

PERSONALITIES FROM PISTOIA

Destination: Pistoia - The Cathedral of S. Zeno and the Cathedral Museum, the Giovanni Michelucci Centre of Documentation and churches, the Palazzo Rospigliosi Museums, the Church of the Spirito Santo and other museums, the Marino Marini Museum. *We also advise visits to: Lamporecchio* - Villa Rospigliosi.

S. Jacopo (St. James the Major)



The worship of S. Jacopo was officially recognised in Pistoia in the 12th century when, thanks to the mediation of Bishop Atto, the precious Jacopean reliquary arrived from Santiago di Compostela and attracted large numbers of pilgrims to Pistoia from that moment on. Testimonials of the pilgrimages and the worship of the Saint, especially after he was made Patron Saint of the city, characterise the most important monuments in Pistoia, starting with the splendid group of buildings in Piazza del Duomo where, even

today, celebrations based on a centuries-old tradition are held, with a historic pageant and the "Giostra dell'Orso". The statue of the Saint, dressed in a red mantle, is placed high up on the façade of the Cathedral on his feast day on July 25th. Popular tradition would in fact have it that S. Jacopo usually wore a heavy winter cloak even in the height of summer because he had promised his creditors that he would only repay the money he had received from them to help the poor if it became too hot to bear.

The worship of the Saint influenced many of the local works of art. One of the most important of these is the imposing **Silver Altar** dedicated to him in the Cathedral; many famous goldsmiths, among them Filippo Brunelleschi, worked on it over a period of many centuries. The prestigious liturgical furnishings composing the **Treasure of the Opera di S.**

Jacopo, among them the beautiful **Reliquary of the Saint** carried out in the **workshop of Lorenzo Ghiberti** in 1407, are instead preserved in the Cathedral Museum.

How to get there:

by car, from the Pistoia motorway exit: keep to the right and continue as far as the roundabout. Take the third exit, going past the Infopoint structure and then turn left at the railway bridge. Turn right at the end of the road into Via IV Novembre; carry straight on here and then take Via Cellini, the second road on the left, to reach the free Cellini car park. A shuttle service leaves from here for the old city centre (tel. 800 277825, active from 6.40am to 8.30pm); get off at the bus stop in Piazza Garibaldi. From here take Via Panciatici on the left and continue straight on as far as Piazza del Duomo.

by train: all the destinations on the itinerary are a 10/15 minutes walk away from the station.

Info and reception: Ancient Palazzo dei Vescovi - Piazza del Duomo - Pistoia - tel. 0573 369272 - tel. 0573 3691 (Telephone exchange of the Cassa di Risparmio di Pistoia e Pescia)

Opening hours and prices: Tues Thurs and Fri 10am-1pm and 3-5pm - guided visits on prior reservation for max 20 people 10am, 11.30am, 3pm - please contact the structure directly for ticket prices

Visits to the silver altar in the Cathedral: from Sep to Apr 8am-12.30pm and 3.30-7pm - from May to Aug 8am-7pm weekdays only; Sun 10am-12.30pm and 3-5.30pm - tourist visits are suspended during religious services
full tickets: € 2.00

Giovanni Michelucci

This 20th century etcher, city planner and architect was born in Pistoia in 1891. The artist was interested in art from his youth as he was the son of the owners of the historic Michelucci foundry of Pistoia, a complex that is now being restructured (2009) and part of which will be dedicated to documenting the workshop's activity.

His constant moves between the Tuscan cities and Rome during his "century" of life (he died in 1990, only two days after celebrating the age of one hundred), allowed him to assist in and live through the complex series of events, transformations and ideas that modelled and characterised an entire era.

One of the great protagonists in the Italian history and debate of the last century, he stands out for having created some of the first examples of modern architecture with the S. Maria Novella Railway Station in Florence in 1932, his projects for the reconstruction of Florence after the Second World War, his renewal in style with his cycle of religious architecture in the 1960's and 1970's, culminating with the Church of the Motorway, and the extraordinary vitality of his last projects, like the Garden of the Incontri at the Prison of Sollicciano in Florence and the theatre complex for the city of Olbia.

The **Giovanni Michelucci Centre of Documentation**, arranged in a mezzanine room of the Palazzo Comunale (City Hall) of Pistoia, contains a large number of drawings, models and tracings that provide detailed information on the famous

architect's research work, ideas and production from the beginning of his activity to the projects of his last years.

The district and province of Pistoia moreover host numerous architectural works carried out on projects by Michelucci: like the **Borsa Merci** (Via S. Matteo, Pistoia), the **Church of Collina at Pontelungo** (Via di Collina, 6, Pontelungo-Pistoia), the **Church of La Vergine** (Piazza della Vergine, 2, Pistoia), the **Church of Villaggio Belvedere** (Via dei Tigli, 40, Pistoia) and the **Osteria del Gambero Rosso at Colodi** (Via S. Gennaro, 3, Colodi, Pistoia).



How to get there:

on foot, from the Ancient Palazzo dei Vescovi: once outside the building carry straight on and, keeping the bell tower on the right, turn right to reach the City Hall, which hosts the Michelucci Centre of Documentation.

Info and reception: Giovanni Michelucci Centre of Documentation - Palazzo Comunale - Piazza del Duomo, 1 Pistoia - tel. 0573 30285

Opening hours and prices: Winter hours: Mon Tues Thurs Fri 10am-5pm; Wed 3-6pm - Summer hours (from April 1st): Mon Tues Thurs Fri 10am-6pm - Wed 3-6pm
full tickets: € 3.50 - reduced tickets: € 2.00

The Rospigliosi Family



Originally from Milan, the Rospigliosi family, which could also count a Pope among its members (Giulio, elected under the name of Clement IX), moved to Tuscany in the 12th century and settled in Pistoia in the first quarter of the 14th century. The family's landed property and commercial activities made it extremely wealthy, bringing it fame, riches and important public offices in the city and the

Pontifical State.

The Rospigliosi family's enormous prestige, combined with the generosity of Pope Clement IX, ensured that they left an important mark on the history of Pistoia and its monuments. Apart from the Rospigliosi Museum, arranged in the rooms of the palace that belonged to one of the branches of the family, the fruits of their patronage are particularly evident in the Church of Spirito Santo. It contains several canvases by Ludovico Gemignani that were carried out for the Chapels patronised by the Rospigliosi family, the beautiful organ built by the Flemish organ-maker William Hermans, the altarpiece by

Pietro da Cortona and the high altar created by Gian Lorenzo Bernini on a commission from Clement IX.

Other valuable works of art commissioned by the Rospigliosi family can moreover be seen in the **Museum of the Cathedral of S. Zeno**, in the **Civic Museum** and in the **Cathedral** itself (Piazza del Duomo); in the **Church of the Ss. Prospero e Filippo** (Piazza S. Filippo); in the **Church of the Madonna dell'Umiltà** (Via della Madonna) and in the **Church and Convent of S. Domenico** (Piazza S. Domenico).

How to get there:

on foot, from the Giovanni Michelucci Centre of Documentation: once outside Palazzo Comunale, turn left into Ripa del Sale. Palazzo Rospigliosi stands on the right-hand side of the street. On leaving the Museum go back to Piazza del Duomo and into Via degli Orafi, on the right of the Law Courts. Carry straight on and take Via del Duca, the second street on the right, to reach the church in Piazza dello Spirito Santo.

Info and reception: Palazzo Rospigliosi

Via Ripa del Sale, 3 - Pistoia - tel. 0573 28740
tel. 0573 371289 (Town Council)

Opening hours and prices: weekdays and second Sun of month: 10am-1pm and 3-6pm - closed on Mon and holidays - full tickets: € 3.50 - reduced tickets: € 2.00

Marino Marini

Marino Marini (Pistoia, 1901 - Viareggio, 1980) was without doubt one of the most important artistic personalities of the 20th century Italy.



His life, his travels, his research into artistic productions of the past and traditions deeply influenced his art, which he mainly developed around three fundamental motifs: the horse and rider, the Pomona and the portrait.

The works conserved at the **Marino Marini Museum**

therefore provide a detailed vision of the life of the artist and the evolution of his ideas.

How to get there:

on foot, from Piazza dello Spirito Santo: go back to Piazza del Duomo and then turn right into Via Roma. Carry straight on into Via Panciatichi at the crossing with Via Cavour and then turn right at the junction with Corso Fedi. The Marini Museum can be found in this street on the right hand side.

Info and reception: Marino Marini Museum

Corso Fedi, 30 - Pistoia - tel. 0573 30285
fmarini@dada.it

Opening hours and prices: from Oct to Mar: Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat 10am-5pm - from Apr to Sept: Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat 10am-6pm
full tickets: € 3.50 - reduced tickets: € 2.00

We also advise visits to:



The splendid **Villa Rospigliosi**, built by Pope Clement IX, is situated at Spicchio, in the Borough of **Lamporecchio**. Its design is attributed to **Gian Lorenzo**

Bernini, though the actual construction was carried out by **Mattia de' Rossi**, one of his students.

The garden of the villa moreover contains a chapel consecrated to Ss. Simon and Judah that repeats the decorative motifs of the building in front of it (private structure, tel. 0573 803432).