



## MONTORIO AL VOMANO

### A PERFECT COMBINATION

“Gateway” and “showcase”.

Montorio is the perfect combination of these two aspects. It is the gateway to the **“Parco Nazionale del Gran Sasso e Monti della Laga”** (Gran Sasso and Laga Mountains National Park) and starting point for the **“Strada Maestra del Parco”** (Main Road of the Park) evocative itinerary running through the old Strada Statale 80 connecting Teramo to L'Aquila through the Capanelle way.

As a “showcase”, Montorio shows the beauty of the Teramo mountains and it is keen to offer it to all travelers. Montorio amazes visitors with the enduring signs of its history. Here nature and art merge, disclosing the proud spirit of the town, which is a legacy of the noble and powerful families who used to rule it.

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PROVINCIA  
DI TERAMO

Assessorato al Turismo



## MONTORIO AL VOMANO

### THE GATEWAY TO THE PARK



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DI TERAMO

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Abruzzo's Mountain tastes and treasures



The Capuchins Convent



Ph. M. Anselmi

**Powerful noble families, brigands and illustrious characters.**

Montorio, from the Latin "**Mons Aureus**" - Golden Mount - lies on the left bank of the **river Vomano** to which its name and history are connected. It is very likely that Montorio was built over an extant pre- Roman settlement of "Beretra or Beregra". The remains of a **temple dedicated to Hercules** attest to its **Roman origins**.

From the Middle Ages, Montorio al Vomano was a very desirable fief. It was under the control of many powerful families who promoted cultural relationships with the major cities of Italy like Venice, Bologna, Rome and Naples.

In the 14th century the town became a **fief of the Camponeschi de L'Aquila** family who ruled it until early 1500s. Despite its loyalty to the Aragonese family, Montorio took part in the "**conspiracy of barons**". Because of the ever-increasing taxes, local lords rose up against the crown. The proud attitude of the population is testified to also by the construction of the **San**



The "Zoccolanti" cloister

**Carlo fort** ordered by Spanish viceroys at the end of the 1600s. The decision was made with the main purpose of hosting troops who were supposed to suppress the banditry that was a very common phenomenon in the Teramo province at the time. Nevertheless works were never finished and brigands kept opposing the Kingdom of Naples.

During the Risorgimento (Resurgence) this little town's patriotic attitude concurred with the Unification of Italy. A glorious past, testified to by illustrious characters such as **Vittoria Camponeschi**, mother of the Pope Paul IV and **Melchiorre Delfico**, one of the most enlightened intellectuals of his time.

**Three hills, an evocative amphitheater and history.**

Montorio al Vomano has an original structure resembling an amphitheater developing on three hills: **Santa Giusta**, **San Carlo** and **Santa Lucia**.

Amongst the streets of its historical center it is possible to admire the magnificence of its monuments. On piazza Orsini (Orsini square), the heart of the town, there is the **Collegiata di San Rocco** (16th century). While its facade is very simple its sumptuous interior holds precious wooden altars and fine canvases picturing the **Resurrection of Christ** and the **Last Supper**.

Overlooking the main square there is the church of Sant'Antonio, next to the 14th century San Francesco convent. The church was built in the 15th century and it holds a beautiful "acuquasantiera" (stoop) and a great number of wooden furnishings: a crucifix, two statues, a nice booth for confessions. The **palazzo marchesale Camponeschi Carafa** and the **Old University**

embellish the main square. The church known as "**chiesa degli Zoccolanti**" and the **Capuchin convent** are well worth seeing. The first one, also called "Chiesa dell'Immacolata Concezione", had its last renovation in the 18th century but its origins are much older. Although its interior structure is very simple with a single nave, it is rich with many beautiful objects such as a painted wooden pipe organ, five decorated stone altars, a wooden statute of Mary Immaculate and an exceptional painting of a penitent **Santa Margherita**. The Capuchin convent and its church of **Santa Maria della Salute** are both spartan and simple. The convent is now derelict but the church holds four chapels with wooden altars and valued canvases with the picture of the Madonna della Salute and Saints Stephan and Lorenz.

Other remarkable monuments are the church of **San Filippo Neri**, the "cona" of "**Madonna del Ponte**", the remains of **Forte San Carlo** and of the **Fonte Vecchia**, an old washhouse made of stone.

**Protected natural areas, tasty dishes and the traditional STÙ.**

Before discovering the cuisine's delights, we suggest you wet your appetite with a short excursion to discover Montorio's many districts. There is the noble **Leofara**, **Villa Brozzi** with its church of **Santa Maria di Brecciano**, **Cusciano** with the church of **Santa Lucia** and **Schiaviano** with the **Madonna della Sgrima**.

If you prefer nature you will want to take a walk in the "**Parco territoriale attrezzato Fiume Vomano**". This itinerary takes you to the temple of Hercules and shows you a very interesting ecosystem. As a bonus the delicious dishes of

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Medieval portal

the Teramo cuisine come together with the local ones. Tasty **roasted trout** and for dessert "**pizza dolce montoriese**" (Montorio's cake) and the irresistible "**bocconotti**".

A very original event is the "**Carnevale morto**" (literally dead carnival), an ancient festivity taking place on Ash Wednesday celebrating the funeral of the Carnival in a satirical way.

In the summertime there is the "**Congiura dei baroni**", an historical reenactment of the battle of 1486, and "**La Vetrina del Parco**", a festival to promote the territory and its local products.

Another unmissable event is the **Sagra delle Trota** (Trout Festival) in November, while December is dedicated to the "**STÙ in Piazza**". The STU' is a traditional parlor game: forty cards with original images enliven people from Montorio's matches while they play using jokes and colorful dialect expressions.

#### Info & Contacts

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