



## The love story of Giovanni and Fiore

There are plenty of documents telling about the past of the city. What we find in the city's archives is not only precious for local history, but also of great help to better understand the past of the major neighboring cities. Many documents are kept in the most important archives of the Veneto region, too. A medieval historian has recently brought to light the unfortunate love story of Fiore and Giovanni. They lived in the first half of the 14th century in the county of Noale, where Guecello Tempesta was the lord; they were killed with a spear by the hand of the lady's brother, Alberto, a June night in 1332. Their fault? They had listened to the feeling of their hearts, and had challenged the conventions of the time that would not accept that a wealthy girl could fall in love with a poor young man. A poignant story that can be recalled while walking along the south spall, Viale delle Rimembranze, surrounding the fortress, where couples of fiancés and newlyweds often stop to take some romantic photos.



# NOALE

*A town with an ancient heart*

#mynoaale



PRO LOCO NOALE

## Useful phone numbers

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**Local Police**  
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Ph. (+39) 041.5085911

## How to reach us



*To know more...*

## Outdoor markets

**Weekly market on Thursdays**  
(piazza Castello and piazza XX Settembre)  
**Flowers and plants market**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in April)  
**Antiques market**  
(piazza Castello,  
second Sunday of the month)

**oddn19**  
**COSMO**

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**A4 freeway**  
Exit: Scorzè-Martellago tollbooth  
(Noale is 6 km south of the exit)

**Regional road 515**  
Treviso-Padua

**Provincial Road 38**  
Campomampiero-Venice

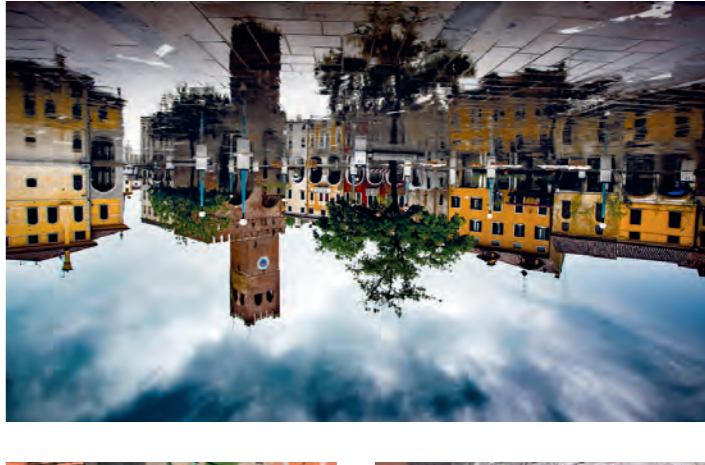
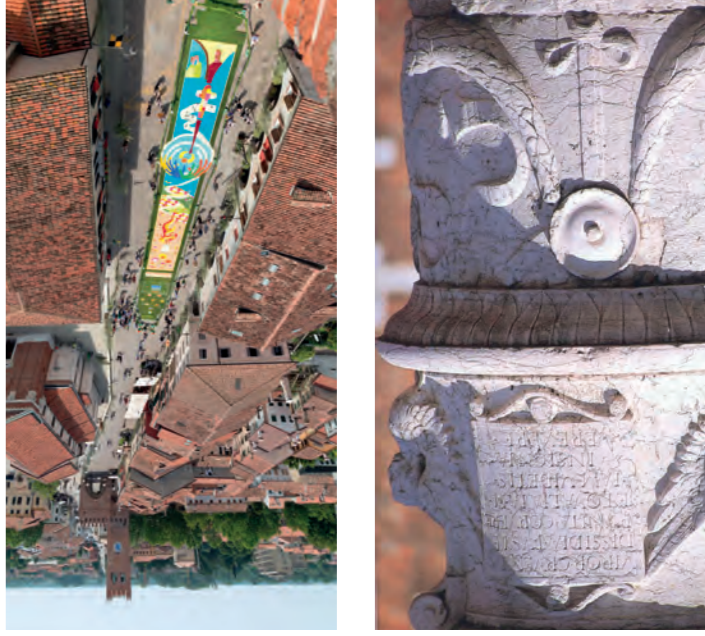
**Bus**  
From and to Treviso,  
Padua, Venice

**Trains**  
(a few steps from the historic center)



## The history of Noale

The noble, the vague, the painted Noale. This is how the city must have looked to anyone visiting it in the past: people must have felt inebriated by the colorfulness of its noble mansions. Even today, when walking through its squares, along its alleyways and the spall all around the castle, you can take in the cultural and artistic mood of the Middle Ages, the personality of its founders, the vicissitudes of the times of Venetian domination, the way of being of its rich landowners. A city where the faith of its inhabitants has handed down a rich art heritage still enriching souls that are quite distinct but that are held together by an ancient heart: here's what is seen right at the first encounter. The fortified center, owned by the Tempesta family since 1119, is in a central position with respect to Treviso, Padua and Mestre, right where two important road axes cross. It rises near a natural bend in the Marzenego river, whose waters still feed the double moat. A strategic position from which Noale has derived its strength as a military pillar and center of trade.



## Places of interest



### 1. The Castle of the Tempesta

The imposing fortress (only the ruins remain today) was built on the initiative of Ezzelino III da Romano. It was started in 1245 and was completed in 1272, during the domination of the Tempesta, the feudal lords of Noale. Originally, it was defended all around by several towers (three towers are still visible today) and by a massive building on the north side (the so-called *mastio*). During the 1700s, several collapses (which were also favored by the subtraction of materials to be used for other buildings) were produced by its state of abandonment. During the first half of the 1800s, the fortress ended up being used as a cemetery, a function it kept until the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nowadays, after moving the cemetery out and following the restoration of the surviving wall structures, the castle is part of a project that has been developed to host cultural events.

### 2. Ca' Matta Church

This small building was built around 1856 to replace an 18<sup>th</sup> century chapel, itself substituting a former capital decorated with an ancient image of the Virgin Mary with Child (now lost). The church has one single marble altar topped with a wooden section. An 18<sup>th</sup>-century statue of the Virgin Mary with Child sleeping in her arms is exhibited in the altar. Local historians report of a now forgotten legend narrating that a statue of the Virgin was brought to the parish church three times, but each time it was spotted back again under the bridge connecting the castle to the fortress, right where it had been previously thrown by French troops.

### 3. Negro Mansion

Coming out of Ca' Matta, on the way to piazza Castello, is the 15<sup>th</sup>-century Negro mansion, now the seat of some municipality offices. The restoration of the façade has highlighted bright-colored decorations of the 1400s, the work of a capable artist of the Venetian school. Under the windows, among the braids, is a coat of arms representing a black person's face, which allows us to make the assumption that the building was the residence of the Negro family.

### 4. Church of Saints Felice and Fortunato

The archpriest church dominating Piazza Castello is dedicated to the patron saints Felice and Fortunato; the church is a treasure chest full of art works and is definitely worth a visit. A church is documented as having been in that place since the 1300s. The 14<sup>th</sup> century church underwent full renovation in 1445, and was later modified in 1777; between 1885 and 1887 the façade was then redone according to a design by Giovanni Battista Meduna. Inside the church are some important art works. Among them: an altar attributed to Sansovino, an altarpiece of the Assumption by Alvise Vivarini, a painting representing Saints John, Peter and Paul, a work traditionally attributed to Vittore Carpaccio; an altarpiece of the Assumption by Palma il Giovane; the altarpiece of the high altar by Damiano Mazza and the baptistery painted, according to tradition, by Andrea Mendolla called lo Schiavone.

### 5. Viale della Rimembranza or Avenue of the lovers

The tree-lined path of the *Rimembranza* runs along the south ramparts, the partially flattened defense embankments interspersed with ditches still filled with water, which used to run around, and still run around, the fortress and the castle. The path starts from the Torre delle Campane (Bell Tower) and goes around the castle up to the Clock Tower. Inhabitants and visitors consider it as a "romantic walk" for its tranquility and for the view it offers on the towers and on the *mastio* of the fortress. It is one of the most sought-after places by newly-weds who love stopping there to take some artistic pictures.

### 6. Church of the Assunta

This church in sober Romanesque style is located just on the outskirts the city, in the parish oratory area. It testifies to the splendor of the ancient Benedictine women's monastery of which, together with the guesthouse, it is the only part left. At the center of the façade, above the portal, is a 16<sup>th</sup>-century bas-relief depicting the crowned Virgin Mary protecting under her cloak two begging nuns. This small church has a single nave and four altars. The masterpiece of the high altar is a tabernacle of an exquisitely baroque style; worth mentioning is also the altarpiece of the Assumption painted by Orioli, an artist from Treviso, in 1602. Left to the central altar is the altar of San Francesco di Paola, while on the right is the altar called Madonna del Rosario. The statue of the Virgin Mary with Child dating to the 16th century is by an unknown author.

### 7. Torre della Cerva or Bell Tower

On your way back to Piazza Castello, you will be going through Torre della Cerva or delle Campane (Bell Tower). This used to be a secondary access to the castle (an access of a lesser importance, as it faced a scarcely frequented agricultural area). The rural district outside the castle, called *Cerva*, ended up giving its name to the tower and to the door. Given to scarce attendance, this door was walled up in the 1300s. After losing its military purpose as centuries went by, the door was put up again by the parish in 1876; it was meant to accommodate six large bells, thus consequently becoming the bell tower of the religious community. Nowadays, it periodically hosts art exhibitions.

### 8. Lamberti Mansion

On the left, just past the tower, is a small building dating to the end of the 1400s / early 1500s which used to be owned by the Lamberti family. The façade of the building still shows friezes in the arches, pieces of figures in the key of the arches, decorative elements such as a sun or the symbol of the Holy Spirit, a sacred text, lion heads and a Virgin Mary or a saint, ribbons, perhaps some traces of landscapes, plants, a figure of a kneeling saint, a holy monk, a large elegant coat of arms with a rampant lion (of which only the left half is preserved): all of these elements turn the building into a small jewel, both from a decorative point of view, and from an architectural one.



### 9. Treviso Tower or Tower of the Hours

Continuing towards piazza Castello, you immediately come across the additional Tower. The oldest document telling about Noale castle was signed right in front of this door back in 1193. However, in order to have more detailed information about the structure, we will have to wait until the 1300s. Back in the Middle Ages, this was the most important access to the castle, as it faced the densely inhabited village. Its oldest name, *trevigiana*, is derived from the proximity of the road leading to the city of Treviso. Shortly before 1489, the Venetian authorities had a large mechanical clock placed on the tower, and from then on the building was renamed "Tower of the Hours". This tower with two clocks, one with Arabic figures and the other with Roman ones, is quite peculiar. The tower hosts a few exhibitions on peasant civilizations through the year.

### 10. Palazzo della Loggia

A small *loggia* (= porch) used as a courthouse was already in operation in the early 1300s, during the rule of the feudal lords of the Tempesta family. Later on, with the domination of the Republic of Saint Mark, this became the seat of the court presided over by the governor sent from Venice. Due to its small size, a building of a larger size was added up to the structure in 1460, and the pair took the name of *loggia nova*. The medieval construction, which was remodeled several times, was finally pulled down by the Austrian authorities in 1848 and room was made for the building which can still be admired today. A beautiful image of what the *loggia* looked like in the second half of 1700 has been handed down to us by the French painter Charles-Louis Clérisséu

### 11. Column of Peace

The crossroads at the center of town, between the two historical roads, displays a small jewel: the "column of peace". The sculptural work was realized on the design of the famous Venetian painter Paolo Pino in 1549, as recalled by an inscription on the column itself. Initially placed at the center of the intersection, the column was moved for the first time by Lucio Sigismondo dalla Torre in the 1600s. Once relocated to its original position by order of the Council of Ten of Venice, it was moved to the center of Piazza Maggiore between 1828 and 1834. Originally it was topped by the

lion of Saint Mark (as can be seen in the drawing by Charles-Louis Clérisséu), but the lion was replaced by a quadrangular pyramid following the domination of Napoleon's troops. During the Austrian domination, a flagpole, which was replaced several times over the decades, was placed inside the column.

### 12. Two Swords Mansion

Going towards the other square of the town, now called Piazza XX Settembre, you will find the Due Spade mansion on your right. According to local historians, that's where the inn *At the Spata* (sword) was housed back in the 1400s. According to the local historical tradition, the building is one of the few surviving the fires that devastated Noale in 1513 (League of Cambrai). During the restoration of the late 1900s, decorations dating back to the late 1400s / early 1500s came to light, both inside and on the façade at the back. The façade at the back, which was modified several times over time, retains a mullioned window of the 1400s.

### 13. Tombstones of via della Bova

Two tombstones are to be noted on the left and right of the path; they used to be placed on the parapets of the Beccaria Bridge crossing the canal once called Roja (and later named Bova, sluice gate). In the Middle Ages, the Bova canal was meant as a protection to the area of the important crossroads between the cities of Padua, Treviso, and the port of Mestre; around this latter one, a village had been developing.

### 14. Condulmer Mansion

Piazza XX Settembre, formerly Piazza Maggiore, is surrounded by several historic buildings, some of which are of great renown. Among them is Palazzo Condulmer, once owned by Venetian patricians and whose façade is embellished by frescoes of the 1400s and 1500s.

The elegant marble column of a mullioned window, formerly embellishing the 16<sup>th</sup> century façade, is still visible on the noble floor.

### 15. Mocenigo Scotto Mansion

Palazzo Mocenigo, now the headquarters of the municipal library, is a building dating to the 1400s which was modified in the 1500s and then raised in the early '900s. The main floor recalls the Venetian mansions of the 1500s. The recent restoration has brought to light 15<sup>th</sup>-century decorations on the arches of the façade and in the porch, and good quality 16th-century ones on the main floor. The figures of two *putti*, besides the decorations with *mascherone* on the arch, are seen in the patio giving access to the palace.

### 16. Little house called "dei Battuti"

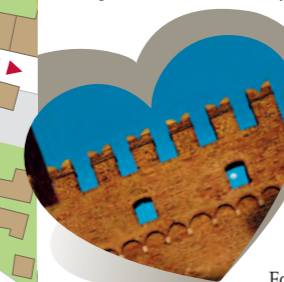
The small house called Casetta dei Battuti overlooks piazza XX Settembre, at one end of the porch. The small house has been owned by the *Ospitale di Noal* since 1776. According to popular tradition, which local historians confirm, the house was the seat of the Battuti, a confraternity that had been in Noale since the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The architectural structure places the house in the late 1300s and the façade is one of the most significant examples of outdoor decorations in Noale: a decoration of the late 1400s. At the center of the façade is a Virgin Lady with her cloak held by two winged angels.

### 17. Hospital church

The visit ends in front of the hospital church, right before the wide space that once housed both the church and the adjoining convent dedicated to St. George (of the former church only the small arches on the wall of the building at the side are still visible). On the right side of the porch, above the old access door to the hospital, is a fresco dated 1661 showing the Madonna dei Battuti being venerated by the brothers. On the left side of the porch is a plaque with the edict issued by Girolamo de Lucca, the *Podestà Capitano* of Treviso, on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1751; Girolamo de Lucca was worried and concerned about the increasing number of poor, idle and above all violent people turning to the hospital for care.

### 18. Cave oasis

Just outside the historical center, on an area where clay for the nearby kiln used to be extracted, along the Venezia-Bassano railway line, thanks to a happy intuition of a group of people from Noale, a naturalistic oasis now managed by the WWF has been born. This is an area of 40 hectares crossed by the Rio Draganziolo where, thanks to an innovative project of the Consorzio di bonifica, pioneer plant species have grown and led to the growth of a luxuriant marshy and arboreal-arbustive vegetation. This has resulted in the birth of a humid area of great naturalistic value which has favored the settlement of a large number of animal species. The oasis can be visited by contacting WWF.



## Famous citizens from Noale

### Pietro Fortunato Calvi

Piazza Castello hosts two monuments dedicated to Pietro Fortunato Calvi, the martyr of Belfiore, and a hero of the Risorgimento: one is a statue by R. Rinaldi of Padua (1871) and the other is a 1983 bronze representing freedom realized by the artist Emilio Greco. Pietro Fortunato Calvi, who had been born in Briana (in the municipality of Noale) in 1817, had undertaken a military career in the Austrian army. At the outbreak of the Revolution of 1848, Calvi left the army to reach Venice, where he took the side of the revolutionary government. He was the protagonist of some heroic actions during the insurrection of Cadore and, after being forced to leave the mountains, he put himself at the head of the "hunters of the Alps" and returned to Venice to defend the city. Following his exile years in Piedmont and Switzerland, he was imprisoned by the Austrians in 1853 while he was organizing a new insurrection in Cadore. Imprisoned in Mantua, Pietro Fortunato Calvi was hanged on July 4, 1855. His ashes are kept under the Palazzo della Loggia, in the sacellum built by the Municipality in 1905. In 1999 Briana dedicated to him a bronze by Stefano Baschierato.

### Egisto Lancerotto

The Municipality of Noale owns a rich collection of paintings by Egisto Lancerotto, one of the most appreciated artists of Venetian painting between the 1800s and 1900s. Lancerotto's paintings are housed in Palazzo della Loggia and in some buildings owned by the Municipality. Egisto Lancerotto spent his childhood in Noale and then moved to Venice with his family; once in Venice, he entered the Academy of Fine Arts. His top stylistic expression are scenes of Venetian daily life and of high society. His participation in the Venice Biennale of 1897 made him a protagonist of the lagoon painting of the century and brought him into close contact with the avant-garde of symbolism of his last works. Lancerotto was an interpreter of the "realist" movement, whose works are present in many museums around the world. His paintings have been specially valued in recent years thanks to some exhibitions that have made him known to the general public.

### City of motors and bricks

Noale is a member of the associations Walled Cities of the Veneto region and Motor Cities, and it used to be a member of the association Città del laterizio (Brick Cities) due to the presence of two historical furnaces. One furnace, located along SP 38, the road leading to Camposampiero, is still active to this day; inside the tunnel of an ancient furnace, is an unusual "gallery of shapes" with original artifacts ranging from Roman times to the 1800s. Thanks to the success on racetracks around the world that Aprilia, the Noale-based motorcycle manufacturer, is still obtaining, Noale is well represented among Motor Cities. Aprilia, and its exhibition halls, are located just a few steps from the historic center; the company's sports team has welcomed such great Italian champions as Valentino Rossi and Max Biaggi.