Terre di Lunigiana

Guide

Terre di Lunigiana

The aim of this guide on Lunigiana is to give a clear and simple description of the main attractions of each borough, making it easy to organise day trips, a weekend visit, or even longer breaks of a week or more. There is a brief description, with photographs, of medieval hamlets, churches, castles, fortresses and places of extraordinary natural beauty. Lunigiana covers an area which falls in part in the province of Massa Carrara and in part in the province of La Spezia, following the course of the River Magra, from its spring in the hills above Pontremoli, in Tuscany, to where it flows into the Tyrrhenian Sea, in the region of Liguria.

For more information visit the website on Luingiana: www.terredilunigiana.com

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Aulla

Terre di Lunigiana

The Brunella Fortress

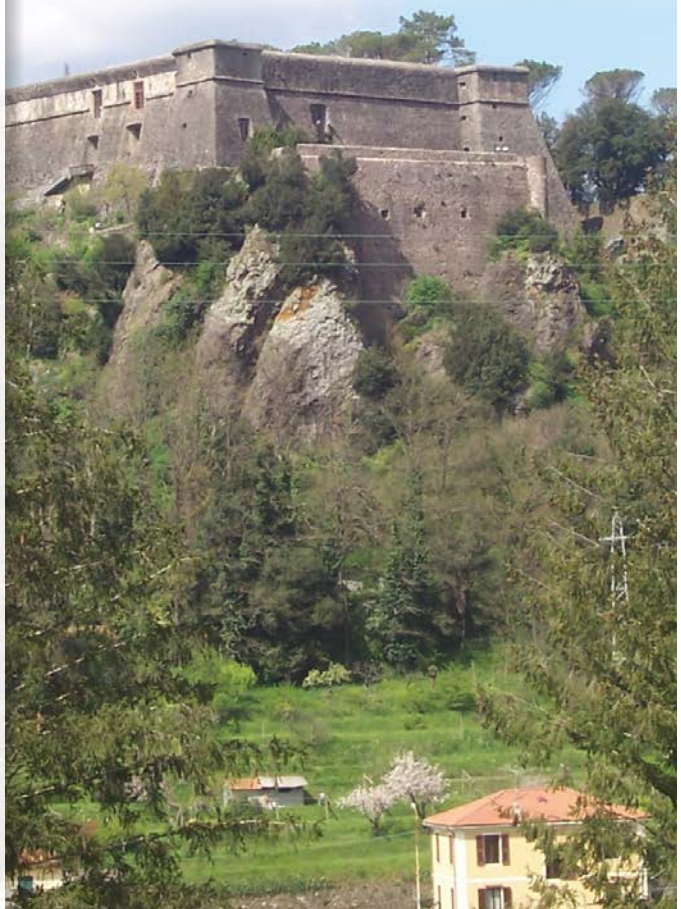
A Renaissance building of the 15th-17th century; probably built by Giovanni dalle Bande Nere.
An impressive military structure built on a quadrangular plan, it was taken only once, in 1733 by the Spanish.

The Natural History Museum of Lunigiana

The museum is situated in the halls of the Brunella fortress. The exhibits, divided into three sections, reconstruct the natural environments of the area: the physical apsects and the habitats of the rivers and lakes.

The Abbey and Museum of San Caprasio

The abbey was founded in 884 by Adalberto I and is the site of Saint Caprasio's tomb. It is situated on an important crossroads of the Via Francigena. You can admire the original Romanesque apse, with three naves, rebuilt after the second world war.



Places to visit nearby

Caprigliola

Tower of the Bishops of Luni (11th-14th century); walls built by the Medici family (16th century); Saint Nicola's Church (13th century), historic bishops' residence.

Bibola

Ruins of the castle (11th-14th century); remains of the fortified walls, vaulted hamlet, Saint Bartholomew's Church.

Nearby: Vecchietto, vaulted hamlet and Saint Bartholomew's Church, (17th century).

Olivola

Ruins of the castle (12th-16th century), church of San Michele (13th century).

Nearby: Quercia, elegant residence of the Malaspina family and Saint Peter's Church (18th century); Bigliolo, remnants of the castle (11th-16th century).

Off the beaten track

The electrical-mechanical nativity scene in Pallerone

Access via the portal of Saint Thomas Beckett's Church.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
http://www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/aulla.php

Bagnone

Terre di Lunigiana

Bagnone Castle
Built in the 13th-14th century. The impressive cylidrical stone tower is the only remaining original feature, next to the villa of the Counts Ruschi-Noceti. Adjoining church of Saint Nicola with wooden pulpit, (13th century) and historical hamlet.

Church of Saint Maria
15th century. Built on the site where an image of Our Lady was found, near the ancient hamlet of Gutula.

Parish Church of Saint Nicolò
18th century. Large rectangualr building, impressive columns, Renaissance style capitals.

Places to visit nearby

Castiglione del Terziere
Castle (10th-15th century), church of Saint Leonardo, ex convent of the Holy Annunciation.

Nearby: Corvarola; Lusana.

Treschietto
Ruins of the castle (13th-15th century).

Nearby: Vico; Corlaga, elegant family residence: Mochignano; Collesino, Church of San Giacomo Maggiore and tower house.

Iera
Ruins of the castle, Saint Mathew's church (12th century).

Nearby: Compione

Off the beaten track

Rural parish church of Saints Ippolito and Cassiano
10th century.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/bagnone.php

Casola in Lunigiana

Terre di Lunigiana

Casola Tower and fortified walls

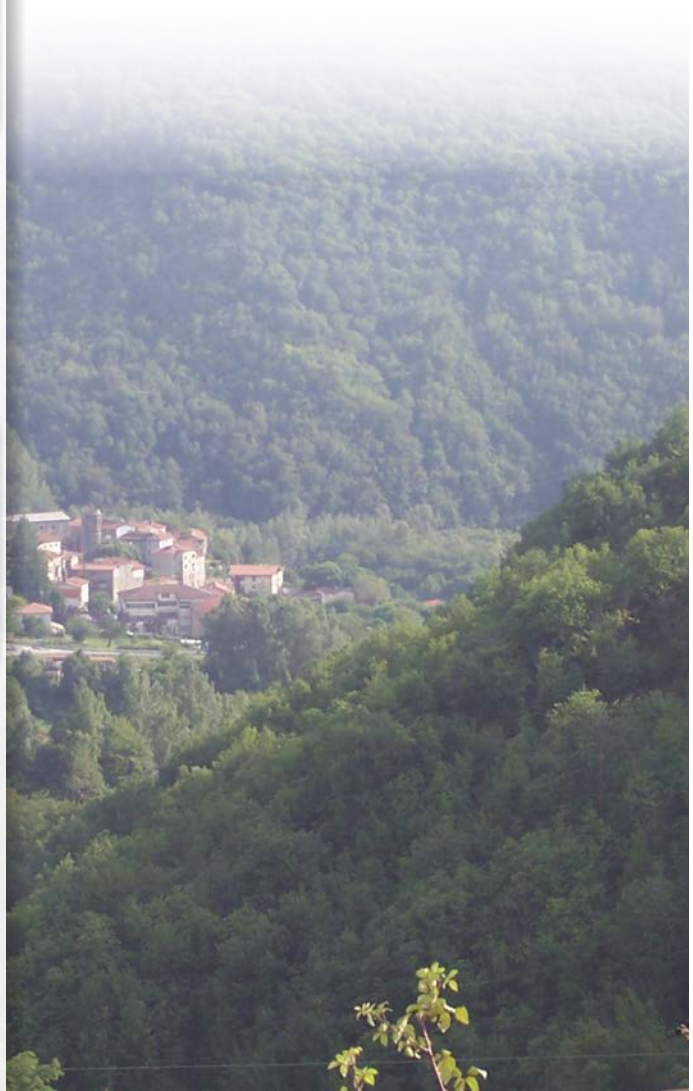
13th century. Cylindrical tower, today the bell-tower of the Church of Saint Felice. Partially damaged following the earthquake in 1920.

Church of Saint Felicita

15th-18th century. Baroque style, polychrome marble altars, baptismal font.

Historic hamlet

Stone gateway, elegant family houses, imprressive portals.



Places to visit nearby

Codiponte - historic hamlet and parish church

Parish church dedicated to the Saints Cornelio and Cipriano (8th-13th century): capitals with zoomorphic and phytomorphic images; Romanesque baptismal font. Castle ruins (14th century).

Nearby: Luscignano, with Saint Martino's Church, elegant portals and marble basin.

Castiglioncello

Fortified village, portals.

Nearby: Reusa, with Saint Margherita's Church (12th century).

Ugliancaldo

Fortified village, Saint Andrew's Church (13th century).

Nearby: Casciana, with Saint Andrew's Church (15th century).

Off the beaten track

Parish Church of Offiano

11th century. Restored (18th century) in Baroque style. Façade with 18th century portal and remnant of an image of a pilgrim.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/casola.php

Comano

Terre di Lunigiana

Comano Tower and ruins
12th century. Impressive ruins, cylindrical tower, surrounding walls, flanking towers.

Places to visit nearby

Camporaghena
Saint Peter and Paul's Church (12th century).

Torsana
Church of Saint Giacomo Maggiore (12th century).

Crespiano
Parish church of Saint Maria of Crespiano. 12th century. Restored over the centuries, immersion baptismal font (10th century).

Off the beaten track

Ruins of the castle of Groppo San Piero

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/comano.php

Filattiera

Terre di Lunigiana

Abbey of Saint Stephen of Sorano

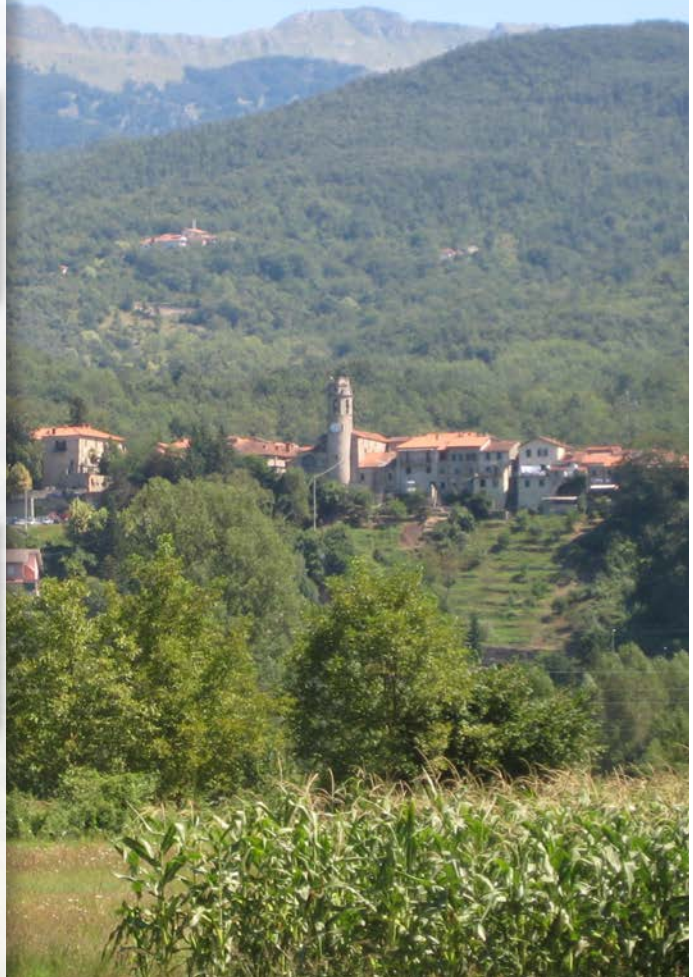
8th-10th century. Romanesque architecture, built with stones from the river. Ancient place of worship. Three naves, divided by circular pillars with simple capitals. Quadrangular bell tower.

Castle of Filattiera

14th-16th century. Next to the main square. Walls with Ghibelline (swallowtail) battlements, added at a later date. Nowadays a private residence.

Church of Saint George

11th-12th century. Original residence of the Malaspina feudal lords. Tomb stone of Leodgar inside the church. Romanseque style.



Places to visit nearby

Ponticello

Tower houses (14th-15th century). Medieval village, oratory of Saints Rocco and Bernardo (17th century).

Nearby: Scorcetoli, Church of Saint Andrew, niche with stele statue, tower house near Canale.

Caprio

Tower houses, Church of Saint Anna in Caprio di Sopra and the Church of Saint Maria Assunta in Caprio di Sotto.

Nearby: Cavallana, Serravalle.

Rocca Sigillina

Ruins of a tower (16th century), Saint George's Church.

Off the beaten track

The tomb stone of Leodgar

Inside Saint George's Church. Lombard Bishop, or Gastald, who died in 752, promotor of Christianity in Lunigiana who encouraged the destruction of stone idols.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/filattiera.php

Fivizzano

Terre di Lunigiana

The Medicea Fountain

17th century. Built by Cosimo III. Built in marble and grey sandstone, surrounded by a wrought iron railing.

Church dedicated to Saints Jacopo and Antonio

14th century. In the Medicea Square. It has three naves and houses the “Madonna del Reggio”, which depicts the apparition of Our Lady in the village of Caugliano in 1595.

The oratory of Saint Carlo Borromeo

18th century. Sandstone portal, inside there is an oval plaque probably by Ottavio Dandini. Giovanni Fantoni (1755-1807), a poet from Fivizzano, known by the name of Labindo, is buried here.

Places to visit nearby

Equi Terme

Church of Saint Francesco (13th centruy), museum of the Caves and Thermal Springs of Equi.

Nearby: Aiola, Church dedicated to Saint Maurizio (13th century), ruins of the hermitage of Saint George; Vinca, Saint Andrew’s Church (13th century); Monzone, fortified village, Church dedicated to Saint Michele, ancient monastery of the 10th century.

Village of Verrucola

Verrucola Castle (12th century), Chuch of Saint Margherita.

Nearby: Parish church of Pognana (12th century), Romanesque style, capitals with zoomorphic and phytomorphic images.

Viano

Parish church of Saint Martino (13th century), Bishops’ tower, Church dedicated to Saint Biagio (13th century).

Nearby: habitat of the Pioero, ancient Eurasian Dotterel.

Gragnola

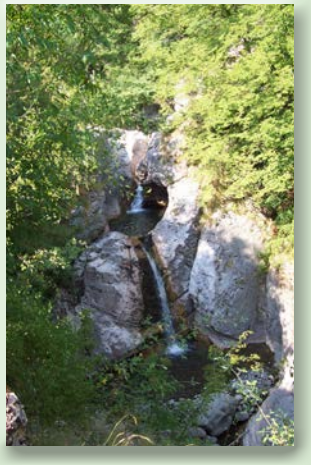
Castle (11th-14th century), tower houses, elegant houses of noble families, Church of the Saints Ippolito and Cassiano.

Nearby: Alebbio, Church dedicated to Saint Geminiano (13th century); Gassano, fortified village, church dedicated to the Saints Lucia and Lorenzo.

Sassalbo

Nearby: Parish church of Vendaso (12th century), Romanesque style, capitals with zoomorphic and phytomorphic images.

Off the beaten track



Mommio - The Giants’ Water Pools

Natural water pools formed by rock erosion along the course of the Mommio mountain stream.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/fivizzano.php

Fosdinovo

Terre di Lunigiana

Fosdinovo Castle
13th-14th century. Impressive family residence overlooking the Marga valley. Dante's room and the ghost of the marchioness Bianca Maria Aloisia Malaspina.

The Church of San Remigio
13th-16th century. Funerary monument in white marble dedicated to Galeotto Malaspina dated 1367.

The Bianchi Oratory
14th centruy. Impressive marble façade with the Malaspina Crest, depicting an armed dog biting a flowering thorn, 17th century.

Places to visit nearby

Giucano
Fortified village, Church dedicated to the Saints Fabiano and Sebastiano, noble family home.

Ponzanello
Castle ruins (11th-13th century), stone gateway giving access to the village, Saint Martino's Church (13th century).

Nearby: Tendola, Church dedicated to Saint Caterina.

Pulica
Fortified village, Church dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, site where a helmet belonging to a Ligurian-Apuan warrior was found.

Marciaso
Fortified village, Church dedicated to Saint Bartolomeo (15th century).

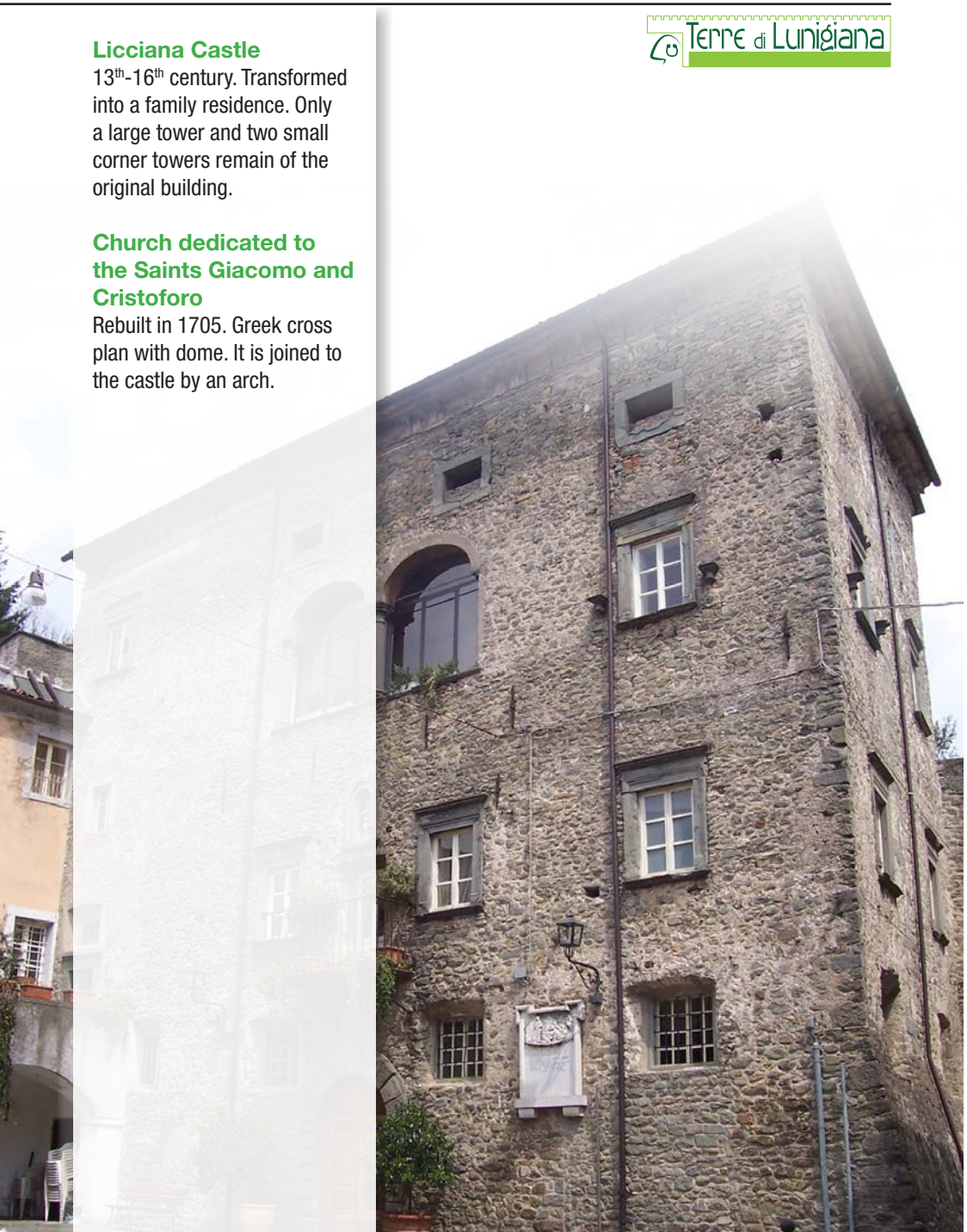
Off the beaten track

Caniparola Villa
16th-18th century. Three floor building, access via a double staircase, frescoes in the rooms by Antonio Contestabile and Francesco Natali. Italian style gardens.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/fosdinovo.php

Licciana Nardi

Terre di Lunigiana



Licciana Castle

13th-16th century. Transformed into a family residence. Only a large tower and two small corner towers remain of the original building.

Church dedicated to the Saints Giacomo and Cristoforo

Rebuilt in 1705. Greek cross plan with dome. It is joined to the castle by an arch.

Places to visit nearby

Bastia

Castle (15th centruy); Church dedicated to Saint Jacopo Apostle.

Nearby: Casteldelpiano, castle of the 16th century.

Monti

Castle (12th-16th century); Venelia Parish Church (18th century) with apse of the 10th century.

Nearby: Pontebosio, castle of the 15th century.

Taponecco

Vaulted hamlet, Church dedicated to Saint Maria Assunta.

Nearby: Varano, church dedicated to Saint Nicolò (13th century), ancient tower used as a bell tower; Apella, cylindrical tower of the 13th century, church dedicated to Saint Maria Assunta; Tavernelle, elegant family homes and impressive portals.

Panicale

Elegant family residence of the 15th century, fortified village with stone gateway, shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Loreto.

Off the beaten track

Terrarossa Castle (16th century)

Castle on the low lands built to control the Via Francigena. It has a square plan and four angular bastions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/licciana.php

Mulazzo

Terre di Lunigiana

Dante's hexagonal Tower and the ruins of the castle and walls

Church dedicated to Saint Niccolò
Situated in the main square, next to the Malaspina Zini residence. Rebuilt after the earthquake of 1920.

Church dedicatd to Saint Martino
13th century. Ancient parish church situated in the cemetery. Impressive ruins, double bell-gable with two bells.

Places to visit nearby

Castevoli
Castle (16th-17th century), fortified village, parish church dedicated to Saint Martino di Vico di Castevoli (10th century) situated outside the village.

Lusuolo
Castle (12th-17th century), fortified village with stone portal situated along a secondary route of the Via Francigena.

Montereggio
Fortified village, Malaspina residence (15th century), fortified church dedicated to Saint Apollinare (16th century).

Groppoli
Brignole Villa (17th century), Gavedo castle (17th century).

Off the beaten track

Shrine dedicated to Our Lady: Madonna del Monte
12th century. Benedictine Sancturay, situated in an isolated spot in the woods, Romanesque style.

Accommodation

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www.lapulcedorata.com

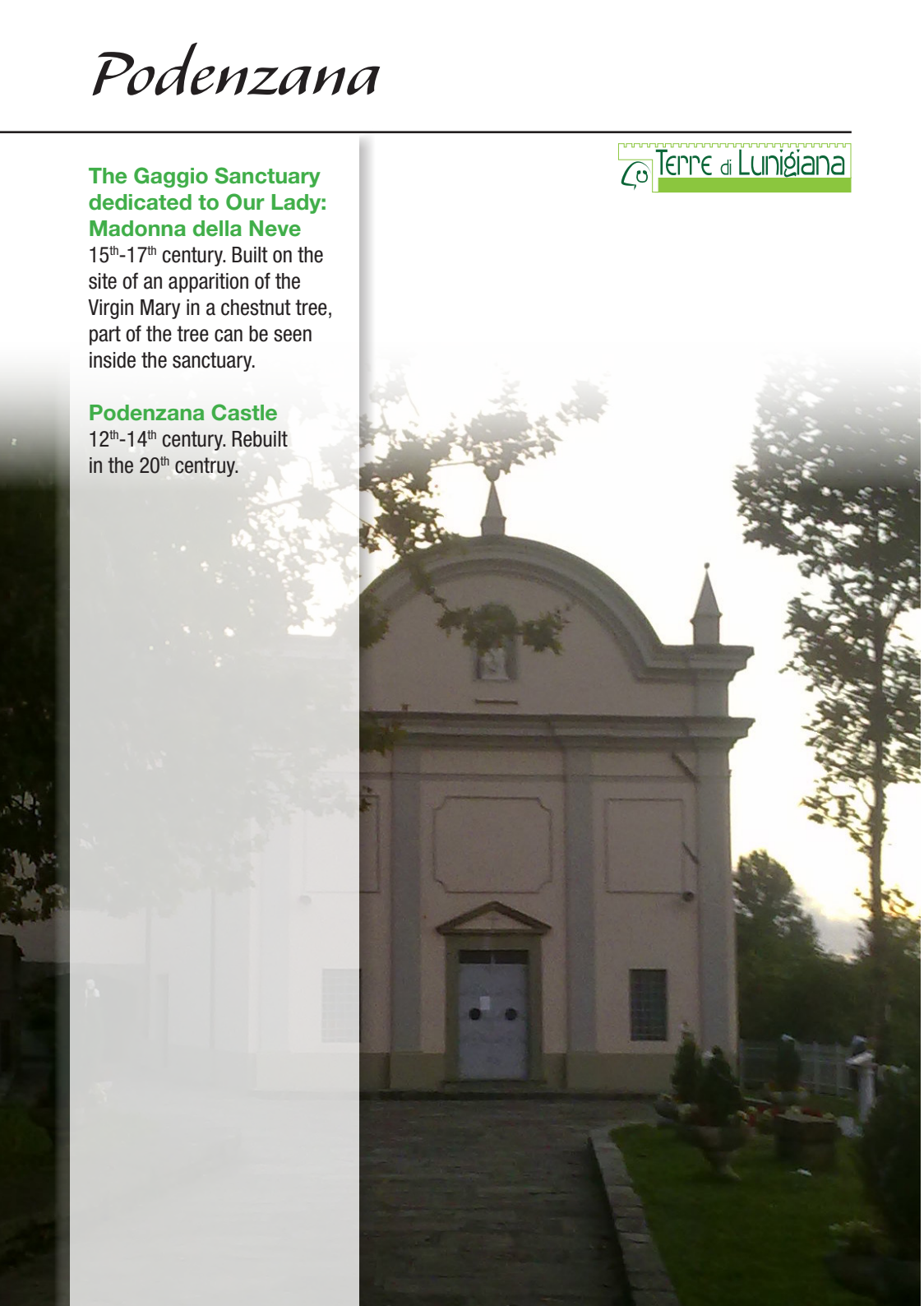
FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/mulazzo.php

Podenzana

Terre di Lunigiana

The Gaggio Sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady: Madonna della Neve
15th-17th century. Built on the site of an apparition of the Virgin Mary in a chestnut tree, part of the tree can be seen inside the sanctuary.

Podenzana Castle
12th-14th century. Rebuilt in the 20th centruy.



Places to visit nearby

Montedivalli
Medieval village, Montedivalli parish church.

Genicciola
Excavations of a Ligurian necropolis.

Off the beaten track

Montedivalli Parish church
10th-12th century. Romanesque style, Corinthian capitals, marble statues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/podenzana.php

Pontremoli

Terre di Lunigiana

Bell tower

14th century. Ancient tower of the Cacciaguerra fortification, built by Castruccio Castracani.

Santa Maria Catherdral

17th century. Marble façade with bronze doors. Baroque interior, latin cross plan, frescoes by Natali.

The Piagnaro castle and the Museum of Stele Statues

11th-14th century. The name 'piagnaro' comes from the sandstone slates traditionally used as roof tiles. The main tower is the oldest part. Site of the Museum of Stele Statues. Houses the original statues, or copies, of the all the stele statues of ancient Lunigiana.

Oratory of Nostra Donna and the tower of Castelnuovo

14th century. Facing the Magra river and Cesare Battisti bridge.

Places to visit nearby

Grondola

Ruins of the hill-top fort (13th century), chapel dedicated to Our Lady, Madonna di Montemese, near the village, hand decorated stone portals.

Nearby: Guinadi; Cervara, apotropaic symbols, the Farfarà waterfall; Braia, church dedicated to Saint Michele Archangel; Bratto, church dedicated to Saint George.

Pracchiola

Piscio waterfall near Pracchiola on the Magra river, church dedicated to Saint Maria (18th century).

Nearby: Groppodalosio, medieval bridge over the river Magra; Casalina, church dedicated to Saint Matteo.

Mignegno

Mechanical nativity scene, church dedicated to Saint Maria Assunta with memorial stone dated 1495 in memory of the fire of Pontremoli, oratory of San Terenziano (16th century) near the village.

Santissima Annunziata

Church and convent dedicated to the Santissima Annunziata (15th century). Former convent of the Order of Saint Augustine with one nave and an octagonal marble shrine (1526), probably by Jacopo Sansovino.

Vignola

Saint Pancrazio parish church (12th century), Romanesque style with three naves. It houses the "pipìn", small coloured statues made out of wood depicting pagan idols.

Nearby: Bassone.

Off the beaten track

Giaredo Gorge

Small canyon formed by the mountain river Gordana. The gorge is about 500 metres long with vertical cliffs about 30 metres high, and in some places it is only a few metres wide.

Accommodation

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/pontremoli.php

Tresana

Terre di Lunigiana

Ruins of Tresana Castle
14th-17th century. Impressive ruins of a quadrangular tower and a circular tower.

Villa di Tresana Castle
14th-15th century. Elegant family residence on a quadrangular plan and two cylindrical towers positioned at diagonally opposite corners.

Places to visit nearby

Villecchia
Vaulted hamlet, church dedicated to Saint Domenico.

Nearby: sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady: Madonna del Canale in Pera.

Villa di Tresana
Castle (14th-16th century), church dedicated to Saint Siro, Baroque style.

Giovagallo
Ruins of the castle in an isolated spot in the woods. Ruins of the Church dedicated to Saint Michele Archangel.

Nearby: Bola, church dedicated to Saint Brizio; Novegigola, Church dedicated to Saint Lorenzo Martyr.

Off the beaten track

Church dedicated to Saint Maria Assunta of Riccò
Tower with merlons, medieval style, and bell tower.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/tresana.php

Villafranca in Lunigiana

Terre di Lunigiana

Church dedicated to Saint Giovanni

In the old part of the village, near the bridge over the river Bagnone. Baroque style.

The Bell Tower of Saint Nicolò's Church

The church was demolished in 1968. Near Malnido Castle.

Ruins of Malnido Castle

12th-15th century. Site where the ancient 'gabelle' tax was collected along the Via Francigena.

Ethnographical Museum of Lunigiana

The museum is situated in an old mill on the river Bagnone. It houses traditional historic objects of everyday family and rural life and artisan trades of Lunigiana.

Places to visit nearby

Malgrate

Fortified village, castle (13th-15th century), cylindrical tower, stone gateway giving access to the village, Saint Lorenzo's Church (17th century).

Filetto

Fortified village on the low lands, church dedicated to the Saints Giacomo and Filippo (12th century), elegant family homes.

Virgoletta

Fortified village, stone gateway giving access to the village, castle (11th-16th century), church dedicated to the Saints Gervasio and Protasio (13th century).

Off the beaten track

Fornoli Church

Church decicated to Saint Maria Assunta, near the ford crossing where two branches of the Via Francigena meet. It is difficult to reach.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/villafranca.php

Zeri

Terre di Lunigiana

Church dedicated to Saint John the Baptist of Chioso, Rossano

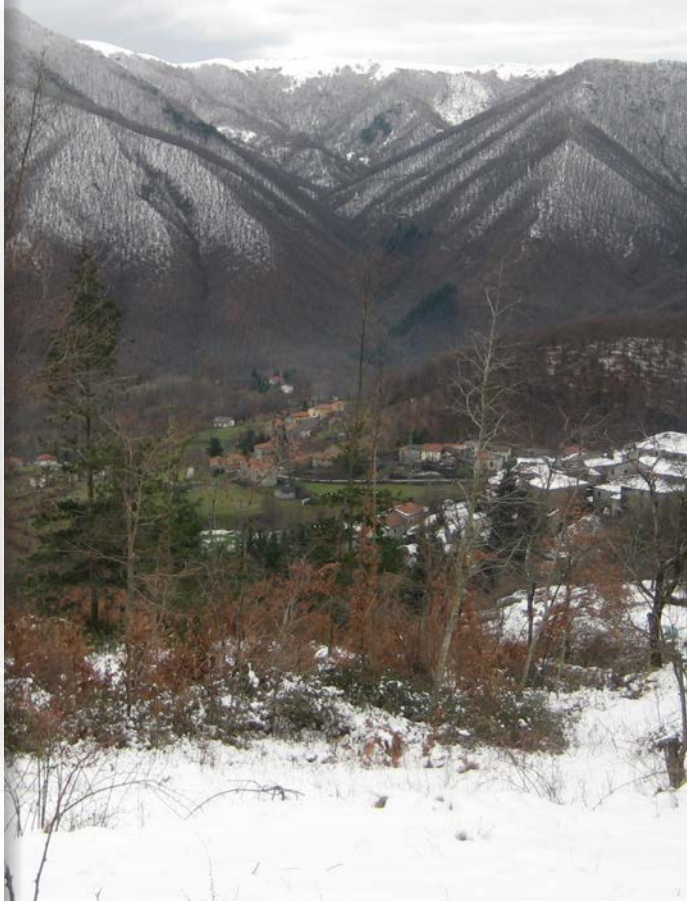
Situated in an isolated spot, between Montelama and Valle. Inside there are three statues in polychrome wood of Saint John the Baptist, Saint Terenziano and Our Lady of Carmine.

Church dedicated to Saint Medardo in Chiesa di Rossano

14th-19th century. Impressive restored building. Original bell tower. 20th century frescoes by the Pontremoli artist Triani.

Church dedicated to Saint Maria Maddalena of Adelano

Situated in an isolated spot in the mountains of the Adelano valley.



Places to visit nearby

Noce di Zeri

Rural buildings, bridge over the Gordana mountain stream, oratory of the Virgin Mary, oratory of the Holy Spirit.

Castello

Few ruins of Zeri Castle (13th-14th century), oratory of Saint Agostino.

La Formentara

Abandoned stone hamlet in the Zeri valley.

Off the beaten track

The Colombara Waterfall

Situated between Paretola and Bosco di Rossano.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT THE WEBSITE
www.terredilunigiana.com/eng/zeri.php

Not only does Lunigiana offer many places of outstanding natural beauty and stunning architectural features, it is also in an ideal base for organising day trips to other extraordinary areas: the Cinque Terre (www.lecinqueterre.org/eng/), with its stunning coastline and picturesque harbour towns and villages the Gulf of Poets (www.ilgolfodeipoeti.org/en/) near Lerici and Portovenere, the seaside resort of Versilia (www.inversilia.org/eng/), famous for its night life and sandy beaches, the Marble Mountains and caves of Carrara in the Apuan Alps, the Gulf of Tigullio, from Sestri Levante to Portofino and, last but not least, Tuscany's famous art cities: Pisa, Lucca, Pistoia and Florence - with their unique architecture priceless and works of art.

Distances

Aulla - Cinque Terre (Riomaggiore): 38 km
Aulla - Lerici: 25 km
Aulla - Portovenere: 36 km
Aulla - Carrara: 35 km
Aulla - Sestri Levante: 60 km
Aulla - Portofino: 88 km
Aulla - Pisa: 78 km
Aulla - Lucca: 75 km
Aulla - Pistoia: 115 km
Aulla - Firenze: 150 km

Pontremoli - Cinque Terre (Riomaggiore): 56 km
Pontremoli - Lerici: 43 km
Pontremoli - Portovenere: 54 km
Pontremoli - Carrara: 52 km
Pontremoli - Sestri Levante: 77 km
Pontremoli - Portofino: 105 km
Pontremoli - Pisa: 95 km
Pontremoli - Lucca: 95 km
Pontremoli - Pistoia: 135 km
Pontremoli - Firenze: 170 km

Fivizzano - Cinque Terre (Riomaggiore): 59 km
Fivizzano - Lerici: 46 km
Fivizzano - Portovenere: 57 km
Fivizzano - Carrara: 33 km
Fivizzano - Sestri Levante: 80 km
Fivizzano - Portofino: 110 km
Fivizzano - Pisa: 100 km
Fivizzano - Lucca: 95 km
Fivizzano - Pistoia: 135 km
Fivizzano - Firenze: 170 km