## The Most Beautiful Borghi of Italy

I Borghi più belli d'Italia

MARCHE







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### www.borghimarche.it



Borghi più Belli d'Italia nelle Marche

borghimarche

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For updates and advice write to coordinatore@borghimarche.it



## The Most Beautiful Borghi of Italy

### I Borghi più belli d'Italia



From the Apennines to the Adriatic sea discovering hamlets, art cities, museums



## The charm of hidden italy

Torre di Palme





The Marche region is famous for its magnificent villages nestled between the sea, the hills and the mountains

Uniformly displaced throughout the region, here we will tell you about its most beautiful villages, not to be missed, and the most special ones, from the Adriatic coast to the mountains of the Apennines, from north to south.

The territory of the Marche region, narrow between the mountains and the sea, gives you beautiful scenery, breathtaking landscapes and historical sites. Visiting the most beautiful villages of the Marche means taking a journey back in the past, discovering places that are still standing in another dimension, where the relationship with nature is still strong and the rhythms and days are shining.

Unspoilt places often hooked up to spires or hills to remind their origins of medieval villages and avant-posts or Renaissance centers.

Walking through the walls of these small centres, which stand out for their prominent historical-artistic interest, induces a continuous wonder: behind every face, a tradition to tell, behind every corner, a discovery.

# Small villages

Gradara

### Presentation

### Amato Mercuri

President of the Most Beautiful Villages of Italy in the Marches

### **Cristiana Nardi**

Coordinator of the Marchigian Villages

A journey, whether daily or a long one, should always be a sort of pilgrimage in search of happiness. And here this guide would like to collect the riches and evoke the feelings that can be discovered by walking the streets of a region so fascinating as only Marche are, to discover some of its most authentic and suggestive villages.

The conductive thread that connects the landscape is definitely the palette of colors: the blue of the sea that knows how to confuse with the green of the hills up to the bricks, which over the centuries has made characteristic of these small villages children of a long time, poor with its land and its wood, but fruitful of true and invaluable human values that have created rare and precious jewels embedded in a naturally wonderful territory.

Marche is an extraordinary region, small and intimate that contains unique art and history boxes protected by an environmental heritage to preserve. The cultural and tourist certification awarded to the municipalities belonging to the association of **I Borghi più Belli d'Italia** schedules, in fact, periodic checks through surveys based on various parameters, among which stands the quality of urban design such as the preservation of the link between the urban microsystem and the surrounding natural environment.

These territories know how to create emotional relationships and put at the centre of their tourist and cultural commitment the person, his passions, his well-being, and his desire to know places exclusive through the communities that live in those houses, who work in those countries, who love those places and who want to tell them to others through their products, their crafts, their food, their love.

Probably by browsing the pages of this guide, you will find less known destinations, but not for that less interesting: theatres, palaces, towers, museums, libraries, squares, churches but also forests, caves, lakes, hills and natural balconies overlooking the sea that have met unforgettable writers, musicians, artists, popes and travellers, men of arms and great women, or peasants, artisans, craftsmen, humble people all linked together by the magic that is born in these beautiful Borghi delle Marche.

Villages that can be seen as separate places but that together can be perceived as neighborhoods or "sub-villages" of one extraordinary entity, a unicum of beauty:

THIS IS THE GUIDE TO THE GREATEST ART CITY IN MARCHE, A CITY SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE REGION.





This guide aims to introduce you to the ancient villages in the Marche region. Each preserves artistic and architectural treasures of great value, historical centers that have a certain relevance from the point of view of history, culture and tourism.

After a brief historical sightseeing, the main monuments will be given ample space with indications of what to see inside them, the most significant manifestations or events of a folkloristic nature, such as fairs or medieval festivals, and the typical local products and in general the wine-gastronomic tradition of the village are highlighted.

The contacts of the main municipalities and tourist agencies of the place, suggestions on what to see in the area, and the map of the village are indicated.

In the digital age and the "smartization" we have decided to create a paper guide, not only for the most romantic character, but because it respects the type of tourism that we would like, that is, the slow and attentive one, of those who prefer to have something tangible in their hands, who loves the smells of the places where they are, as well as that of paper and ink, who takes their own time to read, visit and understand the places.

A journey that will take you to discover the most fascinating historical centers and rich in history that are found in Marche. Real art boxes that will give surprises at every corner. You will be captured by the medieval or Renaissance atmospheres of the villages often immersed in beautiful natural environments that form the frame.

### Visit the most impressive medieval historical centers of the region

All to see and to admire, I Borghi più belli d'Italia present in Marche are 32: Arcevia, Cingoli, Corinaldo, Esanatoglia, Frontino, Gradara, Grottammare, Macerata Feltria, Mercatello sul Metauro, Mondavio, Mondolfo, Monte Grimano Terme, Montecassiano, Montecosaro, Montefabbri, Montelupone, Montefiore dell'Aso, Monteprandone, Moresco, Morro d'Alba, Offagna, Offida, Pergola, Petritoli, San Ginesio, Ripatransone, Sarnano, Sassoferrato, Servigliano, Torre di Palme, Treia, Visso. Fiorenzuola di Focara (Pesaro e Urbino) is a supporting member.









Mercatello sul Metauro









 WINTCRASSIAND



8

## Index

### Province of PESARO E URBINO

1	The fortress of Dante's Paolo and Francesca	16
2	MONTE GRIMANO TERME Living according to nature	18
3	MACERATA FELTRIA Between woods, water and vines	20
4	<b>FRONTINO</b> The pearl of the Montefeltro	22
5	MERCATELLO SUL METAURO The Madonna and Saints in the Metauro valley	24
6	MONTEFABBRI Small and beautiful	26
7	<b>PERGOLA</b> Churches, truffles and Golden Bronzes	28
8	MONDAVIO Military practice and the worship of beauty	30

32

38

40

42

44

46

0

9 MONDOLFO An adriatic fortress

Province of **ANCONA** 

OFFAGNA

A lookout over the sea

10	CORINALDO The town of fools
11	MORRO D'ALBA A teardrop in the hills
12	ARCEVIA The pearl of the mountains
13	SASSOFERRATO A journeu into a timeless tale

supporting member

14

### Province of **MACERATA**

15	CINGOLI The balcony of the Marche	50
16	MONTECASSIANO Confraternities and Sughitti	52
17	<b>TREIA</b> In the name of mother earth	54
18	<b>MONTELUPONE</b> Between the Sibillini mountains and the Adriatic sea	56
19	MONTECOSARO Windy hills	58
20	ESANATOGLIA The borgo with seven bell towers	60
21	SAN GINESIO The dancing mime	62
22	SARNANO Under the angel's wings	64
23	<b>VISSO</b> The Pearl of the Sibillini Mountains	66
Pro	vince of <b>FERMO</b>	
	FERMO	
_		
24	<b>SERVIGLIANO</b> A 17 <sup>th</sup> century urbanistic masterpiece	
24 25		
•	A 17 <sup>th</sup> century urbanistic masterpiece <b>TORRE DI PALME</b>	e
25	A 17 <sup>th</sup> century urbanistic masterpiece <b>TORRE DI PALME</b> Adriatic sea views <b>MORESCO</b>	74
25 26 27	A 17 <sup>th</sup> century urbanistic masterpiece <b>TORRE DI PALME</b> Adriatic sea views <b>MORESCO</b> A castle in the Aso valley <b>PETRITOLI</b> Three arches, seven hills	74 76
25 26 27	A 17 <sup>th</sup> century urbanistic masterpiece <b>TORRE DI PALME</b> Adriatic sea views <b>MORESCO</b> A castle in the Aso valley <b>PETRITOLI</b> Three arches, seven hills and many churches Vince of <b>ASCOLI PICENO</b>	74 76 78
25 26 27	A 17 <sup>th</sup> century urbanistic masterpiece <b>TORRE DI PALME</b> Adriatic sea views <b>MORESCO</b> A castle in the Aso valley <b>PETRITOLI</b> Three arches, seven hills and many churches <b>VINCE OF</b> <b>ASCOLI PICENO</b> <b>MONTEFIORE DELL'ASO</b> The hill of painters	74 76
25 26 27 Prov	A 17 <sup>th</sup> century urbanistic masterpiece <b>TORRE DI PALME</b> Adriatic sea views <b>MORESCO</b> A castle in the Aso valley <b>PETRITOLI</b> Three arches, seven hills and many churches Vince of <b>ASCOLI PICENO</b> MONTEFIORE DELL'ASO	74 76 78
25 26 27 Pro	A 17th century urbanistic masterpiece TORRE DI PALME Adriatic sea views MORESCO A castle in the Aso valley PETRITOLI Three arches, seven hills and many churches Vince of ASCOLI PICENO MONTEFIORE DELL'ASO The hill of painters GROTTAMMARE	74 76 78 84
25 26 27 Pro 28 28 29	A 17th century urbanistic masterpiece TORRE DI PALME Adriatic sea views MORESCO A castle in the Aso valley PETRITOLI Three arches, seven hills and many churches Vince Of ASCOLI PICENO MONTEFIORE DELL'ASO The hill of painters GROTTAMMARE Between palms and seagulls OFFIDA	74 76 78 84 86

## The Most Beautiful Borghi of Italy in the MARCHE

GUBBI PERUGI ROM

ACERATA

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FRONTINO

MERCATELLO

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JMBH

highway A14 Bologna-Taranto state roads

train Ancona-Roma Milan-Lecce line (Freccia Rossa) **airplane** Raffaello Sanzio Airport Ancona ship Port of Ancona





## Sweet atmospheres NATURAL BEAUTIES





## PROVINCE OF Pesaro e Urbino







## Gradara



### Altitude 142 a.s.l.

Population 4.883 (90 in the borgo)

### Info

IAT Gradara Innova 0541 964673 / 331 1520659

**Pro Loco Gradara** Via Mancini, 19 0541 964115 / 340 1436396



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- 16 -

PROVINCE OF PESARO URBINO

### The fortress of Dante's Paolo and Francesca

If love had to have a single symbolic place, it would be the Rocca di Gradara (Gradara's Fortress). The story of Paolo and Francesca would have just been one of many medieval tales, had it not been elevated to the pinnacle of poetry by Dante in his Divine Comedy. Legend has it that the fortress was the scene of the famous and tragic love story of Paolo Malatesta and Francesca da Rimini, caught in each other's arms and killed by Gianciotto, Francesca's husband. One of the most famous and heart-wrenching love stories in the history of literature. Gradara, of course, added something of its own: the castle, the gloomy Middle Ages, the turreted towers and the storybook setting.

The borgo identity lies with its fortress. Built as a simple watchtower in the 12th century, the most important sections are the dungeons, the noble residence and a porticoed wing of the courtyard. Giovanni Sforza, for his wedding with Lucrezia Borgia, added two wings to the inner courtyard and a staircase. Like the fortress, the city walls date back to the Malatesta period. The first boundary is close to the fortress with Guelph and Ghibelline blackbirds. The second circle is more extensive and also encloses the old town. The city walls are interspersed with fourteen towers and a fortified gate with the signs and coats of arms of the Sforza, Della Rovere and Farnese families. The patrols, watchtowers, underground tunnels, and sturdy curtains animated by a multitude of loopholes add even more charm to this stunning location.

#### MUST-SEE

In the Fortress, worthy of admiration is the wonderful, glazed terracotta altarpiece by Andrea Della Robbia (1480) representing Our Lady with Child and Saints.

The other masterpiece preserved in a room of the fortress is the altarpiece dated 1484 by Giovanni Santi, father of the great Raphael.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The wood of Paolo e Francesca is a remarkable habitat as it hosts numerous botanical forest varieties; connected is the Teatro dell'Aria, an environmental education park entirely dedicated to the ancient art of falconry.

The Monte San Bartolo Natural Park between Gradara and the sea is an area of exceptional landscape and environmental value.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The traditional local dishes are tagliolini con la bomba, hot oil with lard and onion is poured into the traditional meat broth causing a mini explosion and lots of steam, served with fine ribbons of pasta.

#### **EVENTS**

- Siege of the Castle, first week of August: this pyrotechnic and music event attracts a large audience. It evokes the 1446 siege of Gradara, when Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta successfully resisted the assault on the fortress by Francesco Sforza, backed by Federico da Montefeltro, for 43 days.
- Gradara in Love, a path between theatre, music and gastronomy, for a Valentine's Day full of romance.











## Monte Grimano Terme



Altitude 560 a.s.l.

Population 1.155

Info Ufficio Turistico Piazza Matteotti, 1 0541 970125



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### Living according to nature

Monte Grimano Terme is situated on a spur overlooking the Conca valley and it offers pure air and a mild climate. We are in the historic territory of Montefeltro, on the border between Marche and Romagna. This is a small borgo of narrow streets, built in the Middle Ages around a castle that no longer exists but is not hard to imagine. Traces remain in the arches along the street leading to the square, the steep alleys that climb upwards, the large stones that emerge from the facades of the old houses and the large, vaulted cellars. Here people have adopted the rule of "living according to nature", eating the healthy foods of local agriculture, taking care of their body with the thermal water that flows from the slopes of the nearby San Paolo mountain and with the medicinal plants collected in the nearby woods. The urban layout of the old town centre has a spiral shape. The 15th century Civic Tower is what remains of the Medieval Palace: 18 meters high, this tower is the monument symbol of Monte Grimano Terme. In the ancient Piazza Garibaldi, the Parish Church of San Silvestro contains a 16th century Crucifix and eight large paintings of different authors and eras, in particular that of the "Madonna delle Grazie" by the Venetian school, a reproduction of the "Last Supper" by Barrocci. Particularly interesting are also the Town Hall, which in the past was the home of the Massaioli family and the fountain, leaning against the walls of a palace dating back to a little over a century ago.

#### MUST-SEE

- In the late 18th century Church of San Silvestro there is an organ dating back to the 1700-1800, a musical jewel of just under 500 barrels, recognised as a cultural asset of the Marche Region.
- The 17th century Palazzo Massaioli, today the Town hall.
- The ancient settlement of Monte Tassi, with the remains of a late medieval castle, is perched on a 600m high cliff.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Excursions in Montefeltro's unspoiled natural environment.

The Monte Grimano thermal spa is part of the Centro Salute Erbavita, it's alkaline salsobromoiodic and sulfur water, renowned since the Middle Ages, comes from the slopes of Mt. San Paolo.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The local specialty is tagliatelle with truffles, made with truffles from the area. Main courses with locally grown meat are also appreciated. Monte Grimano Terme produces and sells the cattle breed designated as Vitellone Bianco dell'Appennino Centrale.

#### **EVENTS**

- Sagra del Maiale, between January and March, taste the famous roasted pork cooked according to Monte Grimano Terme's traditonal recipe, buy local products and enjoy popular music.
- Black Truffle Festival, in July, aims to enhance the black truffle of Valle del Conca and the products of local agriculture. During the festival, there is also a competition for truffle dogs.







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## Macerata Feltria





Altitude 321 a.s.l.

Population 2.031

### Info

**Punto IAT** Via G. Antimi, 14 329 2178998



- 20 -

### Between woods, water and vines

Macerata Feltria was founded by a mysterious pre-Hellenic people, the Pelasgians. More evident is its Roman imprint, as the inscription *Saturno Patri Sacrum* found in the kitchen garden of the Parish Church of San Cassiano, probably built over a temple dedicated to the protector of crops and linked to the fertility of the earth. This link remains strong in the landscape and architecture: local clay bricks, sandstone, and stones from the Apsa stream, closeby, are the main building materials of this borgo that lives in symbiosis with the surrounding hills.

Macerata Feltria is divided into two: above is the castle's early medieval nucleus, of Longobard origin; below is the Renaissance part, called *Mercatale*, the area where the old market once was held. The Church of San Giuseppe al Castello has a splendidly decorated terracotta portal and an altar with a gilded wooden tabernacle. A wooden crucifix 1396 by Olivuccio da Camerino is in the Parish Church of San Michele Arcangelo.

### MUST-SEE

- The 12th century Palazzo del Podestà and its medieval tower, are today the seat of the Archeological Civic Museum.
- The noble palaces along the road that descends to Mercatale.
- The 18th century Palazzo Antimi Clari with its chapel and Palazzo Gentili Belli, an ancient residence and silk mill.
- Don't miss a visit to the Pitinum Pisaurese archaeological site, where in 1990-1997 some excavations revealed a medieval necropolis and a Roman construction area dating back to the Roman Republican period.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The woods of oaks, beech and firs are part of the environment as are the ancient springs of Certalto and Apsa, and the cultivated fields and vineyards. Nordic walking, cycling in the hills. The modern Pitinum Thermae takes advantage of the natural springs of Certalto, rich in sulphurous waters with precious therapeutic properties.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Bustrengo a cake made with stale bread, dried fruit and nuts, walnut cake, castagnoli fried sweets usually made for Carnival. Roasted pork, salami, mushrooms, truffles, saffron and wine.

### EVENTS

- Fair of San Giuseppe, March: an exhibition of flowers, plants and agricultural tool; food stands with local products and the traditional conference on agriculture.
- Preziosi d'Epoca, first Saturday and Sunday of August: a parade of clothes by young designers and period jewellery supplied by jewellers and goldsmiths from all over Italy.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The convent of San Francesco houses the Museum of Radios, the second public museum of vintage radios in Italy.

The exhibition contains over 100 radios - produced in Italy, Germany, England, France, and the United States between the '20s and '60s of the last century - all carefully restored and in perfect working conditions.









## Frontino

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Altitude 534 a.s.l.

Population 300

### Info

Punto informativo Corso Giovanni XXIII, 2 0722 71131



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### The pearl of the Montefeltro

Centuries-old oaks, flowering juniper bushes and pure air surround Frontino, a borgo overlooking the valley of the Mutino river, whose stones were used to pave its streets. Despite its small dimensions, Frontino is rich in rural architecture, such as the ancient farmhouses that scatter the countryside - often transformed into accommodation facilities - and works of art. Its history was intense and troubled, disputed between the Malatesta of Rimini and the Dukes of Montefeltro, to which Frontino always remained faithful. The historic centre, called castello (castle) by the locals, is perched on a spur and its towers and the mighty city walls recall the origins of this combative outpost. The Civic Tower is one of the borgo's key elements, totally covered with vines that change colour and mood from season to season. Nearby is the 15th century Palazzo Vandini. Another attraction is the modern fountain by the artist Franco Assetto, the playful water sculpture is made of the same Mutino stones. The pride of the town is the 13th century Convent of MonteFiorentino, one of the largest in the Marche. According to tradition, it was founded by St Francis during his passage through Montefeltro in 1213. In the Church of MonteFiorentino you can admire the splendid altarpiece by Giovanni Santi, Raphael's father.

### **MUST-SEE**

- The 14th-century water mill, called Ponte Vecchio, once supplied the castle with flour and bread; it now houses the Bread Museum.
- The Church of Ss Pietro and Paolo boasts several valuable paintings such as the Madonna and Child made in the famous workshop of Barocci.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The historical region of Montefeltro is part of the Natural Park of Sasso Simone and Simoncello in the Tuscany-Romagna Apennines. Visit the Wildlife Park in Pian dei Prati in the summer months where there are many paths and trails.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The typical dish of the village is the bustreng, a dessert made of eggs and milk. Do not miss the truffles, cheese and local beans.

### **EVENTS**

- Black Truffle Festival, first weekend of August.
- Bean Festival, first Sunday in September.
- Frontino-Montefeltro National Culture Award, September: Carlo Bo, literary critic and chancellor of the University of Urbino, founded this prestigious event in 1981.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

A series of scarecrows in a central portico led to the local Art Museum. Every summer the town hosts the International Festival of Scarecrows, an event that evokes ancient peasant traditions. Each participant dresses their scarecrow differently according to their taste and imagination.





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## Mercatello sul Metauro



Altitude 429 a.s.l.

Population 1.361

**Info Punto IAT** Corso Bencivenni 0722 89114 / 346 5148444



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### The Madonna and saints in the Metauro valley

This village market was formed in 1235 around the ancient parish, now the Collegiate Church of Ss Pietro e Paolo, in the valley of the Metauro River. Mercatello means "small market", the name testifies to the fact that in ancient times this was the place where the market was held twice a week. In the main square Piazza Garibaldi, the ancient Collegiate Church has a Romanesque style of the 10th century and the Gothic reconstruction of 1363 can be seen only on the outer walls. In the large basilica stands the Immaculate Mary painted by Raphael del Colle shortly before his death in 1556, one of the last students of Raphael Sanzio. In the Church of San Francesco hangs an important Crucifix by Giotto's pupil Giovanni da Rimini: it is one of the most important Gothic crucifixes in Italy. Among the town's civic buildings are Palazzo Gasparini with its elegant rooftop loggia, the Ducal Palace and the picturesque three arched Romanesque bridge which crosses the river. Visiting the churches of Mercatello is an artistic and anthropological journey through the Marche region.

#### **MUST-SEE**

- The Monte di Pietà stands out for its original 16th-century interior design.
- The Art Gallery contains fine paintings from the MiddleAges to Mannerism and some valuable wooden sculptures.
- The Church of Santa Chiara d'Assisi, the house where Santa Veronica was born and the small Church of San Sebastiano.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Hiking and cycling through the woods and fields of grain. The countryside offers delightful picnic spots by trickling streams.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The local products include *tacconi*, similar to tagliatelle, a pasta made by hand with eggs, wheat flour and fava bean flour. The area of Mercatello sul Metauro is well known for its truffles, both black and white.

### **EVENTS**

 The Palio del Somaro is held in July, a competition on donkeys that involves the whole town in a funny challenge between cantons.
 Somari (donkeys) are beribboned with the colours of their respective neighbourhood cantons and the townspeople follow wearing coloured shirts and waving coloured flags.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

In Mercatello, as in other villages in Central Italy, you can find Porte del Morto, or doors of the dead: small doors in medieval houses, (usually bricked in) that have a pointed arch and doorstep 40-45 cm above street level. According to scholars, these doors were used to take out the deceased and were then walled up. They were a defensive strategy against death itself who was allowed to leave but not re-enter.







www.visitvallefoglia.it

## Montefabbri





### Altitude 319 a.s.l.

Population 14.988 (70 in the borgo)

### Info

Ufficio Informazioni Turistiche Piazza del Popolo, 5 0721 4897654





PROVINCE OF PESARO URBINO

### Small and beautiful

Tiny houses close together are enclosed within the walls of this small borgo that stands alone along the ancient road that connects Pesaro to Urbino. A place of tranquility among these hills, broken only by the singing of birds and the sound of bells. Vivid herbs, country lanes, chats in the only café of the borgo, features of the days spent in Montefabbri. A borgo that strikes you for its beauty, which here means simplicity, intimacy, and comfort. A picture that has remained unchanged over the centuries. A landscape from a Renaissance painting, likely since Raphael's father was born a stone's throw away from here. The access to the borgo is through the 12th century walls, passing under the arch where the drawbridge once was. The main street takes you straight to the Church, the Pieve di San Gaudenzio, built between the 7th and 8th centuries. Inside there are numerous items made using the technique called *scagliola*, all in black and white and by the same artist. The most beautiful is that of the front of the high altar dated 1687: it represents St. Francis of Paola in prayer. In a chapel dedicated to the saint are the remains of the borgo's patron, Santa Marcellina. The 25m bell tower has a peculiarity: its four bells, with the notes, A, B, D and G, chime wonderfully together, but the fifth bell is unable to contribute because of its excessive weight and is therefore kept in the church.

### **MUST-SEE**

- The 15th century Madonna Lattante: made of sandstone, is set above the arch of the Urbica Gate.
- The Romanesque Church of San Giovanni Battista, inside there is a valuable canvas of the Madonna and Child with Saints by Claudio Ridolfi, influenced by Veronese.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The hills around Montefabbri offer the possibility to walk among golden oaks and light mists in autumn, in the crisp air of winter, or to admire the incredible floral profusion of spring, which brings brooms, poppies, daisies, daffodils.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The typical product of the place is the *crescia*, a kind of savoury panettone made with pecorino cheese, which is accompanied by local cold cuts, hard-boiled eggs and Colli Pesaresi wine. Excellent extra virgin olive oil.



### **EVENTS**

- Wine and Crescia Festival, Easter Monday.
- Feast of Santa Marcellina, Montefabbri, last Sunday in July: a feast celebrating the borgo's patron saint.
- Festival of Global Arts, end of July: the borgo's streets are animated by street artists, fire shows, jugglers, puppeteers and food and wine stalls offering local specialities.









www.bronzidorati.com

## **v** Pergola

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Altitude 265 a.s.l. Population 6.200 (4.000 in the borgo)

### Info

**Punto IAT** Corso Matteotti, 53 349 7179469 (IAT) 0721 7373274 (Uff. Cultura Turismo) 0721 734090 (Museo Bronzi Dorati)





- 28 -

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### Churches, trufffles and Golden Bronzes

Pergola, founded in 1234 by the Eugubini, rises in a strategic position of the upper Cesano Valley. The historic centre has medieval stone houses, pointed portals and ancient defensive buildings. Pergola lived its maximum splendour under the Della Rovere family before being subject to the Papal States. This period saw the construction of numerous places of worship so much so that the borgo is called the city of a hundred churches.

One of the oldest is the Gothic Church of San Giacomo, which houses an interesting wooden crucifix of the early 1400s.

Not far away, the Cathedral dates back to 1258, it houses the relics of the borgo's patron saint. The Church of San Francesco, was founded by St. Francis' disciples in 1255, shortly after his death.

Many of the other churches, including the beautiful octagonal domed Santa Maria delle Tinte, date from the 17th and 18th centuries, when the town was a flourishing centre for craftsmen and artists. The Chapel of the Magi is a gem of Baroque art, a perfect fusion of architecture, sculpture and painting.

Pergola is also the city of the Golden Bronzes and houses the world's only example of a group of Roman statues made in gilded bronze. The sculptures, nine quintals of bronze and gold masterfully forged two thousand years ago, were found in the area in 1946, they are thought to depict members of a prestigious local family and are dated between 50 and 30 BC. They are housed in the former convent of San Giacomo now a museum, together with mosaics, Roman grave goods and a splendid 15th century Pietà.

### MUST-SEE

- The Angel Dal Foco Theatre, set inside the ancient warehouses of Monte di Pietà. It has an interesting plan and decoration.
- The Church of San Francesco has a beautiful 14th century portal with a pointed arch.
- The Cathedral, dedicated to Saint Andrew the Apostle and Saint Second, has a late Baroque interior and a 19th century façade.
- The Churches of Santa Maria delle Tinte, Santa Maria di Piazza, San Biagio, Santa Lucia and the Oratorio dell'Ascensione al Palazzolo.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Pergola is the capital of the truffle, from black to white, which grows throughout the year. A rich National Truffle Fair takes place in October. Pergola is also a land of excellent wines, such as Pergola DOC, and sour cherry, produced by fermenting the sour cherry with red wine.

### **EVENTS**

- The Historical Re-enactment, in August, which, between myth and legend, recalls the arrival of the remains of the patron saints dragged by giant oxen who knelt in front of the Cathedral.
- The National Fair of White Truffle Pergola in October and the CioccoVisciola Christmas on the weekend of the Immaculate Conception.



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## Mondavio





Altitude 280 a.s.l. Population

3.980 (140 in the borgo)

Info

**Punto IAT** Corso Roma 1 0721 977758



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### Military practice and the worship of beauty

From the sea across the Cesano valley and over the rolling hills to the borgo of Mondavio, the bell towers of San Francesco and the Collegiate Church chime from afar.

The beautiful old town is among the best preserved of the Marche region with views that unfold between the Adriatic and the Apennines, the gentle slopes of the cultivated lands are marked with furrows and oak woods.

The majestic fortress, the Rocca Roveresca, is considered one of the greatest examples of Italian fortifications, it was designed to adapt the 15th century defense systems to the discovery of gunpowder. The fortress is in an excellent state of conservation having never been sieged or bombed. The eight-sided tower gate was the first line of defense, only after a steep climb can you reach the drawbridge and castle. On the north-west castle walls is the small Apollo Theatre in art deco style (1887), recently restored. Nearby is the Church and Convent of San Francesco, whose history unfolds from 1292 to 1860, its façade is in traditional red terracotta brick.

From the cloister of the adj oining convent you can access the Civic Museum: on display are paintings, furnishings and rare books.

### **MUST-SEE**

- The Collegiate Church of SS. Pietro e Paterniano, founded in 1444, it houses a 18th century painting by Giuseppe Bottani.
- The two noble palaces: Della Rovere and Palazzo Giorgi.
- The Church of Santa Maria della Quercia, 1.5km from Mondavio, has lovely 16th century frescoes.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Hiking and cycling through the Cesano valley, on the circuit from Mondavio to San Lorenzo in Campo, Pergola, Fano Island, Sorbolongo and the castle of Orciano. Seaside resorts are less than 30km away.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Tacconi di fave: a kind of pasta made with wheat flour and fava bean flour. The borgo is an important centre for jewellery making and stone cutting.

### **EVENTS**

- Historical re-enactment of the Wild Boar Hunt, August: the Rocca Roveresca and the historic center host the competitions of the Historical Archers of Mondavio, musicians in Renaissance costume and a simulated fire in the fortress are the main events of this celebration.
- Samhain Celtic festival, November: two days dedicated to Celtic music and dance.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The moat of the fortress hosts a War Machines Park set up by Francesco di Giorgio Martini. One of its kind, the park includes faithful life-size reconstructions of catapults, trabucchi, bombards and other siege machines.







MONDAVIO

- 31

turistico.comune.mondolfo.pu.it

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## Mondolfo

9





Altitude 144 a.s.l.

Population 14.377 (253 in the borgo)

### Info

**Ufficio Turistico** Via Cavour 0721 9391 / 939218 / 939260 366 5608563



- 32 -

### An adriatic fortress

In these hills of the Marche, the bond between art and land is strong: the material for altars and furniture comes from the woods; frescoes, altarpieces and pulpits are the result of a popular devotion. Mondolfo's churches are an open book of art history depicting God and saints.

The double ring of city walls encloses both Renaissance and Baroque imprints in this fortified borgo. The inner circuit of walls dates back to the 7th century. Set in the Bastion of Sant'Anna, along the fortified walls, is the Martiniano Garden, a beautiful Italian garden with wonderful views. The warm tone of terracotta tinges the Town Hall and all the palaces and churches.

The Collegiate Church of Santa Giustina that existed already in 1290 has a single nave in late-Gothic style.

Passing by the 16th century Palazzo Giraldi della Rovere you will arrive at the *sferisterio*, the playing field of the famous game called "*Pallone col Bracciale*" (a Renaissance ball game played by hitting the ball with a type of spiked wooden glove weighing 2kg).

The Oratory of San Giovanni Decollato, which belonged to the Confraternity of the Good Death, has a crucifix considered miraculous and an interesting canvas of Salome with the head of St John the Baptist. The façade of the 16th century Church of Santa Maria del Soccorso has three elegant sandstone portals with decorative motifs in Renaissance style.

### MUST-SEE

- The Abbey of San Gervasio, was founded in the 4th-5th centuries; its crypt preserves the largest sarcophagus of the Marche region with engraved Christian symbols, crosses, crowns of laurel and two peacocks symbol of immortality.
- The Church of Sant'Agostino with its cloister.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The Valle dei Tufi is ideal for cycling or horse riding, among woods, pine forests, views (the sea is a few km away), hills rich in flora (oaks, elms, poplars) and fauna. Numerous birds live among the agricultural and woodland spaces: owls, hoopoes, barn owls and the splendid bee-eater, a migrant who nests in the sand escarpments of the valley. Water sports, from windsurfing to sailing in Marotta.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The local cuisine is influenced by both the borgo's marine and rural soul. Products from the hills include olive oil and wine. Dishes from the sea include deep sea fish, shellfish and fish broth.

### **EVENTS**

- Spaghettata Festival, first Sunday after Easter: a festival in honour of Spaghetti with red tuna sauce and anchovies, Mondolfo's typical dish.
- The Garagoj festival, April: a celebration of the local variety of shellfish.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- 33 -

For those who want to try the ancient game of the Ball with the Bracelet, played in Italy since 16th century, the local municipality has a court in which popes and dukes have competed.





# Hidden treasures
















Morro d'Alba



# province of Ancona







# 10

# Corinaldo





Altitude 203 a.s.l.

Population 4.769 (311 in the borgo)

Info

**Punto IAT** Corso Roma 1 0721 977758





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- 38 -

PROVINCE OF ANCONA

# The town of fools

Corinaldo is a town with a medieval and Renaissance urban layout, defended by an impressive circle of walls. The current perimeter dates back to 1367 and was expanded between 1480 and 1490. The gates, the ramparts, the defense towers, the Ghibelline battlements, and the watch walkways mark the landscape of this splendid example of a fortified borgo. Walking along the battlements you can admire sweeping views. In the medieval core, flanked by red brick houses, is La Piaggia, one of Italy's most beautiful staircases. At its centre is the Pozzo della Polenta, built by the tyrant of Corinaldo in the 15th century. The staircase and the well are among the most photographed monuments in the whole Marche region. The borgo has a number of noble residences and important buildings including the Town Hall, the Municipal Theatre and the Casa del Quattrocento, the oldest building in Corinaldo. Also worth seeing is the Costume and Folk Traditions Hall at the Civic Art Collection, as well as the Goldoni Theater (14th century) with its elegant stucco work and decorations. The Paleochristian Basilica of Madonna del Piano, along with its adjacent archaeological site, is another notable attraction.

# **MUST-SEE**

- The 15th century walls, the whole circuit is 912 meters long. The gates, the ramparts, the defence towers including the 18m tall Tower of the Sperone.
- The Collegiate Church of San Francesco, dates back to 1265, with three paintings of Claudio Ridolfi and there is a precious wooden crucifix from 1575.
- The Sanctuary of Santa Maria Goretti, with its former monastery, incorporates the old medieval Church of San Nicolò.

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Trekking, hiking and biking activities.

# LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Cured meats and extra virgin olive oil.

Verdicchio white wine and Rosso Piceno red wine.

Passatelli in capon broth is the local specialty as well as Vincisgrassi, a kind of baked lasagna.

# **EVENTS**

- The Feast of fools, 25th April and previous days. The craziest and most colourful party ever, a race and music competitions, flag wavers and archers, street artists and lots of music.
- Contesa del Pozzo della Polenta, in june. This is the historical re-enactment of the 1517 siege, including 300 figures in period costumes, drummers, flag-wavers, archers and trumpeters.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

Corinaldo is known as II Paese dei matti (the town of the mad). According to ancient tradition, the people of Corinaldo are very eccentric. Many legends and curious stories are linked to the borgo, like the legend of the polenta made in the well.





- 39 -

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# Morro d'Alba





# Altitude 199 a.s.l.

Population 1.821 (45 in the borgo)

# Info

**UfficioTuristico** Via Camminamento di Ronda La Scarpa 0731 63013 - 328 5487491



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# A teardrop in the hills

The masterpiece of Morro d'Alba, for which the borgo is famous, is the Camminamento di Ronda, known as La Scarpa: an architectural complex one of its kind in Europe, a 300 mt long covered walkway that runs along the entire city walls, whose origins date back to the first half of the 17th century. On one side it is defined by a long series of large windows which offer incomparable views over the surrounding countryside, allowing the gaze to move from the Sibillini Mountains to the Conero, and then to the sea. Walking along the Camminamento you come to the uncovered panoramic medieval towers. The entrances to private and public buildings overlook the Camminamento di Ronda. These include the Museo Utensilia, which houses a collection of tools of the sharecropping culture. The museum is housed in the basement of the medieval castle, from which you can access a dense network of tunnels that make up a veritable underground village. In the main square of the borgo is the 18th century Town Hall, inside is an altarpiece by Claudio Ridolfi dated 1630 depicting the Coronation of the Virgin and Saints. On the clock tower is a bas-relief (1504) with the rampant lion, the symbol of Frederick II.

# MUST-SEE

The Church of San Gaudenzio (1763) is extraordinarily bright thanks to the original pavement in pink and white stone and the gilded pilasters that decorate the transept and columns.

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Trekking and excursions, walking and wine tasting. There are three different routes through fields and vineyards: Pozzo Buono - Gualdicciolo, a route reaching the wooded park that has been expanded by planting a tree each time a baby was born; Piedesanta - Sant'Amico, to the Church of Sant'Amico (1587); Cupetta - Filonzi - Santa Maria to the rural church dedicated to Santa Maria del Fiore.

# LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Morro D'Alba is famous for its Lacrima di Morro d'Alba DOC wine (Lacrima in English means teardrop), which is the basis of the local gastronomic culture and that has among its first admirers the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa. The territory also produces Verdicchio Classico dei Castelli di Jesi.

# **EVENTS**

- Il Cantamaggio, May: the ancient ritual songs of the popular tradition are recalled. On 31st May, the tree in the square is burned.
- Summer events: Concerts at Sunset at La Scarpa, with a final aperitif-tasting; Calici di Stelle, 10th August.
- Feast of Lacrima di Morro d'Alba and Acqualagna's Truffle, October: the combination of these two excellent products is the starting point for exquisite dishes that combine tradition and originality, in the scenario of the town squares.





- 41 ·



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# Arcevia





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Altitude 535 a.s.l. Population 4.237

# Info

Ass. Turistica Proloco Arcevia APS Piazza Garibaldi 7 0731 1921915 (Ufficio Turistico) 347 1107257 (whatsapp)

iat@arceviaturismo. It



- 42 -

# The pearl of the mountains

Arcevia is a town located in a strategic position on the Misa River valley, not far from the beach of Senigallia. It is protected by mighty city walls from the 13th century. The area has been inhabited since the Upper Paleolithic period and has been continuously inhabited until Roman times. It is well-known for its important archaeological finds.

The Baroque Church of San Medardo, which was first built in 1208, houses two extraordinary works by the great Renaissance artist Luca Signorelli, the Polyptych of San Medardo (1507) and the Baptism of Christ (1508). It also houses a monumental glazed terracotta altarpiece of the Madonna and Child between Saints John the Baptist and Jerome (1510-1513) by Giovanni della Robbia, one of the leading exponents of the famous Florentine Della Robbia workshop.

Inside the Monumental Complex of San Francesco, you can admire the Baroque church of San Francesco di Piazza, designed by the architect and sculptor Lorenzo Bossi, and the medieval cloister. The complex houses the State Archaeological Museum, which contains important prehistoric and pre-Christian archaeological finds, and the Permanent Gallery of Contemporary Art, which houses works by Edgardo Mannucci and Bruno d'Arcevia.

# MUST-SEE

- Museogiocando: a toy museum with over 700 square meters of exhibits from the late 19th century to the early 20th century; dioramas, plastic models, model trains: each of the 4,500 toys on display has a code that gives the visitor access to its complete history. In the village of Piticchio.
- The 9 medieval castles, fortified settlements that can be found in the 126 square kilometers of the Arcevia territory.
- The sunset from the Castle of Loretello, home to the ecomuseum of the landscape.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Arcevia is part of the Gola della Rossa-Frasassi Regional Natural Park: don't miss hiking or mountain biking excursions among hills and trails in the woods. • The Giacomo Leopardi Garden, measuring 13,000 square meters, its botanical garden has 70 species of native trees and shrubs and 30 exotic ones.

# LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

• Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi, Mays Ottofile polenta, Crescia di Polenta, Calcioni.

# **EVENTS**

- Una domenica andando a polenta, Sundays in February and March: restaurants in the area offer menus based on polentadi Mays Ottofile di Roccacontrada.
- Festa dell'Uva, last Sunday of September: one of the oldest wine festivals in the Marche region.





www.sassoferratoturismo.it



# Sassoferrato



Altitude 386 a.s.l.

Population 7.066 (202 in the borgo)

# Info

**Punto IAT** Piazza Matteotti, 5 0732 956257 333 7301732 / 333 7300890 iat.sassoferrato@happennines.it



• 44

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# A journey into a timeless tale

Hidden behind the peaks of the Cucco and Strega mountains, this borgo stands on the site of the ancient Roman town of Sentinum; its remains are displayed in the Archaeological Museum and Park. Here, in 295 B.C., the Roman army fought and won against an alliance of Italic peoples in the epic Battle of the Nations. After Sentinum was destroyed by the Goths and the Longobards, the inhabitants of the area built a new castle, the Castrum Saxum Ferratum, that became the medieval borgo we see today. The borgo is dominated by the majestic Albornoz fortress, built by the Spanish Cardinal Egidio Albornoz in 1365. The Abbey of Santa Croce is one of the most interesting examples of Romanesque architecture in the Marche region. The church has a cross-in-square plan and the columns inside have capitals of Lombard derivation with geometric, botanical and animal motifs sculpted in white limestone. In the Castello district, the highest and oldest part of the town, Palazzo dei Priori is home to the Civic Archaeological Museum. The Romanesque-Gothic church of San Francesco, in white ashlars and with an ogival portal on the façade, is also a prominent feature. 15th-century Palazzo Oliva stands over Piazza Matteotti; its first floor houses the collection of Incisori Marchigiani, with works spanning from 1550 to the present day; the second floor houses the Civica Raccolta d'Arte with around thirty works, including three panels by Pietro Paolo Agabiti (1465-1540) and two canvases by Giovan Battista Salvi (1609-1685), also called il Sassoferrato, one of Domenichino's pupils.

# MUST-SEE

- In the Civic Archaeological Museum you can admire the Icon of San Demetrio, a refined Byzantine 14th century micro-mosaic with an embossed silver frame.
- The Museum of Folk Arts and Traditions is dedicated to agricultural activity.
- In the Sentinum Archeological Park you can observe the ancient Roman city of Sentinum, the remains of a thermal building in Civita, a foundry and another thermal building in Santa Lucia, outside the walls of the Roman city.
- In the Church of Santa Chiara, part of the 13th century monastery still in use, you can find three paintings by Giovan Battista Salvi.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Hiking and trekking on walking paths. The Cabernardi Archaeo-mineral Park allows you to walk through the sulphur mining sites.



# LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Local products include: Marche region beef, cheeses, cured meats, saffron and honey.

# **EVENTS**

- The last weekend of July the battle of the Nations relives in Sentinum in an exciting historical re-enactment.
- The Passion of Christ is also renacted at Easter time, with hundreds of people participating in the procession.





www.visitoffagna.it

# 14 Offagna





# Altitude 309 mt.a.s.l.

Population 2.058 (253 in the borgo)

# Info

Info Point presso Museo della Liberazione Via dell'Arengo, 11 392 1302383



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- 46 -

# A lookout over the sea

The small medieval castles of the Marche region are like solitary lookouts in the green. The golden colour of the terracotta merges with the hues of the skies and hills, drawing landscapes of sudden suspense. In Offagna, the imposing medieval fortress dominates a quiet borgo, nestled in the gentle hills of the Ancona hinterland, a few kilometres from the sea of the Conero Riviera. Your gaze rests gently on the vineyards that crown the village, on its churches, on the architecture by Andrea Vici, in a dreamy oblivion that is typical of this part of Italy. The fortress (built between 1454-56) is an important example of military architecture thanks to its high walls with a patrol walkway, towers, guard-house and drawbridge. Resting on a tufa cliff, the complex contains an unconventional five storied keep. The borgo is small, but peppered with valuable buildings of the late 1700s. The Church of SS. Sacramento is a jewel of the neoclassical style by architect Andrea Vici and it is appreciated for its formal purity and for the amazing location at the crossroads between two main streets.

# MUST-SEE

- In the Church of Santa Lucia attested to as early as 300 CE and remodelled by Andrea Vici- are two 17th century paintings.
- The Medieval Fortress hosts the permanent Exhibition of Ancient Weapons and the Museum of Natural Sciences"Luigi Paolucci", boasting interesting paleontological, mineralogical, zoological and botanical collections.
- The Museum of the Liberazione di Ancona - dedicated to the Polish General W. Anders - represents a treasure of memory around the passage of World War II in the territories of Osimo, Offagna and Ancona.
- The Monastery of Santa Zita is another remarkable work by Andrea Vici. Built in 1767 inside the walls, the monastery has a fortified structure and a surprising roof garden.
- Villa Montegallo, situated on a hill facing the sea just outside the historic center, is an aristocratic residence where the owners could relax and dedicate themselves to activities such as hunting.

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Walks in the hills, in the woods and in the protected areas of the Conero Park; mountain bike tours on the Conero cycle paths; horse riding; Nordic Walking; water fun on the low and sandy coast of Conero, where you can practice all summer sports.

# LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The local specialty is crescia, a kind of flat bread cooked on the grill and served with foie de campo, a mixture of particular herbs collected in the fields around the borgo, which are boiled and seasoned in a pan with salt, garlic, rosemary. Rosso Conero is the local outstanding red wine, made in the area.



# EVENTS

- Festa dei Fiori, every year in May

   on the occasion of the Saint Patron's Day, San Bernardino da Siena is an occasion to see and buy beautiful flowers and plants, with the possibility to taste organic food. Conferences and talks from experts about growing and gardening.
- Offagna is well-known for its Feste Medievali, Medieval Festival at the end of July, when for an entire week the borgo goes back in time. Historical re-enactments, knightly tournaments, parades, street theatre, jesters, music, dancers, and plenty of enthusiastic eating and drinking to round off the event.
- Colombaccio Fair, in September: market-exhibition with food specialties and artistic crafts; a special section is dedicated to pets and other animals, with attractions for children.





- 47 -



# PROVINCE OF Macerata







# Cingoli

15



the free

Altitude 631 a.s.l.

**Population** 10.670 (750 in the borgo)

Info

Punto IAT Ufficio IAT

Via L. Ferri 0733 602444 iat.cingoli@regione.marche.it info@proloco.it





- 50 -

# The balcony of the Marche

The borgo is perched on the top of a mountain named after Circe, the legendary sorceress. In fact, the fabled view from Cingoli's position is spellbinding and has given the borgo the title of the Marche's Balcony. From a large terrace on the medieval city walls, the panorama extends across a large part of the region towards Mount Conero and the Adriatic Sea. Originally a Roman town, the borgo's noble and glorious past is palpable, especially in the evening, when the sumptuous and elegant buildings and Renaissance portals cast their shadows on the pretty squares and along the streets. The heart of the borgo is Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, where the borgo's most precious work of art is on display in the Town Hall: a large oil on canvas of Our Lady of the Rosary by Lorenzo Lotto (1539), which was moved here after the Church of San Domenico, where the masterpiece was originally kept, was damaged by an earthquake in 2016. The Polisena neighbourhood is the oldest in the borgo, with its cobbled alleys and rustic houses. Along Via Maggiore, the borgo's main street, is the beautiful Maltempo Fountain and the 17th century Castiglioni Palace with its travertine façade, where Pope Pius was born in 1761.

# MUST-SEE

- The Cathedral, dedicated to Santa Maria Assunta, was consecrated in 1654.
- The State Archaeological Museum, with artefacts from the Bronze age and the Roman period.
- The Collegiate Church of Sant'Esuperanzio, just outside the borgo.

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Walking and cycling along the Tassinete path, that of Monte Nero (that leads to the ancient Silvestrino hermitage) and the Castreccioni lake (where there is an Adventure Park).

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The typical dishes of Cingoli are: Parmigiana di Cardi, tagliatelle with wild boar sauce, gnocchi with duck meat ragù. The territory also produces a prized variety of celery and an excellent extra-virgin olive oil.



# **EVENTS**

- Folklore and Threshing Festival, early July.
- Living Statues Festival, end of July.
- Cingoli 1848, August: a historical re-enactment, early July.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

The elegant Maltempo Fountain depicts a deer (the borgo's symbol) resting at the foot of a yew tree. Its name comes from the fact that the water dribbles from the fountain rather than flows, except for the days immediately following rain, when it streams copiously. The water is potable and it is said that all those who drink from it will return to Cingoli.





51

turismo.comune.montecassiano.mc.it

# Montecassiano



Altitude 215 a.s.l. Population 7.001 (990 in the borgo)

### Info

### **Ufficio Turistico**

Corso Dante Alighieri, 1 0733 290483 - 320 7404643 ufficio.turistico@comune. montecassiano.mc.i



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# **Confraternities and** Sughitti

From afar, the borgo set on the hill appears almost mystical. Maybe because many of the confraternities of the past centuries have maintained and restored churches and works of art, and still accompany the processions with their colourful coats of arms, banners and chiseled crucifixes. The medieval identity of the borgo is enclosed within the high city walls, built in 1437, which still surround the old town. The urban structure unfolds in concentric streets that culminate in the main square where the Castle of Santa Maria in Cassiano, already built by 1151, once stood. At the entrance of the borgo stands the 13th century Oratory of San Nicolò, which has a bell tower dating back to 1382. In the central square, Piazza Leopardi, Palazzo dei Priori is the seat of the Municipality. It is connected to Palazzo Compagnucci, housing the Civic Museum, where you can admire a lovely Madonna Enthroned by Johannes Hispanus (1506). Monks rebuilt the nearby Collegiate Church of Santa Maria Assunta in 1234, particularly noteworthy is the terracotta façade with rose window and sturdy bell tower. Inside you can admire one of the borgo's masterpieces, the splendid glazed terracotta altar by Mattia della Robbia, depicting the Madonna with Child and Saints.

# MUST-SEE

- The complex of the former convent of the Augustinians which hosts the tavern of San Nicolò with annexed tasting centre.
- The Church of San Giacomo, with a beautiful fresco from the 16th century depicting the Madonna on throne with Child.
- The Church of San Giovanni Battista, housing the Museum of Sacred Art.

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Walking and biking through the vast surrounding countryside, admiring and sweeping with the gaze from the sea to the mountain.

# LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

In addition to vincisgrassi, do not miss beans with pork rinds and tajulì pilusi, noodles with water, flour and salt, excellent with duck sauce. Sughitti, a kind of sweet polenta with must, corn flour and nuts, is a local speciality with its own festival in October.



### **EVENTS**

- Sughitti Festival, held in October and celebrating Montecassiano typical sweet.
- Palio dei Terzieri, July. A week of celebrations includes historical re-enactments and food and wine stands.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Palio dei Terzieri (Palio of the Districts) is a historical re-enactment that takes its name from Montecassiano's medieval districts called terzieri. Athletes from each district challenge each other in games and tournaments competing for the Palio. For a whole week, the borgo regains its medieval dimension with historical parades, popular races, archery tournaments, jousting knights and re-enactments of everyday life in the Middle Ages.









# 17

Treia





Altitude 342 a.s.l.

Population 9.450 (1.280 in the borgo)

# Info

# **Ufficio Turistico**

Corso Italia Libera, 16 0733 218711 - 0733 218726 liliana.palmieri@comune. treia.mc.it ufficio.cultura@comune. treia.mc.it

ufficio.turistico@comune. montecassiano.mc.it



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54

PROVINCE OF MACERATA

# In the name of mother earth

From the beginning Treia has cloaked itself in mystery. In the late Roman era, it embraced the cult of Isis, imported from Ptolemaic Egypt, leaving us traces of inestimable historical and artistic value, now preserved in the Archaeological Museum. This is the land of red clay and infinite views from the Sibillini Mountains to the Adriatic Sea. Longobard towers, 13th century walls, Renaissance and neoclassical palaces, the historic centre of Treia is a maze of picturesque alleys that flow into the magnificent Piazza della Repubblica. The scenic square is framed on three sides by the neoclassical palace designed by the architect Giuseppe Valadier and it is home of the Accademia Georgica, the Town Hall and the Church of San Filippo. The 18th century majestic cathedral, designed by Andrea Vici, Vanvitelli's pupil, is a true treasure chest of art, one of the largest religious buildings in the region. It has an enormous crypt nine metres high.

# **MUST-SEE**

- The Accademia Georgica is the work of Luigi Valadier, a prominent 18th century architect from Naples.
- The Church of San Filippo has a 15th century Crucifix and Statues of the Evangelists by Varlé.
- The Santuario del SS. Crocifisso houses a Crucifix said to have been carved by an angel, but scholars have attributed it to Donatello. The face of Christ shows three different facial expressions depending on the angle.
- The Baroque Church of Santa Chiara has a copy of the statue of the Madonna of Loreto. The original was brought here to hide it during Napoleon era and legend has it that it was never swapped back.

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Walks, Archery; ecological educational orienteering; sport fishing; horse riding.

# LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The Calcione di Treia, a DOP product is sweet pastry filled with flour, eggs, pecorino cheese, sugar, and oil, it is appreciated as snack or dessert. You can taste it even fried and baked and accompanied by excellent Verdicchio or Vernaccia di Serrapetrona wines.

### **EVENTS**

- Between the end of July and the beginning of August the historical re-enactment Disfida del Bracciale is unmissable.
- Calcione Festival, third weekend of May: you can enjoy this typical dish fried or baked.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

The 'Disfida del Bracciale' (Bracelet Ball Challenge) on the first Sunday in August. It is an ancient sport that was played in the sferisteri, a type of court of the Renaissance. The event is preceded by ten days of festivities beginning on the last Friday in July. It is a tournament in which teams from the four city districts compete for a trophy, theirs for a whole year. The game is played by hitting the ball with a spiked wooden bracelet.









55 -



# Montelupone



18



Altitude 272 a.s.l.

Population 3.445

# Info

Punto IAT Piazza del Comune, 4 0733 2249353 - 349 6935275



- 56 -----

# Between the Sibillini mountains and the Adriatic sea

This characteristic and charming medieval borgo is steeped in history and art, nestled in the rolling hills of the Marche, it is home to important artisan and industrial activities. Archaeological findings testify to settlement in the area from the 6th century BC. The castle, built in the 12th century, was the seat of a Lombard fief and home to noble families from Rome. The borgo retains the earliest four gates, roads with ancient stone paving and numerous noble buildings. Urban green spaces are an oasis of peace and tranquility. There is a splendid view that ranges from the Monti Sibillini National Park across the Regional Park of Mount Conero and the Adriatic coast. The ring of city walls, about a kilometre long, surrounds the perimeter of the historic centre. In the main square, Piazza del Comune, is an architectural jewel: the 14th century Palazzo del Podestà with its tall tower and striking battlements. A canvas of great value depicting the Immaculate Madonna by the Flemish painter Ernst Van Schayck, dated 1631 can be found in the Civic Art Gallery on the first floor of the Palace. Next door is the 19th century town hall, with a neo-classical portico. It houses the Museum of Ancient Arts and Crafts, displaying peasant work-clothing, photos and documents related to weaving and wine production, and the historical Nicola Degli Angeli Theatre, with an exquisite ceiling.

### **MUST-SEE**

- The Church of San Francesco was built by the Franciscans in the late 13th century and later remodelled in Baroque style. It has an 18th century wooden choir, four stucco statues of the Theological Virtues made in 1752 and an organ dated 1753.
- Palazzo Emiliano deserves attention for the frieze of the painter Biagio Biagetti depicting the four seasons interpreted through the cycle of wheat.
- Just outside the borgo, the Benedectine Abbey of San Firmano, built in the 9th century in Romanesque style.

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The fascinating ecosystem of the river is a great opportunity for walking and biking. Excursions to the Sibillini mountains.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The vincisgrassi are named after Windischgratz, an Austrian prince for whom this dish was created, it was the same prince who dictated the first recipe. Local products include the Montelupone artichoke and certified honey.

### **EVENTS**

- Sagra del Carciofo Marchigiano, second Sunday of May; the festival has gathered lovers of the artichoke of Montelupone for almost 50 years.
- Apimarche, third Sunday in August, market fair dedicated to beekeeping and natural honey and bees wax products from the hills around Montelupone.











# Montecosaro





Altitude 267 a.s.l.

**Population** 6.880 (800 in the borgo)

# Info

# Punto IAT

Piazza Trieste presso il Teatro delle Logge 366 6351741 teatro.turismo.montecosaro@gmail.com ufficio.turistico@comune. montecassiano.mc.i



- 58 -



The half-light that lingers in the Romanesque church of the Annunziata, the rigid crucified Christ who refuses to bow to death in the Collegiate Church, and the sublime frescoes by Simone de Magistris in the church of San Rocco are just a few of the inspiring encounters possible in this joy-kissed borgo. Montecosaro holds precious art treasures and enjoys a panorama that embraces the sea, the Sibillini Mountains and the hills of the Chienti Valley. Its well-ploughed fields, crops, vineyards, oaks and olive trees will delight you. The city walls enclose the old town as they did in the 14th century. Through a cobbled street you get to Piazza Trieste where the Collegiate Church of San Lorenzo, built in 1723 on the ruins of the old parish church, stands. Opposite is the Augustinian complex which includes the Church of Sant'Agostino, remodelled in the 18th century, containing a precious Byzantine religuary, an organ by Gaetano Callido (1792); and the Town Hall. A few kilometres outside the old town we find one of the most important monuments of the region, the Romanesque Basilica of Santa Maria a Piè di Chienti. It dates back to 936 and was consecrated in 1125. An example of perfect Cluniac architecture that crosses the Lombard and Burgundian styles, the external apse of the church is an exquisite play of volumes. The elegant sail-shaped bell tower has been calling the faithful since 1425. A few fragments of the original frescoes remain, including a Virgin and Child by the Master of Offida.

## MUST-SEE

- The Church of San Rocco (1447) houses magnificent frescoes by Simone de Magistris, a pupil of Lorenzo Lotto.
- Palazzo Laureati, 1700, and Palazzo de' Nicolo' Massari, 13th century.

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The Park of the Cassero is a splendid green corner. The borgo is located a short distance from the Adriatic Sea and about 50 km from the National Park of the Sibillini Mountains, inhabited by the wolf, the golden eagle, the peregrine falcon and numerous botanical species.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

We are in the land of vincisgrassi, a popular dish in the Marche, a sort of lasagne made with meat sauce of beef, pork and chicken and béchamel. Cicerù, a large sweet raviolo stuffed with chickpea puree and must, and the frascarelli, a wheat flour polenta served with a meat and tomato sauce.

# **EVENTS**

- Contesa dei 100 ducati, August: the historic centre comes alive on the occasion of this historical re-enactment.
- "Anita Cerquetti" International Prize, April: the Teatro delle Logge hosts an opera singing competition.
- Passeggiare Degustando, July: enogastronomic walks in the old town with tastings and events.







# Esanatoglia





### Altitude 446 a.s.l.

Population 1.972 (900 in the borgo)

# Info

**Municipio** Piazza Leopardi 0737 889132

Biblioteca Comunale Via Roma 0737 7766169 info@comune.esanatoglia.mc.it



- 60 -

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# The borgo with seven bell towers

Situated on the slope of a hill, the borgo of Esanatoglia is crossed by the main road, Corso Vittorio Emanuele, which leads to the top of the church and is intersected by secondary roads leading to the districts, each with its own small square. Seen from above, the borgo has an elongated shape resembling a spindle and that's why Esanatoglia was formerly called the "town of thread". With its 7 bell towers, the Tower of Sant'Andrea, the buildings of Medieval or Renaissance origin, the 15th century furnace, Esanatoglia is a borgo that holds many pleasant surprises. The medieval old town boasts little squares, churches, cobbled streets, and houses with stone doors and pointed arched windows. In the upper part of the town, you can admire the parish Church of Santa Anatolia, with its splendid 14th-century stone portal and a Roman inscription on the base of the bell tower which, according to historians, is evidence of a Roman settlement at the time of Augustus. Nearby you can find Palazzo Varano, now the Town hall, boasting fragments of 15th-century frescoes. The San Martino Fountains are a rare example of 14th-century waterworks still in use.

## **MUST-SEE**

- The Church of Santa Maria Maddalena contains a valuable painting, the Crucifixion, two Flemish still lifes and a wooden choir decorated and painted with scenes from the life of the Saints.
- Palazzo delle Milizie, fortified in the 14th century and once connected to the fortress of the castle by a walkway; Palazzo del Podestà, whose ground floor was used as a covered market; the Church of Santa Maria, with frescoes and a valuable 16th century painting.

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The territory is perfect for cycling, mountain biking and walking. The path going up the main course of the river Esino near the springs leads to the Hermitage of San Pietro, a remarkably charming and evocative place. There are marked trails along the valley of San Pietro, the valley of Palazzo and the slopes of Mount Corsegno (776 meters asl), where you can see the hermitage of San Cataldo. The nearby Mount Gemmo is a popular destination for hang-gliders and paragliders.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Pork rinds with beans is the local speciality, excellent with toasted bread and potatoes. Dried legumes are the raw material for chickpea or bean soup. Wild boar salami and Verdicchio di Matelica wine. Favorite, anice flavoured biscuits and ciarle wafers.



### EVENTS

- Estate Esanatogliese, July and August.
- Galassica, Festival of Astronomy, July: workshops, laboratories, virtual reality, insights, excursions, experiential paths, food and drink, music and much more.







- 61 -



www.sanginesioturismo.it

# San Ginesio

21





# Altitude 690 a.s.l.

Population 3.480 (1.500 in the borgo)

# Info

Punto IAT Piazza Alberico Gentili 0733 652056 / 393 9817213 info@sanginesioturismo.it





- 62 -

# The dancing mime

The borgo carries the name of its patron saint, Lucius Ginesius, Roman martyr, actor, musician and mime of the 3rd century. He pops up all over the town, on the portal of the Collegiate Church, on the capitals of its slender columns, in the 15th century paintings and on the borgo's coast of arms. In the main square is the borgo's gem, the Collegiate Church. Set in the magnificent travertine portal is a crude figure of the actor saint. Peeping out among the capitals of the portal columns is the head of St. Ginesio on the right, and the hand of the Eternal holding the globe on the left. The upper part of the façade is an embroidery of terracotta: it was built by a German master in 1421. Next to the façade is the Romanesque civic tower, with an onion-shaped pinnacle. Gathered in the silence of the church's interior are examples of art by accomplished artists. Also from the Gothic period are the castle walls and the remaining porticos from the Ospedale dei Pellegrini, thus named because it gave hospitality and aid to the pilgrims passing through San Ginesio on their way to Loreto or to Rome, almost always on foot.

# MUST-SEE

- The 11th century Church of San Francesco preserves a precious crucifix.
- The Churches of San Michele (996), San Gregorio, Santa Maria in Vepretis and Santi Tommaso e Barnaba.
- In the Antique Art Gallery S. Gentili, you can admire numerous works of art including The Mystical Marriage of Saint Catherine of Alexandria by Ghirlandaio.

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Along the main street of the village, you can reach the gardens of Colle Ascarano with its breathtaking panorama that ranges from the Adriatic Sea to the Gran Sasso and the Monti della Laga. San Ginesio is named "The Marche's balcony", for the incomparable views from the borgo, which rises in the middle of the Monti Sibillini National Park.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The polentone of San Ginesio is obtained with the local corn flour and is prepared with a sauce consisting of five different meats or with sausage, pork chops and mushrooms. The DOC San Ginesio Rosso and San Ginesio Spumante wines come from the rolling hills of Ginesio.

# **EVENTS**

- Palio di San Ginesio, August, the Palio della Pacca on the 13th and the Giostra dell'Anello on the 15th between the borgo's four districts. Both races, re-enactments of medieval jousts, take place on horseback in historical costumes.
- The return of the exiles, the oldest re-enactment of San Ginesio, an event in which a large delegation of the Municipality and the Palio of Siena participates.



- 63 -

www.sarnanoturismo.it

# 22

# Sarnano



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Altitude 539 a.s.l.

**Population** 3.469 (400 in the borgo)

# Info

Punto IAT Via Borgo Garibaldi, 88 0733 657144 iat.sarnano@regione. marche.it



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- 64 -

PROVINCE OF MACERATA

# Under the angel's wings

This charming brick-built borgo is located at the foothills of the Sibillini Mountains. The charm of this town lies in the warm colour of the red brick roofs that spread like a protective mantle over the houses. Its streets curl in concentric circles up to the Piazza Alta, the highest part of the town, a postcard-worthy sight surrounded by rugged peaks, reddish rock faces, green valleys and forests of centuries-old oaks and beeches. Spiralling upwards, through narrow, protective streets, from the base of the hill to the silent and magnificent Piazza Alta, one breathes in that beautiful atmosphere of central Italy. The borgo is still protected by some stretches of its original walls and it is a harmonious nucleus dating back to the era of the free commune, the second half of the 13th century, to which the main monuments overlooking Piazza Alta belong: Palazzo del Popolo, the church of Santa Maria Assunta, Palazzo dei Priori and that of the Podestà. The façade of the 13th century Church of Santa Maria Assunta is decorated with a finely carved white stone portal. It houses many valuable work of arts including a carved wooden crucifix by Girolamo di Giovanni and a panel with a Madonna della Misericordia by Pietro Alemanno, a pupil of Carlo Crivelli, who also painted the frescoes of the crypt in 1494.

# MUST-SEE

- The ex-Franciscan convent was transformed in the Town Hall in 1861; it hosts the Art Galley, the Museum of Sacred Art, the Museum of Ancient and Modern Weapons, the Apennine Bird Museum and the Museum of Hammers.
- The 19th century Teatro della Vittoria, inside the ancient Palazzo del Popolo, a small theatre with seating for around 100 people.

### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Sarnano is an equipped winter sports resort with slopes of various difficulty, lifts and ski schools in the enchanting landscape of the Sibillini Mountains. Horse riding, trekking and cycling thanks to an extensive network of hiking trails. Just a few steps from the historic centre of Sarnano, you can reach the three beautiful waterfalls Cascatelle Perdute.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Beans with pork rinds, once a poor dish, are now offered in the farms of the area with beans and pork rinds of local production, accompanied by slices of home-cooked bread. Wild boar, from the Sibillini Mountains, is served in a stew flavoured with juniper berries and mountain herbs.

# EVENTS

- Palio del Serafino, second week of August: it is one of the most beautiful events in the Marches, both for the historical re-enactment and for the challenge itself, which has the four districts of Brunforte, Poggio, Abbadia, and Castelvecchio as protagonists.
- The Ciauscolo Festival, dedicated to the excellent soft salami typical of the Marche region.









65 -



SARNANO

Visso

23



Altitude 607 a.s.l. Population 936

# Info

IAT - Tourist Information Altonera Visso

0737 9239 / 371 4884801 www.sibillini.net info@prolocovisso.it info@altonera.eu www.facebook.com/iataltonera/

Pro Loco Visso 329 9886251 info@prolocovisso.it

Sibillini Mountains National Park 0737 961563 parco@sibillini.net www.sibillini.net





- 66 -

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# The Pearl of the Sibillini Mountains

Visso is a picturesque village, home to the Sibillini Mountains National Park and an Orange Flag of the Touring Club. The village was assigned to the Marche region in 1860, and its strategic location along ancient communication routes made it an important commercial and artisanal center in ancient times. Needing ample pasture land, the town engaged in long battles with neighboring towns, such as on July 20, 1522, when it fought and won the "Battle of Pian Perduto" against Norcia.

As a testament to the importance of the pastoral economy and culture, it is still possible today to see the "Sopravissana sheep", which provides high-quality wool and cheese. In 2016, the town was severely affected by strong earthquakes, rendering 90% of the buildings uninhabitable. The seismic event profoundly changed the urban landscape, with the construction of urbanized areas for SAE (Emergency Housing Solutions) and temporary spaces for productive activities. Following the seismic events, the historic center is not accessible, but the surrounding nature offers breathtaking landscapes, hiking trails, and rich biodiversity. The Sibillini Mountains National Park attracts thousands of visitors every year. Visso is an ideal place to refresh the spirit, mind, and body with clean air and enchanting views, and is a strategic point for exploring ancient paths immersed in lush nature, reaching the ski resorts of Frontignano and Monteprata, or the nearby plain of Castelluccio di Norcia.

# MUST-SEE

- Rocca Castel San Giovanni is the imposing city walls guaranteed maximum surveillance. The two towers, emblematic of Visso, are what remains of the fortification of the ancient village destroyed by an earthquake in 1328. Down in the valley, the containment walls open onto four "Gates" built between the 13th and 14th centuries, adorned with coats of arms. These gates still serve today as evocative entrances to the historic center.
- · Sanctuary of Macereto it is said that in 1359, the mules transporting a Madonna with child from Loreto to the Kingdom of Naples knelt right there. The villagers saw this event as a divine sign and wanted the statue to remain. Within a few years, they built a small church dedicated to the Madonna. later, in 1528, construction began on the current Sanctuary, inside which the small church can be admired. The Sanctuary stands on a plateau in suggestive solitude and is a destination for many tourists who are enchanted by its beauty. Due to seismic events, the Sanctuary can only be visited from the outside today.

### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Rich in history and culture, Visso offers traditional flavors passed down through time: cured meats, cheeses, sweets, lentils, truffles, the IGP "Ciauscolo" soft-textured sausage, and not least, the trout from the Nera River that flows through the fields, houses, and under ancient and charming bridges

# EVENTS

- · Torneo delle Guaite, it is a medieval re-enactment in which the five ancient "Guaite" of the territory between Visso, Ussita, and Castelsantangelo sul Nera compete for the Palio in an archery contest. The event takes place every year between the last week of July and the first week of August. During the re-enactment, you can watch parades featuring enchanting costumes and an archery competition. You can also taste local specialties in medieval style at the "Taverna del Priore", which is specially opened for the festivities (info: Torneo delle Guaite Association - 320 5689905
- torneodelleguaite@gmail.com)Antique Market, one day a week in August.







# Magnificent villages BETWEEN THE SEA, THE HILLS AND THE MOUNTAINS



















# PROVINCE OF **Fermo**






24

### Servigliano





Altitude 216 a.s.l.

Population 2.370

#### Info Ufficio Turistico

Corso Navarra, 8 0734 750583 / 327 38908465 servigliano.segr@libero.it



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### A 17<sup>th</sup> century urbanistic masterpiece

Servigliano is a small borgo in the province of Fermo, whose name derives from an ancient Roman settlement. In 1771 the little town collapsed; it was rebuilt under Pope Clement XIV and took the name of Castel Clementino. It was later rebuilt under Pope Pius VI. In 1863, with the unification of Italy, it went back to its original name. The borgo has a neoclassical quadrangular structure, with three monumental entrances. The architecture reiterates the Christian symbol of the cross with its two intersecting main streets. It's a unique example of this kind of architecture in Europe. The Collegiate Church of San Marco is worth visiting for its 17th century organ and the relics of Saint Servigliano and Saint Gualtieri. Palazzo Vecchiotti is a three-storey noble residence with a roof terrace. The restored monastic complex of the Frati Minori Osservanti and the Sanctuary of Santa Maria del Piano were built on the remains of a Roman villa of the first century.

#### **MUST-SEE**

- The quadrangular castle walls dating back to 1700.
- The Sanctuary of Santa Maria del Piano, built on the remains of a Roman villa of the first century, boasts a statue of the Assumption, a 15th century crucifix and a beautiful elm choir.
- The House of Remembrance is a multimedia room housed in the old Servigliano railway station and dedicated to the Servigliano Prison Camp.

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Walking down the country roads and through the hills around Servigliano you can admire the panoramic views and spot age-old oaks and poplars and typical river vegetation.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The territory produces olive oil of excellent quality and fine wines, awarded at a national level. Artisans work the wrought iron and decorate porcelain by hand at the fire. Worth tasting are: chocolate snake, ciauscolo, delicious salami, and vincisgrassi, a kind of baked lasagna.

#### **EVENTS**

The Clementino Castle Knights' tournament, third Sunday of August: the parade features 300 participants in 15th-century costumes and is one of the most beautiful historical re- enactment in Italy. The Festival reaches its peak with the Giostra dell'Anello (the Ring Joust), a four round competition between knights.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

In 1915 a large prison camp was built in Servigliano where the Parco della Pace (The Peace Park) is today. From the First World War until 1955 the camp heavily affected the historical events of the area, which first saw the presence of Austrian prisoners, then Jews, Greeks, Maltese, English and American, finally, of Italian refugees from Istria, Libya and Ethiopia









### Torre di Palme





Altitude 104 a.s.l. Population 878

#### Info

#### **Punto informativo**

Museo Archeologico di Torre di Palme Via Piazzale della Rocca, 1 0734 53119 info@visitfermo.it

Numero unico turistico 0734 343434



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#### Adriatic sea views

Torre di Palme originates from the town of Palma, founded in the 6th century BC, later conquered by the Romans. The coastal area between the Tesino and Chienti rivers had its port in the Roman Palma, mentioned by Plinio the elder for its noted wine called Palmense. Torre di Palme is the oldest of the city of Fermo's ten districts. The borgo with its medieval defensive features, is perched on a rocky spur and offers incomparable views of the beautiful Adriatic coastline. The houses' terracotta façades, flowering geraniums and medieval churches frame the views down the narrow streets towards the sea. Along the main road, just beyond the antique Palazzo Priorale, is the Gothic Church of Sant' Agostino, famous for a painting by Vincenzo Pagani and a valuable altarpiece by Vittore Crivelli. Stolen in 1972, it was later recovered and restored. A profusion of enamelled colours, enlivened by a gold background, the saints surround the Virgin and Child enthroned. The panels are still bound by their original carved and gilded wooden frame. Nearby is the Church of Santa Maria a Mare, an important and very popular sanctuary since medieval times, built in the 12th century in stone and terracotta ashlars and it has an interesting interior with three naves, a raised presbytery and 14th century Byzantine frescoes. In front of the church, the square has an extraordinary panoramic terrace.

#### MUST-SEE

Palazzo Priorale, the seat of the town hall also has an ancient sundial.

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

You can enjoy a walk to the Cugnolo Wood, a short and easy path (2 km) along a stretch of fossil dune, a few hundred meters from the sea, which has an exceptional botanical morphological value. Along the way, it is possible to admire the famous Grotta degli Amanti (Lovers' Grotto), so-called because, in the early 20th century, it was the scene of a dramatic event concerning two young lovers, Antonio and Laurina, who chose to die together by throwing themselves into the nearby San Filippo ditch.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The local gastronomy reflects its rural traditions, using genuine products. Don't miss the traditional vincisgrassi and the macaroni of Campofilone. Among the local products: the caciotta del fermano, salami, ciauscolo and mulled wine.

#### **EVENTS**

- Craft Market: every Tuesday in July and August; the streets of the historic centre host a market of the best local handicrafts.
- Cavalcade of the Assumption: one of the oldest historical re-enactments in Italy. A document attests that as early as 1182 the castles subjected to Fermo undertook to carry a "palio bellum et bonum" on 15 August, the day of the Feast of the Assumption.









60





Altitude 405 a.s.l.

Population 550 (100 in the borgo)

Info Ufficio Turistico Piazza Castello, 15 0734 259983 moresco@ucvaldaso.it





- 76 ----

#### A castle in the Aso valley

The wind carries the scent of the sea to Moresco, a borgo standing among vegetable gardens and orchards. Its heptagonal tower stands out like the bizarre prow of a ship stranded in the hills. The castle seems to guard the countryside, the scattered farmhouses, the Mediterranean gardens, the vineyards and the olive groves in the quiet and undulating landscape, with the sea on its horizon. The borgo dates back to 1083, its 12th century tower is 25m high and on a clear day it is even possible to see right across to the Albanian coast. Moresco means Moorish and a legend has it that it was built by the Moors. The historical centre converges into an unusual triangular main square, where there is a curious loggia and fresco: the "Madonna and Child" by Vincenzo Pagani, an artist lived in the early 1500s. The portico is actually the left aisle of the now demolished church of Santa Maria in Castro. Opposite is the Town Hall, which has an exceptional council chamber with an altarpiece. Near the Clock tower, built to guard and defend the old entrance to the castle, is the Church of Santa Sofia, now a theatre. The church houses an interesting fresco by the school of Carlo Crivrelli (1430-95). In the borgo's period of maximum splendour, the 16th century, Moresco was enriched with many churches and works of art.

#### MUST-SEE

- The Eptagonal Tower
- The palaces of Patrizio Gennari and Cardinal Capotosti.
- In the garden under the historic center there is a monument, "Tower tree", celebrating the 100th anniversary of the regained independence of Moresco created by Ugo Nespolo
- Also worth a visit outside the town walls is the Sanctuary of the Madonna della Salute and the Church of Santa Maria dell'Olmo, in particular, which was enlarged in 1521 to include an ancient Gothic shrine dividing it in two, with two different altars.

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The valley of the Aso river offers interesting routes for nature lovers through a reclaimed habitat of flora and fauna.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

The "Figs Pizza" is the Christmas cake of the housewives of Moresco: the ingredients are dried figs, almonds, walnuts, flour, sugar and cocoa. Moresco dominates a valley prolific in fruit and vegetable production. *Ciauscolo*, is a soft, spreadable salami typical of the area.

#### **EVENTS**

- Polenta with clams Festival, August: the historic festival of Moresco.
- Feast of the Madonna della Salute, third Sunday in October: the most heartfelt religious event ends with a procession to the sanctuary.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

There is an ancient horse chestnut tree in the historic center near the little St. Sofía Theater, that the inhabitants consider a natural monument. According to popular beliefs, the chestnuts of this tree seem to have the power to prevent colds if kept in your pocket.







Petritoli

27





Altitude 358 a.s.l.

Population 2.184 (601 in the borgo)

#### Info

Ufficio Informazioni Turistiche

Via Provinciale, 7 0734 655995 0734 659141 (Comune) turismopetritoli@gmail.com



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- 78 -

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PROVINCE OF FERMO

#### Three arches, seven hills and many churches

The ancient Pretitulo was built around the year 1000 on a turn-off from the ancient Roman road, the Via Salaria, that connected Ascoli to Fermo. It was founded by the monks of the Abbey of Farfa on one of the seven hills that now make up the current area. The original nucleus was enlarged in the 14th century with the creation of the Borgo Vecchio, a street still full of charm, with terracotta portals and medieval inscriptions. In this borgo, as well as in other borghi of the Marche region, are the Porte del Morto (doors of the dead), a medieval custom when the coffin left the house from a narrow and low door which was kept closed until the fatal day. The most significant monuments of the borgo are the Tre Archi, the Civic Tower and the Iride Theatre. Tre Archi is the name of the ancient gate, built in the first half of the 15th century. The gate was rebuilt in 1872 in neo-Gothic style with purely decorative function, to give light and air to the square. The 40m Civic Tower was built in 1831 and consists of five different bases: square, rectangular, octagonal, circular and spherical. The 19th century Iride Theatre was designed by the engineer Giuseppe Sabbatini who was inspired by the Teatro della Fortuna in Fano. The 16th century Church of Santa Maria ad Martyres houses a precious organ of 1777 and an octagonal coffered ceiling. Other important religious buildings are the Romanesque Church of San Prospero, the oldest in Petritoli (13th century), the Church of Sant'Andrea with its 18th century stuccoes and the Church of Santa Maria in Piazza, rebuilt in the 16th century on an older building. The Sanctuary of the Madonna della Liberata, built around the year 1000, is a short distance from the historic centre.

#### MUST-SEE

- The Monastery of the Poor Clares, now the Town Hall, was built between the 16th and 17th centuries.
- The 16th century Palazzo Fabiani has original window decoration and pilasters.
- The Fabiani printing house is an educational museum with rare printing presses, including the 1841 manual cast iron press.
- Le Antiche Fonti is a complex of monumental fountains dating back to the Middle Ages.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Local specialties include vincisgrassi: a type of lasagne, tagliatelle with a duck ragù, moccolotti de lo vatte: rigatoni pasta with ragù, li ruscì co' l'ove: chicken liver with eggs, tripe and roast goose.

#### EVENTS

- The patron saint's feast on 24 June.
- Festa de le Cove, a wheat harvest festival in July and the feast of Our Lady of Mercy in August.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- 79

Petritoli is for many couples the "borgo of weddings". Over 200 weddings were celebrated from 2007 to 2021, the brides and grooms coming from every corner of the planet.



# An ancient region RICH IN TRADITIONS





# PROVINCE OF Ascoli Piceno







11



### Montefiore dell'Aso





#### Altitude 411 a.s.l. Population 2.048

#### Info Ufficio IAT

Piazzale San Francesco 0734 938743 info@comune.montefioredellaso.ap.it



- 84

#### The hill of painters

Montefiore dell'Aso is a small medieval borgo in the Piceno area, nestled among the green hil-Is of the Aso Valley, less than 10km from the Adriatic coast. It has a well-preserved historical centre, much of the town walls, six fortified towers and the 15th century gates are still intact. From the panoramic terrace of Belvedere De Carolis, through the Aspromonte Gate you get to the borgo's main square, Piazza della Repubblica. Dominating the piazza is the neoclassic Collegiate Church of Saint Lucia, whose origins date back to the 3rd or 4th century. The Romanesque-Gothic Church of San Francesco was built between 1247 and 1303. Its interior was later transformed to its current Baroque style. The adjacent monastery today houses a Museum. The friars' rooms host five museums reflecting the borgo's eclectic artistic heritage including film sets, religious art, farm tools, engravings and modern paintings.

#### MUST-SEE

- The Church of San Francesco still has its original Romanesque-Gothic style. One of the highlights is the famous altarpiece by Venetian artist Carlo Crivelli, which is believed to be the most beautiful masterpiece that he had ever produced.
- There are many beautiful 17th and 18th century buildings: Palazzo Egidi, Palazzo Farsinelli, Palazzo De Scrilli, Palazzo Rossi, Palazzo Ciarrocchi and Palazzo Simonetti.

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Nature walks, municipal park with sports facilities. "A sway of happy hills, of pleasant plagues and spacious fields, with then the sea from far and then the mountain...". We are in the Marche of Leopardi, the famous Italian poet of Romanticism. A landscape that can still be contemplated from the top of many ancient villages and discovered walking through rolling paths in the hills.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Legumes, cereals, vegetables, oil and wines (Rosso Piceno, Falerio and Pecorino). With vincisgrassi you reach perfection in Valdaso. Montefiore salami 'all'erba': a product of the highest quality with hand-minced pork meat and the addition of local aromas like erba luigia (Lippia Citrodora).

#### **EVENTS**

- The Infiorata accompanies the Corpus Christi procession with carpets of flowers and natural essences.
- Fiera Grande Autunno, September: an event dating back to 1600, a traditional market in the streets of the borgo.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Montefiore dell'Aso Clock Museum houses various systems for measuring time: a beautiful case with a late 19th-century escapement mechanism, a pair of well-preserved 18th-century hourglasses, a beautiful electromechanical clock and a series of artefacts from the clock case (1855) of the Church of San Filippo in Montefiore. The highlight of the collection is a beautiful sundial dating from Roman times (2nd Cent. AD) found locally and probably part of an early-century Roman villa present in the Montefiore area.



www.visitgrottammare.it

### Grottammare





**Altitude** 126 a.s.l.

**Population** 16.126 (180 in the borgo)

#### Info

Punto IAT Piazza Kursaal infoturismo@comune. grottammare.ap.it

#### Servizio Turismo

via Etruria, 12 0735 739240 turismo@comune.grottammare.ap.it



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- 86 -

#### Between palms and seagulls

Among pine forests and seagulls, Grottammare overlooks the sea like a sentinel. The original medieval borgo rises high on the hill, a tangle of rustic houses and narrow streets surrounded by orange groves and luxuriant agaves. The borgo of Grottammare is also nicknamed "il vecchio incasato" (the old houses). Its main square, Piazzetta Peretti, is home to the Church of San Giovanni Battista, that houses the Sistine Museum. On display are objects donated by Pope Sixtus V to his home town. On the same square under the loggia of the Teatro dell'Arancio is a statue of the pontiff from 1794 and the splendid Belvedere. Not far from here is the Church of Santa Lucia built at the behest of the Pope near his birthplace. Just below the city walls is the Church of Sant'Agostino, that contains bronze Stations of the Cross by Pericle Fazzini. His sculptures can be found throughout the borgo, the most admired is the 'The Boy with the Seagulls' at the beginning of the cycling path. All that remains of the 11th century fortress are a few stretches of walls and the tower bases. The Borgo overlooks the district located by the seaside, called Grottammare Marina, it has an incredible profusion of palm trees, crystal-clear water and 5km of sandy beaches.

#### **MUST-SEE**

- The Church of Santa Lucia houses a splendid Baroque organ.
- The Pericle Fazzini Museum has over 230 objects and is housed in the recently restored Torrione della Battaglia.

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

On the east side of the promenade stretches the Riviera delle Palme's beautiful pedestrian/bicycle path connecting Grottammare with Cupra Marittima and San Benedetto del Tronto, for a length of about 8 km. You can also take boat and fishing trips.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Typical of Grottammare is the Frustingo, a Christmas cake made of dried figs, raisins, almonds, walnuts and cooked wine. The local cuisine often combines the local catch with vegetables of the hinterland.

#### **EVENTS**

- Anime Buskers Festival, with national and international buskers.
- The prestigious Liszt Festival, founded in 2003 to honour the memory of the great Hungarian musician in Grottammare: it has become an important international showcase for Liszt virtuosos and performers. During the festival, the restaurants of the old town prepare romantic candlelight dinners to revive the Franz Lizst harmonies in the moonlight.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

One of the most evocative itineraries to discover Grottammare is the "Liszt" itinerary. Starting from the 18th-century Palazzo Fenili, which once hosted the famous Hungarian musician, it continues through the city centre up to the Church of San Pio X, where Liszt used to go to mass and play the Callido organ, astounding those present.











- 87



### Offida



Altitude 293 a.s.l.

Population 4.739 (1.059 in the borgo)

#### Info

0736 888706 (ufficio cultura) turismo@comune.offida.ap.it

Reservations 334 1547890 info.offida@opera-coop.it



60



- 88 -

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#### Lace and smiles

The inhabitants of Offida call their borgo the City of Smiles, and indeed everything here seems to bring happiness and cheer. They are hosts of a suggestive historic Carnival that extends from 17th January to Shrove Tuesday, where the whole town, dressed in the guazzarò (a white linen tunic worn with a red neckerchief) participates in the enjoyment. The sweet smile of patience can be found too, on the merlattaie – the lace makers; the exquisite craft, called bobbin or pillow lace, has been practised here since the 1500s and passed down through the generations. It can be admired in Lace Street (Via del Merletto), which has been dedicated to this art with the installation of workshops, panels and demonstrations. In the borgo's main square, Piazza del Popolo, we find the Collegiate Church, which houses a miraculous image of the Virgin Mary, and the Town Hall with its graceful portico. Continuing down Via Roma we arrive at the borgo's most important monument, the Church of Santa Maria della Rocca, built in 1330, one of Italy's finest churches. Its interior is awash with frescoes dating from the 13th century. The exterior is made of perforated bricks with travertine pilaster strips on the apsidal side. In the austere crypt of gothic arches and the upper church, you can admire the beautiful frescoes by the anonymous painter known as the Master of Offida.

#### MUST-SEE

- The Collegiate Church of Santa Maria Assunta, its façade is a compendium of different styles ranging from Greek-Roman to Baroque.
- The Town Hall, Palazzo Comunale, has a 15th century portico.
- The Serpente Aureo Theatre is a real jewel. The gold stucco decorations on a green background are the work of G. Battista Bernardi.
- Palazzo De Castellotti includes the Town Archeologic Museum, Local Traditions Museum and the Lace Museum.

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The view from the historic centre is a panorama over the Sibillini Mountains to the Adriatic Sea. On a clear day, the Gran Sasso and the Majella Mountains in Abruzzo are visible.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

Taccù are a kind of large noodles made only with water and flour, cooked in broth with fried onion and bacon or dry with tomato sauce. The chichi ripieno is a very tasty focaccia, stuffed with tuna, anchovies, capers and peppers. Offida's DOC white wine is perfect to pair with ascolana olives and fish dishes; and the red with the tastiest vincisgrassi. Characteristic of the area is Mistrà, an artisan liqueur effective as a digestive.

#### **EVENTS**

- Historic Carnival: between 17th January and Shrove Tuesday "lu bov fint" (the fake ox), a sort of peaceful bullfight with eating stops, and the parade of vlurd, bundles of reeds that cross the borgo like a serpent of fire.
- CiBorghi, July: a festival dedicated to the cuisines of the Most Beautiful Borghi of Italy.







### Monteprandone





#### Altitude 280 a.s.l. Population 12.953

#### Info

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#### Ufficio IAT

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#### Monteprandone in color

Monteprandone is a old village located a five minute drive from the sandy Adriatic beach along Le Marche's coast. Visitors can enjoy a breath-taking view from the sea, till the Sibylline Mountains and the Gran Sasso Montain.

The name "Monteprandone" dates back to the 8th century AD. In that period, according to the legend, a French/German knight called Brando or Prando, in the service of Charlemagne, stopped in the places around Monteprandone and founded the "castrum". The hill was colonized between 9th and 10th century AD from the population escaping from Saracen attacks on the coast. Between 11th and 12th century, Benedictines settled in the Piceno area and founded a "curte" (rural house and church) also in Monteprandone.

#### **MUST-SEE**

Museum of the Codes of St. Giacomo della Marca, which houses 61 volumes of St. Giacomo della Marca's library. Among the volumes, four of them are autograph of the Saint with preachings and homilies and a letter, that St. Giacomo addressed to St. Giovanni da Capestrano. In Monteprandone there is also the Sanctuary of St Giacomo della Marca that preservesthe Saint remains.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

In Monteprandone tourists can taste "La Cucina dello Spirito", carried out by Mrs. Ermetina Mira, hotelier and restaurateur. It consists in the use of the recipes and the secrets of the monastic canteen as a vehicle for the enhancement of the territory. The local products of Monteprandone are many, such as wine, olive oil, honey and cheese.

#### **EVENTS**

One of the most important events in Monteprandone is the Patron St day. It occurs every year on the 28th of November, Saint's death date.

In the summer Monteprandone host the Piceno d'autore literary festival, in which established authors debate various cultural and social issues, while also offering the public an opportunity to interact.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The moat of the fortress hosts a War Machines Park set up by Francesco di Giorgio Martini. One of its kind, the park includes faithful life-size reconstructions of catapults, trabucchi, bombards and other siege machines.









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## Ripatransone



32



#### Altitude 494 a.s.l. Population 4.188

#### Info Ufficio Informazioni e Accoglienza turistica



ufficioturismo@comune. ripatransone.ap.it



www.comune.ripatransone.ap.it

PROVINCE OF ASCOLI PICENO

#### The Balcony of the Piceno

Located in the Marche region at 494 meters above sea level, Ripatransone is a medieval town characterized by its extensive historical and cultural heritage. Its elevated position offers sweeping views from the Adriatic Sea to the Apennines, earning it the title "II Belvedere del Piceno." With a population of approximately 4,188, including 1,000 residents in the historic center, Ripatransone is recognized as one of "The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy".

#### MUST-SEE

Ripatransone's historical architecture reflects its significance in past centuries. Notable landmarks include the Palazzo del Podestà, an ancient building later transformed into a theater, and the Duomo of San Gregorio Magno, which houses the Madonna di San Giovanni Sanctuary and the crypt of San Giovanni Decollato.

The town is renowned for its medieval alleyways, including Italy's narrowest alley, measuring 43 cm at its widest point. The extensive city walls, historic gates such as Porta di San Domenico and Porta d'Agello, and the Complex of the Fountains, an ancient water system, are further highlights of its built heritage.

Cultural institutions include the Cesare Cellini Archaeological Museum, the Museum of Rural and Artisan Culture, and the Museum of the Fire Horse, alongside private and public art spaces.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTS AND DISHES

- Wine: The area is a key producer of DOCG Offida Pecorino, Passerina, and Offida Rosso wines, as well as DOC Rosso Piceno and Falerio. The local Vino Santo is particularly noteworthy.
- Olive Oil: Local varieties, including Ascolana and Carboncella, contribute to the production of high-quality extra virgin olive oil.
- Ciavarro: This traditional dish, a soup made with legumes and grains, is associated with May 1st and reflects the agricultural practices of the area.

#### EVENTS

- Cavallo di Fuoco: a pyrotechnic tradition dating back to 1682, held annually on the Sunday after Easter.
- Historical Carnival
- Puzzle Gastronomico: a culinary event in mid-August featuring traditional dishes prepared by local families.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The RipAdventure Park, situated in the Selva dei Frati forest, offers outdoor activities such as zip lines and Tibetan bridges. The town is also part of the Anelli Piceni cycling network, with routes suitable for mountain biking and gravel cycling.







**UMBRIA** 

# From village to village DISCOVERING LE MARCHE

ARCEVIA	42
CINGOLI	50
CORINALDO	38
ESANATOGLIA	60
FRONTINO	22
GRADARA	16
GROTTAMMARE	86
MACERATA FELTRIA	20
MERCATELLO SUL METAURO	24
MONDAVIO	30
MONDOLFO	32
MONTE GRIMANO TERME	
MONTECASSIANO	52
MONTCOSARO	58
MONTEFABBRI	26
MONTEFIORE DELL'ASO	84

MONTELUPONE	
MONTEPRANDONE	
MORESCO	
MORRO D'ALBA	
OFFAGNA	
OFFIDA	
PERGOLA	
PETRITOLI	
SAN GINESIO	
SARNANO	
SASSOFERRATO	
SERVIGLIANO	
TORRE DI PALME	
TREIA	
VISSO	

















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