



COMUNE DI PIACENZA

[www.comune.piacenza.it](http://www.comune.piacenza.it)

*Hello,*  
**Piacenza.**

In collaboration with  
Piacenza Turismi  
Amministrazione  
Provinciale di Piacenza  
Regione Emilia Romagna

Photographic references  
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Studio Manzotti



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# Historical background



Piacenza rose on the right bank of the river Po, exactly inside the crucial crossroads of the most important communication routes, which cut the south-occidental Po Valley.

The earliest urban settlement foundation is dated 218 B. C., when almost six thousand Roman soldiers created the colony of "Piacentia", leaving visible traces in the lay-out of the town, as revealed by the plan organised around "cardo" and "decumano", with an orthogonal roads network.

During the long Middle Ages, period of ravages, Piacenza fell under the barbarian supremacy and suffered the effects of the war between the invading Goths and the Eastern Roman troops. After the Ostrogothic and

Byzantine domination, the community became the chief town of a Longobard the dukedom.

The true renewal started from the 9th century with the supremacy of the Franks.

Around the year 1000, Piacenza saw its demographic, economic and renaissance, in which a



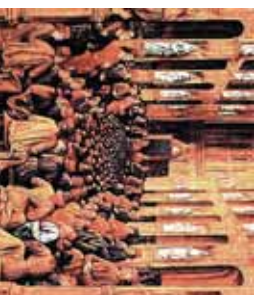
great role was played by its strategic position along the *Via Francigena* and among the routes, which coming down from the Alps, assured the transit of merchants and pilgrims. In the age of feudal ties and count-bishops influence,

near the blood aristocracy, a new commercial and craftsmen class rose with a new financial power, that will let the town becoming in few centuries one of the most important European centres.

At the end of year one thousand, the town saw a resurgence of the pro-Papal sympathies, in fact Urbano II proclaimed in Piacenza the first Crusade to free the Holy Land (1095). The town became a free



flourished with the trade-fair. New churches and monasteries, often with annexed hospices, enriched the town and during this age, two civic emblems were erected: first the Cathedral (1122), then Palazzo



Municipality in 1126 and fought against Barbarossa, who signed here the preliminary agreements for the Peace of Constance (1183).

In the 12th and 13th century, the commercial activity and the production of textiles in particular, increased; agriculture and economy



Gotico (1281). In 1545, Pope Paul III Farnese created The Dukedom of Parma and Piacenza, under his son Pier Luigi control, first of the eight dukes Farnese, who ruled the town until 1731. Borbone family succeeded the Farnese and they governed the town until their departure (1859).

The Dukedom fell under the Austrian, French and Napoleonic domination as well and it was governed by Maria Luigia of Austria (1816-1847).

In 1848, Piacenza was the first town in Italy to join to kingdom of Sardinia with a plebiscite, deserving the name "Primogenita".



# Symbols of Piacenza



## The Farnese equestrian statues

Placed on Piazza Cavalli, the *Horses Square*, formerly Piazza del Comune, the two Farnese equestrian statues are probably the best known and most admired works of art of the town.

The two monuments are works of art of Francesco Mochi da Monteverarchi, a Tuscan sculptor (1580-1654); trained by Giambologna and active in Roma and Orvieto as well, he worked



at these monuments design and realisation, commissioned by the community, for sixteen years, from 1612 to 1628.

The special occasion, which led Piacenza to decide this huge celebration effort (costed the enormous sum of 44.107 Roman scudi, plus four thousand ducatoons for the bas-reliefs) was the solemn entrance into the town of duchess Margherita Aldobrandini, who was regent duke Rannuccio I's wife and crown prince Odoardo's mother: Rannuccio's statue (on the right-hand side, facing Palazzo Gotico) was placed on the square in 1620, his father's in 1625. From their high pedestals, the two bronze statues dignify the square, harmonising the Renaissance scheme composition tradition with the Baroque dynamism, stressed by the tails and manes blowing in the wind and the cloaks of the two bold horsemen hang down.

The bases of the statues are in white Carrara marble, decorated with putti, scrolls and dedicatory inscriptions, but above all a beautiful series of bronze bas-reliefs.



## Palazzo Gotico

The massive structure of the Palazzo Comunale, called Gotico, dominates the original town centre, Piazza Cavalli.

Built in 1281 by Alberto Scoto, merchant leader and lord of the city, the palace was designed by local masons, perhaps with the help of workmen from Como. A convent and a church dedicated to S. Maria de Bigulis were pulled down to make space for the palace.

Built in ogival Lombard style, with the cornice decorated with little arches, the swallow-tailed Ghibelline crenellation, a central bell turret and the two side turrets, it is one of the finest examples of medieval secular architecture, whose neat structure asserts itself among many similar buildings in the north of Italy for quality and proportions.

On a marble base, opened by a marble gothic loggia of pointed arches, there is the upper level, in Romanesque style, with round arches housing slender three-light windows.

The great hall of Palazzo Gotico (mt. 140x16) with its timber ceiling and pictorial decorations was the seat of popular assemblies and a theatre; after the restoration, it is now used for cultural events.



# Churches in Piacenza



From Piazza Cavalli we can start a tour of the most significant holy buildings of Piacenza. Close by the square is the church of San Francesco (opening hours 8,00-12,00/14,30-18,30). It was built up in Lombard Gothic style with a brick



facade, between 1278 and 1363, on the initiative of the Ghidelline lord Umberto Landi. It was there that the annexation of Piacenza to the kingdom of Piedmont was proclaimed in 1848.

From Piazza Cavalli, through via XX Settembre, we reach *Piazza del Duomo* (the Cathedral Square), the other focus of the city life in Piacenza. The *Duomo or Cathedral* (opening hours 7,30-12,00/16,00-



19,00) is amongst the finest examples of Romanesque religious architecture in the North of Italy. The building was begun in 1122 and finished in 1235. The church has a simple but majestic grandiosity of severe, elegant proportions, the centre of the facade is taken up with a large and bright rose window of 6,85 metres in diameter. The imposing brick bell tower on the left-hand side reaches a height of 67 metres. In 1341, the local master builder Pietro Yago topped the conical spire of the tower with the revolving statue of an angel in gilded copper.

The church is decorated with several magnificent frescoes by Camillo Procaccini and Ludovico Carracci, spanning from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century, by Pier Francesco Mazzucchelli, called

Morazzone (1625-26) and Giovanni Francesco Barbieri (1627), called Guercino. From *Piazza Duomo*, through *via Chiapponi*, we reach *via Scalabrini* and the church of *Sant'Antonio* (opening hours: weekdays 8,30-12,00/16,00-19,00; Sundays 8,30-12,00/20,00-21,30), one of the most significant examples of religious



architecture because of its complex iconography. It began its life as an Early Christian church, built between 350 and 375 by San Vittore, first bishop of Piacenza.

From the Cathedral square, through via Legnano, we reach the church of *San Saverio* (opening hours: 7,30-11,00/16,30-18,30), one of the finest



examples of northern Romanesque architecture. The present facade and the entrance portico date from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The previous twelfth-century presbytery polychrome mosaics in the presbytery, in the apse and in the crypt, and the beautiful anthropomorphic capitals (XI-XII centuries) belong to the original pictorial system.

A perfect example of the harmonic blending of Renaissance painting and architecture is the church of *Santa Maria di Campagna* (opening hours: 9,00-12,00/15,30-18,00; Sunday 9,15-10,00/15,00-



18,00) which looks over the so-called Square of the Crusades, where in 1095 Pope Urban II proclaimed the First Crusade. Masterpiece of architect Alessio Trarnello of Piacenza, it was built between

1522 and 1528 as a shrine for the polychrome wooden statue of a real-size *miraculous Madonna della Campagna*, which was previously housed in a humble chapel. Of outstanding quality is the cycle of frescos by the painter Pordenone, who



decorated the dome and the first two chapels on the left-hand side with some of his most significant works (1529-31), recently restored to their original splendour under the patronage of the Town Council. Going along *via Campagna*, we find another imposing Renaissance church *San Sepolero* (opening hours: 7,30-12,00/15,00-18,30), built from a design of Alessio Trarnello. Going along the long section of the sixteenth-century city walls, the *mura farnesiane*, we reach *Porta Borghetto* and the church of *San Sisto* (opening hours: working days 7,00-10,00/15,00-18,00; Sunday 7,00-12,00/15,00-17,30). This remarkable example of Renaissance architecture dates from the times of the empress Angilberga, wife of Ludovic the Pious, who in 874 founded the church and the annexed convent of Benedictine nuns, of which she became the abbess in 882.



The present church, protected by Alessio Trarnello, was built between 1499 and 1511. The facade has an ample courtyard with an open gallery in front. On display above the high altar is a copy of *Raffaello's mastrepiece Madonna Sistina*, which the maestro had painted expressly for this church. The original canvas was sold in 1754 by the Benedictine monks to August III, King of Poland and Elector of Saxony, for 10,000 pieces of gold, and is now the highlight of the Dresden museum. Of remarkable beauty are the choir-stalls in carved wood with floral, musical, architectural and perspective motifs (1514-1528).

# The palaces

As well as Palazzo Gotico, another important centre of Piacenza's historical and cultural life is **Palazzo Farnese**. Belonging to the Renaissance, it was built on the remains of a small fortress erected in 1373 and nowadays it houses



the Town Museums. Palazzo Farnese started its life in the mid-sixteenth century, when Pier Luigi's son, Ottavio, and his wife Margherita decided to build their palace on a design of Vignola in 1559.

On the left-hand side of the Palazzo Gotico is the **Palazzo dei Mercanti**, named after the Merchants' Guild who built it in 1676; it now houses the Town Hall.



Facing the Palazzo Gotico is the harmonious and elegant facade of the **Palazzo del Governatore**, which opens up in the middle with a gallery. It was built between 1787 and 1790 on a design by architect Lotario Tomba, and now houses the Chamber of Commerce. An early Renaissance palace of outstanding beauty is **Palazzo Landi** (via del Consiglio). This fifteenth-century building, now housing the court of justice, was once the residence of the Farnese family and of the Emperor Charles V. Of great interest is the terracotta frieze on the elevations, ornate with staves, arms and medallions, and the marble doorway, decorated with statues of warriors, putti with musical instruments, floral motifs, allegories and a fishescent.



Amongst other renaissance palaces mention should be made of Palazzo



Barattieri of San Pietro in Cerro (via Taverna 70) dating from the end of the fifteenth century: Palazzo Scotti da Fombio (via Taverna 37) now housing the Collegio Moriga, it was built in the first half of the fifteenth century around a central cloister and it has a brickwork facade with friezes and a classical portal in candioga marble (1497) and corner figures supporting the coat of arms. Palazzo del Collegio dei Gesuiti, completed around 1593, houses the Civic Library Passerini Landi (via Carducci) working from 1774 and collecting many important books as the most Ancient dated codes (1336) of Divina Commedia, the empress Angilberga Psaltery (872) and many psalms on purple parchment. The Age of Enlightenment saw a boom in the building of new palaces and the restoration of ancient ones. A host of sumptuous dwellings with charming inner gardens and courtyards sprang up throughout the town: a leisurely walk through the centre will give the visitor the opportunity to admire many of these interesting buildings.

Via Roma has some fine buildings, among which Palazzo Costa - with a grand staircase probably by Ferdinando Bibbiena, Palazzo Maruffi from the end of the seventeenth century, and the huge

Palazzo Anghisotta of Crazzano designed by Cosimo Morelli. In via Verdi we find the imposing seventeenth-century **Palazzo Malvicini Fontana of Nibbiano**. In nearby via San Siro is one of the most remarkable palaces in Piacenza, the large edifice inherited by the **Scotti family of Sannato** in 1671. In its rooms, beautifully decorated with frescoes, stuccoes lived Napoleon and Pope Pio VII; notable are the large wrought-iron gate and a courtyard with a harmonious colonnade. At number 31 via San Siro is the sumptuous **Palazzo Radini Tedeschi** with its grand staircase, considered by experts probably the most interesting in the town.



Relevant is the eighteenth-century **Palazzo Mandelli** (via Mandelli) which has been the local headquarters of the Bank of Italy.

Of great interest amongst seventeenth-century buildings is **Palazzo Caracciolo** (via Borghetto) with its splendid brickwork facade. The ample courtyard looks onto the garden, once a botanical garden.

In Piazzetta Tempio there is the eighteenth-century palace of the city Prefect, once the property of the **Scotti family of Vigoleno**, a powerful merchant and banking family. Of great interest are the large entrance-hall with three aisles, the grand staircase, and the frescoes which decorate the upper drawing room with allegories.





## THE MUSEUMS OF PALAZZO FARNESE

Piazza Cittadella – Telephone 0523 492658  
[www.musei.piacenza.it](http://www.musei.piacenza.it) - [musei.farnese@comune.piacenza.it](mailto:musei.farnese@comune.piacenza.it)

The civic museums of Piacenza are housed by Palazzo Farnese, a complex building including the Visconti fortress and the Palazzo built by Farnese Family.

Palazzo Farnese houses the **archaeologic museum**, with its extraordinary exemplary of Pegato Etrusco dating from the end of the II century and the beginning of the I century b.C.; the Museum of the Risorgimento, with its collection of propaganda material, arms, documents, uniforms and miscellanies from 1815 to 1870; the picture-gallery with works of important painters of XVIII century, as Sanzio Boticelli and his tonido "Madonna adoring the Child"; the section of Fast Farnesian dedicated to Pope Paolo III, Alessandro and Elisabetta Farnese; the section glasses and pottery; the Renaissance and medieval section with frescos dating from the XIV century and sculptures dating from the XI-XVIII centuries; the weapons gallery with Weapons of the XVI and XVII century.



The magnificent basement rooms of Palazzo Farnese houses the Carriage museum with exemplary of the XVII-XX centuries.

### OPENING HOURS

Close on Monday – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday open from 8.45 to 13.00 - Friday, Saturday open from 8.45 to 13.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00 - Sunday from 9.30 to 13.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00

### GUIDED VISITS (included in the entry)

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30 – Friday 9.30 – 15.30 Saturday and Sunday 9.30 – 11.00/15.00 – 16.30

Opening hours during the summer

From Tuesday to Saturday: opens at 9.00 - From Tuesday to Friday: guided visit at 10.00

## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Ex. Marcello Padiglione G., Perrera, via Scalabrini, 107  
Tel. 0523 334980 - 337745 - Fax 0523 300141

[e-mail: museoscienze@comune.piacenza.it](mailto:museoscienze@comune.piacenza.it)

The museum collects some valuable scientific collections. In the halls you can find exhibits from the world of plants, animals, as well as rocks, minerals, fossils and more.

There has also been made display cases dedicated to Appennino Piacentino's birds, animals, flowers and plants.

### OPENING HOURS

Tuesday 9.00-12.30; Wednesday 9.00-12.30; Thursday 9.00-12.30 / 15.00-18.00; Friday 9.00-12.30; Saturday 9.00-12.30 / 15.00-18.00; Sunday 9.00-12.30 / 15.00-18.00

## The museums

### THE RICCI ODDI GALLERY OF MODERN ART

Via S. Siro 13 – Telephone: 0523 320742  
[www.riccioddi.it](http://www.riccioddi.it)  
[info@riccioddi.it](mailto:info@riccioddi.it)



The Ricci Oddi gallery of modern art, opened in 1931 and designed by the architect Giulio Ulisse Arata, is one of the most important of its kind in Italy. It was created by the nobleman of Piacenza Giuseppe Ricci Oddi (1868-1937) who used his huge patrimony from the beginning of the 1900 to collect paintings, sculptures and drawings in order to document the development of arts in Italy from Romanticism to his times. The visitor can run through the main movements from Romanticism (Hayez, Piccio, Induno) to the realistic season: the Macchiaioli (Fattori, Lega, Signorini, Serresi, Abbiati), the Scapigliatura (Cremona, Ranzoni, Conconi), the Divisionismo (Segantini, Previati) the international painting (Bodini, de Nittis, Zandomeni). In the Gallery it's very important the presence of many paintings of Antonio Fontanesi (eighty works).

### THE COLLEGIO ALBERONI

Via Emilia Parmense, 77 – Telephone 0523 577011  
[opalberoni@libero.it](mailto:opalberoni@libero.it)

Construction work on the building, commissioned and financed by the headstrong and wealthy Cardinal Giulio Alberoni, Prime Minister of King Philip V of Spain, maintains its function of seminary and centre of theologic, philosophic and scientific study.

The large building houses a rich library with more of 100.000 books, the important Picture Gallery, the Physics and Natural Science Laboratory, a working Sismic and Meteorologic Observatory, and an astronomic Spectrum. Amongst the precious paintings of the Gallery, collected by the Cardinal in Rome and Piacenza, and with following acquisitions, we can admire two paintings of the Flemish Jan Provost (1462-1529) and one of the masterpieces of Antonello da Messina the "Ecce Homo" (1473)

On display in a large room are eighteen Flemish tapestries, dating from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries, collected by Alberoni himself. From April to June and in October, guided visits every Sunday at 16.00.

Guided visits for groups (15 pers.) and pupils reserving at 3494673659 (Ianna). Info-line 0523 577011 (Collegio Alberoni).



# Theatres



[www.teatricomunali.piacenza.it](http://www.teatricomunali.piacenza.it)  
[info@teatricomunali.piacenza.it](mailto:info@teatricomunali.piacenza.it)



## THE TEATRO MUNICIPALE

Via Verdi, 41 - Piacenza  
Tel. 0523 492251-7



The Teatro Municipale Verdi has just celebrated its two hundred years working; it was opened in 1804 with the performance of the drama “Zamori ossia l’eroe delle Indie” especially written by Giovanni Simone Mayr. The architect Lotario Tomba was commissioned to design the theatre by a society of city nobles. He designed the main space with a plan of three quarter of ellipse in order to follow the optical and acoustic rules. The interior was decorated by the stage designer of the Milan theatre, Alessandro Sangurico.

The boxes were uniformed also inside: the little vaults were painted blue and red, decorations that were recently restored. The present façade is the result of a re-elaboration of the original idea of Tomba by Sangurico, reducing the neoclassical influence. The hall has two rows of boxes, divided in the centre by the royal box, and two upper rows of boxes called *galleria and loggione*. The precious amaranth velvet



curtain, decorated by braids, is original from the middle of the 19th century. The entrance hall, elegant visiting card of the theatre, has a precious floor in Venice style, golden wooden and inlaid doors with windows and mirrors. The Theatre of Piacenza houses the Luigi Cherubini juvenile orchestra, created and directed by Maestro Riccardo Muti; sometimes lessons and rehearsals are public.

Amongst many relics and precious documents collected in the theatre, there is the piano of Luigi Illica, the famous librettist.



## TEATRO COMUNALE FILODRAMMATICI

Via Santa Franca, 33 – Piacenza  
Tel. 0523 315578



The Filodrammatici Theatre opened in the 2000 after many works of restoration that bring the stalls and the boxes back to their original splendour. It is considered an historical presence in the cultural development of Piacenza.

The Filodrammatici Society of Piacenza, founded in 1825 and acknowledged by an official decree by Maria Luigia d’ Austria – obtained this building in 1908. The building was built in the 1500 by the Cistercian nuns of Santa Franca as a church where deposit the body of their Patron, near the monastery that now houses the G. Nicolini Academy of Music.



Because of the suppression of the monastery ordered by Napoleon, the building, included the church and the monastery, became public property, till when Maria Luigia d’ Austria gave it to the Municipality of Piacenza that intended it for military uses: National Guard, Fire Brigade, Austrian Army were housed here. Then it became a school and then a typography. Only in the early 1900 the Santa Franca church became a theatre, by the creation of a stalls and a wide stage.

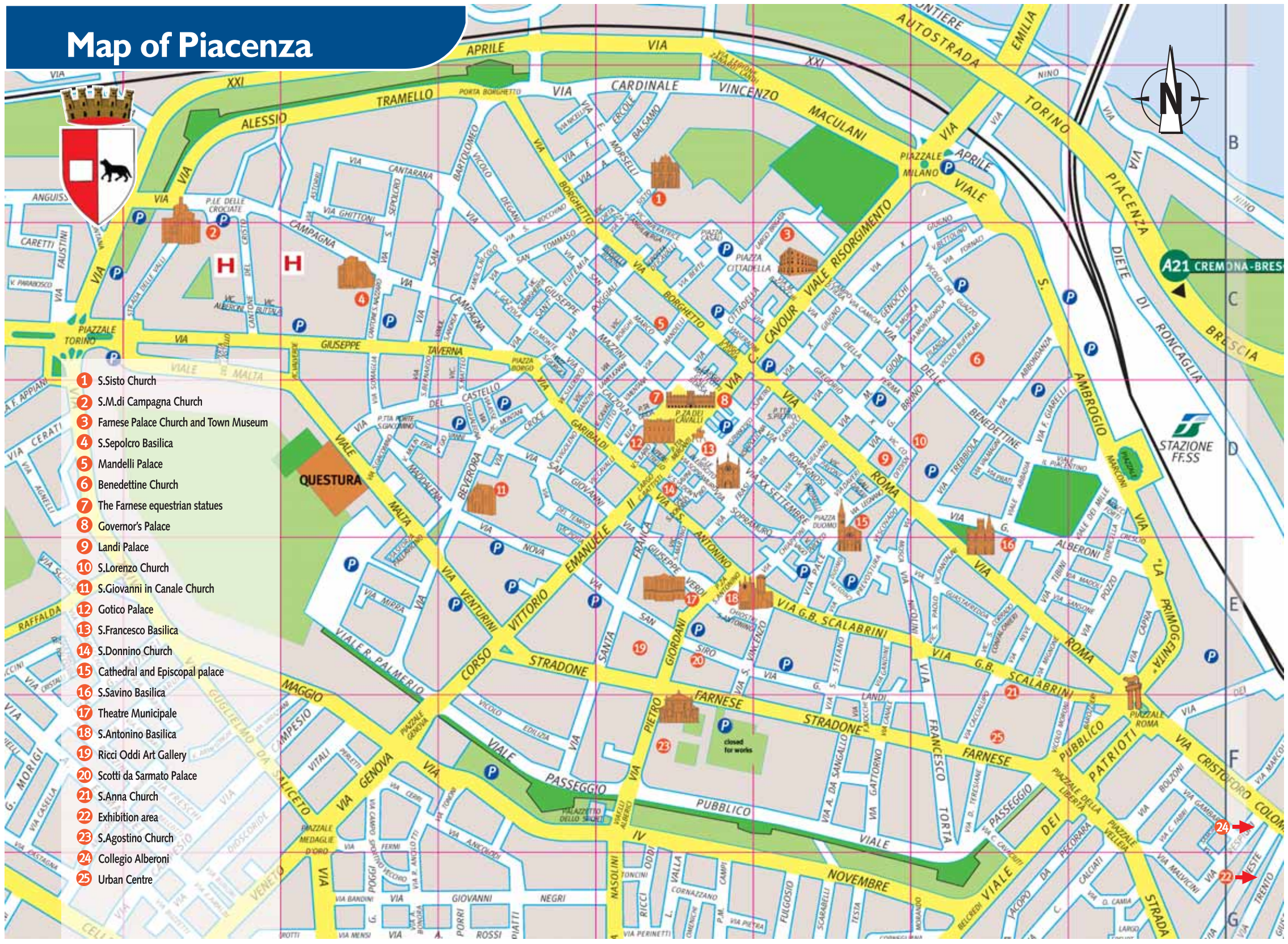
The Lyberty style façade is a work of the engineer Giovanni Gazzola.

At present the theatre can seat 1075 spectators.

# Map of Piacenza



- 1 S.Sisto Church
- 2 S.M.di Campagna Church
- 3 Farnese Palace Church and Town Museum
- 4 S.Sepolcro Basilica
- 5 Mandelli Palace
- 6 Benedettine Church
- 7 The Farnese equestrian statues
- 8 Governor's Palace
- 9 Landi Palace
- 10 S.Lorenzo Church
- 11 S.Giovanni in Canale Church
- 12 Gothic Palace
- 13 S.Francesco Basilica
- 14 S.Donnino Church
- 15 Cathedral and Episcopal palace
- 16 S.Savino Basilica
- 17 Theatre Municipale
- 18 S.Antonino Basilica
- 19 Ricci Oddi Art Gallery
- 20 Scotti da Sarmato Palace
- 21 S.Anna Church
- 22 Exhibition area
- 23 S.Agostino Church
- 24 Collegio Alberoni
- 25 Urban Centre





## Choosing a hotel

### **CLASS HOTEL PIACENZA FIERA \*\*\*\*\***

Strada Caorsana, 127 - Tel. 0523 606091  
www.classhotel.com  
info.piacenzafiera@classhotel.com

### **GRANDE ALBERGO ROMA \*\*\*\*\***

Via Cittadella, 14 - Tel. 0523 323201  
www.grandalbergoroma.it  
hotel@grandalbergoroma.it

### **GRAND PARK HOTEL MOTEL \*\*\*\*\***

Via Caorsana, 161 - Loc. Croce Grossa  
Tel. 0523 511210  
www.grandpark.it

### **PARK HOTEL \*\*\*\*\***

Strada Valnure, 7 - Tel. 0523 712600  
www.parkhotelpiacenza.com  
info@parkhotelpiacenza.it

### **EURO HOTEL \*\*\***

Via C. Colombo, 29 - Tel. 0523/606011  
www.eurohotelpiacenza.com  
info@eurohotelpiacenza.com

### **HOLIDAY INN \*\*\***

Via Emilia Pavese, 114 - Tel. 0523 493811  
www.alliancealberghi.com/hotel.php?a=piacenza-hi  
holidayinn.piacenza@alliancealberghi.com

### **HOTEL ASTOR \*\*\***

Via Tibini, 29/31 - Tel. 0523 329296  
info@hotelastorpc.it

### **HOTEL CITY \*\*\***

Via Emilia Parmense, 54 - Tel. 0523 579752  
www.hoteleitypc.it  
info@hoteleitypc.it

### **HOTEL OVEST \*\*\***

Via I Maggio, 82 - Tel. 0523 712222  
www.hotelovest.com  
info@hotelovest.com

### **MOTEL K2 \*\*\***

Via Emilia Parmense, 133  
Tel. 0523 593158

### **STADIO HOTEL \*\*\*\*\***

Strada Valnure, 20 - Tel. 0523 360020  
www.stadiohotel.it  
info@stadiohotel.it

### **VIP \*\*\***

Via Cipelli, 41 - Tel. 0523 712420  
www.viphotel.it  
info@viphotel.it

### **PICCOLO RITZ \*\*\***

Via Pennazzi, 5 - Tel. 0523 590405

### **OSTELLO DON ZERMANI (hostel-auberge)**

Via Zoni, 38/40 - Tel. 0523 712319  
www.ostellodpiacenza.it  
info@ostellodpiacenza.it

### **IAT - TOURIST OFFICE**

Piazza Cavalli, 7 - Piacenza - Tel. 0523 329324 - fax 0523 306727

iat@comune.piacenza.it

Opening hours : from Tuesday to Saturday 9h00 – 13h00 and 15h00 – 18h00

From April to September: Sunday 9h30-12h30

### **PIACENZA TURISMI s.r.l.**

Via San Siro, 27 - Tel. 0523 305254 - fax 0523 309298

infotur@piacenzaturismi.net



# Choosing a restaurant



## In the city...

**ANTICA OSTERIA DEL TEATRO**  
via Verdi, 16 - tel. 0523 323777  
closed on Sunday and Monday

**ANTICA TRATTORIA DELL'ANGELO**  
via Tiburti, 14 - tel. 0523 326739 closed on Thursday

**GRAN CAFFÈ RANUCCIO**  
P. Cavalli, 1 - tel. 0523 071352 always open

**CARROZZA** via X Giugno, 122 - tel. 0523 326297  
always open

**CHRISTIAN** via IV novembre, 115  
tel. 0523 326770 closed on Tuesday

**DAGNASSU** Via Molinera S. Andrea, 14  
tel. 0523 482780

**ALTMAREA** via Castello, 14 - tel. 0523 388951  
closed on Sunday (open for reserved groups)

**LA PIRENA** via Borghetto, 137 - tel. 0523 338578  
closed on Sunday evening and Monday

**Mc DONALD'S STAZIONE**  
Borgo Faxall pl. Marconi 36 - tel.0523 315702 always open

**FOROLOGIO DA PASQUALE**  
P.zza Duomo,39 - tel. 0523 324669 closed on Thursday

**OSTERIA DEL TRENTO**  
via Castello 71 - tel.0523 324260 closed on Sunday  
**PEPINO** via Scalabrini, 49/a - tel. 0523 329279  
closed on Monday

**DA CILILIANO** corso V. Emanuele 179/181  
tel. 0523 326356 closed on Sunday in Summer

**PICCOLO ROMA** via Citradella 14  
tel. 0523 323201 closed on Saturday and Monday for dinner

**PNZIMONO** via Cavalletto 4  
tel. 0523 327626 closed on Tuesday

**SAN GIOVANNI** via San Giovanni, 36  
tel. 0523 321029 closed on Sunday

**TAVERNA IN** piazza S. Antonino 8  
tel. 0523 335785 closed on Monday

**TRATTORIA DA MARIU**  
Via Caribaldi, 49 - tel. 0523 319350 closed on Monday

**VECCHIA PIACENZA** via Taverna ang. C.ine S.Bernardo, 1 -  
tel. 0523 305462 closed on Sunday

**ZONA FRANCA** via Fornace, 5 - tel. 0523 315286  
closed on Saturday and Sunday for lunch

**ENOTECA "DA RENNATO"** via Roma, 24 - Tel. 0523 325813  
closed on Sunday

**"LA MUNITA"** via Mazzini, 72 - Tel. 0523 498929  
closed on Sunday

**SELF SERVICE MORICI** via s. Bartolomeo, 8 - Tel. 0523  
384130 closed on Saturday and Sunday

**"SUGGERIMENT... PIACENZA"** viale. Malta, 23 - Tel. 0523  
326368 closed on Wednesday and Sunday

**VEGETARIANO "TAVERNA 73"** via Taverna, 73 - Tel. 0523  
314090 closed on Monday for dinner

**ENOTECA "TAVERNA DEL GUSTO"** via Taverna, 27 - Tel.  
0523 332814 closed on Sunday and Monday

**"PECCATI DI GOLIA"** via Taverna, 35 - Tel. 0523 318312  
closed on Sunday from June to September; closed on Monday  
from October to May

## ... in the neighbourhood

**COL OMBRO** via Pennazzi, 5 - tel. 0523 500405 closed on Sunday

**COMMERCIO** via Colombo, 118  
tel. 0523 614272 closed on Saturday

**GANPINO** via Emilia Parmense, 291  
tel. 0523 504110 closed on Sunday 348.7728361  
(open for reserved groups)

**IL TIMONE** via Veneto, 42 - tel. 0523 712386  
closed on Saturday for dinner and Monday

**BELL'ATMILA** via Emilia, Pavese, 114/A  
tel. 0523 493811 closed on Sunday

**BELLANAPOLI** via Emilia Pavese, 98  
tel.0523 480038 closed on Monday

**LA VERANDA** Strada Vallure, 7 - tel. 0523 756664 always open

**LA SIRENA CAFE'** via Emilia Parmense, 136  
(Loc. Montale) - tel. 0523 594402 closed on Sunday

**LASTIZIONE DI MIVVERA**  
Via Dec. Valore (C.rite. 15 (Loc. San Bonino)  
tel.0523 389273 closed on Sunday for dinner and Monday

**Mc DONALD'S EMILIA** Via Emilia, Pavese, 136  
tel. 0523 497320 always open

**NUOVO MONTELE** via Bologna, 2 - loc. Montale  
tel. 0523 592543 closed on Sunday

**ONSIPINTO HISTORIO** via Emilia Parmense, 133  
tel. 0523 609532 closed on Saturday and Monday

**OSTERIA DEL BARBAROSSA**  
via S. Margita, 110 - loc. I. Dossi di Ronzeglia  
tel. 0523 504246 closed on Saturday for lunch and Monday for dinner

**OSTERIA LA SARACCA** via del Capriolo, 73/75 loc. Capriolo  
Tel. 0523 612503 closed on Sunday

**HISTORIANTE PO** via Nino Bixio, 6  
tel. 0523 321680 closed on Sunday (open for reserved groups)

**SPARL CASSI BARBIS** via Alessandria, 16  
tel. 3393563637 closed on Sunday

**VILLACGIO** via Pietro Cella, 52  
tel. 0523 711317 closed on Saturday and Sunday

**"AUTOCRILL"** piazzale Marconi, 34  
Tel. 0523 339072 always open

**"BOOMERANG"** via Lanza, 41 - Tel. 0523 457275 (serale)  
always open by night

**BAR "CHIE COSA"** Strada dell'Ossina, 1 - Tel. 0523 072329  
closed on Sunday

**"L'ALUPA"** via Colombo, 7 - Tel. 0523 592511 closed on Sunday

**"MIVVERA"** via Farnesiana, 200 - Loc. Murrasso - Tel. 0523 506144  
closed on Tuesday

**"IL PARCO"** Strada di Montecucco, 12 - Tel. 0523 454624 closed on  
Monday

**"DEI PANZIEROTTI"** via Emilia Pavese 216 - Tel. 0523 480134 closed  
on Monday by night and Tuesday

**"SAPORI"** c/o Fashioned Piacenza Ferrara\*\*\*\* - strada Caorsina, 127 -  
Tel. 0523 606091 closed on Sunday

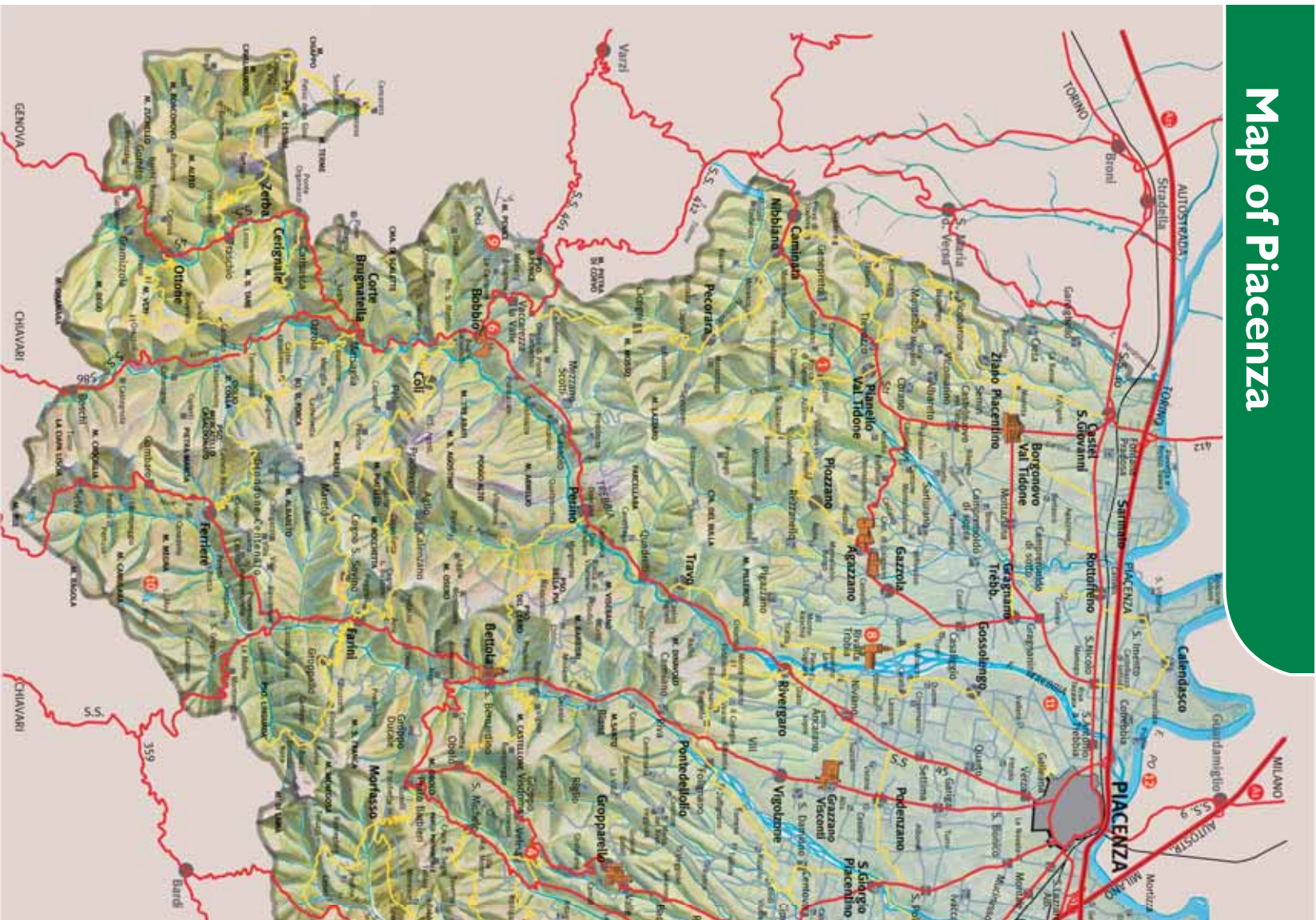
**"VECCHIA OSTERIA DI BORGHETTO"** via F. di Borbone, 119 - Loc.  
Borghetto - Tel. 0523 504133 closed on Sunday by night and Monday

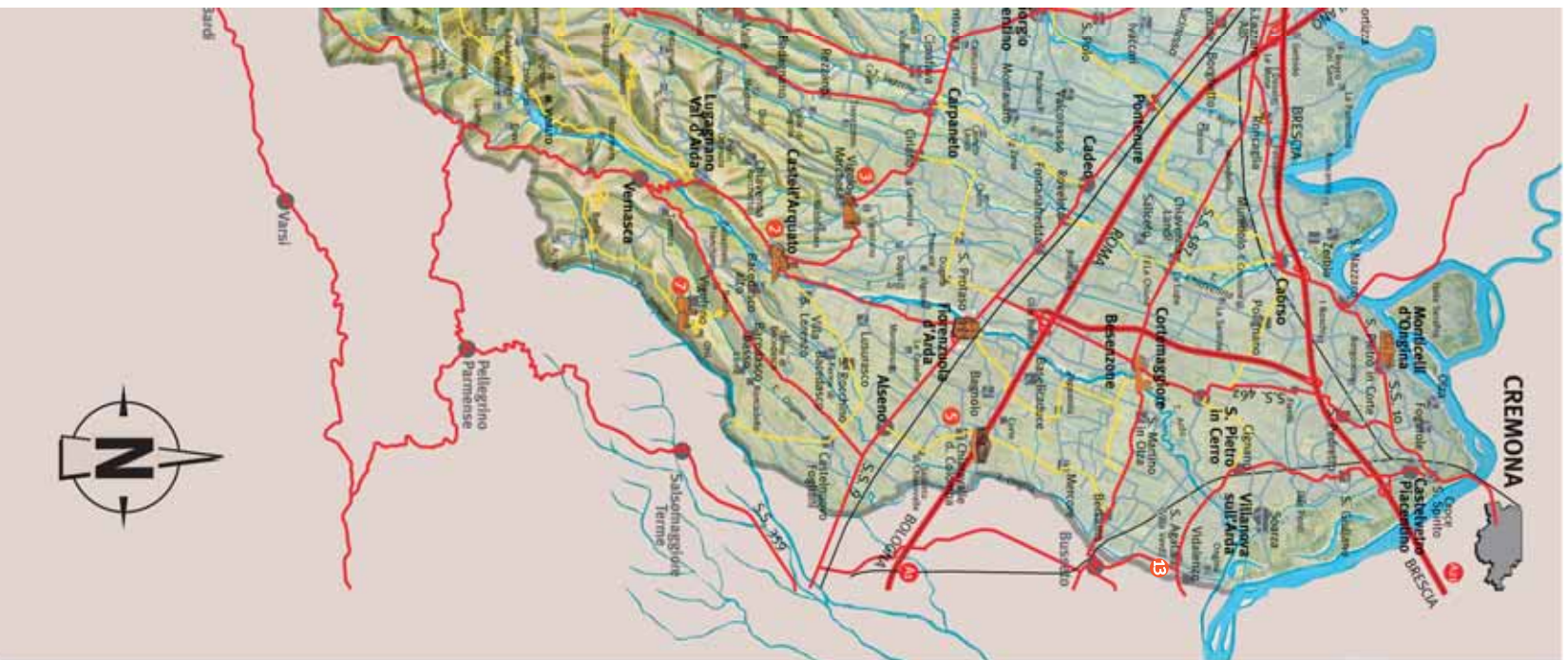
**"VILLA DEL VESCOVO"** La Vella del Vesovo - via Mozzo/Strada  
Vallure 24/a - Tel. 0523 380700 closed on Tuesday

The names mentioned in this list are included on data base  
Redazione Locale Sistema Informativo per il Turismo of Piacenza  
Tourist Office.

For more information about hospitality in province of Piacenza,  
visit the web site: [www.provincia-piacenza.it/turismo](http://www.provincia-piacenza.it/turismo)

# Map of Piacenza





- 1 Rocca d'Olgisio
- 2 Castell'Arquato
- 3 Vigolo Marchese
- 4 Veleia Romana
- 5 Chiaravalle
- 6 Bobbio
- 7 Vigoleno
- 8 Rivalta
- 9 Monte Penice
- 10 Lago Moo
- 11 Trebbia
- 12 Po
- 13 Villa Verdi

#### THE MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF PIACENZA

AGAZZANO	GROPPARELLO
ALSENO	LUGAGNANO
BESENZONE	MONTICELLI
BETTOLA	MORFASSO
BOBBIO	NIBBIANO
BORGONOVO	OTTONE
CADEO	PECORARA
CALENDASCO	PIACENZA
CAMINATA	PIANELLO
CAORSO	PIOZZANO
CARRANETO	PODENZANO
CASTELL'ARQUATO	PONTEDELLIO
CASTEL S. GIOVANNI	PONTENURE
CASTELVETRO	RIVERGARO
PIACENTINO	ROTTORENO
CERIGNALE	SAN GIORGIO
COLI	PIACENTINO
CORTE BRUGNATELLA	SAN PIETRO IN CERRO
CORTEMAGGIORE	SARMATO
FARINI	TRAVO
FERRIERE	VERNASCA
FIorenzuola	VIGOLZONE
GAZZOLA	VILLANOVA
GOSSOLENGO	ZERBA
GRAGNANO	ZIANO PIACENTINO

# The territory



The medieval village of Castell'Arquato

Four roads start from Piacenza in the direction of the four most important valleys, which descend from the Apennines to the river Po, cut and divide the territory of the province. Going from east to west, we encounter the basins of Val d'Arda, Valnure, Valtrebbia and Valdolone.

In the large territory of Val d'Arda (whose main centre is the small town of Fiorenzuola), particularly rich of historical and geological finds (Stirone River Park, the Museum of Archaeology at Castell'Arquato and the fossil-bearing erosion furrows of Lugagnano and Bacedasco) it is important to remember: the medieval village of **Castell'Arquato**, probably the best preserved in the entire region of Emilia Romagna, with its fifteenth-century Palazzo Pretorio, the twelfth-century Romanesque collegiate church, the fourteenth-century Visconti fortress and the sixteenth-century Farnese keep; the hillside village of **Vigolo Marchese**, with its eleventh-century Romanesque church and the



The romantic church in Vigolo Marchese

adjacent round baptistry dated 1008, whose baptismal font was made with a Roman capital of the age of the empire;

the archaeological centre of **Veleia**, an important Roman settlement from I to V century b.C., found in 1760, after the discovery in 1747 of the Tabula Almentaria Traiana, the most complete Roman inscription on bronze ever unearthed, dated II century b.C., a sort of land register.

In the direction of Carpaneto, there is **Gropparello** castle, dated VIII century: inside there is the first Emotional Park, parco emotivo, in Italy, "Fairy Tales Park".

Opera lovers may like to visit Giuseppe Verdi's villa in **Sant'Agata** of Villanova sull'Arda, where the composer spent most of his life and wrote his most significant works.

The most interesting place to visit in **Valnure** is **Grazzano Visconti**, a perfect reproduction of a medieval village, built at the beginning of twentieth century by Count Giuseppe Visconti di Modrone, around the fourteenth-century Visconti castle.



The castle of Vigoleno

metres above the river Stirone, with its twelfth-century castle and the church of San Giorgio, which boasts a fine slanting doorway, decorated with Romanesque sculptures. Still in Val d'Arda, at about ten kilometres from Lugagnano, it's

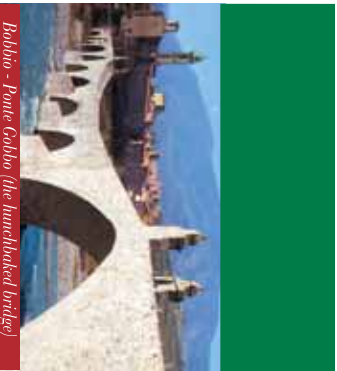


Veleia



Grazzano Visconti

The entire valley, from Pontedell'Olto to Bettola and Ferrere shows beautiful landscapes. The **Valtrebbia**, besides its natural beauty, which concurred in making it famous all over Europe - with the river Trebbia and its almost unspoilt tributaries Avello, Boreca and Cassingheno - is well-known for the artistic centre of **Bobbio**, with its Benedictine Abbey a real beacon of culture in the dark years of Middle Ages, founded in the seventh century by the Irish monk Colombano, who died and was buried here.



*Bobbio - Ponte Gobbo (the hunchbacked bridge)*

The present church was rebuilt in the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries, but still retains the beautiful Romanesque bell tower and remains a mosaic floor, whereas in the adjoining Museum, are architectural and sculptural fragments of the original building, as well as a rich Treasure, plus sculptures and paintings, most of them of Lombard school. Always in Bobbio, we suggest to visit the Romanesque Cathedral and the bridge over the river Trebbia, called “ponte gobbo” (the hunchbacked bridge), with its eleven irregular arcades and Roman and medieval elements. For those who wish to follow a different itinerary of great natural beauty and historical interest, Valtrebbia shows more beautiful surprises, such as the village and the castle of Rivalta (XI-XV century), the castles of Statio and Moncchiaro, as well as the thick chestnut, spruce and beech woods and the breathtaking view which opens up from the little church at the top of mount Penice (1467 m.), well-known for the winter sports. The **Valtidone** is the most western



*Bresella - The Castle*

valley of the province and it is well known for its gentle and verdant hills covered in vines, its ancient little villages and several castles; outstanding among them, **Rocca d'Olgisio**, which rises on an overhanging rock spur overlooking the valley, not far from Pannello. Place of charm and rare beauty, a legend says that it dates back to the sixth century, even if the first information dates 1073.

It is open to the public and can be visited on appointment, as well as the other eight castles belonging to Associazione Castelli del Ducato di Parma e Piacenza (for information: Tel. 0521/829055 and 823221), which assembles the most beautiful and best preserved fortresses and castles of the Dukedom, where lived Farnese, Landi and Rossi families. Among the several fortresses of the area-including the close Val



*Olgisio Castle*

Luretta-the castles of Borgonovo, Seminiò, Agazzano, Momeliano, Rezzanello and Lisignano, with its moat, deserve to be mentioned. In these traditional places, it is easy to find little and delightful restaurants, which offer the typical dishes of local cuisine; among the first courses, try *amolini in brodo*, *torrelli con la coda* and *pisarei e faso*; among the second courses, try roast duck, roast veal shank, *picola di cavallo* and tripe; among the desserts, try almond cakes, *castagnaccio*, called *pattona*, *bustanet*, tasty little ring-shaped biscuits and the traditional jam tart.



All the courses are served with the wines of Piacenza hills, eighteen qualities DOC, such as the excellent red Gutturnio and the white wines **Monterosso**, **Ortrugo**, **Trebbiano** and **Malvasia**.

Salumi (cured pork meats) of Piacenza are justly renowned because produced in a genuine way, respecting the traditional uses and they are the necessary course of every meal; they are three – *coppa*, *salame* and *pancetta* – and they have deserved the D.O.P. mark from European Union, which assures a controlled production and seasoning, following strict rules, with a selection of ingredients.

It is strongly suggested to try the typical cheeses, like Grana Padano and provolone Valpadana, both DOC products.

