

Fabriano

History

Inhabitants: 30.807 ca
Area: 269,61 sq.mq.
Altitude: 325 mt. above sea level

Fabriano is last limb of the Ancona territory towards Umbria, surrounded by green hills beyond which arise Mount Fano, Mount Maggio, Mount San Vicino and Mount Cucco. Fabriano possesses one of the most extended territories in all Italy, full of naturalistic beauty and historically artistic properties. Fabriano is easily accessible by car via the S.S. 76, which connects to the Flaminia, via train (Rome-Ancona line), by plane (the Raffaello Sanzio Airport in Ancona).

La storia History

Historians confirm that the word "Fabriano" originates from "Faberius" original owner of the property where the city was then erected. "Faberius" became "Fabriano" during the middle ages, at the time the well developed city was also a thriving community of blacksmiths ("fabr"). In fact the city's coat of arms has a blacksmith pounding steel on an anvil as its emblem since the 13th century. The territory of Fabriano situated in an advantageous position overlapping the Umrian-Marche Apennines favored the settling of stable communities since ancient times. Numerous testimonies exist of anthropological presence dating back to the Paleolithic era. During the Iron Age (9th-10th Century B.C.) the Picena (necropolis of Santa Maria in Campo) and native Umbrian civilizations propagated the area, while during the 4th Century B.C. the Galli Senoni of Celtic origins (necropolis of Mosciano) settled and prospered in the area. The town of Attidium

(Attiglio) then Umbrian, and *Tuficum* (Albacinia) developed after the Roman conquest and flourished during the 2nd and 3rd Century A.D. The Barbarian invasions in the following centuries (5th and 6th) caused the gradual abandonment of these two municipalities. During the Longobard conquest the entire zone became part of the Spoleto Dukedom giving rise to numerous castles erected by minor local feudal lords and also numerous Benedictine monasteries which gradually acquired noteworthy spiritual and economic importance, this was a determining factor for the growth and history of the Fabriano territory. The fusion of two castles situated in a dominating position on banks of the Giano river, namely Castelvecchio and Poggio brought about the origin of the city and from then its rapid growth. Fabriano a free municipality during the second half of the 13th Century elected its own Magistrate Court and gradually acquired a new appearance; the historical city center became the focal point for the formation of architectural and art establishments, which were fundamental for the foundation of the "Scuola" that spawned artists which became famous in the following Century, such as Allegretto Nuzi and Gentile da Fabriano. In the 13th Century the municipality by now resolute and determined, took part in the mediaeval political activity by participating in the war between the Guelfi and the Ghibellini, until in the second half of the Century when the powerful Chiavelli family, stemming from the Ghibelline family tree, succeeded in establishing and imposing their nobility in Fabriano, despite political instability, the Chiavelli's were able to enjoy outstanding economic prosperity. After the massacre of the Chiavelli family in 1435 A.D. and a brief period of submission to Francesco Sforza, the city became an extension of the Pontifical State and this brought about a gradual limitation of the city's political freedom and a slow economic downfall (17th-18th Century) which involved all the industries operating in the territory.

La carta e l'industria

Fabriano, the city of Paper, famous worldwide for its paper production since the 13th Century. There is no actual documentation that pinpoints the origin of paper production in Fabriano, but it is probable that the city produced "bambagina" paper with fibre obtained from linen rags ever since the end of 12th Century. Fabriano is one of the most ancient Italian cities that produced paper commercially: the Fabriano invented the hydraulic hammer mill, watermarks and sizing with animal gelatin. Thanks to these innovative inventions the industry began a steady growth in the 14th and 15th Century when the city boasted at least 40 local manufacturers. In the second half of the 13th Century the local industries produced one million paper sheets per year, which were diffused to various Italian cities the likes of Venice, Florence, etc., as well as abroad. Following a period of progressive decadence from 1780,

Eredi, abbazie e castelli

Hermitages, Abbeys and Castles

Frontone

Monastero di San Silvestro
The San Silvestro monastery founded in the early 1200's, the patriarch of the Benedictine congregation, is situated on Monte Fano in a suggestive panoramic position.

The mediaeval building houses the crypt which can be visited and also the Vembris spring. The painting of the "Madonna e Santi" by Claudio Ridolfi (16th Century) is among the artworks included which can be viewed at the monastery.

Abbazia di Val di Castro (XI sec.)

The San Romualdo Abbey founded in 1005-9 is situated in a valley dominated by Monte San Vicino, preserves valuable testimony and frescoes of the 14th and 15th Centuries. The mediaeval architectural style of the building is very interesting and captivating in its surrounding countryside.

Eremo di Val di Sasso

This antique Benedictine spiritual retreat of the 12th century was restructured in the 1600's and boasts a small church built at the beginning of the 15th Century. A valuable copy of the 19th Century painting by Gentile da Fabriano "Politico di Valleromita" can be viewed inside the church.

Abbazia di San Cassiano in Valbagnola

Originating from the 12th Century, with a beautiful apse and distinct internal structure.

Abbazia di San Biagio in Caprile

The "Abbazia di San Biagio in Caprile" abbey arises majestically situated near Campodonicco on the Umbrian border originally dedicated to Saint Benedict. The abbey was founded in the 11th Century by the Counts of Nocera Umbra and Gualdo Tadino. A fire destroyed the abbey and remained abandoned by the monks until 1443 when the abbey was incorporated with the Silvestrina congregation, who remained there until 1810.

Castello di Albacina (sec. XII-XIV)

The remaining girded wall, the charming tower door and a triptych painting by the Maestro di Staffolo (15th Century) inside the Parish complete this castle.

Castelletta (sec. XIII)

Throughout Castelletta there are consistent traces of medieval remains such as the access door protected by the round "rivellino", the tower door on the opposite side and a fresco by Antonio da Fabriano and a Cross in copper by the German school (13th Century).

Castello di Precicchie

A castel constructed in feudal times is conspicuous for its noteworthy 13th Century layout, with a single entry door and part of the walls erected on rock.

Villa del Marchese del Grillo (Dimora storica)

Built in 1771 by the Marquis Onofrio del Grillo, protagonist central character of a film with the same name starring Alberto Sordi, the residence was the summer estate for this noble Roman. The grand park surrounding the estate, the private chapel, the 'Noble' level floor and the grand ex-cellars (currently restaurant hall), are the more important elements of the building. In the past the residence passed from titled families to presently being classified as a Historical heritage estate of the Marches region, has been and currently undergoing massive restoration to return it to its original splendor grandeur in order for its new classification as a prestigious Relais.

Aula verde di Valleremita

The "Aula Verde" in Valleremita is a regional center for environmental education. Equipped with advanced didactical aids (schoolroom, projection room, naturalistic library, etc.) and also a didactical guideline, the center carries out regular didactical educational and environment awareness activities. For further information on guided visits tel: 0732 72328.

used as a hostel. The splendid church is completely built in dressed limestone, extraordinarily taking on a vertical silhouette; a beautiful monumental door with a pointed archway leads to a single nave closed by a semicircular apse.

Eremo di Grottafucile

A rock hermitage boasting a spectacular view of the "Gola della Rossa" and the Frasassi mountains. This hermitage was the solitary abode of the devout Saint Sylvester from 1227 to 1231. Successively a monastery was erected on the site around the year 1265, of which remains part of the original facade and a grand barrel shaped vault, as well as some hermit monk cells hollowed out in the rock.

Eremo dell'Acquarella

The small hermitage church of Santa Maria dell'Acquarella erected in the 14th Century is entirely in stonework internally and externally in its most classic simplicity.

Parco del Monte Cucco

An important study-convention on cinema (with round table discussions, viewings, debates) participated by film critics, famous actors and directors.

Presepe vivente (December/January)

Wonderful reenactment of the nativity event, with fire torches illuminating the mediaeval walled town center.

Castelletta (sec. XV)

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Festa di Santa Maria (15th August)

Magnificent fireworks display and gastronomy stands.

Mostra Mercato dell'Artigianato (September)

One of the biggest trade market fairs in the Marches region, with numerous stands, where the best local handicrafts are displayed and much more.

Fiera di San Filippo (26 May)

These two occasions mark the dates for the great town fairs, bursting with market stalls, gastronomy stands and local artisan products.

Palio di San Giovanni Battista (June) Reintroduced with success in recent years, this traditional mediaeval event is dedicated to the local patron saint. During the period of this festival the town is inundated with art and craft exhibitions, musical concerts and period costume performances, all while surrounded by eateries in the form of taverns and inns serving optimal wines and local gastronomic delights. But the two most significant events of the Palio, which take place on the 24th June, are the "Infiornata" and the "Sfida dei Magli" whereby the blacksmiths representing the four town quarters dressed in period costume partake in a 'no holds barred' challenge.

PRECICCHIE:

Palio dei Campanari (August)

This very peculiar contest takes place in the suggestive scenery of the Precicchie castle, where the finest bell-ringers challenge one another in being the best bell-ringer in the area. The contest is at the center of a festival with period costume representations, taverns and inns and live performances.

Premio Critica Cinematografica (July)

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