



#### WHERE TO EAT

- “Ristorante La Rocca” ctr. Monte Varmino,4  
Tel. 0734/930066 – Carassai (Rocca di Monte Varmino)
- “Ristorante Da Roverino” via Ascoli, 10  
Tel. 0736/844242 – Comunanza
- “Ristorante “Verde Quiete” ctr. Carpineto, 6  
Tel. 0736/829102 – Montalto Marche
- “Agriturismo I Cigni” via S.Giovanni – Tel. 0734/938456  
Montefiore dell’Aso
- “Trattoria Quintilia Mercuri” via Corradini, 9  
Tel. 0734/79158 – Montefalcone Appennino
- “Ristorante 5 Ragazze” via XXV Aprile  
Tel. 0734/932405 – Campofilone

#### WHERE TO SHOP

- “Fagian Grest” game breeding - loc. Patrignoni  
Tel. 0736/829003 – Montalto Marche
- “Salumificio Ciriaci” own production - ctr. Croce, 13  
Tel. 0734/777134 – Ortezzano
- “Ceramiche Artistiche D.L.” ceramics - loc. Val Menocchia  
Tel. 0734/930626 – Carassai
- “Az. Vinicola Carassanese” via Menocchia, 67 – Tel. 0734/930068  
Carassai
- “Az. Ag. Il Colle Verde” mushrooms & jams - via Menocchia, 83  
Tel. 0734/930081 - Carassai
- “Cocchetti Pietro” copper products - via falconieri, 7  
Tel. 0736/373195 – Force
- “Spinosi Maccheroncini” pasta factory - via XXV Aprile, 27  
Tel. 0734/932196 – Campofilone



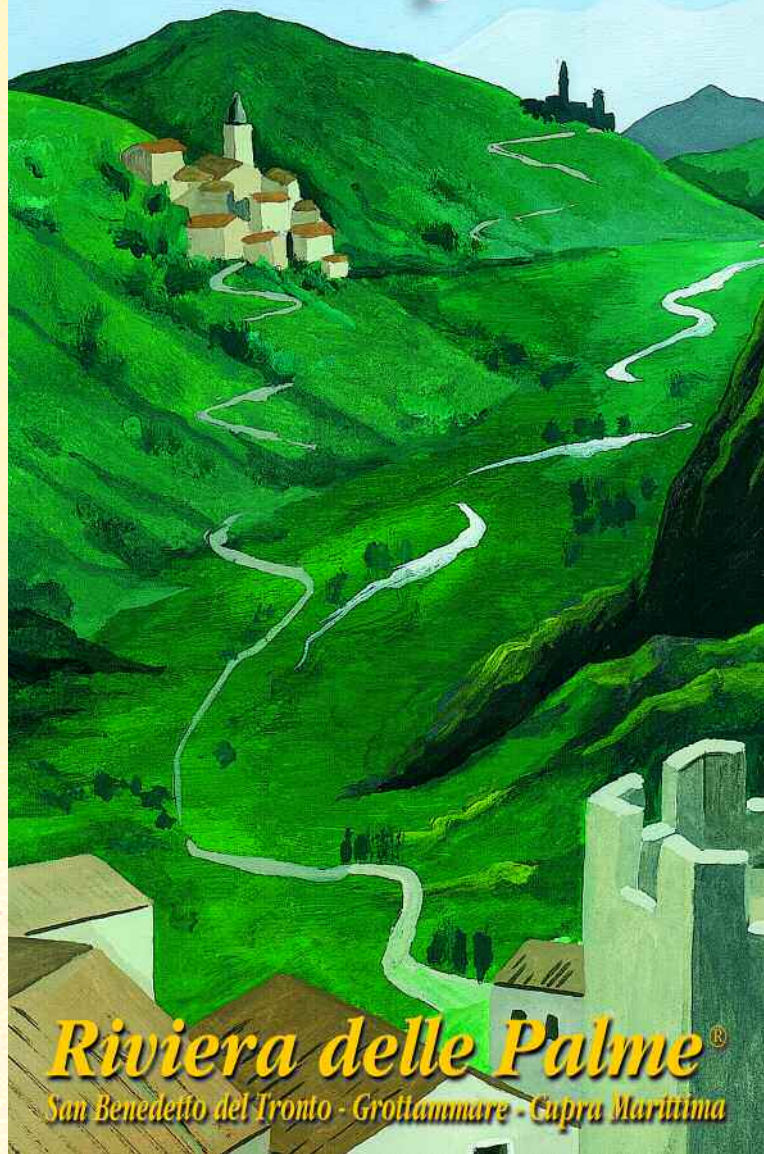
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Club **ITALIA**

**MARCHE**

## The enchanted valley



**Riviera delle Palme**<sup>®</sup>  
 San Benedetto del Tronto - Grottammare - Cupra Marittima



Val d'Aso



Montalto Marche



S. Vittoria in Matenano



Sagra della Trota a S. Vittoria



Montefiore dell'Aso



Sagra dei Maccheroncini a Campofilone



Campofilone

*A series of rolling hills, gentle slopes ... these roads should be travelled in a carriage. The age-old practice of agriculture with farms and scattered houses has enhanced the area with an orderly agricultural landscape and old farmhouses, an integrated and harmonious togetherness of life by a thousand year presence of man who shaped the natural landscape and adapted it to his needs without overwhelming the balances. The products of the Val d'Aso are well known everywhere for their quality.*

### CAMPOFILONE

It is the place, as Piovone described, at a point where the sea, the countryside and the wild and wooded hill meet in a synthesis of rare beauty. In the Middle Ages it was called "Campus" (field of dyers) underlining the particular craft of the area. It was feudal Farfensi and the Abbey made it one of the most important. In 1342 it forms its own statutes and a mayor and warden administer the community. The remains of the medieval castle, the majestic Gothic arch, a Roman cistern, XVI century rural residences and a coeval hunting lodge. Visit the Abbey church of St. Bartolomeo where frescoes by Fontana (1504-1505) are preserved (in the apse). Campofilone is known for its maccheroncini that are honoured during a renowned national festival (first ten days of August). The gigantic pasta feast, a "spaghetтата", underlines the characteristics of this exquisite egg pasta and its digestibility (a halo cut) that makes it a truly exceptional dish.

### MONTEFIORE DELL'ASO

It is set on a cliff and offers an enchanting scenic walk lined with pine trees. The Collegiate church of S. Lucia houses many paintings and gouaches by Luigi Fontana, a S. Ludovico da Tolosa, S. Chiara and S. Giacomo della Marca by Carlo Crivelli whilst the apse preserves the thirteenth-century Portale della Pinnova, adorned with figured bas-reliefs; the Sala del Carolis displays 88 paintings by fellow citizen Adolfo de Carolis and many of his prints are in the Palazzo Municipale (town hall); the church of S. Francesco features an elegant baroque interior.

### CARASSAI

Located about 15 km. from the sea. In the Middle Ages its name was "Castrum Guardiae", but the people called it Carrascale or Carnassale. Actually two nucleuses are evident: one of feudal origin known as "Castello Vecchio" and one from the Middle Ages called "Castello Nuovo". At Castello Nuovo there are remains of the fortified walls of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the so-called "Military walkways". Near Castello Vecchio the facade of the building that was once home to Boffo di Massa, Lord of Carassai 1381-1387. Then there is church of S. Lorenzo (1196). Inside, a painting by V. Pagani Monterubbiano (1490-1568) and a painting of the Pomarancio school of the seventeenth century. The church of S. Maria del Buon Gesù probably dates back to the fifteenth century. A few kilometres away is the 14th. century medieval castle of Rocca Monte Varmine with remains dating back to the 10th. century. The "Bombardella Manesca" was found during the last century. It dates back to 1341 and was the first portable gun in history.

### MONTALTO DELLE MARCHE

The first settlements date back to Appenninnico and Piceno periods. The Roman period is also much represented with remains of rustic villas and coins. To see: the fourteenth century city walls with gates "Patrizia", "Marina", of "Leoni" and the massive towers. Palazzo dei Presidi with historical and diplomatic archives with more than 250 scrolls ranging from 200-700. The 16th. century Palazzo "Massimauri", the 18th. century Palazzo "Pasqualini" and the 16th. century Cathedral that houses a fifteenth century enameled gold reliquary and a mantle that belonged to Pope Sixtus V. There is a famous 16th. century watermill, Sisto V, in the Aso Valley.

### LA CERQUATONDA (Oak of records)

Between Menocchia and Tesino, do not miss the opportunity of visiting this tree. The 300 year old Cerquatonda, with a trunk circumference of 5.06 metres, height of 18 metres and a 30 metre canopy. The Cerquatonda should be looked at very closely, taking a tour around the trunk and then looking upwards; better still if it is a splendidly sunny day. This is the only way to understand the reason for its uniqueness. The tree is to be found in the "Cerquatonda" (Montalto Marche) and it goes without saying from where the town takes its name. The shape of the tree explains itself to the curious, the friendly name that popular imagination has given it. Talking of curiosity, the tree has produced over 15 tons of acorns since 1980.

### MONTEDINOVE

It stands at the highest point in the chain of hills between the fertile valleys of Aso and Tesino, that from the foot of mount Ascension arrive, without any continuity, at the Adriatic. Built towards the end of the sixth century following the Lombard invasion. There are still parts of the old town walls and towers remaining and even now the Porta della Vittoria (Victory Gate), is fairly well preserved. To see: the priory church of S. Maria de' Cellis, the 1620 Franciscan convent of S. Thomas of Canterbury; the Palazzo Comunale (town hall) is a composite of original architecture with a three arched portico, two with round arches and one with a pointed arch. The projecting tower has a double belfry. Among the illustrious Montedinovesi that in particular should be mentioned are: the eighteenth century poet Ignatius Erei; the Pasqualini, bell-founders; the Del Duca, publishers; architects Pietro and Carlo Maggi (uncle and nephew), Swiss by birth but adopted by the Montedinovesi.

### FORCE

The population of the neighbouring valleys, fleeing before the pressure of the barbarian invasions, fortified it. In the eleventh century it became a fiefdom of the Farfa monks and then a free town. The Palazzo Comunale (town hall) is made of brick and is dated end of the 18th. century; the civic tower is elegant. The 16th. century priory with loggias and arcades. The seventeenth century collegiate church of San Paolo, the fourteenth century church of San Todeo, church of San Francesco of 1882. Perhaps it should be noted for the original craftsmanship of the copper that was given particular splendour by the master artist from Spoleto, Felice Rosati who died in 1723. Interesting how old the language of the coppersmiths is. There is a belvedere (next to the priory) with an evocative and panoramic view of the entire Sibillini chain.

### S.VITTORIA IN MATENANO

There is evidence of Santa Vittoria and the surrounding area at least around the year 700. In 980 it resisted the expedition of Otto II, who wanted to steal the body of Santa Vittoria, one of the many attempts that were always opposed by the firmness of santavittoriosi. The body was believed to be miraculous and gave its name to the town when it was taken there in 920. The addition of the word Matenano (the mountain of the same name) took place after the unification of Italy by the royal decree of 1862. The town has always maintained the old path through its historical centre with numerous medieval houses of the Renaissance and other interesting monuments. Among them, the one that characterises the historic town, is the Torre Palazzo (Palace Tower - 27.5 metres high) that connects to the city walls constructed by the abbot Oderisio (1235-1238). The old Guelph type terraces were subsequently transformed with Ghibelline merlons. The town hall has archives of scrolls ranging from 1212 to 1807 witnessing the literary and artistic activities in the Middle Ages. The Collegiate Church of Santa Vittoria dates back to 1780 and has beautifully perspective lines. The crypt houses the 15th. century urn of the Saint in a marble sarcophagus decorated with gold. The Reliquario della Sacra Spina is interesting, being embossed with brass and silver and consisting of a tabernacle resting on a lobed foot and is fifteenth century art of the Marche. The fifteenth century Church of S. Agostino, on the earlier Romanesque-Gothic style church of 1240. It preserves a wayside Cross and an organ from 1603.

### MONTEFALCONE APPENNINO

There is historical evidence to date Montefalcone back to 705 AD, when the Farfensi monks were awarded the "Curtis Montis Falconia" by the Lombard, Faroaldo II. The tower dates from 1200 and was the refuge of the tyrant Fermo Rinaldo di Monteverde. There are significant fossils from the Tertiary age in the highest parts of the area. You can enjoy one of the best views of the Marche from there. Interesting and unusual ninth century "hole", which after Furlo is the second instance in Italian history of a road tunnel. The Convento di Frati Minori at Luogo di Sasso (a kilometre from the village) houses a fifteenth century cloister. This is the place to dwell on the Blessed Matteo di Bascio, founder of the Capuchin Friars Minor convent whilst the convent itself seems to have been requested by St. Francis of Assisi.

### COMUNANZA

Its first, loose, name was "Community of Ascoli". Its origins are very obscure and could also be identified with those of a powerful and feared fortress: Monte Pasillo. Comunanza is home to the mountain community of Sibillini. To see: the old village, the castle ruins (it belonged to a noble family), a kilometre from the village on Monte Pasillo and the nearby Lake Gerosa that as well as providing hydro-electricity provides fishing competitions for tourists. At Colle Terme (1.5 kilometres from the town), are the remains of a Roman Spa that was discovered in archaeological excavations that confirm the Roman origins of the area.



Force



Lago di Gerosa



Rotella, sullo sfondo Montedinove



Montefalcone App.



La Rocca di Montevarmine a Carassai



1706

Terme

Montegallo

Montemonaco

Madonna dell'Ambro

Calda

Lago di Gerosa

Montefortino

Amandola

Sarnano

S. Ginesi

F. Flavione

Roccafluvione

Comunanza

Lago di San Ruffino

Passo S. Angelo

M. dell'Ascensione

Montefalco Appennino

Servigliano

Falerone

Rotella

Force

S. Vittoria in Matenano

M. Ferman

Castignano

Montedinove

Faleria

Castelluccio

Bretta

Castagnano

Belmonte Piceno

Montegiorgio

Appignano del Tronto

Montalto Marche

M. Rinaldo

Castel di Lama

Cossignano

Rocca M. Varmine

Petritoli

Offida

Carassai

Grottazzolina

Castorano

Ripatransone

F. Tenna

Spinetoli

Acquaviva Picena

Monterubbiano

Fermo

Monteprandone

Montefiore dell'Aso

Moresco

Lapedona

Massignano

Campofilone

Torre di Palme

Porto S. Benedetto

Grottammare

Cupra Marittima

Pedaso

P. S. Giorgio

Altidona

RIVIERA DELLE PALME