



# The Landmark Trust

PRESS RELEASE

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## NEW IMAGES REVEAL CONTINUED EROSION OF VENETO WORLD HERITAGE SITE



**A photographic survey commissioned by SAVE Europe's Heritage and the Landmark Trust has revealed the disturbing extent to which the remarkable landscape of Andrea Palladio's Veneto villas is being blighted by unchecked development. This survey, which coincides with the 500th anniversary of Palladio's birth, provides shocking proof that the warnings issued in SAVE's 2006 report *An Unforgivable Assault on a World Heritage Site* have not been heeded.**

The villas of Andrea Palladio (1508-1580) in the Veneto region, were designated together as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996. They rank amongst the most important and influential works in world architecture, with the Villa Rotonda considered by many to be one of the most beautiful buildings of the western world.

However, despite international recognition of the significance of the villas and their setting, they are still under assault from the creeping expansion of nearby towns. Another threat comes from the partially completed 54km stretch of motorway, the Valdastico Sud, which cuts through and divides the cultural landscape from its architecture and passes dangerously close to 15th, 16th and 17th century villas. Lastly, but equally worrying is the effects of increasing industrialisation of the area with its associated hard landscaping and colossal capannoni (concrete warehouses).

The Veneto E-Report can be viewed online at [www.savebritainsheritage.org](http://www.savebritainsheritage.org). Alternatively a PowerPoint CD presentation (with high resolution photographs) priced at £5 (inc p&p) can be ordered by contacting SAVE Europe's Heritage.

The 2006 printed report *An Unforgivable Assault on a World Heritage Site* is also available online, or by post for £5 (inc. p&p).

**For more information and to order either report contact:**

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

### **SAVE Europe's Heritage**

SAVE Europe's Heritage is affiliated to SAVE Britain's Heritage. It aims to draw public attention to endangered historic buildings and places outside the UK and forward practical solutions for the rescue and use. In exceptional cases, the organisation will prepare and implement schemes for the rescue of individual buildings to show that rescue is possible and viable.

SAVE Europe's Heritage has published a number of reports including *Moscow Heritage: Crisis Point* (2007) and *Heroic Survivors: Hungarian Castles and Country Houses* (1999). For more information see the SAVE website: [www.savebritainsheritage.org](http://www.savebritainsheritage.org)

### **The Landmark Trust**

<http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk>