

Italian Wind Parks

TRAVEL GUIDE

INTERACTIVE MAPS,
INFORMATION IN ITALIAN E
IN ENGLISH ON [PARCHIDELVENTO.IT](https://parchidelvento.it)



LEGAMBIENTE

Italian Wind Parks

TRAVEL GUIDE



LEGAMBIENTE

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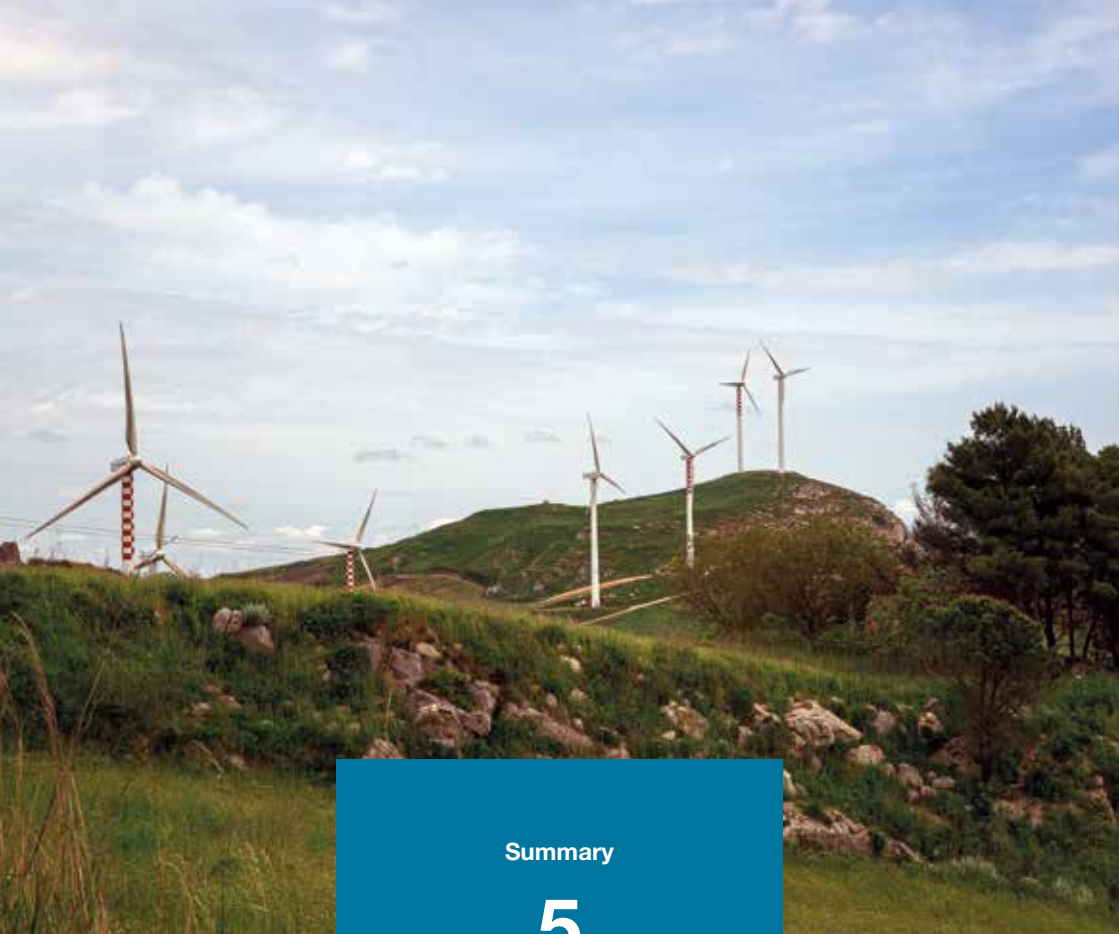
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Tourism and use of
wind parks in the world



Poggi Altì
wind park,
Scansano
(Grosseto)

Italian Wind Parks Travel Guide

A guide to discover unique and little-known territories, that are today one of the most interesting laboratories for the energy transition. The idea of a tourist guide for the wind farms in Italy was imagined to give the chance to visit closely these modern machines that generate energy from the wind and to discover some truly beautiful areas, off the beaten track of the more frequented tourist routes. Renewable sources are the best way to finally free our energy production from dependence on coal, oil and gas, which are responsible for the climate change. But an important issue we have to face is how to integrate these sources into the landscape, especially in countries like Italy, rich in cultural and environmental resources.

The eleven wind farms chosen by Legambiente show that these challenges can be addressed and resolved with the support of local communities and that it's possible to find innovative and interesting

Fortore molisano wind park,
Pietracatella, Monacilioni,
Sant'Elia a Pianisi, Macchia
Valfortore (Campobasso)



ways to enhance local resources. From the morainic hills of Verona to the Fortore of Molise, to the heights and hills of Tuscany, Liguria and Abruzzo. The journey crossing these unique landscapes can be done on foot, by bicycle or by horse along new and old pathway, like those used by the shepherds undertaking the yearly transhumance, cycle paths or local roads. Already today, along these routes, we can encounter tourists and sports lovers, both Italian and foreign, as well as school groups. It is the fascination of these grand and modern turbines to generate energy from the wind, situated among the mountains and forests and the gentle hills cultivated with wheat, but also the marvellous views stretching from the mountains to the sea, that draws people to them.

In the pages of the guide, you can find all the information on how to arrive at the different places and organise a weekend, on the wind farms and on the routes and tracks that criss-cross through them, suggestions for where to eat and sleep, the more or lesser-known places to discover, together with the stories and anecdotes in the descriptions of the areas recounted by Giuliano Malatesta. Many ideas to organize a trip to discover the small town where Sandro Pertini was born, or to visit the one that became famous because of the wind farm and ended up on the front page of the New York Times, or one of the most famous installations of land art in the world, as well as trails that pass through historical sites of the second world war.

La Rocca
wind park,
Pontinvrea
(Savona)



The website parchidelvento.it is in Italian and English due to the growing interest regarding these wind parks, both onshore and offshore. This guide is the first in the world about wind park tourism. There are many which, from New Zealand to Copenhagen, are visited every day by tourists by boat or on foot, and which are organised to meet the growing curiosity concerning these installations and the changes underway in tourism, of people increasingly in search of new experiences and discoveries. It is a work in progress, the wind farms will continue to increase over the coming years, and the aim is to present other experiences able to show that the climate challenge can be overcome if we choose a cleaner and distributed energy generation that enhances the different areas, their resources and strengthens local communities.





Fortore molisano wind park,
Municipalities of Pietracatella,
Monacilioni, Sant'Elia a Pianisi,
Macchia Valfortore (Campobasso)





WIND PARKS IN ITALY: **lands to discover**

WIND PARK

Rivoli veronese

Province of Verona



The Park, opened in 2013, consists of four 2 MW turbines with a total capacity of 8 MW. It enjoys a particular location from an orographic and landscape point of view being on the “crest” of the last glacial moraine of the Val d’Adige, and by following its walking tracks you have views of Lake Garda and the plains of the province to the Alps. The arid pastures of the area are home to protected orchids that were introduced and are maintained and protected.

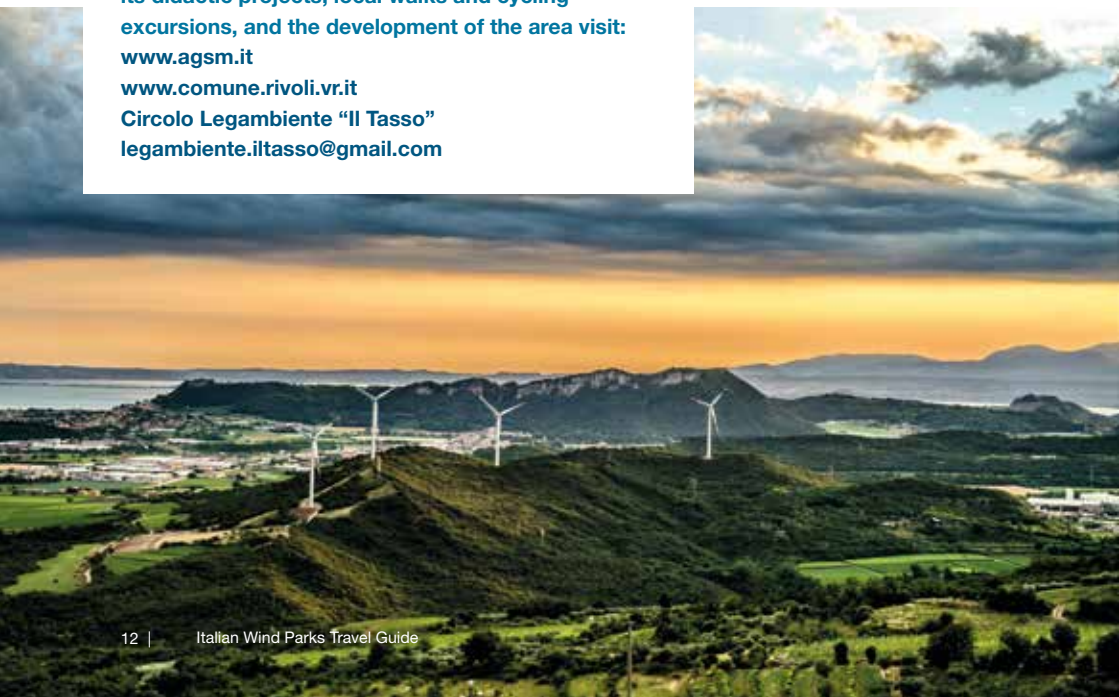


For further information on the wind farm and its didactic projects, local walks and cycling excursions, and the development of the area visit:

www.agsm.it

www.comune.rivoli.vr.it

Circolo Legambiente “Il Tasso”
legambiente.iltasso@gmail.com





Where to sleep

Azienda Agricola Sol de Montalto

www.soldemontalto.it

Cason Degli Ulivi

Locality Cason Degli Ulivi, 4
37010 Rivoli Veronese (VR)

Villa Serego Alighieri

www.seregoalighieri.it



Where to eat

Azienda Agricola Sol de Montalto

www.soldemontalto.it

Groto de Corgnan

www.grotodecorgnan.it

Ristorante Bonaparte

www.ristorantebonaparte.com



Places

Museo Napoleonico

www.napoleonbonaparte.eu

Monte Baldo

leviedelbaldogarda.it

Percorsi ciclabili

www.comune.rivoli.vr.it

Valpolicella

www.valpolicella.it

Villa Serego Alighieri

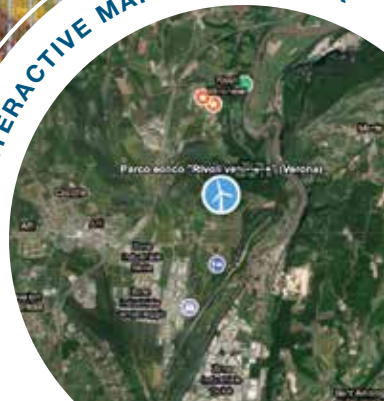
www.seregoalighieri.it

Villa Della Torre

www.villadellatorre.it



VISIT THE INTERACTIVE MAP OF THE PARK



Vineyards and bicycle paths, flowering gardens and a Mediterranean climate. Lakes on one side and mountains on the other. Nestling in a fascinating morainic amphitheatre formed by the great glaciation that involved the Alps, Rivoli Veronese is in a special location, at the end of the Adige Valley, the gateway to the Po Valley plain and the Mediterranean basin. It is a geographic position that has marked the historical rhythm of this small village of little more than 2,000 inhabitants 25 kilometres from Verona.

Where the wind reigns. The night wind, that becomes stronger in the early hours of the morning due to the rise temperature, is called the Pelèr, finding a natural funnel along the Adige Valley. In the mornings of high pressure, it can reach a wind speed of up to 14 metres per second. The same wind that, in addition to giving life to the wind farm, has made Lake Garda famous for many sailors and surfers. Who knows if Napoleon Bonaparte was aware of this when, in January 1797, during his first Italian campaign, he launched a decisive attack against the Austrian army at Rivoli Veronese, resulting in the French conquest of northern Italy. A battle of such importance that it is remembered in Paris with the Rue de Rivoli, a central street of the Right Bank a stone's throw from the Louvre. And in this village in Veneto, with a museum dedicated to the "small corporal".

Overlooking the Adige Valley, a short trip from Lake Garda, surrounded by mountains, the Lessini Mountains on one side, mount Baldo on the other, the area around Rivoli is a paradise for hikers and sportspeople. As well, it is a traditional holiday destination for both Italians and foreigners. Lovers of windsurfing have Lake Garda to practise their acrobatics, but remembering a simple but basic





rule – in the morning there is the wind from the north, in the evening from the south. While enthusiasts of trekking and nordic walking can find extensive trails that follow the crests of Mount Baldo (from the German *wald*, forest). A magic place already known in the 1500s as “*Hortus Italiae*”, the Garden of Italy, due to its biodiversity, it hosts 20 different habitats of Community Interest and more than 2000 plant species, and spectacular blooming flowers. For the less active, you can arrive at 1,760 metres by taking a modern cable car, and then lose yourself, admiring the marvellous panoramic views of Alto Garda.

However, in this area, the bicycle reigns supreme, thanks to a series of well-marked paths, mainly protected and suitable for all. As well, the *Ciclovia del Sole* – The Sun Route as it is called by foreign tourists – passes Rivoli. It is the most famous national cycle route, and a part of the EuroVelo 7, the European bicycle itinerary that links North Cape to Malta. Therefore, it is a must to climb on a bike and cycle the little more than 20 kilometres connecting Rivoli to the town of Verona. It is a pleasant cycle and walking path that runs along the Biffis Canal, passing old fortresses that recall the Austrian dominion and historical locks that, to a lesser degree, bring to mind that extraordinary hydraulic engineering work that can be seen in France along the Canal du Midi. However, there are many other interesting bicycle itineraries. From Rivoli, for example, you can choose to easily cycle to Bardolino, on Lake Garda – famous for its *chiaretto* wine – and then continue along the lake front to finally reach Peschiera del Garda. The more energetic can then go on further, linking up with the Mincio track, destination Mantua, following one of the greenest and longest highways of Italy.

Going back to Rivoli, it is truly worth visiting Mount Mesa and the wind farm - there is a bicycle track especially built linking up with the existing Adige Valley cycle way. Here, the desire to generate clean and renewable energy using an inexhaustible source such as wind has admirably blended in with the need to safeguard this first-rate natural heritage and protect its biodiversity. Mount Mesa is a site of Community Interest due to the many wild orchids found growing in its arid meadows.

"We are in an extraordinary natural environment, where you can observe very rare floristic species and some endemics", explains Raffaello Boni, President of the Legambiente Club of Baldo Garda, which, thanks to an agreement, manages the protection and safeguarding of the site. But not only. In another agreement with AGSM, a didactic trail has been built here, with information boards, following the crest of Mount Mesa, as well as a programme of guided visits for schools. In this "laboratory-territory", as the geographer Eugenio Turri had renamed it, students have the opportunity to tackle topics of great geological, historical and naturalistic interest.

However, we do not live alone on sport and clean energy. And in this area, there is no lack of temptation. One, almost obligatory, brings us to Valpolicella, the hilly area of Registered Designation of Origin (DOC-DOCG) reknown for its viticulture since Ancient Roman times. It is, therefore, almost a must to spend a day wandering about the vineyards and cellars, tasting Amarone, the most famous product of the area, a full-bodied but elegant wine matured in wooden vats for at least two years, or trying a glass of Recioto, one of the best Italian passiti wines. As well, it's worth paying a visit to some of the splendid 16th century villas scattered along the hills.





One not to miss out on is Villa della Torre, owned by the Allegrini wine producers, in the small village of Fumane, a jewel of Renaissance architecture constructed based on the inspiration of the country estates of Ancient Rome. Some historians have attributed it to being built by Giulio Romano, the architect of the Gonzaga family. There is a courtyard with a peristyle, a marvellous hall of mirrors, an exhibition of masks and a figurative and extravagant decoration on the four enormous fireplaces designed by Giovan Battista Scultori, a great friend of Giulio Romano.

Another visit should be to Villa Serego Alghieri, where we find the oldest wine cellar of the Valpolicella still in operation today. Wine has been produced here since at least 1353, when Pietro Alghieri, the son of a certain Dante (yes, the Dante), acquired land in Gargagnago di Valpolicella. The villa is not open to the public, but the historical vineyard can be visited with wine-tastings. In the area, there is also another place worthy of a stop, the tiny village of San Giorgio di Valpolicella, on the list of the most beautiful Italian villages and rising around the Pieve, one of the most important churches of the Verona Romanesque period. Situated on a small outcrop, on the clearest days you can enjoy an expansive view to the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines. Descending to the valley, it is highly recommended to make a stop at the Groto de Corgnan, the best restaurant in the area, managed by the New Zealander Judy Harman, settling here, being captured by the local smells and tastes. You cannot leave without trying the classic Amarone risotto or one of the other amazing dishes which are accompanied by the black truffles of the Lessini Mountains.



Rivoli veronese
wind park,
Province of
Verona



WIND PARK

Cinque stelle

Municipality of Stella (Savona)



The Park consists of four 800 kW wind turbines with a total installed capacity of 3.2 MW. The first three turbines went into operation in 2007, the fourth in 2011.

The Municipality of Stella is a part of the Comunità Montana del Giovo and the Regional Natural Park of Beigua.



For further information on the wind park, its uses and information services, which has won different awards for sustainability visit www.ferasrl.it





Where to sleep

Locanda Costa Otto.Zero

www.costa8punto0.com

Agriturismo Gocce di Luna

Via Pecorile, 190
17015 Celle Ligure (SV)

Casa Vacanze "A me ca picita"

Frazione San Martino, 170
17044 Stella (SV)



Where to eat

Locanda Costa Otto.Zero

www.costa8punto0.com

La Girotta

Via Michelino Pippo, 14
17044 Santa Giustina Italia, Stella (SV)

La Capannina

Locality Roviato Superiore, 128
17044 San Giovanni, Stella (SV)



Places

Casa-Museo Sandro Pertini

www.assopertini.it

Alcova di Napoleone

www.napoleonsites.eu

Museo Napoleonico di Villa Scarzella

www.napoleonsites.eu

Albisola Marina - passeggiata degli Artisti

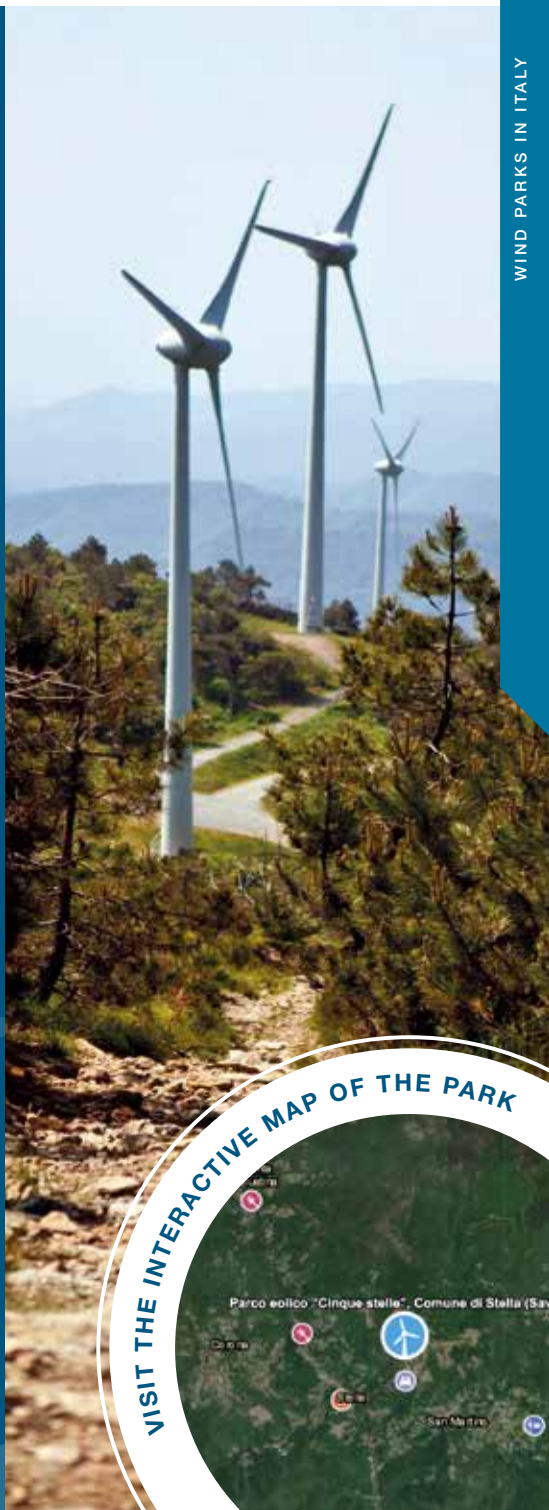
www.museodiffusoalbisola.it



Itineraries

Escursioni in bicicletta

www.cinghialtracks.it



VISIT THE INTERACTIVE MAP OF THE PARK

Parco eolico "Cinque stelle", Comune di Stella (SV)

Celle Ligure

San Martino

A vibrant wooded hinterland, quite unknown and underestimated. With the sea in the background, and quickly forming clouds – sometimes too quickly – and a succession of mountains marking the rhythms of time. Welcome to this corner of the province of Savona, in this land between the sea and the mountains where small villages struggle to survive and testify to the memories of the past. The Municipality of Stella is one of these. Wedged between the Comunità Montana del Giovo and the Beigua Regional Natural Park, it is immersed in an extremely verdant landscape, a small paradise for walkers and hikers wishing to explore the area.

In this part of Liguria, if your preference is for higher altitude hiking, there is more than 550 metres of trails in the Beigua Park, from nordic walking to snowshoeing in winter. However, you can also choose to start directly from the coast, from Varazze, renowned to have the best waves for surfing in Liguria, and trek through an area represented by the diversity of this part of the coast. You pass through olive groves and pine forests, encountering some prehistoric Liguri settlements and, finally, ascending you enter the beech woods to reach the peak of Mount Beigua (1289m.). Where your strenuous climb of over 1,330 metres will be fully repaid by the fantastic views to the Corsican Alps, with Genoa almost below at your feet. It's not a difficult track, but you need to be careful of the wind from the sea, which can rapidly and unexpectedly bring in sea fogs.

“Via del Vento”, an unusual and interesting





itinerary by bicycle (or E-bike), organised by the young people of the association Cinghial-tracks (there are still no signposts, so it is advisable not to attempt it alone if you are not a local), connects the Adelasia Park, the Deiva Park and the Stella area. The track crosses an uncontaminated area where we find the four wind farms of Naso di Gatto, La Rocca, Cinque Stelle, and Valbormida. The Stella farm, is considered among the most innovatively constructed in Italy, winning the Klima-energy Award for being able to harmonise infrastructure with environmental protection.

Speaking of history. If you are visiting these areas, do not miss the place where the most popular President of the Republic in Italian history was born. Near the centre of Stella, we can find the house of Alessandro “Sandro” Pertini, owned by the regional government and is now a museum open to the public, managed and maintained by the Sandro Pertini Association. “The President was born and grew up here until 10 years of age, when his mother sent him to Varazze, to a Salesian boarding school, where he attended the intermediate school and the first two years of high school. He then finished his studies in Savona”, recounts Elisabetta Favetta, President of the association which, in September every year, organises a commemorative candlelight procession. In 2016, to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the birth of Sandro Pertini, President of the Republic, Sergio Mattarella, also made a visit to Stella.

The museum can be visited by appointment and does not only describe the life of this great man, but also a piece of Italian history. That

concerns all Italians. There are photographs with Turati, Parri and Carlo Rosselli that document the daring escape by motorboat in 1926 from Italy to Corsica. Then his move to Paris and Nice, where Pertini lived for a couple of years taking different odd jobs to get by. There are the years of his life in prison, and in one room there is even the bed where he spent his last days – built by a carpenter of Genoa based on the model he had slept on in the Regina Coeli prison -, and photographs with 20th century politicians, from Andreotti to Craxi to Saragat. However, we can also find less institutional and more personal recollections, faithfully recounting the figure of Pertini – his unforgettable pipe collection, his beloved bocce, his lawyer tools of trade from when, for a short time, he opened a legal office in Savona, later to be destroyed by the Fascists, or his famous coats with the Italian tri-colour sown inside, because you can be both a Socialist and the Father of your Country.

Then, there are also the few books that survived the German fury and, of course, the reminders of the legendary *scopa* card games, including the “world championship” with Zoff, Causio and Bearzot, even if it is said that he almost never won. “In Stella, my village” – he used to say justifying himself – “we play differently”.

Leaving the village of Stella, not before having tried the famous fresh cheese, a local goat's milk cheese of peasant tradition, it is worth heading towards the sea and making a stop at Albisola marina, the traditional ground of artisan potters who have combined the pro-





duction of local goods of historical tradition with the artistic fervour of the contemporary. Rebaptised by Marinetti as “Libera Repubblica delle Arti”, Albisola is a true open-air museum, well known also abroad for its so-called “passeggiata degli artisti”. A sort of huge mosaic, 660 metres long, made up of 20 panels created in the early sixties by local and foreign artists attracted by the place’s fame, including names such as Lucio Fontana and Giuseppe Capogrossi. The route was completely rebuilt in 2000 by the municipality and, on that occasion, a 21st panel was inserted in the pavement, a tribute to Asger Jorn, the Danish painter who lived for a long period on the Riviera.

In the years between the late sixties and early seventies, Albisola was also known for an historical night club called Pozzo della Garitta. A popular place for the youth of Genoa, always in search of somewhere to enjoy themselves far from prying eyes. Amongst the frequent visitors, there were also two unrepentant and, at that time, inseparable friends, Fabrizio de André and Paolo Villaggio, who enjoyed themselves their way, presenting improbable and improvised cabarets where they invented off the top of their heads popular folk songs or apocryphal partisan songs. A classic of their repertoire was Mariun: “e la ciamavan la Mariun - e l’ era un gran puttanan - però l’ amor faceva - sol col partigian” (And they called her Mariun, and she was a great prostitute, but she made love only with the partisan). Laughing and drinking until the first light of dawn or when they had run out of breath. Memories and stories of the 21st century.

WIND PARK

La Rocca

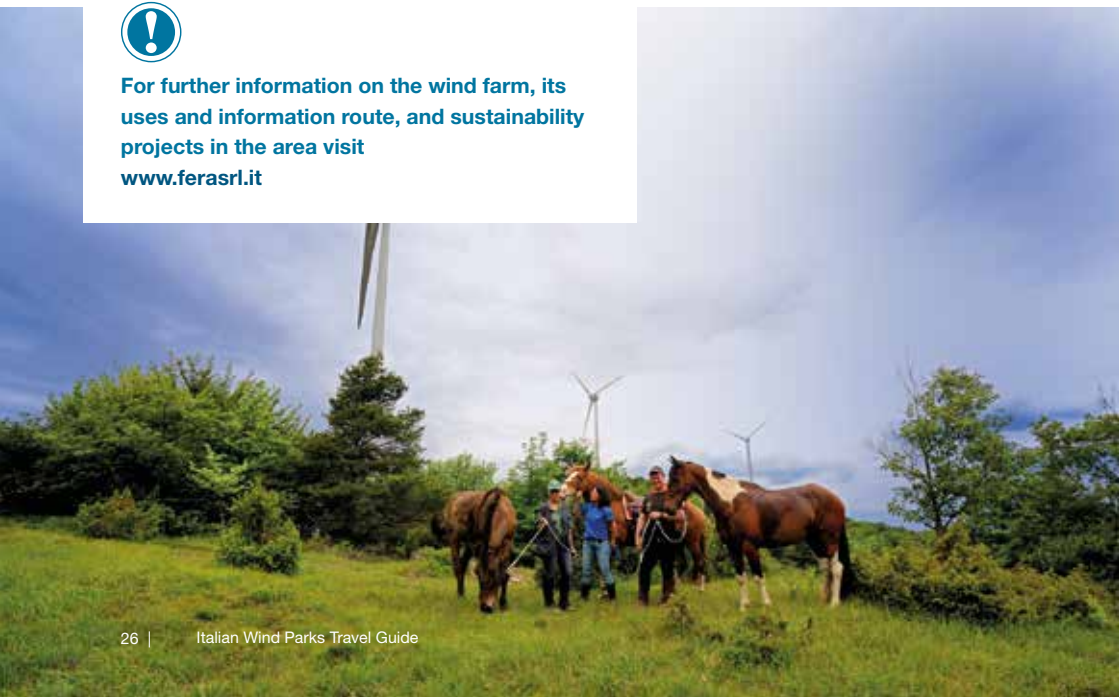
Municipality of Pontinvrea (Savona)



This Park has four 800 kW wind turbines with a total installed capacity of 3.2 MW. It became operational in 2008 taking its name from the Rocca della Ghingherina, a rocky peak on the Liguria-Padano watershed which is situated in the area of the wind farm. The area is mostly meadowland and is surrounded by a beech forest. Information boards about the wind farm and the surrounding environment accompany visitors along a guided route.



For further information on the wind farm, its uses and information route, and sustainability projects in the area visit
www.ferasrl.it





Where to sleep

Rifugio La Sciverna

Locality Bandite, 5
17046 Sassello (SV)

Agriturismo La Sorba

Locality Assorba 1
17046 Sassello (SV)

Rifugio Monte Beigua

www.beigua.it



Where to eat

Ristorante La Pineta

Via Giovio, 25
17042 Pontinvrea (SV)

Ca del brusco

Locality Piano, 1
17046 Sassello (SV)

Rifugio Monte Beigua

www.beigua.it



Places

Parco Beigua

www.parcobeigua.it

Vanni Oddera - Mototerapia

www.vannioddera.it

Amaretti Virginia

www.amarettivirginia.com

Scuderia del Vento ASD, gite a cavallo

Via Zotto (432,37 km)
17042 Pontinvrea (SV)
www.facebook.com



VISIT THE INTERACTIVE MAP OF THE PARK



Hills, beech forests, pastures, farmhouses, ancient settlements, streams. The Regional Nature Park of Beigua is a wonder of nature, the largest regional protected area of Liguria situated astride the Apennine watershed, between the provinces of Genoa and Savona. Some of its landscape brings to mind, in due proportion, areas of the Rocky Mountains. If it were not for the fact that here we are in the Ligurian Apennines and, therefore, not far from the sea, that “dark sea that also moves at night and never remains still”, as sung by Paolo Conte. At one time, a sacred mountain for the Liguri, today it is known as the “Other Riviera”, due to its princely position - a verdant balcony from mountains overlooking the sea and merging nature, history, culture and ancient traditions.

Recognised since 2005 as an international Geopark and on the list of the European Geoparks Network, the Beigua Park is a place to explore well and slowly. On foot, by bicycle or by horse, following the numerous trails that link the towns and villages of the coast and the valleys with the mountain peaks, remaining a comfortable distance from the hustle and bustle of nearby civilisation. There are over 500 kilometres of trails criss-crossing the area, allowing visitors to admire the natural, historical and cultural beauties of the park, walking along mountainous crests just a stone's throw from the Riviera. A beautiful panoramic itinerary at high altitude, easy to handle, begins from Prato Rotondo (1100 m.), near the summit of Mount Beigua, where you find the refuge of the same name and the park's information point. From here, following the indications for the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri, the path arrives at a prominent rock outcrop where you can find one of the most spectacular views of the entire coastline, from Levante to Ponente. Continuing on a sloping though





apparently flat ground along the Liguria-Piedmont watershed you reach the Miners' House, a former refuge for those working at extracting iron, today a refuge for hikers, then going through the Faiallo Pass, you climb the Pozzo peak and, finally, arrive at the Argentea Refuge, which is on the summit of the Pian di Lerca summit, in one of the most spectacular stretches of the Alta Via. Restored by the Beigua Park Entity, the refuge was opened in 2014 and is presently managed by the CAI (Club Alpino Italiano) of Arenzano.

Those, instead, who would like to undertake something a bit more adventurous than a simple walk, have an embarrassment of choices. Overhanging rocky ridges and walls lend themselves to the sport of rock-climbing. Right next to the wind farm you can train on a specially equipped rock gym, on naturally "studded" walls or also test yourself with the extreme sport of bouldering, rock-climbing on rock masses without any type of equipment. Biking enthusiasts have six MTB trails available to them (only for the very fit) and two bicycle routes for road bikes. While for the lovers of rafting, they can launch themselves into canyoning in the torrents that rush through the narrow gorges. The choice will also depend on the time of year. If in spring and summer, it is pleasurable to embark on Nordic Walking – there are six trails, of which it is worth mentioning the panoramic track through the Deiva Forest -, in winter, it is highly recommended to strap on snowshoes and set off on one of the five marked trails that cross the park. Instead, in autumn, when nature turns to preparing itself for winter, it is a must to wander through the beech forest's foliage, when the green forests of the Beigua become a kaleidoscope of warm colours – different hues of brown, dark red, and yellow that seems to be orange.

Descending from Mount Beigua, you can choose to make a pleasant stop at Sassello, already known in medieval times as a centre for iron-working, and today is one of the most economically active centres of the Savona hinterland. The first Italian municipality to obtain a *bandiera arancione* (orange flag) from the Touring Club, in Sassello, among other things, you can go porcini mushroom hunting or buy the historical *amaretti* (macaroons), the emblem of Sassello pastries. It was a certain Signora Getrude who, in 1860, invented for her own home consumption - she had a small tavern - the recipe of this soft pastry using local products, bitter almonds and apricot kernels. After, given the unexpected success of this unique round-shaped sweet and its bitter aftertaste, the first local sales began, followed by a modest fame overseas due to the migrants who had been forced to move away for work but still remembered the sweet. Then, finally, in the early 1900s, the first international recognitions arrived from the International Expositions of Paris in 1911 and Madrid in 1914. Thus, after the war, many of these artisan workshops became modern factories, contributing to transforming Sassello into a thriving confectionary district. From Sassello, it's worth making a last stop at Pontinvrea where, from 2008, the La Rocca wind farm has been in operation, taking its name from the Rocca della Ghingherina, a rocky peak on the Liguria-Padano watershed which is in the wind farm area.

Just outside Pontinvrea, there lives an international star of freestyle motorcycling, one of those crazy sports that involves the death loop at more than a height of 20 metres, releasing your hands from the handlebars with the same ease that a normal person would use when parking your car. His name is Vanni





Oddera, and he was born and grew up in this area and now lives in an old farmhouse with ten hectares of surrounding land, fields and oak forests, a little paradise where he has built his own personal training park, with ramps, tracks and gangplanks for bikes. In this mountain hamlet of the Ligurian hinterland, where his family owns an historical inn, La Pineta, Vanni Oddera is known by all. For his acrobats with his KTM, for his way of being rather frank and a little eccentric, for his lifestyle, years touring the world - competitions, women and worldliness -, but also for having created for more than ten years Mototerapia, bringing joy and a glimmer of hope into the lives of many disabled children. In an agreement with Gaslini, the paediatric hospital of Genoa, in 2012, he set up the "Freestyle Hospital" project, introducing motorbikes into the paediatric-oncological wards. A project which has become international. And in full lockdown, in 2020, he launched with a team of experts "Mototerapia Take-away", a parallel initiative that led to bringing motorbikes directly to the homes of the children, with a tour that covered a large part of the Italian peninsula. "I wanted to overturn the idea that doing good is for losers. And the kids have a blind faith in me. When they see me in my bike suit, they think I'm a super-hero", recounts Vanni Oddera, who at 12 years old discovered he was afflicted by Kartagener's Syndrome, a rare genetic disease that results in a mirror-image reversal of the internal organs. The doctors told him that he would have had to be careful even walking downstairs, but it didn't exactly go that way. Notwithstanding 26 broken bones. And dizziness. "I keep my eyes fixed on the bike so as not to look down", he says with conviction. A bit difficult to believe him.



La Rocca wind
park, Municipality
of Pontinvrea
(Savona)



WIND PARK

Naso di Gatto Municipalities of Savona, Cairo Montenotte and Albisola



WIND PARK

Valbormida Municipality of Cairo Montenotte

These two parks in the Savona area have four wind-powered turbines of 2.3 MW and six turbines of 800 kW, respectively. The area is of great interest and historically important. The turbines have been installed in a woodland area criss-crossed by the trails of the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri.



For information on the installation and didactic paths visit

www.ferasrl.it (project Naso di Gatto)

www.ferasrl.it (project Valbormida)





Where to sleep

La casetta di Kamma e Niels

www.casettamontenotte.com

Palazzo K

www.palazzok.com

Casina Miera in Cascina

www.cascinamiera.it



Where to eat

Ristorante Quintilio

www.ristorantequintilio.it

Ristorante La Bruschetta

www.labruschettaristorante.it

Bar trattoria Laura

Viale della Libertà
17014 Ferrania (SV)



Places

Ferrania Film. Museum

www.ferraniafilmmuseum.net

Museo dell'Arte vetraria Altarese

www.museodelvetro.org

Riserva naturale Regionale Adelasia

www.provincia.savona.it



Itineraries

Alta Via Monti Liguri

www.cailliguria.it

VISIT THE INTERACTIVE MAP OF THE PARK

Marvellous medieval hamlets, old farmhouses and vast forests that seem to oversee the region with a stern gaze. Climbing up through the Bormida Valley from the sea, the expectations that you traditionally associate with this Apennine alpine area are confirmed. But there's more. Travelling on towards Cairo Montenotte, you come across what remains of 20th century industrial archaeology that played an important role in this valley. Railcars, spectacular coal cableways, today abandoned, above Savona, which from the port transported fuel, or cotton, to San Giuseppe di Cairo, passing over 17 kilometres of forests (at the time, the longest cableway in Europe) and that now have become an integral part of the surrounding landscape.

To better understand the industrial history of these places you must make a stop in the main town of the Bormida Vally, Cairo Montenotte. With its graceful historical centre, colourful houses and remains of the 14th century walls. For some years now, inside its Palazzo Scarampi, we can find the elegant headquarters of the Ferrania Film Museum, in memory of an important Italian company, Ferrania, a leader in the production of photo-sensitive materials for photography, the graphic arts, radiography and, of course, the cinema. The materials and artefacts on show highlight the association with Cinecittà, with the Ferrania logo prominent throughout the neorealism period, and they also remind us that the first Italian film in colour, "Totò a colori" by Steno, was filmed in Ferrania-color. A low-sensitive film, it was used to illuminate scenes four times more than those in black and white, and for a short season Ferrania became a sort of training ground for many beginner directors, from Giuseppe Rotunno to Vittorio Storaro. "Ferrania was the pride of the valley. In the early sixties it provided work for about 4,000 people, and a further 2,500 indirectly", recounts, with a touch of nostalgia, Alessandro Béchis, ex-employee of the factory and President of the Ferrania Film Museum Association. For two generations, the company represented much more than just a traditional workplace, embodying the typical traits of the inclusive town/factory, providing workers with housing, a cafeteria, recreational clubs,





places for leisure activities, a cinema and a library. The consciousness of this grandeur was symbolically reflected in the Ferrania red neon sign (after Ferrania 3M). Installed in 1962, it was 36 metres long, with the letter F seven metres high, and they say it could be even seen from the highway.

Acquired by the American multi-national 3M in 1964, Ferrania included in its real estate assets also the Adelasia Nature Reserve – a sort of compensatory contribution in a highly industrialised area –, a beautiful private expanse of nature in the Bormida Valley of the Cairo Montenotte area, taken over in the early 2000s by the province of Savona. A green lung of the Ligurian Ponente, home to wild animals and monumental trees, a sort of biodiversity paradise. And, therefore, an ideal place for an excursion or a short-day trip to discover a Liguria almost forgotten.

Within the Adelasia Reserve, listed on the “Sites of Community Interest”, we find the Cascina Miera refuge. At one time, an environmental education centre, that Ferrania, in the 1990s, restored in order to organise evenings with its employees to get in touch with nature. Today, it is a stopover on the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri route, the 430 km walking track that connects the extremities of the Ligurian Riviera from Ventimiglia to the Province of La Spezia, as well as being a central point for all the trails that criss-cross the park. An excellent way to discover the natural beauties of this valley, is to entrust this experience to the association Cinghialtracks, a group of Valbormidesi friends with a passion for cycling and the environment, and who voluntarily maintain the trails and organise excursions of different difficulty, also by E-bike, given that the Apennine ridges in these parts are not particularly gentle. The classic tour of the park begins from the parking area that is the access to the reserve, and after a short stretch arrives at the Miera refuge. The path continues on to the panoramic outlook of Rocca dell'Adelasia, passes by Napoleonic trenches, farmhouses of the valley of 'rowboats', the Olmo cave and, finally, arrives at the area near where the famous monumental beech trees are found, the highest rising up to over 40 metres.

At the end of the walk, you can also visit the old hamlet of the Abbey of Ferrania, a medieval commandery dating back to the 11th century, then later becoming the palace of the Marquises of Scarampi and De Mari.

Moreover, from the Adelasia Park you can reach by bicycle the wind farms of the area - Valbormida, located in a beautiful beech copse, and Naso di Gatto on Mount San Giorgio, stretching across three bordering municipalities (Savona, Cairo Montenotte and Albisola Superiore). From here, you can rejoin the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri or begin a new tour to discover the Napoleonic routes. A little curiosity. Don't be surprised if during one of these excursions in the reserve you hear more than one person mentioning the legend of Aleramo and Adelasia, the daughter of Otto I of Saxony, who fled from the ire of the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and landed after a long journey in a small bay on the Ligurian coast, which was given, in honour of the princess, the name Alaxia, today's Alassio. The story is a part of the local folklore. The legend was also taken up by Giosuè Carducci in an article in 1893 published in the Nuova Antologia.

There is an added reason that makes this trail literally "historical". Here, in this part of the Savona hinterland, the young and still little known General Bonaparte defeated, in the April of 1796, the Austrian and Piedmontese troops in the famous Battle of Montenotte - "my nobility arises in Montenotte", commented Napoleon - marking the beginning of the Italian Campaign. Of course, not much remains today, but following the path there are still some reminders. For example, in the Adelasia Park, where you can still see some trenches in the area of Bric del Tesoro, or on Mount Negino, from whose summit there is an excellent panorama to Corsica, where, on 11 April 1796, Napoleon Bonaparte won his first battle, changing the course of European history. For those who wish to continue in the steps of Napoleon in the Savona area, where it all began - the Battle of Loano in November 1975 is held to be so symbolic and strategic that it is immortalised on the Arc





de Triomphe in Paris –, a European Union project was set up creating a long itinerary linking Liguria, Tuscany, Sardinia and Corsica.

The more sporting and fit can also undertake the more demanding Aleramico tour by MTB of at least two days that begins from Monferrato descending to the Ligure di Ponente Riviera, passing through often wild environments, far from any traces of civilisation. The fantastic bikepacking trip starts from Acqui Terme, a spa centre already well-known in Roman times, crosses the watershed between the Erro and Bormida valleys, enters the beech forest of the Adelasia Nature Reserve, climbs up to join the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri and, finally, surrounded by Mediterranean bushland finishes at Finale Ligure. For a dip into the sea and some well-deserved rest.

Remaining in the area, another place worth visiting is without a doubt the village of Altare, a small medieval jewel situated near the Colle di Cadibona where, in a splendid liberty-style building with the name Villa Rosa, built in the early 1900s under Art Nouveau specifications, we can find the Museum of the Alta Vetraria Altarese. In this small centre of the Ligurian hinterland, glassmaking – glass objects, for pharmacies and artistic purposes – is an ancient tradition introduced by a Benedictine community that brought master craftsmen from the north of France. From medieval times, the glassmaking “à la façon d’Altare” has not only been a part of the economic and social life of the town but also, thanks to the migratory flows of Altaresi glassmakers, it has spread all over Europe, bestowing fame and prestige on the village. Still today, glassmaking is one of the most important productive resources of the entire Bormida Valley.

After visiting the museum, it would be a real pity to let the opportunity slip by to dine at Quintilio, the fantastic inn a stone’s throw from Villa Rosa, where the two owners, Lorena and Luca, cook the traditional Ligurian-Piedmont dishes, with a touch of explosive eccentricity. The wine cellar at the very least deserves a visit.

WIND PARK

Vento di Zeri

Municipality of Zeri (Massa-Carrara)



The Park consists of five 2 MW VESTAS V90 wind turbines with a total installed capacity 10 MW. It is situated on Monte Colombo at an altitude of between 1,100 and 1,300 metres. It is in the Municipality of Zeri in Lunigiana bordering on the province of Parma. The area is characterised by beech and chestnut forests and mountain meadows and pastureland.



For information on the wind farm visit
www.ferasrl.it





Where to sleep

Mulino Marghen

www.mulinomarghen.com

Agriturismo Alla vecchia scuola

Fraz. Castoglio di Rossano
54029 Zeri (MS)

Hotel Gran Baita

Locality Passo dei due Santi Zum
54029 Zeri (MS)



Where to eat

Qui come una volta

Locality Noce di Zeri
54029 Zeri (MS)

Mulino Marghen

www.mulinomarghen.com

Osteria della Luna

Via Pietro Cocchi 40
54027 Pontremoli (MS)

Locanda Pizzeria Km Zeri

Locality Patigno
54029 Massa



Places

Agnello di Zeri

www.fondazioneSlowFood.com

Comprensorio sciistico Zum Zeri

www.zumzeri.eu

Museo della Stampa a Fivizzano

www.museimassacarrara.it

Montereggio - città del libro

www.visittuscany.com



Itineraries

Alta Via Monti Liguri

www.cailliguria.it



Villages scattered through the valleys, the silence of the mountains, accompanied by breath-taking landscapes, the rhythms of a bygone life and bizarre local stories. Climbing the road from Pontremoli to Zeri, in the upper Lunigiana, where chestnut forests slowly give way to beech woods as you go higher, you have the sensation of entering a mysterious land, where even the regional identity, quite strong elsewhere, becomes increasingly less so. What's more, the village, as maintained by the oldest inhabitants here, does not exist. It is a collective name, that would not be out of place as a title in the collective works of the Wu Ming writers. It is actually a series of small localities, each with its own story, that together make up a sort of dislocated municipality that has always kept its native character, due to its inaccessible geographical position, nestling in three valleys (Giordana, Rossano, Adelano) and surrounded by Liguria and Emilia. "Zeri eats its own bread and dresses in its own skin", it was once said, to underline its autarchical economic situation. Grain, chestnut flour and livestock breeding. Except for a bit of tourism, it hasn't changed much since then.

The typical Apennine features of Zeri make it a perfect place for walkers. With an infinite series of splendid trails, many dating from medieval times, also suitable for mountain bikes. Taking the road that arrives at the Rastrello Pass, which marks the border with Liguria and the Alta Val di Vara, you can join one of the stretches of the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri (AVML), the 430-kilometre route linking the extreme ends of the Liguria Riviera, from Ventimiglia to the province La Spezia. In this part of the trail, the Alta Via more or less faithfully follows the ancient "Via Regia", the main trade route in the past linking Emilia, Tuscany and Liguria. Instead, to have an idea of how harsh life was in these areas, you can follow the old mule tracks of the transhumance. Taking the best-known stretch from the village of Noce, you can





reach the ridges of Mount Rosso arriving at Formentara, an old alpine farmhouse with a “piagne” roof (sandstone tiles), the typical stone of the Lunigiana. Dating from the 16th century, it is now deserted, but until the fifties it was a camp for the transhumance shepherds, who journeyed here in the good seasons with their sheep and remained until the end of November, when it was time to go back down into the valleys. Near the village, there is a dirt road that takes you to Mount Colombo, where we find the wind farm, or you can rejoin the main road and arrive at the Due Santi Pass, where there is the Zum Zeri ski area between Granducato di Toscana and Ducato di Parma. From here, the view of the Gulf of La Spezia and the Cinque Terre is truly spectacular.

In this area, the acknowledged product of excellence is, of course, Zeri lamb, certified by Slow Food. It is a locally bred ovine, the *zerasca*, living in the wild, quite recognisable due to its large horns. “It is a very particular species of the Apennine sheep, in danger of extinction”, tells Cinzia Angiolini of Slow Food, who together with other livestock farmers created, in the early 2000s, a consortium to promote Zeri sheep and lamb. She would have been content to paint them but, instead, ended up becoming a shepherdess. You can easily see her on the roadside between La Dolce and Rossano, conversing with her animals. She has 380. Some, the older ones, inherited from her father’s farm, she still calls by name - Adelina, Natalina, Filippa. The lamb meat of Zeri is considered especially tasty. Lean, sweet, aromatic but without any gamey traces. In keeping with the traditions here, the lamb is cooked in *testi* - a sort of cast iron portable oven (at one time in terracotta) - shaped like a low wide pot placed over a fire made from wood bundles and hot coals. A slow and long process, that is well-suited to the silence of these mountainous lands.

The classic image of Lunigiana, a little postcard-like, is

of a village perched at the foot of a castle which dominates the valley. Therefore, once here, it is worth at least a day to wander through the villages of this land of mountain passes. Amongst the more interesting villages, Fivizzano is certainly worth visiting. Renamed the “Athens of the Lunigiana”, due to a story of ancient humanistic tradition. This village, at one time, had been a coach stop along the Via Nuova Clodia, and you can still see the walls commissioned by Cosimo de’ Medici, and where Jacopo da Fivizzano from 1470 to 1474 set for the first time the font to be used to print the texts of Giovenale, Virgilio and Cicerone, before cities, such as Vienna or Oxford. As well, in Fivizzano, in the early 19th century, Agostino Fantoni invented the first typewriter. The Museo della Stampa, located inside Palazzo Fantoni Bononi, pays homage to the ties between Lunigiana and printing.

Speaking of books. In Lunigiana, there is the small locality of Montereccio (Municipality of Mulazzo) which today is known as the town of books – the only Italian town included on the World List of Book Towns and has a fascinating story to be told. In 1815, its inhabitants, hit by a serious agricultural crisis, in order to survive became itinerant booksellers. They were illiterate, recognising the books by their colours and pictures, but this did not stop them from heading out with panniers loaded with books visiting towns and cities across the centre and north of Italy. This trade, at the beginning little more than a way to survive, expanded during the Risorgimento, when some of them became almost smugglers, bringing from France Carbonari books prohibited by the Austrian censure. With the passing of time, in the early 20th century, some booksellers began to establish themselves in the town, first selling from street stalls (from this, the famous Bancarella Prize, awarded to booksellers), and then setting up bookshops. Nowadays, the village, whose streets are named after the great Ita-





lian publishers, has a population of 20 or so individuals. It becomes lively again in August when the “Festa del Libro” (what else?) is held. However, in the north of Italy, there are still booksellers who carry the names of those early families.

To bring the circle to a close, and end this long editorial-literary journey, nothing remains but to head towards the sea, in the direction of the Gulf of the Poets, where in the second half of the fifties there occurred the most extraordinary Italian retreat of the 20th century. In Lerici, in the old part of the town, Valentino Bompiani had a house, a villa that had numerous appendages added to it and where an entire community was housed, amongst others, many writers, from Moravia to Eco. From here, after a little less than 4 kilometres, in the little village of Tellaro, which overlooks the sea, we find the home of Mario Soldati. The Piedmontese writer arrived here following in the steps of an elusive travelling trunk of Lawrence’s which was purported to have contained who knows what unpublished manuscripts. Of course, he was never able to find it, but Soldati fell in love with the place that then you could only reach by sea, and never left. The last stage of the triptych brings us to Bocca di Magra, a small village on a river which in the sixties became a favourite refuge of intellectuals. A type of Einaudian fiefdom, where you could have encountered Vittorio Sereni writing poetry under a pine tree, Vittorini eating at the famous tavern of Sans Façon or Mary McCarty on the river’s bank absorbed in composing a letter to her friend Hannah Arendt. The group of writer friends also tried to have a town plan approved, drawn up by the architect Giancarlo De Carlo (father of the writer Andrea) to block the first attempts at speculation, but in vain. The wicked irony of Luciano Bianciardi was ferocious in the form of a rhyme. It began: “Arise my friends! In a horde, let’s defend the cliffs!”

WIND PARK

Carpinaccio

Municipality of Firenzuola (Firenze)



Opened in December 2012, the wind park has 17 800 kW wind turbines with a total capacity of 13.6 MW. The project is situated in an Apennine area with views looking over the ridges and forests of the Mugello. The farm has a didactic route for school groups and visitors.



For further information, visit

www.agsm.it

www.parco-eolico-carpinaccio.it





Where to sleep

Piccola Firenze Hotel

www.hotelpiccolafirenze.it

Green Park Le Caselle

Via Bruscoli Fratte, 1015 - 50033 Firenzuola (FI)

Campeggio La Futa

Via Bruscoli Futa, 889h - 50033 Firenzuola (FI)



Where to eat

Antica Osteria di Nandone

Via Del Gogo, 3 (254,52 km)
50038 Scarperia e San Piero (FI)

Trattoria Bar Bibo

Via Traversa, 454 - Loc. Traversa Passo della Futa
50033 Firenzuola (FI)
www.facebook.com/TrattoriaBarBibo

Ristorante Passo della Futa dal 1980

Via Traversa Futa, 1492 - 50033 Firenzuola (FI)
www.passodellafuta.com

Ristorante Da Jolanda

Via Traversa, 351 - 50033 Traversa (FI)

Ristorante La Rocca

Piazza Agnolo 3 - 50033 Firenzuola (FI)
laroccaristorante.net

Bar Lelli

Via Pietramala, 676 - 50033 Pietramala (FI)

Cooperativa Agricola Firenzuola

Via S. Antonio, 2 - 50033 Firenzuola (FI)
www.centrocarnimugello.it

Macelleria da Baldi Renzo

Via Nazionale, 28 - 50033 Covigliaio, Firenzuola (FI)



Places

Museo della Pietraserena

www.comune.firenzuola.fi.it

Cimitero tedesco

kriegsgraeberstaetten.volksbund.de

Parapendio

pietramala.org

Via degli Dei

www.viadeglidi.it

Tour ville mediche

www.mugellotoscana.it

Palazzo Alidosi

www.museoguerralineagoticacasteldelrio.it



VISIT THE INTERACTIVE MAP OF THE PARK

The wide variety of landscapes, with its famous mountain passes and mountains descending to the plains, the ancient hamlets, the typical fauna of the Apennines, the superb Medici residences and those elegant shades and soft colours that so much influence Giotto Di Bondone, simply known as Giotto. For once, lose yourself in the gentle and undulating hills and the “flame willow trees that in the afternoon, with their tongues of light guard the ramparts” – the words of Walter Benjamin. There is another piece of Tuscany that is worth exploring. For some, less grand than other more aristocratic places, but just as fascinating. And certainly, more original, just as the inhabitants, likeable grouchies.

Welcome to Mugello, a mysterious corner north of Florence, surrounded by the Casentine forests, the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines and the Prato plain, considered by many as a type of non-place, to be quickly passed through on the Florence-Bologna tollway. Hoping that the weather will not be too bad. You cannot be more mistaken, because the Mugello area is a natural paradise, to be fully explored. On foot, along the trails of the Gothic Line, or by bicycle. Or maybe following the different thematic routes recounting the history of places. The latter includes, depending on your time, “Il Cammino delle Terre di Giotto e Dante”, a 149-kilometre route to be done in stages that rigorously traces the itineraries of Giotto di Bondone, born in these parts, in Vicchio, and of Dante, who stayed in the Mugello especially during his long period in exile.

However, first and foremost, it is the land of the Medici family, who from here set out to conquer Florence. If you are an enthusiast of the political intrigues of 16th century Italy, then it is certainly worth taking a tour of the Medici villas which testify to the signs of their eternal grandeur. Especially not to be missed is Palazzo Vicari and Villa Cafaggiolo, a Renaissance jewel (today priva-





tely owned) situated at Barberino del Mugello. On the UNESCO World Heritage List, the villa, designed by the architect Michelozzo in about 1450 and commissioned by Cosimo il Vecchio, was Lorenzo the Magnificent's favourite place.

Climbing to the Upper Mugello, the part of the area that looks towards Romagna, where the landscape is more rugged and the traditions more embedded, you arrive at Firenzuola where, on Mount Carpinaccio, we find the wind farm, overlooking a valley crossed by the Santerno River. It is not by chance that it is one of the more sought-after areas for paragliding enthusiasts, who gather here to launch themselves, even at night, lighting a fire and using it as a point of reference. The wind farm, which came into operation on December 2012, is 3.6 MW of electric power, sufficient to provide clean energy for approximately 10,000 families. A specific web page updates on the Agsm website in real time wind speed and direction. Along the wind farm there are an educational path that illustrates the technical and environmental peculiarities of the site, and equipped rest area offering the opportunity to rest.

In Firenzuola, “the beautiful town the Santerno bathes, where they speak Tuscan in Romagna lands”, the San Giovanni Battista Church certainly deserves a visit. Destroyed by bombs in 1944, it was rebuilt after the war *ex novo* on the design of the architects Edoardo Detti and Carlo Scarpa following the model of the holy architecture of the 1900s, which perhaps the lovers of Baroque would not appreciate so much. Leaving the town and lifting your gaze towards the mountains, it's easy to see the numerous stone quarries that have sculpted the landscape and where they excavate the distinctive sandstone of the area, elegant and with a special veining feature, that was already used at the time of Brunelleschi to make arches and columns ador-

ning the city of Florence and that, today, is known all over the world. Its fame can also be attributed in part to a very particular person, Steve Jobs. In 1985, forced to interrupt his first period in Apple, Jobs was given a trip to Italy. Arriving in Florence, he bought a bicycle and began cycling around, alone, visiting the local towns and villages, remaining struck by the stones used in the road paving. They were stones of a calming blue-grey, intense but welcoming. They came from the area of Firenzuola. Twenty years later, Walter Isaacson wrote his biography, "he would decide that the flooring of the main Apple Stores would be made from sandstone flagstones coming from the same quarry". Some of his colleagues suggested to reproduce the colour and the grain with cement, also to greatly reduce the costs, but Apple's inventor, naturally, could not be moved. He had to use the grey stone. Still today in Firenzuola, there are many who remember the discussions bordering on obsession with Steve Jobs' designers on the ideal hues and purity of the stone.

However, not all memories are so happy. The Gothic Line cut through this area. The defensive line built by the German army between the summer of 1944 and winter of 1945 which cut the Italian peninsula in two, from Versilia to Pesaro, exploiting the morphology of the Apennines and using the ridges as bastions of resistance to the advancing allies. It was not a continuous line of fortifications, but a series of defence posts positioned at strategic points, such as at the Futa and Giogo Passes, the two main mountain crossings. To rediscover these areas and re-evoked a piece of painful history, you can join one of the historical walks organised by local associations such as Mugello Trekking and Sulla Linea del Fronte! (On the Frontline), that take you on a tour of the bunkers, defence posts and tunnels used by the respective armies. Reaching the summit of the Futa Pass, also a stop on the well-known trekking





route “La via degli dei” (The Way of the Gods) which connects Bologna to Florence, you must not miss a visit to the German military cemetery, a monument to the memory of the more than 30,000 German soldiers who died during the allied offensive and whose bodies were recovered from provisory graves in more than 2,000 municipalities. Completely built out of the grey stone of Firenzuola, it is a particularly moving place without being at all self-aggrandising, more similar to a place of meditation, perfectly blending into its surrounds, rather than a traditional cemetery. During the summer, theatrical events are also organised here with views over the Apennines.

Last but not least. In these areas, you don't only come in search of reliving the past or for breath-taking panoramas, but also to taste what is considered the best Florentine steak in Italy. And here, it's worth knowing beforehand, you should not joke about it. We are not speaking of just any old cut of meat, but of an excellence that recalls the tradition and identity of Tuscany. Some have said its origins even go back to the Medicis (them again!). Whatever the truth, this is the realm of the *bistecca alla fiorentina*. Of course, to be only cooked on the grill and eaten *al sangue* (rare). Otherwise, as the Tuscans say, “it's better to eat chops!”.

There is no shortage of places where you can try it and everyone you ask for a suggestion will whisper to you that they know the perfect place. Always different depending on who you ask. We suggest the Antica Osteria di Nandone, in the locality of Omomorto, along the road which from Scarperia climbs towards the Gogo Pass, listed by The Telegraph some years ago as among the 13 best places in the world to eat meat. There is one warning posted in clear view, in an ironic vein on a blackboard inside the restaurant - “Vegans stay away!”.

WIND PARK

Santa Luce

Province of Pisa

Opened in 2012, the park has 13 1.8 MW wind-powered turbines with a total capacity of 23.4 MW. It is located in a woodland area, criss-crossed by roads and walking tracks.



For further information visit
www.edison.it





Where to sleep

Locanda La Gazzetta

www.lagozzetta.it

Agriturismo Le Valli

Via Comunale di Terricciola, 18
56030 Collemontanino (PI)

Agriturismo Il Gelso

Via Citerna 8
56040 Pomaia (PI)



Where to eat

Agriturismo Podere Il Fornacino

www.podereilfornacino.org

Locanda La Gazzetta

www.lagozzetta.it

Bagno Ausonia

Lungomare Vespucci
57016 Castiglioncello (LI)



Places

Centro Studi Buddista

www.iltk.org

Riserva Naturale Santa Luce

www.lipu.it

Flora - lavanda

flora.bio/it

Azienda Agricola Villa Magra

azienda-agricola-biologica-villa.business.site

VISIT THE INTERACTIVE MAP OF THE PARK



“Be careful. In this village, the children still play in the streets”, says a sign at the entrance to the village of Santa Luce, a small medieval hamlet situated at the end of the hills of Pisa, and where you can still see the remains of the fortress and parts of the village walls. It is a typically Tuscan area, where agriculture has been transformed into an urban landscape. Or, as some architecture journals would describe it - rural urbanisation. Hundreds of year-old olive groves, rows of grape vines, grain fields. You cannot find any unfarmed land in these parts, because everything is grown here. From farmers, they have become, over time and out of necessity, also producers. As the mayor, Giamila Carli tells, “We are a people of ingenious farmers. The classic Tuscan farmer lives here who through hard toil has created the miracle of a production of excellence”. Being increasingly attentive to organic and, more in general, sustainable farming. The local products are the traditional ones – pasta, wine, oil, but not only.

If we follow the dirt road that enters the vast woodland area, we can find the largest wind farm in Tuscany. It is surrounded by roads and tracks that, at one time, were used for harvesting wood and today is the domain of mountain bikes (though you will need to be fit as the trails are corrugated, in Spain called *rompepiernas*). You can easily come across ancient breeds of pigs, whose historical traces can even be found in a famous Sienese fresco, “Gli effetti del Buon Governo in campagna” by Ambrogio Lorenzetti. They are from the *cinta Senese* livestock farm of the Sienese Massimo Cantini, who after having bought in the 1980s an abandoned farm in the forest, over the years has established, with the help of his family, the agricultural company of Villa Magra. “We began as olive farmers and then became pig breeders. We now also do the processing and mar-





keting of the cinta Senese pork”, he explains, a breed that was at risk of extinction and which must be bred in a wild, or semi-wild state, and pasture-grazed”. The latest news of the family, managed by his son Jacopo, is farm-camping, still being built but will be incredibly unique – you will sleep in original *yurtas*, the traditional Mongolian round tents with wooden frames, imported specially from Ulan Bator. Except that instead of eating *buuz*, Mongolian ravioli often filled with mutton, you will have to be content with superb cinta Senese cold cuts.

However, Tuscan resourcefulness does not only stop at agriculture, even if the land still remains a focal point. For some years, these hills have been magically changed into a perfumed corner of Provence, with fields of grain converted into those of lavender. Thanks to the intuition of Rosario Rizzi, a Neapolitan transplanted in Tuscany, President of Flora, a company that produces high quality essential oils and herbal products, all organically certified. “Lavender is a Mediterranean panacea which combines well with wheat” – he explains – “we began 5 years ago with an experiment and today we have 20 hectares and 6-7 companies cultivating lavender”. The “valley of the perfumes”, as the valley has already been renamed, is becoming a fashionable place to visit, to the extent that 2 years ago, before Covid radically changed our lives, a Festival of Lavender was organised in mid-June, with conferences, shows, theatre and the involvement of all the village. From this experience, amongst the local businesspeople, there has grown an awareness and willingness to work together, combining their efforts. “We have established a network of different companies in 6-7 municipalities, with the aim of working on a tourism experience” - explains Rizzo – “For example, the restaurant owners will have to guarantee one organic

meal a day and hotels offer a courtesy kit of ecological bathroom products. The idea is to promote the region's excellence and also to stimulate change from the bottom up, starting with our visitors".

Where this slow tourism is concerned, it is worth mentioning the Santa Luce Regional Reserve, with a lake constructed by Solvay in the sixties as a catchment area. The lake, privately-owned, is not suitable for swimming, but the reserve has been managed by LIPU (Italian Bird Protection League) since 1992 and, in 2009, became a Site of Community Importance (SCI). A paradise for birdwatching, numbering about 200 different bird species, the area is an ecological corridor on the migratory routes for the large gliding birds that arrive in spring and leave again at the end of summer. On the weekends, you can visit the reserve following a 2-kilometre nature trail in part along the lake shore, or participate in one of the many activities organised by LIPU which, other than carrying out a conservation and protection role, also organises events, courses and workshops for young people, which are quite popular.

Instead, few visitors from outside would imagine that nestled in these rolling hills for more than 40 years, there is a special refuge - Lama Tzong Khapa Institute, a Tibetan Buddhist centre of the *mahayana tradition*. Three young people from Milan who had embarked on the hippy trail to Nepal in the portentous seventies, decided on their return home to launch themselves into a new adventure. Considering the climate of that time, it should have been something quite similar to a commune, or a *mandala*, but it has turned into one of the most important Buddhist centres in Europe (the gossip, even present in religious circles, recounts that even Richard Gere and Roberto Baggio were visitors here). Loca-





ted in the village of Pomaia, part of Santa Luce, the study centre hosts a monastic *sangha* (community of practising Buddhists) and a mixed group of students and trainees coming from all over the world who attend lessons in philosophy, meditation and a Master in Neuroscience, in collaboration with the University of Pisa. Moreover, soon, after an arduous and long bureaucratic road lasting more than ten years, we will finally see, in the area of a former quarry also visited by the Dalai Lama in 2014, the largest Buddhist centre in Europe, with a monastery, temple and library.

From these Tuscan hills, you must, of course, make a trip to Castiglioncello on the sea, no more than 15 minutes away by car. This small fascinating point over the sea was made famous by some scenes set there during the making of the film *// Sorpasso*, by Dino Risi, a modest film which ended up recounting a generational story of an entire season of the seventies, outlining different aspects with surgical clarity – the illusion, cynicism and a disastrous collapse. The meaning of life. From then, Castiglioncello has not greatly changed, especially the old part of the village, where the last villas were built before the war – the most bizarre being the modernist architecture of Villa Celestina -, even if the beach of Sorpasso, the one where at night you could enjoy “the open air and a ceiling of stars”, no longer exists, washed away by the sea currents. However, if you are a little curious about the film, you could always visit the lido, where the historical owner, the 90-year-old Edda Lami, full of energy and the talkativeness of a 20-year-old, the historical memory of the village, will certainly know how to satisfy your curiosity. In at least five languages. She is still learning Russian.

WIND PARK

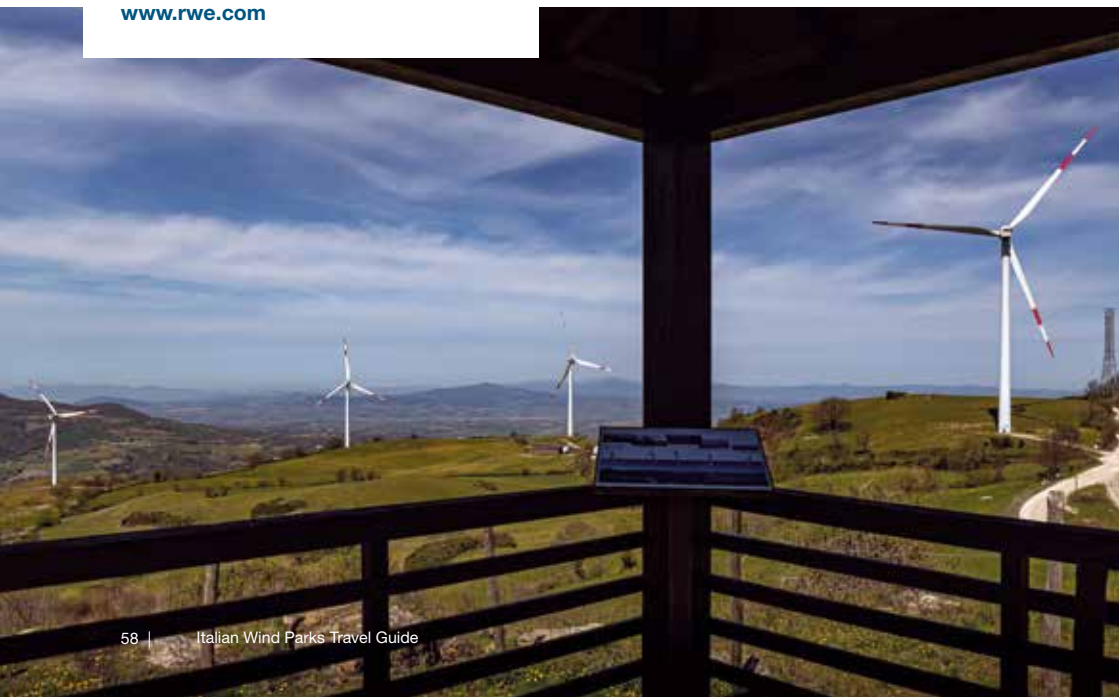
Poggi Alti Municipality of Scansano (Grosseto)



Opened in 2007, the park is made up of 10 2 MW turbines with a total capacity of 20 MW. Positioned on hill crests at an altitude of 600 metres above sea level, from the trail with information boards on the farm site, you can enjoy views stretching from the sea to Mount Amiata.



For further information, visit:
www.rwe.com





www.anticocasalediscansano.it

www.agriturismolapoderina.it

Locality Montedonico

58054 Scansano (GR)



Via Guglielmo Marconi, 3

58054 Scansano (GR)

Via del Corso, 10

58054 Montorgiali (GR)

www.dacaino.com



Morellino di Scansano

www.consorzioirellino.it

www.terenzi.eu

www.montemerano.info

www.termedisaturnia.it



www.anticaviaclochia.it



Castles, medieval villages, fortified hamlets and tuff stone towns, built on the tops of tuff outcrops. Here we find the small municipality of Aldobrandino origin – a powerful feudal family dating back to the Longobards who dominated the vast fiefdoms of Tuscany - in this magic microcosm called the Maremma, renowned for its beauty and variety. Bordered on one side by the Tyrrhenian Sea and on the other by the white peaks of Mount Amiata. Where Dante saw, in his *Divina Commedia*, an impenetrable and ominous land, today there are forests, natural reserves, villages, cultivated hills and thermal spa areas. In short, a small paradise which stretches between the provinces of Livorno and Grosseto. With its unique characteristics and its excellence.

The hilly part between the Ombrone and Albegna Rivers crosses the Maremma and has its symbolic epicentre in the village of Scansano, in ancient times famous as a holiday destination for the residents of Grosseto who moved there in mass for the so-called “*estatura*” (summer period), in order to escape the risks of malaria. Meandering through the hills, you will notice that in many parts of the Grosseto Maremma area there are traces of the Etruscan and Roman civilisations. About halfway between the Aurelia and Cassia main roads, 30-40 kilometres from the sea, passes the Via Clodia, a trade rather than military route, that began to develop when the Romans started to expand their power. Today, it's quite difficult to find traces of its elegant basal paving of more than 4 metres wide, but thanks to the thorough work establishing the Tuscan network of walking trails, you can quite easily





follow some of the itineraries along what remains of this mysterious consular road. One of the more interesting routes, to be done on foot or by bicycle (a MTB and GPS is advised), an ideal example of what is offered for tourists in this part of the Maremma, starts from Murci, a tiny locality of Scansano. Following the dirt roads used at one time by the shepherds of the transhumance, you find yourself under the grand turbines of the Poggi Alti wind farm, with its spectacular views of the Tyrrhenian coast. From the farm, you can make a detour towards Pomonte and reach the basin of the Cerreto Plain, where, in the past, could be found one of the oldest mercury mines of the Maremma, or continue along the Clodia to Castello di Montepò, a beautiful fortified medieval villa, that is today owned by a winery that bought the villa from the family of the famous 20th century writer Graham Greene. Moving on, you reach the village of Montorgiali, dominated by its castle, with its typical arched windows. In some points, you can still see the crenels and corbels on which the machicolations were positioned, used for launching stones or firing arrows at assailants.

An alternate to the wind farm route is to turn away from the sea and head in the opposite direction towards the splendid little village of Montemerano, one of the most characteristic in all the Maremma. Built in the 13th century by the Aldobrando family on the highest point of the hill, it deserves a visit even if only to see the scenic Piazza del Castello with its stone houses and typical medieval layout. And, as good aficionados claim, also to sample the

specialities of the legendary restaurant Caino, reign of the Michelin starred chef Valeria Piccini. Just a few kilometres from Montemerano (there is also a good track for trekking enthusiasts), you can immerse yourself in the steamy fumes of the sulphuric waters of the ancient thermal spa of Saturnia, that gush from the earth at a temperature of 37.5 °C. According to one of the numerous legends, it was the god Saturn, who angered by human stupidity, launched a bolt of lightning at the earth creating a crater from which hot vaporous water began to flow. Whether it is true or not, it is, however, a pleasant way to end (or begin) a day.

Of course, this area is also known to be the native country of the famous Morellino di Scansano, a red wine which is one of the acknowledged excellences of the area. Made up of almost 85% sangiovese, it is a wine whose vines have been able to take full advantage of the hills and the sea breezes, dating back to Etruscan times. “A special wine, that does not need to be aged, like Brunello di Montalcino”, recounts Alessandro Sabatini, owner for more than 20 years of the Scansano wine cellar, as well as a sort of adviser for the curious visitors passing through. “This means that you can find very different wines in the same region, from young wines matured for a short period in steel vats, and are therefore low tannin, easy on the palate, to those that have been aged in wood for up to 2 years and become reserve wines”. Originating as a typically Maremma wine thanks to the efforts of a small group of traditional producers, still active today, the Morellino wine over the last 20





years has greatly improved in quality and, in 2007, it was granted the designation of origin DOCG and today is recognised internationally, producing about 14 million bottles per year. And keeps the traditional group of producers together, such as Erik Banti or the Mantellassi vineyard and the new modern vineyards such as those of the Terenzi family, originating from Milan.

Once understood how important the wine industry is for the area, it is not then difficult to imagine that one of the best times to visit the Maremma is in September, when the villages come to life with festivals dedicated to the grape. In Scansano, in the last two weekends of the month, there is the event of the “Festa dell’Uva” (Grape Festival), that has recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, with cellars in the historical centre opening to the public and with the entire town festively decorated in purple. In Pitigliano, in the fantastic *cantine* (cellars) excavated into the tuff rock, the “Settembre di vino” event is organised, with wine-tasting and music to enliven the evenings, while in the village of Manciano, the “Festa delle Cantine” takes place. Here, besides tasting the local wines, it’s worth trying the *ciaffagnoni*, ancient *frittatine* of egg, water and flour, the forerunner of crêpes (sic). The common opinion is that this Maremma recipe, originating in about the 15th century, had circulated around Tuscany, reaching Siena and Florence, and then taken to Paris to the court of Caterina de’ Medici, who went to live in France in 1533 taking her trusted cook with her. However, maybe it would be better not to mention this to our French neighbours.

WIND PARK

Tocco di Vento

Municipality of Tocco da Casauria (Pescara)



The Park is made up of four 800 kW wind turbines with a total installed capacity of 3.2 MW. The project was set up as a *revamping* of the first wind farm constructed in Italy – two 200 kW Riva Calzoni turbines, installed at Tocco da Casauria (Pescara) in 1992. Tocco di Vento is located in a hundred-year-old olive grove that produces the characteristic and highly valued Tocolane olives, with a magnificent view of the Maiella Mountains.



For the development projects for the area, the awards received for sustainability and the international fame of the wind farm visit www.ferasrl.it





Where to sleep

Agriturismo Madonna degli Angeli

www.madonnadegliangeli.com

B&B La casa di Tocco

Via Giuseppe Mazzini, 22
65028 Tocco da Casauria (PE)

L'oliveto

Locality Sant'Anna
65028 Tocco da Casauria (PE)



Where to eat

La Quiete

Via Tiburtina Valeria, km 188/800
65028 Tocco da Casauria (PE)

Marlon

Strada Statale, Via Tiburtina Valeria
65028 Tocco da Casauria (PE)

Villa del barone

www.villadelbarone.com



Places

Terme di Caramanico

www.termedicaramanico.it

Fausto Zazzara

www.spumantifaustozazzara.it

Turismo esponenziale - Cooperativa Il Bosso

www.ilbosso.com

Olio - azienda Giardini di Giulio

www.olitaly.it

Parapendio

www.vololiberotocco.it

Comune Bolognano



Itineraries

Il Cammino di Celestino

www.camminodicelestino.com



Tuff cellars excavated into the rock, hundreds of year-old vineyards, mountain walks and an enviable geographical position, in the point where the Maiella National Park, together with Mount Morrone ends, embraced by the Gran Sasso. Welcome to Tocco di Casauria, a small village in the hinterland of Pescara known as the “the village of the wind” (“touching without selling is like the devil without teeth”, recites a local proverb). It is said that, up to a few years ago, when the weather had still not gone crazy and maintained its regular patterns, in Tocco di Casauria you could be certain to tell the exact time based on the wind’s direction, which, depending on the moment, could arrive from the Popoli Gorges, from the sea or blow down from the Majella.

It is the place chosen for a modern wind farm, one of the very first in Italy, which has contributed to improving the economic life and revolutionised the environmental awareness of its inhabitants. The story of Tocco was made famous in a front-page article of The New York Times in 2010 with the title, “Ancient Italian town has wind at its back”, bringing international fame to the village and resulting in a continual wave of tourists, still today. A small-big green revolution for this village of little more than 2,000 souls where, immediately after the Unification of Italy, the first Italian oil wells were constructed (third in the world after the USA and Romania), when it was discovered that the water table had brought tar to the surface from the depths of the mountain. Today, instead, the story of Tocco is closely linked to renewable energy. “We were the first municipality of under 5,000 inhabitants, and one of the first in Abruzzo, to begin with door-to-door garbage collection. And thanks to the funds from the wind farm we have improved our services without burdening the cost on our citizens, using photovoltaic installations for public lighting,





and we have been the first in our area to begin the digitalisation of the primary and intermediate schools”, recounts the mayor, Riziero Zaccagnini.

However, you can't live by wind alone. To know *Tocco di Casauria* also means mentioning the *toccolana*, a native cultivar that owes its name to its place of origin. It is an olive tree that is well-suited to this micro-climate, where the wind constantly sweeps away any hint of humidity, and which produces a sophisticated extra-virgin DOP olive oil, with bitter and tangy notes, that is one of the local excellences for export. “There are about 80,000 hundred of year-old trees that do not take root in other parts, or do not produce fruit, and that only grow in this small area of Casauria”, explains Stefano Di Giulio, owner of a local farm. He is also one of the promoters of the association bringing together a network of producers with the purpose of adhering to and respecting a single production discipline and, at the same time, combining their efforts around a product that is representative of the area. Just one warning - in Tocco, you do not vulgarly taste the oil on a piece of bread, but you savour it as if it were a glass of champagne. To appreciate the nuances of its complexity and the diversity of its bouquet – from artichoke to cardoon to almonds.

This village buffeted by the wind is also known for its wine tradition and its cellars, often found in ancient tuff caves. Some of these belong to Fausto Zazzera, who has all the right traits to be considered a 20th century figure. A no longer so young civil engineer, for almost 15 years now, he has begun using, at the beginning a hobby, then more seriously, a classic artisan method, using local vine varieties, that could be the envy of the more famous spumantis. The cultivation of the grapes, and the spumanti base, takes pla-

ce on the hills of Crecchio, a medieval village in the province of Chieti. The spumanti vinification, instead, is carried out on an artisanal level (in the true sense of the word, to see is to believe) by Fausto Zazzara in his subterranean cellars in Tocco da Casauria. The largest is a fantastic tuff cellar excavated out of rock dating back to the 15th century and, apparently, a time of the barons of Bonanni d'Ocre, who used to use it as an escape hole. The name of his company renders the idea of the figure quite well. It's called *Majgual* (no two are the same) because friends continued to repeat that the spumanti was optimal, but every bottle was different to the previous one. However, alas, it is about to change its name. He feels that foreigners would not be able to fully understand this sophistication.

And maybe, a good glass of rosé could help to climb the mountain of Tocco and fly with outstretched arms before the wind admiring the village below and surrounding valleys. For a couple of decades now, the area, thanks to its strategic position, close to the massif of Morrone and being open to the sea, has become one of the focal points, also internationally, for paragliding with enthusiasts launching themselves from a natural shelf at an altitude of 600 metres. Instead, to discover the surrounding areas, another opportunity could be to take the "Sentiero della sostenibilità" (Sustainability Trail), a project established two years ago by the cooperative Bosso, specialised in experience tourism (the canoe trip along the Tiri-no River is not to be missed). The 22-kilometre bike trail, well-marked and equipped with information signs, crosses the entire Casauria region. Passing through Tocco da Casauria, you cross the Torre de Passeri, where you must make a stop and visit the nearby San Clemente Abbey, follow the ancient route of the Via Claudio-Valeria – the common opinion





is that the Centerbe, the local highly alcoholic liqueur made from an infusion of healing herbs, was produced the first time within the Benedictine walls – and you arrive at Bolognano, an ancient village perched on a hill overlooking the valley of the Orta River. A place that, other than being the realm of the wine Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, for a long period was an artistic outpost, thanks to the efforts of Lucrezia De Domizio Durini. She was a rather extravagant publisher and lover of contemporary art, known as the baroness, and was able with her creative energy to transform an entire village into an international culture venue. For a long period, the artist and sculptor, Joseph Beuys, also lived in Bolognano. The shaman of art, who, in that small village, found the ideal place to give full reign to his visionary idea of “social sculpture”. In 1999, the municipality dedicated a square to him, “Piazza Joseph Beuys”.

Instead, for the mountain enthusiasts, we advise re-climbing to the Maiella National Park and making a stop, after 20 kilometres or so, at the old thermal spa centre of Caramanico – legend has it that it was Charlemagne's grandson, the monk Caro, who founded the town - where the double healing properties of its thermal waters, sulphur and oligo-minerals, promise miraculous cures. From here, the more energetic can also embark on the trails of the “Cammino di Celestino”, an ideal trip in the tracks of the hermit Pietro da Morrone, the future Pope Celestine V, who chose the Maiella for his journey of faith. The tiring climb will certainly be repaid when you reach the top with magnificent views of the massif of the park and its steep ravines and valleys that climb up to the peak of Mount Amaro. It is really true that this corner of Abruzzo is the same as what they say about the bottles of Fausto Zazzera's spumanti – not one (part) is the same.

WIND PARK

Fortore molisano

Municipalities of Pietracatella, Monacilioni, Sant'Elia a Pianisi, Macchia Valfortore (Campobasso)



The wind park became operational in 2001, with some turbines in the Municipality of Macchia Valfortore completed in 2006. The total installed capacity of the farm is 37.26 MW, with 41 600 kW turbines and 12 850 kW brace-supported turbines, positioned on hills crossed by dirt roads with unrestricted views over the Fortore Molisano and Lake Occhito.



For further information, visit:
www.erg.eu





Where to sleep

Agriturismo Horse's Ranch

Locality Foresta (CB) - 86040 Macchia Valfortore (CB)

Agriturismo Aia Della Foresta

Vico Piemonte, 6 - 86040 Macchia Valfortore (CB)

Hotel - ristorante Miralago

Contrada Vrecellosa - 86040 Macchia Valfortore (CB)

Il Portale B&B

Vico Colle del Rosso IV - 86040 Pietracatella (CB)



Where to eat

Agriturismo Aia Della Foresta

Vico Piemonte, 6 - 86040 Macchia Valfortore (CB)

Ristorante - pizzeria Exagono

Via Kennedy, 15/C - 86040 Pietracatella (CB)

Ristorante pizzeria Twins

Vico Madonna Scala, 8 - 86048 Sant'Elia a Pianisi (CB)

Osteria Dentro le Mura

Via Federico II di Svevia, 3 - 86039 Termoli (CB)



Places

Cammino dei Sanniti

www.tratturocoast2coast.org

Caseificio "Come una volta"

www.caseificioartigianalecomeunavolta.it

Equiturismo De Girolamo

C/DA Macchie - 86044 Colletorto (CB)
occhitoridingholidays.com

Occhito Riding Holidays

www.occhitoridingholidays.com

Museo fuochi di artificio

lastrinacampolieto.wordpress.com

Premio Letterario Nazionale F. De André

www.premioletterariodeandre.com

Molise Cinema

www.molisecinema.it

**Borgi: Pietracatella, Macchia Valfortore,
Sant'Elia a Pianisi, Campolieto**



VISIT THE INTERACTIVE MAP OF THE PARK

Pietracatella, Monacilloni, Sant'Elia a Pianisi, M

Sant'Elia a Pianisi

Monacilloni

Pietracatella

Bleached mountains, rocky landscapes, hillsides gently descending to the sea, hills that look towards the Tremiti Islands. And step by step, moving inland, we find old olive mills, windmills, farms, archaeological sites, such as Saepinum, ancient towns built on Roman foundations, grand castles and small medieval hamlets where time seems to have its own rules. Despite the ironic scepticism of the inhabitants of Molise, there do exist, and many, stories to recount. Some go back to ancestral myths and thousand-year-old mysteries, others tell of the beauty of the region and the pride of its people. A tough people, always used to getting by in some way.

One of the most fascinating but less known areas of Molise is the Fortore Valley, in the province of Campobasso, where a series of small villages are scattered across the hills overseeing the valleys guardedly. Here, when the bora blows, the cutting wind that once powered the windmills, now drives the wind turbines spread out across the crests of the hills overlooking the villages.

This is a land with an ancient history. It is here that, until the 19th century, the drovers used to move their herds from Abruzzo to the plains of Apulia following the seasonal cycles. The transhumance route that, today, you can do on foot or by bicycle following the drovers' trails, green highways formed from the passage and trampling of the herds. One of the better-preserved ones is the *Cammino dei Sunniti*, a modern pilgrimage route of 300 kilometres and divided into 16 stages from Abruzzo to Puglia Garganica, almost entirely following the original *Regio Tratturo Castel Di Sangro-Lucera*. A slow journey, to discover diverse countryside and villages that have kept their traditions alive. One of these carries





the name of Pietracatella, a small hamlet leaning against a *morgia*, the impressive masses of limestone and sandstone that date back millions of years when the sea covered the Apennines. The village, also known for hosting a literary contest dedicated to Fabrizio de André, deserves a visit even if only for the San Giacomo Church, which houses the oldest wooden crucifix in Molise dating from the 13th-14th century. Leaving Pietracatella, a visit to the local dairy “Come una volta” is worthwhile, where you can try km0 super-fresh cheese.

Another historical village is Macchia Valfortore, a place that has ended up in the history books following the “Congiura di Macchia”, the attempted conspiracy by some of the Neapolitan nobility in 1701 to support the Hapsburgs against the Spanish Viceroy, later to be narrated by the philosopher, Giambattista Vico, in the “De coniuratione partenopea”. Perched on a hill surrounded by olive groves and fruit orchards, the village, which marks the geographical border between Apulia and Molise – the Apulian accent can be heard in the dialect, softer and more musical, and its flavours in some of its dishes – overlooks the banks of Lake Occhito. It is one of the largest artificial lakes in Europe, a naturalistic wonder constructed at the end of the fifties for irrigation purposes with funds from the Marshall Plan. Awaiting the go-ahead for an eco-sustainable navigation, today you can walk or cycle around the lake. However, if you have even just a minimum knowledge of horse-riding, we suggest participating in one of the trips organised by Occhito Riding Holidays, an association set up by two local companies. Accompanied by experienced guides you sleep under the stars, learning about the most varied species of mammals and birds and, of course, trying the local traditional products. Speaking

of food. In Macchia, the locals boast of producing the best cavatelli (type of pasta) in the area, the true pride of Molise. “Lighter, and thinner, without using potatoes. So, another thing altogether”, ensures the mayor. It is cooked with fresh tomatoes or turnip greens. Inter-regional contamination always begins at the table.

However, the realm of pasta can be found at Sant’E-lia a Pianisi, another small hill village overlooked by the wind turbines. One of the historical figures of the village is Signora Lucia, who after having sold drinks door- to-door for decades, she turned to catering, and today manages with her family the restaurant-pizzeria Twins, enthusiastically frequented by all the valley. Exuberant, friendly, a chatterbox, if you drop by to find her, other than having cooked *cavatelli* for you, her way, with a sausage sauce, she will certainly regale you with some unusual and entertaining stories about the young Padre Pio, who for a period attended the Capuchin Monastery in the village. The traces of the saint of Pietrelcina appear to be found in almost more places than those purported to bars Hemingway frequented. If, instead, you are in search of something unusual, you will find something curious in Campolieto, where for a few years now, in the ethno-anthropological museum, a Museum of Artificial Fireworks has been set up. It has a permanent exhibition, “Disegnare nel Cielo”, that exhibits objects from the fireworks laboratory of Francesco Paolo Paradiso, 19th century master of the art of pyrotechnics. From Campolieto, in 20 minutes, you reach Casacalenda, a village of 2,500 souls where history encounters the contemporary. Walking through the medieval centre, with its little churches and glimpses of the green valley below, you suddenly find yourself in front of the permanent works of the open-air museum of Kalenarte. Arti-





sts such as Hidetoshi Nagasawa, Adrian Tranquilli, Claudio Palmieri and Costas Varotsos have left their creations here. However, it is in the summer that Casacalenda turns into a large open-air cinematographic stage. For 19 years now, the Festival Moli-seCinema has taken place here, with a programme of short films, documentaries, feature films, retrospectives, exhibitions and meetings, transforming the squares and narrow streets of the village for a week. Thanks to the success of this event, the old cinema has also been reopened, proof of how small centres can be relaunched through cultural initiatives.

Instead, for those who have had enough of wandering around the hinterland, and have a sudden desire for sea breezes, we advise you head to nearby Termoli. A former fishing village where you can eat the delicious *pappone*, an old recipe eaten by fishermen's families and traditionally cooked directly on the boats. Also here, nearly everyone has a more or less mythological story to recount. Whether it's true or has just been passed down from one person to another in an old tavern is not so important, it's all part of the game. The oldest myth tells that Termoli was founded by Diomedee, one of the main heroes of the Trojan Wars, then later founder of Adriatic civilisations. Growing old, he took refuge on the Tremiti Islands and, on his death, Aphrodite, moved by compassion for the pain of his companions shocked by the death of the valiant commander (according to Virgil it was for revenge), she transformed him into sea birds with wide wing spans (*diomedee*), famous for their funerary lament very similar to that of the sailors crying for their hero. A story, also recounted in a scene from "8 e ½" by Federico Fellini.



Fortore molisano wind park,
Municipalities of Pietracatella,
Monacilioni, Sant'Elia a Pianisi,
Macchia Valfortore (Campobasso)



WIND PARK

Santa Ninfa Municipalities of Gibellina, Salaparuta, Santa Ninfa (Trapani)



In operation since 2007, the park has 38 850 kW turbines with a total capacity of 32.3 MW. Positioned on the hills, visitors can enjoy expansive views over western Sicily by following the roads and tracks, also by mountain bike or horse.



For further information, visit
www.rwe.com





Where to sleep

Agriturismo Campoallegro

www.campoallegrosicilia.it

Baglio Borgesati

www.baglioborgesati.com

B&B Il Ficodindia

Strada comunale femmina morta
91029 Santa Ninfa (TP)



Where to eat

Ristorante Castello di Rampinzeri

www.castellodirampinzeri.it

La Massara

Via Vespri Siciliani, 29
91024 Gibellina (TP)

La Pineta

Via Punta Cantone
91022 Marinella di Selinunte,
Castelvetrano (TP)



Places

Riserva naturale Grotta di Santa Ninfa

www.legambienteriserve.it

Parco naturAventura

www.parconaturavventura.it

Castello di Rampinzeri

www.distrettoturisticooselinuntino.it

Cretto Burri

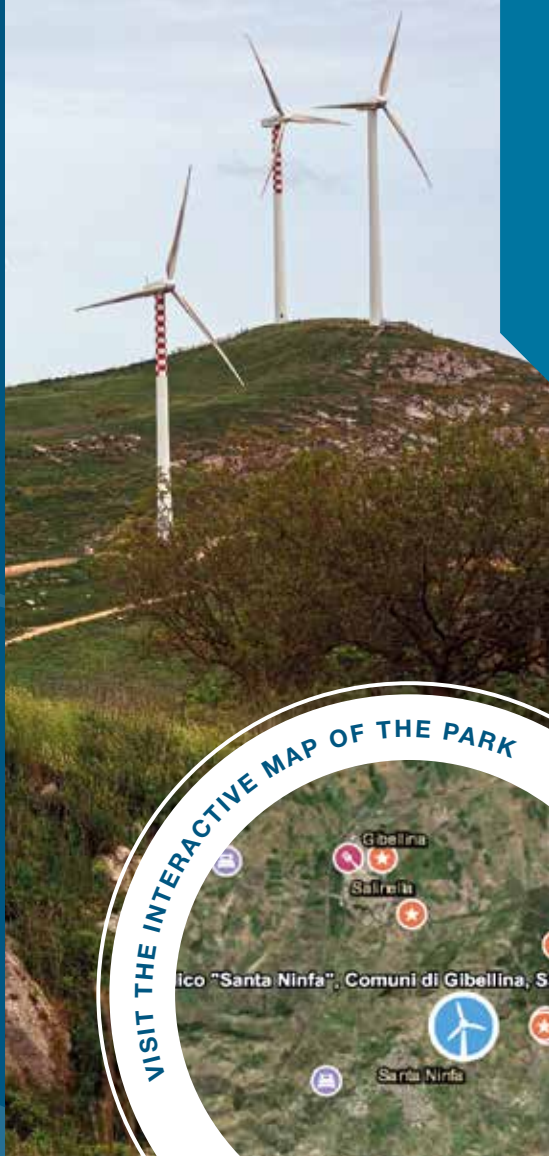
luoghidelcontemporaneo.beniculturali.it

Museo arte contemporanea Gibellina

www.macgibellina.it

Fondazione Orestiadi

Baglio Di Stefano
91024 Gibellina (TP)
www.fondazioneorestiadi.it



The Santa Ninfa wind farm can be found in a truly special area. For the conformation of its landscape and for the historical and artistic wonders surrounding it. Amongst these, standing out in importance is Burri's Cretto, one of the most incredible landscape artworks in the world. A sort of cement shroud which covers the streets of the old town of Gibellina destroyed by the 1968 Belice earthquake, reconstructed on its original plan.

"There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in". The words of Leonard Cohen's song (Anthem) come to mind as you visit it for the first time. It is not only a question of beauty, that is subjective, but of memory, solitude, hope. The "Grande Cretto", as it has been renamed, is the symbol of that tragedy. In the eighties, many artists offered to create works free, responding to the appeal of the then visionary mayor, Ludovico Corrao, to revitalise the foundations of the new Gibellina with new architectural projects and works of contemporary art. The Umbrian artist was also invited to participate, but once he had arrived, he chose to carry out a project on the rubble of the old town. "We will compact the rubble as it is a problem for everyone, making it into a solid reinforced material" – he explained – "and with this cement we will create an immense white fissure (cretto), so there will be an eternal memory of that event". You cannot say that he didn't succeed. The work, constructed between 1984 and 1989 remained unfinished and was finally completed only in 2015, on the hundred-year anniversary of Burri's birth. The visit to the Cretto is worth the cost of the ticket to Sicily.

To have just a minimal idea of the damage caused by the earthquake, only a few kilometres from Burri's Cretto, you come across the ruins of what was once the town of Poggioreale. As for Gibellina, it was decided to build a new town, a few kilometres further down the valley, but in this case, the small village buried under the rubble was left as it was, now overgrown with vegetation. The houses literal-





ly split apart by cracks. The entrance to what remains of the main road is officially closed, for safety reasons, but it's enough to go around a low gate to find yourself before a ghost town that shows the signs and memories of the past – the post office, the library, even the rusty old sign of a grocery store. Many objects and documents have now been recovered thanks to a recent project of the Poggioreale Antica Association. Ironically, this ghost town has become, over the years, a location for making films, also used as a set by Tornatore for his film, “L'uomo delle stelle”.

To have an overall picture and to close the circle, nothing remains but to head towards new Gibellina and verify firsthand the story of this unfinished miracle. Appreciated and criticised with the same vehemence. But absolutely to be seen, at least once, for its uniqueness. The symbol of Gibellina, the Stella di Pietro Consagra, named by the same designer of the “Ingresso al Belice”, you will find on entering the town. A stainless-steel gateway that recalls the festive illuminations of the villages of a time, and introduces the visitor to a route through the village dotted with more than 50 works of art, installations and sculptures, in what is probably the largest open-air museum in Europe. A visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art is also not to be missed, with its collection of about 2,000 artworks, including Mario Schifano's great “Ciclo della natura”, as well as a series of interesting sketches and architectural models of the new Gibellina.

Amongst the municipalities literally razed to the ground by the earthquake, we can find Santa Ninfa. The famous castle of Rampinzeri, also cited by Tomasi di Lampedusa in his “Gattopardo” - “an enormous structure, only lived in one month of the year by farm workers, mules and other farm animals” -, was damaged and then privately restored. In reality, to use the term castle is inaccurate. It is an old, fortified courtyard of the 1600s founded by Don Luigi Arias Giardina, first baron and marquis of Santa Ninfa, and situated on the

slopes of Mount Finestrelle, an historically strategic place due to its dominant position over the Belice Valley. It's not by chance that here, in 1937, King Vittorio Emanuele and the Head of the Government, Benito Mussolini, witnessed the final stages of the so-called "great military manoeuvres" of the Royal Army. Acquired in 2008 by the Municipality of Santa Ninfa, and in part restored with European funds for reconstructing protected rural areas, the castle, whose external walls in some places recall Andalusian facades, today houses a naturalistic and geological museum that tells the history of the area, an environmental educational centre, a documentation centre, as well as the headquarters of the "Grotta di Santa Ninfa" Nature Reserve, established in 1995 by the regional government and entrusted to Legambiente Sicilia. Therefore, a good starting point to visit this little-known karst plateau, but of great geological, naturalistic and landscape interest.

The reserve, established in 1995, came about to protect the Grotta di Santa Ninfa, a complex subterranean system of karst origin stretching for 1.4 kilometres – today, it is only accessible to speleologists for safety reasons, but also to safeguard the entire Biviere Valley, extending for 140 hectares and corresponding to the catchment basin of the cave. Didactic activities for schools are organised here, as well as scientific research and environmental education, and excursions or walks along the five signposted trails, to discover the sinkholes of karst origin and the necropolis of Mount Finestrelle. One of the more interesting tracks, a little less than four kilometres long, starts from the ethno-anthropological museum and follows the source of the Biviere river, crossing through very unique native vegetation.

Leaving the reserve, we advise, especially for those travelling with a family, to stop at the NaturAvventura Park, nine hectares of forest where three young environmental educators, Adriana, Roberta and Manuel, have set up an adventure park where even the youngest can launch themselves






in total safety in a series of entertaining acrobatic courses immersed in an uncontaminated nature. Beginning from children of 3 years of age, thanks to the use of a “nest” net and a specific course of treehouses. The underlying idea of the project is to involve the youngsters in a series of educational games thus familiarising them with the forest, the tracks and the local area.

An area that you can, of course, discover also on two wheels. As all the enthusiasts know who, every year, enrol in the Granfondo MTB of Santa Ninfa, an amateur competition that follows a single stretch of the trails and dirt roads of the Sinapa Forest and Mount Finestrelle – named after the small engraved tombs excavated into its southern slopes, most of which were lost due to the collapse of the chalky walls – and arrives at the highest peaks of the RWE wind farm, situated between the areas of Gibellina, Santa Ninfa and Salaparuta. From here, you have a panorama that stretches across all of western Sicily.

Wandering along the crests of the mountain, don't be surprised to come across grazing elegant Arab thoroughbreds. They belong to the riding club that is located in the Rampinzeri Castle. The owner, Vito, who also manages the highly appreciated restaurant in the castle – the crowning glory being boiled sheep's meat – organises easy excursions in the area, aperitifs on the mountain or, if you have a certain experience of horse-riding, also longer treks to admire Burri's Cretto.

At this point, if time permits and you still feel inclined to go on, leave the Belice Valley behind and head towards the sea, to the salt flats just outside of Marsala. Once you have arrived there, find a good viewing point to stop for a few minutes and contemplate the colours of the water that change with the setting of the sun, with perhaps a good glass of wine. They say that it is one of the most beautiful sunsets to be seen in the world. It's worth the stop to see if it's true.

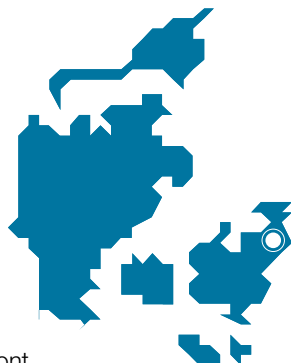
A tall, white wind turbine stands prominently in the center of the frame, its three blades reaching towards a clear, bright blue sky. The sun is high in the sky, creating a strong lens flare effect. The turbine is surrounded by lush green trees, with some foliage in the foreground framing the scene. The overall atmosphere is bright and clear.

Santa Luce
wind park,
Municipality
of Pisa

TOURISM AND USE OF wind parks in the world

OFFSHORE WIND PARK

Middelgrunden Copenhagen (Denmark)



Middelgrunden is an offshore wind park in Øresund, in front of Copenhagen in Denmark. When it was constructed in 2000, it was the largest offshore wind farm in the world, with 20 2 MW turbines with a total capacity of 40 MW supplying about 3% of the electric energy used in Copenhagen.

The wind farm can be visited with a guided tour organised by a local cooperative, one of the farm's partners, and proposes tours in collaboration with the local navigation companies, with 30 to 40 visits every year. Many different types of groups participate in these tours – obviously, those working in the wind power sector, but also government delegations, and students and tourists, in general. A special feature of this farm is that visitors can climb the turbines. Every two years in June, an open-door day is organised when usually 150 to 200 people climb these magnificent towers.



For further information visit
www.middelgrunden.dk



WIND PARK

Whitelee

Eaglesham

(Scotland)



The Whitelee wind park is situated on the moors of Eaglesham, 370 metres above sea level, 15 kilometres north of Glasgow. It has 215 turbines with a total capacity of 539 MW (an average of 2.5 MW per turbine), able to power more than 350,000 households.

Over the years, the farm has become a true eco-tourist attraction also thanks to its visitors' centre. The centre has an interactive exhibition room, a café, a shop and education centre. As well, the centre provides visitors with access to a network of more than 130 kilometres of trails to explore, on foot, by bicycle or by horse. There is also a free charging station for electric vehicles. Moreover, visitors can take a bus tour to get close up to the turbines.



For further information visit
www.whiteleewindfarm.co.uk



WIND PARK

Crookwell

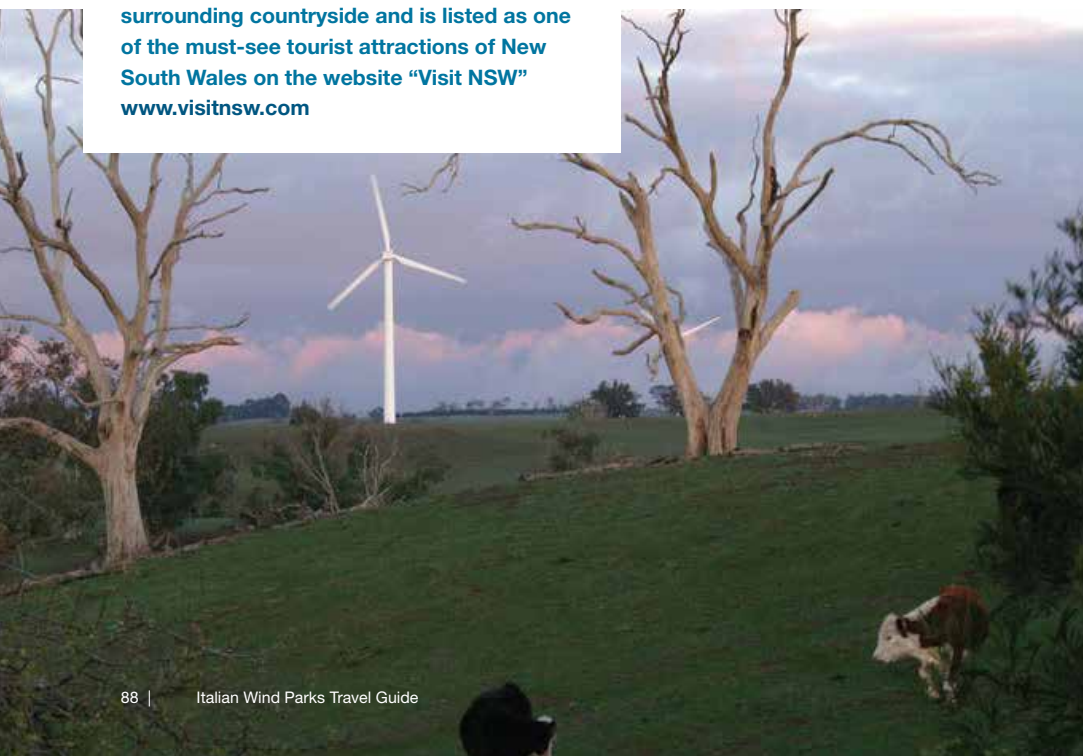
New South Wales (Australia)



The Crookwell wind park is located five minutes by car from Crookwell, a small town on the southern plains of New South Wales in Australia in the Upper Lachlan Shire. It has eight wind turbines and was the first wind farm to be connected to the Australian electrical grid built by Pacific Power in 1998.



The Park has a large and well-visited observation area overlooking the surrounding countryside and is listed as one of the must-see tourist attractions of New South Wales on the website “Visit NSW” www.visitnsw.com



WIND PARK

Woolnorth Tasmania (Australia)



The Woolnorth wind park is made up of two installations, Bluff Point and Studland Bay, that are located at Woolnorth, in the extreme north-west of Tasmania, in Australia. The Bluff Point farm has 37 turbines with a total power capacity of 65 MW, Studland Bay 25 Vestas V90 turbines with a total capacity of 75 MW. The wind farms can be visited thanks to a tour organised by Woolnorth Tours. There are also splendid views of the Antarctic Ocean and a visitors' centre offering information on Woolnorth, on renewable energy production, the local Aboriginal heritage and clean air monitoring.



For further information visit
woolnorthrenewables.com.au



OFFSHORE WIND PARK

Rampion off the Sussex coast (England)



The Rampion wind park is the first offshore wind farm off the southern English coast. It has 116 turbines and is situated between 13 and 20 kilometres off the Sussex coast, in the English Channel, stretching from East Worthing in the west to Brighton in the east.

It has an installed capacity of 400 MW and generates almost 1,400 GWh of energy every year, equivalent to the quantity of electricity used every year by almost 350,000 households, about half of those in Sussex. The Rampion offshore wind park has been fully operational since April 2018 and has created about 60 full-time permanent job positions, and its construction played a role as a catalyst in regenerating the port area.

The farm can be visited by a boat tour organised by local operators allowing visitors to see the turbines close up. In 2020, a visitors' centre was opened on the seafront of Brighton to raise awareness and understanding of the wind farm, as well as providing information on offshore wind-powered energy and global climate change. The centre hosts exhibitions, interactive displays, games and videos, and a 360° virtual reality (VR) experience.



For further information visit
www.rampionoffshore.com

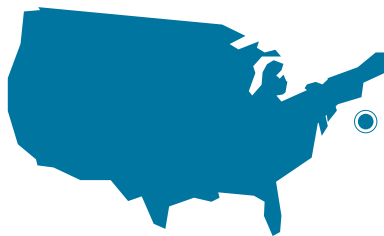


OFFSHORE WIND PARK

Block Island

Rhode Island

(United States)



The first offshore wind farm built in the United States is located 6 kilometres off the south-east coast of Block Island, off Rhode Island, in the Atlantic Ocean. The project was developed to substitute the diesel generators that had previously supplied energy to the island. The farm has 5 6 MW turbines for a total capacity of 30 MW, able to power about 17,000 households and produce 12,000 MWh per year.



It can be visited thanks to boat tours organised by different local operators. Block Island wind park, according to a study done by the University of Rhode Island, has resulted in an increase in the island's tourism. The university's researchers analysed data on the house rentals in the area of the farm to examine the trends in monthly earnings, and the tenancy rates and bookings from about two years before the farm's construction to a year after its construction. Contrary to some expectations, the results were all positive for the summer months with peaks in July and August, with no evident effects seen in the rest of the year. In July and August, following the farm's construction, the AirBnB rentals on Block Island recorded, on average, an increase of 19% in tenancy rates and an increase of \$3,490 in monthly earnings compared to those of the nearby communities of Narragansett, Westerly and Nantucket.



WIND PARK

Bangui

Ilocos Norte

(The Philippines)



The Bangui wind park is made up of 26 wind turbines set out in a single row stretching along the bay of Bangui, in the western Philippine Sea. The Bangui wind turbines supply more than 40% of the electricity for Ilocos Norte through its connection with the grid of Luzon Island.

The Bangui wind park attracts tourists thanks to it being easily accessible, especially during the summer season. The development of this project has placed the province of Ilocos Norte in the top 10 tourist destinations of the country and the number of tourists is continuing to rise.



WIND PARK

Te Apiti

Saddle Road

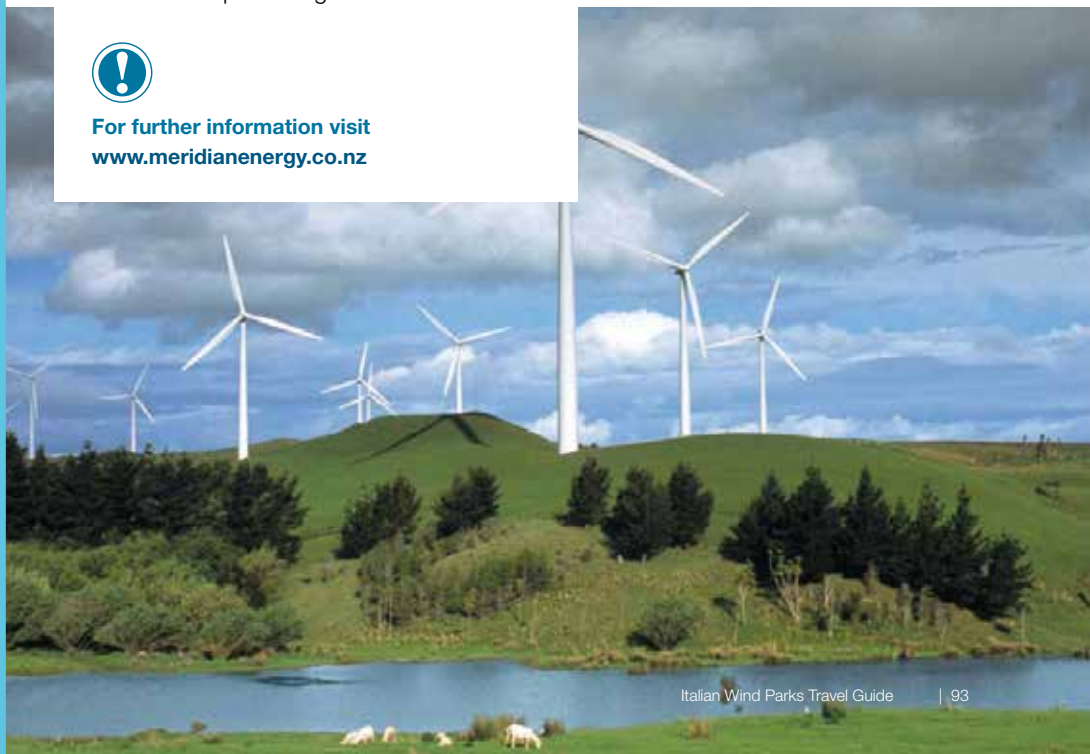
(New Zealand)



The Te Apiti onshore wind park is located north of the Manawatu Gorge, 10 kilometres from the town of Palmerston North, in New Zealand. It is the country's first wind farm to feed electricity into the national grid, with 55 turbines for a total capacity of 90.75 MW generating enough electricity to meet the annual needs of about 45,000 households. It has a public observation area offering visits to the farm, and an information display and is on the list of local tourist operators as one of the top 10 things to do in the area.



For further information visit
www.meridianenergy.co.nz



WIND PARK

Feldheim

Germany, the first municipality to be fully supplied by renewable sources



Feldheim, a small town 90 kilometres south of Berlin, was the first town in Germany to become fully independent from the national electricity grid, thanks to a mix of renewable energy sources. The project owes its success to the excellent cooperation of the Municipality of Treuenbrietzen, the residents of Feldheim and the project developer, Energiequelle GmbH.

The project includes avant-garde wind turbine, photovoltaic, biogas and biomass installations which, through separate grids for district heating and electricity supply, provide locally produced heating and electricity directly to consumers. The nearby Feldheim wind farm is the backbone of the local electricity network, with 55 wind-powered turbines and total capacity of 122.6 MW managed by Energiequelle GmbH. The village and all the technologies used to generate energy can be visited with organised tours allowing visitors to access the different demonstration sites of the wind farm, the biogas plant, the photovoltaic farm, the lithium battery system and the district heating and biomass plant.



For further information visit
nef-feldheim.info



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- (Pag. 89) Woolnorth wind park, Tasmania (Australia) - <https://www.woolnorthtours.com.au/>
- (Pag. 90) Rampion offshore wind park, off the Sussex coast (England) - <https://www.rampionoffshore.com/wind-farm/>
- (Pag. 91) Block Island offshore wind park, Rhode Island (United States) - <https://www.windfarmtours.us/>
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- (Pag. 93) The Te Aiti wind park, Saddle Road (New Zealand) - https://www.meridianenergy.co.nz/assets/GalleryImages/685f48cab8/Te-Aiti__ScaleMaxWidthWzK2Nl0.jpg
- (Pag. 94) Feldheim wind park, Germany, the first municipality to be fully supplied by renewable sources - <https://nef-feldheim.info/?lang=en>



LEGAMBIENTE

legambiente.it



A guide to discover unique and little-known territories, that are today one of the most interesting laboratories for the energy transition. In the eleven parks chosen by Legambiente, it is possible to see up close how these modern machines that produce energy from wind work, and to discover some truly beautiful areas, off the beaten track of the more frequented tourist routes. In the coming years, we need to increase production from renewable sources and finally free our energy production from dependence on coal, oil and gas, which are responsible for climate change. **These areas demonstrate that integrating these new sources into the landscape is a challenge that can be addressed with the support of local communities** and that it's possible to find innovative and interesting ways to enhance local resources. From the morainic hills of Verona to the Fortore of Molise, following the Ligurian and Tuscan, Abruzzese and Sicilian hills. The journey through these fascinating landscapes can be traveled on foot, by bike or on horseback between mountains and forests, rolling hills planted with wheat, but also points of observation to wonderful views ranging from the sea to the mountains. **In the pages of the guide, you can find all the information on how to arrive at the different places and organize a weekend,** on the wind farms and on the routes and tracks that criss-cross through them, suggestions for where to eat and sleep, the more or lesser-known places to discover, together with the stories and anecdotes in the descriptions of the areas recounted by Giuliano Malatesta. **This guide is the first in the world to talk about wind tourism,** but there are many parks from New Zealand to Copenhagen that are daily destinations for boat trips or on foot and that are organized to respond to a growing curiosity about renewable energy plants and the territories that host them.

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