**The magic of the Christmas markets**

**SHOPPING ATMOSPHERE UNDER THE SNOW**

**A feast for the senses: music, lights, wine & food and crafts accompany the Advent season in Trentino. The romantic Christmas markets every year offer surprises tied to tradition and local excellence**

The scent of freshly baked biscuits and mulled wine: you can picture the Christmas markets of Trentino even with your eyes closed. Each valley is different, and reveals its identity through the handicrafts and wine & food it has to offer. They share a long history, which comes from Northern Europe: so ancient to sink its roots as far back as in the Middle Ages. Back then, the items on display were very expensive and therefore only affordable to wealthy families. Today, after a few centuries, the "philosophy" of Christmas markets has changed, or rather evolved, but their magical atmosphere remains intact.

**Historical markets**

About ninety lodges exhibit in **Trento**, from November 21 to January 6, the finest culinary excellence and crafts of the territory in two locations, Piazza Fiera and Piazza Cesare Battisti.

In **Rovereto**, the market stands of the "Christmas among peoples" event, a project that combines the festive atmosphere, which has always rhymed with social encounter, with a throwback to distant worlds and less obvious themes, will take the stage from November 21 to January 6 as well. They will display the handicrafts of Bethlehem and Belarus, typical regional products of Trentino and Hungarian sweets, trendy objects moulded by young artists (the novelty this year), and organic gift ideas.

In Valsugana, circle the dates from November 21 to January 6, and pay a visit to the market stands in **Levico Terme**, set up in the centuries-old Hapsburg Park. Here children can pet small farm animals and meet Santa Claus, who will personally collect their wish lists, while in the nearby Forest of the Elves his aides will strive to transform the desires of the smallest ones into reality.

In **Arco**, from November 20 to January 6, some forty log cabins set up in the squares downtown will offer a chance to indulge in shopping: from Nativity scenes to comfortable boiled-wool slippers, and of course, excellent wine and food.

**In the "most beautiful medieval villages in Italy"**

From November 28 to 20 December, **Canale di Tenno** invites you to discover local products and traditional recipes at its market stands.

Another member of the exclusive club of the "Most beautiful medieval villages in Italy" is also **Rango,** in the Giudicarie, which from November 29 to December 29 will host the Christmas market stands in its porticos and porches.

**Each Valley is a world to discover**

In Valsugana, in **Pergine**, the streets of the old town will come to life from November 14 to January 6. Not far away, the highlight this winter is **Borgo Valsugana**, ready to light up with colours, scents, sounds and lights on weekends from November 28 to December 20.

From November 29 to December 8, don't miss out on what **Siror** in Primiero has to offer: forty exhibitors will surprise tourists with their decorations, Nativity scenes and goodies, including the typical Brazedel.

In **Riva del Garda**, from December 4-30, you can visit "Santa's House" at the Rocca.

A kaleidoscope of music, colours, scents and flavours, but without forgetting the past and the mysterious atmosphere created by a handful of "witches": it’s what you can expect from **Cimego**, in Valle del Chiese, with its market stands open on November 29, December 8 and on weekends that month.

In **Miola di Pinè**, in Val di Cembra, as part of the "Town of Nativity scenes", from December 8 to January 6, you can discover the lodges that will grace the town and showcase wine and food products and crafts.

In Piana rotaliana, the Christmas charm doubles. In **Mezzolombardo** from November 21 to December 24, the local flavours and tradition will blend in the market set up at the foot of Castello della Torre, while in nearby **Mezzocorona**, from November 29 to January 6, the noble setting of Palazzo Martini will become the home of Santa Claus, populated by elves and sprites.

From December 5 to January 6, **Cavalese** and the whole Val di Fiemme will be warmed up by an evocative candle-lit market set up in the garden of Palazzo della Magnifica Comunità: the lodges will invite you to browse through wool slippers, works of art, natural cosmetic creams, syrups and much more.

Info available at: [www.visittrentino.it/mercatini-di-natale-trentino](http://www.visittrentino.it/mercatini-di-natale-trentino)

(L. Io.)

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