

ELDY: MADE IN VICENZA



Vicenza, a city in north-eastern Italy, is the capital of the eponymous province in the Veneto region, at the northern base of the Monte Berico, straddling the Bacchiglione. Vicenza is approximately 60 km west of Venice and 200 km east of Milan.

Vicenza is a thriving and cosmopolitan city, with a rich history and culture, and many museums, art gallery, squares , villas, churches and elegant Renaissance *palaces*. With the Palladian Villas of the Veneto in the surrounding area, and his renowned Olympic Theatre, the "city of Palladio" has been enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994.

As of December 2008, Vicenza had an estimated population of c. 115,000, and a metropolitan area of 270 000. Vicenza is the third-largest Italian industrial centre as measured by the value of its exports, and is one of the country's wealthiest cities. Especially due to its textile and steel industries which employ tens of thousands and about one fifth of the country's gold and jewelry industry is made in Vicenza, greatly contributing to the city's economy. Another important branch is the engineering/computer components industry (Federico Faggin, the silicon chip's inventor was born in Vicenza).

The surrounding country is predominantly agricultural. Major products are wine, wheat, mais, olive oil (in the Barbarano area) and cherries and asparagus are a particularity of Bassano. There are also quarries of marble, sulphur, copper, and silver mines, and beds of lignite and kaolin; mineral springs also abound, the most famous being those of Recoaro. Massive industrial areas surround the city and extend extensively in the western and eastern hinterland, with numerous steel and tectile factories



located in the Montecchio Maggiore, Chiampo and Sovizzo area in the west and Camisano Vicentino and Torri di Quartesolo in the east, areas characterised by a disorganised and extensive cementification. Elit è sectors are the jewelry and clothing factories. Important vicentino clothing firms include: Diesel, PalZileri, Marzotto, Bottega Veneta, Marlboro Classics etc.. The Gold Exposition is world-famous and it takes place in Vicenza three times per year (January, May, September). Other industries worthy of mention are the woollen and silk, pottery, and musical instruments. The headquarters of the bicycle component manufacturer Campagnolo and the protective wear for sports manufacturer Dainese are located here.