

6. CAMUGNANO

Palazzo Comelli was for centuries the home of the Comellis, a family of notaries for various generations; the great-nephew Gian Battista (1840-1916) was also a scholar of literature and agronomy and a passionate local history lover. The palace is the result of various extensions added over the centuries. On the imposing main façade faces towards the valley it sticks out the family crest and on the south side, a huge sundial towers above the area. The palace may be visited upon request.

Municipality of Camugnano tel. 0534 41723

7. PORRETTA TERME

The Bath of Porretta, visited by the Etruscans and the Romans, boasts a dense two-thousand-year-long history. During the Renaissance, Niccolò Machiavelli stopped there while he was writing 'La Mandragola' (The Mandrake) and in 1475 Giovanni Sabadino degli Arienti chose the baths as the setting of his 'Storie Porrettane', in which he imagines a gathering of gentlemen and ladies at the baths, who take turns telling 62 short stories, on the model of Boccaccio's 'Decameron'. Also mentioned by Rabelais in

'Gargantua and Pantagruel', over the centuries these baths were visited by important people such as Lorenzo the Magnificent, Cardinal Francesco Gonzaga accompanied by the painter Andrea Mantegna, Giovanni Sforza Visconti, the Grand Duchess of Tuscany Bianca Cappello and Napoleon's brother, Louis Bonaparte.

In Porretta there is also the Demm Museum which exhibits many examples of the once popular Demm motorcycles and mopeds restored to their former glory.

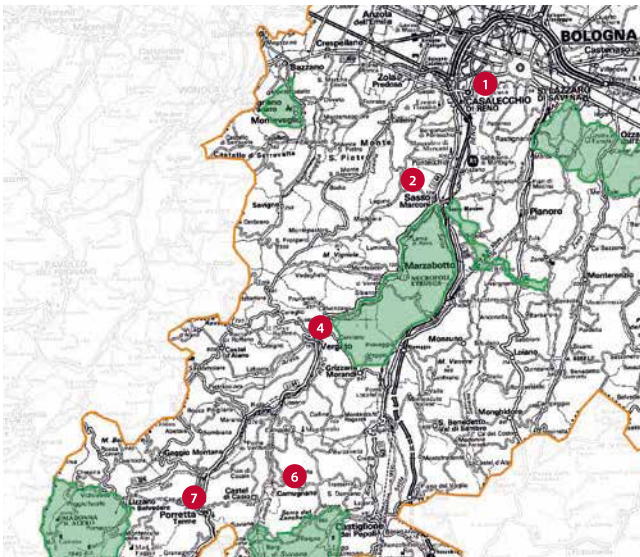
Tourist Information Office I.A.T. Porretta - Tel. 0534 22021



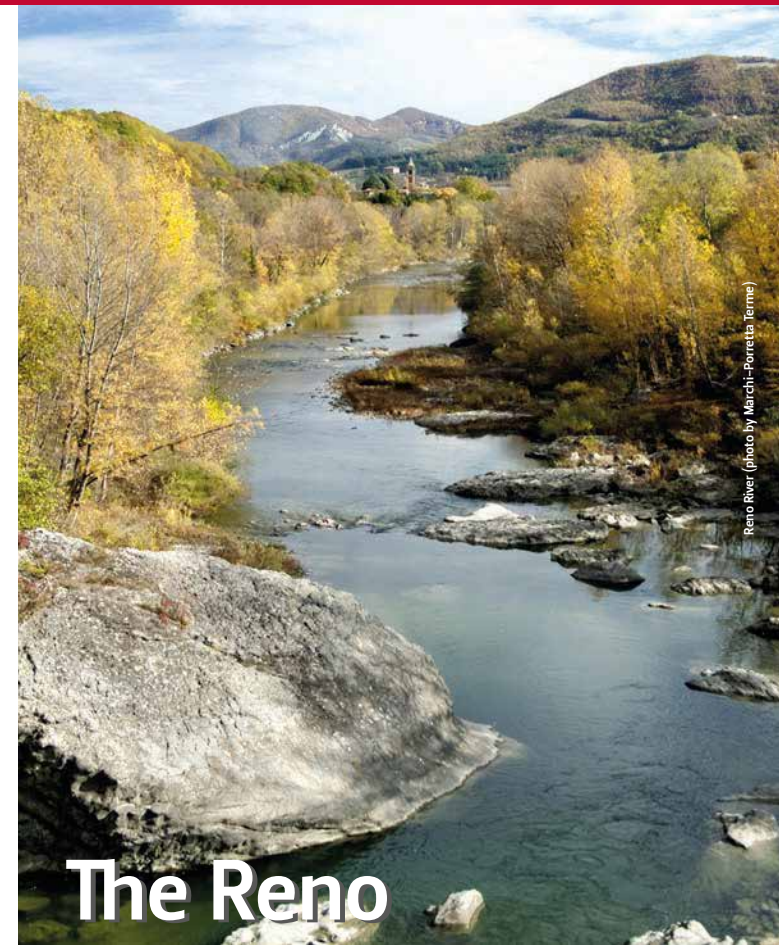
The Shrine of the Madonna dell'Acero (photo by Marchi-Porretta Terme)

tenth century, is an elliptical baptistery built under the Lombards. Until 1951 it served as a base for the octagonal bell tower of the old Romanesque parish church of 'San Mamante'. The adjacent parish church Pieve di San Mamante is a very ancient institution indeed. No other parish church in the whole diocese of Bologna is as ancient: the first trace in written documents dates back to the Lombards, which means that, presumably, its origins are in fact much older. Tourist Information Office I.A.T. Lizzano - Tel. 0534 51052

Based on "Guide of the province of Bologna - Valley Itineraries"



Grafiche E. GASPARI - Carignano di G. (BO) - Stampa Home of Piedimonte, Matese (CE) - May 2015



The Reno Valley

An age-old history flows along the entire route of the Reno River, its roots lying in the Etruscan civilization. The Reno Valley is an astonishing open-air museum which tells the story of these lands.

8. LIZZANO

The Shrine of the Madonna dell'Acero (the 'Virgin Mary of the Maple Tree') was built in 1500 where the Virgin Mary appeared by a maple tree to rescue two shepherds from a snowstorm. A picture was placed on the maple tree, which immediately became a place of worship which is today replaced by the shrine. Inside the church, restored in the twentieth century, among the many votive offerings is 'I Brunori', a wooden group sculpted for a member of the Brunori family who escaped death in 1530 in the 'battle of Gavina-na' against the troops of Charles V.

The Delubro, dating from the period between the eighth and the



www.bolognawelcome.it

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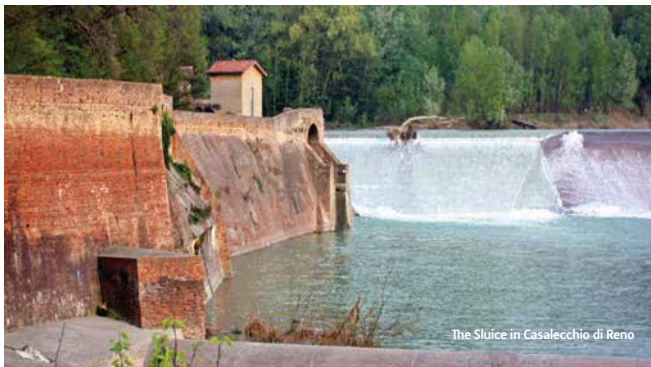


1. CASALECCHIO DI RENO

The Sluice and the Reno Canal

The goal of the sluice was to provide motive power to the mills and factories of medieval Bologna as well as to direct the water into navigable waterways that would open new international trade markets. The first stable wooden sluice was built in Casalecchio in 1208. That same year the canal which connects the sluice to the city was renovated. Bologna managed to harness water into a complex network of canals and sewers and conduits, which turned it into a city of water, as well as a great European centre for the production of fine silk cloth. Though it was rebuilt several times, the sluice could not withstand floods. In 1567, Pope Pius V ordered its reconstruction and ruled that those who made profits from the water should have responsibility for its maintenance. Thus, the grand sluice was constructed based on a design by Vignola (Jacopo Barozzi). Still today, it remains a wonderful testimony to the hydraulic engineering of the time. In 2010 the sluice was appointed a UNESCO heritage site.

www.consozireno-savena.it



The Sluice in Casalecchio di Reno

2. SASSO MARCONI

Marconi Villa and Museum

Sasso Marconi owes its name to the rock (sasso in Italian) known in the Middle Ages as Sasso di Glòsina, a scenic outpost of the Pliocene spur, and to Guglielmo Marconi (Bologna 1874 - Rome 1937), the inventor of the wireless telegraph. 'Villa Griffone', was built in the late 17th century in the small village called Pontecchio. In 1895, the building became a property of the Marconis and it is precisely here where the young Guglielmo conducted his first transmission experiments. For a thrilling experience, one may visit the famous stanza dei bachi (the silkworm room), used as his first laboratory by the young scientist who was destined to be awarded a Nobel Prize in Physics when he was only 35. The park houses the wreck of the yacht 'Eletra', which was Marconi's floating laboratory from 1919 on, while the Mausoleum is the work of the famous rationalist architect Marcello Piacentini, whose project was inspired by the Etruscan tombs. (Guglielmo Marconi Foundation: www.fgm.it)

www.infosasso.it

3. MARZABOTTO

Between the sixth and fifth centuries BC, Kainua, the Etruscan village that once stood in the area corresponding to today's Marzabotto, was a flourishing caravan city, a junction connecting the Po Valley with the Tyrrhenian side of Etruria. In the archaeological site the grid of roads (the main ones were up to 15 m wide) results in a system still clearly visible today, which constitutes the only instance of pre-Roman urban planning in Italy.

Still visible are the remains of many houses with an inner courtyard and a well, often accompanied by an artisan's workshop facing the street. To the east and north of the town are the two necropolises with travertine tombs, whilst on the small upland beyond the 'Porrettana' (the trunk road connecting Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna) is the acropolis. The artifacts collected over more than a century and a half of excavations in the town as well as its necropolises are kept in the Museum named after Earl Pompeo Aria, who, following in his father's footsteps (Giuseppe Aria), set up the original nucleus of the collection.

The parish church Pieve di Panico is considered one of the best examples of Romanesque architecture in the Apennines around Bologna.

The only historical park in Italy, Park of Monte Sole, was created on the site of the Nazi massacre of more than 700 civilians of Marzabotto in 1944. A path through the park follows a route through memorial sites of the tragic events. The Peace School Foundation of Monte Sole manages the park exhibits and has the additional objective to promote training in coexistence for future generations.

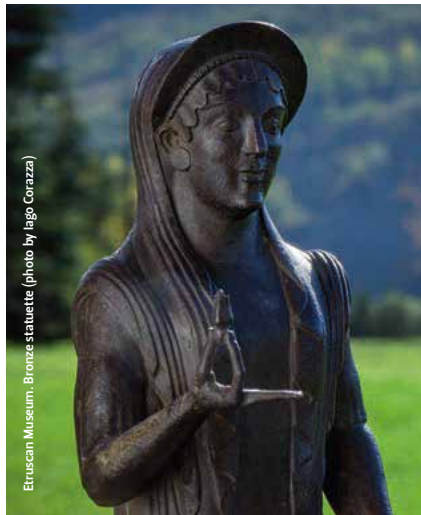
In the small cemetery of Casaglia is the grave of Giuseppe Dossetti, an Italian jurist, politician and from 1958 onward a Catholic priest who founded a religious community here.

www.prolocomarzabotto.it

4. VERGATO

The Palazzo dei Capitani della Montagna (literally, the Palace of the Captains of the Mountains) features a beautiful facade adorned with the Captains' crests, for the city of Bologna owes them its long sought-after domination over the territories of the Apennines. The palace, built around 1400, was carefully restored and recently enhanced with four stained glass windows by artist Luigi Ontani.

The parish church Pieve di Roffeno is dedicated to Saint Peter and still maintains its 12th century rural Romanesque architectural structure.



Etruscan Museum. Bronze statuette (photo by Iago Corazza)

During the Baroque period, it was redone and its structure was partly modified several times; yet, one can still admire the beautiful decorated apse, the exquisite capitals and a 14th century defensive tower, all belonging to the original church. Inside the church also are an important baptismal font and some 17th century frescos. www.unioneappennino.bo.it



Palazzo dei Capitani. Glass windows by Luigi Ontani

5. GRIZZANA MORANDI

The small town of Grizzana Morandi has long been a holiday resort and Giorgio Morandi (1900-1964), one of the major Italian painters of the twentieth century, chose Grizzana as his vacation destination. His cottage there still houses the original furnishings and Morandi's studio with his painting tools. Close to the village is the 'Giorgio Morandi' Documentation Centre, set up inside the barn complex Fienili del Campiario, a favourite subject of many works of the painter. The area remains totally unchanged since the artist dwelled there. The name of Alvar Aalto, the great Finnish architect, designer and urban planner, on the other hand, is closely connected to the Apennines around Bologna through the church S. Maria Assunta di Riola, which he designed in 1966, his only work in Italy.

Not far from Aalto's church, there stands Rocchetta Mattei, a veritable fairy-tale castle with an Islamic/Moorish style which cannot but catch the imagination of those who pass through the valley. Scola di Vimignano is one of the best-kept hamlets in this region of



Riola. Rocchetta Mattei (photo by Marchi - Porretta Terme)

the Apennines. Originally used for military purposes by the Byzantines (6th century), the village later took on its current appearance. Also worth noticing are the peculiar tower houses built for defensive purposes and the tiles of carved sandstone with the archaic symbols of the Maestri Comacini (an ancient brotherhood of master stonemasons). In the lower part of the hamlet, there survives a marvellous cypress considered to be a monument. This tree, together with the nearby Oratory, has become the symbol of Scola.

The very ancient shrine of 'Madonna della Consolazione' (Mary of Consolation) is located in Montòvolo Park. www.prolocogrizzana.it