

Christmas Season 2

This marvelous sunset, which seems to come out of a painting by Monet, brings us back to Lake Garda, where on Saturday I and my cousin went to explore the Christmas markets held on the Verona bank. Cousin Alberto had never been on Lake Garda, I had only passed by Bardolino, there were the markets, nice day, zero traffic and at eleven we were parked in Bardolino. To cut a long story short, if you go for the Christmas markets, Lazise is better than Bardolino. The stalls are many more, and more varied, although in both the prevailing tone is given by the gastronomic specialties. In Lazise there are a couple of interesting artisans, and the stalls start on the lakefront and develop in the center of the village, at the dock. The greatest pleasure is to walk along the lake and admire the sunset, maybe sitting on the piers to sip a ubiquitous gluhwein, or mulled wine, although I must say I preferred hot apple juice (after all I had to drive). After four o'clock the temperature actually precipitates and a bit of heat is pleasing. For the gastronomic aspect, we had lunch in Bardolino, discovering with horror that the three first restaurants where we entered were all occupied ... at half past noon. In fact, almost all of them draw most of the tables from the terrace, which are in use in the summer, the interiors are very small. This was probably good because pushed us out of the tourist routes, in a seemingly empty trattoria outside the walls (in fact it was quickly filled, as if we had broken some kind of spell). This was also a fortune, because we were carefully served and we ate very well (bigoli with lake sardines and stewed pike, but if you are suspicious about what you are fishing in fresh water there is also meat) and drank even better, at a decidedly fair price. Now we just have to visit D'Annunzio: I was at the Vittoriale that I was ten years old and I would say it's time to come back ... Trattoria Due nani, piazza Statuto 8, Bardolino.