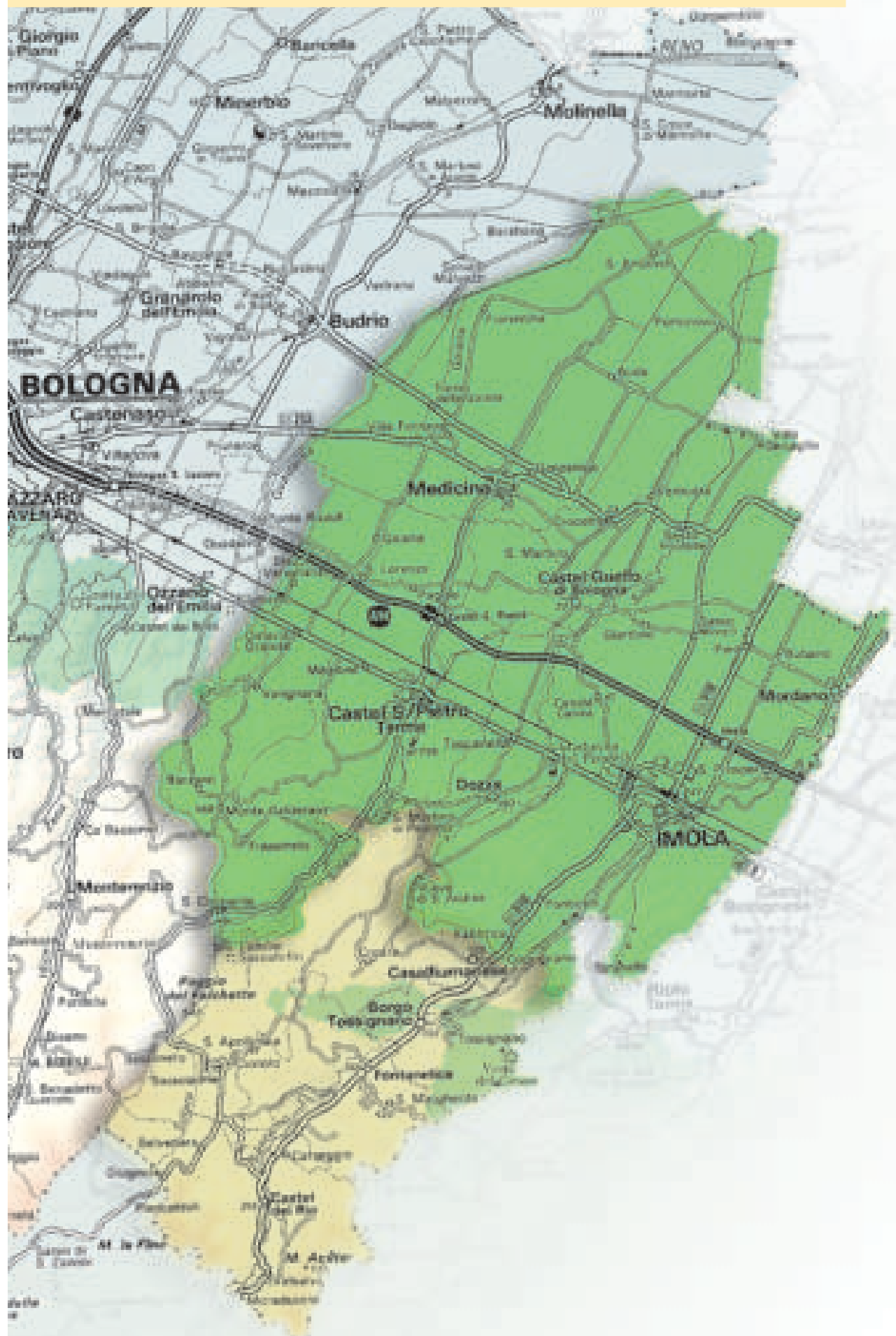


The Imolese Valleys

the district of Imola





Santerno River - Photo by Comune di Borgo Tossignano

Our itinerary enters Romagna, where a universe of flavours, accents and human warmth opens up before us, this land being one of the most hospitable in Italy.

The Rivers

Known to the Romans as the “Little Reno”, the **Santerno** starts on the northern side of the Apennine ridge between Tuscany and Romagna, near the Futa Pass. A few kilometres down the valley from Firenzuola, the Santerno begins a dramatic course deep between high banks of marl and sandstone. Along the valley-bottom there is a lot of stone-working of “Pietra Serena”, the raw material of the Tuscan Renaissance and of numerous buildings in the valley. The Upper Santerno Valley has many attractions, first of all those connected to the river itself, rich in lovely bights and small beaches. Just before Castel del Rio, the stunning waterfalls of Moraduccio plunge into the Santerno. Near

Borgo Tossignano, there is probably the most spectacular stretch of the whole valley, passing through the largest Chalk Vein in Europe, today protected by a Regional Park.

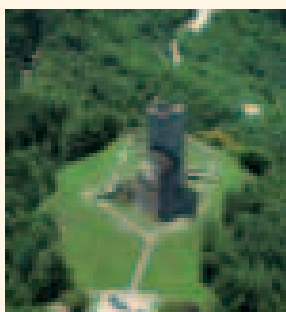
Apart from the Vein, cultivated land with orchards and vineyards alternates with the particular geometry of the gullies. Reaching Imola, the Santerno enters the plains, where its course has undergone numerous modifications over time, connected to the final stretch of the River Po since the 12th century. Passing into the territory of Ravenna, the Santerno ends its 103-kilometre journey, flowing into the ancient bed of the “Po di Primaro”, today the River Reno.

The **Sillaro** and **Sellustra** are the two main tributaries of the Santerno: their beautiful valleys are the subject of two pleasant countryside itineraries (page 199), setting off from Castel San Pietro Terme and Dozza.

History and Culture

The Gothic Line

Between 1944 and 1945, the Bolognese mountains were at the centre of the last battle front of the war in Italy, along a line from the Tyrrhenian to the Adriatic Sea which took advantage of the natural defensive aspect of the Apennines. This is the Gothic Line, also known as the Linea Verde. Already under Allied attack in September 1944, the Gothic Line resisted at the destruction of some points until the spring of 1945, forcing the civilian population to face a bitter winter of Allied bombings and German reprisals. It has been calculated that the Germans lost about 75,000 men while the Allies about 65,000 on the Gothic Line. Today, there are many places in the Bolognese Apennines which commemorate these events, among which:



The Reno Valley

- Historical Regional Park of Monte Sole (page 64), symbolic site of the Resistance, created on the mounts which were theatre of the Nazi-Fascist massacre of Marzabotto;
- Multimedial Model of the Gothic Line (page 78), innovative educational museum instrument in Castel d'Aiano;
- Monte Pero (page 65) and Monte Belvedere (page 79). In Monte Belvedere (1140 mts a.s.l.), near the ruins of a medieval castle, a monument remembers the undertaking of the 10th Mountain Division, which carried the German stronghold, supported by the Partisans, in February 1945.

The Bolognese Valleys of the Idice, Savena and Setta

- “Winter Line” Museum in Livergnano (page 119);
- South African Military Cemetery in Castiglione dei Pepoli (page 133);
- Passo della Futa: German Military Cemetery (page 124).

The Imolese Valleys

- Rocca di Tossignano (page 166);
- War Museum in Castel del Rio (page 170),
- Monte Battaglia (in the picture).



DOC Colli d'Imola Grapes - Photo by S.T.A.I. - Paolo Benini

To savour, understand, live and discover the blend of “tourist flavours” which spread throughout the hospitable territory of Imola, STAI was set up in 1996, a consortium with over 100 public and private members.

S.T.A.I. Società Turismo Area Imolese

Via Boccaccio, 27 40026 Imola (BO)

Tel. **0542.25413** - Fax 0542.613252

stai@stai.it - www.stai.it



Strada dei Vini e Sapori



Colli d'Imola

Gastronomy and Wine

The **“Imola Hills” Wine and Flavours Route** passes through unique, enchanting spots, in which history and natural beauty are inextricably mixed. However, it is the wealth of traditions and culture related to food and wine which seduce travellers, accompanying them on a journey to discover its riches. The “bread-basket” of the Route contains quality wines, from the “DOC Colli d’Imola”, Sangiovese in particular, to “Albana DOCG of Romagna” which accompany IGP (Protected Geographical Indication) products, such as the nectarines and peaches of Romagna, the “marroni” (chestnuts) of Castel del Rio, the shallots of Romagna, the white beef of the Central

Apennines, as well as other “Traditional” produce, such as the apricots of the Santerno Valley, shepherd’s Pecorino and the famous “piadina” (flat bread) of Romagna, to mention only the most famous. The itinerary winds through the valleys of the Santerno, Sillaro and Sellustra rivers, visiting the territories of Borgo Tossignano, Casalfiumanese, Castel del Rio, Castel Guelfo, Castel San Pietro Terme, Dozza, Fontanelice, Imola, Medicina and Ozzano dell’Emilia.

Strada dei Vini e Sapori “Colli d’Imola”

Via Boccaccio, 27 - 40026 Imola (BO)

Tel. **0542.25413** - Fax 0542.613252

info@stradaviniesapori.it

www.stradaviniesapori.it



The bread-basket with typical products - Photo by S.T.A.I. - Guerrino Bertuzzi

The Imolese Valley

the Apennines



Tourist itinerary

The first part of the itinerary sets out to discover the Santerno Valley. We will branch out from the SS 610 "Montanara" state road, which follows the ancient pilgrims' route for Florence and Rome, going up the whole valley as far as the Futa Pass.

The Santerno Valley

- Casalfiumanese
- Borgo Tossignano
- Fontanelice
- Castel del Rio

Not to be missed:

- The bridge and castle of the Alidosi in Castel del Rio
- The chestnut woods and the "Marrone IGP of Castel del Rio"
- The Chalk Vein Regional Park of Romagna
- The waterfalls of Moraduccio
- The ficattola and piè frita (two types of fried bread, the former puffy, the latter flat)
- The "Luca Ghini" Trail
- The Mengoni Archive Museum in Fontanelice
- The Wine and Flavours Route of the Hills of Imola

History and Nature

The territory of the Santerno Valley has been inhabited since time immemorial. In Roman times, the hills were rich in small villages, while in the Middle Ages there was Byzantine and Lombard occupation. Many of the numerous castles of the period have disappeared or been transformed into churches and private houses, while others are still there, dominating the valley with their evocative ruins. In the following periods, the valley's territory belonged to various noble families such as the Borgia, Bentivoglio, Visconti and Alidosi, who dominated vast tracts of the territories of Bologna and Romagna. From an environmental point of view, the landscape changes the further you move from the Via Emilia: the foothills of Imola are covered by vast vineyards and orchards, but only a few kilometres from the city, the landscape changes noticeably, with the start of the gypsum territory. Here there is the particular morphology of the "Chalk Vein of Romagna", the result of rain water erosion on a thick stratification of grey-blue clay. The area is now protected in a Regional Park, which also extends into the neighbouring hills of Faenza. To the south of the Chalk vein, the hills become mountains and the Apennines take on their typical appearance, dominated by woods of European oak - a species suitable for warm, dry climates - ash, English oak, birch and beech in the higher reaches of the territory. But the most notable forests are those of chestnut trees, also of interest for their productive aspect: in these woods there are the "marroni di Castel del Rio", a chestnut unique to these latitudes, very large and sweet, which has conquered both national and international markets.

Buon appetito

Talking about the Bolognese Apennines, we have often referred to the Tuscan influences on the cooking: here the mixture of gastronomical traditions is more complicated, containing as it does the best of specialities from Emilia, Tuscany and Romagna. A pleasant way to discover the wealth of this land's cooking might be to follow the flavoursome calendar of food-based festivals which the territory dedicates to its wines and gastronomic treasures. Let's start with Polenta, prepared in large copper pots in the square of Tossignano since 1622 every Shrove Tuesday, while on the same day, down in the Borgo of Tossignano, there is the Festival of the Macaroni. We continue with pasta dishes, at the Festival of the Garganello in Codrignano. And again: in Castel del Rio on occasion of the Renaissance Festival, there is the Festival of

the Gnoccata (gnocco fritto - fried savoury pastries) and in Fontanelice that of the Piè fritta (a fried flat bread). Forest produce triumphs in Castel del Rio in the Porcino and Marrone (a special chestnut) Festivals, while fruit, in particular the apricot, is celebrated in a festival in Casalfiumanese. Then there is meat: from tender, succulent "Castrato" (mutton) to Beef of Romagna, which has been awarded the designation "Indicazione Geografica Protetta" (IGP), an indication of genuine origins and quality. All of this accompanied by wines from Romagna and the Imola Hills, celebrated in Fontanelice on the night of San Lorenzo.

How to get there

- State highway SS 610 "Montanara", which connects Imola and the Via Emilia to Tuscany.
- The A14 motorway, exits at Imola and Castel San Pietro Terme.
- Railway, the Rimini-Ancona line, with stations in Varignana, Castel San Pietro Terme and Imola.
- Buses ATC www.atc.bo.it, to all the inhabitations of the valley.

Events

Acqua di Terra - Terra di Luna

The theatre festival "Acqua di Terra - Terra di Luna" (Water of the land - Landscape of the moon) follows a well-developed trail through the evocative scenery of the Santerno Valley: from the vistas and squares of the historical centres to more unusual locations with great natural charm in the valley, such as a river bank beach, a rocky cliff or among the trees in a wood. The initiative owes its success to the high cultural value of its events, the interaction between the promoters (The Local Councils of the Santerno Valley and the Imola Town Council), the artistic directors and the enthusiastic public participation. www.acquaditerraterradiluna.com

Tourist Information

Imola

Galleria del Centro Cittadino
Via Emilia, 135 - 40026 Imola (BO)
Tel. 0542.602207 - iat@comune.imola.bo.it

Opening times:

Monday to Friday	8.30am-1.00pm
Tuesday	3.00pm-6.00pm
Saturday	8.30am-12.30pm

Casalfiumanese

Casalfiumanese is the first town you reach going up the Santerno Valley. The town centre is in a dominating position over the mid-region of the valley, naturally defended by a high cliff over the River Casale. Access to the historical centre is through an arch next to a tower, the Torre Civica, both of which were rebuilt after the serious damage suffered in the Second World War.

Two notable 19th-century buildings in the central area are Villa Masolini and **Villa Manusardi**, with its highly valuable and picturesque park, where public events are now held.

The **Luca Ghini Trail**, named after the founder of modern botany who was born here in 1490, leads nature-lovers to the striking gypsums of Croara.

Culture and Famous Names

Luca Ghini

An eminent botanist, he made a fundamental contribution to scientific analysis of the vegetable world in a period in which the use of medicinal plants still swung between magic rituals and the attribution of properties that were not always certain. In 1539, he became the chair of Medicinal Herbs at the University of Bologna where he was Aldrovandi's professor. Invited by Cosimo I of the Medici family to move to the Pisan Studio, he was the first in Europe to plant a university botanical garden. Thanks to his studies in Pisa, he wrote the first *Index Seminum* in the history of botanical science. Today, Luca Ghini's birthplace continues to give visitors the same passion for nature that it instilled in that illustrious inhabitant of Casalfiumanese.





Cycling tourism in the Santerno Valley

Photo by S.T.A.I. - Monica Monducci

Moving along Via Montanara in the direction of Borgo Tossignano, it is worth visiting the 15th-century **Romanesque Church of Riviera**, called “della Visitazione”, inside which a painting, today in Brera, of the Madonna by the Venetian artist Jacopo Bellini was found. Marvellous frescoes still decorate the interiors. It can be visited when Mass is held.

Events

Raviolo Festival (Ravioli are biscuits filled with jam): March

I zug d'na volta (Games from the past): May

Park Festival - Festival of the Ficattola (puffy fried bread): June (Manusardi Park)

Festival of the tortello (filled pasta, similar to salted ravioli): June

Apricot Festival: July

Classic Car and Motorbike Rally: July

Sassoleone

Festival of the cuccagna (grease pole): April

Festival of the ritorno (homecoming): August

San Martino in Pedriolo

Carnival of San Martino: April

In the land towards the Sellustra Valley, it is worth visiting the tower-house, the “**Pe-driaghe**”, built by the Alidosi family at the beginning of the 16th century, the **Sant’Andrea** parish with its 15th-century church and a bastion of the old Sforza family, as far as to arrive at the ruins of **Castello di Fiagnano**, near which Pope Onorio II was born and where you can admire the wonderful Pliocene gypsums.

In the higher reaches of the extensive territory of Casalfiumanese the area around Sassoleone, on the border with Tuscany, it is the perfect spot for mountain bike excursions and walking or horse riding in the woods and meadows.

Gastronomy and Wine

The “ficattola” and the “piè fritta”

A rival of the piadina (a flat bread), the “ficattola” is the result of tasty contamination with Tuscan cuisine. A typical speciality of the Santerno Valley, it is really nothing more than bread filled with local salami and then fried. The “ficattola” is celebrated yearly in the splendid setting of the park of Villa Manusardi in Casalfiumanese and should not be confused with the “piè fritta”, the variation in Romagna of the “gnocco fritto” (or “Crescentina”) of Emilia, the star for over half a century of the Easter Monday Festival in Fontanelice.

preceding page, **Romanesque Church of Riviera**

Photo by Comune di Borgo Tossignano

Borgo Tossignano

The present habitation of Borgo Tossignano is divided between the new part called the Borgo, situated in a double loop of the Santerno River, and the original nucleus of Tossignano in a higher position.

Tossignano is a small village on the summit of a rocky chalk outcrop, whose origins date back to the Romans, while the Borgo was founded in 1198. From the 14th century and throughout the Renaissance, Tossignano played an important role due to its strategic position above the valley, being passed from one Lord to another and then from one dominion to another for centuries: from the Visconti to the Manfredi, from the French of Napoleon to the Papists, and so on.

Worth seeing is the 17th-century **Palazzo Baronale**, which houses the “I Gessi e il Fiume” Visitors’ Centre and the Museum of Material Culture.

Museums

Palazzo Baronale

Piazza Andrea Costa
40021 Borgo Tossignano (BO)
Tel. and Fax **0542.628143**
ecosistema@ecosistema.it

THE “I GESSI E IL FIUME” VISITORS’ CENTRE

Dedicated to the geological, botanical and fauna peculiarities of the Santerno Valley, the centre offers a permanent exhibition, workshop and a rich selection of educational activities for schools and groups. A garden and a walking trail link up with the paths which cross the Chalk Vein.

MUSEUM OF MATERIAL CULTURE

The museum contains objects linked to the past of the material culture of the Santerno Valley: equipment for farming, spinning, weaving and craftwork, domestic utensils, instruments for collecting gravel from the river and extracting chalk, among the main economic activities of the area.

Opening times: Sunday 2.30-6.30pm; at other times subject to prior booking for groups. Free entrance.

In the Church of San Michele, there is the Madonna of Tossignano, also known as the **Madonna della Spiga** (ear of corn), since she is celebrated on the day of the Trinity. It is a painting of the 15th-century Tuscan School, probably part of a larger work. The devotion to the Madonna della Spiga is as old as the painting and is still important for the inhabitants of the Santerno Valley.

From the Church of San Michele, there is a path leading to the ruins of the **Rocca of Tossignano**. From the highest point of the ruins, you can see all of the Santerno Valley, from a panoramic and truly enchanting position on the majestic crags of the Chalk Vein. The fortress of the Ramazzotti family (page 123), then partly destroyed by the Imolesi in 1538, the Rocca still has its moat, the plinth of the drawbridge and its thick foundations, which together still give an idea of the intelligent military geometry applied to build it. During the Second World War, the Germans used it as an observation point over the valley, which from 1943 was crossed by the Gothic Line (page 160). Descending along the walkway carved into the selenite rock can be nerve-wracking.

In the winter of 1622, in the midst of war and famine, a certain Mastr’Antonio da Farneto had the idea of organising a large polentata (Polenta feast) for carnival to boost the morale of the valley’s inhabitants. Tossignano at the time was the capital of the small feud of the Duke of Altemps, governed by Scincia da Sermoneta. Since then, the **Polenta Festival** has continued uninterrupted, celebrated every year on Shrove Tuesday. All the participants are offered polenta cooked in enormous copper pots, stirred for an hour with chestnut wood forks and then served with pork ragù. Since 1928, the Ceramics Cooperative of Imola has created commemorate plates for every edition.

**The most excellent Master LEONARDO
SCINCIA DA SERMONETA
considered Doctor in both ecclesiastic and public law
governor of TOSSIGNANO, FONTANA etc.
in the name of the most reverend and excellent Lord
THE DUKE OF ALTEMPS**

having heard Master Mastr'Antonio de Farneto
petitioning on behalf of the local population
and having considered how due to the misfortunes of the district
such as grain shortage which threatens continuous hunger
as well as the misfortunes of the greater States
created by wars and terrible plagues
believing the people should be allowed for one day
to desire the enjoyment of dancing, playing and singing
to lift the public spirit otherwise so melancholic
accepts this petition and

orders and commands

**that on the last day of carnival be made and distributed
in the public square polenta and wine in abundance
and that the people dance, play and sing**

but with decorum and moderation
until the moment of entering Lent
in which period everyone is urged
to undergo penitence and fasting
in atonement of the sins committed.

This day 1st February 1622 - the official site

It is therefore not by chance that in 1998 in Borgo Tossignano, the "Association of Italian Polenta Makers" was set up, organizers of the two-yearly National Gathering of Italian Polenta.

Every year, on the same day and in playful contraposition to the ennobled Polenta Festival of Tossignano, there is the **Macaroni Festival** in Borgo. The Festival is believed to have started at a ball, when a boy from Borgo trod on the toes of a girl from Tossignano. The climax of the Festival comes with the

preparation and consequent enjoyment of the macaroni with ragù, amidst fires and a procession of floats.

The village of **Codrignano** stands on high round on the right of the Santerno, set in the suggestive framework of the gypsums. Next to it, there is an ancient, important dam, the starting point for the Canale dei Molini

Macaroni Festival

Photo by Comune di Borgo Tossignano



(Mills), which crosses the territory of Imola as far as Mordano. Every year, Codrignano holds the Festival of the Garganello, the most typical type of egg pasta in Romagna, similar to long macaroni.

Borgo Tossignano is a member of the National Association of “**Chestnut Towns**”, since its territory produces a very particular chestnut, the “Marrone IGP di Castel del Rio”. The chestnut orchard in Campiuno, within the **Regional Park of the Chalk Vein of Romagna**, is one of the lowest in Romagna and its centuries-old trees are an important historical testimony to this cultivation.

Nature

Regional Park of the Chalk Vein of Romagna

Between the provinces of Bologna and Ravenna, the hills of Romagna are crossed by a spectacular silver-grey ridge which gives the landscape a unique appearance. It is the largest chalk outcrop in Europe (25 kilometres long): a natural and historical treasure that surprises and fascinates visitors. The Chalk Vein takes its name from the chalk rock, also called selenite due to its characteristic of reflecting light, including that of the moon (Selene). Its iridescent reflections are caused by the flakes of salt embedded in the rock from the age when this land was covered by the Pliocene sea. The most inspiring excursion is along the Vein's ridge: on one side the profile of the Apennines, on the other the plains with the line of the sea in the distance. The area also has peculiar karst morphology, including dolines, closed valleys and numerous caves, among which the “abissi”, vertical cavities which can reach record depths. In the area between Tossignano and Casola Valsenio (Ravenna), you can appreciate the scientific aspects of greatest impact on the Vein's landscape, partly due to nature's slow re-conquest of the five levels of the old mining extraction sites. Chalk has in fact been used for building since ancient times: you just have to look at the foundations of many of the medieval towers in Bologna. Juniper and hawthorn are the dominant flora on the Vein, while among the various birds that can be seen in the area, there is the rare Royal Owl.

Info: “I Gessi e il Fiume” - Tel. **0542.628143**
ecosistema@ecosistema.it

Sport and Active Tourism

EXCURSIONS ON THE CHALK VEIN OF ROMAGNA

The **Santerno River Park** is a beautiful walking and cycling trail which extends below the chalk cliffs overhanging the river. Equipped with a picnic area, refreshment bar and a green area, the park reaches the basin of Rineggio, in the area of Campola, where a natural oasis has been created. Along the trail there are illustrated informative boards about the surrounding natural environment.

The **Itinerary on the Chalk Vein** leads from the Rocca to the ridge of the Vein as far as Monte del Casino. This is the starting point of the “Grande Circuito della Romagna” (G.C.R.), which crosses the Apennines to San Leo in Montefeltro.

The **Ring of the River Mescola** is the most spectacular excursion among the gypsums of Romagna. From the bridge on the Montanara road, there is a track on the left of the River Mescola leading to the crest of the Chalk Vein and Monte Penzola (412 m), indicated by a cross, from which there is an impressive view. Continuing on to Monte dell'Acqua Salata (Salt Water Mountain), you arrive at the Carrè, a classical villa in a panoramic position above the Sellustra Valley. Here you can join the “Luca Ghini” Trail, which leads to Ponti di Croara, where there is an exciting trail along the ridge of the gypsums.

Events

Children's Carnival: last Sunday of Carnival
Polenta Festival and **Macaroni Festival:** Shrove Tuesday

Lom a merz (Light in march, to celebrate the end of winter): February-March

Holidaymakers' Festival: 1st-15th August

Festival of San Bartolomeo: 24th August

Festival of the Garganello (a type of pasta): first weekend of September

Festival of the Madonna del Buon Consiglio: third Sunday of October

Festival of San Martino: 11th November

Bonfire of San Nicolò: December

MARKET DAY: Saturday

Fontanelice

And so we reach Fontanelice, birthplace of the architect Mengoni, designer of the Vittorio Emanuele Gallery in Milan and the building of the Cassa di Risparmio di Bologna. Mengoni Archive Museum has his seat in the town square, inside a beautiful building with porticos and a statue of the Immacolata in its façade, in the past the Town Hall.

Museums

The **Mengoni Museum** displays a collection of documents and projects by Giuseppe Mengoni, given to the town council by the descendents of the engineer and architect from Fontanelice, a key player in 19th-century Italian architecture.

MENGONI ARCHIVE MUSEUM

Ex Palazzo Comunale P.zza Roma, 22
40025 Fontanelice (BO)

Tel. **0542.92824** - Fax 0542.93528

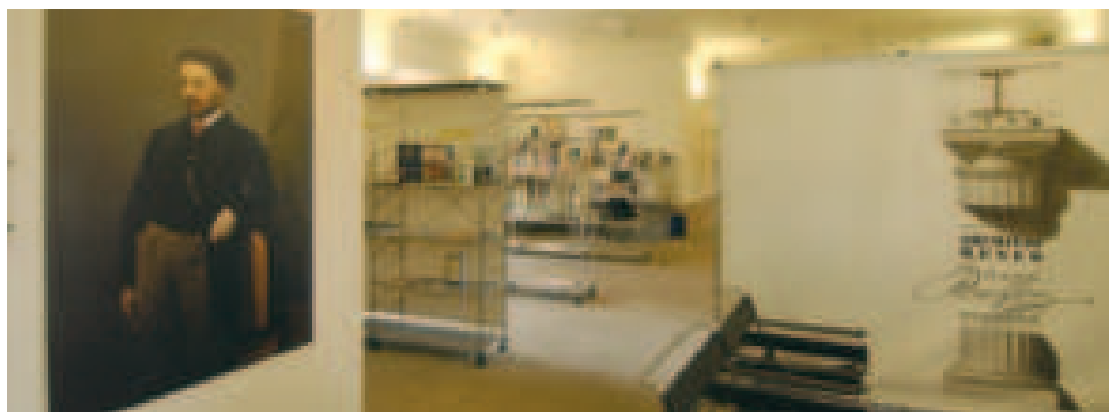
centro.mengoni@fontanelice.provincia.bologna.it

Opening times by appointment. Free entrance.

The historical centre is reached by passing through the gate of Fontana Elice, built in 1842 in painted terracotta, to substitute the ancient gate of the castle and featuring a large mask on the external façade.

Mengoni Archive Museum

Photo by Provincia di Bologna - Vanes Cavazza



The Church of SS. Pietro and Paolo contains an interesting painting from the School of Carracci and in the apse, there is a 14th-century Byzantine icon, called the **Madonna della Consolazione**, which on occasion of the “Anno Santo” is carried in a procession through the town in an extraordinary piece of choreography.

Fontanelice is a member of the National Association of “**Wine Cities**” and on the night of San Lorenzo, the streets of the historical centre give hospitality to a large tasting of wines from the territory.

The panoramic “**Lavender Road**” leads from Fontanelice to Monte Battaglia (715 mts), a symbol of the war for liberation. Since Lombard times, Monte Battaglia has been an important strategic point in controlling and defending the Senio and Santerno Valleys. There is evidence dating as far back as 1154 of a castle and in 1494, Caterina Sforza ordered the construction of a fort. Of the ancient construction, you can still admire the imposing 14-metre-high walls in the form of a quadrangle. During the Second World War, Monte Battaglia was on the Gothic Line (page 160) and was the site of bloody clashes, commemorated by the work of the sculptor Aldo Rontini. A starting point for various excursions, there is a view from its summit which on particularly clear days stretches as far as the mountains in Croatia.

Events

Festival of the piè frita e Palio dei Somari
(Donkey races): Easter Monday
Fiume DiVino (River of Wine): June
Calici di stelle (Goblets of stars): 10th August

Festival of the Immacolata or **Beata Vergine delle Grazie**: 8th December

MARKET DAY: Friday

Castel del Rio

An ancient possession of Queen Matilde of Canossa, Castel del Rio passed in 1200 to the Alidosi family, who were responsible for the Santerno Valley until the mid-17th century, enriching the territory with distinguished constructions.

An extraordinary example of Renaissance military architecture, **Palazzo Alidosi** looks onto the Via Montanara at the entrance to the town. Built between 1542 and 1545, probably on a design by Francesco da Sangallo,

the castle is characterized by the two enormous bastions making up the façade. Its imposing form is half of the original design, having the double function of residence and defensive fort. Inside, it is worth visiting the “Cortile delle Fontane”, a genuine treasure of Renaissance art, which takes its name from the decorative sandstone shell-shaped fountains. The Palazzo is today the Town Hall as well as the seat of the War Museum and the Museum of the Chestnut Tree.

Museums

Palazzo Alidosi

Via Montanara, 1 - 40022 Castel del Rio (BO)

WAR MUSEUM

Tel. **0542.95554** - Fax 0542.95554

museo@museoguerra-casteldelrio.it

A rich collection of war material is accompanied by daily utensils and photographic, cinematographic and documentary memories of the Gothic Line and the Resistance in the Santerno Valley. There are also objects, relics and arms from the Great War and the Risorgimento.

MUSEUM OF THE CHESTNUT TREE

Tel. **0542.95906** - Fax 0542.95313

urp@casteldelrio.provincia.bologna.it

An informative exhibition dedicated to the chestnut tree: from the environmental characteristics of the territory to the history and tools of a cultivation that has for centuries been a fundamental resource for the farming life of the upper Santerno Valley.

Opening times: weekends and public holiday afternoons 2-6 pm; other days and times with prior booking.

Tickets: full price € 2.50, free for under-10s, 50% discount for groups.

American war Texan T6 airplane

Photo by Provincia di Bologna - Vanes Cavazza

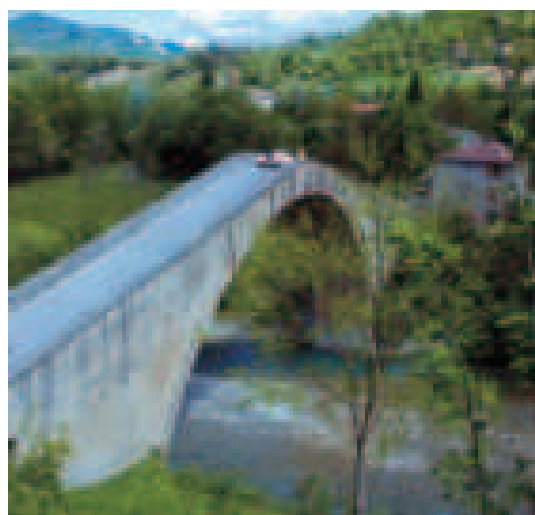




Palazzo Alidosi

Photo by S.T.A.I.

In front of the castle, a road leads down towards the river and the bridge, the **Ponte Alidosi**, the symbol of Castel del Rio. Built from 1499 onwards by Mastro Andrea Guerrieri from Imola, commissioned by Obizzo Alidosi, the bridge was the means of access and control of the town. Its unmistakable humpback shape has a single arch that is 18.5 metres high and 42 metres long, truly impressive to cross. Within its massive structure, on particular occasions it is possible to visit the guard rooms. A genuine masterpiece of 15th-century civil engineering, the bridge was proclaimed a national monument in 1817.



Ponte Alidosi

Photo by S.T.A.I.

Starting from the bridge, there is the panoramic road for Valsalva, leading to **Castellaccio di Cantagallo**. This fort dates back to the 12th century and its ruins dominate all the upper Santerno Valley.

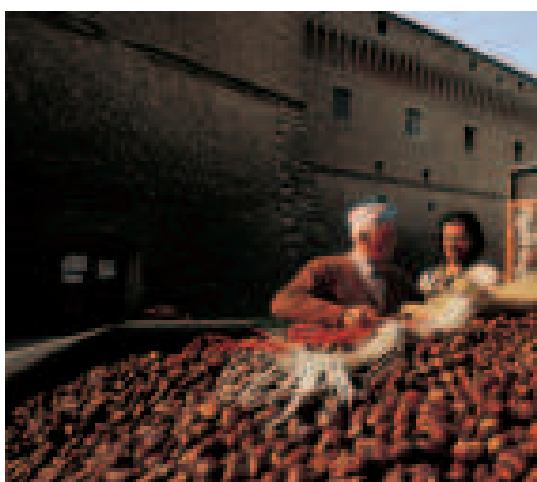
Immersed in the centuries-old chestnut woods above the town, there is the tourist complex of “Le Selve” (open with prior booking and offered as self-catering to organised groups or families), composed of ancient stone houses and an area equipped for tents and small caravans. A few metres from the reception the **Chestnut Trail** begins, an informative area with games and illustrative boards which introduces guests to the chestnut orchards, their natural wealth and the traditions linked to their cultivation. It is also possible paying to collect the “marroni di Castel del Rio”.

Info: Tel. **0542.30558** - leselve@geims.it

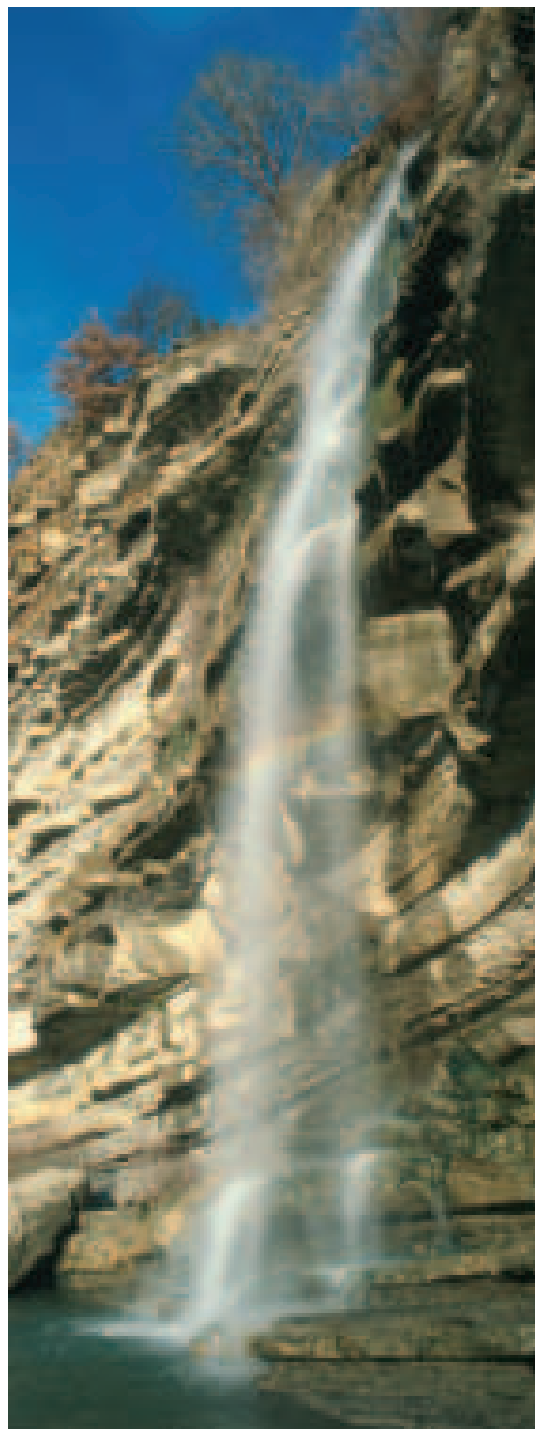
Gastronomy and Wine

Marrone di Castel del Rio IGP

The Santerno Valley's great chestnut woods contain a precious treasure: the “Marrone IGP di Castel del Rio”, a particular type of chestnut. The cultivation of chestnuts in these lands date back to the Middle Ages, when Queen Matilde of Canossa introduced it on a large scale, to sustain the poor mountain economy. The marrone differs from the common chestnut for its sweeter flavour and larger size, so much so that each pod contains no more than 2 or 3 nuts. The exquisite and natural qualities of the marrone make it the main ingredient of many recipes which in autumn grace the tables of the valley's restaurants. In October, you can taste and buy them at the Festival in Castel del Rio. The production area includes the territories of Castel del Rio, Fontanelice, Casalfiumanese and Borgo Tossignano.



On the border between the Grand Dukedom of Tuscany and the Pontifical State, **Moraduccio** is a place of great naturalistic interest, in particular for the waterfalls of the Fosso Canaglia, whose name commemorates the ancient presence in the area of brigands and smugglers. In summer, this stretch of the Santerno River is very popular with swimmers, while in spring, its waters are ideal for canoeing enthusiasts. Crossing the bridge over the Santerno, it is a short trip to the evocative abandoned village of Castiglioncello, in Tuscan territory.



Waterfall of Moraduccio

Photo by S.T.A.I.

Chestnut Festival

Photo by S.T.A.I.



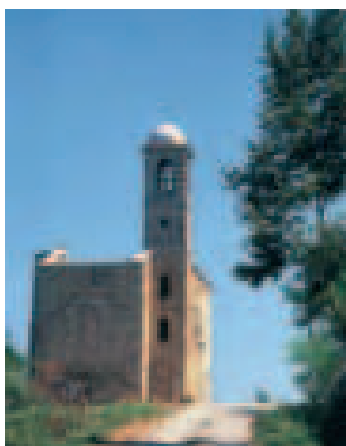
Ponte Alidosi

Photo by S.T.A.I. - Elisa Cerè

Further along the valley, the Church of **Valmaggione** stands in a dominant position between the Santerno and Senio Valleys. Probably built around the year 1000, the Church has recently been restored, with the addition of a glass covering. It is open on the third Sunday of July, when Mass is celebrated. A few metres from the Church, there are the ruins of a castle, probably of Lombard origins. This place is also linked to the story of the Witch of Valmaggione, a “healer” burnt to death by the Court of the Inquisition of Imola in 1559.

Church of Valmaggione

Photo by S.T.A.I.



The whole upper Santerno Valley is an ideal spot for excursions on foot, mountain bike or horseback. Among the walking itineraries, one of the most interesting is the **trail of the River Zafferino** (CAI trail 723) which

leads to the beautiful mill, the Mulino della Madonna, the ring of the Magnola Valley and Monte La Fine (CAI trail 727), the view from whose summit takes in the Sasso di San Zenobi, the Sasso della Mantasca and the Tre Poggioli cross.

There are also numerous opportunities for mountain bike and horseback excursions on the Sillaro-Santerno watershed towards the Apennine Passes of the Giogo and Futa.

Events

Flower Festival: April

Renaissance Festival: first two weekends of July

Festival of the Porcino: last two weekends of August

Festival of the marrone di Castel del Rio:

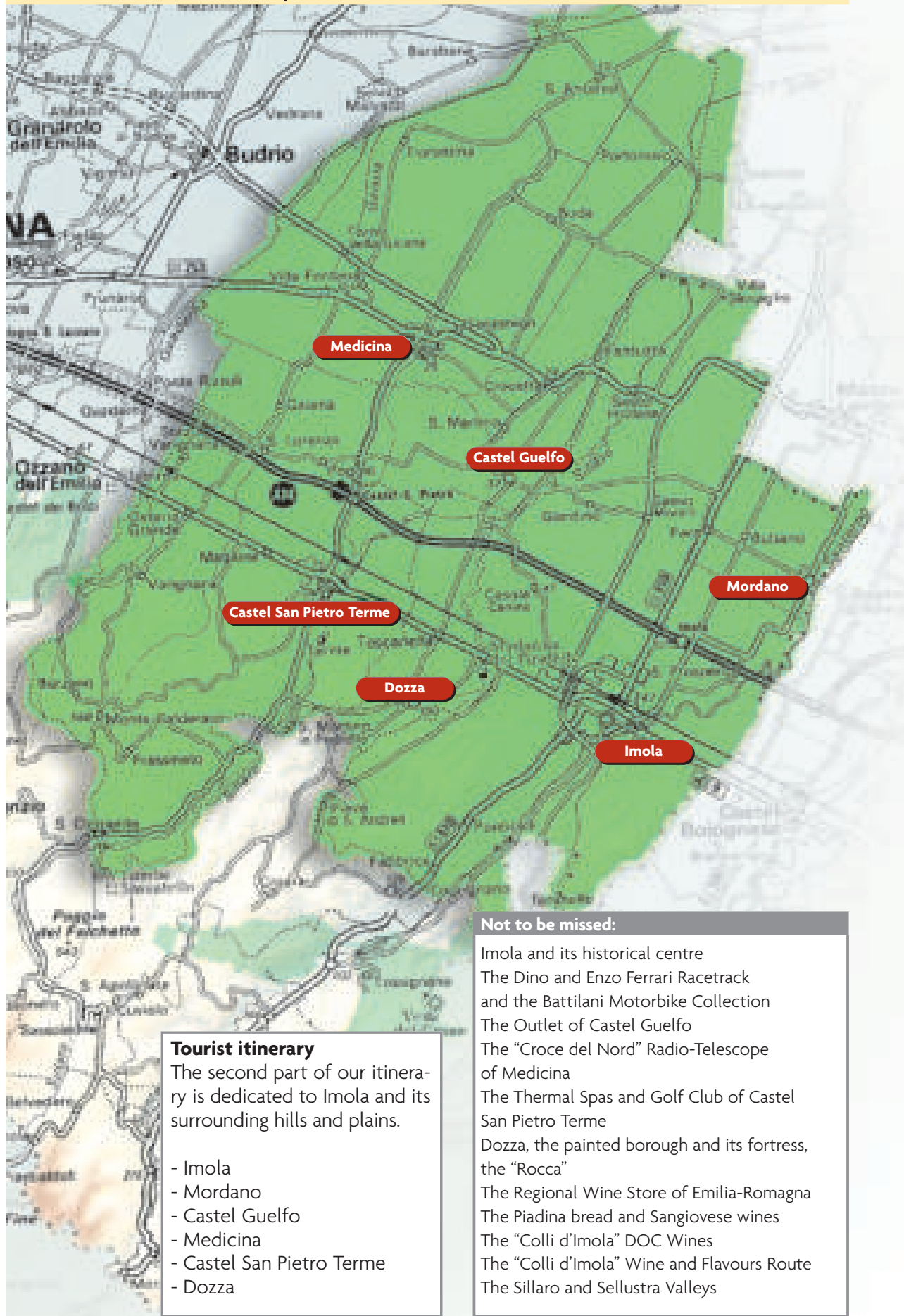
Sundays of October

Chestnut Market: October and November

MARKET DAY: Wednesday

The Valleys of Imola between the Sillaro and Santerno

the hills and plains



History and Environment

The border between Emilia and Romagna is not indicated on any map, but it has an unmistakable effect on the territory of Imola, evident in the changes in dialects, traditions and characteristics. Romagna is a land with a very clear cultural and anthropological identity, to say nothing of its food and wine traditions. The gateway to Romagna is Imola, a city of art, nature and motors, and the thriving centre of the economic and cultural life of the ten local Councils which make up its District. Towards the Lowlands, the sea and the wide, fertile plains stretching eastward from Imola, you come across three places, Medicina, Mordano and Castel Guelfo, where you can discover the history and nature of this final borderland of the Province of Bologna. The territory of Medicina, whose name is an inheritance from the Barbarossa, offers plenty of reasons for interest, both naturalistic, with the Quadrone Nature Reserve, and scientific, with the great "Croce del Nord" Telescope. The small centre of Mordano stands near the high banks of the Santerno in countryside marked by traces of the "centuriazione", the Roman land division system. In Castel Guelfo, history reveals itself in the interesting urban layout of the town, with the medieval historical centre surrounded by an 18th-century enlargement. The Lords of these lands were the Counts of Malvezzi-Campeggi: this noble Bolognese family is also linked to the history of the painted borough of Dozza, dominated by the fortress, the Rocca, founded by Caterina Sforza, which stands in the foothills along the Via Emilia. On this ancient consular road there is also Castel San Pietro Terme, built in 1199 to defend Bologna after the Battle of Legnano.

Buon appetito

Here at the intersection between Emilia and Romagna, the culinary delights are truly unique. Here you can find the best of a cuisine rich in important pasta dishes, from lasagne cooked in the oven in the Bolognese tradition to cappelletti, garganelli and strozzapreti in the tradition of Romagna. And then the grilled second courses, mutton, salami and ham to try with the "piada" of Romagna, the famous, tasty flatbread made since Roman times, a symbol of the conviviality and brilliance of these lands. To accompany all this, there are the local wines: Albana and Sangiovese in particular. The temple for wines from throughout the region is the Regional Wine Store of Emilia-Romagna, housed in the sumptuous cellars of the fortress, the Rocca of Dozza. The "Colli d'Imola" Wine and Flavours Route unites these lands with the territories of the Apennines in an itinerary of unforgettable tastes.

How to get here

- The A14 Motorway, exits at Castel San Pietro Terme and Imola.
- By road:
 - SS 9 Via Emilia in the direction of Rimini.
 - SS 253 "San Vitale" in the direction of Ravenna.
 - SP 48 "Castelli Guelfi" (Stradelli Guelfi) in the direction of Castel Guelfo and Mordano.
- By rail: Bologna-Rimini-Ancona lines, stations in Varignana, Castel San Pietro Terme and Imola.
- By bus: ATC www.atc.bo.it.

Tourist Information

Imola

Galleria del Centro Cittadino
Via Emilia, 135 - 40026 Imola (BO)
Tel. 0542.602207 - iat@comune.imola.bo.it

Opening times:

Monday to Friday	8.30am-1.00pm
Tuesday	3.00pm-6.00pm
Saturday	8.30am-12.30pm

Castel S.Pietro Terme

Piazza XX Settembre, 14
40024 Castel San Pietro Terme (BO)
Tel. 051.6942090 - iat@castelsanpietroterme.it

Opening times:

Monday to Saturday	8.30am-1.30pm
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday	3-6.30pm
Sundays in May, June, July, September and December	9-12am/3-6pm

Castel Guelfo

Via del Commercio, 20/d
40023 Castel Guelfo (BO)
Tel. 0542.670762 - outlet@stai.it

Opening times:

Monday	2-7.30pm
Tuesday to Friday	10am-7.30pm
Saturday and Sunday	10am-8.30pm



Cycling in the Imolese plain - Photo by S.T.A.I.

Imola

Imola is an elegant city, lively and pleasant, even just for a weekend visit. Famous throughout the world for its racetrack, Imola has many surprises for its visitors.

Science and Technique - Museums

Imola Land of Motors THE ENZO AND DINO FERRARI INTERNATIONAL RACETRACK

Via Fratelli Rosselli, 1 - Imola (BO)

Tel. **0542.634511**

info@autodromoimola.com

www.autodromoimola.com

Speed is part of the genetic heritage of the people of Imola. The current circuit was opened in 1950 and in 1970, its future was entrusted to the image and charisma of Enzo Ferrari. Formula 1 arrived in 1980 and since 1981, the San Marino Grand Prix has been held there. At the main entrance to the circuit there is a notable work by the French sculptor Arman, a 5-metre-tall structure in bronze composed of a collection of models of the famous Ferrari F40. As well as automobile and motorbike races, the circuit also hosts rallies and large-scale musical events. Visits can be booked.

Info Point Terra di motori

Piazza Leonardo da Vinci - 40026 Imola (BO)

Tel. **0542.010483** - info@motorsite.it

Open during the main programmed events.



BATTILANI COLLECTION

The Benito and Renzo Battilani Collection of historical motorbikes includes numerous classic motorbikes produced by both Italian and foreign companies between the beginning of the 20th century and 1945. Among the many examples, there are bikes by Harley Davidson and Frera. There are also more recent bikes, such as the Mancini, Loris Capirossi's first motorbike. **Info:** Via Poiano, 1/b - Imola (BO)

MOTOR SITE

The passion of all Emilia-Romagna for motoring has led to the creation of "MotorSite - La Terra dei Motori", giving the chance for organized visits to the most symbolic sites of the Italian motoring tradition, from the Galleria Ferrari to Ducati, from the Imola Circuit to the numerous private collections.

Info: MotorSite via Scudari, 10 - Modena

Tel. **059.218264** - Fax 059.206688

info@motorsite.it - www.motorsite.it

Having come into the sphere of Bolognese influence only with the Union of Italy, Imola has passed all the modern period in the Legation of Romagna, which with Bologna and Ferrara, constituted the Lombard plain side of the extensive Papal domain.

It was here that the revolt against the power of the Church smouldered for a long time, before exploding in the great period of the Risorgimento, giving birth to the first Italian Socialist Movement.

Culture and Famous Names

A citizen of Imola, **Andrea Costa**, the father of Italian Socialism, was barely twenty when he became the protagonist of the first anarchic-style revolts in the region, for which he paid with periods of exile and imprisonment. Thanks in part to these experiences, Andrea Costa elaborated his political thought, summed up in his famous *Lettera agli amici di Romagna* in 1879, in which he advocated abandoning subversive struggle and presented a democratic and refor-

mist concept of Socialism. In 1892, he became the first Socialist to be elected to Parliament, while in 1889, Imola became the first Italian city to have a Socialist mayor, elected thanks to an alliance with the Republicans and Radicals. Mayor himself in 1895, Andrea Costa always maintained a close relationship with his city. He died in Imola in 1910 and his ashes are kept in the Piratello cemetery; the epigraph is by Giovanni Pascoli, his study-mate at the Faculty of Arts in Bologna.

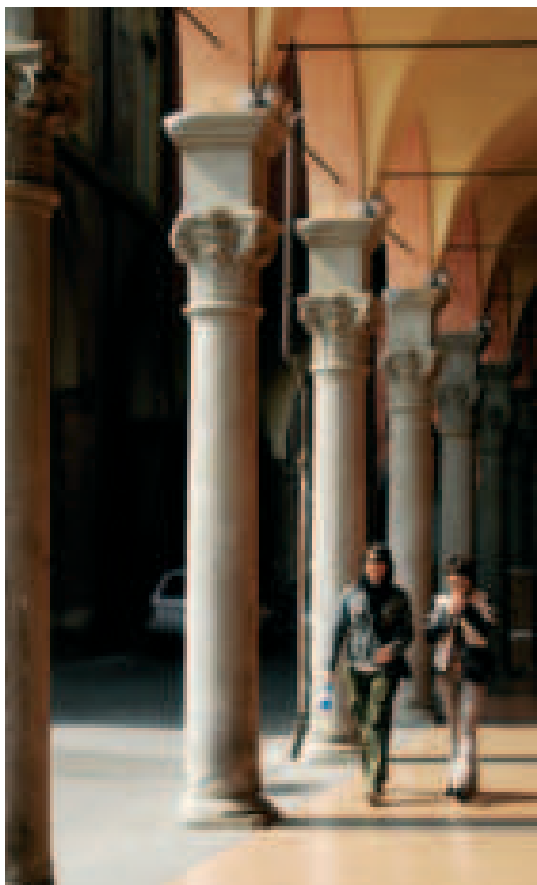
Today, Imola proudly preserves all the features of its history and its “separateness” with regard to the administrative context of which it is part, even though it is functionally, culturally and economically linked to Bologna.

The town planning of modern Imola is still largely faithful to the Roman colony of Forum Cornelii, founded in the 2nd century AD on the Via Emilia in honour of Lucio Cornelio Silla. The streets of the Roman city were paved with large slabs of volcanic rock, brought to Imola from the hills of Euganeo by water as far as Conselice, and then by cart along the Via Selice, so-called because it was paved with lava “selci” (cobblestones). Many stretches of these streets are still visible in the S. Annunziata garden.

Walking through the historical centre is the ideal way to discover Imola.

The beautiful “**Piazzetta dell’orologio**” (Clock Square, also known as Piazza dei Caduti per la libertà) is rather like the city’s salon, with Casa Vacchi Suzzi, the oldest house in Imola, overlooking it.

A few steps and you enter the great square of the city, Piazza Matteotti, with the imposing Palazzo Sersanti on one side and the Palazzo Comunale (City Hall) on the other.



Portico of the historical centre

Photo by S.T.A.I.

History and Culture

The Piratello

“Continuing along the Via Emilia for 4 kms you come to the Sanctuary of the Madonna del Piratello which has been close to the hearts of the Imolese for centuries. Piratello stands for “piradel”, which means “little pear”, that was the tree growing beside a pillar with a painting of the Madonna, in the 15th century. A certain Stefano Mangelli from Cremona stopped in the shade while on a pilgrimage to Sanctuary of Loreto. He saw a candle in front of the statue light up miraculously and a voice told him to instruct the Imolese that a shrine should be built in that place. Shortly afterwards, work was started and it was completed thanks to the goodwill of Caterina Sforza, who with her children had survived the siege of the fortress of Imola. Some years later Cesare Borgia vowed that if he took Imola without spilling blood he would construct a chapel in honour of the Virgin. Granted this favor, he kept his promise and, so it seems, summoned Leonardo da Vinci to decorate it with a suitable picture. Today there remain **frescoes by Guardassoni** to commemorate the miracle for the many visitors.”

Renzo Renzi

Palazzo Riario, later called **Sersanti**, is a valuable example of Renaissance architecture with an open brickwork façade supported by 14 arches with sandstone columns. Girolamo Riario, Lord of Imola and the husband of Caterina Sforza, commissioned the building from Giorgio Fiorentino in 1480 with the intention of making it his official residence. A bridge was intended to connect it to a garden whose entrance can be seen in the side street Via Aldrovandi at no. 29, still indicated by an elegant brick arch. At the end of his seigniory, the ground floor was taken over for many years by the workshops of the “garzolari” (textile-makers), who kept silkworms there. Today the building is private property and houses the Margotti Art Collection which, together with the council rooms on the first floor, can be visited with a prior appointment.

The **Palazzo Comunale** (City Hall), although originally medieval, nowadays has an elegant 18th-century appearance, due to the work of Alfonso Torreggiani and Cosimo Morelli. Its main feature is the Appartamento del Magistrato: three rooms decorated with frescoes by the artists Giacomo Zampa from Forlì and Alessandro Della Nave from Imola. The rooms contain beautiful 18-19th century furniture and are worth visiting, with a prior appointment.

Perhaps the oldest church in Imola is **Santa Maria in Regola**, constructed in the 7th century on the site of a previous sacred building. A Benedictine monastery until the 9th century, it was then altered in the course of the following centuries. Among the most noteworthy ancient elements, there are the Byzantine altar, the sarcophagus of San Sigismondo (1372) and the Romanesque 12th-century bell-tower, visible from the adjacent Vicolo Laderchi. The façade and interior are the result of 18th-century re-elaboration, the work of the architect Cosimo Morelli. Adjoining the church, there are the monumental cloisters of the ex-Convent of the Olivetani.

In Piazza Duomo, there is the Cathedral of **San Cassiano**, the city's first Christian martyr. Originally built in the 12th century, the Cathedral was completely renovated between the 18th and 19th centuries, based on the designs of Cosimo Morelli. The 15th-century bell tower is noteworthy. Inside there is a 15th-century wooden Crucifix. The tombstone of Girolamo Riario is still visible, as his widow, Caterina Sforza, wished him to be buried in the Cathedral. The adjacent Palazzo Vescovile (Bishop's Palace) houses the Museo Diocesano (Museum of the Diocese), with a collection of paintings and sacred relics.

Museums

The Palazzo Vescovile houses a collection of paintings from the 14th to the 19th century (of particular note the works by Innocenzo da Imola, Bartolomeo Vivarini and the Veneziano, as well as other local and Flemish works), important illustrated codices from Bologna and Ferrara from the 13th and 14th centuries, sculptures, sacred ornaments and medals.

MUSEO E PINACOTECA DIOCESANI (MUSEUM AND GALLERY OF THE DIOCESE)

Palazzo Vescovile

P.zza Duomo, 1 - 40026 Imola (BO)

Tel. **0542.24156** - Fax 0542.34672

archiv.diocesimola@tin.it

Opening times: Tuesday and Thursday 9.30-12am and 2.30-5pm; other days by appointment. Free entrance.

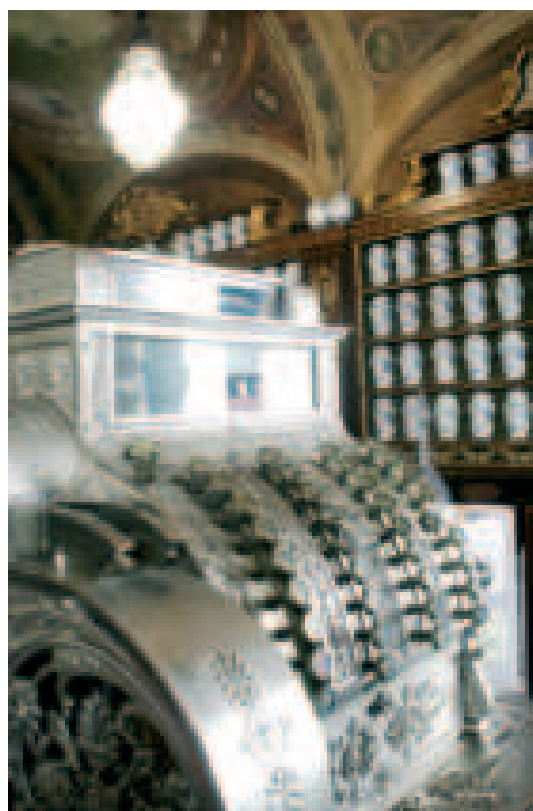
Palazzo Sassatelli, a short distance from the Duomo in Via Emilia 69, was the residence of the Alidosi family, who were also the lords of the antique Rocca (Fortress) of Imola and the castle in Castel del Rio, which can still be visited today. Also in Via Emilia at no 95, there is the Farmacia dell'Ospedale with surprising 18th-century interiors.

At the number 95, there are the Hospital Pharmacy with its interiors of the 18th-century.

History and Culture

The Hospital Pharmacy

The building was inaugurated in 1794 and is still largely intact as regards relics and decorations, a fascinating example of an 18th-century pharmacy. Of particular note are the 457 antique majolica vases, made in Imola, with the names of the medicines written on scrolls, displayed in carved wooden cabinets. The decorated vault is the work of the painters Angelo Gottarelli and Alessandro della Nave, who were also greatly involved in the decoration of the city's most beautiful buildings in the second half of the 18th century. The frescoes celebrate the virtues of Medicine and the regenerative force of Nature. The upper reaches of the background walls are decorated by six terracotta statues painted with tempera, made in Faenza. The pharmacy is still functioning and can be visited in its opening hours.



Hospital Pharmacy

Photo by S.T.A.I.



The ex-Convents of the Dominican and Franciscan monastic orders have today become two important centres of art and culture.

The Church and **Convent of San Domenico** date back to the 13th century. In the church, the Martirio di Sant'Orsola by Ludovico Carracci is particularly noteworthy, while the ex-Convent houses a museum.

Culture and Famous Names

Innocenzo da Imola

A precise interpreter of the best Raphael's Maniera style, Innocenzo da Imola earned the name of "Raffaello of Romagna". He was the son of a jeweller and thanks to a council grant, as apprentice to Francesco Francia, the greatest representative of the Bolognese Renaissance. The painting preserved in the Pinacoteca Comunale (City Art Gallery) dates back to 1515, and is said to have been painted as a sign of gratitude for the grant he had been given: in fact, the painting shows the Patron Saints of Imola, with San Cassiano holding the city in his hands (in the picture). In 1517, he returned to Bologna, where he became the painter for the major religious orders and the most important families. His student was Prospero Fontana, a painter in the late Bolognese style, whose daughter, Lavinia, having settled in Imola, created important works in the city. Among which of particular note is the large altar piece for the chapel in the Palazzo Comunale (City Hall), showing the Patron Saints of Imola worshipping the Madonna. This is now part of the Pinacoteca Comunale's collection.

Museums

MUSEUM OF THE CERAMIC COOPERATIVE OF IMOLA

Via Vittorio Veneto, 13 - 40026 Imola (BO)
Tel. **0542.601601** - Fax 0542.601534
www.imolaceramica.it

The history of the "Cooperativa Ceramica di Imola", active since 1874, is illustrated in three sections, dedicated to the evolution of the decorations produced by the company's Artistic Section, to the ceramic artists who influenced the typology of artistic and industrial production, and finally to the works created here by contemporary artists such as Pomodoro, Hsiao Chin, Baj, Del Pezzo, Pericoli and Tilson.

Opening times: Monday 3-7pm; Tuesday to Friday 8.30am-7pm; Saturday 8.30-12.30am
Free entrance.

Museums

"G. Scarabelli" Civic Art Gallery and Archaeological Museum

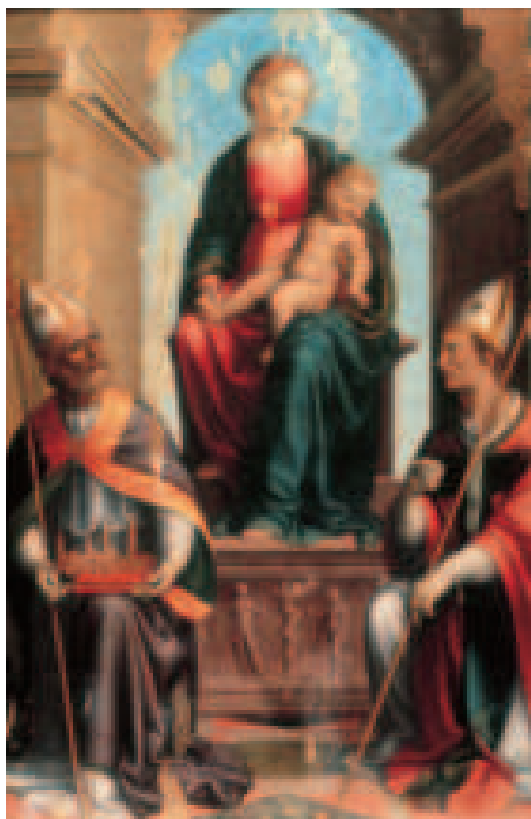
The Pinacoteca (Art Gallery) has a collection of works mainly from Bolognese circles, from the 15th to the 20th century. Next to Innocenzo da Imola, Lavinia Fontana, Cesi, Sammachini, Ubaldo Gandolfi and Viani, there are contemporary artists such as Morandi, de Pisis, Castrati and Guttuso. The archaeological section displays objects found in the surrounding territory by the celebrated local scientist Giuseppe Scarabelli. Educational and restoration workshops are organized.

MUSEUM OF SAN DOMENICO

Ex Convento di San Domenico
Via Sacchi, 4 - 40026 Imola (BO)
Tel. **0542.602609** - Fax 0542.602608
musei@comune.imola.bo.it

Opening times: Saturday and Sunday 4-7pm. Tourists, students and groups can also visit from Monday to Friday 9-12am, booking by telephone (**0542.602609**) or coming directly to the Museum (if the door is closed, there is a doorbell).

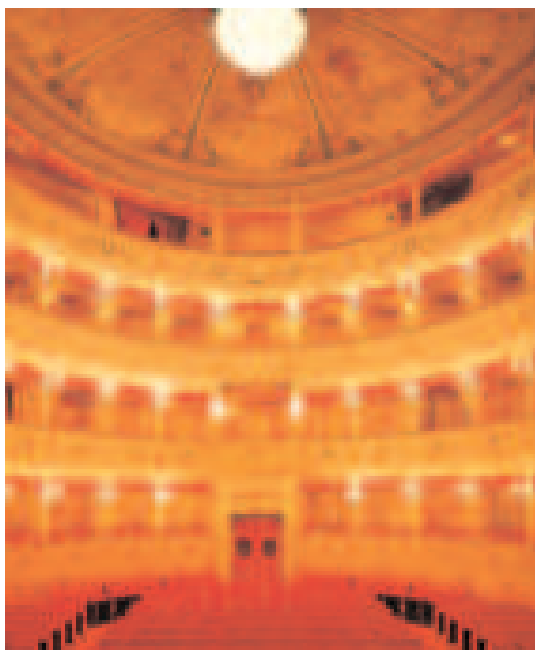
Tickets: full price € 3; reductions € 2; free to students; combined tickets - € 4 for the Rocca Sforzesca and Palazzo Tozzoni, € 5 for the Rocca Sforzesca, Palazzo Tozzoni and Museum of S. Domenico.



Madonna on the throne between Saint Cassiano and Saint Pier Crisologo by Innocenzo da Imola

Photo by Provincia di Bologna

The ex-convent of **San Francesco** houses an antique library containing, as well as manuscripts and early prints, a Hebrew bible and a Latin Book of Psalms with miniatures in gold, both from the 13th century. Within the Franciscan complex, there is also the Communal Theatre.



Stignani Theatre

Photo by S.T.A.I.

The Ebe Stignani Communal Theatre

In 1810, a group of wealthy people in Imola bought the ex-Church of S. Francesco to turn it into the city's new theatre, inaugurated in August 1812, on the occasion of the city fair. Three years later, Pope Pious VII ordered it to be closed due to incompatibility between its theatrical activities and its previous function as a place of worship. It was only in 1831 that Pope Gregory XVI allowed it to reopen, on condition that any reference to the pre-existent church be removed from the façade. Its modern appearance is the result of restoration work in the mid-19th century: as well as the façade, the ceiling was decorated with the Muses in a fresco by the iconic painter Paolo Sarti, while along the sides and the rear of the building, architectural elements of the original religious structure are still recognisable. Inaugurated once more in 1855 with a performance of Verdi's *Macbeth*, the theatre started a regular programme, alternating opera and prose works: at the turn of the 20th century, Ermete Zacconi performed there regularly and later the Ermete Novelli Company. Closed during the Fascist period, the theatre reopened its doors in 1974 with a show by the Antonio Gadès Dance Company.

Culture and Famous Names

Ebe Stignani

"The last great Italian mezzo-soprano in the most classical sense of the term", Ebe Stignani was perhaps the greatest mezzo-soprano of the first half of the 20th century. Born in Naples to a family from Romagna, she qualified in pianoforte and singing at the Conservatory of S. Pietro in Majella, and made her debut at the S. Carlo Theatre in 1925. Immediately attracting attention for her splendid voice, she received triumph and honours in theatres all over the

world. A leading star in a memorable period for Opera, she sang with the greatest of her time, from Mario Del Monaco to Maria Callas. Gifted with a vocal extension of over two octaves, with perfect tone and dazzling clarity on high notes, she soon distanced herself from facile realist singing effects, confident in her perfect technique and classical pitch. Having moved to Imola, in 1957, at fifty years of age, she retired from the stage. In tribute to its illustrious citizen, Imola named its Communal Theatre after her on the 20th December 1977.

Map by Leonardo da Vinci

Photo by Provincia di Bologna



Culture and Famous Names

Leonardo da Vinci e Imola

Leonardo da Vinci, the Renaissance genius, was also a great military architect. It was in this role that he came to Imola in 1502, on the invitation of Cesare Borgia, Lord of Romagna from 1499 to 1503. Leonardo studied the fortress, as shown by the sketches now kept in the Royal Library at Windsor, with the aim of strengthening the defensive structure, plans which were however never carried out. He also drew the famous map of Imola now in the Royal collection of Windsor, the first such zenithal projection and the oldest existing city map.

A splendid example of fortified architecture, the **Rocca Sforzesca** was built in the 13th century as a defensive rampart on the side of the city facing Bologna. Modified at the end of the 15th century on the basis of plans by the Sforza family engineer Danesio Manieri, the fortress maintained its military function. Constantly guarded by a garrison of soldiers under the command of a captain, it was part of a complex territorial defence system created in the historical context of the struggle for power between the Guelphs and Ghibellines, which took place throughout Romagna from the 13th century onwards. Worth visiting for its collections of weapons and ceramics, or even just for the wonderful view of the city from the towers, it also hosts events and shows in its internal courtyard in the summer months.

Museums

The Museum has a rich collection of medieval and defensive weapons and firearms from the 12th to the 20th century, and a notable collection of antique and Renaissance majolica ceramics found during rebuilding work on the fortress. There are guided visits, educational activities and workshops for schools, and restoration workshops.

ROCCA SFORZESCA

P.zza Giovanni dalle Bande Nere
40026 Imola (BO) - Tel. **0542.23472**
musei@comune.imola.bo.it

Opening hours: in winter (16/9-30/4): Saturday 9-12am and 2.30-6.30pm, Sunday 2.30-6.30pm; in summer (1/5-15/9): Saturday 9-12 am and 3-7pm, Sunday 3-7pm. Tourists, students and groups can also enter from Monday to Friday 9-12am, booking by telephone (0542.602609) or coming directly to the Museum (if the gate is closed, there is a doorbell).

Tickets: full price € 3; reductions € 2; free to students; combined tickets - € 4 for the Rocca Sforzesca and Palazzo Tozzoni, € 5 for the Rocca Sforzesca, Palazzo Tozzoni and Museum of S. Domenico.

The history of the fortress in the Renaissance is linked to that of three great characters: Caterina Sforza, Cesare Borgia and Leonardo da Vinci.

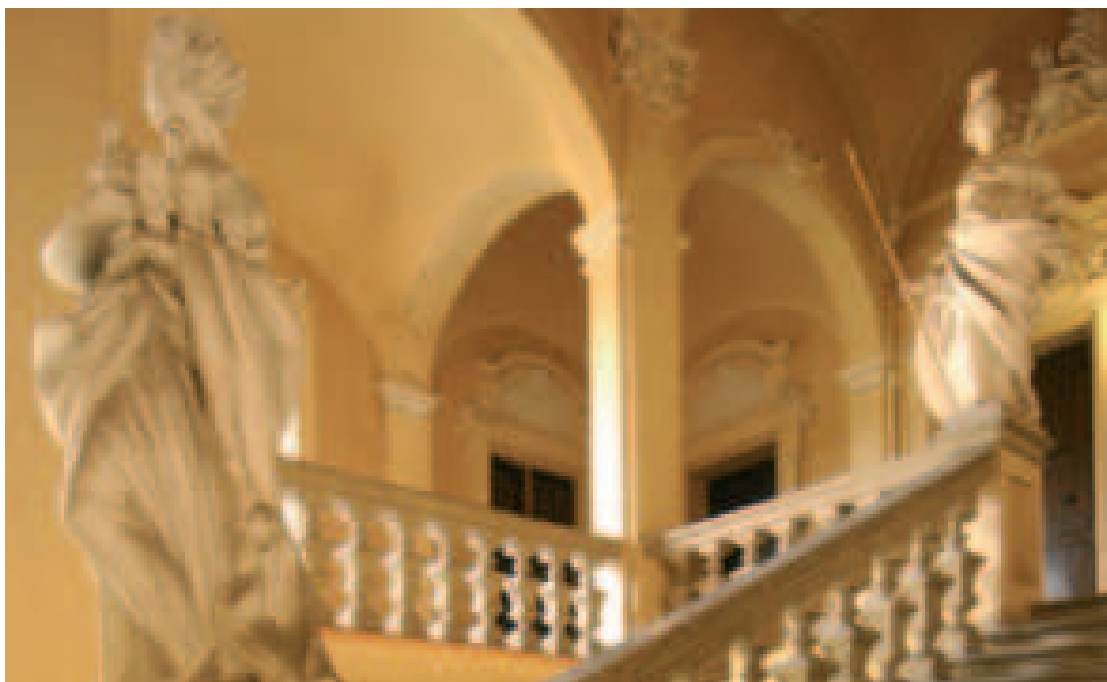
Culture and Famous Names

Caterina Sforza, the great lady of Romagna

Caterina Sforza, Lady of Imola and Forlì, was one of the most representative characters of the Italian Renaissance. From the lineage of the Dukes of Milan, Caterina brought the family name of Sforza back to Romagna, where the dynasty had started with the soldier-of-fortune Muzio Attendolo di Cotignola, called "Sforza". Once, in a rebellion during which her husband, Girolamo Riario, was killed, Caterina, seven months pregnant, turned the cannons on the rebels, thus quelling the revolt and gaining the regency of the Seignior. After a secret second marriage, in a third marriage she married Giovanni de' Medici and had a son, Giovanni dalle Bande Nere, a legendary cavalier of fortune who inspired the director Ermanno Olmi for his film *Il mestiere delle armi*, winner of 9 "David di Donatello" Awards in 2001. Caterina's seignior ended in 1499, when Cesare Borgia, called "Il Valentino", son of Pope Alexander VI and brother of Lucrezia Borgia, besieged Imola in an attempt to create a genuine dukedom in Romagna. Rather than fleeing, Caterina put up fierce resistance, leading her defenders personally. Taken prisoner by Cesare Borgia and then freed in 1501, she spent her last years in Florence with her son Giovanni, without ever giving up her attempts to re-conquer the Seignior. She died on the 28th May, 1509. Caterina Sforza was a highly important figure in the society of her time, the perfect example of a strong-willed, independent Renaissance woman. A truly eclectic character, she was also an expert in herbal alchemy, about which she wrote a treatise.

Rocca Sforzesca - Photo by Comune di Imola





Palazzo Tozzoni

Photo by Provincia di Bologna - Vanes Cavazza

Not far from the Rocca, the 18th-century **Palazzo Tozzoni** on its own makes a visit to the city worthwhile. This extraordinary building, a particularly rare example of a noble residence, has been perfectly preserved, down to the furniture and relics.

Before leaving the historical centre of Imola, it is also worth visiting the **Osservanza**, which includes the Church of San Michele,

the Sanctuary of the Beata Vergine delle Grazie and the Convent of the Osservanza. The 15th-century Church of San Michele was later embellished with two beautiful cloisters. Outside the church, under the 16th-century portico, there is still the funeral monument dedicated to Bianca Landriani, Caterina Sforza's sister. In the small chapel in the adjacent garden, there is a splendid terracotta Pieta from the late-15th century. The group, known as "I Piagnoni", is composed of seven life-size statues. In the surrounding green area, there used to be one of the most important mental asylums in Italy, one of whose inmates was the Bohemian poet Dino Campana, a student at Bologna University. Today the whole complex is the subject of a large-scale urban improvement project.

Museums

Donated to the City by the last Tozzoni family heir, the building is a precious, complete witness to the life of an aristocratic family: an important gallery (16th-19th century), objects of applied art, furnishing and family mementos, a rich library, the servants' quarters with utensils and ornaments, the cellars with tools and instruments for wine production and working the land.

PALAZZO TOZZONI

Via Garibaldi, 18 - 40026 Imola (BO)

Tel. **0542-35856**

musei@comune.imola.bo.it

Opening times: in winter (16/9-30/4): Saturday 9-12am and 2.30-6.30pm, Sunday 2.30-6.30pm; in summer (1/5-15/9): Saturday 9-12am and 3.15-7.15pm, Sunday 3.15-7.15pm. Tourists, students and groups can also enter from Monday to Friday 9-12am, booking by telephone (0542.602609).

Tickets: full price € 3; reductions € 2; free to students; combined tickets - € 4 for the Rocca Sforzesca and Palazzo Tozzoni, € 5 for the Rocca Sforzesca, Palazzo Tozzoni and Museum of S. Domenico.

Museums

Housed in the 15th-century Casa Gandolfi, the museum documents the events that happened in the territory of Imola in the period between Fascist rule and the creation of the Constitution of the Republic through posters, leaflets, models, relics, medals and objects of war, with particular attention to the local Resistance. There are guided visits, conferences, courses, educational activities and workshops for schools, a conference hall and a library.

MUSEUM OF THE RESISTANCE AND THE TWENTIETH CENTURY - C.I.D.R.A.

Via dei Mille, 26 - 40026 Imola (BO)

Tel. e Fax **0542.24422**

www.cidra.it - info@cidra.it

Opening times: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9.30-12am and 3-5.30pm.

Free entrance.

The green heart of Imola is the Parco delle acque minerali, which takes its name from a spring of sulphurous mineral water. Then, in the foothills surrounding the city, there is Parco Tozzoni, and a wood, the Bosco della Frattona, an authentic natural sanctuary.

Nature

The "Bosco della Frattona"

Nature Reserve

The first range of foothills, nowadays in orderly geometric fields of grain and fallow, alternated with orchards, was once covered with extensive woods. A splendid witness to that past is the Bosco della Frattona, on the slopes between Imola and Dozza, along the River Correcchio. The wood covers almost all the reserve like a giant mosaic. Depending on the exposure to the sun, the characteristics of the soil and the humidity, you can find a myriad of different types of vegetation. The southern band stretches along a sunlit plain, which shows off its best colours in autumn. Descending down the slopes towards the river, the wood becomes shady and cooler, carpeted with dark green areas of holly. Oaks dominate, but it is the undergrowth which holds the greatest surprises: by the end of January, snowdrops are already appearing, then primulas slowly arrive, as well as dandelions, wood anemones and violets. The blooming continues at a swift pace and for a few weeks, the undergrowth becomes a multicoloured carpet. The wood is also home to numerous animal species: the most common and the easiest to spot is undoubtedly the squirrel. In the park, you can also find the so-called "sabbie di Imola" (Imola sands), what remains of the beaches on the shoreline of a sea that more than a million years ago covered the whole plain of Lombardy and licked at the foothills of the Apennines.



CEA Centro Visita e documentazione ambientale

Complesso Sante Zennaro
Via Pirandello, 12 - 40026 Imola (BO)
Tel. e Fax **0542.628795**
bosco.frattona@comune.imola.bo.it
www.comune.imola.bo.it/boscofrattona

Science and Technique

Zoo Aquarium

Via Aspromonte 19 - 40026 Imola (BO)
Tel. e Fax **0542.24180** - www.zooacquario.it
The Zoo Aquarium offers visitors a fascinating journey among invertebrates, rare fish, marine plants and reptiles, presented in their natural environment, scientifically reproduced to give the maximum effect. The centre also promotes an intense information programme, including thematic lessons of an educational nature, conferences with experts in the field and courses for lovers of aquariums.
Opening times: in winter (1/10-31/05) from Tuesday to Saturday 9-12am and 3.30-7pm, Sunday 9.30-12am and 3.30-7pm; in summer (1/06-30/09) from Tuesday to Saturday 9-12am and 3.30-7pm, Sunday 9.30-12am and 4-7pm.
Closed on Monday, Sundays in July and for three weeks in August.
Tickets: full price € 6, reductions € 4.70

Science and Technique

Astronomical Observatory

Via Comezzano 21 - 40026 Imola (BO)
Tel. **0542.684335** - www.astrofiliimolesi.it
info@astrofiliimolesi.it
The observatory is about 4 kms from Imola at a height of 250 metres above sea level, and is run by the Associazione Astrofili Imolesi, who have elaborated it over the years. Under the glass dome towers a Newton-Cassegrain telescope with a 4.5-metre diameter, a 410-millimetre primary mirror equipped with a 150-millimetre refractor. The telescope and all the accompanying technical instruments are used in various public events throughout the year, dedicated to the observation of the moon, planets and other heavenly bodies.
Opening times: in the evening, on occasion of events organized by the Associazione Astrofili Imolesi.
Tickets: free entrance (booking is necessary)

A "Wine City" and the food and wine capital of Romagna, Imola dedicates truly unique events to food: first of all, the "Baccanale", when the city turns into a giant stage on which historians, chefs, gastronomists, artists and producers alternate their presentations.



International Festival of Folklore - Photo by S.T.A.I.

Events

Fantaveicoli, Procession-competition of extravagant ecological means of locomotion: Carnival Sunday

Sagra dei maccheroni di Ponticelli (Macaroni Festival): first Sunday of Lent

Lom a merz ("Light in March"): second or third Saturday of March

Imola in Musica, Music Festival in the streets, squares and buildings of the historical centre: at the beginning of June

Imola di Mercoledì, Thematic market and evening opening of shops in the historical centre: four Wednesday evenings from the end of June to mid-July

Crossover Jazz Festival, Rocca Sforzesca: at the beginning of July

Emilia Romagna Festival, prestigious classical music artists: from July to September

Festival Internazionale da Bach a Bartók: August and September

Festival Internazionale del Folklore: last Saturday of July

Festa del Contadino e Palio dei Pigiatori di Sasso Morelli: first weekend of September

La Città dell'Artigianato e Sfujareia, exhibitions, market-stalls, animation in the streets of the historical centre and traditional festival of the "sfogliare" (corn-on-the-cob): second Saturday of September

Mostra-scambio di auto e moto d'epoca CRAME, Vintage cars and motorbikes market show, Autodromo Dino e Enzo Ferrari: third weekend of September

Festa della Tagliatella di Ponticelli: second and third weekend of September

SuperBike, international motorbike racing, Autodromo Dino e Enzo Ferrari: September

Sagre di Zello,

- feast of the watermelon: second last weekend of July;
- grapes: third weekend of September;
- polenta and chestnuts: second weekend of October

Tre Monti, international walking race, Autodromo Dino e Enzo Ferrari: third Sunday of October

Baccanale, cultural festival on a wine and gastronomic theme in various places in the historical centre: exhibitions, tastings, events: three weekends in the first half of November (for two weeks)

Corto Imola Festival, international festival of short films: late November/early December

Mordano

Setting off into the lowlands of Imola, we come to Mordano, the ancient Moretano.

The entrance to the historical centre is marked by two lovely battlemented towers, with the façade of the Church of S. Eustachio in the background.

The Communal Theatre is also worth noting.

Communal Theatre

The Communal Theatre of Mordano is a small late-19th-century theatre, on the first floor of an old building next to the ex-municipal residency. According to a document dated October 1893, it appears there was a local theatrical company in Mordano, who probably had exclusive use of the theatre, which still basically has its original appearance, characterized by wooden balconies with wrought-iron railings. It was re-inaugurated on the 16th March 1985, since when there have been regular programmes of plays. It is also hired out for evenings of dance.



Tower Race

Photo by Comune di Mordano

Between rows of vines and peach-trees, in florid countryside looked after like a garden, you can come across numerous precious buildings in the typical architectural style of rural Romagna: smaller than those in Emilia, they mostly consist of a single building in which there is the farmer's house, stables and hayloft.

Next to the town, the banks of the Santerno stand imposingly in memory of the hard work of land reclamation carried out in these lands.

Starting with the Roman “**centuriazione**” (page 104), of which there are still clear traces in the orthogonal structure of the network of streets, the great land reclamation works of the Lowlands of Romagna became identified in the last century with the epic figures of the “scariolanti”. Halfway between Mordano and the Selice provincial road, there is the hamlet of **Bubano**, where in the 13th century, Benedictine monks erected fortifications to protect the property of the Church of Santa Maria in Regola. Of the original fortifications, later transformed into a genuine fort which passed from one Lord to another, there are no longer any traces. In the hamlet, it is worth noting the **Canale dei Molini** (Mill Canal), the oldest still-working manmade object in the area, perhaps dating back to the 8th century. The canal took water from the Codrignano dam and then rejoined the Santerno just after Bubano. Having lost its original function of providing energy for the mills, it is now a filling channel for water from the Santerno and feeds important water purification plants.

The most ancient religious site in the territory is the **Chaplaincy of San Francesco**.

Already existent under a different name before the year 1000, in January 1177 it hosted Federico Barbarossa for a few days. Having fallen into disuse, perhaps as a result of flooding, it was rebuilt from 1478 onwards by Franciscan Friars. Precious from an architectural point of view, it has an arcade facing east.

The writer Carlo Lucarelli lives in Mordano, whose pen gave birth to the police commissioner De Luca, main character of the TV serial filmed in the countryside of the Bolognese lowlands.

Events

Carnival: March

Agricultural-Industrial-Craftwork Fair:
late May-early June

Palio del Torrione (Tower Race): June

Festival of Sant'Antonio Abate: 1st Sunday
of August

Rock a tutta birra: September

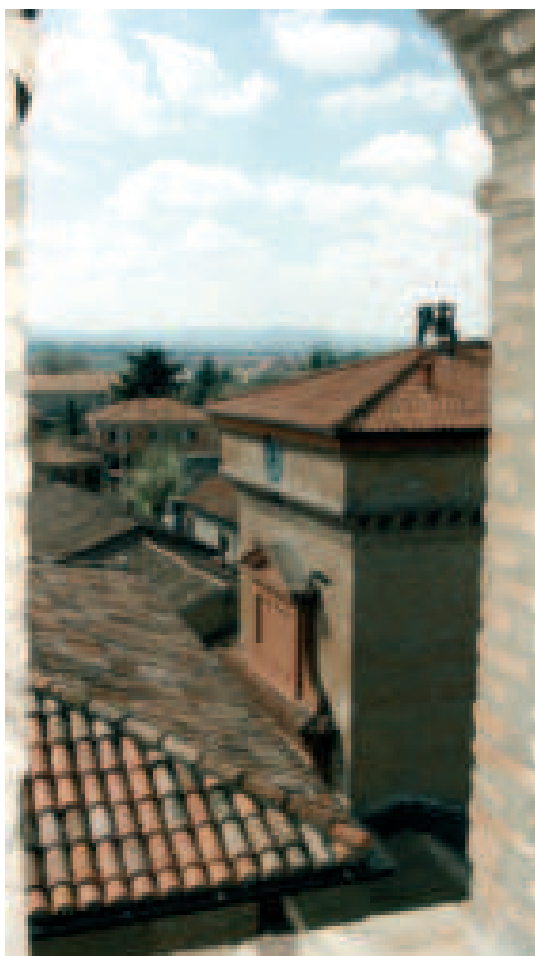
MARKET DAY: Monday

Castel Guelfo

Castel Guelfo is a typical plainland fortified borough, which has kept its late-medieval period structure intact, enriched by an original 18th-century extension project.

Given to the Church by the Canossa dynasty, the castle was then passed on to the Malvezzi, who in the 15th century, turned it into a small city-state to control the borders of the Bolognese territories along the River Sillaro.

Its imposing walls, four corner towers and fort frame the streets, churches and buildings of its elegant historical centre. Of particular interest are **Palazzo Malvezzi-Hercolani**, today the town hall, with its lovely courtyard and twin orders of porticoes, Palazzo del Podestà, with its mix of medieval and Renaissance styles, and the Church of the Sacred Heart, designed between 1799 and 1802 by Angelo Venturoli.



View of the Campanazzo

Photo by Comune di Castel Guelfo

The **defensive system of the castle** had an architectural organization in which every element had a specific function: each tower was in command of the walls below, or rather, as well as defending them, it could attack them if they were taken by the enemy. Following the same logic, the fort was in command of the towers. Transformed into a town gate between the 18th and 19th centuries, the fort has now become the clock-tower, called the “campanazzo”.

The fortifications managed to protect the town's population for centuries and up until the end of the 18th century, its gates were closed every evening: a precaution which should also have been maintained in the mid-19th century, when Castel Guelfo was raided by the famous brigand Stefano Pelloni, known as the “Passatore” (Ferryman).

Culture and Famous Names

The “Passatore” (Ferryman)

Stefano Pelloni, known as the “Passatore”, was a brigand active in Romagna in the mid-19th century. This nickname came from his job as a ferryman on the River Lamone, which brought him into contact with numerous smugglers, thieves and bandits passing through these lands, who introduced him into the “profession” for which he was to become famous. Having organized a band, he was active for several years around Ravenna, Bologna and Ferrara, without disdaining the occasional incursion over the Apennines. The typical trait of his band was occupying entire villages, with the aim of plundering the richest citizens' houses. In 1851, at only twenty-seven years of age, he was betrayed by one of his men and killed by the pontifical gendarmery near Russi (RA). His deeds immediately inspired popular imagination, making him the Robin Hood of Romagna. Not even Giovanni Pascoli could remain indifferent to the legend, so much so that in his poem “Romagna” he recalled this legendary figure, defining him “il Passator Cortese” (The Courteous Ferryman). An oddity: according to some sources, the Ferryman is an ancestor of Raffaella Carrà (a television star), whose real surname is in fact Pelloni.

In front of the castle, there is the **Borgo**, an 18th-century quarter with a particularly scenic atmosphere. Built outside the ancient walls by the Malvezzi Seignior on a design by the Bolognese architect Luigi Casoli, the Borgo is based around a triangular square, with the base towards the castle and the sides decorated by long porticoes.

At the entrance to the Borgo stands the **Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin of the Pioppa**, built between 1490 and 1500. The building originally had a Greek cross-shaped plan, today missing the arm on the entrance side. This compositional anomaly is the result of rebuilding in 1763 following the creation of the Borgo, when it was decided to withdraw the façade of the church to avoid altering the perspective of the square.



Castel Guelfo at the time of Malvezzi

Photo by Comune di Castel Guelfo



Castel Guelfo Outlet City - Private archive

In the area of Poggio Piccolo stands “**Castel Guelfo Outlet City**”, a genuine shopping city, with a precinct of shops, small squares, restaurants, cafés and a children’s play-ground. Inside there is an information point for tourists.

Info: Tel. 0542.670762
info@outletcastelguelfo.it
www.outletcastelguelfo.it

Events

Festival of Sant’Agnese: January
Wine and Doughnut Festival: end of June

MARKET DAY: Friday

Medicina

Medicina is situated in the heart of the plains between Imola and Bologna on the ancient Via Salaria, today the San Vitale. It was the birthplace of Pier da Medicina, who Dante put in Inferno among the sowers of discord (28th canto), engraved on a plaque of the 16th-century Clock Tower.

O thou! Guiltless,
Who on the Latian ground hast met me,
save resemblance lead astray,
remember Pier da Medicina
if you ever return to see the gentle plain
which slopes down from
Vercelli to Marcabò.

The strange name of the town is linked to a legend which tells how Federico Barbarossa, who refounded the city in 1155, was cured of his ailments here thanks to the medicinal qualities of a snake which he was served cooked in broth. In fact, the name dates back to ancient times, meaning “place where cures are practised”.

Events

BARBAROSSA, a great celebration in history, legend and poetry

The memory of the sovereign refounder of Medicina has changed over time with some imagination into a lovely legend and the fascinating fable has become poetic verses engraved in marble under the austere face of Barbarossa in the façade of Palazzo della Comunità:

Oh voyager, behold this beautiful story;
Here a serpent's merciful aid
To Federico Barbarossa gave life
Which slopes down from Vercelli to
Marcabò.

History, legend and imagination have always been the components of the extraordinary collective creativity which enlivens the great festival dedicated to Barbarossa every September.

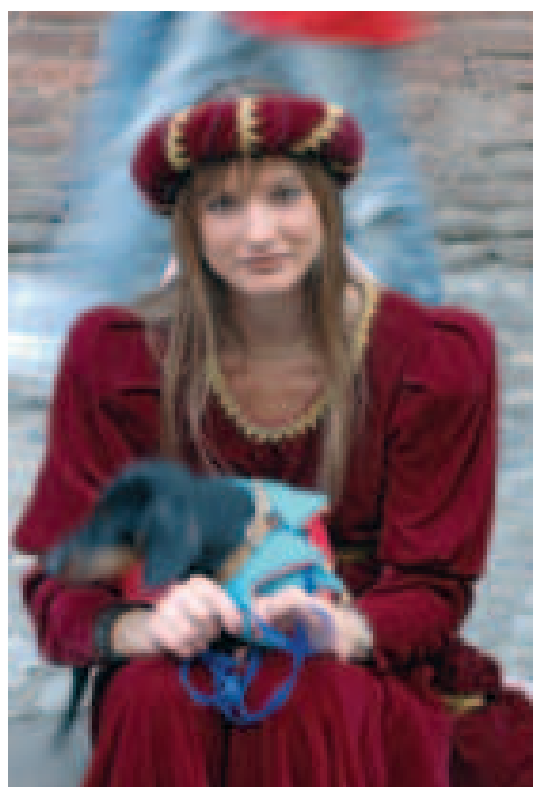
Gastronomy and Wine

The Onions of Medicina IGP

A proclamation, dating back to 1618, fixes the prices for the various sizes of the onion of Medicina, a type of golden onion in widespread use since the Middle Ages. The onions of Medicina are used for the famous Bolognese “friggione”, a succulent sauce of onion and tomato, and the renowned red onion marmalade of Medicina. The cultivation zone includes the territories of Medicina, Castel Guelfo, Castel San Pietro Terme, Ozzano dell'Emilia, Dozza and Imola.

The architecture of Medicina developed mainly in the 17th century around a quadrilateral urban nucleus, which was enclosed by walls until 1789. In the historical centre, a visit must be paid to the imposing 18th-century Church of San Mamante, with its beautiful bell-tower by Dotti, and to the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, by Torreggiani (1753).

The 16th-century **Palazzo della Comunità** is today the Public Library and Municipal Museum, rich in evidence of the history and culture of the territory.



Barbarossa Festival

Photo by S.T.A.I. - Sefano Calamelli

Museums

The **Municipal Museum** documents the history of the territory and local community. The archaeological section contains relics from the Iron and Bronze Ages, and the Roman and High-Medieval periods. Two sections of art and architecture display devotional works and evidence of the intense architectural and artistic development of the city in the 12th and 13th centuries, documented through the history of the churches and buildings, the work of the main Bolognese architects of the period: Giuseppe Antonio Torri, Alfonso Torreggiani, Giuseppe Antonio Ambrosi, Ferdinando Bibiena and Carlo Francesco Dotti. There are designs and projects by the two greatest architects of Medicina, Angelo Venturoli and Francesco Saverio Fabri as well

as interesting recreations of a lute-making workshop and an ancient pharmacy, next to the antique mechanism of the clock from the Civic Tower and works by the maestro Aldo Borgonzoni, who was also responsible for the frieze in the upper chamber of the Trade Union building.

MUSEO CIVICO (CIVIL MUSEUM)

Palazzo della Comunità Via Pillio, 1
40059 Medicina (BO)

tel. **051.6970356** - Fax 051.6979222

cultura@medicina.provincia.bologna.it

Opening times: the first Saturday and Sunday of each month (except July and August), 3-6pm; also open for local festivals. Tickets: full price € 2.60, reductions € 1.60 for students and over-65s, free for under-14s.



Municipal Museum, laboratory of Lutemaking

Photo by Provincia di Bologna - Vanes Cavazza



Other notable elements of the historical centre are the ex-Church of the Suffrage, in the main square, and the **monumental complex of the Carmine**, a masterpiece of Bolognese baroque architecture, on the main street with its tall octagonal dome. Along the portico of Via Cavallotti, there is the small Church of Santa Maria della Salute, designed by **Ferdinando Bibiena**.

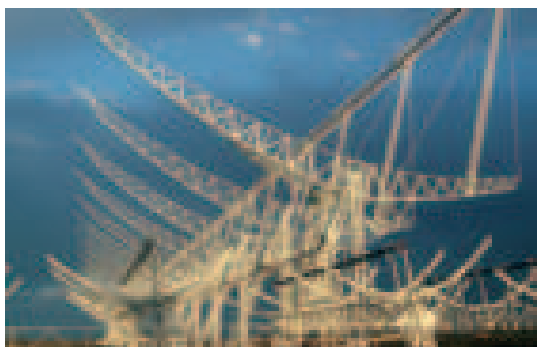
Also worth noting, in Via Saffi, is the “**Porticone**” by Venturoli and in the background, the Church of the Osservanza.

View of the historical centre

Photo by Comune di Medicina

In the film *Deserto Rosso* by Michelangelo Antonioni, Monica Vitti, in the role of an astronomer, talks of “an antenna to listen to the sound of the stars”. The scene takes place at the **“Croce del Nord” Radio-Telescope of Medicina**, the most powerful Italian radio-astronomical complex, situated in the area of Fiorentina. Guided visits really do let you listen to the voices of the stars and discover the secrets of radio-telescopes.

Having the “Croce del Nord” Radio-Telescope in its territory, as well as the research centres of the CNR, being the birthplace of Giuseppe Biagi (the wireless operator of the Nobile expedition to the North Pole), having as its citizens Loris Prantoni (twice at the South Pole at the Terranova research station, where he planted the coat-of-arms of Medicina), having as honorary citizen the Nobel Prize-winner Rita Levi Montalcini, have all led to Medicina being given the title “Cities of Science”.



Croce del Nord - Photo by S.T.A.I.

History and Culture

The Partecipanza

The Partecipanza consisted of the imperial or ecclesiastical concession of land to a community in exchange for land improvements. Its origins lie in the medieval institution of perpetual lease and was introduced in response to hydraulic problems which could not be resolved by individuals.

It was perhaps the first example of collective action in a land which, centuries later, would make cooperation one of its strong points. It still survives in Nonantola (Mo), Sant'Agata Bolognese, San Giovanni in Persiceto, Pieve di Cento, Cento (FE) and Villa Fontana di Medicina, and continues to function as a territorial and environmental regulatory body. The oldest is in Nonantola, while the most prosperous is in San Giovanni in Persiceto, thanks to the rich horticultural lands of Decima where the IGP Melons and Watermelons are cultivated: 2400 hectares assigned rotationally to the participants according to a draw of lots.

Partecipanza of Villa Fontana

Photo by Provincia di Bologna

Science and Technique

The “Croce del Nord”: the voice of the stars

Via della Fiorentina, 3560 - Medicina (BO)

Tel. **051.6399405** - **333.1999845**

Fax. 051.6399431

www.centrovisite.ira.inaf.it

The “Croce del Nord” is the largest existing “transit instrument”, conceived for the systematic exploration of the skies in search of radio-sources. In operation since 1964, it has two arms in a T-shape, adjustable along a north-south axis, so that the sources can be observed as they travel along a meridian, due to the effect of the earth's rotation. The large surface of the receiving mirror and the low observation frequency make the “Croce del Nord” a highly interesting instrument for studying pulsars and in particular high-speed pulsars. Next to the telescope, there is the VLBI parabolic antenna, inaugurated in 1983: it can be totally orientated, and so can pick out and follow any object in the skies.

Opening times: guided visits only with prior booking, for schools on Wednesday and Friday, for groups of at least 15 people on Saturday afternoon, for everyone on Sunday afternoon.

Duration: 2 hours. There are special visits on occasion of “Col favore del buio”, an initiative promoted by the Province of Bologna. Tickets: € 2.

Tradition attributes Matilde of Canossa with introducing into the area the “Partecipanza”, the subdivision of land among the local families and the right to pass the property down to male descendents. In the hamlet of Villa Fontana, the Palazzo della Partecipanza (18-19th centuries) is decorated with a double external staircase leading to the first floor. Inside, there is the precious archive of the Partecipanza and the Community of Villa Fontana, and in the Chamber of the Board, a late-16th-century painting of Santa Lucia, the patron saint of the two institutions.

(Info: Tel. **051.853807**).



Nature

The Quadrone Nature Reserve

Via Portonovo, 890 - Buda - Medicina (BO). The "Cassa del Quadrone" Nature Reserve is a small wet zone to the north-east of Medicina, near the hamlet of Buda. There is a visitors' centre, observation points and an organised itinerary. It extends over about 40 hectares and includes a cultivated belt with various ponds and a hydrophilic wood. Its importance is due to its notable biological diversity and the fact that it is a resting place and nesting site for a rich selection of birds. Various initiatives, festivals and workshops are organised for adults and children.

Info: La.C.Me - Tel. **051.851155**

Fax 051.6982396 - www.lacme.it.

The Fracassata Valley

An ancient reservoir for the zone's rice paddies, in active use until the mid-20th century, now a bird repopulation zone. It includes a bird and fauna enterprise and one for fish production, with an area of lakes for fishing, and a restaurant. The water of the Fracassata Valley comes from the nearby Medicina Canal, originally used to power mills and feed the moat which once surrounded the castle walls.

Paths, both for cyclists and walkers, connect the historical centre and the river area of the Medicina Canal.

Nature

The **farm-tourism route of the Medicina wet zones** is a unique itinerary leading visitors to places that can be reached both on foot and by mountain bike (and some by motorized means), all extremely interesting for various aspects:

- **naturalistic**, with the "Quadrone" Nature Reserve and the reclaimed "Vallona" area, rich in plants, birds and other animals in an uncontaminated environment;
- **historical**, with the ancient Church of Buda and further north, the Oratories of Santa Lucia and of the Blessed Virgin of San Luca;
- **scientific**, with the "Croce del Nord" Radio-Telescope and its Visitors' Centre at the "Aia Cavicchio" enterprise;
- **gastronomical**, at the "Aia Cavicchio" and "Oasi del Quadrone" enterprises of the La.C.Me Cooperative, and the "Murello" farm tourism organisation.

For the complete itinerary:

www.comune.medicina.bo.it,

link: ambiente.

Events

Medicina Carnival: February

Spring Festival, allegorical procession: the 1st Sunday after the 21st March

Cantamaggio: late April - early May

Magazzino Verde, in the "Parco delle Mondine", theatrical events: May

The "Medicipolla" Ancient Fair

of Medicina: July

Twinning Festival:

- **Cursa dal Dòg e Tri**

("The Twelve-forty-five Race"), a challenge between the 5 castles of Medicina, Castel San Pietro Terme, Dozza, Castel Guelfo and Mordano to win the Palio (a silk banner): the night between Friday and Saturday of the 3rd weekend of September.

- **Historical Recreation of Barbarossa** (3rd weekend of September)
www.ilbarbarossa.net

Autumn Festival "Venite a quel paese": October

Portonovo

Lòmm a Mèrz (Lights in March): February

Villa Fontana

Partecipante Festival c/o tenuta Vallona: July

MARKET DAY: Thursday

Castel San Pietro Terme

Castel San Pietro Terme has stood for over eight centuries on the Via Emilia, along the River Sillaro, a natural boundary between Emilia and Romagna. In balance between the past and future, it began as a fortified castle to defend Bologna after the Battle of Legnano. Today the welcoming historical centre of Castel San Pietro Terme is a multi-faceted tourist attraction. There are so many reasons for a visit, combined in the union between sport and wellness offered by the Spas and “Le Fonti” Golf Club.

The area of the spas, which can be reached from the historical centre with a lovely walk through the “Lungo Sillaro” Park, is rich in fountains, among which the “**Fonte Fegatella**”, already famous in 1337 for the curative properties of its water.

Spas & Wellness

The Spas of Castel San Pietro

Terme di Castel San Pietro S.p.a.
Viale Terme, 1113
Castel San Pietro Terme (BO)
Tel. 800213540

www.termedi-castelsanpietro.it

Castel San Pietro makes the most of the geological wealth of this zone. The thermal waters surfacing here belong to the great geological basin which extends below all the northern Apennines: in fact, as well as a group of iodine-salt springs, there are sulphurous and ferruginous springs and pseudo-volcanic formations, the “Salse del Dragone”, used for their mud. A spa centre famous since antiquity, its curative springs were already known in the 14th century for their therapeutic properties. The present spas have a scientifically avant-garde structure, connected to the University of Bologna, and swimming pools with the most up-to-date techniques for physical wellness.



Sport and Active Tourism

“Le Fonti” Golf Club

Viale Terme, 1800
40024 Castel San Pietro Terme (BO)
Tel. 051.6951958 - Fax 051.6949014
info@golfclublefonti.it
www.golfclublefonti.it

The course stretches through the lovely Sillaro Valley, 200 metres from the Spas. The club has a wide range of facilities, from a welcoming club house to a swimming pool, golf shop, bar and restaurant. A particularly long course for professionals, it is however extremely good fun for amateurs. Seat of a technical Federal Female centre, the Club has hosted from 2006 the L.E.T. (Ladies European Tour). Closed on Tuesday.

Technical data: 18 holes, par 72, 6480 mts, 75 mts a.s.l.



Ladies European Tour

Photo by Golf Club Le Fonti

The history of Castel San Pietro is linked to that of Bologna, having followed its fate since the Middle Ages, taking advantage of its difficult moments to establish its own role. Thus Castel San Pietro twice became the seat of the University of Bologna between 1306 and 1338, when Bologna was laid under papal excommunication. It was here in 1410 that the antipope John XXIII took refuge to escape the plague that was raging in Bologna.

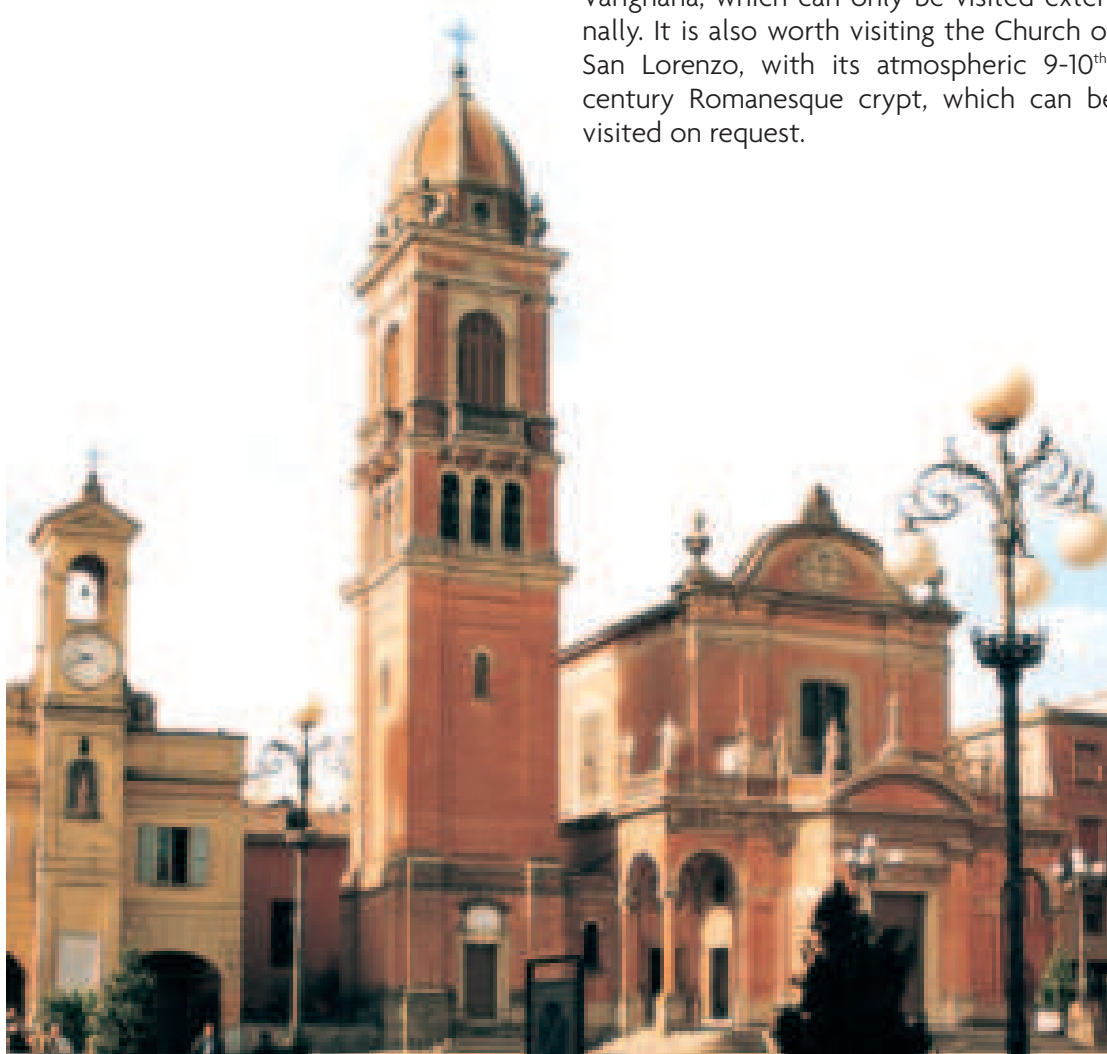
The beauty of the historical centre, with its original town plan still intact, presents visitors with all the charm of centuries of history of cultural and artistic life.

The **Cassero** (fort) is the monument which officially signalled the birth of Castel San Pietro in 1199. A massive construction, decorated with Ghibelline merlons, it is surmounted by an imposing 14th century tower with a clock added in 1784, visible from a great distance. The Cassero currently houses a multi-purpose theatre, open for theatrical and musical performances, as well as conferences and art exhibitions.

Not far away, there is one of the keeps of the old walls, of which pieces can still be seen in Via Castelfidardo and along the River Sillaro.

In the main square (XX September), next to the Town Hall, there is the **Sanctuary of the SS. Crocifisso**, with a bell-tower containing a good 55 bells on different levels, an original invention by Giulio Gollini in 1930. This makes it a unique building in Italy and the second largest for the number of bells in Europe. For many years now, the carillon has periodically been used to ring its music out over the town. For the “September Castellano” Festival and the Festival of the Crucifix, the Town Band of Castel San Pietro Terme organizes striking concerts for band and carillon.

In the surrounding area, about 10 kms away towards Bologna, there is **Varignana**, a delightful hamlet on a hill overlooking the Via Emilia. Dating back to perhaps even earlier than Castel San Pietro Terme, Varignana had a well-developed defensive system, evidence of which is still visible in its fortress. In the centre, there is the beautiful Tower of Varignana, which can only be visited externally. It is also worth visiting the Church of San Lorenzo, with its atmospheric 9-10th-century Romanesque crypt, which can be visited on request.



Sanctuary of the SS. Crocifisso

Photo by Provincia di Bologna

Castel San Pietro Terme is a “**Slow Cities**”: it is in fact a member of the international network for good living, whose member-towns stand out for their commitment to an economic and social development which respects the environment, local traditions and identity.

Castel San Pietro Terme, Honey city

Photo by S.T.A.I. - Paolo Benini



Consequently, the offerings of food and wine are particularly rich: Castel San Pietro Terme has also been adorned with the titles of “**Wine Cities**” and “**Honey Cities**”: in fact, the National Observatory for Honey Production and the Market is based right here, and on the third Sunday of September, there is the Quality Honey Fair and Exchange.

Events

Among the numerous events which animate the territory, the **Carrera autopodistica (Push-cart Races)** is undoubtedly the most famous. A very original relay race with carts pushed by hand, it has been held for fifty years and features as protagonists the pushers (in slang “spingitori”) and drivers of these special 4-wheeled vehicles. The competition is held as part of the **September Castellano**, festival full of cultural, tourist and sporting events and promotion of traditional local products throughout the month of September.



Events

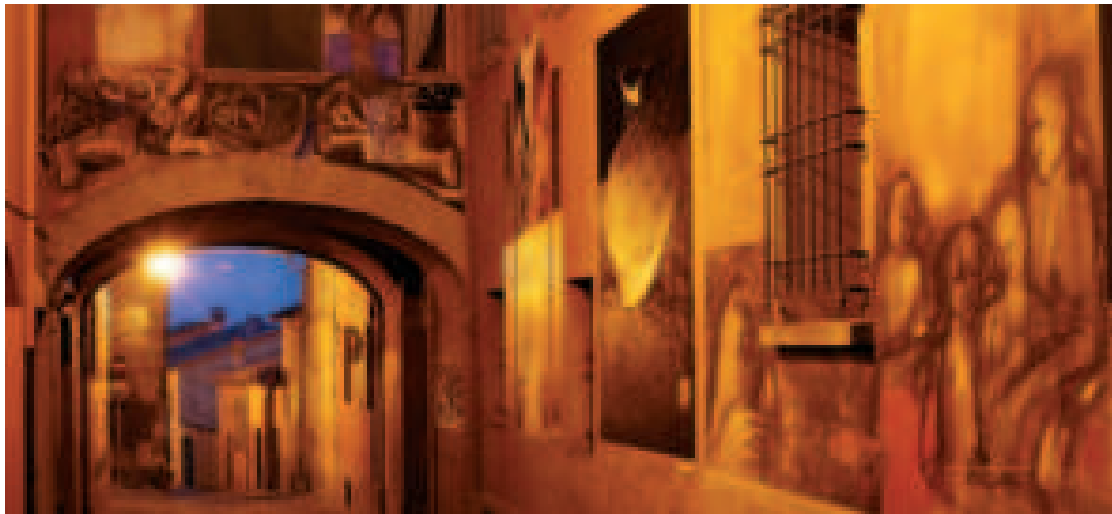
Slow Carnival: February
“Slow City” Spring Festival: 18th March
Cassero Jazz: March
Festival of the SS. Crocifisso: 15 days before Easter
“In Blues” Festival: late May
Carrera dei piccoli (Children’s Push-cart Races): May
Naturalmiele (Honey Fair) and Teatro che cammina (Street Theatre): 4 Saturdays in June
White Night: 4th Saturday of June
September Castellano Festival:
 - **Carrera Races** (1st and 2nd Sundays in September)
 - **Feast of the pork chop** (2nd Sunday of September)
 - **National Honey Fair and Exchange** (3rd Sunday of September)
CastelaNadel, exhibitions, nativity scenes and gift fair: December to January
Extra Markets: 21st October and 8th December

MARKET DAY: Monday

Carrera Races

Photo by S.T.A.I.

Murals on the walls of the borough - Photo by S.T.A.I.



Sitting on the ridge of the hill dominating the Sellustra Valley, between Imola and Castel San Pietro Terme, Dozza is a medieval borough which, over the centuries, has kept its characteristic spindle-form town layout intact. Dominated by an imposing fortress, Rocca Sforzesca, its walls embellished with murals and famous for its Regional Wine Store, Dozza is a member of the National Association of the **“Most Beautiful Boroughs In Italy”**.

The name Dozza is derived from a word from the high-Medieval period, ducia, meaning “water pipe”, evidence that troughs and canals to collect water already existed in ancient times.

It was founded in Roman times, then over the medieval period, the Bolognese protected it with a wall, towers and a fortress, further strengthened by **Caterina Sforza** (15th century) (page 181). The feud was then given by the Church State to the Malvezzi and Campeggi families, whose descendents governed it until the 18th century with the title of Marquises of Malvezzi-Campeggi. Access to the borough passes through the Rivellino, a 15th-century tower, and through the large square tower of the Rocchetta, dating from 1250. From here, two large parallel streets (“Contragrande” and “Contracina”) cross Dozza to the square of the fortress, where there is a viewpoint over the valley below.

Museums

The Rocca of Dozza, originally from the 13th century, was turned into a fortress at the end of the 15th century by the Florentine architect Giorgio Marchesi who, following the wishes of Caterina Sforza, Lady of Imola and Dozza, raised the thick walls and the main tower. In the course of the 16th century, thanks to the Campeggi family, the Rocca took on the appearance of a noble residence which it still maintains today. A visit to the Rocca passes through the original paintings and furnishings of the various rooms and the salon, a defensive well full of blades in a corridor, the private chapel, prisons, kitchen, courtyard with double loggia on the ground floor, and the towers. On the second floor, there is the frescoed “Pinacoteca del Muro” (art gallery) and the Exhibition Rooms which house an annual programme of shows organized by the “Dozza Città d’Arte” Foundation.

ROCCA MALVEZZI CAMPEGGI

P.zza della Rocca, 6/a - 40050 Dozza (BO)

Tel. **0542.678240** - Fax 0542.678270

rocca@comune.dozza.bo.it

www.comune.dozza.bo.it

Opening times: summer: 10-12.30am and 3-6.30pm, Sunday and public holidays 10am-1pm and 3-7.30pm; Winter: 10-12.30am and 2.30-5pm, Sunday and public holidays 10am-1pm and 2.30-6pm. Closed on Mondays, Christmas and New Year.

Tickets: full price € 4, groups of over 20 people € 3, students and residents € 1. Guided visits with prior booking.

Dozza is a member of the National Association of “**Wine Cities**” and the superb cellars of the Rocca fittingly house the spectacular Regional Wine Store of Emilia-Romagna.

Gastronomy and Wine

Enoteca regionale dell’Emilia Romagna

Tel. **0542.678089** - Fax 0542.678073

info@enotecaemiliaromagna.it

www.enotecaemiliaromagna.it

The **Regional Wine Store of Emilia-Romagna** occupies an area of a thousand square metres where it exhibits (and sells at favourable prices) over 800 wines, selected by a specially-chosen commission of experts: white, red, sparkling and “passito” wines, as well as balsamic vinegar and distillates, absolutely all produced in Emilia-Romagna. The order along the shelves is organized according matching the wines with food, to help even the least expert visitor.

Among its many objectives, the Regional Wine Store of Emilia-Romagna also aims to provide consumer information, for which a tasting room has been set up as a wine bar, open to the public on Sunday afternoons (autumn and winter). Additional openings are possible for groups of tourists on weekdays. The Wine Store is the ideal place for aperitifs, courses in wine appreciation and matching wine with food, wine tasting, counters of food samples, guided tastings and evenings dedicated to typical regional products.

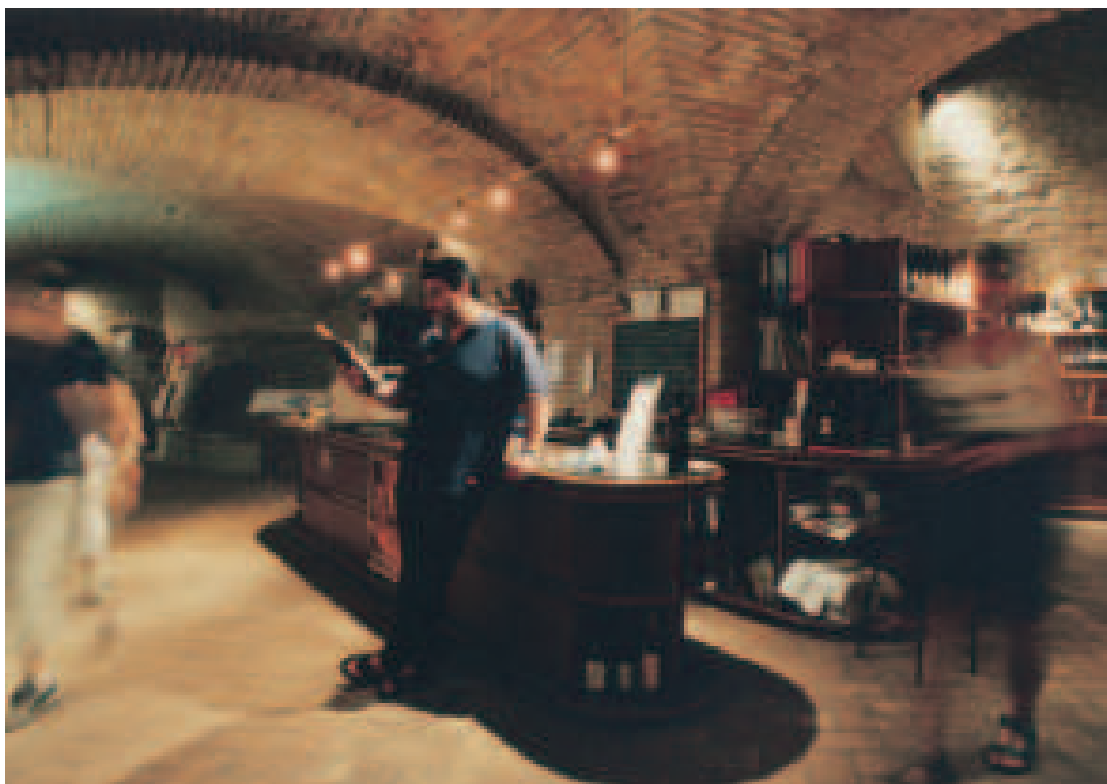
Enoteca regionale dell’Emilia Romagna

Photo by S.T.A.I. - Arianna Biavati

Culture and Famous Names

The real protagonist in the history of the Rocca was Cardinal **Lorenzo Campeggi**, who took possession of the castle and feud of Dozza in 1531, as a reward for his travels abroad on behalf of the pontiff. Having been sent to the court of Louis XII by Pope Julius II, he became Archbishop of Salisbury thanks to his friendship with Henry VIII of England. Nominated Bishop of Bologna, he was again sent to the court of Henry VIII to avert the split of the Anglican church, a mission which failed. On his death in Rome in 1539, his remains received an unusual treatment: they were boiled, reduced to the bones, packed up and sent to Dozza, where they were buried in a tower. They now rest in the crypt of the Provostal Church of Dozza.

In the heart of the borough, opposite the Town Hall stands the **Provostal Church of Santa Maria Assunta in Piscina**, built on the remains of a primitive church, of which there remains a sandstone lunette and a Romanesque capital. In 1350, it was entrusted to a certain Antonio, “Praepositus” of the Order of the “Umiliati”. The baptismal font, dating back to the late-16th century, is an octagonal sandstone basin with bas-reliefs carved on its sides. It is also worth noting the painting on the left wall of the church by Marco **Palmezano** of Forlì, painted in 1492, of a Madonna with Child between St. John the Baptist and St. Margherita.



Museums

The small museum attached to the Parish Church of Our Lady of the Assumption displays sacred objects (vases, crucifixes, reliquaries, monstrances, a 17th-century breviary and 90 devotional plaques), paintings on canvas and wooden boards, drawings and engravings, antique prints, as well as sacred hangings and liturgical silverware from religious sites in the surrounding countryside.

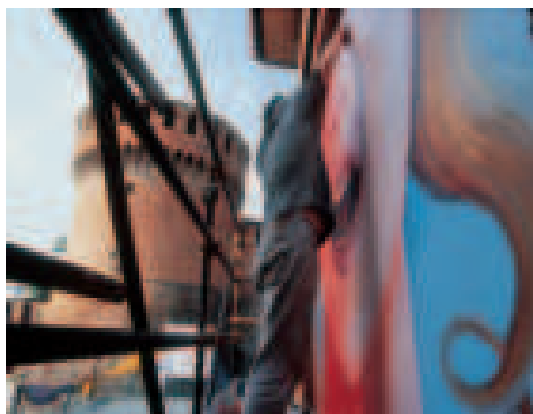
PARISH MUSEUM

Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta
Via XX Settembre, 54 - 40050 Dozza (BO)
Tel. **0542.678111**
Opening times on request. Free entrance.

Events

Biennale del Muro Dipinto

An original artistic event in Dozza, the Mural Biennial enlivens the streets of the borough every September in odd-numbered years, when artists from all over the world paint the walls of the houses “live” while visitors watch. This mural-painting is the central element of the event which in recent years, has also added exhibitions and shows presented all over the ancient Borough, the Rivellino and the Rocca Sforzesca. It first took place in 1960 and since then, the event has continually grown in stature, becoming a genuine biennial of modern art, ennobled by the participation of important master painters such as Brindisi, Frasnèdi, Licata, Matta, Purificato, Saetti, Sassu, Schweizer, Sughi and Zancanaro. There is now a cycle of over a hundred murals on the walls of the borough and a walk through the streets is like going along the corridors of a giant open-air art gallery. Sketches and preparatory studies for the works are kept in the Study and Documentation Centre of the Mural Biennial, inaugurated in 2006 inside the Rocca, near the Pinacoteca (Art Gallery), where there are also some frescoes “torn” from the walls to conserve them from damage. The Documentation Centre can be visited on Sundays and holiday afternoons, or with prior telephone booking. Tel. **0542.678240**.

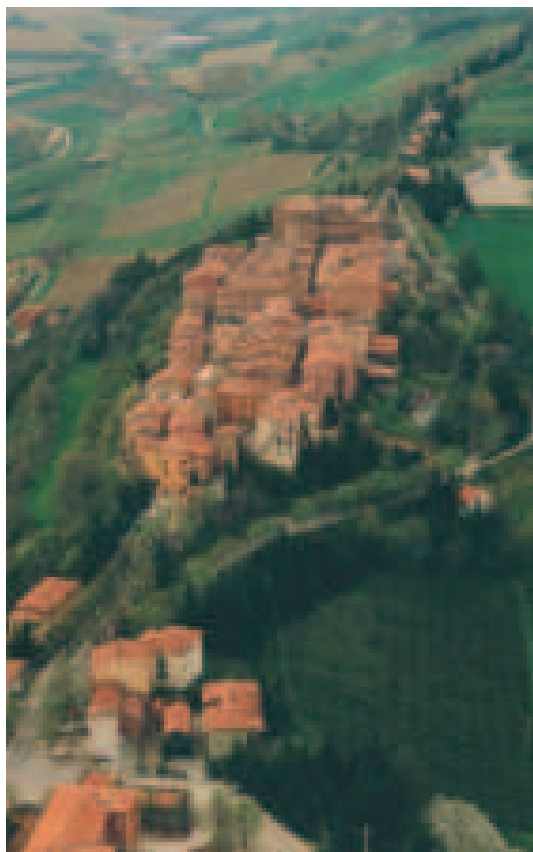


Mural Biennial

Photo by S.T.A.I.

On a hill near the borough, there is the ex-convent complex of **Monte del Re**. Tradition recounts that the wooden cross which still stands near the church was raised by Saint Francis himself in 1223. A Franciscan convent until the suppression of the orders by Napoleon, the complex was then bought by Count Sassatelli, who turned it into his holiday hunting lodge. Today it houses accommodation facilities.

Nearby, it is also worth visiting the 17th-century **Sanctuary of the Calanco**, on the road of the same name, today private property. Inside there is a 15th-century Madonna in plaster, carried every year in a procession to Dozza on the day of the Pentecost.



Dozza and the Sellustra Valley

Photo by Comune di Dozza



Painted Wall - Photo by S.T.A.I.

Events

The Three Wise Men in Dozza, historical procession on the day of the Epiphany: 6th January

Wine Festival: a Sunday in early May

Pentecostal Festival in honour of the Madonna del Calanco: in May and in June

DozzaEventi, theatre, art, music and gastro-

nomical events: in May and in October

Arzdore Festival, traditional dishes of Dozza: 1st weekend of September

Mural Biennial, artistic performance: September in odd-numbered years

Bonfire of San Silvestro: 31st December

MARKET DAY: Wednesday

Nature

The Sillaro Valley

The River Sillaro starts at an altitude of about 1,000 metres at the “Tre Poggioli” summit and reaches the plains at Castel San Pietro Terme, from where it continues, partially as a canal, until it joins the River Reno. The Sillaro has a strong symbolic value in the region: it is conventionally considered to be the border between Emilia and Romagna. The Valley can be entered from Castel San Pietro Terme, following indications for Valle del Sillaro and Sassoleone. Passing alongside the “Le Fonti” Golf Club, various lakes and ponds are scattered throughout the valley, creating interesting humid zones. A little further on, in the territory of Monterenzio, we reach the spa of the “Villaggio della Salute Più”. In this area, the Sillaro Valley reveals all its lunar charm, accentuated by vegetation largely composed of low bushes and almost totally lacking in tall trees. At the foot of Sassoleone, the road leaves the valley-bottom and becomes steeper. Before reaching the town, there is a turning for the Sellustra Valley. Continuing on, we reach Sassoleone, where there is a beautiful castle-tower, today used as the bell-tower of the parish church. Higher up, at the crossroads for Castel del Rio and the Santerno Valley, there is a wide vista. Just before entering the next village, Belvedere, where there is an interesting parish church, a stele commemorates the sacrifice of 55 partisans in September 1944. The winding road continues for 3 kilometres to Giugnola, a mountain village where the ancient buildings close in on the road as if to indicate the passage from Romagna to Tuscany. Three more kilometres and there is Piancaldoli, the birthplace of Evangelista Torricelli, the inventor of the barometer. The typical buildings in clearly Florentine style remind us that we are now in Tuscan territory, near Sasso di San Zenobi and the Passo della Raticosa.

Nature

The Sellustra Valley

The Sellustra Valley is a small valley between the Santerno and Sillaro Valleys, which is reached from Toscanella, leaving the Via Emilia and following signs for Dozza. After Dozza, our itinerary continues along the provincial road SP 34 “del Gesso”, which follows the valley-bottom. In the area of Valsellustra, a right turn leads along several kilometres of winding tarmac road along the range of a small internal valley, where there are the ruins of the ancient castle of Fiagnano: the Pliocene gypsums on which the castle was built are particularly interesting. Going back to the provincial road, we go past the turning for Casalfiumanese and follow the last stretch of the valley-bottom which leads us into one of the wildest landscapes of the area. On the left, there are the Monti dell’Acqua Salata (Salt Water Mountains), where the Chalk Vein of Romagna begins, today protected by a Regional Park. At the turning for Fontanelice, the Sellustra Valley effectively ends. Here there are the ruins of the Sanctuary of the Madonna del Rio, in which it is still possible to recognise an elegant Baroque church. Continuing along the “del Gesso” provincial road, we soon reach Sassoleone, overlooking the Sillaro Valley.

