

THE MUSEUMS OF CRAFTS AND TRADITIONS IN THE NIEVOLE VALLEY

DESCRIPTION

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Destination: Monsummano Terme - The Museum of the City and the Territory. **Pescia** - The Pietrabuona Paper Museum. **Casore del Monte** - The Museum of Farming Culture. *We also advise visits to:* **Pescia** - Copper-work craft workshops.

The Museum of the City and the Territory, Monsummano Terme



It is situated in the old Pilgrim's Hospice, which was built on the orders of the Grand Duke Ferdinando I dei Medici in the 17th century to host the pilgrims who came to visit the nearby Sanctuary of the Madonna della Fontenuova. The Museum of the City and the Territory contains materials of different nature and type, from archaeological finds, photographic and audio documents and art objects to reconstructed models, and is divided into sections, each one of which is arranged as functionally as possible. The guiding theme in

the various sections is the interaction between man and the environment and the corresponding forms of economic and territorial organisation that have come about in history until today.

How to get there:

by car, from the Pistoia motorway exit: keep to the left and take the Tangenziale Ovest (west bypass) and then exit at Pistoia centre. Turn right in the direction of Montecatini Terme/Lucca. After about 10 km, at La Colonna, turn left into Via Francesca Nord for Monsummano Terme. Carry straight on and then turn right into Via Petrocchi, keeping on the same road as far as the traffic lights. Turn left here into Via Mazzini. Follow this street, keeping to the left. Turn left at the crossroads into Piazza Giusti. The Museum is situated in the large building with the loggia.

Info and reception: Museum of the City and the Territory Pilgrim's Hospice - Piazza Martini - Monsummano Terme - tel. 0572 954463

Opening hours and prices: Winter: Mon 9-12am Wed Thurs Fri 3.30-6.30pm; Sat Sun 9-12am and 3.30-6.30pm
Summer: Mon 9-12am Wed; Thurs Fri 4-7pm; Sat Sun: 9-12am and 4-7pm - closed on Tues
full tickets: € 3.00 - reduced tickets: € 2.00

The Pietrabuona Paper Museum, Pescia



The Museum provides an interesting route that explains the productive systems used for making paper with the help of small perfectly functioning scale-models, while also offering visitors the chance to make use of ancient methods to create a hand-made sheet of paper themselves. The historic Le Carte paper mill stands near the Museum. Its original nucleus dates from the 15th century, though it was enlarged and restructured several times before it took on its present

aspect in the first half of the 18th century. The mill was at one time famous throughout the world for the perfection and refinement of its work. The watermark with the portraits of Napoleon Bonaparte and Maria Luisa of Austria was in fact carried out here in 1812 and today forms part of the large collections contained in the Museum.

Some of the ancient machinery used for producing paper can today be seen inside the paper mill.

How to get there:

by car, from the Museum of the City and the Territory: turn left into Via Martini and, after passing the traffic lights, carry straight on in the direction of Montecatini. At Montecatini stay on the main road and follow the indications for Pescia. On arrival there, turn right into Viale Garibaldi Sp/3bis and then, at Pietrabuona, turn left into Piazza della Croce.

Info and reception: Pietrabuona Paper Museum - Pescia - Piazza della Croce, 1 - Pietrabuona - tel. 0572 408020

Opening hours and prices: Mon to Fri 9am-1pm
guided visits only on prior reservation Mon Thurs 9.30am-1pm; Sat 9.30am-1.30pm - entrance free

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The Museum of Farming Culture, Casore del Monte



It is situated in some rooms next to the Church of S. Bartolomeo in the old part of the village of Casore del Monte. This private collection was created from the need to document a past, even though it is fairly recent, that recalls the part of the farming world whose main activities were linked to the exploitation of the land. The many exhibits in the structure also include an ancient fodder-cutter, a seed-drill and an old plough.

How to get there:

by car, from the Pietrabuona Paper Museum: go back the way you came to reach Pescia. From here follow the indications for Montecatini Terme. Keep straight on along Via Adua and Viale Bustichini and then turn left into Via di Bruceto. After about 500 m turn left into Viale Fedeli/Sp633. At Vico, continue on the same road following indications for Vignole and, on arrival here, turn into Via di Casore/Sp33. Carry on along the same road as far as Casore del Monte. We advise you to park the car outside the old village and to continue on foot for the museum.

Info and reception: The Museum of Farming Culture
Piazza della Chiesa, 5 - Casore del Monte - Marliana
tel. 0587 55245 - cell. 380 2935644

Opening hours and prices: July and August: Sat and Sun 10-12pm and 4-7.30pm - June and September: Sun 10-12am and 3.30-7pm - in other periods it can be visited on prior appointment - entrance free

We also advise visits to:



per craft activity existed here from the early 20th century, or perhaps even earlier.

The working of copper is an ancient tradition typical of the territory of the **Svizzera Pesciatina** (little Switzerland above Pescia) and, from the various types of evidence that have survived to this day, it is certain that a real **copper**

The birth of the first industries led to the transfer of this form of metal work, at the time mainly dedicated to the creation of cooking utensils, down towards the plain.

However two craft workshops (one in the ancient village of S. Quirico and the other in the centre of Pescia), specialised in two different sectors of copper work, still testify to this ancient trade (to arrange a tour contact one of the following Tourist Information Offices to request the phone numbers of the two workshops: - Pescia, Piazza Carlo Collodi, 1 tel. 0572 429660 - Montecatini Terme, Viale Verdi, 66/68 tel. 0572 772244).



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