

Where to eat

There are many restaurants, pizza-houses, *trattorie*, *osterie* and cafes in Padova; the area of the main conference venue, being generally crowded with students, has a good number of cafes which will serve panini, ice-creams and salads at almost all hours of the day (they close fairly early in the evening, though). Beside the cafes, we recommend the Pasticceria Viennese (piazza Petrarca 16), where you can have excellent espresso and great pastries, and a friendly kebab-house, misleadingly called Pizzeria Kebab (piazza Petrarca 19), with the best felafels in town.

What follows is a personal and idiosyncratic guide for your lunches and dinners – it is by no means complete or objective, but we can promise we have personally tested every single place!

VERY CLOSE TO THE CONFERENCE VENUE

Pizzeria Savonarola

Via dei Savonarola 38; tel. 049 875 9128

Closed on Monday

Highly recommended: it calls itself “pizzeria” but it offers a variety of home-made dishes, including our favourite, a huge plate of grilled or baked vegetables. Very reasonably priced, it has a homely atmosphere and a friendly room, plus a few tables outside overlooking the quiet Via dei Savonarola.

La Piccola Trattoria – Cucina Tipica Sarda

Via Rolando da Piazzola 21; tel. 049 656163

Closed on Sunday, and Monday lunchtime

Highly recommended: beautifully spacious tables, courteous service, and moderate prices. Though the chef is from Iran, he cooks excellent Sardinian dishes, all with original ingredients. The dessert list is particularly dangerous – and they also have a good wine list.

Ristorante Tokyo

Piazzale Mazzini 10/11

No closing day

A friendly and very reasonably priced Japanese restaurant, which also has a menu of Chinese dishes; very relaxed and quiet, good service, and good dishes – if you get tired of Italian cuisine!

Ristorante Sant’Agnese

Via Sant’Agnese 21 – tel. 049 875 8153

Closed on Monday

Very small and quiet, almost opposite the Piccola Trattoria, this restaurant specializes in fish and seafood, which they get fresh every day (but there are a few choices for vegetarians and meat-lovers, too). Very courteous service, and reasonable prices (considering the ingredients).

Ristorante – Pizzeria al Carmine

Piazza Petrarca 8 – tel. 049 876 4952

Closed on Monday

Slightly anonymous, but the service is quick and courteous and the cuisine satisfactory. Their pizzas are quite good, and all pasta dishes are cooked when you order. Moderate prices.

Ristorante – Pizzeria La Pavana

via Trieste 2; tel. 049 875 9994

Closed on Wednesday

With air conditioning and a garden, this is a quiet and comfortable, if slightly pretentious restaurant where you can have also pizza or a large variety of hot and cold dishes and salads. Medium-priced, good food.

Osteria al Traguaro

Via Petrarca 13; tel. 049 878 9508

Ignore the poky entrance and go straight for the lovely secluded room at the back. The food is home-made though on the rich side, there are a few choices (no printed menu) every day, some choice wines (avoid the “vino della casa”), and the price is medium. Watch out for overcharges.

Ristorante – Pizzeria Ai Ghiottoni

Via B. Cristofori 12/A; tel. 049 871 9712

Closed on Tuesday

Quiet and restful, with very courteous service and decent if uninventive food. The bread and salads were good, the pasta arrived suspiciously quickly and tasted microwaved. Reasonable.

WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE

Trattoria Mario e Mercedes

Via S. Giovanni da Verdara, 13; tel. 049 871 9731

Closed on Wednesday.

Highly recommended: lovely garden (we loved the disdainful tortoise among the flowers), relaxed atmosphere and great food, for decidedly affordable prices. The only drawbacks: they can be a bit too relaxed if you are in a hurry (but we did manage a very good meal in an hour!), and there is no printed menu – they just tell you, somewhat reluctantly, what they cooked on that day. A good idea might be to tell them “faccia come vuole”, when they ask you what you want to eat.

Ristorante Toscano La Carabaccia

Via Cristofori 13; tel. 049 872 5673

Closed on Sunday lunch

Typical Tuscan cuisine for this small and friendly restaurant, which also has a wide selection of Tuscan wines (avoid the “Vino della casa”). No printed menu; they do have the fabled “Fiorentina”, a huge steak made of pure Tuscan beef. Moderate prices (excluding the Fiorentina).

Ristorante – Pizzeria Gigibar

Via Verdi 18/20; tel. 049 876 0028

Offers good selection, including salads and pizzas, and a reasonably good wine list. Everything cooked at the moment – and excellent bread. Medium priced.

Trattoria Al Pero

Via S. Lucia, 72; tel. 049 875 8794

Very efficient and quite reasonably priced, but don't expect culinary revelations – a very good option if you are in a hurry!

NEAR THE HOTELS

Osteria l'Anfora – Desco Jazz

Via dei Soncin, 13; tel. 049 656 629

Closed on Sunday

A very traditional place for Paduan students and scholars, it has a menu of local, home-made dishes,

and a good wine list. Tends to get rowdy in the evenings. Friendly atmosphere, reasonable food, medium-priced.

Osteria dei Fabbri

Via dei Fabbri, 13; tel. 049 650 336

Closed on Sunday

Situated in the lovely area of the former Ghetto, near Piazza delle Erbe, this is a rather high-class osteria, serving typical Veneto food and offering a good choice for vegetarians. Good choice of wines and relaxed atmosphere, if possibly rather pretentious. Medium-priced.

Ristorante Belle Parti

Via Belle Parti 11; tel. 049 875 1822

Closed on Sunday

Very elegant restaurant, with resident chef and inventive cuisine. Excellent food, courteous service, the lot. Pricey but worth it.

Ristorante Da Giorgio – Alle Piazze

Via Daniele Manin, 8; tel. 049 836 0973

Highly recommended. Our favourite choice when we have special guests, this quiet, welcoming, sophisticated restaurant serves an excellent range of local dishes, changing its menu according to the season. The price is slightly on the steep side, but it's definitely worth it, as you try the *risotto* of the day, or the *polenta e baccalà*. Very good wines.