

## A Trip in Art and History in a small size, walking along Bibbiena

Along the Pleisocene, the plain of the Casentino valley was a lake, from the northern part of the valley to the "groppino" between Corsalone and Rassina.

The prehistoric man, such as the mammoth, lived on the natural terraces around the lake, stone spears, mammoth bones etc were found in the valley, and you can find them in the local museum (Bibbiena, via Berni 21, open 10-13 closed on monday)

Then here lived the Etruscans, they did not leave buildings and not big graves in the valley, probably they had here only shepherds with poor graves (round stones are often found in the valley and there is a theory indicating them as tombstones). Etruscan had here a commercial road connecting Arezzo to the north and a road for pilgrims crossing from Pieve a Socana and going to Idoli lake. You can find some of the Idols in the museum in Bibbiena, but the most of them are now in the British museum in London.

After that, Romans arrived and we have nowadays some roman ruins close to Bibbiena in the fields of Fattoria di Marena: archeologists found a *Termae* and you can see something about in the museum. Roman period saw a strong use of the land with agriculture, old place names indicate the presence of "Villas" that means roman farmhouses.

With the decadence of Rome, going to the middle ages, Casentino was crossed by the Goti and Longobards and remained for a long period on the border between Longobard area and Bisanzium one, You can find a sign of that even in the food: Stia and Papiano are famous for boiled tortelli, but in Corezzo they make them grilled on a stone (Tortelli alla lastra) and expert say that to boil is a longobard tradition, to grill on stones is from the est. You can taste both of them in local restaurants! The presence of Longobard families was strong and characterized the middle ages of the valley, the Guidi families owned famous castles as Poppi, Romena, Porciano. Bibbiena was in the dominium of Tarlati, like Arezzo. In that period, each village had a castle and a church in the romanic-gotic stile. In Bibbiena, the castle was destroyed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century but you can still find the tower and a part of the city walls with a nice door (the "Porta dei Fabbri"), and the "Propositura" that is a very simple romanic-gotic church, guesting a nice Polittico di Bicci di Lorenzo (1435). You can esly find some more examples of true romanich churches in the valley, visit ROMENA and Pieve a Socana. A good example of the Gothic stile can be found in the Dome of Arezzo.

After the 1440 all the Casentino become a part of the Florentine dominium, in the main square of Bibbiena, southwest, you find the building that housed the Vicari (town chiefs), with their coat of arms.

Reinassance arrived with Florence and Medici, in Bibbiena you find the Dovizi palace, built for Cardinal Dovizi (who died in 1520, was portraied by Raffaello, you can say his portrait in the Museum) and, in front of it, the S. Lorenzo church and monastery, with a gilded terracotta (Nativity) of the Della Robbia. A few km from the village spend a visit to the S. Maria del Sasso, built with the contribution of Lorenzo dei Medici. That is a Sanctuary (Our Lady, the Madonna, appeared here in 1347) and cloistered monastery, but now only a few old nun remained. Into the church, At the ground floor you find a masterpiece of Bicci di Lorenzo and gilded terracotta by Della Robbia, in the cripta a wooden sculpture of the school of Donatello.

After that, in Bibbiena, the baroque is well represented by the little S. Francis's church (barocchetto toscano) in the Via Berni, with a golden ceiling. The most of the buiding of the road have baroque details like grottesque around the windows.

Late 1700 and 1800 (with the Napoleone Era) did not produced important buildings in the village center, except the new one that was built on the ruins of the old Tarlati castle on the main square, it was planned to be the new Podesteria (Major house) but for legal problems become a private house. It guests the Logge del Talati bar. In this period the most of the palaces was adorned with tempera paintings with lanscapes.

In the 1935 was built the "Cinema Sole" that is a tipical building of the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is at the moment in bad conditions.

## Food and shopping:

### Bibbiena:

Restaurant: the "Tirabusciò" entrance from Via Rosa Scoti, in front of the Dovizi theatre, is a good level one, perfect for a couple not for a family with children (it is a small place) tasteful meals offering a good selection of local products.

Ice Cream: the Bar Turismo, at the beginning of Via Dovizi, offers the best ice cream of the village.

Shopping: In the Piazza Roma (locally called Piazzolina) you can find Bachini butchery and a nice food shop, news paper and tobacco, Rineo calzature at the bottom of Via Borghi offers shoes of a good quality, the stationery shop is in the Palazzo Dovizi. Chemistry in Via Gori 11.

Weekly market on Wednesday morning.

### Bibbiena Stazione:

Farmers' Market on the Saturday morning, in Piazza Sacconi

Chemistry in Piazza Sacconi 1

Along Via Umbro Casentinese 136, the shop of the cheese factory "Caseificio del Pratomagno"

The Coop supermarket in loc. Palazzetto.

From Coop area to Soci: Marino fa Mercato (all you can not find at coop...)

### Soci:

Weekly market on Tuesday morning.

Chemistry in Via G. Bocci

Butchery with Chianina meat in the Piazza Garibaldi

Sport shop Tacconi

Take a break at "A tutta piadina" tasting the typical Piadina from Romagna (also if you are Celiac)

Pizzeria Candolesi, Via Nazionale

Restaurant La Vite:

## CONVENZIONE PER GLI OSPITI DI FATTORIA DI MARENA - 2014

MENU PRINCIPALE PRIMO/SECONDO/FRUTTA	MENU PRINCIPALE PRIMO/SECONDO/GELATO	MENU PRINCIPALE PRIMO/SECONDO/DOLCE
€ 15,00	€ 13,00	€ 24,00
primo + secondo + frutta o gelato	primo + secondo + gelato	crostino di benvenuto + primo + secondo + dolce
acqua + 0,1l vino + caffè	acqua	acqua + vino in abbinamento + caffè



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From Soci Piazza Garibaldi to Poppi (via dei Guazzi) Plateau pasta, to buy typical products like Ravioli and Tortelli, even vacuum paked.