

Free MAP
for
Young
Travellers

Made in
Prato
LOCALS

Prato
Act like
a LOCAL

FITNOTATA

It seems like people in Prato think with a huge common brain when it comes to choose cool enough places to hang out. It is likely that you see a bar always busy and crowded over many months, and from one day to another you see all of us moving onto the next "cooler" place like sheep. We also have a word to describe the phenomenon, which is *fitnotata*. So nobody gets their hopes up when their bar gets packed at night, it could just be another temporary fitnotata...

MOANING GUYS

People from Prato constantly complain, almost about everything in a polemic way and often not objectively at all. "There is nothing to do in town" is the typical statement even if Prato has plenty to offer for people's spare time. You could compare it to the global financial crisis which also doesn't affect driving to the beach in a brand new car.

POTTINO: the way others suppose we are

It's a commonplace that a Pratese is "pottino" (dandy, snobbish). Nobody can trace back this word's origin but everyone can recognize who represents it. The snobbish attitude of the pottino is evident in exclusive clothes and behavior. They wear custom-made shirts with embroidered initials preferably made by **Eusebio** (1960s custom tailoring shop in the centre), classical trousers of indefinite colour, a jumper tied around the neck ready to be used for dropping temperature (only considered as an accessory and not a wearing item) and fashionable shoes. You haven't spotted one yet, wait confidently in front of the **Caffè 21** and from a double parked car a real pottino will get out!

Textile tips

Ever since the 11th century, textile manufacturing has been our strong suit and later on our fabrics began to be exported all over the world. Well, if you wanna be all dressed up, no worries: you are in good hands!

BICCHE BOCCHE

The original form was Knicker Bocker, a stout fabric of wool and linen having a rough or knotted surface. People from Prato were unable to pronounce it properly, so the mispronunciation led to this funny form Bicchiche Bocche.

CENCIOIAIO

After the World War II, raw materials were scarce, and locals had to make due with the fabrics they could find, especially with old clothes coming from the US. The cencioiaio was the person in charge of separating the garments, according to different criteria. By simply touching a garment the cencioiaio was able to guess the type of fabric which was then torn to shreds. This led to the production of the so-called recovered wool obtained from shreds and rags, and the whole process ended up with the production of new garments from recycled materials. Inside uniform things you could find real hidden treasures such as money, rings or love letters, but for children of those times, playing with buttons was great fun! The old profession of the cencioiaio has almost disappeared, many of them now work for the vintage marketplace. Take a look at VINTAGE SHOP icons on the map!

CARDATO

You have a wool coat hanging in your closet that's extra soft and fuzzy? Then it probably has a touch of cardato, another Pratese invention, which mixes old and new fibers. Gives a whole meaning to the term, vintage, doesn't it?

1. HAM AND TEA

Once just a parkway, Piazza Sant'Agostino is now a pleasant place to stroll and eventually get to Maurizio, the host at **A Casa Gori**, who will slice by hand the best kinds of prosciutto (cured ham) matched with the right wine. If you decide to have a meal, finish with a "theino" (homemade digestive whose ingredients are unknown).
Tue closed / Wed - Mon 19.00 - 24.00 // Prices: Medium / High

2. A PRATESE ICON

If you're looking for a taste of Prato, step no further than **Soldano**. This tavern is a slice of town history, with its local recipes and cozy tables. "Sedani alla pratese" - celery with meat sauce - is a true specialty.
Sun closed / Mon - Sat 12.00 - 14.30 / 19.00 - 22.30 // Prices: Medium

3. CATHEDRAL TREASURES

Visiting the **Duomo** in Prato is well worth the train ride from Florence, as it is home to two treasures: the Sacred Belt and the Stories of St. Stephen and St. John the Baptist. The former is based on a legend that a priest from Pistoia tried to steal the Virgin Mary's sacred belt. Luckily, a heavy fog confused him, and he ended up returning the belt to its home. The latter is a series of frescoes by the genius painter from the early Renaissance, Filippo Lippi. We told you this place was special.

4. LAURA, 31

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION
"Going around the centre and fancy some good wine?" Stop by **Le Barrique** and trust Leonardo!
Mon - Sun 12.00 - 0.30

5. OASIS

Piazza Mercatale is Prato's version of London's Trafalgar Square, as this city area is always alive with crowds. Perhaps this is the reason why **Il Giardino del Te** is an oasis, and the perfect place to wind down away from traffic with delicious teas from all over the world, hot chocolate and a slice of cake. Cake away service available!
Mon - Sat 15.30 - 19.30 / 21.00 - 1.00 / Sun 15.30 - 20.00 / 21.30 - 24.00

6. THE SHOE ARTISAN

We all need to feel comfortable in our shoes, but sometimes we also like mixing business and pleasure and in this case we can't get over **Manfellassi calzature**. This is an old store in Via Garibaldi that stands out for its high-quality products, especially for its M.L.T. shoes collection (Made in Tuscany) entirely handmade in the region, from raw materials to our feet. Expensive, yes, but it's all worth it: be a miser and no one would like to be in your shoes.
Sun closed / Mon - Sat 9.30 - 13.00 / 16.00 - 20.00

7. MAGIC CARPETS

Saving **Galleria Mini** sells just carpets would be the understatement of the century. What the store really sells are Italian dreams living inside handbags, shoes and rugs. All works come from local artisans.
Sun - n - closed / Mon - Sat 9.30 - 13.00 / 15.30 - 19.30

8. MIND YOUR TONGUE

Are you smelling something incredible in Via Garibaldi? You are probably in the right place to taste a pizza by **Forno Guaffieri** and **Rend** one of the best pit-stops for a snack for over 50 years! Don't worry if they don't smile at you (they are a bit too busy) but just stay in line and enjoy the pizza.
Mon closed / Tue - Sat 9.15 - 12.00 / 16.00 - 19.30 / Sun 16.00 - 19.30

9. THE HUNGRY FAN CORNER

The **Wallace Pub** is the ideal place for the most important live sports on TV but also a meeting point for bikers and live music lovers. It's known for the giant burgers (from 12.00 €) and good beer. The music programme starts on Monday with blues jam session, jazz on Tuesday and live rock on weekends.
Open daily 11.00 - 2.00

10. GOURMET FRESH

Hidden in a small street of Prato, **Baghino's** 15th century building is difficult to find, but the selection of fresh Tuscan meats and the best beer in town is worth the search. This restaurant needs no promotion, it speaks for itself.
Sun closed / Tue - Sat 12.00 - 14.30 / 19.30 - 22.30 // Prices: High

11. I'D DO ANYTHING FOR A SPRITZ

Caffè Zero is always buzzing at happy hour, maybe because the ex-comedian and current mixologist Pino makes the perfect spritz, best when sipped in the bar's terrace overlooking Via Garibaldi.
Sun closed / 6.30 - 22.30

12. MUSIC IN THE TOWER

With its live music, dimly lit rooms and mural-covered walls, **Orze** is one of the best places to get a beer while overlooking the city centre. Did you realize this small space was carved out of an old watchtower? We didn't on our first visit. Watchtowers are really typical in Prato, you can spot them in the centre where they were built between the 11th and 13th centuries providing high safe places from which a sentinel could observe the surrounding area. They've definitely stood the test of time!
Mon - Sun 17.00 - 2.00

13. WIDE AWAKE

The Ethiopian legend about the discovery of coffee is posted on the front door of **Kaldi's Kaffe**, which is how this little dive got its name. Fausto and his wife Mek offer Ethiopian cuisine in an atmosphere that lies somewhere between a literary café and a living room.
Tue closed / Wed - Mon 18.00 - 2.00 // Prices: Low

14. THE LANE BAR

Cheap prices and live jazz are the highlights of the **Gradisca** 1973 whose name refers to the unforgettable character from the movie *Amarcord* by Fellini. The venue has single-handedly enlightened one of the most secluded alleys of the centre. They are also popular because you can borrow books for 2.00 € and get a free prosecco if you return them! (Spritz 2.90 € / baguette 1.00 €)
Open daily / Mon - Thu 18.00 - 24.00 / Fri - Sun 18.00 - 2.00

15. CALLING ALL FANTASMINO FANS

4 Rooms takes its name from Quentin Tarantino's film, it's made up of four different sets, from a 1950s styled lounge to a live room perfectly designed for any movie lover. Once you have picked your room we suggest their delicious Club Sandwich.
Mon - Sun 18.00 - 02.00

16. OLD BUT GOLD

The historic **Caffè Padovani** still uses its 1820 license to sell colonial spices and groceries by weight. Whether it's the vast array of dried fruit, coffee, tea, or the specialty sweets with hints of barley and anise, this locale is the perfect stop for food junkies. Since 1920 they have been roasting and toasting coffee beans, and in recent years, they have also launched a book collection made with recycled life sacks that are usually used for coffee seeds. Even inside its time hasn't passed, furniture is the same as in 1936 as you can tell from the original engraving on the counter. Rumor has it pork butchers once met here to discuss how to make the now world famous Mortadella di Prato.
Sun closed / Mon 16.00 - 20.00 / Tue - Sat 9.00 - 13.00 / 16.00 - 20.00

17. THE NOBLES PALAZZO

Palazzo Pretorio is home to a plethora of classic Renaissance treasures without the crowds. This palace is where noble lords and mayors decided on the course of our city's history. On a lucky day, you can see the golden snake that hides in the crack of the side leading to Via Cesare Guasti.
Tue closed / Wed - Mon 10.30 - 18.30 // Prices 4.00 € - 8.00 €

18. LUCIO'S

If you ask for directions to get to **Caffè Dafini**, no one would be able to show you the way, since everyone knows it as "Da Lucio". Stop here on the weekend and get a huge drink you can enjoy in front of **Bacchino's Fountain** in the very central Piazza del Comune.
Sun closed / Mon - Thu 7.00 - 20.00 / Fri - Sat 7.00 - 2.00

19. BREAD & WINE

Just next to Piazza del Comune, you can find this little, simple place where substance is above form. Its name **Marcellino Pane e Vino** (bread and wine) already suggests their specialties: schiacciata filled with cold cuts of all types and regional wines, all served with kindness. Perfect before (or after) a movie at the nearby **Eden Cinema**.
Mon closed / Tue - Fri 11.00 - 20.00 / Sat 11.00 - 2.00 / Sun 11.00 - 24.00 // Prices: Low

20. FEWER BUT BETTER

Galeria Roberta may be hidden in the corner of an old aristocratic palace, but it's hands down one of the best ice cream shops in town. The tiny shop doesn't offer many flavors, but the hazelnut chocolate or Gianduja is simply to die for.

21. DOCTOR COCKTAILS

Without a doubt, **Apothéke** cocktails are the most original in the land of Prato. Bartenders dressed like pharmacists will serve you an array of medicine-sounding mixtures that taste nothing like cold symp. Just don't venture to the toilet, take our word for it.
Mon - Sun 18.00 - 2.00

22. JAPAN-TO-TABLE

Japan may be over 9,000 miles from Italy, but that distance disappears when you enter **Mai Sushi Lab**. Forget all you can eat, here you can enjoy gourmet dishes thanks to a passionate Pratese chef who frequently travels to the Empire of the Rising Sun and brings home the latest cuisine innovations.
Mon closed / Tue - Sun 19.00 - 23.00 // Prices: High

23. THE POPULAR CHOICE

If you are looking for a quiet and relaxing venue, this may not be the best choice. **I Fratelli** is partially responsible for reviving Prato's nightlife. This low-priced bar offers a wide selection of quality wine and cold cuts. Expect a big crowd on the weekend. Several love stories began at its tables. You know, in vino veritas.
Mon - Sun 19.00 - 2.00

24. SANDWICH SHACK

If it's your lucky night, you'll be served by the legendary Mau, owner of **Da i Mau e la Tamara**. With his biker spirit and the hands of an angel, he can make the perfect sandwich that will knock your socks off. Don't worry, he's all bark and no bite.
Mon closed / Tue - Sun 11.00 - 23.00 // Prices: Low

25. TYPICAL PRODUCT CRAZE

Looking for "typical" products like the mathematical tourist? Then you have found your heaven at **Atipico**, a shop that offers all the local products from Camignano wines (whose denomination is now 300 years old, making it one of the four oldest certified wines in the world) to Cantucci biscuits, mortadella, vermouth for real connoisseurs but also crafts and souvenirs. In Summer the shop moves to the splendid Buonamici Garden, an open green terrace enclosed by the walls and overlooking the homonym square, where you can try local products and home-made beers.
Tue closed / Wed - Mon 10.00 - 13.00 / 16.00 - 19.30

26. ORIGINAL CANTUCCI

In the last century the **Biscottificio Mattel** created the name "Cantucci" to indicate the typical Prato biscuits always packed in blue paper! From the still hot loaf, they used to cut the biscuits ready to be packed. The discarded parts, delicious crumbs and poor mishapen cantucci have always been Pratese's favourite who are always look for these pieces as they have the same quality at a cheaper price. Try also the "brutti buoni" (ugly but good) or the well-known Montovana cake, great for breakfast!
Mon closed / Tue - Fri 8.00 - 19.30 / Sat 8.00 - 13.00 / 15.30 - 19.30 / Sun 8.00 - 13.00

27. LETTERS FROM A MERCHANT

A great amount of letters and papers came to light in the 19th century from a secret room of the **Palazzo di Francesco Datini**, who is also known as the Merchant of Prato. Today, this statue is inspiring and mysterious. He's portrayed holding promissory notes, of which he's said to be the inventor, but this legendary spread just because he would use them frequently. He was also just famous for being one of the richest men in town.
Mon - Sun 10.00 - 13.00 / 15.00 - 18.00 // Free entry

28. PRECIOUS FABRIC GEM

Looking for the perfect souvenir? Stop by the **Tabacchiere** shop in the center of Prato, where you can find a beautiful collection of fabrics for dining tables, bags and accessories, all 100% made in Prato. Textiles are created by **Mastrolacci**, an art at Prato, where you can find a textile shop and a shoekeeper, often in collaboration with both local and foreign artists.
Sun closed / Mon 16.00 - 20.00 / Tue - Sat 10.00 - 13.00 / 16.00 - 20.00

29. A SOUVENIR WITH A STORY TO TELL

Even though we believe the USE-IT map is a great souvenir, you might want to add a painting or bookmark inspired by the city from **Laura Balla's** art studio. You'll probably also get a story to tell.
If the study is closed, feel free to call Laura at +39 340 272.5835. She lives just around the corner!

30. TASTES LIKE HOME

There comes a time in every carnivore's life when you don't want to cook, but you don't feel like going to a fancy restaurant either. The solution, two words: **Traffetta da Lopo**. This simple little restaurant has served typical Tuscan food since the 1930s. Sorry modern world, you just can't compete with a delicious plate of Pappardelle in wild boar sauce.
Sun closed / Mon - Sat 12.00 - 14.45 / 19.30 - 22.00 // Prices: Medium / Low

31. CURTAIN UP!

One of the hardest challenges for an architect is building a new structure in harmony with the surrounding area. The theatre **Metastasio** perfectly follows this principle. The building is set in the very historical centre, surrounded by medieval palazzi and narrow streets. The small theatre is home along the **Basilica di Santa Maria delle Carceri**, a rare Greek-style church erected after a mystical vision inside the underground prison. For around 13.00 € you can grab a beer and pizza **Margherita** at **Deconter** and enjoy one of the best views in the city.
Café: Tue closed / Wed - Mon 9.00 - 13.00 / 16.00 - 19.00

32. MASTER OF BEER

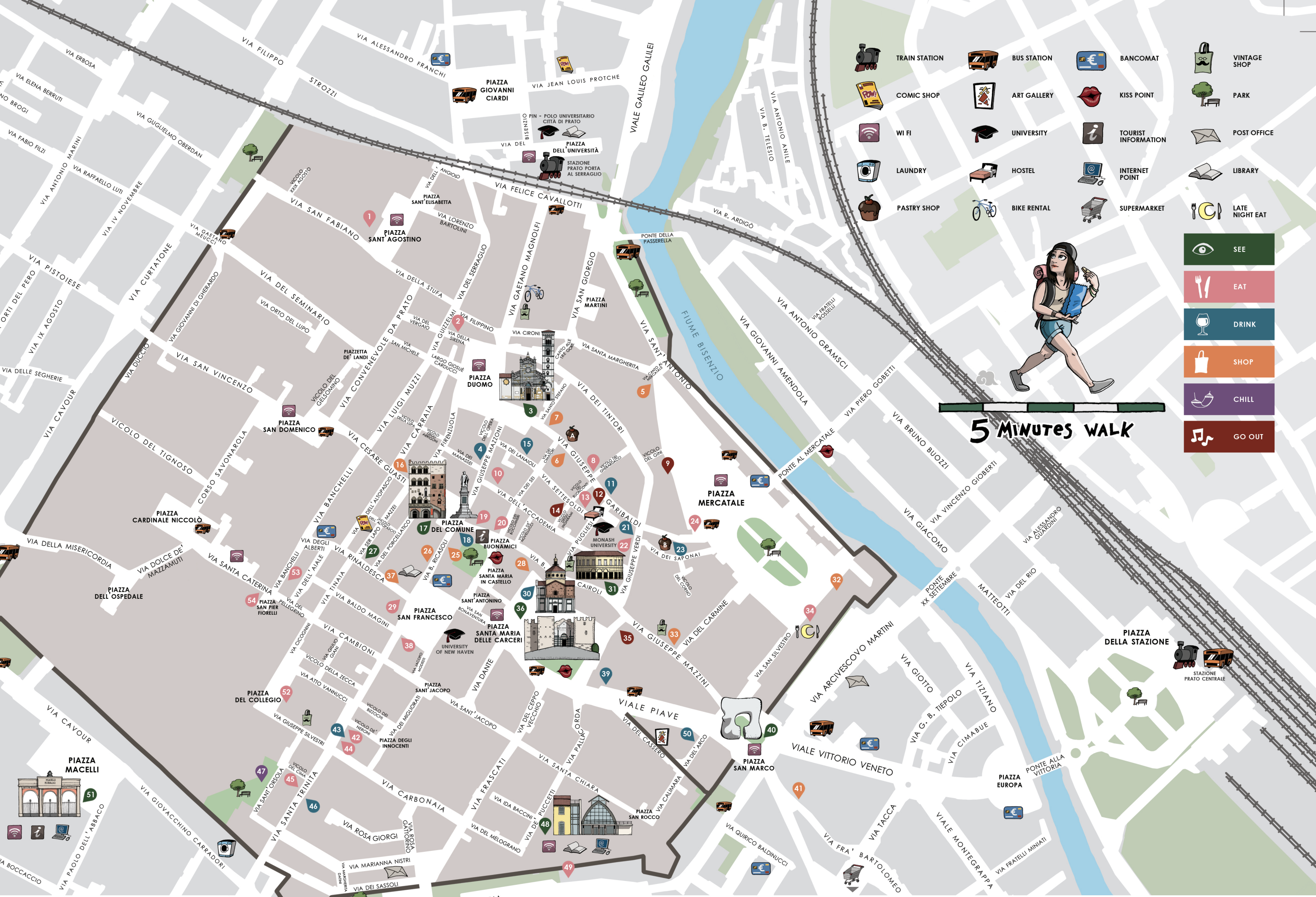
More and more people are trying to make home-made beer, not to get it cheaper but also to master the art of brewing. At the **Beerbot** you can find the *Orda brand* (5.00 €): a variety of artisanal craft beers to take away or to drink in the backyard garden.
Sun closed / Mon - Sat 17.30 - 00.30

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Mon - Sun 10.00 - 13.00 / 14.30 - 18.30

34. CASTLE ON THE PRISON

Having a fortress in the city centre is not something most cities can brag about, but Frederick I decided to build his **Empress's Castle** exactly in the central Piazza delle Carceri. That wonderful square is the ideal gateway to the city along the **Basilica di Santa Maria delle Carceri**, a rare Greek-style church erected after a mystical vision inside the underground prison. For around 13.00 € you can grab a beer and pizza **Margherita** at **Deconter** and enjoy one of the best views in the city.
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37. HAPPY HOUR

Fancy a taste of Spain in Prato? **La Cova** is all you need. You can have delicious tapas - the *Camberlert* Cujiente is a must - and drink a cool white sangria either at the table or chilling in the bar (at the counter). Olé!
Mon - Sun 19.00 - 24.00 // Prices: Medium

38. FORTIFICATION

It needs no introduction: **Caffè 21** is the bar of people "who count": our local VIPs industrialists driving big cars, in other words: the bar of the rich! Its interior design is also a sign of accuracy and sophistication. There's never enough parking space but don't worry, if you're cool enough, you can double park! Because what's paying one more fine for you?
Mon closed / Tue - Sat 7.30 - 3.00 / Sun 15.00 - 24.00

39. BUCO DI MOORE (MOORE'S HOLE)

Prato's inhabitants have a sort of complicated relationship with this work of art that was donated to the city in 1974 by the artist Henry Moore. "Square form with cut" was actually given several different names by the citizens, but it's mainly well-known as "Il Buco di Moore". So famous that, a few years ago, a group of students from a school in Prato thought it was funny to create a cap that perfectly fit in the hole of the sculpture in order to finish the artist's job. Prato is a contemporary and lively city, so contemporary art is quite respected. But we never miss the chance to make jokes about it, and this is a prime example! What is the exact meaning of the sculpture? This issue is open to interpretation, but the artist, taking inspiration from the many entrances in the wall to the historical centre, wanted to build a door that could link past and future.

40. THE ARTIST HAIRDRESSER

Need a beard trim or a new haircut? Stop at **NoBis** and you get a great deal! It's worth meeting Mauro, hairdresser, barber, painter and photography amateur, if he is around though. He might also be attending concerts or fixing old vintage bicycles.
Mon - Fri 12.00 - 21.00 / Sat 10.00 - 17.00 // 10.00 € - 20.00 €

41. HITS HOME

Osteria Santa Trinita serves delicious traditional Pratese plates whose recipes were passed down through the generations. The atmosphere is lively, and the food is best served with Tuscan wine.
Sun - Mon closed / Tue - Sat 19.30 - 23.00 // Prices: Medium

42. MASTER OF BEER

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