

ART IN PISTOIA AND ON THE PLAIN

Destination: Pistoia - The Civic Museum, the Rospigliosi and Diocesan Museum, the Ancient Palazzo dei Vescovi and the Museum of the Cathedral of S. Zeno. *We also advise visits to:* **Pistoia** - The Embroidery Museum, the Tactile Museum and the Hospital of Ceppo. **Quarrata** - The Ferruccia Museum of Religious Art.

REGIONE
TOSCANAProvincia
di Pistoia
Ufficio Cultura

The Civic Museum



This is the city's principal museum. Originally set out on a late 19th century conception, it was given a more modern arrangement when it was re-opened in the Palazzo Comunale in 1982. It contains some of the most significant examples of Pistoia and Florentine painting that were brought here from the suppressed churches and convents in the city or come from donations and acquisitions. The exhibits are composed mainly of paintings on wood and canvas, some sculptures and various objects of applied art and offer the entire artistic history of Pistoia from the 13th to the 19th century. **Gerino Gerini, Domenico Rossermini, Bernardino del Signoraccio, Fra' Paolino** and **Lo Scalabrino** are just some of the

names that made the 16th century Pistoia school so famous, while **Alessio Gimignani**, a painter dear to Pope Clement IX, and **Francesco Leoncini** represent some of the finest artists in the rich panorama of 17th - 18th century painting.

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 Panciatichi 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: Civic Museum - Palazzo Comunale
Piazza del Duomo, 1 - Pistoia - tel. 0573 371296

Opening hours and prices: Winter: Tues Thurs Fri Sat
10am-5pm; Wed 3-6pm; Sun and hols 11am-5pm
Summer: Tues Thurs Fri Sat 10am-6pm; Wed 4-7pm; Sun
and hols: 11am-6pm
full tickets: € 3.50 - reduced tickets: € 2.00

The Museums of Palazzo Rospigliosi



The noble floor of the home of the Rospigliosi family, whose members also include Pope Clement IX, preserves the origi-

nal furnishings with frescoes, upholstery, furniture, furnishings and the rich collection of 16th and 17th century paintings. The Diocesan Museum, which contains religious furnishings from the churches of the diocese, is hosted in some rooms next to the Clemente Rospigliosi Museum.

How to get there:

on foot, from the Civic Museum: once outside the Palazzo Comunale, turn left and walk down Ripa del Sale. The museums are 50 m away on the right.

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 hols
full tickets: € 3.50 - reduced tickets: € 2.00

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The Ancient Palazzo dei Vescovi and the Museum of the Cathedral of S. Zeno



The building is an important example of a private building, whose original layout was carried out during the 11th century; it contains a rich collection of religious furnishings and liturgical vestments that come from the Cathedral and the Sacristy

of San Jacopo, including the famous reliquary of St. Jacob, carried out in the Florentine workshop of **Ghiberti** in 1407 and arranged inside the “*sagrestia d’i belli arredi*” mentioned by Dante. Other works preserved there include the sculpture of the Angel bearing the head of the Baptist in wood attributed to **Giovanni Pisano**, the chasuble of St. Atto, a 15th century velvet vestment enriched with an extremely rare embroidered surplice that dates from the mid 14th century, and the small Casket in ebony and ivory, a mid 15th century work

from the **Embriachi Workshop**. The building also contains some important works of modern art, including a cycle of tempera murals by the Italian artist **Giovanni Boldini** that come from Villa La Falconiera near Collegiatiato.

The important **Collection of 17th century Florentine art**, which took the poet **Piero Bigongiari** a lifetime to collect, has only recently has been arranged here: 45 paintings by some of the most important interpreters of this “wonderful” season of art history.

How to get there:

on foot, from the Palazzo Rospigliosi: go back in the direction of Piazza del Duomo. The entrance to the Museums in the Ancient Palazzo dei Vescovi is situated beside the Cathedral portico.

Info and reception: Antico 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 for max 20 people: 10am; 11.30am; 3pm

contact the structure directly for ticket prices

We also advise visits to:

Pistoia



The **Embroidery Museum** (tel. 0573 358016) is also hosted inside some of the rooms in *Palazzo Rospigliosi* at Pistoia. This permanent museum contains a display of the embroidered textile materials that are typical of Pistoia, which, very rightly, is considered one of best areas of production.



The **Tactile Museum**, a permanent exhibition that was conceived and designed to allow the blind to be able to discover the city as well, has been arranged on the ground floor of the *Ancient Palazzo dei Vescovi*.

The **Hospital del Ceppo** (“Amici del Ceppo” Cultural Association, tel. 338 1006594), situated in Piazza Giovanni XXIII, is famous throughout the world for the **frieze in glazed terracotta** decorating the loggia, which was carried out in several distinct stages and in correspondence to work



by **Benedetto Buglioni**, a student of Andrea della Robbia, **Giovanni della Robbia**, **Santi Buglioni** and **Filippo di Lorenzo Paladini**.

The frieze represents the seven works of Charity (*dressing the naked, hosting pilgrims, assisting the sick, visiting prisoners, burying the dead, feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty*). The panels are divided by the cardinal and theological virtues.

The decoration is enriched with a lunette bearing the *Coronation of the Virgin* and tondos with *Stories of the Virgin* and some coats of arms.

The panels moreover contain a portrait of the financier, Buonafede, then head of the hospital, carrying out works of charity. According to a local legend, the secret formula for the production of glazed terracotta, an art form for which the della Robbia family held absolute monopoly for years, is apparently hidden in the della Robbia frieze.

Quarrata

The *Collection of Religious Art* in the **Church of Ss. Filippo e Giacomo** at Ferruccia, in the borough of Quarrata, is also worth a visit; it contains ancient liturgical objects from the Church of Ferruccia and documents the popular worship and piety of a typical country community on the plain of Pistoia (parish office, tel. 0573 718895).

