



PROVINCIA
DI TERAMO

Assessorato al Turismo



THE VOMANO VALLEY

BASCIANO, CASTELLALTO, CELLINO ATTANASIO,
CERMIGNANO, PENNA SANT'ANDREA



Abruzzo's Mountain tastes and treasures

PROVINCIA DI TERAMO



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THE VOMANO VALLEY

THE "ABBEYS' VALLEY".

The importance the Vomano Valley had in history is attested by its many sacred buildings. These valuable works of great artistic and cultural value earned it the well deserved name of "Abbeys' Valley". The area is crossed by the River Vomano and the "Via Cecilia". The Vomano Valley displays all the peculiar characteristics of the Province of Teramo. It is, in fact, the perfect combination of the seaside and the mountain going through its amazing hills. The high Vomano Valley is part of the Gran Sasso and Laga Mountains' National Park. It is surrounded by the Laga Mountains on its left side and by the Gran Sasso on its right side. Its lowest part smoothly descends towards the Adriatic sea.

Such a variety gives endless opportunities to choose from which promise an unforgettable trip to discover old-age traditions, stunning nature and outstanding medieval villages.



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BASCIANO

An important necropolis and its Roman development.

Basciano's area was already inhabited in the Bronze Age and in the Iron Age as proved by the necropolis that have come to light in the district of San Rustico. Basciano sits just where the river Vomano and the river Mavone merge and it was, thanks to its strategic position, an important hub. It was under the control of the Acquaviva family at the end of the 1200s until the early 1500s. It was then surrendered to the Barra - Caracciolo family and during the French invasion it was the setting of violent clashes.

The fortified medieval hamlet

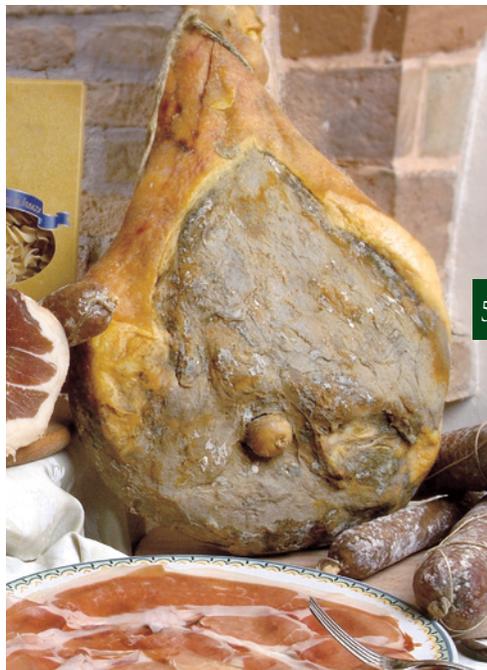
Basciano is the classical example of a medieval fortified hamlet as proved by its gate to the old town centre, its **belfry with the clock**, the **surrounding boundary wall** and the **castle** remains.

Its churches are also very interesting. In the village the church of **San Flaviano** and the church of **San Giacomo** are worth seeing. In the near districts with the same name the church of **Sant'Agostino** and the church of **Santa Maria a Porto Lungo** are both noteworthy.

A natural lookout, a famous food festival and a music event.

Basciano offers a stunning view over the Vomano Valley and the Gran Sasso Massif highlighting the great beauty of this unique natural set-

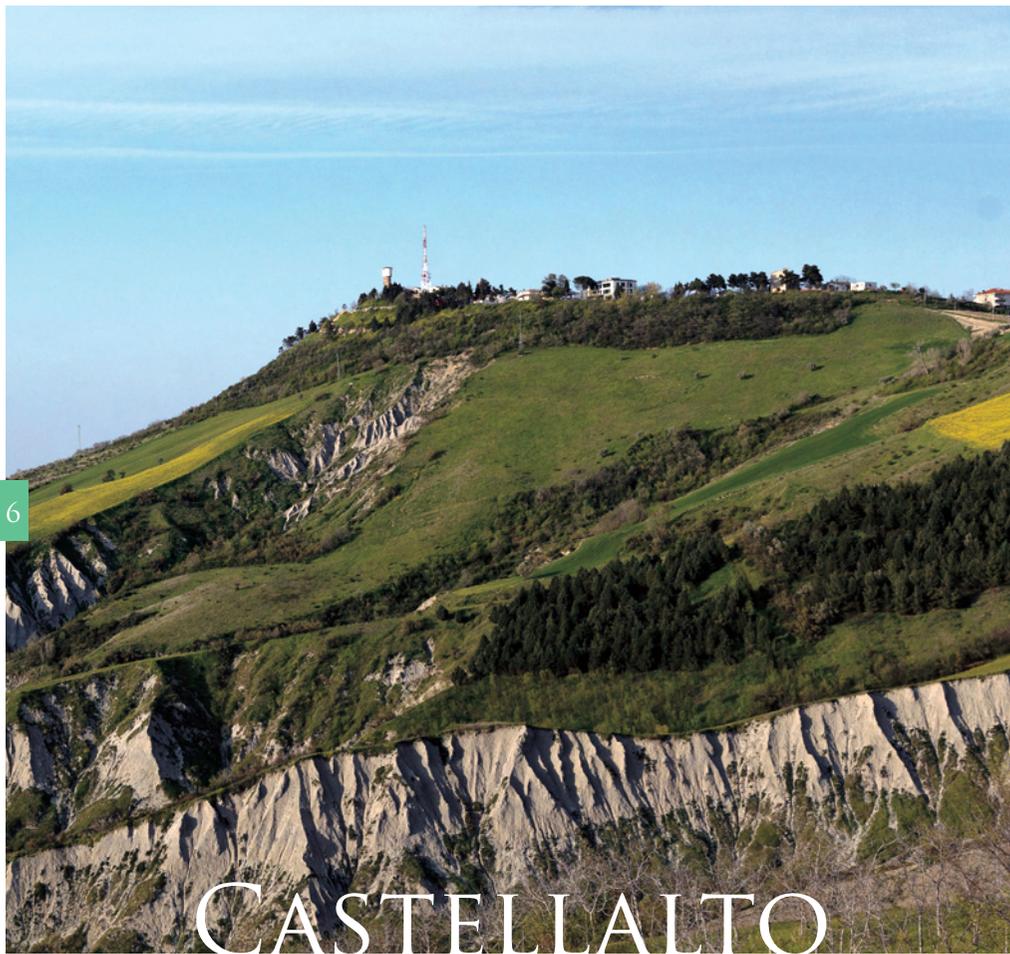
ting. The main event happens in August when there is the traditional **Homemade Prosciutto Festival** (Sagra del prosciutto nostrano) and the **Festival Abruzzese dell'Organetto "ddù botte"**, a kind of double bass accordion characteristic of the Province of Teramo.



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CASTELLALTO

A bronze statue of Hercules and two “castles”.

Castellalto includes several residential units such as the superb fortified hamlet of **Castelbasso** and the modern **Castelnuovo Vomano**. The finding of a **little bronze statue of Hercules**, that has come to light in the area and has been accredited to the ancient Italic tribes, left many doubts about Castellalto's origins. Its two **castles** have been known since the 10th century as “Castrum Vetus”. In the 12th century Castellalto was a fief of the Baron Trasmondo and Castelbasso was a fief of the Benedettini family. They both became part of the Acquaviva family dukedom of Atri at the end of the 1400s. The village was part of the Kingdom of Naples until its end.

Magnificent medieval hamlets.

Castellalto features a medieval urban structure as the remains of the old walls built around the castle and the still existing gate of the old town attest. The church of **San Giovanni Evangelista** and the church of **Santa Maria degli Angeli** are very interesting. Another jewel not to be missed is the medieval village of Castelbasso, one of the most evocative of the Province of Teramo.

Contemporary Art, performances and music for a first-rate event.

Both Castellalto and Castelbasso are built in a panoramic position overlooking the Tordino and

the Vomano Valleys offering a stunning view of the Adriatic sea, the Gran Sasso and the Laga Mountains. Regarding the events there is an unmissable international festival in the summer called “**Castelbasso Progetto Cultura**” with contemporary art, performances and live music.



Castelbasso

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CELLINO ATTANASIO

The fortified hamlet of the Acquaviva family.

This area has been inhabited since the Bronze Age. Cellino Attanasio had a glorious history during the dominion of Hatria back in Roman times. During the Middle Ages it was a fief of the Abbey of San Vincenzo al Volturno only to later become a dominion of the Acquaviva family. The dukes of Acquaviva made it their residence because of its people's loyalty and for the fortifications they built which made it unconquerable.

Medieval walls, tower houses and superb churches.

Cellino Attanasio continues to speak about its history through its magnificent monuments proudly on show to lovers of art and culture. The old town centre is enclosed inside the well preserved boundary walls of the ancient village, graced by its **medieval tower** house that is part of its **defensive ramparts**. The parish church of **Santa Maria la Nova** is a must to visit. It features a belfry, a beautiful façade and a fine stone portal with a lavish rose window. Finally, the Franciscan church of **Sant'Antonio Abate** is definitely worth seeing.

A beautiful hill landscape and the delicious "Cingoli cellinesi".

Because of its location, from Cellino Attanasio it is possible to admire all the natural treasures of the Province of Teramo. Its old-age peasant

traditions come to life in gastronomy; the "**Cingoli al sugo di papera**", a kind of homemade pasta with duck sauce, are a delicacy.



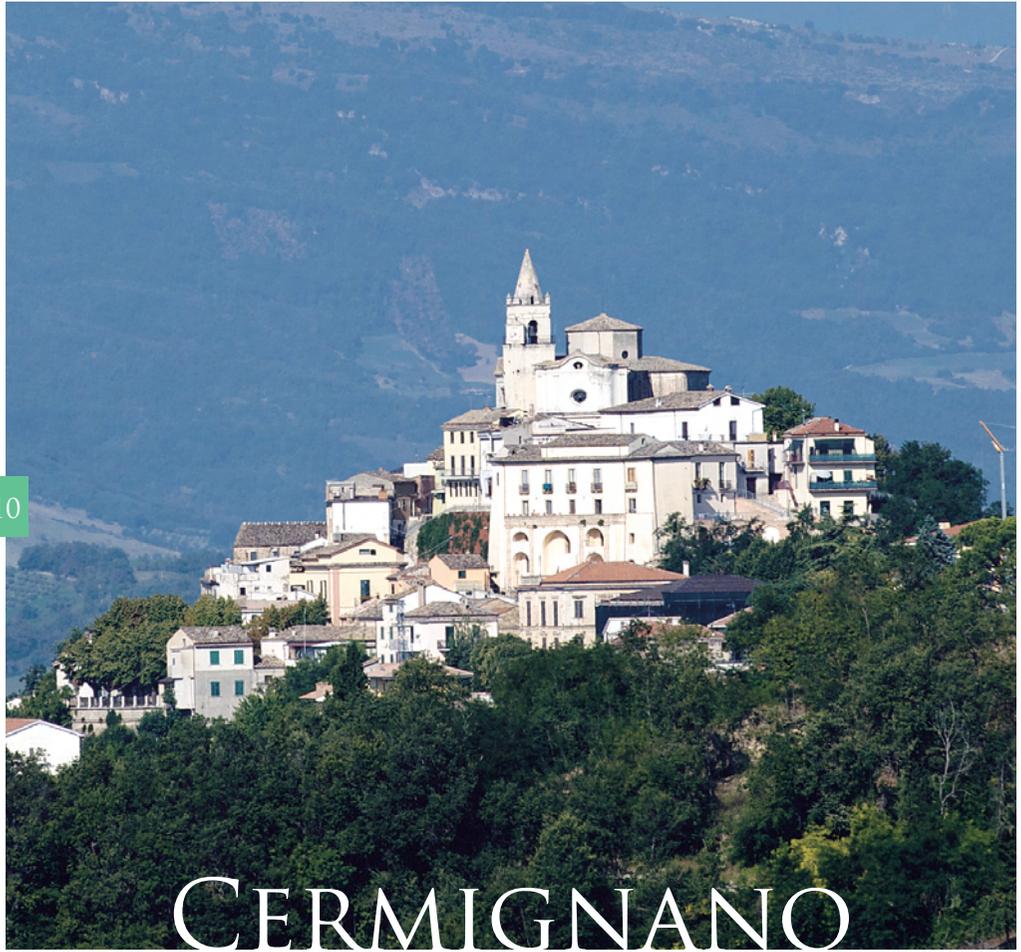
View of the medieval tower

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CERMIGNANO

A defensive function.

Cermignano is an ancient site, inhabited since pre-Roman times, as the remains of old fortifications and of a temple on the near Monte Giove attest.

It had defensive function also during the Middle Ages thanks to its position overlooking the Vomano and the Piomba Valleys. It was a fief of the Acquaviva family and in the 1500s was yielded to the De Sterlich family.

A lookout tower and nice stately buildings.

Cermignano defensive function is proved by the remains of its fortifications and by the remains of an old castle. Its **lookout tower with a triangular basis** is instead perfectly preserved in the **Montegualtieri** district. Inside the town **Palazzo De Sterlich** and **Palazzo Tartagliozzi** are worth visiting together with the parish church of **Santa Lucia** and **Sant'Eustachio** annexed to the Capuchin Convent.

An old mill, old-age traditions and local desserts.

Cermignano offers a stunning view to its visitors. Its surroundings are well worth discovering. Amongst them: Mount Giove and the districts of **Poggio delle Rose** and **Montegualtieri** where the outlook tower and the **Francia mill** are to be found. On January 17th the village celebrates "**Lu Santantonij**". The event is dedicated to Saint Anthony Abbot and it is accompanied by bonfires, mulled wine and

local bird shaped biscuits stuffed with grape marmalade called "**Cillitte di Sand Andonje**" in the local dialect .

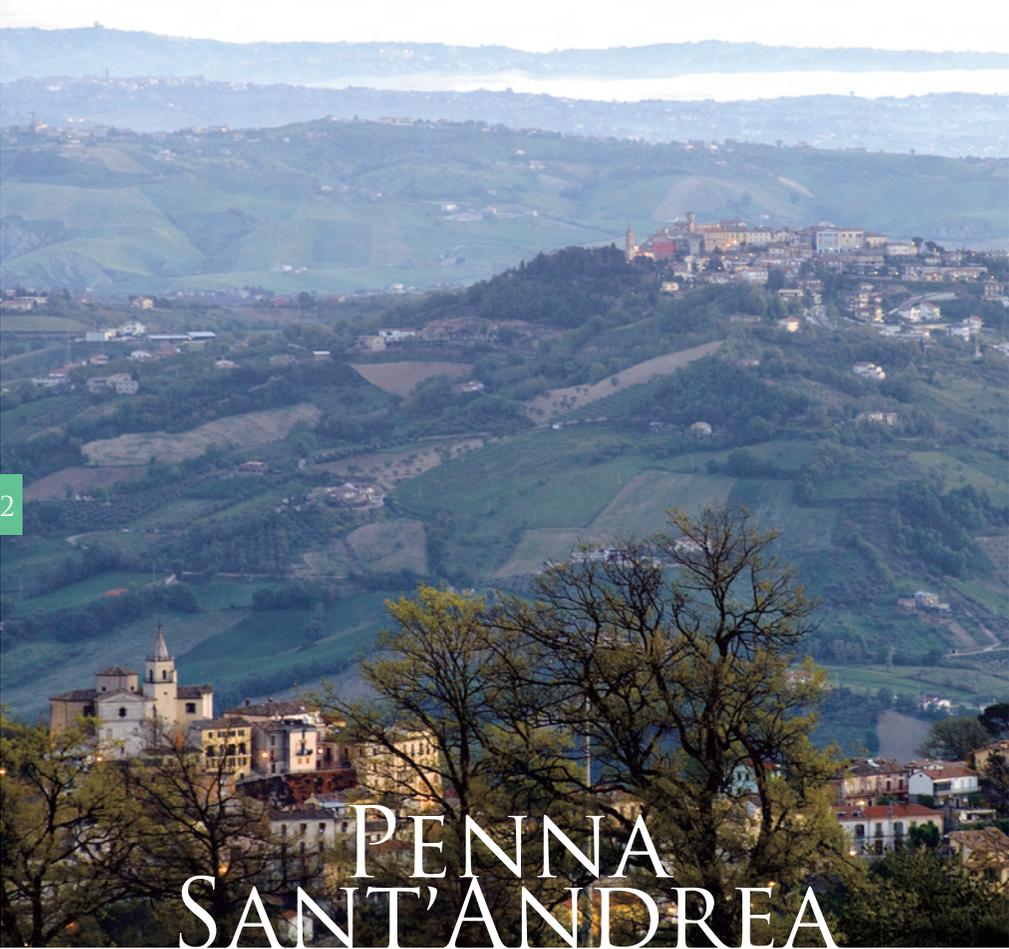


The Tower in Montegualtieri

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PENNA SANT'ANDREA

From the Acquaviva dominion to the uprisings of the 1800s.

Although this area was inhabited by humans since the Iron Age, Penna Sant'Andrea developed during the Middle Ages. It was first a property of the Monastery of San Vincenzo al Volturno and later a dominion of many different noble families until the 1400s when it became a fief of the Acquaviva family. In 1814 the village rebelled against the French.

Alleys, stairs and churches.

Narrow lanes and stairs are the main features of this hamlet with a 1800s architecture. The parish church of **Santa Maria del Soccorso** holding precious altars, statues and canvases, is worth visiting. The church of **Santa Giusta** and the ancient church of **Santa Maria** with its 1400s beautiful portal and single light window are well worth seeing.

A nice view, a park and an old-age popular dance.

Penna Sant'Andrea sits on a hill and offers a stunning view of the Vomano Valley. Nature lovers will not want to miss a walk in the beautiful **regional park of Castel Cerreto** (riserva naturale regionale di Castel Cerreto). Penna Sant'Andrea is famous for its "**Laccio d'amore**" (literally love loop) an ancient popular dance performed in weddings as a good omen. At the beginning of the 1900s a **folkloristic group** with the same name was established and made this dance famous all over the world.



The "Laccio d'amore"

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