



Villa Franceschi

The stretch of the River Brenta between Padova and the Venetian lagoon resembles a park. Ordered and tranquil, its trees and pathways unfold with elegance and nobility. But it's the lovely villas on its banks that make it unique. This is the Brenta Riviera. In the 16th and 17th centuries **the Venetian aristocracy built splendid country houses here**, like the Palladian Villa Malcontenta and the Villa Pisani, Villa Venier and the spectacular residences around Mira. It was in this city on the mouth of the Brenta that the Dal Corso family, time-honoured masters of hospitality, created a true jewel. Villa Franceschi, the 16th century home of a family of jewellers now stands, wonderfully restored and reborn, on the banks of the Brenta. The central section of the villa hosts charming suites boasting artisanal silk fabrics, splendid Rezzonico Murano glass chandeliers, stone fireplaces and original Venetian marble grit floors. It's an aristocratic setting infused with the familiarity of a countryside home.

The other part of the hotel occupies the old **mews where coaches and carts were kept**. The restaurant is also here. Inspired by Remigio Dal Corso, the host and a great food lover, chefs Gianluca Vulcano and Umberto Giraldo use the finest products from the countryside and lagoon. The vegetables are from the villa's organic garden or the sandy, briny soil of the Island of Sant'Erasmus. The seafood, always fresh, is caught in the lagoon, and is always prepared with great respect for its natural taste and appeal. Just try the spider crab to see how true this is, or **the local moeche crabs, caught after shedding** their shell, and fried. And **the schie, small shrimp from the lagoon**, enjoyed round here with the local slow-cooked white polenta. The best way to experience Villa Franceschi's discreet luxury is to stroll in the shade of the ancient trees in the historic garden and let yourself be pampered by the infinite care of the Dal Corso family 3 generation in the world of hospitality .