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Art & Culture

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Welcome to the Friuli Venezia Giulia cities

Trieste

Trieste has a free and elusive soul as Jan (James) Morris says in "Trieste o del nessun luogo". Morris, who lived here as a British officer in World War II (and then changing gender in 1972), writes: "Visitors often leave disoriented and, back home, remember Trieste with a vague sense of mystery, as something unreachable." It's in this atmosphere that the city of the bora wind bewitches and seduces you.



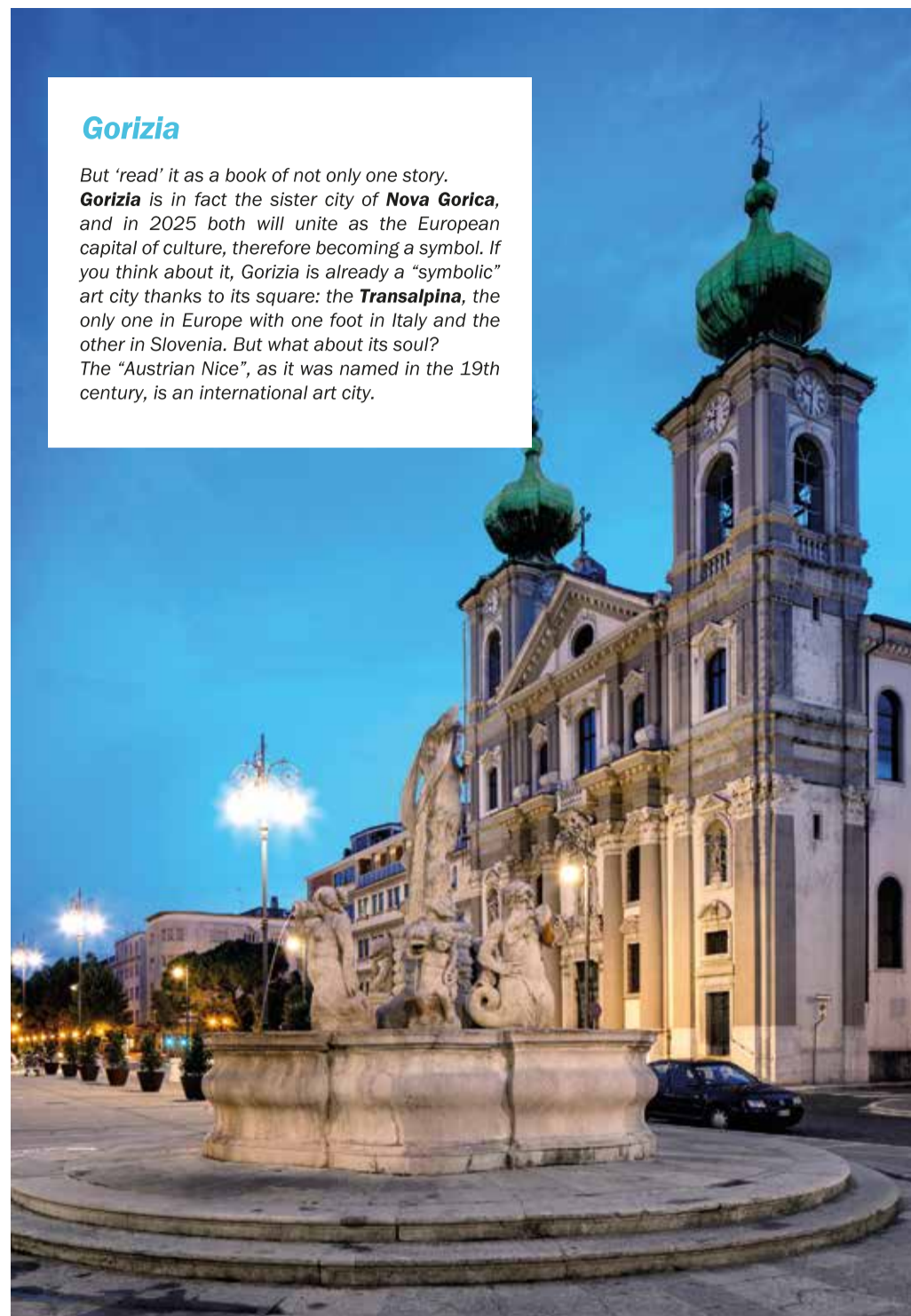
Visit **Cavana**, the Old Town, and the **Jewish Ghetto**. Wander the narrow streets, discover the taverns, on the trail of life, and remember James Joyce, the professor searching for his ghosts. If you start from the **Rive** and walk along the Molo Audace pier, feel the quiet and transcendental magic rising on the horizon bathed by sea. If you turn your eyes to the city in front of you, you will realise that Trieste is solemn in its shapes and buildings and cosmopolitan in its urbanism with the **Grand Canal** "Porto di Vienna", the **Church of San Nicolò dei Greci**, the **Hotel de la Ville**, **Piazza Unità**, white, majestic, and perfect with **Colle di San Giusto** in the background. Trieste is the city of psychoanalytic art and unforgettable literature revolving around it. Remember, Dr. Weiss, the doctor of Svevo and Saba, who brought Freud's theories to Italy, read the modern pages of Ettore Schmidt, aka "Italo Svevo". And if you truly want to absorb this atmosphere through its art, visit the **Revoltella Museum** to enjoy the works of Arturo Nathan, the painter of solitude. This is where you lose yourself in the Gallery of Modern Art, among the paintings of Leonor Fini, Felice Casorati, Giorgio Morandi, in one of his few landscapes. But Trieste is a secret and curious art city. Discover the presnitz pastry shops; enter the courtyards of the Art Nouveau buildings, such as the one in Via Tigor 12, in the "Casa dei Mascheroni". Seek out and live the culture of the real Caffè, with the

favourite table, chosen by Claudio Magris. Visit and breathe in the churches as Trieste is a religious art city of exceptional vastness: each community has found the perfect place to build its own temple since the time of Maria Theresa of Habsburg in the 18th century. Also not to be missed is a visit to the cemetery of Sant'Anna, an open-air museum inclusive of every religion. And remember Umberto Saba: "La mia città che in ogni parte è viva, ha il cantuccio a me fatto, alla mia vita pensosa e schiva" ("My city is alive in every part, it has a nook made for me, for my thoughtful and shy life").



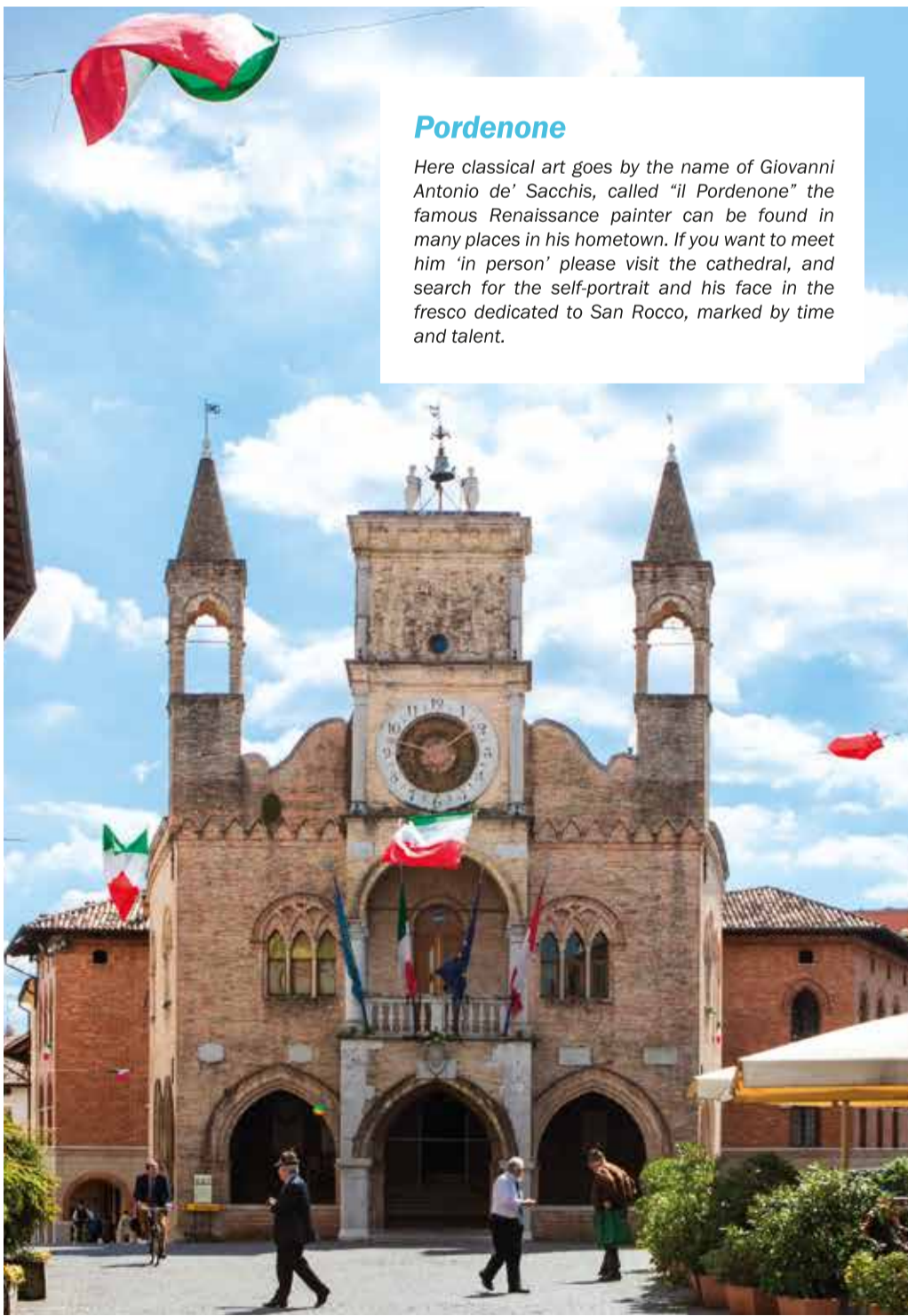
Gorizia

But "read" it as a book of not only one story. **Gorizia** is in fact the sister city of **Nova Gorica**, and in 2025 both will unite as the European capital of culture, therefore becoming a symbol. If you think about it, Gorizia is already a "symbolic" art city thanks to its square: the **Transalpina**, the only one in Europe with one foot in Italy and the other in Slovenia. But what about its soul? The "Austrian Nice", as it was named in the 19th century, is an international art city.



Let's start our walk together by discovering the Jewish feeling of the synagogue in Via Ascoli; it is the oldest in Friuli Venezia Giulia, dated 1756. Enter the prayer hall on the first floor and we will be flooded by the crystal-clear light rushing through five windows representing the five books of the Pentateuch. If at first glance Gorizia is positioned as a border city, it is actually bursting with the freedom of everyday life. It is the world of the **covered market**, coloured by the words and faces of the elderly farmers offering seasonal herbs. Wintertime is for canary radicchio and the Gorizia Rose radicchio, queen of our food culture and history. If you wish to visit the city's most original art visit **Palazzo Coronini Cronberg** to touch Franz Xaver Messerschmidt's "Character heads" sculpted by the artist in the 1770s: they are disconcertingly modern. The artist, who suffered from schizophrenia, portrays himself grimacing in the mirror to ward off demons "envious" of his art. If you stop for a moment under the trees of **Basaglia Park**, you can imagine that under their shade, two hundred years

after Messerschmidt, Franco Basaglia began his 20th-century psychiatric revolution, reaching San Giovanni in Trieste. Do you want to experience the authentic Middle European atmosphere? The **Provincial Museums** are just the place for you, with the Fashion and Applied Arts museums. The fabrics here echo sumptuous parties, multilingual conversations, memories of silks and lace, for which Gorizia is still famous. Two dresses from the 1920s are preserved here: they belong to Margaret Stonborough Wittgestein, the sister of the philosopher Ludwig who became friends with Freud and was portrayed by Gustav Klimt in her wedding dress. Gorizia is today a modern city of art that in its objects vibrating with memories narrates about its history: we refer to the philosopher/artist Carlo Michelstaedter who died at only 23 years of age. To discover the history of the city's Jewish community, you can start with this artist. You will certainly thank us if you visit the "Jerusalem on the Isonzo" Museum.



Pordenone

Here classical art goes by the name of Giovanni Antonio de' Sacchis, called "il Pordenone" the famous Renaissance painter can be found in many places in his hometown. If you want to meet him 'in person' please visit the cathedral, and search for the self-portrait and his face in the fresco dedicated to San Rocco, marked by time and talent.

The art of the city of **Pordenone** shows its spirit along its long Vittorio Emanuele II road. If you look up, the frescoed buildings become winged worlds of symbols and colours, and if you are patient, wandering the streets, you will see more than one spring swallow flying under the porticoes. Nestled and hidden under the arches are many nests, and if you are lucky, you will catch a glimpse of a house martin flying to the **Verdi theatre**. What is the true art of Pordenone? Its culture, moving light and democratic among the people in the squares, on the theatre stages, carried by international words and peace, evoked during the events that the imaginative freedom of the citizens of the city have been able to invent and spread among the streets. The events are the protagonists of the artistic wave that make Pordenone the true multitasking and overcolor art city. Among the most important festivals are "Dedica" (dedication) ", "Le voci dell'inchiesta" (voices of the enquiry), "Pordenonelegge", "Le giornate del cinema muto" (Silent film festival), "Piccolo Festival dell'animazione" (animation festival). Pordenone is an "art city" also from an industrial, Art&Craft, and design point of view, and let's not



forget the world of comics with the **PAFF** (Palazzo Arti Fumetto Friuli). If we look at the city through the eyes of an industrial archaeologist, the highlights here are the constructions surrounding the city centre: the tall chimney giants. In the 19th century Pordenone was the "Manchester of Friuli" shaped by its factories: "Galvani" ceramics and "Rex-Zanus-si" appliances. Nowadays, its artistic soul is closer to modern day creations and the freedom to invent them. This is the most beautiful form of the word "culture". If I had to describe its colour, it would have the rhythm of a new intense sound. Some exceptional musical groups live here. I can recall the "Tre allegri ragazzi morti", "The Great Complotto", Teho Teardo, the Comacose; Remo Anzovino; the genius Harry Bertoia also left for America from here in the 1930s. He was the sculptor of eleven metal discs, the "Sonambient". And then there is the green art of nature, with the Noncello river running under your feet, which makes Pordenone seem like Monet's Giverny, with a Copenhagen future.



Udine

**Udine** is the city of clear blue skies, with colours that the New Yorker and Japanese guests of the **FEFF** (Far East Film Festival) like so much. It has the peach-coloured sunsets which enchanted Giambattista Tiepolo, the Venetian artist, who in the 18th century filled his paintings with the unforgettable backgrounds and biblical figures present at the **Diocesan Museum**, in the **Duomo**, and preserved in the **Castle**, home of the Civic Museums.

It is worth the trip just to see the fresco "Sara and the Angel" from the Galleria degli Ospiti at the Diocesan, with the pop power of the Angel's robes, a symbol of an art that has no time and seduces the contemporary tourist. And to add a little gold, I suggest his son Giandomenico's frescoes in the Chapel of Purity, kissed by the grace of a subtle light carried by the sun. The art city of Udine is home to an interesting new museum, **Casa Cavazzini**, with modern and contemporary art located in the city centre, and a collection called Astaldi, which offers 193 of the best Italian and international 20th-century works, created by artists such as Savinio, De Chirico, Sironi, De Pisis, but also Picasso, Braque, Chagall. Casa Cavazzini houses an apartment of the patron Dante Cavazzini, with preserved furnishings signed by the Basaldella brothers. There is also a 1930s bathroom with eccentric gymnast rings hanging from the ceiling that rip a smile between one painting and another. Udine is small, and it doesn't

take long to visit. Still, it is rich with eclectic museums and talking objects, such as those present at the Ethnographic. Here you see the light bulbs created by Arturo Malignani, the genius from Udine who patented the creation of the perfect vacuum inside an incandescent bulb and gave the world absolute pure light, and then personally sold his invention to Edison in 1895, at the age of thirty, during a trip to America. This is a little-known fact, but it was - and is - the fruit of very talented art. Let your eyes travel to the hill where the **Castle** stands. Not only will the gaze of the golden and omnipresent Angel be upon you, but you will also discover a strange medieval tower that stands out among the roofs. It is Malignani's laboratory, where he scrutinised the stars and carried out his experiments. This is also the city of Tina Modotti, the most famous pasionaria artist in the world, whose birthplace is in Via Pracchiuso. Its artistic façade is signed by Franco Del Zotto, and it definitely deserves a visit to lose your gaze in a sea of poetic words.

