



Provincia
di
belluno
dolomiti



Alpago



Veneto
From earth to sky

www.veneto.to

Dolomiti
turismo

www.infodolomiti.it

THE DOLOMITES, A WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE SITE

Listed by UNESCO for their beauty
and scientific importance

TRULY UNIQUE MOUNTAINS

On 26 June 2009 the Dolomites became a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site. This status was awarded for their uniquely beautiful landscape and because of the scientific importance of their geology and geomorphology.

The Dolomites are listed as a serial property because, despite its size and diversity, the entire range is considered to be a single unit. This extraordinary "fossil archipelago" consists of nine areas spread over five Italian provinces (Belluno, Bolzano, Pordenone, Trento, Udine), although the Province of Belluno is home to the greatest number of these magnificent peaks.



ALPAGO

A delightful splash of green in the south-east corner of the province of Belluno, Alpiago offers visitors a wealth of opportunities to enjoy a fascinating stay in a pristine natural environment. The peaceful landscape of the Alpiago Valley features a succession of meadows and woods set on gently rolling hills. From the shores of Lake Santa Croce, the perfect place for a spot of fishing or sailing, kite- and windsurfing, the terrain rises more steeply towards the Cansiglio woods until it reaches the jagged rocky crown in



the Prealpi Carniche, with Col Nudo-Cavallo and the peaks of mounts Dolada, Teverone, Col Nudo, Venàl, Messèr, Laste and Cavallo, all of which can be reached by following Alta Via n. 7, a climbing route that can be travelled, in stages, in just a few days.



THE ENVIRONMENT THE 4 SEASONS ...

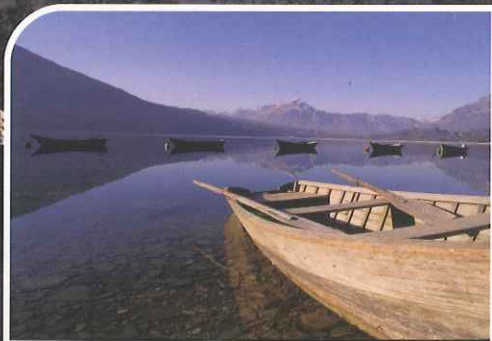
ALPAGO

A YEAR-ROUND DELIGHT

Alpago is an environment for all seasons. Spring is the time to ride on a magic carpet of wild flowers, discovering the rich variety of animal life flourishing in nature reserves. Summer is the time for boisterous fun, with the valley's favourite sports, making the most of the summer breezes with sailing and windsurfing on the lake or hang-gliding. Autumn is the time to enjoy some Nordic walking or mountain biking, amid an explosion of colour as the leaves of the centuries-old beeches turn to red and to gold, to the tune of the deer barking as they roam the woods and pasture-lands. The silence of the winter is the time to de-stress, with excursions on show shoes exploring Cansiglio, Col Indes, Pian Formosa and Malga Cate heading toward Val Salatis, taking breaks in cosy, welcoming restaurants, or skiing on the snow-covered plain. Alpago is delight to be savoured all year round.

THE ALLURE OF THE MOUNTAINS

The hills and the mountains that tower over Alpago are criss-crossed by routes for walkers and climbers that take in the famous high-altitude paths (Alte Vie) Di Patèra and Dei Silenzi. Here, the natural heritage is at its most priceless with the Cansiglio forest, Italy's second largest, extending over 5000 hectares of pines and beeches, home to an amazing array of fauna, including deer, capercaillies, golden eagles and greater spotted woodpeckers. The wealth of plant-life, of which the cranesbill is one of the stars



of the show, can be seen at the Cansiglio Alpine botanic gardens. Then there are the mysterious karst formations such as the "Bus de la Lum" ponor and the extensive peat bogs. The natural "monuments" include over 30 monumental trees, of different types, to be found in a range of fascinating environments, such as Lake Santa Croce, a natural oasis with unique wetlands and reed beds.

A group of skiers is seen from behind, ascending a steep, snow-covered mountain slope. The lead skier is wearing a purple jacket and black pants, with green and white skis. They are using ski poles and leaving tracks in the snow. Other skiers are visible in the line behind them. The background shows rolling snow-covered hills under a bright sky.

LOTS MORE BESIDES

Hours of fun for kids
and grown-ups alike

SKIING WITH A DIFFERENCE - THE "NATURAL" KIND

Alpago has a long history of winter sports, its terrain ideal for ski mountaineering, the very best way of enjoying the mountain landscape, in all its unspoilt beauty. Ski mountaineering enthusiasts can find the slopes still snow-covered well into the spring. For many years Alpago has been the event for a major ski mountaineering event, known as the "Transcavallo", a competition based on the classic technique which has achieved a considerable international profile.

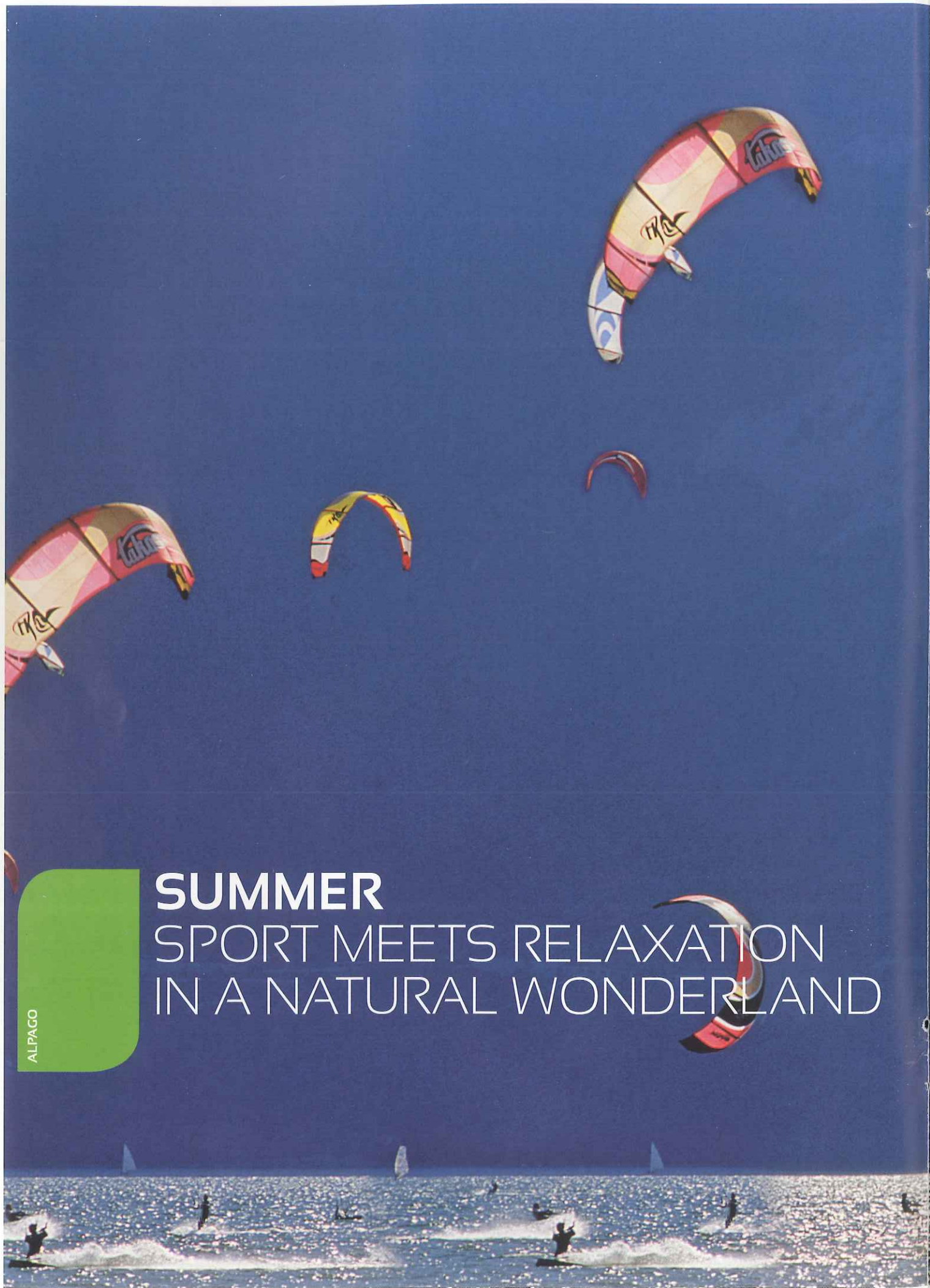
The Cansiglio skiing centre is some 10 km from Tambre, the highest holiday resort in the Alpago Valley. Here you will find over thirty kilometres of trails, presenting a variety of challenges and which wind through one of Italy's most beautiful forests. These include some lovely but not-too-challenging trails on sun-kissed slopes, for beginners who want to have fun as they perfect their technique, plus there are 7 cross-country trails.

YET MORE FUN IN THE SNOW

Speeding along in the snow pulled by dogs. Experience the thrill of a bygone era with sled-dog power. Just shout "mush" and you're in charge of your very own dog sled for the day. Pian Osteria offers trails from 2 to 12km that also host international races and you can try out all the excitement of that new twist on Nordic skiing - skijoring - just one man (or woman) and his (or her) dog!



Rambling on snow shoes through the magical glades of the beech and pine woods is an uncomplicated, relaxing pleasure. This is the ideal holiday resort for parents with young children with lots of peaceful routes that are easy to negotiate, even with a pushchair. These well-trodden, fully sign-posted paths across meadows and through woodlands lead to rustic refuges and inns deep in the heart of Nature, with plenty of space for play and for exploring the tracks left by hare and deer.



SUMMER SPORT MEETS RELAXATION IN A NATURAL WONDERLAND

ALPAGO

THE MOUNTAINS IN FULL BLOOM

The mountain experience takes flight. Instructors from the hang-gliding school accompany novices to let them experience this thrill in complete safety. Alpe di Siusi is famous for hang-gliding competitions at regional, national and international level. Lake Santa Croce is the perfect venue for such water-sports as sailing, wind- and kite-surfing. There are schools and hire facilities along the banks of the lake to help everyone get the very best out of the summer breezes. It is possible to take boat trips, do some fishing, take relaxing lakeside walks or just drink in the summer sun from the well-equipped beach. Tambre has a brand new swimming pool and tennis and horse-riding are also on offer. Golf fans can enjoy the stunning setting of the 6000-metre 18-hole golf course.

MOUNTAIN TRAILS

The Alpe di Siusi mountains have a large number of mountain trails, all mapped out in detail, that make use of the ancient roads connecting all 35 villages. For example, the 50km Alpe di Siusi trail is a dirt road that can be tackled in stages. The 100km of bike trails that start from the shore of Lake Santa Croce, rising up to the Cansiglio forest, have also hosted the European mountain-biking championships.



Nordic walking in this magical pristine Alpine landscape is the ideal way to restore both body and soul, with numerous circular trails that, as well as taking in natural wonders, pass by such historical and cultural sites as the shrine Santuario della Madonna del Rinal and a number of Roman bridges.





HISTORY AND CULTURE TRADITIONS...

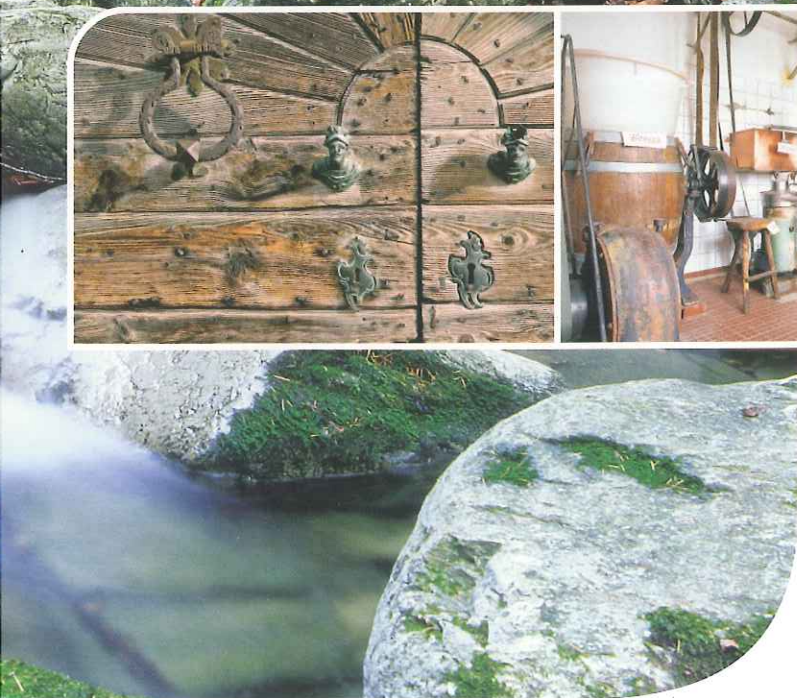
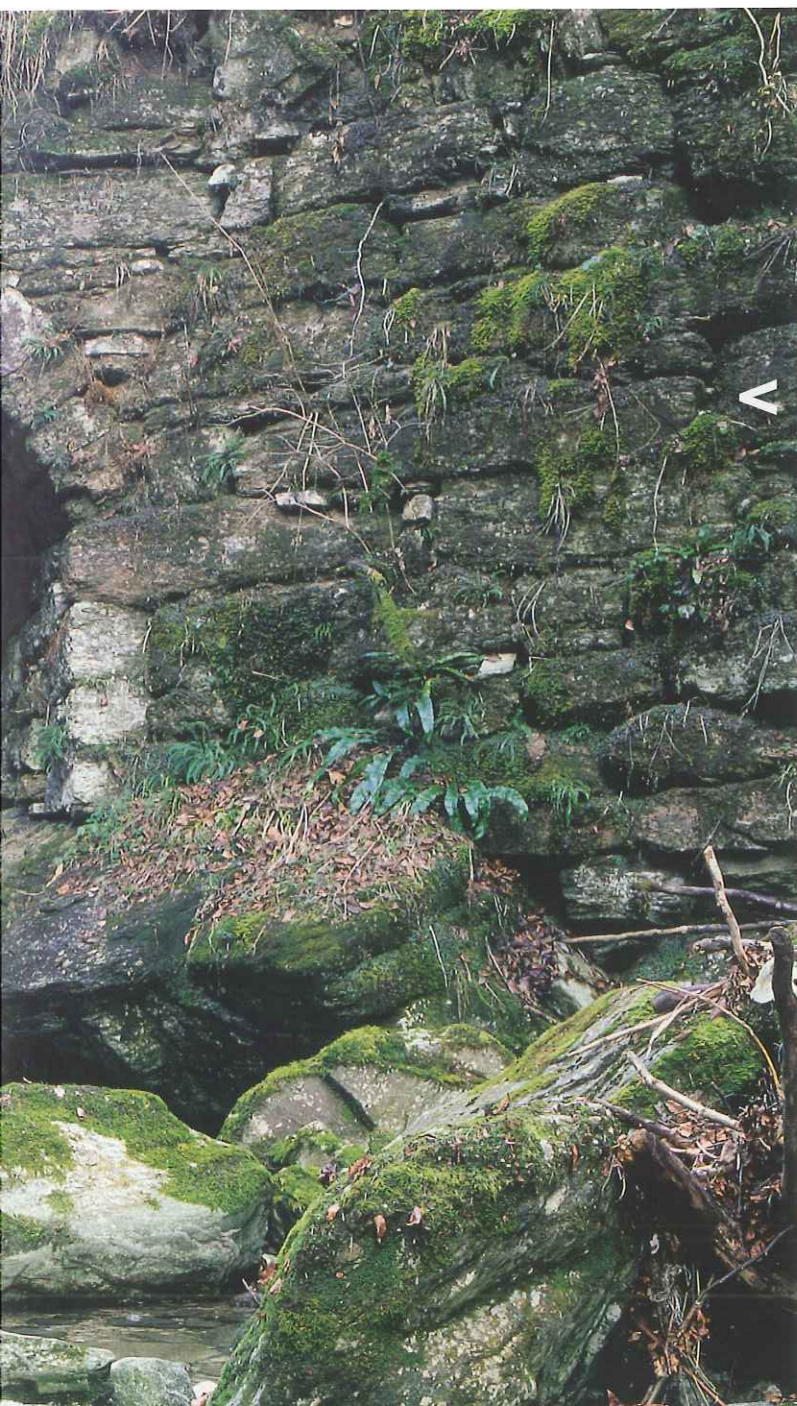
ALPAGO

AN ANCIENT STORY

Archaic place-names, some of Roman and Lombard origin: Puos, Chies, Farra, Pieve, Tambre. A land of shepherds, woodsmen, craftsmen and migrants, of ancient stone houses with crow-stepped gables or real curiosities like La Casa del Libro (House of Books) at S. Anna made entirely of book-shaped blocks of wood with details, also in wood, shaped like pens and a spectacle frame. A land with close ties to the city of Venice, for centuries supplying the wood to make the oars for ships' galleys, so much so that the Cansiglio forest became known as "Bosco dei Dogi" (The Forest of the Doges) and "Gran Bosco da reme di S. Marco" (The Great Forest of St. Mark's Oars). Towards the end of the 18th Century, some families from the Cimbri tribe, originating from the Asiago uplands, came to settle, founding new villages. These villages can still be visited today and the descendants of the original founders are now recognised as an ethnic minority who maintain their vibrant culture and distinctive cuisine, and with their own place in society recognised in the "Sistema Museale della Civiltà Cimbra" in Pian dell'Osteria.

TRADITION LIVES ON IN A MYSTERIOUS LAND

Alpago is land of living traditions, made manifest in a whole series of fascinating events. As well as sporting events, the whole area is alive with bands, folk music and dancing groups, festivals celebrating local produce, religious feast days and special guided nature rambles. This is a land with an ancient history that can be revisited at the prehistoric sites in Cansiglio and the Iron Age and Roman ruins in Pieve d'Alpago. This heritage is enriched with delightful churches and oratories whose art treasures are described in the Tesori d'Arte guide book which shows visitors how to find such wonders as the works by Belluno sculptor Andrea Brustolon known as "the Michelangelo of Wood",



or by the local artist Placido Fabris, the Santa Croce church, the shrine at Irighe and many mountain chapels perched on dizzying ledges with stunning views, among them the ones dedicated to Saint Peter (San Pietro) in Valzella and San Martino.

Every tiny hamlet has its own story to tell, taking a pride in revealing its secrets to visitors. The wonders of nature are unveiled in the Natural History Museum in Chies d'Alpago and the Ecology Museum in Cansiglio. La Casa del '500 in Valdenogher provides a fascinating insight into alchemy, revealing the mysterious symbolism of its façade and giving visitors a glimpse of the magic world of the philosophers' stone. The very secret of happiness can be found in Alpago.

A close-up photograph of a wooden cheese wheel, likely Casu Marzu, with a label that reads "CONSIGLIO". The cheese is a warm, golden-brown color, and the wood is a rich, dark brown. The lighting is warm and focused on the cheese, creating a sense of depth and texture. The background is blurred, showing more of the cheese wheel and the wooden structure.

GASTRONOMIC TRADITIONS REDISCOVERED

ALPAGO

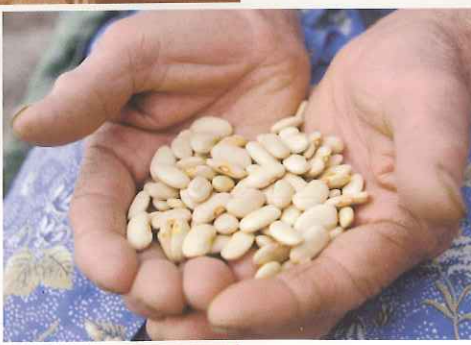
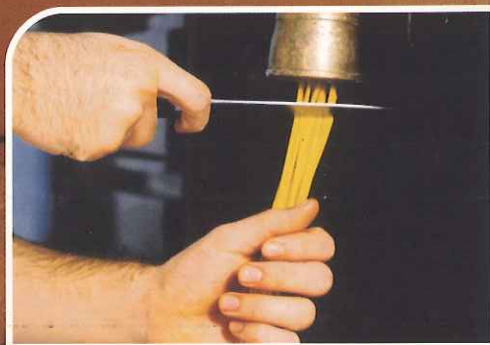
UNIQUE FLAVOURS OF YESTERYEAR

An authentic and unique culinary tradition lives on in this charming valley, a tradition that is inextricably linked to the land. Delicious "Slow Food" Alpago lamb, whose wool is used by local textile workshops, is traditionally accompanied by polenta and it goes perfectly with other simple local dishes, such as "patora" or "Thanksgiving Soup" (a hearty soup with local beans known as "mame") and "bagozia", a kind of polenta made with potatoes and pulses.

Alpago is bursting with unpretentious "trattorie" offering good home cooking as well as more up-market restaurants, indeed some of Alpago's restaurants are known throughout the Veneto region, so visitors seeking original gastronomic experiences are spoilt for choice. A number of different freshwater fish are caught in the clear waters of Lake Santa Croce, including the prized "samperiol" and "bisata", the eels that are traditionally eaten in Belluno on Christmas Eve.

A TASTE OF THE MOUNTAINS

Higher up, in the pastureland and woods, delicious malga cheeses and fresh and smoked ricotta can be found as well as honey and honeydew. Seasonal delicacies include wild berries and mushrooms and, if you are lucky you can sample home-made salami.



Then there is the ultimate delicacy "s'ciosele" tiny mountain snails, the symbol of the Alpago Valley, which to this day resemble the fossilised creatures found all over the Dolomites. The waters of Alpago and the mountains that reach up to the sky never cease to offer up some wonderful surprise.



LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

CHIES D'ALPAGO
FARRA D'ALPAGO
PIEVE D'ALPAGO
PUOS D'ALPAGO
TAMBRE

How to get here

BY CAR

- **From the North:** at Bolzano take the A22 to the Trento Nord exit then proceed along the SP235 and the SS12 in the Trento direction. Take the SS47 and then the SS50 bis in the Feltre direction, after which you arrive in Alpago on the SS 50 and 51.
- **From the South:** from Venice, take the A27 motorway, exit Lago di S.Croce - Alpago. Or from Treviso - Conegliano take the SS51 and when you approach Lake Santa Croce, take the SP423.

BY BUS

- **From Belluno** by the Dolomitibus line

BY TRAIN

- **From Venice** to Stazione per l'Alpago, then by bus.
- **From Padova** take the Calalzo di Cadore line, change at Ponte nelle Alpi, or the Belluno line and then the Venice line, getting off at Stazione per l'Alpago, or from Belluno by bus.

BY AIR

- The nearest airports are: Venice "Marco Polo" - 82 km, Treviso "Antonio Canova" - 64 km, Verona "Catullo" - 206 km, Innsbruck - 233 km.



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