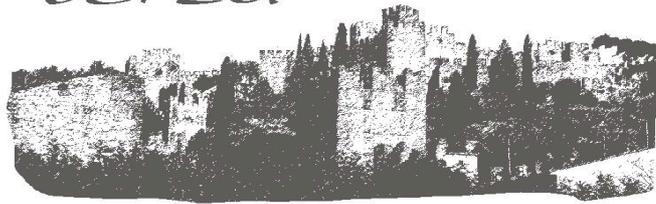


Bed & Breakfast  
**La Terza**



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**Marostica**

The medieval town of Marostica is located in the foothills, just a half hour's drive from Vicenza and 10 minutes from Bassano del Grappa. Surrounded by the ancient walls of its castles, Marostica is best known for its square which is a giant chessboard. Each September of every even numbered year, a **human chess game** is played in full medieval costume on the square of Marostica. The festival lasts 3 days. The story of the Chess Game dates back to 1454 when Marostica belonged to the Venetian Republic.

Two nobleman, Rinaldo D'Angarano and Vieri da Vallonara, fell in love with the beautiful Lionora, daughter of Taddeo Parisio, the Lord of Marostica's castle. As was the custom in that time, they challenged each other to a duel to win the hand of Lionora.

The Lord, not wanting to make an enemy of either suitor or lose them in a duel, forbade the encounter in conformity with Venetian Law.

He decided the two rivals should play a chess game: Lionora would take the winner as her husband. He furthermore decided that the loser would in any case join his family, marrying Oldrada, the younger sister.

The game took place on the square in front of the Lower Castle, with armed living persons carrying the ensigns of Whites and Blacks. It played in the presence of the Lord, his daughter, the Lords of Angarano and Vallonara, the noble court, and the entire town's population.

The Lord also decided the challenge should be honoured by an exhibition of armed men, with fireworks and dances and sounds.

This event is repeated today just like the first time, in a framework of sumptuous costumes, multi-colour banners, martial parades, exquisite elegance.

The orders are still given to characters and cast today in the dialect of the "Serenissima Republic of Venezia.

The show, with over 550 characters, lasts about 2 hours.

Marostica is also known for its tasty cherries which ripen towards the end of May, and holds numerous events in the square on Sundays where you can often sample locally made cold cuts and wine.