

*Life in the midst
of Beauty*



GARGNANO LAKE GARDA



Introduction

4



History, Art and Culture

- The “Limonaie” **6**
- The Italian Social Republic **7**
- Places of historical interest **9**
- Places of faith
 - Sanctuaries **12**
 - Churches **13**
- Illustrious figures
 - Giovan Battista Grazioli **21**
 - David Herbert Lawrence **23**



Strolling gently

24



The flavours of Gargnano

29



Sporting activities

30

... "There are vineyards
and olive woods
and lemon gardens
on the hill at the back.
There is a lovely little square,
where the Italians gossip
and the fishermen
pull up their boats, just near.
Everything is too nice for words
- not a bit touristy -
quite simply Italian
common village." ...

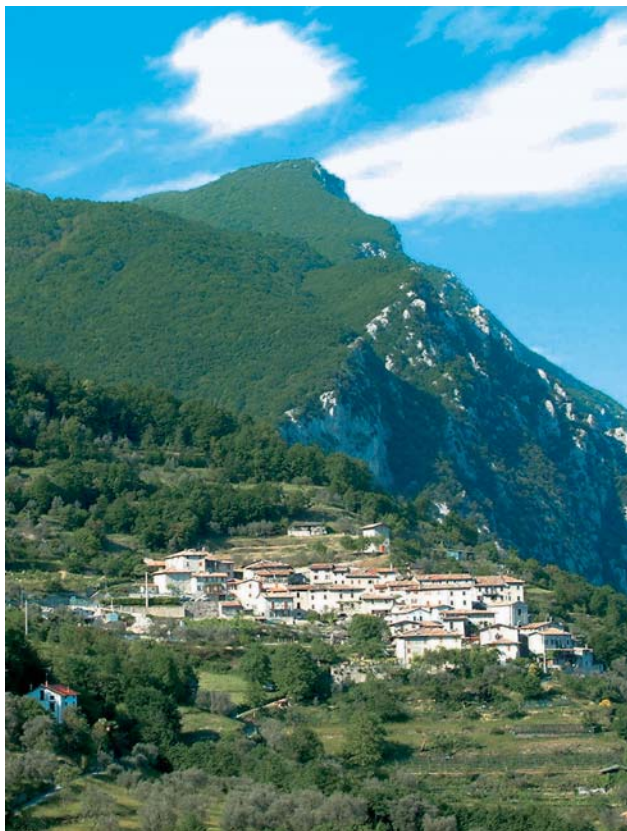
D. H. Lawrence
From a letter to Edward Garrett
16 September 1912



Wandering between the port and the alleyways of Gargnano, or venturing into the maze of tracks that squeeze between the imposing walls of the lemon greenhouses, one can often sense the particular atmosphere of this little town, tied to its agricultural past, and with a landscape that has been preserved almost intact over the years.

This atmosphere has remained unchanged with passing time, and is the essence of the town's beauty; Gargnano lies on the western shore of Lake Garda, like a stage where the lives of its inhabitants weave and meld with those of the many visitors who for years have chosen it as the place to spend their holidays.

At sunset a magnificent mass of colours, like vast fans in orange and scarlet, squeeze and mingle through the narrow lanes carved into the stone-clad walls to meet in the little squares and ports where the different languages of the inhabitants mix and blend, like goblets of wine that scent the different places of the earth.



Musaga

Formaga



Gargnano enjoys a central position within the Parco dell'Alto Garda Bresciano nature reserve, and is the municipality with the largest land area: 78.3 Km².

Gargnano, and its outlying villages Villa and Bogliaco are on the lakeside, whilst the villages of Villavetro, Fornico and Zuino nestle on the gentle ridge above, surrounded by olive groves. At some 500 metres above sea level, the hill is home to a further five villages: Liano, Formaga, Navazzo, Sasso and Musaga. Set apart from the other villages is Muslone, atop a steep cliff overlooking the lake, whilst Costa is surrounded by the green of nature, 18 kilometres from Gargnano. Gargnano's inland territory also includes another lake, Valvestino, a genuine fjord, lying between the mountains of the valley from which it takes its name, and the municipal territory, with its thirteen villages extends to embrace remarkably variegated landscapes and lifestyles, from the lake to the plains to the mountains, offering visitors a vast and varied array of environmental, social, sporting and culinary experiences.



Gargnano



Fornico - Chiesa di S. Valentino

Although the first settlements can be traced back to the period of the Etruscans and Cenomani, the actual town of Gargnano was founded in Roman times. Its social evolution, and above all its artistic and architectural development, are basically linked to two periods in history. The first, according to tradition, was in the 13th Century, when a Franciscan monastery was built, which was to become not only a centre of deep spirituality, but also the seed from which the cultivation of citrus fruits developed, most certainly the most distinctive crop of the Garda area, made possible by the lake's mild microclimate. The second period began in the 18th Century but reached its peak in the late 19th Century, when the rich nobility and bourgeoisie began to build their fine villas and elegant residences, focal points for their large estates, which certainly contributed to the integrity of this territory, and thus to the conservation of the landscape. The result of this evolution is a series of mansions and villas, some of which would later house the ministries and bureaus of the Italian Social Republic from 1943 to 1945.

THE "LIMONAIÉ"

What are those high pillars that reach towards the sky, all in a row, enclosed on three sides by white stone walls? Lake Garda, in particular along the shores at Gargnano, can still today offer visitors examples of architectural structures that can be seen nowhere else, tangible witnesses of an era and a civilisation. Limonaie are greenhouses for growing lemon trees, and for centuries they were central to Gargnano's economy and its appearance, built to make citrus cultivation possible at these latitudes (the furthest north in the world). In 1840 Gargnano saw the establishment of the "Società Lago di Garda", Italy's first agricultural cooperative, organised to harvest, grade and market this valuable product. Citrus cultivation reached its peak in 1850-1855 when Gargnano was home to around half the lemon greenhouses along the entire length of the lake. The decline of the trees due to the disease gummosis, competition from southern Italy following the unification of the Kingdom of Italy, and above all the discovery of the chemical synthesis of citric acid, gradually led growers to abandon this activity.

In the chapter "The Lemon Gardens", in his book "Twilight in Italy", D. H. Lawrence, an attentive observer and narrator of Gargnano's traditions, writes: ... "All summer long, upon the mountain slopes steep by the lake, stand the rows of naked pillars rising out of the green foliage like ruins of temples: white, square pillars of masonry, standing forlorn in their colonnades and squares, rising up the mountains-sides here and there, as if they remained from some great race that had once worshipped here. And still, in the winter,

some are seen standing away in lonely places where the sun streams full, grey rows of pillars rising out of a broken wall, tier above tier, naked to the sky, forsaken" ...

THE ITALIAN SOCIAL REPUBLIC

In 1944, after years of bloody advances and retreats, the Second World War had hit Italy full-force, splitting it in two. In the south, the royal forces were fighting alongside the Anglo-American troops, whilst from Rome north, the German army determinedly sought to resist the slow advance of its adversaries.

In October 1943 Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler made a last-ditch attempt to rally fascist Italy, establishing the Italian Social Republic between Salò and Gargnano.

The choice of the western shores of Lake Garda as the seat of the new government was no chance event.

Lake Garda was a quiet area, far from the social tensions of the big cities, with limited partisan activity and a low risk of airborne or commando attacks. Germany had annexed Trentino, the South Tyrol and much of the northern end of the lake, meaning that the borders of the Reich had advanced to Limone, just 20 kilometres from Gargnano: the territory was easy to reach and to defend. Furthermore, the area offered numerous hotels, infirmaries, elegant villas and sumptuous private residences, conveniently and easily providing suitable accommodation for ministries, administrative offices, Fascist party officials and Italian and German officers.

The Social Republic was officially born on 14 November 1943, coinciding with the National Assembly of the Fascist Party held in Verona. On 1 December 1943 the new State took its definitive name, the Italian Social Republic. On 10 October 1943 Mussolini arrived in Gargnano, where he occupied Villa Feltrinelli (now a luxury hotel), in San Faustino. He lived there with his wife Donna Rachele, his children Romano and Annamaria, and other close relatives.

Villa Feltrinelli was patrolled by thirty SS officers from Hitler's personal guard, lodged in the cellars beneath the villa (only later would an Italian unit be allowed to come and work alongside the Germans). An anti-aircraft cannon was installed on the roof. 600 metres from Villa Feltrinelli, in the centre of Gargnano, Palazzo Feltrinelli (now a branch of Milan's public university) housed the political and special bureaus entrusted to the hands of Vittorio Mussolini and Giovanni Dolfin. On the main road, the barracks of the "Magnolini" Alpine Corps became the base for Mussolini's guards. A large runway for light aircraft was located where we now see the Bogliaco Golf Resort. In Bogliaco, the Eighteenth-Century Palazzo Bettoni housed the Prime Minister's Offices, where cabinet meetings were called by the Undersecretary Barracu. In the tunnels between Gargnano and Riva del Garda factories were set up, specialising in the production and repair of weapons and engines for cars and planes. The workshops occupied half the width of the tunnels, forcing road traffic to run alternately in either direction.

The two Italies, that of Badoglio and that of the Italian Social Republic, continued along their parallel paths from 8 September 1943 to 25 April 1945, the date of liberation. Benito Mussolini met his end on 28 April, not at Lake Garda, but near Lake Como.



Gargnano

Hotel Gardenia al Lago Hotel Du Lac

*... "We are sitting in an
olive garden on the lake,
and it is sunset of a perfect day.*

*The tops of the mountains
across are rose-coloured.*

*In the twilight on the lake
below the fishers row standing up.*

*One is drawing in his line,
and there are glints of silver.*

It is so still. "...

D.H. Lawrence



HOTEL GARDENIA AL LAGO

Via Colletta, 53
Tel. +39 0365 71195 • Fax +39 0365 72594
www.hotel-gardenia.it • info@hotel-gardenia.it



HOTEL DU LAC

Via Colletta, 21
Tel. +39 0365 71107 • Fax +39 0365 71055
www.hotel-dulac.it • info@hotel-dulac.it

I-25084 VILLA DI GARGNANO (BS) • LAGO DI GARDA

In the following months, the hotels, villas and homes used for ministries and offices were returned to their rightful owners.

*Translated from: "I luoghi della Repubblica di Salò"
published by Consorzio Alberghi Riviera del Garda.*

PLACES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

Villa Bettoni cannot be missed when you cast your eye over Bogliaco, a striking image that almost glows with light. The building is an exceptional example of architectural precision, reflecting the erudition of Lombardy's aristocracy in the Eighteenth Century. Built in the early 1700s by the architect Adriano Cristofori, the villa was commissioned by Giandomenico Bettoni. The main body of the great mansion is embellished by a balustrade with statues from mythology, sculpted by Giovanni Battista Locatelli.

At the centre of the building, the great hall that separates the wings of the villa houses frescoes by Beniamino and Fabrizio Gallari, as well as other works, which together form a veritable gallery of baroque art.

On the other side of the road, as if to reflect the magnificence of the building, is the spectacular giardino all'italiana (Italian garden), with its great exedra, nymph's grotto and flowerbeds. Beyond the garden there are some lemon greenhouses, and the park.

The Sixteenth-Century **Palazzo Comunale (town hall)** overlooks the little port at Gargnano.

It was designed by Giovanni Traffegnini, inspired by the style of Todeschini.

The ground floor features a portico upheld by pillars. On the first floor there is a Fifteenth-Century marble block bearing the town's coat of arms.

Palazzo Feltrinelli (1898-1899), built to be the private home of Giuseppe Feltrinelli, dominates piazza Vittorio Veneto. It was designed by



Villa - 1908

Alberico Belgiojoso, although some sources attribute it to Francesco Solmi, who designed Gargnano's cemetery, reminiscent of the Monumentale cemetery in Milan. The main body of Palazzo Feltrinelli is a highly imposing block with a rectangular layout. The entrance is most striking, architecturally coordinated with the central hall, which is lit through the roof.

The building was to gain historical importance, following its use during the period of the Italian Social Republic (1943-1945). Like many other buildings in Gargnano and elsewhere around the lake, it was requisitioned by the Fascist government, who converted it into Benito Mussolini's headquarters, and had it patrolled by Italian and German guards. The mansion is now a satellite branch of Milan's public university. Used as an international conference centre, in the summer it hosts Italian language courses for students from all over the world.

Villa Feltrinelli stands just a few hundred metres north of Gargnano, and is the town's most famous historic building. Built between 1892 and 1899, some attribute its design to Francesco Solmi, and others to Alberico Belgiojoso. Surrounded by magnificent grounds, it is encompassed by a number of other buildings which were once used to house the groundskeepers and farm hands, who took care of the stables and the lemon greenhouses.

The façade overlooking the lake is the most sumptuous part of the villa, whilst the park behind the building includes rare and valuable trees. Between October 1943 and April 1945, Villa Feltrinelli was the residence of Benito Mussolini, who lived there with his family. Nowadays the building has become a luxurious Villa-Hotel: the "Grand Hotel a Villa Feltrinelli".



Bogliaco - Palazzo Bettoni



Gargnano - Villa Feltrinelli



Eremo di S. Valentino (Foto Chitti)

PLACES OF FAITH

Sanctuaries

The Santuario del Crocefisso (Sanctuary of the Crucifix) can be reached by climbing the hill towards Fornico. It stands opposite the Church of San Pier d'Agrino.

In the Eighteenth-Century church of the Santa Trinità (or Holy Trinity, also known as the Santuario del Crocefisso) are preserved 24 processional poles of the same period, with the symbols of the Passion carved into the wood. Every five years, a procession is made through the parish, in honour of the Miraculous Cross.

The Eremo di San Valentino (St. Valentine's Hermitage, 772 m above sea level) overlooks Lake Garda from its dominant position. It can be reached in 40 minutes from the nearby village of Sasso, or by climbing a more challenging path from Gargnano (2 hours). The Fifteenth-Century inner walls of this little building (originally, it most likely provided shelter for people or animals) stand directly against the rocks.

Its current form and use are traditionally traced back to the mid-Seventeenth Century, and it is believed to have been a gift of thanks from some local people for having escaped the plague in 1630.

In the past this isolated dwelling has also housed the odd hermit: the last was Andrea Paladini, who died in 1865, and is remembered in the local dialect as the "romit de San Valenti".



Gargnano - 1913

Churches

Church of S. Giacomo di Calino - S. Giacomo

S. Giacomo (St. James) is a Romanesque chapel of considerable artistic interest, with frescoes from the 14th Century.

On the outside of the south wall we can clearly see the fresco of St. Christopher with the Child on his shoulders, a life-size depiction, so that it could be seen from far away: indeed, the belief was that anyone who gazed upon the image of the saint, for the rest of that day would be protected from sudden death. The altar is dedicated to St James the Greater, and a wooden statue of him, dating back to 1501 is preserved there.

The current door is of 16th-Century origin, as are the two square windows, which St. Charles Borromeo had installed on the occasion of his Apostolic Visit in August 1580.

Church of S. Francesco - Gargnano

The church was erected in 1289 by Franciscan monks, sent to Gargnano by the Bishop of Brescia.

The exterior is Romanesque in style, but interpreted according to the Franciscan approach, simple and unadorned.

On the gabled façade we can see a votive statue (1301) portraying the image of St. Anthony of Padua.

The interior of the church, which boasts paintings by Giovanni Andrea Bertanza and Andrea Celesti, was originally divided into a nave and two side aisles, which were later demolished to create a single nave, probably between the 17th and 18th Century.

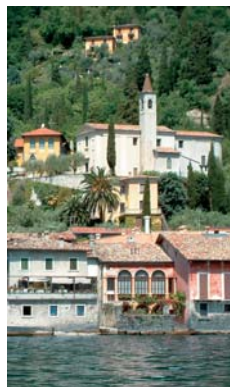
On the right-hand side of the building is the Cloister of the old Franciscan monastery. Built in the early 14th Century, this little square courtyard is surrounded by an arcaded walkway with Venetian-style arches, supported on the capitals of cylindrical columns.

The Cloister also contains two ancient artefacts from Roman times, found in Gargnano: a stone plaque (found in 1837) dedicated to Neptune, and a little altar honouring Revino, a local divinity.

Also in the Cloister you may be surprised to spot the 15th-Century marble coat of arms of the Municipality of Gargnano, identified with the initials C.G.: Communitatis Gargnani. The blazon depicts a wolf rampant, holding between the paws a fleur-de-lys, surmounted by a crown inverted.

In 1879 the monastery became property of the Società Lago di Garda, which converted it into a warehouse for citrus fruit; only in 1912 did the Italian government recognise the church as a national monument.

Alongside the church is the sarcophagus of Argilo da Gargnano (1302), in Veronese red porphyry stone. The simple structure



stands on four small columns, next to the left-hand part of an arcosolium tomb, with the Latin grave inscription: "This is the monument of the lord Argilo of Gargnano and his heirs".

Church of S. Martino - Gargnano

The parish church of San Martino (St. Martin) in its current elliptical shape and size (68.65 m x 23.35 m), dates back to 1837, and is the work of the architect Rodolfo Vantini of Brescia.

Previously on the same spot there was a more ancient sacred Roman building, believed to be of the 11th Century. The façade features a robustly columned portico entrance.

The interior of the church originally had a nave and two side aisles with eight altars, whereas today it has been reduced to a single nave with five altars.

The Last Supper, attributed to school of Paolo Veronese, other paintings by Giovanni Andrea Bertanza, the Venetian Andrea Celesti, Gianbettino Cignaroli and works from the Lombard school of the 15th Century adorn the church.

A few decades older than the church itself is the tall and elegant bell tower, built in 1722. The organ (1811) is the work of the Mantuan Luigi Montesanti; it was restored and modernised by Don Cesare Sora of Pontevico in the year 1906.

Church of S. Tommaso - Villa

It was the bells of S. Tommaso (St. Thomas) that sparked Lawrence's curiosity when he decided to visit the church. The English author writes: ... "So I set out to find it, I wanted to go to it. It was very near. I could see it from the piazza by the lake. And the village itself had only a few hundreds of inhabitants. The church must be within a stone's throw" ...; ... "I came out suddenly, as by a miracle, clean on the platform of my San Tommaso, in the tremendous sunshine" ...

The original building dates back to the 14th Century, and we can still see traces of its frescoes, but the reconstruction is far more recent. The fresco depicting St. Libera is very well preserved (1535).

Inside there are three altars: the high altar dedicated to St. Thomas, and two others, dedicated to St. Andrew the Apostle and St. Anne.

The monastery adjoining the church, built in 1906 upon the wishes of Monsignor Pietro Feltrinelli, was until recently home to Franciscan monks. Today it houses the Centre Européen de Rencontre et de Ressourcement, directed by Father Bruno Ducoli.



Villa - Convento di S. Tommaso



Villa - Convento di S. Tommaso



Church of the SS. Martiri - Bogliaco

In the intimacy of the little village of Bogliaco, you can spot it as you travel along the main road (Strada Statate Gardesana). The outside of the church is not particularly interesting, unlike the interior, and especially the gilded reredos of the altarpiece of the high altar, representing the apotheosis of the Holy Christian Martyrs, believed to be work of the Brescia school of the 17th Century. There are also some well-preserved canvases by the artist Celesti, such as Jesus turning the traders out of the temple, the Supper at Emmaus, the Supper at the house of Simon Levi and the Resurrection of Lazarus.

Church of S. Pier d'Agrino - Bogliaco

Climbing the hill from Bogliaco towards Fornico, the church of S. Pier d'Agrino (St. Peter of Agrino) makes for a pleasant walking destination. Right from down on the lake, the church catches the eye, with its tall, crenellated bell tower. The façade is completed with a porch, and inside we find the classic nave and two aisles, with eight columns and seven altars.

S. Pier d'Agrino has a 16th Century feel to it, and indeed its restoration was completed in 1576. The church still today boasts numerous paintings attributed to various artists, including some by Celesti; it is also home to an organ case dating back to 1672, a 17th-Century embossed and chiselled silver monstrance and a Fifteenth Century wooden statue of the saint, seated and giving blessings. Directly opposite the church of S. Pier d'Agrino stands the Eighteenth-Century church of the Santa Trinità (Holy Trinity), more popularly known as the Santuario del Crocefisso (Sanctuary of the Crucifix).

Church of S. Giovanni Battista - Musaga

Amidst the roofs of a little cluster of houses that cling to the hillside inland of Gargnano, in an almost fairytale atmosphere, the little hamlet of Musaga takes great care of its church. S. Giovanni Battista (St. John the Baptist) has a simple but intimate entrance, reached by crossing a small garden.

This little church, like its façade, stands out not because of its artistic or architectural details, but rather for its location: squeezed between the almost impenetrable lanes, exuding the same sense of history as the village, S. Giovanni leads out onto a balcony with a sweeping view of Monte Baldo and its soul-stirring reflection in the lake below.

Church of S. Antonio Abate - Sasso

At some 500 metres above sea level, in a little hamlet of Sasso, inland of Gargnano, stands the parish church.

The building, which now has a single nave, was probably erected

in the 17th Century, on the ruins of a 12th-Century chapel. S. Antonio Abate (St. Anthony, Abbot) was originally a chaplaincy of the church of S. Martino at Gargnano, but was declared a parish in 1646.

There are three altars: the high altar, behind which stands the statue of its patron saint St. Anthony, Abbot, an altar dedicated to our Lady of the Rosary and one dedicated to the Last Supper, decorated with an 18th-Century canvas, painted by the local artist Stefano Celesti.

The courtyard offers matchless views over the lake.

Church of S. Maria Assunta - Navazzo

The front of the church, with its spacious porch, faces towards the village, but the gardens around the building offer sweeping views over the lake.

Believed to have been founded in the 1500s, the church was consecrated by Bishop Antonio Boscaioli on 15 August 1667. It has since been restored twice, the first time between 1722 and 1724, and the second time in 1930.

The chapel to the left of the high altar preserves frescoes painted prior to the 16th Century, proving that it was built before the main body of the church.

The altarpiece of the high altar, depicting the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and the canvas of the Last Supper above the altar to the left of the high altar are the work of Giovanni Andrea Bertanza.



Villa - Chiesa di S. Tommaso

Church of S. Rocco - Liano

In the peaceful inland village of Liano, surrounded by age-old chestnut trees, stands the little church of St. Rocco. Many autumns have passed since its construction, although its exact date is unknown. Curiously, the date 1077 is written both on the outer façade and on a tile in the middle of the floor: this must be an anachronism, since the church would appear to be much more recent, unless, of course, it is a reconstruction.

S. Rocco is decorated with two well-preserved paintings: the work of Andrea Bertanza portraying the Virgin in glory wrapped in a blue cloak and a pink robe, holding the Child on her lap; and the painting by Stefano Celesti (probably Andrea Celesti's father) depicting a Group of Saints in contemplation of the Virgin.

The familiar chestnut wood that makes the church appear even more charming is the perfect spot to stop for a snack with the little ones, with swings and other fun facilities laid on.

Chapel at Razione - Razione

Deep in the soothing calm of the woods, along the road that leads to Briano, the 17th-Century chapel at Razione (1684) overlooks the valley on one side, and on the other, from its height of some 1000 metres, commands a view over the entire lake.

According to tradition, as from the mid-13th Century, Franciscan monks chose Razione as the ideal location to build a monastery with a few small cells and a chapel.

The little church at Razione, now annexed to the mansion belonging to the Counts Bettoni, was rebuilt by order of Baron G. Battista della Zuana in 1705, so as to keep a vow made when the Turks besieged Vienna. During this building work a copy of the Madonna by Lucas Müller, also known as Kranach, was erected there, the original of which is kept in the Austrian capital.

Church of S. Matteo - Muslone

Walking to this church along the surrounding verdant pathways fills the heart with a sense of peace and joy. Our destination, S. Matteo (St. Matthew), awaits us in the intimate little hamlet of Muslone, once a medieval fief.

The church, commissioned by the count of Muslone, Matteo de' Medallis, in the early 15th Century, was built as a parish church in 1603, and rebuilt around 1721.

The altarpiece of the high altar, by the artist Bertanza, hides traces of Fifteenth-Century frescoes.



Bogliaco



Gargnano

ILLUSTRIOUS FIGURES

Giovan Battista Grazioli

Giovan Battista Ignazio Grazioli (1746 - 1820) was an illustrious citizen of Gargnano, born in Villavetro di Gargnano on 6 July 1746. Little is known about his life before he moved to Venice, with the intention of studying music at a professional level. In Venice Grazioli was the “worthy pupil” of Ferdinando Bertoni, organist at the musical chapel of S. Marco.

On 2 March 1781, Bertoni was granted two years’ leave, and was replaced by Grazioli. On 28 May 1782, on the death of Domenico Bettoni, the second organist, Grazioli was nominated and engaged in that position. Grazioli remained in this post until 1785, when Baldassarre Galoppi died, and he became first organist.

Around 1780 his 12 Sonate per cembalo (sonatas for harpsichord) and 6 Sonate da cembalo con violino obbligato (harpsichord sonatas with obligatory violin) were printed. As well as his harpsichord sonatas, Grazioli left manuscripts of some 400 compositions, almost all of which are preserved in Venice.

We know for certain that he wrote for the practical liturgical use of the Chapel; indeed it is difficult to imagine any other destination for his music. Of course, some of his sacred compositions may have been written on commission.

Grazioli died of consumption in Venice on 6 February 1820.

In the hamlet of Villavetro, the house of the illustrious musician and composer can still be seen today, in the street named after him. A plaque commemorating his birth identifies the house itself.



Villa - 1912

Translated from the writing of Margherita Tomasi and Alberto Iesuè.



Bogliaco - Giardino di Palazzo Bettoni

David Herbert Lawrence

In August 1912 David Herbert Lawrence, with his companion Frieda Weekley von Richtofen, began a long journey southward. They left England to travel through Germany and Austria, and after a short stay in the Tyrol, they set out, with their knapsacks on their backs, on an exhausting trek through the Alps, via Bolzano and Trento to Riva del Garda. From Riva they came to Gargnano, where they stayed from 18 September 1912 to 30 March 1913.

In this regard, there is a legend to be dispelled, regarding Lawrence's first lodgings at Gargnano. From his writings and letters it is clear that they did not stay for a while at the Hotel Cervo, on the harbour-side in Gargnano, now no longer a hotel, but still identifiable as the building that now houses the Banco di Brescia bank. However, they were undoubtedly friends of the proprietor, a lady of German origins. The only place where Lawrence and

Frieda stayed in Gargnano was in the little hamlet of Villa, in a furnished apart-

ment on the first floor of Villa Igea. The house belonged to signor Pietro De Paoli (1845-1917) and his wife Silvia Comboni De Paoli (1868-1931), who lived in Villa in the mansion that is now home to the Comunità Montana (mountain community administrative offices).

Whilst in Gargnano, Lawrence finished his novel "Sons and Lovers", worked on a volume of poetry, including "Sunday Afternoon in Italy" and "Spring Morning", both written in Gargnano, but above all he wrote some chapters on Lake Garda for his travel journal book "Twilight in Italy".

These chapters contain some memorable descriptions of our area, which fascinated him so, of its inhabitants, of the deep understanding of life as it was lived in Gargnano and on the shores of Lake Garda, and of its time-honoured rhythms. From 30 March to 11 April 1913, D.H. Lawrence and Frieda stayed in San Gaudenzio, above Gargnano, on the road for Muslone, with the Capelli family.

On our lake, Lawrence seems to have found a foretaste of that Mediterranean atmosphere that he found so fascinating, in Gargnano, a refuge from the culture of money and machinery that he so deeply detested, and in the people of Gargnano, the keepers of an ancient, and on the whole impassive, world, which remains unruffled by, and resists the upheaval of, tumultuous modernity.

Villa Igea can still be seen in the hamlet of Villa, at via Colletta 44. It is marked by a plaque commemorating their stay.



D.H. Lawrence



The best way to visit Gargnano is to wander slowly, taking the time to peep around every corner, losing ourselves as we gaze along the front of the various houses and other buildings, be they splendid or simple, reclaiming the pleasure of exploration that our increasingly frenetic lifestyle would have us forget altogether. There are two nice walks that take in some of the most interesting buildings in Gargnano and in the neighbouring villages of Villa and Bogliaco, both of which can conveniently start from Piazza Boldini.

The first walk begins by going north along via Roma, down the short slope past the offices of the Società Lago di Garda and the church of San Francesco with its Cloister. This leads to Gargnano's main square, where, in the houses opposite the port, we can still spot the bullets fired by the Austrian fleet in July 1866, during the Third War of Independence.

On the square itself the old town hall cuts a fine figure, whilst just a few dozen metres north stands Palazzo Feltrinelli. From here, walking along the lakeside, we come to the Fontanella public gardens, beyond which we can spot the monumental Villa Feltrinelli, standing aloof, guarded by the centuries-old trees of San Faustino.

Nowadays it is a high-class hotel, but during the Italian Social Republic it was the private residence of Benito Mussolini. Continuing our walk, with fine views of the lake, and surrounded by the remains of numerous lemon gardens, before the road begins to climb steeply, we take the track leading to the Romanesque church of S. Giacomo di Calì, where the outer porch preserves some beautiful frescoes. Built on the lakeside, it is one of the oldest churches on Lake Garda.

The second walk begins by going south along via Donatori di



Navazzo

Sangue (previously known as via Gamberera). Before walking down the slope, on the right we can spot a lovely lemon greenhouse, still working today, owned by the Gandossi family, and on the left, the kindergarten building commissioned by the Feltrinelli family and designed by Alberico Barbiano di Belgiojoso, with its unusual curvaceous dormer window and curious twisted chimneypots.



Gargnano

Continuing down the road that follows the lakeside, we come to the little port at Villa, a welcoming sight with its colourful houses overhanging the harbour, its charming bars and bitter orange trees. Passing under the arch we soon see the yellow house where D.H. Lawrence stayed, on our right, just before the stately Villa De Paoli, now home to the Comunità Montana. We then carry on to rejoin the main road, passing by the beautiful Palazzo Bettoni-Cazzago with its gardens and lemon greenhouses. From here we soon reach Bogliaco, with its ancient houses and its port which, jutting out into the lake, allows us to look back, as if from the water, and relive all the sensations evoked along the way here.



Zuino

The Information Office stocks a range of detailed guides for other walking routes, to accompany you as you visit the most hidden corners of Gargano's inland territory, including:

- a look at the more modest side of life in Gargnano, as witnessed by the hard work and devoutness of the common people of the past: venture into the town's narrow alleys and climb the stony tracks that ascend the lower slopes of the mountain, and you will discover a world of votive frescoes, rustic stone buildings and open-sided sheds, drawing the eye either up towards the green mountain, from which high white rocks streaked with



grey stand proud, or down towards the lake, its colours changing with the whims of light and wind. This is the world of via Quarcina, via dei Mulini and via Torrione, and again, it gives of its best when we wander through it slowly, not only because the steep slopes often dictate that we cannot climb or descend at any other pace, but above all because here your curiosity will frequently be drawn to discover hidden corners or sweeping views that can convey the kind of sensations that really make a holiday special;

- or, for those who want to broaden their range, pushing on to the first hamlets that form an amphitheatre over Gargnano and the lake beside which it lies, there is a long walk that takes us from Villa to Fornico, and from there into the municipal territory of Toscolano, where we can admire the little church of the Madonna di Supina, before walking down towards the golf course and back towards Bogliaco, passing through little farmyards and hamlets, full of evidence of their artistic, religious and rural history;
- for those who would like to get to know the Gargnano's other outlying villages, there is a vast territory full of hillsides with breathtaking views over the lake, secluded and solitary valleys, unspoilt woods and steep mountaintops. This area can be reached via the Montegargnano road, which leads to Lake Valvestino, and on to Lake Idro.



Bogliaco - 1911



Bogliaco - Palazzo Bettoni

To discover the flavours of Gargnano, what better place to start than from the lemon greenhouses? Nowadays, Gargnano can boast more traditionally maintained lemon greenhouses than any other municipality, including some centuries-old trees, such as the limone madernina (Maderno lemon), the rare cedro di Salò (Salò citron) and the limone lunario (almanac lemon). Gargnano's hamper of produce also includes: fine fish from the lake, fished every night by the Dominici family, known locally as "Franz", and sold the following morning outside the old town hall in a "traditional fish market"; extra-virgin olive oil produced by pressing classic cultivars such as "casaliva" and "leccino", or the rare local variety "gargnà"; capers that grow naturally in the walls of the old lemon greenhouses, and the local cheeses of Briano, Costa and Montegargnano.



THE FLAVOURS OF GARGNANO



The unspoilt landscape of Gargnano, abounding in olive groves, chestnut woods and vineyards, is a real paradise for nature lovers and outdoor sports enthusiasts: miles of paths of all levels of difficulty to cover on foot, mountain bike or horseback, allowing all those who choose to discover the charm and magic of Monte Gargnano to do so. Mountaineering is another popular activity in Gargnano: our peaks can be conquered either following the convenient scenic pathways, or along ridges, via ferratas or classic mountaineering routes of varying levels. There is no lack of cliff faces to practise rock-climbing, not to mention a brand new climbing wall to train and prepare before going out to climb for real on the mountains around Lake Garda. The Val di Vesta, isolated due to the creation of the artificial lake Valvestino, offers an exceptionally natural environment, and for this reason it has been declared a "Wilderness Area", one of just thirty in the whole of Italy. This is a park within a park, where human intervention is kept to a minimum, and protection of the environment and conservation of biodiversity are the prime scientific and moral principles, a genuine cathedral to nature. Behind the hills at Gargnano, lies the Bogliaco Golf Resort, one of Italy's oldest golf clubs, inaugurated in 1912. This is an 18-hole course with a par of 67, abounding in oleanders, laurels, cypresses, olives and other typically Mediterranean plants. At Navazzo di Gargnano you can try your hand at clay-pigeon shooting or archery with animal figure targets.

Lake Garda is the ideal spot for wonderful motorboat trips, on board your own craft, or renting from one of the many specialised centres.

Over the years, Gargnano has become one of Europe's biggest and best-known sailing centres, thanks to the prestigious and atmospheric Centomiglia race, held in September each year, when the best teams from all over the world take each other on, colouring the waters of Lake Garda with hundreds of sails.





Comune di Gargnano



Cara vecchia Gargnano...

Ufficio Tecnico (<i>edilizia privata</i>)	Tel. 0365 7988206
Ufficio Tecnico (<i>lavori pubblici, demanio extraportuale</i>)	Tel. 0365 7988219
Ufficio Tecnico (<i>settore manutentivo</i>)	Tel. 0365 7988212
Ufficio Tributi	Tel. 0365 7988209
Ufficio Ragioneria / Commercio	Tel. 0365 7988210
Ufficio Servizi Demografici	Tel. 0365 7988216
Ufficio Servizi Sociali / Pubblica Istruzione	Tel. 0365 7988208
Ufficio Cultura / Personale	Tel. 0365 7988207
Biblioteca Comunale	Tel. 0365 72625
Polizia Locale / Demanio Portuale	Tel. 0365 71237



Comune e Pro Loco
di Gargnano



Regione Lombardia

Turismo

RIVIERA DEI LIMONI
Lago di Garda



Villa



CONSORZIO TURISTICO GARGNANO RELAX

25084 Gargnano (BS) Italy - Piazza Boldini, 2
Tel. +39 0365 791243 - Fax +39 0365 791244

www.gargnanosulgarda.it

e-mail: info@gargnanosulgarda.it