

Il paese dei Nobili e del verde

Premilcuore

ROMAGNA'S VILLAGES

PROVINCE OF FORLÌ CESENA



Nestling between the base of Monte Arsiccio and a tight bend in the Rabbi river, the ancient village of Premilcuore still retains its medieval street plan. There are various versions, some of them more fanciful than others, about the origins of the town's name, Premilcuore.

The name.

The only thing that is certain is that the settlement of Plano Mercurii, Castro Plamerorii, and Plamicarii are mentioned in documents dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries. The name later changed to Plamerchorio (1367), then to Premalcorio (1370), and finally to the name as we have it today.

From Modigliana to Florence.

Once belonging to the powerful Counts Guidi of Modigliana, and recorded by cardinal Anglico in 1371 as being part of the vicariate of Fiumane, based in Bertinoro, Premilcuore came under the rule of

Florence in 1375, after chasing off the lord of the castle, who was in the pay of the Church. Four years later, Community representatives drew up a series of statutes and orders in the church of San Lorenzo, in the castle of Premilcuore, probably basing them on existing documents. Premilcuore was to remain under Florentine rule from 1375 to 1923.

The Tuscan influence.

Evidence of the area's close links with Florence can be seen in the tremendous simplicity of the façades of the houses, and in the use of sandstones to frame windows and doorways. The Tuscan architectural influence is even more in evidence in the buildings belonging to the aristocracy and inside the church of San Martino.

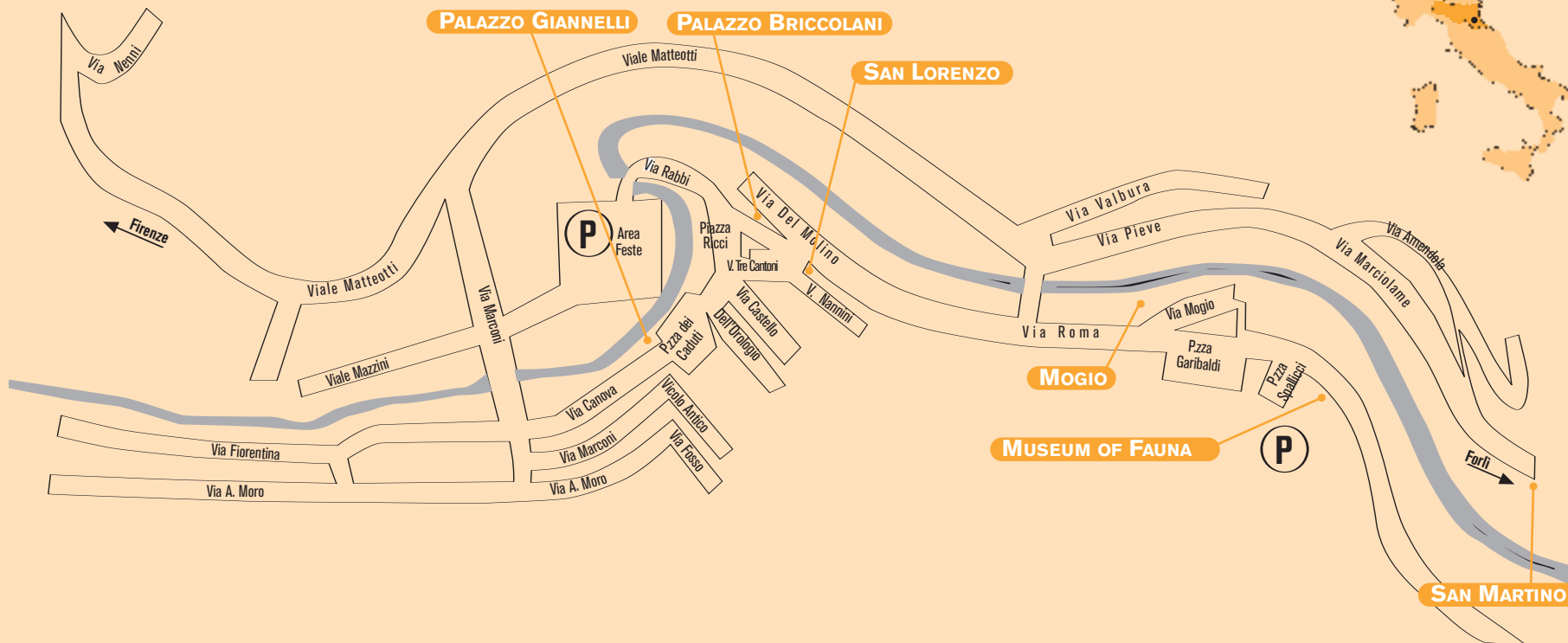
Historical characters.

Illustrious historical characters from Premilcuore include Giulio Cesare de' Medici, from a younger branch of the famous family. He was Commissioner of

the town of Terra del Sole between 1675 and 1676, having married countess Lucia della Massa, widow of Dr. Girolamo Monsignani, in 1672. He moved to Premilcuore, where he was elected 'Gonfalonier' on several occasions, and was appointed ambassador to Florence, where he died in 1706, and is buried in the church of San Martino.

Other noteworthy figures include: Tommaso Perelli (1704-1783), the philosopher and astronomer; Domenico Ricci (1846-1918), who bequeathed the funds for the construction of the hospital bearing his name; and Ferrante Nannini (1889-1935), who became the town's first socialist mayor in 1920, and who died in exile in France.

Noteworthy visitors to Premilcuore include the doctor and poet Aldo Spallicci, who died here in 1973, and after whom the local elementary school is named.



FAMOUS PEOPLE:

- Giulio Cesare de' Medici** (17th - 18th century) town "gonfalonier"
- Tommaso Perelli** (1704 - 1783) philosopher and astronomer
- Domenico Ricci** (1846 - 1918) benefactor
- Ferrante Nannini** (1889 - 1935) mayor
- Aldo Spallicci** (1886 - 1973) doctor, senator and poet

PRODOTTI TIPICI:

- * *Raviggiolo cheese*
- * *Sausages*
- * *Romagnola Beef Cattle*
- * *Wooden country furniture*

USEFUL NUMBERS:

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Ospitalità nei Borghi
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IL CUORE VERDE DELLA ROMAGNA

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Al progetto partecipano le Regioni Emilia-Romagna, Campania, Basilicata, Molise, Toscana, Liguria, Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Museum of Romagna Mountain Fauna

The museum features dioramas (environmental reconstructions of small animal and vegetal ecosystems), a small laboratory equipped with microscopes for the analysis of exhibits, and interactive games for visiting school groups – since 1999, these are just some of the activities at the ‘Museo della Fauna del Crinale Romagnolo’ (Museum of Romagna Mountain Fauna), housed in Premilcuore in one of the 11 Visitors Centres for the Casentinesi Forest, Monte Falterona and Campigna National Park.

The various animals featured in the environmental reconstructions include the Apennine wolf, deer, and birds of prey, but also vipers and salamanders, frogs, toads and river shrimps.

A set of badger footprints leads to the museum while those of the wolf lead to the teaching laboratory.



points of interest

1. Stairway

A series of panels decorate the walls of the stairway leading from the visitors centre to the upper floor, dedicated to local fauna. The panels show a section of soil, with the various animals that live in it and the various types of vegetation it contains, such as roots, fungi, etc., and the geological nature of the sub-soil.

The cross-section of a mountain stream is also shown, with its various inhabitants and their relationship with the river bed, and the typical river fauna of the National Park.

2. Balcony

this is the forest floor, and visiting children are encouraged to use all their senses as they discover the forest environment in the same way as the animals who live in it.

For example, there are the "trees of the senses": the first is a tree trunk with a series of holes into which the children put their hands and try to guess what is hidden inside. A cloth sleeve acts as a guide, and prevents objects being removed from the holes, which contain rocks, feathers, and models of frogs, snakes and insects.

3. Museum room

A rather unusual way of presenting the forest in a Museum: a large display case/diorama occupies part of the room and 'surrounds' visitors, immersing them in the forest ecosystem. The background, made with inter-connected panels, guides visitors, and using hyper-realistic techniques, shows a large high forest with clearings, reproduced from real images of the park. The display case is divided into four separate sections, representing different times of the day, with different colours and light reflecting the passage of time, and ecological niches just as they occur in the forest. A remote-controlled sound system lets visitors hear the sounds made by the various forest species.

At the base of the display case, there are explanatory panels describing the main characteristics of the 'residents' of the forest, recognisable by their outline.

4. Teaching laboratory

The laboratory has tables and chairs for about thirty children, while the tutor has at his disposal two lockers/trees and a lab bench with a stereo-microscope and video-camera.

There is a screen for showing videos of the park and/or clips for the various teaching activities.

There are also two more "trees of the senses" acting as prompts for study and discovery.

The tree of smells: this locker/tree contains a series of scents that the tutor can use to give the children sensorial experiences, and various blocks of wood of different types for the children to smell. There are animal and plant scents, various pleasant and unpleasant odours, a fan, and strips of absorbent paper for discovering smells.

The tree of sounds: containing musical instruments, natural amplification systems, elastic ropes and other items designed to encourage the children to discover sounds. The room is also fitted with a sound system that enables the children to listen to the sound produced, for example, by a wolf walking in the forest, or by an owl when hunting.

Other experiences of sound perception are available in the museum room.



The two Mills



In the past, the Rabbi river and its tributaries used to power the wheels of dozens of water-mills, two of which have now been completely restored, allowing visitors to experience the magic of an old mill.

Castel dell'Alpe Mill, today known as Biondi Mill.

The mill, with two grindstones, one of which is stationary (the top stone) while the other is moving (the bottom stone), was used for over a thousand years, up until 1850 and the introduction of roll mills that, albeit slowly, eventually replaced the grindstones and wheels of the old mills.

The Castel dell'Alpe mill, however, continued grinding for many years, up until about 1960, operated by the owners, the Biondi family, who have now restored it to its former glory.

Visits and stays at the Biondi Mill can be arranged by contacting the Biondi Family (tel. 0543 951029 - 3200660693).



The old Fiumicello mill, owned by the Mengozzi brothers.

This mill was abandoned in 1963 after centuries of use. The mill's owners, the Mengozzi brothers, returned occasionally to use the lodgings, and were each time more and more dismayed to see how the mill's equipment was falling into disrepair. Finally, they decided that as well as a sense of nostalgia, they also had the technical know-how and determination to see the paddles of the old turbine turn one more time. With patience and dedication, they rebuilt and restored every component, and the mill, having lain idle for thirty years, began turning once again.

Memory and history were brought back to life, and the Mengozzi brothers are rightly proud of their handiwork. Today, every part of the mill works perfectly: from the electric generator, to the little stone grinder that was used to sharpen blades and knives.

Visits to the mill can be arranged by contacting the Mengozzi family (tel. 0543 86451).

The two Residences



Palazzo Giannelli.

In the old town, the exterior can be visited.

This, along with Palazzo Briccolani, is the most impressive civic building in the town.

A three-storey building with charming wrought-iron balconies, the ground floor features windows with iron grilles, an arched doorway with floral decorations, and a wrought-iron sunburst decoration with plant and rosette motifs.

The inside features covered rooms with segmented bohemian vault ceilings and two adjacent rooms with wooden ceilings, decorated with neoclassical tempera works. Of these two rooms, the one opening onto the terrace is particularly rich, characterised by allegorical ornaments depicting the four elements: water, air, earth and fire.

Palazzo Briccolani.

This building, in the old town, was the aristocratic residence of, among others, Lucia della Massa, wife of Giulio Cesare de Medici, who was the Town 'Gonfalonier' around the turn of the 18th century.

The building is actually two constructions standing side by side, which are now joined by a long, simple three-storey façade, characterised by two twin doorways with diamond-shaped bosses, windows with elegant iron grilles and the spacing of the windows.

The ground floor features tempera decorations of fruit trees in medieval-courtly style. The first floor has a caisson ceiling and a curved sandstone fireplace.

The building houses a commercial exhibition of ceramic and leather goods.



The two Oratories

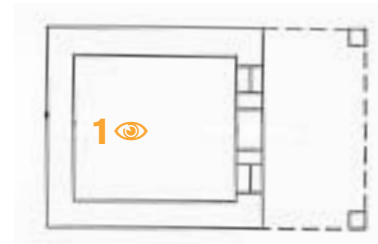
Oratory of Mogio.

In the Baldocce area of the town, visits on request.

This tiny oratory, located high above the banks of the river Rabbi, on an ancient mule-track, was rebuilt in 1946 in an existing construction.

The first-floor church (the building is on two levels, in a form similar to a tower) is preceded by a rustic loggia with a trussed ceiling supported by two pillars. The Bell (dated 1505) comes from another church, and is housed in a vaulted belfry.

The 'Festa del Mogio', held on 24 May, is a feast day marked by hospitality, with local inhabitants offering visitors a tasty selection of local specialities.



points of interest

1. Canvas depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Holy Family and infant Saint John

The work of the Florentine painter, Francesco Corsini, dated 1644.

Oratory of San Lorenzo.

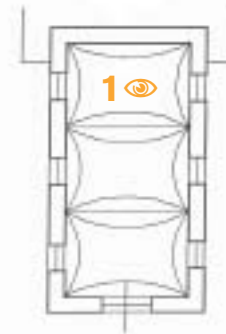
Located in the old town, open to the public from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

This is perhaps the castle chapel mentioned in two distinct documents from the 12th century. In 1379 this was where the town Statutes were approved. The oratory was restored in 1676 and 1750. The inside features a nave covered by three vaulted ceilings on semi-elliptical arches, with embrasured windows that widen at the bottom.

points of interest

1. Main altar

Richly decorated with gilded stucco-work, the altar features a large canvas depicting Our Lady of the Rosary between Saints Domenico and Catherine, attributed to the Florentine painter Francesco Curradi. Restored in 1989, it is undoubtedly one of the most valuable paintings in the village.



Parish church of San Martino all'Oppio

This is the most important monument in the village. Originally founded in the 10th century, the present-day structure dates back to the mid-16th century, an example of late renaissance architecture. It was restored in the period 1933-40, and has three naves divided on each side by seven round arches, supported by one-piece Tuscan order columns.

The airy central nave is covered by a trussed roof, while the side naves have cross vault ceilings. The floor is paved with slabs of sandstone, and the church features a large number of canvases from the 17th and 18th centuries.

points of interest

1. Presentation of the Virgin in the Temple (1580)

A copy, presumably by the painter, of a painting of the same subject by Giovanni de' Vecchi from Sansepolcro (1536-1615), and housed in the Sansepolcro museum.

2. Saint Anna and Baby Jesus appear to Saint Onofrio (1878)

Work by the Florentine Academy painter, Ferdinando Folchi (1822-1883).

3. The Immaculate Conception (1715)

4. Saint Barbara

5. Saint Michael Archangel and Saint Luigi Gonzaga

6. Our Lady of Good Counsel

San Francesco da Paola, canvas from the Tuscan academy, already present in 1652.

7. Virgin of the Carmelites in Heaven between Saint John of the Cross and Saint Teresa of Avila

Canvas painted by Jacopo Vignali da Pratovecchio (1594-1664), and restored by Isabella Cervetti in 1996.

8. Saints Lucia and Apollonia.

Attributed to the school of the Bolognese painter, Marcantonio Franceschini (1648-1729).

9. Saint Anthony. Painting featuring a beautiful frame.

10. Saint Rocco between Saint Martin and Saint Macario with Madonna and Child in heaven (first 1500)

11. Crucifixion of the Saints

