

I.T.I.S. "E. DIVINI" SAN SEVERINO MARCHE

TOURISTIC NEWS

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.....*Now a walk in San Severino.*



San Severino: notizie storiche

San Severino trae le sue origini dalla città di Septèmpeda, le cui rovine, portate in parte alla luce degli scavi archeologici, si estendono nella zona della Pieve.

Colonia e municipio romano, fu importante per la sua posizione sulla via che collegava l'adriatico alla Flaminia.

Sede vescovile ebbe come pastore Severino, morto poco prima che la città venisse presa e saccheggiata dai Goti di Totila (545).

Gli abitanti cercarono rifugio sul vicino colle di Monte Nero, dove portarono le spoglie del loro santo Vescovo, dando vita ad un nuovo centro abitato che da lui prese il nome.

Dopo la dominazione longobarda passò alla Chiesa e, quindi, fu libero comune ghibellino, in lotta con i vicini comuni guelfi.

Dalla seconda metà del '300 ai primi decenni del '400 fu sottoposta alla signoria degli Smeducci, cui seguì quella degli Sforza, per ritornare nel 1445 alla Chiesa.

Nel 1586 fu elevata a sede vescovile ed ebbe il titolo di città, in seguito ebbe vicende comuni al resto della regione.

San Severino: historical news

San Severino Marche takes its origins from the town of Septèmpeda whose remains, brought to light after archaeological excavations, can be seen as far as the area of la Pieve.

As a Roman settlement and municipium, it was important for its position along the ancient Roman road that linked the Adriatic to the Flaminia.

Severino was the minister of the diocesan centre. He died just before the town was seized and plundered by Totila and his Goths (545).

The inhabitants searched for shelter in the nearby hill called Monte Nero, where they took the mortal remains of their holy bishop, thus giving rise to a new town centre under his name.

After the domination of the longobards it passed into the hands of the church and thus became a free Ghibelline commune, continuously battling against the nearby Guelfi communes.

From the second half of the fourteenth century to the first decades of the fifteenth century the town was subjected to the domination of the Smeducci and later to that of the Sforza, while in 1445 it returned under the rule of the church.

In 1586, from a simple diocesan centre, it was declared a town in every right.

San Severino è costituita da una parte alta, detta Castello, sulla sommità del colle Monte Nero e da una parte bassa, il Borgo, che si forma dopo il 1000, si espande viene racchiuso dentro una nuova cinta muraria tra il XIII e il XIV sec.

Al di là, lungo il fiume Potenza, si sviluppano nei borghi periferici le attività industriali ed economiche che hanno il loro centro nella Platea Mercati, la grande piazza ellittica nata nel Medioevo come allargamento della strada di fondovalle.

La piazza rappresenta anche oggi il centro della vita cittadina.

San Severino Marche is made up of a higher upper part, called Castello, at the top of the Monte Nero hill, and a lower part called the Borgo.

The latter part developed after the year 1000, grew larger and was surrounded by a wall between the 13th and 14th centuries.

Beyond and along the river Potenza, industrial and economic activities began to develop in small groups which found their center in the Platea Mercati, a large elliptical square born in the Middle Ages from an enlargement of the road along the valley floor.

Even today the large square represents also the core of the life of the town.



St. Dominic's church and convent, formerly Santa Maria del mercato

Tradition says that the church of Santa Maria del Mercato (St.Mary-of-the-Marketplace) was donated to St.Dominic who opened a convent there; it was rebuilt in the 13th century and last rearranged in the 17th century.

The interior houses an interesting sixteenth-century altarpiece by Bernardino di Mariotto. Some remnants of valuable frescoes by the Salimbeni brothers can be seen in the sacristy, while the base of the bell-tower has a fine cycle of paintings with the events of the life of St.Catherine of Alexandria, along with other works attributed to Dio-tallevi di Angeluccio da Esanatoglia or to Bolognese school. The cloister of the attached convent holds a number of frescoed lunettes, attributed to Sebastiano Ghezzi and Ludovico Lazzarelli (17thC).

Feronia theatre



It was built in 1823 by local architect Ireneo Aleandri. on the site of a previous 18thC theatre which had been destroyed by a fire. The painstaking interior has three tiers of boxes, and a fine drop-curtain decorated by Raffaele Fogliardi on a sketch by Filippo Bigioli.

Crivelli palace - Clock tower



It was designed by Ireneo Aleandri in 1832; its location at the far end of the piazza makes it a dominant architectural element and highlights the unusual "spindle" design of the piazza itself. The wide for-nix opens on the Church of Mercy. On the left-hand side is the ancient Fountain of Mercy, built in 1543 and later rearranged in its present shape.

Basilica of St. Lawrence in Doliolo.

Tradition has built it in the sixth century by the Basilian monks, on the ruins of a temple dedicated to the goddess Feronia. The original building was then turned into a crypt in the 11thC, when the new Benedictine basilica was built. Despite the numerous renovations from the 17thC onwards, significant traces of the old building are still visible in the front, including the fine 14thC bell tower, with double lancet arches, and the ancient Romanesque portal inside the basement. The interior is rich in works of art, including the cycle with the events of St. Andrew's life and other frescoes by the Salimbeni brothers. The attached monastery was converted into a Roman-style palace in the eighteenth century.

Sanctuary of the virgin of the lights

It was constructed in the 16th century after a miraculous event which had taken place in January 1584, when lights were seen shining intensely and repeatedly on the site of a pillar with an image of the Virgin. Begun by the Oratorians in 1587, the work owes its present shape to the Barnabites who look over the construction in 1657; Cistercian monks are now in charge of the Sanctuary. The interior retains the pillar with the sacred image known as the Virgin of the Lights, painted in the 15th century by Gian-gentile di Lorenzo d'Alessandro; two of the chapels display a rich stucco and fresco decoration by Felice Damiani (16thC).

St. Francis' gate

It is one of the four gates remaining out of the seven which used to open in the city walls. Nearby are the ruins of St. Francis' church (13thC), demolished in the late nineteenth century. A part of the former fresco decoration is on display at the Art Gallery.

The old Cathedral, or Sanctuary of bishop San Severino

The church dates back to the 10thC but was rebuilt and enlarged in the 11 and 12thC, and finally achieved in the 14thC, with the completion of the cuspidated brick facade and the bell tower with its double Romanesque windows. Ornaments include a small denticulate rose window, a travertine cusp with three lobed arches, rising over Corinthian columns, and a nice portal with spiral columns. The interior, renovated in the 18th and early 20th century, houses a beautiful choir (15-16thC), carved and inlaid by Domenico Indivini, and a remarkable cycle of frescoes by the Salimbeni brothers (15thC) with the events of the life of St. John the Evangelist -temporarily on display in the Municipal Art Gallery. The relics of San Severino are also held here.

Cloister

It was built by Liberato Franchi Bartelli, the prior of the collegiate church of San Severino. It has a double tier of Roman arches: the lower tier, with octagonal pillars, has lancet arches on one side, while the upper one is adorned with cylindrical columns some of which have interesting capitals.

Tower of the comune

It was built in the late 13thC as the main tower of the castle of San Severino. The side overlooking the church holds two stone bas-reliefs representing respectively a pair of jaws and - further down - a walking lion: the former was laid by order of the Smeduccis to assert their dominion over the town, while the latter is a symbol of the Ghibellin party.

St. Clare's church

This church has been attached to the adjacent nunnery held by the Clarisses since the 16thC. It was rebuilt by Giuseppe Lucatelli in 1776 with a Greek cross plan, on the site of a previous 14thC church. It holds a wooden choir executed in 1511 by the Acciaccaferis, followers of Domenico Indivini.

Fonte della valle, or the seven springs' fountain

Dating back to the 13C, the fountain took its name from the number of the springs that used to feed it. An elegant construction with a double-arched portico, originally supported by fluted columns, it was repeatedly restored and rehashed. During the 16thC the columns were stiffened with a brickwork covering, and the first floor was added. In the following century the cross vaults were decorated with floral motifs, and the image of the Virgin of the Lights was painted on a wall. Opposite to the fountains, along the city walls, stands the Seven Springs' Gate (14thC).

