



Regione Emilia-Romagna
informazione
accoglienza
turistica

tourist information
informations touristiques
información turística
touristenauskunft

Imola

Galleria del Centro Cittadino
Via Emilia 135
40026 Imola
Tel. 0542.602207
Fax 0542.602141
visitareimola.it/eng
e-mail: iat@comune.imola.bo.it

Hours:
from Monday to Friday
8.30 - 13.00
Tuesday
15.00 - 18.00
Saturday
8.30 - 12.30

Also open in the evenings
and on public holidays
when special events are on
in town



Regione Emilia-Romagna
informazione
accoglienza
turistica

tourist information
informations touristiques
información turística
touristenauskunft

Imola



città di
Imola

Assessorato al Turismo

Welcome to Imola



History



Flavours & traditions



Events



Nature



Sport



Imola is easy to reach by car through the A14 motorway (toll gate “Imola”), by railway and by plane (Bologna airport is just a 35-minute drive away and Rimini about one hour's).

Due to its privileged location in the Po Valley, between the Adriatic coast and the Apennines of Tuscany, Imola is an ideal base for visiting some of Italy's most renowned art cities as well as the sunny beaches of the Adriatic coast.

Town surface:	Kmq. 204,94
Altitude a.s.l.:	min. 7 m., max. 323 m.
Population up to 31.12.2014	69.638
Diallink code:	0542
Postcode:	40026
Official website:	www.comune.imola.bo.it

Twinned towns:
Gennevilliers (F), Pola-Pula (CR), Weinheim (D), Colchester (GB)

Our publications



Photos by ISOLAPRESS - Marco Isola (except were differently stated)

All maps and original drawings by Saverio Orselli - Comune di Imola

Can be downloaded at visitareimola.it/eng/our-publications/

IMOLA'S DISTRICT

COMUNE DI CASALFIUMANESE

Piazza A. Cavalli 15
tel. 0542.666122

COMUNE DI BORGO TOSSIGNANO

Piazza Unità d'Italia 7
tel. 0542.91111

COMUNE DI FONTANELICE

Piazza del Tricolore 2
tel. 0542.92566

COMUNE DI CASTEL DEL RIO

Via Montanara 1
tel. 0542.95906

COMUNE DI CASTEL SAN PIETRO TERME

Piazza XX Settembre 3
tel. 051.6954111

COMUNE DI DOZZA

Via XX Settembre 37
tel. 0542.678116

COMUNE DI CASTEL GUELFO

Via Gramsci 10
tel. 0542.639211

COMUNE DI MEDICINA

Via Libertà 103
tel. 051.6979111

COMUNE DI MORDANO

Via Bacchilega 6
tel. 0542.56911

This map refers to
“A walk through the city centre”
(p. 4)



A LONG HISTORY IN SHORT

Imola was originally an ancient roman colony called Forum Corneli. It rose in an area that had already been intensely populated in prehistoric times, as demonstrated by the Bronze Age settlement on Monte Castellaccio.



GIUSEPPE SCARABELLI (1820 - 1905)

Born in Imola, this scientist of great renown led the archaeological excavations on Monte Castellaccio to investigate the prehistoric settlement there which still stands one of the few examples of a completely excavated bronze age village in Italy.

The plan of the city still recalls the typical outline of its roman foundation in obvious ways, with the crossroads of the maximum Decumanus (via Emilia) and

the Cardo (via Appia - via Mazzini) where the ancient Forum was built.

After the deterioration that followed the end of the Roman empire and the Lombard invasions, the economic recovery and the reorganization of city life in the 10th Century were the prelude to turbulent medieval years, marked by the bloody battles for power over this territory, in which Imola challenged Bologna, Faenza and Ravenna.

The powerful Alidosi, Manfredi and Visconti families were in command of this city from the 14th to the 16th Centuries. The Signoria of Girolamo Riario, nephew of Pope Sisto IV, and the young Caterina, natural daughter of Galeazzo

CATERINA SFORZA (1463 - 1509)

Caterina arrived in Imola on 1st May 1477 and was welcomed with great celebrations. Thus, at the age of 14, she began her long political career, which, mixed with legend, tells us the story of an audacious woman who, despite the many conspiracies, murders and passions, managed to keep control of Imola until she was taken prisoner by the troops of Cesare Borgia.



Maria Sforza, took power over Imola and Forlì from 1473. This was a particularly fortunate period for Imola, as it went through a short but intense Renaissance period, with many important architectural works that changed its urban plan, and the construction of several important and refined palaces to decorate it the main square was widened and embellished with the construction of Palazzo Riario Sforza then Sersanti, a princely city residence; the fortress was updated for new military requirements and gave the city the outline it maintained until the 20th Century. Imola was part of the Papal State until the Italian Unification, excluding the Napoleonic period: the city modified its facades under the governance of the Church, with the magnificent work carried out during the 18th Century. Architects Domenico Trifogli and Cosimo Morelli gave the churches and palaces of Imola an elegant aristocratic aspect and they took part in the urban planning as well. Grandiose buildings therefore took the place of the il-

LEONARDO DA VINCI

In 1502 Leonardo da Vinci arrived in Imola following the winning troops of Cesare Borgia and was given the task to draw a map of Imola in order to better the defence system against outside attacks. This is the only topographic work that the great artist is known to have undertaken.



lustrious monuments of the past: the Cathedral of St. Cassiano, the Church of St. Stefano, the conversion of the great convent of St. Francis into Public Library began and the Civil Hospital was built. No other important architectural interventions were carried out until the period that followed the Unification of Italy.

A strong socialist presence was felt in Imola, on the wake of the strong social and political fermentation that involved the Romagna Region: the affirmation of the Cooperative System lead to the development of popular buildings and the foundation of the Ceramics Co-operative, one of the most ancient industries in Italy, impressing an indelible and vital mark on the social and economic status of the city.

During the 30's, in a transformed political scene, great sanatoriums were built on the hills surrounding the city, which, along with the great psychiatric hospitals, confirmed an ancient hospital tradition going back almost 1000 years.

Imola was hit heavily during the Second World War, mainly due to its vicinity with the front, and it participated intensely in the battle for liberation in 1944 and 1945; it was then awarded a golden medal for military value.

The city was equipped with a rapid reconstruction plan and it began to expand with the construction of the great suburban areas and the artisan and industrial zones in the 50's, a progressive change in the city's economy was taking place, going from mostly agricultural to industrial and tertiary.

SAINT CASSIANO

Tradition has it that he was made a martyr during the last persecutions of the Christians in 303/305 A.D. by his own disciples to whom he taught "ars notaria" - the art of writing. At the beginning of the V century the presumable grave of the Christian martyr was already worshipped in an area which is today known as the Villa Clelia archaeological site. Saint Cassiano as patron saint of Imola is celebrated on 13th August.



A WALK THROUGH THE CITY CENTRE

Strolling along the streets of Imola is the best way to explore this city, which was built around its intact and suggestive historical centre. The *Rocca Sforzesca* (1) is

FORTRESS

The fortress, a superb example of a fortified architecture of the Medieval and Renaissance times, was founded in the 13th Century. Remains of the antique period can still be seen: the doorway, with a pointed arch, the tower with the dungeons and the suggestive quarters on the ground floor. One of the original square towers is still visible today emerging from the centre of the south-west round tower. The fortress was re-modelled between 1472-1484 in order to better its defence system against firearms during the rule of the Sforza family, lords of Imola, and also a residential quarter was added, known as the “Palazzetto del Paradiso”, which later hosted the prisons between the 16th and 20th Centuries. The fortress was re-opened to the public in 1973. Inside there is a collection of medieval and renaissance ceramics, and weapons from the 14th to the 19th Centuries.



the point of departure of this journey to the past, as it still rises majestically to bear witness to a belligerent past. We continue along via Fratelli Bandiera leaving the Rocca behind, passing the ancient Church of the Annunciation on the left, now the New Music School 'Vassura-Baroncini' and the Museum of the Resistance and 1900's (CIDRA). We then enter via Emilia, the ancient maximum Decumanus. This central road is sided by beautiful princely palaces with colonnades surrounding the courtyards, spectacular stairways and elegant fresco ceilings. As we walk towards the centre of the city, we encounter the Dal Monte Casoni palace on the left, n. 44, followed by the Miti Zagnoni palace, while on the right side, at n. 25, there is the Renaissance style Machirelli palace, followed by the 14th Century house of Benvenuto Rambaldi, at n. 29, who was the first commentator of the Divine Comedy. At the crossroads with via Verdi, on the corner of via Emilia, there is the entrance of the Ebe Stignani city Theatre, and beyond it, the municipal Library

at n. 80 of via Emilia. Both buildings were created inside the complex of the *Convento di San Francesco* (2). On the other side of the road, at n. 69, the massive

FORMER ST. FRANCIS MONASTERY

This is one of the most important historical sites of Imola. Built from 1359 by the Franciscan friars, it was similar in structure to the Basilica of Assisi, as it consisted of an upper church and of a lower one with just one nave and a large adjoining cloister. The lower church was probably richly decorated: during the restoration works fragments of suggestive frescoes were discovered, especially in the apsidal area, depicting the Virgin Mary “*Madonna della Misericordia*”. The large upper church was closed during the Napoleonic period and turned **into a theatre in 1812** under the supervision of the architect Giuseppe Magistretti. In 1831 a portal was added to cover the main entrance so as to eliminate any reference to the pre-existing church. **The convent was converted into a public library**, since it already contained the precious Franciscan library. The building was transformed through various works of expansion and reconstruction in the mid 17th Century, especially following the designs of the architect Cosimo Morelli: the grand staircase was added and the fascinating *Aula Magna* was frescoed by Alessandro Della Nave and Antonio Villa.

size of the 16th Century *Palazzo Sassatelli Monsignani* (3) will surely get your attention; then, continuing on the via



SASSATELLI MONSIGNANI PALACE

The Alidosi family was the first owner of this Renaissance mansion, which was later bought by the powerful Sassatelli family. In 1522 the works of enlargement were terminated and the palace acquired that long, impressive frontage that can be seen almost looming over via Emilia. The service entrance for the stables opens onto piazza del Duomo as the main entrance is the one on via Emilia leading to a courtyard with portals supported by fine sandstone columns decorated with capitals bearing the coat-of-arms of Giovanni Sassatelli, head of the Guelph group of the town. This building was not just the seat of the Sassatelli court, but was also the base from where their private militia set off to attack the opposing Vaini's family.

Emilia, at n. 95, you can't help stopping to admire the 18th Century *Farmacia dell'Ospedale* (4). In front of the entrance

PHARMACY OF THE HOSPITAL



1927. The original 457 magnificent majolica pots manufactured in Imola, that carry the name of the medicament contained inside, are displayed on the wooden carved shelves created by the wood-worker Giuseppe Magistretti, also from Imola. The painted ceiling is the work of the local artists Angelo Gottarelli and Alessandro della Nave.

to the pharmacy there is the albergo El Cappello (*Della Volpe* palace): it was completed in 1484 by Girolamo Riario

This building, inaugurated in 1792, has fortunately remained intact in both the furnishings and the decorations thereby giving the visitor a vivid image of a pharmacy as it was in the 18th Century. The facade was the only part redesigned in

who wanted to house illustrious guests and equipped it with apartments, a barn and stables. The ancient entrance for the carriages at n. 1 of via Orsini allows us to imagine how it must have looked in the past. Continuing along via Orsini, at the corner of via Quarto, there is the beautiful gothic portal of the Church of Saint Dominic, work of the illustrious Jacopo from Cereto (1340). There is an agreeable garden alongside the building, that leads us to the *Complesso Conventuale dei Santi Niccolò e Domenico* (5), where the Museum of Saint Dominic was created, which

CONVENT OF SAINTS NICOLO' AND DOMENICO

It is one of the most important artistic and historical venues of the town. The Dominican convent was built in the 13th Century; two cloisters were added in the 15th Century and the complex was named after the adjoining church. It was the home of the Dominican friars until 1797, when it was turned into barracks by the French troops.

The restoration and its transformation into a museum has allowed to recover the original architecture of the convent and to identify the historical uses as the chapter, the dormitories with their cells, the kitchen, the granaries, the cellars, etc..

The 'City of Imola art collections' is a visitor's itinerary from the 14th Century to the present. It consists of over 600 works of art and items in a diversity of medium including paintings, sculptures, liturgical furnishings, ceramics, drawings, coins and medals and site specific works. The pieces are divided into seven main topics which are chapters of the Imola's art and culture history.

The 'Giuseppe Scarabelli Museum' was founded in 1857 and it bears the name of the scientist Giuseppe Scarabelli, a pioneer of geological studies. The first part of the visitor's itinerary tells the story of the museum and displays also the following donations that enriched it during its long life. This section also shows ethnographic items from Africa and South America and an Egyptian mummy. The second part of the itinerary consists of the over 25,000 artefacts that formed the nineteenth-century museum. They are displayed in the original showcases and are divided into three itineraries: Geology, Archaeology and Natural Sciences.

contains the art collections of the city and the archaeological and naturalistic Museum 'Giuseppe Scarabelli'. Walking back up via Cavour towards the historical centre, at the crossroads with via Appia, the coats of arms signal the 18th Century Ginnasi palace and at n. 84 we find the Florentine Renaissance style facade of the Calderini palace. We return on the via Appia, after having admired, the 13th Century Pighini palace – only example of patrician medieval house remaining in Imola, at n. 18, with its strict facade enlivened with embrasures and lancet windows –



after which we reach the small and sheltered square 'Caduti per la Libertà' that, together with the other two central squares, Matteotti and Gramsci, have always formed the commercial heart of the city; the tower and the Palazzo Comunale (6) are now in front of us. When we reach the square Matteotti, delimited on two

TOWN HALL

It is situated right in the core of the town and has retained its medieval structure made up of two adjoining buildings linked by a vault over via Emilia. The main building probably dates back to the first half of the 13th Century, but very few traces remain of that period, such as the columns with the grey sandstone capitals and the later gothic arches below the arcade. It underwent a total restoration in the second half of the 18th Century, under the direction of Alfonso Torreggiani and later of Cosimo Morelli. The latter completed the façade onto piazza Matteotti, the reception halls on the first floor and the monumental grand staircase. The visit begins at the first floor with the Green Room, elegantly furnished after the 18th elaborated style, leading to the Council Room. The Fireplace Room, the Red Room and the Yellow Room all form the prestigious artistic wing of the palace thanks to the baroque furnishings, the large golden framed mirrors, the 18th Century Murano glass chandeliers and the beautifully frescoed ceilings by the painters Alessandro della Nave

and Giacomo Zampa. The ancient chapel of the palace, nowadays used as a meeting room, also displays the frescoes by Antonio Villa and Angelo Gottarelli, painted in 1793, portraying the patron saints of Imola. It also exhibits a reproduction of the painting, especially commissioned in 1583 to Lavinia Fontana, "La Madonna di Ponte Santo" the original is in the San Domenico Museum.



sides by portico buildings, we can stop to observe the famous elegant façade of the Palazzo Riario Sforza poi Sersanti (7). Walking along the via Emilia and entering

RIARIO SFORZA then SERSANTI PALACE

Girolamo Riario, Lord of Imola, commissioned a group of architects to construct his town residence in 1480. The elegant terracotta façade, the arches resting on sandstone columns crowned by beautiful capitals and the balance of proportions make it one of the most beautiful Renaissance mansions of the region.



via Cosimo Morelli we find one of most ancient churches in the city, the Church of Saint Mary in Regola, done over in the 18th Century by Cosimo Morelli, who entrusted the decoration of the illusionistic vault to Alexander Dalla Nave. We reach via Garibaldi down via Aldrovandi and then down a section of via Mazzini.

The next stop of our itinerary is at n. 18, at what is surely the most particular and fascinating museum in Imola: *Palazzo Tozzoni* (8). At the exit of the palace we



TOZZONI PALACE

The last descendant of the Tozzoni family donated the building to the town in 1981. This aristocratic manor, which has been perfectly preserved not just architecturally but also in the furnishings, offers the visitors a clear view of the life of a 18th Century noble family. On exhibition is a rich and important collection of paintings, art objects, furnishings, family souvenirs. A monumental grand staircase leads upstairs to the baroque quarters. From the courtyard it is possible to go down to the large cellars showing exhibits of the farming world of the past.

walk along via Garibaldi to reach the *Duomo* (9) on the right, and, on the other side of the square, the Episcopal palace (10), with the Diocesan Museum where

THE CATHEDRAL

The cathedral, consecrated to St. Cassiano, was built between the years 1187 and 1271, but underwent complete renovation in 1763 by Cosimo Morelli. The inside, which is in neo-classic Latin-cross style, has as a main feature the presbytery, which is elevated in comparison to the level of floor. A central staircase goes down to the crypt which guards the shrine of the Saints Cassiano, Pier Crisologo, Proietto and Maurelio.

precious miniatures, an important picture gallery and sacred furnishings are exposed. A few steps away there is the 15th Century Della Volpe house, where Taddeo Della Volpe, the famous captain of the Republic of Venice, was born and, lately, location of the Mount of Piety.

Walking down via Nino Bixio we reach Porta Montanara, a surviving monumental entrance to the city. The *Convento dell'Osservanza* (11) can be found just a few steps further.



OSSERVANZA MONASTERY

This monumental complex is the work of the friars Minori Osservanti who came to Imola during the 15th Century and settled in an area hosting already a church and a bubonic plague home. It includes the church of St. Michele, built in 1472, which preserves the funeral stone dedicated to Bianca Landriani, sister of Caterina Sforza, on the outside under a beautiful 16th century arcade. The small chapel in the garden hosts a splendid 15th Century terracotta "Pietà" made up of seven life-sized statues.



MUNICIPAL MUSEUMS

The Fortress

P.le Giovanni dalle Bande Nere

From Tue. to Fri.	Saturday	Sunday
-	15.00 - 19.00	10.00 - 13.00 15.00 - 19.00

Tozzoni Palace

Via Garibaldi 18

From Tue. to Fri.	Saturday	Sunday
-	15.00 - 19.00	10.00 - 13.00 15.00 - 19.00

Saint Dominic Museum &

Via Sacchi 4

From Tue. to Fri.	Saturday	Sunday
9.00 - 13.00	15.00 - 19.00	10.00 - 13.00 15.00 - 19.00

- City of Imola
Art Collections
- Giuseppe Scarabelli
Museum

Admission with fee

Guided tours and education visits on booking at the number **0542.602609**



PRIVATE MUSEUMS & COLLECTIONS admission free

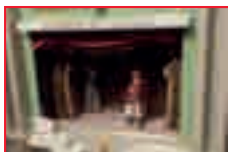
Battilani Collection

Via Poiano 1/b
tel. 0542.640961
Mr. Battilani



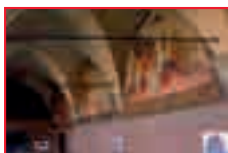
Collection of puppets and toy theatres

Chiesa di San Giacomo maggiore del Carmine
Via Emilia 32 - tel. 0542.22392
On appointment



Painted Lunette

20 frescoes dating back to the 16th century depicting the life of St. Francesco of Assisi
Convento dell'Osservanza
Via Venturini 2 - tel. 0542.23572
Saturday 14.30-18.00; Sunday 10.00-12.00



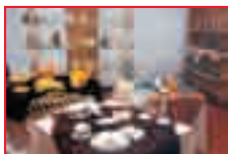
Piratello Museum of sacred art

Via Emilia Ponente 27 - Località Piratello
tel. 0542.40455
On appointment



Cooperativa Ceramica's Museum

Via Vittorio Veneto 13 - tel. 0542.601601
Mon. 15.10-19.00
from Tue. to Fri. 9.00-13.00 & 15.10-19.00
Sat. 8.30-12.30



Diocesan Museum

Piazza Duomo 1 - tel. 0542.24156
Tue. & Thu. 9.00-12.00 & 14.00-17.00
Wed. 9.00-12.00; Sat. & Sun. 15.30-18.30



Liberation and XX Century museum & documentation centre (CIDRA)

Via Fratelli Bandiera 23 - tel. 0542.24422
Tue., Thu. & Sat. 9.00-12.30
Thu. also 14.30-16.30



MAIN YEARLY EVENTS

COS'ANTICHE

4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

An antiques street market in the city centre every fourth week-end of the month except June, July & August



CARNIVAL PARADE OF FANTASY VEHICLES (FANTAVEICOLI)

LAST SUNDAY OF CARNIVAL

Crazy, colourful and strictly man-powered vehicles make this event unforgettable by blending creativity and ingenuity with a pinch of folly



VOLUPTATES

SPRING

A food and wine event from Friday to Sunday; visitors can choose from nearly 200 Italian, French and other European wines from wine regions around the continent



NATURALMENTE IMOLA

MAY

A month dedicated to nature and the outdoors, with music, guided tours and entertainment



IMOLA IN MUSICA

BEGINNING OF JUNE

A music festival in the town centre featuring free open-air performances - ranging from classical to contemporary music - guided tours to historical buildings and art exhibitions to let everyone enjoy the joyful and care-free atmosphere Imola takes on these days



IMOLA DI MERCOLEDÌ

END OF JUNE & BEGINNING OF JULY

Four summer evenings dedicated to 4 colours to discover and 4 emotions to experience for those who want to explore the city centre in an unusual and totally relaxing manner



INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

END OF JULY

Folk groups from around the world parade through the historical streets and sing and dance in the town centre sporting their typical colourful costumes



THEATRE SEASON

FROM OCTOBER TO APRIL

Some of the best Italian drama companies make up an exciting season held in the two main town theatres. Amateur companies also stage very popular entertainments that cater to a wide variety of taste



CONCERTS OF THE ACCADEMY

FROM NOVEMBER TO APRIL

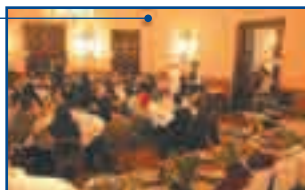
The most renowned performers of camera and symphonic music are cheered by a passionate and competent audience



BACCANALE

NOVEMBER

This food and wine festival offers exhibitions, shows, themed evenings and obviously food and wine tasting events, all located in the most suggestive sites in the historical town centre



IMOLA FILM FESTIVAL

DECEMBER

An international short-film competition and festival highlighting the aspects of this very special form of art and its most significant Italian and foreign contributions



FLAVOURS AND TRADITIONS

As is well known, the Emilia Romagna Region is a paradise of taste. With its wealth of recognized and certified foods, be it on this side or on the other side of the Sillaro (the River that separates Emilia and Romagna) is really of little importance: your palate will most certainly be satisfied. The town of Imola marks the beginning of the Romagna part of the region, land of hospitality and ingenuity, where the local cuisine reflects the open and friendly character of its people and the concept of sitting down at the table with friends, drinking and eating well is an absolute necessity.

The kitchen is the domain of “sfoglina” pasta (heir of “azdora”, the stalwart housewife, who presides over the household government and the true symbol of hard work) who, with her experience and skill, prepares quintessential meals in Romagna: such as the traditional minestrina or soup. Even today, according to tradition, the dough is made by hand and rolled out with a rolling pin in order to achieve a uniform thickness and a good degree of “roughness”, which is fundamental to its ability to better accommodate the condiments. As a result, there are many pasta formats with fanciful names: tortellini, cappelletti, ravioli, tagliatelle, strozzapreti, strichetti, quadrettini (little squares), maltagliati, garganelli, just to name the most famous ones.

However, the minestrina or soup is not the only star of the Imolese table; in fact, every meal worthy of respect

GARGANELLI

This is a typical egg pasta originated in Imola. It's made from small squares of rolled dough that have been flattened out with a rolling pin on a loom called a “comb”. They have an appearance similar to “penne pasta” even if the overlapping flaps of dough give the garganello a thicker consistency. Once upon a time the garganelli were cooked and served in broth, but today they are generally dry when brought to the table, topped with Italian prosciutto, peas and Parmesan cheese, or with the classical Romagna meat sauce.



requires a good accompaniment of wine. Thanks to its favourable position between the Apennines and the plains, a glorious

VINO

Local production includes Chardonnay, Pignoletto, Trebbiano for the white wines, Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese for the red wines. Among all of the wines, Sangiovese is undoubtedly the quintessential wine of the area. The Imolese variety is dry and fruity, with a rich garnet colour, perfect for accompanying roasts, grilled meats and sausages, which is so much a part of the Romagna table.

Finally, an honourable mention goes to Albana di Romagna, the first white wine to obtain the denomination of controlled and guaranteed origin (DOCG). The Albana grapes are only grown in Romagna: it is therefore of the quintessential indigenous variety.





www.enotecaemiliaromagna.it/en

cellars of the Rocca (fortress), they are gathered and made available for purchase, circa 1,000 labels from over 200 producers, selected by a technical committee of sommeliers and industry professionals. In this gastronomic excursus (narrative digression), one cannot help to mention the “*piadina*” or flatbread. Famous just about everywhere, it can be

viticultural tradition has developed here, so much so that the ‘Colli d’Imola’ production can truly boast the title of D.O.C. (Controlled Designation of Origin)

A demonstration of excellence and the viticultural heritage value of the area, in Dozza (a small town located on the hills of Imola) the Emilia Romagna Regional Enoteca was born here. Right here, in the

enjoyed during meals as a bread substitute, or as a main dish when folded in half and stuffed with meats, cheeses, vegetables and sauces. One of the most typical fillings and appreciated is the one known as “Squacquerone di Romagna” DOP (fresh soft cheese) and Arugula salad. The *piadina* or flatbread is well-known throughout the territory, thanks to the many kiosks, where at any time during the day; you can taste this speciality and all its combinations.

The importance that food plays in this area of Italy is known to most and the town of Imola clearly falls into this context. In fact, every year, a festival to promote the culinary culture of this area is organized in the city, a kermesse festival dedicated to a food product to be explored in all of its aspects: the *Baccanale* or Bacchanal.

PIADINA

The emblem of the Romagna, the “*pié*” is made with flour, water, salt and olive oil or lard (the addition of baking soda or pizza yeast is controversial) and baked on a terracotta plate called “*testo*”. The Imolese version is slightly smaller and thicker than that found along the coastline, but the classic taste of the *piadina* is unaffected. Some very popular variants are the *calzone* (flatbread folded in half and closed to keep the filling inside) and fried *piadina*.



This intense love for the table is also accompanied by the handing down of folklore and rural traditions: there are countless festivals and popular festivals that, since ancient times, follow one another, harkening back to a forgotten and by-gone era of traditional dishes.



BACCANALE

An appointment that exalts the cult of quality eating and drinking, combining it with art. Each edition has a reference theme, selected from foods, types of food and cooking methods.

Menus created for the occasion, ad hoc decorated shop windows, entertainment, meetings and exhibitions transform Imola and the territory into a great culinary stage upon which historians, chefs, restaurateurs and artists each take their turns.

The Bacchanal represents an important showcase of the territory, its restaurants and its products but also an opportunity to present the city and its lifestyle.

www.baccanaleimola.it

 For further information please visit www.stradaviniesapori.it/uk/home.asp

FAIRS AND FOLK FESTIVALS

SAGRA DEI MACCHERONI

PONTICELLI - FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

More than 1700 pounds of pasta are served with 900 pounds of meat sauce, and an entire Parmesan cheese is grated. Music shows and local produce exhibitions are also part of this event

SAGRA DEL FAGIOLO

FABBRICA - A WEEKEND AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH

Old and traditional dishes of the local area made from beans, entertainment and live music

LOM A MERZ

IMOLA - SECOND OR THIRD SATURDAY OF MARCH

The name literally means in dialect "light in March". In the past a big bonfire was lit with the vine-branches so as to send the winter cold away and to wish a favourable harvest. Today the feast takes place in the main square, with music, dance, food stalls and the final bonfire

SAGRA DEL FRIGGIONE

FABBRICA - THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL

Music, markets, entertainment and rich gastronomic stands with typical local dishes and friggione, along with a hearty sauce of white onions and tomatoes prepared with care by the local housewives

FIERA AGRICOLA DEL SANTERNO

IMOLA - THIRD WEEKEND OF JUNE

The fair is devoted to the world of agriculture and visitors can explore a vast area devoted to displaying, tasting and sale of the agricultural and agri-business products of local farms and companies, a plant nursery market, machinery and tools for farming, gardening and animal husbandry products as well as local crafts closely related to the agricultural sector

SAGRA DI SAN GIOVANNI

ZELLO - NINE DAYS INCLUDING 24TH JUNE

This village festival offers food stalls, music, bingo and presentations of old farming trades

SAGRA DEL COCOMERO

ZELLO - A WEEK-END AT THE END OF JULY

A festival dedicated to a summer season favourite: the watermelon. Food stalls, games, bingo, music shows, and of course watermelon eating contests

PONTESANTO IN FESTA-FESTIVITA' DELL'ASSUNTA

PONTESANTO - A WEEK AROUND 15TH AUGUST

Traditional festivity dedicated to the Virgin Mary that also comprises field games and various shows for everyone

TOZZONA FESTA E SPORT

IMOLA - A WEEK AT THE END OF AUGUST

It stages food stalls, tennis tournaments, dances and evening music together with entertainment for all ages

FESTA DEL CONTADINO E PALIO DEI PIGIATORI

SASSO MORELLI - A SUNDAY OF EARLY SEPTEMBER

This feast is dedicated to local food and wine. The “Palio dei Pigiatori” sees men, women and children challenging each other in a grape crushing contest while the “Grand Premio dei Salumieri” consists in a salami-cutting contest among producers from the entire region

FESTA DI S. ANTONIO

SAN PROSPERO - WEEK-END AROUND 8TH SEPTEMBER

A village festival including food stalls, music events, country games and a final fireworks show

FESTA DELLA TAGLIATELLA

PONTICELLI - SECOND AND THIRD WEEK-END OF SEPTEMBER

The title is self-explaining: a feast dedicated to this popular type of hand-made pasta prepared in so many different and tasty ways. Every evening there are shows, sports and country games

FESTA DELL'AGRICOLTURA

SESTO IMOLESE - SECOND WEEK-END OF SEPTEMBER

A folk festival which revives the old farming traditions and customs. There are exhibitions, food stalls, music shows and country games for everyone

SFUJAREIA

IMOLA - THIRD SATURDAY OF SEPTEMBER

This feast is a reminder of the old farming custom of corn peeling. Traditional songs and dances are also performed together with presentations of old farming trades.

Live music, food stalls, and of course corn-peeling demonstrations are on show

SAGRA DELL'UVA E DELLA POLENTA

ZELLO - THIRD WEEK-END OF SEPTEMBER

Wine is the king of this festival that obviously stages food and wine stalls along with country games and music shows

SAGRA DELLA LASAGNA E DEL SANGIOVESE

FABBRICA - LAST WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER

From Thursday to Monday, food stalls, music events and country games

FESTA DEL CIOCCOLATO

IMOLA - A WEEKEND OF EARLY OCTOBER

In the historic city centre, you'll have the opportunity to discover the art work, culture and traditions of one of the most insatiable and tempting products with their endless variety of flavours, colours and aromas

LA PIAZZA DEI SAPORI

IMOLA - LAST WEEKEND OF OCTOBER

In the area of Porta Montanara, there are exhibitions of original and well-known foods, delicious and wholesome, coming directly from the typical food producing areas of Italy. There are performances and entertainment for everyone

SAGRA DEL PESCE

SESTO IMOLESE - SECOND WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER

A food stand with fresh fish at the parish community centre, accompanied by music from Romagna

Many pleasant excursions can be enjoyed in the Imola area: head for the sea by crossing the plain and the geometric pattern of its fields, or visit the hills full of vineyards and orchards to enjoy the gently shaped landscape.

LANDSCAPE

Lovers of trekking and horse-riding are recommended to go up along the Santerno river valley.

At each bend of the street a new charming view appears to your eyes: steep clay gullies, gypsum veins in the rocks, woods of chestnut or beech trees inhabited by wild boars and roe deer.



What about stopping for a while to try a glass of wine or buy a pot of honey? If you decide to stay in town, don't miss a walk in the *Parco Acque Minerali*.

ACQUE MINERALI PARK

This park has always been the green lung of Imola. It is chiefly known as a recreational area, but it also has a botanical and historical value.

It is situated quite near the town centre and is completely surrounded by the racetrack "Enzo and Dino Ferrari".

In 1830 Gioacchino Cerchiari discovered the curative mineral spring waters which quickly made the area very popular. In 1871 the area was turned into a park, with paths and flowerbeds and a small spa.

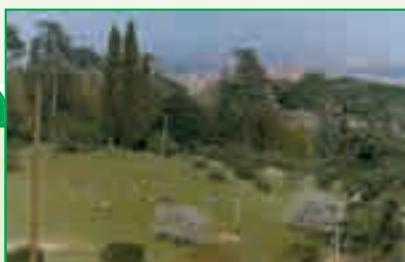
Today the park (11 hectares) has a rich collection of local and exotic plants. Main entrance in via Elli Rosselli



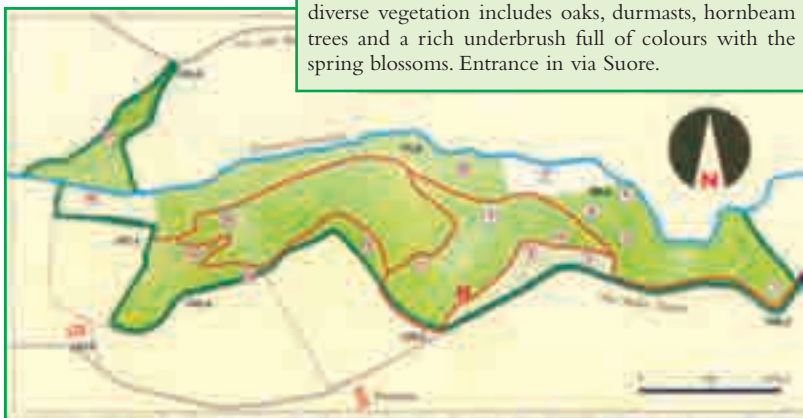
Of more traditional formal nature is Parco Tozzoni, located on the south-

TOZZONI PARK

It once was land bought by the noble family Tozzoni in 1880, who wanted to build a country home there. This explains why the park consists of large grassy clearings surrounded by tall trees after the English style. Large expanses of grass to play on and many majestic mature trees can be found: oaks, cypresses, citrons and pines. Entrance either in via Suore or via Comezzano.



the parks described above. Its surface of 19 hectares is a very interesting example of the old forest which covered the whole plain in the past. Hawthorns, oak and maple trees represent the majority of the vegetation.



western hills of the town. The *Bosco della Frattona* is completely different from

FRATTONA WOOD

This natural reserve was opened in 1984. It is at the foot of the hills surrounding Imola, not far from Parco Tozzoni, and is a very precious sample of the large forest that once covered all the area around Imola, as well as the flatlands crossed by the Po River.

The name of this park - Frattona derives from the word "fratta", which means steep area with thick vegetation - perfectly describes this rough area with steep hillsides descending towards a stream, Rio Correcchio, which is its natural border to the north. The rich and diverse vegetation includes oaks, durmasts, hornbeam trees and a rich underbrush full of colours with the spring blossoms. Entrance in via Suore.

AQUARIUM

The aquarium leads you through a fascinating journey in the sea-world among invertebrates, rare fish, marine plants and reptiles all in their natural habitat via Aspromonte 19/d - tel. 0542.24180
Opening hours:
9.30-12.00 & 15.30-19.00
Closed: Sunday & Monday
Admission charge

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY "ALFIO BETTI"

It is located about 4 Km from Imola. It features a film screening room, an exhibition hall and a dome that is 4.5 metres in diameter, which houses the main telescope. The large terrace is particularly suitable for observing the sky with the naked eye and with binoculars
Via Comezzano 21 - cell. 334.3156302
Admission free (upon appointment)

TOUR ITINERARIES

ON BIKE

THE CANAL OF THE MILLS (partly cycle track, partly road)

This pleasant route will allow you to discover the ancient course of the mills canal.

Start from the lawn in front of the Rocca (fortress).

Behind the Rocca, on the left-hand side, next to the entrance to a former medical center, take the cycle track leading - through an underpass - to the other side of viale Saffi and carry on along the track, following the Mills Canal. Continue along via degli Sminatori through the new residential area called Pedagna Est: the track follows the course of the canal which is partly covered but comes back to view in via St. Lucia.

From via St. Lucia take via Degli Orti and carry on following the course of the canal, now again in full view.

After 4/5 km. the route reaches the suburban residential area of Ponticelli; to make the route shorter, one can go back through the cycle path of via St. Lucia, then via Quarantini and via Tiro a Segno as far as via Pirandello.



A CYCLE RIDE TO TOZZONI PUBLIC PARK (partly cycle track, partly road)

Through the busy residential area of Pedagna to one of the most beautiful public parks of Imola.

Start from the RiverSide Bar in via Pirandello. Turn left and - leaving behind the bridge over the Santerno river - follow the cycle track as far as the roundabout; cross it and keep going along the same track on via St. Benedetto.

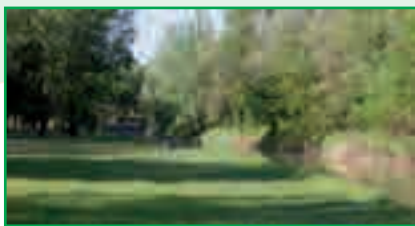
At the following roundabout keep to the cycle path on via Montericco and keep going. At the intersection with via Mascagni, turn right into via Montericco that will lead you to the entrance to Tozzoni Park, on via Comezzano. You can cycle through the park following a gravel track.



ON THE RIVER BANKS (mixed conditions: bike trail, cycle track and road)

Start from outside the main entrance to the "Enzo e Dino Ferrari" racetrack.

From the nearest end of the bridge over the Santerno river access the grassy area leading to the river bank, with extra care on the steep slope. At the bottom, turn right and follow the bike trail as far as the



via Pisacane bridge; leaving the green area turn right onto via Santerno. Follow the road left (use the cycle track) as far as the traffic lights; turn left and cross the bridge on the cycle track. Once you reach the other side of the bridge, be careful and take a left along the bike trail which leads into via Graziadei; turn right and stay on the cycle track. Carry straight on as far as the "Dei Marinai" roundabout; head left and continue along the cycle track running along the left bank of the Santerno river.

Continue until you reach the RiverSide Bar; turn left into via Delle Lastre and keep going until you get to the narrow bridge at the Tosa bend. Cross the bridge and take a left so as to join the bike trail on the right-hand bank of the river; this will take you back to the starting point.



VISITING THE "ENZO & DINO FERRARI CIRCUIT"

(partly cycle track, partly road)

Start from outside the main entrance to the "Enzo e Dino Ferrari" racetrack, marked by the monument dedicated to Enzo Ferrari and to his son, Dino, by the French artist Arman. From the monument, turn right

following the cycle path that goes down through an underpass and up again to the left, leading you to an open area at the back of the grand stands that is generally closed to the public on big events. Carry on, and after a slope, you'll get to the upper part of the circuit (called Variante Alta); then turn left into via Dei Colli and skirting the track you'll get to the famous Rivazza curve. Keep following the racetrack from the outside along via Ascari and then straight ahead along via Nuvolari; at the crossroads turn right into via Musso and you'll find yourselves back again inside the circuit area: after the underpass you'll have a fantastic view over the paddock area.

Go down via Musso as far as the soccer stadium, which hosts the helicopter field on big events: turn left and then right so as to enter the proper **Acque Minerali Park**. This beautiful historic park is worth a visit and one can easily cycle through it, but we'll stick to our theme and will carry on straight ahead following the cycle path: the racetrack and the new chicanes are now in full view. The path will lead you also to the **monument** dedicated to the memory of Ayrton Senna, who died in Imola in 1994 during the Grand Prix. The same path will take you out of the park, through the gate, onto via Kennedy and then up to the famous Tamburello curve where the cement stands are open to visitors.

Go back from the same way you came: at the stadium, keep going following the path down under the bridge and then up to the other side, and you'll find yourselves just in front of the main entrance to the circuit.

The town of Imola is undoubtedly internationally known for the *Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari*, an auto racing circuit where the grand history of

car engines was made, with epic companies and indelible tragedies (still a monument in memory of

ENZO E DINO FERRARI RACETRACK

Technical information on the racetrack: length for cars 4,909 m. and for motorcycles 4,936 m., 9 right-hand and 13 left-hand curves. Maximum speed: cars Km/h 330, motorcycles Km/h 290. Track length: it ranges from 15 m. to 10 m., 22 main marshals' location and 60 secondary locations; 18 cameras located along the track.



AYRTON SENNA MONUMENT

This work of art was created by artist Stefano Pierotti, from the town of Pietrasanta (Province of Lucca) and consists of a two-meter high bronze statue depicting the racing driver. It is located inside the Parco delle Acque Minerali (Mineral Waters Park) near the Tamburello corner where Mr. Senna's racing car left the track on 1 May 1994, and crashed into the concrete retaining wall. Since its inauguration, on 26 April 1997, this place has become a destination for fans and admirers, worldwide



Ayrton Senna, who died in the disastrous 1994 Grand Prix car race, it is the place where fans go to visit, remember and pray).

Even since the early 1950s the Imola circuit has been the scene of national car and motorcycle races, receiving great general consensus, which confirmed and increased over time, have since made Santeramo famous for the most renowned car races such as Formula 1, MotoGP and the World Superbike Championship.

Most recently, this facility has also proven to be an ideal location for trade fair exhibitions and musical concerts (during the golden years of the Heineken Jammin' Festival and the only Italian date of the AC/DC concert), thus confirming that its excellence is not only limited to the motorsport scene.

Not to be forgotten, among the fixed appointments on the track, The Exchange Expo: the most important

CRAME TRADE FAIR

Organized by the CRAME, the Romagnolo Antique Auto and Motorcycle Club, it is one of the most important events for the exchange of cars, motorcycles, bicycles, accessories and vintage parts. At home in the Autodrome, this three-day event attracts tens of thousands of visitors from around the world.

www.crame.it/imola-mostra-scambio.asp



Italian exchange market, on a global scale, for collectors and cars and motorcycle enthusiasts. Over two thousand exhibitors, each year in September, invade the track, the pits and the paddock with refined and vintage pieces... always on the lookout for that one great deal.

On a regular basis, other huge sporting events also gravitate around the Autodromo, and among those particularly expected is the 'Tre Monti' (Race on foot over the hills).

TRE MONTI

The road race scheduled in October which attracts participants of different nationalities and competitive level, ready to compete along a mixed circuit of rolling hilly paths, measuring 15,300 Km. In addition to the competitive race, even the walk is generally successful (the same length), the walk (5 Km) and the mini foot race (2.5 Km).



The paths of the city parks and the hills surrounding the city are well suited for running and cycling ... two of the most popular sports among the Imolesi, who have always been enthusiasts and practitioners.

In particular, using a bicycle in the town of Imola is essential: there is at least one for each inhabitant to be used for physical activity, leisure, or just to go to the grocery store, along a bicycle path network so extensive (about 80 Km) that it has very few rivals in Emilia-Romagna.

For some time, sport is recognized as an important asset, starting with the educational and social values it conveys. In its infinite variations, it has been a central part of the identity and the daily lives of thousands of Imolese since childhood. The confirmation of this remarkable city sporting vocation and its inhabitants is repeated every year during the 'Sport al Centro' (Sports Day).

SPORTS DAY



Since 2000, there has been a sporting event in Imola: clubs and local associations promote sport and its values with demonstrations and free trials. Each year the event is enriched with new trendy disciplines, alongside traditional ones. Additionally, they emphasize important issues such as the environment, organic foods and, more generally, all of the healthy lifestyles.

The event is held in conjunction with the Giornata Nazionale dello Sport (National Sport Day), which falls, each year, on the first Sunday in June.

HOW TO FIND YOUR WAY AROUND

TRANSPORT:

Railway Station • Piazzale Marabini 7

Ticket office opening hours: 6.05-20.50

Enquiries tel. 892021

Bus station • Viale A. Costa

Ticket office opening hours (weekdays only): 6.15-13.40

Enquiries tel. 051.290290

Taxi station • Piazzale Marabini 9c

tel. 0542.29746 - 28122

EMERGENCIES:

Town Police Station • Via Pirandello 12

tel. 0542.660311

Hospital S. Maria della Scaletta • Via Montericco 4

Switchboard: tel. 0542.662111

Doctor on duty: tel. 800 040 050

Ambulance service: 118

State Police Station • Via Mazzini 52

tel. 0542.619911

Emergency calls: 113

Carabinieri • Via Morelli 10

tel. 0542.611800

Emergency calls: 112

SERVICES:

I.A.T. Tourist information office

Galleria Centro Cittadino • Via Emilia 135

from Mon. to Fri.: 8.30-13.00; Tue. 15.00-18.00; Sat. 8.30-12.30

tel. 0542.602207

e-mail: iat@comune.imola.bo.it

visitareimola.it/eng/

Town Hall • Via Mazzini 4

tel. 0542.602111