In the summer of 1848 some divisions of the Piedmont army victoriously clashed against the Austrian troops of Marshal Radetzky. Some remains of Piedmont soldiers, including the captain of the Bersaglieri Carlo Praia, lie buried in the cemetery of Rivoli. Finally, on the hills of the Morenic amphitheatre there are still signs of trenches that the Italians built during the first world war.



2. TO SEE

The village of Rivoli Veronese is located at the foot of Mount Baldo at the mouth of the Adige valley on the right of the river. Rivoli offers visitors a scenic and historical heritage of great interest. In particular, the following are worth visiting:

The morainic amphitheatre that surrounds the inhabited area of Rivoli, considered to be the most important of the Paduan-Alpine morainic amphitheatres.



The Austrian Fort Wohlgenuth built in 1850 on Mount Castello, in the geometric centre of the morainic amphitheatre. It is home to the World War I Museum. Open on Sundays.



La Rocca (The Rock), the spur to the south of the village, where there was an important prehistoric and medieval settlement.

La Chiusa (The Lock) famous in the history of Verona, celebrated by poets and travellers; the rocky walls overlooking the Adige form a suggestive canyon that marks the end of the alpine landscape and the beginning of the plain.



The Napoleonic Museum

which has a collection of memorabilia, documents and weapons of the battle of 1797, and the remains of the Guglia, in the Canale locality, a monument erected by Napoleon in 1806 in memory of the battle and which was subsequently destroyed by the Austrian troops.

La chiesa parrocchiale di San Giovanni Battista (*the parish church of Saint John the Baptist*), with important paintings of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Il campanile romanico di San Zeno a Incanale (*The Romanesque bell tower of San Zeno in Incanale*) and, in the same area, the rock carvings along the path that carried pilgrims to the sanctuary of the Madonna della Corona (*Madonna of the Crown*).

The small church of San Michele in the hamlet of Gaium, with a fresco of Saint Cristopher from the 12th century.

The ancient courts and villas: Corte Bramante, Corte Rizzoni, Villa Cozza, Corte Campana from the 1500s, home of Francesco Calzolari, an apothecary, botanist, founder of the first natural history museum. Corte Fiffaro already mentioned in the documents of the 1200s.



3. FOOD AND WINE

Rivoli is not only rich in history and culture. Its system of production has known a tremendous growth over the last few years, characterized by the evolution of new sectors (marble and granite processing) and from the consolidation of traditionally present ones.

The agricultural sector continues to be of great importance in the context of the municipal territory.

As well as the cultivation of vines (the area of Rivoli is part of the production consortium of the Valdadige DOC and Bardolino DOC wines) the production of asparagus is practiced, the product from Rivoli is much appreciated and it can be tasted in typical dishes in the months of April and May in trattorias and farm restaurants scattered throughout the municipality and at the festivals.

4. EVENTS AND FOLKLORE



In May the “**Balconi e Giardini Fioriti**” (*Flowering Gardens and Balconies*) competition takes place.

In mid-May there is the **Traditional Asparagus Festival** with tasting of specialties cooked in the marquee. There is also an Orchestra and evening dance.

In July there is the **Sports Festival** with soccer tournaments, volleyball, beach volleyball, table football, rock climbing, walking and mountain biking. These are days of intense demonstrative activity for young and old.

The **Antica Sagra di Sant’Isidoro** (*Ancient Festival of Saint Isidore*) takes place in the second half of the month of July.

La Festa del Trebianel (*local wine*) is held in Gaium on the first weekend of October.

5. ITINERARIES

The nature trails within the Morenic amphitheatre are of particular interest.

Route n. 1

Rivoli, la Rocca, Gaium, Montalto, Rivoli

Leaving from Rivoli you continue on via Polveriera towards La Rocca where the remains of a medieval castle and the excavations of a prehistoric village can be seen. You go up to Gaium, the locality of Colombara (church of San Michele) and continue to Montalto di Gaium and Montalto above. Going along the Rocca, you continue on your way to Rivoli.



Route n. 2

Morainic amphitheatre of Rivoli

Depart from Zuane; continue towards Zuane, turn left towards Pigno. At the crossroads, turn right towards Coletto. Continue towards Montalto Vicentino, Zuane Brenzone and return to Zuane.



Route n. 3

Path of Monte Cordespino

Depart from Canale d'Adige. Go up to Pozza Gallet, follow the side of Monte Cordespino and go back towards Monte Marco and go back down to Canale.



The newly established Monte Mesa Wind Farm is also worth a visit.

