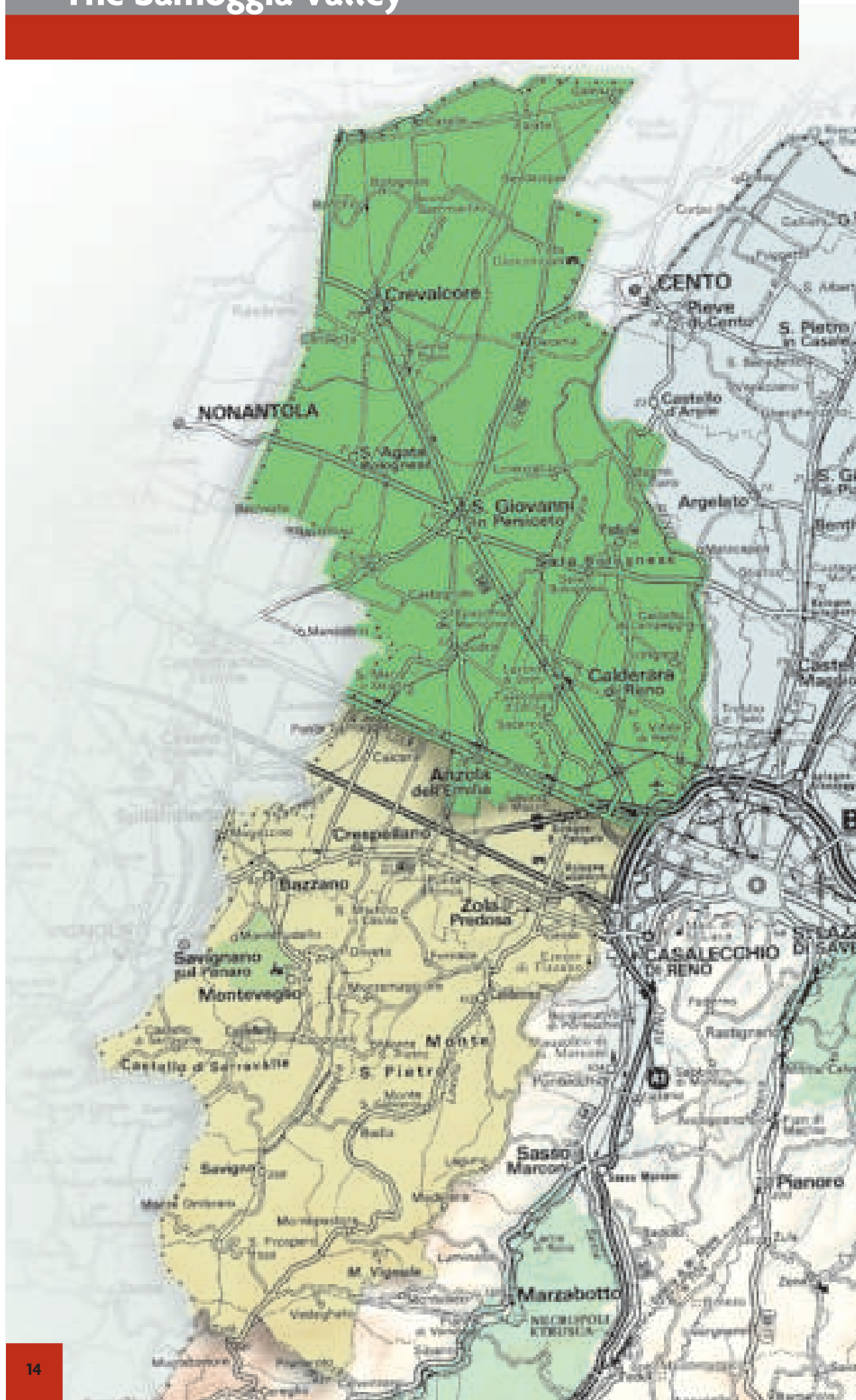


# The Samoggia Valley



### **The River Samoggia**

At 44 kilometres long, the Samoggia is the longest tributary on the left of the Reno. Its source is near Zocca (Modena), but it enters almost at once into the Bolognese territory where it runs the rest of its course.

In the hilly area, the valleys of the three major rivers (Lavino, Samoggia and Ghiaia di Serravalle) have interesting countryside, marked by the jagged geometry of the gypsums. The area also produces the famous wine, the D.O.C. Pignoletto dei Colli Bolognesi, a sparkling white with a rare, particular bouquet.

Passing Savigno, Monteveglio and Bazzano, at Calcara di Crespellano the Samoggia enters the plains, where its course is contained by imposing banks. Along its course on the plains, it meets the two main transport arteries in this part of the territory, the Via Emilia and Via Per-

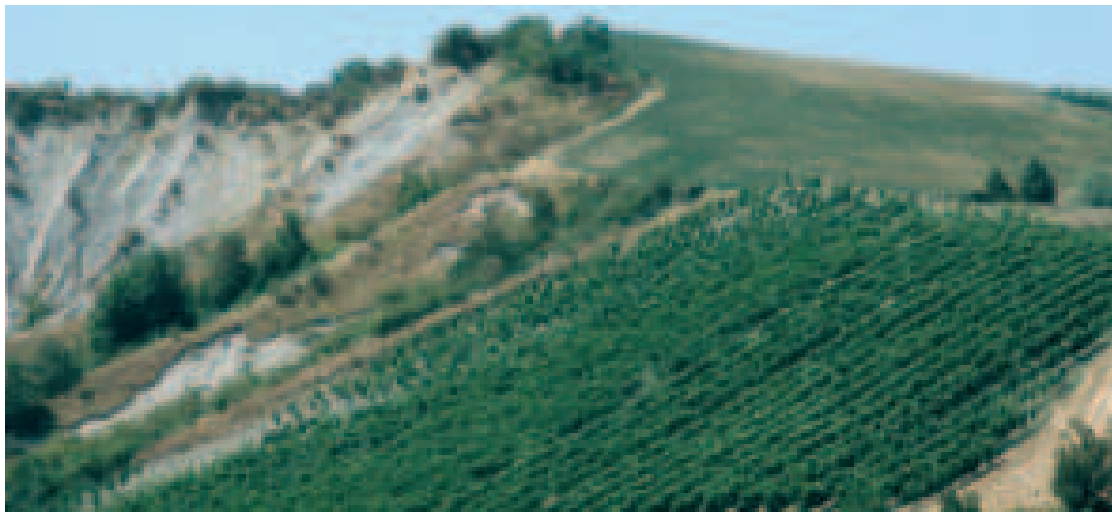
sicetana, and then flows into the Reno near San Matteo della Decima.

Historically, the basin of the Samoggia has always been considered a transition zone between the areas of Bologna and Modena, a zone rich in over a thousand years of history. An imposing witness to the valley's history is the famous Abbey of Monteveglio, whose castle, together with that of Serravalle, was controlled by Queen Matilde of Canossa. In 1325, at Zappolino, on the River Ghiaia di Serravalle, there was the famous battle between the Bolognese and Modenese with the episode of "the stolen bucket", still part of the legendary rivalry between the two cities.

### **Vineyards of the Samoggia Valley**

Photo by Comunità Montana Valle del Samoggia

Riccardo Solmi

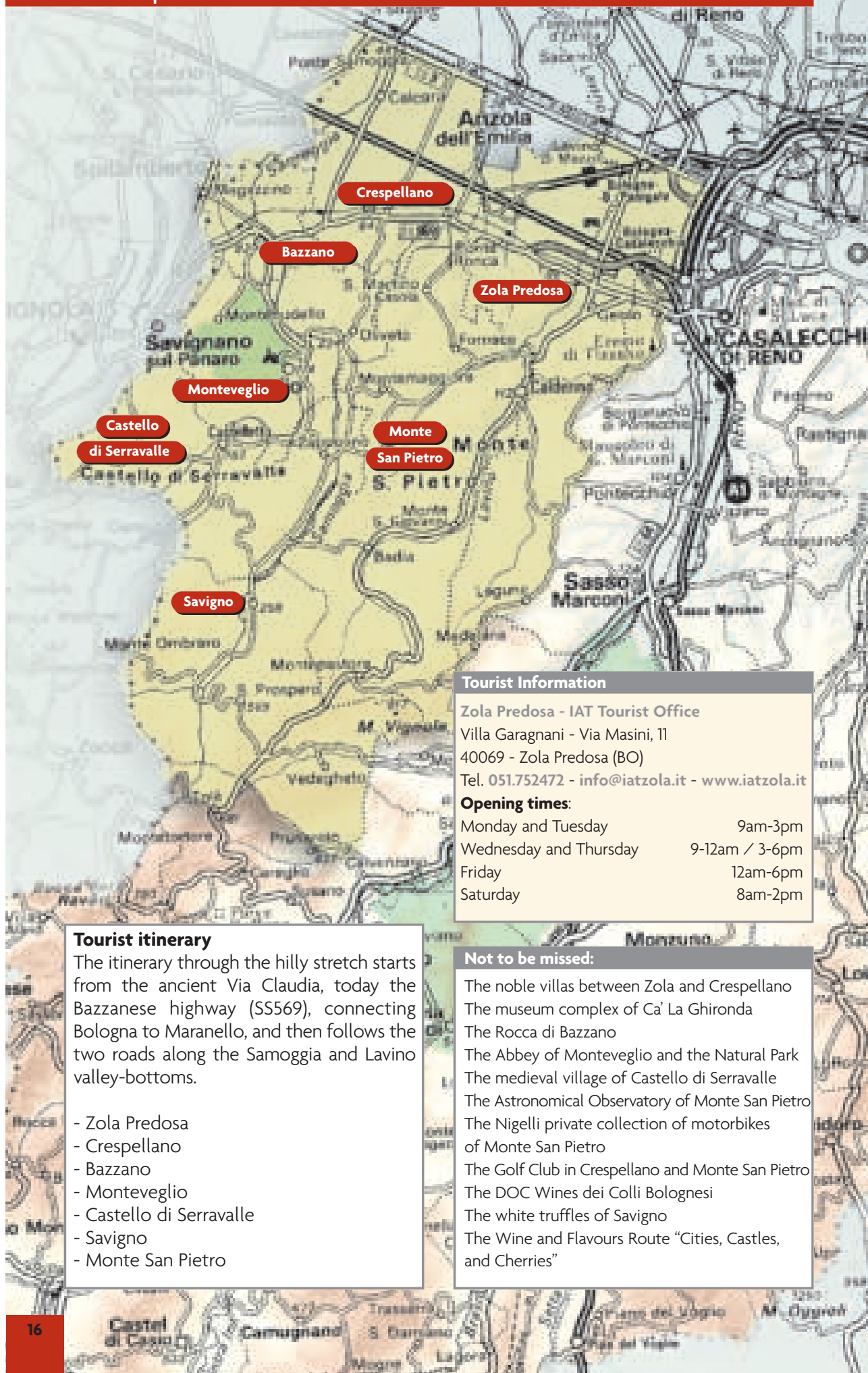


**River Samoggia**

Photo by Comunità Montana Valle del Samoggia - Riccardo Solmi

# The Samoggia Valley

## the Apennines



### Tourist Information

#### Zola Predosa - IAT Tourist Office

Villa Garagnani - Via Masini, 11

40069 - Zola Predosa (BO)

Tel. 051.752472 - [info@iatzola.it](mailto:info@iatzola.it) - [www.iatzola.it](http://www.iatzola.it)

#### Opening times:

Monday and Tuesday	9am-3pm
Wednesday and Thursday	9-12am / 3-6pm
Friday	12am-6pm
Saturday	8am-2pm

### Tourist itinerary

The itinerary through the hilly stretch starts from the ancient Via Claudia, today the Bazzanese highway (SS569), connecting Bologna to Maranello, and then follows the two roads along the Samoggia and Lavino valley-bottoms.

- Zola Predosa
- Crespellano
- Bazzano
- Monteveglio
- Castello di Serravalle
- Savigno
- Monte San Pietro

### Not to be missed:

- The noble villas between Zola and Crespellano
- The museum complex of Ca' La Ghironda
- The Rocca di Bazzano
- The Abbey of Monteveglio and the Natural Park
- The medieval village of Castello di Serravalle
- The Astronomical Observatory of Monte San Pietro
- The Nigelli private collection of motorbikes of Monte San Pietro
- The Golf Club in Crespellano and Monte San Pietro
- The DOC Wines dei Colli Bolognesi
- The white truffles of Savigno
- The Wine and Flavours Route "Cities, Castles, and Cherries"

## History and Environment

The Apennine part of the Samoggia Valley winds through gentle hills to the west of Bologna, on the border with the territory of Modena. From the high plains around Crespellano, the valley rises to 817 metres a.s.l. at Savigno, crossed by the waters of the Samoggia and Lavino, its major tributary. The Samoggia valley will not disappoint any traveller interested in discovering unusual historical or artistic itineraries, making it all the more interesting. An ancient borderland between Empire and Papacy, the valley is rich in castles and medieval fortifications linked to the figure of Matilde of Canossa, whose dominion marked the history of the valley. Here you will find the Regional Park of the Abbey of Monteveglio, a protected historical and environmental area aimed at promoting the educational and tourist possibilities of the territory. In the centre of the Park, there are the ruins of one of Matilde's castles and the ancient Abbey of Santa Maria, in all their fascinating history. Then there is Castello di Serravalle, intact in its medieval village mystery, complete with obligatory ghost, and Bazzano, a small artistic town, dominated by a fortress, the Rocca dei Bentivoglio. Between Zola Predosa and Crespellano, you can discover some of the most beautiful country-houses of the Bolognese nobility: treasures of art and architecture which have since the 17<sup>th</sup> century enriched the countryside between the Via Emilia and the Bazzanese highway. Nature-lovers should remember that the hills of the Samoggia Valley are a genuine open-air geology manual, marked by the spectacular morphology of the "calanchi" (gullies). There are numerous organised visits, including "Itinerando" which every year presents a rich programme of excursions and trekking through the valley in search of its treasures, always accompanied by expert nature guides. The ancient pilgrims' trail, the "Cassiola", used to pass along the Samoggia Valley and then over the range between the Samoggia and Panaro, leading them to the high Apennine passes for Pistoia and then Lucca and the Tyrrhenian Sea.

## Gastronomy and Wine

The **Mercato delle cose buone** (Market of Fine Produce) is an old-fashioned market, where you can buy directly from the producers. The stalls are run by producers from the Samoggia Valley. The majority of the products are local, biological foodstuffs, but there is also local craftwork and fair-trade produce. Every occasion of this travelling market is accompanied by shows in the local squares.



The annual calendar is also packed with events which enliven the territory in every season and offer the precious opportunity of visiting places that are not always open to the public.

## Buon appetito

The extraordinary richness of its traditional food and wine specialities is undoubtedly the Samoggia Valley's best calling card. A highly varied and appetising collection, it is based on food and wine of the highest quality, rooted in the ancient farming traditions of this land: Mortadella IGP from Bologna, Parmigiano-Reggiano DOP, Pignoletto DOC Colli Bolognesi, balsamic vinegar, chestnuts and truffles are only the tip of this diamond. Products which have remained faithful to the methods of the past, with that attention to the requirements of quality and genuineness which is more and more appreciated today. Biological, original and seasonal are more than just words here. They are values that can be found in the "Mercato delle cose buone" (Market of Fine Produce). Created to give this heritage the value it deserves, La Strada dei Vini e dei Saperi "Città Castelli e Ciliegi" (The Wine and Flavours Route "Cities, Castles and Cherries") accompanies discerning tourists through the wine and gastronomic secrets of the valley in an itinerary which will remain impressed on their taste buds. The blossoming of the cherry trees in spring is worth a visit in itself.

## How to get here

- A1 Motorway Milan-Rome: from Florence, exit at Casalecchio di Reno, then continue in the direction of Vignola-Maranello; from Modena, exit at Modena Sud, then continue for Vignola and Bazzano.
- Road: from Bologna, follow the State Highway, the Bazzanese, in the direction of Maranello; from Modena, the State Highway 623 of Passo Brasa.
- Railway: Bologna-Vignola: stations in Casalecchio di Reno, Zola Predosa, Crespellano and Bazzano. Suburban trains every hour from the station Bologna Centrale.
- Buses ATC connect the towns to each other and Bologna. [www.atc.bo.it](http://www.atc.bo.it).

## Events

### Courts, Churches and Courtyards

Corti, Chiese e Cortili (Courts, Churches and Courtyards) is a musical event which from May to August presents a rich programme of classical, sacred and traditional concerts, which have for years highlighted places of great historical and architectural interest.

**Info:** Tel. 051.836445, [info@artedeisuoni.org](mailto:info@artedeisuoni.org)  
[www.artedeisuoni.org](http://www.artedeisuoni.org)

# Zola Predosa

The territory of Zola Predosa, just 12 kilometres from the centre of Bologna, lies between high plains and gentle hills, with grape cultivation dominating. A land that has produced wine of value since the Middle Ages (it is even mentioned in a parchment from 1033 kept in the Abbey of Nonantola). In fact, it was specifically for the transportation of wine that a road across the hills was built in 1250, which today is the local stretch of the Wine and Flavours Route “Cities, Castles, and Cherries”. Zola is a member of the National Association of “**Wine Cities**”.

**Palazzo Stella** is the ancient seat of the Municipality of Zola. Outside a memorial plaque recalls the local origins of the painter

## Gastronomy and Wine

The **Wine and Flavours Route “Cities, Castles and Cherries”** which winds through the hills between Bologna and Modena, guides travellers through “one of the most succulent areas of Italy”. Spending time in this area means immersing yourself in the most authentic part of Emilia, where nature is still the boss, but above all, it means having the unique experience of tasting and discovering the secrets of one of the most noted and appreciated cookery styles in the world. The vast selection of typical products which you can try along this route includes cherries, plums, potatoes, mushrooms, truffles, chestnuts and honey, as well as the undisputed excellence of the regional cooking, such as tortellini (always in broth!), Parmigiano Reggiano (Parmesan), Mortadella di Bologna and the Traditional Balsamic Vinegar of Modena, accompanied by DOC dei Colli Bolognesi wines and Lambrusco of Modena. The Bolognese territories which are part of the route are Zola Predosa, Crespellano, Bazzano, Monteveglio, Monte San Pietro, Savigno and Castello di Serravalle, as well as Casalecchio di Reno, Sasso Marconi and Vergato.

**Info:** Via N. Tavoni 20/c

41058 Vignola (MO)

Tel. **059.776711** - Fax 059.7702930

[info@cittacastelliciliegi.it](mailto:info@cittacastelliciliegi.it)

[www.cittacastelliciliegi.it](http://www.cittacastelliciliegi.it)



Francesco Raibolini, known as Il Francia (1450-1517), an important figure of the Bolognese Renaissance.

Recently restored, **Villa Edwige Garagnani** today houses the Tourist Office in charge of all the Samoggia Valley. Built in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the villa is a beautiful example of a bourgeois holiday residence. There are beautiful woodland frescoes attributed to the Basoli.

However, it is along the River Lavino, a tributary of the Samoggia, that in the space of just 4 kilometres there is a concentration of some of the most beautiful historical Bolognese residences, many of which offer their atmospheric settings for all types of events, from meetings to refined courses in traditional cooking.

**Palazzo Albergati** is an elegant 17<sup>th</sup> century villa, commissioned by Girolamo Albergati, Bolognese ambassador in Rome and doyen of the Bolognese Senate. The simplicity and compactness of the façade is misleading, hiding the splendour of the interiors, which make it one of the best examples of Baroque architecture in Italy. The architect **Gian Giacomo Monti**, already active at the courts of Modena and Mantua, created the arch at the beginning of the portico of San Luca in Bologna. Particularly beautiful is the central hall, with its 30-metre-high ceiling. The gallery of the hall was used in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Francesco Albergati as a theatre for performances of his own works, as well as works by Voltaire and Goldoni. The villa was visited by many important figures of European politics and culture, among whom Frederick IV of Denmark, James III of England and Scotland, the Queen of Poland, Giacomo Casanova, as well as both Goldoni himself and Alfieri. A curious note: the staircases are notably bizarre, being helicoidal, spiral, double-spiral, and with asymmetrical steps. The garden-park around the villa reflects the ditches and canals of the surrounding plains and reveals the double function of the building - at one and the same time a holiday home and the administrative centre for its



lands. Still in its original condition, the villa is used for conferences, exhibitions, and musical and theatrical events. Open to the public on such occasions, the interior can only be visited by appointment.

Also worth seeing is **Palazzo Pepoli**, commissioned in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Alessandro Bentivoglio, son of Giovanni II, Lord of Bologna. After the fall of the Bentivoglio family, the building passed into the hands of the Marescotti and then the Pepoli family, who were responsible for the 18<sup>th</sup>-century alterations in neo-Classical style, by the architect Angelo Venturoli. Inside there is a rich collection of painted wooden ceilings. Next to the main residence, the stables, on two floors (horse-stable and hayloft), are today used as a multi-purpose space.

In the garden, remains of the numerous fountains and fish-ponds can still be seen, fed with water from the River Lavino, which also supplies water for the small lake in the park of the nearby **Villa Magnani**, designed by the famous Piedmont landscapist Ernesto di Sambuy, also responsible for the Giardini Margherita in Bologna and the park of Villa Donini in Calderara di Reno.

**Villa Zanchini Garagnani**, built from 1679 onwards, is notable for its highly original covered driveway, which can also accommodate coaches, which proceeds through a setting with spatial-multiplication effects to the elegant double-fronted arrival loggia.

#### Palazzo Albergati

Photo by Regione Emilia Romagna



#### Gastronomy and Wine

**Mortadella di Bologna** is a salami with the designation Protected Geographical Indication (IGP). Loved the world over, mentioned in films, literature and in numerous writings of all periods, mortadella is the most representative gastronomic product of Bologna, so much so that in some parts of Italy, mortadella and Bologna have become synonyms. It has ancient origins: there are two stones from the Roman period, kept in the Bologna Archaeological Museum: one shows pig-rearing, introduced to the Bolognese area by the Celts, while the other shows a butcher using a mortar (from which the sausage takes its name) to crush together the meat and spices used to prepare the sausage. The earliest written documents referring to mortadella date back to the Middle Ages and attribute the invention to Bolognese monks. Typically it has a cylindrical shape and, when sliced, a pink colour with scattered white cubes of lard (the so-called “lardelli”), mostly taken from throat fat, the most highly considered. The smell is unmistakable, lightly spiced,

while the taste is full and balanced, thanks specifically to the “lardelli” which add a touch of sweetness. Mortadella di Bologna is produced using techniques that are unique in the world, starting with carefully selected pork from IGP-designated farms, which is minced three different ways, each one using a specific machine, the last of which has a name that says it all: “sterminio”! The “lardelli” are then added to the resulting mixture, which is put into skins in the quantities required (from 500g to 100kg). Cooking is the following phase and also the most delicate, in which the mortadella takes on its characteristic aroma. The process requires dry-air heaters, with cooking times from a few hours to whole days according to the size. The higher the quality of the meat (and in particular of the fat), the higher the temperature that the mortadella can stand, with the advantage of it becoming more digestible. Over time the area of production has spread as far as Lombardy, but mortadella at its birthplace has a whole different flavour.

Contemporary art is housed in **Ca' La Ghiron-da**, a museum and exhibition complex in the

greenery of the hills behind Ponte Ronca.

### Museums

The Museum of **Ca' La Ghiron-da** is set in ten hectares of park with an enormous variety of plants. Recently expanded, the centre hosts works of contemporary art, and uses the existing building, without in any way altering its appearance. It contains works by over one hundred artists such as Capogrossi, De Chirico, Fontana, Depero, Morandi, Picasso and Chagall. It is also an ideal place for conventions, conferences and concerts. The environment and works of art come together in the park surrounding the villa, with an original mixture of more than 200 sculptures by foreign and Italian artists (Manzù, Cascella, Mastronunzio, Ghermandi, Yasuda, Mastroianni, Benetton, Monari,

Stahler). The workshop area, by contrast, is reserved for educational activities and exhibitions of works by young artists. Overnight stays are also possible. There are guided visits, conferences, conventions, courses, educational activities and workshops for schools.

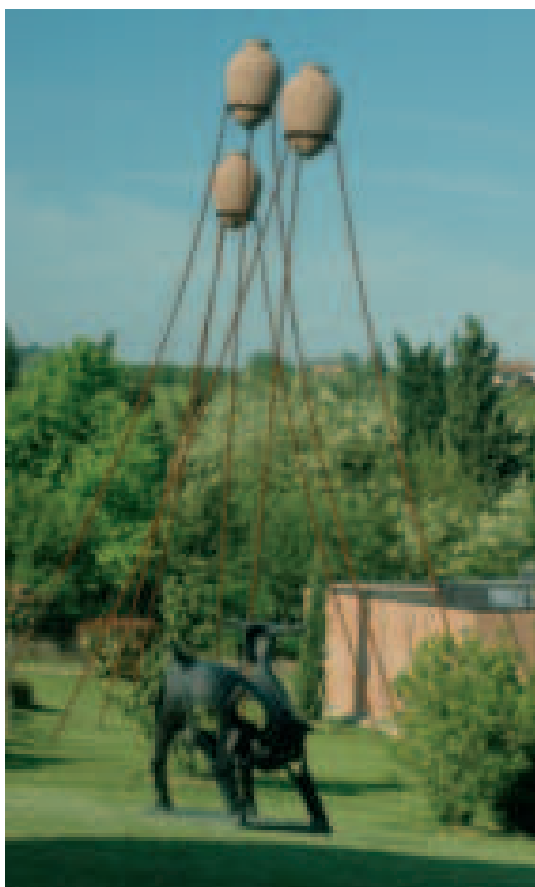
### CA' LA GHIRONDA

Via Leonardo da Vinci, 19  
40069 Zola Predosa - Ponte Ronca (BO)  
Tel. **051.757419** - Fax 051.6160119

[info@ghiron-da.it](mailto:info@ghiron-da.it) - [www.ghiron-da.it](http://www.ghiron-da.it)

Opening times: in winter Saturday and Sunday 10-12 am and 3-6 pm; in summer 10-12 am and 4-7 pm; other days by appointment.

Tickets: full price € 5, reductions € 3.



As well as wines and the classic tortellini, other specialties of the territory are Sughi d'uva (grape must desserts), Saba (traditional cooked must), the Torta zolese (cake of Zola), the Raviole di San Nicolò (sweet, filled pastries), the Torta di riso (rice cake), and salami, in particular mortadella. Zola is the place to find the main producers of the most famous cured meat of Emilia: mortadella. Many companies are open for guided visits.

### Events

**Zola Fair:** July.

**Sport Festival:** second week end of September

Madonna dei Prati

**May Fair:** first Sunday of May

Ponte Ronca

**Ronca Fair:** second Saturday and Sunday of June

**MARKET DAY:** Monday

**Ca' la Ghiron-da, works of "Sculptures Park"**

Photo by Provincia di Bologna - Guido Avoni

# Crespellano



View over the hills - Photo by Comune di Crespellano

Crespellano, ancient name *Fundus Crispinianum*, was created on the land which a Roman general, named Crispino, received as a prize at the end of his military career. The Romans are also to thank for the two main roads of the territory: the Via Emilia and Via Claudia (now called the Bazzanese).

In the Middle Ages, control of Crespellano passed from the Abbey of Nonantola to Matilde of Canossa, and it was then involved several times in the wars between Bologna and Modena. But it was in a more modern period, once peace was established, that the territory became rich in authentic treasures of architecture and landscape.

From the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards, country residences for the major noble Bolognese families began to appear. Still today these villas punctuate and give order to the countryside around the town, offering the chance, perhaps by bicycle, to follow an itinerary around the noble houses, starting from Zola Predosa.

The “**Percorso delle 10 Ville**” passes through an extraordinary selection of architectural styles, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, most of which can only be viewed from outside. Occasions not to be missed to discover the charm of the villas are the events of “Corti, Chiese e Cortili” (Courts, Churches and Courtyards), often hosted by the villas.

**Palazzo Grassi**, now called Garagnani, is a 16<sup>th</sup>-century building of austere beauty, with a tower dominating the town: in the famous drawing of “Crespolano” by Vanvitelli in 1569, conserved in the Vatican Museum, it is prominently placed opposite the parish church. Today it houses a library and cultural centre. Going into the heart of the Roman-style sub-

division of the land, we meet the beautiful complexes of **Villa Stella** (with a notable garden) and **Villa Aldrovandi**, belonging to the family of the famous botanist.

In Calcara, in Via G. Garibaldi, in the direction of Bazzano, there is **Villa Bianconi**, also called the “Casino dell’olmo”, after the nearby Oratory of the Madonna dell’Olmo. Built from 1780 onwards, Villa Bianconi is a highly interesting neo-16<sup>th</sup> century building: inspired by the Rotonda del Palladio, it is one of the most significant examples of Palladian architecture in Italy. This is thanks to Carlo Bianconi, the landlord’s brother, a multi-talented artist, member of the Accademia Clementina of Bologna and Permanent Secretary of the Milanese Academy of Brera. Under the staircase leading to the ample veranda, there was the garage for carriages.

Still in Calcara, **Villa Turrini Rossi** is an elegant 17<sup>th</sup>-century building, with a long, cypress-lined avenue and a large surrounding park. Inside there is a copy of the portrait which Annibale Carracci made of its first owner, a rich banker from Bologna, the original of which is in the British Museum in London. The villa is also famous for having hosted the poet Ugo Foscolo in April 1799, escaping from the Austrian troops. Today it is called Villa Nicolaj and hosts events.

Another interesting building in Calcara is **Villa Meriggiani**, built from 1780 onwards to a design by the architect Angelo Venturoli. In neo-Classical style, there is a large decorated loggia and a magnificent staircase with large statues. Works in tempera by Basoli are conserved in the drawing room overlooking the garden.



Along the provincial road we find **Villa Banzi**, later called Beccatelli Grimaldi, from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the middle of a beautiful park, it is notable for the surprising staircase which leads to the loggia on the upper floor, created around the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps by a member of the large Bibiena family. Despite the limited space, the architect managed to create an extraordinarily monumental effect, which would seem to confirm the authorship. Today it hosts events.



**Villa Stagni**

Photo by Comune di Crespellano

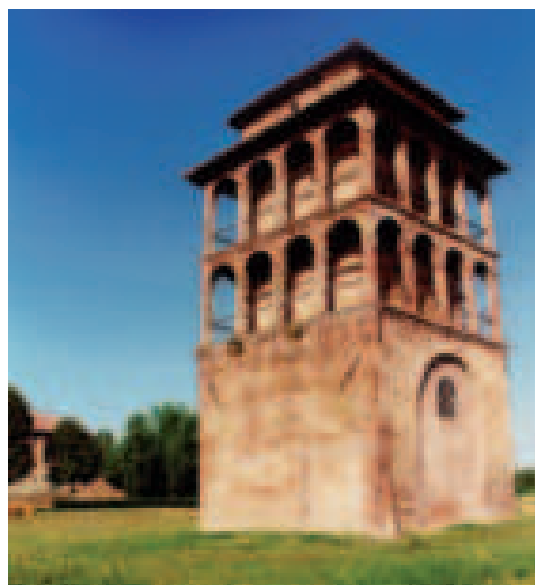
Along the road which rises from the Bazzanese highway to Oliveto, we reach **Villa Puglie**, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century landowner's villa with long, unique surrounding walls, today the site of receptions and meetings. Further along the road, on the summit stands the unmistakable profile of **Villa Stagni**, in a splendid panoramic position revealing its original defensive function, built in 1474 by Eliseo Cattanei. This villa-fort is one of the oldest houses of Crespellano and still today, despite changes, it remains one of the most atmospheric places in the territory.

About 1 kilometre from the town, there is the Oratory and Convent of **San Francesco**. The church, mentioned in writings from 1232 conserved in the Church of San Francesco in Bologna, is considered to be one of the most ancient dedicated to the saint from Assisi, much-honoured all over this territory. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> August every year, there is the celebration of the "Perdono di Assisi", when it is possible to visit the Oratory.

The small, simple, austere church of **San Savi-no** is in fact the earliest parish church in Crespellano, dating back, according to some sources, to the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The area in front of the church has a 300-year-old olive tree and monumental cypresses. The interior can be visited in summer, on the Thursday and Sunday of the third week of July, when there is the traditional procession for the festival of the patron saint, a practice that has continued since 1636.

In the village of Sant'Almaso, you can discover one jewel of the Bolognese countryside: the Confortino with its dovecote tower. The **Confortino** is an ancient monks' resting place dating back to the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, while the colombaia (dovecote) is a tower with two orders of external loggias, built to keep doves and collect the guano. It is perhaps the most beautiful in the whole province and is evidence of the great importance of hemp cultivation, for which the guano was used as a fertilizer. This antique culture is also represented by the six beautiful mills (maceri) along the road (Via dei maceri) to Castellaccio, a small village built around a particular oratory. From here you can continue to the large stables of the Scuderie degli **Orsi Mangelli**, in Madonna dei Prati.

The wine and food specialities of Crespellano go from the DOC dei Colli Bolognesi wines to tortellini and lasagne, sughi d'uva (grape must desserts, to which a festival is dedicated) and rice cake. The town's pork products are also famous, often combined with the classic crescentine fritte (crumbly fried savoury pastries) and tigelle (small savoury scones).



**Colombaia of the Confortino**

Photo by Comune di Crespellano

## Events

### **Mercato delle cose buone (Market of Fine Produce):**

on occasion of the Festa dei Sughi  
(Grape must desserts Festival)

**Crespellano Fair:** end of September

**MARKET DAY:** Wednesday in Crespellano  
and Thursday in Calcara

# Bazzano

Recognised as a “City of art”, Bazzano lies at the foot of the hills between Modena and Bologna, on the River Samoggia. The heart of the town is the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Piazza Garibaldi, on one side of which there is the Oratory of Santa Maria del Suffragio, built by the homonymous brotherhood in 1673, with a sundial on its façade and inside, a single nave with two paintings by Gandolfi. Also of note are the building known as “La Repubblica”, decorated with strange horses’ heads, and the Palazzo Comunale (Town Hall), which houses the communal art collection. The square is completed by “La Giuditta”, a beautiful fountain with a statue of a bather, the inspiration for the cake of the same name, a speciality of the town.

The **Rocca** dominates the town from a hilltop above the historical centre. Of medieval origins, it was built by Matilde of Canossa, while its present structure dates back to 1473, when it became the property of the Bentivoglio family, at the time Lords of Bologna. Here in 1799, the poet Ugo Foscolo, whom we have already encountered as a fugitive in Villa Nicolaj in Crespellano, was held prisoner. Today the Rocca houses the “A. Crespellani” Archaeological Museum, an information point for The Wine and Flavours Route “Cities, Castles and Cherries” and the Musical Centre of the Union of the Samoggia Valley, who hold a workshop to study Baroque music, attended by musicians from all over Europe. Next to the Rocca, there is the Church of San Francesco, restored in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In spring, the countryside all around Bazzano explodes into spectacular cherry blossom, definitely worth a digression. From the path alongside the Samoggia, for example, you can go for a walk or bike-ride in the country, with splendid views, in particular at night, of the hill of the Rocca.

Nearby there is **Ca’ del Vento**, ex-property of the Casini family: among its members the famous Dante scholar, historian and politician Tommaso and the ex-President of the Chamber, Pierferdinando. Beyond that, turning left at the pilaster, you reach the 17<sup>th</sup> century **Villa Tanari**, restored at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Venturoli: of particular note are the drawing room and the Oratory of Santa Giustina with a canvas by Gandolfi showing the Nativity of Mary.

Among the other villas in the territory, of great interest are Villa del Gandolfo, 17<sup>th</sup> century, with the Oratory of the Madonna della Neve from the 19<sup>th</sup> century; Villa Pedrini, early 19<sup>th</sup> century, built onto the wall of the Rocca; Villa Gessa, for years the holiday residence of the great Bolognese playwright Alfredo Testoni and Villa Giulia, which apparently hosted Guido Reni and his pupil Simone Cantarini in 1637.



**Giuditta**

Photo by Comune di Bazzano

## Museums

### The “A. Crespellani” Archaeological Museum

Housed in the ancient Rocca, the Museum was created at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century thanks to the work and passion of the archaeologist Arsenio Crespellani, the organiser of excavations in the territory of Bazzano and in the surrounding hills. It has a section with material from the Iron and Bronze Ages from the necropoli of Bazzano, a Roman and High Medieval section with two large collections of ceramics and a contemporary section with Risorgimento arms and uniforms. Guided visits, conferences, conventions, courses, educational activities and

workshops for schools, family activities, a conference hall, library, bookshop and a multimedia room.

### CIVIL MUSEUM ARSENIO CREPELLANI

Rocca Bentivoglio  
Via Contessa Matilde, 10 - 40053 Bazzano (BO)  
Tel. **051.836442** - Fax 051.836440  
[urp@comune.bazzano.bo.it](mailto:urp@comune.bazzano.bo.it)

Opening times:

Thursday and Saturday 3.30-7 pm;

Sunday 9-12.00 am 3.30-7 pm.

Tickets: full price € 1.50, free to under-14s and over-60s.

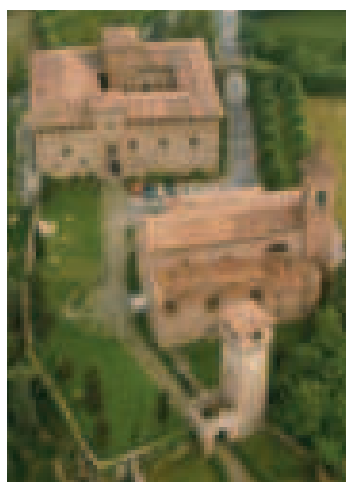


**Clock Tower**

Photo by Comune di Bazzano

On the road to Castelfranco, you can see the **Santuario della Sabbionara**, dedicated to the Beata Vergine delle Grazie, built in 1630 as thanks for having escaped the plague. Inside, there are illusionist frescoes. The road continues straight along the direction of the Muzza, a small river of great historical importance. The bank on which the road runs is in fact the remains of the **vallo della Muzza**, a defensive structure built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century on the border between the territories of Bologna and Modena. Today the area conserves a particular environmental integrity, worth visiting on foot or by bicycle, using the track alongside the water.

Along the road to Montebudello, it is worth stopping at the Cemetery, with a central neo-Classical structure and elegant tombs of the most important families of the Bazzano area. From here, you can continue along a stupendous hill road, with enchanting views of the Rocca and the Abbey of Monteveglio.



**Rocca**

Photo by Comune di Bazzano

## Gastronomy and Wine

The **Anelloni di Bazzano** are a variety of cherry common in the foothills of the Samoggia Valley. Here the cherry became very important from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, gradually substituting the mulberry as the staple fruit and then becoming a specialized cultivation. After a break due to the war, cherry production grew constantly until it became the main element of the local economy. The “anelloni di Bazzano” can be found in the territories of Bazzano, Castello di Serravalle, Crespellano, Monte San Pietro, Monteveglio, Savigno and Zola Predosa.

The gastronomical specialities of the territory of Bazzano are the classic tortellini, thistle soup and the above-mentioned “Torta della Giuditta”. Then there are the “Tagliatelle della Duchessa”, pasta with chicken livers inspired by Maria Luigia, the Duchess of Parma. Visiting the area, the Duchess stopped in an inn where she tried the appetising dish, liking it so much she wanted to give it her name.

One of Bazzano’s native sons was the legendary maker of racing cars and racing driver **Amedeo Gordini**, still famous thanks above all to the French who nicknamed him *le sorcier*, the magician of motors. He was a personal friend and racing rival of Enzo Ferrari, who remembers him as the protagonist of an important “piece in the history of the French automobile improved by the talents of one of the many Italians to have worked in France”. In 1999, the Province of Bologna and the Bazzano Town Council promoted a philatelic twinning of Italy and France to celebrate the centenary of his birth.

The weekly market of Bazzano is one of the biggest in the province with roots going back to 1576. Since 2007 Bazzano has become “**Slow Cities**”.

## Events

**Health Fair:** June

**Bazzano Autumn Festival:**  
mid-September

**Mercato delle cose buone  
(Market of Fine Produce):**  
on occasion of the Autumn Festival

**MARKET DAY:** Saturday

# Montevoglio



**View of the borough of Montevoglio**

Photo by Comune di Montevoglio - Gabriele Baldazzi

The enchanting fortified village of Montevoglio, once the most important and unconquerable fortress of the reign of Queen Matilde, was built together with the ancient Abbey of Santa Maria Assunta on the brow of a hill overlooking the valley.

The origins of the **Castle** date back to the year 1000: of the original fortifications, there remain the arched gateway through which even today you must pass to enter the village (you can see the fulcrums of the drawbridge) and a massive tower, both crowned with swallow-tail battlements, from which there is a splendid view of the surrounding hills. The Tower is open every Sunday and on public holidays, from April to October, 3-7pm.

Proceeding along the cobbled streets past the ancient stone houses, you reach the **Abbey**. Built in 1092 in Romanesque style, it has a 15<sup>th</sup>-century bell tower. Inside there are the 10<sup>th</sup>-century apse and crypt. Connected to the church are two cloisters: one 15<sup>th</sup>-century with double-loggia, the other older, of which only one wing remains, in a panoramic position over the plains.

A 17<sup>th</sup>-century stone in the wall to the left of the altar speaks of a miraculous happening: on the night between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March 1527, the date of the annunciation of Mary, Montevoglio was besieged by the Lanzichenecchi, but was saved by a sudden snowstorm which dispersed the fierce attackers.

## Culture and Famous Names

This used to be the seat of the religious community founded by Don **Giuseppe Dossetti**, “a religious and political figure of great importance and intensity”. In 1956, Dossetti undertook a historical confrontation with the communist Giuseppe Dozza for the seat of Mayor of Bologna. A guiding member of the Second Vatican Council, he died in 1996 and is buried in the small cemetery of Casaglia in the Park of Monte Sole, where his community is now based.

The territory is also a precious natural and environmental zone: to take care of it, the **Regional Park of the Abbey of Montevoglio** has been created.

## Culture and Famous Names

**Matilde di Canossa**, at only nine years of age, inherited a huge feudal empire which stretched from Tuscany to Mantua, with a network of castles and forts at its centre in the hills of Emilia. The Bolognese territory, and particularly the Samoggia Valley, was on the border between the lands of the Empire and the Papacy, and the web of fortifications was particularly articulated. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, when the battle exploded for the investiture between Church and Empire, the protagonists were Pope Gregory VII and Emperor Enrico IV, Matilde's cousin. The Pope was deposed by the Emperor and the Emperor excommunicated by the Pope. There was war in the air. Gregory VII was travelling to Germany for a definitive settlement, but the descent into Italy by Enrico IV forced him to take refuge in the Castle of Canossa under the protection of Matilde, his ally. After a long negotiation, on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1077, Enrico, dressed as a pilgrim, obtained a pardon from the Pope. But shortly afterwards, the fight for power began again. In 1081, Enrico proclaimed

Matilde guilty of lese-majesty. Matilde barricaded herself in Canossa, while Enrico IV took over most of her lands. Only four castles remained loyal, among which Montevoglio. And it was specifically Montevoglio that sent the Emperor's plans up in smoke: for four months, it resisted victoriously against the siege of the imperial army, which had descended to expunge the humiliation of 1077. Enrico IV was forced to order the retreat. Saved from the threat, Matilde dedicated herself to reinforcing and expanding her feud. She supported the building of churches and cathedrals, created hospices for the poor and was instrumental in the creation of the University of Bologna. In 1111, the new Emperor, Enrico V, the son of her great enemy, nominated her vice-Queen of Italy. A cultured woman (she could write and speak three languages), a strong character and an important political figure in the international affairs of her time, Matilde died on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 1115 and was buried in 1632 in St. Peter's in Rome, in the monumental sepulchre by Bernini.



**Abbey of Montevoglio**

Photo by Comune di Montevoglio - Gabriele Baldazzi

Nature, but also small villages where time stands still. Among these, there is **Oliveto**, on a hill to the right of the Samoggia, in ancient times covered with olive trees. Donated in 776 by the Lombard Dukes of Persiceta to the Abbey of Nonantola, Oliveto became a free Council and survived as such for about a century, then passing of its own will under the control of the Bologna City Council. Among its notable monuments, there are the Casa Grande dell'Ebreo from 1410, seat of the local Jewish community and of the first bank in the whole area, the bell tower of the Church of San Paolo, in which a 17<sup>th</sup>-century altar piece

attributed to Elisabetta Sirani is conserved, and the Bronzina, a late-Middle-Age building which was the hotel of the Grandi di Spagna in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, then a leper hospital and finally a bronze foundry. Apparently the family of industrialists, the Olivetti, have their origins in Oliveto.

Should you want beautiful views over the Padana Plains and the Tuscany-Emilia Apennines, then come to **Montebudello**, on a hill only 2.5 kilometres from the county town. The village is actually divided into two habitations nearly a kilometre apart: the first is built around



## Nature

The **Regional Park of the Abbey of Monteveglio** covers a significant area of the hilly territory below the habitation of Monteveglio. This protected area, bordered to the east and west by the River Ghiaia di Serravalle and River Marzatore, has alternating farming land, which conserves the traditional order of the Bolognese hills, large areas of gypsum formations, of particular geological interest, and the steep wooded slopes of small protected valleys of notable naturalistic value. The historical Abbey is situated on the highest point of the pretty medieval village, set around one of the main hills of the Park, an example of the ancient fortified and religious centres so typical of the Samoggia Valley, as well as the nearby Panaro Valley. The Park can easily be reached both from Bologna and Modena along the "Bazzanese" highway to Muffa, then turning south for Monteveglio.

**Info:** Tel. **051.6701044** every morning 9-12am - Fax 051.6702301

[parco@parcodellabbazia.191.it](mailto:parco@parcodellabbazia.191.it)  
[www.parchinaturali.bologna.it](http://www.parchinaturali.bologna.it)  
[www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/parchi/abbazia](http://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/parchi/abbazia)

### Centro Parco San Teodoro

Via Abbazia 28 - Monteveglio (BO)  
Site of the Park's offices and the Educational Workshop, open to the public Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9-12 am.

**The Visitors' Centre of the Castle** is in the entrance tower of upper Monteveglio. Open every Sunday and on public holidays from April to November 3-7 pm.

the Church of Sant'Andrea in Corneliano, a name which recalls the ancient Roman colonization.

The second group of houses is known as Castellazzo: of the ancient castle, there remain only the foundations (in the ground of

## Sport and Active Tourism

### Golf Club Campanino

Practice course with 18 shot positions, ideal for training and for perfecting before to face demanding courses.

**Technical data:** 4 holes, 3 par 3, 1 par 4, 130 mts a.s.l.

**Info:** via Barlete, 52 - 40050 Monteveglio (BO)  
Tel. **051.6705387** - Fax 051.6710969  
[info@campaninogolfclub.it](mailto:info@campaninogolfclub.it)  
[www.campaninogolfclub.it](http://www.campaninogolfclub.it)



a private villa), the tower and the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Oratory of Sant'Ubaldo with ogive windows. The Parish Church of Sant'Andrea has a 17<sup>th</sup>-century appearance, but already existed in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

Among the wine and gastronomic specialties, there are the Pignoletto and Chasselaïs wines, the Anellone variety of cherries, Parmigiano Reggiano (Parmesan) and the fresh cheeses produced by the local creameries, many of which sell directly to the public, and of course the crescentine (crumbly fried savoury pastries).

Monteveglio is a member of the National Association of **"Wine Cities"**.

## Events

**Abbazia in festa**, cultural and historical recreation of the medieval period; the period of Queen Matilde is recreated around the Abbey with food and drink, costumes, music and entertainment shows, while in the main square, there is a market of local produce: second weekend of June.

**Autumn Festival**, the traditional roast chestnuts and the excellent wines from our Bolognese hills are at the centre of this event. There are also recreations of the ancient crafts of the valley's folk culture. Traditional popular music accompanies and gives rhythm to the smiths, carpenters and all the other craft workers: second weekend of October.

**Festival of the Saracca**, a popular festival in which the inhabitants of Oliveto go from house to house with a sardine hanging from a branch. They sing, dance, drink and finally bury the sardine at the foot of a wooden cross on a hillside. It derives from the festival of the "sardana", inherited from the Spanish during their passage here in 1527: second Sunday of March.

**Delivery of the Votive Candle**, at the Church of the Abbey of Monteveglio, there is the celebration of the offering of a votive candle to the Madonna, delivered by the Mayor to the Abbot: March.

**Mercato delle cose buone (Market of Fine Produce):**  
on occasion of the Autumn Festival

**MARKET DAY:** Thursday

# Castello di Serravalle

The fortified village of Castello di Serravalle has ancient origins and even today preserves all its medieval charm. Built to defend the Byzantine Empire of Ravenna against the Barbaric invasions and razed to the ground by the Lombards in the 8<sup>th</sup> century due to its strategic military position, the village was rebuilt in the Middle Ages on the Roman foundations. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century, it offered asylum to Charlemagne as he was going to Rome. Until 1109, it was part of the feud of Queen Matilde of Canossa, and was bitterly



**House of the Mountain Ranger**

Photo by Provincia di Bologna - Guido Avoni

contested between the Ghibellines of Modena and the Guelphs of Bologna. The dispute ended at the Battle of Zappolino, in which the Bolognese were defeated, with over three thousand casualties and as many prisoners.

Of the ancient fortification that gave the village its name, you can still admire the medieval gates and the tower, dating back to

## History and Culture

### The Battle of Zappolino and the “Stolen bucket”.

The battle was fought on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 1325, at a site now commemorated by an inscribed stone in the village of Bersagliera. It was an immense defeat for Bologna. The Bolognese were numerically superior, but not as regards cavalry, which proved decisive. On the side of Modena, there were also the Counts of Panico (page 63) and Da Cuzzano. The Bolognese troops, mostly peasants, were soon overcome and the fact that they were not all killed was only due to the onset of night. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, the troops of Modena took Crespellano and on the 17<sup>th</sup>, they were at the gates of Bologna, but they did not besiege it. The following year, through diplomatic channels, the Bolognese managed to regain their castles and ransom all the prisoners. The battle is narrated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century heroic-comic poem *La Secchia rapita* (*The Stolen Bucket*) by the Modena poet Alessandro Tassoni, who took the title from an episode which has become a legend of the rivalry between the two cities.

The soldiers of Modena, on reaching the city walls of Bologna, near Porta San Felice, stole a bucket from a well on the Via Emilia as a joke, taking it back to Modena as a sort of trophy. It might well have happened seven hundred years ago, but the bucket is still there in Modena, kept in the Ghirlandina, and even today in Bologna, its theft is not one of the favourite subjects of conversation...

## Nature

The **Hortus conclusus** of Serravalle is a small vegetable garden in the medieval style: following a short, well-labelled course, you can see the flower beds (The Garden of Delights), the aromatic plants (The Medicinal Herb-Garden) and the vegetables (The Cabbage Patch), which were cultivated in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when the village and all the surrounding territory were governed by the Capitano della Montagna (Mountain Ranger). The cultivation techniques are those of medieval times (rain irrigation, organic fertilizer and natural insecticides such as chrysanthemums and nettles), as traditional as the tools and methods employed in creating the beds and climbing frames for antique roses: chestnut-wood poles tied with willow twigs. The Medieval Garden can be visited when the Ecological Museum of the Hills and Wine is open and by booking for groups of at least six. At weekends and for schools, there are educational workshops on aromatic, symbolic, magical and forgotten plants, natural cultivation techniques and the construction of raised beds. Visits to the Medieval Garden last 45 minutes and can be combined with a visit to the Ecological Museum.

**Info and booking:** Tel. 333.4124915  
[vezzafam@libero.it](mailto:vezzafam@libero.it)  
Public Library Tel. 051.6710728  
[www.ortomedievale.it](http://www.ortomedievale.it)

1523, while the Lord's palace, built entirely in brick below the tower, is in 18<sup>th</sup>-century style. The **castle**, adapted to be a noble family residence around 1500, was the property of the noble family of Boccadiferro until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the evocative entrance hall, a sandstone bas-relief depicts the cavalier Iacopino da S. Lorenzo in Collina, famous Capitano della Montagna (Mountain Ranger).

At the castle there is no lack of mystery: the souls of the wives of the cruel **Boccadiferro** still move around the fortress. In the nights of May, their ghosts come out to seek revenge, spreading a mysterious perfume around the village, while in the castle tower, the moans of Boccadiferro, himself killed by his thirteenth and most cunning wife, still echo around.

In the heart of the village, the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Village Hall was the seat of the Magistracy of the Capitano della Montagna occidentale (Western Mountain Rangers). Today it consists of a 16<sup>th</sup>-century bell tower and a beautiful loggia through which you enter the Ecological Museum of the Hills and Wine.

#### Museums

Inside the medieval village, the House of the Mountain Rangers houses the **Eco Museum of the Hills and Wine**, an occasion not to be missed to understand the territory and the activities carried out by its inhabitants in the past and present. The exhibition is divided into nine themes. Each environment is connected to a journey through the territory, which is the real subject of the museum. The educational tour within the central structure ends in the tasting corner, where you can try wines from the territory. For schools, the museum can be booked for small educational workshops. Visits to the castle are possible for organized groups, with the prior agreement of the Council, or during the village festival.

#### ECO MUSEUM OF THE HILLS AND WINE

Casa del Capitano Via della Rocca

40050 Castello di Serravalle (BO)

Tel. **051.6710708** (Ufficio Cultura)

[cultura@comune.castellodiserravalle.bo.it](mailto:cultura@comune.castellodiserravalle.bo.it)

Open on Sunday and on public holidays 3-6pm. At other times with prior booking.

Free entrance.

The imposing beauty and secrets of Castello di Serravalle inspired the composer from Lucca Gateano Luporini (1865-1948), who in 1920 wrote the music for the opera *Amore e morte*, set in the castle, with libretto by Giuseppe Lipparini.

Only 2 kilometres away, the **Church of Sant'Apollinare** is worth taking time to visit, with frescoes by Guardassoni and Samoggia, standing in the centre of an enchanting plain, surrounded by vineyards, a constant element which characterises the territory of the valley. In fact, it is not by chance that Castello di Serravalle is a member of the National Association of "**Wine Cities**".

Another favourite spot for walking or mountain-biking are the "**calanchi**" (gullies), in the area amidst Castelletto, Bersagliera, Maiola and Tiola.

#### Nature

**Salt water and the River Marzatore.** Along the road which follows the River Marzatore, there is a very special spring: its water is actually salty. It is fossil sea water, trapped in the Pliocene clay when the sea withdrew, creating the plains. The spring has been famous since ancient times for its medicinal properties and at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, became a thermal tourist attraction. Today a visit to the fountain could be a chance to discover the countryside of the narrow valley of the River Marzatore, whose most important naturalistic value lies in the presence of protected flowers, such as Scilla and Dog's Tooth Violet.

Not to be missed the itinerary of the **tower-houses**, rural nuclei in stone characterized by the distinctive architectural element of their towers, whose role over time has changed from defensive to productive (dovecotes).



View of Castello di Serravalle among the clouds

Photo by Promappenino - Riccardo Solmi



**Tower of the castle** - Photo by Provincia di Bologna

### Gastronomy and Wine

Il **gnocco fritto** (not “lo gnocco” as the Italian language would suggest) is a typical food of Emilia, and in the Samoggia Valley, there is a high number of specialized restaurants. In the rest of the Province of Bologna, it is called the crescentina (a name which, just to complicate things, is used in the mountains of Modena to indicate the tigella). Wheat flour, salt, lard and yeast are the ingredients: the resulting pastry is fried according to tradition in abundant boiling lard. It immediately expands and is ready at once to be eaten with the famous, but never celebrated enough, Bolognese salami. The Festival of the Fried Gnocco has over the years become a great attraction. It is in the Guinness Book of Records for the largest gnocco fritto ever prepared.

Of particular note for their history and beauty are the Case Rosse (15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century) and the Case Bertù (16<sup>th</sup> century) in Zappolino, Casa Moretti (16<sup>th</sup> century) in Ponzano and the villages of Gavazzano, Tintoria and Cuzzano, along the Samoggia Valley.

The **Palazzo di Cuzzano** stands on the site where there was once the castle of the powerful Da Cuzzano family, who deserved

their reputation for bloody deeds. Bandits from Bologna, the Da Cuzzano took refuge in their castle, oppressing the local population. Muzzarello da Cuzzano, a rebel against the citizens' government, became so powerful as to be nominated Lord of Monteveglio and Sassuolo, obtaining as wife one of the daughters of Taddeo Pepoli, Lord of Bologna. The ancient castle was destroyed in a fire in 1365, with the exception of the tower which is all that remains of the original structure today. Rebuilding took place in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, taking on the appearance of a noble country residence.

### Events

**Bonfire of Sant'Antonio:** 16<sup>th</sup> January  
**Maggiociondolo Fair**, walks, parties, sport competitions, traditions, shows: all the month of May.

**Mercato delle cose buone (Market of Fine Produce):**  
 on occasion of the Maggiocondolo.

**Calici di Stelle (Goblets of stars),**  
 an evening of music and tasting:  
 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Festival of the Fried Gnocco:**  
 first and second Sunday of October

**MARKET DAY:** Monday

# Savigno

Situated on the banks of the Samoggia, Savigno is an obligatory stop for lovers of good cooking.

Savigno is synonymous with truffles and more generally with excellent gastronomy based on the quality of the local products. “**Cities of Truffles**”, Savigno is considered “Regional Capital of the Precious White Truffle of the Bolognese Hills”. Just think that out of 2,500 inhabitants a good 130 are recognised truffle hunters! Savigno is also a member of the National Association “**Cities of Flavours**”, created by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, which links typical products to the history and culture of the territory.

The local truffle hunters, accompanied by their faithful dogs, spend whole days seeking out the precious product which then graces the tables of restaurants and delicatessens. There are numerous restaurants which serve it in its infinite culinary versions based on jealously-guarded ancient recipes. In the historical town square, on occasion of the Tartufesta festival, you can find numerous stands where it is possible to taste and buy the precious tuber.

## Gastronomy and Wine

The **Precious White Truffle of the Bolognese Hills** is a genuine product of excellence of the gastronomy of the Apennines. The territories of our mountains most suitable for the growth of the precious tuber are Savigno in the Samoggia Valley and Grizzana Morandi, Camugnano, Castel di Casio, Gaggio Montano, Vergato and Porretta in the Reno Valley. Savigno, Camugnano and Castel di Casio are members of the national association “Cities of Truffles”. In practically all the Apennines the more common summer variety, the Black Truffle or “Scorzone”, is widespread.



**Precious White Truffle of the Bolognese hills**

Private archive

There are many other points of interest, starting from the town centre.

In the town square, there is the small but particular **Church of San Matteo**, built on the site where since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there has been the Oratory of San Matteo di Mercato di Savigno, so called after the ancient name of the town. In front of the church, a sandstone obelisk commemorates the revolt of the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1843, when hundreds of patriotic followers of Mazzini rose up for the freedom of Italy from Papal dominion.

## Nature

For nature lovers, there is the **Percorso Sette Chiese (The Seven-Church Trail)**, in total 20 kilometres long, starting from the town square. Crossing woods, fields and cherry orchards, the trail leads to the discovery of a rich territory with evocative landscape, returning finally to its starting point. Particularly suitable for mountain-bike excursions, it can also be followed on foot or horseback.

**Info:** Comune di Savigno

Tel. **051.6708004** - Fax **051.6708662**

[turismo@comune.savigno.bo.it](mailto:turismo@comune.savigno.bo.it)





**Mulino del Dottore (Water Mill)**

Private archive

The territory of Savigno offers travellers a harmonious hilly landscape, rich in trails suitable not only for trekking and cycling, but also for cultural excursions. The territory of this valley is in fact one continuous surprise, with its parish churches, oratories and ancient water mills.

Among those still in perfect working order, in Rodiano, there is the 17<sup>th</sup>-century **Mulino del Dottore**, open to the public on Sunday afternoon.



**May Palio**

Photo by Comune di Savigno

Finally, it must not be forgotten that the whole area was once full of forts: it is worth visiting the tiny village of **Vénola**, with its particular tower-houses built between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### Events

**May Palio**, the town divides into 3 “contrade” and 9 “frazioni”, and the streets and houses are decorated with the flags and drapes of their relative colours. On Sunday, all the participants take part in the final competition, the winner is named and the festivities continue into the night: May.

#### **Mercato delle cose buone**

**(Market of Fine Produce):** every second Sunday of the month, from May to December.

#### **Antique Market and Exhibition:**

every second Sunday of the month, from March to December.

**Market Fair of San Matteo:** September

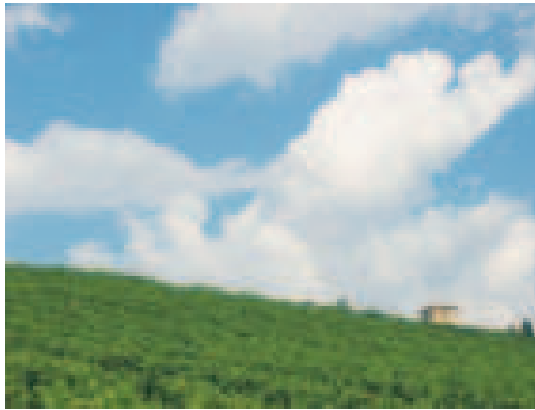
**Tartufesta:** in October and November

**National Festival of the Precious White Truffle of the Bolognese Hills:**

first three Sundays in November

**MARKET DAY:** Tuesday

# Monte San Pietro



**DOC Colli Bolognesi vineyards**

Private archive

A vast territory spread around the mid-upper basin of the River Lavino, Monte San Pietro is characterized by ancient villages which, until the early years of the last century, were autonomous communities. Today, they are villages that gravitate around Calderino. The art and historical treasures of this area are therefore to be searched for, touring around the territory, following winding roads, lined by rows of vines and cherry trees.

After crossing the River Lavino at Ponte Rivabella, we reach **Amola**, where there are two precious examples of Bolognese art: the Via Crucis by Mauro Gandolfi from 1792 and an organ by Pietro Agati from 1757, both conserved in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Parish Church of Santa Maria Assunta. It also contains three canvasses by Guardassoni, among which the Madonna Assunta in fioriera, blessed by Pope Pious IX.

From Ponte Rivabella, it is also worth visiting the Oratory of **San Lorenzo in Collina**, where once a year in September, you can admire the Madonna del Castello di Capramozza, a splendid wooden sculpture, perhaps from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Nearby, in the church of Montemaggiore, there is a painting in tempera of the patron saint dated 1395, attributed to Cristoforo da Bologna.

Returning along the Lavino valley-bottom road, 5 kilometres from Calderino, we reach **Monte San Giovanni**. In the church, there is one of the oldest and most important still-

working organs in the extremely rich Bolognese heritage. Attributed to a member of the Cipri family (16-18<sup>th</sup> century), it has been expanded and restored several times down the centuries. It can be found in the choir, above the entrance.

In the area of Oca, we leave the Via Lavino for S. Chierlo. Here, alongside Monte Bonsara (or Bonzara), there is the massive form of **Villa Lambertini**, a small fort with imposing bastions, crowned with a 16<sup>th</sup>-century tower.

At the junction which leads from Lavino to Mongiorgio, a site of particular interest is the ex-monastic complex of the Badia, which stands in the homonymous village. In the late Middle Ages, the **Badia** was a strategic place to spend the night for pilgrims going to Rome along the Via Nonantolana. It is an obligatory stop in an itinerary of Benedictine Abbeys in the Bolognese territory. Of Romanesque origins (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries), but rebuilt in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, it is a church with three naves and an evocative cloister. It is worth noting the reuse, typically medieval, of ornamental material from previous ancient periods. Inside there are the remains of a 16<sup>th</sup>-century fresco in the apse and the Madonna tra Santi painted in the lunette above the main door, which can be dated to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The complex belongs to the Town Council, which intends to make it the site of the Wine and Chestnut Museum.

In **Mongiorgio**, there are the last traces of a medieval castle and the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Church of the Saints Sigismondo and Pietro.

The territory boasts a long winemaking tradition and these hills produce the greatest quantity of the "Vini dei Colli Bolognesi". Ottone I, in 776, was already praising these hills as producers of "...good wine to be imbibed only on glorious days...". From the tracts of Abbot Calindri, it appears that it was specifically Monte San Pietro that determined the price of grapes at the market in the city of Bologna. Monte San Pietro is a member of the National Association of "**Wine Cities**".

## Gastronomy and Wine

### DOC Colli Bolognesi Wines

The hilly territory between the Reno and Samoggia makes the wines of the most varied **Denomination of Controlled Origin (D.O.C.)** in Italy, so much so that there are indications of the various sub-zones: Colli Bolognesi, Monte San Pietro, Castelli Medioevali. In this area, you can find Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Bianco, Riesling Italico and Sauvignon. But the most famous variety is undoubtedly Pignoletto, an autochthonous vine resul-

ting in a wine with delicate bouquet, fruity, intense, with notes of hawthorn flowers and a dry flavour, the perfect accompaniment to the traditional tortellini in broth and mortadella. Among the other wines, there are excellent Pinot Bianco and Sauvignon wines among the whites, Barbera and Cabernet Sauvignon among the reds.

### CONSORZIO VINI COLLI BOLOGNESI

Via Abbazia 30/c - 40050 Monteveglio (BO)  
Tel. **051.670.7752** - [info@collibolognesi.it](mailto:info@collibolognesi.it)  
[www.collibolognesi.it](http://www.collibolognesi.it)

## Events

In Monte San Pietro since 1968, wine has been celebrated at the beginning of September with the historical festival, the **Sagra del Vino dei Colli Bolognesi** in Piazza della Pace in Calderino, organized by the local Pro Loco (Tourist Office). During the festival, the local producers offer visitors the chance to try their wines and there are also stands offering other comestible specialties of the area: honey, cheese, conserved vegetables and salami. On the second Sunday of September, still in these hills in San Martino in Casola, there is the Mostra assaggio dei vini dei Colli Bolognesi: several evenings of wine-tasting with a range of over a hundred labels made available to experts and wine-lovers.

Great importance is also given to the cultivation of chestnuts, spread in the highest areas of the territory like the extensive chestnut orchards of **Monte Pastore**, ancient possession of Matilde di Canossa (notable for the church and the medieval tower). The excellent farming results in great quantities of the typical "marroni" of the area, famous for their excellent quality. Monte San Pietro is a member of the National Association of "**Chestnut Cities**".



**Calanchi (gullies)**

Photo by Comune di Monte San Pietro

## Science and Technique

The sky for everybody

The Felsina **Astronomical Observatory** in Ca' Antinori is situated in a strategic position, dominating the whole mid-Bolognese Apennines: towards the east, you can make out the dome of the Astronomical Observatory of Loiano, while to the south, the ten enormous blades of the Monte Galletto Wind Power Park are visible and even the peak of Corno alle Scale. Run by the Bolognese "Associazione Atrofici", it is open to the public twice a month from April to October, following an annual calendar.

**Info:** Biblioteca di Monte San Pietro (BO)

Tel. **051.6764437**

[info@associazioneastrofilibolognesi.it](mailto:info@associazioneastrofilibolognesi.it)

[www.associazioneastrofilibolognesi.it](http://www.associazioneastrofilibolognesi.it)

Around Venezia a Monte San Giovanni and Pradalbino, on the borders of the Crespellano area, the countryside has a strange, atmospheric element - the "**calanchi**".

## Nature

The "**calanchi**" are a particular morphological form of clay, very common in the Apennines of Emilia-Romagna, so much so that the term "calanco" is a corruption of the Bolognese dialect name. They are the result of erosion processes of the clay landscape, created by the action of rain and wind, favoured by the alternating rainy and dry periods. The "calanchi" create an extreme environment in which arcs and crests of various shapes alternate with gullies that are often very deep; the vegetation is prevalently herbaceous species, flowering in spring or autumn. These areas, being open and full of climbing air-currents, are ideal for the flight and hunting patrols of numerous birds of prey, such as buzzards, easy to spot in the hottest parts of the day, and harriers.

There is no lack of opportunities to take part in the sporting reality of the area: as a spectator in a visit to the precious Nigelli collection of motorbikes, or actively at the prestigious Golf Club.

### Sport and Active Tourism

#### Bologna Golf Club

One of the historical Italian courses, designed by Cotton & Harris and created in 1959, it is situated 12 kilometres from Bologna on lovely hilly landscape with beautiful vistas of the surrounding hills and the plains. Constantly updated, the course has hosted the Italian Amateur Championships several times in the last few years, as well as numerous professional competitions. The sober, elegant Club House is the ideal place to try the menu of the Private Restaurant, which has been included several times in the 10 best Italian Club Restaurants. The beautiful open-air swimming pool and a well-equipped kids' corner complete the Club's offer. In 2000, there were some modifications to the course by Peter Alliss.

**Technical data:** 18 holes, par 72, 5,949 mts, 116 mts a.s.l.

**Info:** via Sabattini, 69 - Monte San Pietro (BO)  
Tel. **051.969100** - Fax 051.6720017

**info@golfclub.bologna.it**  
**www.golfclub.bologna.it**

### Museums - Science and Technique

#### Land of Motors - The Nigelli Collection

The passion for mechanics of Bruno Nigelli has led to a private collection of great value: over 300 motorbikes, with classic, and in some cases unique examples, tell the story of motorcycling in Bologna, whose 85 constructors represent a situation that is unique in the world. The Bolognese brilliance for motorbikes has also had a profound effect on the economy, leading to the creation of a series of companies specializing in mechanical precision components, among which NIFO, whose premises house the collection. Visits by appointment:

#### THE NIGELLI COLLECTION

NIFO S.r.l Via Giuseppe Venturi, 3  
San Martino in Casola, 40050  
Monte San Pietro (BO) - Tel. **051.6766792**  
**nifo@nifo.it** - **www.nifo.it**

The wine and gastronomical specialities, apart from wine and chestnuts, also include cherries, plums, honey, mushrooms, salami and crescentine (crumbly fried savoury pastries).



**MM Motorbikes**

Photo by Nigelli Collection

### Gastronomy and Wine

**Sabadoni.** The pastry of sabadoni is made from flour, eggs, sugar, a drop of extra-virgin olive oil, brandy, yeast (in the past, bicarbonate of soda was used), lemon zest and a pinch of salt. It is rolled out into sheets and cut into rectangles. For the filling, chestnuts are boiled and then passed through a sieve, then this purée is mixed with "mostarda Bolognese" (a fruit conserve). A spoonful is placed in the middle of the pastry rectangles and closed in by another rectangle. Having pressed down the edges, the sabadoni are fried in lard. Once the fat has been absorbed on kitchen towels, they are left to cool down, then brushed with "saba" (cooked must), diluted with a drop of the cooking water from the chestnuts used in the filling.

**Mostarda Bolognese** is a delicious jam of mixed fruit, usually cherries and plums, used, as well as in sabadoni, for filling the Pinza (a typical Christmas sweet in the Apennines and Bolognese countryside) and Raviole (the traditional sweets of San Giuseppe).

### Events

**Herb Convention:** first Sunday of June

**Herb and Antique Market:** every

Thursday in July and August

**Calderino Festival - Festival of San Cristoforo - Summer Black Truffle Festival:**

last Sunday of July

**Calici di Stelle (Goblets of stars):**

the night of San Lorenzo

**Wine Festival, an extempore painting competition,** first weekend of September

**Roast Chestnut Festival:** third Sunday of October

**MARKET DAY:** Thursday

# The Samoggia Valley

## the plain

### Tourist Itinerary

The itinerary to discover the “Terre d’Acqua” (Water Lands) of the Samoggia plain spreads out from the “Persicetana” highway, connecting Bologna to the state highway for Verona.

### The “Terre d’Acqua” (Water Lands)

- Anzola dell’Emilia
- Calderara di Reno
- Sala Bolognese
- San Giovanni in Persiceto
- Sant’Agata Bolognese
- Crevalcore

### Not to be missed:

- Lamborghini in Sant’Agata Bolognese
- The Romanesque Parish Church of Sala Bolognese
- The historical centres of San Giovanni in Persiceto and Crevalcore
- The “castles” of Crevalcore
- The World’s Smallest Puppet Museum in Crevalcore
- The Dosolo Basin and the Water-Pumping Plant of Bagnetto
- Villa Caprara and the sites of Santa Clelia Barbieri at Le Budrie
- The cycling routes between San Giovanni and Crevalcore
- The Memorial Stone of the Second Triumvirate and the Rotunda of Sacerno
- The Persiceto Carnival
- The traditional Melons and Watermelons of San Matteo della Decima





## History and Environment

The second part of the itinerary along the Samoggia Valley leads to the discovery of a rich plain, already referred to as “highly opulent” in Roman times. These are the “Water Lands” of the Province of Bologna, a territory crossed by the Samoggia, between two important rivers, the Reno and Panaro.

The vast flow of the water courses has always been both the greatest resource and the most fearful threat for these lands. The natural parks and wet zones of the Dosolo and Bora, together with the majestic water-pumping plant of Bagnetto, tell the story of the difficulties of living between earth and water, and are an extraordinary open-air museum where you can discover the flora and fauna in what is today a protected habitat.

Historically disputed between Modena and Bologna, controlled by the powerful Abbey of Nonantola and an antique land of the agrarian “Partecipanza”, the western Bolognese plain differs from other intensely cultivated areas of the Padana (Northern) Valley, having scattered ancient farmhouses, churches and oratories.

Other distinctive features are the “castles” of Crevalcore and San Giovanni in Persiceto, dating back to the golden age of Bolognese patronage. A land of historical singers and puppeteers, the best tradition of Carnival comes back to life every year, with the characters Bertoldo and Bertoldino as protagonists. Even among the signs of more recent industrialisation, there are numerous occasions to make interesting discoveries. Lamborghini, the legendary automobile producer, is based in Sant’Agata Bolognese and a visit to its Museum is obligatory in any ideal itinerary in the “Land of Motors”.

## Buon appetito

The territory’s cooking offers all the specialties of the best Bolognese tradition while also being influenced by the neighbouring Province of Modena. As evidence, besides the DOC Wines of the Reno, Lambrusco is common, as well as specialties such as Zampone (pig’s trotter) and Cotechino (pork sausage). Among the sweets, you must try “Africanetti” and “Savoirdi di Persiceto”, egg traditional biscuits from San Giovanni in Persiceto. There are also two agricultural products worth noting: the Traditional Melons and Watermelons of San Matteo della Decima, central to a festival in July.

## How to get there

- A14 Motorway: exit Borgo Panigale
- Roads: State highway SS 568 towards Verona

State Highway SS 9 “Via Emilia”  
towards Modena

- Railway line Bologna-Verona-Brennero:  
stations in Osteria Nuova, San Giovanni in Persiceto, Crevalcore.
- Railway line Bologna-Milano:  
stations in Lavino, Anzola dell’Emilia, Samoggia
- Buses ATC [www.atc.bo.it](http://www.atc.bo.it)

### Tourist Information

**Anzola dell’Emilia** - URP (Public Relations Office)  
Via Grimandi, 1 - 40011 Anzola dell’Emila (BO)  
Tel. **051.6502111** - [urp@anzola.provincia.bologna.it](mailto:urp@anzola.provincia.bologna.it)

#### Opening times:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Friday and Saturday 8 - 12:30am  
Thursday 8am - 6:30pm

**Calderara di Reno** - URP (Public Relations Office)  
P.zza G. Marconi, 7- 40012 Calderara di Reno (BO)  
Tel. **051.6461274**

[urp@calderara.provincia.bologna.it](mailto:urp@calderara.provincia.bologna.it)

#### Opening times:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Friday and Saturday 8am - 1pm  
Thursday 8am - 7pm

**Sala Bolognese** - URP (Public Relations Office)  
P.zza G. Marconi, 1 - 40010 Sala Bolognese (BO)  
Tel. **051.6822511**

[sindaco@comune.sala-bolognese.bo.it](mailto:sindaco@comune.sala-bolognese.bo.it)

#### Opening times:

Monday to Friday 8:30am - 1pm  
Thursday 3pm - 6pm

**San Giovanni in Persiceto** - URP (Public Relations Office)  
Corso Italia, 78  
40017 San Giovanni in Persiceto (BO)  
Tel. **800.069678** - [urp@comunepersiceto.it](mailto:urp@comunepersiceto.it)

#### Opening times:

Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday and Saturday 8:30am-1:30pm  
Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am - 6:30pm

**Sant’Agata Bolognese** - Cultural Office  
Via 2 Agosto 1980, 118  
40019 Sant’Agata Bolognese (BO)  
Tel. **051.6818942** - [info@teatrobibiena.it](mailto:info@teatrobibiena.it)

#### Opening times:

Monday to Friday 9am - 1pm

**Crevalcore** - URP (Public Relations Office)  
Via Matteotti, 213 - 40014 Crevalcore  
Tel. **051.988443** - [urp@comune.crevalcore.bo.it](mailto:urp@comune.crevalcore.bo.it)

#### Opening times:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am - 1pm  
Tuesday 7:30am - 1pm / 5 - 7pm  
Thursday 8:30am - 1pm / 5 - 7pm  
Saturday 9 - 12am

# Anzola dell'Emilia

Our first stop on the Samoggia plain is Anzola, where there is the **Tower of Re Enzo**, the only remaining evidence of the ancient castle of the Lords of these lands.

## History and Culture

### Re Enzo and the Tower of Anzola

"In Anzola, the 13<sup>th</sup> century torre di Re Enzo (Tower of King Enzo) recalls the war between the Communes and Emperor Frederick II. The Bolognese won a significant victory over the Imperial forces at Fossalta (1249), in the outskirts of Modena and were able to take the Emperor's son, Prince Enzo, prisoner. He was entrusted to the Lord of the castle of Anzola, count Michele degli Orsi. The tower where he was held is named after him and is one of the few remains of the original castle. Subsequently Enzo was moved to the attractive palace in the centre of Bologna, which also now bears his name. It cannot have been a particularly hard imprisonment since the Lord of Anzola became a good friend with the young monarch and tried to help him escape inside a pannier."

*Renzo Renzi*

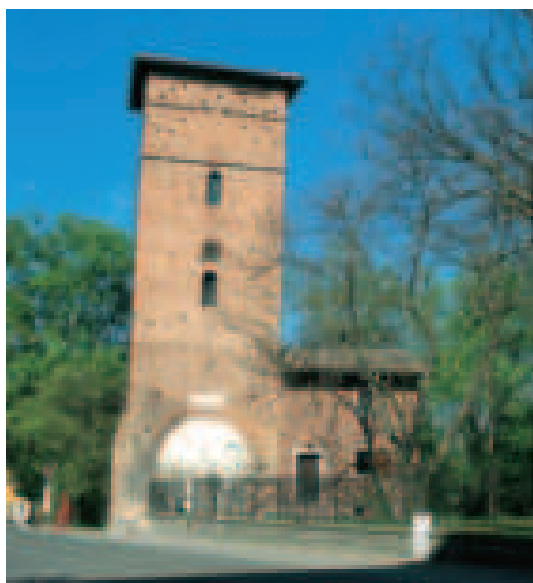
In Anzola, there is also some of the most ancient parish churches of the Province. It is worth visiting the **Abbey of Santa Maria in Strada** in over a thousand years of history. While in the county town there is the **Church of Saints Peter and Paul**, whose medieval origins can be seen in the 13<sup>th</sup>-century font. Rebuilt from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards, it houses works by Spisanelli and Guardassoni.

But the history of this territory goes back well before the medieval wars and parish churches. Anzola dell'Emilia has a surprise for us: a prehistoric border village.

## History and Culture

### Anzola before Emilia: the "Terramare" villages

The "Terramare" are ancient villages of pile-dwellings from the Bronze Age (16-13<sup>th</sup> century BC), typical of west-central Emilia. They are villages constructed following a well-defined plan: quadrangular, they are found on dry land, but always near water, which served as protection for the settlements. The "Terramare" of Anzola stood on the western limit of the inhabited area: the excavations, still ongoing, suggest that Anzola was in fact a border post, as confirmed by the material remains of the culture that have been found, revealing a close relationship with the geographical areas to the south-east of Anzola, which in the same period saw the flowering of a different type of settlement, more similar to Apennine models.



**Tower of Re Enzo**

Photo by Provincia di Bologna

## Events

**Spring Festival**, horse show, vintage car and motorbike rally: May

**Anzola Fair**: June

**Santa Maria Street Festival**: September

**Anzola Festival**, as part of the series "Historical War games - Playing with history": first Sunday of October

**MARKET DAY**: Saturday

# Calderara di Reno

Calderara stretches along the left bank of the Reno, at the centre of a territory already occupied by the Romans at the time of the Republic. Archaeological remains from the Roman period, found during excavations of ancient farmhouses and wells in the area, are now collected in the public library.

In 43BC, a momentous event in history happened here. **Sacerno** is indicated as the site where, after the death of Julius Caesar, Octavian, Mark Anthony and Lepidus divided up the Roman world with the Second Triumvirate. The site is today indicated by a Baroque-period column on the banks of the River Lavino. The importance of Sacerno, however, dates back to even more ancient times.

Also known in the past as Mezzomondo, up to the 16<sup>th</sup> century the area was known as San Chierno, a name deriving from the Celtic Kernunnos, the horned god associated with rivers and the centre of the world. In the Christian era, in the 8<sup>th</sup> century, the nearby proto-romantic rotunda of Sant'Elena was built to consecrate a site that had already been sacred to other cults. The remains of the ancient Church are now part of the highly original bell-tower of the successive Benedictine parish church.

Among the beautiful villas and country houses in the territory, of particular note are **Villa Tanara** (17<sup>th</sup> century) and **Villa Donini**, with a park created at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Count of Sambuy, responsible for Villa Magnani in Zola Predosa as well.

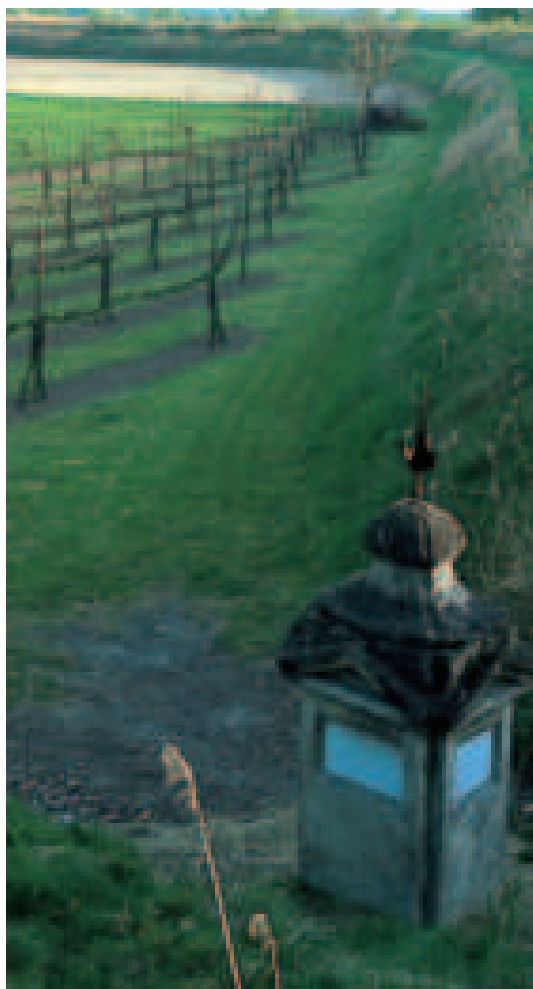
Also worth visiting is the complex of the Church of San Vitale in Longara, the summer residence of Cardinal Lambertini, later to become Pope Benedict XIV.

In Tavernelle Emilia, it is impossible not to note the large, and now precarious, mass of **Villa Paleotti Spalletti**, the rear of which faces onto the Persicetana highway. Built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Paleotti family, in 1682 it passed into the hands of the traders, the Zagnoni, who obtained permission to use the lawn in front of the villa for an important fair in September.

## Nature

In the "**Golena di San Vitale**", near the ford on the Reno, you can visit a woody area undergoing ecological restructuring, run by the local branch of the WWF.

**Info:** Tel. **051.521114**; 8:30 - 11:30 am, Monday to Friday



**Memorial stone of the Second Triumvirate**

Photo by Provincia di Bologna

Calderara di Reno is a member of the National Association of "**Wine Cities**".

## Events

**The Calderara Week:** in May and in June  
**Dinner of the 14<sup>th</sup> August**

**Lippo Festival:** September

**Festival of ancient flavours:** October

**MARKET DAY:** Monday

# Sala Bolognese

The **Romanesque Parish Church** of Santa Maria Annunziata and San Biagio alone makes a visit to Sala Bolognese worthwhile. The basilica dates back to 1096 and was restored to its original form in 1920. Its Romanesque-Lombard architectural style is a unique example this side of the River Panaro, a natural border which for centuries separated the western part of the region from the eastern with its Lombard influences.

By bicycle, it is possible to visit the numerous small villages, churches and villas spread around the countryside, or reach the banks of the Reno and Samoggia Rivers. Among ruins surrounded by elms and white willows, if you keep your eyes open, perhaps with the help of a good pair of binoculars and some plant and animal handbooks, you can spot many interesting examples of flora and fauna.

In the village of Bagno di Piano, there are many things to visit. The 16<sup>th</sup>-century Church of San Michele Arcangelo contains two important paintings attributed to **Crespi** and **Francia**, around which the mysteries of the rosary of the School of Carracci are arranged.

## Palazzo Zambecari (Il Conte)

Photo by Comune di Sala Bolognese

**Palazzo Zambecari** (Il Conte) is a beautiful 16<sup>th</sup>-century building, with the traditional four angular towers. A two-flight staircase leads inside, where traces of fresco decorations are still visible. In **Villa Minelli**, it is worth noting the tower, courtyard and the small 18<sup>th</sup>-century chapel.



## History and Culture

### A short guide for a visit to the Romanesque Parish Church of Sala Bolognese.

The parish church has a beautiful façade, characterized by a mullioned window with a cubic capital, embellished by Byzantine carvings. At the sides of the entrance, there are two memorial stones: the older recalls the construction of the Church in 1096 on the remains of a PalaeoChristian temple, and the other, more modern, the restoration carried out in 1920. At the back, the major apse is the best preserved of the three and is embellished by a 12<sup>th</sup>-century blind gallery, the most interesting architectural element of the building. It is in fact the only such example in a Romanesque building in the Province of Bologna. On the right-hand side, there is the bell-tower, built in 1926, with a chapel dedicated to the Fallen of the two World Wars.



The interior of the church follows the layout of a basilica, with three naves divided by columns with unadorned selenite capitals. A large central staircase leads to the presbytery, where there is the high altar. On the surface of the altar, there is the carved head of a pagan divinity with ram's horns, perhaps a representation of the Celtic god Kernunnos. This pagan altar, which became Christia with an exorcism of a cross carved into the stone, documents the end of the pagan period and the passage to Christianity of the ancient population of the area. A notable element is the seal with the eagle of the Svevi Empire on the parapet of the pulpit. The crypt below the presbytery, mostly restored, is undoubtedly the most atmospheric part of the basilica. Near the entrance, an ancient immersion-bath for baptisms in red marble from Verona is preserved.

### The Dosolo Flood-Basin

Built in 1931 to hold the floodwater from the Dosolo canal, the basin contains land that was until recently cultivated, despite the obvious limitations caused by the frequent flooding.

Since 1991, the area has been given over to greater environmental aims. Various works have created a wide-ranging variety of natural environments, with alternating woods, meadows and wet zones, allowing development of typical swampland flora and fauna. The wet zones, covering 5.5 hectares, are now under ecological restructuring.

### The Water-Pumping Plant of Bagnetto

Near the confluence of the Samoggia and Reno, there is the water-pumping plant of Bagnetto. This beautiful building houses the instruments which control the majority of the surface water in the territory, allowing the introduction of water from the "Acque Basse" Canal manifold into the Reno. The plant was built in 1925, with an architectural style similar to a massive medieval fort and was further developed in the eighties.

#### THE WATER ECO-MUSEUM

For **visits** and **Info**:

Consorzio di Bonifica Reno-Palata,  
via Amendola 12, Bologna

Tel. **051.254510**, Fax **051.254172**

[www.consorzioarenopalata.it](http://www.consorzioarenopalata.it)



**Water-Pumping of Bagnetto**

Photo by Consorzio Bonifica Reno-Palata

Not to be missed is a visit to the water-pumping plant of Bagnetto, which together with the nearby area of ecological restructuring in the Dosolo Basin, is one of the major land reclamation works and hydraulic systems to have permitted cultivation and settlement in this area, once extremely swampy.



**Visit at the Dosolo Flood-Basin**

Photo by Consorzio Bonifica Reno-Palata

In Osteria Nuova, we come to **Villa Terracini** (18<sup>th</sup> century), a typical country house of the plains: in its extensive park, there is a lovely example of a "conserva", a sort of natural larder-fridge in use until last century.

#### Events

**Children's Carnival:** in January and in February

**The Sala Festival:** June

**Puppet-Theatres in parks and gardens,**

**puppet Shows:** in July and in August

**Nocturnal Carnival:** July

**Verso Ovest (Towards the West),**

musical events: July

**Medieval Evenings:** end of August

and September

**Summer of San Martino,** events linked

to rural culture: November

**MARKET DAY:** Friday in Padulle, Monday in Osteria Nuova



# San Giovanni in Persiceto



The town of San Giovanni in Persiceto, home of the carnival and character of Bertoldo, is notable for its large medieval historical centre with its original concentric layout.

The particular form of the old town centre, called **Borgo Rotondo**, perhaps dates back as far as the Lombard period. The Abbey of Nonantola used to hold power over the territory of Persiceto, until the 9<sup>th</sup> century when some of it became part of the Bolognese territory. It was in that period that the first concessions were granted to the local population by the Abbots of Nonantola and the Bolognese Bishops of vast tracts of uncultivated and swampy land for reclamation. These lands became the basis of the future agrarian “Partecipanza” (page 190). As well as in the county town, the Consortium of Participants of San Giovanni in Persiceto has a seat in the village of San Matteo della Decima: the Ca’ Granda, a building that is available for cultural events.

In the central square, the Piazza del Popolo, there is the **Collegiate Church of San Giovanni Battista**, whose construction began in 1671, designed by Paolo Emilio Canali, with a 19<sup>th</sup>-century façade. In the Baroque interior, among rich 18<sup>th</sup>-century stuccoes which have recently been restored to their original splendour, there are paintings by the main exponents of Bolognese painting from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century: **Guercino**, Albani, Gandolfi and Guardassoni.

Opposite the Collegiate Church, there is the **Palazzo Comunale (Town Hall)**, of 15<sup>th</sup>-century origin, with its highly particular 18<sup>th</sup>-century staircase by the architect Giuseppe Tubertini. The construction of this vast building in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, was due to the dominion of

## The Politeama Communal Theatre

The theatre was built in 1786 by the architect Giuseppe Tubertini. The present atrium, decorated with two plaster statues of Alfieri and Goldoni, dates back to 1850. A few years later, the ceiling of the stalls was painted with chiaroscuro motifs by the famous decorative artist Andrea Pesci (also responsible for decorating the buildings of Palazzi Malvasia, Malvezzi, Paleotti and Simonetti in Bologna) and his young student Gaetano Lodi. In 1860, the renovated theatre was inaugurated with a production of Giuseppe Verdi’s *Rigoletto*. The interior still has the complete 18<sup>th</sup>-century structure: particularly effective is the beautiful proscenium with two tall golden Corinthian columns crowned by an elegant trabeation. Used as a grain store during the First World War, then turned into a cinema and damaged in the Second World War, it has now been restored to its complete original splendour. Today it hosts shows, concerts, conventions and conferences.

the Bentivoglio family. Modified several times, it is still today used as a municipal residence. Next door, there is the **Communal Theatre**, inaugurated in 1790.



Communal Theatre

Photo by Comune di San Giovanni in Persiceto



**Piazza del Popolo**

Photo by Comune di San Giovanni in Persiceto - Fabio Fantuzzi

### Culture and Famous Names

#### Giulio Cesare Croce

Giulio Cesare Croce is the creator of Bertoldo, the coarse but quick-witted peasant central to the work "Le sottilissime astuzie di Bertoldo", telling of his adventures as he uses his ingenuity to reach the court of King Alboino, where he dies because he cannot eat "beans with onions and turnips cooked in ashes". A historical singer-songwriter and author of well-known popular poetry in Italian and Bolognese dialect, at his death he left a total of 478 books, of which about 300 still exist. He was the author of burlesque compositions, tragedies, poems, operettas, comedies and farces, many of which recall the Commedia dell'Arte and the atmosphere of carnival.

### Events

#### Historical Carnival

The carnival takes place on the last two Sundays before Lent and its traditional character is called Bertoldo. As well as boasting a centuries-old tradition, this carnival, like the one in Decima, has a unique element: the "Spillo", "Spél" in Bolognese dialect, meaning "transformation".

During the first Sunday of fancy dress processions, allegorical floats parade through the centre until they reach the town square, where the "spillo" happens: the multicoloured architectural structures are spectacularly transformed, revealing the real allegorical meaning of the constructions. The floats are entirely created by local carnival societies, who spend the months leading up to Carnival working with tireless dedication in their respective workshops, keeping the themes and features of their creations absolutely secret. On the second Sunday, the floats are judged by a jury which awards a cloth showing Bertoldo and Bertoldino with their donkey.

## History and Culture

### Piazzetta Betlemme



Not to be missed is the fantastic Piazzetta Betlemme, renamed "La piazzetta degli inganni" (The Little Square of Tricks) due to its multi-coloured *trompes-l'oeil* by the famous set designer Gino Pellegrini. Having just returned from Holly-

wood, where he worked on such great films as "2001, A Space Odyssey", "West Side Story", "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" and "Mutiny On The Bounty", Pellegrini imagined turning this small square into a homage to cinema, and over the course of the years, painted various scenes combining reality and imagination.



In Piazza Garibaldi, there is the **Church of the Madonna della Cintura** (1574-1603), designed by Alfonso Lombardi, with an Oratory attached in 1712. The walnut-wood choir is magnificent.

Next door to the Church, the **Palazzo SS. Salvatore**, built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Giuseppe Civoli, was used as a hospital until last century. Now it houses the communal historical archive and the "G. C. Croce" Communal Library, which contains important collections donated by the local citizens Alberto Bergamini, founder of the "Giornale d'Italia", and the great religious historian Raffaele Pettazoni.

However, the oldest building in San Giovanni is the **Palazzaccio** or Casa dell'Abate (Abbot's House) in Via Gramsci, with its particular high portico and oak columns. The building dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries and was used to store tithes for the Abbey of Nonantola.

### Museums

The 17<sup>th</sup>-century sacristy of the Collegiate Church houses over 40 Bolognese painting from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century (the "San Giovanni Battista" by Francia, works by Tiarini, Randa, A. L. Crespi, the Gandolfi brothers, Creti and Passerotti) and a collection of liturgical objects: silverware from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, works in coral from the 14<sup>th</sup> century with splendid miniatures by Nicolò Di Giacomo, and sacred ornaments.

#### MUSEUM OF SACRED ART

Piazza del Popolo, 22

40017 San Giovanni in Persiceto (BO)

Tel. **051.821254/051.6812962** Historical Archive

Fax 051.824151/051.827017 Historical Archive

Opening times: Sunday 9-12 am; Saturday on request 9-12 am.

Tickets: full price € 2.50, reductions € 1.50 for under-18s, over-60s, schoolchildren and organized groups.

Then, in Piazza Carducci, there is the medieval **Convent Complex of San Francesco**, with atmospheric cloisters and a room with an interesting fresco showing the Last Supper (visits by appointment).

Near San Matteo della Decima, a few kilometres from Cento, it is worth visiting **Villa Giovannina**, built in 1504 on a design by Sebastiano Serlio for Giovanni II Bentivoglio. The battlements of its towers are an interesting example of the passage from medieval castle to noble residence. The land on which the villa-castle was built was given to the Bentivoglio family by the people of Persiceto as thanks for the excavation of the "Cavamento", a water manifold which made it possible to farm and live in vast areas of the territory towards Crevalcore. Inside the villa, there are frescoes attributed to Guercino, carried out between 1617 and 1632. It was for this castle that the Guercino also painted the famous Aldrovandi Dog, commissioned by his friend Filippo Aldrovandi and today exhibited in museum in Pasadena, California.

In the village of **Le Budrie**, the Bolognese Saint Clelia Barbieri lived and died. She was the founder of the religious order, the "Suore Minime dell'Addolorata", and was canonized on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1989 by John Paul II. The reliquaries of the Saint are kept in the Oratory of San Giuseppe. Also in Le Budrie, it is worth visiting the imposing structure of Villa Caprara, built near the banks of the Samoggia. A grand country residence of the powerful noble family, today it houses the stables of the Orsi Mangelli.

In the Public Relations Offices (Urp) of the Councils which are part of the association "Terre d'acqua", you can find a map entitled "**Il territorio e i suoi prodotti - Oltre i luoghi comuni**", which suggests itineraries for cycling and gives a guide to buying agricultural produce directly from farms.

## Museums - Science and Technique

### Nature

#### Museum of the Sky and the Earth

The Museum is divided into five sections:

- the Astronomical Section contains the third largest Planetarium in Italy, the Astronomical Observatory, a meteorological station and a museum with an important collection of meteorites;
- the Natural History Section contains the Botanical Garden, with about 300 species of woodland flora and shrubs from the region;
- the Naturalistic Section contains "La Bora", a 22-hectare Area of Environmental Restructuring, aimed at guaranteeing the survival, care and study of the native flora and fauna species. Among the winterin species over the last few years, cormorants have appeared. Among the Birds of Prey, there are buzzards, marsh harriers, sparrow hawks and owls. The area is equipped with trails, screened observation points and a hide;
- the Physics Section consists of a Technoscientific Laboratory which, besides a display of scientific instruments, houses temporary thematic exhibitions, conventions and educational activities;
- the Entomological Section is the most recent and houses the Insect Laboratory, a genuine living museum dedicated to direct observation of insect life.

#### MUSEUM OF THE SKY AND THE EARTH

Astronomical and Natural History Sections, V.lo Baciadonne, 1; Naturalistic and Entomological Sections, Via Marzocchi, 16; Physics Section, Piazza Carducci, 9 40017 San Giovanni in Persiceto (BO)

Tel. **051.827067** - Fax 051.981908

[info@museocieloeterra.org](mailto:info@museocieloeterra.org)

Opening times:

Planetarium: Sunday 3:30-5:30pm (September may), Friday 9 - 11pm and by appointment.

Astronomical Observatory: Tuesday and Friday 9 - 11pm and by appointment.

Botanical Garden: free entrance every day during daylight hours.

"La Bora": free entrance for up to five people every day during daylight hours; larger groups must be accompanied by a paid guide.

Technoscientific and Insect Laboratories: opening times by appointment.

Every Saturday and Sunday, the 5 sections take turns to offer educational activities for families and children on payment.

Tickets:

Observatory, Botanical Garden,

and "La Bora", free entrance;

Planetarium and Insect Laboratory,

full price € 3.50, reductions € 3

(groups of at least 25 people),

€ 2 (under-14s and students).

In the itinerary there are places of great naturalistic interest, such as the Manzolino oasis, the Museum of the Sky and the Earth, and the Archaeological-Environmental Museum.

### Museums

The museum illustrates the history and development of the territory between the Roman Era and the 16<sup>th</sup> century with numerous Roman remains (the result of recent archaeological digging), fragments of etched kitchen and tableware ceramics from the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and material from the archaeological site of an entire fortified village from the middle centuries of the Medieval period.

#### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTAL MUSEUM

Porta Garibaldi, Circonvallazione Dante 40017 San Giovanni in Persiceto (BO)

Tel. **051.6871757**, Fax 051-823305

[museoarcheologicoambientale@caa.it](mailto:museoarcheologicoambientale@caa.it)

Opening times: Saturday 5-7pm, Sunday 10-12am and 5-7pm, closed in August.

Tickets: full price € 2, reductions € 1, free for under-6s.

### Nature

#### The Manzolino Oasis of the San Giovanni Canal Flood Basin

The Manzolino Oasis of the San Giovanni Canal Flood Basin is one of the most important wet zones in central Emilia. The abandoned mill of Formagliaro with its long portico is a reference point. In the three lakes that make up the basin, there is rich marsh vegetation with reed-beds providing a safe refuge for nesting by many animal species. The fauna is composed of amphibians, reptiles (marsh tortoises, water snakes), mammals (foxes and coypu) and above all, marsh birds such as herons, marsh falcons, grebes, coots and cormorants. On the edge of the area, there are two free observation points: the panoramic viewpoint, accessible to everyone, on the west side, and the tower, on the east side.

**Info:** Consorzio di Bonifica Reno-Palata via Amendola 12, Bologna

Tel. **051.254510**, Fax 051.254172

[www.consorzioarenopalata.it](http://www.consorzioarenopalata.it)

## Gastronomy and Wine

A visit to the territory would not be complete without a tour through the flavours of the plain. In various places you can try the wines and typical dishes of Bolognese cooking, such as tortellini, lasagne, bollito (boiled meat) and salami, as well as some specialities specific to the Persiceto area, such as “**Africanetti**” and “**Savoardi di Persiceto**”, delicious biscuits made with eggs and sugar, considered to be among the most traditional alimentary products of the Emilia-Romagna region.



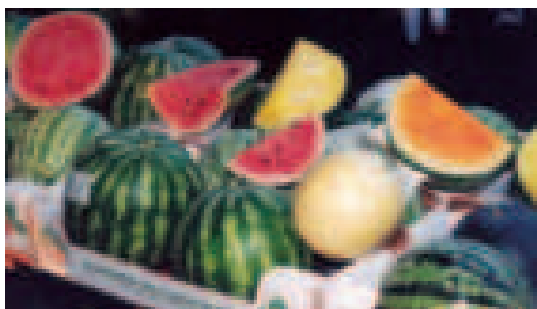
**Africanetti biscuits**

Photo by Dioteca Agricoltura della Regione Emilia-Romagna  
Fabrizio Dell'Aquila

## Gastronomy and Wine

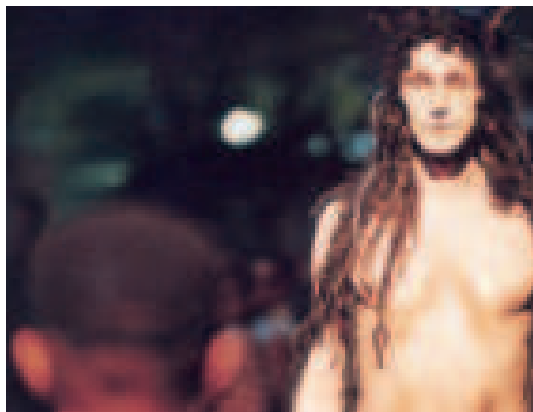
### The Traditional Melons and Watermelons of San Matteo della Decima

On the fertile Samoggia plain, the Traditional Melons and Watermelons of San Matteo della Decima are cultivated. The melons and watermelons here have a special flavour, tastier but also sweeter, thanks to the high potassium content of the terrain. As far back as 1303, Pier De' Crescenzi, founder of Bolognese agronomy among other things, spoke of them in his treatise *Ruralium Commodorum Libri XII*, giving not only guidelines for cultivation, but suggestions for different ways of eating them. Various documents going back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century are kept in the historical archives of the Consortium of Participants of San Giovanni in Persiceto. The production territory extends over an area of about 5,000 hectares in the lands of San Giovanni in Persiceto.



**Watermelons and Melons of San Matteo della Decima**

Photo by Comune di San Giovanni in Persiceto



**Buskers**

Photo by Comune di San Giovanni in Persiceto - Fabio Fantuzzi

## Events

**Historical Carnival of Persiceto:** last two Sundays before Lent.

**Arte&City**, a great programme of cultural events. During the last week-end, hundreds of street artists from all over the world bring the historical centre to life with their shows: from the end of June to the end of September.

**Fira di ai (Garlic Festival):** second half of June.

**Autumn Fair:** second half of September.

San Matteo della Decima

**Vècia** (Old Woman), on the eve of the Epiphany in the countryside, large dummies, 8-10 metres high, are built, portraying “La Befana” (a witchlike figure associated with the Epiphany), which are burnt at sunset in the presence of a numerous public shouting “A brusa la Vècia” (“Burn the old woman”). Meanwhile the “Fcén” (little old people), groups of young and not-so-young people, dressed as old men and women, go from house to house offering gifts and reciting “zirudelle” (nursery rhymes in dialect); in exchange they receive a small tip or something to eat or drink: evening of January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Historical Carnival**, with the stock character of the King, “Re Fagiolo di Castella”: last two Sundays before Lent.

**“La cucombra” - Festival of the Melon and Watermelon:** early July.

**Un paese all’opera**, an open-air opera show: the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> August.

**Festone** (Thanksgiving Festival): the second weekend of October.

Le Budrie

**Festa delle Spighe (ears of wheat):** early June.

**Festival in honour of Santa Clelia**

**Barbieri:** 13<sup>th</sup> July

**MARKET DAY:** Wednesday, Friday  
in San Matteo della Decima



# Sant'Agata Bolognese

Sant'Agata Bolognese is a lovely plains village, 6 kilometres from San Giovanni in Persiceto, Known the world over for the automobile producers, Lamborghini.

## Museums - Science and Technique

### Land of Motors - The Lamborghini Museum

The Museum, housed inside the Lamborghini premises, has an exhibition of automobiles bearing witness to the various periods of the company from the sixties to the present day: from the 350 GT series of 1963, the Diablo, the Miura of 1966, the Countach of 1973 to Formula One vehicles and much more. The company's history is also illustrated, thanks to numerous photographs, panels and models from all over the world. Guided visits.

#### LAMBORGHINI MUSEUM

Via Modena, 12

40019 Sant'Agata Bolognese (BO)

Tel. **051.6817654** - Fax 051.6817737

[cristina.guizzardi@lamborghini.com](mailto:cristina.guizzardi@lamborghini.com)

[www.lamborghini.com](http://www.lamborghini.com)

Opening times: Monday to Friday, 9-12:30 am and 2:30-5 pm.

In the historical centre, you should not miss a visit to some of the most significant monuments in the Bolognese territory.

The Parish Church, as well as housing a portrait of Sant'Agata attributed to Guido Reni, contains the detached frescoes of the **Oratory of the Holy Ghost**, masterpieces of 16th-century art. Created around 1520 by artists of refined Raffaello-esque style (the names of Nicolò dell'Abate and Bagnacavallo have been suggested), the frescoes consist of life-size figures of the Redeemer and the Apostles. Connected to Porta Otesia, the Oratory of the Holy Ghost was built in 1473 by the homonymous religious order. The Oratory is in two parts: the first is a sort of entrance hall in which there are two altars dedicated to the Blessed Virgin of Carmine and to San Antonio of Padova, with statues by the Bolognese sculptor Filippo Scandellari. The second part is the Oratory itself, where there is a precious wooden Choir and an altar piece depicting the descent of the Holy Ghost at the Last Supper.

In 1905, the Oratory was declared a national monument, as was the village tower. It can be visited with prior booking.



Lamborghini Museum

Photo by Provincia di Bologna - Guido Avoni



**Bibiena Theatre** - Photo by Comune di Sant'Agata Bolognese

### The Ferdinando Bibiena Theatre

The origins of the theatre, which is housed in the town hall, date back to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, even though it has nothing to do with the theatre of Sant' Agata planned by Ferdinando Galli Bibiena in 1718. The inauguration of the theatre in its present form took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 1888, with a production of *Pipelet*. It is named after the Bibiena family, who tradition dictates used to have a residence in Sant'Agata opposite the Oratory of the Holy Ghost. The main feature of this theatre is how small and intimate it is (only one hundred seats in elegant stalls), a characteristic which has led to the choice of particularly cultured activities.

The Bibiena Theatre is also very interesting, one of the territory's small jewels. The distance from here to Modena is short and it is worthwhile continuing the itinerary in the "Land of Motors", with at least a stop at the Ferrari Gallery in Maranello and at Maserati, whose trademark symbol, Neptune's trident, recalls the company's Bolognese origins.

A few kilometres from Sant'Agata, there is also **Nonantola** and its Abbey, visiting which means crossing once more into the territory of Modena.

### History and Culture

The Abbey of Nonantola was a big centre of European civilization since early Middle Ages when the Benedictine monks copied in their "scriptorium" what was made from culture of previous centuries, saving it from fires and devastations of that years. "The Abbey archive is an incredible source of information and has some illuminated manuscripts. The town itself is also of interest."

*Renzo Renzi*

### Events

**Festival of Sant'Agata:** February

**May Fair:** last Sunday of May

**Sonica Bassa Music Festival:** third weekend of June

**MARKET DAY:** Thursday and the first Sunday of each month



**Piazza Malpighi**

Photo by Provincia di Bologna

The historical centre of Crevalcore still maintains almost all of the original layout created between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, in particular regarding the buildings facing onto the main street.

The visual effect is undoubtedly fascinating, so much so as to have provoked the enthusiasm of the great art historian Francesco Arcangeli.

In the central square, a bronze sculpture dated 1897 commemorates Crevalcore's most famous son, the scientist **Marcello Malpighi**.

In the **Palazzo Comunale (Town Hall)** there are still some traces of work by the famous decorative artist Gaetano Lodi. Here you can also find the historical archive, containing the important "Cabrei", historical maps belonging to the Pepoli family.

## Culture and Famous Names

### Marcello Malpighi

Born in Crevalcore, Malpighi studied Medicine in Bologna, where in 1655, he then taught Logic. Called to Pisa by Ferdinando II to take over the chair of Theory of Medicine, his ideas started to be influenced by the thoughts of Galileo. Recalled to Bologna in 1659 as lecturer in Theory of Extraordinary Medicine, in 1660 he then passed to ordinary medicine. Nominated pontifical physician to Pope Innocence XII, he moved to Rome in 1691, where he died three years later.

His scientific activities, aimed in particular at microscopic anatomy, led him to investigate the human body in a scientific manner. For his international fame, the Royal Society in London made him an honorary member in 1669. In 1686-1687, his Opera Omnia was published in London in 2 volumes with 122 plates etched in copper.

As with San Giovanni and Sant'Agata Bolognese, it is worth visiting the historical **Communal Theatre**, inaugurated in 1881.



**Communal Theatre**

Photo by Provincia di Bologna

Puppets are strongly linked to the traditions of these lands and to the commedia dell'arte, and Crevalcore has dedicated a museum to them.

### Museums

#### THE LEO PRETI PUPPET MUSEUM

Via della Rocca, 2 - 40014 Crevalcore (BO)

Tel. **051.6800834** - Fax 051.6803580

[cultura@comune.crevalcore.bo.it](mailto:cultura@comune.crevalcore.bo.it)

The "World's Smallest Puppet Museum" contains over a hundred characters: devils, animals, wizards, witches, fairies and ladies, created by the local puppeteer from Crevalcore, Leo Preti, as well as a rich collection of backdrops. It is open periodically and with prior booking. Free entrance and guided visits.

### Communal Theatre

The history of Crevalcore's ancient theatre, planned by Giacomo Monari, a student of Ferdinando Galli Bibiena, is linked to the activities of the "Accademia degli Indifferenti Risoluti" (1648). When the old theatre was demolished in 1874, a new one was created. The decoration was entrusted to the local Crevalcore artist, Gaetano Lodi, the talented decorative artist to the Court of Savoia, who achieved international fame for his decorations in the foyer of the Paris Opera and in the Khedive's Palace in Cairo. For the theatre's interior, which still exists today, Lodi created a flame-red floral composition in oriental style, which spreads through the whole theatre, achieving its greatest effect on the ceiling. The curtain, created to look like an ancient tapestry, shows Marcello Malpighi at the court of the Grand Duke Ferdinando II of Tuscany. The theatre was inaugurated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1881 with Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. In 1906, with the arrival of socialists in charge of local government, the theatre began to host political and social events, provoking the wrath of the owners of the theatre's boxes. During the Second World War, the Germans turned it into a field hospital. Today it has a rich theatrical calendar and is available for other events.

### Puppet Museum

Photo by Provincia di Bologna - Guido Avoni



Just as interesting as the historical centre of Crevalcore is its vast territory, scattered with extraordinary country villas, here called “castles”: Ronchi, Palata Pepoli, Galeazza Pepoli and Bevilacqua.

The **Castle of Palata Pepoli** was built under commission from Count Filippo Pepoli around 1540. It has a notable porticoed courtyard. The building has elements of severe elegance which reveal its relationship to contemporary buildings in Bologna and Ferrara. All the property of the Pepoli family, including the Castle, were given over to the Torlonia princes in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Of the original interior decoration, there remain only the beautiful doors in soft wood, varnished with rococo motifs.

The **Parish Church of Palata Pepoli** contains a collection of paintings from the Bolognese school from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century, with works by Francesco Gessi, Alessandro Tiarini, Giovan Battista Ramenghi, Ercole Graziani and Bartolomeo Passerotti.

The **Castle of Galeazza Pepoli** has its origins in an imposing 16<sup>th</sup>-century tower built by Galeazzo Pepoli. Towards the end of the century, a villa was constructed around the tower. Then, around 1870, it was redeveloped in neo-medieval style.

In the Galeazza Church, there are the remains of the Blessed Don Ferdinando Maria Baccilieri, founder of the adjoining convent which, since 1862, has housed the Congregation of the Servants of Maria. In the convent, there is also an interesting museum dedicated to its founder.

#### Museums

##### THE GUIDO MATTIOLI PEACE MUSEUM

Via XXV Aprile, 85 - 40014 Crevalcore (BO)

Tel. **051.6800834** - Fax 051.6803580

[cultura@comune.crevalcore.bo.it](mailto:cultura@comune.crevalcore.bo.it)

The museum houses a collection of relics from the First World War, given to the town council by the collector Guido Mattioli, who had painstakingly gathered them in the area of Carso.

It is open periodically and with prior booking. Free entrance and guided visits.

The **Palazzo Bevilacqua Ariosti** is a typical Bolognese noble house. A powerful building with two tower-shaped *avant-corps* at the

#### Nature

Setting off from the centre of Crevalcore, by bicycle or on foot for serious walkers, visitors can reach the most relevant sites from the point of view of the territory's history and environmental qualities, guided by precise and detailed signs. Along the route, there are plaques describing the history of the sites (churches, castles, historic buildings), displays describing the natural elements (Areas of Environmental Restructuring, mills, ponds, hedges, etc.), as well as informative signs about the territory's farms (many of them open for direct sale of their biological and high-quality produce). The route is also equipped with a picnic area near the interesting area of Environmental Restructuring, the “**Vasche Ex Zuccherificio**” (the ponds of an ex-sugar processing plant), complete with wooden benches and tables. The project is financed by the Province of Bologna and the Town Councils which are part of the “Terre d'Acqua” Association.

corners, it was built by Count Onofrio Bevilacqua in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Bolognina Church is notable for the paintings of Simone Cantarini and **Elisabetta Sirani**.

The complex of **Villa Ronchi**, in an area of the same name, is composed of a 16<sup>th</sup>-century noble house and an elegant 18<sup>th</sup>-century church with an elliptical layout. Restoration work on the frescoes in the noble house have confirmed the presence of the hand of the 18-year-old **Agostino Carracci**. Today the villa is an exhibition and cultural centre belonging to the local council. A few kilometres away stands the Oratory known as **La Rotonda**, commissioned by Maria Vittoria Caprara as an *ex voto* and built between 1765 and 1768 by the architect Fancelli, a student of Dotti.

#### Eventi

**Flower Festival:** end of March

**Fiera Del Carmine**, agricultural, industrial and commercial fair: July

**Tavolata**, a public feast, along the town's main street: September.

**Villa Ronchi Festival**, at the castle: in summer

**Festival of Flavours:** October

**MARKET DAY:** Tuesday