

Untold Italy Episode 190: Vicenza - Elegant Renaissance City Near Venice

This is the Untold Italy Travel podcast, and you're listening to episode number 190.

Ciao a tutti and Benvenuti to Untold Italy, the travel podcast, where you go to the towns and villages, mountains and lakes, hills and coastlines of Bella Italia. Each week your host Katy Clarke takes you on a journey in search of magical landscapes of history, culture, wine, gelato, and, of course, a whole lot of pasta. If you're dreaming of Italy and planning future adventures there, you've come to the right place.

Katy

Ciao friends, Buongiorno. I hope you're all well and bringing little pieces of Italy into your life every day - whether that be some fun Italian music, a cheeky biscotti or a wonderful Italian movie, and of course, our Untold Italy podcast.

Today we have a treat for you because we're delving into one of Italy's lesser-known cities and let me tell you these are the ones I love the best. There's something about these smaller cities that encapsulate everything I love about the country - local culture and rituals, beautiful architecture and a slower pace of life.

Typically these places are hiding in plain sight, just waiting to be discovered. Today we're visiting Vicenza in the Veneto region, a city that fits that bill nicely. Joining us is Elisabetta Faggiana from Exploro and Unexpected Italy to share all the wonderful experiences Vicenza has to offer.

Katy

Benvenuta, Elisabetta. Ciao, and welcome to the Untold Italy Podcast. It's so lovely to have you join us. I'm really excited to chat about beautiful Vicenza. But before we dive in, would you mind introducing yourself to our audience and telling them about what you do and how you came to be chatting with me about Vicenza?

Elisabetta

I'm Elisabetta Faggiana and I'm the CEO of Unexpected Italy. As a brief background, I am from Vicenza originally. That's where I was born and I grew up. But I've got quite an international background. I've lived in between Milan, London, Dubai, and Vicenza, of course. After setting up first, Unexpected London, then, Unexpected Italy, which is a national network of local,

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independent businesses from where you can stay, you can eat, and experience that you can do.

Elisabetta

We were contacted by the Exploro team. Exploro is a specific project on Vicenza, which is a platform that brings together all the unique experiences that you can do in Vicenza, which is a very underrated but amazing and beautiful and very elegant city. The Cinderella in Veneto, because, of course, there are Venice and Verona that are the most touristy cities and Vicenza is often overlooked, but there is so much to visit. This is the first platform that really brings together all the local guides, experiences, and things you can do. Given our background, we've been involved in the project to find unexpected things that you can do, unexpected as well, because even the expected things in Vicenza are unexpected.

Katy

That's so true. I am a big, big fan of the Veneto region, and I'm sorry to say I have not been to Vicenza. When I started researching for our talk, I was like, Oh, my goodness, this is really sad. I need to go there. Because I feel like Vicenza is quite a big city, right?

Elisabetta

Well, the city itself is not very big. It's like 100,000 inhabitants. But the area, because, of course, in Italy we got the provinces, which is a bit difficult concept often for a foreign to understand. But within Vicenza, there is not just Vicenza as a city, but there is a whole area that comprises many gorgeous hilltop town villages like Marostica, the City of Chess, where every two years they've got the live chess match in the center of Marostica with two castles, one at the top, one at the bottom, connected, and it's beautiful. You've got Bassano, that is where Grappa is originally from, with the famous iconic Bassano Bridge. It's an incredible town, it's really lively, you have a lot of fun and it's difficult to get out of Bassano completely sober because there's a festive atmosphere wherever you go, that it's a really, really fun place to be.

Elisabetta

There is as Asiago that is a mountain resort. It's beautiful. You can trek, you can cycle, you can do a lot. There is the Brenta River where you can do kayak.

Elisabetta

And of course, there is Vicenza, the city of Palladian, with all its beautiful villas. Vicenza is actually a UNESCO heritage site because it's got 24 Palladian monuments and 26 Palladian villas all around the territory. There are hundreds and hundreds of Venetian villas that are inspired by Palladio. In many of them, the original families still live in there, so you can go and stay there, meet the families, meet these noble people that are the most humble people and have a really unique and elegant and refined experience away from the tourists.

Elisabetta

The good thing about the Vicenza is it's only 45 minutes from Venice, 45 minutes from Lake Garda, 40 minutes from Verona, so it's a very good place to actually stay to visit the whole of the region. Half an hour from Padua. There is a lot to do with this.

Katy

It's in the perfect spot, really. I'm just going to let you know my first place I ever went to in Italy was Malcesine in Lake Garda. Then I went to Verona. I feel like Vicenza might be calling my name because when you're talking about it, I'm like, Oh. Because I think these smaller cities have this charm that people are really looking for because you have the size where you've got these lots of things to do and see, and you've got a buzz where there's people coming and going and doing their daily lives, and there's restaurants. These places are the ones where I just fall in love with Italy all over and over again. I'm really excited to learn so much more. Maybe if we back it up a bit because Palladium is a very famous word in London, as we both know, having both lived there. But maybe some of our listeners don't know so much about this famous architect from Italy.

Elisabetta

Yes, so Palladio is actually one of the greatest architects for the ever existed. So, especially for Americans, just something to start with, the White House without Palladian wouldn't exist because the White House is inspired by La Rotonda, that is Palladian's most famous villa that is just five minutes drive outside of Vicenza and it's got exactly the same shape. As you said, even in London, there is so much inspired by Palladio. One of the most famous architects here from, like Christopher Wren, for example, is inspired by Palladio and Hawksmoor and many more.

Elisabetta

He was born in Vicenza. He died in around 1585. There is a bit of a mystery about his death. In fact, on Exploro, you can find a tour about 'how did he die?' because we don't know how he actually died. But the last thing he created was the Olympic Theater in Vicenza, which is the most ancient indoor theater in the world. It's 3D, it's just amazing. You actually can walk in the theater and there are lots of different streets on the stage. It's just an amazing theater. That's the last one he did. He died before he was actually finished, so he didn't see it finished.

Elisabetta

But Vicenza is city of Palladian, so the architecture all over, so anybody who loves architecture, they can't come to Italy and not see Vicenza because it's a real hidden gem and it is the city of one of the greatest architects of history.

Katy

Did he teach himself or where was he educated? To build this impressive body of work?

Elisabetta

He studied from some of the great local architects in the area, but he was a lot even self-taught and a lot of genius going on with him. He was also working with other architects like Scamozzi is one that very few people know about, is one that very few people know about, and if you go around Vinceza there is a lot about it. Another very famous architect. It's quite an incredible spot for architecture.

Katy

I'm wondering what was driving this investment in architecture? Because obviously, in close by in Venice, you have all the trade and a lot of money coming in from trade all over the world. What was happening in Vicenza that they could build these amazing villas?

Elisabetta

Vicenza is a bit the second Venice, let's say. Lots of nobles from Venice would come and create villas in Vicenza. For example, Villa Valmarana "Ai Nani"- that is a beautiful villa, right next door to La Rotonda that is completely frescoed by Tiepo, that is a Renaissance artist, one of the greatest of all times again, and it's completely frescoed and still run by the same

Valmarana the family who originally created it. There were all these noble families that would have second house inland away from Venice. There was this feeling, as I said, it's a very rich area. I think it's part of the reason why it's not very touristic because they're not that interested in tourism because it's a city of gold, it's a city of leather, of marble. The industry is very, very rich, let's say. But this makes it a very interesting area and stop. But yeah, it originates for this reason because many noble families, especially from Venice, would come there and so they would invest in the incredible architects to build their houses and villas.

Katy

So they'd summer in Vicenza. I can understand that. It would get very, very hot on the lagoon, and it does still today. No wonder they want the... You can't really get a lot of space in Venice no matter how hard you try. I'm sure you get a lot more space out in Vicenza as well. So obviously, with so many beautiful buildings that are very ornate, you need a lot of artisans. And you mentioned that there are goldsmiths and marble.

Elisabetta

And Leather.

Katy

Leather, yeah.

Elisabetta

I actually come from Arzignano, which is the European Capital of Leather, which is within the Vicenza, the Vicenza province. It is the city of Leather.

Katy

It still continues to this day, which I think that's a very charming thing about Italy, is that there are people that continue these traditions and these crafts. And even younger people, which I think this is very special and people have very strong pride about that. In a culture where everyone's online buying cheap stuff from Zara. This is taking the time to make something special is really something to be cherished, I think. That's why I always come home with a massive bag full of stuff from Italy. I always have to buy another suitcase because I've always bought things that have been specially handmade.

Elisabetta

Well done. Vicenza, has been really good into turning local artisan craftsmanship into an industry because, yes, you find local artisans, but the leather industry is so big, like wise marble and like wise gold, so they have turned it into an industry, but it's still family-run businesses, so lots of young people work in there. We are always looking for those local workshops where you can see craftsmen and and there are some really nice things from photographers to the craftsmen that work with copper right in the center of a Vicenza. Of course, anything to do with textiles and fashion who still make carpets. Ladies there making carpets by hand. You still find these hidden gems that personally I just love because it's like stepping into a world of passion and expertise and knowledge that it's very rare to find. Luckily, Italy, as you were saying, 95% of Italian businesses are still family-run. Luckily, Italy, compared to many other countries, is managing to keep all these local gems that we need to get together and really start promoting them and supporting them, otherwise, they will disappear. That's the big thing of what we want to do.

Katy

Yeah, and I think it's really interesting how some countries, and this includes my own, is that we have a lot of talents, and it's maybe not until someone from abroad recognizes them and sees them as valuable that we recognize them ourselves. So as visitors, if we can choose to go and see these places and then people take notice and say, Oh, well, this is interesting to other people. Because Italy itself has a very strong tradition of obviously very high-end luxury brands that do a very good job. But I think it's that next level down is that's where you get some of the most beautiful things, ceramics and leather. I'm sure they make shoes and bags in Vincenza.

Elisabetta

Especially connected to the leather. I mean, Vicenza is even more for cars and airplanes and all of that. This is the next level. But you just mentioned ceramics. In Vicenza, there is Nove. That is a very little town near Bassano, and it's the city of ceramics. There are still 250 manufacturers and you still see ceramists at work and you see these incredible, some, they use factories like with ovens that are like three-floors ovens where they used to cook ceramics, but you still see some incredible ceramists at work. The key for me is those artisans that managed to preserve the tradition but innovate it. You see some of these artisans that really create really modern things but using ancient techniques, which is where it should be going, is to appeal to a younger audience that appreciates these things.

Katy

Yeah, you've touched on something that I'm really passionate about, too. And I think Italy is... We do have this strong sense of tradition, but I think sometimes people miss that it's a very modern country. And I guess what you're saying is Vicenza is really the epitome of that. You have people working on these beautiful creations with modern sensibilities, but you've got also this amazing technique. And I think if you look at some of these, as you the car brands and aeronautics and things like that, I think a lot of people don't know that Italy is a real driving force behind that. I'm very passionate to get people to see different sides of Italy. I love Milan, for example, because it's a fun modern city. I know some people go there and they go, Oh, that wasn't what I was expecting. It's like Italy is a lot more than just small, cute villages. It's like this amazing patchwork of exciting modern things that are happening plus ancient traditions. And that's why I love it. So I'm very intrigued. I think I need to change our whole itinerary and come to Vicenza right now. So if we were going to spend a few days there, Elisabetta, how would we go about it? What will we do?

Elisabetta

What we always say, it really depends who you are as a traveler. For you, you said you like ceramics so, of course, I would add in, like they're into your itinerary. But in general, let's say the must-see and the most popular things are, of course, in the center of Vicenza, which is... Vicenza is very easy to get to from both Venice and Verona by train. It's really, really easy and very cheap. That's the other thing about Vicenza is because it's not touristy. You don't get into tourist traps. You just pay as locals and you eat as a local and you can shop as a local and everything. You can get there by train, you can easily walk to the center and there you have to see the Olympic Theater, which is an ancient indoor theater in the wall. There is the Basilica Palladiana in the main Piazza dei Signori Square where there are two UNESCO heritage, one opposite the other. In the Basilica, there are very two fun spots because there is the first ever jazz club inside UNESCO Heritage in Italy which is supported in Italy, which is for Bar Borsa. There you can have from brunch to lunch to dinner or even amazing cocktails.

Elisabetta

And in summer, if you're lucky, so you get there on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday the terrace of the Basilica is open and you can have one of the most incredible aperitivo with the view all over Vicenza, so these Palladian statues. It's really dreamy to have your spritz because, of course, spritz is from our area and you get spritzes around you for as little as 3 Euros. That's when I go outside of my area, I never have spritz because I don't accept paying the same for a spritz as a cocktail because for me, spritz is an aperitivo and that's why it's risky coming to

Vicenza, especially like that. And there is another interesting that I will talk about it later, another aperitive connected to the grappa.

Elisabetta

So going back, sorry, to your question, is the Basilica Palladiana or the cathedral of Vicenza. Just outside Vicenza, there is Villa Valmarana "Ai Nani" that is completely transferred by Tiepolo and is the only example in the world where both father and son of Tiepolo painted these beautiful halls. Next door there is Villa La Rotonda and this is in Vicenza.

Elisabetta

So, in Vicenza, you can go around. I would always recommend staying at least one night. If you want to see all of Vicenza, then you can go, of course, to Basasano, Marostica, which are two really, really gorgeous towns where you can have both the culinary experiences and just culture in general. It's really good. For the more sporty ones, there is kayaking in the River Brenta. As the Asiago for anybody who love cycling, nature, walking. There are the, that is like cattle farms, the mountain huts. They're only open in summer. There you can see all the cattle there that are staying there from spring to autumn. There is where they make milk, butter, cheese, the Asiago cheese is very famous, comes from there, and it's a very relaxing and out-of-this-world experience. Asiago is also, because, of course, we think about different targets in terms, for example, of accessible tourism. Asiago is a true excellence. Just to give you a little story that always touches my heart. In Asiago, there is this local association of ski instructors because they can ski, and children that can't walk, disabled children on wheelchairs, they learn to ski. They can stand and ski thanks to this technique that they've developed.

Elisabetta

There is a lot about making the holidays fantastic for everyone and anyone. That's why I always say it's a destination that embraces every heart. It's very special for that. Of course, it's not like Cortina, that it's really steep slopes and everything, but for somebody who loves nature, relax, and skiing, but not really difficult levels, that is the perfect destination.

Katy

That sounds like me. I know that I am not very good at skiing, but I'm -The Asiago cheese is so delicious. I love it. It's really quite creamy, isn't it?

Elisabetta

The Asiago. There are various types of as well. There's vecchio, Stravecchio. It's old, extra old, or young one. It depends how old it is or the older it gets, the more extra vecchio one, the extra old one. It's quite similar to parmesan cheese when you have it. Then there are lots of other different cheeses in the area. There's Morlacco, there is Ubriaco del Grappa, there are many other cheeses.

Katy

Yes. I can imagine if you were coming from Venice and you probably... Because we're inland, right? I think that's weird. We didn't really mention that. We're actually inland from Venice. It's on the river, right? Is that right?

Elisabetta

Well, there is the river going through Bassano. Also in there in Vicenza, yes. It's right in between Venice and Verona. If you go from Venice to Verona, which is something that very often tourists do, Vicenza is right in the middle, and it's also 45 minutes from Lake Garda as well. But, yeah, it is inland.

Katy

Everyone's probably got their head on their phone at that point. Big mistake, get off the train. We talked about the cheese, what everyone's going to Italy for the food. We've been educating our listeners on this podcast that it's not Italian food, it's regional food. What are some of the regional dishes that we have in Vicenza that we should definitely try apart from the cheese?

Elisabetta

The most probably the most famous local dish is Baccalà alla Vicentina, which is saltfish. It stays in water like for three days and then you simmer it in milk. I'm not a cook or a chef, so I can't give you the example. There is actually the La Confraternita del Bacalà alla Vicentina, an actually a local association that is only for a Bacalà where you can find the best local restaurants where you can go and eat Bacalà alla Vicentina. That is probably the most famous dish.

Elisabetta

But then aside from that, and as I said, the cheese. This is Soprèssa, that is a very typical salami from the area that you can have either with polenta - of course, we are in the north of Italy and polenta is very popular - or pan biscotto that is a specific bread that is baked twice, biscotto cooked twice and it's very hard and it's really nice to... You can preserve it for a long time and it's quite typical. We've got one there, a bake that just does that, just makes pan biscotto.

Elisabetta

And then based on the season when you are in Vicenza, so if you're like in spring, the white asparagus of Bassano that are incredible in the risotto, in pasta or just asparagus because they're really thick and you can have them with eggs.

Elisabetta

In June, July, there are the cherries in Marostica that are really big, nice and juicy. Then drink as well if you're interested about.

Katy

Oh, yes, we need to know about the wine.

Elisabetta

Vicenza, it's not many cities, but Vicenza is five different areas for wine that produce five different kinds of wine. We have Tai, that is Tai Rosso and Tai Bianco, that is a specific wine from the area. Durello, that is a bit similar to Prosecco, but with specific grape from the Durrello area. Then there is Breganze. The Breganze wine that is a big area and they produce wine as well. There's a Recioto from Gambellara that is a sweet wine, it's really, really nice.

Elisabetta

Then we cannot not mention Grappa that is the... Especially you can go and visit Nardini, that is the oldest distillery in Italy. The oldest Grappa distillery in the world because grappas can only be from Italy. The Mezzo e Mezzo, that is another aperitif, only Bassano you can find it, and Nardini is made locally from Nardini. The best experience in Bassano is having a Mezzo e Mezzo on the bridge overlooking mountains and the river. I love it.

Katy

Mezzo or Mezzo does that mean it has maybe soda water or...

Elisabetta

It's got soda water, Nardini Rosso, that is a liqueur specific for Nardini, rabarbaro - rhubarb liquor, and soda.

Katy

I know, I need to try this. This sounds amazing. I love rhubarb. Because the thing is that I think I find Grappa a little like, it's a bit much for me. But if you've got a few little extras in it like rhubarb. That sounds...

Elisabetta

There's Tagliatella as well, another Nardini Liqueur that is not as strong as Grappa. I'm just like, Tagliatella like the first time, they said, Do you want Tagliatella? No, I've already eaten. I said, No, it's liqueur.

Katy

It just sounds like it's a very elegant place. I'm really wondering with so many beautiful buildings, why the Instagrammers haven't discovered it yet, but we won't tell them. Are there some lovely hotels in the center of town? Is it those historic ones?

Elisabetta

Well, there are more than hotels. There are B&Bs or flats where you can stay at. There are some hotels, but just outside of the chains are within very easy reach. There are some beautiful villas. I think that is always very nice to stay at a beautiful villa. For very reasonable price, to be honest. Now, the prices are everywhere. There are very reasonable prices. You have a choice.

Katy

We like the historic, like a boutique style hotel. It sounds like these villas are exactly the type of thing that we enjoy. And so if you were staying in one of those, would you need a car or is it easy to get around by transport?

Elisabetta

Well, if you stay in one of the ones in the center, then, of course, you don't need a car and you're just staying in Vicenza. If you want to visit the whole area, then a car is much easier because as it often happens in Italy, if you really want to see the unseen bits, it's the best thing is getting a car.

Katy

Yeah. I think that's an interesting conundrum that people have. I'm sure these smaller cities, they're not that difficult to drive in. I do it myself. It's when you start getting into Rome and Naples where I go, Nope, try me out. I'm not going there.

Elisabetta

And driving in the north of Italy is completely different than driving in the south. I personally don't drive in Puglia. I've got a Puglia husband, so I'm often there. I let him drive and I said in the north it's very easy to drive, and especially in Vicenza, not being very busy. It's very easy. You don't need to be worried about driving in Vicenza. And you can discover so many more things, even local small secret wineries. I haven't mentioned that surprise, surprise, Vicenza has the original castles of Romeo and Juliet. Everyone goes to Verona to see the fake balcony that was built in 1935 just for tourists. Nobody comes to see the real castles that are this story about this noble that was living in this beautiful villa, overlooking these two castles on two different hills. He wrote this novel about these two lovers living in these two different castles and then Shakespeare write the novel and he wrote Romeo and Juliet. The original castles that inspired Romeo and Juliet are in Montecchio Maggiore. In fact, Romeo's surname is Montecchi in Italian, Montecchio Maggiore is where the castles are and you can visit them under those castles. This is for very few people, but there is a very secret wine cellar. It's only for private things, so everybody can't go there, but it's really nice. It's 300 meters of caves with the wines with the local - it's called Spumante, but it's like champagne of the area. Really, really nice. That is something that I can assure you're not even locals, though—because we've spoken to quite a few locals because there are no signs outside. So it's a very hidden, hidden gem.

Katy

Oh, that sounds magical. I mean, that's Shakespeare. He didn't even go to Italy, so he was just borrowing left, right and center this Shakespeare. But if you go to Verona and you see and

everyone go to the balcony, even if they don't want to, it's like, I'm putting my hand up. But I mean, I think it is such an iconic story. And to see the place that inspired it would be so beautiful. And these stories that permeate and then they just snowball throughout history and they get adopted and changed. But sometimes it's nice to go back to the origin and see where it all was.

Elisabetta

Hats off to Verona - has been great to do in marketing. I mean, he's based in their own Shakespeare, and he really is based in Verona, but there's no house of Juliet, but it was inspired by these two castles. I always find it incredible that nobody tells about them.

Katy

Yeah, I think in Italy, it's a challenge, isn't it? Because there are so many beautiful things, and there's so many tasty things. What I've discovered over the years is that it comes down to how good the marketing is. Places like Tuscany do an amazing job of their marketing. I just feel maybe we need to be a little bit savier and look beyond that. It's harder in the internet age to do that. I really appreciate you joining us to share this beautiful part of the world, because otherwise, we don't know. How do we know? Because if you Google top 10 things to do in Italy (please don't do that, by the way), you're not going to find it. It'll see the same old places that everyone's going to. We know, and everyone's listening on the podcast knows that we can find some amazing, amazing places to go to that will just inspire you. You didn't even know that you were going to be inspired in that way.

Katy

Elisabetta, is there anything else you'd like to share about beautiful Vicenza with us?

Elisabetta

Yeah. I spoke about Nove, the City of Ceramics. I spoke about Bassano. If you love ceramics then Bassano, there is another hidden gem - an insurance company turned into a ceramic museum. Why not?

Elisabetta

Oh, there is one of the most beautiful libraries in the world, according to the New York Times, independent libraries in the world, according to the New York Times - in Bassano. It's called Palazzo Roberti.

Elisabetta

Another unique local excellence is Tassotti that is a paper printing company. It's really fascinating, run again by father and daughter and it's beautiful. So there is a lot to discover behind because even in Bassano people that go to see the river and the bridge and they think that they have a spritz or a Mezzo e Mezzo, which are must there, but they don't really go beyond that. I am personally very in love with the Bassano. It is a place where I could actually think of moving to.

Katy

You seem like someone who's always getting itchy feet. That sounds like a big statement.

Elisabetta

It's difficult to decide where to settle because lots of people ask us, Where will you settle after this five-year journey? I have no idea. I always thought Milan because like you, I really like Milan. But it depends what you look after. But Veneto has got a very good cost of living. Milan is really expensive. In Veneto, you get a lot for your money.

Katy

Well, it does sound like it has it all: Romeo and Juliet, Renaissance palaces, delicious cheese, 3 Euro Aperol's spritzes, and on a Basilica as well - that sounds very intriguing. I think if it's under an hour by train from Venice, you don't need to be too adventurous to try that. You can go on a day trip if you want to. And you know what? I'm just going to get out the map and see how I can wiggle this into... My husband will be like, What are you doing again? This sounds absolutely beautiful.

Katy

Elisabetta, thank you so much for sharing your hometown and with us today. And I'm sure our listeners would love to know a little bit more about Vicenza and the work you're doing to promote the city. How can they stay in touch with you?

Elisabetta

Yes, so they can visit the website, exploro.it, and so there they can see all the various experiences that they can do. And, of course, if they want to see other things about Italy, we are Unexpected Italy, but specifically on Vicenza for experiences exploro.it. And on all social media as well, so from Instagram to Facebook, you can find them. You can find them there.

Katy

Yeah. And of course, we will share the links for everyone on our website so everyone can have access to that and just start dreaming. I'll tell you what, you just get on... Actually, get on Instagram or get on Google and have a little look on the images there and you'll be like, Why was this hiding in plain sight? Because that's what I was thinking. Grazie, Elisabetta, thank you so much for joining us on Untold Italy.

Elisabetta

Thank you. Bye-bye.

Katy

So everyone, a challenge to you. Report back if you visit Vicenza and let me know what you loved about this lovely city. I have been busily trying to find a spot for it in our current itinerary because I simply adore this area of Italy and feel like I have missed out by not visiting Vicenza.

How delightful to have a little pocket full of beautiful architecture and art, wine and food sitting there just waiting to be discovered.

As always, we've provided a list of all the places, foods and wine mentioned in this episode as well as Elisabetta's details and the Exploro website in our comprehensive show notes at untolditaly.com/190 for episode 190. We spend a lot of time on these notes so you can relax and listen to the episode. Plus it can be tricky trying to jot down Italian names when you're on the go. I'm sure you'll agree.

Thanks for your ongoing support of Untold Italy. We truly appreciate all of you, our listeners joining us from around the world. If you have a spare moment we would so appreciate it if you left us a 5-star rating and review on your favorite podcast app. That way we can reach more Italy-loving travelers just like you and raise the profile of our wonderful guests like Paulo who you heard today.

That's all for today, next week we'll be in Italy Hooray! So we're going to share one of my favorite episodes that happens to be super useful too, but until then it's... "ciao for now".

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