

## Olfactory experiences in Friuli Venezia Giulia

**From the Azalea Garden to the Rose Garden in Cordovado, from the Lignano Sabbiadoro Riviera to San Daniele del Friuli, and from Colli Orientali to the Karst: have a nose for the discovery of these destinations.**

Trieste, 13 March 2023 - Food and wine experiences, **olfactory tastings**, nature walks among the rose gardens of the Region, **vineyards, lagoons, and mountains**. There are many opportunities to build **the olfactory memory of a journey**, and just as many reasons to pursue it on the coasts, hills, and mountains of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

A very recent article by Julia Eskins published in National Geographic Italy reveals that an increasing number of accommodation facilities are relying on professional perfumers to provide guests with a highly emotional way of experiencing their surroundings. Scents are capable, in fact, of imprinting indelible memories in people's minds, evoking places and sensations experienced over a long period of time, and the **botanical and landscape features** of Friuli Venezia Giulia are so diverse that a personalised olfactory itinerary can be chosen according to individual preferences.

### The azalea Garden of Gorizia

**The botanical area created by Luciano Viatori** is located within Piuma Isonzo Park in Gorizia; a space created in the 1970s at his behest, housing three terraces of plants that release their best fragrances in spring. From the garden, there is a **splendid view of Gorizia and Nova Gorica** (which are jointly the **2025 European Capital of Culture**), the Isonzo river, the Karst, and the Prealps. From March to June, hundreds of rhododendrons and azaleas, collections of lilacs, hydrangeas, spireas, viburnums, osmanthus, peonies, climbing roses, plum, and flowering apple trees, and a hundred deciduous magnolias can be admired and inhaled. The best time to enjoy the scents of snowdrops and daffodils is at the end of winter when flowerbeds are also coloured with fragrant Phlox and Iberis. From spring to autumn, the fragrances of an intense, enveloping bouquet of irises, peonies, Hemerocallis, Hosta, sages, poppies, Agapanthus, asters, gladioli, lilies, dahlias, and cyclamens reign supreme. The opening of the Azalea Garden of Gorizia is planned for the first days of April.

[Lucio Viatori Garden/ Garden of Azaleas \(turismoFVG.it\)](https://www.turismoFVG.it)

### The Rose Garden of Cordovado

The **castle of Cordovado** reveals traces of prehistoric times and was later the site of a settlement during the Roman era. All that remains of the original structure are the half towers and part of the surrounding walls, which contain the 12th-century church, the 15th-century Agricola palace, medieval houses, and the Freschi Piccolomini Villa which dates back to 1511.

The garden was designed to harness elements of the landscape. The moats, hills, walls, and the remains of the Roman road compose **an evocative labyrinth where the walls are actually damask rose plants** that guide the way, leading visitors along with an intense and intoxicating perfume. These roses belong to a variety that blooms exclusively in the months of spring when the rose garden itself is **open for guided tours**.

<https://www.turismoFVG.it/historic-homes/castello-di-cordovado>

### The sage trail in Karst

One of the nature reserves in the territory of Gorizia and Trieste, **the rocky Karst plateau** offers many unique hiking opportunities. One path in particular, **surrounded by wild sage**, which unleashes an unmistakable aroma in specific months of the year, is among the best destinations for a walk in nature overlooking the sea. The section of the trail connects Aurisina and Santa Croce and winds along the Karst, and it is thanks to the herbal medicinal plant *Salvia officinalis* that the trail is permeated with fragrance. If you walk along the sage Trail, you will also see holm oak and terebinth, as well as various aromatic plants, sumac, genisteae, and maritime pines. The path is sheltered from the Bora wind, which means that the scents also linger here for a long time.

<https://www.turismofvg.it/en/trieste-and-karst>

### The Park of Miramare Castle

Miramare Castle and its park were created at the behest of Archduke Maximilian of Habsburg around the year 1855. The Archduke and his spouse Charlotte of Belgium made efforts to accommodate a large number of **plants from all over the world** in the park, which still today bears witness to the strong biodiversity pursued by the rulers and which perfumes the air with distinct Mediterranean aromas.

Until June 11 2023, the exhibition **“ARS Botanica. Paper Gardens”**. This exhibition is dedicated to the collection of books on botany, flowers, plants, and gardens that the two monarchs collected during their lifetime of study. There are many new features and openings planned for the year 2023 in the Park complex of Miramare Castle, including **Mira-Lab**, an inclusive and multifunctional educational space, and the reopening of the restored **Castelletto**, which is now ready to host guided tours. By the end of May, the **historic kitchens** will be open to the public, while we will have to wait until summer to be able to visit the **Chinese parlour**. Last but not least, the restoration of the **ancient greenhouses** will be completed towards the end of the year 2023, where running water, electrical, and heating systems will be installed to return them to their original use.

<https://www.turismofvg.it/castles/miramare-castle>

### The aroma of Picolit

Picolit is a white grape variety, indigenous to Friuli Venezia Giulia. The straw wine (passito) produced from this grape releases sweet fragrances of acacia honey, peach, and ripe apricots. The history of Picolit has its roots in the area of **Rosazzo, in the Friuli Colli Orientali DOC wine region**. The grape variety is difficult to grow and its yields are comparatively low. The grape clusters are harvested by hand, to avoid spoiling the fruit. Therefore, in addition to a good glass of Picolit, possibly served by one of the producers of the [FVG Wine and Taste Route](#), a recommended olfactory experience is to visit the production villages during harvest time when the air is filled with sweet fragrances.

<https://www.turismofvg.it/wines/picolit>

### The air of San Daniele del Friuli

Of all the food and wine sensory experiences, the town of San Daniele del Friuli is definitely a major destination. Starting from the main square, you can proceed to discover the prosciutto factories and rediscover the delicate but incisive aroma of the famous **PDO Prosciutto di San Daniele**. The microclimate, combined with the skills of the local men and women, is the primary architect of the qualities of the prosciutto. The central hillside of San Daniele del Friuli is swept by northeast winds that flow from the Carnic Alps to the Adriatic, and the soil boasts a unique hygroscopic capacity which drains water and moisture. The effect of these conditions generates a **unique environment** of permanent ventilation and moderate humidity.

<https://www.turismofvg.it/dop-products/prosciutto-di-san-daniele-and-other-cured-meats>

### Wild plants of the Riviera and mountain farming.

Some places in the Region have been studied by perfume makers and botanists that have resulted in the creation of territorial products and essences. Other territories, like **Piancavallo**, have always focused on the cultivation of curative plants, and **Arnica** is a tangible example of this. An intense olfactory experience with a pleasant aromatic scent is released from the plant that blooms in late June and is recommended and highly sought after by many mountain lovers. High-quality products are extracted from the plants by exploiting the valuable pain-relieving, anti-inflammatory, and anti-ecchymotic properties of arnica montana. <https://www.turismofvg.it/locality/piancavallo>

Meanwhile, on the Riviera, thanks to the rediscovery of the wild dwarf orchid ***Sphecodes Atrata Miller*** which grows **among the sand dunes of the coast**, the essence of riviera was created. In use by a local laboratory for the production of cosmetics, the essence becomes a souvenir for tourists who leave the city carrying with them a dash of the local fragrance.

IO SONO  
FRIULI  
VENEZIA  
GIULIA



<https://www.turismofvg.it/lignano-beaches/lignano-riviera-beach>