

# TORRI DEL BENACO



## Municipality of Torri del Benaco

Viale fratelli Lavanda, 3 - 37010 Torri del Benaco (VR)

Telephone 045 6205888 - [www.comune.torridelbenaco.vr.it](http://www.comune.torridelbenaco.vr.it)

Inhabitants 3.017 - Altitude 67 a.s.l.

Surface 46,3 km<sup>2</sup> - Distance from Verona 46 km



### Pro Loco Torri

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## 1. THE TERRITORY IN HISTORY

The imposing city wall, the well-restored castle, the Venetian buildings and the older dwelling places confer an unmistakable appearance on Torri del Benaco in which the memories of the medieval past and the vivacity of a modern tourist centre merge. In the surrounding hamlets and on the surrounding hills, isolated small churches dominate the panorama, guarding unexpected art treasures.

The houses of Torri are built in stone with the characteristic arches offering surprising prospective views at every step. The historical centre, with its medieval alleys, is enclosed by the castle of the Della Scala family and the elegant parish church.



In the first century BC, the Romans arrived in Torri and fortified the defences. After the barbarian invasions, Torri represented perhaps the most important civil and military settlement on the eastern shore of Lake Garda. King Berengar I (in the 10th century) took lodgings there and had the, still existing, tower built on the church square and also the walls surrounding it. In one of his official documents of 940 we find for the first time the name of Tullus referring to the town, which in other documents was known as *Castrum Turrium*.

Torri then became a free municipality giving life to a flourishing trade. The Castle, the Clock Tower and some houses in



the centre were built in this period (XIV century). The area passed afterwards under the rule of the Della Scala family (1277-1387), of the Viscontis of Milan (1367-1405) and finally of the Republic of Venice (1405-1797). With the Congress of Vienna (1815) Torri became part of the Lombard-Veneto Austro-Hungarian Kingdom and from 1866 all the area was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy. For all the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century the area lived by agriculture (olives and vines), fishing and some small commercial activities After the Second World War, the situation began to change radically, thanks to the development of tourism.



## 2. TO SEE

**The Castle**, as we see it today, was built in 1383 under the rule of Antonio della Scala.

Starting in 1980, after being cleaned and restored, the Castle has housed a Museum that illustrates Torri's material culture and all that of the Riviera of Lake Garda.

Very interesting are the themed rooms, such as the activity of the artisan caulkers (dedicated to the construction of fishing boats), the equipment for the cultivation of olive oil, a press for the olive milling and the fishing hall of which shows the various types of nets



## Tourist guide for the Baldo Garda area

as well as a “flat gondola” of Lake Garda.

The castle is also enriched by a splendid **limonaia** (*lemon house*), one of the last ones still present on Lake Garda.



**The Clock Tower** was built at the beginning of the fourteenth century under the Della Scala family rule, acting as a defensive garrison which had its bulwark in the Castle. On the tower, which in the Venetian era was the headquarters of the municipality, you can admire some frescoes that once adorned the facade.



**The Tower of Berengar** is the only survivor of the four towers built to strengthen the corners of the fortress. It was built at the beginning of the 10th century by King Berengar I of Italy.

Particularly precious is the **parish church** (18th century) featuring a magnificent organ and eighteenth-century altars.

The **church of the Trinity** al Porto (14th century), **the church of San Faustino and Giorita** (15th century) and the **Oratory**



**of St. Anthony** (14th - 17th century).

In the territory there are also some interesting cave engravings with figures of warriors and knights of the bronze and iron ages as well as many boats of medieval and modern times. The stone of Griselle and the stone of the Cavalieri (knights) are visible walking above San Vigilio and on Monte Luppia, along a signposted path.



### 3. FOOD AND WINE

Once the local economy was based on **fishing** and **olive growing**, the latter being the main economic activity of the countryside of the Upper Lake.



With the opening of the summer season and the return of the shoals of fish towards the shallow waters, the **fishermen** begin to get their nets ready to prepare for a new fishing season. In



this period fishing rights owned by the Antichi Originari are auctioned off. These consist of one of the last medieval trade guilds still in operation. The association dates back to 1452 and

still operates with its internal rules. It has its own flag, its own specific administration and governs the negotiations for the fishing contracts as well as the division of the relative quotas.

In the most recent years since the post-war period, it has progressively passed from a production of sustenance to a consumer economy and also drinking and eating have become attuned to the tastes and rhythms of the dominant tourism industry.

Alongside the classic dishes of restaurants and trattorias Misto Lago marinato (*mixed marinated lake fish*) - Carpione al cartoccio con verdure al vapore (*Carpione en papillote with steamed vegetables*), the ritual of “nibbles” at happy hour has become increasingly widespread.

On the occasion of the Festival of the patron Saint Filippo in May the popular Festival dedicated to Veronese food and wine excellence debuted. In the historical centre of Torri, in the small harbour area and adjacent streets, a variety of selected wines are tasted “whilst walking” accompanied by snacks of local specialties. A modern way of food and wine tourism useful for socializing in conviviality.





## 4. EVENTS AND FOLKLORE

The **festival of the patron Saint Filippo** falls on the 26th May. It is celebrated in the historic centre with craft markets and in the evening with musical entertainment, water illuminations and a traditional San Filippo boat fire.



In September there is the **September Carnival** which is intended to involve and entertain the many tourists still present on the lake. Through the streets of the historic centre there is a parade with masked characters, the band and majorettes. At the end of the evening there is a fireworks show.

**Torri del Benaco** comune

### CARNEVALE SETTEMBRINO

TRADIZIONE, CULTURA E DIVERTIMENTO

PROGRAMMA DELLA GIORNATA

**10:00**  
Giochi gonfiabili e strisce bimbi per la via di tutto il paese

**11:30**  
Apertura degli stand gastronomici in corso degli Alpini di Torri del Benaco e servizio della municipalità

**12:30**  
Molto cartoni per la via del paese

**13:30**  
Spettacolo in corso di Montebelluna Park SPETTACOLI

**14:30**  
Spettacolo Piranesico sul bellissimo lungolago di Torri

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**PIAZZA DELLA CHIESA** dalle 21:30

**THE VOICE JUNIOR TORRI** è un'attività finalizzata a promuovere la cultura musicale e artistica dei giovani del territorio. Il premio finale sarà un concerto in piazza della Chiesa di Torri del Benaco.

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**PIAZZA LIBERTÀ II** dalle 22:30

**FLUO & VIBE**  
Presentazione di Riccardo di Mito Negretti

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**PIAZZA CALZADINI** dalle 23:30

**TECNOLOGIA E JAZZ BAND**  
Una Squad Band (Wind, Percussion, Musical, Sax) 7/8/9/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100/101/102/103/104/105/106/107/108/109/110/111/112/113/114/115/116/117/118/119/120/121/122/123/124/125/126/127/128/129/130/131/132/133/134/135/136/137/138/139/140/141/142/143/144/145/146/147/148/149/150/151/152/153/154/155/156/157/158/159/160/161/162/163/164/165/166/167/168/169/170/171/172/173/174/175/176/177/178/179/180/181/182/183/184/185/186/187/188/189/190/191/192/193/194/195/196/197/198/199/200/201/202/203/204/205/206/207/208/209/210/211/212/213/214/215/216/217/218/219/220/221/222/223/224/225/226/227/228/229/230/231/232/233/234/235/236/237/238/239/240/241/242/243/244/245/246/247/248/249/250/251/252/253/254/255/256/257/258/259/260/261/262/263/264/265/266/267/268/269/270/271/272/273/274/275/276/277/278/279/280/281/282/283/284/285/286/287/288/289/290/291/292/293/294/295/296/297/298/299/300/301/302/303/304/305/306/307/308/309/310/311/312/313/314/315/316/317/318/319/320/321/322/323/324/325/326/327/328/329/330/331/332/333/334/335/336/337/338/339/340/341/342/343/344/345/346/347/348/349/350/351/352/353/354/355/356/357/358/359/360/361/362/363/364/365/366/367/368/369/370/371/372/373/374/375/376/377/378/379/380/381/382/383/384/385/386/387/388/389/390/391/392/393/394/395/396/397/398/399/400/401/402/403/404/405/406/407/408/409/410/411/412/413/414/415/416/417/418/419/420/421/422/423/424/425/426/427/428/429/430/431/432/433/434/435/436/437/438/439/440/441/442/443/444/445/446/447/448/449/450/451/452/453/454/455/456/457/458/459/460/461/462/463/464/465/466/467/468/469/470/471/472/473/474/475/476/477/478/479/480/481/482/483/484/485/486/487/488/489/490/491/492/493/494/495/496/497/498/499/500/501/502/503/504/505/506/507/508/509/510/511/512/513/514/515/516/517/518/519/520/521/522/523/524/525/526/527/528/529/530/531/532/533/534/535/536/537/538/539/540/541/542/543/544/545/546/547/548/549/550/551/552/553/554/555/556/557/558/559/560/561/562/563/564/565/566/567/568/569/570/571/572/573/574/575/576/577/578/579/580/581/582/583/584/585/586/587/588/589/590/591/592/593/594/595/596/597/598/599/600/601/602/603/604/605/606/607/608/609/610/611/612/613/614/615/616/617/618/619/620/621/622/623/624/625/626/627/628/629/630/631/632/633/634/635/636/637/638/639/640/641/642/643/644/645/646/647/648/649/650/651/652/653/654/655/656/657/658/659/660/661/662/663/664/665/666/667/668/669/670/671/672/673/674/675/676/677/678/679/680/681/682/683/684/685/686/687/688/689/690/691/692/693/694/695/696/697/698/699/700/701/702/703/704/705/706/707/708/709/710/711/712/713/714/715/716/717/718/719/720/721/722/723/724/725/726/727/728/729/730/731/732/733/734/735/736/737/738/739/740/741/742/743/744/745/746/747/748/749/750/751/752/753/754/755/756/757/758/759/760/761/762/763/764/765/766/767/768/769/770/771/772/773/774/775/776/777/778/779/780/781/782/783/784/785/786/787/788/789/790/791/792/793/794/795/796/797/798/799/800/801/802/803/804/805/806/807/808/809/810/811/812/813/814/815/816/817/818/819/820/821/822/823/824/825/826/827/828/829/830/831/832/833/834/835/836/837/838/839/840/841/842/843/844/845/846/847/848/849/850/851/852/853/854/855/856/857/858/859/860/861/862/863/864/865/866/867/868/869/870/871/872/873/874/875/876/877/878/879/880/881/882/883/884/885/886/887/888/889/890/891/892/893/894/895/896/897/898/899/900/901/902/903/904/905/906/907/908/909/910/911/912/913/914/915/916/917/918/919/920/921/922/923/924/925/926/927/928/929/930/931/932/933/934/935/936/937/938/939/940/941/942/943/944/945/946/947/948/949/950/951/952/953/954/955/956/957/958/959/960/961/962/963/964/965/966/967/968/969/970/971/972/973/974/975/976/977/978/979/980/981/982/983/984/985/986/987/988/989/990/991/992/993/994/995/996/997/998/999/1000

## 5. ITINERARIES

First and foremost, a dip into the **history of the castle** deserves attention with a cultural and panoramic route that highlights the beauty of Torri and the interesting features from its past. From the **Castle of Torri** it is possible to see the harbour and a great part of the lake from Sirmione to Limone. **The hall of the Antichi Originari** tells, through the exhibited documents, the history of the Guild of fishermen.

A **model** of Torri as it appeared a century ago and two **large topographical maps** of the Venetian period give a precise idea of what Torri was like at the end of the 1700s. The room of the **rock engravings** exhibits prehistoric finds from the Lake area.

The “**Torcolo di Crero**” oil mill, recently restored by the Municipality and trusted in management and custody to the CTG group “El Vissinel” who also took care of the setting up of the new museum with illustrative panels which recall the history and the use of the mill.

