

Italy's hidden gem, the Emilian Appenines

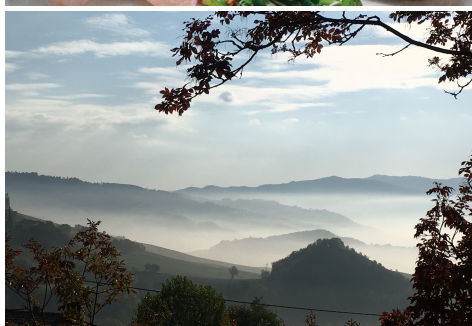
A UNESCO biosphere offering Culture, History, Gastronomy, Hiking, Climbing, Cycling, Fishing, Canyoning and Skiing



To the south west of the historic towns of Parma (prosciutto), Reggio Emilia (Parmesan cheese) and Modena (balsamic vinegar and Ferraris!) lies an ancient and stunningly beautiful area of Italy, once the kingdom of a Medieval Queen, Matilde di Canossa, known as the Gran Contessa and who ruled most of Italy in the 10th century.

- The western part of the area is the Tosco-Emiliano National Park, a UNESCO biosphere, filled with history, nature, gastronomy, wine, sport, starry skies and fresh air.
- Easily reached by car from the main A1 Milan-Rome motorway and within 2 hours drive of Bologna and Verona airports, with those of Pisa, Florence and Milan within 3 hours.
- The people are friendly, the food delicious and the prices sensible.
- This is a hidden corner, where those in search of an authentic Italy can discover centuries old castles and villages where life has changed little yet in some, superfast Broadband WiFi reaches even the most hidden corners!





Castelnovo ne' Monti and the nearby towns of Carpineti, Felina and Cavola are filled with trattorias, bars, hotels, farms, organic dairies, butchers and bakers whose greatest pride is producing kilometre zero food. The local cuisine and wine form part of a regional "vini e sapori" gastronomy route.

Matilde di Canossa



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- There are dedicated cycling routes, rock climbing, canyoning, skiing in winter, many marked trails with a network of mountain refuges for hikers and marvellous birdwatching.
- With an average elevation of 600-2000 metres above sea level the climate is hot and dry in the summer and cold in the winter. For those interested in astronomy, the area has some of the darkest skies in Europe, thus offering endless nights of clear starry skies.
- A recently discovered star, Tincana, is named after the local village in which it was discovered.

Although situated on the Appenine mountain range, this part of the mountains is less prone to earthquakes, much of it being situated on clay, so buildings tend to wobble rather than collapse!

Property prices are realistic and only fairly recently have foreign buyers come into the area which has a very high percentage of Italian "second homes", thus providing opportunities to buy anything ranging from an abandoned village, a restoration project to houses ready to walk into.

- Great range of shops, restaurants, banks and local services
- Stunning scenery and fantastic weather
- Excellent food and wine!