

The new face of Panperduto looks to tourism on the Ticino river

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In the past months we have closely followed the construction of the **Panperduto dam** and now here is the time of the **launch of the realized works**: before the definition and the official custody of the management of the entire area, were presented the completed works for the safety of the dam, for the opening of the **International Water Museum**, for the hostel of Panperduto and the new boat **“LoVeMi”** ready to sail the waters of the canals of the Ticino river.

A project that has focused heavily from the point of view on the tourism revival of the entire area and the appreciation of the water patrimony that **connects emotionally Switzerland, Varese** and the whole agriculture basin and the **navigation that leads to Milan and then to the Pavia territory**. One important step recovery which required investments of around **32 million euro** and the energy of several entities within a European program Interreg of which the **Consortium east Ticino Villoresi** was leader with the Lombardy region and to the Swiss partner Association Locarno-Milan -Venice.

Those to which was metaphorically cut the ribbon is called project **“Idrotour”** and seeks to promote that **jewel of industrial hydraulics from the end of ‘800** which is the dam of Panperduto and all that it represents, and this in perspective can also mean the plan to restore the navigability from Locarno to Milan to continue up to Venice.

In the area of Somma Lombardo the Idrotour project has completely reconverted the entrance of the canal Villoresi which now consists of the Water Museum and in a hostel and inn. The first is housed in an ex warehouse, is at the centre of the island of **Confurto**, the strip of land between the Ticino and the basin of Panperduto, and is designated as a museum that is open and integrated with the surrounding nature.

The hostel-inn, instead, comes from the old structure of the exit water dams and has been transformed into an eco-friendly accommodation with rooms for two or four and a guesthouse which can accommodate up to 6 people. In the site was also docked a new boat, the LoVeMi, hybrid propulsion and designed for touristic fruition of the dam. For all these innovations have already been collected six expressions of interest for the operational management and by May will go on to assignment of the contract.

“The Lombardy region has strongly believed in this project, investing 200,000 Euros of resources devoted to communication and to the appreciation of the tourism, that upgrading a place with extraordinary potential for tourism.” said the **commissioner of Commerce, Tourism and Tertiary Mauro Parolini**, explaining that “the project is an important part of the rehabilitation of the Panperduto dam and transforms the entire site into an eco-museum. Therefore, in addition to the work for the safety of dams, were made the Museum of Italian-Swiss Waters and Hostel ‘The inn Panperduto’, both next to the opening.”

“We have refurbished and safeguarded the dams after efforts of five years, said the president of the Consortium East Ticino Villoresi Alessandro Folli, in doing so we have also created an important opportunity for development in the territory. The LoVeMi boat, the hostel, the museum and the new

hydroelectric power plant, under construction, are the pieces that will give new life to this corner of paradise through the waters of the Ticino river. Our canals in this way will not only bring water but also energy, touristic and recreational opportunities. ”

The navigable route at Panperduto with the new boat just launched will provide the service of transfer of tourists from the jetty of docking upstream to the dams, near the mouth of the Strona in Somma Lombardo, up to the hostel “Inn Panperduto” and from there to ‘ Confurto Island, home of the Museum of Italian-Swiss Waters. The itinerary allows the travellers to appreciate, from a point of view absolutely panoramic, the operation of the control system of the dam, so important for the entire hydraulic system of the East Ticino.

The works for the reactivation of the three basins existing in Panperduto, the work of grip, that on the open of Villoresi and that on the industrial canal, are also functional to the expansion of navigable routes to Milan: for more than 27 km to Arconate (along the canal Villoresi) and approximately 5 km to Vizzola Ticino (along the industrial canal). On the industrial and then on the Naviglio Grande the route is navigable again from Nosate up to Darsena in Milan.

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