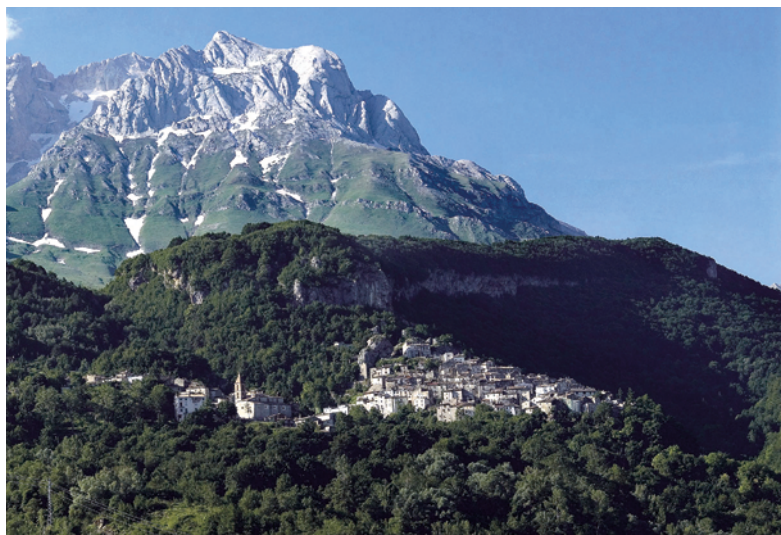




PROVINCIA
DI TERAMO

Assessorato al Turismo



PIETRACAMELA FANO ADRIANO

THE TRIUMPH OF BEAUTY



Abruzzo's Mountain tastes and treasures

PROVINCIA DI TERAMO



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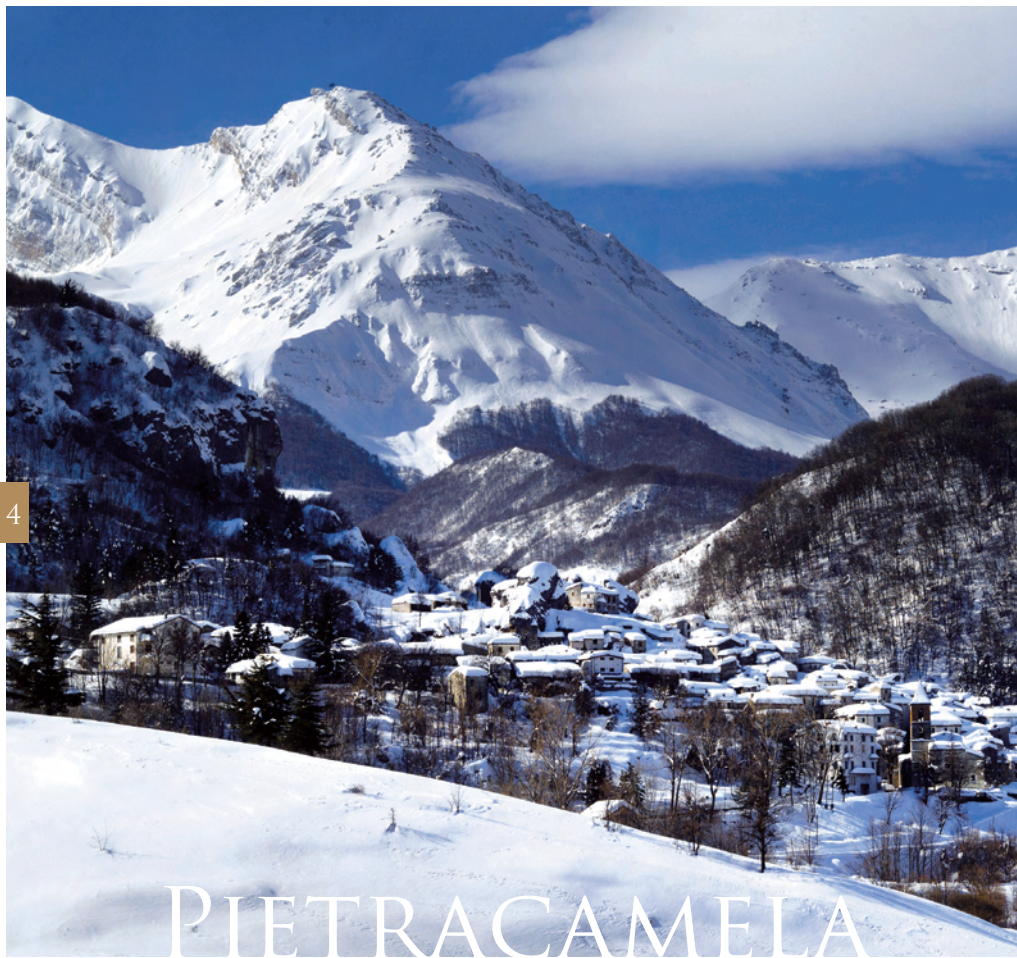
PIETRACAMELA AND FANO ADRIANO

THE TRIUMPH OF BEAUTY.

The Gran Sasso d'Italia with its majesty is the first attraction of the mountain in the Teramo area. It is embellished by the two magnificent hamlets of Pietracamela and Fano Adriano which are right in the heart of Gran Sasso and Laga Mountain's National Park. These Medieval hamlets are a surprise to visitors for their architecture, splendid examples of the age-old art of stone processing.

Beauty triumphs in a unique rural environment with unforgettable views over the highest peaks of the Apennine Mountains. Ski runs for winter sport lovers and amazing opportunities for excursions complete the touristic offer with relaxation and fun.

By night, you can relax enjoying the silence that only the mountain is able to offer.



Ph. M. Anselmi

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PIETRACAMELA

Stone, “cardatori”, artists and legends.

Built compact against the slopes of a rock spur at 1.000 m Pietracamela is the highest commune in the Province of Teramo. Just walking through its narrow and distinctive streets will give you the idea of the traditional mountain village. Pietracamela was rightly labeled as “**village in the stone**” because of the way it has been built over the centuries and because it takes its name from the stone (“Pietra” is Italian for “stone”).

If most historians seem to agree over the origins of the word “**Petra**” (Latin for stone), there are still many doubts about the other part of its name: “**Cimmeria**”. This might come either from the distinctive shape of the rock which is similar to that of a “**camel**” back, visible from the square, or from the “Cimmeri”, an ancient Indo-European population. It dates back to Roman times, although the village began life around the 12th century as a consequence of the Barbarian invasion that forced the local population to take refuge in the mountains.

In the Middle Ages it was part of the Sicilian Valley. It was therefore ruled by the **Counts of Pagliara**, then by the **Orsini** family, and in the 1500s by the **Alarçon Y Mendoza** family. At the end of the 16th century, the Spanish Government, willing to eradicate banditry, ordered that walls be built to protect Pietracamela. Nowadays the ancient walls are still perfectly visible. As in other areas of this territory the attempt to put off the banditry failed and brigands kept predated and robbing until the Unification of Italy.

On the lintel over the magnificent “bifore” (mullioned windows) of the “**Casa Signoretti**” there is the symbol of the “**cardatori**” whose age-old trade is also valued outside Abruzzo. The word “**cardo**” comes from a tool used for the nowadays forgotten activity of wool processing. Many of this area's traditions turned into art, such as the paintings that made **Guido Montauti** famous. He started the group “il pastore bianco” and painted the monumental **cave paintings** in the **grotte di Segaturo**. Amongst the many legends about Pietracamela, the most known speaks of the hometown of tribuno **Cola di Rienzo**.

Ph. Iannetti



The hamlet



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Prati di Tivo

An invaluable masterpiece, ancient buildings and superb churches.

There are no important monuments in Pietracamela but it can be considered an architectural masterpiece in itself. It is entirely **dug into the rock** granting it the right to be part of the “**Borghi più belli d’Italia**” (most beautiful hamlets of Italy).

Alleys, staircases, arches, balconies, old fountains and stately buildings are the little treasures gracing the old town center whose severe construction convey an idea of great solidity. The Churches are superb as is, for example, the parish church of **San Leucio** (14th century). The church is located right at the edge of the town and it features decorated altars, an extraordinary organ pipe, a 16th century stoup and 17th century canvases.

Next to it there is the **Tower** that was part of the defensive structure built in the 16th century. The church of **San Giovanni** is a jewel set amongst the houses with a nice portal, a small belfry and a sundial. **San Donato** and **San Rocco** are also worthy of note.

For lovers of nature and sport Pietracamela and its districts such as Intermesoli and **Prati di Tivo** offer the chance to go **rock climbing**.

Intermesoli’s charm comes from its impressive **beech trees wood** which is well integrated with the residential area. Hiking through **Valle del Venacquaro** and up to

Pizzo Intermesoli is the best way to enjoy this fascinating area. The very interesting parish church of San Rocco has a baroque interior with precious altars and canvases.

Prati di Tivo is the most important **ski resort** in the Province of Teramo. Advanced infrastructure and all kinds of accommodations satisfy the needs of skiers, hikers, cyclists and lovers of horse riding. Here there is the longest **bridleway** (Ippovia in Italian) in Italy and the **Riserva Naturale del Corno Grande** (Natural Reserve of the Corno Grande) which was established for the re-introduction of the **Chamois**. This is also a perfect location to start a hike towards the north slope of the Gran Sasso, towards the **Ghiacciaio del Calderone** (Calderone Glacier) and to Campo Imperatore.

In regards to gastronomy you can add to the Teramano cuisine the local specialties of, **spezzatino di capra** (goat stew) **ravioli** and a large variety of **desserts**.

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FANO ADRIANO

The Temple of Adriano.

Fano Adriano stands at the foot of the Gran Sasso Massif right in the heart of the Gran Sasso and Laga Mountain's National Park. It is an extraordinary example of the cultural, architectural and artistic tradition of the Teramo mountain area. Although there is not enough evidence, historians agree on the **Roman origin of this fortified hamlet**. Their hypothesis is supported by findings of the remains of a **temple**. The construction of Fano Adriano was requested by **Emperor Hadrian** and for this reason it is possible to trace the origin of part of its name. The word "**Fanum**" comes from Latin and it means "**temple**" while for the word "Adriano" there are two different interpretations. According to one of them, the name of the town is the literal translation of "Fanum Adriani", Hadrian's temple. The second interpretation, instead, tends to identify the word "Adriano" with the name of the god of war and fire "Hadrianus" or "Hatrianus" who was held in high venerations among the Italic tribes.

The hamlet developed greatly during the period of the Roman Republic and became very important during the Imperial time thanks to its good connections to Rome through the Via Salaria. When the Roman Empire fell, Fano Adriano was destroyed by the Saracens. During the Middle Ages it became part of the **State of Atri** and therefore under the control of the **Acquaviva** dukes until the early 1500s when they gave it to Don Ferrante Alarçon y Mendoza. Thanks to the

French administrative reform it became a Comune. Historically, Fano Adriano was always loyal to the House of Bourbons granting them its unconditional support during the wars of independence until the Unification of Italy. When the fortress of Civitella, the last stand of the Kingdom of Naples, surrendered to the House of Savoy (Savoia in Italian) on March 20th 1861, Fano Adriano was forced to yield to the foundation of a new state.



Ph. Iannetti



The Church of Santi Pietro e Paolo

A National monument, healthy waters and ancient “pigiatoi” (grape crushers).

Fano Adriano features an interesting architecture thanks to its 15th and 16th century buildings. There are many medieval places such as **Piazza Prato** and **Piazzetta del Coro** from where many characteristic narrow streets branch off. In the heart of the old town center the civil buildings are overshadowed by the majestic simplicity of the parish church of **Santi Pietro e Paolo**, built in 1335 and listed as a **National Monument**. Its 16th century facade features a remarkable 1600s portal finely carved with local stone, a beautiful rose window and a solid belfry. Inside there is a 1600s coffered ceiling, wooden baroque altars, 15th and 16th century frescoes and a 1700s organ pipe. On the edge of the town another symbol testifies this hamlet's history. The **fonte della Canalecchia** (the Canalecchia fountain) provides its fresh and curative waters since antiquity. Also noteworthy are the **Santuario dell'Annunziata**, the little church of **San Rocco** and the **Alpino** church on the top of **Monte Corvo** and “**i grignetti**”, basins dug into the rock which were probably used as grape crushers in a prehistoric era.

Ski resorts, museums, a stunning Nativity scene and age-old traditions.

Fano Adriano has been described as the “Gran Sasso pearl” for its peacefulness, its healthy air and its beautiful views. The hamlet makes the most of its good location in the center of the highest peaks of the Apennines such as **Corno**



View of the Cerqueto Hamlet

Grande, Corno Piccolo, Pizzo Intermesoli, Monte Corvo. While in the summer you can enjoy this area by hiking, in the wintertime it is possible to go skiing thanks to the small ski resort of **Prato Selva** which is near the village.

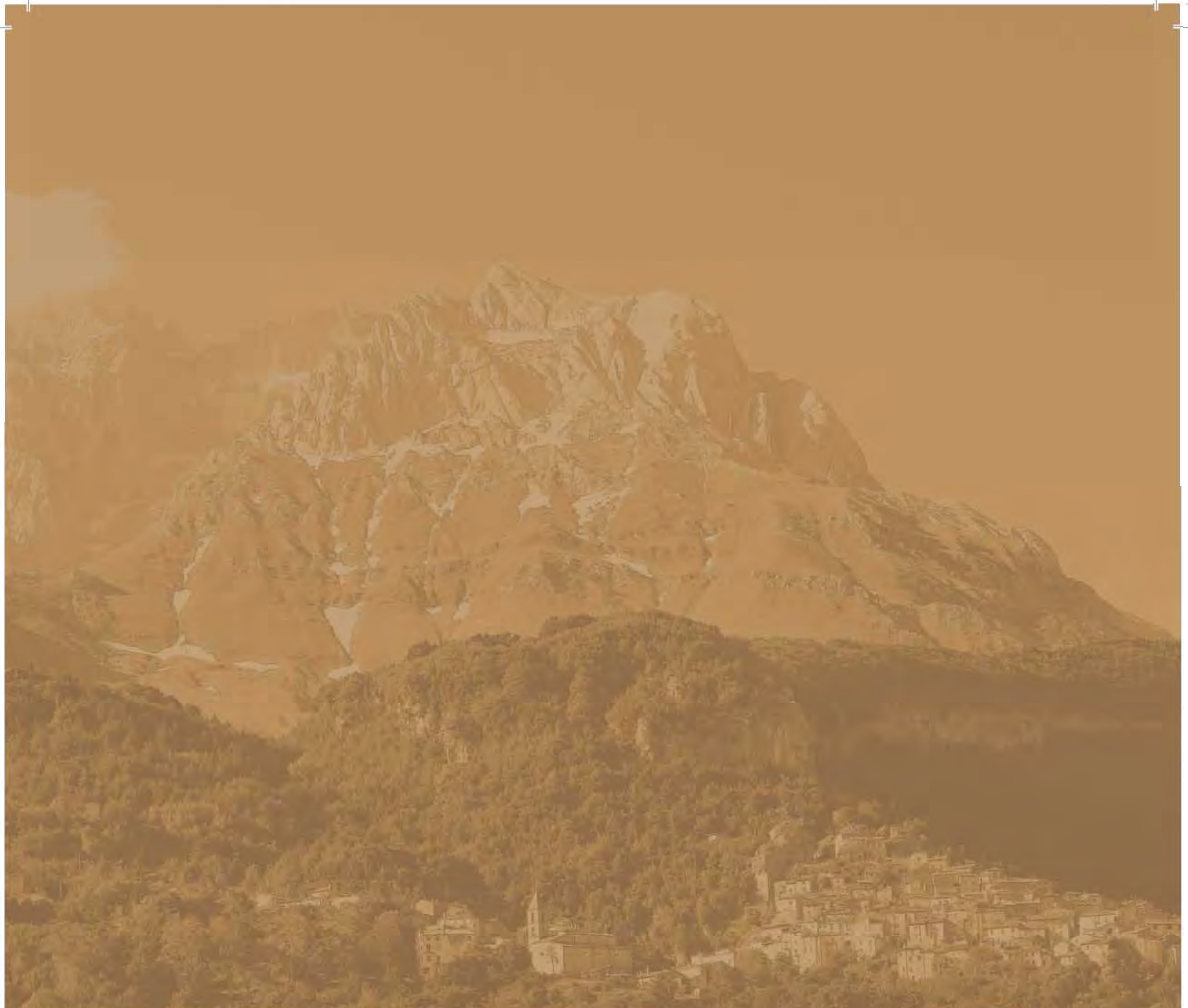
In the surrounding area, **Cerqueto**, a tiny ancient district, is worth mentioning too. Among the antique houses with examples of “gafio” (a type of balcony) there is the beautiful church of **Sant’Egidio Abate**. Cerqueto is known for its “**Presepe vivente**” (living Nativity) a reenactment of the nativity taking place on December 26th in a really unique setting.

Fano Adriano features a cultural aspect as well. It is, in fact, hometown to **Carlo Riccioni**, an important Abruzzo baroque artist. It offers the

chance to visit two **museums** (the **Deer Museum** and the **Ethnographic Museum**) and to discover age-old traditions such as the “**canto di Sant’Antonio Abate**” and the “**mezzanotte di fuoco**”. During this event people from Fano gather around a **big bonfire** on New Year’s Eve. Gastronomy celebrates its specialty in August during the “**Scrappella Festival**”.

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