



ROVIGO

THE CITY'S HISTORY

The town of Rovigo is mentioned by Ludovico Ariosto in his *Orlando Furioso*, "*la terra, il cui produr di rose le dié piacevol nome in greche voci*" ("that fair town, whose produce is the rose, the rose which gives it name in Grecian speech").

The Latin derivation of the name Rhodigium is presumed to be from the greek *rhòdov* (rhodon), i.e. rose.

Archaeological findings dated back to the Bronze Age indicate the presence of ancient Veneti, Etruscans since the VI century B.C. and later of the Romans . The first document about the city dates back to April 24, 838, where Rovigo is referred to in Latin as - *villa que nuncupatur Rodigo* – i.e. "rural village called Rodigo." In 920 the bishop of Adria Paolo Cattaneo built a fort on the banks of the Adigetto transferring to the bishopric. This first fortification completed in 954, was then followed by the construction of the walls during the Estensian period (XII-XV century). The dominion of the Este family (lasted about three centuries) was officially recognized by the Holy Roman Emperor Henry VI in 1194, with Count Azzo VI and then with Obizzo II of Este. Later, during the XV century, the territory was fought for by the Republic of Venice, at the time beginning to expand. During the Salt War the Venetians entered Rovigo in 1482, and held it until the Franco-Austrian period (1797-

1866). On the 10th of July 1866, Rovigo joined the Kingdom of Italy.

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