



© IRYNA/DREAMSTIME.COM

Northern Italy is dotted with perfectly preserved historical towns.

Get Lost in Fontanellato

The tiny Italian town of Fontanellato, near Parma, is home to a big attraction—the world’s largest labyrinth. The brainchild of art publisher Franco Maria Ricci, whose *FMR* magazine has been called the most beautiful in the world, the maze and its structures display his sense of style.

More than 200,000 bamboo plants form the star-shaped outline of the maze, covering 19 acres, with almost two miles of paths inside. While most visitors enjoy the challenge and complete the maze in about an hour and a half, the staff acknowledges that not everyone makes it through so easily; about 10% use the emergency locator phone number to be rescued.

The real reward comes at the end when you get to tour the private art museum

curated by Ricci. It includes more than 500 works encompassing 300 years of art history. The museum also hosts special exhibits and musical events.

In the middle of the maze is a central courtyard with a pyramid-shaped chapel that hosts small concerts and special occasions. Ricci used classical forms with a bit of whimsy in designing the

buildings, which include a casual café as well as a refined bistro.

Those who want to really immerse themselves can do so literally, in one of the two classically styled suites located in the central court building, letting

“You can spend a night in the center of the labyrinth of Masone.”

you spend a night in the center of the labyrinth.

The Labyrinth of Masone and its art museum are open year-round, but closed on Tuesdays.—*IL Italy Correspondent Valerie Fortney-Schneider.*

Fly Non-Stop to Greece for Less

Fall in Greece might just be the ideal time for a visit. Spend an afternoon sipping chilled retsina against a backdrop of Santorini’s blue-domed churches. Or an evening tucking into slow-cooked *stifado*—a rich beef stew flavored with tomato and cinnamon—within sight of the Parthenon. Or just relax by the Mediterranean, swimming beneath the natural

arches and outcrops of Sidari’s coves on Corfu.

You’ll miss the crowds and searing heat of July and August, as well as enjoy shoulder-season discounts. Norwegian’s new non-stop route from New York to Athens opens up options for U.S. travelers, with September fares on the nine-hour, 10-minute flight coming in around \$550 round-trip.

Penang’s Chic Container Mall

Not to be left out of a trend, the Malaysian island of Penang has opened its first shopping mall made from metal shipping containers. With 80,000 square feet of containers and creative landscaping, the CuboPark hosts boutiques, restaurants, bars, and lots of Instagramable nooks and crannies. Each container is designed by the shop owner using mostly recycled items.

The setting doubles as a space for live performances, exhibitions, and workshops. And since eating is a Malaysian pastime, there are dozens

of eateries to entice everyone. I tried Korean kimchi ramen, Thai spiced grilled pork, and followed it up with home-made ice cream. The day I was there, they were showing Charlie Chaplin movies in an open courtyard with scattered revamped VW beetles for additional seating. Down the walkway, a band was playing in a garden with trees designed to look like jellyfish. There is even a small propeller plane on the second story of one spot that looks like one of the famous ruin bars of Budapest.—*IL contributor Kirsten Raccuia.*

The Graveyard of Anchors

A vast field packed with gnarled anchors marks the white-sand dunes of Praia do Barril, a testament to the long-forgotten fishing tradition in this region of Portugal.

Since the times of Ancient Rome, fishermen used anchors to weigh down their nets to catch bluefin tuna in the unpredictable waters where the wild Atlantic and the tranquil Mediterranean meet.

Now, though, the ancient practice is no more, following the decline in tuna population in the 1960s. But the graveyard of

anchors remains.

The nearby village of Santa Luzia, known locally as “capital do Polvo,” or capital of octopus (a local delicacy), is a quiet fishing village with unspoiled beaches.

Tavira, a 10-minute bus journey away, offers the more typical tourist experience in the Algarve, with restaurants like Porto di Mare serving seafood dishes including swordfish, baked clams, and Portugal’s staple—salt cod—for under \$20 per person.—*IL contributor Aoife Walsh.*

DID YOU KNOW? The terraced rice paddies of the Honghe Hani valley in southern China spread out over more than a million acres and have been in constant use by farmers for over 1,200 years.