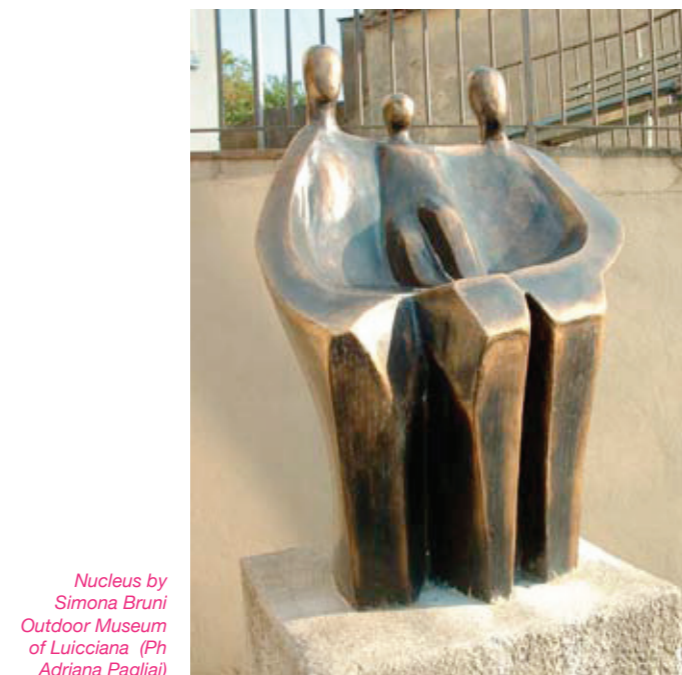
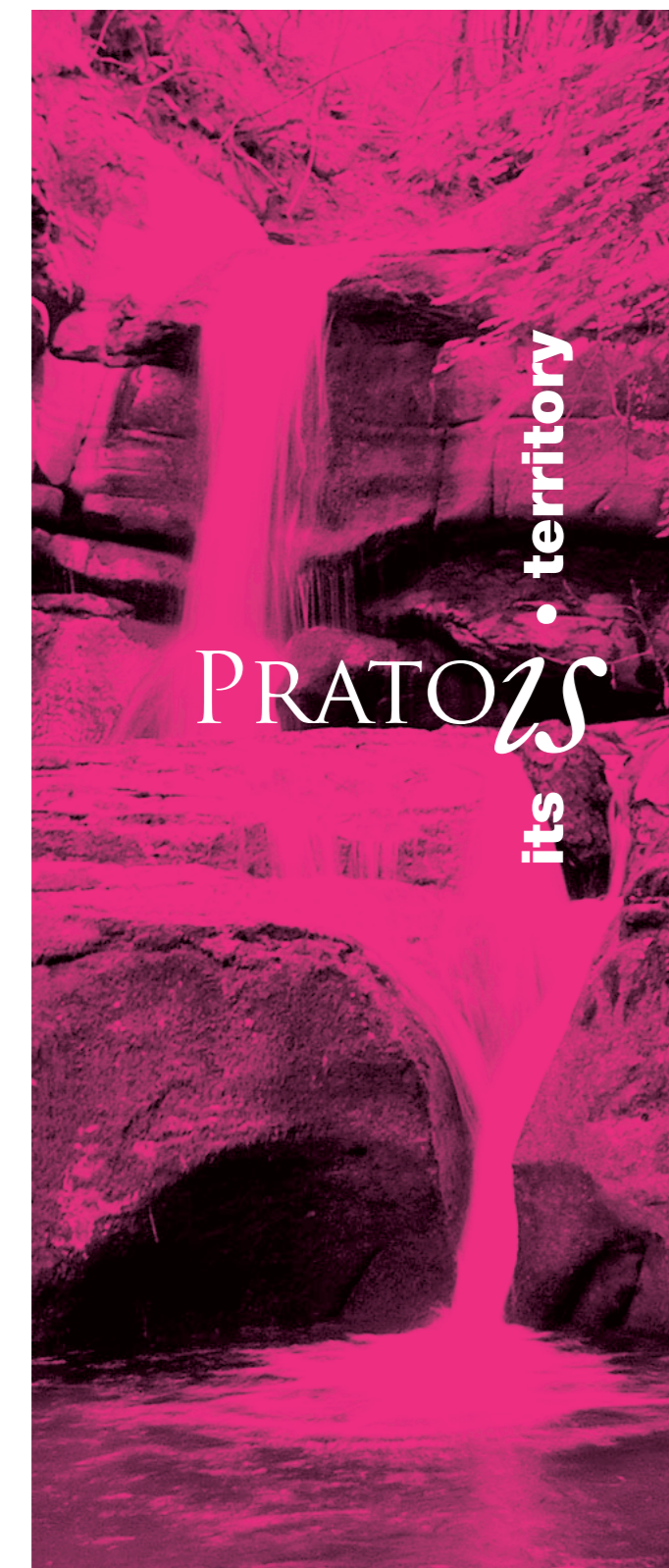




Tourist Information Office
Piazza Buonamici, 7
59100 Prato
Ph./Fax +39 0574 24112
info@pratoturismo.it
www.pratoturismo.it



Capture the QR Codes
with your smartphone
for additional
information



Nucleus by
Simona Bruni
Outdoor Museum
of Luicciana (Ph
Adriana Pagliai)

Lying between two mountainous extensions of the Tusco-Emilian Apennines, the Bisenzio Valley, has numerous and suggestive natural resources as the **Nature Reserve of Acquerino Cantagallo**, the **Protected Area of Monteferrato**, the **Calvana Mountains** and the **Carigiolina Valley**. Hillside are medieval villages, elegant modern villas and typical Tuscan sharecropping settlements.

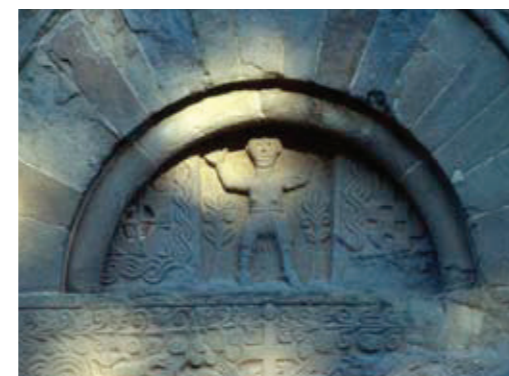
The small village of **Luicciana**, (Cantagallo), accommodates since 1982 the **Outdoor Museum**. Frescoes on the walls and courtyards of the houses, sculptures, installations realized by contemporary artists.

The upper part of the valley was a sheep farming and parturiance zone, with **Cavarzano Alp** and **Montepiano** grazing, and an important borderland with fortified villages. Visible remains survive in the territory as the imposing ruins of the historical **Rocca di Cerbaia** and **Rocca di Vernio**.

Abbey of Vaiano
(Ph Adriana
Pagliai)



Abbey of
Montepiano (Ph
Lucarini Brunero)



the bisenzio valley and montemurlo

In the Bisenzio Valley are some churches of remarkable artistic value as the **Badia di Vaiano** (abbey of the 11th century) with the annexed **Museum of Sacred Art** as well as, on the northern fringe of the valley, the **Badia di Montepiano**. (Abbey of the 12th century).



Museo e Centro di Documentazione della Deportazione e Resistenza
Via di Cantagallo, 250
Figline di Prato

Tel +39 0574 470728
museodelladeportazione.it

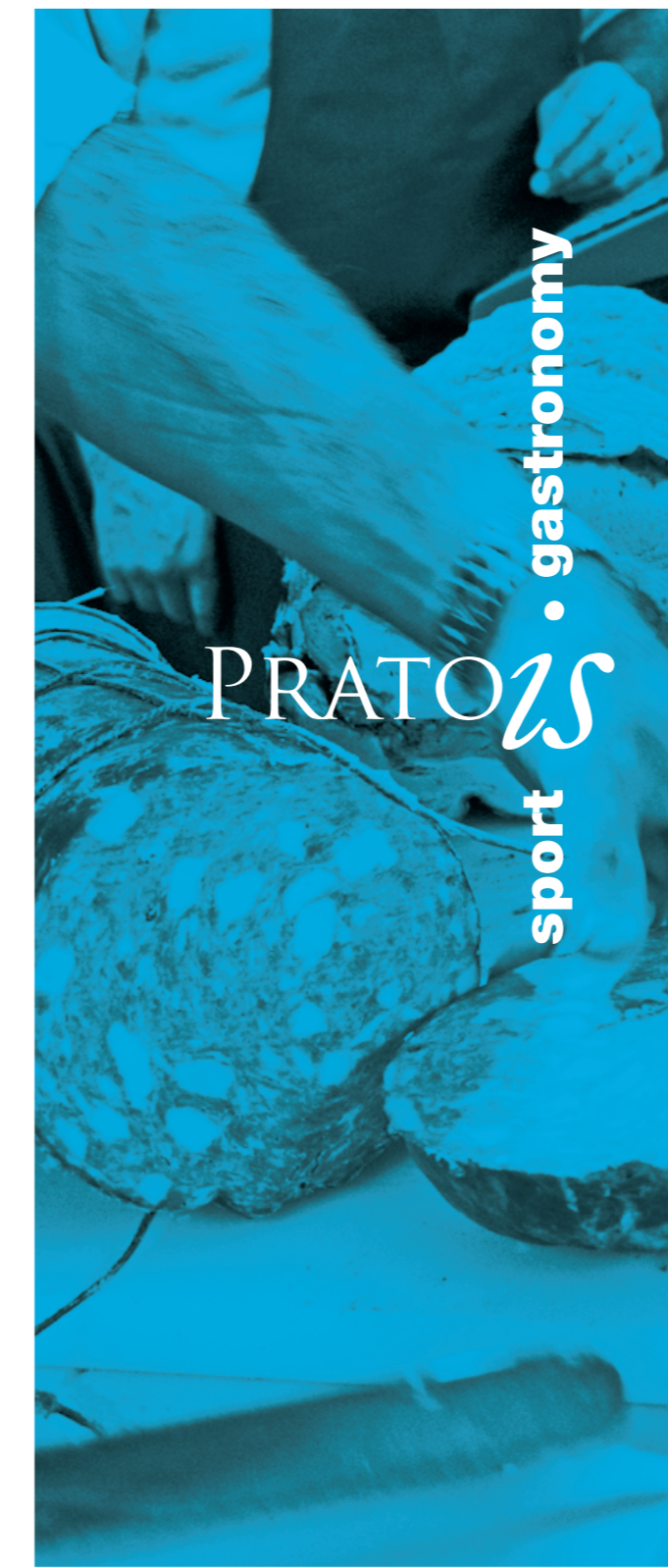


The **Centro di Scienze Naturali** (Natural Science centre) joins the town of Prato with the Bisenzio Valley. It is a botanic garden of Mediterranean vegetation located at the foot of Monteferrato, a real nature reserve round the corner of Prato.

West of Galceti is **Montemurlo**. The town still preserves its ancient **Borgo**, the historical **Rocca** and the **Pieve di S. Giovanni Decollato** (Romanesque parish church) that houses important works of art including the **"Madonna con bambino"** (Madonna with child) by **Francesco Granacci**.

On the route that from Prato runs to Vernio is the **Museo e Centro di Documentazione della Deportazione e Resistenza**. The museum itinerary is conceived as a travel through a Nazi concentration and extermination camp. Among the exhibited objects, some are original and come from Ebensee.

The Museum organizes guided visits and activities for students.



cycle tracks



Bisenzio river
(Ph Egipto Nino
Ceccatelli)

A territory with an echo-sustainable mobility

Prato has a good net of equipped cycle tracks (53 kilometres) integrated with other mobility systems and city services (train station, schools, distribution hub etc...).

It runs through the main places of natural interest (Cascine di Tavola Park, Monteferrato Park, the Bisenzio river and the Iolo-Bardena stream) and is an excellent junction with the nearby municipalities.

a delicious welcome

Once in Prato it is possible to make a sin of greed and sweet lovers will certainly be in seventh heaven. Among the specialties: the Mortadella di Prato (Prato sausage), the almond biscuits known as Cantuccini, the Carmignano dried figs, the sugar candies from Vernio, the sweets made from chestnut flour, acacia honey from the hills. And best of all the bread, the famous "Bozza" of Prato crunchy and fragrant, the essential ingredient for minestra di pane (bread soup), pappa al pomodoro (thick bread and tomato soup) and fettunta (toasted bread and olive oil).

Prato biscuits
(Ph Baldassarre
Amodèo)



Wines
(Ph Adriana
Pagliai)



The wine, the king of the table, comes from the hills all around Prato (Pinot nero from Bagnolo) and from the even more generous vineyards of Montalbano that line the southern borders of the province where from the great casks we can draw the "brilliant Carmignano", the clear rosé Ruspo, the Barco Reale and noble Vinsanto aged in wooden kegs that are hundreds of years old. Excellent wines deserving of the D.O.C.G. and D.O.C. mark of origin.

These places also have a vocation for the cultivation of olive trees and the oil obtained by the farmers, who know all its secrets, is rich in quantity and superior in quality.



typical food & products



where to eat



where to shop



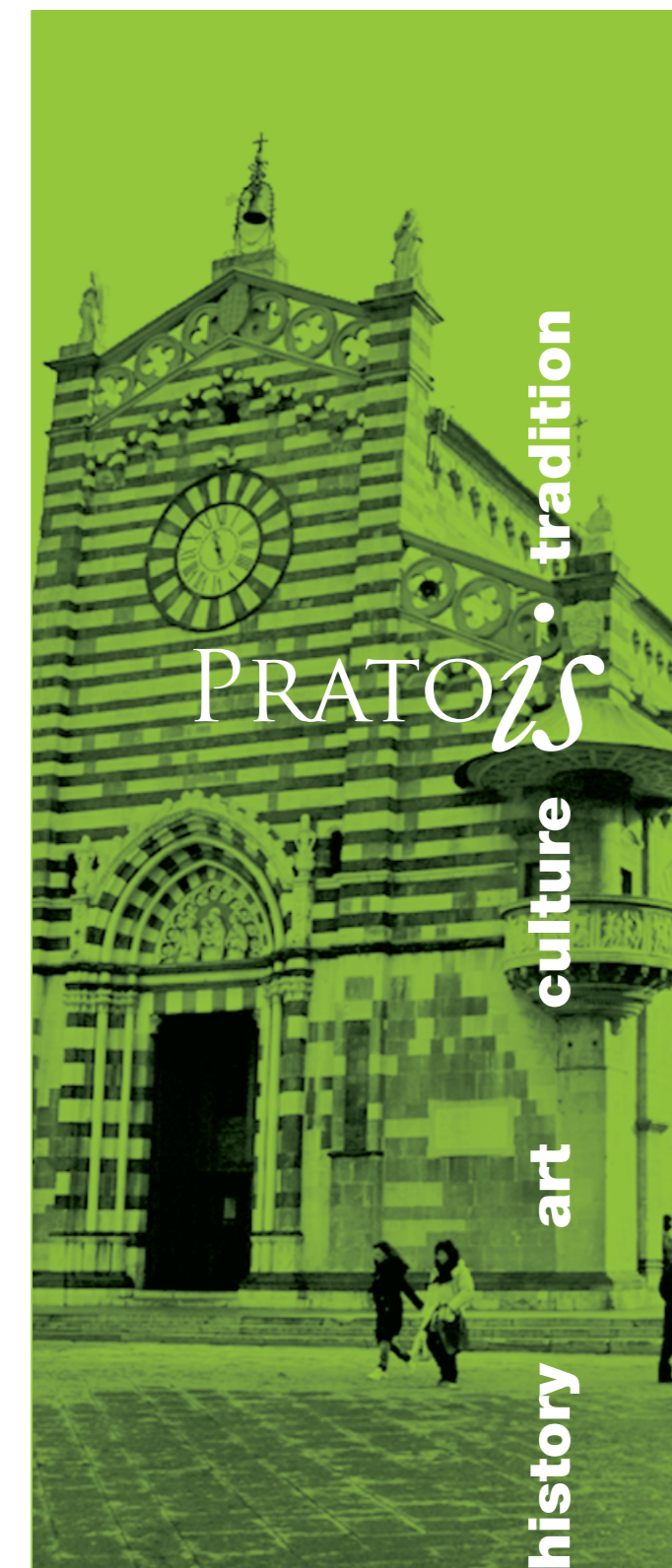
prato is...

The tourist offer includes art, nature, and history; a history still vitally alive today, around which the province has grown up, on which it has built its prosperity and developed the values of welcoming accommodation and comparison between different cultures.

Prato has a strategic position, a few kilometres from the major art cities of Tuscany.



a friendly city where to stay



Museo di Palazzo Pretorio
Piazza del Comune
Tel +39 0574 1934996
palazzopretorio.prato.it



A visit can go on to include **Palazzo Datini**, **Palazzo Pretorio Museum**, **Basilica of S. Maria delle Carceri** by Giuliano da Sangallo, the churches of **S. Francesco** and **S. Domenico**, the **Museo di Pittura Murale** (Fresco Museum) - temporarily closed - and the **Museo dell'Opera del Duomo** (Cathedral Museum). (In all these places are works of art by great masters as **Agnolo Gaddi**, **Paolo Uccello**, **Filippo** and **Filippino Lippi**, **Donatello**, **Michelozzo** and other great 14th century and Renaissance artists.

Emperor's Castle (Ph Adriana Paglia)

A visit to the historical centre of Prato will certainly not disappoint tourists, who can visit the **Castello dell'Imperatore** (Emperor's Castle) of Swabian architecture, the only one of its kind in Northern-Central Italy, the **Duomo** in which is kept the deeply venerated relic of the Virgin Mary's Sacred Belt and where the splendid **frescoes by Filippo Lippi**, recently restored, can be admired. On the façade of the Duomo is the **pulpit by Donatello and Michelozzo** (original reliefs now in the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo) used for the display of the Sacred Belt of the Madonna (on September 8th, the main celebration, when the Historical Parade takes place).



Museo del Tessuto
Via Puccetti, 3
Tel +39 0574 611503
Fax +39 0574 444585
museodeltessuto.it

Museum of Planetary Science (Ph Adriana Paglia)

Do not miss the **Museo del Tessuto** (Textile Museum), a memorial to the city's textile history, where samples and documents dating from the 5th century to our own day are displayed. The building where it is housed is a monument of industrial archaeology, the only big nineteenth-century production centre still standing within the city's medieval walls: the "Cimateria Campolmi Leopoldo e C", an important factory of Prato's manufacturing history, where fabrics in the raw state were finished through various processes. The museum organizes theme exhibitions, events, conferences and other activities and it also has an important educational section that each year, organizes initiatives for students.



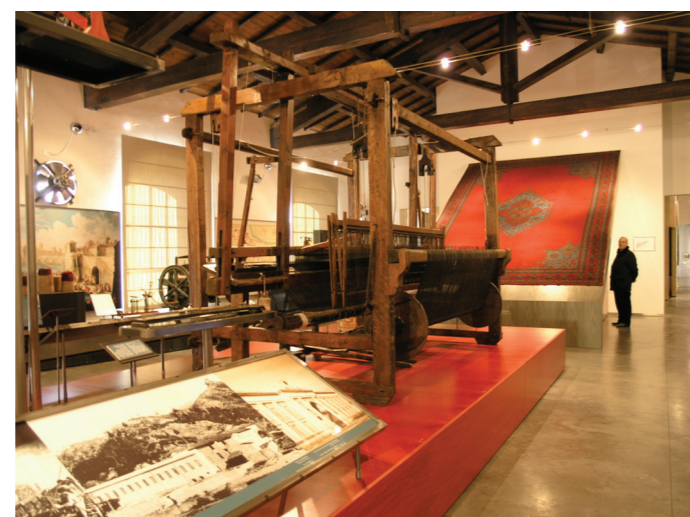
Not far from the city centre, is the **Museo di Scienze Planetarie**, (Museum of Planetary Science) that recreates a continuous course starting with the birth of the Universe to the Solar System. In the 'quadrisphere' a multiple-screen show narrates the events with the use of a complex system of mirrors evoking fascinating sounds and images. The museum has two main collections: one of meteorites and impactites, the other of minerals.

Museo di Scienze Planetarie
Via Galcianese, 20/h
Tel +39 0574 44771
Fax +39 0574 447725
museoscienzeplanetarie.eu



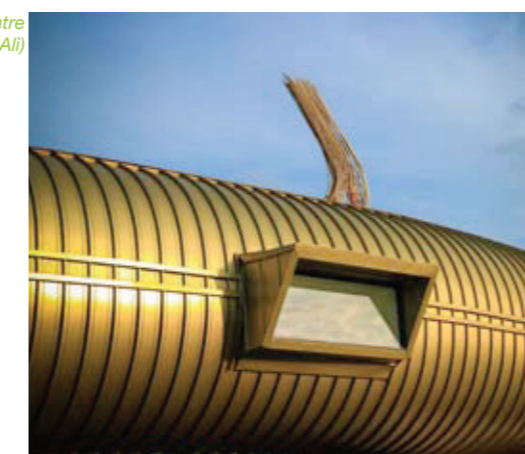
Few territories in Italy and Europe can boast an important contemporary art heritage like Prato and its territory due to the presence and activity of the **Centre for Contemporary Art "Luigi Pecci"** the first Italian institution built and designed by Italo Gamberini, enlarged and renovated by the Sino-Dutch architect Maurice Nio, a centre of attraction and development of the most recent international contemporary art researches - and to the numerous works of art well integrated in the landscape and in the spirit

Museo Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci
V.le della Repubblica, 277
Tel +39 0574 5317
Fax +39 0574 531900
centropecci.it



Textile Museum (Ph Adriana Paglia)

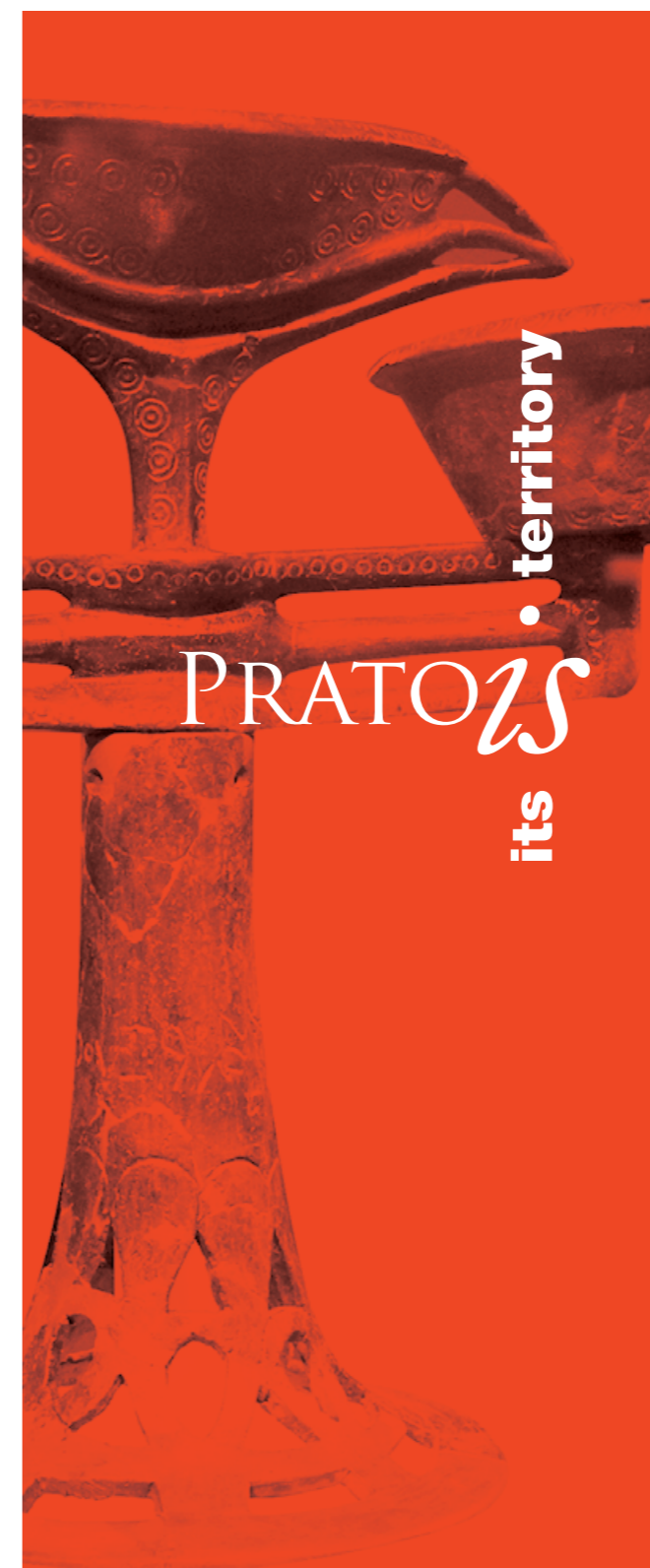
Pecci Centre (Ph Ivan D'Al)



Near Poggio a Caiano, is the **Park of Cascine di Tavola**, realized by Lorenzo il Magnifico in 1477 and once part of the farming estate of the Medici Villa of Poggio a Caiano. The park houses the exclusive **Golf and Country Club Le Pavoniere**.



Golf Club le Pavoniere (Ph Natalia Loginova Prato e Golf)



the montalbano on the prato side poggio a caiano and carmignano

Poggio a Caiano and Carmignano are situated south of Prato. The zone of production of fine D.O.C. and D.O.C.G. wines, extra virgin olive oil and the famous "dried figs" of Carmignano.

The **Medici Villa "Ambra"** is located in **Poggio a Caiano**. It was ordered by Lorenzo il Magnifico and built to plans drawn by Giuliano da Sangallo in 1479. The park has a neoclassical lemon shed and stables. The Scuderie (stables) were restored in 2000, and became a polyvalent structure.

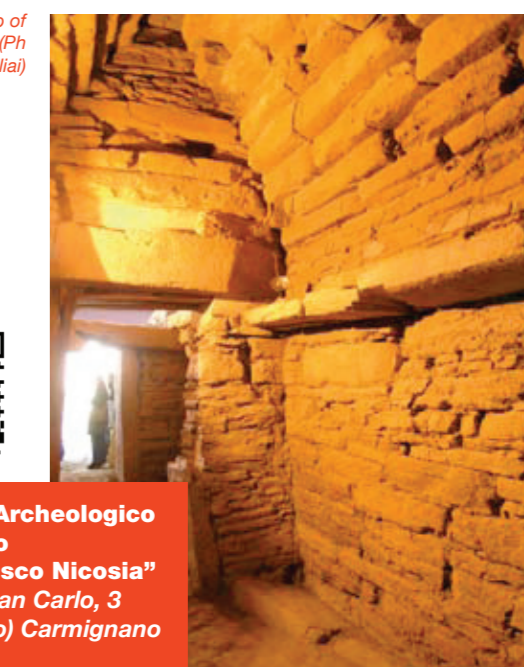
The villa houses the **Museo della Natura Morta** (Still Life Museum) which displays a permanent collection of about 200 paintings dating from the late 16th century to the middle of the 18th century. The **Scuderie Medicee** (Medici Stables) house the **Ardengo Soffici Museum** that shows a series of works painted by the artist, between 1904 and 1962.

Villa Medicea Ambra
Piazza De' Medici, 14
Poggio a Caiano
Tel +39 055 877012
Fax +39 055 8796613



Medici Villa "Ambra" Poggio a Caiano (Ph Adriana Paglia)

Etruscan Tomb of Montefortini (Ph Adriana Paglia)



Museo Archeologico Artimino
"Francesco Nicosia"
Piazza San Carlo, 3
(Artimino) Carmignano
Tel +39 055 8718124
parcoarcheologico.carmignano.it

Between Poggio a Caiano and Carmignano, on the way to Comeana, are two important Etruscan Tombs from the 7th century B. C. the **Tomba dei Boschetti** (Boschetti Tomb) and the **Tumulo di Montefortini** (Montefortini Tumulus).

The road climbs from Comeana up to **Artimino**, a characteristic fortified village. Opposite the village stands the **Medici Villa "La Ferdinanda"** (Bernardo Buontalenti, 1594) known as the "villa of hundred chimneys". Particularly interesting is the **Museo Archeologico Etrusco "Francesco Nicosia"** (Archaeological Museum "Francesco Nicosia") with Neolithic findings and rare Etruscan artefacts from local diggings.



Church of San Leonardo Artimino (Ph Adriana Paglia)

South of Artimino there is the **Pieve romanica di S. Leonardo** (Romanesque parish church of the 10th century) and, not far away, the **Abbazia di S. Martino in Campo** (abbey of the 10th century). In the neighbouring hills is the **Abbazia di S. Giusto al Pinone**, the most ancient of the Montalbano parish churches.

From here it is possible to reach Carmignano, the capital town of its municipality and wine zone. All that is left of the medieval fortress is the tower, called "Il Campano". The **Chiesa di S. Michele** (Church of St. Michael about 1349 with a 16th century doorway and cloister) houses paintings from the 14th - 17th century including the wonderful **"Visitazione"** (Visitation) by **Pontorno** (about 1536) admirable testimony of the first Florentine mannerism.

From Carmignano, descending toward Seano we come to the **"Quinto Martini" Park-Museum**. It is located on a green area of more than 30,000 sq. mt. where 36 works in bronze have been placed.