

THETA edizioni

# MARCHE, MOTORBIKES AND EMOTIONS



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**F**rom north to south, here are 15 motorcycling tours meant to help bikers discover the territory of Marche and dedicated to top quality tourism.

Not by chance Marche, one of the areas richest with treasures of art and of beauty in world, are defined "Italy in a region". They are rich with little ancient hamlets, unique wines and flavours, breathtaking roads and marine, hilly and mountain landscapes of all kinds.

Marche are a real heaven to those who love biking. Moving from the charming sea shores where sandy and gravel beaches, cliffs and wild bays follow one another, the roads get to the winding bends of the lovely and soft hills covered with the clear and geometric lines of the cultivated fields, and finally squeeze into the wide forests and the medieval hamlets of the Apennine Mountains.

Wearing our helmet, we have been biking for 28 hours and 48 minutes and travelled for 1352 kilometres under the sun and the rain, through snow and fog, spring smells and orange autumn shades, because there was no other way to transmit the emotions described in the travel diaries that follow.

We wish to thank most of all Mr. Amerigo Varotti, from Confcommercio Marche Nord, who since many years offers his sponsorship to our projects, and Ms. Raffaella Rossini, from "Terre di Piloti e Motori", who on the road, turn after turn, helped us in our effort to talk about Marche also this way. We wish you will enjoy the same exciting experience. Have a good journey!

Raffaella and Agnese  
Theta Edizioni





# PRESENTATION

There are many kinds of outdoor tourism, but motorcycling (along with cycling) is certainly the one in greatest expansion. Motorcycles have always been a symbol of freedom and independence and to many, a special means to travel and discover the beauty of nature and of landscapes, while feeling in close contact with the world around. Noises, smells, perfumes, people, other bikers met on the road, the environments and panoramas, the beauty of the cultural patrimony, the local food and wine, the bars and the inns, are but a few of the aspects that make the world of motorcycling unique. In addition – though within the established rules, limits and codes – motorcycles can travel on roads and tracks more easily than cars do, and often help discovering places and paths otherwise not accessible. Tourism on motorcycle is therefore a holiday (or a trip) one starts to find traditions, culture and good food, while living in the environment and with the people the most direct and natural way. This is why Confcommercio Pesaro e Urbino/ Marche Nord joined Theta Edizioni and BPER to create this guide, the first one in Marche dedicated to tourism on motorcycle. Fifteen itineraries (three in each of the provinces of this wonderful Region of ours) planned while sitting on performing motorcycles in order to suggest paths fitting to lovers of “beauty” who wish to enjoy it in full freedom. Marche offer plenty of opportunities to motorcycle tourists. This guide – though limited to just a few of the many opportunities existing in the Region – is meant to offer a contribution for the development of this outdoor touring activity and to promote the growth of the touring economy into one of the charming and mysterious regions of Italy.



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PESARO E URBINO/MARCHE NORD

# PRESENTATION

The Associazione Terra di Piloti e Motori (“Land of Pilots and Engines Association”) was established in 2017 by the city administrations of Pesaro and Tavullia with the aim of promoting motorbiking tourism, first in the province of Pesaro and Urbino and then in the whole Region of Marche. Moving from the typical manufacturing activity of the area, the Association promotes its motor tradition and, in the meantime, makes it a trademark and an instrument of social cohesion, of innovation and competitiveness of the territory, whose motor patrimony, both material and immaterial, it promotes through the cooperation with local entities and with private and public companies, thus supporting the growth and the development of the local economy. Such an activity is also performed by promoting, planning, supporting and implementing specific strategies and ventures for the technical, mechanic, economic and sport development of the motorbiking activity. The Association works to create the best possible conditions to promote the knowledge, the preservation and the public access to the motorbiking patrimony available on the territory, taking care, in addition, of the creation and preservation of an archive dedicated to the motorbiking industry and of projecting a specific touring program in cooperation with the related structures existing in the Region. To this purpose, it creates certified handbooks meant to offer assistance to motor bikers while performing their tours. Since 2020, the Association extended its activities to the field of car racing too, and follows events and championships concerning both vintage and modern cars.

LOGO TERRA PILOTI E MOTORI





North passage, between the sea and the mountains



“The great Beauty”

PU



Fine buildings among the ups and downs of the hills

FM



On the locations of the “Marca Ferma”

From the Middle Ages to Renaissance



Ancient Hamlets



The wonder of maritime and noble pearls

AN



The coastline, underground caves and spirituality



An incredible variety of places

AP



From the seaside up to the Piceno hills



A rumble inside the city walls, and not just that



Beyond the hedge

MC

In the wounded heart of Marche



A tour through beauty and nobleness

Into the transformed lands



# North passage, between the sea and the mountains

208 km | 4h e 15'  
Gabicce Mare - Gola del Furlo



Up the hairpin turns of Mount Nerone





The entrance to Fiorenzuola di Focara



Arnaldo Pomodoro's Big Globe in Pesaro



Gentiletti Museum House in Santa Maria dell'Arzilla, Pesaro

**G**abicce is the entrance to Marche when one comes down from the North. The town shows its double marine and hilly nature and the roads connecting the sea and the hills offer unmatched views. This is where our tour in Marche begins. We head for Monte San Bartolo, after which is named the Natural Park, where the green colour of the typical Mediterranean bush dives into the blue of the sea. The air is dizzy and loaded with iodine, the smell of the sea penetrates inside our helmet. We take a short break in Casteldimezzo (Midway Castle), a hamlet named this way because of its position. Along with Gradara, Granarola and Fiorenzuola di Focara, it is one of the four castles built to protect and control the Silligata Pass. Even though the slow action of the waves made almost half the village collapse into the blue Adriatic Sea, it keeps its charm and the legend of its Christ who came there floating on the sea. After riding for about 2 kilometres, we head for Fiorenzuola di Focara, a suggestive village dating back to the Roman age.



Gabicce Mare

The access to this tiny hamlet is made precious by the verses of Dante Alighieri, the great poet, in the XXVIII Canto of his Divine Comedy's Inferno. Here we'll have a cup of coffee and then we'll travel the bends of the panoramic road leading to Pesaro, the multifaceted city; and one of its facets is music, whose ambassadors are Maestro Gioachino Rossini and the theatre named after him. In Piazzale della Libertà (Freedom Square) stands the Giant Bronze Sphere, a work by sculptor Arnaldo Pomodoro, an unmistakable landmark of the city.

From the seaside, our tour turns towards Pesaro's hinterland. Along our path we find two boroughs: first Candelara, whose name originates from candles, which are its emblem; and then Santa Maria dell'Arzilla, where the Gentiletti Museum-house, the homonymous sculptor's forge and studio worth discovering, fills our eyes with amazement. It is indeed an amazing place dedicated to works which Maestro Guido created using the repoussage-and-chisel technique.



#### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

In Pesaro one should not miss the charm of the sunset over the sea during the summer solstice. The best place to admire it is from the East Dock of the City Harbour.

The Furlo Canyon (or Pass) is a real natural heaven rich with an amazing variety of really unique specimens both of flora and fauna. In 1922 Mussolini got there, and his tours led him to meet the hotelier Candiracci. In 1936 the Forest Militia decided to fix the Duce's image by creating the famous profile in the mountain, still partly visible nowadays.





The Palace of Princes in Carpegna

It will take 65 kilometres before getting to Carpegna, our next destination, that lies in the very heart of Montefeltro. Here we can enjoy a unique microclimate, as the salty air from the nearby Adriatic Sea melts with the ground currents descending from the surrounding hills and the dry atmosphere smells like the sea. The slightly veiled sky does not affect the beauty of Palace of the Princes, in the Conti Square, in front of which, proud and charmed by this tour, we park our bikes to mount the noble two-arms stairway and lean out of the little terrace. Boy, we are at the feet of the largest Turkey oaks wood in Europe, in the Sasso Simone and Simoncello Park!

After tasting the Carpegna DOP ham whose unique perfume, taste and softness are produced following an ancient 15th century recipe, we let all shades of green from the vegetation of this area flow on the visors of our helmets.

We tackle the bends and the ups and downs of the roads to Frontino, a tiny ancient hamlet, one of the Most Beautiful Hamlets in Italy. Here time appears to have stopped: only the rumble of our engines breaks the silence. We switch them off, and then on again, to move along our tour to a most ancient village, the haven of many civilizations: Apecchio, our next stop.



"The devil's finger", a rock formation in Pietrafagnana



The Clock Tower in Apecchio



The city centre in Frontino



#### TASTING SOMETHING GOOD

One should surely taste the Carpegna DOP ham, the Apecchio artisan beer, the typical Bostrengo cake, the Rossini Pizza, the Colli Pesaresi (Pesaro Hills) DOC wine.



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

The Ham Festival in Carpegna (July).  
The Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro (August).  
Candles in Candelara (November-December).

#### MOTORBIKE EVENTS

Biker Beach Fest in Pesaro (June/July).  
Benelli week in Pesaro (September).



A clearing on top of Mount Nerone

In the land of Celts, Etruscans... and of the Ubadini family, we cannot omit toasting with bear and tasting the typical Bostrengo, a rustic, typical cake from the regional tradition.

So refreshed, we are ready to reach up to a 1525 metres height. Bend after bend, we get to a windy open space on Mount Nerone, an iconic place to bikers and motor bikers: an imposing mountain bearing an unmistakable

profile, rising on the farthest northern edge of Umbria's and Marche's Apennine Mountains. The sight upon the valley is charming and one gets enchanted by such beauty. Sunset looms over as our thrilling marathon ends in Sant'Anna del Furlo inside an unexpected green place, the House of Artists: an open-air Museum of contemporary art in a wood. Our guides are Andreina and Antonio, a discovery within a discovery!



The House of Artists in Sant'Anna del Furlo



**SUGGESTIONS FOR VISITS IN THE SURROUNDINGS.**

The Officine Benelli Museum and its Morbidelli collection. The structure in Pesaro, 22 Mameli Boulevard, is the last surviving building of the historic factory of the "Casa del Leone" (the Lion's Firm) and offers an overview of what motorbiking was in Pesaro.

To lovers of dirt roads we suggest, before getting to Carpegna, to take a deviation to Pietrarubbia Castle and the "Dito del diavolo" (the devil's finger) in Pietrafagnana, a place of ancient and mysterious legends.

In Apecchio one should not omit visiting the Fossils and Minerals Museum of the Nerone Mountain, an important paleontological collection hosted into the basements of prestigious Ubaldini Palace.



ITINERARIO DELLA BELLEZZA  
nella Provincia di Pesaro Urbino



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*Visita la bellezza!*

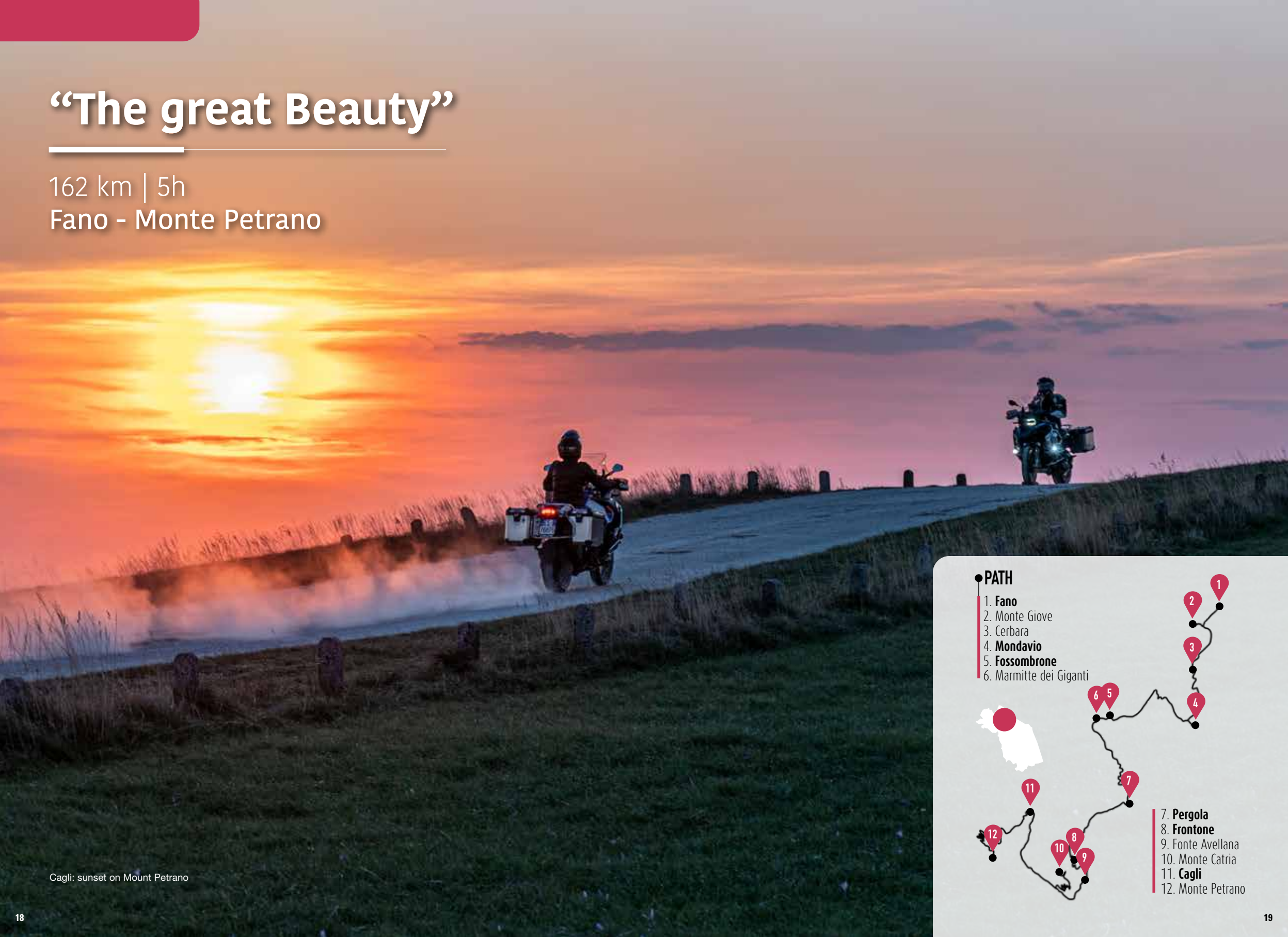
**PESARO**



# “The great Beauty”

162 km | 5h

Fano - Monte Petrano



## PATH

1. **Fano**
2. Monte Giove
3. Cerbara
4. **Mondavio**
5. **Fossombrone**
6. Marmitte dei Giganti



7. **Pergola**
8. **Frontone**
9. Fonte Avellana
10. Monte Catria
11. **Cagli**
12. Monte Petrano

Cagli: sunset on Mount Petrano



Trebuckets in Fano



The Della Rovere citadel in Mondavio



Mount Giove Hermitage in Fano's neighbourhood of Rosciano

**T**he sunny day makes us fully enjoy the choice of starting our tour from Fano, a renowned sea town awarded the Blue Flag because of the quality of its seaside services and of its beaches. We are in the waterfront area and our gaze remarks the "Trabucchi", sea constructions resembling stilt houses, not far from "El Gugul" neighbourhood, the symbol of Fano fishermen, and its colours and adornments.

Fano is not just seaside: it is also history. Cruising along secondary roads, we head for the city centre: the Arch of Augustus and the imposing city walls remind us the past of this ancient Roman colony.

We take a short break in the Eremo di Monte Giove (Mount Giove Retreat) a little jewel cast into the Fano hills, and then decide to ride along the SP (Provincial Road) 92 towards Cerbara. Right here, Natale Patrizi alias Agrà, an artist from Marotta, created a 100 metres



The La Palomba restaurant in Mondavio

long painting describing the Battle of Metauro on the wall that runs along the river. By lunchtime we get to the charming hamlet of Mondavio. If the imposing Rocca Roveresca (Della Rovere Fortress) helped making it get the "Orange Flag" and entering the list of "the most beautiful Italian Hamlets", its inhabitants make one feel the great hospitality of the place. We therefore decide to taste the local delicacies.



**TASTING SOMETHING GOOD.**

- The moretta, a coffee with a splash of liquor typical of Fano.
- The tacconi, fresh noodles made with fava beans flour, typical of Mondavio.
- The Bianchello del Metauro DOC wine and the Fossombrone truffles.
- Truffles, the Pergola DOC wine and the Pergola visciolato wine (made with black cherries).
- Passatelli noodles, "Cresc' Tajat" and carbonara noodles flavoured with truffle, without forgetting the lonzino di cotenna (cured meat made with pork rind) in Cagli.



The Battle of Metauro wall painting in Cerbara



The Concordia Bridge in Fossombrone



Marmitte dei Giganti, Fossombrone

After eating and drinking we head for the Metauro valley and get to Fossombrone, where the river crosses the city centre and is crossed by one of the most photographed bridges in the region, the Concordia Bridge. It is worth dismounting from our bike to have a walk in the archaeological area almost 25 hectares wide along the Flaminia road, on the original roads of ancient Forum Sempronii, dating from almost two thousand years ago. We get again on the seat of our bike to enter the wild and suggestive area of the Marmitte dei Giganti (The Giants' Marmites). The canyon, carved by the Metauro River, owes its name to the round cavities the water dug along its banks. We leave the turquoise waters in the canyon behind us and get to the village of Pergola. A visit is certainly deserved by the Bronze

Museum and its treasure unique in the world, the Gilded Bronzes from Cartoceto di Pergola, a sculptured group dating back to 50 b.C. The day is coming to its end but we decide to carry on to the next stop of the tour. We get to Frontone in the sunset and move our eyes away from the grey road to fill them with the colours of twilight. The ancient hamlet dominates the whole valley and offers an amazing view of the hills and mountains of Marche.



Castle of Frontone

The Cartoceto gilded bronzes in Pergola



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

Fano of Caesars (in August) and the Carnival (February - March) in Fano.  
The Wild Boar Hunt (August) in Mondavio.  
The Pipe Festival (June) in Cagli.

#### MOTORBIKE EVENTS

Motorbike rally of Mount Catria (January) in Frontone.  
Winter riders (March) in Frontone.



#### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Fano, formerly *Fanum Fortunae*, owes its name to the goddess of good Fortune, whose temple was built into the town by the Romans to thank her after their victory in the battle they fought on the shores of the Metauro River in 207 b.C.

Even if one walks in a hurry in the city centre of Pergola, one cannot help noticing the many churches which made it nickname "Little Holy Pergola" and "City of a hundred churches", a mark of the strong piety and religious tradition permeating the hamlet.



Fonte Avellana Monastery

After spending the night inside the silent medieval city walls of Frontone, we are ready to head even higher. The fresh air makes the skin on our face dizzy; the traffic is but a memory, which enables us to enjoy each bend of the narrow road leading us to the top of Mount Catria, 1702 metres high. We take a short break to quench our thirst in the Eremo di Fonte Avellana (Fount Avellana Retreat), a most

charming spiritual place mentioned by Dante in the Divine Comedy. We finally conquer the mountain top and take some rest, but we do not quit our motorbikes for long, since this is not the last stop of our tour. Indeed, we soon leave to get to our final destination.

A winding but well paved and fast road leads us to Cagli, a fortress in the middle of the mountains that keeps its medieval identity even though time deprived it of its original fortifications, leaving it only the famous Torrione Martiano (Martian Tower), which is linked to the Fortress by a peculiar underground passage, the "Soccorso Coverto" (Covered Escape) whose 360 steps can still be walked.

After visiting this hamlet, we can enjoy the end of our tour getting to nearby Mount Petrano to admire the sunset from the top of that mountain.



Martini's tower in Cagli



**STOPS SUGGESTED IN THE SURROUNDINGS**

The Ipogeo di Piagge (Piagge Hypogeum) is an ancient religious shrine, at the entrance to the Castle of Piagge, in the municipality of Terre Roveresche.

Cross Club Cavallara, the motocross circuit in Mondavio.

Mount Petrano, dominating the town of Cagli, is 1162 metres high and the lowest of the main mountains in the Apennine Mountains near Pesaro. Its peculiarity is that it consists of a wide upland covered with meadows.



ITINERARIO DELLA BELLEZZA  
nella Provincia di Pesaro Urbino



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# Visita la bellezza!

## URBINO



# From the Middle Ages to Renaissance

106 km | 2h e 35'  
Gradara - Peglio



Rinascimento Square in Urbino

## PATH

1. Gradara
2. Tavullia
3. Montefabbri
4. Urbino
5. Sassocorvaro Auditore
6. Lago Mercatale
7. Peglio





The Clock Door in Gradara



Gradara's Medieval city walls

**T**oday's departure is from Gradara, a legendary medieval town and one of the most beautiful in Italy. We are welcomed by the imposing city walls, untouched by the flow of time. After crossing Porta Firau (Firau Door) also called Porta dell'Orologio (The Clock Door) on top of the main street we glimpse the majestic Malatesta Fortress, a landmark of the city, which for centuries protected the noble families that lived there. One should walk along the "cammino di ronda" (patrol walkway), between turrets, loopholes and crenelations, to feel like an ancient soldier on guard duty. We finally quit the city centre and warm up our motors to move to the next stop.

We get to Tavullia, the birthplace of Valentino Rossi, the pilot who changed motorcycle racing and gave it planetary fame. The road sign at the entrance of the city is covered with sticks fans of "the doctor" pasted on it. Every corner of the medieval town celebrates its champion: even the sign of the bar where we have a cup of coffee bears his name. The roads around Tavullia are a priceless asset to the



Tavullia

territory and the pleasure of traveling them by motorbike is unique. Promoting motor-tourism in Marche is at the very heart of the project launched by "Terra di Piloti e Motori" (Land of Drivers and Motors) association, a reference point to motor-biking tourists willing to explore the Region.

#### TASTING SOMETHING GOOD

In Gradara, "tagliolini con la bomba" (Tagliolini noodles with "the bomb"), the typical "gradarino" almond brittle and the salami enveloped in bee wax.

In Tavullia, "patacucci", noodles made with wheat and corn flour.

In Urbino, "Crescia sfogliata" and "Casciotta d'Urbino DOP" cheese.

In Sassocorvaro Uditore, Tripe the Marche way, cheese, oil, honey and artisan beer.



#### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

In Gradara Castle took place the love story of Paolo and Francesca made immortal by Dante in the 5th Canto of his Inferno.

A few kilometres away from Tavullia, in the Rio Salso borough, there is a great building, unfortunately now damaged, where lived Fabio Tombari, a great XX century Italian writer who loved very much the citizens of Tavullia.

The "Gessi di Peglio" (Peglio Gypsums) are outcropping gypsum rocks which surface in the very heart of the village.







The Neighbourhood of Montefabbri



### STOPS SUGGESTED IN THE SURROUNDINGS

A few kilometres away from Montefabbri, in the middle of the hills rises the monumental giant sculpture called "Il pensiero prima dell'azione" (Thought before action) by artist Gianni Calcagnini.

One should not miss riding along the funny and winding ups and downs of SS 73 Bis, the "Road of Capute", near Urbino: a short 23 km long path rich with hairpin turns and light bends, surrounded by a wonderful landscape.

Between Urbino and Sassocorvaro Auditore, in Castel Cavallino and its ancient San Cassiano parish church, dating back to 1290, poet Giovanni Pascoli was inspired his famous "L'Aquilone" ("The kite") poem.

Not far from Auditore, in the Casinina borough there is the Historic Museum of the Gothic Line, created in 1992 to remember the passage of the fighting front in the north of the Pesaro province during World War II.

Our tour leads us now to the tiny Montefabbri village, which charms us with its authentic, untouched medieval appearance. Because of its originality and of the suggestive atmosphere of the hill on top of which it rises, Montefabbri too belongs to the list of the "Borghi più belli d'Italia" (The most beautiful hamlets in Italy). Don't miss, here, a visit to the parish church!

Let us get back on the road. Along the way, we are joined by two German bikers, charmed like us by this territory. Within half an hour we are in Urbino. The city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the most important renaissance sites in Italy. After asking permission, we do thus enter a past rich with art and culture into the "Palace-city". We are amazed by the towers of the Ducal Palace, a royal residence built by duke Federico da Montefeltro, now the location of the National Art Gallery of Marche, where one can admire important works created in the centuries XIV through the XVII. Between many most famous buildings we notice the Cathedral and Raphael's Museum Home, the place where the famous painter was born, and finally the Albornoz fortress, which offers an unmissable sight of Urbino and the surrounding landscape. We might keep wandering for hours around this magic ageless place but hunger leads us to go and taste the typical "crescia" tart along with "Casciotta d'Urbino DOP" cheese and Carpegna DOP ham.

"Thought faster than action" by Gianni Calcagnini in Montefabbri



The Ducal Palace's little towers in Urbino



St. Francis Square, the Ubaldini Citadel and the Clock Tower

Se sit again on our bikes and head for Sassocorvaro Auditore, a municipality born from the union of imposing Sassocorvaro, which dominates the Foglia river valley, and Auditore, surrounded by defensive city walls which offer the view of a magnificent landscape. The hamlet's landmark is it Ubaldini Fortress, built in the shape of a turtle after a project by Francesco di Giorgio Martini and embellished by cultivated Ottaviano degli Ubaldini as well as by the noble families that followed one another ruling here. Another remarkable landmark of the place is the Mercatale lake. We only have time to admire the magic natural panorama, where the green of vegetation melts with the blue colour of the lake, before heading for the last stop of the day. We get to Peglio at sunset. The village offers an artistic path along its most ancient

area and mixes such well known works of art as "Fantasio's Dream", the silhouette of a man on top of Girone Tower touching the moon, and less famous but still charming wall paintings and bronze sculptures. An open-air museum which melts together art and nature and offers the best conclusion to our trip into this dreamland.



Tower of Girone in Peglio



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

Gradara d'amare (Lovely Gradara) (in February), Thursday in the Castle (June - September) and Sieging the Castle (July) in Gradara.  
The Duke's holiday (August) in Urbino.

#### MOTORBIKE EVENTS

Tavullia in Moto (settembre) e Lady Bike Marche (settembre) in Tavullia.



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# Visita la bellezza!

## GABICCE MARE



# *The wonder of maritime and noble pearls*

115 km | 2h e 20'  
Senigallia - Portonovo



Ancona. Portonovo bay





Senigallia, the Rotunda by the sea



Ostra, the civic Tower



**DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

Senigallia is also known as “City of photography” because of such important photographers as Mario Giacomelli, who was born here.

Emperors, artists and great sportspersons, such as Emperor Frederick II, humanist Angelo Colocci, composer Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, actresses Valeria Moriconi and Virna Lisi, and fencing lady champions Elisa Di Francisca, Valentina Vezzali and Giovanna Trillini, as well as Roberto Mancini, coach of the football National Team, were all born in Jesi.

Ancona is the set of many movies, including Nanni Moretti’s award-winning *La Stanza del figlio* (The son’s room)

**O**ur meeting point for this new tour is the Rotunda by the Sea, the most famous landmark of Senigallia. By its beach, 14 kilometres of most soft sand, we are into one of the most loved areas of the whole seaside, both of Marche and of the Adriatic Sea. Senigallia is also famous because of its historic centre, where the Della Rovere Fortress stands in Piazza del Duca (Duke Square). We are a team of six bikers ready to start our tour in the hinterland. Our next stop is Ostra, named after the Roman city raising nearby. We get there after riding a few kilometres on the Arcevese road, whose long straight lines let us make our motors roar. The hamlet is surrounded with medieval walls built in the fifties of the XIV century and still keeps the coeval crenellated civic tower, the city hall with its elegant portico and the XVIII century Luzzi Palace.



Ostra, Luzzi Palace



**STOPS SUGGESTED IN THE SURROUNDINGS**

The International Museum of Wine Labels in Cupramontana, with its important historical collection.

Mezzavalle, one of the most beautiful beaches in Portonovo. One can get there walking either along the homonymous path beginning 500 metres before the roundabout towards Portonovo or the track of Trave del Parco del Conero, beginning 800 metres before.

Jesi is the starting point to discover the famous 18 Castles, hamlets rich with history and a natural environment.



Sera de' Conti: the skyline

Near Serra de' Conti, precisely in the Osteria borough, we are invited to visit a private collection of motorbikes and vintage cars, the fruit of Giulio's deep love for motors. We are in GarageVentuno, where further to being thrilled by the classical smell of a garage, admiring the many objects and souvenirs of those years we breath the nostalgic atmosphere of the mythical Eighties of last century. The Guzzi Motorbikes and some of his rare cars, the jewels of the collection, call all our attention. After listening to anecdotes, stories and curiosities, the time comes to leave and reach our next destination.



"Garage Ventuno" private collection in Serra de' Conti

The bends of the road fill us with emotion and design an unforgettable path leading us up to Cupramontana. Here the panorama reaches from the Apennine Mountains down to the Adriatic Sea, including the curvy hills of Marche with their vineyards and century old

olive trees. Near the town rises the Hermitage of White Friars. An ancient monastery cast into the rock, it owes its name to the typical robe worn by the monks who lived there. Let us head, now, for the city of Jesi. We start

Cupramontana: the White Friars Hermitage



our visit from the piano nobile of Pianetti Palace, designed by great Francesco di Giorgio Martini and a sample of the best Renaissance: a 76 metres long corridor whose vaults are rich with stuccoes, frescoes, symbols and allegories. As we walk, head up, our eyes are filled with wander in front of such beauty. The gap from the cultural to the enogastronomic visit is very short.

Jesi: the multimedia path into the Wine and Food Institute



Jesi: The gallery of Stuccos in Pianetti Palace

As we get to IME, Istituto Marchigiano di Enogastronomia (Enogastronomic Institution of Marche) we have a chance to taste a selection of regional delicacies and of local wines. We are in the XVII century Balleani Vecchio Palace, which everybody should visit to taste the real enogastronomic essence of this land. The visual, learning, olfactory and tasting experience exceeds all expectations.



**TYPICAL EVENTS**

- Summer Jamboree (July - August) in Senigallia.
- The Night of Sprengoli (sort of ghosts) (October) in Ostra.
- The festival of Cicerchia (November) in Serra de' Conti.
- The festival of Verdicchio wine (September-October) in Cupramontana.
- The San Floriano Palio (May) The Pergolesi-Spontini Festival (September) in Jesi.
- The Conero Regatta (September) in Ancona.

**MOTORBIKE EVENTS**

- Run of Picchio motorbiking gathering HD (April).



Passetto of Ancona: Monument to the Fallen



As the sun starts warming the asphalt we are ready to get to Ancona. The new meeting point shall be the imposing Monument to the Fallen, dedicated to the victims of World War I. We are in the Passetto borough whose view upon the seaboard is one of the most suggestive points in town. A comfortable staircase leads down to one of the most beautiful city beaches in Italy. We quit Ancona and get to the Portonovo bay, which is cast into the green of the Conero Natural Park and offers to our eyes the show of an untouched and breath-taking view upon the Adriatic Sea. The road's bends and hairpin turns in the thick of vegetation seem to be made expressly for motorbikes and every now and then offer us spectacular glimpses of the sea. Our tour ends into one of the typical local restaurants by the sea, where we taste a dish of spaghetti with wild "moscioli" (mussels).

#### TASTING SOMETHING GOOD

Grilled and fried mixed fish from the Adriatic Sea, "brodetto" fish soup in Senigallia.

"Cicerchi" soup, "Lonzette di fico" (sort of sweet salami made with figs) "grugni and crespigne" wild grass salad in Serra de' Conti. Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi DOC wine in Cupramontana and in Jesi.

"Vincesgrassi", typical lasagna cooked in the oven, premature cauliflowers and artichokes typical of Jesi.

Stockfish the Ancona way, "moscioli", Portonovo's mussels, "paccasassi" (stone-breakers), spontaneous cliff grass, "crocette" shellfish, Borghetti Coffee in Ancona.



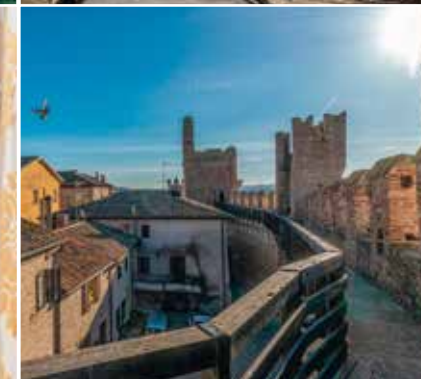
ITINERARIO DELLA BELLEZZA  
nella Provincia di Pesaro Urbino



CONFCOMMERCIO  
IMPRESE PER L'ITALIA  
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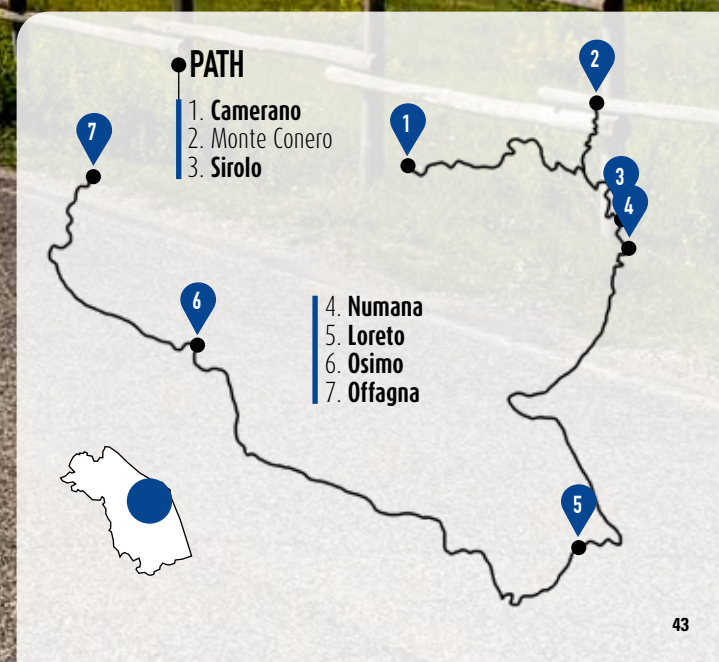
# Visita la bellezza!

## GRADARA



# *The coastline, underground caves and spirituality*

56 km | 1h e 25'  
Camerano - Offagna



By Ancona's neighbourhoods of St. Germano di Camerano and Poggio



The caves in Camerano



The seaboard seen from Mount Conero

One never loses the chance of exploring the most hidden places. That is why having been told that in Camerano, the starting point of the tour, “there’s more underneath than above” our biker guide decides she must learn more. After parking her motorbike, she starts her visit to the Caves of Camerano, a real underground city consisting of round halls, columns and two kilometres of tunnels matching the design of the above town. In the city centre it is amazing discovering the theatre named after Carlo Maratti, a

famous painter from Camerano, some little well preserved churches and the “Guasto”, the highest area in town which includes a centuries old wood and the well looked after garden of Manciforte Palace. The next destination before getting to Sirolo is Mount Conero. The road offers a beautiful panorama up to the top, and its bends and hairpin turns are easy to ride but exciting. On an untarmacked section of the road our biker meets two tourists who admire the place riding on horseback and takes a short pause at the

charming Abbey of San Pietro al Conero (St. Peter by the Conero), on whose staircase a group of cyclist ladies are also taking a rest before heading for Passo del Lupo (Wolf Pass), a hard path made famous because of the wonderful panorama at its end which overlooks the sea and the “Two Sisters” stacks, the landmark of the place. Sirolo is nicknamed “the Pearl of the Adriatic Sea”, a precious art chest cast into a breath-taking landscape. Here the biker takes a walk in the elegant city centre up to the balcony overlooking the sea. Numana, the next stop, is nearby. It is a typical sea town with charming little squares and clean little houses. Its landmark is the “Costarella”, a long staircase joining the high part of the town and the low one with its small port, the beaches and the shops along the seafront.



St. Pietro al Conero Abbey on Mount Conero



**DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

In the Pini borough of Sirolo, into the archaeological area, they found “Princess of Sirolo’s grave”, a funeral complex belonging to a VI century b.C. Piceno noble lady..

Numana is also nicknamed “the city of turtles”: every summer, at least once a month, tourists and residents can assist to the release into the sea of turtles healed and rehabilitated by local volunteers.

The patron saint of Osimo is St. Joseph from Copertino, the patron of students and aviators, also known as the “flying saint” because as the Virgin appeared to him he miraculously rose from the ground.

Tattoos are practiced in Loreto since the XVIII century: “marcatori” (markers) printed on the skin of devout visitors the proof of their pilgrimage.

Thrilling stories are told in the Offagna Fortress about the appearance of Paora’s and Ophelia’s ghosts.

The “Costarella” stairway in Numana



The Sirolo Balcony with a view upon the sea



**TASTING SOMETHING GOOD**

Rosso Conero DOC wine and fish from the Adriatic Sea in Camerano, Sirolo and Numana. a Camerano, Sirolo e Numana.

Chef Errico Recanati’s grilled chicken and updated traditional recipes the starred way in Loreto.

Tripe, chicken livers, courgetts stuffed with meat in Osimo.

Pizza with lumps, “Sciughetti”, must sweets and field vegetables into the “crescia” pie in Offagna.



After leaving the coast, our biker guide is ready for a spiritual visit to Loreto. Beyond Porta Marina she gets to the Square of the Madonna where rises the majestic Basilica, famous because it hosts the Holy House of Nazareth, where Mary is said to have received the Annunciation. The magnificence and the solemnity of the place can be perceived everywhere. Further to the Basilica, the square also hosts the most important buildings and architectural works in town. A tour should be missed neither along the sheltered walkway, nor in Corso Boccalini, the road of small shops. One could stay for hours in so charismatic a place, but the tour must go on. When in Osimo, our motor-biking lady gets underground again. Here too as in Camerano, in fact, there are caves to explore, no less than 9 kilometres and about 88 caves dug in tuff, connected to each other by entrances matching the ancient noble mansions and



The caves in Osimo



St. Leopardo's, Osimo's Cathedral

The Loreto Cathedral

The city walls of Loreto



the water sources. After returning to the surface, a walk along Corso Mazzini shows the most attractive places in town: the Nuova Fenice theatre, Dante Square where rise both Campana and Gallo Palaces, up to central Boccolino Square with the cast iron "della Pupa" fountain and the City Hall, where a dive back in time for 3000 years can be made admiring 12 headless Roman statues in the entrance, which explain why local citizens are nicknamed "Headless people from Osimo".



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

Rosso Conero wine Festival (September) in Camerano.  
 "Covo" Festival (a cart with a building made with wheat spikes - August) in Campocavallo di Osimo.  
 Medieval Festival (July) in Offagna.

#### MOTORBIKE EVENTS

Blessing of motorbikes (January) in Loreto  
 Conero Motorbiking gathering (May).



A panorama from Offagna

The Citadel of Offagna



The tour ends in Offagna, a charming medieval hamlet awarded the Orange Flag and belonging to the list of “The most beautiful hamlets in Italy”. Its landmark is the medieval Fortress, one of the most important and best preserved in Marche. Here our guide meets Roberto, a local Harley-Davidson biker, who suggests her the best way to end her tour: admiring the sunset upon the sweet hills of Marche from the balcony in Maniero Square, which in clear days like today offers a view spacing from St. Bartolo down to Southern Marche. Quite amazing!



**STOPS SUGGESTED IN THE SURROUNDINGS**

Do not lose the Umani Ronchi cooper, where two famous wines are produced: Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi DOC and Rosso Conero DOC. A tasting tour can be booked.

Certain beaches are worth the trip! In Sirolo the St. Michael Bay which turns into the Black Stones beach and into the Urbani Beach as one walks northwards. In Numana, instead, the Friar beach and the Two Sisters beach.

Castelfidardo, the city of accordion and of music.

Campocavallo di Osimo, where a painting of the Grieving Madonna in the local church is credited with miracles since more than 100 years.



ITINERARIO DELLA BELLEZZA  
nella Provincia di Pesaro Urbino



**CONFCOMMERCIO**  
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# Visita la bellezza!

## FANO



# *A rumble inside the city walls, and not just that*

83 km | 1h e 50'

Corinaldo - Poggio San Romualdo

Sassoferrato, St. Cross of the Atti Counts Abbey

## PATH

1. Corinaldo
2. Arcevia
3. Sassoferrato



4. Genga
5. Fabriano
6. Cerreto d'Esi
7. Poggio San Romualdo





St. Maria Mercato Door, the main entrance to Corinaldo



Corinaldo: the Piaggia stairway

The roads in the hinterland and their soft bends should be travelled with no hurry, enjoying the autumnal landscape. After removing the helmet, into silent Arcevia one perceives a magical calm. While wandering along its ancient alleys, one can see such interesting historical buildings as the baroque St. Medardo's Collegiate which holds masterpieces by Luca Signorelli, Giovanni della Robbia and the charming "Judgement Day" by Ercole Ramazzani.

Arcevia: the palace of the Podestà



Our lady-biker's tour leads her to Sassoferrato, a town rich with history built on the vestiges of the ancient Umbrian-Roman city of Sentinum, whose grandiose ruins can still be admired. The Archaeological Museum, with its rich collection is interesting, but still more suggestive and typical is the Marena Mill, used by the monks from the nearby St. Croce Abbey. The monastery was built by counts Atti, lords of Sassoferrato, at the end of the XII century and is one of the most important examples of Romanic architecture in Marche.



A view of the Marena Mill in Sassoferrato



Sassoferrato, St. Cross of the Atti Counts Abbey

The tour starts in Corinaldo, a famous Marche town that boasts a long list of awards, including "the Orange Flag", "Exceptional Tourist Destination in Europe" and being one of the "Most beautiful Hamlets in Italy". After entering the imposing city walls, the "Piaggia" staircase leads our guide up to the "Pit of Polenta", after which the most important historical re-enactment in town is named, and then to the very heart of Corinaldo's historic centre. Here one can admire the shrine dedicated to St. Maria Goretti, who was born here, and the Carlo Goldoni Theatre. After crossing the important St. Giovanni Gateway, we head for a new destination.



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

The Fools Festival (April) the Fight of the Polenta Pit (July), Halloween (end of October) in Corinaldo.

The Festival of Grapes (September) in Arcevia.

#### MOTORBIKE EVENTS

Blessing of the bikes (March) in Arcevia. "Vespa" scooter through the watermark (July) in Fabriano.



Genga: a suggestive track along the rocky cliffs



St. Vittore alle Chiuse Abbey in Genga's neighbourhood of St. Vittore

Not far from here, a stop certainly deserves Genga, a thermal centre famous mostly because of the nearby Fracassi Caves. Many visitors come every year from all around the world to walk their some 1.5 kilometres underground track. Visiting the one million years old karstic caves, in the middle of stalactites and stalagmites, is a unique experience. A suggestion from a local resident: to enjoy a tasty snack buy typical "crescia" pie, "ciauscolo" salami and pecorino cheese flavoured with truffle at one of the little shops surrounding the parking, where one can leave his motor-bike and buy the ticket for the tour in the caves.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

Corinaldo is known as "the city of fools". Indeed, they say that a number of bizarre people lived here in past times.

On the territory of Arcevia rise 9 medieval castles, hamlets from the XIV and XV centuries surrounded with strong walls, from the top of which one can admire wonderful panoramas.



Fabriano, the Paper and Watermark Museum

Fabriano, City Hall Square

It is time for our guide to head for her next destination. Fabriano is famous because it produces paper since the XIII century and invented of a special watermark. One therefore, cannot help visiting the Museum of Paper and Watermark hosted in the former Convent of St. Dominic. While walking in the historic centre, our lady-biker reaches to the City Hall Square, where she finds the octagonal "Sturinalto" fountain and the most important buildings of the city. Palace of the Podestà and the St. Francis Arcade, the latter dating back to the XV century; its 19 tall arcades and the square create a suggestive and scenography effect of perspective.



**STOPS SUGGESTED IN THE SURROUNDINGS.**

In Cabernardi, near Sassoferrato, there is a big sulphur mine. The homonymous museum shows the story of the town, which was once the biggest sulphur mining centre in Europe.

Near the Frasassi Caves there is the hamlet of Pierosara. The homonymous castle witnessed Piero's and Sara's love story which became legendary and made the hamlet change its name from Castel Petroso ("Rocky Castle") to Pierosara.

Valdicastro is a valley one travels before getting on top of Poggio S. Romualdo, where one should visit St. Salvatore's Abbey and taste the genuine gastronomy of Marche.



Poggio San Romualdo enveloped in the fog

Belisario's Leaning Tower in Cerreto d'Esì



It does not take long to get from here to Cerreto d'Esì, on the border between the provinces of Ancona and Macerata. It was a castle which in ancient times belonged to Fabriano. The Middle Ages can be perceived in the shape of the 25 metres high cylindrical tower, famous because of its strong incline, known as the Belisario Tower, after the name of the Roman general who, according to a legend, built the city.

The last stop of the tour is in Poggio San Romualdo, a hamlet raising on the top of the homonymous mountain. The off-road bike climbs easily up the 13 hairpin turns, some engaging, some easier to deal with, leading to the top. Our lady centaur hoped she could admire a beautiful sunset, but the weather is not good and a cold fog covering the whole landscape hides the panorama. Still, a glass of "Vernaccia Cerretana" wine, some toffies and the smile of the few people living there warm her up on her way back home.



**TASTING SOMETHING GOOD**

Rabbit in "potacchio" (cooked in a pot), "crestaite" typical pasta, Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi DOC wine in Corinaldo.

"Mais ottofile" (corn cobs bearing eight lines of seeds) and oil in Arcevia.

Maccheroncini pasta in Sassoferrato.

River crayfish in Genga.

"Fabriano" salami, honey, snails, pecorino cheese, "erbe strascinate" (a kind of salad), lamb game innards and "porchetta" rabbit in Fabriano.

Rib-eye steaks from IGP Marche breed beef in Cerreto d'Esì.



ITINERARIO DELLA BELLEZZA nella Provincia di Pesaro Urbino



**CONFCOMMERCIO**  
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# Visita la bellezza!

## MONDOLFO MAROTTA



# Beyond the hedge

105 km | 2h

Recanati - Cingoli



Cingoli Lake, also known as Castreccioni Lake





Recanati: the balcony on top of Mount Tabor

“ Always dear was to me this lonely hill / and this hedge too, which does so very much / the far horizon’s sight conceal around”.

There is no better way to begin a tour than in front of a nice landscape and hearing the words of the great poet Giacomo Leopardi echoing in the mind while sitting on the Hill of Infinity in Recanati, the town where he was born. This tour does indeed begin right here, on the terrace on top of Mount Tabor. The nearby wooded park offers peace and relax to young couples in love. Everything, in town, mentions the poet: in the “Sabato del Villaggio” square (named after “The village’s Saturday”, one of his most famous poems) rises Leopardi’s palace, nowadays a museum, where one can visit the rooms where the poet lived in his childhood to admire his manuscripts and objects that belonged to him.

After so poetic a start, our lady biker needs some adrenaline and speed. Potenza Picena is just 10 kilometres away: an easy path, on long straight provincial roads, which let one speed away (within speed limits!). The high section of the town, ancient “Monte Santo” (Holy Mountain), hosts churches and noble palaces which keep priceless works of art. The most important buildings are the City Hall, the Civic Tower, the Palace of the Podestà, the “Scarfiotti” Auditorium and St. Francis’ near the Pincio Belvedere. Here, in the centre of the square, there is a copy of the Buenos Aires “Pirámide de Mayo” (Pyramid of May), a symbol of the link tying the two cities and their people. Right outside the city there is St. Giro’s Sanctuary. Turning the back to the sea, now the tour heads for the capital of the province, Macerata,



“Saturday in the Village” Square in Recanati



Potenza Picena: a view of the hills from Pincio



Macerata, the Sferisterio Arena

a city with a thousand souls. It is young, because of its important University, one of the most ancient in the world, attended by many students, both from Marche and from other regions; it is cultural, because of the events and the festivals hosted in its nice Lauro Rossi theatre and its imposing Sferisterio arena; it is traditional, because it treasures such ancient recipes as “vincisgrassi alla maceratese STG” (stuffed pasta similar to lasagne), the first Italian recipe and the fourth in Europe awarded a Geographical Indication in 2022, and the ancient weaving art, with the “La tela” (The Canvas) Weaving Museum which tells the story of this craft in the territory. A guided visit deserve both Buonaccorsi Palace, the seat of the Civic Museums, and the Civic Tower with its astronomical clock. It only takes quitting the bike and a short walk, instead, to pay a visit to the picturesque “Ficana” borough, near the city centre, consisting of XIX century houses made with raw earth that bear a strong historical and monumental value.

St. Francis’ in Potenza Picena



### TASTING SOMETHING GOOD

Recipes of “cucciòle” (snails); “potacchio” and stewed rabbit; “frascarelli”, traditional polenta enriched with rice. Sweets including frappe, castagnole, sweet pizza and the ciambellone cake in Recanati.

Gnocchi pasta with duck meat sauce, cuttlefish with green peas in Potenza Picena.

Pecorino cheese, IGP ciauscolo salami; “cardosella” salami seasoned with orange skin; “mazzafegato” salami with pork meat and liver; “vincisgrassi alla Maceratese STG”; tripe the Marche way. The sweets and cakes: “frustingo”, “scroccafusi” and “ciammellotto”, a rustic ring-shaped cake, in Macerata.

The “Calcione” (“big kick”), a sweet ravioli-like cake stuffed with cheese and lemon, in Treia.

“Orbetana” olives; “porchetta” roast pork; quail cooked with sage; wild game cooked on oak, locust or grapevine wood fire; DOC wines in San Severino.

“Crescia” flat and salt bread; sweets and cakes include “lu serpe” (“the snake”), cavallucci (“little horses”), Easter donuts, scroccafusi, frappe and figs salami in Cingoli.



### SUGGESTIONS FOR VISITS IN THE SURROUNDING

The coastal area of Porto Recanati and Porto Potenza Picena.

Abbadia di Fiastra abbey and park, Fiastra lake and Lame Rosse Canyon.

The hamlet of Elcito and the Canfaieto beechwood.





Treia: a panoramic view of the city centre



A panoramic view of San Severino Marche

A short stop in Treia cannot be skipped, as it is one of “the most beautiful Hamlets in Italy”. Through one of the seven doors in its ancient walls one gets to the perfectly kept city centre in Republic Square, shaped like a horseshoe. Its large panoramic balcony offers a view upon the sweet hills of Marche. There is no better place, in the evening, to have a glass of good wine and taste a “calcione”, a typical sweet and salt cake. Just 20 kilometres away, the tour in the Macerata hinterland leads to San Severino Marche, which consists of two parts: on top of Mount Nero there is the old settlement called “Castello” (Castle), dating from 1545 while the modern part of the city was built lower on the mountain slopes. Moving from there, it doesn’t take long to get to the large and elegant, characteristically oval-shaped People’s square, the beating heart of the city. As one walks up to the high side of the city, one can see the XIII century Civic Tower, 40 metres high and slightly bending, and the imposing Old Cathedral, built in 1061 in a Romanic-Gothic style. Unfortunately, it is currently closed to the public.

Treia, Republic Square



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

Gigli Opera Festival (August), Festival of Polenta at the Montefiore Castle (August) in Recanati.  
 Macerata Opera Festival (July), Threshing festival (July) in Macerata.  
 Festival of calcione and of raviolo (May), Magnalonga, a wine and food walk (May), Disfida del Bracciale (a game much like the Basque Pelota) (July), Fermento (Fermentation) beer festival (July) in Treia.  
 Cingoli Traditions and Flavours (March), Festival of polenta cresciole (April), Hot-air balloons on the balcony (July) “Calici dal balcone” (stem glasses from the balcony) (August), Festival of cobs unwrapping and grapes pressing (October), Festival of Cavalluccio (December) in Cingoli.

#### MOTORBIKE EVENTS

“Città di Recanati” Motorbiking gathering (April).  
 “Scorpionstreffen” (a motorbiking gathering) in San Severino Marche (July).



Cingoli, the long viaduct across the Castriccioni Lake



Cingoli skyline

The road to the last stop of this tour is really unmissable because along a viaduct it literally runs above the Castriccioni lake, the largest bathing artificial lake in Central Italy. Thus, one gets to Cingoli, also called “the Balcony of Marche” because it overlooks the whole Musone valley. One enters the medieval city through Porta Piana and walking along the main street gets to Castiglioni Palace, a residence of pope Pius VIII’s. Built in the XVII century, it is recognizable because of the travertine façade and the elegantly framed windows. In this area there is also the XVI century Fontana del Maltempo (Bad Weather Fountain), named this way because it poured abundant water after heavy rains only. As one walks further ahead, one gets to Vittorio Emanuele Square, overlooked by such famous buildings, as the City Hall and St. Mary’s Assumption Cathedral. From the walls of the castle of Cingoli one can enjoy a breath-taking view, ranging from Mount San Vicino down to the Adriatic Sea and Mount Conero.



Cingoli, the Balcony of Marche



**DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

On the first August Sunday the re-enactment of the “pesca con la sciapeca”, an ancient trawl-fishing technique, takes place in Potenza Picena. People wear traditional costumes to re-enact this important tradition. In Treia’s Passo di Treia borough rises and ancient monumental oak tree.



ITINERARIO DELLA BELLEZZA  
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## MOMBAROCCIO

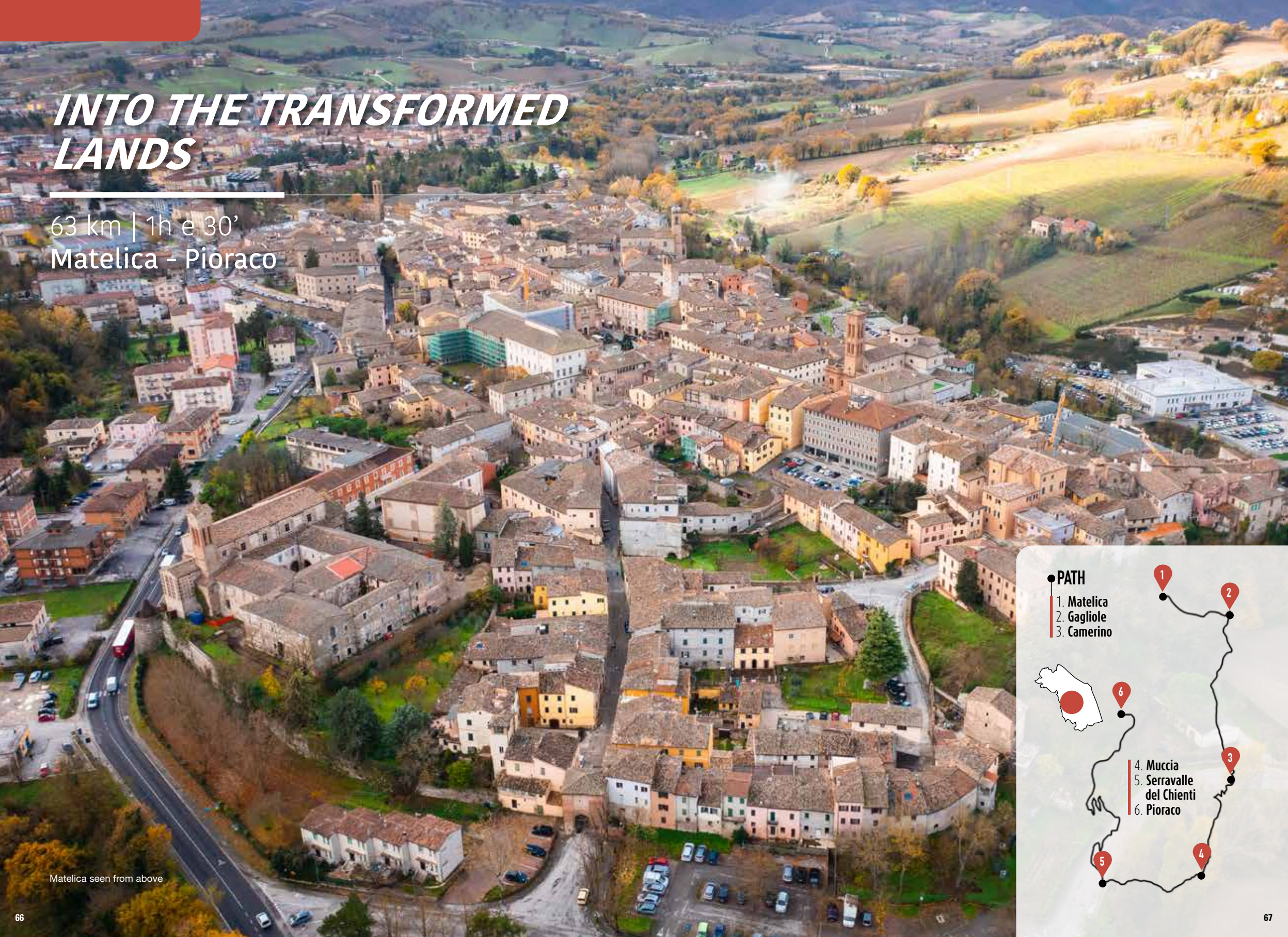


CAMERA DI COMMERCIO  
DELLE MARCHE



# INTO THE TRANSFORMED LANDS

63 km | 1h e 30'  
Matelica - Pioraco



Matelica seen from above





Matelica: the vineyards in autumn

“ A vineyard climbing up a hillside till it stands out in the sky is a familiar sight, and yet the simple and deep curtains of rows look like a magical door” Cesare Pavese wrote, and it looks like he was describing Matelica. The city lies in the very centre of the High Valley of the Esino river, surrounded by vineyards whose grapes are used to produce the award winning Verdicchio di Matelica wine, one of the best white wines in Italy. It is from this bucolic frame that our guide, sitting on her motorbike, begins her tour in the Province of Macerata, in the area hurt by the earthquake but loaded with an unmissable charm.

Gagliole is the second planned stop. The city centre still holds the ancient fortress and the XIV century walls. It was a point of contention between the Smeducci, lords of Sanseverino, and Da Varano, lords of Camerino, families. A tidbit is its Museum of Natural History, which holds very rare fossils and minerals. Out of the town, a visit deserves the Madonna delle Macchie (Madonna of Bushes) shrine: a religious structure consisting of a square portico on



Gagliole: the castle and the citadel



Gagliole, the Varano Tower



Camerino, Cavour Square and the Cathedral



The city centre of Camerino

whose sides rise remarkable monastic buildings and two churches. The wide turns of the road lead our lady biker up to the very heart of Camerino, whose central roads are almost deserted. The city, awarded an Orange Flag since 2009, reacted vigorously to the August 2016 earthquake to keep its charm and touristic appeal. Unmissable are the ancient University, with its Planetarium inside St. Dominic's convent, and the "Carmela Cortini" Botanic Garden, as well as the fortress built by duke Cesare Borgia, the Varano Fortress, a local landmark and, finally, St. Chiara's and Renacavata's monasteries, both important for the religious order they host.



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

Nougat festival (January) in Camerino.  
 Festival of Celtic music – Montelago Celtic Night (August) in Serravalle del Chienti.  
 Festival of cartai (artisan paper makers) (September) in Pioraco.



#### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

According to tradition, in Matelica visitors should tour seven times around the central fountain to get the "Patente da mattu" (certificate of foolishness) granted by the local Pro Loco association.

The city of Camerino was awarded the Silver Medal for military value, because of its contribution to the Liberation War.

Pioraco is also called "Little Switzerland", because of its green lawns, rocks and canyons.

Nearby there is Muccia, crossed by the river Chienti, with its special atmosphere, typical of little ancient hamlets. There one can admire archaeological findings dating back to the neolithic age and beautiful XV century churches, a nice mix of history and nature. Muccia too, like Camerino, was severely hurt by the earthquake but monuments and historical buildings can still be admired, at least from outside: it only takes a short walk to see Piazza della Vittoria (Victory Square) with its XIX century fountain, the Clock Tower and the Monument to the Fallen of all Wars. Following the suggestions of local old men, one cannot quit this hamlet without first tasting one of the liquors produced by Distilleria Varnelli, which since 1868 produces its tonic liquors using original techniques and keeping their secret recipe.

Again on her motorbike, our guide speeds along SS 77, that winds in the middle of the woodland and ends up the cotto tile roofs of Serravalle del Chienti. Cast into the very heart of the Apennine mountains, the city holds two historical hydraulic works, unmatched in Marche: the XV century "Varano barrel" (an underground channel meant to reclaim the Colfiorito upland) and the Roman Aqueduct, dating back to the Augustan era.



Muccia



Serravalle del Chienti

Serravalle del Chienti: a natural view from Muccia

A section of the "Muccese" provincial road



Serravalle del Chienti: the city centre



#### STOPS SUGGESTED IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Braccano is a hamlet near Matelica adorned with colourful graffiti painted by artists from all around the world and by students from important Art Academies.

Right outside Camerino there is a most peculiar and avant-garde commercial centre, joining architectural innovation and the tradition of little shops, the Sottocorte Village. The historical shops in the city centre are still condemned.

Muccia is surrounded with four lakes, different from each other for size and characteristics: the Polverina, Boccafornace and Caccamo lakes and the most famous of all, the Fiastra lake.



Pioraco: Madonna delle Carceri's (Madonna of jails) cast in the rock.



Pioraco, Marmone Bridge



The Tower of Pioraco Castle



Pioraco: "Li Vurgacci" track.

After quitting Serravalle and a few bends on the road, suddenly appears the wide Plestino Plateau; then, after passing some hills and hollows, one shortly gets to Pioraco, the last stop of the tour, where time appears to have stopped. It is worth quitting the motorbike to have a walk along the "Li Vurgacci" path which penetrates the wood in the middle of monsters and fairy tale statues sculptured in the rock by Antonio Ciccarelli. Back again in the hamlet, our guide drives along the Flaminia Road and passes by the little Madonna delle Carceri (Madonna of Jails) church, cast into the rock, which used to be a shelter to hermits and travellers, then by St. Francis', the City hall Cloister and the suggestive Marmone Bridge. The afternoon is ending and tiredness can be felt; so why not stay here a little bit longer?



### TASTING SOMETHING GOOD

Mint omelet, ciauscolo salami, slices and must doughnuts in Matelica.

"Potacchio" chicken, "porchetta" rabbit and snails, toasts with chicken livers in Gagliole  
Nougat in Camerino.

Liquors from Distilleria Varnelli in Muccia.

Red Colfiorito potato, Central Italy Lamb in Serravalle del Chienti.



ITINERARIO DELLA BELLEZZA  
nella Provincia di Pesaro Urbino



CONFCOMMERCIO  
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# Visita la bellezza!

## PERGOLA



# *In the wounded heart of Marche*

89 km | 2h e 15'  
Tolentino - Piani di Ragnolo



Getting to Tolentino's city centre





Tolentino, the Rancia Castle

The last tour in the province of Macerata starts in its very heart, in Tolentino. The town was wounded by the earthquake, but its extraordinary courage enabled it to raise again. The Devil's Bridge, the Tower of Clocks, St. Nicola's and Parisani-Sangallo Palace, which hosts the original International Museum of Humour in Art (MIUMOR): there are many interesting locations, here. A visitor, for sure, could not leave before visiting the majestic Rancia Castle, a square XII century fortress protected by crenellated walls and by three towers. It hosts an archaeological museum and a permanent exhibition dedicated to the Company of Rancia, which was born right here and is famous for staging in Italy the most successful Broadway musicals.



Caldarola Castle



Tasting some Vernaccia wine

Let us start our tour. In 15 minutes only our lady biker reaches to Serrapetrona, a member of the National Association of "Wine Cities", where Serrapetrona DOC and Vernaccia di Serrapetrona DOCG wines are produced. We suggest to go and taste them into one of the local wine factories, as well as to have a walk to the city centre to visit St. Francis' and see Lorenzo di Alessandro's polyptych, dating from the end of the XV century, and Claudi Palace, in the lower side of the town, where an authentic dinosaur skeleton is on show. The next stop is



The city centre of Serrapetrona

Caldarola. Here, one must get off the bike. We would love to pay a visit to Pallotta Castle, which overlooks the whole town and the surrounding valley, but unfortunately it is impossible, because of the damages caused by the earthquake. Since 1450 it was the residence of the earls Pallotta's family, who charged the important De Magistris local painters to embellish its halls, which still keep a suggestive medieval charm. Here, during their pilgrimage to the Loreto shrine, stayed Felice Peretti, who in 1585 became pope Sixtus V, pope Clemens VIII and queen Christine of Sweden. It boasts collections of weapons dating from the XV to the XVIII century, of many carriages and of ancient clothes. The castle, with its halls, salons and libraries, I surrounded by a park rich with century-old trees. And as any old castle, it also hosts a ghost, a young lady called Maddalena, whose myth adds to its charms.



### SUGGESTIONS FOR VISITS IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Urbisaglia, with its archaeological park of Urbs Salvia, about 40 hectares wide, is the most important and spectacular in Marche.

In the municipality of Caldarola, the boroughs of Pievefavera, built on the top side of the village, of Croce and Vestignano, with their ancient castles, and of Valcimarra, consisting of two separated sections.





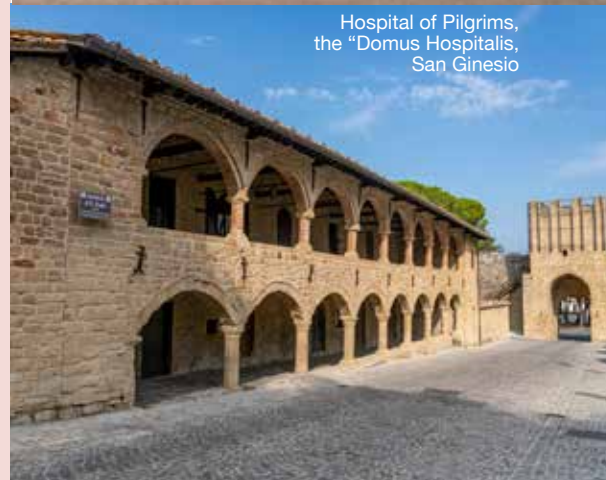
Cessapalombo

Not very far away there is Cessapalombo, a mountain municipality whose territory is partly included into the National Park of the Sibillini Mountains, whose spiritual landmark is the Impollata aedicule dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It is a hamlet definitely devoted to quiet, peace and prayer. A little detour, before reaching to the next stop, leads to the most peculiar Garden of Butterfly in the Montalto neighbourhood, one of the secret places one can hardly forget after discovering them. It is a garden museum where one can learn everything about the wonderful world of lepidoptera, make guided tours in the woods and walk in the middle of free butterflies.

St. Mary Assumption's in San Ginesio



Hospital of Pilgrims, the "Domus Hospitalis", San Ginesio



Lame Rosse ("Red Blades")

The next stop is in San Ginesio, in the wounded heart of Marche. One cannot help being amazed by the history and the beauty of this proud hamlet, which in 2021 UNWTO inserted in the list of "Best Tourism Villages", an honour awarded to 41 towns only in the whole world. Visitors are welcomed by Porta Picena and by the Pilgrims' Hospital, the still intact "Domus hospitalis" for pilgrims who were once used to walk from Loreto to Rome. In Alberico Gentili Square, dedicated to the founder of modern international law who was born here, there is St. Mary Assumption's, also called Collegiate: a most rare and important artistic and cultural example of International Gothic style.

Not very far from the hamlet there is St. Liberato's hermitage, where St. Liberato from Loro's remains were moved. Here religious buildings raise practically everywhere: known as the "hamlet with 100 churches", San Ginesio does really host such and incredible number of shrines.

Along the tour one can penetrate the "Lame Rosse" (Red Blades), also known as "The Canyon of Marche": enormous pinnacles created by the atmospheric agents in thousands of years, they raise towards the sky creating a dreamlike scene. The tour continues towards Fiastra.



Fiastra Lake



#### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

MIUMOR, dedicated to humourous art and to caricature, is unique in Italy and one of the few of its kind in the world. It was created in 1970 by Luigi Mari, who in 1961 had created the Biennal Festival of Caricature, later named Biennal International Festival of Humour in Art.

The name of Cessapalombo recalls a wood, where they used to cut wood, owned by someone Palumbo, a name very common in the Middle Ages.

San Ginesio is the Hamlet of Actors, the seat of a festival and of a national award, and its link with theatre almost thousand-years old.



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

The historical re-enactment "Tolentino 815" (May).

Vernaccia Festival and Scartocciu Festival (August), Appassimenti Aperti (Open Raisin Wine production) (November), in Serrapetrona.

"Magnalonga" (Feast) of the 5 Caldarola castles (August).

The ancient Flavours and Riches from the Wood Festival (October, in the Villa di Montalto neighbourhood) in Cessapalombo. Ginesio Fest and San Ginesio Palio (August).

#### MOTORBIKE EVENTS

2nd Rally of the provinces of Marche in Abbadia di Fiastra (April).



Fiastra Lake

After a few turns and bends, our lady biker meets the green vegetation and the thousand shades of colour reflected by the waters of the homonymous lake which change with the light of the day and fill the eyes of visitors with shades of turquoise and emerald. Above sea level, one finds Piani di Ragnolo

(Ragnolo Upland): a real heaven! Here the view ranges from the 2000 metres high Pizzo Berro (Berro Peak), Pizzo Tre Vescovi (Three Bishops Peak) and Cresta della Priora (Prioress Ridge) mountains, down to the round hills of Marche and, far away, even to the Adriatic Sea. Do not lose, there, the blossoming of wild orchids in late May.



Ragnolo Flats



**TASTING SOMETHING GOOD**

Vincisgrassi pasta, ciauscolo salami, pecorino cheese, pigeon meat in Tolentino.  
 Liver ciauscolo salami, "scartocciu" (a corn cob cooked on embers), Serrapetrona DOC and Vernaccia di Serrapetrona DOCG wines in Serrapetrona  
 River crabs, game meat, mushrooms, "straciaporte" (bread or polenta slices), IGP ciauscolo salami in Caldarola.  
 Saffron, chickpeas, lentils, spelt and other cereals and vegetables, "coroncina" extra-virgin olive oil in Cessapalombo.  
 Sanginesio sparkling wine, one of the few DOC red ones in Italy, San Ginesio white or with tomato sauce polentone ("big polenta" made with the most rare "quarantine" corn flour in San Ginesio.  
 Game meat, tagliatelle seasoned with hare meat sauce, typical salamis and cheese in Fiastra.



ITINERARIO DELLA BELLEZZA  
 nella Provincia di Pesaro Urbino



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# Visita la bellezza!

## MONDAVIO



# *Fine buildings among the ups and downs of the hills*

62 km | 1h e 15'

Fermo - Torre di Palme



A view of the Sibillini Mountains



Fermo, the Cathedral



Fermo, People's Square

To state the city's importance as a Roman colony since Augustus' age, according to an old local proverb "when Fermo decided to stop, it made the whole Region shiver" (the word "Fermo", the city's name, means also "still, idle"). Remains of that time are still visible in the archaeological areas of Cisterne and Teatro Falerone, but in town there are many other such interesting things as the imposing Piazza del Popolo (People's Square), overlooked by Palazzo dei Priori (Governors' Palace), St. Rocco's Portico and Palazzo degli Studi (The House of Studies). Further ahead on Perpentì street, up to St. Francis', one can admire a nice example of Gothic architecture. This is where our tour and our biker guide start from. By turning towards the top of Sabulo Hill, one gets up to the Cathedral dedicated to the Assumption, built on the ruins of an ancient pagan temple. The panoramic viewpoint adjacent to the Cathedral overlooks the city and sitting in the middle of century-old pine trees to enjoy a packed lunch consisting of "crescia"



The alleys in Montegiorgio

bread, cheese and typical cured meat is quite a pleasant thing. The next stop is Montegiorgio, on a hill in the very centre of the Tenna River valley, 411 metres a.s.l. The top of this medieval hamlet, a place known as "Pincio", offers a wide panorama ranging from the Adriatic Sea up to the Sibillini mountains and from Mount Conero down to the Gran Sasso. Inside the city centre there are such beautiful buildings as the Domenico Alaleona Theatre, the monument dedicated to Salvo D'Acquisto and the baroque shrines of St. Michael Archangel's and St. Andrew's. Coming here without tasting "li caciù de Muntijorgio", puff pastry croissants filled with ricotta cheese and broad beans, available both fried and roasted, would really be a crime.



A view of the Sibillini Mountains from Montegiorgio



Montegiorgio: the ruins of the entrance to the XIII century St. Saviour's



Fermo: the "Little Tower" in Roma Street



**DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

The Roman water tanks of Fermo, the largest and most ancient in the world after the ones in Istanbul, were built between the I century b.C. and the I century a.D.

Inside the Villa Vitali Scientific Museums of Fermo there is a meteorite that fell in the fields near the city on September 25, 1996.

The City of Fermo is the capital of a province since 2009 only.



**STOPS SUGGESTED IN THE SURROUNDINGS**

In Pedaso there is the "Boardwalk of the XX century Italian singer-songwriters": a two kilometres long beach, reachable by means of underpasses dedicated to such important Italian singer-songwriters as Fabrizio De Andrè, Giorgio Gaber, Luigi Tenco, Domenico Modugno and Lucio Battisti.

On the National Road, between Grottazzolina and Ponzano di Fermo there is the "Crossodromo", a motocross track where national and regional races are disputed.

After tasting these local delicacies, our lady biker gets to Grottazzolina, which rises on top of a small hill. With just a few modern exceptions, its buildings are characterized by the use of exposed bricks, an art in which the local carpenters were very skilled. Azzolino Castle, the city landmark and pride, is a witness of the ancient splendour of the place. The underlying little square is dedicated to the memory of Osvaldo Licini, an artist, painter and writer born in Marche.

On the road again, it doesn't take long before catching sight of Monte Gilberto, a little, more than thousand-years old jewel. Its territory was already occupied during the Piceno age and in Roman times. It reached the peak of its splendour in the Middle Ages, as is shown by its two Casale and Podio castles. Soon after entering into the hamlet, one is immediately attracted by the imposing façade of Madonna delle Grazie (Madonna of Graces"), a mix of late-baroque and classical elements. Our biker

Grottazzolina Castle



Mount Gilberto: Madonna of Grace's Sanctuary

The city centre of Moresco



carries on along the provincial road and here is another pearl. Moresco is one of the most beautiful hamlets in Italy, cast into a sweet hilly scenario which puts it a fairy-tale atmosphere: it must be visited. The gaze of visitors is captured by its main monument, the 25 metres high heptagonal tower bearing a Ghibelline crenellation. There is also the Clock Tower, overlooking one of the entrances to the city. The main attraction of the place is certainly its historical centre consisting of roads, most narrow alleys and charming panoramas, focused on the triangular square hosting a nice portico and the City Hall.



**TASTING SOMETHING GOOD**

The "Caciotta del fermano" cheese, the ciauscolo and fermanello salami, the boiled wine in Fermo.

The "Li caciù" and "lu Pristingu" cakes in Montegiorgio.

Tagliatelle made with spelt ground with a stone grinder, vincisgrassi pasta, "straccetti" soup, roast goose, "galantine" jellied poultry and, between the cured meats, the "coppa di testa" (air-cured pork head meat) in Grottazzolina.

Peaches from Val d'Aso in Moresco.

Cornmeal mush with snails in Altidona.



The city centre of Altidona



The city centre of Torre di Palme

The tour continues to Altidona, that originally was a castle, built on a rock crag not far from the coast of the Adriatic Sea. Later, Altidona grew along the main street that crosses the whole town. Walking around the city centre, one meets few people and even less cars, but our biker grants that as one travels it on a motorbike, enjoying its peace and its silence is quite a pleasure. The final stop is Torre di Palme, a medieval town rising quite close to the sea and belonging to the list of the Most Beautiful Hamlets of Italy. The tour ends right here, at dusk, offering to our lady biker unique, charming panoramas.



The fountain of Torre di Palme

The sunset from the Terrace of Torre di Palme



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**CARTOCETO**



**SAN LORENZO IN CAMPO**



**TYPICAL EVENTS**

The Assumption Ride (August), the most ancient historical re-enactment of Italy, in Fermo.

The XIII century "Azzolino days" historical re-enactment (August) in Grottazzolina.

The Brazier Festival (October) in Moresco.

The Festival of Cornmeal mush with snails (July) in Altidona.

**MOTORBIKE EVENTS**

Second remembrance of the Motorbiking Circuit (June) in Fermo.



# On the locations of the “Marca Fermana”

45 km | 1h e 5'

Belmonte Piceno - Monterfortino

## PATH

1. Belmonte Piceno
2. Servigliano
3. Smerillo



4. Montefalcone Appennino
5. Amandola
6. Monterfortino



Servigliano, the centre of Roma Square



Belmonte Piceno: the little St. Mary in Muris'



The ivory and amber jewelry box, the treasure of Belmonte Piceno

**H**ere we are, ready for another tour, which today begins in Belmonte Piceno, a hamlet built on a ridge dividing the green valleys of the Tenna and of the Ete Vivo rivers which is famous as the most important site of the ancient Piceno culture. During the VI century b.C. this village was the main handling centre for the Baltic amber, shipped across the Adriatic Sea and sent to the Magna Graecia, as is confirmed by such extraordinary findings as jewels, weapons and bronze helmets on show in the Civic Archaeological Museum, and especially by an ivory and amber jewelry box on which local, Hellenic and Etruscan myths are carved. As one walks in the city centre, one can still see some sections of the historical city walls; outside it, there is St. Mary's in Muris ("in the Walls"), a rare example of genuine Romanic style and a national monument, renowned

Belmonte Piceno



**DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

Servigliano was awarded the title of "Ideal City" due to its XVIII century design canons. Its structure is inserted into a basic geometrical image, a square.

Belmonte was defined "Piceno" in 1863 to discern it from other Italian municipalities that share the same name.



Servigliano seen from above

Servigliano, Pia Door

because of its antiquity and the rare originality of its X century Romanic art. After wearing their helmet again, bikers travel a mostly rectilinear road leading to Servigliano. This medieval hamlet is somewhat different from the others already visited because its city centre lies on level ground and is surrounded by perfectly quadrilateral city walls on which three historical doors are opened. It was pope Clemens XIV who in the XVIII century ordered the creation of a city modelled upon the Roman one, divided by cardines and decumani. As one enters the central square, one is charmed by St. Mark's Collegiate, sided by the Bell Tower, the City Hall and other historical buildings facing the square. Outside the city limits there are the XV century St. Maria del Piano's convent, of which survive the Church, a beautiful cloister and a panoramic view; the "Park of Peace", the historical memento of the Servigliano imprisonment camp and near it the "House of Memory". The latter, formerly a railway station, is now the seat of a permanent show dedicated to the events of the World Wars, an admonishment to the future generations preaching peace and non-violence. A short pause, a cup of coffee and the bikers are ready to head for their next destination.







A view of Smerillo

Oak, holm and maple trees board the ups and downs of the roads as one leaves behind him the typical mountain grazing lands. Soon the “Roof of Marche” appears. This is how Smerillo, rising on a cliff 806 metres above sea level, is called. On top of its citadel one can admire the nice hilly landscape of the Fermo territory. In ancient times the town was a castle, and the remains of its watchtower and of its North Door can still be seen. The latter leads to the famous “Fessa di Smerillo” (Smerillo fissure), a crack in the sandstone rock about 30 metres long and high which – one person at a time – leads out of the hamlet. It is a path chosen mostly by scholars and tourists in love with paleontology due to the presence of Pliocene fossils. The next stop is just three kilometres away: it is Montefalcone



Montefalcone and a panoramic view upon the Sibillini and della Laga Mountains

The cliff of Montefalcone



A postcard from the valley of Fermo



#### TASTING SOMETHING GOOD

Bran, cereal flour and grains ground with a stone grinder in Belmonte Piceno.

Tagliatelle with mushrooms and truffle, or seasoned with gilded lamb meat sauce, in Belmonte Piceno.

Typical chestnut specialities and sweets in Smerillo.

Black truffle and pink apples from the Sibillini Mountains in Montefalcone.

White truffle, saffron, white potatoes and pink apples from the Sibillini Mountains, honey, beer, green anise pimperl, long spaghetti produced by the “Regina dei Sibillini” pasta factory in Amandola.

Wild boar and lamb meat from the Sibillini Mountains, mountain cucciòle (snails) flavoured with aromatic herbs, truffle, mushrooms (boletus aureus, russula, agaricus campestris) in Montefortino.



#### STOPS SUGGESTED IN THE SURROUNDINGS

In Montefalcone di Fermo, little mud volcanoes are generated by little miry eruptions from the underground occurring from time to time.

The Gole dell’Infernaccio (Infernaccio canyons) are natural canyons dug by the Tenna River.



Amandola, St. James Door

On the road again. After a few turns, bikers get to Amandola, the “Door to the Sibillini Mountains”. Here nature, history, art and traditions create magical atmospheres and views. For instance, as one walks along the alleys of the city centre one gets to Piazza Alta (High Square) where one finds ancient palaces and a belvedere offering a breathtaking view upon the surrounding mountains. The municipality of Amandola reaches up to the shores of St. Ruffino Lake and to the Abbey dedicated to the saints Ruffino and Vitale, built in the VI century by Benedictine monks. The tour ends in Montefortino, also rising on a peculiar cliff: lying on semi-circular terraces, it creates a conical structure embracing the Sibillini Mountains, especially the snowy tops of mounts Priora, Sibilla and Cannafusto. The city perimeter is designed by the castle walls, reinforced with a sighting tower and accessible through three entrances. Inside the municipality there is also the famous Madonna del Lambro’s shrine, known as “the little Lourdes of the Sibillini mountains” because the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to a girl. The fresh spring air invites to end the tour at the table to taste such local delicacies as wild boar and lamb meat seasoned with truffle or mushrooms. Tastes one can’t lose!



The city centre of Montefortino



Views of Montefortino



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

Fat Thursday Polenta binge (on Carnival), St. Cross Holiday (May), Frog festival (September) in Belmonte Piceno. Festival of Polenta cooked on wood fire (September) in Servigliano. Castagnata (Chestnut Festival) (October) in Smeriglio. Village Autumn Flavours Festival (October) in Montefalcone Appennino. “Li Paniccià Carnival” (Carnival), Holiday of the Blessed Anthony (August), Diamonds at the table (November) in Amandola.



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## COLLI AL METAURO



## TERRE ROVERESCHE



# Ancient Hamlets

38 km | 53'

Porto San Giorgio - Monte Vidon Combatte



The Sibillini Mountains as seen from Monterubbiano





Porto San Giorgio: Tiepolo Tower

Porto San Giorgio: the Fountain of Democracy



**O**ur biking guide starts her last tour in the province of Fermo in Porto San Giorgio. A sea town since the XVI century, the city boasts the biggest tourist port on the Adriatic Sea. A tour by motorbike shows the Tiepolo Fortress rising on a rocky spur, the famous Bonaparte House, built by Napoleon's brother at the beginning of the XIX century and Piazza S. Giorgio (St. George Square) with the homonymous neoclassical church, sided by the clocktower.

Singer Luca Carboni's refrain, "Sea, sea, sea, how I wish to get there to you, I'm hastening to catch you" echoes in one's head as one starts driving on SS 16 "Adriatica" down to Torre di Palme, and like Carboni one can hasten and feel the sea air caressing his face. Then, turning to take SP 84, one quits

Lapedona: Porta da Sole city centre



Lapedona: the Marine Door

the coast to penetrate into the hinterland. In a very short time one gets to Lapedona, a little and almost unknown jewel cast in a panoramic position above the Valdaso valley. After parking the motorbike, a short uphill walk leads to the heart of Lapedona, surrounded by well kept city walls. In St. Nocolo's & St. Martin's one can admire a beautiful damask wooden ceiling, thought to be the largest one in Marche. An excellent panoramic point is the Amelio Loy Belvedere: on clear days, the sight ranges there from the sea down to the Apennine and the Gran Sasso Mountains. One cannot quit this hospitable and gentle place without tasting the local delicacies. A stop is therefore necessary in the Madonna Bruna neighbourhood to have lunch tasting "pappardelle" pasta with duck sauce.



The precious ceiling in St. Nicolo's and St. Martin's



#### TASTING SOMETHING GOOD

"Mondovo" and "ficu-ficuso" sweets, the "frappe" cakes, the Porto San Giorgio red "brodetto", a tomato fish soup, and clams.

Boiled wine, gnocchi pasta and peaches from the Valdaso valley in Lapedona.

Fried tagliatelle in Monterubbiano.

"Lu serpe" and "lu fristingu" sweets in Ponzano di Fermo.



Views from Monterubbiano's main square

The next stop is Monterubbiano. The ancient Castrum Montis Rubbiani was founded around the year 1000 on top of a hill, 463 metres above the sea level, dominating the surrounding valley. The road leading up to the town is a pleasant surprise: after a series of sweet turns one gets up to the inhabited area and then on alleys, narrower but still accessible by the motorcar, up to the city centre. Our biker lady

leaves behind her back the City Hall, that is also the location of an archaeological museum and an art collection, St. Mary of the Scholars' Collegiate and the Pagani Theatre, a real XIX century treasure, and while leaving the hamlet through St. Basso Door and its strong crenelated donjon can admire the Sforza city walls and the ruins of the cubic towers. Having several options, she decides to

The Castle of Ponzano di Fermo



Monterubbiano: St. Basso Door

continue her trip heading for Ponzano di Fermo, another location almost unknown to most people, ideal to those who, like her, chose to discover the authentic and less visited hamlets that are the main characteristic of the whole tour. Since 1214 Ponzano was designed as a castle, and its typical fortress-like structure can still be recognized while walking along its alleys, its little squares and the panoramic points. 500 metres away from the village, in St. Mark's – in ancient times St. Mary Matris Domini's parish church – there are a sarcophagus and remains dating back to the Romanic imperial age, but the church is currently condemned.

Traveling to Ponzano di Fermo



Ponzano di Fermo: St. Mark's



#### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

According to the legend, in ancient Porto San Giorgio lived a drake who killed young girls. It was thanks to young knight George that the monster was killed; in memory of the event the town was named after him.

In 2010 the Swedish version of the format "The Italian Dream" conducted by Filippa Lagerback chose Lapedona as its location. In spite of its small size, Monterubbiano offers to visitors no less than 10 Romanic churches.

Monte Vidon Combatte is famous because of the manufacturing of straw, reed and wood shavings to create bags and hats.



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

Festival of the Sea (July) and Chess Festival (August) in Porto San Giorgio  
 "Sciò la Pica" (Pentecost) holiday and Festival of the fried tagliatelle (August) in Monterubbiano.

Palio of Barrels (July) in Ponzano di Fermo.  
 "Festa de le cove" - a parade of allegoric chariots adorned with spikes of wheat - (July) and Holiday of the Madonna of Mercy (August) in Petritoli.

Festival of the quails (August) and of the wine (October) in Monte Vidon Combatte.



A view of Petritoli



A view of medieval Monte Vidon Combatte



Elegant Petritoli

After a short stop, the next destination is Petritoli which since a few years, taking the place of more popular and blazoned locations, is famous as “the town of weddings”. Due to a smart marketing, more than 100 stranger couples decide to get married here every year and choose the most charming corners of the hamlet – Piazza della Rocca (square of the Fortress), Orto dell’Asilo (garden of the Hostel), Teatro dell’Iride (Iris Theatre) or the Tower of the City Hall - as locations for the ceremony. It is almost twilight time and, as the street lights make everything a bit mysterious, our lady biker gets to the last stop of her tour. Monte Vidon Combatte rose around the medieval castle built on top of its hill. The perfectly preserved ancient hamlet is charming and perfect for a walk; almost all of the houses out of the city walls are made with cotto tiles, in the typical style of all little towns in Marche. Silence and tranquillity are the best gift to a tired traveller who can choose either to stay and rest in town or to leave and go back home.



**STOPS SUGGESTED IN THE SURROUNDINGS**

The boardwalk of Porto San Giorgio, where in a number of chalets one can have a meal or a drink.

Near Petritoli, the boroughs of Moregnano and Valmir are worth visiting because of their typical city centres.



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# An incredible variety of places

125 km | 2h e 10'  
Grottammare - Force





The boardwalk of Grottammare



Ascoli Piceno: People's Square

This tour marks the passage into the province of Ascoli, the southmost in Marche. Our entry can only take place along the famous "Riviera delle Palme" (the Palm Coastline), 15 kilometres long and one of the longest in Italy, which touches the municipalities of Cupra Marittima, Grottammare and San Benedetto del Tronto. This tour of ours starts in Grottammare, which raises on top of an upland overhanging the sea and belongs to the list of "the most beautiful Italian hamlets". The atmosphere here is typically medieval, and the visitor's gaze gets lost in the middle of its alleys, balconies filled with flowers and a spectacular view of the sea. A walk around the city walls leads to the restored Torrione della Battaglia (Tower of the Battle), where many works of local painter and sculptor Pericle Fazzini, one of the greatest artists of the XX century, are exhibited. Then the tour heads for Ascoli Piceno.



Views of Grottammare



The Roman bridge of Solestà at the entrance of Ascoli Piceno

The capital city of the province, it is known as "the travertine city" and "the city of 100 towers", but also because of "olive all'ascolana" (Olives cooked the Ascoli way) of Meletti Anisette and of musician Giovanni Allevi. The city is rich with such artistic and architectonic elements as the Romano di Solestà bridge and Arringo square, the latter overlooked by the homonymous building, which hosts the city hall and the civic art collection, as well as St. Emidio's cathedral; and also the famous and beautiful Piazza del Popolo (People's square), and such elegant buildings as Palazzo dei Capitani del Popolo (Palace of the Captains of People) and the historical Caffè Meletti (Meletti Cafè), a charming Liberty bar. After coming to Ascoli, one has to stay for lunch. A good choice is such excellent local street food as a paper cone of "olive ascolane" and a glass of "spuma", a soft drink made in Marche since 1922.



#### SUGGESTIONS FOR VISITS IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Paggese was built with travertine stone. Almost all of its white buildings date from the XVI century and are characterized by "talking stones", as there are many Latin inscriptions on portals and window frames.

Mount Sibilla with the Cave of Fairies, the Pilate lake, the Infernaccio canyons and Mount Vettore are places rich with a great natural patrimony.



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

The "Sacra Giubilare" historical re-enactment (July) in Grottammare.

Mixed fried fish (April), The Quintain (July) in Ascoli Piceno.

Chestnut festival (October) in Montemonaco "Mazzumaja" (literally: noisy crowd of cheering children) festival (July), Birds fair (October) in Comunanza.

"Cacciannanzè" fair (July), Ancient Flavours on the Hamlet's alleys (August) in Force.





The natural heaven of "Lu Vurghe" in Acqua Santa Terme

On the road again, it only takes a few kilometres to get to the pretty town of Acqua Santa Terme, famous because in its subsoil there are sources of sulphur and salty thermal water, so that many hotels and spas were established here, where mud and water baths and inhaled therapies are practiced. Not far away there is "Le Vurghe", consisting of natural hot water pools and little cold waterfalls, rocks and plenty of vegetation: a beautiful natural corner, unique of its kind. The marine beauty of the Adriatic coast and the charms of the Sibillini mountains are separated by 75 kilometres and quite large a thermal excursion. Here we are, into an untouched and

charming territory, in Montemonaco, one of the highest towns in Marche, almost 1000 metres above sea level and one of the access points to the National Park of the Sibillini Mountains. According to a legend, in this area lived Sybil, a prophetess, a healer and a magician, whose deeds were told in the medieval literature and are collected into the homonymous museum created in Montemonaco. Most loved by children, the museum is divided into three separate sections, each showing historical and artistic documents concerning the myth of Sybil. This lovely hamlet is worth exploring on foot, up to the Fortress and to the beautiful surrounding landscape.

A view of the landscape from Monte Monaco



Montemonaco: the entrance to the Museum of Sybille



Paggesi



The city centre of Comunanza



Comunanza: the Museum of Sacred Art.

The next stop is Comunanza. Along the way, the tour is made more pleasant by the sight of the Gerosa lake. An ancient Piceno city, Comunanza rises on the shores of the Aso river whose waters divide the modern city from the historic centre, where one can get crossing a bridge which permits to admire the houses overlooking the river. Beyond it, on Palazzo Street rises St. Cathrine from Alexandria of Egypt's, a church built in 1831, with its most valued treasure, a baroque two-keyboard organ, unique in Europe for age, size and sound which is said to have been played by no less than young Mozart. The more one travels in Marche, the more one realizes it is really worth visiting its hamlets because each of them boasts characteristics of its own. In Comunanza, in the suggestive halls of Pascali Palace, one must pay a visit to the Museum of Sacred Art and dive in the beauty of the history and preservation of such works as Ghezzi's, a local artist.



### TASTING SOMETHING GOOD

Frustingo cake and timbale; guazzetto, acquapazza or brodetto (three kinds of fish soup) or fried fish in Grottammare.

Olive all'Ascolana and variety of fried fish, the typical "cacciannanzè" Ascoli flat bread in Ascoli Piceno.

Chestnuts, mushrooms and truffles in Acqua Santa Terme.

Pecorino cheese from the Sibillini mountains, "Roveja" green peas, local cured pork meat, ciauscolo salami, gelded lamb meat, pink apples in Montemonaco.

"Tordo matto" (crazy thrush), a recipe of pork meat seasoned with juniper berries and cooked on embers in Comunanza.

Beans with pork rinds, pork liver recipes and "cacciannanzè" in Force.



Views of Force

The tour ends in Force, a town that keeps the impressiveness of an ancient medieval castle and, in spite of the wounds caused by the earthquake and of the restoration works in progress, is a really worth visiting jewel of Marche's. A short tour in its alleys leads to its most important corners: the ancient Watchtower, St. Paul's, St. Francis' and the historical Canestrari Palace, the seat of the Museum of Sacred Art. Force is renowned because of its artistic copper craftsmanship and more. Copper artisans are the main attraction to visitors who love a practical approach to these peculiar places. Spirituality is there too: in the caves beneath monumental St. Francis', during Christmas time a large, beautiful and artistic nativity scene is set up, enlivened by little rivers and crowded with statuettes representing artisans at work, in practice another way of discovering this Region. Pity if one gets here late in the evening as the view, here is extraordinary: by one side there is the Adriatic sea, by the other the Sibillini Mountains: it's like looking at two postcards!



An artistic creche in Force



Vittorio Emanuele Square in Force



**DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

Grottammare lies on the 43th parallel of the Boreal Emisphere, which everywhere in the world touches varied landscapes, in Italy perhaps more than elsewhere.

The road leading from Ascoli Piceno to Force, called "Costa dei guai" (Coast of troubles) also connects Palmiano to Venarotta and Colonnata and is very fit for motorbiking.

The hamlet of Comunanza is nicknamed "the city of longevity" because many centenarians live there.



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**APECCHIO**



**PIOBBICO**



# From the seaside up to the Piceno hills

63 km | 1h e 25'

Cupra Marittima - Ripatransone



The "Muraglione" (buttress) of Castigliano



Cupra Marittima: a view of the littoral from Borgo Marano

**A** ride from the blue sea up to the green hills admiring, at each turn of the road, the relaxing landscape around. The leg begins in Cupra Marittima, the northmost town on the famous “Riviera of palms” on the southern seacoast of Marche. Its pine grove and sandy beach are fabulous, but one should not omit a visit to the ancient hamlet on top of the Marano hill. For a long time, sailors lived here, but after railroads were made and street lamps were installed, some of them moved down to the coast. Nowadays, in Borgo Marano one can see the remains of the medieval castle built by Francesco Sforza, a XV century warlord, the church of Annunciation, hosting a permanent nativity scene in a Spanish style, and the suggestive panoramic viewpoint dedicated to the author and poet Giorgio Calzagno.



Heading for Borgo Marano



Colle Marano



**DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

Ripatransone was awarded the prestigious “Orange Flag” by the Touring Club of Italy.

In Offida a legend tells about the mythical golden Snake that crossed the city’s main street, which is now consequently called “Corso Serpente Aureo” (Golden Snake Avenue).

In Carassai, the XIV century Castle of Mount Varmine is one of the perfectly integer castles existing in Marche. Unfortunately, it cannot be visited because of the damages caused by the 1997 and 2016 earthquakes.



Belvedere terrace “Adolfo de Carolis”, Montefiore dell’Aso

The bikes quit the coast, head for the hinterland and get to Montefiore dell’Aso, one of the “Most beautiful Hamlets in Italy”. After crossing Piazza Antognozzi, one gets to the “Adolfo de Carolis Viewpoint” to admire a spectacular landscape ranging from the Laga Mountains to the Sibillini Mountains, down to the Gran Sasso range.

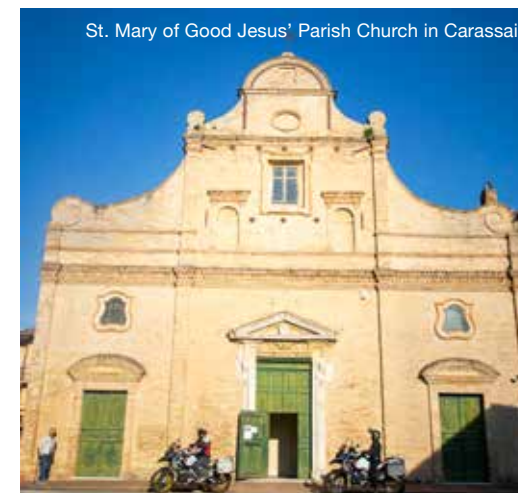
Let us put again our helmet on and leave, heading for Carassai, a little untouched hamlet dedicated to agriculture and craftsmanship, consisting of two boroughs. The “Castello Vecchio” (Old Castle), probably dating back to the Middle Ages, is the most ancient part of the village. Characterized by the typical feudal winding alleys, it deserves a walk up to St. Laurent’s. The “Castello Nuovo” (New Castle), more recent, was built in the XV century by the city of Fermo. It is rectangular and its wider roads are connected to each other by “crossing bridges”: the military nature of its walls is clear. They are circumscribed by fortifications called “military walkways”. Also, worth being seen are the little Clock Tower, that was accidentally destroyed but then rebuilt 20 years ago, and St. Mary of Good Jesus’, a church in a mixed renaissance and baroque style.



Montefiore dell’Aso: Antognozzi Square



The Clock Turret in Carassai



St. Mary of Good Jesus’ Parish Church in Carassai



Castignano seen from above



Offida, People's square



Then there is the unmistakable skyline of Castignano, a village in the shape of a pyramid, supported by a gigantic wall and overlooked by a Romanic tower and its tall pinnacle. The city centre, with its Romanic churches and medieval and renaissance houses that lean on each other in a tangle of winding and narrow alleys, is a real open-air museum. The hamlet lies into the very heart of the hilly Piceno hinterland, between the Tesino creek and the Tronto river, and is surrounded by the soft hills of Marche dressed with vineyards and olive groves.

It only takes 20 minutes, driving along the SP17, to get to Offida, the hamlet of Bobbin Lace, of Carnival and of Pecorino and Passerina, two of the best wines produced in the region. Offida is surrounded by ancient city walls dating back to the XII century. The city centre is focused on Piazza del Popolo (People's square), which amazes visitors because of its peculiar triangular shape. This is where rise the XII century City Hall, enriched with its nice arcade, and St. Mary's Assumption's Collegiate. Rising on a rocky

cliff, St. Mary's upon the Cliff stands out over the hamlet and charms with its lonely and melancholic beauty. Here, on the second step on the left of the stairway, an engraving represents a sheep and a four-leaf clover. They say that stepping on it one can make a wish come true. In the heart of the hamlet there is the interesting St. Francis' ex-monastery, which was built in the XIII century on the location of a medieval castle and of a little church dedicated to St. Martin, and now hosts the regional wine and oil collection.



### TASTING SOMETHING GOOD

Green anisette in Castignano, a Slow Food point, and the Rosso Piceno Superiore", "Falerio dei colli ascolani", "Templaria", "Gramelot" wines in Castignano.

"Chichi" (pronounced kiki) is a rustic focaccia bread cooked in the oven and stuffed with tuna fish, olives and anchovy. The "Funghetti" are aniseed flavoured cakes typical of Offida, also appreciated because of its excellent Offida DOC and Offida DOCG, Passerina DOCG and Pecorino DOCG wines.

The "Carassanese" sausage and the confectionery tradition in Carassai.

"Ciavarro" is a soup containing no less than 12 cereals and beans, typical of Ripatransone.



Merletto a Tombolo



Monument to lace makers, Offida



### SUGGESTIONS FOR VISITS IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Near Offida the Val Tesino ridges, about 80 Km of very calm roads. Never hard ascents, breath taking views upon the hills and the Sibillini Mountains while crossing beautiful medieval hamlets, typical of Marche.

The "Ecomuseo" (Ecological Museum) of the Aso Valley is an "open-air museum" including the territory of 11 communal administrations and where one can learn about the tradition and the natural, historical and artistic patrimony of the area: perfect for a visit by bike!



Ripatransone seen from above

Our tour ends in Ripatransone, called the “Piceno panoramic viewpoint” because of its suggestive panorama. The road signs to the city centre show the way up to XX September Square. Here there are St. Rocco’s, with its fine XVI century sandstone portal; the Palace of the Podesta, with the XIV century arcade, and the perfectly kept XIV century City Hall, with a travertine balustrade and an ashlar portal topped with the city’s coat of arms representing a lion standing above five hills. A little further ahead there is de Tharolis Square,

dominated by the 1931 Monument to the Fallen, a work by Ermanno Natali representing the Angel of Victory. Bianca Benvignati de Tharolis was a heroic XVI century local noblewoman. She gathered all her lady friends to create a female army. The “lady-soldiers” succeeded to set Ripatransone free from the Spanisy siege of 1521. In the maze of narrow alleys of the Roflano neighbourhood there is a most peculiar one: the narrowest alley in Italy, just 43 cm wide, which going up gets even narrower, to 38 cm only. Here, one has to stop!

Ripatransone: the narrowest alley in Italy



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

“Castagne al Borgo (Chestnuts in the Hamlet) (November) in Cupra Marittima. The “Infiorata” takes place every year in Montefiore dell’Aso on the Corpus Domini day. Carnival (February) and Templaria (August) in Castignano. The stuffed “chichi” festival and the traditional Carnival (February) in Offida. Castello in Festa (The Castle’s Holiday) (July) and the sausage festival (August) in Carassai. “Il Cavallo di Fuoco” (The Fire Horse) an Italian Heritage Event (Easter) in Ripatransone.



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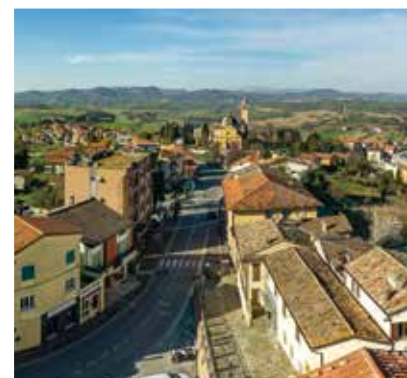
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## SASSOCORVARO AUDITORE



## TAVULLIA



# A tour through beauty and nobleness

32 km | 50'

Monteprandone - Castel di Lama



Hills in the hinterland of Ascoli





Monteprandone: the sundial in Piazza dell'Aquila (Eagle Square)



Monteprandone: St. Nicolo's Parish church.



The alleys of the castle in Monsampolo del Tronto

While riding the wide bends of the slightly upward road, we can admire the views these hills offer to our eyes. This tour takes place into the southmost area of Marche that, in addition to the beautiful landscapes, charming in every season of the year, is also rich with a perfect mix of history and tradition. The peaceful but not ordinary hamlet of Monteprandone rises on top of a little hill. They say that it was built in the IX century, when a knight from the court of Charlemagne called Prandon took residence and built a castle in this area. Our

visit begins with a walk in the city centre of this ancient hamlet. One cannot help but stop and admire the suggestive Piazza dell'Aquila (Eagle Square), delimited by such historic palaces as the XIX century City Hall and Campanelli Palace decorated with a peculiar sundial. The massive wall that flanks the area lets the visitor admire a charming landscape ranging from the mountains down to the sea. Here, the most remarkable religious shrine is the Franciscan convent built in 1449 by St. Giacomo della Marca, the most illustrious child of this land. The shining morning sun



St. Giacomo della Marca's birth place



Dalle mura castellane, di Monsampolo del Tronto

puts us in the right mood to continue our tour. Monsampolo del Tronto too lies on a hilly area and is undoubtedly a place filled with charm and mystery: in the hamlet, in fact, there is a both intriguing and disquieting place. It is the Museum of the Crypt, in the church dedicated to Mary's Assumption, which shows twenty bodies, mummified in an absolutely "normal" way, through a spontaneous process of mummification. And that is not the only treasure hiding underground. In Piazza del Castello (Castle Square), beneath the Guiderotti and Malaspina palaces, there are no less than 120 metres of winding tunnels, sustained by brick arches with barrel or cross vaults, called "hypogeous paths".



#### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The city of Monteprandone is famous because of the cult it dedicates to St. Giacomo della Marca; a Franciscan friar and a tireless preacher, he is its most illustrious citizen, further to being its patron saint, celebrated on the 28th of November.

In Colli del Tronto were born musician Antonio Lozzi (1871-1943), Giulio Cantalamessa, an artist who directed the Borghese Art Gallery in Rome, and Ignazio Cantalamessa (1856-1896), a famous physician.



#### STOPS SUGGESTED IN THE SURROUNDINGS

Near a place called St. Pio X, a Roman necropolis was found with 70 tombs, grave goods, skeletons, ceramic works, bronze coins and many other interesting findings.





The civic tower in the city centre of Spinetoli



Spinetoli: the stairway in Belvedere small square



Castorano: the medieval crenellated tower



A blooming field of rapeseed

It only takes the time to get used again to the daylight, till our bikers leave again heading for Spinetoli where, at a corner, they are welcomed by a lady busy embroidering fine bobbin lace. That is an ancient craft, bequeathed generation after generation since the XV century, and is a distinctive product of the local culture and tradition diffused in many towns in the Piceno area. According to a legend, the hamlet was built in the year 484 on a hill called "Spineola" ("a thorny place") because of the thorny wild roses that grew there. A walk can start from the ancient walls that surround the hamlet, up to the City Hall, to St. Mary's Assumption's parish church and finally to the XVIII century St. Rocco's Hermitage, rich with frescoes, low reliefs and tapestry. On the surrounding hills there are many patrician villas, built between the XVII and the XIX centuries, interesting both because of their architectural design and of the pieces of art they keep. A quick visit to



Colli del Tronto: St. Felicita's

Colli del Tronto, that rises on an area rich with ancient settlements, as is shown by the findings of stone artcrafts as well as by the Piceno necropolis and the Roman graves. Here, in XX April square, an elegant stairway leads to St. Felicita's, built in 1796 in a neoclassical style after a project by architect Pietro Maggi.

In the midday heat, one can step on the gas, on the straight track of SP18, and get restored by the flow of fresh air. Charming Castorano lies on soft hills surrounding the valley of the Tronto river. The city centre is dominated by the crenellated, pentagonal medieval tower, outstanding but perfectly integrated into the hamlet. The remains of the fortified surrounding walls, of which survives the XIII century door to the castle, are still visible. During this leg our bikers, charmed not only by the hamlet but also by the beauty of the area, decided to take some photographs of the multicoloured fields.



#### TASTING SOMETHING GOOD

The Pecorino and Rosso (Red) Offida DOCG, Rosso Marche IGP wines in Montepiccolo.

Fig stick or fig nougat, cornmeal mush, fried olives "Ascolana", beer with wine, green anisette in Monsampolo del Tronto.

Pancakes, mixed fried food "ascolana", egg noodles, cereals, Meletti Anisette and Falerio wine from the Ascoli Hills in Spinetoli.

Falerio DOC, Red Piceno, Pecorino wine and the "cacciannanz" (a typical white flat bread) in Colli del Tronto, Castorano and Castel di Lama.



Seghetti Panichi Villa

On their way to Castel di Lama, they decide to have lunch sharing company with the bees, in a tavern dedicated to these industrious insects, called “La Casa delle Api” (the House of Bees). Here one can taste “cacciannanz” flat bread, a portion of gnocchi pasta flavoured with grandma’s ragù sauce and drink a glass of boiled wine.

This is our last destination. It is named after the creek that skims it and the ancient castle that controlled the valley. While biking around, one cannot help but remark the many noble villas built in the area. They are magnificent examples of the XVIII century civil architecture, and are characterized by a typical mosaic structure, called “Villas of the Lama”. The one we suggest to visit is Borgo Seghetti Panichi, a little medieval borough including a XVIII manor house and a garden designed by gardener and landscape painter Ludwig Winter, who in the XIX century brought here such exotic plants as Ginkgo Biloba and Prunus Japonicus. There’s no better place to relax before going back home, and to end in style this tour around the province of Ascoli Piceno.



A panoramic view of Castel di Lama



#### TYPICAL EVENTS

Panoramic Holiday and Festivals of the Angus sliced steak (July) and of the Ascolana fried olive (August) in Montepandone.

Monsampolo Borgo Accogliente (Welcoming Hamlet of Monsampolo) (August).

Grapes Festival (September) in Spinetoli. Bacchus’ Festival (July) and St. Martin in the wine cellar organized by the Pro Loco society (November) in Castel di Lama.



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