

WHERE TO EAT

- Ristorante "Il Caminetto" loc. S. Maria di Acquasanta tel. 0736 802818 – Acquasanta Terme
- Ristorante "Castel di Luco", Fraz. Castel di Luco tel. e fax 0736 802319 – Acquasanta Terme
- Ristorante "Vecchio Mulino" Via Picena Superiore, 2 tel. 0736 365470 – Roccafluvione
- "Villaggio Turistico Altino" – Loc. Altino – tel. 0736 846792 – Montemonaco
- Ristorante Fortinese Da Peppa Via Roma, 18 tel. 0736 859136 – Montefortino
- Ristorante "Taverna della Montagna" – località Foce tel. 0736 856153 – Montemonaco
- Ristorante "Taverna Castelluccio" Via Dietro la Torre, 82 tel. 0743 821100 – Castelluccio (PG)
- "Rifugio degli Alpini" loc. Forca di Presta tel. 0736 809278 – Arquata del Tronto
- Ristorante "La Cittadella" – Fraz. Cittadella tel. 0736 856361 – Montemonaco
- Agriturismo "L'antico Mulino" – Loc. Tenna, 2 – tel. 0736 859530 - Montefortino

MILLS OF ROCCAFLUVIONE

- MULINO PIGNOLONI dated 1629 in località Arena, near the waterfall.
 - VECCHIO MULINO in località Ponte Mavese.
 - MULINO TRASATTI via Agelli, 120
 - MULINO BRANDI località Salare
 - MULINO POMPILI località Forcella (private, still working)
- For information please call the town hall tel. 0736 365131.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- Prodelta di Claudio Papa free-flight school– Via delle fate – tel. 0743 821156 Castelluccio (PG) www.prodelta.it
- Forno Celani, own production of (spumini) white almond pastries Via Roma, 4 Acquasanta Terme tel. 0736 801226
- Riti Commerciale, fresh and dried porcini mushrooms, farm shop Via Salaria, 26 – tel. 0736 801074 Acquasanta Terme
- "Italo Mazzarelli" pecorino cheese. fraz. Foce tel. 0736 856333 – Montemonaco
- "Aldo Fortuni" truffles and mushrooms fraz. Ferrà di sotto tel. 0736 856315 – Montemonaco
- "Piccoli allevatori di Vetice" pecorino cheese. località Vetice - Montefortino
- Industries with showroom and factory outlet shop
- Liquori Meletti – Zona industriale Campolungo – tel. 0736 403493 Ascoli Piceno
- Montefiore Happy Years Baby, Kid & Junior – tel. 0736 402620 viale Abruzzi, 26 Maltignano

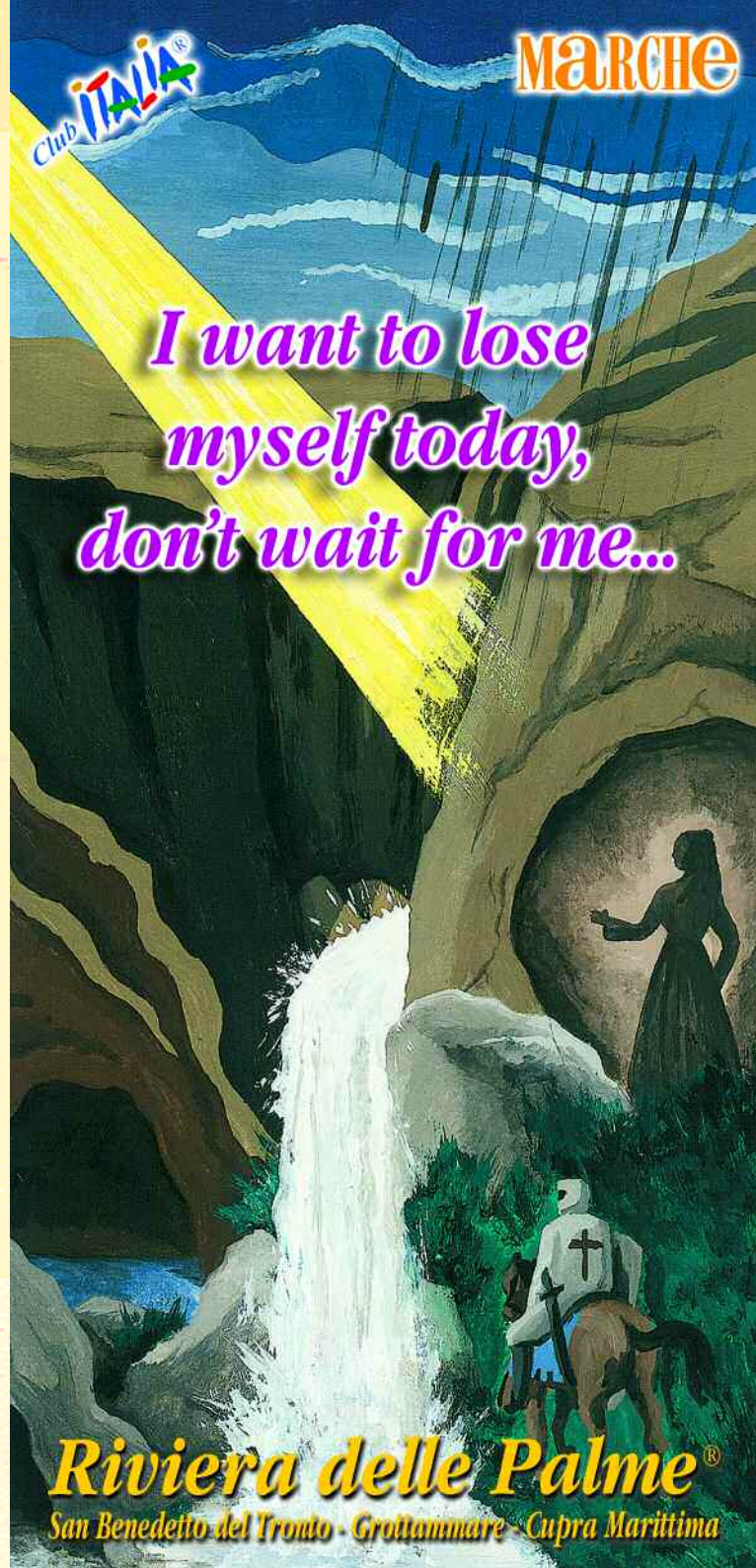


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San Benedetto del Tronto - Grottammare - Cupra Marittima



Montegallo



Arquata del Tronto



Roccafluvione - Cripta



Roccafluvione

*A path that has a taste of adventure, a disturbing but at the same time fascinating land, full of historical events and legends. Following in the footsteps of the ancient Roman legions, the epic Knights-Errant, of fairies and thieves, mysterious caves, trees whispering softly, old mills, streams murmuring over the stones and suddenly infinity before us.....
how nice it is to lose oneself.*

ROCCAFLUVIONE

The name of this charming town is derived from the Fluvione stream which flows through the countryside. A curious attraction of this centre is represented by Ponte Nativo bridge over the river Fluvione, resting on two huge rocky boulders that are wedged in order to reciprocally support one another. The hamlets are suggestive, at Marsia the Roman church of S.Stefano with a crypt having three naves. Meschia, in a very scenic area, presents itself like a village from other times, characterised by the presence of houses of the 1600's resting on bare rock. The well-preserved and highly picturesque town is perched on top of a rocky outcrop that juts out dizzily into the valley. Old water mills, waterfalls, chestnut groves, wild cherries and maple trees give particular charm to the whole area of Roccafluvione. The itinerary of the mills is very interesting.

ACQUASANTA TERME

Tito Livio Patavinio tells us that L.M.Pianco, consul in 712 of the foundation of Rome, returned to good health and vigour in the waters of Aquasanta after having unsuccessfully experimented with some of the most famous baths of Tuscany. Impressive ruins remain from the Augustan period; the bridge on the Garrafo was the 1st. stone bridge on the Via Salaria, and the great walls near the hamlet of Ponte D'Arti. The end of the 800's witnessed the birth of the tourism industry tied to the thermal baths that characterises the small city. The Acquasanta area has been subjected to the phenomenon of brigands since the 1500's. The historic massacre on the Rocca di Montecalvo marked the first dramatic climax. Uncontested domain of the notorious brigand Sciabalone in the 1700's and the bandit Piccioni in the 1800's. A memory of this character still remains today on the Via Salaria's imposing Platano di Piccioni, the brigand's legendary hideout. Aquasanta is also the starting point for hikes in the Laga mountains. For information please call the Town Hall - Tel. 0736-801162

ARQUATA DEL TRONTO

It was an active centre of the Sabines, in the Middle Ages it had a well equipped castle and later it became a free community. La Rocca dates back to the twelfth century and was rebuilt according to legend, by Giovanna II d'Angio, of Naples. Restored in recent times it still dominates, with its tower and high fortified tower, the roads that lead towards Umbria and towards Rome. The Civic Tower has a 16th. century bell. The church of S.Agata, in the Spelonga district, has a group of 15th. century frescoes. Arquata del Tronto is a popular tourist resort with the possibility of winter sports at Forca Canapine (mt. 1541). Among the more picturesque walks are the Parco la Rocca, and at Macera della Morte the woods of Pretare.

PIANE DI CASTELLUCCIO

The exposed road runs in an amphitheatre of mountains, which we feel as the preface of something unusual. Another mount and we discover, breathtakingly, scarcely believing our eyes, one of the highest views that nature can store for us in central Italy: The Piano Grande that stretches inside the giant, Ice Age, lake basin, a time exterminated and collected, a landing field for spaceships or the purest cathedral of nothing, rough revelation of the earth, furrowed by long and straight wrinkles, the Margari that collect water in sinkholes. Barren, completely deserted, crossed by the provincial road to Castelluccio (1452 mt.) one of the most inaccessible parts of Italy. The altitude varies between 1300 - 1260 mt. even though it appears completely flat to the naked eye. The Pian Grande, with the Pian Perduto, Quarto di S. Lorenzo, Pian Piccolo and Pian dei Piantani (collectively known as the Pian Castelluccio) is collection of basins of tectonic and karst origins, which can be traced back to a huge remote sinking of limestone, of which the reliefs that surround today's basins are the fault lines. The famous flowering Piani di Castelluccio are beautiful in June even if in reality it does not happen simultaneously as tradition suggests. The flowers, sky blue of the lentils, red-white and pink of the grasslands, grey-green grasses, red poppies, yellow mustard, in geometric shapes, framed by the different shades of green hay meadows and pastures, whilst daffodils, buttercups, gentianellas, carnations, and dozens of other flowers dot the carpets of the basins floors..... Crows, in large groups, quail, goldfinches, kestrels, buzzards, eagles, harriers, osprey, plovers, cranes, and how many other flyers meet in these skies? The shepherds who spend the season on the Piano Grande di Castelluccio are now used to seeing man/bird with colourful wings circling in the sky looking for signs from the windsocks which litter the Pian. The hang glider, a magical modern "clean", non-polluting creation, the dream of Icarus. You can get lost in the Pian if there is fog or a blizzard and it is best to take care as nothing can really help you if not, as in the past, the bell of Castelluccio ...

MONTEGALLO

At 850 metres it is the third highest in the Marche, placed at the foot of mount Vettore. The façade of the Palazzo Branconi in the historical centre is interesting and in the hamlets houses that maintain doorways and windows carved in stone from the 1500's. Parish church of S.Maria in Lapidè with 9th. century crypt that houses a bell cast in bronze. The parish church of di Abetino e di Pistrino should also be visited. There are many tours from Montegalco, above all to Monte Vettore and the picturesque lake, Lago di Pilato.

MONTEMONACO

It is so called because the first settlers of these mountain areas, the Benedictine monks, found refuge and solitude here. To visit: the many churches including the church of San Benedetto, the church of S.Michele Arcangelo and the church of Santa Maria in Casalichio.

MONTEFORTINO

Montefortino is one of the most welcoming and popular summer tourist centres of the Sibillini. It combines the history and artistry of its heritage with naturalistic-environmental interests pertaining to its picturesque geographical position and beautiful scenery tied to the charm of the Sibillini. The historical town centre is a noted attraction. It has the Palazzo Duranti, the Clock Temple and the Palazzo Spagnoli. The Art Gallery in the Town Hall ranks among the prominent public collections of le Marche. To visit: the many churches including: church of Sant'Agostino with it's 14th. century bell tower, church of Madonna della Fonte with the interior completely decorated with frescoes and coeval stucco. But well worth a visit is the Santuario della Madonna dell'Ambro, otherwise called the "Little Lourdes of the Sibillini". Built in a scenic gorge, in a picturesque area, along the river Ambro. Founded before 1000 AD, there are frescoes by Martino Bonvini, Annunciation by Domenico Malpiedi and rich woodcarvings. It is a place of pilgrimages, especially in May.

MONTI SIBILLINI

The great mass of the Sibillini mountains (Giacomo Leopardi liked to call them the "Blue mountains") hides a secret, perhaps such a well known secret that the names of these mountains and many place names declare it: Grotta del Diavolo (Devils cave), Passo del Diavolo (Devils Pass), Fossa dell'Inferno (The Pit of Hell), Gola dell'Infernaccio (Hell's throat), Lago di Pilato (Lake Pilate), Grotta delle Fate (Cave of the fairies) or Grotta della Sibilla (Sybil's Cave). A long cultural tradition also talks about it, a legend gathered in 1420 by Antoine de la Salle and already known to the poet Guerin Meschino in 1391, which indicates the reign of a mysterious goddess of love and profane sybil in a cave on Monte della Sibilla. Those who arrive today at the Monte della Sibilla, by the open road from Montemonaco, are immediately startled by a unique 10 metre high basalt cliff that crowns the mountain, an almost humanlike shape of a queen. Certainly, throughout the Renaissance this mountain was the centre of a very important communications route to Rome, and which constantly accounted for half of the visits. French and German Knights-Errant told of their "encounters" with the sorceress in the caves of the mountain, followed, or not, by repentance. This gave rise to the Guerin Meschino by Andrea da Barberino, the French "Paradise of the Sibilla, the German "the Poetic Dispute of Warburg" by Felix Hemmerlin with theme taken in the Mora (by Moehrin) by Hermann von Sachsenheim. Necromancers of all kinds, if not magicians and demons, have certainly inhabited the mountain and the cave according to witnesses, more or less direct, like Enea Silvio Piccolomini, Benvenuto Cellini, Luigi Pulci, Ariosto and Flavio Biondi. It seems that the Holy Abbots of Sant'Eutizio, Ghostbusters of the time, as early as the eighth century and under orders from Pope John, brought down the cave. This was repeated by the repressor Alborno in 1354 and even in recent times thanks to a clumsy attempt at digging with dynamite. The Belgian Royal Academy led an expedition there in 1953 but with poor results; finding a spur, a knife, and a Henry II coin of the 16th. century. As late as the sixties the farmers still thought that the winds and storms were triggered by the passage of wizards and witches. Similar legends also surround the dark mirror of Lake Pilato, whose diabolical inhabitants even asked for the sacrifice of a man every year and during the Renaissance was also a place of strange cults. The lake is in a depression of Mount Vettore under the lace of the Devil. Perhaps there is no hidden arcane knowledge, but there is the certainty of an unique, famous, minute creature that lives nowhere else, a creature endemic with only other phyllopods of Asia Minor and the Caucasus being similar: the Chirocephalus Marchesonii. The mystical powers of natural and arcane secrets not enough for you? Then take care if thinking of climbing Monte della Sibilla as the sudden storms, the revenge of the witch, are very real.

ALTINO

At the foot of Monte Vettore (at 1080 mt.) in the heart of the Sibillini National Park, almost nestled in the green, a solitary and silent village. The small church, which for decades, has watched with sadness as more houses emptied every year as the poor moved down into the valley in search of bread and work. It the end it was left alone.



Castelluccio



Acquasanta



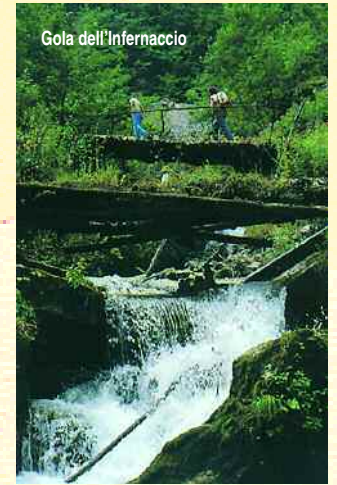
Lago di Pilato



Santuario dell'Ambro



Montefortino



Gola dell'Infernaccio

