



spazio di là da quella, e sorridiam
 Silenzi, e profondissima quiete
 Oh so nel pensier mi fingo, ove per poco
 Il cor non si spaura. E come il vento
 Odi stormir ^{tra} queste piante, so quello
 l'infinito silenzio a questa voce
 Ut comparando: E mi sovran l'eterno,

MARCHE



THE MARCHE, ITALY IN ONE REGION

"If one had to decide which Italian landscape was the most typical, you'd have to choose the Marche... Italy, with its range of landscapes, is a distillation of the world; the Marche is a distillation of Italy."

G. Piovene, *Viaggio in Italia*, 1957

180 km of coastline, stunningly beautiful beaches, 26 cities facing the Adriatic Sea that are ideal sites for a relaxing holiday, the port of Ancona and 9 tourist harbours. 500 piazzas, 1000 important monuments, over a hundred cities boasting great works of art, thousands of churches (200 of which are Romanesque), 183 religious shrines, 34 archeological sites, 72 historic theatres. The largest number of museums and galleries in Italy: 342 out of 2 39 boroughs. 315 libraries housing over 4 million volumes. Several protected areas: 2 national parks (Monti Sibillini, Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga), 4 regional parks (Monte Conero, Sasso Simone and Simoncello, Monte San Bartolo, Gola della Rossa and di Frasassi), 5 nature reserves (Abbadia di Fiastra, Gola del Furlo, Montagna di Torricchio, Ripa Bianca and Sentina), more than 100 floristic areas and 15 state woods.

COORDINATION

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TOURISM DEPARTMENT

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*Ascoli Piceno
Piazza del Popolo, the Quintana*



Gradara castle (PU)



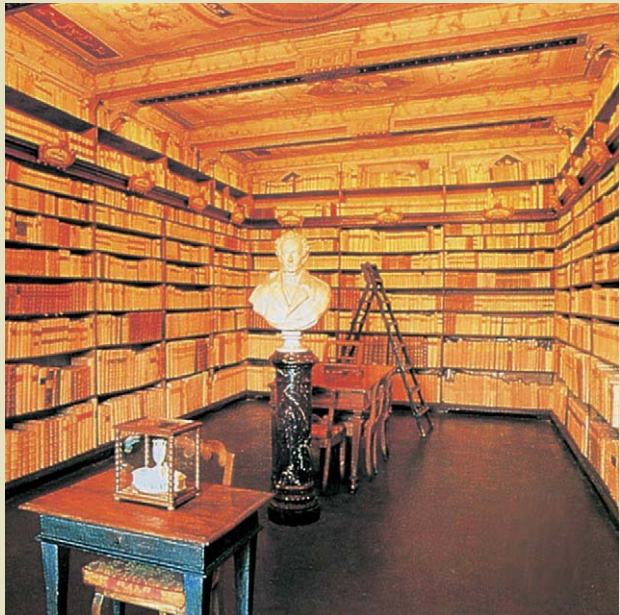
Serra S. Abbondio (PU)
Scriptorium of the
Hermitage of Fonte Avellana



The writer Guido Piovene considers the Marche's landscape as one of the most typical Italian countrysides, defining it as "*a sheltered and civilised land, or better still the most classical of our regions*". It is possible to trace back the outlying historical development of the region by admiring the various artistic works showing the cultural traditions over the centuries. A combination of experience, history, influence and nature makes the Marche one of the most culturally interesting regions of Italy. There are 500 squares, more than 1,000 important monuments, approximately one hundred cities of art, 37 fortresses, 106 castles, 15 strongholds, 170 towers, thousands of churches, 200 of which are in Romanesque style, 96 well preserved abbeys, 183 sanctuaries, 34 archaeological sites and 72 historically important theatres, skilfully restored, still in use.

There is also the highest density of museums and art galleries in Italy (400 out of 239 boroughs). 315 libraries, some of great tradition, housing more than 4 million volumes and an important patrimony of manuscripts and sixteenth century editions. Two libraries worth

noting are that of the Hermitage of Fonte Avellana (PU) and that belonging to the Leopardi Family of Recanati (MC). The many **cities of art** are an example of these remarkable widespread treasures. As we move from the coast inland to the province of Pesaro-Urbino, we come across old towns where the atmosphere of Renaissance splendour is



Recanati (MC)
Antique Library in Leopardi's House



recreated. Actually these places which were once the seats of the most important Italian seignories: the **Malatesta** from Pennabilli, the **Montefeltro** from San Leo and the **Della Rovere. Pesaro**, the ancient *Pisaurum* in Roman era first inhabited by the Piceni, was the residence of the Della Rovere dominion up to 1631, when the entire dukedom was devolved to the Papal



States. The Ducal Palace, the Costanza Fortress, together with the treasures contained in the museums, clearly evoke the aristocratic tone of the dominion and its court, which is perfectly embodied in **Urbino's** Ducal Palace commissioned by Federico da Montefeltro. In his youth he was educated at the Gonzaga Court of Mantova. Federico managed to change the natural and urban aspects of a city, marking it with the indelible sign of the Ducal Palace, which opens itself with its fairy-tale like circular turrets facing the road that goes from Urbino to Urbania. Since 1912 the Ducal Palace has been the seat of the *National Gallery of the Marches*, housing masterpieces of art of such artists as Raffaello, Piero della Francesca, Tiziano, Paolo Uccello, etc. The Palace is ideally linked to the other monuments commissioned by Federico which were planned and carried out by Francesco di Giorgio Martini. The artist from Siena worked on the Ducal Palace of **Urbania** (the former Casteldurante famous for its majolica). The artist also worked on the original project of the Barco Ducale, Dukes' hunting residence. But he showed his genius on the Palace

Pesaro - Villa Imperiale

Urbania (PU) - Ducal Palace
Urbania (PU) - The Ducal Park or
Barco, hunting residence of
Montefeltro



della Ragione which now houses
Urbania's city hall. Francesco di Giorgio
Martini studded the dukedom with fairy-
like defensive fortresses, showing
memories.

Mondavio (PU) - The Fortress

Sassocorvaro (PU) - The Ubaldinesque Fortress

the majestic ellipsoidal tower of the stronghold remains along with the secret passage, now housing a Contemporary Sculpture Centre; **Sassocorvaro** the Ubaldinesque fortress where there were more than 10,000 masterpieces saved during the last World War. Now it houses the new museum dedicated to endangered masterpieces, called the “*Ark of Arts*”. Not far from Martini’s fortresses stands the imposing fortress of **Gradara**, commissioned by the Griffo family and further altered by the Malatesta family and the Sforza family, full of Renaissance frescoes and haunted by Dante’s Paolo and Francesca love story. You can get the impression of Middle Ages simply by walking around the old town, or along the Town walls crowned by square embattled towers and turrets. The Malatesta Palace,



the Malatesta Court, the Church of San Paterniano and the Basilica Cathedral. **Senigallia**, in the province of Ancona, once was part of the Dukedom of Urbino as the grand fortress due to the Della Rovere’s family witnesses. Inside a roman watchtower can still be admired. Worth



Fano (PU) - The Ark of Augustus

another clear evidence of the importance of the Malatesta family in the Marche, who lived here until 1463, is situated in the central Piazza XX Settembre in **Fano**. This city maintains many signs of its roman origins, such as the magnificent Augustus Arch, gateway to the city from the famous and antique *Flaminia Way*. Noteworthy are also: Palazzo della Ragione,

seeing are also the Palazzetto Baviera, the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie and the Palazzo Mastai Ferretti, with the Museum dedicated to Pope Pio IX who was born in this city.

Ancona, capital city of the Marche’ region, was founded by the Siracusans in the fourth century B.C. A focal point of commercial, tourist and military activities,



Cagli (PU)



Gradara (PU)
Circular Town Walls
Francesca's bedroom



Senigallia (AN) - The Fortress

it has grown around its port, second only to Venice on the Adriatic Sea. Here we can admire one of the most magnificent Romanesque monuments of Central Italy, the Cathedral of San Ciriaco and other outstanding buildings such as the Loggia dei Mercanti, the Church of S. Francesco and the public art-gallery, showing the historical and cultural importance of the city especially during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Only a few kilometers away from Ancona, there is **Loreto**, with its greatest Marian Sanctuary of Italy, visited by millions of pilgrims from all over the world. The town is linked to the Holy House of Nazareth. The legend narrates that it was brought here by angels to save it from the Maomettan Invasion of Palestine in 1294. Some of the most

important artists of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries worked in the sanctuary: Melozzo da Forlì, Luca Signorelli, Bramante, Sansovino and Lorenzo Lotto. Nearby is **Recanati**, the “town” which lives in the shadow of one of the most important Italian poets, Giacomo Leopardi, and which invites the visitor to promenade the places loved by the artist. Visit the square and the monument both dedicated to him, see the memories preserved in the Municipal Palace (with the Beniamino Gigli Museum) and Leopardi’s section of the Benedettucci Library, see the bell tower of the Church of Sant’Agostino, namely the famous Tower of the Solitary Sparrow, the silent square of “Sabato del Villaggio” (Saturday in the village), where Palazzo Leopardi’s native home stands, adjacent to the National Centre of Studies on Leopardi with the church of Santa Maria of Monte Morello, where he was baptised and also the humble house of Silvia, the daughter of the coach man celebrated in a famous verse, can be found. Climbing the “Colle dell’ *Infinito*” (the Infinite Hill) can be viewed the carved first line of the most



*Osimo (AN) - Roman Statue
(ruins of the Auximum Forum)*



celebrated verse: “*Sempre caro mi fu quest’ermo colle*”. Worth seeing are also **Osimo**, the Roman *Auximum*, full of old vestiges such as the thirteen roman statues dating back to the imperial age, now housed in the Municipal Palace, the Cathedral and the Sanctuary dedicated to San Giuseppe da Copertino, visited by many pilgrims; **Offagna**, dominated by its



Loreto (AN) - Sanctuary of the Sacred House

Recanati (MC)
The Tower of the “Solitary Sparrow” made famous by the poet Giacomo Leopardi

square fortress, with its towers and impressive dungeon; **Corinaldo**, boasting one of the most spectacular town walls of the region and an historical centre of great environmental value. The town walls were built in 1366 and enlarged from 1489 until 1490; they still have gates defensive towers and ramparts. It is possible to admire its full development of more than 912 meters, following the circumvolution and walking along the old beat. Not to be missed is the 18th century sanctuary of S. Maria Goretti and the church of the Addolorata containing the young martyr’s crypt. **Sassoferrato** was originally the roman *Sentinum*. Traces of its past are embodied in ruins of old buildings, paved roads and ancient walls. It has two cores, the modern “town” and perched high on the hill, the Castle, dominated by the remains of the Fortress, built in 1368. There are many interesting sites such as the Church of St. Francesco, Montanari Palace, Priori’s Palace and the fifteenth century Oliva’s Palace, housing the public library with over 10,000 volumes, ancient incunabulum, manuscripts and sixteenth century editions.

Dominated by **Jesi**, the Esino valley opens the way to the hinterland of Ancona. Jesi, *Aesis* for the Romans, gave birth to Federico II di Svevia and to the musician G. Battista Pergolesi. The city has a valuable painting gallery which houses the





masterpiece by Lorenzo Lotto, the *Pala di S. Lucia*. Ancient walls, almost intact, surround the city. This was the place where Francesco di Giorgio Martini built the Signoria Palace. Crossing the valley you can reach **Fabriano**, which was already famous in the thirteenth century for the processing of paper. Fabriano represents a cross road for the relationship between Marche and Umbria. The Piazza del Podestà and the town historical centre still keep their medieval look which is also well documented by the 13th and 14th

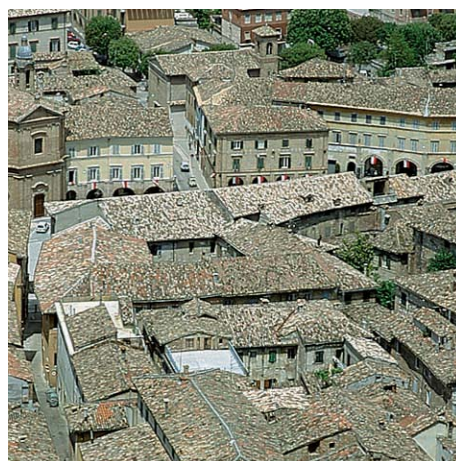


Ancona - The Cathedral of S. Ciriaco

Ancona - Municipal Art Gallery
Filippo Boni, View of Ancona

century paintings shown in the public painting Gallery. From this city, which gave birth to the finest and well known representative of the International Gothic Styles Gentile da Fabriano, the town of **Camerino** is easy to reach. Situated in the province of Macerata, Camerino enjoyed a rich period of economic and artistic development under the Da Varano rule in the fifteenth century. That time was characterised by the spread of the school of painting, which was considered by the historian Federico Zeri as one of the most important schools of the Italian Renaissance. Premises of one of the oldest and most renowned European Universities, housed in the Ducal Palace. The town has preserved its medieval and defensive look and was often mentioned in the works of

important abbeys of the Marche, the cistercian Santa Maria di Chiaravalle di Fiastra built in 1142 from the stones of the ancient roman city of *Urbs Salvia* and the Castle della Rancia. **San Severino Marche**, lies near the roman *Septempeda*, whose ruins can still be found in the archaeological area. During the fourteenth and fifteenth century, owing to the dominion of the Smeducci and to the works of the Salimbeni brothers, who also worked in Urbino, the city became an European Centre of the International Gothic Style. Not to be missed is also **Matelica**, an interesting city from an artistic point of view: the sixteenth century octagonal Fountain, its many churches, monumental buildings, and the art collection of the Piersanti Museum,



Ugo Betti, one of the finest playwrights, born in Camerino, second only to Luigi Pirandello. From Camerino the next stop is **Tolentino**. Here stands one of the most famous sanctuaries in Central Italy, the Basilica of S. Nicolas, whose chapel, frescoed by Pietro da Rimini, represents the finest example of the school of Giotto in Rimini. Other places of interest are: the Vaccaj Theatre, dating back to the late eighteenth century and the International Museum of Caricature. In the area between the towns of Tolentino and Urbisaglia there is one of the most

*San Severino Marche (MC)
Urbino - Oratory of San
Giovanni, frescoed by Lorenzo
and Jacopo Salimbeni*





*Camerino (MC) - The Ducal Palace
Fabriano (AN) - Palazzo del Podestà
Jesi (AN) - The Walls of the Castle
Tolentino (MC) - Basilica of San Nicola*

*Jesi (AN) - Civic Art Gallery Lorenzo
Lotto, platform from the Pala of Santa
Lucia (detail)*

housing a magnificent collection of fifteenth and sixteenth century tapestries and drawings. **Macerata**, in the roman centre of *Helvia Ricina*, was built on a hill to avoid the incursions of the barbarians, and has many Renaissance, Baroque and seventeenth century artworks. Among its most representative monuments, is the Sphaeristerium Arena by Ireneo Aleandri, one of the finest work of neoclassical style architecture in Italy. Here every year, in summer, an important *Lyrical Season* is held. The Basilica of the Madonna della Misericordia, Piazza della Libertà with its Loggia dei Mercanti and Torre dell'Orologio, the many museums, the important Modern Art Gallery of Palazzo Ricci, the Library with its 350,000 volumes and an old University, all together make Macerata a cultural reference point. **Sarnano** is worth visiting too. It is famous for the red roof tiles of the houses, for its steep and narrow alleys, which sometimes become steps leading up to the silent square, for its public painting Gallery and

Macerata - Sphaeristerium Arena
Fermo - Piazza del Popolo
Ripatransone (AP) - Old Town Centre

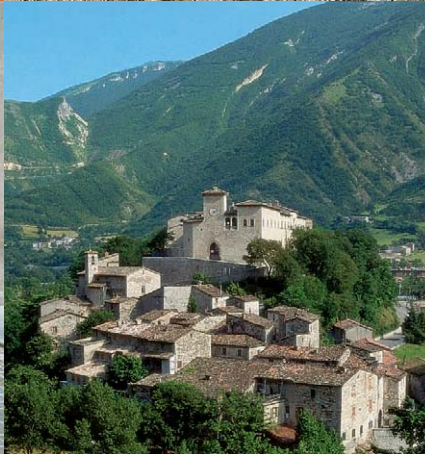


for its spas and ski slopes.

The historical town centre of **Civitanova Alta** is another interesting place to visit: still surrounded by the old castle walls dating back to the fifteenth century, with towers, bastions and two main doors, the Ducal Palace of the Cesarini, Annibal Caro's house and the public Modern Art Gallery "M. Moretti". Also **Monte San Giusto**, where in the Church of S. Maria in Telusiano you can admire *the Crucifixion*, a masterpiece by Lorenzo Lotto, the only painting still kept in its place of origin. Bonafede Palace, with its frescoes by Aspertini, houses the "Maggiori", a collection of old drawings. **Fermo**, one of the Marche's most lively centres in roman and medieval eras. It features monumental roman cisterns, the magnificent Piazza del Popolo, the sixteenth century Priori's Palace which now houses in its inner rooms the public Art Gallery which boasts important paintings both of Venetian and Marchesan schools, and a precious painting by Rubens. Palazzo degli Studi houses a library with 400,000 volumes, manuscripts and XVIth century editions. There are also a number of museums dedicated to the environment or to archaeology. All of these attest the extraordinary historical and cultural heritage to be found in any corner of this town. Moving south there is **Ripatransone**, a lovely town with its historical centre and the smallest alley in Italy (only 43 cm wide), full of archaeological findings and monuments such as the Cathedral and Podestà's Palace. A few kilometres away, **Offida**, preserves its walls, its fortress and the imposing Abbey of S. Maria della Rocca, one of the Marche's most significant monuments in Romanesque-gothic style. The chief town of the province, **Ascoli Piceno**, with its roman monuments (the ruins of the Theatre and of Augustus'



Sarnano (MC) - Old Town Centre
 Matelica (MC) - Piazza E. Mattei
 Civitanova Alta (MC) - Porta Marina





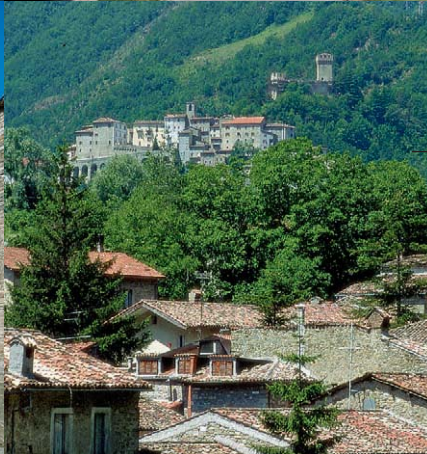
Fossombrone (PU)
Amandola (FM)
Fermo
Montalto delle Marche (FM)
Corinaldo (AN)



Caldarola (MC)
Urbisaglia (MC)
San Ginesio (MC)
Serra San Quirico (AN)
Pergola (PU)



Torre di Palme (FM)
Sassoferrato (AN)
Treia (MC)
Chiaravalle (AN) - Abbey of
Santa Maria
in Castagnola
Fermo - Duomo



Visso (MC)
Piobbico (PU)
Serra de' Conti (AN)
Corridonia (MC) - S. Claudio al Chienti
Arquata del Tronto (AP)



Monte San Giusto (MC)
Lorenzo Lotto, Crucifixion

Bridge) and its fine medieval buildings (the Church of S. Francesco, the Cathedral and the Battistero marked by the white tones of “travertino”), shows an extraordinary past. Some traces of *Via Salaria* found in medieval building give also evidence of the past. The celebrated Quintana, one of Italy’s most extraordinary historical performances, takes place every year in the famous Piazza del Popolo. From the square there are many delightful walks through medieval alleys past fine Renaissance buildings in the style of Cola dell’Amatrice, as can be seen in the facade of the Cathedral.

Other towns deserve a visit, such as **Acquaviva Picena**, dominated by the imposing fortress, with the ruins of the castle’s walls, old houses and towers; **Montefortino** which still keeps its typical atmosphere of the past, with its narrow alleys and its houses of stone with red roof tiles. The Art Gallery, keeps its precious collection of valuable paintings by Fortunato Duranti. **Amandola** developed in 1248 because of the combination of three castles, at a different height on the same hill (Leone, Marrubbione, Agello) has a beautiful historical town centre. There are: the Sanctuary of the Beato Antonio and the Town Hall which houses the town Archives (containing more than 1,000 parchments of the eleventh century



Montefortino (FM)



*Offida (AP)
Santa Maria della Rocca*



*Acquaviva Picena (AP)
The Fortress*

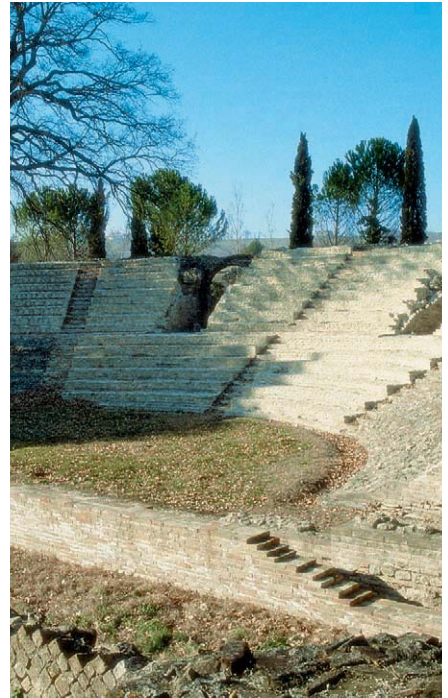


*Ascoli Piceno - Bell Towers
in the old Town Centre*



Amandola (FM)
Abbey of the Saints
Ruffino and Vitale

Falerone (FM)
magnificent example
of a Roman Theatre



and other medieval documents) and the notorial Archive with valuable manuscripts. Close to Amandola there is one of the most interesting abbeys of the Marches, Abbey of the Santi Ruffino and Vitale. In **Falerone** the ruins of the ancient roman city of *Faleria*, with its recently restored theatre can be visited.

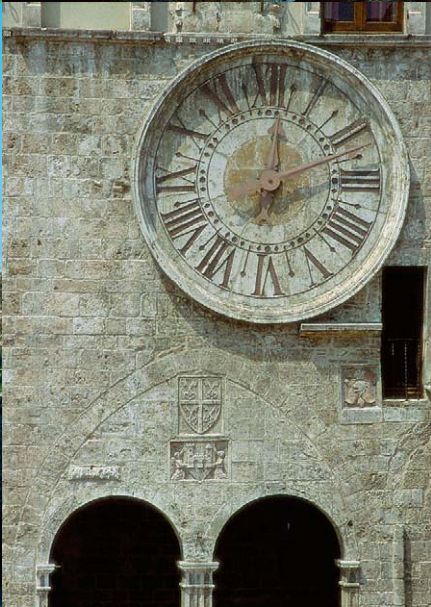
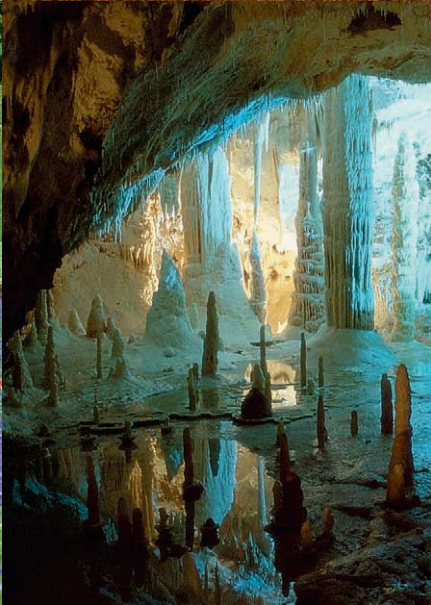
Not to be missed: **Sant'Elpidio a Mare**, which is almost entirely enclosed within its medieval walls with Torre Gerosolimitana the fourteenth century tower built by the Knights of Malta, the Collegiata (which houses paintings by Nicola Monti, Palma il Giovane, Pomarancio, etc.) and the Town

Hall with its two precious masterpieces: of fourteen a panel polyptych by Carlo Crivelli and a tryptych by Garofalo. Located in a panoramic position, **Arquata del Tronto** was an important "*statio*" in the roman era on the *Via Salaria*. The town owes its name to the imposing fortress ("*arx*") dating back to the twelfth century, standing high on the hill, rebuilt, according to the tradition, by Giovanna II of Naples and recently restored. Arquata is the only town in Italy belonging to two national parks: Monti Sibillini and Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga.



Urbino (PU) - Raffaello's Native House,
Raffaello Sanzio, *Madonna with Child*







San Benedetto del Tronto (AP)
Riviera del Conero (AN)
S. Elpidio a Mare (FM)
National Park of the Sibillini
Mountains (Mount Palazzo Borghese)
Villa Potenza (MC) - Ruins of the
ancient Helvia Ricina



Ascoli Piceno - The Quintain
Marches the Inland
Genga (AN) - Frasassi Caverns
Ancona - Cathedral of S.Ciriaco
Offida (AP) - Tombolo



Loreto (AN) - Piazza della Madonna
Urbino (PU) - Church of San Bernardino
Ascoli Piceno - "Capitano del Popolo"
Palace
Fermo - Duomo
Pesaro - Rossini Opera Festival



EMILIA-ROMAGNA

MILANO
BOLOGNA
RIMINI

GABICCE MARE

GRADARA

PESARO

CESENA

TALAMELLO

S. LEO

SAISOFELTRO

TAVOLETO

MONTELABATE

SANT'ANGELO IN LIZOLA

MONTECICCARDO

FANO

S. COSTANTINO

MONDOFIO

MONTEMARCIANO

CHIAVARELLA

FALCONARA M.M.

ANCONA

LAZIO

ROMA

TOSCANA

AREZZO

CITTÀ DI CASTELLO
ROMA

UMBRIA

GUBBIO
PERUGIA
ROMA

PASSO
NOCERA UMBRA
DEL CORNELLO

FOLIGNO
ROMA

LAZIO

ROMA

LEGEND

- Roman
- Medieval
- Of the Renaissance
- Other Eras

- Motorways
- Superhighways
- National Roads
- Other important roads
- State Railways
- Shipping lines
- Airport

HOW TO REACH

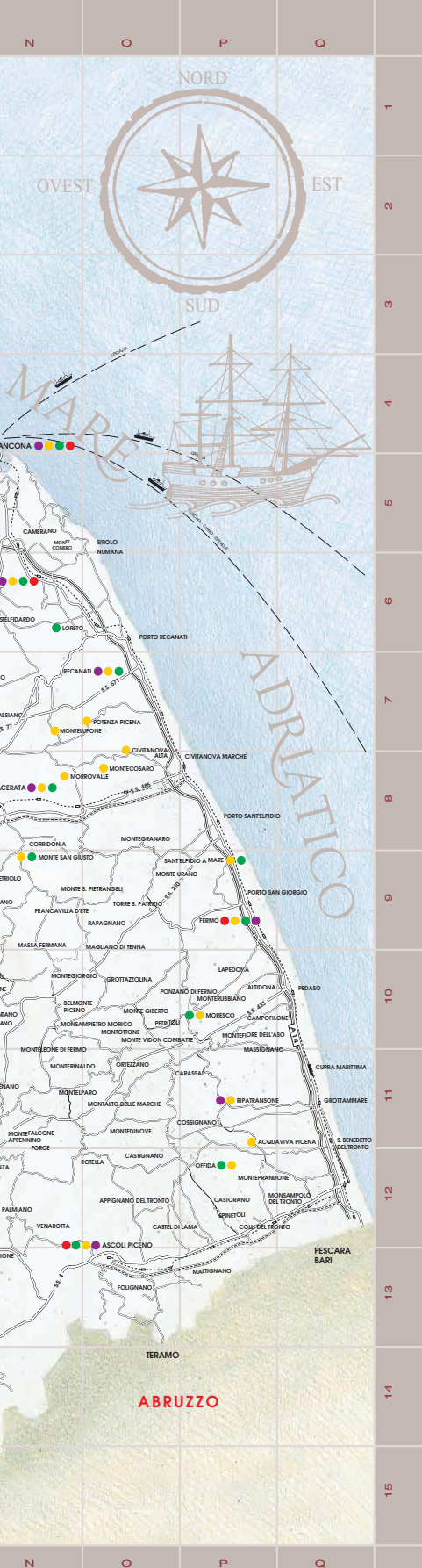
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Milano, Bologna, Ancona, Lecce,
Roma, Falconara M., Ancona

AIRPORT

Raffaello Sanzio, Ancona/Falconara M.

PORT OF ANCONA



TO ENRICH YOUR ITINERARY...

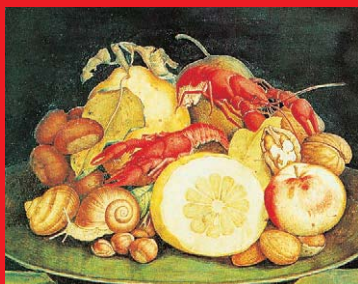
not to be missed

Acqualagna
 Acquasanta Terme
 Arcevia
 Caldarola
 Cantiano
 Carpegna
 Castelleone di Suasa
 Cingoli
 Cupra Marittima
 Cupramontana
 Fossombrone
 Genga
 Grottammare
 Maiolati Spontini
 Massa Fermana
 Montalto delle Marche
 Monte Cerignone
 Montefiore dell'Aso
 Montegiorgio
 Monte San Martino
 Moresco
 Numana
 Ostra
 Ostra Vetere
 Pergola
 Piobbico
 Pioraco
 Pollenza
 San Ginesio
 Sant'Agata Feltria
 Sant'Angelo in Vado
 S. Vittoria in Matenano
 Serra San Quirico
 Treia
 Urbisaglia
 Visso



Ancona

National Museum of Archaeology
 Hydria with black images from Gabi



REGIONE MARCHE TOURISM DEPARTMENT

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Giovanna Garzoni (Ascoli Piceno 1600 - Roma 1670)
Dish with fruit, crustaceans and snails