

# VALEGGIO SUL MINCIO



## Municipality of Valeggio s/M

Piazza Carlo Alberto, 48 - 37024 Valeggio sul Mincio (VR)

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Inhabitants 15.254 - Altitude 88 m a.s.l.

Surface 63,90 km<sup>2</sup> - Distance from Verona 29 km



## 1. THE TERRITORY IN HISTORY

On the border between Lombardy and Veneto, **Valeggio sul Mincio** is located in the amphitheater of the morainic hills, in the southern part of Lake Garda, which goes down towards the Po Valley.

The **Mincio valley**, which crosses the territory from north to south, opens up in very evocative views, where the river waters linger between bends and reeds, a refuge for numerous species of birds. **The economy** of Valeggio is based on a flourishing agriculture sector, a deep-rooted artisan tradition, a growing industrial activity and an affirmed tourist calling. Valeggio sul Mincio is in fact known for good food, as well as for its beautiful



scenery and the artistic heritage, which gave it recognition as a **City of Art**. The beauty of the landscape, the proximity to Lake Garda and the artistic cities of Verona and Mantua, bring numerous visitors to Valeggio, to admire the area and to savour the typical flavours of its **food and wine tradition**.

For its strategic geographical position, between the lands once disputed by the Della Scala and the Gonzaga families, Valeggio sul Mincio has always been an important crossroads of history, which has left emblematic traces on its territory. The birth of the urban centres of Valeggio



and Borghetto dates back to the Longobard period (8th - 9th centuries A.D.): their names mean respectively, a flat place and a fortified settlement. In Borghetto the scene is dominated by Ponte (Bridge) Visconteo an extraordinary fortified dam built in 1393 at the behest of Gian Galeazzo Visconti, Duke of Milan, with the purpose of guaranteeing the impenetrability of the eastern borders of the duchy. 650 m long and about 25 m wide, it is commonly called Ponte Lungo. Completed in 1395, it was later connected to the towering Della Scala Castle by two high crenellated screens and then integrated, by Mastino II Della Scala, into the fortified complex of the Serraglio, which descending from the Castle, surrounded the village of Valeggio and continued along the river Tione up to the castle of Villafranca, and further up to the plains of Nogarole Rocca, for about 17 km. From the top of the hill, the **Della Scala Castle** towers above Valeggio and the Mincio valley, keeping the majestic medieval fortifications unchanged. It is probably of Lombard origin, although the current structures do not date back before the tenth century. Only with the Della Scala family, Lords of Verona, did the fortress, which dominates the town, become its symbol and reach its present aspect with the construction of the main keep. Of its most ancient part, only the Torre Tonda (*round tower*), a unique horseshoe construction dating back to the 11th century remains, while the rest of the complex dates back to the 14th century. It was equipped with three drawbridges of which only one has been preserved.

In summer, the events of the Summer Festival of Shows and the Film Festival take place in the inner courtyard.



## 2. TO SEE

### **Palazzo Guarienti**

Built in strict neoclassical style, more severe than elegant, on the left façade there is a plaque commemorating the passing of Napoleon Bonaparte.

### **Villa Maffei - Sigurtà**

The villa, a sumptuous summer residence of the Marquis Maffei, was built at the end of the 17th century by the architect Pellesina. The Park has been transformed starting from the 1940s by Dr. Carlo Sigurtà into a much admired botanical and landscape entity: The Parco Giardino Sigurtà.



### **Church of San Pietro in Cattedra (Saint Peter in the Pulpit)**

The parish church of Valeggio on the Mincio was erected in the 18th century, on the site of a previous construction. The interior is in neoclassical in style with a single nave.



## Church of San Marco Evangelista

Reconstructed in 1759, in a simple neoclassical style, it stands in Borghetto, opposite a small wooden bridge that joins the two sides of the village and preserves the surviving elements



of an ancient Romanesque chapel. Of the districts, **Borghetto**

is the one that attracts the most attention from tourists for

h i s t o r i c a l ,

landscape and

cultural reasons.

You can see the

river Mincio and

the surrounding

nature, the Ponte

Visconteo, the

small Church of

San Marco and the



characteristic watermills. Borghetto was built on the ford of the

river in the Lombard period. Here there was a “Curtis Regia”,

that is the duty office which collected the toll booths for crossing

the river and for navigation.

Another district often mentioned in history is **Salionze**

because of the local tradition that here on the banks of the River

Mincio Pope Leone Magno would have met Attila (scourge of

God) convincing him to stop. Every year, in the middle of July,

during the festival of Salionze this moment is remembered with

characters in costume.

Also noteworthy is the village of **Santa Lucia ai Monti** in the



centre of a vast area of

vineyards for Custoza

DOC and the hamlet of

**Vanoni Remelli** near

the ancient Roman road

Postumia. The modern

parish church (1965) is

dedicated to St. Joseph.



## 3. FOOD AND WINE

In the typical cuisine of Valeggio, which is deeply linked to the territory, rich and varied dishes and specialties are offered, able to satisfy the needs of all types of clientele.

The **tortellino of Valeggio** is the absolute protagonist on the tables of the town. Precisely for this reason the Restaurateur Association of Valeggio has dedicated the legend of the Love Knot to the tortellini and the organization of an annual festival on the Visconteo Bridge, with a table of 3,000 guests. The main dish of the local



gastronomy is therefore tortellino, surrounded by other very valid dishes: homemade pasta, risotto, trout, whitefish and pike with polenta, boiled meat with peará (*a bread and pepper sauce*), and grilled meat. Among the typical desserts is **Torta delle Rose** (*Rose cake*), to be enjoyed with peaches in syrup.

The Bianco di Custoza DOC and Bardolino DOC wines complete the natural pairing between these tasty specialties.



## 4. EVENTS AND FOLKLORE

Every fourth Sunday of the month there is an **Antiques Market**, which brings together over a hundred select exhibitors of furniture, carpets, prints and antique books, objects, ceramics and vintage clothing.



### **Fiera di Valeggio** in July

An exhibition between tradition and modernity in Piazza Carlo Alberto and the historic centre. Tastings of typical products, in collaboration with local restaurants and pasta factories, food stands, festival of baking, fun fair, fireworks. Folkloristic re-enactments and stalls of artistic-creative craftsmanship. Organized by Pro Loco Valeggio. [www.valeggio.com](http://www.valeggio.com)

**Tortellini and surroundings** on the first weekend of September in Piazza Carlo Alberto and the historic centre. Tasting routes with typical local products, live music shows and entertainment, educational workshops, Fine food market. Organized by the Municipality of Valeggio and Pro loco, in collaboration with Association Percorsi, Artisan Pasta Factories, Wine Companies, Association Restaurateurs. info [www.tortelliniedintorni.net](http://www.tortelliniedintorni.net) - [www.percorsivaleggio.it](http://www.percorsivaleggio.it)



## 5. ITINERARIES

The Mincio valley and the hilly area surrounding Valeggio are ideal for long walks and biking tours along the numerous country roads that lead into the greenery. The bike path that passes through Borghetto allows you, always following the course of the river Mincio, to reach in the north direction Peschiera and Lake Garda and to the south, the lakes of Mantua.

Some cycling itineraries:

**route 1 - about 18 km on the hills:** Valeggio, Bertagni, Santa Maria ai Monti, Valpesson, Campagnagrossa, Salionze, Prandina, Valeggio

**route 2 - about 17 km on the flat :** Valeggio, the Bocche, Pozzolo, San Francesco, Sei Vie, Remelli, Mazzi, Valeggio.



**route 3 - the Mincio valley (approx. 32 Km):** Borghetto, Mincio, Prandina, Fontanello, Maiella Monti Pratovecchio, Monte Salionze, right bank of the river Mincio, Borghetto

