

Art

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of Emilia Romagna

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Index

Introduction	p. 1
History and Art	p. 2
Landscapes	p. 24
Passions	p. 44
Personalities	p. 64
Cuisine	p. 86
Golf	p. 96
Mice	p. 102

Art Cities: A mosaic of emotions

Emilia-Romagna boasts an extraordinary collection of emotions, and its art cities are the most representative expression of this richness and variety of feelings. From Piacenza, one of the region's most austere yet sophisticated cities, to Rimini, the capital of seaside tourism, these wonderful resorts follow one another along the ancient Via Aemilia, that is the pivotal point of the vast region. Come here and visit the noble city of Parma, the seat of the European Food Authority and undisputed capital of food; the patriotic Reggio Emilia, the home town of the Italian Tricolore; Modena, the native city of Enzo Ferrari gathering countless Romanesque masterpieces; the Etruscan city of Bologna, the region's multicultural capital; Faenza, whose name has currently become synonymous with ceramics; Forlì and Cesena, that develop on the slopes of the region's sweet hills and welcome tourists with the utmost warmth and hospitality. This outstanding heritage is complemented by two authentic jewels, that have recently been included in the prestigious list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites together with the Romanesque Modena: The Byzantine Ravenna, the former capital of the Western Roman Empire, and Ferrara of the Este Family, the cradle of Renaissance that extends halfway between the banks of the river Po and the Padan Plain.

Those flocking here to admire the beauty of the region will have the possibility to take an outstanding virtual tour between past and future: On the one hand, they will have the opportunity to discover its inestimable artistic and architectural heritage while riding their bikes down the streets or walking under its famous arcades; on the other hand they will have the chance to enjoy its well-established culture of wellness, creativity and hospitality, thus laying the foundation for a bright future.

Visiting these splendid cities will bring back lots of nice memories; tourists will have the chance to perceive subtle differences and nuances among them while feeling they are all part of a common heritage. There seems to be common traits behind them all: Authentic origins, broadened horizons and open-minded people.



Graziano Prantoni

President of Unione di Prodotto Città d'Arte,
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History and Art

The 10 art cities of Emilia-Romagna, “Land with a Soul”, deserve to be discovered slowly in order to capture their very essence, enjoy their atmosphere and unveil the secrets of their fascination. They will be introduced one at a time. Here are some highlights: Apart from being the entrance gate to Emilia, Piacenza is a city of austere beauty whose pleasantly understated old centre full of fine medieval and Renaissance buildings and nearby rural villages and castles are able to attract large numbers of visitors. Parma, the former capital of the Duchy, cherishes inestimable art treasures. The eternal “pétite capitale” has a provincial feel and easy-going air, as evidenced by the pastel-coloured houses and buildings that overlook the city’s tree-lined avenues. Reggio-Emilia, the native city of the Italian Tricolore, is permeated with the atmosphere of bygone times and peppered with sumptuously decorated Baroque churches. Three cities are part of the prestigious list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Modena, with its Romanesque Piazza Grande, Duomo and Ghirlandina, that offer precious insights into medieval art and religion; Ferrara, with its Renaissance old town and the splendid Delizie Estensi of the Po Delta; Ravenna, that was the capital of Italy for three times and is still scattered with splendid mosaics of great value. The famous arcades of Bologna, that has already been dubbed “Creative City of Music” by UNESCO, are currently waiting to be included in the prestigious list. Permeated with culture, Bologna is the perfect mixture of all different regional aspects. The river Sillaro marks the watershed between Emilia and Romagna. Here comes Faenza, that is synonymous with the faïence ceramic-ware to which it gave its name. Not to be missed is the rationalist city of Forlì, that often hosts important art exhibitions and displays. Cesena is the cradle of the Malatesta Family, whose members gave the old town its current aspect and commissioned the building of its prestigious Library, that is included in the prestigious UNESCO list. Our journey across the region ends in an unusual Rimini, the homeland of Fellini and the Malatesta Family, that develops halfway between the Montefeltro area and the Adriatic Coast and cherishes outstanding beauties blessed with great charm.





Piacenza

Farnese's Horses

Pride of place goes to two bronze equestrian statues in the central Piazza Grande, the work of the famous sculptor Mochi. Lauded as masterpieces of Baroque sculpture, they were placed in the heart of the city according to the urban project Michelangelo had previously developed for the Campidoglio: The impact was so strong that the name of the square was turned into Piazza Cavalli. Commissioned by the local citizens who wanted to show their devotion to the duke, they were realized by the Tuscan artist Mochi, a pupil of Giambologna, in about sixteen years, from 1612 to 1628. The statues represent Alessandro Farnese, whose dynamism is underlined by his mantle and the quivering mane of his horse, and his son Ranuccio I Farnese, who is depicted wearing Roman dress and sceptre. Both sculptures are supported by a marble base embellished by four large bronze bas-reliefs and sixteen putti bearing coats of arms, that maybe drew inspiration from those that appear at the foot of Raphael's *Sistine Madonna*, a precious masterpiece that was cherished by the local Church of St. Sisto for the entire seventeenth century.

Tondo by Botticelli

Madonna and Child look at each other thoughtfully, calmly meditating on the events to come, while San Giovannino lifts his arms to reach for Mary's hand: This is the scene depicted by this famous painting, the Virgin contemplating her son and a rose garden and quiet Leonardo-style landscape in the background. Botticelli depicts the transparency of the veil of the Madonna with the utmost elegance, that comes to her shoulders forming superimposed folds: It seems possible to perceive the soft breeze that slightly moves the veil. The natural gesture of the Child derives from Flemish models, but also reminds of his circumcision as a descendant of David. Not to be missed is the splendid original frame, that was carved and then gold plated. This outstanding masterpiece is the pride of the rich collections cherished by the Civic Museums of Palazzo Farnese.

Pordenone's unique Mannerist style

Santa Maria di Campagna was erected in the place where Pope Urban II proclaimed the First Crusade in 1095. Giovanni Antonio de' Sacchis, also known as Pordenone, realized his masterpiece in this church working from 1530 to 1532: The frescoes adorning the dome and St. Catherine's Chapel, the latter containing the most famous scene, the *Dispute of Saint Catherine with Pagan Philosophers*. In 1535 he realized the fresco depicting Saint Augustine and the Chapel of the Magi, that is decorated with plenty of scenes depicting the Nativity, characterized by beautiful female figures and an extraordinary combination of colours of exquisite Venetian style. His unique ability to depict foreshortened views is best exemplified in the frescoes of the dome. Pordenone's Michelangelo-style foreshortened views and bright colours, that were almost unconventional in comparison with Classic composure, found their best expression in the Basilica, a kind of an art gallery with a powerful visual impact.

Teatini Hall

Extensive restoration works and state-of-the-art technology solutions contributed to turn the original Teatini Hall of the former church of St. Vincenzo into a real artistic jewel and the ideal location to listen to good music. The building, that was erected at the end of the sixteenth century, regained its original splendour thanks to extensive renovation works that were aimed at restoring its façade, paintings, stuccoes, wooden artworks and eighteenth-century frescoes. The former church was then turned into a modern auditorium featuring unrivalled acoustics, and it is now the venue for Piacenza's most important music and culture events.

Not to be missed

- Gothic Palace
- Duomo
- Basilica of Saint Anthony
- Chiaravalle della Colomba
- Vigolo Marchese Church and Baptistery

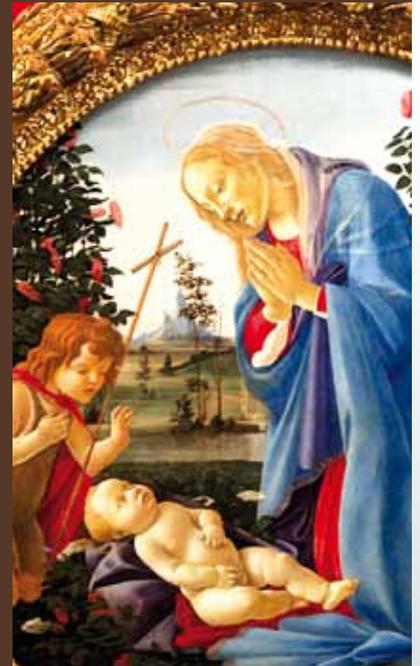
1. Francesco Mochi, equestrian statue of Alessandro Farnese, Piazza Cavalli



2. Sandro Botticelli,
*Madonna and Child
with John the Baptist* (detail),
Civic Museums Palazzo Farnese

3. Pordenone, *Nativity* (detail),
Basilica of Santa Maria
di Campagna

4. Teatini Hall



Parma

Teatro Farnese

The most fascinating sight belonging to the austere Palazzo Pilotta is Teatro Farnese, that was totally constructed from wood. Made of light materials, such as painted wood and stucco, it was commissioned by Ranuccio I to celebrate the visit of Cosimo II de' Medici. The amphitheatre-shaped room, that was often the venue for challenging tournaments and naumachia, is encircled by thirteen spectator stalls and two orders of arches and banisters embellished by plenty of ornamental sculptures and pillars. In 1956, after the war, the theatre was completely rebuilt according to the original project. The wooden parts, that had previously been totally decorated, were left plain to highlight the solidity of the original structure.

The new face of the small capital

Modern and ancient styles merge in pleasant harmony in Parma. Walking along its streets, that are peppered with outstanding art-historical sites, tourists will have the opportunity to admire both ancient monuments and contemporary artworks, that coexist in the heart of the elegant city centre. The ancient Palazzo Pilotta, that is surrounded by Maria Luigia's plane-trees, boasts sweeping views of Piazzale della Pace, that revives through the amazing project by Mario Botta: A flourishing garden embellished by both natural elements and architectural patterns that tell the story of the square. Not to be missed are the outstanding arrangements of the National Gallery, that was designed by the local architect Guido Canali. Located a very short distance from the city centre, the Auditorium dedicated to Niccolò Paganini is the result of an extraordinary requalification project of a former industrial area, and was designed by the acclaimed architect Renzo Piano.

Antelami's Almanac

The medieval culture did not separate the different aspects of life and continuously looked for connections between daily life and religion. Religious buildings often cherished peculiar "calendars" in which the year was represented by twelve sculptures corresponding to the months. One of the most famous cycles is that sculpted by Benedetto Antelami, that is currently cherished by Parma's Baptistery. Every month is interpreted by a character while performing a farming activity. The sculpture is characterized by high attention to details and a careful description of tools, plants and fruit, that are all sculpted with a realistic naturalism. Antelami was also responsible for the elegant Deposition of the Cathedral, a masterpiece of the Italian art that has a clear Gothic-Provencal influence.

Fidenza's Duomo and the museums of religion

Fidenza's Romanesque Duomo is very famous for its opulent incomplete façade, that was created by Antelami. Its three portals are worthy of mention too: The central one cherishes the statue of St. Donnino, while the side ones are also known as "Portone della Vita (Life Portal)", with its high columns supported by solid rams, and "Portone della Morte (Death Portal)" respectively, whose narrow columns are supported by telamons that seem to bear all sins of the world. A dedicated itinerary through the places of worship of the whole province gives guests the possibility to admire precious collections belonging to both Christian and Jewish traditions. The important museums of Fidenza's Duomo, Berceto' Duomo and Soragna' Synagogue contain precious collections that bear witness to the strict existing connection between religion and Parma's communities.

Not to be missed

- Duomo
- Baptistery
- Church of Santa Maria della Steccata
- National Gallery
- San Paolo Rooms





2. Benedetto Antelami, façade of Fidenza's Duomo

3. Benedetto Antelami, *Cycle of months* (detail), Parma's Baptistery

4. Piazzale della Pace, renovation project by the architect Mario Botta



1. Giovan Battista Aleotti, Teatro Farnese, National Gallery, Palazzo Pilotta

Reggio Emilia

Piazza San Prospero

The old town of Reggio Emilia gathers clusters of narrow streets and picturesque squares. Among these, three are the favourite gathering places of local inhabitants: Piazza Prampolini, the traditional Piazza Grande of every city of Emilia, that is commanded by the Duomo and the Town Hall, Piazza Fontanesi and the small square that extends opposite the Church of San Prospero, that is also known as Piazza Piccola. The southern and northern edges of so-called *Piasa C eca* are commanded by imposing Neoclassical palaces, elegant arcades and glamorous shops. This spectacular setting is complemented by the apses of the Duomo and the Baroque faade of the Basilica of San Prospero.

Basilica della Ghiara

The origins of the sumptuous seventeenth-century Basilica della Ghiara are interwoven with those of a deaf-mute man who received a miracle while he was praying in front of a picture depicting the Madonna, that was frescoed inside a niche and is still cherished inside a dedicated shrine situated to the left of the temple. The Basilica was designed by the famous architect from Ferrara Alessandro Balbi, and was built by Francesco Pacchioni from Reggio starting from 1597. It boasts a surprising interior. Its ceiling and walls are occupied by extraordinary frescoes and altar pieces that were realized by the most acclaimed seventeenth-century artists from Emilia: Ludovico Carracci, Guercino, Lionello Spada, Alessandro Tiarini, Carlo Bonomi, Luca Ferrari. It is the perfect visual representation of the so-called Baroque "Poetics of Wonder". The *Crucifixion of Christ* was commissioned to Guercino by the local authorities, that were once the owners of the Basilica. Not to be missed are the museums of the Basilica, that also include the room of the sacred vestments and fabrics dating back to the period of time comprised between the XVI and the XIX century, the treasure of Ghiara and the original project by Lelio Orsi, who drew inspiration from the miracle and who then inspired Bertone's fresco that embellishes a minor chapel.

Teatro Valli

The majestic complex of the theatre, that is one of the most beautiful in Italy, was built between 1852 and 1857 according to the project by the famous architect from Modena Cesare Costa. It extends across the area that was once occupied by the ancient citadel, and develops just in the heart of the city centre and a short distance from the Public Gardens. The theatre, that has recently been named after the acclaimed actor Romolo Valli, hosts a prestigious lyric opera season and plenty of important ballet reviews. Its offer is complemented by a library, an archive and a disco.

Reggio, inspiring city of Italy

In 2011, the Tricolore, the symbol of our contemporary history, was the undisputed protagonist of the celebrations held on the occasion of the 150^o anniversary of the Nation. The story of our flag started in Reggio long before the Italian Unification, and subsequently became the symbol of it. In January 7, 1797 the representatives of Bologna, Modena, Reggio Emilia and Ferrara, that had been freed by the French, proposed the white, red and green Tricolore as the symbol of the newborn Cispadane Republic. Since then, the history of the flag has become interconnected with the Italian vicissitudes. Reggio Emilia is an unmissable destination for Tricolore enthusiasts. The Room of Tricolore and the adjoining museum are classical tourist meccas for those interested in discovering the history of a rebel city that fought to protect its freedom. Ugo Foscolo called Reggio "inspiring city of Italy" and local inhabitants "first free Italian citizens", and dedicated its *Ode to Napoleon Bonaparte*.

Not to be missed

- Maramotti Collection of Contemporary Art
- Gualtieri, Palazzo Bentivoglio
- Scandiano, Boiardo's Fortress and House of Lazzaro Spallanzani
- Castellarano, medieval village
- Guastalla, Ducal Palace and City Museum





2. Cesare Costa,
Teatro Valli, exterior

3. Basilica and
Piazza San Prospero

4. Francesco Pacchioni,
Stuccoes inside
Basilica della Ghiara

5. Ludovico Bolognini,
Room of Tricolore, Town Hall



1. Francesco Pacchioni, vaults and
dome of Basilica della Ghiara

Modena

Stone heritage: Romanesque architecture in Modena

Modena revolves around its Duomo, Torre Ghirlandina and Piazza Grande, that were all included in the prestigious list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Since 1099, the marble profile of the Duomo, that was commissioned by the local authorities, has commanded the tomb of the Bishop of San Geminiano, the city's patron saint. The enchanting architectural elements by Lanfranco and sculptures by Wiligelmo contributed to make it a perfect combination of ancient culture and new "Lombard" art, and turned it into a model for the European Romanesque style. The reliefs by Wiligelmo and his pupils give visitors the possibility to gain precious insights into the medieval universe, since they depict both biblical episodes, monsters, mysterious creatures, Aesop's Fables and even King Arthur and his knights. Few other places in the world possess the outstanding beauty of its naves, that are illuminated by the enchanting rose window realized by the masters from Campione. Situated a short distance from Modena, the Abbey of San Silvestro in Nonantola, that was founded in 752 by the Lombard Duke Saint Anselm, played a fundamental role in Europe during the year 1000, as evidenced by the treasures of its museum and the parchments of the largest medieval archives in the world.

Terracotta Renaissance

Modena was the native town of two of the most representative Renaissance interpreters of terracotta sculpture: Guido Mazzoni, who worked for the d'Este Dynasty in Ferrara, the Angiò Family in Naples and the kings of France between the fifteenth and the sixteenth century, and Antonio Begarelli, who worked for the Benedettini Family in Parma and San Benedetto Po around the half of the sixteenth century. Mazzoni is especially famous for his realistic representation of the *Lamentation of Christ* in San Giovanni and the peculiar *Crib* that is hosted in the crypt of the Duomo, that is able to perfectly convey the idea of what everyday life used to be at the end of the fifteenth century. Begarelli's ideal of beauty was a classical one, and drew inspiration from Raphael and Correggio. It is best exemplified by the *Deposition* in St. Francesco, the *Lamentation*

in St. Agostino and plenty of further artworks included his tomb that are hosted in the Basilica of San Pietro, that is annexed to the Benedictine Abbey where he lived. St. Pietro and its sacristy, the cradle of Renaissance art, cherish some of the most representative paintings and furnishings dating back to the sixteenth century. In 1546, the elegant Mannerist artist Nicolò dell'Abate, who then became the painter of Francis I of France, frescoed the Room of Fire of the Municipal Palace depicting the *Stories of the Roman Modena*.

The Baroque splendour of the d'Este Dynasty

Francis I d'Este, who was portrayed by a famous painting by Velazquez and by a marble bust by Bernini (that are both hosted inside the Estense Gallery of Palazzo dei Musei), was the one responsible of the Baroque aspect of the Ducal Modena. The city's Ducal Palace is one of the most important Baroque residences in Italy, and the enchanting architectural patterns by Bartolomeo Avanzini and fresco cycles of the interiors bear witness to the past splendour of the d'Este Dynasty. Today, it is the seat of the Military Academy and can be visited upon booking only, while Sassuolo's Ducal Palace is always open to the general public. The holiday residence of the d'Este Dynasty, a wonderful palace that was commissioned by Francis I, is embellished by precious statues by Bernini, and boasts enchanting rooms decorated with golden stuccoes, marbles and frescoes by Jean Boulanger, a pupil of Guido Reni. The lush park revolves around the so-called Fontanazzo, a spectacular Baroque fountain that was designed by Gaspare Vigarani. The splendour of Modena's seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is also highlighted by its sumptuous noble palaces, Ducal Gardens and churches like St. Biagio, that was frescoed by Mattia Preti, and St. Agostino, a kind of a sacred "theatre" that celebrates the saints of the d'Este Dynasty. The sweet hills of the nearby Fiorano are topped by the Baroque Sanctuary of Beata Vergine, that was built by important ducal artists and boasts breathtaking views over the lush gardens of the noble palaces of the d'Este, such as Palazzo dei Marchesi Coccapani and Villa Vigarani Guastalla.

Not to be missed

- Church of St. Vincenzo and d'Este Funerary Chapel
- Covered market of Via Albinelli
- IPorch of Collegio San Carlo along the Via Aemilia
- Piazzetta Sant'Eufemia and nearby medieval paths of Via Carteria and Piazzale San Giacomo
- Piazza Pomposa, Church and Aedes Muratoriana – House of Ludovico Antonio Muratori

1. Modena's Duomo (façade) and Torre Ghirlandina



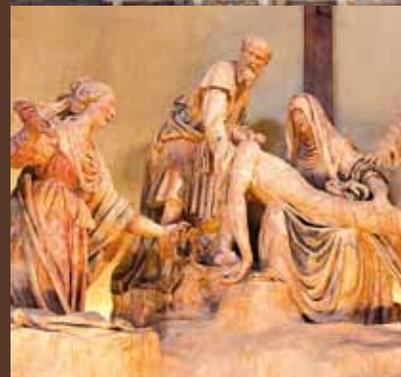


2. Sassuolo's Ducal Palace, façade

3. Wiligelmo, *Adam and Eve* (detail),
Modena's Duomo

4. Bartolomeo Avanzini, Modena's
Ducal Palace, exterior

5. Antonio Begarelli, *Lamentation*
(detail), Church of St. Agostino



Bologna

A petrified scream and Renaissance in Bologna

The Lamentation, that was realized by Niccolò dell'Arca in the second half of the fifteenth century, is one of the most representative masterpieces of the Italian sculpture. The artwork was originally cherished by an outer shrine, that was located just in front of a butcher's shop in vicolo dei Ranocchi. D'Annunzio saw it and was so fascinated by the "sublime yet terrible aspect" of the terracotta sculpture that he called it a petrified scream. Niccolò dell'Arca was also responsible for another famous masterpiece: The frieze of the marble ark of St. Dominic, which Niccolò took his name from. It is situated in the major church of the Dominican order, and its lower part was realized by Nicola Pisano. In 1494, after Niccolò died, the artwork was completed by Michelangelo, who lived and worked in Bologna for the noble Giovan Francesco Aldrovandi and who realized three sculptures for the Ark of St. Dominic.

Bologna Arts' Manufacture

Contemporary culture in Bologna is best exemplified by the local Arts' Manufacture. The ancient harbour and industrial area of the city, that has recently been totally renovated, is now the seat of the multipurpose spaces gathering the Film Library, the Music and Theatre Labs of Bologna University, the Department of Communication Sciences and precious artworks by modern and contemporary artists belonging to MAMbo, the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art. The lovers of contemporary art will have the possibility to visit Morandi House and Museum, Palazzina Éspirit Nouveau by Le Corbusier and the Towers of the trade fair district, that were designed by Kenzo Tange. Riola, that is situated few kilometres far from the city and develops amidst the sweet surrounding hills, is home to the famous Church by Alvar Aalto, the only artwork ever realized in Italy by the acclaimed Swedish artist.

Raphael and the National Art Gallery

Bologna dedicated the splendid Renaissance Oratory of via Zamboni to Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music. It includes prestigious artworks by famous painters who worked for the Bentivoglio Family, such as Francesco Francia, Amico Aspertini and Lorenzo Costa. The sumptuously frescoed Oratory of St. Colombano cherishes the precious Tagliavini Collection gathering ancient organs. St. Cecilia by Raphael, that was painted for the Church of San Giovanni in Monte, became a model for a whole generation of sixteenth-century painters from Emilia-Romagna. It is now the pride of the collection of the National Art Gallery, that contains the most representative artworks from Emilia realized between the fourteenth and the eighteenth century by Vitale da Bologna, Niccolò dell'Abate, Parmigianino, the Carracci brothers, Guido Reni, Guercino, Domenichino and many more. The Art Gallery also contains the only existing autograph painting by the famous Tuscan artist Giotto.

The Carracci Family and Palazzo Fava

The history of Bologna is strictly interwoven with that of the Carracci Family. Palazzo Fava cherishes their first fresco cycle, that was described by Roberto Longhi as an "historical romance" that is able to exceed Mannerism and "communicate directly just like an open window". The sixteenth century marked the beginning of a new artistic era. The Palace belongs to the important circuit of museums Genus Bononiae, that also includes Palazzo Pepoli Vecchio. It is now the seat of the Museum of the History of Bologna, that illustrates the history and evolutions of the city from the time of the Etruscan Felsina up to present-day Bologna.

Not to be missed

- Piazza Maggiore and its monuments
- Medieval Museum
- Basilica of Santo Stefano
- Two Towers
- Palace of the Archigymnasium and Anatomical Theatre

1. Niccolò dell'Arca,
Lamentation over the Death Christ,
Church of Santa Maria della Vita





2. Michelangelo Buonarroti,
Angel with candlestick,
Basilica of San Domenico

3. "The first modern nude
in the history of art"
(Andrea Emiliani): Ludovico Carracci,
The Enchantments of Medea (detail),
Palazzo Fava

4. Le Corbusier,
L'Esprit Nouveau

5. Raphael,
Ecstasy of St. Cecilia, (detail),
National Art Gallery



Ferrara

Cathedral of Saint George

Designed by Nicholaus, a pupil of Wiligelmo, the Cathedral is a Romanesque-Gothic hybrid, as evidenced by the three spires of its upper part. Fine reliefs on the façade depict scenes from the medieval sacred history. The bas-relief depicting *Saint George on horse killing the dragon* celebrates the city's patron saint, while the prothyrum is decorated with plenty of scenes from the *Last Judgment with Christ, the angels, the Virgin and Saint John*. In the centre an angel is depicted while weighting sins against merits, while the righteous are sent to Paradise and the wicked to Hell, where terrible demons administer severe punishments

Ferrara Renaissance

Palazzo Schifanoia is home to the most prestigious Renaissance masterpieces in Ferrara. Visitors will have the opportunity to admire the fine details of the frescoes of the so-called Room of the Months, that depict scenes from the court of the duke including ladies and knights, jesters and farmers, clothes, hairstyles, jewels, musical instruments, donkeys, horses and even mythical creatures, such as unicorns, monkeys, swans and plenty of further mythological figures. The decoration of the room was carried out around the half of the fifteenth century by the great artists of the so-called Officina Ferrarese, such as Cosmè Tura, Francesco del Cossa and Ercole de'Roberti, and celebrates the enlightened reign of Borso d'Este, the first Duke of Ferrara. Their overwhelming "imaginative style" is able to confuse the standard Tuscan-Roman idea of the Renaissance. Painted pilasters encircle the sectors, each of them corresponding to a month. Each sector is in turn subdivided into three horizontal parts: The upper part depicts pagan gods while the lower one represents scenes from the everyday life of both common people and the court. The central sector bears the symbols of the western zodiac and the decans of the Egyptian zodiac.

The Convent of St. Anthony in Polesine

This ancient convent, that was founded by Beata Beatrice II d'Este, is idyllically set just in the heart of a peaceful setting that was once flanked by the river Po. The church hosts outstanding artworks of great value, such as two chapels embellished by precious frescoes by Giotto and his pupils, that were realized between the end of the thirteenth century and the half of the fourteenth century. The left ones depict scenes from *Christ's Childhood and the Life of the Virgin*, while the right ones depict the Passion of Christ. The central chapel gathers precious frescoes dating back to different periods, such as the delicate *Annunciation* by Domenico Panetti (1460-1530) and the sixteenth-century ceiling. It is still possible to attend the morning mass sung by the nuns.

Palazzo dei Diamanti

Commissioned by Sigismondo d'Este in 1493, it is the masterpiece of Biagio Rossetti. It is named after the 8.500 "diamonds" that embellish the marble rustication of the original structure. Idyllically set at the junction of the two major arterial routes of the so-called Addizione Erculea commissioned by Duke Ercole I, it symbolizes the prestige of the d'Este Dynasty while underlining the importance of the crossroads itself, that is the core of the extensive renovation works that made Ferrara a great capital of Renaissance. The palace was originally designed with the focal point in the corner, that was embellished by candlestick-shaped decorations by Gabriele Frisoni and by a small balcony. The ground floor is home to a huge exhibition space that is often the venue for important art displays, while the National Art Gallery of the noble floor cherishes precious masterpieces from the surrounding area.

Not to be missed

- Municipal Theatre
- Casa Romei
- Temple of St. Cristoforo alla Certosa
- Piazza Ariostea and city walls
- National Archaeological Museum at Palazzo Costabili





2. Palazzo dei Diamanti, exterior, rustication detail



3. Last Judgment (detail), prothyrum of the Cathedral



4. Convent of St. Anthony in Polesine, interior



1. Francesco del Cossa, *March*, Room of the Months, Palazzo Schifanoia



Ravenna

All the Adventure of Mosaics

TAMO - Tutta l'Avventura del Mosaico (All the Adventure of Mosaics) is the new permanent exhibition that is hosted in the Complex of St. Nicolò. Prestigious mosaics from Ravenna and the surrounding territory are displayed to give visitors the possibility to discover all secrets lying behind the manufacturing processes. A fascinating history is told through an interactive, funny display. The visit is complemented by a spectacular projection inside St. Nicolò, that is aimed at revealing the origins of the outstanding architectural elements of the church.

The eight UNESCO sites

Ravenna, that was the capital of the Western Roman Empire, the capital of Theodoric King of the Ostrogoths and the capital of the Byzantine Empire in Europe, still retains outstanding monuments of great value. It is the city of mosaic, since this art found its perfect expression there. Ravenna's basilicas and baptisteries cherish the most precious mosaic collections dating back to the V and VI centuries. This is the main reason why eight of its early Christian and Byzantine buildings were included in the prestigious list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites: The wonderful starry vaulted ceiling of the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia; the fine decorations of the Neonian Baptistery, that drew inspiration from the same Hellenistic patterns that also influenced the realization of the Arian Baptistery; the sumptuous Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, that was commissioned by Theodoric the Great; the intimate Chapel of St. Andrea, where Christ Triumphant is celebrated and surrounded by more than hundred little birds; the Mausoleum of Theodoric, an imposing structure surmounted by a huge dome; the Basilica of St. Vitale, the most representative artwork dating back to the early Christian age, that boasts an outstanding representation of the imperial court; and the apse of the elegant Basilica of Sant'Apollinare in Classe, that is situated a short distance from the city centre, that cherishes an outstanding representation of Christ and St. Apollinare, the city' first bishop and patron saint, together with his white sheep.

House of the Stone Carpets

The eighteenth-century Church of St. Eufemia, that develops three metres below the level of the old town, hides a magnificent artwork: 14 rooms decorated with polychrome mosaics and marbles that once belonged to a private V-VI-century Byzantine palace make the so-called House of the Stone Carpets one of the most important archaeological sites ever discovered in Italy over the last decades. Not to be missed are the splendid mosaics bearing geometrical, floral and figurative patterns, while the most representative ones are those depicting the *Dance of the Gods of the Seasons*, a rare representation that shows Gods dancing in a circle, and those portraying the *Good Shepherd*, that is depicted differently than in Christian representations.

Contemporary mosaic

The contemporary mosaic art found perfect expression in Ravenna, as evidenced by the mosaics of Parco della Pace, the monumental elegance of *Ardea Purpurea* Fountain in Piazza della Resistenza and the rich collection of contemporary mosaics that were realized in the 50s by skilled local artists using the internationally famous models cherished by MAR, the city's Art Museum. From the museum to the city's workshops, the mosaic tradition still permeates Ravenna, that is scattered with dedicated schools, academies and labs that can be visited by the general public during dedicated tours that are aimed at illustrating traditional processes and techniques.

Not to be missed

- National Museum
- Archbishop Museum
- Classe Library
- Dante's Tomb
- Multimedia Room, Dante Museum





2. Dance of the Gods of the Four Seasons, House of the Stone Carpets

3. Cathedral and Neonian Baptistery, exterior

4. TAMO. Tutta l'Avventura del Mosaico, Complex of St. Nicolò.

5. Ardea Purpurea (Red Heron) Fountain, realized by Marco Bravura in 1999 on the occasion of Ravenna Festival, Piazza della Resistenza, Ravenna

1. Basilica of San Vitale, interior

Faenza

Faenza ceramic-ware

During the Renaissance period, Faenza became very famous for the production of splendid pottery works that were exported all over Europe. Since 1500, Faenza has been synonymous with the "faience" ceramic-ware (French translation of Faenza) to which it gave its name. Its traditional arts and crafts have been perpetrated for over five centuries now, and Faenza keeps producing unique items that are sold in the city's over 50 pottery workshops. Visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy outstanding experiences: Skilled artists welcome them inside their laboratories and illustrate the secrets of their work, from lathe manufacturing to decoration. The city is livened up by plenty of amazing ceramic-related shows and events: Every two years, during the first September weekend, the most talented artists meet on the occasion of the so-called "Mondali Tornianti", and take part in challenging technical competitions, while the best European craftsmen participate in "Argilla Italia", an international exhibition gathering more than 200 exhibitors, and Raku ware experts visit the dedicated "Rakuriosi" event.

Faenza, city of art

Faenza, that boasts Roman origins, is an elegant Renaissance city scattered with prestigious architectures dating back to different historical periods. Tourists will have the possibility to take part in plenty of different tours in order to discover its medieval austerity, Renaissance classicism, Baroque splendour and Art-nouveau elegance. The city centre revolves around the majestic Piazza del Popolo, that is surrounded by two elegant arcades that develop next to the Town Hall and Palazzo del Podestà respectively, and is commanded by the imposing Clock Tower. Piazza della Libertà, that extends a short distance from Piazza del Popolo, is home to a Baroque monumental fountain that was made in Istrian stone and bronze, and also hosts the Renaissance Cathedral dedicated to Saint Peter the Apostle that was realized by Giuliano da Maiano. Not to be missed is the Neoclassical Palazzo Milzetti, while those interested in admiring precious paintings by great artists won't miss the opportunity to visit the Municipal Art Gallery.

MIC, Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche (International Ceramics Museum)

Founded in 1908 by Gaetano Ballardini, MIC cherishes the largest ceramic collection in the world. Apart from gathering important Italian and European artworks dating back to the period comprised between the Middle Ages and the nineteenth century, the museum also contains important sections dedicated to pre-Columbian America, Classical Greece, Roman Age, Near and Middle East and Islamic ceramics. Special sectors are dedicated to the ceramic works realized by the most acclaimed Italian and international 20th-century and contemporary artists. The museum also includes a dedicated library, the educational laboratory "Giocare con l'Arte", that is managed following Bruno Munari's method, and the workshops, that are in charge of restoring heritage works. Since 1938, MIC has hosted "Premio Faenza", that became an international event in 1963 and is now regarded to be one of the major recognitions in the world. The last three editions were dedicated to young under-40 artists, in order to promote an innovative approach to contemporary ceramic art. MIC has recently been appointed symbol of peace by UNESCO.

Not to be missed

- Teatro Masini
- Palazzo Milzetti
- Oriolo Tower
- Palazzo Laderchi
- Palio del Niballo

1. Renaissance plate depicting *Iulia Bela*, MIC, International Ceramic Museum





2. MIC. International Ceramic Museum, exhibition room

3. Piazza del Popolo

4. Palazzo Milzetti, National Museum of Neoclassical Age in Romagna, area preceding the bathroom



Forlì Cesena

Rationalism in Romagna

In the 30s, a new urban and architectural design gave birth to the rationalist idea of the twenty-year Fascist period. The new face of Forlì was designed by Roman architects, like Cesare Bazzani (Postal Building, State Offices Building, War Memorial of Piazzale della Vittoria) and Cesare Valle (O.N.B. House then G.I.L. and Aeronautical Academy), and local artists, such as Arnaldo Fuzzi (Agricultural Station, I.T.I.S., I.N.A. Buildings). The nearby Predappio is a real Urban Museum. Commissioned in 1925 by Benito Mussolini, who was born there in 1883, it develops around Piazza Garibaldi and Piazza Sant'Antonio. Not to be missed are the Parish Church of St. Anthony of Padua, the graveyard of San Cassiano in Pennino, the native house of Mussolini and the so-called Rocca delle Caminate, the summer residence of Mussolini Family. In the 30s, Mussolini decided to build a big thermal hotel in Castrocaro Terme in order to use it as the guest quarters of Rocca delle Caminate. It consisted of three main buildings: The bathing establishment, the hotel itself and the entertainment pavilion, that were all fully integrated with the surrounding park. Forlì's rationalist heritage was included in the list of outstanding beauties identified by the international project "Rotta Culturale Europea", that gathers the most representative architectures of the totalitarian regimes of the XX century.

Malatesta Library: UNESCO World Memory

Founded around the half of the fifteenth century, the Malatesta Library is one of the most representative landmarks of Cesena and Romagna, since it boasts peculiar architectural patterns and an outstanding historical and cultural heritage. In 1992, UNESCO included it in the prestigious list of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites for its high historical value, and it is currently part of the important "World Memory" Register. The library gives visitors the possibility to enjoy a mysterious medieval atmosphere while admiring handmade codes, important coats of arms and magnificent reading rooms.

San Domenico Museums and Forlì Civic Art Gallery

Forlì is home to an outstanding museum, whose establishment was made possible by the architectural renovation works carried out around the monumental Complex of San Domenico, that is now the seat of the city's Art Gallery and Civic Museums. The pride of this exhibition area is the famous Hebe by Antonio Canova. Other artworks worthy of mention are the prestigious paintings by Guido Cagnacci, Guercino, Carlo Cignani and Andrea Sacchi. Precious artworks by Beato Angelico, Lorenzo di Credi, Antonio Rossellino and Marco Palmezzano embellish the oldest sector of the Art Gallery. Over the last few years, the complex has been the venue for important international exhibitions dedicated to Marco Palmezzano, Silvestro Lega, Guido Cagnacci, Antonio Canova, Melozzo da Forlì and Adolfo Wildt, the acclaimed Swiss-Italian sculptor of the early twentieth century whose artworks are extensively celebrated by the museum. The great exhibition "Novecento. Arte e vita in Italia fra le due guerre (Twentieth century: Art and Life in Italy between the two wars)" is dedicated to painting and sculpture in the interwar period. Art disciplines: Painting, sculpture, architecture, graphics, design and fashion. Artists: Picasso, Carrà, Severini, Soffici, Casorati, Prampolini, Balla, Sironi, De Chirico, Morandi, Funi, Campigli, Donghi, De Pisis, Maccari, Manzù, Guttuso, Martini, Andreotti, Fontana, Messina.

Tito Balestra Foundation, Longiano

Longiano's Malatesta Castle is the seat of the important modern and contemporary art collection by the local poet and writer Tito Balestra, whose more than two thousand paintings illustrate peculiar elements of the Italian figurative arts of the twentieth century. Moreover, it possesses one of the most considerable collections of artworks by Mino Maccari. The rooms of the castle also gather important artworks by famous Italian artists of the past century, such as Morandi, Guttuso, De Pisis, Campigli and Sironi, and an entire room is dedicated to international artists, such as Chagall, Kokoschka, Heckel and Matisse.

1. Casa del Fascio, Predappio



Not to be missed

- Pieve di Polenta, Bertinoro
- Basilica of San Mercuriale, Forlì
- Ravalдино/Caterina Sforza Fortress, Forlì
- Stoppioni Gallery, Santa Sofia
- Lega Art Gallery, Modigliana

2. Malatesta Library, Cesena

3. Beato Angelico,
Nativity and Prayer in the Garden,
San Domenico Museums

4. Antonio Canova, *Hebe*,
San Domenico Museums

5. Tito Balestra Foundation.
Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art,
Longiano, exhibition room



Rimini

Fourteenth century in Rimini Santarcangelo di Romagna

In the fourteenth century, the golden period of Rimini's art, a painting school was founded in the city. Following the ideals divulged by Giotto, its exponents elaborated a fine, original language, that is still recognizable in the frescoes of the church of St. John the Evangelist, that is also called St. Agostino by local inhabitants. The frescoes of the main chapel and those adorning the chapel of the bell tower are the most representative expressions of the artworks realized by Giotto's School. Neri, Giovanni, Giuliano, Pietro da Rimini and Giovanni Baronzio realized fine masterpieces following the teachings of their Tuscan mentor, who had previously operated in Assisi and Rimini itself, as evidenced by the Crucifix of the apse of the local Malatesta Temple, that was realized around the beginning of the fourteenth century. Giotto's pupils also produced precious polyptychs and small altar pieces, some of which are cherished by the local City Museum, as well as the big fresco depicting the Last Judgment that embellishes the church of St. Agostino.

Verucchio's Civic Archaeological Museum

Founded in the VII century and hosted inside the Monastery of the Augustinian Friars, this museum is one of the most important artistic and cultural sites of the interior of Rimini. It cherishes rare, unique finds and remains coming from hundreds of Villanovan-Etruscan tombs dating back to the period of time comprised between the X and the VI century B.C. Plenty of well-preserved finds and remains were unearthed in Verucchio's necropolises, such as wooden items, vegetal fibre containers, precious fabrics and a wooden throne embellished by human representations. The Augustinian Monastery that hosts it is worthy of note too for its sumptuous architectures and the inner church of St. Agostino.

Santarcangelo is idyllically set on the top of an impressive rock spur that overlooks Via Aemilia and Valmarecchia. Famous all over the world as the seat of one of the most important theatrical reviews in Italy, it is also home to two of the most representative sacred buildings of the surrounding territory. The first one is San Michele Arcangelo, the oldest parish church in Rimini. Named after the city's patron saint, it was built in the VI century according to the style of the Byzantine churches of Ravenna. The second one is the Collegiate Church, the most important eighteenth-century building of the province. Built between 1744 and 1758 by Giovan Francesco Buonamici, its fine interior drew inspiration from the typical sober elements from both Rome and Bologna. Its wide apse cherishes an interesting altar piece depicting the city's patron saints that was painted by Giovan Gioseffo Dal Sole. It also gathers further artworks of great value, such as the altar piece of the second altar on the left, that was realized by Guido Cagnacci in 1635 for the confraternity of blacksmiths and carpenters, and a precious crucifix by the fourteenth-century Rimini's School.

Villa Franceschi, Riccione

The Modern and Contemporary Art Gallery is hosted inside an elegant residence that was built at the beginning of the twentieth century and has recently been completely remodelled and turned into a museum. The exhibition, that starts with an eighteenth-century artwork by the illustrious artist from Bologna Mauro Tesi, is subdivided into nine sectors, and gives visitors the possibility to undertake an outstanding virtual journey across the artistic history of the past half century. Paintings, sculptures, sketches and manifestos by the most acclaimed exponents of contemporary art and graphics are flanked by plenty of interesting temporary exhibitions that are held here all year round.

Not to be missed

- Malatesta Temple
- Tiberius Bridge
- Arch of Augustus
- San Leo's Duomo
- Rimini's Grand Hotel

1. Leon Battista Alberti, Malatesta Temple

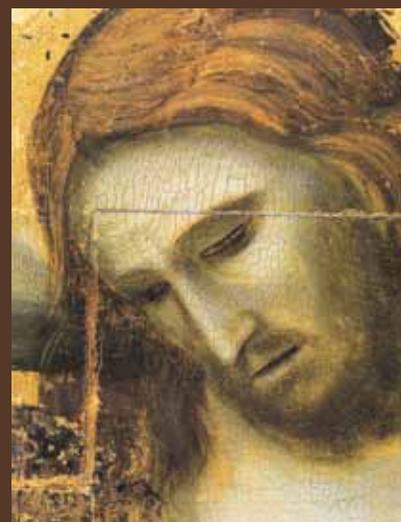


2. Giotto, *Crucifix* (detail),
Malatesta Temple

3. Parish Church
of San Michele Arcangelo,
Santarcangelo di Romagna

4. Giovanni Bellini,
Dead Christ with Angels,
City Museum, Rimini

5. Jewels, Verucchio's Civic
Archaeological Museum



Landscapes

Renowned for its art, history and evocative landscape, Emilia-Romagna is one of the most prosperous areas in Italy. This section is dedicated to the beautiful hamlets and picturesque villages that develop around the region's 10 cities of art. Take your time to visit its major sights and let its unique atmosphere pervade your heart and soul. Emilia-Romagna's outstanding historical, artistic and cultural sites sit at the heart of the glorious countryside for which the region is equally renowned. Imposing fortresses and castles, lovely towns, picturesque villages and beautiful parish churches stretch from Piacenza to Rimini, from the sea to the river Po and the Apennines. The Duchy of Parma and Piacenza boasts a 300-year-long history, but the fortresses and castles that punctuate the surrounding hills cherish even older memories. Imposing fortified walls were erected to protect the feudal state that was ruled by the great Countess Matilda between the XI and the XII century: Impenetrable castles were erected between the rivers Taro and Reno to defend her possessions, and a thick network of fortifications can still be seen halfway between Reggio, Modena and Bologna attracting large numbers of cultural tourists. Idyllically set along the course of the river Po, the so-called Delizie Estensi, that were the residences of the Dukes of Ferrara, were included in the prestigious list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, since they "illustrate the influence of Renaissance culture on the natural landscape in an exceptional manner". The sweet hills of Imola and Faenza are peppered with imposing medieval fortresses, while the residences of the Malatesta and the Montefeltro, that develop halfway between Rimini and Cesena, mark the watershed between the north and the thriving south.

Orange Flags

Bagno di Romagna (FC)

Bobbio (PC)

Brisighella (RA)

Busseto (PR)

Castell'Arquato (PC)

Castelvetro di Modena (MO)

Castrocaro Terme e Terra del Sole (FC)

Fanano (MO)

Fiumalbo (MO)

Fontanellato (PR)

Longiano (FC)

Montefiore Conca (RN)

Monteleone (FC)

Pennabilli (RN)

Portico e San Benedetto (FC)

Premilcuore (FC)

San Leo (RN)

Sestola (MO)

Verucchio (RN)

Vigoleno (PC)

Most beautiful villages of Italy

Bobbio (PC)

Brisighella (RA)

Castell'Arquato (PC)

Compiano (PR)

Dozza (BO)

Montefiore Conca (RN)

Montegridolfo (RN)

San Giovanni in Marignano (RN)

San Leo (RN)

Vigoleno (PC)





Piacenza

Bobbio

In the Early Middle Ages, Bobbio, that became a city in 1014 after the Gold Bull issued by Frederick II, was one of the most important religious sites in Italy. The medieval charm of the ancient village, that is peppered with narrow streets, lovely stone houses and handsome palaces, testifies to the region's wealth, and indicates a long-standing tradition of art, culture and science. Idyllically set just in the heart of the so-called Via degli Abati (Abbots' Route), Bobbio develops around the ancient monastery of San Colombano, and is totally surrounded by the glorious landscapes of Val Trebbia, what makes it one of the most famous tourist destinations in the province of Piacenza. The Abbey is named after the Irish saint who flocked there and left an indelible mark on the city's culture. It is the city's most representative landmark together with the irregular profile of its Ponte Gobbo. Legend has it that this bridge was the place where San Colombano met the Devil. Marco Bellocchio, an acclaimed director who spent his childhood and summer holidays in Bobbio, chose the city as the set of some of his best films, and established Bobbio Film Festival and Laboratorio di Fare Cinema there.

Castell'Arquato

Tucked into beautiful folded hills, Castell'Arquato is one of the prettiest medieval villages in the countryside south of the river Po. Day visitors come at the weekends to explore its mysterious lanes and picturesque stone houses. The municipal square, that develops in the upper part of the town, is dominated by the impressive Rocca Viscontea, that once suited defensive purposes, the Collegiate Church of Santa Maria Assunta, a Romanesque building featuring some Gothic and Renaissance elements too, Palazzo del Podestà and the Museum of the Collegiate Church. Castell'Arquato's fascinating medieval atmosphere made it the ideal location for both costume-drama films, such as *Lady Hawk* by Richard Donner, and important historical recollections, that are often held here all year round.

Vigoleno

Vigoleno, that is idyllically set on the top of an impressive rock spur that rises halfway between Piacenza's Geological Reserve and the Fluvial Park of the river Stirone, is one of the most fascinating medieval villages of the province of Piacenza. It still gazes across the countryside from on high, and boasts breathtaking views over the vine-clad hills of the surrounding area. Walking down its winding lanes and narrow streets, visitors will have the possibility to enjoy the fascinating beauty that permeates every nook and cranny of the village. The central square is dominated by the Oratory of Madonna delle Grazie and by the Parish Church of San Giorgio, the latter being one of the most important examples of sacred Romanesque architecture of the whole territory crossed by the Via Francigena.

The province of the castles

The province of Piacenza was dubbed the province of the castles, since its territory is scattered with more than three hundred fortresses and ancient military structures. The noble families that lived there during the past centuries were often involved in cruel fights and wars, they were the protagonists of tragic love stories and commissioned the building of splendid residences, that were often realized by enlightened artists. Some castles are now open to the general public. Visitors will have the possibility to admire the vestiges of the past and discover ancient mysteries, legends and ghost stories.

Highlights: Agazzano Fortress and Castle, Malaspina Dal Verme Castle in Bobbio, Rocca Viscontea in Castell'Arquato, Castle of Grazzano Visconti, Castle of Gropparello, Rocca d'Olgisio in Pianello Val Tidone, Paderna Castle in Pontenure, Rivalta Castle in Gazzola, Castle of San Pietro in cerro, keep and fortified village of Vigoleno di Vernasca.

1. Ponte Gobbo, Bobbio





2. Castell'Arquato, view

3. Vigoleno, view

4. River Trebbia, Rivalta



Parma

The Castles of the Duchy

This fascinating itinerary, that extends from the Apennines up to the lower part of the province, includes 13 amazing sights. The imposing Fortress of Bardi rises on the top of an impressive red rock spur; the Castle of Compiano commands the fascinating Val Taro, that extends halfway between Emilia and Liguria; the Castle of Corniglio dominates the underlying valley and has recently been turned into an hostel. The Castle of Felino is home to the interesting Salami Museum; the thirteenth-century merloned Castle of Montechiarugolo rises just in the heart of Val d'Enza, and formed the backdrop to hundreds of battles; the Fortress of Sala Baganza, that is the residence of Counts Sanvitale, cherishes precious frescoes dating back to the sixteenth century; the Castle of Torrechiara, one of the best-preserved fortresses in Italy, cherishes the splendid Golden Room, that was frescoed by Benedetto Bembo; the Castle of Varano Melegari was a defensive fortress built against the attacks of Val Ceno. The Fortress of Colorno, that was the sumptuous residence of the Farnese, Borbone and Maria Luigia, gathers splendid inner courtyards, sumptuously frescoed rooms and the enchanting water fountains of the French formal garden; Sanvitale Fortress in Fontanellato cherishes an outstanding art treasure, the Room of Diana and Actaeon, that was frescoed by Parmigianino; the Castle of Roccabianca was built by Pier Maria Rossi and named after Bianca Pellegrini; the splendid frescoes of Rocca dei Rossi in San Secondo celebrate the power of the noble family; last but not least, Rocca Meli Lupi in Soragna contains prestigious Baroque decorations and precious paintings by Nicolò dell'Abate, Baglione and Bibiena.

Certosa di Parma

Erected by skilled Benedictine artists between 1314 and 1324, the Certosa di Paradigna is one of the most representative examples of the Italian Cistercian culture. The Latin-cross plan church was realized according to the canons of the Lombard Gothic style, but was subsequently remodelled over the course of the centuries. The current façade and the windows of the left side were built at the beginning of the eighteenth century, while the right wing is flanked by the remains of a fifteenth-century structure. Even the ancient monastery was remodelled in the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. The frescoes of the dome were realized by Cesare Baglione in 1580. The Certosa di Paradigna must not be confused with that of San Girolamo, that is also known as Certosa di Parma. It now seems certain that the Certosa di Paradigna (and not that of San Girolamo) gave Stendhal the inspiration to write his famous romance, *La Certosa di Parma*.

Verdi's Landscapes

The heritage left by Giuseppe Verdi, the most important exponent of melodrama, attracts large numbers of music lovers and plenty of further visitors too. The fascinating itinerary that follows the traces of Verdi, that develops from Parma up to Sant'Agata in the province of Piacenza, gives tourists the possibility to gain precious insights into the strong relationship the artist had with his native land, the lower part of the province. Roncole Verdi, a small hamlet of Busseto, is the first stop of this itinerary, since it hosts his native house and the early medieval church of San Michele Arcangelo, where he played the organ. Busseto is the most important Verdi-related place: Piazza Verdi is dominated by the thirteenth-century fortress that is home to Teatro Verdi; Casa Barezzi was the place where his career started under the supervision of Antonio Barezzi; in 1836, he got married with Margherita Barezzi in the Oratory of Santissima Trinità; he composed his first pieces in Palazzo Orlandi. Giuseppe Verdi National Museum has recently been inaugurated in Busseto, and a long opera season celebrates the music by Verdi during the popular Festival Verdi that takes place in Parma every year.

The river Po and Bassa Parmense

Bassa Parmense, the lower part of the province of Parma that is often wrapped into dense fog in Autumn and basked in the sun in summer, is peppered with picturesque villages that abound in history and art. The fertile plain that develops along the banks of the river Po is permeated with a magical atmosphere, that was even celebrated by plenty of Verdi's melodramatic pieces. Bassa Parmense is the homeland of Giovannino Guareschi, who invented the characters of Don Camillo and Peppone and developed the theory of *Mondo Piccolo*. Fontanelle, his native town, is the seat of the Museum of Mondo Piccolo, while Roncole Verdi, where he was buried, is home to Giovannino Guareschi Archives and dedicated exhibition. Bernardo Bertolucci filmed some scenes from *Novecento* in a typical courtyard of the surrounding territory. Visitors will have the opportunity to discover this territory and the basin of the river Po on the occasion of special festivals and events, both sailing along the river or cycling across the thick network of cycle paths of the surrounding area. The lovers of gastronomy won't miss the opportunity to taste typical pork specialities, such as cotechino, spalla cotta, salami and the exceptional Culatello di Zibello.

2. Fascinating foggy landscape in the Bassa Parmense

3. Monument to Giuseppe Verdi, Busseto

4. Certosa di Paradigna

1. Parmigianino, *Room of Diana and Actaeon*, Sanvitale Fortress, Fontanellato





Reggio Emilia

Matilda Castles

The extraordinary fortification system of the Lands of Canossa revolves around the fascinating ruins of Canossa Castle, that was the residence of the Great Countess Matilda. Ludovico Ariosto, who was hosted there, described the impressive rock spur where the castle was situated as Atlante's enchanted fortress in his famous *Orlando Furioso* (The Frenzy of Orlando). A small museum has recently been built next to the castle. The fortress is idyllically set amidst the first reliefs of the Emilian Apennines overlooking the Po Valley. The sweet surrounding hills and gentle slopes are topped by further fascinating castles, such as the castles of Bianello di Quattro Castella, Sarzano di Casina and Carpineti, that, together with the parish churches of Marola and Toano, represent the heart of Matilda's impressive fortification system.

The great river

The 20-km-long banks of the river Po that extend in the province of Reggio-Emilia are scattered with plenty of artistic and historical sites of great value. Brescello was chosen as the set of the movies of Peppone and don Camillo (Gino Cervi and Fernandel), the protagonists of the famous romances by Guareschi, and also hosts an interesting dedicated museum. Not to be missed is its Archaeological Museum, that gathers precious finds and remains dating back to the period of the Roman domination. Walking along the eastern banks of the river, visitors will have the possibility to reach Boretto and Lido Po, that are the major points of departure of Reggio's ferry boats and motor ships. Another place worthy of mention is the splendid porticoed Argenta Square, whose harmony was even celebrated by Gualtieri. It is dominated by the imposing Palazzo Bentivoglio, that is home to the splendid Room of Giants, the famous frescoes that drew inspiration from Gerusalemme Liberata (Jerusalem Delivered) and an interesting museum dedicated to the illustrious painter Ligabue, who lived here and died in 1965. Guastalla cherishes splendid art treasures dating back to the period of the Gonzaga domination: The monument to Ferrante Gonzaga del Leoni, the Ducal Palace and the annexed City Museum and the Renaissance cathedral. Luzzara is home to the original Museum of Naive Art, the ideal destination for those interested in gaining precious insights into the most representative art movement of the surrounding area, that was fostered by the acclaimed Neorealist poet and scriptwriter Cesare Zavattini.

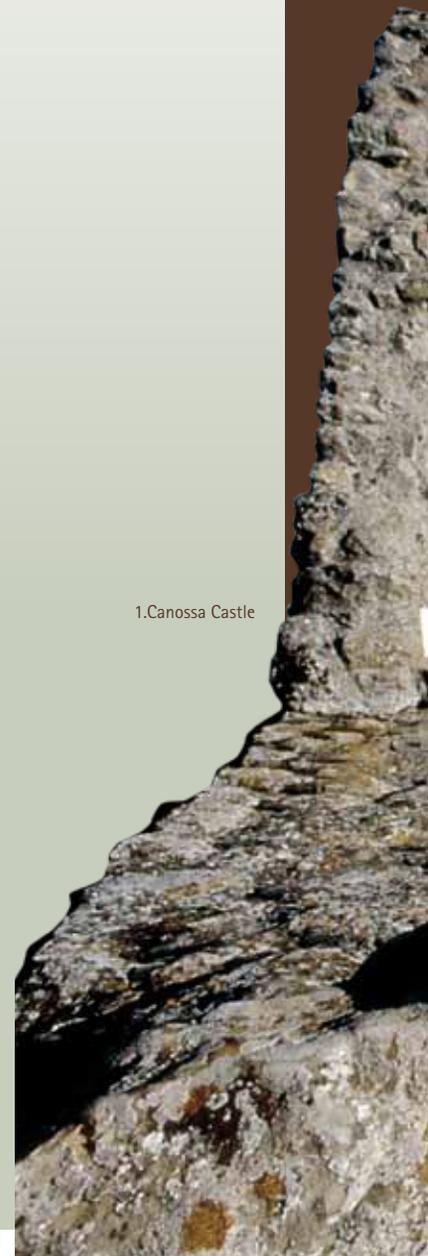
Pietra di Bismantova

The Pietra di Bismantova rises on the top of the imposing Apennine reliefs of Castelnovo Monti, and boasts breathtaking views over the underlying landscape. Celebrated by Dante as the Mountain of Purgatory, it is a fragment of a huge sandstone complex that has disappeared over the course of the centuries. Visitors will have the possibility to climb the plateau and then enjoy sweeping views of the entire Apennine system. The ultimate paradise for rock climbers from all over Italy, the Pietra di Bismantova is the most representative landmark of Reggio's mountains, and its impressive profile makes it one of the most appreciated monoliths in the world.

Correggio and Palazzo dei Principi

Palazzo dei Principi, the architectural masterpiece of the golden period of the Da Correggio domination, was commissioned by Francesca di Brandeburgo and finished in 1507. Ferrara's architectural influence, determined by the participation of the architect Biagio Rossetti to the realization of the palace, can be seen in its façade, that is embellished by one of the most beautiful portals of the Renaissance Age, that is even complemented by an elegant balcony. The inner courtyard hosts a Roman funerary lion, that was found in the surrounding countryside at the beginning of the seventeenth century. The ground floor is embellished by splendidly decorated rooms, but the most beautiful halls are hosted upstairs. An elegant staircase and a beautiful portal topped by marble jambs and trabeation lead to the noble floor, that is home to a large room featuring a majestic coffered ceiling, splendid friezes and a large fireplace decorated with sixteenth-century bas-reliefs. The library, Exhibition Gallery and "Il Correggio" Museum are open to the general public.

1.Canossa Castle





2. Sunset over the Great River
in the Bassa Reggiana

3. Correggio, Palazzo dei Principi,
portal

4. Pietra di Bismantova,
Castelnovo ne' Monti



Modena

Carpi, ideal city

Renaissance "Ideal City", Carpi still retains the fascination of the ancient capital that was conceived by Alberto III Pio Prince of Carpi, who turned the former medieval castle into the sumptuous Palazzo dei Pio, that is now the seat of interesting museums. The palace dominates the splendid Piazza dei Martiri, that is one of the largest squares in Italy, and is flanked by the city's Theatre, Town Hall and Portico del Grano, and by the 52 arches of the Portico Lungo. Another site worthy of note in the square is the cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta that was realized by Baldassarre Peruzzi according to the style of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and whose interior featuring a nave and two aisles drew inspiration from Renaissance architecture. Not to be missed is the city's outstanding medieval heritage, that especially revolves around the square dedicated to the Lombard King Aistulf: Legend has it that he founded the Parish Church of Santa Maria (also known as Sagra), that is part of the prestigious European circuit of Romanesque buildings.

Modena Castles

Idyllically set just in the heart of a privileged, strategic area, the province of Modena is scattered with splendid castles, imposing fortresses and picturesque medieval villages that are all included in the dedicated circuit of "Modena Castles". In Frignano, Sestola Castle is home to original mountain museums and music exhibitions, that are hosted in the former military rooms of the d'Este Dynasty, while the Castle of Montecuccolo is deeply interwoven with the vicissitudes experienced by Raimondo Montecucoli, a seventeenth-century general of the Empire. A short distance from it, the Romanesque Pieve di Renno hosts the tomb of Cesare Montecucoli, who was the lord of 24 castles. Spezzano Castle, that rises on the slopes of the mountains and stands just in the heart of a thriving industrial area of tile production, is home to the Ceramic Museum, while the valley of the river Panaro is home to the Fortress of Vignola, that cherishes prestigious Gothic frescoes of great value. Rocca Calcagnini in Formigine is the seat of an interactive museum and an interesting documentation centre revolving around past civilizations. The lower Po Valley is peppered with plenty of further imposing fortresses and castles: Palazzo Pio in Carpi and the d'Este Fortresses of San Felice sul Panaro and Finale Emilia. In Mirandola, the Castle of the Pico and its annexed museum are deeply interconnected with Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, a famous philosopher who was especially known for his incredible memory.

The "villa civilization"

The sumptuous manor houses and elegant stately homes that punctuate Modena's countryside bear witness to the so-called "villa civilization" that developed during the period of the d'Este Dynasty. Tourists will have the opportunity to visit the elegant complex of Villa Sorra a Gaggio in Piano di Castelfranco Emilia. This huge complex consists of the villa itself, rural mansions, greenhouse, park, Romanesque ruins, waterways, garden and glorious countryside, what makes it the most representative example of a pre-industrial agricultural landscape of great historical, cultural and environmental value. Tourists won't miss the opportunity to visit its romantic English garden, that is one of the most important parks of its kind in the entire region.

Along the Pilgrims' Routes

The medieval Pilgrims' Routes of the province of Modena, that extended from the surrounding plains up to the Apennines, were scattered with parish churches and places of worship. The tour could start from Carpi and its Sagra; visitors will then have the opportunity to climb up to the imposing San Silvestro di Fanano, a Romanesque parish church that was founded by Saint Anselm, and then reach San Bartolomeo di Fiumalbo, that is deeply interwoven with the Great Countess Matilda di Canossa. The remains of an ancient portal, that was sculpted with scenes depicting the lives of knights and beautiful geometrical and floral patterns, portray two people on horseback: A man embraces a woman who is sitting next to him. Legend has it that it is the representation of the Great Countess Matilda. Not to be missed is the well-preserved trabecation of the ancient portal, that depicts violent scenes from a fierce fighting dating back to the thirteenth century.

1. Piazza dei Martiri, Carpi





2. Castle of Montecuccolo,
Pavullo nel Frignano

3. Pieve di Fanano, interior

4. Villa Sorra, garden and façade



Bologna

The treasures of the Bassa Bolognese

Bologna's fertile plain is the ideal destination for those interested in admiring beautiful landscapes, people passionate about good food, cycle tourists and the lovers of genuine traditions and ancient usages and customs, who would like to spend pleasant Sunday moments in the streets while chatting with local inhabitants and smelling delicious food specialties, such as brodo and ragù. Tourists won't miss the opportunity to visit at least three sites: San Giovanni in Persiceto, that revolves around its medieval old town and the famous square that was decorated by Gino Pellegrini, the scriptwriter of 2001 *Odisea nello spazio* (2001: A Space Odyssey), to celebrate Cesare Zavattini; Pieve di Cento, that is scattered with prestigious artworks by Guercino and dominated by the imposing fortress designed by Antonio di Vincenzo, the architect who realized the project of San Petronio in Bologna; and Budrio, the homeland of ocarina. They all host prestigious theatres that often arrange important opera reviews.

Imola and its fortresses

Imola has become famous all over the world for the important sporting events it hosts, but also cherishes outstanding artworks of great value, such as lovely villages, sumptuous palaces and imposing fortresses. The city's most representative landmark is its imposing Rocca sforzesca, that is a perfect example of a Renaissance fortress. It hosted illustrious personalities, such as Niccolò Machiavelli, Cesare Borgia and Leonardo da Vinci, who in 1502 drew the plan of the city watching it from the top of its towers. Not to be missed is Dozza, a pretty village dominated by Malvezzi-Campeggi Fortress. Its streets have been decorated by plenty of illustrious painters, who every two year take part in the prestigious "Biennale del Muro Dipinto". Another place worthy of note is Castel San Pietro Terme, a Bologna-style porticoed structure that overlooks the famous Via Aemilia. Imola often arranges amazing music festivals and events, such as concerts, classical music reviews and blues events.

Villages and castles of the valley of the river Samoggia

The immense possessions of the "Great Countess" Matilda di Canossa extended up to the eastern borders of Modena and Bologna. The sweet hills and gentle slopes of Valsamoggia are still peppered with fortresses, castles and abbeys that once suited defensive purposes and now testify to the past vicissitudes experienced by the surrounding territory. Monteveglio, that is the heart of the lush homonymous regional park, is dominated by a 1092 Abbey that is still encircled by the ancient picturesque village. Serravalle Castle, that is situated a short distance from it and is completely surrounded by lush vines, is flanked by a high tower and the medieval Palazzo del Capitano. The picturesque old town of Bazzano is commanded by the impressive profile of the Fortress of the Bentivoglio Family, the Renaissance Lords of Bologna.

Bologna Hills

Colle della Guardia, that is surrounded by a splendid porch and dominated by the Sanctuary of San Luca, Villa Ghigi and the enchanting Giardini Margherita: Bologna's incredible lush green area develops along the southern side of the old town. San Michele in Bosco is a kind of Piazzale Michelangelo, since it boasts breathtaking views over the city centre, the Euganean Hills and the Venetian Prealps. Its entrance gate (via Codivilla) is connected with Forte Bandiera by CAI 902 footpath, that extends for about 4 km (250 metres of ups and downs) and can be easily covered on foot in an hour and a half. Anyway, the top of the hill is easily accessible by car or motorcycle too. This unforgettable experience gives tourists the possibility to enjoy sweeping views of San Petronio and the city's two towers while experiencing a closer touch with nature.

2. Monteveglio Castle and Abbey, Regional Park of the Abbey of Monteveglio

3. Guercino, *Annunciation*, Collegiate Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, Pieve di Cento (the artwork is currently being displayed at MAGI'900 Museum in Pieve di Cento)

4. Basilica of Beata Vergine di San Luca, Bologna Hills



1. Rocca Sforzesca, Imola



Ferrara

Delizia del Verginese in Portomaggiore

Originally built as a manor house, the Verginese was turned into a ducal residence in the early sixteenth century by Alfonso I d'Este, who wanted to give it to Laura Eustochia Dianti. She turned it into the seat of her small private court, and commissioned its restoration to Girolamo da Carpi. He transformed the castle into a rectangular plan building featuring two orders, and built four merloned towers around. The interior hosts the so-called *Sepolcreto dei Fadienti*, an important Roman archaeological find gathering beautiful tombstones and sepulchral effigies. The nearby tower is a remain of the ancient structure that was originally built around the Delizia, and dates back to the XVI century. The so-called Brolo Renaissance garden was recreated between the villa and the tower.

Estense Castle, Ferrara

Surrounded by a deep moat, the red brick Estense Castle looms over Ferrara's town centre. The history of the castle started in 1385, when a fierce rebellion led Nicolò II d'Este to build an impressive defensive structure. He commissioned the building of a majestic castle, a deep moat, some drawbridges and high towers. Century after century rebellions came to an end. The castle became the splendid dynastic seat of the d'Este Family and was embellished by marble balconies, a sixteenth-century courtyard and sumptuous inner rooms. Tourists will have the possibility to gain precious insights into the vicissitudes of the legendary members of the family while visiting its inner rooms, the prisons of Ugo and Parisina, Giulio and Ferrante, the roof garden and the sumptuously frescoed sixteenth-century halls, that contain splendid representations depicting ancient games. Tourists will have the possibility to enjoy breathtaking views over the city from the top of the high Torre dei Leoni. The Castle makes the ideal base for visiting the system of the so-called "Delizie Estensi", that were commissioned by the members of the d'Este Family between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance period.

Delizia of Belriguardo di Voghiera

Commissioned by Niccolò d'Este in 1435, it was the first "Delizia Estense" to be erected outside the city walls. Its decay started under the last duke, Alfonso II. Belriguardo Palace was originally made up of 50 decorated rooms and two loggias, and was surrounded by large stabs and plenty of further buildings. Today, visitors will have the opportunity to enter the courtyard walking under the loggia and high tower: The main body features large Gothic windows and a wide walkway leading to a spacious loggia surrounded by columns. The only painted room left is the *Sala della Vigna*, that was realized by Girolamo da Carpi. The building is now home to the Civic Museum of Belriguardo, that also hosts the Archaeological Museum gathering the interesting finds and remains that were unearthed in the Roman-Byzantine necropolis of Voghenza.

Estense Castle, Mesola

The castle was commissioned in the second half of the sixteenth century by the last duke of Ferrara Alfonso II to celebrate his third wife. The most recent Delizia Estense, it is characterized by its austere yet elegant aspect. Idyllically set just in the heart of a large game preserve, the castle was surrounded by 12-km-long walls, as evidenced by the high Torre dell'Abate. It is now the seat of the Museo del Bosco e del Cervo della Mesola (Mesola Wood and Deer Museum), that gives visitors the possibility to admire the last surviving wood of the Po valley and its most important inhabitant, the deer of the dunes.



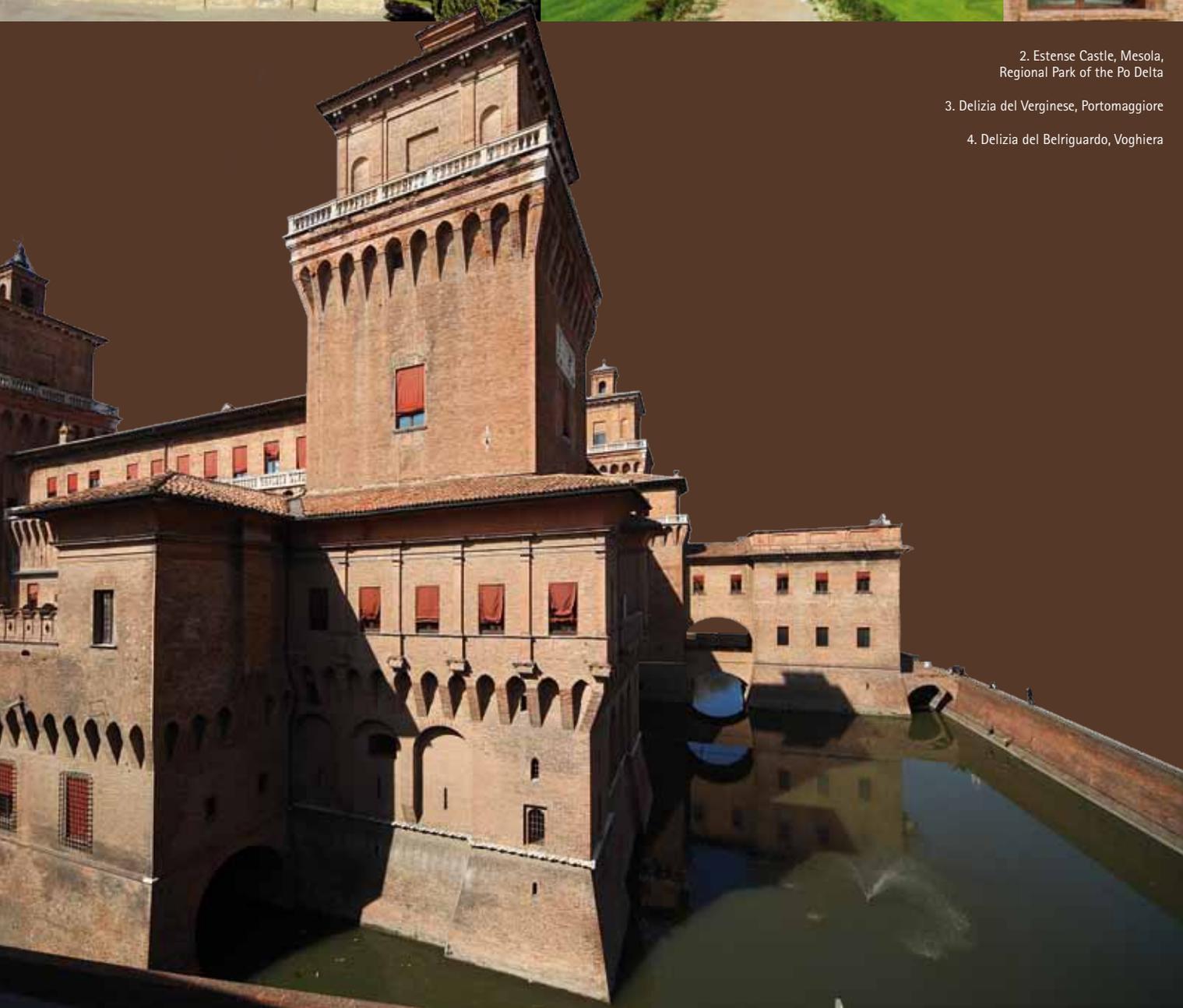
1. Estense Castle, Ferrara



2. Estense Castle, Mesola,
Regional Park of the Po Delta

3. Delizia del Verginese, Portomaggiore

4. Delizia del Belriguardo, Voghiera



Ravenna

Brisighella and the fortresses of the hill

The fascinating fortresses and villages of the hill develop amidst the gentle slopes of Faenza Apennines and the Vena del Gesso Romagnola, and are totally surrounded by purple lavender, yellow Spanish broom and green olive trees. Brisighella, a picturesque medieval village dug into the rock gypsum, is characterized by its "Via degli Asini" (Donkey Route) and its impressive profile dominated by three rock spurs, that are topped by Rocca Manfrediana e Veneziana, the Clock Tower and the Sanctuary of Madonna del Monticino respectively. It has a reputation as a great gastronomic centre and attracts large numbers of gourmets for its prestigious Brisighello olive oil. Riolo Terme, the so-called city of water, is dominated by the imposing Rocca Sforzesca, that is the seat of the Museo del Paesaggio dell'Appennino Faentino (Faenza Apennine Landscape Museum). Oriolo dei Fichi, that develops only few kilometres far from Faenza, still cherishes the donjon of Manfredi Fortress, that has recently been turned into an archaeological museum and exhibition hall displaying local staples. Monte Battaglia, Torre Pratesi, Torre del Marino and plenty of further fortresses and sighting towers pepper the surrounding territory, and bear witness to the glorious vicissitudes experienced by the nearby cities during the past centuries.

Ravenna's pinewood forests

After the visit of the city's major artistic sights, tourists will have the possibility to rest in the oasis of Punte Alberete, that gathers splendid freshwater swamp forests and flowering rushes that provide the ideal habitat for rare species of birds. The historical pinewood forests of San Vitale and Classe, that were once owned by Benedictine monks, are now part of the protected areas of the Park of the Po Delta. Lush pines, scented hawthorn flowers and clear water streams are still permeated with the ancient fascination that once attracted Dante, Boccaccio, Byron, Oscar Wilde and D'Annunzio. The fascinating history of the local pinewood forests is illustrated by NatuRA, Ravenna's Museum of Natural Sciences A. Brandolini di Sant'Alberto.

Parish Churches of Thò and San Pietro in Sylvis

The eight-mile-long Roman route that once connected Faenza with Tuscany is dominated by the most ancient parish church of the valley of the river Lamone, that is known as Thò from the original name of San Giovanni in Ottavo. Its origins are deeply interwoven with the empress Galla Placidia, who commissioned its building over the remains of an ancient temple dedicated to Jupiter Ammon. The parish church still retains the important finds and remains that were unearthed in the surrounding area, among which an ancient oil press. The parish Church of San Pietro in Sylvis, that rises a very short distance from Bagnacavallo, is a classical example of the architectural style of the Byzantine Exarchate. It was erected a short distance from an ancient Roman temple dedicated to Jupiter, and rises along the southern banks of the ancient marshlands, the former via dei Romei. The inner frescoes were realized by Pietro da Rimini, the major exponent of the Giotto School of Rimini. The most important artwork is the "Madonna dal profilo dantesco", that bears witness to the passage of Dante in Bagnacavallo.

Este, Visconti, Sforza: The fortresses of the plain

The lower part of the province is occupied by a wide, fertile plain. Idyllically set just in the heart of Lugo, the imposing Estense Fortress still retains the ancient austerity that attracted many conquerors over the course of the centuries. Commissioned in the late Middle Ages, it was totally remodelled by the members of the d'Este Family, who contributed to give the castle its current aspect. Subsequent renovation works did not change the aspect of the donjon of Uguccione della Faggiola, while a fascinating roof garden was built at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The wonderful Salone Estense has recently been discovered: Its wooden ceiling is embellished by precious decorated boards depicting the coats of arms of the Seignory and the symbols of the most important vicissitudes experienced by Borso d'Este. The ruins of the medieval castle of Barnabò Visconti in Bagnara di Romagna are now home to the XV-century Rocca dei Riario-Sforza, an impressive fortification featuring both medieval and Renaissance patterns.

1. Clock Tower, Brisighella





2. Donkey Route, Brisighella

3. Manfredi Fortress,
Oriolo dei Fichi, Faenza

4. Parish Church of Thò, Brisighella

5. Ravenna's Pinewood Forest



Forlì Cesena

Bertinoro Fortress

Commissioned in the first decades of the X century by the Counts of Bertinoro, this impressive fortress, that was idyllically set on the top of a privileged, strategic position, was one of the most imposing defensive structures of those times. Over the course of the centuries, it has attracted large numbers of noble people, such as Counts Cavalcaconte, Frederick I Barbarossa (1177) and the Lords of Romagna, that is to say Malatesta, Sforza and Borgia. In the XVI century, it was turned into an Episcopal See. Since 1994, the fortress has been the seat of the Residential Centre of Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, and has hosted important training courses, seminars and conventions. The ground floor is home to the Inter-religious Museum, the only exhibition of this kind in Italy that is dedicated to the places, gestures and items that connect people with the three major monotheistic religions in the world: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Between Middle Ages and Renaissance

The eagle, the keys and the lily are the symbols of the imperial, papal and Florentine domination respectively, that subsequently ruled the hills of Romagna over the course of the centuries and are now celebrated by the permanent exhibition of historical remains and artworks on stage in the Fortress of Castrocaro Terme. In summer, the castle often arranges spectacular shows and events, historical recollections and amazing food and wine festivals, the latter being particularly appreciated since the walls of the castle are home to the prestigious wine cellar of the Route of Wine and Flavours of the Hills of Forlì and Cesena. The nearby Terra del Sole is the ideal city of the Renaissance, whose architectural proportions mirror the harmony of universe. Called "Eliopoli" (Greek name for City of Sun) by the Humanists, it was commissioned by the Grand Duke of Tuscany Cosimo I de' Medici, and since 1579 it has been the major centre of the Tuscan Romagna. The fascinating atmosphere that permeates the central Piazza Garibaldi mirrors the Renaissance attitude of the city, what makes it an inestimable heritage of great value.

Villages and Fortresses

The tour could start from Cesena, that is home to one of the most fascinating fortresses of Romagna, that was built by Galeotto Malatesta and is totally surrounded by the lush Parco della Rimembranza. Not to be missed is the nearby Montiano, whose imposing fortress has been the residence of the Malatesta Family since the XVI century. The castle of Montenovo, that was contested among the Archbishop of Ravenna, the Lords of Rimini and the Lords of Cesena, was at the heart of a diplomatic intercession by Frederick I Barbarossa. Longiano's Malatesta Castle rises on the top of a sweet local hill and boasts breathtaking views over the lush surrounding plain. Traces of the history of the Malatesta can be seen in Monteleone di Roncofreddo and in the walls of Borghi Castle too, that dates back to the fifteenth century, when Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta was the lord of the city. The lovely hamlet of San Giovanni in Galilea still cherishes the ancient sighting towers and the remains of the imposing walls that once encircled the entire village.

Thermal resorts between history and wellbeing

Relaxation, wellbeing, art, events and culture are the major ingredients of a wonderful itinerary across the province of Forlì. The tour could start from the historical thermal resort of Castrocaro Terme, with its fascinating Art-Nouveau/Art-Deco Grand Hotel surrounded by the ancient trees of the Park; visitors will then have the possibility to admire the thirteen hectares of park that are home to the seven thermal springs of the Grand Hotel Terme della Fratta, that are rich in precious substances and mineral salts, before reaching the three bathing establishments of Bagno di Romagna, that are famous all over Italy for the therapeutic properties of their hot water and are totally surrounded by the splendid National Park of Casentino Forests, Mount Falterona and Campigna.





2. Malatesta Fortress, Cesena

3. Longiano, old town and fortress

4. Castrocaro Terme,
thermal treatments



Rimini

Mondaino

This lovely hamlet of Valconca is surprisingly amazing with its picturesque village revolving around the castle, the elegant semi-circular square and the lush park where fallow deer used to pasture. In the Roman Age it was *Vicus Dianensis*, then *Mons Damarum* and eventually Mondaino, and was an important political centre of the Malatesta that divided the territory from the land of the Montefeltro. Porta Marina leads to the most picturesque quarters of the town, that in August are home to the famous historical recollection of the Palio del Daino. The local museums give visitors the possibility to gain precious insights into the geological history of the city, while the Arboreto, a magical place that develops few kilometres far from the city centre, is home to a park and the related centre of environmental documentation, a theatre and two guest quarters

Montefiore Conca

The imposing Malatesta Fortress dominates the valley of the river Conca and the city's picturesque medieval old town, while lush woods and glorious countryside encircle the lush surrounding area and boast sweeping views of the coastline and sea. The castle was used by the members of the Malatesta Family as a military structure, a summer residence and a game preserve, and often hosted illustrious personalities, such as popes and emperors. During this golden age, the village was enriched with beautiful palaces, churches and monasteries, whose ancient vestiges still pepper the surrounding area.

Sant'Agata Feltria

Its fairy-tale atmosphere and legendary aspect make this village, that extends halfway between the valleys of the rivers Savio and Marecchia, one of the most characteristic centres of the Montefeltro, that is scattered with outstanding cultural, naturalistic, spiritual and food and wine itineraries. Since the end of the nineteenth century, the village has been owned by different feudal landlords, such as Malatesta, Montefeltro and Fregoso, who gave the Fortress its X-century name when it was totally restored by Giorgio Martini in 1474. Under the rule of the Fregoso Family, the old town was embellished with plenty of new buildings, such as the seventeenth-century

Palazzone, that is home to the wooden Angelo Mariani Theatre, one of the oldest theatres in Italy. Sant'Agata boasts an outstanding concentration of fascinating sights and important historical centres, such as the fortified village of Petrella Guidi.

San Leo

An important city of art that was even mentioned by Dante in his *Divine Comedy*, San Leo is the heart of Montefeltro. The extraordinary position of its old town, that is situated on the top of an impressive rock spur overlooking the underlying valley, made it an important military and religious centre, as evidenced by plenty of precious architectural and artistic masterpieces of great value. Its well-preserved old town, that still retains the original aspect, is dotted with splendid Romanesque buildings, such as the Parish Church, Cathedral and Tower, and Renaissance palaces, such as Palazzo Mediceo, that is now the seat of the local Museum of Sacred Art, Palazzo Della Rovere and the residence of the Counts Severini-Nardini. The highest point of the rock spur is topped by the city's imposing Fortress, that was designed by Francesco di Giorgio Martini, and hosted Giuseppe Balsamo, the so-called Count Cagliostro, from 1791 up to his death in 1795.

Verucchio

The fascinating Malatesta capital of Verucchio is idyllically set on the top of the local rocky hills that overlook the sea. Its imposing Fortress was the seat of the glorious vicissitudes experienced by the members of the Malatesta Family, such as Mastin Vecchio (that was even mentioned by Dante), and was therefore dubbed the "Cradle of the Malatesta". Its medieval town layout bears witness to the important role the Lords played in its growth. Between the X and the VI century B.C., before the domination of the Malatesta, Verucchio hosted the great Villanovan civilization, that preceded the Etruscan one. Extensive archaeological excavations unearthed plenty of important necropolises and settlements that hosted extraordinary finds and remains, such as precious jewels, furniture, weapons and tools that are currently hosted in the Civic Archaeological Museum of the ancient Monastery of the Augustinian Friars.



1. San Leo Fortress, fortress of the Montefeltro





2. Palio del Daino in the square of Mondaino

3. Malatesta Fortress, Montefiore Conca

4. Malatesta Fortress, Verucchio

5. Sant'Agata Feltria



Passions

This section gives visitors the possibility to undertake an outstanding virtual journey across the passions of Emilia-Romagna. Land of Motors is not just a slogan, but the result of a real passion that merges in pleasant harmony with the manufacturing tradition of this farming region that was one of the first in Italy to turn agriculture into industry. These are the origins of the myth: From tractors to motorcycles and cars. Emilia now hosts an outstanding concentration of large industries that contributed to the development of the Italian motor tradition: From Ferrari to Maserati, from Ducati to Lamborghini, local industries and museums are classical tourist meccas for motor enthusiasts from all over the world. Bikes are also part of the traditional life of Emilia-Romagna. Enchanting cycle paths run along the streets of the cities and the winding lanes of their pedestrian precincts, and give guests the possibility to pedal from the region's sweet hills and gentle slopes up to the sea. Music is another great passion of Emilia-Romagna, the homeland of Verdi, Rossini, Pavarotti, Vasco Rossi and Ligabue, of melodramatic artists and singer-songwriters. Modern music composition originated here, in the Abbey of Pomposa, what bears witness to the strong existing connection between art and local genius. Ancient vestiges pepper the whole territory, from Ariminum to Placentia, from Terramare to the Villanovan, Etruscan, Celtic, Roman and Byzantine civilizations. These peoples left an indelible mark on the territory, thus increasing its connecting role between Northern and Central Italy. Tourists will have the possibility to discover these millenary vicissitudes both visiting the important archaeological sites and museums of the surrounding area and exploring the glorious surrounding countryside, the cities' ancient town layouts and the modern languages that still retain influences from the past. Not to be missed are local craft, food and wine and much more. Here is a list of 40 good reasons to visit Emilia-Romagna and get connected with this wonderful land.





Piacenza

Ligurians, Etruscans and Roman globalization

In 218 B.C., the Romans founded a city along the banks of the river Po and called it *Placentia*. The battle of Trebbia against Hannibal marked the beginning of the history of the city, while the Greek marble statue by the Neo-Attic sculptor Kleomenes bears witness to the golden period experienced by the Roman city. The legacy of the past is still redolent everywhere, and so are the traces from the pre-Roman civilizations, the brave Ligurians who ruled the Apennines and the Etruscan tradesmen. The ancient Ligurian tribe that once lived there is celebrated by the hamlet of Veleia, while the famous Liver Divination bears witness to the Etruscan spirituality. The city is also scattered with precious finds and remains dating back to even more ancient times, such as the Neolithic Period and the Bronze Age. The archaeological museums of Piacenza, Pianello and Travo and the Antiquarium of Veleia give visitors the possibility to gain precious insights into the millenary history of the surrounding territory.

Cycling between the river Po and the Apennines

Tourists will have the possibility to cycle across the glorious surrounding countryside while experiencing a closer touch with nature far from chaos and traffic congestion. The bicycle, one of the favourite means of transport of local inhabitants, gives guests the possibility to explore the city centre and its outstanding monuments, squares and buildings. Cycling along the banks of the river Po, from Castel San Giovanni up to Piacenza and Villanova sull'Arda, tourists will have the opportunity to enjoy the incredible charm of these places, that extend halfway between the hills and the sea. Expert cyclists will have the possibility to climb the steep slopes of the Apennines, that are peppered with beautiful castles and ancient villages and give them the possibility to taste excellent food and wine specialities.

Grazzano Visconti, Medieval Revival

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Giuseppe Visconti di Modrone, influenced by the passion for revival that had developed between the nineteenth and the twentieth century, conceived an important urban and architectural project involving the ancient Visconti Castle. The result is surprising. The current village is a charming medieval-style artistic centre: Walking down its streets, it is possible to admire splendid frescoed houses, artisan workshops and the Park of the Castle, that provides the ideal habitat for rare species of plants and trees. The pedestrian neo-Medieval village gives visitors the possibility to plunge into the fascinating atmosphere of the past. Plenty of period costume parades liven up the village, such as the famous historical recollection that takes place every year on the last May Sunday to celebrate the wedding of Valentina Visconti and Louis II of Valois, the brother of the King of France, that took place in 1389.

A musical province

Music is an important part of the local culture. Local inhabitants have developed a true passion for all types of music genres, from jazz to blues, from rock to folk and ballroom dance. A kind of a citadel of music has recently been established in the quarter of San Vincenzo in order to host all activities carried out by the Municipal Theatre, Teatini Hall, Nicolini Conservatory and the Theatre of Amateur Actors. The acclaimed music director Riccardo Muti founded Luigi Cherubini Orchestra, one of the most prestigious Italian and International ensembles, in Piacenza. The same passion livens up the province too, as evidenced by the famous Verdi Reviews carried out in Fiorenzuola d'Arda and Castel San Giovanni and by the rich calendar of music events that are often arranged here, such as amazing festivals, shows and performances of any type.



1. Municipal Theatre Piacenza, view from the stage



2. Grazzano Visconti,
panoramic view

3. Piacenza, a province that
can be discovered by bike

4. Archaeological Site and
Antiquarium of Veleia Romana,
Lugagnano Val d'Arda



Parma

Correspondence of dating meaning

Parma's monumental cemetery, that has recently been dubbed "la Villetta", bears witness to the fact cemeteries are not sad places that must be avoided at all costs. Over the course of the centuries, this lovely graveyard has been enriched with prestigious artworks realized according to different styles. Parma's "City of the Dead" gathers prestigious artistic and architectural masterpieces of great value, and gives guests the possibility to gain precious insights into the history of the city itself and that of the illustrious personalities that lived there, as evidenced by the elegant Neoclassical tomb of the famous violinist Niccolò Paganini.

Oltretorrente

Oltretorrente, an ancient popular quarter of the city, is one of the major gathering places in Parma. This lovely district, that develops along the opposite banks of the stream, is also known as Parma Vecchia for its ancient aspect and the intimate atmosphere that permeates its streets, inns and workshops. People from all over the world live here, what contributes to enhance the tradition of hospitality that has always made Parma Vecchia the most welcoming part of the city. The intimate villages of the surrounding area are still permeated with the ancient vicissitudes experienced by Guido Picelli's Arditi del Popolo (People's Squads), the Barricades against Fascism (1022) and Lino Maupas. The Ducal Park and its splendid sculptures, the hexagonal Church of Santa Maria del Quartiere, Farnese's churches and the native house of Toscanini complement the exceptional tourist offer of the Oltretorrente.

Parma Violet

On February 20, 1831, the Duchess Marie Louise wrote "Souvenir de Parme malheureuse" under some dried violet petals in a page of her diaries. The rebellions of that year forced the Duchess to abandon the city and caused her sadness. Parma keeps reciprocating the love of her duchess, and every year a bunch of violets is brought on her tomb in the Church of Cappuccini in Wien. The violet fragrance, that was launched by Borsari in 1870, became deeply interconnected with Parma, what caught the imagination of Marcel Proust too, who imagined the city to be mauve.

Short prayers

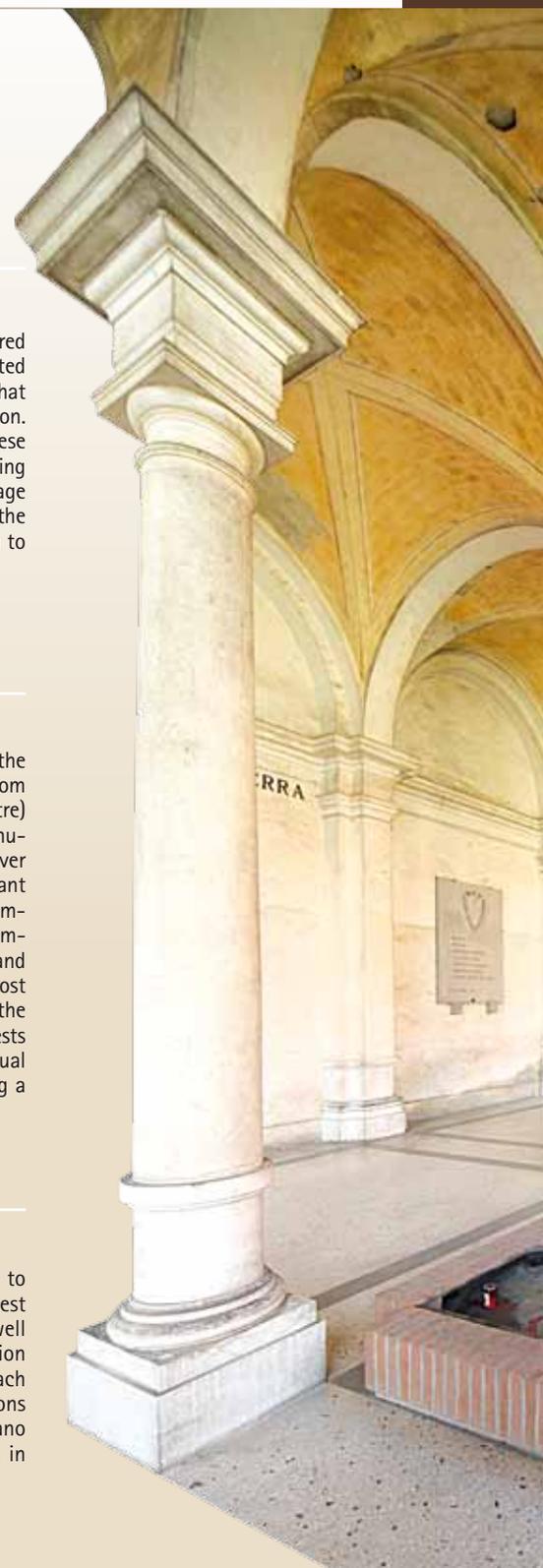
The streets of Parma's city centre are still scattered with over fifty shrines, chapels, panels and sculpted plates dating back to different historical periods that bear witness to the city's strong religious tradition. Tourists will have the possibility to discover these "short prayers" written on the walls while exploring fascinating corners of the old town. This rich heritage of art and popular beliefs is especially linked with the cult of the Virgin, as evidenced by the dedication to the Assumption of the Virgin of the Cathedral.

Parma and music

Parma has always played a fundamental role in the music scene of Italy. Situated a short distance from Teatro Farnese, the city's Teatro Regio (Royal Theatre) is one of the most prestigious temples of lyrical music. Verdi's fans will have the possibility to discover the exclusive "Club dei 27" (Club of 27), an important cultural association including twenty-seven members, each of one named like one of the pieces composed by the great artist. Toscanini Native House and Museum celebrate the importance of one of the most famous orchestra directors in the world, while the House of Music and the House of Sound give guests the possibility to undertake an outstanding virtual journey across the world of music while admiring a rich collection of musical instruments and tools.

Food culture

Food and wine lovers will have the possibility to discover a dedicated itinerary including the best typical staples of the Food Valley of Italy, as well as to gain precious insights into the production processes of Parma's gastronomic excellence. Each stop is complemented by amazing tasting sessions arranged by the city's major Food Halls: Parmigiano Reggiano Museum in Soragna, Salami Museum in Felino, Parma Ham Museum in Langhirano.





1. War Memorial, Villetta Monumental Cemetery

2. Teatro Regio, exterior



3. Oltretorrente, native house of Toscanini



4. Parma Violet



Reggio Emilia

Motor Passion

Reggio-Emilia has a deep passion for motors. Characterized by agricultural mechanics, that still plays an important role in the local economy, the province of Reggio cherishes two important collections of vintage motorcycles, "Nello Salsapariglia" in Bagnolo and "Piccolo Museo della Moto" in Guastalla. It is also home to the famous "Museo dell'Automobile e Scuderia San Martino" in San Martino in Rio, that is one of the most innovative museums gathering vintage cars.

Parmeggiani Gallery

Weapons and knives from all over Europe, jewels and enamels, period costumes dating back to the period comprised between the XVII and the XIX century, stone and polychrome wooden sculptures, Italian, Spanish and Flemish paintings and plenty of further precious artworks. This is the rich collection cherished by the prestigious Art Gallery named after Luigi Parmiggiani (or Parmeggiani as he was used to describe himself), a local antique dealer who experienced plenty of adventurous vicissitudes: After he took part in the failed attempt on the Socialist deputies Ceretti and Prampolini, he was exiled to France, where he started developing a real passion for art and antiques. The Gallery contains a varied collection that includes precious masterpieces dating back to the period comprised between the nineteenth and the twentieth century.

Singing the Maggio

The province of Reggio-Emilia is a land of authentic traditions, like its "Dramatic Maggio", that is deeply connected with the medieval chansons de geste. Typical of the Apennine region extending between Emilia and Tuscany, it is a costume representation in sung verses that is typically accompanied by musical instruments, such as violins, accordions and guitars. Mentioned by Dante and Bernardo Bertolucci in his *Novecento*, it is even celebrated by the dedicated museum of Villaminozzo, that is complemented by the museum of cribs in the nearby Gazzano. The mountain resort of Cervarezza di Busana cherishes another curious traditional museum dedicated to cork processing, that bears witness to the deep existing connection between local shepherds and Tuscany, where the raw material was purchased.

The beautiful mountain village of Carpineti gives tourists the possibility to enjoy breathtaking views over the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines and their National Park while flying on board spectacular hot air balloons.

The bridges by Calatrava

Emilia-Romagna is constantly evolving. Dynamism and easy-going attitude are some of its most representative features. Those flocking to Reggio-Emilia from the local Autostrada del Sole will have the possibility to admire the spectacular bridges designed by the Catalan architect Santiago Calatrava. The big central bridge and the smaller side structures have a deep architectural impact. This dynamic architectural complex was largely made of steel and reinforced concrete, that were painted white and complemented with some transparent glass parts. Inaugurated in 2007, Calatrava's bridges are surmounted by impressive arched pillars that support the structure and make Reggio-Emilia visible from a distance, thus playing the symbolic role of modern entrance gates to the city.

Novellara's pharmacy vases

The important Gonzaga Museum is hosted on the noble floor of the sixteenth-century residence of the Counts inside the Fortress of Novellara. Its rooms were designed, realized and decorated under the supervision of Lelio Orsi, a brilliant exponent of the local Mannerism. He painted the famous frescoes of Casino di Sopra dei Gonzaga, that were finally recovered after more than one century and after they had even been brought to Switzerland. Not to be missed is the Italian-style opera theatre, that was built in the eighteenth century according to the architectural style that characterized theatres in Reggio-Emilia and Carpi. The cellar of the fortress still hosts the municipal vinegar room, that cherishes the precious Balsamic Vinegar of Reggio-Emilia. The most interesting part of the museum is that cherishing a rich collection of ceramic vases belonging to the ancient sixteenth-century Spezieria dei Gesuiti (Jesuit Apothecary's): They bear interesting inscriptions concerning the most famous medicines that were used for more than three hundred years.



1. "O. Garanzini" Motorcycle, Salsapariglia Collection, Bagnolo in Piano





2. Santiago Calatrava,
Bridges over Autostrada del Sole

3. Parmeggiani Gallery,
exhibition room

4. Historical recollections and traditions
from the local Apennines

5. Pharmacy vases, Gonzaga Museum,
Novellara Fortress



Modena

Capital of Motors

Modena is the undisputed capital of motors. Its passion for mechanics has a long tradition, and the cult of speed is an integral part of its culture. Extraordinary museums distribute across the city centre, and private collections that are unique of their kind follow one another. Ferrari Museum in Maranello is one of the most visited in the world, since it cherishes all secrets of the prestigious "red cars". The undisputed protagonist of the museum, that is the symbol of the international success of the local industries, is the car, that is regarded to be as an art object and a miracle of engineering at the same time, and is supported by a unique exhibition system. Casa Enzo Ferrari Museum in Modena illustrates the story of Enzo Ferrari while celebrating the unrivalled motor passion of the whole city. The exhibition complex includes the native house of Ferrari and a new futuristic building, the famous "cofano giallo" (yellow bonnet), a car-shaped exhibition structure that gives visitors the possibility to gain precious insights into the prestigious brand identity. Stanguellini Classic Car Museum contains the most famous cars that collected hundreds of successes. Few kilometres far from the city centre, Umberto Panini Museum of Vintage Cars and Motorcycles, one of the most beautiful collections dedicated to Maserati, complements the extraordinary local offer.

Taste Museum

The Traditional Balsamic Vinegar of Modena Dop is celebrated by the dedicated Museum of Spilamberto. Characterized by its peculiar scents, outstanding combination of sweet and sour flavours, syrup consistency and bright dark brown colour, the key to its success is revealed to curious visitors. Its recipe, that has been handed down over the course of the centuries, is always the same: Balsamic vinegar is derived from the transformation of cooked must aged in wood barrels, and just needs some careful inspections. Modena's Traditional Balsamic Vinegar Dop is protected by a dedicated Consortium. In Spilamberto, it organizes the famous Palio di San Giovanni, during which 12 samples of vinegar are awarded a special prize.

Terramare

A jump back to the prehistoric era just in the heart of Terramare, the legendary fortified village area that occupied the Po valley in the Bronze Age. The tour could start from the Archaeological Park and Open-air Museum of Terramara di Montale, that give visitors the possibility to admire ancient archaeological excavations and the outstanding full-size reproduction of part of a prehistoric village including original fortifications, production areas and furnished houses equipped with vases, tools, weapons and decorations dating back to 3500 years ago. Archaeology lovers won't miss the opportunity to discover precious vestiges from the past, that date back to the period of time comprised between the prehistory and the Middle Ages, as well as to explore the important documents cherished by Modena's Archaeology-Ethnological Civic Museum. Precious finds and remains have recently been unearthed in the city, such as those which were discovered during the extensive works carried out in order to build the new Novi Park parking area. The archaeological site includes an entire street flanked by funerary monuments, rural houses, production areas and large landfill sites that belonged to a peripheral quarter of the Roman colony of Mutina.



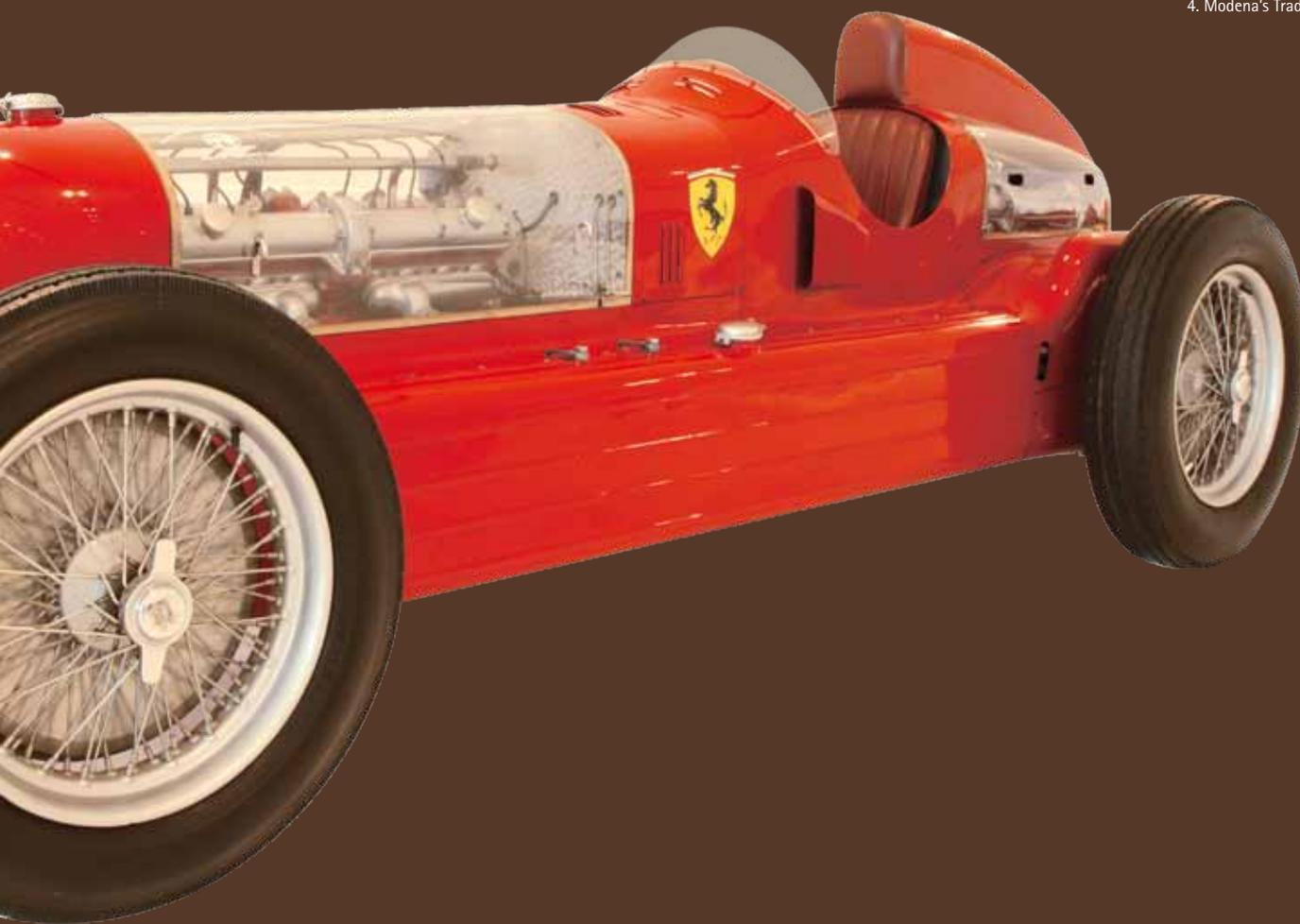
1. 1935 Alfa Romeo 16C Bimotore drove by Tazio Nuvolari and designed by Enzo Ferrari when he was the director of the racing department of Alfa Romeo, Casa Enzo Ferrari Museum, Modena



2. Open-air Museum of Terramara di Montale

3. Casa Enzo Ferrari Museum, Modena, exhibition room

4. Modena's Traditional Balsamic Vinegar



Bologna

A 40-km-long hug

No matter whether it rains or the sun shines, Bologna's porches make the city unique in the world. Since 1100, when the growth of the local university started requiring new urban space, they have become the city's major gathering place and symbol of Bologna hospitality. The 3.796-metre-long Porch of San Luca is the longest in the world, and connects the city with the Sanctuary of Colle della Guardia. Legend has it that the hill must be climbed to thank God for grace in various circumstances, such as love affairs and exams. In the past, people climbed the hill on their knees, while today the top of the slope can be reached going jogging or taking a small dedicated tourist train. Bologna's porches boast an outstanding combination of history, tradition and architecture, and are included in the prestigious list of potential UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Land of Motors

Idyllically set halfway between Imola and Maranello, Bologna develops just in the heart of Emilia's Land of Motors. The famous Imola Circuit, that is regarded to be the homeland of Ferrari, has recently begun to be the protagonist of challenging sports competitions again. The interesting Lamborghini Museum in Sant'Agata Bolognese displays the most important cars that contributed to increase the success of the brand. Borgo Panigale is home to the famous Ducati Museum, a classical tourist mecca for motorcycle lovers. The visit is normally complemented by a short company tour, that gives tourists the possibility to discover how their favourite motorcycles are created.

The city that never sleeps

Bologna is a surprisingly dynamic city. Every day, it stages an incredible variety of events, such as concerts, theatrical representations, trade fairs, congresses and exhibitions. Its porches, streets and museums often turn into the venue for the city's amazing shows and events. They are usually accompanied by music, that plays a fundamental role in the life of the city. Because of the presence of the Municipal Theatre and its Orchestra, the Mozart Orchestra directed by Claudio Abbado, classical music reviews, rock festivals and plenty of extraordinary museums, UNESCO declared Bologna "Creative City of Music".

Etruscans and Celts: Two peoples, a single identity

Bologna's Civic Archaeological Museum is home to one of the most important Egyptian collections in Italy, what bears witness to the fact before it became a Roman colony, Bologna had been the Etruscan capital of the Po valley and developed halfway between the harbour of Spina and Marzabotto. This small Apennine resort is home to "Pompeo Aria" National Museum, that is connected with the site of the ancient Etruscan city. After the Etruscan domination, the Celts started ruling over the city together with the Etruscan conquerors, as evidenced by "Luigi Fantini" Museum in Monterenzio, that cherishes the most important Celtic collection in Italy.

Top of the class

Bologna's University, the first university ever founded in the Western World, has attracted young people from all over Europe since 1088. Over the course of the centuries, the Alma Mater, that even hosted illustrious personalities, such as Dante, Petrarca and Boccaccio, has emerged as an important academic centre in Europe's vibrant cultural scene. Bologna also hosts 17 academic museums, such as MEUS-Museo Europeo degli Studenti (European Museum of Students), and the important exhibitions of Palazzo Poggi, incredible scientific collections cherished by the sixteenth-century seat of the University, that is sumptuously decorated with splendid frescoes depicting mythological patterns.

Bologna's water tour

The city extends over sixty-seven kilometres of channels, and in the period of time comprised between the years 1000 and 1948 it hosted five harbours. The town layout was designed around water, and all streams and rivers that developed along the hills flew in artificial canals. It is now possible to undertake an outstanding underground tour across ancient tunnels and narrow passages.

2. Imola Circuit

3. Lamborghini Museum,
Sant'Agata Bolognese

4. Sotto le Stelle del Cinema
(Cinema under the stars),
Piazza Maggiore

5. Small window overlooking
Canale delle Moline,
Via Piella

1. Meloncello Arch,
Porch of San Luca





Ferrara

1. Cycling across Ferrara, between the Ducal Palace and the Cathedral of San Giorgio
2. Hot air balloons overlooking the City of the d'Este Family
3. Greek Vase, Ferrara National Archaeological Museum
4. Ferrara Buskers Festival
5. Palio di Ferrara

The city of bicycles

Ferrara gathers 85 kilometres of cycle paths and 120.000 bicycles, and 25% of people travel by bike, what makes Ferrara one of the cities with the highest density of bicycles in the world. The bike is more than a simple means of transport, it is a way of life. The old town, that is one of the largest in Europe, cannot be entered by vehicles, and the city's thick network of cycle paths consists of enchanting greenways that develop from the city centre up to the right banks of the river Po. The city's most fascinating itinerary is that revolving around the walls, a 9-km-long red brick itinerary that surrounds the entire city centre. The city walls are part of an ancient defensive system that also includes the rampart and shaded embankments, as well as bulwarks of different shapes and ages, embrasures, passages and entrance gates. The 1526 Angeli Gate was used by the last Duke of Ferrara in 1598, when the city was given to the Pope and the d'Este Court moved to Modena.

Music and Buskers

When the night falls down, Ferrara's old lamps illuminate the streets with their dim light, and time seems to stop. The magic and silence hide the liveliness of funny gathering places where music marks the passage of time. The Municipal Theatre, that is hosted inside an elegant eighteenth-century building, gives the lovers of classical music and opera the possibility to attend plenty of amazing events, while jazz enthusiasts won't miss the opportunity to meet at Torrione di San Giovanni, that is cherished by the city's ancient walls. In summer, the city is livened up by the amazing concerts of the famous reviews "Ferrara Sotto le Stelle" (Ferrara under the stars) and "Delizie Destate". At the end of August, Ferrara Buskers Festival, a famous event gathering street artists and musicians, attracts large numbers of visitors from all over the world, who fill the streets and squares of the old town.

The Greek vases of Spina

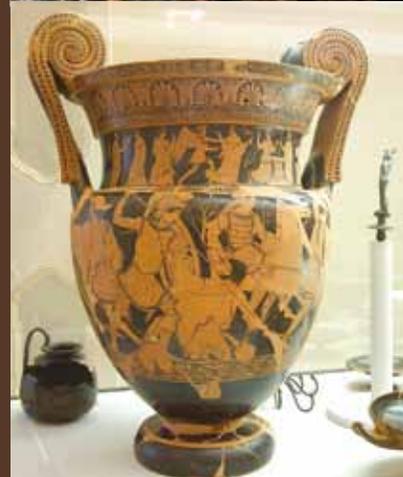
Ferrara's National Archaeological Museum cherishes prestigious art treasures coming from Spina, an ancient Etruscan city that has recently been unearthed during the extensive reclamation works carried out around the marshes of Comacchio. Spina, a thriving commercial port, collected people and goods from all over the world: The abundance of Attic and Greek utensils and tools found, such as the big vases depicting mythological scenes, bears witness to the strict connection the city had with Greece. Spina also gathers Etruscan bronze items and locally-produced ceramics. The so-called Sala degli Ori gathers more than 100 gold, silver, amber and glass jewels. The archaeological itinerary develops across the entire province from the educational exhibition of "Ferraresi" Museum of Stellata di Bondeno to the Archaeological Civic Museum of Belriguardo Voghiera, from the tombs of Fadieni al Verginese to the precious content of the Roman Ship cherished by Comacchio's Civic Museum and the rich archaeological section of Argenta Civic Museum.

The oldest Palio in the world

During the Renaissance period, the Palio, that was made official in 1279, became the symbol of a glorious age. The splendour of the past editions is celebrated by the frescoes of the famous Hall of the Months in Palazzo Schifanoia. Since then, some rituals have undergone slight changes, but celebrations are still held with the same intensity. Ferrara is livened up by a month of amazing celebrations, parades, competitions and tournaments, and the city's eight Contrade (districts) compete to win the precious cloth dedicated to the patron saint, San Giorgio. For the whole month of May, plenty of people in period costume liven up the streets of the city centre, and the acrobatic performances carried out by flag-throwers in the central Piazza del Municipio complement the spectacular horse race of Piazza Ariostea.

1. Cycling across Ferrara, between the Ducal Palace and the Cathedral of San Giorgio





Ravenna

Archaeology between mosaics and castles

Ravenna cherishes precious finds and remains dating back to ancient times. Two places are absolutely worthy of note. A short distance from Russi's old town is the famous Roman Villa, that is one of the best-preserved and most representative rural houses in Northern Italy. It was the main body of a wide mansion, whose products were destined to the members of the Roman Navy who stayed in Ravenna in the Augustan Age. This elegant stately home boasts splendid mosaic floors, and many of its precious finds and remains are currently displayed in the local Antiquarium, that is hosted inside Russi's Fortress. Another splendid site worthy of mention is Bagnara di Romagna. The local Castle Museum is dedicated to the history of the territory, and gathers precious finds and remains dating back to the period comprised between the Neolithic Age, the Roman domination and the Late Middle Ages, such as those that were unearthed during the extensive excavation works carried out around Prati di Sant'Andrea. Another section of the museum illustrates the history of the Castle and the "encastellation" of the lower part of Romagna.

Francesco Baracca and Cavallino rampante

Even if many people know Francesco Baracca, only few of them are aware of the fact the famous Ferrari Brand is strictly connected with his brilliant personality. Enzo Ferrari told this anecdote in one of his letters: "The story of cavallino rampante (prancing horse) is very simple yet fascinating. It was painted in the side of the plane of Francesco Baracca, an ace of the Italian Air Force and national hero of World War I. In 1923, when I won a race at the Savio track in Ravenna, I met the Count Enrico Baracca, father of the hero; after that, I met the Countess Paolina, mother of Francesco Baracca, who asked me to use her son's horse on my car suggesting that it would bring me good luck." Lugo is home to the interesting Baracca Museum, that contains precious documents, planes and memorabilia that give guests the possibility to gain precious insights into the hero's life and vicissitudes.

Villanova delle capanne

Villanova di Bagnacavallo has cherished the secrets of herb processing, whose related products were even exported to America, for many centuries now. Ancient weaving techniques still fascinate large numbers of visitors. The Ecomuseum of the marshlands gathers precious artefacts that were realized in the period of time comprised between the early nineteenth century and 1950, and gives guests the possibility to admire skilled artisans while working. It consists of six exhibition sections, such as "Villanova delle Capanne", an open-air arrangement that includes outstanding reproductions of the ancient warehouses where marshland herbs were once manufactured.

Sweet salt, Cervia's white gold

Salina Camillone is an open-air museum dedicated to Cervia's Salt (an important Slow Food product), that gives guests the possibility to admire local artisans while performing their ancient activities. Camillone is the only salt pan where traditional tools are still used together with the so-called burchielle, the iron boats that were once used to transport salt up to the warehouses. Musa-Museum of Cervia's Salt, that is hosted inside the seventeenth-century Magazzino del sale (Salt Warehouse), gives guests the possibility to gain precious insights into the ancient production cycle.

Cycle tourism in Ravenna and Faenza

Cycling lovers flocking to Ravenna will have the possibility to pedal across the different itineraries that connect the major cities of art with the most famous seaside resorts of the coastline and the enchanting naturalistic areas of the Park of the Po Delta.



1. Cervia's Salt Pans



2. Mosaic floor (detail),
Roman Villa, Russi

3. Herb processing,
Villanova di Bagnacavallo

4. Cycle tourism across
the Regional Park of the Po Delta

5. Francesco Baracca Museum,
Lugo



Forlì Cesena

Ancient vestiges in the heart of the Romagna

The surrounding territory is scattered with precious archaeological finds and remains, that are cherished by Cesena's Archaeological Museum, Renzi Museum in Borghi, Cesenatico's Seafaring Museum and Antiquarium, Museo del Compito in Savignano sul Rubicone and Tobia Aldini Archaeological Museum in Forlimpopoli. One of the most important archaeological collections is that cherished by Sarsina's National Archaeological Museum, that is one of the most important exhibitions in Northern Italy and contains precious finds and remains of great value, such as Rufo's cuspidated-shrine Mausoleum and the splendid polychrome mosaic floors depicting the Triumph of Dionysus and Drunk Hercules. Not to be missed are Galeata's Mons. Domenico Mambrini Archaeological Museum, that stands a short distance from the important archaeological area of the Roman city of Mevaniola, and Theodorici Villa Archaeological Area, that also includes an elegant private spa.

Dance and music, the identity of Romagna

Secondo Casadei stated his music genre wouldn't have gone out of fashion until people would have kept their passion for dance alive. His music is still appreciated by entire generations of enthusiasts. This ancient tradition is celebrated by Liscio@museum in Savignano sul Rubicone, that was established to analyze the "Phenomenon of Ballroom Dance" as a distinctive trait of the cultural identity of Romagna. Opera too plays a fundamental role here, since Cesena is the native town of the great tenor Alessandro Bonci, a rival of Enrico Caruso, and dedicated a splendid theatre to its most illustrious citizen. The lovely seaside resort of Gatteo a Mare once hosted Lina Pagliughi, a famous soprano that became famous all over the world. Lina was immediately conquered by this land, and became a perfect "Romagnola" learning the local dialect too. Gatteo's "Siola d'Oro", the prestigious association that is in charge of organizing the "International Lyric Prize", was founded to celebrate Lina. The "siola" is a little gull Lina Pagliughi used to see during her stays in Gatteo.

Nine hills of fascination and passion

Cycle lovers won't miss the opportunity to pedal across the sweet hills and gentle slopes of the surrounding territory, reach their top and enjoy breathtaking views over the sea. Every year, thousands of cyclists flock to Cesenatico on the occasion of the historical Nove Colli, a fascinating race that is popular with a large number of enthusiasts. Every year in May, plenty of Italian and foreign cyclists compete during this amazing race. Cesenatico is especially famous as the homeland of a famous cyclist, Marco Pantani. The city where the great champion was born and lived is now home to a dedicated multimedia museum, Spazio Pantani, that was realized in collaboration with Pantani Family and Foundation. Photos, memorabilia and audiovisual material give guests the possibility to gain precious insights into the career of the legendary "Pirata" (Pirate).

Traditional craft

Printed cloths are the symbol of the genuine Romagna traditions, that have been handed down by few workshops that still deal with cloth printing and even founded the dedicated Printer Association of Romagna-style Cloths. Skilled artisans still use ancient methods and techniques to create beautiful blue, red and rust-coloured products depicting typical themes from the rural world. Another important tradition that still permeates the surrounding territory thanks to the experience of skilled artisans is the production of the typical tins to cook piadina. The best tins are those produced in Montetiffi, a small village that develops a short distance from Sogliano al Rubicone. A local artisan workshop still manufactures tins according to the traditional method: A mixture including red and black clay and processed stone is cooked in a oven using a very peculiar technique.

2. Cycling across the land
of Nove Colli and Marco Pantani

3. Liscio Orchestra of Romagna

4. Romagna-style print



Rimini

Prints and motors: Passions of Romagna

Antica Stamperia Marchi in Santarcangelo has printed fabrics using the same colours, techniques and wooden models since 1600, thus contributing to hand down ancient manufacturing traditions. Fabrics are then processed through a seventeenth-century wood and stone mangle, the only one of its size and weight that still exists in the world. Every year, Misano World Circuit is home to the Grand Prix of San Marino and Rimini's Riviera. This famous competition, that is the most important event held in the circuit, is complemented by plenty of further smaller related events.

I luoghi dell'anima (Places of the Soul)

This original museum, that is made up of 7 interesting sites, was founded by Tonino Guerra. 5 sites develop just in the heart of Pennabilli's old town, while 2 places are located in the smaller hamlets of Castello di Bascio and Ca' Romano. Their installations have become a unique model of creativity and urban requalification because of their originality and universal contents. These extraordinary open-air museums revolve around seven themes. They are: The garden of forgotten fruits, that gathers ancient species of fruit trees; the road of sundials, that includes beautiful façades embellished by seven wonderful sundials; the petrified garden in the hamlet of Bascio, that extends on the slopes of a millenary tower and includes seven ceramic carpets dedicated to seven illustrious personalities who lived in the valley; the angel with a moustache, that is cherished by the local Chiesetta dei Caduti; the sanctuary of thoughts, that contains seven enigmatic stone sculptures and a single bench to meditate; the shelter of abandoned Madonna, that cherishes a precious collection of sacred images that once embellished the shrines that were situated at the junction of the major countryside roads; and the Madonna of the snow rectangle, a small church built in the middle of the wood after a divine sign that hosts an important artwork by the famous ceramist from Faenza, Muki.

Sagra Musicale Malatestiana

Sagra Musicale Malatestiana (Malatesta Music Festival) is one of the oldest musical reviews in Italy. Since 1950, it has hosted prestigious internationally-renowned directors, artists and orchestras in Rimini. The programme of the Sagra includes an orchestral music section, a prestigious cycle of Baroque music, the chamber music cycle "Concerti della Domenica" (Sunday Concerts), the contemporary music section "Percuotere la Mente" and plenty of further prestigious theme projects. The new Auditorium, that was inaugurated in 2012, contributes to increase the fascination of one of the oldest musical events in Italy.

Domus del chirurgo

After 18 years of extensive excavation works, the large archaeological complex was inaugurated in 2007. The 700-m²-large area includes several buildings, the most interesting of which being the so-called Domus del chirurgo (Surgeon's House), an ancient Roman house dating back to the II century A.D. It cherishes plenty of precious finds, mosaics and remains, as well as 150 surgical tools that bear witness to the fact this was the house of a surgeon. It seems that the surgeon Eutyches belonged to the Hellenic world and was trained on the battlefield. In fact, the unearthed tools were mainly used to treat traumas and wounds, what suggests he was a military doctor. The roof collapse caused by a fire in the III century A.D. protected all finds and remains just like it happened in Pompei. Visitors will have the possibility to admire elegant polychrome mosaics, while the nearby City Museum gives them the possibility to discover the most complete surgical collection ever found.

1. Mosaic floor,
Surgeon's House, Rimini





2. Sagra Musicale Malatestiana,
Rimini

3. Antica Stamperia,
Santarcangelo di Romagna

4. Misano World Circuit,
Misano Adriatico

5. Tonino Guerra's Places
of the Soul, Pennabilli



Personalities

Art, culture and enchanting landscapes attract large numbers of visitors to this land. Anyway, what makes Emilia-Romagna so different from the other regions of the Po Valley and the Apennines are its originality, creativity and the cheerful nature of its inhabitants, who always strive to do things well and share their experiences with others, and usually succeed in everything they do. The warm disposition of local inhabitants, that complements such a rich tradition in hospitality, is best exemplified by the most illustrious personalities who made this land famous in the world. One adjective is not enough to describe the diverse nature of this varied, polycentric territory. The common elements that link all aspects that are present in some way in every site are utmost passion and the considerable expertise the most illustrious personalities have developed in their sector. This section gives guests the possibility to undertake an unusual journey through the major artworks and places that are linked with the men and women who contributed to build the story, soul and spirit of Emilia-Romagna. One of them is Giambattista Bodoni, the former director of Parma's Royal Print Shop, who in 1798 invented the font of the document you are currently reading. Bodoni font, with its fine contrast between thick and thin lines and its emphasis on vertical elements, deservedly gained worldwide acceptance among printers and became strictly interconnected with the graphic elements of the ducal city, as evidenced by the fact it is still found in the city's streets and inscriptions after more than two centuries. Bodoni Museum, the third largest printing museum in Europe and most important exhibition in Italy, that is hosted in the sumptuous Palazzo Pilotta, cherishes the major printing works realized by the illustrious typographer and more than 25.000 original punches. And this is only the first stop of our amazing itinerary.



Piacenza

Giulio Alberoni

(Piacenza 1664 - Piacenza 1752)

Giulio Alberoni was the major exponent of the cosmopolitan culture that rapidly spread all over Europe in the eighteenth century. Despite his humble origins, he showed great ability in running the affairs of state: He was Cathedral canon, led a diplomatic career in the Farnese Court and eventually became a powerful politician in Europe. He arranged the wedding between Elisabetta Farnese and Philip V King of Spain, and subsequently became Madrid's chief executive official. In 1730, he was appointed administrator of the hospital of San Lazzaro in Piacenza, and replaced it with a seminar under the name of "Collegio Alberoni". This splendidly decorated building is home to a rich library and a precious collection of artworks, among which the most famous is *Ecce Homo* by Antonello da Messina.

Giuseppe Ricci Oddi

(Piacenza 1868 - Piacenza 1936)

Giuseppe Ricci Oddi was an enthusiastic collector from Piacenza. He was especially passionate about two types of paintings: Landscapes, that were typical of private collections since they could be used to decorated houses and flats, and portraits, especially those realized by the Scapigliati and Divisionist painters. His prestigious collection gathers precious paintings by illustrious artists, such as Pellizza da Volpedo, Previati, Segantini, Zandomenichi, Bocchi and many more. He had the ambitious project to illustrate the development of figurative arts, from Romanticism to contemporary art, both in Italy and abroad, so that his collection could become an important point of reference for both artists and critics. He devoted himself to create this collection and in 1924, when he decided to give it to the city, he also constructed the building that still hosts it at his own expenses.

Giuseppe Verdi

(Roncole di Busseto 1813 - Milano 1901)

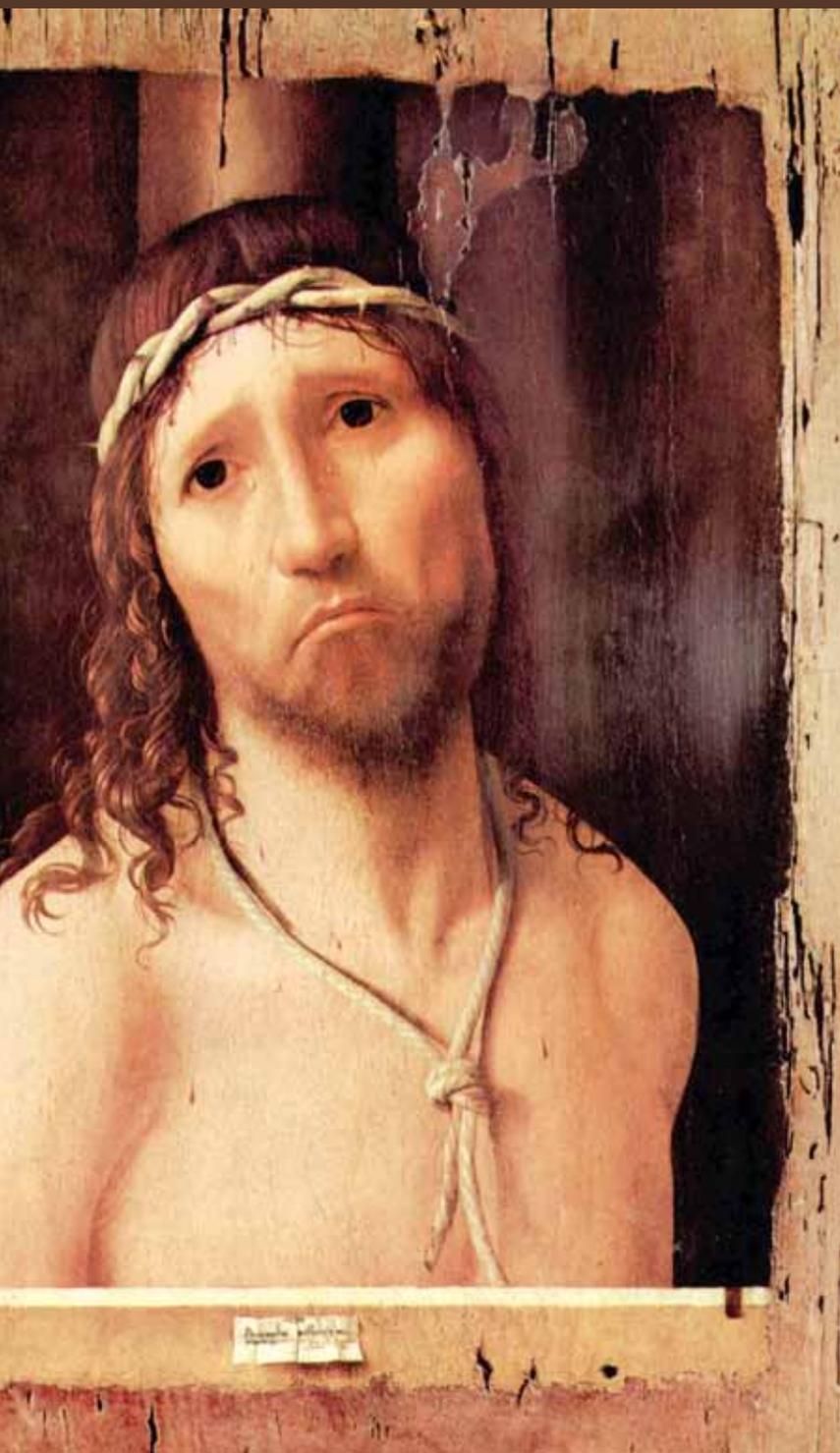
Few people know that Verdi and Piacenza are deeply interconnected, and this connection goes beyond the origins of his family. In 1851, Verdi and his wife, the operatic soprano Giuseppina Strepponi, moved to Sant'Agata, a cosy hamlet that Verdi described as "his village", where he devoted himself full time to agriculture and his passions: Art, poetry, economy, politics. Furthermore, he kept composing music, became an important landowner and cattle breeder and was elected Town Councillor of Villanova d'Arda and Councillor of the Province of Piacenza. He personally planted and watered his fields, and constantly strove to improve the living conditions of his tenants. He also established the Hospital of Villanova. A tour of Villa Verdi is the best way to gain precious insights into the immortal spirit of Giuseppe Verdi.

Luigi Illica

(Castell'Arquato 1857 -
Colombarone 1919)

Illica, who was born in Castell'Arquato, left his native town prompted by his lively disposition. He lived an adventurous and varied life: He was a journalist, became an exponent of Milan's Scapigliatura and also worked as a playwright and librettist. He collaborated with plenty of famous musicians, and after he met Giuseppe Giacosa he wrote important librettos for Giacomo Puccini, such as *Bohème*, *Tosca* and *Madame Butterfly*, as well as *Andrea Chénier* for Umberto Giordano. After a bad fall from a horse, he moved back to Colombarone, a small countryside village near Castell'Arquato, where he died. A small yet modern museum cherishes precious scores, manuscripts, costumes, letters and objects, and gives guests the possibility to gain precious insights into his friends and enemies, political views and professional choices.





2. Villa Verdi, Sant'Agata di Villanova sull'Arda

3. Ricci Oddi Gallery of Modern Art, Piacenza, exhibition room

4. Sculptures in the courtyard of Ricci Oddi Gallery of Modern Art, Piacenza

5. Luigi Illica Museum, Castell'Arquato, exhibition room



1. Antonello da Messina, *Ecce Homo*, Alberoni Gallery, Piacenza

Parma

Parma is inextricably linked with the most acclaimed Italian composer, Giuseppe Verdi, who was born in Roncole di Busseto and whose personality still permeates the city's culture and landscape. Verdi is the protagonist of a splendid theme itinerary (p. 28) and that of the detailed biography describing his connection with Sant'Agata in Piacenza (p. 66).

Correggio

(Correggio 1489 - Correggio 1534)

Many illustrious people contributed to make Parma famous all over the world. Within this context, a very special role is played by the famous painter Antonio Allegri, who is better known as Correggio. We have very little information about his early years, but it seems certain that his transfer to Parma in 1519 marked the beginning of his career. Visitors will have the possibility to discover the city while admiring Correggio's most prestigious artworks. The outstanding decoration of the Camera di San Paolo is still the subject of a certain amount of controversial debate, and the real meanings of the fresco are still unknown. The frescoes of the Church of San Giovanni Evangelista were the first public work commissioned to the painter: The decoration of the dome made Allegri very famous, and starting from that moment he was commissioned plenty of further exceptional works. The *Assumption of the Virgin* in the dome of the Duomo is the best representation of the existing relationship between depth and movement: Below the feet of Jesus, the uncorrupted Virgin is lofted upward by a vortex of singing or otherwise musical angels.

Attilio Bertolucci

(Parma 1911 - Rome 2000)

In summer, the poet Attilio Bertolucci lived for long periods in the house his family had in Casarola, just in the heart of Parma's Apennines. Casarola is surrounded by enchanting natural scenery and remarkable landscapes, such as the Parco dei Cento Laghi (Hundred Lakes Park), that were defined by Bertolucci himself "good places to live". In September 9, 1943, Bertolucci hid in his old family house together with Ninetta and the young Bernardo (who later became

an award-winning film director) to flee the war. For many years, the small village was an important gathering place for intellectuals, writers, film directors and actors that came to visit Bertolucci, such as Pier Paolo Pasolini, Giorgio Bassani and Paolo Lagazzi. The special relationship between Attilio Bertolucci and the mountains of Parma's Apennines is underlined by "*La lucertola di Casarola*" (The Lizard of Casarola) (1997), a collection of works from his youth and other unpublished poems dedicated to the ancient village and thick woods of Casarola.

Arturo Toscanini

(Parma 1867 - New York 1957)

Arturo Toscanini, one of the most acclaimed musicians of the late 19th and 20th century, became inextricably linked with Beethoven, Mozart, Brahms, Bach, Puccini, Verdi and Wagner. Gradually, the young musician's reputation as an operatic conductor of unusual authority and skill supplanted his cello career. In the following decade he consolidated his career in Italy and abroad, entrusted with some important world premieres, and was principal conductor at La Scala, Metropolitan and Bayreuth. His native house is situated in the popular quarter of Oltretorrente. This building, where the musician was born on March 25, 1867, gathers precious objects, documents and memorabilia coming from the different houses where Toscanini lived. The exposed documents give guests the possibility to gain precious insights into the brilliant career of the famous conductor.

2. Correggio, *Assumption*,
Dome of Parma's Duomo

3. Arturo Toscanini Native House
Museum

4. The places of Attilio Bertolucci:
Casarola di Monchio delle Corti,
Hundred Lakes Park

1. Correggio, Camera di San Paolo,
oval with a putto, detail





Reggio Emilia

The seven Cervi Brothers

Reggio-Emilia was the native town of the most representative exponents of the Italian Resistance Movement. The seven Cervi Brothers, upright men with deep democratic convictions, took an active part in the Resistance by paying with their lives for their fidelity to the ideals of freedom and social justice that had been transmitted to them from childhood by their father. Taken prisoners, they were shot by the fascists on December 28, 1943. Praticello di Gattatico, a small village that develops few kilometres far from the city in the direction of Parma and extends north of the Via Aemilia, is home to the dedicated museum, that is hosted in the same farmhouse where the brothers lived with their father Alcide and were arrested. It cherishes interesting documents, photos and memorabilia connected with their historical vicissitudes, the Italian Resistance Movement and the rural society of the first half of the century. The museum arranges a rich calendar of conventions, exhibitions and cultural activities, and also hosts an important library of history of agriculture and a precious collection of paintings by naïf artists

Matteo Maria Boiardo

(Scandiano 1444 - Reggio Emilia 1494)

Together with Ludovico Ariosto, who was born in Reggio-Emilia but then moved to Ferrara, Matteo Maria Boiardo (major work: *Orlando Innamorato* – Orlando in Love) was one of the most important exponents of the Italian Romance of the late fifteenth century. He was of noble lineage, ranking as Count of Scandiano, and lived in an elegant Renaissance fortress. He was born in a room on the first floor, while the vaults of the palace were the favourite place of the illustrious scientist Lazzaro Spallanzani, who performed his experiments there some centuries later. In the sixteenth century, the ancient fortress was turned into a sumptuous palace that made Scandiano one of the most important Renaissance courts of that time. Nicolò dell'Abate realized the prestigious frescoes of the eastern side of the palace, that are now cherished by Modena's Estense Gallery. Between the sixteenth and the seventeenth century, the palace got its current aspect,

and at the beginning of 1700 it was complemented by the elegant Estense Hall, the finest room of the fortress. Situated a short distance from Scandiano, the fortified village of Castellarano still retains its original medieval structure.

Matilde di Canossa

(Mantua 1046 -
Bondeno di Roncore 1115)

Matilda of Canossa, the only woman whose monumental tomb is hosted in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome together with that of Queen Christina of Sweden, was the most representative female exponent of the European Middle Ages, and played a fundamental role in the conflict between Church and State. Thanks to her mediation, the heir of Charles the Great begged forgiveness of the Pope. Henry IV made his way to Canossa where the Pope was staying in the castle of Countess Matilda. He did penance in the snow outside the castle for three days. Finally, Pope Gregory VII gave absolution to him. This happened in the morning of January 28, 1077, at the height of Matilda's power. Over the course of the next few years, Matilda tried to reinforce and enlarge her feud until she met the new Emperor Henry V, son of her ancient enemy, who appointed her vice-queen of Italy in the Castle of Bianello: For the first time in history, a political nucleus was created in Italy that was neither dependant on Pope nor on the Germanic imperial power. This event is celebrated every year during the Historical parade of Quattro Castella. Another important event worthy of mention is the Historical Parade of Canossa. Terre di Matilde are now the heart of a fascinating cultural tour across the sweet hills and gentle slopes of Reggio-Emilia, that are still dominated by the imposing castles of the Great Countess.



1. Historical parade dedicated to Matilda of Canossa





2. Hugh of Cluny acted as a mediator for Henry IV with Matilda of Canossa

3. Cervi Museum, Alcide Cervi Institute – Emilio Sereni Library

4. Rocca di Scandiano, esterno

5. Rocca di Scandiano, scalone



Modena

Luciano Pavarotti

(Modena 1935 - Modena 2007)

The most appreciated tenor voice in the world, Luciano Pavarotti turned Modena, his native town, into the major gathering place for the most devoted opera lovers. Pavarotti's earlier musical influences were his father's recordings, and at around the age of nine he began singing with his father in the small church choir of the cathedral of Modena. He was interested in pursuing a career as a PE teacher, and began the serious study of music only later under the supervision of Arrigo Pola. He made his debut in Reggio-Emilia in 1961, and his powerful voice, charisma and sensitive disposition propelled him into international stardom. Although he received prestigious prizes, honorary degrees, golden records and international recognitions, he retained a special relationship with his native town, and often visited it when he was free from his professional commitments. Luciano Pavarotti died on Thursday, September 6, 2007, and was buried in the cemetery of Montale Rangone, in the province of Modena, that has recently become a traditional pilgrimage mecca for fans and tourists from all over Italy and abroad. Every year on the same date, he is celebrated with a big concert and plenty of related events. The nineteenth-century Municipal Theatre of Corso Canalgrande was named after him.

Giovanni Pico della Mirandola

(Mirandola 1463 - Florence 1494)

The prodigious memory of Count Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, an important Renaissance philosopher, has remained proverbial. A real vocation for studies encouraged him to intensify his knowledge of Hebrew and Cabbalist texts. He settled in Florence, a rich and animated cultural environment, where he met Lorenzo de' Medici and Marsilio Ficino. His writings soon aroused criticism, unfavourable reactions and accusations. He died at the age of 31 years and was buried in the monastery of San Marco in Florence. In 2008, his body was exhumed, and the forensic tests carried out by scientists from the University of Bologna and Parma's RIS showed that he died of arsenic poisoning, probably at the order of the astrologists. His memory is still cherished by

Mirandola's Castle of the Pico (piazza Marconi 23), where the splendid paintings and furnishings of the Civic Museum give visitors the possibility to gain precious insights into the most important vicissitudes experienced by one of the most illustrious courts of the Po Valley. It is also home to an extraordinary reproduction of Pico's face, that was realized using modern archaeological anthropology techniques. The Gothic church of San Francesco contains the splendid shrines of the Pico, that were sculpted between the fourteenth and the fifteenth century by the Venetian artists Dalle Masegne.

Enzo Ferrari

(Modena 1898 - Modena 1988)

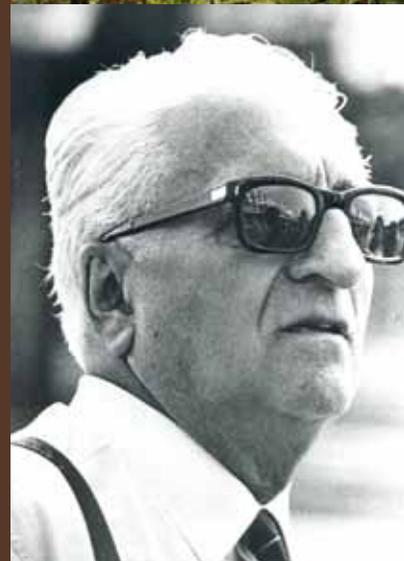
"Il Commendatore" (Commendator) is still present in the collective memory of people from Maranello. The chef Aldegonda Bertani tells: "Ferrari had an extreme love of Modena's cuisine even if he didn't have a favourite food. The only dish that he was mad about was the "gnocco fritto": When he visited friends, he often asked them to serve him a portion of gnocco, and usually ate it with ham". Dino Tagliazucchi, his personal chauffeur, says: "We often departed from Bologna late at night and he told me: - Dino, bring me to Maranello because I need to meet my mechanics. They are working on a car that must be ready by tomorrow, and I need to check its conditions. - As soon as we arrived in Maranello, he called the owner of a nearby restaurant and ordered some bread and salami and a bottle of Lambrusco for his mechanics, so that they could work until the next morning. This was Ferrari". The story of the man who created the myth of the famous "red cars" is celebrated by the dedicated Casa Enzo Ferrari Museum, that cherishes the house where Drake was invented in 1898, and Maranello's Ferrari Museum.

2. Big Luciano during an edition of "Pavarotti and friends", charity concerts that gathered acclaimed international pop stars who flocked to Modena to sing with Pavarotti

3. Enzo Ferrari wearing his black sunglasses

4. Pico Castle, Mirandola





Bologna

Giorgio Morandi

(Bologna 1890 - Bologna 1964)

Bologna was the native town of Giorgio Morandi, one of the most representative Italian painters of the twentieth century. He was born there and always lived there, although he became famous all over the world. Tourists will have the possibility to gain precious insights into his artworks visiting two important places: Morandi Museum, that cherishes the largest public collection dedicated to the artist, and Casa Morandi, the house-workshop where he lived and worked from 1910 to 1964. Especially famous for his still life paintings, he also portrayed the enchanting landscapes of Grizzana, a small village situated a short distance from Bologna where he used to spend his holidays. The small villa where he stayed still retains the original furnishings and painting tools. The nearby Campiarno Barns, that were often depicted in his paintings, are now home to an interesting documentation centre, and are totally surrounded by almost unaltered landscapes. Giorgio Morandi was buried at Bologna's Certosa: The portrait that embellishes his tomb was realized by Giacomo Manzù.

Guglielmo Marconi

(Bologna 1874 - Rome 1937)

The age of wireless communication started in the seventeenth-century Villa Griffone di Pontecchio, where Guglielmo Marconi lived and performed his first experiments in electrical telegraphy. Today, the villa is home to the Foundation and Museum dedicated to the inventor of the radio. Not to be missed is the visit of the famous "stanza dei bachi" (worms' room), the first laboratory of the scientist who won a Nobel Prize in Physics at the age of 35. The surrounding park still cherishes the relic of the yacht "Elettra", that was Marconi's floating laboratory starting from 1919. The museum, that can be visited upon prior booking, gives visitors the possibility to gain precious insights into the life of the scientist. The story of the radio, that started with Marconi in 1895, is celebrated by Bologna's Museum of Communication, whose 2000 displayed items contributed to make it part of UNESCO's Culture of Peace.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(Salzburg 1756 - Wien 1791)

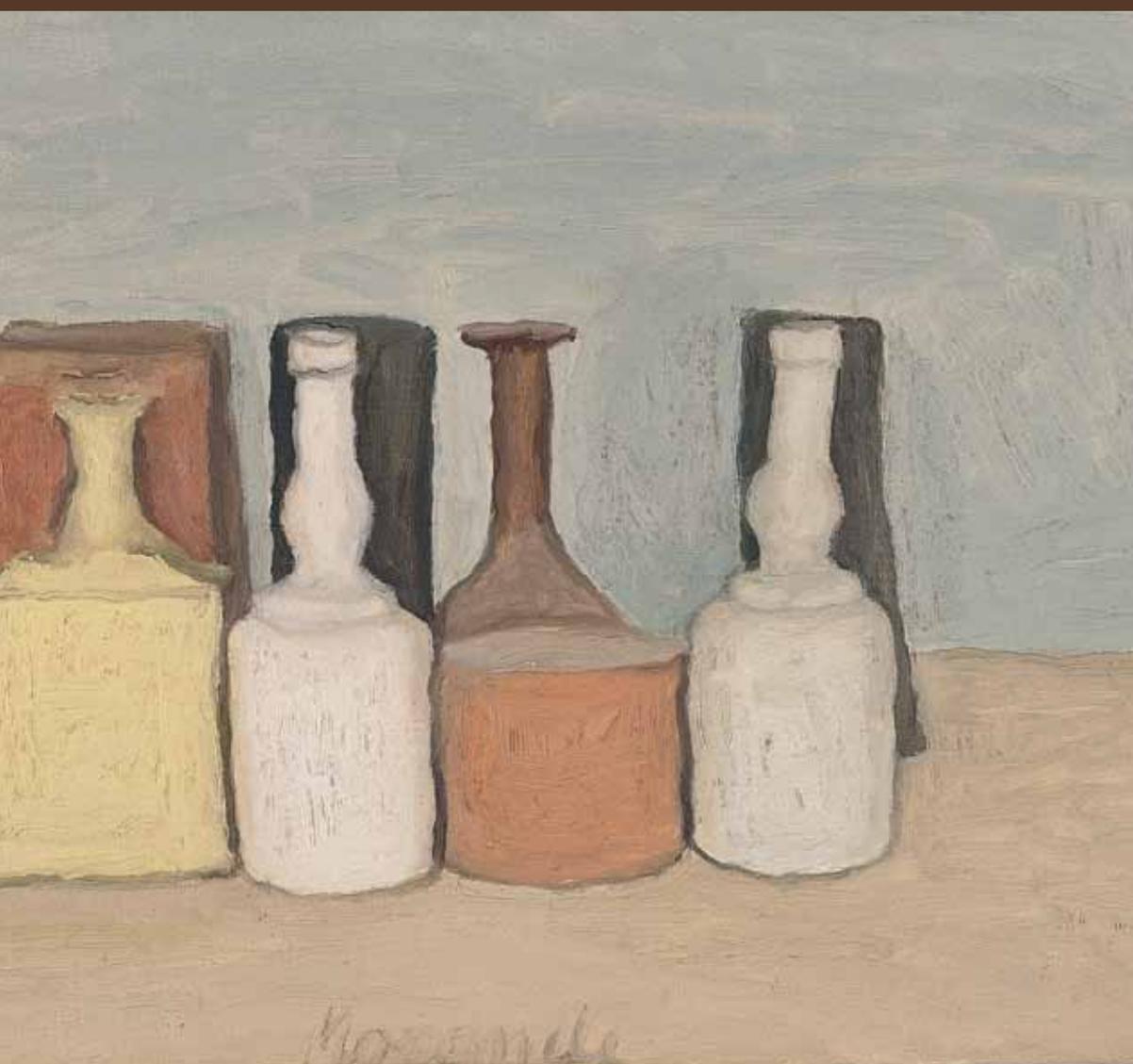
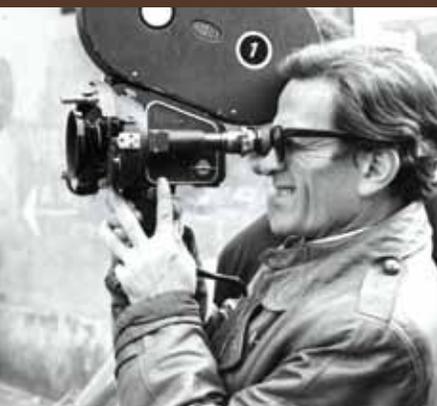
Mozart flocked to Bologna two times in 1770 when he was 14. The first time he performed a private concert for Count Pallavicini in his palace of via San Felice, and stayed at the Hotel of Pellegrino (that no longer exists), that was located in a side street of via Ugo Bassi. The concert was attended by Padre Martini, an important personality of the musical scene of the eighteenth century with whom Mozart studied in Villa Pallavicini during the summer of the same year. Mozart is still famous for his admission exam to enter Bologna's Philharmonic Academy, one of the most prestigious music institutions in Europe. The admission exam was the same students must pass now to enter the Conservatory, the so-called clausura. There are three different versions of Mozart's test: The right one is cherished by the Academy, while two further versions (one of which including several mistakes) are cherished by the Museum of Music and are displayed under his famous portrait. It seems that even the brilliant composer needed help to pass the exam.

Pier Paolo Pasolini

(Bologna 1922 - Ostia 1975)

In his autobiographical poem *Cocodrillo* (Crocodile), Pasolini described Bologna as a city that "re-emerges from the fourteenth-century fired bricks and has not been swallowed up by concrete". Pasolini was born in Bologna and studied there, where he graduated in Literature after completing a final thesis about Pascoli. He began his remarkable career as a poet while attending university, when he wrote his first collection of poems in Friuli's dialect, and subsequently dealt with fiction, theatre, essay-writing and cinema. He always retained a special relationship with Bologna: In 1955 he launched the literary journal "Officina" there, and also filmed some scenes from *Comizi d'amore* (Love Meetings) (1964), *Edipo Re* (Oedipus Rex) (1967) and *Salò o le 120 giornate di Sodoma* (Salò, or the 120 Days of Sodom) (1975) in Bologna. In 2003, the actress Laura Betti, who was a good friend of him, gave his manuscripts, audiovisual material and photos to Bologna's Film Library, and they are now part of the prestigious heritage cherished by Pier Paolo Pasolini Research Centre - Archives.





2. Pier Paolo Pasolini
on the Teorema set (1968)

3. Guglielmo Marconi,
Villa Griffone, exhibition room
of Guglielmo Marconi Foundation,
Pontecchio Marconi

4. Unknown Artist, Mozart in
Bologna, 1777 Portrait
kept at the International Museum
and Music Library
of Bologna

5. Mozart's wrong admission test
to enter Bologna's Philharmonic
Academy, Bologna's International
Museum and Music Library

1. Giorgio Morandi, Still life, 1956,
oil painting, 30 x 45 cm,
Morandi Museum, Bologna

Ferrara

1. Giovanni Boldini, *Woman in pink*,
Boldini Museum

Giovanni Boldini (Ferrara 1842 - Paris 1931)

After he began studying art in Ferrara, he left the city in 1862 and continued his studies in Florence. In 1867 he moved to Paris, where he became one of the most representative portrait painters of that time and began visiting the famous literary salons that were also attended by Proust (who was a great admirer of the artist, as he personally stated in the preface of his artwork dedicated to Boldini). His paintings represented the fashionable life of that time: The theatre and the horses, crowds of people as they moved through the city, portraits of bourgeois men and women. He was the creator of a new female ideal revolving around sophisticated beauty, and soon became the most acclaimed portrait painter of the *Belle Époque*. The original tomb of the artist, that was realized according to the parameters of the Modernist movement, is still cherished by the large Monumental Cemetery of Ferrara's Certosa, while his mortal remains are cherished by the modern sarcophagus of the new cloisters. Palazzo Massari in corso Porta Mare is home to the interesting Museum dedicated to Giovanni Boldini and the Nineteenth Century, that contains a rich collection of his most famous paintings, sketches and artworks, such as the famous *Signora in rosa* (Woman in pink).

Giorgio Bassani (Bologna 1916 - Rome 2000)

Bassani, who was born in Bologna into a prosperous Jewish family of Ferrara, moved to Rome in the second after-war period, and started his career as a writer there. His artworks describe the thousand facets of Ferrara: the Jewish community and Catholic groups, the wealthy bourgeoisie and the humble. Walking down Ferrara's streets and squares, visitors will have the possibility to be pervaded with the intense feelings and emotions offered by his writings. The writer was buried in the city's Jewish Cemetery (via delle Vigne), a short distance from the walls whose restoration was sponsored by the President of "Italia Nostra". The city of Ferrara, where Bassani imagined the tomb of Finzi-Contini, dedicated a monument to the great writer, that was realized by the architect Piero Sartogo together

with the sculptor Arnaldo Pomodoro. Via Mazzini was the major arterial route of the ancient ghetto, where the Jewish shops were concentrated. The ancient Synagogue (no. 97), that was given to the city by the Roman banker Ser Samuel Melli in 1485, is still the major gathering place of the small local community, and was often mentioned by Bassani in his romances. The façade of the building is decorated with commemorative plaques to pay homage to those deported. The Synagogue is now home to the Jewish Museum.

Ludovico Ariosto (Reggio Emilia 1474 - Ferrara 1533)

Ludovico Ariosto was born in Reggio-Emilia into a prosperous family of Ferrara. In 1484, he moved to Ferrara where he began his literary and philosophical studies. The Cardinal Ippolito d'Este and his brother Alfonso I Duke of Ferrara took the young poet under their patronage and appointed him as one of the gentlemen of their household. In 1516, he published the first version of *Orlando Furioso* (The Frenzy of Orlando). During the last years of his life, he continued to revise it, and the final version appeared in 1532. Ariosto Library (via delle Scienze) cherishes a rich collection of Ariosto's most important manuscripts, and also contains 650 editions of his works. A room of the library is home to Ariosto Tomb, that was largely made of marble and is totally surrounded by sumptuous frescoes. Via Ariosto 67 hosts the small yet harmonious home where he spent his last years. It contains plenty of interesting memorabilia, and its façade bears the inscription "Parva, sed apta mihi" (It is small but fits me). The text also underlines it was erected by Ludovico with his own money.

2. Piazza Ariostea,
Ferrara

3. Ariosto Tomb,
Ariosto Library

4. City walls,
the symbol of Bassani's ideology

5. Tomb of Giorgio Bassani,
Jewish Cemetery, Ferrara





Ravenna

Dante Alighieri

(Florence 1265 - Ravenna 1321)

At the end of the thirteenth century, Guido Novello, the Lord of the city, invited Dante to Ravenna. He finished the *Paradise* here, and then died of malaria on September 13, 1321. His mortal remains are now cherished by the small Neoclassical tomb that was designed by Camillo Morigia at the end of the eighteenth century. Before that, they had been cherished by Franciscan Friars for many centuries, who had protected them against Florentine outsiders inside the walls of their monastery. Visitors will have the possibility to visit plenty of beautiful places that are linked to Dante, such as the Basilica of San Francesco, (that was totally rebuilt around the year 1000), whose crypt under the high altar, that is totally invaded by water, cherishes precious fragments of mosaics dating back to the original V-century church, the House of Francesca, that was celebrated by Canto V of the *Inferno* and the medieval Church of Santa Chiara, the current Teatro Rasi, whose splendid frescoes are currently displayed at the National Museum. September is dedicated to plenty of celebrations revolving around Dante: On the second Sunday of the month, the Basilica of San Francesco is home to the historic ceremony of the oil, that is offered by Florence to fuel the funerary lamp on Dante's tomb.

Alfredo Oriani

(Faenza 1852 - Casola Valsenio 1909)

Idyllically set just in the heart of the lush green areas of the "Tuscan Romagna", Casola Valsenio is famous for its Herb Garden and officinal herbs. Casola is also home to the so-called Cardello, the House-Museum where Alfredo Oriani, the leading first-generation writer on the bicycle, lived. Nobody knows who built it: It seems it was used as the guest quarters of Valsenio's Benedictine Abbey at the beginning of the XIII century. Turned into a private residence in the nineteenth century, it then became the house of the writer. The current structure of the building, that dates back to 1926, and its outstanding combination of authentic Romanesque and antique replicas, attract large numbers of visitors,

and so does its impressive profile surrounded by a lush park. The interior is a rare example of a typical aristocratic residence of Romagna, where a massive architectural structure and splendid furniture merge in pleasant harmony. The sober aspect of the inner rooms is mirrored by the essential style of wardrobes, cupboards, beds and tools. The most interesting parts of the residence are its kitchen, the only of its kind in Romagna, Oriani's cabinet and the monastic-style bedroom where he died; the loggia on the first floor cherishes the building's most interesting piece, the Prinetti-Stucchi racing bicycle the writer bought in 1894. Oriani was a passionate cyclist, and then became the major exponent of the cycling literature of the beginning of the XX century.

Gioacchino Rossini

(Pesaro 1792 - Paris 1868)

The lively streets of Lugo's city centre are permeated with the memory of the famous composer who lived there for a short period of time during his adolescence. Rossini lived in via Manfredi 25, and a funerary stone still reminds us of his presence between 1802 and 1804. The House-Museum of via Giacomo Rocca 14 cherishes precious documents and pictures that bear witness to the strong relationship the composer had with the city. Even if he never lived there, Rossini described it in affectionate detail, since it was part of his family heritage. Another Rossini-related site worthy of mention is Villa Malerbi: The young Rossini started studying music and singing at the school run by Malerbi Canons. The young musician was so talented that he was even allowed to play the precious organ cherished by the local Chiesa del Carmine, that had been built several years before by the illustrious artist Gaetano Callido.

2. Camillo Morigia, Dante Tomb

3. Teatro Alighieri, exterior

4. Cardello, Casola Valsenio

5. Lugo, the city where Rossini spent his adolescence

1. Bust of Dante, Dante Museum





Forlì Cesena

Giovanni Pascoli

(San Mauro di Romagna 1855 - Bologna 1912)

"Romagna solatia, dolce paese" (Sunny Romagna, sweet country): Giovanni Pascoli celebrated his native town, whose name was changed into San Mauro Pascoli in his honour, with these affectionate words. Casa Pascoli, the important state-owned museum that was appointed National Monument in 1924, left a deep mark in the soul of the poet. Many of his poems revolve around the period he spent in San Mauro, and reflect the strict relationship he had with his family and his attachment to his homeland. The house was fully restored to the original structure; the only completely intact room, that gives visitors the possibility to gain precious insights into the poet's childhood, is the large kitchen with its big fireplace. The Museum often arranges guided tours, dedicated exhibitions and educational activities, and also cooperates with the organization of important conventions and events that are aimed at safeguarding Pascoli's heritage. Another unmissable Pascoli-related place is "La Torre" (Villa Torlonia), the superb farmhouse of Prince Torlonia where Pascoli's father worked as an administrator; this is the place he left with his "cavalla storna" before his death.

Marino Moretti

(Cesenatico 1885 - Cesenatico 1979)

Marino Moretti, a crepuscular poet, post-naturalistic writer and brilliant journalist, was born in Cesenatico, where the sea water laps over the edge of the old town, and also died there. Marino Moretti House-Museum overlooks the western side of the famous Harbour designed by Leonardo da Vinci. Its interior still cherishes the original furniture from that time, and also contains precious books, documents and artworks that were given to the Town Hall by the poet himself and by his sister Ines. Since 15 years, Casa Moretti has been the venue for an important research centre on the Italian literature of the 20th century, and every year hosts important seminars and events, such as the "Biennial Prize for Philology, History and Criticism", that takes place in October, and the traditional summer exhibition.

Pellegrino Artusi

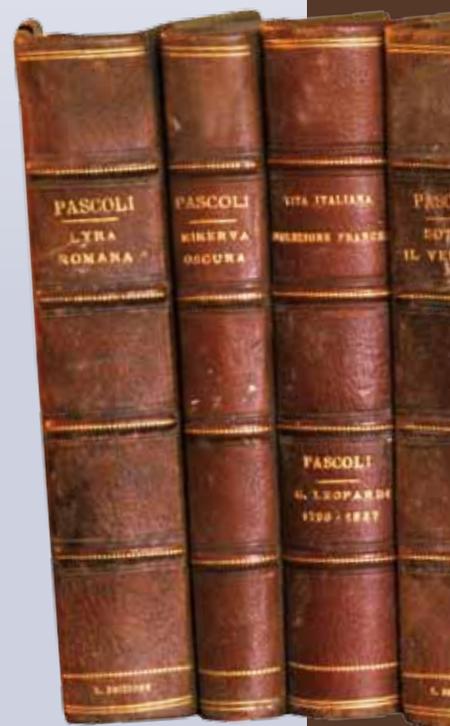
(Forlimpopoli 1820 - Florence 1911)

Pellegrino Artusi, also known as "l'Artusi", the illustrious gastronome who became famous all over Italy when he wrote the practical manual "*Science in the Kitchen and the Art of Eating Well*", is the most representative citizen of Forlimpopoli, a small medieval village that develops halfway between Forlì and Cesena along the via Aemilia and is backed by the sweet hills of Romagna and the imposing fortress of Bertinoro. Casa Artusi, that is hosted inside the fully restored monumental complex of Chiesa dei Servi and is subdivided into plenty of distinct spaces featuring different purposes, is dedicated to the city's most respected gastronome and his artworks. Pellegrino Artusi Library includes the Civic Library, Artusi Collection and the precious Collection of Italian Gastronomy. The Cooking School is home to both demonstrations and practical classes, and it is supervised by the famous Associazione delle Mariette. Casa Artusi Restaurant gives guests the possibility to taste exquisite traditional specialities from Emilia-Romagna. The Cellar is part of the Regional Wine Cellar of Emilia-Romagna di Dozza (Bo). The Event Space often hosts important meetings, conventions and congresses.

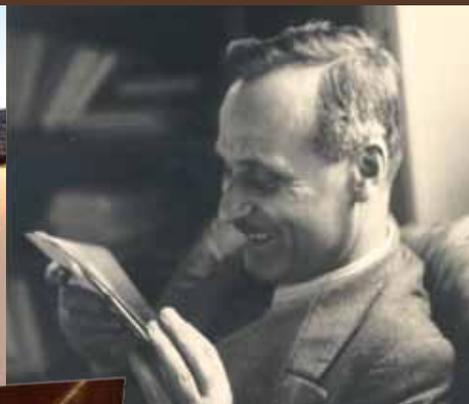
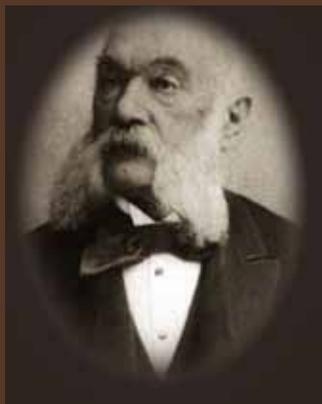
Aurelio Saffi

(Forlì 1819 - Forlì 1890)

In 1848, Saffi, who played an important role in the Italian Risorgimento, met Mazzini, and he is still regarded to be his political heir. In 1849, together with Giuseppe Mazzini and Carlo Armellini, he was one of the Triumvirs of the Roman Republic, and after its fall, he went into exile abroad. He came back to Italy after the National Unification, and in 1867 he settled in his countryside home in San Varano di Forlì, where he devoted himself to the organization of the Republican movement. He then taught Law at Bologna University for many years, and died in the house that is now home to the House-Museum Villa Saffi. The house where he was born (via Albicini 25) is open to the general public and is home to the Institute for the History of Resistance and Contemporary Age. The large square that faces Forlì's Town Hall is dominated by an outstanding monument that is dedicated to the city's most illustrious personality. Other famous Saffi-related places are those connected with the historic-tourist circuit of Romagna's Risorgimento and the beautiful Garibaldi's itineraries of the province of Forlì-Cesena.



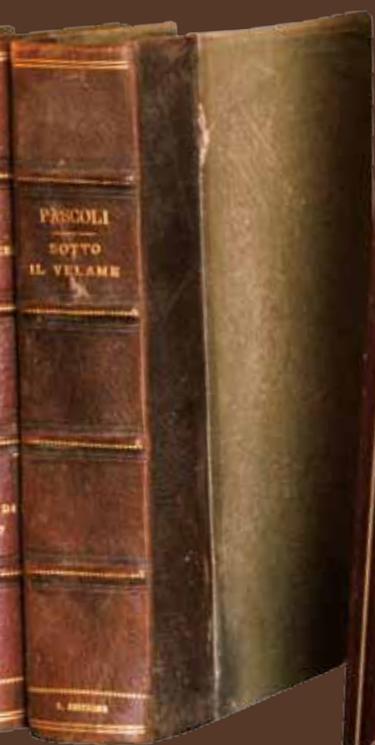
1. Giovanni Pascoli



2. Pellegrino Artusi

3. Casa Artusi, "the first living museum to home cookery" (Alberto Capatti), Forlimpopoli

4. Marino Moretti



Rimini

Federico Fellini

(Rimini 1920 - Rome 1993)

He is one of the most appreciated film directors in the world. He was born in Rimini, and even if he lived far from his native town he never forgot it, as evidenced by one of his most famous films, *Amarcord*, that was written together with Tonino Guerra. The film celebrated the city of Rimini with its streets, the warm disposition of local inhabitants and the intensity of the local dialect. It pays tribute to many enchanting places of both the city centre and the coastline: The Arch of Augustus, the impressive Malatesta Fortress, Fulgor Cinema, Piazza Cavour, with the sculpture of the Pope Paul V and the famous Pigna Fountain, the Library and its gymnasium, the enchanting Grand Hotel, the harbour and the beach from which he admired the passage of the luxury ocean liner Rex. Fellini was buried in Rimini next to his wife Giulietta Masina.

Sigismondo Malatesta

(Rimini 1417 - Rimini 1468)

Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta became the Lord of Rimini and Fano in 1432 when he was only 15. He took part in important military campaigns for many years, and subsequently used his fame to turn his city into a great Signory. He commissioned the building of the first Renaissance building in Rimini, the famous Malatesta Temple, that was designed by Leon Battista Alberti and frescoed by Piero della Francesca. It was a lay monument to Sigismondo himself, his wife Isotta degli Atti and the philosopher Giorgio Gemisto Pletone. His aggressive disposition, that had previously contributed to increase his glory, also played a fundamental role in his death. The Italian intricate political situation led to his decline when he was only forty. Because of the conflict with the Pope and the military occupation of territories under the jurisdiction of the Montefeltro, his situation got worse, and he was only able to retain the city that had always been the symbol of his power. He died at the age of 51 (after he had led an army when he was only 13), and spent his last years working to complete his Temple.

Tonino Guerra

(Santarcangelo di Romagna, 1920 - Santarcangelo di Romagna 2012)

The literary career of Tonino Guerra, that started with the composition of dialect poetry under the supervision of Carlo Bo and Gianfranco Contini, was characterized by prestigious recognitions. De Sica, Taviani brothers, Rosi, Tarkowskij, Antonioni and Federico Fellini are some of the most famous film directors for whom he wrote important scripts, and he also received a nomination for the Academy Awards. Guerra also dealt with painting, ceramics and architecture, what led him to realize precious masterpieces that can still be seen across the surrounding territory. Not to be missed are his parks, fountains, gardens, restaurants and hotels, the so-called "Places of the Soul".

Alfredo Panzini

(Senigallia 1863 - Rome 1939)

Alfredo Panzini was a very famous author, and wrote for important literary magazines and journals. His father came from Rimini, and Alfredo usually spent his summer holidays with his family in the so-called "Casa rossa" (Red House) in Bellaria Igea-Marina. It was a major gathering place for friends and literate people, and he used to spend long periods of time there while admiring the rural countryside and drawing inspiration for his work. Casa Rossa, that has recently been fully restored, is now open to the general public. Tourists will have the possibility to visit the rooms where the writer lived, admire his famous bicycle "la severissima Opel - de La Lanterna di Diogene e delle gite in campagna" and explore his cabinet, with its writing desk and drawers containing precious manuscripts. The house itself is now an interesting Museum, whose four walls are decorated with the remains of the splendid ceramic artworks that bear the titles of Panzini's major works.

2. Federico Fellini
on the set of *Amarcord*

3. Alfredo Panzini, "Red House",
Bellaria - Igea Marina

4. Tonino Guerra,
"The Places of the Soul", Pennabilli

5. Piero della Francesca, *Sigismondo
Pandolfo Malatesta praying in front
of St. Sigismund* (detail), Malatesta
Temple, Rimini



Cuisine

Flavours and traditions

Experience the Italian way of life tasting delicious local specialities. Emilia and Romagna, pork and lamb, suet and olive oil, Europe and Mediterranean, East and West: The cuisine of Emilia Romagna draws inspiration from ancient cultures and values, what contributed to the development of a unique gastronomy where ancient farming tradition and the elaborate dishes of the ducal and papal courts merge in pleasant harmony. Homemade pasta, cured meats and Parmigiano-Reggiano are the undisputed protagonists of the local cuisine, and contributed to turn Emilia-Romagna into Italy's gourmet capital. The traditional recipes that were handed down from one generation to the next, together with all versions proposed by the local housewives, are now the symbol of the fine Italian food. Cheese factories, salami factories, wine cellars and the establishments where traditional Balsamic Vinegar from Modena is produced are open to the general public, and give visitors the possibility to undertake outstanding virtual journeys across traditional production processes, and so do the local cooking schools, that teach students how pasta is an art form here.

Legend has it that visitors flocking to Romagna were once offered wine instead of water. The entire region has a reputation as a great wine-making centre, and today's mix of modern and traditional techniques is steadily improving the quality of much of the region's wine. Do not miss the opportunity to visit the most famous cellars in the region, such as Gutturnio, Malvasia, Lambrusco, Pignoletto, Bosco Eliceo, Sangiovese and Albana passito.

This section gives guests the possibility to undertake an outstanding virtual journey across the genuine food and wine traditions of the region, in order to discover some of the most famous staples and wine varieties of the so-called Italian "food valley".





Cured meats

Pork meat

Cato the Censor, Strabo and Polybius repeatedly celebrated pig breeding and farming of our provinces. They described our dry-cured ham, that was once known as *perexsuctum*, while celebrating its preservation method and Parma's hills, the place where it was traditionally made. This is the main reason why all salami factories here have large south-facing windows, so that Prosciutto di Parma DOP is dried by the salty air of the Ligurian Sea and the fresh scented breeze coming from the nearby Apennine woods. A special festival is held in Langhirano, the seat of the Ham Museum, from late August to mid September, what gives visitors the possibility to taste the most famous cured meat in Emilia, while Felino is the homeland of salami. Zibello is famous all over Italy for its most prestigious cured meat, that is scented by the moist air of the Po Valley: Culatello di Zibello DOP is the undisputed protagonist of "November Pork, speriamo che ci sia la nebbia" (November Pork, we hope there will be mist), a famous food festival of the Bassa Parmense that celebrates the most famous staple of the surrounding area. Not to be missed is the second most important local produce, the famous spalla cotta from San Secondo. Mortadella, that is famous all over the world and was even celebrated by some films and literary works, is the most representative cured meat from Bologna, and these terms are currently regarded to be synonyms in many parts of Italy. According to ancient medieval documents, it was invented by some monks from Bologna, but its origins date back to a previous period: Two Roman tombs, that are currently cherished by Bologna's Archaeological Museum, depict a pig breeder and a pork butcher while using a mortar, the tool that gave mortadella its name. Mortadella di Bologna IGP is celebrated by "Mortadella Please" in Zola Predosa, the national capital of mortadella production. Cured meats are typically produced in every city of Emilia, but Piacenza boasts three DOP products: Coppa piacentina DOP, Salame piacentino DOP and Pancetta piacentina DOP. These delicious specialities have been produced since the XVIII century, and were especially appreciated by Philip V of Spain and by his wife Elisabetta Farnese. All year round, Piacenza celebrates its ancient pork-related traditions through the organization of funny folk festivals revolving around its three most prestigious

products and further exquisite local staples. Every year, the Bassa Piacentina organizes an amazing food event, "Un Po di Gusto". Modena, one of the Italian capitals of good food, is the homeland of Zampone and Cotechino di Modena IGP, that are traditionally served by local restaurants in winter and on the occasion of the New Year's Eve Dinner. They are some of the most authentic products of the region, and are traditionally accompanied by the famous "mostarda fina from Carpi" and mostarda (fruit pickles) from Mirandola. Mirandola is regarded to be the real homeland of Zampone, that was invented to preserve pork meat when the troops of Pope Giulio II besieged the city in 1511. The famous Salama da sugo from Ferrara boasts noble origins too: Originally served at the ducal courts, it subsequently became a traditional rural dish and is now prepared on special occasions. Cooking the Salama da sugo is a real ritual: It must be left hanging over the fire for more than six hours. Visitors will have the opportunity to taste it between September and November, when Madonna Boschi di Poggio Renatico arranges the famous Festival of salamina da sugo al cucchiaino. Of late the trend has been to favour traditional breeds of pig, such as the "Mora romagnola". This black skinned race is fatter and tastier, making it ideal for high quality sausages and salamis.

Byzantine traditions

The Apennines of Emilia-Romagna were home to two totally different cultures dating back to over one thousand years ago that left an indelible mark on the local cuisine: On the one side the Barbarian populations, whose diet relied heavily on pork meat; on the other side the Byzantines, who especially ate lamb and goat. The Byzantine influence is evident in the traditional Imola's Castrato. In November, it is celebrated by the famous "Baccanale" Festival, that pays homage to all traditional mountain specialities from the province of Reggio-Emilia, such as the local barzigole (seasoned steaks) and violino lamb ham.

2. Prosciutto di Parma DOP, production establishment

3. Salsamenteria, Mortadella di Bologna DOP

4. Cured meats and wines from Emilia-Romagna

5. Salama da sugo from Ferrara

1. Zampone and Cotechino di Modena IGP





Street Food

Piadina

Piada, pie, pjida, pièda, pji, pida: Various Romagna dialect denominations to name this flatbread. But after all, they refer to the same thing, a great delicacy of simple composition. The most classic speciality of Romagna has ancient origins, since it was a simple-mixture plain dish of rural populations made from wheat flour, suet, water and salt. Its thickness, ingredients and fillings vary from town to town according to the local traditions: It can be eaten plain (piadina) or stuffed with vegetables, cheese or sliced meats (crescione or cassone). Piadina, that has become the symbol of the warm hospitality of Romagna, has recently been awarded the prestigious I.G.P. status (Protected Geographical Indication).

Gnocco fritto and Tigella

Gnocco fritto, a tasty traditional speciality from Emilia, is served by all typical restaurants that develop amidst the hills of Reggio, Modena and Bologna. In the province of Bologna it is better known as Crescentina, while Parma calls it Torta fritta, Ferrara Pinzino and Piacenza Chisolino. Anyway, the recipe is always the same: A dough made of wheat flour, salt, suet and yeast is fried in abundant boiling lard and filled with savoury cured meats. The Apennine villages that extend between Modena and Bologna are the homeland of tigella, that is named after the stone used to cook it. This delicious flatbread is traditionally cut in half and then filled with sliced meats, lard or cheese. Not to be missed is the so-called "pesto-stuffed" tigella, that is filled with pork lard, rosemary and garlic and sprinkled with Parmigiano Reggiano.

Erbazzone

Tourists won't miss the opportunity to taste the popular erbazzone, a typical quiche from Reggio-Emilia. It is stuffed with chard and spinach leaves that are cooked with chopped onion and then seasoned with garlic, lard, parsley and Parmigiano Reggiano matured for 24 months. This yeast-free flatbread is then brushed with egg yolk and sprinkled with pancetta. It is often accompanied by a glass of Lambrusco from Reggio-Emilia.

The best bread in the world

Even if it is not as famous as the local Cappellacci di zucca, Coppia ferrarese IGP boasts noble origins that date back to the ducal period: The original "intorto" bread was served for the first time in 1536 during a royal dinner, and immediately became very appreciated. These are the origins of what Riccardo Bacchelli described as "the best bread in the world". "Mulino sul Po" Museum in Ro still celebrates the genuine culture of Ferrara's bread through the reconstruction of a real water mill. Another type of bread worthy of mention is the so-called "Pane con il bollo" of Ponte all'Olio (Piacenza), in which a tiny piece of dough is placed in the middle of the loaf. Not to be missed is the peculiar Verica bread, that is produced in the area developing around Pavullo nel Frignano.

2. Erbazzone from Reggio

3. Gnocco fritto and coppa from Piacenza

4. Coppia ferrarese IGP

1. Piadina romagnola and Squacquerone





Cheese

2. La solfatara cheese, Predappio

3. Provolone DOP Valpadana, Piacenza

4. Raviggiolo di Santa Sofia

Parmigiano-Reggiano

In Emilia, Parmigiano-Reggiano Dop is not just a cheese, but the beginning and end of every single meal, that is traditionally served as both a starter and a dessert. In Bologna, a popular saying states: "Da tèva an liveret mai, s'la bòcca l'an sa ed furmai" (Do not leave the table before having eaten some cheese). Parmigiano-Reggiano is the most famous cheese from Emilia. Both tortellini and all other traditional specialties that contribute to make the region famous all over the world wouldn't be the same without Parmigiano-Reggiano. Idyllically set halfway between Parma and Reggio, the typical production area extends from Parma to Bologna and from the banks of the river Po up to the first Apennine reliefs. The cheese factories of the surrounding area give guests the possibility to gain precious insights into the production and maturation processes of the most famous cheese in the world. According to important historical documents, Parmigiano-Reggiano has retained its typical characteristics since the fourteenth century. In his famous Decameron, Boccaccio described Bengodi using these words: "Eravi una montagna di formaggio Parmigiano grattugiato, sopra la quale stavan genti, che niuna altra cosa facevan, che fare maccheroni e ravioli" (There was a mountain of grated Parmesan cheese with dwelling folk that did nought else but make macaroni and ravioli). Bibbiano is regarded to be the cradle of Parmigiano-Reggiano, that is celebrated every year at the beginning of Autumn during the famous "Fiera dei Saperi matildici". Another event worthy of note is "Due giorni" in Carpineti. The museum of cheese in Soragna, in the province of Parma, that is hosted inside an ancient cheese factory, illustrates the history of this unique product that is inextricably linked to its land.

Flavours from Valpadana

Provolone Valpadana Dop and Grana padano Dop are the most famous cheese varieties of the province of Piacenza. In the sixteenth century, merchants from Parma and Milan bought local cheese to sell it in the markets of Florence and Lyon. Provolone draws inspiration from the typical cheeses of Southern Italy, that have been known as provole since the Renaissance period; over the course of the nineteenth century, cheese began to be produced in Northern Italy too, and big-sized provole were first introduced in the market. Grana dates back to the year 1000, and it was invented by some Benedictine monks.

Cheese and Festivals in Romagna

The name Squacquerone probably drew inspiration from this cheese's soft consistency, since the term "squaquaron" is often used to describe things that tend to melt. This soft white cheese is traditionally eaten in a piadina. Another famous cheese from the surrounding area has curious origins. In the fifteenth century, local farmers of the Apennine villages, who were tired of continuous cattle raids, began hiding food underground. Using this tactic, they managed to protect their food stocks, and also noticed that after three months the cheese obtained a unique rich aroma. Over the course of the years, this habit has been turned into a real form of art. Sogliano al Rubicone is the homeland of Formaggio di fossa Dop, that is celebrated by the city's Fossa Pellegrini Museum and by the dedicated festival that is held here every year between November and December, while Predappio is the native town of the distinctive Solfara cave cheese, that is matured in ancient sulphur mines and can be tasted all year round and especially on the occasion of the local Festa dei Vignaioli, that is held here every year in November. Not to be missed is the famous Raviggiolo di Santa Sofia, that is wrapped in fern leaves and produced according to ancient artisan techniques. The province of Rimini too is home to further famous cheese varieties. Mondaino is the major production centre of Formaggio delle fosse della Porta di Sotto, a traditional cave cheese that is manufactured in the three Miocene sandstone caves of marine origins of the ancient city mill. In fact, Mondaino is one of the geological capitals of the Miocene period. Pits are filled during the days of Palio del Daino, that is held here in August, and emptied between November and December on the occasion of the local Fiera di Santa Bibiana. Talamello is very famous for its savoury, fragrant Ambra cheese, whose name and colour were suggested by Tonino Guerra. In November, the small village is livened up by a dedicated festival that is held here for two consecutive Sundays.

1. Parmigiano - Reggiano Dop, the most famous Italian cheese





Wines

Lambrusco

Lambrusco, whose grapes have been known since the Etruscan and Roman Ages, is a luscious, sparkling red wine that is characterized by a bright effervescence. It is the most famous wine variety of the provinces of Reggio-Emilia and Modena, and was granted the distinction of 5 DOC designations: Reggiano, Modena, Grasperossa di Castelvetro, Sorbara and Salamino di Santa Croce. Lambrusco is a naturally sparkling red wine, a real rarity in the world of wine. Its special nature is part and parcel of the local cuisine, requiring a wine that helps wash down its full flavours: A task where Lambrusco really comes into its own. The quality of Lambrusco has vastly improved in recent years thanks to the efforts of local winemakers to enhance its standards and introduce elements of innovation. The work of these creative entrepreneurs has led to an expansion of the panorama of the varieties grown locally with ideas that were once unimaginable. Lambrusco Marcello (Gran Medaglia d'oro at Vinitaly) was appointed best sparkling red wine in the world at London's International Wine Challenge, a prestigious event gathering more than ten thousand wine varieties.

Sangiovese and further wines from Romagna

Sangiovese di Romagna DOC dominates wine making in Romagna, from Imola to Ravenna, from Faenza to Forlì, from Cesena to Rimini. It perfectly matches cappelletti, grilled meat and fish, mature cheese and traditional fish soups. Another traditional red wine is the slightly sweet Cagnina di Romagna DOC, that is traditionally served with roasted chestnuts. The passito version of Albana DOCG is usually served at the end of meal with pastries and mature cheese. Pagadebit di Romagna DOC is a white wine made from Pagadebit. Its name derives from the good and proverbial productivity of this vine to produce fruit, thanks to which farmers managed to make wine even in the most difficult years and, therefore, they could pay off their debts. Bagnacavallo, a lovely city of art that is situated 17 km far from Faenza, is the homeland of an ancient historical wine, Bursòn.

Pignoletto, the most famous wine of Bologna Hills

Bologna Hills are the homeland of both prestigious red wines, such as Rosso Bologna DOC, and a famous white wine, Pignoletto DOCG. In his *Naturalis Historia* (Natural History), Pliny the Elder mentioned this wine calling it "Pino Lieto". Perfect as aperitif, Pignoletto fruity white wine can also be served with white meat, soft cheese and tortellini.

DOC wines of Piacenza and Parma

Piacenza has always been a land of wine. Evidence of this are the many archaeological finds unearthed in the territory, such as the famous Roman silver goblet called "Gutturium" found in the waters of the river Po and the well-known Etruscan Liver (II-I century B.C.), that is covered with inscriptions including the name of the Etruscan god of wine. The region boasts 18 DOC Colli Piacentini wines that were even celebrated by Cicero, such as Gutturium, a blend of Barbera and Croatina that was originally grown by Lucius Calpurnius Piso, father-in-law to Julius Caesar. This ruby red wine can be produced in a variety of styles from dry to slightly sweet, still to slightly sparkling. It perfectly matches cured meats and traditional specialties from Piacenza. The most important white wine is Ortrugo, a perfect aperitif. The province of Parma boasts an important winemaking tradition and gathers plenty of prestigious wines, such as Lambrusco and Colli di Parma DOC wines: Rosso dei Colli, Sauvignon and Malvasia.

Sand wines

The particularly damp, foggy and static environment of the Bassa Ferrarese, the strong salty air and land and the constant proximity of the sea contributed to the formation of a grape with a very strong character. Bosco Eliceo DOC now offers four wines: The ruby red Fortana wine, that perfectly matches the traditional specialties from the surrounding area, such as fish soup, Comacchio eels and salama da sugo, Merlot, Bianco del Bosco and Sauvignon.

2. Colli Bolognesi Pignoletto sparkling DOC wine produced in the provinces of Bologna and Modena

3. Emilia-Romagna Hills

4. Regional Wine Cellar of Emilia-Romagna



1. Dozza, Regional Wine Cellar of Emilia-Romagna



Golf

Green passion

Those flocking to Emilia-Romagna will have the possibility to play golf whenever and wherever they want. A single green fee provides access to 24 beautiful courses with wonderful scenery, what gives golf lovers the possibility to spend pleasant moments here while performing their favourite activity. The 24 golf courses of Emilia-Romagna, that are situated a short distance from each other, welcome golf lovers from all over the world all year round.



The 24 golf courses of Emilia-Romagna Golf

- 1 *Adriatic Golf Club Cervia – 27 holes*
- 2 *Rimini-Verucchio Golf Club – 18 holes*
- 3 *Rivieragolfresort – 18 holes*
- 4 *Golf Club I Fiordalisi – 9 holes*
- 5 *Golf Club “Le Cicogne” Faenza – 9 holes*
- 6 *Riolo Golf La Torre – 18 holes*
- 7 *C.U.S. Ferrara Golf – 18 holes*
- 8 *Golf Club Le Fonti – 18 holes*
- 9 *Golf Club Casalunga – 9 holes*
- 10 *Golf Club Bologna – 18 holes*
- 11 *Molino del Pero Golf Club – 18 holes*
- 12 *Monte Cimone Golf Club – 9 holes*
- 13 *Modena Golf & Country Club – 27 holes*
- 14 *San Valentino Golf Club – 18 holes*
- 15 *Matilde di Canossa Golf – 18 holes*
- 16 *Golf Club La Rocca – 18 holes*
- 17 *Salsomaggiore Golf & Thermae – 18 holes*
- 18 *Golf Club Castell’Arquato – 18 holes*
- 19 *Croara Country Club – 18 holes*
- 20 *Golf Club Cà Laura – 9 holes*
- 21 *Argenta Golf Club – 18 holes*
- 22 *Golf Club “Augusto Fava” Cento – 9 holes*
- 23 *Campanino Golf Club – 9 holes*
- 24 *Golf Club Santo Stefano – 9 holes*





1. Adriatic Golf Club Cervia

Specification: Red – Blue Trail: 18 holes, par 72, 6.272 metres, inaugurated in 1985, designed by Marco Croze, at sea level. Yellow Trail: 9 holes, par 35, 3.093 metres, designed by Alvise Rossi Fioravanti and Baldovino Dassù.

Equipment: Practice green, pitching green, chipping green, 2 putting greens, golf carts, caddies, buggy and club hire, golf school, pro shop, golf instructors, bar, restaurant, car park, dedicated changing rooms, amusement arcade and TV room, tennis facilities. Golf School with 3 holes, par 3 executive course.

Season: Open all year round

Adriatic Golf Club Cervia

Cervia / Milano Marittima - Ravenna

info@golfcervia.com - www.golfcervia.com

2. Rimini-Verucchio Golf Club Asd

Specification: 18 holes, par 72, 6.145 metres + 7 Executive holes, 2.040 metres, inaugurated in 1993. Designed by Brian M. Silva, 80 metres above sea level.

Equipment: Golf Academy, well-lit practice green featuring 100 tees (25 covered) and directional greens, professional golfer (Italian and English PGA), pitching green, putting green, golf carts, caddies, buggies, clubs and bags for hire, pro-shop, bar, changing rooms, large car park.

Season: Open all year round. Closed on non-public holiday Mondays from November to February.

Rimini-Verucchio Golf Club A.S.D.

Villa Verucchio - Rimini

info@riminiverucchiogolf.com

www.riminiverucchiogolf.com

3. Rivieragolfresort

Specification: 18 holes, par 72, 6.412 metres + 9 executive holes and Pitch & Putt.

Equipment: Elegant club house and resort gathering 32 suites that were all designed by acclaimed international architects, Tee Restaurant & Lounge, 82-m²-large outdoor swimming pool made of Noto stone and Poolside Bar, Rivierabeauty, modern gym with Technogym cardio workout equipment. Practice green, 2 18-hole putting greens, pitching green and chipping green.

Season: Open all year round, closed on Mondays during the winter.

Rivieragolfresort

San Giovanni in Marignano - Rimini

info@rivieragolf.it - www.rivieragolfresort.it

4. Golf Club “I Fiordalisi”

Specification: 9 holes, par 36, 3.048 metres + 2 executive holes.

Equipment: Club house, 2 putting greens, water driving range and grass driving range, golf carts and buggies for hire, secretary's office, changing rooms, bag room, guestrooms, bar and restaurant.

Season: Open all year round, closed on non-public holiday Mondays.

Golf Club I Fiordalisi

Magliano - Forlì Cesena

info@golfclubifiordalisi.it - www.golfclubifiordalisi.it

5. Golf Club “Le Cicogne” Faenza

Specification: Designed by Studio GS Associati Ravenna, 9 holes, par 35, Men's section: 2.700 metres, Women's section: 2.445 metres, 35 metres above sea level.

Equipment: Practice green (with outdoor and indoor tees), pitching green, putting green, practice bunker, buggy and club hire, pro-shop, bar, large car park.

Season: Open all year round, closed on non-public holiday Mondays.

Golf Club Faenza “Le Cicogne”

Faenza - Ravenna

faenzagolf@virgilio.it - www.faenzagolf.com

6. Riolo Golf “La Torre”

Specification: Practice green, pitching green, putting green, golf carts, buggy and club hire, golf school, pro shop, golf instructors, swimming pool, bar, restaurant, car park, changing rooms, TV room, tennis court, five-a-side football pitch.

Season: Open all year round, closed on non-public holiday Mondays.

Riolo Golf La Torre

Riolo Terme - Ravenna

info@golffatorre.it - www.golffatorre.it

7. C.U.S. Ferrara Golf

Specification: 18 holes, par 68, 5446 metres, the 18-hole trail was concluded in March 2004.

Equipment: Practice green, driving range, putting green, buggy hire, golf cart, golf instructors, 4 synthetic tennis courts, fitness centre, bar, restaurant, car park and changing rooms.

Season: Open all year round

C.U.S. Ferrara Golf

Ferrara - Italia

golf@unife.it - www.cusferrargolf.it

8. Golf Club “Le Fonti”

Specification: 18 holes, par 72, 6.480 metres, Course Rating for Men/Women 71,9/73,7, Slope Rating for Men/Women 126/124, inaugurated in 1999.

Equipment: Practice green, pitching green, putting green, chipping green, golf carts, buggy and club hire, golf school, pro shop, golf instructors, swimming pool, bar, restaurant, car park, changing rooms, TV room, meeting room, beauty treatments and hydrotherapy, sauna, gym and fitness room.

Season: Open all year round, closed on non-public holiday Tuesdays.

Golf Club Le Fonti

Castel San Pietro Terme - Bologna

info@golfclublefonti.it - www.golfclublefonti.it

9. Golf Club Casalunga

Specification: 9 holes, par 36, 3010 metres + 3 executive par 3 holes, affiliated since 1993.

Equipment: Driving range featuring 30 tees (5 covered), pitching green, putting green, golf carts, pro shop, buggy and club hire, bar, restaurant, TV room, car park, changing rooms, gym, fitness centre and swimming pool.

Season: Open all year round, closed on non-public holiday Mondays.

Golf Club Casalunga
Castenaso - Bologna
segreteria@casalungagolfresort.com
www.casalungagolfresort.com

10. Golf Club Bologna

Specification: 18 holes, par 72, 5.949 metres, inaugurated in 1959, designed by Cotton & Harris, partially remodelled by Peter Alliss, 116 metres above sea level.

Equipment: Practice green, pitching green, putting green, golf carts, buggy and club hire, golf school, pro shop, golf instructors, bar, restaurant, swimming pool, car park and changing rooms.

Season: Open all year round, closed on non-public holiday Mondays.

Golf Club Bologna
Monte San Pietro - Bologna
info@golfclubbologna.it - www.golfclubbologna.it

11. Golf Club "Molino del Pero"

Specification: 18 holes, par 70, 5.480 metres, inaugurated in 1991.

Equipment: Putting green, pitching green, practice green with indoor tees, golf carts, buggy and club hire, pro shop, changing room and car park. Restaurant and Bed & Breakfast next to hole no. 3.

Season: Open all year round, closed on non-public holiday Mondays.

Golf Club Molino del Pero
Monzuno - Bologna
molino.golf@tin.it - www.molinodelpero

12. Monte Cimone Golf Club

Specification: Par 34 holes, 2.194 metres + 1 executive hole, affiliated since 2009.

Equipment: Practice green with 10 indoor tees, putting green, pitching green and bunker, golf cart, pro-shop, golf buggies and bags for hire, changing rooms.

Season: Open mid-April to mid-October, closed on Wednesdays in May, June and September.

Monte Cimone Golf Club
Sestola - Modena
golfclub@appenninobianco.it
montecimonegolfclub.it

13. Modena Golf & Country Club

Specification: "Bernhard Langer" Championship Trail, 18 holes, par 72, 6.423 metres, inaugurated in 1990; Executive trail, 9 holes, par 27, 976 metres.

Equipment: Swimming pool, sauna, practice green, putting green, pitching green, chipping green, 2 tennis courts, bar, restaurant, pro-shop, convention area, billiard room, bridge room, golf carts, golf buggies, bags and clubs for hire, golf instructors, car park, changing rooms, TV room and fitness centre.

Season: Open all year round, closed on non-public holiday Tuesdays.

Modena Golf & Country Club
Colombaro di Formigine - Modena
segreteria@modenagolf.it - www.modenagolf.it

14. San Valentino Golf Club

Specification: 18 holes, par 69, 5.838 metres, inaugurated in 1997.

Equipment: Putting green, pitching green with bunker, practice green with 18 outdoor tees and 12 indoor tees, bar, buvette, swimming pool, cardio fitness centre, sauna, solarium, Pro-Shop, lake equipped with sport fishing tackle, restaurant, hotel, wireless Internet area, convention area with giant screen for videoconferencing, party room, billiard room, amusement arcade, reading room, TV room, massage room, naturalistic route with wood gym, rock climbing wall and survivor path, Jacuzzi bathtub - Golf Carts and Buggies for hire.

Season: Open all year round, closed January 7-31 and on non-public holiday Tuesdays.

San Valentino Golf Club
San Valentino di Castellarano - Reggio Emilia
info@sanvalentino.it - www.sanvalentino.it

15. Matilde di Canossa Golf

Specification: 18 holes, par 72, 6.231 metres, inaugurated in 1987, designed by Marco Croze.

Equipment: Practice green, putting green, golf carts, caddies, buggy and club hire, pro shop, golf instructors, swimming pool, bar, restaurant, buvette, car park, changing rooms, TV room.

Season: Open all year round, closed on non-public holiday Mondays.

Matilde di Canossa Golf
San Bartolomeo - Reggio Emilia
golfcanossa@libero.it - www.matildedicanossagolf.it

16. Golf Club "La Rocca"

Specification: 18 holes, par 71, 5.932 metres, inaugurated in 1985, designed by Marco Croze, 295 metres above sea level.

Equipment: Practice green, pitching green, putting green, chipping green, golf carts, buggy and club hire, pro shop, golf instructors, bar, restaurant, car park, changing rooms, TV room.

Season: Open all year round, closed on non-public holiday Mondays and during the month of January.

Golf Club La Rocca
Sala Baganza - Parma
info@golfarocca.com - www.golfarocca.com

17. Salsomaggiore Golf & Thermae

Specification: 18 buche, par 72, metri 5.761, situato a 360 mt. s.l.m. con 3 laghi che interessano 5 buche.

Equipment: Practice green featuring 15 tees (5 covered), pitching green, putting green, golf carts, clubs for hire, electric and manual buggies, pro shop, bar, restaurant, swimming pool, car park, changing rooms and TV room. The acclaimed golf instructor Luigi Tunnera gives players the possibility to attend single lessons, group lessons and golf clinics..

Season: Open all year round, closed December 23 to January 30.

*Salsomaggiore Golf & Country Club
Salsomaggiore Terme - Parma
info@salsomaggioregolfclub.com
www.salsomaggioregolfclub.com*

18. Golf Club Castell'Arquato

Specification: 18 holes, par 73, 6.052 metres, 5 lakes, inaugurated in 1991.

Equipment: Practice green featuring 20 tees (6 covered), putting green, golf carts, clubs for hire, electric and manual buggies, pro shop, bar, restaurant, car park, changing rooms, TV room, massage room (massages upon booking). The acclaimed golf instructor Antonio Pelle arranges both single and group lessons.

Season: Open all year round, closed on non-public holiday Tuesdays and August 14-18, open at weekends only February 1-22.

*Golf Club Castell'Arquato
Castell'Arquato - Piacenza
segreteria@golfclubcastellarquato.com
www.golfclubcastellarquato.com*

19. Croara Country Club

Specification: 18 holes, par 72, 6.065 metres, the first nine holes were designed by Buratti and inaugurated in 1975, while the 9 subsequent holes were designed by Croze and Lo Cascio and inaugurated in 1983.

Equipment: Practice green, pitching green, putting-green, bar, restaurant, swimming pool, tennis court, pro-shop, golf carts, clubs and buggies for hire, golf instructors, car park, changing rooms, TV room.

Season: Closed on non-public holiday Tuesdays and from January 7 to February 7, 2010.

*Croara Country Club
Gazzola - Piacenza
info@croaracountryclub.com
www.croaracountryclub.com*

20. Golf Club "Cà Laura"

Specification: 9 holes

*Golf Club Cà Laura
Bosco Mesola - Ferrara
Tel. & Fax: 0533.794372*

21. Argenta Golf Club

Specification: 18 holes

*Argenta - Ferrara
Tel. & Fax: 0532.852545*

22. Golf Club "Augusto Fava" Cento

Specification: 9 holes

*Cento - Ferrara
Tel. & Fax: 051.6830504*

23. Campanino Golf Club

Specification: 9 holes

*Montevoglio - Bologna
Tel. 051.6705387 - Fax: 051.6710969*

24. Golf Club "Santo Stefano"

Specification: 9 holes

*Campagnola Emilia - Reggio Emilia
Tel. & Fax: 0522.652915
info@emiliaromagnagolf.com
www.emiliaromagnagolf.com*



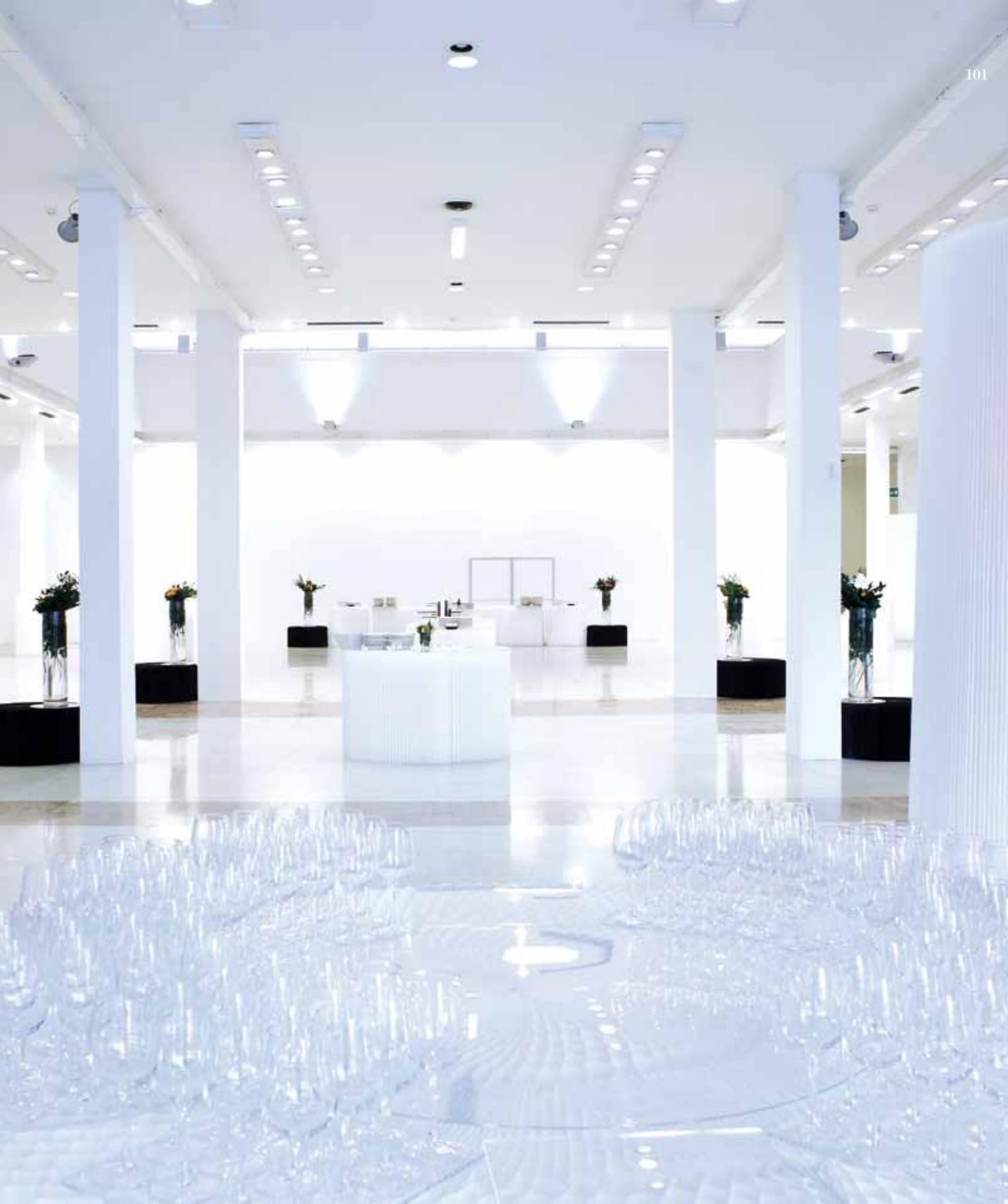
Mice

Meetings, incentives, conferencing, exhibitions

Emilia-Romagna: The ideal destination for congress tourism

Idyllically set at the junction of the major communication routes, Emilia-Romagna is the ideal destination for congress tourism. Three international airports, that are provided with excellent rail connections and shuttle buses with the rest of the territory, lead to the three major congress centres of the region: Bologna, Rimini and Parma. These are surrounded by the glorious landscapes we have already described in the pages of this guide: A unique scenery that extends halfway between the plain, the sea and the Apennines, precious finds and remains dating back to the past, a splendid natural heritage, outstanding Roman monuments and Renaissance masterpieces, fascinating medieval villages and castles, food and wine routes, utmost courtesy and kindness and warm hospitality. These outstanding elements are complemented by state-of-the-art congress centres featuring modern equipment and high-quality services and facilities. “Axis Convention Town of Emilia-Romagna” is the dedicated club that gathers the major conference and exhibition venues of the region: Convention Bureau of Rimini’s Riviera, Bologna Congressi, Parma Incoming, Ferrara Fiere e Congressi, ModenaTur and Convention Bureau Salsomaggiore.





Bologna

Bologna's rich meeting infrastructure gathers different types of venues that are able to suit even the most demanding requirements of congress tourism: They can host international medical and scientific congresses, important conventions, exclusive gala dinners and targeted business meetings. Idyllically set just in the heart of one of the most important exhibition centres in Europe, the city's modern and elegant New Congress Centre is the ideal place to arrange different types of meetings and events. The city's most important congress facilities include Palazzo della Cultura e dei Congressi, Sala Maggiore, the historical seat of Bologna's Gallery of Modern Art and Pavilion 19-20. These facilities, that have recently been fully renovated, are now able to suit even tourists' most demanding requirements. These outstanding locations, that are owned and operated by Bologna Congressi, are complemented by the elegant Palazzo Re Enzo. Bologna Congressi aims at suiting even business travellers' most demanding requirements, and constantly strives to enlarge and renovate its spaces while finding a single institution that is able to deal with all different stages of an organizational life cycle: From planning and coordination of all logistics support required by the mission (planning, arrangement, catering and technical services) to the provision of a wide range of incoming services, such as hotel accommodation, transport and the management of post-congress tours and leisure activities. Dedicated information desks welcome business travellers with the utmost warmth and hospitality, while providing detailed information on the major tourist attractions and events of the surrounding area. They are situated in the heart of strategic areas, such as Guglielmo Marconi Airport, Piazza Maggiore and the Congress Service Centre.

New Congress Centre

> 11.000 seats

Palazzo della Cultura e dei Congressi, Sala Maggiore and Pavilion 19-20 are provided with direct connections to each other, and can be used both separately and simultaneously for the organization of important international events. Total capacity: 11.000 seats, plenary hall: 6.000 seat, 4 congress rooms that can accommodate 200 to 1.350 people, 8 meeting rooms that can accommodate 20 to 150 people, exhibition areas: 13.500 m².

Palazzo Re Enzo

> 1.000 seats

Built at the beginning of the XIII century and idyllically set just in the heart of Bologna, this historical palace boasts an outstanding combination of fascination and state-of-the-art technology. This exclusive location is often the venue for outstanding business meetings and events. On the occasion of the most important congresses and conference, it accommodates both delegates, exhibitors and VIPs, and gives them the possibility to relax while enjoying open bar, music entertainment, food and wine tasting tours and free Wi-Fi access. The palace, that extends over a total surface area of 2.500 m², is the major historical venue of the city centre. Its prestigious structure gives business travellers the possibility to use up to three meeting rooms simultaneously, since they can accommodate 60 to 420 people (total capacity: 1.000 seats), as well as to take advantage of the inner 1.700 m²-large exhibition area.

1. View of Palazzo Re Enzo and Palazzo del Podestà from Piazza Maggiore





2. New Congress Centre,
Europauditorium

3. New Congress Centre,
Sala Maggiore

4. Palazzo Re Enzo,
Salone del Podestà



Parma

Parma Incoming gathers excellent accommodation facilities, important congress centres, such as Palacassa and Auditorium Paganini (the latter being designed by Renzo Piano), beauty centres, transport companies, tourist guide associations, restaurants and prestigious locations for gala dinners and exclusive events. Destination Management Company and Tour Operator deals with the organization of congresses, conventions, meetings and incentives for 25 to 5000 people, and provides dedicated support for the organization of events in Parma and its province.

Palacassa - Exhibition Centre

> 9.000 seats

Palacassa, that extends over a total surface area of 18.000 m² and gathers up to 9.000 seats (5.000 in the plenary room), 12.000 standing rooms, 7 modular conference rooms (140 to 900 seats), state-of-the-art equipment and modern audio-visual technology, is one of the largest venues of its kind in Europe. This prestigious location is complemented by box office, welcome area, self-service restaurant and large car park. This multi-purpose, elegant building is the ideal place to arrange congresses, meetings, conventions, sporting events, concerts, lyrical performances, gala dinners, music shows, cultural representations and plenty of further exclusive events that require excellent audio-visual technologies.

Parma Congress Centre

> 1.600 seats

Culture and technology merge in pleasant harmony at this prestigious conference venue. 2 out of its 4 rooms can accommodate up to 150 people, while the remaining rooms are modular spaces that can even accommodate 200/250 people. They gather wide exhibition areas provided with state-of-the-art equipment and audio-visual technology.

Sala ipogea

> 420 seats

In the autumn 2011, the complex was enlarged and a new underground space was inaugurated, the so-called Sala Ipogea. Connected with Auditorium Paganini and the halls of the Congress Centre, it can accommodate up to 420 people. This unusual conference room, that is easily accessible through dedicated lifts and staircases, can also be reached by

means of a splendid open-air staircase that overlooks a beautiful secret garden. A large side window gives people the possibility to enjoy breathtaking views over the park that surrounds the whole complex.

Royal Theatre and ridotto

> 1.200 seats + 200 seats

Parma's Royal Theatre, that is idyllically set just in the heart of the city centre, is one of the most prestigious lyric theatres in Italy, and it is often the venue for important opera performances, concerts and ballets. Its sumptuously decorated rooms and halls, that were embellished by Paolo Toschi and Gian Battista Borghesi, are often the venue for important congresses and conventions, and also host prestigious gala dinners and events. The main room can accommodate up to 1200 people, while the smaller Sala del Ridotto, that is traditionally used to arrange meetings, concerts and special dinners, can accommodate up to 200 people.

Auditorium Paganini

> 780 seats

Auditorium Paganini was built over the remains of the former Eridania sugar refinery, that was built in 1899 and subsequently closed in 1968. Designed by the acclaimed international architect Renzo Piano, it was part of the most important urban requalification project involving that part of the city. The building is made up of a plenary room that can accommodate 780 people, a foyer, several dressing rooms, a bar, some offices, a cloakroom and a control room, and it is provided with sophisticated equipment and state-of-the-art audiovisual technology. The two façades of the former factory were demolished to create a kind of a telescope: The large windows that surround the foyer and the music room make the outer park the natural setting of this glorious stage. The car park can accommodate up to 200 cars.

The conference offer is complemented by the Congress Centre of the Chamber of Commerce (up to 500 seats), the local Circolo di lettura (Reading Club) (300 seats), Casa della Musica (House of Music) (up to 250 seats), Castello di Felino (Felino Castle) (up to 300 seats), Salsomaggiore Congress Centre (700 seats) and the 55 rooms of Parma's hotels, that can accommodate 15 to 600 people.

2. Teatro Regio, ridotto

3. Teatro Regio, interior

4. Congress Centre, exterior

1. Auditorium by Renzo Piano, exterior





Rimini

Rimini's Riviera is one of the finest congress destinations in Central Italy. Situated few hundred kilometres far from the most famous cities of art in Italy and provided with excellent connections with two important international airports (Rimini Airport, that is located a very short distance from the city's major conference facilities, and Bologna Airport), Rimini's Riviera offers a dazzling array of accommodation facilities, exciting entertainment opportunities and plenty of extraordinary leisure time activities. The local congress system, that is operated by the Convention Bureau of Rimini's Riviera, boasts high quality standards and state-of-the-art facilities and equipment. The Convention Bureau, that has developed considerable expertise in the sector of trade fairs and congresses, provides support during all phases of the organization of the event, while offering dedicated consulting services and useful information. It provides tailor-made arrangements, selects the best hotels and conference centres, supervises all spaces, arranges preliminary offers, coordinates the contact between clients and professionals, arranges special programmes, theme evenings and tours and checks the overall quality of every single venue.

Rimini Palacongressi

> 9.000 seats

It is one of the largest, most modern and best equipped conference centres in Italy. It gathers 39 rooms, has a total capacity of 9.000 seats, its main room can accommodate up to 4.700 people and its exhibition areas extend over a total surface area of 11.000 m². This multi-purpose building can accommodate different kinds of conferences and events, such as corporate conventions, medical and scientific congresses, training courses, cultural events and business meetings.

Exhibition Centre

Rimini's Exhibition Centre is one of the most important trade fair districts in Italy, and it is able to accommodate even big-size congresses and events.

Riccione Conference Building

> 1.400 seats

Idyllically set just in the heart of the city centre, this newly built venue gathers 10 spacious halls, and its plenary room can accommodate up to 1.400 people. It is situated less than 1 km far from hundreds of excellent hotels, restaurants, boutiques and clubs, and stands within a short walking distance from the sea.

Rimini's conference offer is complemented by Palazzo dei Congressi in Bellaria (12 rooms; plenary room: 1.500 seats), the Congress Centre of Rimini Grand Hotel (7 rooms; plenary room: 350 seats), Le Conchiglie Congress Centre in Riccione (10 rooms; plenary room: 1.000 seats) and SGR Servizi Congress Centre in Rimini (5 rooms; plenary room: 250 people), as well as by plenty of exclusive venues that can accommodate 50 to 6.000 people on the occasion of important conventions, gala dinners and business meetings.

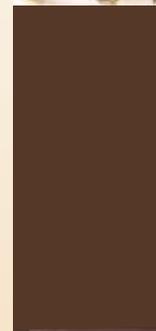
Facts and Figures on the conference offer of Rimini's Riviera:

- 2 conference buildings: Rimini Palacongressi and Riccione Conference Building
- 4 congress centres
- 57 congress venues
- 2.300 hotels
- 1 exhibition centre equipped with 21 congress rooms
- 6 aqua parks
- 15 theme parks
- 1 motor racing circuit
- 2 basins
- 2 spa establishments
- 8 sports halls
- 20 historical venues
- 17 theatres
- 7 fortresses, towers and castles

2. Cattolica's Basin

3. Riccione Conference Building

4. Rimini Palacongressi,
Sala della Piazza



1. Rimini Palacongressi



IAT – Tourist Information Offices

Piacenza

Piazza Cavalli, 2 - Courtyard of Palazzo Gotico - 29121 Piacenza
Tel. 0523/492223-24 - Fax 0523/306727
iat@comune.piacenza.it
www.provincia.piacenza.it/turismo
www.comune.piacenza.it/benvenuti/index.asp

Parma

Piazza Garibaldi, 1 - 43121 Parma
Tel. 0521/218889 - Fax 0521/218887
turismo@comune.parma.it
www.turismo.comune.parma.it

Reggio Emilia

Via Farini 1/a - 42121 Reggio Emilia
Tel. 0522/451152 - Fax 0522/436739
iat@municipio.re.it
www.municipio.re.it/turismo

Modena

Piazza Grande 14 - 41121 Modena
Tel. 059/2032660 - Fax 059/2032659
iatmo@comune.modena.it
http://turismo.comune.modena.it

Bologna

Palazzo Podestà, Piazza Maggiore, 1/E - 40124 Bologna
Tel. 051/239660-6472113 - Fax 051/6472253
touristoffice@comune.bologna.it
www.bolognawelcome.it

Ferrara

Estense Castle - 44121 Ferrara
Tel. 0532/209370-299303 - Fax 0532/212266
infotur@provincia.fe.it
www.ferrarainfo.com

Ravenna

Via Salara, 8/12 - 48121 Ravenna
Tel. 0544/35404-35755 - Fax 0544/546097
iatravenna@comune.ra.it
www.turismo.ravenna.it

Faenza

Voltone Molinella, 2 - 48018 Faenza (Ra)
Tel./Fax 0546/25231
info@prolocofaenza.it
www.prolocofaenza.it

Forlì

Piazzetta della Misura, 5 - 47121 Forlì
Tel. 0543/712435 - Fax 0543/712755-2450
iat@comune.forli.fc.it
www.turismoforlivese.it - www.turismo.fc.it
www.facebook.com/TurismoForlivese

Cesena

Piazza del Popolo, 15 - 47521 Cesena
Tel. 0547/356327 - Fax 0547/356393
iat@comune.cesena.fc.it
http://turismo.comune.cesena.fc.it

Rimini

Piazzale Federico Fellini, 3 - 47921 Rimini
Tel. 0541/56902, 0541/53399 - Fax 0541/56598
marinacentro@riminireservation.it
www.riminiturismo.it

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Photo archives APT Servizi, p.7, photo 2 - p.11, photo 2 - p.17, photo 4 - p.23, photo 2 - p.25, photo 1 - p.27, photo 2 - p.29, photo 2 - p.51, photo 1 - p.59, photo 4 - p.79, photo 1

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www.cinetecadibologna.it - archiviopasolini@comune.bologna.it

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*Paolo Barone, *Armonie del gusto - Atlante dei sapori tipici della provincia di Bologna*, Province of Bologna, Assessorship for Agriculture, Cassa di Risparmio Foundation, Comune di Bologna, 2006.

