



2.3 Abano Terme–Padua–Vicenza. Between the Euganean and Berici Hills.

The Thermal spas of Abano and Montegrotto make the perfect place to stop and re-energize after the first two legs of the trip through Venetian country. Padua can be reached in about half an hour, via a pleasant bike path along the levee bordering the Battaglia Canal. This manmade canal is one of the oldest in Italy and has the peculiar quality of being dug into farmland. The scenery here



also includes Venetian villas, such as the magnificent Villa Molin (1), designed by an architect named Scamozzi. Near Bassanello, where the waters of the Bacchiglione River are divided into three distinct canals, you'll follow the one that leads into the city. After having toured the historical city centre, you'll have to backtrack along the main waterway, in the direction of Vicenza. Padua is a city of religion, science, and art. It owes its fame to great figures throughout history – Saint Anthony, whose relics are housed in the Franciscan-style cathedral and worshiped by millions of pilgrims; Galileo Galilei, astrophysicist and professor at the old university; and Giotto, the master of all artists who adorned Padua's churches and buildings with their frescos between the 14th and 16th centuries. His Scrovegni Chapel is a must-see. The 40 km that separate Padua and Vicenza (3) follow a pleasant route along the levees offering exciting



views, first of the Euganean Hills (2) and then the Berici Hills. The former are of volcanic origin, as demonstrated by the unmistakable cone-shaped masses covered with woodlands, which rest atop gently sloping terrain with carefully cultivated vineyards. The latter hills, more compact and rounded off, are actually the petrified remnants of a coral reef. Once you have reached Longare, at the foot of the hills, you might want to take a detour towards the Costozza area, which is adorned with gorgeous Venetian villas. A safe and easy bike path leads tourists into the city where they are welcomed by the soaring bell-tower of the Monte Berico Sanctuary, which looks

Third leg
Distance: 53 km
Difficulty level: ⚙️

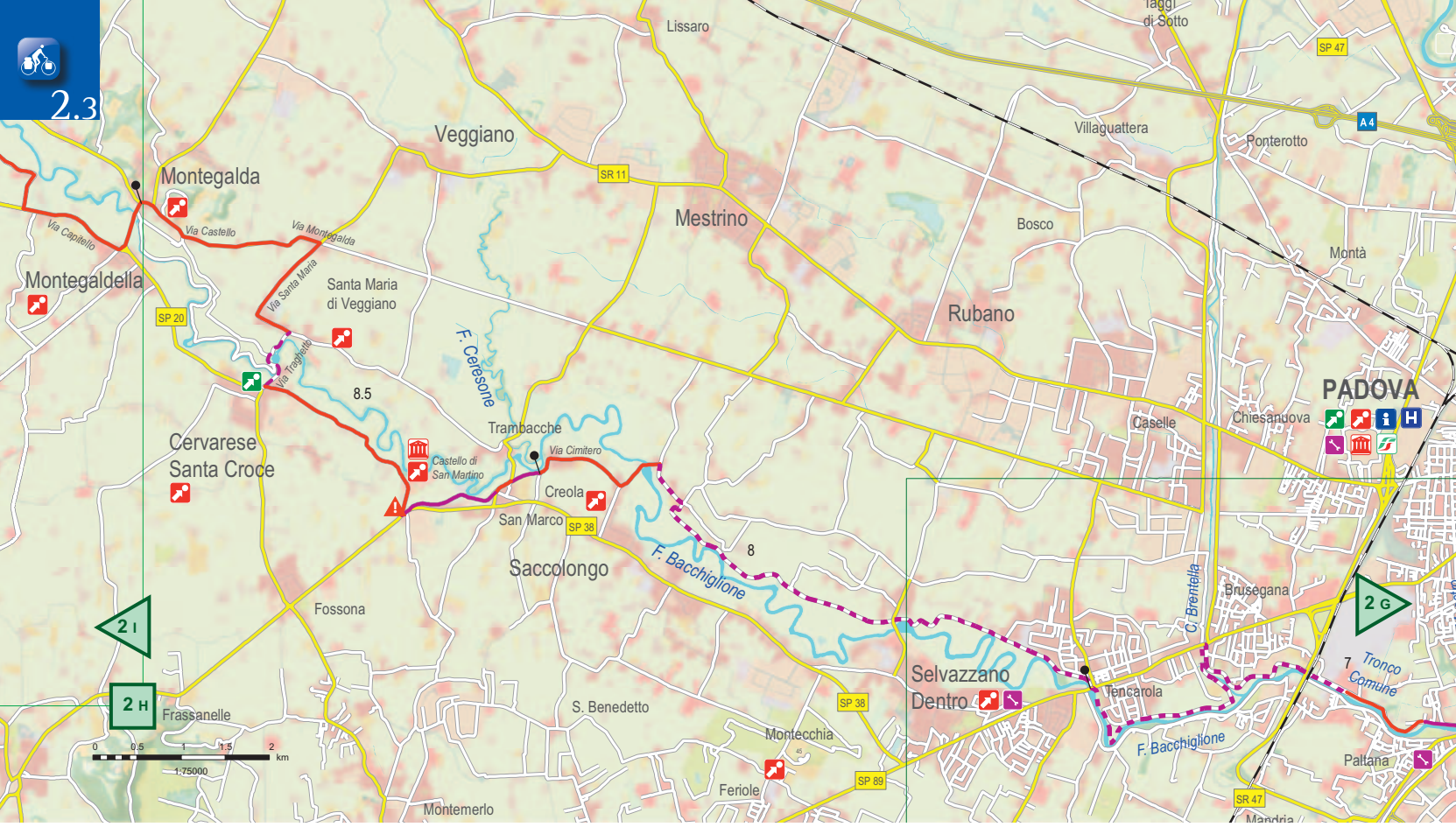
out over the city along with two masterpieces by Andrea Palladio – Villa Capra Valmarana or “La Rotonda” and the nearby Arco delle Scalette.

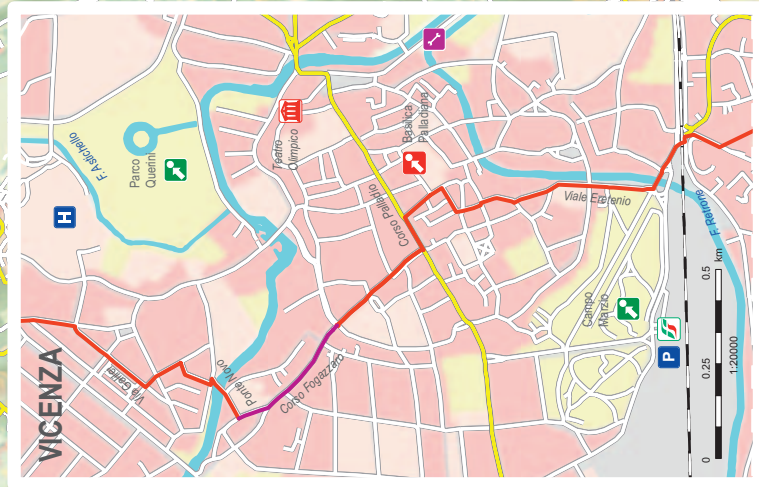






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