

Program 1

Matilda and the treasures of Canossa, among castles and towns: from 31st August 2008 to 11th January 2009

MATILDA OF CANOSSA, THE DUKEDOM TREASURES, CASTLES AND CHURCHES REGGIO EMILIA AND MANTUA.....THEIR HISTORY, GASTRONOMY AND RIVERS

2 days/1 night weekend

A full weekend dedicated to discovering the most important historical and cultural events in the life of the Countess Matilda of Canossa.

Some events even influenced the development of history in the following centuries: as i.e. the Council of Guastalla in 1107 and the confrontation of Matilda, Pope Gregory VII and the emperor Henry IV.

The towns of Reggio Emilia and Mantua, geographically lying right and left of the flat area where the Great River Po flows, are strictly bound by some common elements: the Dukedom of Matilda of Canossa in the year one thousand and then the Dukedom of Gonzaga during the Renaissance, ruling the territory of both provinces and whose Castles, Churches and Palaces are up till now a witness of their rich past....But they are also joined by their love for good food and intense local tastes, like *tortelli* with pumpkin filling, *Parmigiano-Reggiano* and *Grana Padano* parmesan cheese, the famous red wine *Lambrusco* from Reggio Emilia and the one from Mantua, such as by their love for the traditional local culture, the land and the rivers: the Great River Po and the Mincio river.

1st Day

H 8.00a.m. Arrival in Reggio Emilia, hotel check-in and meeting with the guide

Introduction to the local history and to the exhibitions of Matilda of Canossa, that takes place inside the Civic Museum, the Diocesan Museum and the *Palazzo Magnani*.

At the end, lunch at a restaurant or an *agriturismo* enjoying a menu based on typical Reggio Emilia recipes.

H 2.00p.m. Departure by bus to a guided tour through the Lands of Matilda of Canossa, and the hills of Reggio Emilia area, reaching the Castle of Canossa and visiting the Narborre Campanili Museum in Canossa.

On request, a visit to the Castle of Rossena and to the Castle of Bianello can be added.

On the way back, we stop to visit an *Acetaia* to discover the real producing process of the Traditional Balsamic Vinegar of Reggio Emilia (TBV).

As alternative, it is possible to visit a local cheese factory that makes the real *Parmigiano - Reggiano* /Parmesan cheese from Reggio Emilia with cheese tasting.

H 6.30p.m. Return to the hotel by bus. Dinner at a restaurant in the historical centre.

After dinner, free time to have a walk downtown and overnight stay at the hotel.

2nd Day

H 7.00a.m. Breakfast at the hotel

H 8.00a.m. Departure by bus to a tour through the towns of the "Lowlands" of Reggio Emilia, reaching first Guastalla to visit the Matildic Pieve (Church), where the Council took place in 1107, and then the shore of the Great River Po, to sail towards Mantua on board of a fluvial cruise motorship.

H 10.30a.m. Getting on board, meeting with the Captain and then navigation along the River Po and the river Mincio to reach the lakes of Mantua.

Stop and transfer by bus to San Benedetto Po, where it is foreseen a visit to the Polirone Benedictine complex of San Benedetto Po, that was in the past a fluvial isle.

The Polirone is a monumental complex with a small Matildic Church where you can still see the mosaics of Matilda of Canossa and her tomb. Then visit to the vast Polirone Abbey and the pleasant yards and right inside you can admire the exhibition dedicated to Matilda of Canossa.

Lunch on board during the navigation or at a restaurant.

H 4.00p.m. Landing on the stages of the Lakes of Mantua.

Meeting with the guide in Mantua to complete your visit to the Matildic places and to the exhibition dedicated to Matilda of Canossa that takes place in the original House of Andrea Mantegna.

This program, including visits and history, ends with a visit to the exhibition presenting the treasures of Gonzaga and which is staged at *Palazzo Te*.

H 7.00p.m. Free time and then on the way back, visit to the Rotonda of San Lorenzo (the most ancient church in the town), Canossa Palace and square in Mantua.

The above mentioned program can be extended to more days including the visits to Modena, Parma, Cremona and Comacchio, that is to say the towns in the Pianura Padana, deeply influenced by the Countess Matilda of Canossa during the Middle Ages.

Moreover the program can also be reduced to only one day including the visit to Reggio Emilia and the exhibition dedicated to Matilda of Canossa, and to the Matildic Castles and Churches.

ON REQUEST WE CAN QUOTE YOU SPECIAL OFFERS FOR GROUPS

Accommodation in 3- or 4-star hotels or *agriturismo*

We grant you 2 free quotes every 25 paying people

Price includes: a guided visit to Reggio Emilia, to the exhibitions, castles and churches. Visit and tasting to an *Acetaia*. Dinner at a restaurant. Overnight stay and breakfast as indicated in the program.

Visit and tasting to a local cheese factory. Fluvial cruise and lunch on board. A guided visit to Mantua and San Benedetto Po.

A PORIVERTRAVEL.IT guide all along the tour.

We grant you 2 free quotes every 50 paying people

Price does not include: bar services ashore and on board, any personal extras, bus transport and all what is not expressly indicated under the “**Price includes**”.

Fixed dinner menu proposals based on typical products of Reggio Emilia: pork salumi as appetizer, bis of first courses with cappelletti (a kind of ravioli), tortelli or chicche (small hand-made pasta). As for second courses grilled “tagliata” steak or roast meat served with seasonal vegetables, dessert, water and coffee. Wines not included.

Fixed dinner menu proposals based on typical products of Mantua: appetizers, pasta with *ragù* (meat sauce) or risotto “*alla pilota*” (rice with ground pork meat), as for second courses roast meat served with seasonal vegetables, dessert, water and wine. Coffee not included.

When you book it is necessary to specify the preference of all participants for pasta with ragù (meat sauce) or for risotto “alla pilota”.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENT BY: PORIVERTRAVEL.IT of Nicolini Manuela – no. 5/A, Garibaldi Street – 42010 Rio Saliceto (Reggio Emilia)- Italy.

Tour Operator - Travel agency License n.106 issued on 12th October 2007 by the Reggio Emilia Province Authority.

Civil Responsibility Insurance no. 169215 issued by Mondial Assistance.

Program conformed to the UE-CCV and to the Regional Law No.7 of 31/03/2003 Decree-Law no.111 of 17/03/95