FALERIO WINE FROM THE HILLS OF ASCOLI

Production area: all of the hilly areas of the province of Ascoli Piceno. The wine takes its name from the ancient city of Faleria Picenus, the actual Falerone. Falerio has been known for at least a millennium and was very famous during the Roman imperial period. Grapes: up to 80% of Trebbiano toscana with the addition of Passerina, Verdicchio, Malvasia toscana, Pinot Bianco and Pecorino. Minimum alcohol content: 11.5°, fairly clear light straw colour, delicious bouquet but with a very crisp, dry, acidic taste. Very drinkable.

WHERE TO EAT

- "Agritur Casavecchia" contrada Aso, 11 tel. 0734/933159 Lapedona
- "Ristorante I Cedri" contrada Aso, 24 tel. 0734/917028 Lapedona
- "Ristorante da Checco" via Porta Marina, 3 tel. 0734/59170 Monterubbiano
- "Ristorante degli Sforza" corso Italia, 8 tel. 0734/59822 Monterubbiano
- "Osteria de le Cornacchie" vicolo del forno, 10 tel. 0734/658707 Petritoli
- "Osteria Re Squarchio" largo tre archi, 4/5 tel. 0734/658649 Petritoli
- "Ristorante "Il frantoio" l'Osteria" via Migliorati, 19 tel. 0734/217116 Fermo
- "Ristorante Locanda del Palio" piazzale Azzolino, 6 tel. 0734/229221 Fermo
- "Ristorante Barbecue Oscar e Amorina" via Faleriense ovest, 27 tel. 0734/967351 Piane di Montegiorgio
- "Ristorante Bellavista" via Montapponese, 2 tel. 0734/710471 Falerone
- "Rifugio Città di Amandola" (alt. 1000 mt.) località Campolungo tel. 0736/847512 Amandola

WHERE TO SHOP

- "Oleificio Abruzzetti Eusebi" extra virgin olive oil contrada Lago, 2 tel. 0734/59207 Monterubbiano
- "Il Frantoio di Vitali F. e Alessandrini M." extra virgin olive oil via Porta Marina, 46 tel. 0734/59134 Monterubbiano
- "Oleificio Roberti" via Ramazzotti, 13 tel. 0734/658069 Petritoli
- "Casa del Formaggio" Corso Marconi,32 tel. 0734/622920 Fermo
- "Salumificio CCS" via Crocedivia, 38 tel. 0734/967223 Montegiorgio
- "Ars Antiqua Legatoria" via Passari, 65 tel. 0734/962644 Montegiorgio
- "Oleificio Zamponi" via della Resistenza,69/71 tel. 0734/750096 Falerone
- "Azienda Vitivinicola Remia Vini" via Madonna del Molino, 20 tel. 0734/750060 Falerone
- "Oleificio Alessandrini" extra virgin olive oil via Monti, 10 tel. 0734/ 59196 Moresco

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

LAPEDONA: "Gnocchi festival" second half of July "Festival of vino cotto" end of September MONTERUBBIANO: "Fried tagliatelle festival" 10th, and 12th, August "Cannelloni festival" 16th. August "Polenta with stockfish festival" last Sunday of July

PETRITOLI: "Thanksgiving festival" second weekend of July

Festival of "Our Lady of Mercy" weekend after 15th. August

FERMO: "Thursday antiques market" July and August

"Palio dell'Assunta" Medieval pageant 15th. August

MONTEGIORGIO: "Festival of Our Lady of Peace" in conjunction with the "Ostrich festival" loc. Castagneto 3rd.Sunday of June

"Storytelling - festival of storytellers" first week of July

"Festival of strozzapreti pasta" end of August

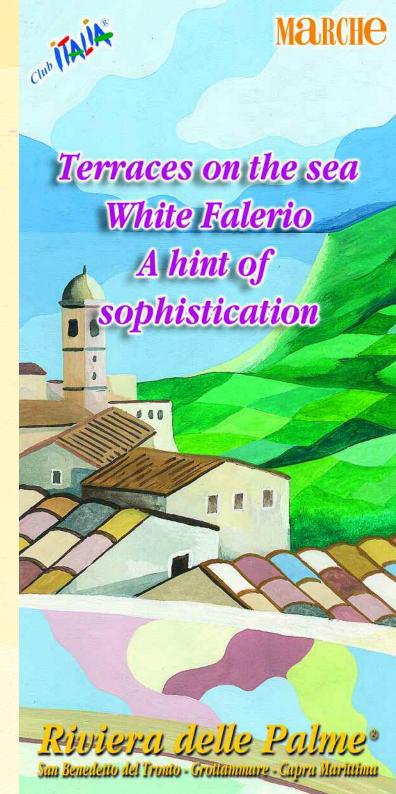
"Festival of Our Lady of Sorrows" Piazza Matteotti mid September

FALERONE: "Historical commemoration of the countess of 'nzegna" - August



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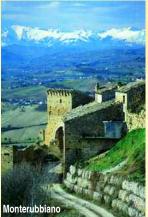
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TORRE DI PALME

Hill town built by the St.Augustine Order of Hermit monks in the Middle Ages. The location, and well preserved structure, gives it particular charm. Almost like a cliff, it overlooks the sea and offers a wonderful viewpoint. Among the narrow streets, arches, arcades, the flowering squares and endless views, the Church of S.Maria is well a visit with fourteenth and fifteenth century works by artists of the region. The Parish church of S.Agostino with altarpiece by Vittore Crivelli.

The three localities, Pedona, Moresco and Monterubbiano, placed on top of the hill that borders the Aso Valley to the north, offer a strong visual impact of rolling hills, green valleys and the sea below. The original architecture and system of medieval origin has remained almost intact.

LAPEDONA

It is a "walled" centre having an entrance gate towards the sea that is topped with Ghibelline merlons. It has an imposing pentagonal tower at the highest point of the village, whilst the three, beautiful, Romanesque churches of Madonna Manu, S,Pietro and S.Quirico attest to the intense Benedictine presence in the area from the early Middle Ages. The ancient tradition of wrought iron working is continued by Marco Diomedi who, when requested, can produce any object that can be made using this metal

MORESCO

"Fairy tale village", an ancient castle built to defend against barbarian invasions (the Moors, hence its name). The castle is well known far beyond the borders of its region for the beauty of its position in the valley, its good condition and for its imposing heptagonal tower.

MONTERUBBIANO

Monterubbiano was the "Urbs-Urbana" of the Romans in the fifth century and was destroyed by the Goths. Resurrected by the Benedictines and Farfensi. It was plundered in 1176 by soldiers of Barbarossa and in 1182 was burned to the ground by Fermani. It fell to the occupation of Francesco Sforza in 1446 who then fortified it before moving permanently to the church. It has an impressive city wall that surrounds and encloses the Romanesque and Gothic churches, ancient buildings, a historic theatre and an important archaeological museum.

PETRITOLI

The Farfensi monks founded it around 1,000 AD with the name Castel Rodolfo; then with the merger of three castles, Petrosa, Petrania and Petrollavia, it became Petritoli. The original and traditional gate is composed of three Gothic arches, flanked by cylindrical towers, that provide the entrance to the village. In the old part of Borgo Vecchio there are buildings with arched doorways and cornices in fourteenth century earthenware or terracotta. The seventeenth century Piazza Castello is home to the Torre Civica that is noted for its unique workmanship; the studio of artist Franco Tizi lies in its shadow. The Convento delle Clarisse is now home to the Palazzo Communale (town hall) its façade is decorated in brick dating from 1621. Also to visit: the Teatro Dell'Iride, a small, restored, architectural jewel of 1873.

BELMONTE PICENO

The adjective of Piceno could not be used more appropriately than for the town of Belmonte. The remains of a pre-Roman necropolis were uncovered in this municipality, testimony that the Piceni once lived here. Archaeological finds of great historical value were found in the over 300 tombs unearthed, which the Authority of Anconetana was quick to move to the Museum in the regional capital. The origins of the Castle could date back to the "castrum Belmontis novum" whose diction makes one think of ortrerss belonging to the Lords of Belmonte; but this first civil and military structure was destroyed and burned down and from its remains arose the municipal castle of the time with a characteristic elongated shape, right on the top of the hill. For its position Belmonte was especially evident during the period dominated by the exploits of soldiers of fortune and held this peculiarity until 1800

FERMO

Documents referring to its Roman history date it back to 264 BC when its name was "Firmum Picenum". The history of Fermo is intense, having been conquered by Alrico (410) Ataulo (413) and Totila (543). With the invasion of the Lombards is became a duchy united to that of Spoleto. It was taken and governed by Barbarossa. In 1119 it was a free commune and in 1236 the Rocca Del Girfalco (castle) was completed, where Galeazzo Maria Sforza, future fifth Duke of Milan was born. Firmum Picenum, ancient Roman colony, is built on four levels. The first level houses the craft initiatives, the second level is home to churches and medieval buildings in a dense network of roads and alleys, the third level, the Piazza del Popolo, spacious and relaxed, absorbs the architecture of the community: the Municipo, the Arcivescovado, the Teatro dell'Aquila, the Pinacoteca, the Biblioteca and the elegante and picturesque Porticato. The top level is the piazzale Girfalco (once dominated by the Castle) with the cathedral. Piazza del Popolo with porticoes built in 1569, closed at the end by Palazzo Dei Priori, where the most beautiful statue of Sisto V (Sansovino 1590) stands, and the Palazzo degli Studi. The Loggiato Di S.Rocco with nine arches, the Palazzo Apostolico, now the seat of the municipality. The imposing Gothic Duomo Romano (cathedral) has a facade erected by Master Craftsman Giorgio da Como. The oldest and most interesting of the monuments is represented by the Roman cisterns. Thirty huge underground intercommunicating chambers, arranged in three parallel rows, excavated for a length of 2,415 metres, right under the Piazza del Popolo. They constituted the precious water reservoir for the city and the old port (now Marina Palmense); its condition, incredibly, is perfect so that is still interesting to study the construction techniques (40-60 AD). The Pinacoteca (art gallery) is located in the civic residence, among the many works displayed it is worth mentioning the famous "Nativity" by Rubens. The prestigious past of the city is celebrated every year on the 15th. August with the Palio dell'Assunta, a pageant with historical costumes in a magnificent procession and then the ancient horse race between the 10 districts of the knights, on the Viale Trento. Chasuble of S. Thomas Becket. The unique jewel in Italy is the chasuble of the English holy martyr, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Thomas Becket (murdered in Canterbury cathedral in 1170), donated, according to old sources, by the Bishop of Fermo, elder, his friend and fellow student at the University of Bologna. Measuring 160 cm in width and 520 cm in circumference at the base. This is the oldest (510 years AH corresponding to 1116 AD of the Christian calendar) Arab embroidery known in the West (D.Rice), coming from the maker in Arab-Hispanic Almeira. The fabric was used to make a chasuble for liturgical use. It can be admired, in all its glory, in the Cathedral treasury.

MONTEGIORGIO

As a first settlement it is believed to have existed in prehistoric times. It developed as a community in the Middles Ages around 1000 AD. In the thirteenth century a flourishing Jewish colony moved here from Florence stimulating trade and crafts, especially in leather goods and hides. The triangular shaped old town is on top of a knoll and retains many of its medieval lanes. The church of S.Francesco, beautiful travertine portal by Master Gallo in 1325 annexed to the church Capella Farfense. Of notable interest is the "Pincio" landscaped terrace that offers panoramic views to the Gran Sasso. A show of the farming culture of high Piceno, with over 600 exhibits, is housed in the Church of S.Francesco. The S.Paolo racetrack (plains of Montegiorgio) is the most important sports facility and one of the most noted equestrian centres in Italy. Evening racing from June.

FALERONE

We are in 90 BC at the foot of Mount Falarinus: the inhabitants of Falerone have sided with the army led by italic army led by Gaio Vidacilio, Tito Lafrenio and Publio Ventidio against the Roman troops of Pompeo Strabone. The combat is strenuous, in the end the Romans turn and run. Falerone, or better Falerio Picenus, came into being. At the entrance of Falerone, in the early 60's emerged the remains of a necropolis; light pottery and weapons came to light next to the skeletons. The ancient Roman Theatre is 1st. century BC. The Church of San Paolino (13th.century) is beautiful and solitary, the stern Roman-Gothic style sets it apart. On the "Mount" is the noble Palazzo Emiliani, the town hall, and the parish church. Coming down we appear to be in 1400. There is a well in the centre of the square, on one side the grandiose Church of San Fortunato, started at the end of thirteenth century, enriched with a portal in 1440, a wooden statue of the Saint and a table by V.Crivelli; on the other side the beautiful Loggetta Dei Mercanti. Some pieces from the Antiquarium Archaeological Museum were sent to the Louvre in Paris and the Vatican Museums. Today Falerone is also famous for the production of straw hats.















