

ITALY: COMUNE DI CORINALDO

The "Marches" region of Corinaldo represents a vivid example of Italian garden landscapes with neatly marked out fields and cultivated meadows. The town has preserved valuable collections of art works as well as a network of more than 70 still flourishing historic theatres.

Built on what was left of the Roman city Suasa, of medieval and renaissance origin, Corinaldo's baroque and neoclassic buildings stand alongside fortifications and military architecture such as Porta San Giovanni and Porta di Santa Maria del Mercato dating back to the 14th century. It has a stunning brick periphery and is famous for being the birthplace of the young martyr St Maria Goretti. Its historical centre, old buildings and aristocratic palaces stand out in all their original splendour such as in Piazza del Terrono.

Corinaldo is a picturesque tourist resort surrounded by the Azure mountains of the Apennines and by the Adriatic Sea. Its so-called 'velvet' beach makes it a charming town of alluring glamour. It is strategically built on a hillside, with a wealth of old brick houses to be found in the districts of St Isidoro and Nevola.

Corinaldo's churches

There are many religious monuments in Corinaldo – the St Maria Goretti sanctuary and the churches of Suffragio and Addolorata that date back to the 17th and 18th centuries. The sanctuary of the Incancellata and the early Christian basilica of St Maria in Portuno are located in the archaeological site of Madonna del Piano, which is decorated with beautiful 15th century frescos. The church of Addolorata is also a fine example of Rococo architecture.

A valuable artistic patrimony

Corinaldo's buildings and sanctuaries represent a valuable artistic patrimony. The extensive Claudio Ridolfi art gallery reflects Corinaldo's historical and cultural heritage and is situated in the former convent of the Benedictine nuns of St Ann.

The town's theatre Carlo Goldoni is worth a visit with its marvellous coffered ceiling. A walk through the town takes you to Cassero square and the magnificent 15th century pentagonal tower, the Sperone. Via Piaggia with its 109 steps and the massive towers of Calcinaro and Rotonda are town highlights.



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Local handicraft

Corinaldo is particularly proud of the precious pieces of artistic local handicraft that are kept in the folk-traditions and costumes hall located in the heart of its historic centre. The Polio of St Ann takes place at the end of July and celebrates and awards local handicrafts.

Local specialities

Corinaldo boasts a number of delicious gastronomical specialities and tasteful dishes prepared with traditional ingredients and typical foodstuffs produced by local farmers. Among these are the tantalising extravirgin oil, select wines, honey, sausages and a remarkable variety of bread.

The most original local produce is, without doubt, Le pecorelle (the little ships) which are sweet cakes prepared according to a secretly guarded recipe that has been handed down through the generations.

Events and festivals – from jazz to theatre

Throughout the year, many events and festivals keep the town alive, like the Corinaldo jazz festival, the national photograph competition – Mario Carafoli, the Cantar Iontano international music festival, the Corinaldo tipica – local and traditional produce fair, and of course the St Maria Goretti celebrations. There are also theatre representations all year round.

The Polenta well contest, relating to Corinaldo's victory in the 16th century, is the most ancient and evocative historical commemoration of the province of Ancona and lasts four days around the third Sunday of July. ■

