



SAVONA VARAZZE and the RIVIERA DEL BEIGUA

where the sea is a family matter



Provincia di
savona

SAVONA, VARAZZE and the RIVIERA DEL BEIGUA

The towns and sites from Piani di Invrea to Capo di Vado are rich in history and traditions. Visitors are spoilt with the choice of what to enjoy, i.e. the sea, beautiful green inland spots, excursions, relaxation or fun on the beach. However, nature is the real protagonist of the Riviera del Beigua, i.e. an area, dominated by a mount with the same name, which offers a mild climate all the year round.

Savona is a town to be discovered by walking through its paths and narrow lanes. It is an ancient place, though open to the future. Majolica and glass are epitomes of the local crafts. Skilful craftsmen create masterpieces appreciated all over the world.

Each town has a table as synopsis of value in terms of Tourism.
Marks are given for Nature, Art and Family to synthesize what is on offer.



Outdoors/Nature

The marks are based on natural resources and landscape, including sports facilities and excursions. In other words what goes to make an "active holiday"



Art

Marks are based on relevant resources concerning Art and History, including dedicated itinerary (museums, monuments, etc.)



Family

Marks are based on services oriented for families, including accommodation and attractions suitable for children and grown-ups.

BLUE HORIZONS



A low-angle, close-up shot of a hiker's legs and feet as they ascend a rocky trail. The hiker is wearing dark pants and brown hiking boots. Two trekking poles are visible, one in each hand, planted into the ground. The background is a soft-focus landscape of green trees and a clear blue sky. The text "TOWARDS NEW LANDSCAPES" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

TOWARDS NEW LANDSCAPES

MODERNITY MEETS HISTORY



CRAFT IS ART



A woman with short grey hair and glasses is seated at a wooden workbench in a pottery studio. She is wearing a dark, textured sweater and is focused on painting a large, white ceramic vase with blue floral and landscape designs. She holds a fine paintbrush in her right hand, which is wearing a yellow nitrile glove. The vase is placed on a black pottery wheel. The workbench is cluttered with various pottery-related items: a black container holding many brushes, a green plastic bottle, a small black bowl, a white mug with a blue mountain pattern, and several other bowls and containers. In the background, there are shelves with more pottery and a window letting in natural light. The overall atmosphere is one of quiet concentration and traditional craftsmanship.

**TRADITIONS TO
BE DISCOVERED**



VARAZZE

An old tradition of tourism

A century old tradition of tourism and a mild climate make Varazze one of the most popular holiday resorts on the Riviera delle Palme even in autumn and winter. Brightly coloured historical private beaches (the first, opened in 1887, and was dedicated to Queen Margherita) can be found along the sea front promenade which is rich in palm trees and gardens. Varazze is a seaside holiday resort famous for the beauty of its scenery and the variety of what it has to offer. Clubs, from piano bars to discos, ballroom and Latin American dancing halls guarantee good fun.



Ships: The protagonists of its history

In Roman times, the town already had important shipyards and was known as Ad Navalia. The nearby forests of Monte Beigua supplied the necessary wood. The medieval word “Varagine”, place where ships are made, is at the origin of the modern name of Varazze. Such a tradition is still very much alive nowadays and its shipyards are famous worldwide.

Enjoy Varazze

The northern part of the town preserves what is left of the medieval walls, fortified watch towers and the façade of the Romanesque church of Sant’ Ambrogio. The Campanin Russu, an approximate 30m tall bell tower of the parish church of Sant’ Ambrogio, today the symbol of the town, is a remarkable example of Lombard Romanesque architecture. The churches of San Nazario e Celso, with a traditional cloister a risseu (polychrome cobblestones),

and of San Domenico, where the ashes of the Beato Jacopo da Varagine are kept, are worth visiting. The Sanctuary, dedicated to Saint Catherine and the XIX Century Villa Cilea, home of the famous musician Cilea, are not far off. Also the oratories, where ancient monastic brotherhoods still meet, are interesting. Brotherhood members animate religious processions with artistic crosses and traditional elements of Ligurian religiosity. Theatrical, musical and artistic events, held outdoors in summer, are highly enjoyable occasions. The following should not be missed: Varazze Città delle Donne, a series of cultural, musical and sport events dedicated to women; the Festival Internazionale del Mandolino, for professionals and fans of the mandolin; Varazze è Lirica, an opera season during which famous singers are awarded the Premio Città di Varazze Francesco Cilea.

Tradition and famous people

The Dominican friar Jacopo da Varagine was born in Varazze in 1230. He became archbishop of Genoa in 1292. He wrote the Legenda Aurea, a large collection about saint’s lives which was an important source of information for artists and ministers of the western Christian world. Also from Varazze came Lanzerotto Malocello, who discovered the Canary Islands in the XIV Century, one of which was named Lanzarote. Saint Catherine of Siena was in Varazze in 1376 and freed the town from the plague. She became its patron saint and is celebrated on April 30th with a solemn procession and a historical pageant. Saint Bartholomew, patron saint of fishermen, is celebrated on August 24th. There are many more fetes celebrating religious occasions in the local areas and fine hamlets of Varazze, often associated with food and wine festivals.

The Sea Front Europa and the Piani di Invrea

The promenade Europa, on the old train route, is directly on the sea. It is a five kilometre walk which links Varazze to Cogoletto, bordering along gardens, small openings, rocks and picturesque bays. Its geographical position shelters it from bad weather and makes it sunny also in winter. North of the promenade, the Piani di Invrea is a residential area on a green hill that gently slopes down to the sea. Here, the Mediterranean maquis preserves its integrity and surrounds the Moorish architecture of the castle of the Marquises of Invrea, a very old family from Genoa who gave their name to this location.

Boats and surfing

The new Marina di Varazze, in the west part of the town, is one of the largest and best equipped in Liguria. On its piers, visitors can find a village complete with restaurants and shops, where walking and shopping are extremely pleasant. Events, exhibition and flea markets are often held here.

The Circolo Nautico and the Lega Navale provide sailing courses.

The swell, which forms near the pier at the mouth of the Teiro River, allows also for surfing in Varazze. Varazze is, in fact, one of the very few places in the Mediterranean Sea where this sport can be enjoyed. Several sports can also be enjoyed, e.g. trekking, mountain bike cycling, rock climbing, horse riding, tennis, bowling and skating.

The Monastery of Deserto

Inland of Varazze, the Monastery of Deserto, a place for meditating and praying, is a real spiritual treat. The XVII Century Carmelite Convent contains the Crocifisso Miracoloso – Miraculous Cross – made in ivory by an Indian craftsman, who had become a Christian, and the Sacra Pastora by Domenico Fiasella. Near the monastery, it is possible to enjoy a circular botanic path with explanatory signs of the flowers and plants. The monastery can be reached by car through the hamlet of Casanova and on foot walking along pleasant paths. Products, naturally produced by the friars, can be bought here.



Useful Info

Museo del Mare
Mostra Permanente - Sea
Museum Permanent Display
Marina di Varazze,
Via dei Tornatori
17019 Varazze
Tel. 333 1312333

Touristic Offer

Outdoors/Nature

Art

Family



THE BEIGUA PARK

The Beigua Geo-park

Monte Beigua, 1287m above sea level, is at the back of Varazze. The Highway of Ligurian Mountains runs across it among breathtaking views sweeping the coastline of Liguria to the south and the centre western Alps to the north, which are dotted with the Monviso, Matterhorn and Mount Rosa massifs.

This Regional Natural Park has extraordinary landscapes, plants and animals as well as areas of great geological interest. Steep limestone rocks, crystal clear streams and large oak and beech forests (Savona is the Italian province with the highest percentage of wooded land in Italy) provide those who enjoy walking with every possible kind of trails for trekking.



Ancient populations

Beigua was a holy mountain for the ancient Ligurians. It still preserves rock inscriptions, cut in the first centuries of Christianity by shepherds guiding herds. On the southern slopes, the area of Alpicella is where most of the High Middle Ages inscriptions are found. There is also a small museum where prehistoric findings from the Due Teste archaeological dig can be admired. Still in the woods of this area, besides a stone paved megalithic road, cromlechs, dolmens and menhirs bear testimony to ancient Celtic settlements.

Sassello

Sassello is situated at the back of Monte Beigua, in a green valley with luscious woods and forests. It is a pleasant holiday resort. It was the first town to be awarded the Bandiera Arancione del Touring Club Italiano in recognition of the quality of its services and environment. It was founded by the Romans and later ruled by the Doria family. It was famous for its ironworks which processed the ore from the Isle of Elba. The hamlets of Bastia Soprana (XII Century) and Bastia Sottana (built by the Dorias in the XV Century), still preserve evidence of a glorious past. At the Museo Perrando it is possible to get an insight into the historical, artistic and ethnographic heritage of the town. Sassello can be easily reached from Albisola and Varazze. It is a magnet for those who enjoy hunting and mushroom picking. Amaretti, a light and tasty macaroon, are a traditional local delicacy. They are made with almonds and are sold all over the world. Their production started in the early XIX Century and the recipe has not been changed ever since. A specially dedicated event for these treats is held

in September. Also full of atmosphere is the Infiorata del Corpus Domini when the streets of the centre are decked with flowers.

Hints for more excursions in the area

A most pleasant day can be spent enjoying the small lake near the water mill in Vara Inferiore, having lunch in one of any local eateries or visiting the Fajallo Pass, 1061m, among meadows and oaks. The view is one to behold and sweeps over the city of Genoa and the Monte Rosa. Other excursions are possible in the valley of the Orba River. It can be reached either from Albisola and Giovo or from Varazze, driving through the Beigua Park and then driving downhill towards Pra Riondo and Piampaludo along the small moraine lake of Laione. Orba is almost an alpine river with fresh and crystal clear water. The hamlets forming Urbe line its wooded banks.

The Aleramic March

Giusvalla and Mioglia as well as Pontinvrea, with a castle once belonging to a family of Marquises, are all in the valley of the Erro River, west of the Beigua Park. Pontinvrea, once ruled by the Marquises of Invrea, is famous as the battle ground in the wars between the marquises of Monferrato and Genoa who wanted to exploit the local woods, essential for the shipyards in Varazze. In summer, piano and opera contests as well as music seminars are held here.

Not far: Stella

Where the valley of the Erro River meets the Sansobbia River at the Passo del Giovo, it is possible to go

horse riding among fortified structures which dominate the surrounding area. Downhill, in the direction of the sea, is located Stella which is made up by five hamlets, laid out in a star thus the origin of the name. Sandro Pertini, President of the Italian Republic from 1978 to 1985 – was born in a house in the hamlet of San Giovanni. San Martino is home to a famous formaggetta – soft cheese – made from goat's milk.

Useful Info

Mostra permanente di materiale archeologico
Permanent display of archaeological finds
Piazza IV Novembre
fraz. Alpicella
17019 Varazze
Tel. 019 9399408

www.comune.varazze.sv.it

Museo Perrando
Via dei Perrando, 33
17046 Sassello
019 724103 / 216

www.comunesassello.it
turismo@comunesassello.it

Casa Museo Pertini – Pertini Home Museum
Via Muzio 42, San Giovanni
17044 Stella
visits must be booked in advance
info Tel. 019 706194

www.assopertini.it

Touristic Offer

☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ **Outdoors/Nature**
☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ **Art**
☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ **Family**





THE TWO ALBISOLAS

Albissola Marina and Albisola Superiore

Two towns form this urban area, i.e. Albissola Marina and Albisola Superiore. Albisola Superiore reaches the sea with the hamlet of Albisola Capo. Its historical centre is slightly inland from the coastline. It was founded in the XV Century as Borgo Basso and was the birthplace of Pope Julius II della Rovere. The bridge over the Sansobbia River leads to Albissola Marina.

The beaches of this area are wide and very well organised and can be enjoyed day and night. It is pleasant to discover the picturesque villages and a green hillside at its back.



The land of majolica

The two Albisolas are first of all the land of majolica. Clay came from the area called Grana and the wood for the furnaces came from Sassello. Sun and wind would dry the earthenware on the beach which was sold in far away countries. Here the greatest artists of the XX Century worked and left their mark on the territory, e.g. Fontana, Farfa, Munari, Diulgheroff, Sassu.

Majolica has been produced here for over 500 years. Museums, artists' studios, factories, shops and the town layout itself bear testimony to this centuries old tradition. In local shops it is possible to see how clay is worked, i.e. from the potter's wheel to the decoration and finally to the furnace. During Christmas time, traditional nativity statues called macachi come to life.

In spring, the Festival Internazionale dell Maiolica is organised with exhibitions, conventions and markets to promote the ancient art of ceramic making.

A walk in Marina

The Passeggiata degli Artisti – Promenade of the Artists – is a famous outdoors masterpiece opened in 1963. It is a mosaic floor running parallel to the via Aurelia for about 800m. Twenty artists, who in that time lived in the town and used to meet at the Bar Testa on sea front, conceived the idea. Still today it is a lively meeting point for tourists and locals.

The XVI Century Church of Nostra Signora della Concordia must not be missed. It has a pink travertine marble and Finale stone façade and a paved “a risseu” (white and black cobblestones in the Ligurian tradition) square leading to the church. Inside, a XVI Century polychrome majolica panel can be admired. Pozzo Garitta is a picturesque corner where kilns and artists' studios can be found.

A short walk in Superiore

The church of Stella Maris from the 1930's, with its big dome, is certainly worth a visit. Near the railway station, the ruins of a large Roman villa and spa area are still visible. This place was probably more than just a simple villa. It could be the Roman mansion of Alba Docilia. The XVII Century church of San Nicolò is further up in a dominating position. Its steeple has a small lowered dome in polychrome majolica.

Museums and villas

In the XVIII Century, the Albisolas were chosen by the Genoese aristocracy as a place to spend their holidays. Two villas are excellent examples. Villa Gavotti, built by the last duke of Genoa Francesco Maria della Rovere, is situated near the motorway exit. Its traditional charming Italian-style gardens are surrounded by marble statues, fountains and big festooned terracotta vases. Today, Villa Faraggiana is

a museum and is situated at the end of the street with the same name in Albissola Marina. Inside, the Galleria delle Stagioni – Gallery of the Seasons – with an original XVIII Century majolica floor, a large mirror with Narcissus at the Spring and the chapel with frescoes by Giovanni Agostino Ratti can be admired. The XIX Century furnishings are also remarkable as well as the canvasses in Genoese school style from the XVII to XIX Centuries and a library with more than 150 old volumes. In the park, among magnolias and cedar trees, two marble fountains with Diana and Bacchus elegantly stand out. The Museo della Ceramica Manlio Trucco in Albisola Capo and the Fondazione Museo Giuseppe Mazzotti. 1903 in Albissola Marina must not be missed. Still in Marina, on the Bruciati hill, the Casa Museo Jorn can be found. It was the home of the Danish artist. It contains the works the artist produced during the period of his life in the Albisolas.



Useful Info

Museo della Ceramica Manlio Trucco - Ceramics Museum
Manlio Trucco
 Corso Ferrari, 193
 17011 Albisola Superiore
 Tel. 019 482295 / 484615

www.comune.albisola-superiore.sv.it

Fondazione Museo Giuseppe Mazzotti 1903 - Museum of the Foundation Giuseppe Mazzotti
1903
 Viale Matteotti, 29
 17012 Albissola Marina
 Tel. 019 489872

ceramiche@gmazzotti1903.it
www.gmazzotti1903.it

Fornace Alba Docilia - Alba Docilia Limekiln
 via S. Grosso
 17012 Albissola Marina
 info c/o Comune, Ufficio Cultura
 Tel. 019 40028280

cultura@comune.albissolamarina.sv.it

Villa Faraggiana
 Via Salomoni, 117
 17012 Albissola Marina
 Tel. 019 480622

www.villafaraggiana.it

Filanda Golf Club
 Via Poggi loc. Carpineto
 17011 Albisola Superiore
 Tel. 019 489679

www.filanda.org
golf@filanda.org

Touristic Offer

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Outdoors/Nature

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Art

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Family





SAVONA

Town of Popes and Cruise Ships

Savona has a rich history, which started in the bronze era on the hill of Priamàr, where the Liguri Sabatii settled because of its dominating position. They controlled the coast thanks to a harbour which made Savona one of wealthiest trade centres of the time. In fact, the town enjoyed periods of great prosperity, especially in the XV and XVI Centuries when two popes were members of a local aristocratic family. Nowadays, the building of the stazione marittima – passenger terminals – with its steel and crystal frame, the glass walls of the Orsero Tower, the recent restoration works in the harbour docks and trendy clubs are clear evidence of a renewed elegance.



Savona throughout the centuries

In the Middle Ages, Savona's merchants traded all over the Mediterranean, to the East, in England, and the Flanders thus triggering a rivalry with Genoa. The period of greatest prosperity was with the two pontiffs, Sixtus IV (Francesco Della Rovere) and Julius II (Giuliano Della Rovere). They asked artists and literates to work here, which brought about a change of style exemplified by new buildings with remarkable slate and marble door frames. The combination of art and economy came to a sudden end in 1528, when the victorious Republic of Genoa destroyed the harbour by filling it up and built the imposing stronghold of Priamàr on the site where holy buildings had stood. It was only the early XIX Century that witnessed the recovery of the town due to the prefect Chabrol de Volvic whose work began its demographic and industrial development. New urban areas were built in accordance with the concept of large blocks on an orthogonal grid

of roads, in the fashion of Piedmont, as well as buildings inspired by classicism.

A town to discover

The Torre Leon Pancaldo – Leon Pancaldo Tower, known as Torretta, is the symbol of Savona and is situated in front at the harbour. The XII Century Towers Corsi and Guarnieri as well as the Civic Tower of Brandale, where the Campanassa – old bell of the ancient Comune - is kept, are not far away. Clearly visible on the façade of the tower are coats of arms of the town's ruling families and majolica tiles depicting the Madonna della Misericordia – Our Lady of Mercy. Adjacent to it, the Palazzo degli Anziani – the Aldermen – from where the Podestà would rule. This marked the beginning of the ancient via Fossalvaria, now via Pia, leading to the remarkable buildings and the porticoes of Palazzo Gavotti, whose atrium opens on piazza Chabrol. Via Aonzo leads to the Palazzo Vescovile – Bishop's Pala-

ce – where Pius the VII lived as Napoleon's prisoner from 1809 to 1812. Not far away is the piazza of the Church Cathedral. The Cathedral, built from 1589 to 1605, contains wooden Renaissance choir seats. The XV Century cloister has statues by artists from Lombardy. Pope Sixtus IV wanted the Sistine Chapel in 1481 just like the Chapel by Michelangelo in Rome. It is a mausoleum where the pope's parents were buried and still preserves traces of the original frescoes, e.g. the trompe-l'oeil behind the altar and the XVIII Century frescoes by Paolo Gerolamo Brusco. Nearby Corso Italia, is a pleasant tree-flanked avenue popular for shopping. Piazza Diaz is easy to reach and it is where the theatre Chiabrera is located. It was dedicated to the most important poet of Savona and eminent representative of the XVII Century Arcadia movement. Via Paleocapa with porticoes and Art Nouveau buildings is the high street.

Clues for a visit

Palazzo Gavotti houses the Pinacoteca Civica – Town's Art Gallery –, one of the most important art collection in Liguria. It bears testimony to the art production in Savona from XIV to XX Centuries, i.e. paintings on wooden boards, polyptycs, sculptures, the famous white and blue majolica and the extraordinary Crocifissione – Crucifixion – by Donato de' Bardi, a unicorn in Renaissance painting. The museum also hosts the Fondazione Museo di Arte Contemporanea Milena Milani in Memoria di Carlo Cardazzo.

The imposing stronghold of Priamar also houses important museums and hosts exhibitions and events. In summer it provides the stage for opera, theatrical, dancing and cultural events.

The Processione del Venerdì Santo – Good Friday's Procession

The processione del Venerdì Santo takes place every other year and is one of the most relevant occasions when the people and brotherhoods of Savona express their faith. The real protagonists are polychrome wooden statues on tall bases – cassa. They are the real heritage of the Ligurian tradition of sculpture from the XVII to XIX Centuries. These masterpieces represent different moments of Christ's Passion. The disciplinanti, members of the town's Oratories carry the casse on their shoulders in the crowded streets to the sound of chants and liturgical melodies.

Delicious food

Chickpeas are a main ingredient in traditional dishes, e.g. the famous farinata, e.g. the famous farinata, fainà in the local dialect – chickpea flour pancake. The white farinata is distinctive

to Savona and it is made of wheat flour. Another chickpea based delicacy is the panissa, which is diced and served as a salad or can be fried in olive oil and provides a perfect filling for sandwiches of unleavened bread.

The Chinotto di Savona – myrtle-leaved orange – is a Slow Food presidium. It is a small bright green fruit which can be enjoyed preserved in syrup, candied or in many other dishes.

The Santuario di Savona – Church Shrine

Nine chapels can be found along the road leading to the Santuario di Nostra Signora di Misericordia, patron saint of the town, in the valley of the Letimbro River. The Sanctuary, surrounded by the well known woods of Savona, was built to celebrate the apparition of Virgin Mary to the Beatus Botta on 18 March 1536. The structure includes the church and cloister and the Palazzos Palavicino and Tursi. Inside the church, some really remarkable pieces are preserved. In 2008, the pope awarded the Golden Rose to this shrine. The adjacent museum has been recently renovated and tells the story of the devotion to Our Lady of Mercy from the XVI Century. The Sala Eso Peluzzi covers the XX Century.

And near: Quiliano and Vado

The origin of Vado Ligure dates back to the II Century BC. The ancient Vada Sabatia developed along the via Emilia Scauri, strategic crossroads for Liguria, Piedmont and Tuscany. On the sea front, the monument to war victims by the famous sculptor Arturo Martini can be admired. The Museo di Villa Gropallo supplies information of his life and

work in Vado. Nowadays, a modern harbour doubles as marina and for trade. Between May and June, the hills gently sloping down to the sea, e.g. the Capo di Vado with XIX Century forts, are yellow with broom flowers. In the short valley of the Quiliano River, near the town with same name, vineyards produce wines called Buzzetto and Granaccia. Buzzetto is sharp and bubbly, ideal with fish. Granaccia is a robust red, ideal for red and braised meat. A specially dedicated event takes place in Quiliano every year. In the nearby valley of the Quazzola River, along the route of via Julia Augusta, some Roman bridges in reasonably good condition can be admired.

Useful Info

Savona's Museums

Pinacoteca Civica
Art Gallery of the Town
Palazzo Gavotti, Piazza Chabrol
Tel. 019 811520 / 8387391
www.comune.savona.it
musei@comune.savona.it

Museo d'Arte Sandro Pertini e Renata Cuneo – Art Museum
Fortezza del Priamar
Palazzo della Loggia
Tel. 019 811520 / 8387391
www.comune.savona.it
musei@comune.savona.it

Civico Museo Archeologico
Archaeological Museum
Fortezza del Priamar
Palazzo della Loggia
Tel. 019 822708
www.museoarcheosavona.it

Complesso Monumentale della Cattedrale
Church Cathedral
Piazza del Duomo
Tel. 019 8389635
assoamicipatrimonio@libero.it

Museo del Santuario di Savona
Museum of the Shrine of Savona
Piazza del Santuario, 6
Loc. Santuario
Tel. 019 879025
www.santuariosavona.eu
museodelsantuario@operesociali.it

Raccolta Società A' Campanassa
A' Campanassa Society Collection
Piazza del Brandale, 2
Tel. 019 821379

All About Apple Onlus Association
exposition: Via Magliotto 2
c/o Campus Universitario di Savona
www.allaboutapple.com
info@allaboutapple.com

Museo Civico di Villa Gropallo
Villa Gropallo Town Museum
Via Aurelia, 72
17047 Vado Ligure
Tel. 019 883914
vadolog@tin.it

Museo della Civiltà Contadina
Traditional Farming Activities Museum
Casa Celesia, Valle di Vado
17047 Vado Ligure
Tel. 019 886350

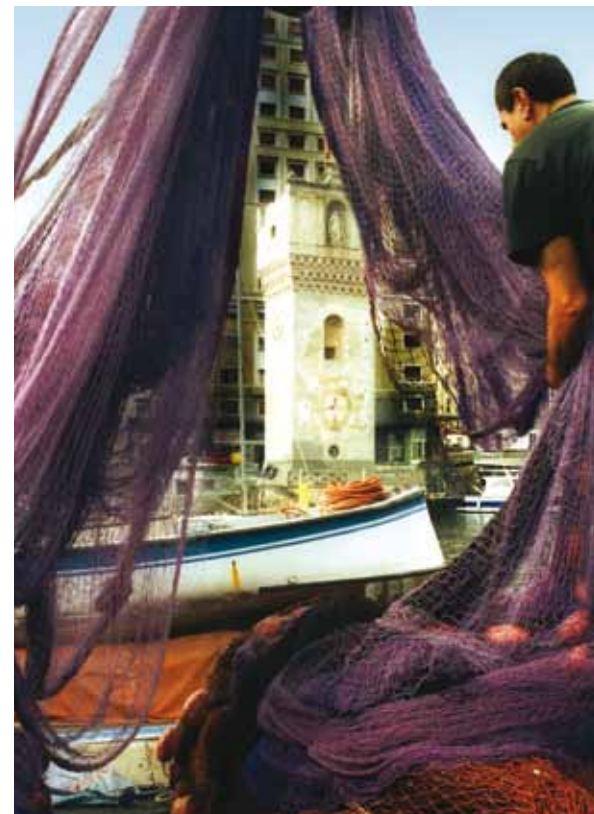
Area archeologica e
Chiesa San Pietro in Carpignano
S. Pietro in Carpignano
Archaeological Area and Church
info c/o Comune, Ufficio Cultura
17047 Quiliano
Tel. 019 2000511
www.comune.quiliano.sv.it
servizi.cittadino@comune.quiliano.sv.it

Touristic Offer

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ **Outdoors/Nature**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ **Art**

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ **Family**





VAL BORMIDA

Napoleon in Val Bormida

Along the Valley of the Bormida di Spigno, Romans built the consular road Aemilia Scauri. In the middle Ages, the families of Del Carretto, Savoy and the Republic of Genoa were active here until Napoleon. During the campaign of Italy, in Dego and Montenotte Napoleon fought one of his most important victorious battles. Such historical events are celebrated, nowadays, with re-enactments in original costumes which are part of the season's rich calendar of shows.

Not just history, art and nature, though. Also a rich food tradition based on wild mushrooms, game, robust wines, red meat and truffles – all ingredients reminiscent of the nearby Piedmont.



Art and villas

Altare and Carcare, both of Roman origin, were holiday resorts at the end of the XIX Century. Art Nouveau villas give them a real touch of class and distinction. Carcare, in the second half of the XIX Century, was where i Grigi – the grey ones -, an important painting school, developed. The typical landscape of Val Bormida inspired these artists. Nowadays, just like then, an unspoiled nature can be explored and enjoyed by mountain bike as several organized excursions are available.

The Glass of Altare

Altare has a very long tradition in glass making. The Statutes of the Art of Glass of Altare date back to 1445. From Altare, glass experts moved to other European destinations spreading their art, technique and starting important manufacturing centres. Wonderful locally produced glass pieces, of all periods, can be admired in the Museo dell'Arte Vetraria Altaresc – Museum of the Art of Glass – housed in the beautiful Villa Rosa. The small town still has craftsmen who carry on the tradition of glass blowing.

History and Nature

Cairo Montenotte has a medieval origin and is the main centre of the Ligurian Langa. Man has been present here since before the Neolithic age. Ruins of the castle of the Del Carretto family provide scenery full of atmosphere and often appear in prints and paintings.

Cairo Medievale is one of the most important historical re-enactments in costume in the whole province and takes place in the ancient piazzas and picturesque lanes of Cairo.

The Abbey, founded in 1096 by Bonifacio del Vasto in the hamlet of Ferrania, was one of the most important religious centres in Liguria. Modern murals and the ancient bridge of the Alemanni really prove interesting for tourists in Rocchetta di Cairo. There is also a wildlife sanctuary while the Riserva Naturale – Conservation Area – dell'Adelasia is in Montenotte Superiore. The Bormida Natura (BN) trail runs through both these nature reserves. It links the conservation areas of Val Bormida with the Highway of the Ligurian Mountains. Napoleonic battles were fought in Dego and the small town welcomed Pope Pius VII on the way back from Savona to Acqui. The sedan chair used by the pope is still kept here.

The Langhe of Piana Crixia

Piana Crixia lies on the left bank of the Bormida di Spigno. The origin of the name is in a Roman town founded along the consular road Aemilia Scauri. The well known Fungo – mushroom - stands in a conservation area not far from the town. It is a 15m tall rock formation made of a "hat" (an ophiolitic stone of 4m diameter) sitting on a heavily worn Schistose conglomerate which looks like a mushroom stalk. An interesting area of ravines and caving ground surrounds the Fungo.

Useful Info

Museo dell'Arte Vetraria Altaresc
Altare Glass Art Museum
Villa Rosa
Piazza Consolato, 4
17041 Altare
Tel. 019 584734

www.museodelvetro.org
info@museodelvetro.org

Museo Alpino
Alpine Troops Museum
Via Garibaldi
17043 Carcare
Tel. 338 1317766 / 019 5154100

www.comune.carcare.sv.it

Touristic Offer

Outdoors/Nature

Art

Family





Provincia di Savona Servizio Promozione Turistica
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