

Welcome to Valdinievole

A land of water and castles, of craftsmanship
and beauty, of taste and wellbeing:
a guide to discover a Tuscany that is still authentic

www.valdinievoleturismo.it



VISITUSCANY



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Art Nouveau charm



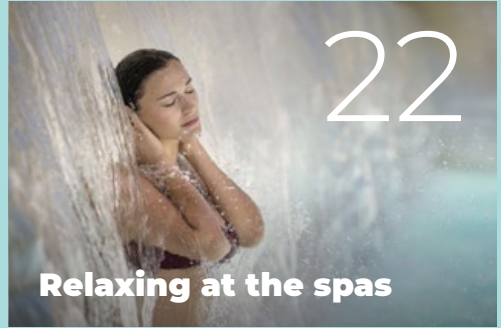
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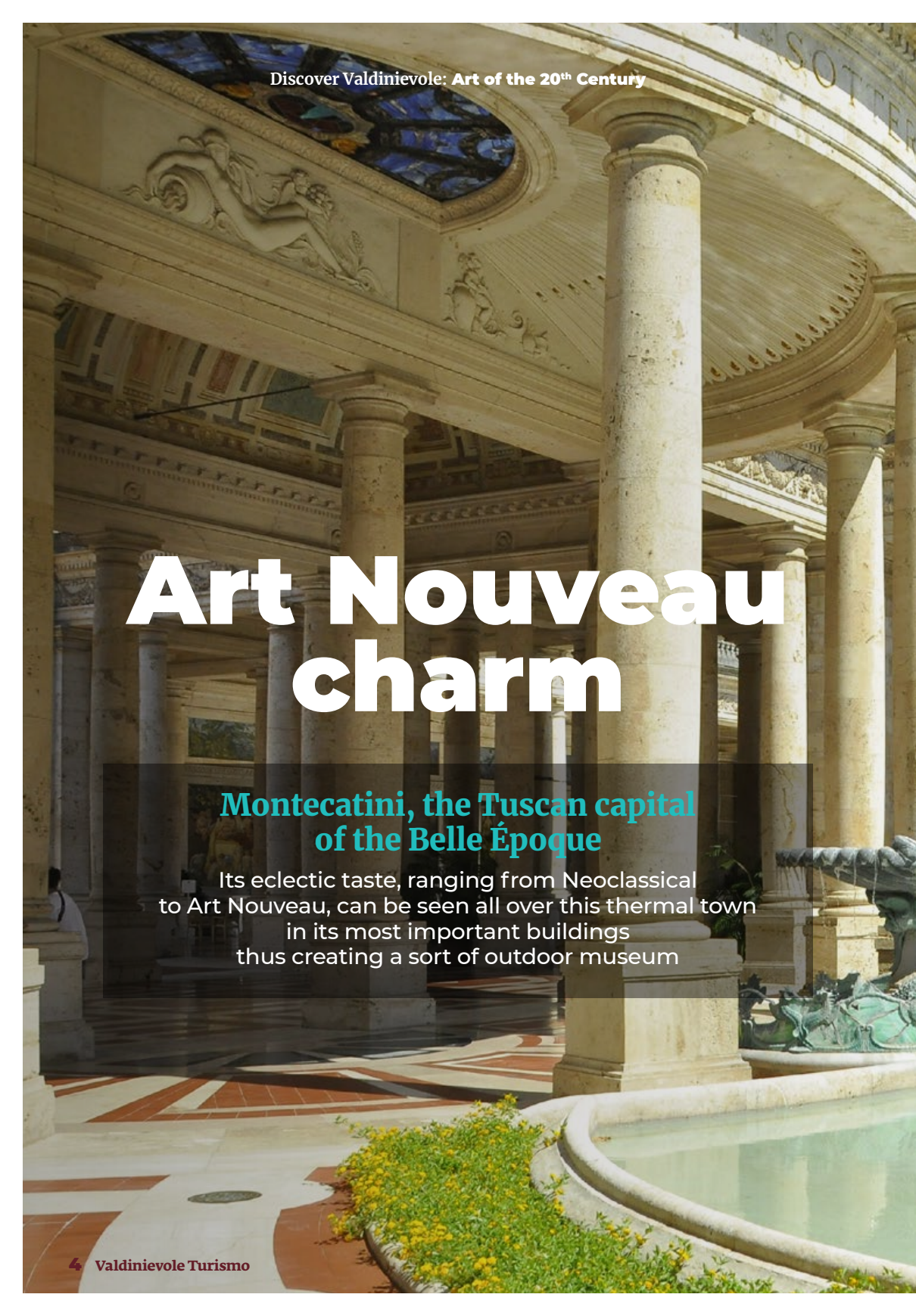
Welcome!

Valdinievole: a land of water and castles, of craftsmanship and beauty, of taste and wellbeing

Valdinievole is ready to welcome you.

Who will be the first one to have the pleasure of discovering our area; you are so attached to it that you are looking for a guidebook in order to discover a different way of enjoying this part of Tuscany which is still incredibly authentic.

We await your arrival.

A photograph of a grand, classical-style interior courtyard. The space is filled with tall, fluted columns supporting a high ceiling. The ceiling features a large, colorful mosaic in a central dome. The walls are adorned with intricate carvings and reliefs. In the foreground, a large, ornate fountain with a green patina is visible, surrounded by a circular basin of water. The floor is paved with a geometric pattern of red and white tiles. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and architectural beauty.

Discover Valdinievole: Art of the 20th Century

Art Nouveau charm

**Montecatini, the Tuscan capital
of the Belle Époque**

Its eclectic taste, ranging from Neoclassical to Art Nouveau, can be seen all over this thermal town in its most important buildings thus creating a sort of outdoor museum

Montecatini Terme, in Valdinievole

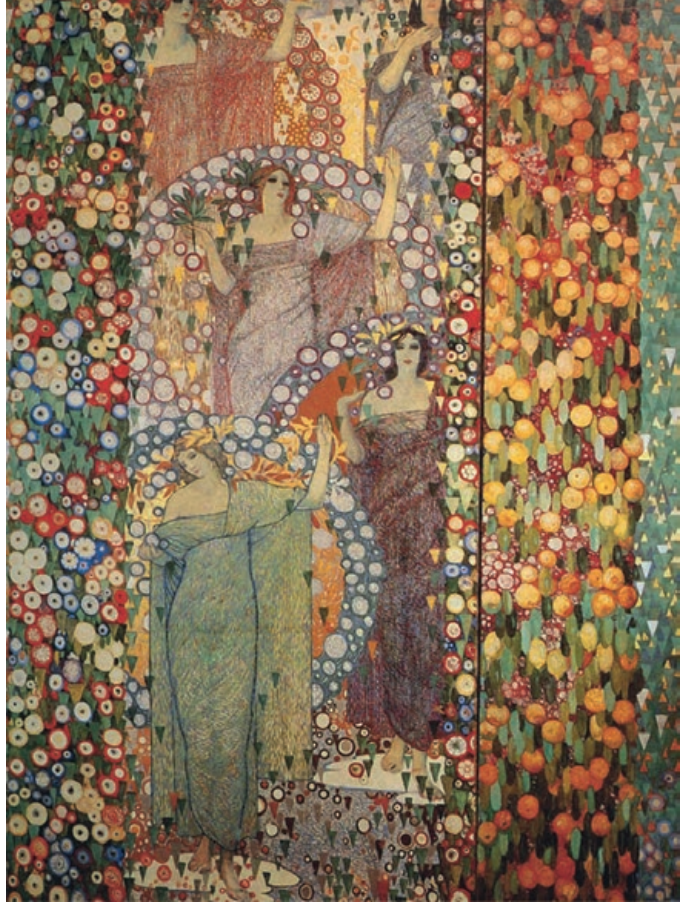




“HERE
GALILEO CHINI
SKILFULLY TRIED
OUT EVERY
ASPECT OF ART”

WITH THE ARRIVAL
OF ART NOUVEAU,
ART SPREAD AROUND
ALL OVER THE TOWN:
PAINTINGS, FRESCOS,
DECORATIONS,
STONEWARE PANELS,
ARTISTIC GLASS PANES

Here on the right, is
“Primavera” by Galileo
Chini, painted in 1914, and
exhibited for the first time in
the 11th edition of the Venice
Biennial of the same year.
It belongs to the ViVal Banca
Foundation of Montecatini
Terme.



Art Nouveau. A name that goes back to a precise historical moment: to the years at the turn of the century, between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, and to that moment of time that evokes the memory of the Belle Époque.

In Italian, Art Nouveau is called ‘Liberty’ which was actually the name of a London store belonging to *Artur Lasenby Liberty*, specialized in textiles, furnishings and furniture, that so influenced the Italian taste of the time that it even took on his

name, which in other countries became **Art Nouveau, Modernism, and Jugendstil**.

Europe was living the same atmosphere that was in Italy. The arts blended together: literature, classical music, melodrama, painting, sculpture, arts and crafts, all of them spoke the same language.

All over Tuscany, this artistic moment was lived with great intensity, but two towns are the true capitals of Art Nouveau: **Viareggio** and **Montecatini Terme**, towns of eclectic taste, signs of which are scattered over both these urban centres.

A style that created a dream-like state, of enchantment, that translated symbolist ideas into a presence that can be seen on the facades of palazzi, on decorative majolicas, on frescoes, on artistic glass panes, on architectural details.

An explosion of shapes, colours, vitality which finds in the ‘whiplash’ (this is the definition of the curve that characterizes Art Nouveau’s geometrical shapes) the gesture which lights up and shakes up the bourgeoisie of the times.

An illuminated middle class was the ideal client for artists



like **Galileo Chini**, a Florentine artist who worked on private commissions in Montecatini, such as for the **Pavilion** for the sale of **Tamerici Salts**, for the spa of the same name, for the great Hall of the **Grand Hotel La Pace**, but also for the **Palazzo Comunale** - the Town Hall - where he made frescoes for the decorative glass windows of the offices.

The enchanted atmosphere of Art Nouveau and the *Belle Époque* remains today and can be felt as soon as you enter the '**Terme del Tettuccio**' - the Tettuccio Spa. Here you can see the eclectic taste of Ugo Giocannozzi as it guides his creation, in 1916, of a true architectural wonder, capable of evoking the charm of the an-

tique Roman baths by means of columns, courtyards, galleries and richly decorated fountains. The seven allegorical panels, painted by **Basilio Cascella**, the podium for the music with the dome painted by **Ezio Giovannozzi**, the great hall of the Postal Service, the historic Caffè; a real art gallery.

This is the same eclectic taste that we can see in the **Excelsior Spa**, with its two, side exedras closed by artistic glass panels, spaced out by corinthian columns; and also at the **Tamerici Spa**, where Tuscan Renaissance, the Venetian Moorish style and Medieval taste (turrets, crenellations, arches and coats-of-arms) combine together.

A town of pure enchantment. Art Nouveau



High up, the allegorical panels painted by **Basilio Cascella** for the Terme del Tettuccio - the Tettuccio Spa - ; in the centre, the facade of the Kursaal, once a theatre, then a casino and then a ballroom.

In the vertical sequence of the next page, the Reading Room of the Tettuccio Spa, the skylight of the Town Hall, the Excelsior Spa, and a detail of a glass panel by **Galileo Chini**.



MONTECATINI AND THE CINEMA

Montecatini Terme and its Art Nouveau heritage has often been chosen as a location for film productions by important Italian and international directors.

The melancholic smile of Marcello Mastroianni inside the Tettuccio Spa brings to mind the masterpiece of the Russian director, Nikita Mikhalkov, "Oco Ciornie", a richly rewarded film (Palma d'Oro to Mastroianni, nominated for an Oscar), shot in 1987 at Montecatini and which had in its cast another star of the Italian cinema, Silvano Mangano.

Giancarlo Giannini and Raul Bova were both here in 2007 for "Milano-Palermo- il ritorno". Years before, Ugo Tognazzi was in the 1975 cult film, directed by Mario Monicelli, "Amici Miei", shot in Montecatini, as was, in 2002, Gigi Proietti for the shooting of "Mandrakata" (sequel to "Febbre da Cavallo") directed by Carlo Vanzina.

In 2016, the Tuscan director Paolo Virzi set here some scenes of his successful film "La Pazza Gioia" with Valeria Bruni Tedeschi and Micaela Ramazzotti.

The town is also one of the locations that the Toscana Film Commission - a regional agency for cinematographic production - promotes internationally.

www.toscanafilmcommission.it

A path through the museums

Archeology, medieval and contemporary art, sacred art, folklore and tradition: these are the museums of the area

A visit to the museums of Valdinievole lets you immediately enter into the harmony of the area and its inhabitants, from the very first presence of man right up to nowadays.



LARCIANO **Civic Archeological Museum**

Larciano Castle

Situated in the ancient bridgehouse of Larciano Castle, it holds archeological findings of both local and national provenance, such as kitchen ceramics, metal objects, polychrome majolicas, clay-bricks, parts of floorings, cremation tombs.

Its educational sector reconstructs life in the past by means of objects of daily use.

**Piazza Castello 1,
Larciano**





MASSA E COZZILE

San Michele Museum

Massa, Chapel of the Convent of the nuns of San Francesco di Sales

This museum of sacred art was set up at the beginning of 2004 in the rooms next to the Chapel of the Convent of the nuns of San Francesco di Sales, on Massa's main square.

Some precious liturgical vestments are exhibited here, together with carefully and well made sacred furnishings, amongst which is a 17th century silver ostensory, made by the Florentine goldsmith, Paolo Laurentini.

The chapel also holds paintings from the 17th and 18th centuries, such as the 'Presentation of the Virgin in the Temple' attributed to the canon from Bologna, Luigi Crespi.

Piazza Cavour,
Massa



MONSUMMANO TERME

Mac,n

Villa Renatico Martini

The 'Museum of Contemporary and 20th century Art' is inside the Villa Renatico Martini.

The museum holds works of art by important artists of the 20th century such as Pietro Annigoni, Vinicio Berti, Ferdinando Chevrier, Lamberto Pignotti, Eugenio Miccini, Ketty La Rocca.

It also displays a permanent nucleus of works of paintings, graphics and sculptures of local artists and it periodically organizes temporary exhibitions and events.

Via di Gragnano 349,
Monsummano Terme





MONSUMMANO TERME

Museum of the Town and its Territory

Tavern of the Pilgrims

Held in the ancient Tavern of the Pilgrims, that used to welcome wayfarers on their way to venerate the Madonna della Fontenuova, this museum is a sort of mirror of the Valdinievole community and its history. It tells the history of the town, its religious devotion, the development of its thermal baths and its modern industrial activities, the transformation of the landscape following the reclamation of the Fucecchio Marshland, the migratory process, the creation of a footwear production centre. The Sala della Memoria - the Room of Memory - tells the story of the nazi massacre in the Marshland, on 23rd August 1944.

Piazza Giusti, Monsummano Terme



MONTECATINI TERME

MO.C.A.

Palazzo Comunale

MO.C.A. - MOntecatini Contemporary Art opened in 2012 in a place of exceptional beauty and historical and cultural importance: the 20th century Palazzo Comunale - the Town Hall.

At that time, the restoration of these splendid spaces, decorated by glass panels and frescoes by Galileo Chini, was carried out; it once held the central Postal Service.

Its civic gallery exhibits artists of international fame, such as Pietro Annigoni with his "Vita"; Joan Mirò in 1980 gave the town as a present his "Woman Encircled by the Flight of a Bird", one of the five largest paintings in the world, that he painted.

Viale Verdi 46, Montecatini Terme





PESCIA

Gipsoteca - Plaster Cast Gallery Libero Andreotti

Palazzo del Podestà

Libero Andreotti's Plaster Cast Gallery represents a peculiarity in the Italian museum panorama. It offers 230 plaster casts coming directly from the sculptor's studio, and it is one of the rare examples of a collection that provides full documentary evidence about the whole productive life of an artist.

The museum, created thanks to a generous donation by the sculptor's family to his native city, is the just recognition of an artist who is essential for the understanding and definition of early 20th century Italian sculpture.

Piazza del Palagio 7, Pescia



PESCIA

Museum of Paper

Pietrabuona

The Museum of Paper offers you the way to understand the productive cycle of paper, with the use of perfectly functioning scale models and the chance to create - using the ancient techniques of the master paper makers from Pescia - a handmade sheet of paper.

It also holds a precious collection of antique and refined watermarks, amongst which are the effigies of Napoleon and Maria Luisa d'Austria, of 1812. The historic paper factory 'Le Carte' stands next to the museum. It was built at the beginning of the 18th century and it is unique in Europe for its excellent state of conservation and integrity: in fact, it conserves, still intact and functioning, the original 18th century machinery, used for the making of handmade paper.

Piazza della Croce 1, Pietrabuona (Pescia)



Discover Valdinievole: **Hamlets and Castles**



Castelvecchio, in Valdinievole



Trekking through the hamlets

Let's discover the 'Valleriana', the land of the ten 'Castella', all very close to Pescia

It is one of the most beautiful and characteristic areas of Valdinievole, made up of small villages nestling in the midst of a luxuriant nature



MEDIEVAL HAMLETS,
CASTLES DOMINATING
THE VALLEY, IDEAL
DESTINATIONS
FOR AN ITINERARY
DESIGNED TO SEARCH
FOR HISTORY,
ANCIENT TRADITIONS,
AUTHENTIC EMOTIONS

This corner of Tuscany extends over the 'Appennino Pistoiese' mountains and was called the 'Svizzera Pesciatina' by a man from Geneva, Charles Léonard Simonde de Sismondi, at the end of the 19th century, for the place that was originally named the 'Valleriana'. This Swiss gentleman was struck by the beauty of the landscape which so reminded him of his green Swiss valleys.

Still today, the 'Valleriana' is one of the loveliest areas of Valdinievole; it offers wonderful views over the valley below, itineraries across green hills, ideal for trekking, with a rich culture of wine and food.

To the north of **Pescia**, between uplands and crests, im-

mersed in oak and chestnut forests, are hidden away **ten tiny hamlets**, the 'Castella', which characterize even more this surprising land. These ancient hamlets are all entirely made of pietra serena, they face south and they are protected by walls and sighting towers that, over the years, have become houses or bell towers.

The journey begins at **Pie-trabuona** (that perhaps takes its name from the local quarry of pietra serena), which is a small town but of great importance. Here stands the Museum of Paper - a point of reference for artists and scholars from all over the world - where true treasures are kept, ranging from historical wa-

termarks to century-old instruments for making hand-crafted paper.

Medicina is the second Castella after which you reach **Fibbiana** and, slightly more isolated, Aramo, a fascinating hamlet made up of houses, leaning one against the other with steep steps.

S. Quirico is one of the loveliest of the Valleriana's 'Castella' and enjoys views over all the valleys. Descending, you reach **Castelvecchio**, of medieval origins, and then on to Stiappia. Pontito, instead, is of an unusual triangular shape. At this point, going back along the main road, you reach **Sorana**, famous for its IGP (Protected Geographical Indication) beans.



The final leg of this journey is **Vellano**, recognized as the county seat of the 'Svizzera Pesciatina'; it rises up into a panoramic position over the valley of the River Pescia and it has the last fully working pietra serena quarry.

The itinerary can become a game with the “*10 Castella Geo Tour*”, a treasure hunt that follows the rules of Geocaching, a tourist and cultural activity that has millions of enthusiastic players all around the world.

Some pictures of Castelvecchio, one of the ten ‘Castella’ and a halfway leg along the trekking journey that joins all the hamlets of the “Svizzera Pesciatina”



A photograph of two hikers walking away from the camera down a narrow, cobblestone street in a village. The street is flanked by tall, stone buildings with dark shutters. In the background, a tall stone tower with arched windows rises above the rooftops. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The hikers are wearing backpacks and athletic gear. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

AMONG SWEET HILLS
AND TINY HAMLETS
A STILL AUTHENTIC
LANDSCAPE

Hamlets and castles in Valdinievole



Montecatini Alto



Uzzano Castello



Montevettolini

Valdinievole is an area scattered over with small hamlets of ancient origin, real little jewels that we can admire still today, from the bottom of the valley, from the height of a terrace or walking over stone and cobbled lanes.

Leaving Montecatini Terme, get on a historic cable car to reach **Montecatini Alto**, a pretty medieval village, rich in characteristic and charming features.

On a clear day, take the car and drive towards **Massa and Cozzile**: the first is a small village originally with a surrounding wall of which some towers and gates still remain; the second is unmistakable thanks to the crenellated profile of the 19th century palazzo De Gubernatis which overlooks the countryside.

Then go on to **Uzzano Castello**, an ancient centre for pilgrims and wayfarers, and nowadays very romantic at night thanks to its illumination that makes it recognizable from every point of the valley; and **Buggiano Castello** - nicknamed the Hamlet of Citrus Fruit - well known for its splendid private gardens that, every two years, open their gates to the public on the occasion of the event *La Campagna dentro le mura* "The countryside within the walls".

A few miles away from Monsummano Terme, you will come across the village of **Monsummano Alto**, in the past surrounded by walls whose remains you can still see. Climbing to its top is a must so as to admire the breathtaking panoramic views. The hill of Monsummano faces that of **Montevettolini**, which was originally an ancient medieval fortification and which was much loved by the Medici family, so much so that they built a villa here.

Art historians believe that Leonardo da Vinci painted the Valdinievole right from here, in 1473.

On the gentle hills of Montalbano, it is worth stopping at **Cecina** - a medieval hamlet probably with Etruscan origins - and **Larciano Castello**. Follow the itinerary of the 'Road of Wine and Oil' of Montalbano, to finish off a day trip with a good glass of wine.



The director of the Museum of Paper, Massimiliano Bini, showing one of the ancient moulds used to create the watermark, one of the extremely exquisite exhibits of the museum's collection.



The history of the **Museum of Paper in Pietrabuona** is one of those pieces of “good news” that never makes the headlines but which actually makes a large difference to the reality of small areas.

Opeened in 1996, it is managed by the ‘Associazione Museo della Carta di Pescia ETS-Onlus’, which has promoted the project to conserve and hand down to future generations the ancient art of handmade paper making, which has existed in the Pescia area since the 15th century.

But what was still missing was the product itself, the precious paper, that had left as ‘or-

phans’, artists from all over the world (for example, Pietro Annigoni, who had a personalized paper made for himself with specific characteristics).

In 2018, after a long incubation period, the ‘**Impresa Sociale Magnani Pescia**’ was created which, in collaboration with the ‘Associazione Museo della Carta di Pescia’, began to make again water-marked handmade paper and other items of paper, unique for their quality and exclusivity, creating new jobs in a business that, in the Pescia area, has its roots back in the 15th century.

The museum’s “productive” project began

The Rebirth of Paper

in 2012 with the aim of using the experience and knowledge of the **Master Papermakers, Water-markers** and **Seamstresses** - by this time, all retired - coming from the most important paper mill of the Valleriana region; in other words, the **Antiche Cartiere Magnani di Pescia**. The idea was to form youngsters eager to learn the secrets of handmade paper: a plan to safeguard and to transmit from one generation to another these competencies and expertise, otherwise destined to be lost forever.

In 2014, thanks to regional financing, the first experimental laboratory for the production of handmade paper and types of paper with watermarks was realized; the quality of the articles and its success created conditions so that

a project for the founding of social enterprises could begin (promoted by the Social Business Lab of Pistoia).

This firm has therefore become the heir to a century-long tradition and, in particular, to the glorious story of the ‘Antiche Cartiere Magnani’. Apart from holding formation courses, educational laboratories and services of management and maintenance of the actual spaces in the Museum, the enterprise has the aim of “creating” water-marked, handmade paper, with a catalogue or made to order products, decided one at a time, according to the needs and requests of the clients.

www.laviadellacarta.it

Discover Valdinievole: **Spas and Wellness**



Monsummano Terme and Montecatini Terme, in Valdinievole



Relaxing at the spas

**Let yourself be spoilt in Valdinievole
with a weekend of pure pleasure**

An offer of wellbeing, between tradition
and innovation, at Montecatini Terme
and Monsummano Terme



TO ENRICH YOUR WEEKEND STILL FURTHER, THE HAMLETS AND TOWNS OF VALDINIEVOLE CAN OFFER YOU MASTERPIECES OF ART, ARCHITECTURE AND TASTE, TO RENDER THIS RELAXING BREAK A UNIQUE AND UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT

To grant yourself an occasional break during the year is important in order to always be able to fully concentrate and to stay in shape. A weekend of cuddles, immersed in a wonderful thermal swimming pool or in the hot mirror of water in one of the underground grottos is what you need to regain your balance. If we then add massages, mud baths and other special treatments, your two days of wellbeing in Valdinievole is complete.

In this splendid corner of Tuscany, Montecatini Terme and Monsummano Terme are two places of paradise for those wishing to leave their stressful life behind and to just devote themselves to themselves.

Montecatini Terme can offer you the precious waters of the **Leopoldina, Tettuccio, Regina and Rinfresco springs**; and the **Terme Redi** - the Redi Spa - with its indoor thermal swimming pool and its famous **thermal mud therapy**, used for the treatment of various pathologies and used in synergy with the most innovative methodologies of wellbeing and beauty.

And in its historical buildings, like the Tettuccio, all you need to do is look up to find yourself surrounded by masterpieces of Art Nouveau's most important artists, in the middle of beauty.

In the **Giusti Grotto** - the thermal resort of **Monsummano Terme** - you will be able

to enjoy a unique experience in this thousand-year old grotto from which it takes its name. Rich in stalactites and stalagmites, it is divided into three areas - Paradise, Purgatory and Hell - with temperatures ranging from 28° to 34°C; while in Limbo - a crystalline mirror of water - the temperature is constantly 36°C all the year round. The spring's waters flow into the two swimming pools with hydro-massage.

To enrich your weekend still further, the hamlets and towns of Valdinievole can offer you masterpieces of art, architecture and taste, to render this relaxing break a unique and unforgettable moment.



Above, inside the Terme Excelsior, a magical place in Montecatini Terme that mixes the wellbeing of the treatments with the beauty of the Art Nouveau style. On the right, inside the Giusti Grottos, a natural wonder of Monsummano Terme.



www.termemontecatini.it
www.grottagiustispa.com

This sweet land of mine



**Three special 'ambassadors' of Valdinievole
that represent this area,
in Italy and in the world**

The wafer of Montecatini



A simple and delicious recipe, handed down from generation to generation: **the wafer of Montecatini** - two slim discs, filled with almonds and sugar - is one of the symbols of the gastronomical culture of the town. It was first made in 1936 in the Bargilli laboratory which personalized the wafer by stamping the family coat-of-arms on it; it is still today one of its most sought after items. Perfect for breakfast or as a dessert at the end of a meal, accompanied by a glass of sweet wine.

The brigidino di Lamporecchio



Mentioned even by Pellegrino Artusi in his book *Science in the kitchen and the art of good eating*, the '**brigidino**' is a typical sweet of **Lamporecchio**, known all over Italy, always present in "*all the fairs and country festivals and you see it being made, in front of spectators, in the shape of wafers*". It takes its name from the Santa Brigida nuns who, by adding to the mixture for the host, eggs, sugar and aniseed, created an original delicacy, which immediately became much loved and very popular.

The Monsummano Chocolate



There is a corner of Tuscany, between Pisa, Pistoia and Prato, called the "**Chocolate Valley**" where excellent chocolate is made. The town of **Monsummano Terme** is one of the centres of this tasty valley, where master chocolate makers of international fame, bring to life unique recipes, appreciated all around the world. Amongst the most famous recipes is that of the 'Torta Slitti' and that of the 'chocolate coffee spoon', creations of the maestro Andrea Slitti, of Monsummano..



Discover Valdinievole: **Towns of Valdinievole**



We would like to introduce ourselves

Here are our eleven towns

Each and every town of our area can offer you an occasion for a visit, a weekend or a longer holiday. Let's discover the characteristics of each offer, town by town



Buggiano

At only 6 km from Montecatini Terme, **Buggiano Castello** - nicknamed the Hamlet of the Citrus fruit - is a little medieval jewel that is well worth a visit.

Our advice is to ramble along its lanes and admire the splendid private gardens, that are opened every two years to the public for the event "The Countryside inside the Walls". Nearby, in a countryside rich in olive groves, you will find the picturesque hamlet called **Colle di Buggiano**.

Borgo a Buggiano, instead, is the centre of civic and administrative life of the area. In its historic centre stands the Sanctuary of the Santissimo Crocifisso, tied to the story of a miracle: it goes that in 1399, an old lady saw, bleeding, a 14th century crucifix situated on the altar and, claiming it was a miracle, brought the battles between the various parties to an end.

Places

Buggiano Castello
Colle di Buggiano
Borgo a Buggiano
Stignano

To see

Chiesa di Santa Maria della Salute e San Niccolao
Villa Bellavista (Borgo a Buggiano)

Choose your holiday

Art and Culture, Food and wine, Outdoors, Family, Romantic Tuscany

You can find further information in the leaflet

Hamlets and Castles

Tourist Office

Comune di Buggiano
Piazza Matteotti 1, Buggiano
Tel. + 39 0572 31711

Web

www.comune.buggiano.pt.it



Chiesina Uzzanese

This small centre developed halfway through the 13th century, around the xenodochium, was really a mixture of an inn and a refuge. The “**Little Church on the Uzzanese Bridge**” was, in fact, a place to stay along the Via Francigena, the historic road connecting Canterbury, through France to Rome; but other pilgrims coming from secondary routes came along here on their way to Pistoia and Lucca

The remains of the windmill at **Molin Nuovo** are the proof of the link to the Fucecchio Marshland. Its inhabitants lived on agriculture and flower growing, made possible by the reclamation of the marsh. And at Molin Nuovo, in October, the “Sagra del Ballotto” – a country festival – takes place where roasted and boiled chestnuts are eaten.

Places

Chiesina Uzzanese
Molin Nuovo

To see

Chiesa di S. Maria della Neve

Choose your holiday

Romantic Tuscany, Outdoors

You can find further information in the leaflet

Taste the tradition

Web

comune.chiesinauzzanese.pt.it



Lamporecchio

Between the Fucecchio Marshland and the hills of Montalbano, **Lamporecchio** is a modern town but with ancient origins. The **Parish Church of S. Stefano** holds the 'Visitation of the Madonna to S. Elisabetta surrounded by S. Sebastiano and S. Rocco', an altarpiece in glazed polychrome earthenware, attributed to **Giovanni della Robbia**.

This is the town of the 'brigidini', tasty wafers flavoured with aniseed, typical of country parties and festivals in Tuscany. It is also one of the stages of the **Road of Wine and Oil of Montalbano**.

The area offers numerous itineraries on foot or by bike, surrounded by nature.

Go to the **Church of S. Giorgio at Porciano** in order to admire the splendid panorama over Valdinievole.

Places

Lamporecchio
San Baronto
Porciano
Spicchio

To see

Chiesa di San Giorgio (Porciano)
Villa Rospigliosi (Spicchio)
Pieve di Santo Stefano (Lamporecchio)

Choose your holiday

Food and Wine, Wine and Olive Oil Roads,
Outdoors

You can find further information in the leaflet

Taste the tradition
Nature to be enjoyed
Active Valdinievole
Dolce far niente

Tourist Office

San Baronto, Piazza Fra' G. Giraldi 6
Tel. +39 0573 766472 (maggio-settembre)

Web

www.visitlamporecchio.it



Larciano

Larciano extends to the slopes of Montalbano. The area was inhabited as far back as the Roman period and the same name of the castle derives from 'Larcus', a personal Latin name. During the Middle Ages, Larciano was the principle centre of the area due mainly to it being linked to the Via Francigena that from here, climbed towards Mount Albano towards Serravalle.

In the bridgehouse of Larciano Castle - an antique fortification realized between the 11th and the 12th centuries - stands the **Civic Museum**. A visit to **Cecina** is a good idea, too: a medieval hamlet probably with Etruscan origins.

Near Larciano, is the visitor's Centre at **Castelmartini** which leads into the **Fucecchio Marshland**. A good piece of advice is to follow the "Le Morette" itinerary, which is perfect for naturalistic observation and photography, all the year round but especially in the spring months.

Places

Larciano Castello
Cecina
Castelmartini

To see

Chiesa di S. Silvestro
Museo civico (Larciano Castello)
Museo della Civiltà contadina
Centro visite e Osservatorio faunistico
Padule di Fucecchio (Castelmartini)

Choose your holiday

Romantic Tuscany, Outdoors

You can find further information in the leaflet

Hamlets and Castles
Nature to be enjoyed
A fairy-tale world
Taste the tradition
Enjoy your time

Web

www.comune.larciano.pt.it



Massa e Cozzile

On a tour around Valdinievole's hamlets, you musn't miss **Massa and Cozzile**, two stages along the **Road of Olive Oil of the Hamlets and Castles of Valdinievole**, which is an area rich in olive groves growing on terraces, as well as small woods and farms.

Massa is a small centre, once an ancient fortification whose remains can be seen in the walls, towers and imposing gates. **Cozzile** is a hamlet clinging to the side of the hill where you can climb along the steep lanes to reach the majestic **Palazzo De Gubernatis**, also called the 'Castle of Cozzile'.

For walking enthusiasts, the route from Massa to the Sanctuary of Croci is ideal for training the body and for relaxing the mind.

Places

Massa
Cozzile
Margine Coperta
Vangile

To see

Museo di San Michele,
Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta (Massa)

Choose your holiday

Food and wine, Wine and Olive Oil Roads,
Outdoors

You can find further information in the leaflet

Hamlets and Castles
Nature to be enjoyed
Active Valdinievole

Web

www.comune.massa-e-cozzile.pt.it



Monsummano Terme

Apart from being one of the centres of the **Chocolate Valley** Toscana, **Monsummano Terme** is a town rich in places of interest, such as the **Museum of the Town and its Territory**, the **Mac,n** - the **Museum of Contemporary and 20th century Art**, and the **National Museum of Casa Giusti**.

In a few minutes, you can reach **Monsummano Alto**, on the hill of the same name where you can still see the remains of ancient fortifications; and the hamlet of **Montevettolini** overlooking the Valdinievole area, where it is said that even Leonardo da Vinci came to paint.

The whole area is ideal for walking, trekking and other outdoor sports. It is also a thermal town: to visit and to enjoy is the **Giusti Grotto**, the “eighth wonder of the world”, as Giuseppe Verdi defined it; nowadays it is part of a resort and wellbeing centre.

Places

Monsummano Terme, Monsummano Alto, Montevettolini

To see

Museo della città e del territorio, Mac,n, Museo Nazionale di Casa Giusti, Grotta Giusti, Santuario di Santa Maria della Fontenuova

Choose your holiday

Art and Culture, Food and wine, Outdoors, Spas and Wellness

You can find further information in the leaflet

Hamlets and Castles, Taste the tradition, Nature to be enjoyed, Active Valdinievole, A fairy-tale world, Art of the 20th Century, Dolce far niente, Enjoy your time

Tourist Office

Osteria dei Pellegrini, piazza F. Martini.
Tel. +39 0572 959500 / 959228

Web

www.livemonsummanoterme.it



Montecatini Terme

Montecatini is the centre of wellbeing: thanks to its curative waters which flow out of the Leopoldina, Tettuccio, Regina and Rinfresco springs, the spas offer a vast range of treatments.

The town is one of the most significant centres of the **Italian Art Nouveau style** with examples of it scattered around the town; it has a civic gallery, the **Mo.C.a - Montecatini Terme Contemporary Art**, which holds works by **Pietro Annigoni** and **Joan Mirò**.

Take the historic cable car to reach **Montecatini Alto**, a small village with cobbled lanes, the medieval stronghold, the Palazzo del Podestà and the Piazzetta Giusti where you can stop for a break, perhaps trying the **cialda**, typical wafer with a delicious filling of sugar and almonds.

Places

Montecatini Terme, Montecatini Alto

To see

Funicolare, Terme del Tettuccio, Terme Excelsior, Parco termale, Padiglione Le Tamerici, Palazzo del Municipio, Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta, Area Kursaal, Museo Mo.C.a - Montecatini Contemporary Art, Basilica di S. Maria Assunta, Chiesa di S. Pietro (Montecatini Alto), Grotta Maona

Choose your holiday

Art and Culture, Romantic Tuscany, Spas and Wellness

You can find further information in the leaflet

Hamlets and Castles, Taste the tradition, Nature to be enjoyed, Active Valdinievole, Art of the 20th Century, Dolce far niente, Enjoy your time

Web

www.comune.montecatini-terme.pt.it



Pescia

Of medieval origin, **Pescia** is divided by its river into two urban sectors: a religious one and a civil one. In the first one, there is the Cathedral, the **Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta** (with the 'Nativity of the Virgin' by Giuseppe Bottani); and in the second one, the **Palazzo Comunale** - the Town Hall - with its **Libero Andreotti's Plaster Cast Gallery**.

It is one of the most important centre for flowers in Italy and it is a perfect starting point to explore the **Valleriana** area, the so called '**Svizzera Pesciatina**'.

In **Collodi** there is the **Pinocchio Park**, an art garden where the characters of the famous fairy tale come to life thanks to the sculptures of the great masters of the twentieth century, and **Villa Garzoni** with its spectacular eighteenth-century garden.

Places

Pescia, Dieci Castella della Svizzera Pesciatina, Collodi

To see

Gipsoteca Libero Andreotti, Palazzo del Palagio, Biblioteca capitolare, Chiesa di San Domenico, Chiesa di San Francesco, Parco di Pinocchio (Collodi), Villa Garzoni (Collodi), Pieve di Castelvecchio (Castelvecchio), Museo della Carta di Pietrabuona (Pietrabuona).

Choose your holiday

Art and Culture, Family, Outdoors, Food and wine

You can find further information in the leaflet

Hamlets and Castles, Taste the tradition, Nature to be enjoyed, Active Valdinievole, A fairy-tale world, Art of the 20th Century, Enjoy your time

Tourist Office

Ufficio Cultura, piazza Mazzini 23
tel. 0572 492257
Piazza Carlo Collodi, Collodi (Pescia).
Tel. +39 0572 429660

Web

www.comune.pescia.pt.it



Pieve a Nievole

At the entrance to the **Fucecchio Marshland** stands **Pieve a Nievole**, which owes its name to the ancient parish church of San Pietro a Neure, on the southern slopes of the hill of Montecatini in the direction of Lucca-Pistoia on the ancient road, the **Via Cassia**.

Dante Alighieri crossed this valley while waiting for the outcome of the battle between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines: still today, you can walk along the Via Tanelli on the so-called "**Bridge of Dante**".

The **Medici** family often came here to go hunting, staying in the farmhouse which is now home to the Town Hall.

In the town, the Church of '**SS.Pietro apostolo and Marco evangelista**' is well worth visiting, with its bell tower and slate facade, the **Palazzo Comunale** and the remains of medieval fortifications.

Places

Pieve a Nievole

To see

Chiesa dei SS. Pietro Apostolo e Marco evangelista
Ponte di Dante

Choose your holiday

Outdoors, Cycling

Web

www.comune.pieve-a-nievole.pt.it



Ponte Buggianese

Lying in the area around the Fucecchio Marshland, **Ponte Buggianese** has a long history.

The '**Dogana del Capannone**' is an important starting point for the **Marshland** and holds the centre of documentation of the Fucecchio Marshland Massacre of 23rd August 1944.

The cycle of frescoes painted by **Pietro Annigoni** and his pupils from 1967 onwards, inside the **Sanctuary of the Buon Consiglio**, is extremely interesting.

Places

Ponte Buggianese

To see

Santuario del Buon Consiglio
Dogana del Capannone

Choose your holiday

Art and Culture, Outdoors, Cycling

You can find further information in the leaflet

Art of the 20th Century

Web

www.comune.ponte-buggianese.pt.it



Uzzano

The medieval hamlet of Uzzano Castello, of far off Lombardic origins, is an ancient centre of passage for pilgrims and wayfarers.

It still has many signs of its ancient long history: the church of '**Santi Jacopo e Martino**', the **Oratory of the Misericordia** overlooking the whole valley, the **Oratory of Sant'Antonio da Padova**, the **Oratory of the 'Madonna del Canale'** and the '**Palazzo del Capitano del Popolo**'.

A short distance away stands the **Villa Anzilotti**, called the Villa del Castellaccio, where the composer **Giacomo Puccini** is said to have thought out and wrote the second and third act of '**La Bohème**'.

Places

Uzzano
Uzzano Castello

To see

Chiesa SS. Jacopo e Martino
Villa Anzilotti

Choose your holiday

Outdoors, Wine and Olive Oil Roads

You can find further information in the leaflet

Hamlets and Castles
Taste the tradition

Web

www.comune.uzzano.pt.it

Tuscany



Valdinievole

Valdinievole Tourism is the association of:



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Information IAT

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Tel: +39 0572 918227/298/277

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