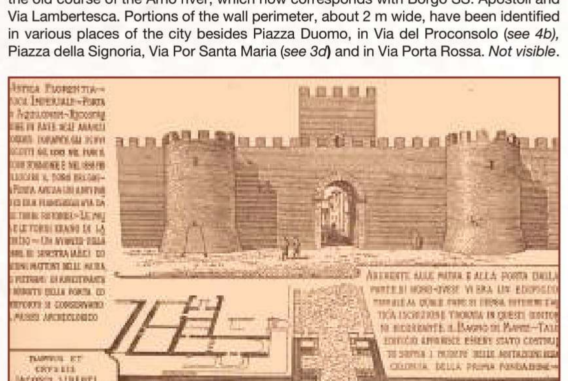
## PRE-ROMAN FLORENCE

Although the consistence and characteristics of the pre-Roman settlement of the future *Florentia* are not clear yet, it is possible to mention numerous Etruscan findings within the urban area. The most significant context was brought back to light with the excavations carried out in the years 1885-1893 near Piazza della Repubblica (a brewery, then a movie theater and now a Café), a Villanovan necropolis with shaft tombs (9th-8th century BC) containing biconical cinerary urns and the related grave goods. From the area of Piazza della Signoria came bronze human shaped votive statuettes, which may indicate the presence of a sacred area. Regarding the Archaic period (6th century BC) a few "Fiesole stones" (Etruscan tomb markers in sandstone, decorated in relief) are reported, these owe their name to their production centre; three inscribed *bucchero* (a black type of Etruscan ceramic) cups from Via del Proconsolo; a *bucchero* fireplace in Via Strozzi.

## 1 - PIAZZA DEL DUOMO

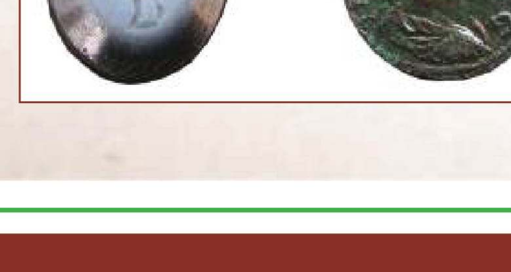
**1a "AD EPISCOPI" GATE** Northern gate of the *Florentia* colony, dated to the Age of Augustus, between 30 and 15 BC. with one passageway and built with bricks, it was coated with stone and flanked by two conical towers in brick. The defensive walls of the Roman city formed a quadrangle with three of its sides following the cardinal points (the N side corresponds to the flank of S. Maria del Fiore and with Via Cerretani, the W with Via Tornabuoni and the E with Via del Proconsolo), while the S was parallel to the old course of the Arno river, which now corresponds with Borgo SS. Apostoli and Via Lambertesca. Portions of the wall perimeter, about 2 m wide, have been identified in various places of the city besides Piazza Duomo, in Via del Proconsolo (*see 4b)*, Piazza della Signoria, Via Por Santa Maria (*see 3d*) and in Via Porta Rossa. *Not visible*.



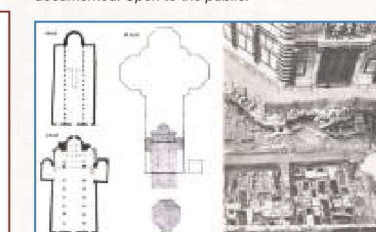
**1b DOMUS OF THE BAPTISTERY** The Julio-Claudian *domus* (a private urban habitation) of the Baptistery, near the Northern Gate (*see 1a*), was a large noble house built during the 1st century AD, which follows the typical Roman residential asset composed of two sectors, the *atrium* and the peristyle. The pavements were made out of cement and many geometric dichromatic mosaics, still partially visible beneath the Baptistery of San Giovanni (see lower left photo). *Closed to the public.*

**1c SMALL BATHS NEAR THE BAPTISTERY, "BALNEUM MARTIS"** Next to the Northern Gate (*see 1a*) parts of the Julio-Claudian *domus* beneath the Baptistery (*see 1c*) were transformed during the Imperial period in order to build a thermal bath complex. Small steam rooms and a large salon with marble and mosaic pavements were built (*see upper right photo*). This building may also have extended beyond the city walls. Scholars link a marble funerary inscription of two freedmen Daphnus and Cryseis, owners of a *Balneum Martis*, to this complex. *Not visible*.

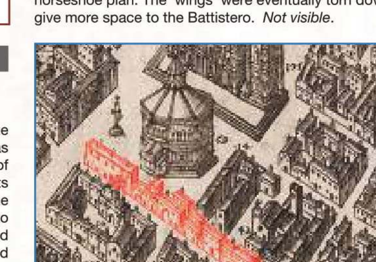
**1d NORTHERN GATE FULLERY** Outside the Northern Gate (*see 1b*), north of the Baptistery, archaeologists unearthed a Roman complex most probably a fullery for tinting and manufacturing fabrics belonging to the 2nd century AD. It consisted of three tubs covered with a layer of fine waterproof earthenware and a structure leaning heavily to the south, probably a service ramp, that led to the work rooms, possibly connected to a terrace where the fabrics were hung out to dry. The discovery of a large number of bone artifacts has lead to hypothesize the presence of a pin and needle workshop. Analyses on the retrieved artifacts (pottery, amphorae, glass and bone objects and a significant number of coins) date the area from the 1st to the 5th century AD. Other structures that are believed to be part of a fullery have been found in Via del Proconsolo (**4e**) and Piazza della Signoria (3e). *Closed to the public*.



**1e SANTA REPARATA** St. Reparata was the ancient cathedral of Florence, the remains of which are still partially visible and accessible from inside the Duomo. In a first phase – dating from around AD 405 (the attempted siege of the Goth Radagaiso) to AD 700 – it had a basilica plan with three naves and a single apse, with mosaic floors. In a second phase (circa AD 700- 800) the church was enlarged, the chancel was raised on a small crypt and the apse appeared flanked by two adjoining apses. Around AD 1000 the crypt was further enlarged and a portico was built against the facade. The foundations of the portico's pillars have been marked in the pavement of the square, in front of the cathedral, where a large burial area is also documented. *Open to the public.*

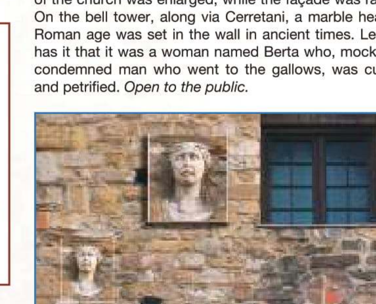


**1f PALAZZO DUCALE** The Palazzo Ducale, residence of the Marquises Ugo of Tuscany, most probably stood behind today's Palazzo Vescovile, almost leaning against the ancient city walls. With the weakening of the imperial presence in Tuscany it became the residence of the Bishop. Until the second half of 1800s the palace had a horseshoe plan. The 'wings' were eventually torn down to give more space to the Battistero. *Not visible*.



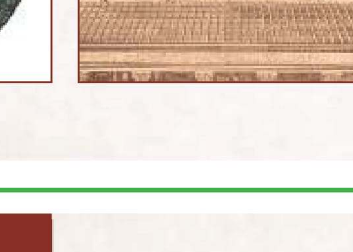
**1g COLONNA DI SAN ZANOBI** In the very place of the Colonna di San Zanobi a legend tells of the former existence of an elm tree, used as a tribunal seat between AD 600s and 1100s. Apparently , Beatrice of Bar and her daughter Matilde of Canossa, later Marchioness of Tuscany between AD 1076 and 1115, sat for judgement under its branches. In AD 800 or so, when the body of San Zanobi, holy bishop of Florence, was moved from San Lorenzo to Santa Reparata, his relics touched the ancient branches of the elm that blossomed at once. The site of the miracle is still marked by the column of St. Zanobi, once torn down by a flood in AD 1333 and rebuilt that very year. *Visible.*

**1h SANTA MARIA MAGGIORE** Along via Cerretani is the ancient church of Santa Maria Maggiore. Its bell tower, originally taller, may well have belonged to the early medieval city walls of Florence. The church was first built between AD 900 and 1000, with three naves. Traces of this ancient building include the small single-lancet window in the façade, the crypt and a series of small lancet windows on the outer wall of the right nave. In the 1200s the church was enlarged in gothic style by the Cistercian monks. Two walls of the bell tower were dismantled and the left nave of the church was enlarged, while the façade was raised. On the bell tower, along via Cerretani, a marble head of Roman age was set in the wall in ancient times. Legend has it that it was a woman named Berta who, mocking a condemned man who went to the gallows, was cursed and petrified. *Open to the public.*



## 2 - PIAZZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

**2a THE FORUM** The Roman Forum of *Florentia*, located at the intersection of the two typical Roman main roads (*Cardo Maximus* running N/S and *Decumanus Maximus* running E/W), had two phases. The earlier forum was paved with clay or stone. After that, perhaps under Hadrian's reign, it was raised approximately 50-60 cm, expanded and paved with marble from Carrara. The Forum was delineated on the W by the Capitoline Temple, the *Curia* (or administrative centre) and by an exedra; on the S by a few monumental buildings; on the N by an enclosure wall. A monumental arch preceded the access from the southern part. From this side there was probably a portico with bases for statues and monuments leading into the square. *Not visible*.



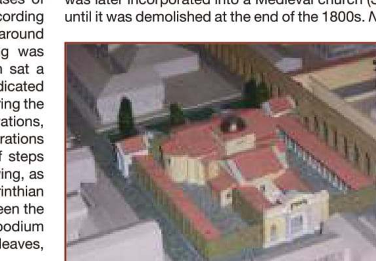
**2b CARDO MAXIMUS** The Northern Gate lead to the *Cardo Maximus*, the main street of the Roman colony, corresponding to the current roads of Via Por Santa Maria, Via Calimala and Via Roma. The *Cardo* was oriented north-south, it was 7 meters wide, made of large stone slabs of polygonal Pietraforte and reached the South Gate passing through the city, crossing the Decumanus (current Via Strozzi, Via degli Speziali) in the square of the Forum. Several remains of paved Roman streets found by archaeologists allow us to reconstruct with some confidence the road grid of the town. The first construction is credited to Augustus but was rebuilt under Emperor Hadrian, between the end of the 1st and the early 2nd century AD, who raised the road level about 60-90 cm. *Not visible*.

**2c TEMPLE OF JUPPITER (CAPITOLIUM)** The Capitoline Temple remains, on the western side of the Forum, were discovered during demolitions at the end of the 1800s of the Old Market, here two main phases of construction were identified. The first temple, according to the numismatic findings, was probably built around the middle of the 1st century BC. This building was constructed on a 3 m high podium above which sat a Tuscan-style temple with three cellae (rooms) dedicated to the Capitoline Triad (Juppiter, Juno, Mnerva). During the age of Augustus, the temple underwent some renovations, and it was most likely enriched with marble decorations under Hadrian. It was later rebuilt with a flight of steps that ran upward to the right of the temple's main wing, as well as the eight exterior columns (probably in Corinthian style) that held up the decorative tympanum. Between the two external ramps of stairs there was a small podium sustaining an octagonal altar decorated with oak leaves, acorns and bucrania (ox cranium). *Not visible*.

2c digital reconstruction

**2d THE UNDERGROUND SPRING** The 1893 excavations discovered a public underground well, 12 m long and 2 m wide with stone walls surrounding it, accessible from the floor of the portico that ran along the forum's northern side. A ramp of stairs (partially preserved) led down to it, roughly 5 meters below the original ground level, and inside there was a square basin with a niched wall with bas-relief of a river god (1st-2nd century AD), perhaps a personification of the Arno river. This was most probably a public or private place of devotion with a strong symbolic significance. The archaeological finds during the excavation in 1890 testify to the fountain's being used all the way up until Late Antiquity. *Not visible*.

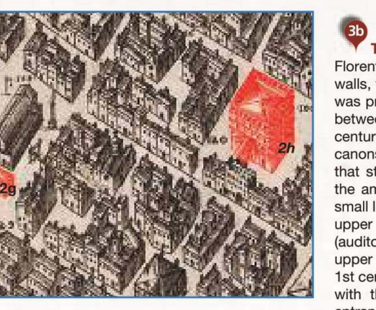
**2e CAPITOLINE BATHS** There were three large thermal baths in Roman *Florentia*: those of the Capitolium, of Piazza della Signoria (*see 3a*) and of Via Por Santa Maria (called Capaccio, *see 3c*). Besides these, other small baths were also found near the Baptistery (*see 1d*) and under the Pagliazza tower (*see 4a*). The baths behind the Capitoline temple may have taken up as much room as an entire *insula* (city block), they were richly decorated, and probably built during the 1st century A.D. The building was constructed over an older *domus* (private house) and was marked by two large salons with marble flooring (steam rooms), a central room with a hot plunge bath (*calidarium*), a cold room (*frigidarium*) with two pools and a vestibule. An enclosure with a portico on the western side ran around the building. One of the pools in the *frigidarium* was later incorporated into a Medieval church (S. Donato) until it was demolished at the end of the 1800s. *Not visible.*



2e scale model

**2f COLONNA DELL'ABBONDANZA** The old market square was marked by the Colonna dell'Abbondanza, from which all road distances from Florence were calculated. In AD 1431 the original piece was replaced by a Roman column adorned with a statue representing a personification of Abundance by Donatello. In AD 1721 the statue of Donatello fell to the ground and shattered and was replaced with a work by Foggini. Removed during the renovation works of the square in 1800s, the Column was put back in its place a century later, in 1956. *Visible.*

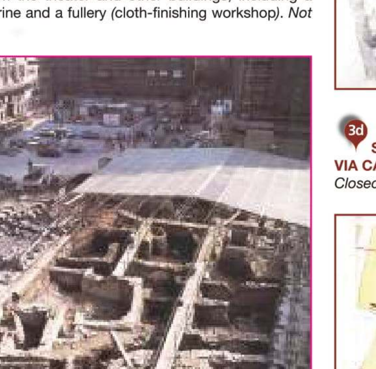
**2g LOGGIA DEL PESCE** In the old market square, in 1567, upon the order of grand duke Cosimo 1st, a loggia was designed and built by Vasari to house the fish market. First demolished during 1800s for the renovations of the square, the loggia was later reassembled with only original fragments around 1960 in Piazza de' Ciompi. *Visible.*



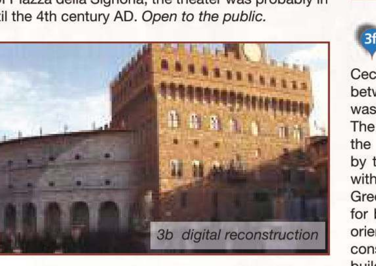
**2h ORSANMICHELE** Not far from the old market square a small church of St. Michael archangel was built before AD 1200 and was referred to as St. Michael in the Orchard (hence the name Orsanmichele). In 1240 an order was issued to demolish the church and to build a loggia for the cereal market in its place, which was later destroyed by a fire in 1304. The present day building was started in 1337 and after the plague of 1348 had the ground floor loggia transformed into a chapel. Since then the 14 tabernacles on the exterior walls were assigned to the Florentine Guilds who had to decorate and maintain them in order to keep possession. The upper floor, originally designed as a storeroom for wheat was never used as such and is now home to the Museum of Orsanmichele. Nonetheless the pillars inside the church show the slits of built in chutes for the wheat. *Open to the public.*

## 3 - PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA

**3a IMPERIAL BATHS** The large thermal bath in Piazza Signoria, built under the reign of Hadrian (2nd century AD) and placed within a large complex that included the Roman theater, was an edifice with a symmetrical design that covered approximately 3500 square meters, only partially excavated during the 80's of the last century. Inside the building archaeologists identified the *frigidarium* (room for cold bath), made up of a large salon with marble floors and a semicircular pool; a pair of quadrangular *tepidaria* (warm rooms) and a *calidarium* (hot room) provided with a pool and a couple of rectangular rooms with apses, perhaps Laconica (sweating rooms). An eclosure separated the baths from the theater and other buildings, including a public latrine and a fullery (cloth-finishing workshop). *Not visible*.

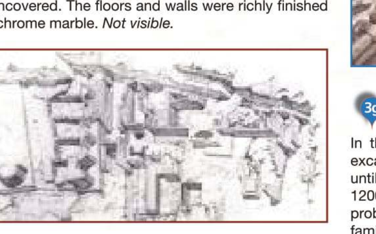


**3b THEATRE OF FLORENTIA** For the Roman theatre of Florentia, located next to the southeast corner of the city walls, two phases have been detected: the earlier theater was probably built during the initial stages of the colony, between the end of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd century AD. The structure seems to respect the Vitruvius canons of construction, with a single semicircle staircase that starts from the floor of the orchestra, and reaches the ambulacrum, which may have been adorned with a small loggia. The stage may have been made re-using the upper part of the city walls. The lower part of the *cavea* (auditorium) was completely made of brick whereas the upper part was probably made of wood. At the end of the 1st century AD, the theater was expanded and renovated, with the addition of a brick-laid sitting place and an entrance to the *platea* (elevated stage). Like the Imperial baths of Piazza della Signoria, the theater was probably in use until the 4th century AD. *Open to the public.*



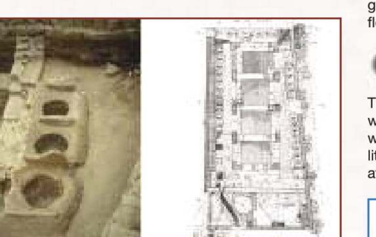
3b digital reconstruction

**3c CAPACCIO BATHS** Located near the Southern Gate of the Roman city walls the baths were named after the nearby water collection basin terminal of the aqueduct (*caput aquae*). The excavations carried out since 1950 have brought to light a building constructed between AD 124 and 130 with an area of 4000 square metres, spanning the area between Via Vacchereccia and Via Por Santa Maria. During the archaeological investigation a large living room with a pool for cold baths and a double colonnade of granite and white marble Corinthian capitals were uncovered. The floors and walls were richly finished in polychrome marble. *Not visible.*

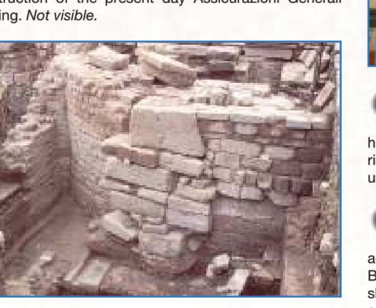


**3d SOUTHERN CITY WALLS AT POR SANTA MARIA/ VIA CALIMARUZZA** *(see 1a)*
*Closed to the public.*

**3e FULLERY OF PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA** *(see 1d)*
*Not visible.*



**3f CHIESA DI SANTA CECILIA** The church of Santa Cecilia, located in the SW corner of the square, was built between AD 500 and 600 as a three naves basilica. It was unearthed in the 1980s archaeological excavations. The central nave and chancel were slightly raised and the liturgical rooms called pastophoria were positioned by the apse. Beside the church a central plan structure with pillars was perhaps used as a baptistery. During the Greek-Goth wars (AD 535-553) the two aisles were used for burials. The church was later reduced in size and its orientation changed, until it was destroyed in 1871 for the construction of the present day Assicurazioni Generali building. *Not visible.*



**3g TURRIS MAJOR AND CASTELLO DI ALTAFRONTE** In the area of Piazza della Signoria the archaeological excavations of the 1980s unearthed many buildings known until then only via written sources. Between AD 1100 and 1200 in the NE area of the square stood a large tower, probably the Turris Major (or *Main Tower*) of the Uberti family, who were so powerful that they inspired Dante who portrayed Farinata degli Uberti in his *Inferno*. The tower was the core of enormous family estate assets and its compound included probably two additional towers built on the orchestra of the ancient Roman theater. The Uberti owned nearby a large part of the Altafronte Castle, a substantial fortress on the river, stretching inland below today's Uffizi, richly endowed with towers, houses and little squares.
They were in control of the waterways and of the only existing bridge. Most of *Uberti* possessions were destroyed after the defeat of the Ghibellines in 1267 and near the debris of their houses the Palazzo Vecchio was built, a symbol of the new Guelph powers. *Not visible.*

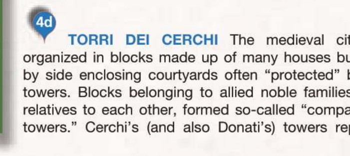
**3h CHIESA DI SAN PIER SCHERAGGIO** In the area still occupied by the ruins of the ancient Roman theater a church dedicated to St. Peter was built around AD 700-800; later known as San Pier Scheraggio from the name of a water stream running nearby, along the old city walls. Around AD 1050-1100 the church was converted into a three aisled building with apse, crypt and rectory.
The church served as a public assembly seat for the Florentine state councils, before the construction of Palazzo Vecchio. Dante himself spoke in this place when he was a governor of the city. At the ground floor of the Uffizi Gallery the nave of the church is fully preserved and along via della Ninna standing columns with brick Corinthian capitals can be observed. *Visible.*

## 4 - VIA DEL CORSO

**4a PAGLIAZZA BATHS** *(see 4e)*
*Visits by request: info@hotelbrunelleschi.it*

**4b ROMAN CITY WALLS OF VIA DEL PROCONSOLO** *(see 1a)*
*Visits by request: sba-tos@beniculturali.it; tel. 055 242213*

**4c FULLERY OF VIA DEL PROCONSOLO** *(see 1a)*
*Visits by request: sba-tos@beniculturali.it; tel. 055 242213*



**4d TORRI DEI CERCHI** The medieval city was organized in blocks made up of many houses built side by side enclosing courtyards often "protected" by high towers. Blocks belonging to allied noble families, often relatives to each other, formed so-called "companies of towers." Cerchi's (and also Donati's) towers represent some of the finest examples of these medieval urban cells. They are tall, fortified buildings, reminiscent of countryside castles, and had the practical function to ensure safety for the clan within the turbulent Florentine city life. These buildings show the presence of large scaffolding holes, once supporting beams, balconies, wooden galleries and removable bridges, all built primarily for granting access to the upper floors and to widen indoor spaces. *Visible.*

**4e TORRE DELLA PAGLIAZZA** Among the towers of the Florentine families, the Torre della Pagliazza (see lower left photo) stands out because of its peculiar shape, with a nearly circular plan due to the ancient ruins of a small round Roman bath on which the tower was founded around the 7th century AD. This was the bell tower of the little church of San Michele in Palchetto, one of the oldest in Florence, deconsecrated at the end of the 1700s. *Visible.*

**4f TORRE DELLA CASTAGNA** The Torre della Castagna (late 12th century) is a high tower, austere due to the reduced number of openings in the façade (see upper right photo). The Priors, representatives of the government of medieval Florence, used to keep here the election ballot tools and the state books. *Visible.*

**4g SANTA MARGHERITA DE' CERCHI** This little church is traditionally acknowledged as the possible site of the first meeting between Dante and his beloved Beatrice. It has a simple façade and an interior decorated with frescoes. The church shared the patronage of many noble families,until AD 1600, including Donati, Cerchi and Adimari. Later on the only patrons were the Cerchi, of which the church still bears the name. *Open to the public.*

**4h BADIA FIORENTINA** The first Benedictine abbey in Florence. It was built around AD 900s and was one of the most important churches in the town. Ugo, the Marquis of Tuscany defined by Dante as the "Grand Baron", made it so rich and powerful that every 21st of December a mass in his memory was and still is being celebrated, after a millennium. Renovated in Gothic style in 1285, by Arnolfo di Cambio, it preserves structures of 10th century AD in the basement of the beautiful bell tower. In 1373, at the request of the people of Florence, Boccaccio gave a reading of Dante's Comedy, which has since then been called "Divine Comedy". *Open to the public.*

## 5 - AMPHITHEATRE

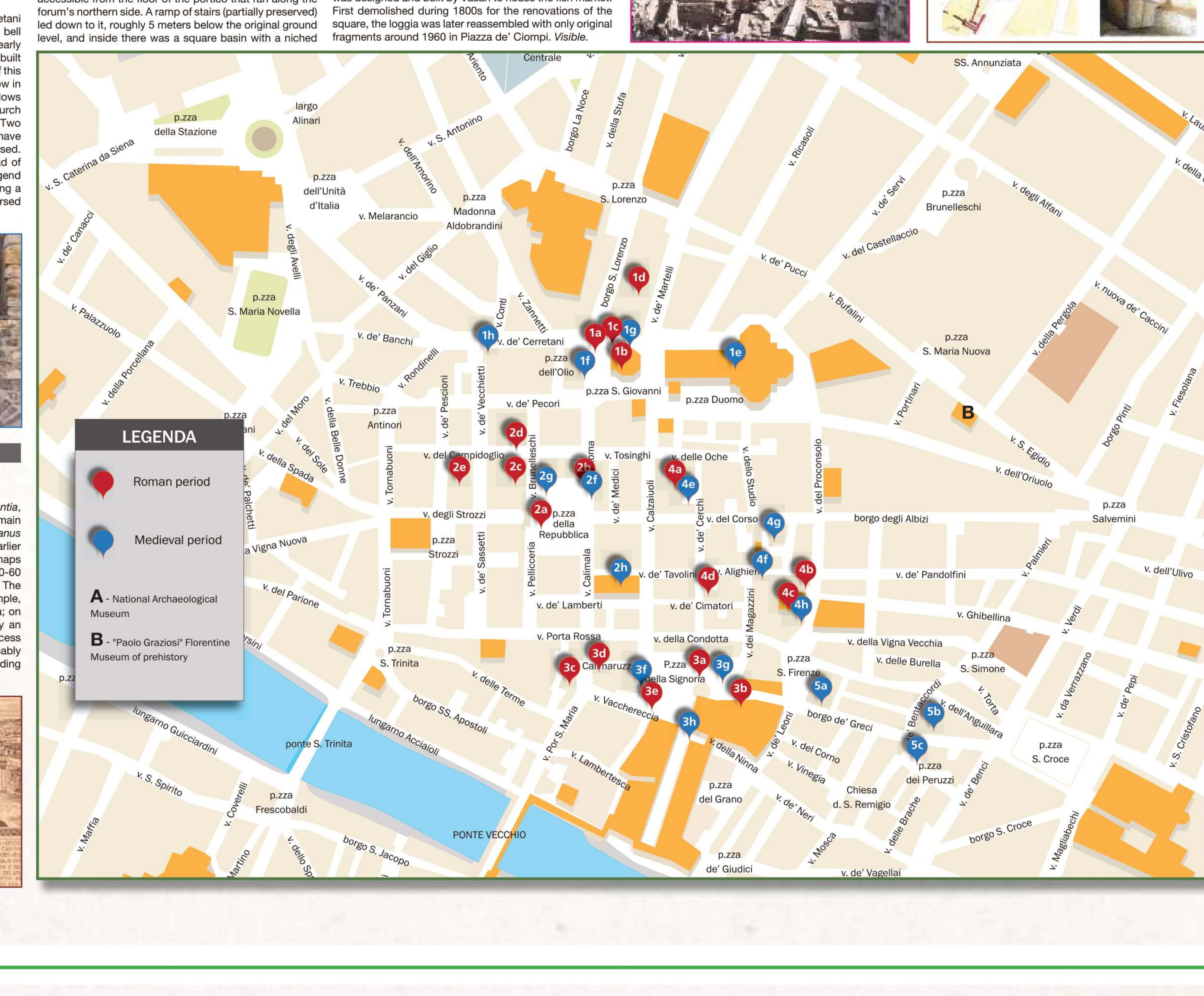
**5a TEMPLE OF ISIS** One of the temples in Roman *Florentia* was dedicated to the Egyptian goddess Isis and was located near the theater, just outside the sacred boundaries of the town (*pomerium*), close to a small stream of water. Altough no structures have ever been uncovered, we can infer the presence of the temple because of the presence of several votive inscriptions and architectural elements (columns, capitals, marble fragments) found between the end of the 17th century and, more recently, in 2008. The study of the artifacts seems to indicate that the temple was erected during the 2nd century AD and survived at least until the 4th century AD. *Not visible.*

5a relics of the temple in the Archaeological Museum's courtyard.

**5b THE AMPHITHEATRE** Located outside the Roman city walls and mentioned several times by chroniclers and in many medieval documents as the "*Perilasio, Perilascio, Parlascio* o *Parlagio*" (from the Ancient Greek word *perielasion*= circular space), the amphitheater of *Florentia* was the subject of a brief excavation during the 1800s. Unlike the theater, its shape is still recognizable in the layout of later buildings. It's perimeter was about 300 meters, 113 m the major axis and 89 m the minor axis, with a capacity of no less than 15.000 spectators and probably built under the reign of Hadrian (2nd century AD). *Not visible.*

5b digital reconstruction

**5c TORRI DEI PERUZZI** In Piazza de 'Peruzzi we can still be see a few towers belonging to this family of wealthy bankers who dominated the economic scene in Florence throughout the Middle Ages, giving the city about 60 top governmental officers. Family possessions stretched between the Castle of Altafronte and the Church of San Remigio. A vast compound of their towers and palaces was built in AD 1200-1300 on top of the monumental ruins of the Florence Roman amphitheater, taking advantage of the old city walls in order to build a city family fortress. Present day Piazza Peruzzi is in fact the inner courtyard of the ancient compound, a small city within the city, accessible only by narrow and twisting alleyways. The Peruzzi Malenchini tower guarded the access from via de' Rustici and via Torta. *Visible.*

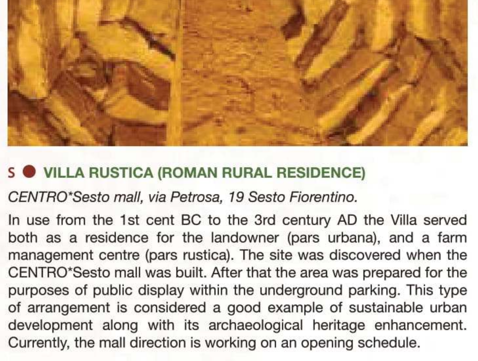



## 1- SESTO FIORENTINO

**S ■ "LA MONTAGNOLA" ETRUSCAN TOMB**
*Viale Fratelli Rosselli, 95 - Sesto Fiorentino*

http://www.prolocosestofiorentino.it

The Etruscan tomb known as "La Montagnola" (7th century BC) is one of the most fascinating tumuli in Tuscany. The round burial chamber (tholos) is covered by a corbelled vault: successive rows of large stone slabs are laid overlapping each other and meeting in the centre supported by a pillar. It has a rectilinear open-air entrance passage and a vestibule with two small additional funerary chambers. A big artificial mound (70 m wide) covers the whole structure. The tomb was excavated at the end of the 50s. Here the archaeologists found some remains of the luxurious grave goods, partly robbed in ancient times: gold jewels, ivory plaques with relief carvings, ostrich eggs, consistent with the richness of Etruscan aristocracies during the Orientalizing age. This tomb typology is widespread on the right bank of the Arno river, and it is well-attested at Sesto Fiorentino: here two more tholoi (Torrigiani and Mula) were identified. Special openings of La Montagnola are organized during Spring and Fall.



**S ● VILLA RUSTICA (ROMAN RURAL RESIDENCE)**
*CENTRO*Sesto mall, via Petrosa, 19 Sesto Fiorentino.*

In use from the 1st cent BC to the 3rd century AD the Villa served both as a residence for the landowner (pars urbana), and a farm management centre (pars rustica). The site was discovered when the CENTRO*Sesto mall was built. After that the area was prepared for the purposes of public display within the underground parking. This type of arrangement is considered a good example of sustainable urban development along with its archaeological heritage enhancement. Currently, the mall direction is working on an opening schedule.

## 2- CALENZANO

**S M ♦ MEDIEVAL CASTLE AND FIGURINO STORICO MUSEUM**
*Via del Castello, 7 – Calenzano. From the Florence train station take the ATAF bus N. 2, get off at the bus terminal and follow by foot the pathway that leads to the top of the hill. From Highway A1, exit at 'Calenzano' and follow on the right the directions for the city centre and the Castle.*

http://www.museofigurinostorico.it

The Castle to this date bears the ruins of the fortified hamlet of the 13th century BC and a good portion of the relics of the two city gates with towers (14th and 15th century AD). The Castle houses the above-mentioned "Museo del Figurino Storico" (museum of historical models), where small hand-made reproductions recreate some Ancient World settings.

## 3- FIESOLE

**S M ● ■ ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA AND MUSEUM**
*Via Portigiani, 1 - Fiesole*
http://www.museidifiesole.it

While taking a walk in the Archaeological Area, visitors are plunged into the monumental core of the Roman city, and they can admire the most significant buildings of the cultural life and politics: the temple, the theater, the public baths (thermae). These monuments were built by the Romans between the end of the I century BC and the beginnings of the I century AD. Under the Roman temple, the walls of the Etruscan one (IV century BC) are still standing at a considerable height.

The visit also includes access to the Archaeological Museum (same entrance ticket): it contains findings from the whole town (among them, the bronze torso known as "Fiesole female wolf"), and the precious collection of Greek, Etruscan and Southern Italy ceramics donated by Alfiero Costantini.

**S M ■ CITY WALLS, ETNOGRAFICO MISSIONARIO MUSEUM**
*Via di S. Francesco, 13 - Fiesole*

http://brunelleschi.imss.fi.it

Walking down Via Dupré, visitors can reach Via delle Mura Etrusche (street of the Etruscan walls), named after the massive remains of the northern city walls, whose oldest building phase probably dates back to the 4th cent BC. They are made of local sandstone; another well preserved portion of the city walls (eastern side) can be observed in Via Mari.

The Etruscans probably chose the hill of S. Francesco for their first settlement in Fiesole, according to the findings in the north-eastern slopes. Today, going up Via di S. Francesco, it's possible to admire a beautiful view of the Florence valley and visit the small Museo Etnografico Missionario Francescano.

## 4- FIRENZUOLA

**M ♦ PIETRA SERENA MUSEUM**
*Piazza Don Stefano Casini, 4 - Firenzuola*

http://www.comune.firenzuola.fi.it

The "Museo della Pietra Serena" (Museum of Sandstone) has been placed in the underground tunnels and moat of the Rocca (fortress) of Firenzuola (the town's City Hall). The building, erected in the 15th century BC, was heavily damaged during WWII and then rebuilt following the original shape with battlements and a central tower. The excavations and restoration brought back to light a part of the ancient building and some ceramics now held in the Museum. Visitors can also admire the remains of the 14th century AD fortifications made by Antonio da Sangallo the Elder, one of the first examples with corner bastions and escarpments. The museum is enriched with multimedia devices, and it has many thematic sections dedicated to sandstone in its natural landscape, the mining activities and the daily life of the community. The visit ends with an exhibition of the creations of the skillful Firenzuola stonemasons.

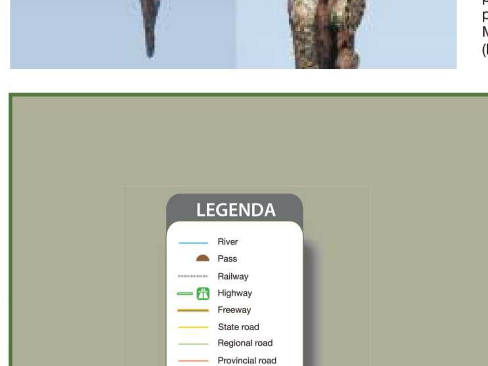
## 5- PALAZZUOLO SUL SENIO

**M ▲ ● ■ ♦ ALTO MUGELLO ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM**
*Piazza Ettore Alpi, 4 - Palazzuolo sul Senio*

http://www.palazzuoloturismo.it

The Museum is housed in the Palazzo del Podestà (top floor) and its collection includes the archeological findings from the valleys of Senio, Lamone and Santerno rivers, from the Prehistoric Age to the 14th—18th century AD castles. The Prehistoric section of the Museum in particular is worth the visit; a showcase illustrates the evolutionary process leading up to the appearance of humankind.

With the same entrance ticket it is also possible to visit in Palazzo del Podestà the "Museo delle genti di montagna" (folklore of the area). Near Palazzuolo the remains of an Archaic Etruscan necropolis were found. In particular, inside the tomb of a male identified as a warrior the archaeologists found bronze weapons and ceramic vessels for banquets (now exhibited at the Archaeological Museum of Dicomano, see 9).



## 6- SCARPERIA

**M ▲ ● ■ ♦ ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF S. AGATA**
*Via della Pieve 3, Sant'Agata - Scarperia*

http://www.museisantagata.it

The exhibition starts off with the lithic production and other original artifacts of the prehistory of the Mugello area, from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age. The other rooms concern the Etruscan and Roman periods along with the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Outside next to the building there is a reconstruction of a life-size prehistoric village with two huts: one belongs to Palaeolithic hunters while the other to Bronze Age agropastoral communities.

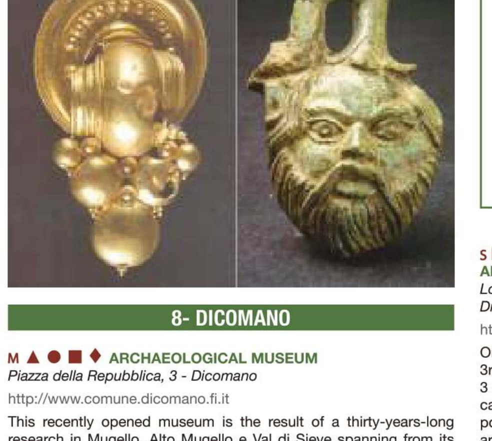
## 7- VICCHIO

**S ■ POGGIO COLLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA**
*Loc. Poggio Colla – Vicchio* (GPS: 43°55'18.44"N - 11°28'27.61"E).

*Along the Strada Provinciale 41 from Ponte a Vicchio towards Dicomano, turn right in the direction of Pimaggiore (a gravel road). When you reach a small church, turn right again until you reach a small lake, from here follow the trail to the top of the hill.*

www.mugello.com

The Etruscan settlement at Poggio Colla, inhabited from the 7th century BC, was destroyed by the Romans at the beginning of the 2nd century BC. Most probably the site was an outstanding sanctuary in the region. The excavations brought back to light a fortified acropolis (with a temple raised on a podium; 6th-5th century BC) and two monumental buildings with a courtyard belonging to a later phase. Near Podere Funghi (outside the sanctuary area) there was a Hellenistic productive district with at least four kilns for ceramic production.

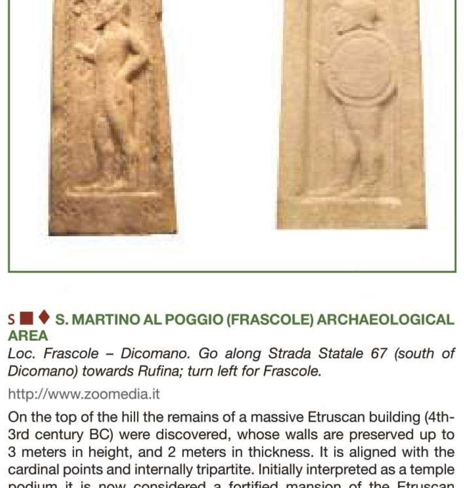


## 8- DICOMANO

**M ▲ ● ■ ♦ ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM**
*Piazza della Repubblica, 3 - Dicomano*

http://www.comune.dicomano.fi.it

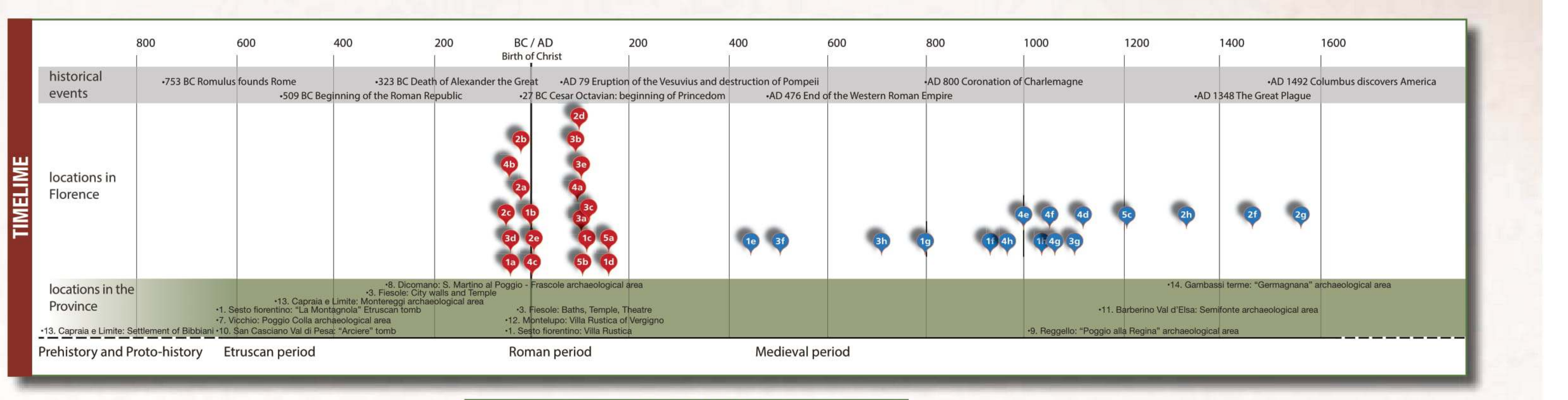
This recently opened museum is the result of a thirty-years-long research in Mugello, Alto Mugello e Val di Sieve spanning from its prehistory to the Renaissance. The exhibition includes bilingual panels covering various topics. Displayed findings come from "I Monti" (S. Piero a Sieve), Poggio Colla (Vicchio), S. Martino al Poggio (Dicomano), Cuoiano (Vaglia), Cafaggiolo (Villa Medicea), Bilancino (dam construction salvage excavation). One room is dedicated to a few 6th century BC Etruscan tomb markers ("pietre fiesolane"), decorated in relief, found in the Mugello area.



**S ■ ♦ S. MARTINO AL POGGIO (FRASCOLE) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA**
*Loc. Frascole – Dicomano. Go along Strada Statale 67 (south of Dicomano) towards Rufina; turn left for Frascole.*

http://www.zoomedia.it

On the top of the hill the remains of a massive Etruscan building (4th-3rd century BC) were discovered, whose walls are preserved up to 3 meters in height, and 2 meters in thickness. It is aligned with the cardinal points and internally tripartite. Initially interpreted as a temple podium it is now considered a fortified mansion of the Etruscan aristocratic family Velasna (a gentilitial name frequently occurring on local epigraphs). The excavations also brought to light a 13th century church dedicated to S. Martino, which was demolished in 1465. Archaeologists found traces of the perimeter walls, the parvis and a small cemetery. Visits are stopped during excavation seasons.




## 9- REGGELLO

**S ♦ POGGIO ALLA REGINA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA**
*Reggello – Pian di Sco'* (GPS: 43°40'18"N - 11°34'12"E). *Leave Reggello along the Strada Provinciale Setteponti 85 toward Ponticelli, until you reach the homonymous Oratory. From here follow trail R14, where a detour on the right leads to the Poggio della Regina.*
http://www.provincia.fi.it

http://www.comune.pian-di-sco.ar.it

The "Castiglione della Corte" Archaeological Area on Poggio alla Regina features a fortified curtis, which according to the sources stood since 1009, and is the result of the encastellation process requested by the Guidi counts in the 12th century and enlarged during the following century until its abandonment in the third quarter of the 14yth century Visitors can admire a 2000 square meter settled area with remains of monumental buildings and city walls. Among the most interesting findings, we should mention two metal seals that belonged to Bastardo, son of Guido Guerra the 4th, and his own son Simone. The seals prove that the site was a ruling urban centre, due also to the exceptional visibility from the Valdarno and Casentino valleys. The excavations on Poggio della Regina of the University of Florence also revealed traces of an Etruscan occupancy (6th-3rd century BC).

## 10- SAN CASCIANO VAL DI PESA

**S M ● ■ ♦ SAN CASCIANO MUSEUM** *(via Lucardesi)* **AND "ARCIERE" TOMB** *(S. Angelo a Bibbione)*

*To visit the tomb, from San Casciano drive along Via Grevigiana towards Mercatale; follow the direction signs "Montefiridolfi" and, from there, "Tomba etrusca or Tomba dell'Arciere". Alternatively, from Via Cassia or the Superstrada Firenze-Siena (exit: Bargino), follow the signs for Montefiridolfi and Bibbione.*

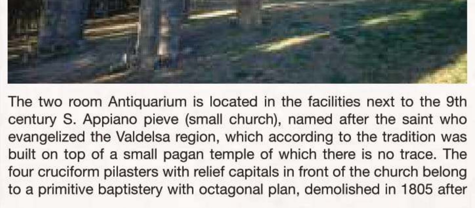
http://www.chiantimusei.it

The San Casciano Museum was founded in 1989 as a Museum of Sacred Art, in 2009 two new sections were added: an archaeological section (Etruscan and Roman findings from the surrounding areas), and a "primeval houses" section (with scale models, old photographs and informative panels). The Museum is inside the beautiful S. Maria del Gesù church, vestry and former convent. Among the most interesting pieces of the Museum are two sculptures, the Cabestany Master's holy water stoup base decorated in relief (second half of the 12th century AD) and the famous Archer's Stele (a sandstone Etruscan tomb marker). The archer relief gave the name also to the tumulus located at S. Angelo a Bibbione were it was found. It is a chamber type of tomb once covered with an artificial mound, with a corbelled vault and a central pilaster (third quarter of the 7th century BC) where gold and ivory fragments, and Orientalizing ceramics were also found.

## 11- BARBERINO VAL D'ELSA

**S M ● ■ ♦ S. APPIANO *ANTIQUARIUM* (MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITES)**
*S. Appiano - Barberino Val d'Elsa.Exiting from Barberino along the Strada Provinciale 50; turn left toward Linari-S. Appiano; the church is a few kilometers away.*

http://www.chiantimusei.it



The two room Antiquarium is located in the facilities next to the 9th century S. Appiano pieve (small church), named after the saint who evangelized the Valdelsa region, which according to the tradition was built on top of a small pagan temple of which there is no trace. The four cruciform pilasters with relief capitals in front of the church belong to a primitive baptistery with octagonal plan, demolished in 1805 after an earthquake. The Antiquarium holds a few archaeological findings of the nearby area such as the alabaster funerary urns (Hellenistic age), which were found inside partially robbed tombs near S. Martino ai Colli; they are decorated with Greek myth reliefs on the case and the banqueting owner on the lid. Apart from black and red figured ceramics, which date back to the 6th - 4th century BC, the second room also holds medieval and Renaissance ceramics. Less numerous are the Roman findings of the Imperial period, the most significant of which is a small sandstone sculpture that represents Eros riding an animal (2nd century AD) found during the demolition of the baptistery.

**S ♦ SEMIFONTE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA**
*Petrognano and S. Donnino - Barberino Val d'Elsa. Leaving Barberino follow the Strada Provinciale 50; turn right towards Petrognano.*

http://www.visitvaldelsa.com

The village of Petrognano is just outside Barberino. The area features an interesting 16th century manor and houses that show 13th century architectural elements (tower remains). These belong most probably to the hamlet of the famous Semifonte castle, which was built and fortified by the Alberti family in 1181. The castle quickly increased its wealth and importance, though the Florentine Republic completely destroyed it during the Spring of 1202. In 1597, where the castle once stood (loc. S. Donnino), the octagonal chapel of S. Michele Arcangelo was built, which is the exact 1:8 scale reproduction of the Florentine S. Maria del Fiore dome of Brunelleschi. Walking along the local pathways it's possible to see ancient ruins and springs of S. Caterina.

## 12- MONTELUPO

**M ▲ ● ■ ♦ MONTELUPO ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM**
*SS. Quirico and Lucia all'Ambrogiana complex, via S. Lucia – Montelupo Fiorentino*

http://www.museomontelupo.it

The former ecclesiastic complex of SS. Quirico and Lucia is composed of numerous newly refurbished structures, arranged on two levels, with eight display rooms three of which are dedicated to the prehistoric period. The first room has a collection of prehistoric relics from the archaeological investigations carried out in the middle Valdarno and low Valdipesa valleys. The second room holds the artifacts of the Bronze Age from the settlement of Bibbiani (see 13). The sixth room displays Mediterranean and Italian prehistoric and proto-historic ceramics.

**S ● VILLA RUSTICA OF VERGIGNO (ROMAN RURAL RESIDENCE)**
*Pulica, Podere Vergigno (Contact Montelupo Archaeological Museum for visits: 057151352).*

http://www.museomontelupo.it

The Montelupo Archaeological Museum organizes guided tours to Podere Vergigno, where a large Roman villa rustica belonging to the 1st century BC was found. The villa had a productive centre, with kilns for producing tiles and rooms for pressing grapes, and a two-storey residential sector with 16 rooms. These also include a portico and a private thermal bath with a calidarium.

## 13- CAPRAIA E LIMITE

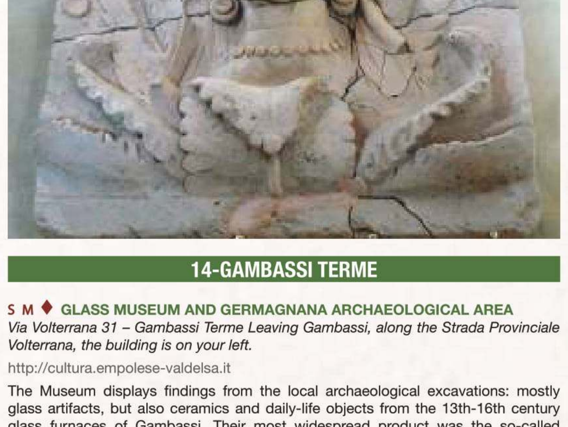
**S ▲ SETTLEMENT OF BIBBIANI**
Capraia and Limite Municipality (GPS: 43°44'55.89"N - 11° 0'19.44"E). To visit the site contact the Museum of Montelupo at the reservation centre: tel. 057151352

http://www.museomontelupo.it

Through the Museum of Montelupo it is possible to access, with a guided tour, the site of Bibbiani dated to the end of the Bronze Age. The archaeological excavations, which are ongoing, have uncovered a few huts with many artifacts such as ceramic vessels, weaving objects, glass paste ornaments and a broad range of vegetal remains.

**S ■ MONTEREGGI ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA**
Limite sull'Arno.(Contact Montelupo Archaeological Museum for visits: 057151352) GPS: 43°44'56.75"N - 10°59'50.86"E

The Archaeological Museum of Montelupo organizes guided tours to the archaeological site of Montereggi. This site was situated in a strategic position for the control of the Arno valley and its trading connections, and it was exploited by the Etruscans beginning in the Early Iron Age. In Classical and Hellenistic periods a significant amount of Etruscan and Greco-italic amphorae were stored at Montereggi, confirming its commercial vocation. Visitors can admire the foundations and the remaining walls of numerous residential buildings. Among the latest findings, a terracotta plaque of a female face in relief found inside a cistern (ritual deposit?) and the skeleton of an adult male buried at the bottom of a well with a few ceramics covered by tiles. Roman remains have also been found along the hill slopes.

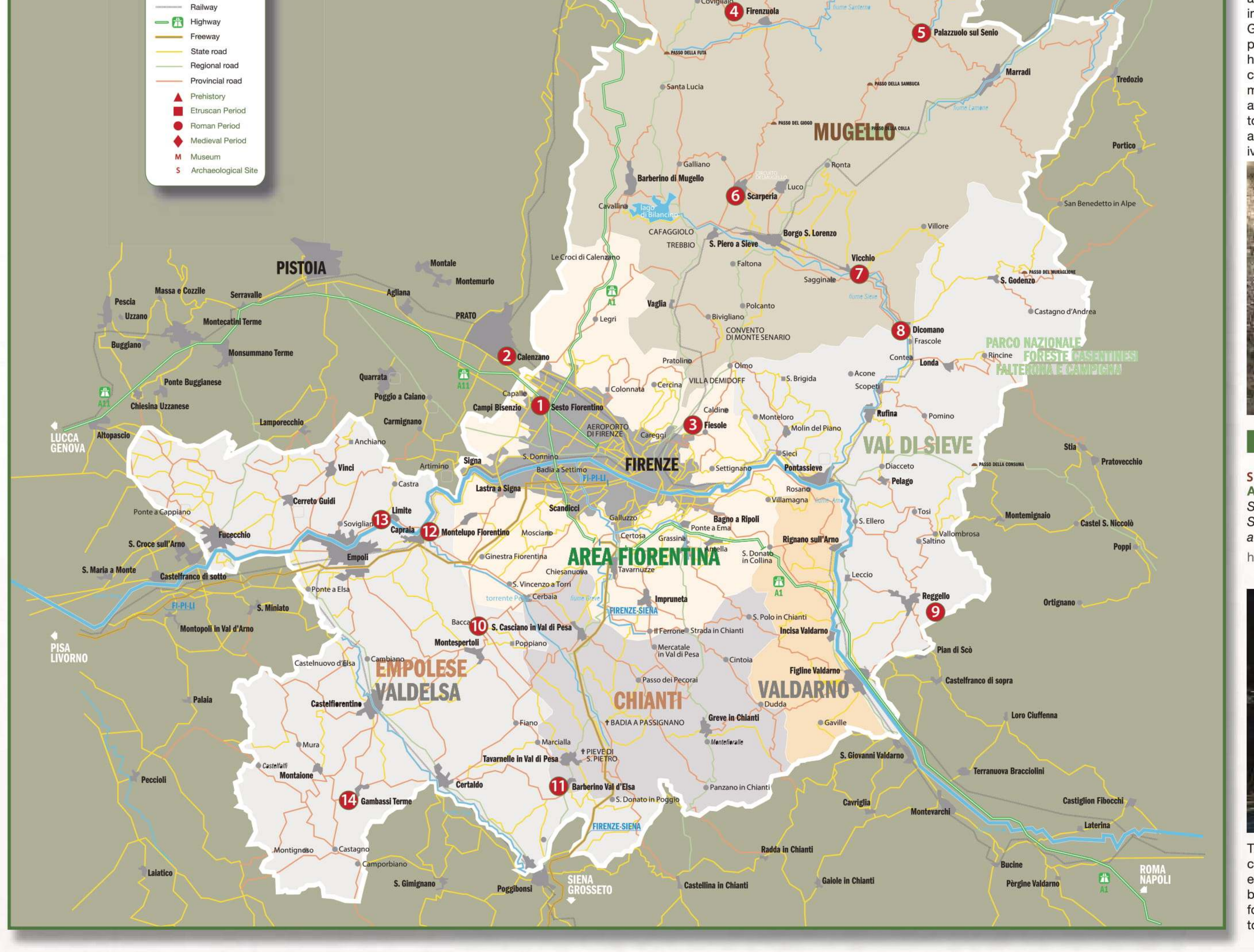


## 14-GAMBASSI TERME

**S M ♦ GLASS MUSEUM AND GERMAGNANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA**
*Via Volterrana 31 – Gambassi Terme Leaving Gambassi, along the Strada Provinciale Volterrana, the building is on your left.*

http://cultura.empolese-valdelsa.it

The Museum displays findings from the local archaeological excavations: mostly glass artifacts, but also ceramics and daily-life objects from the 13th-16th century glass furnaces of Gambassi. Their most widespread product was the so-called gambasino, a green or transparent glass goblet with geometric decorations. The exhibition deals also with the Italian glass production started during the proto-historic period. In the Germagnana Archaeological Area, west of Gambassi, it's possible to admire a glass workshop (end of the 13th-half of the 14th century AD), which will become an archaeological park after its restoration. Inside there are three typologies of furnaces: one for the faience production (coarse glass paste); one for glass melting and moulding and a smaller one for glass tempering.




"...I Giovanni... citizen of Florence, considering the nobility and greatness of our city during present times, it seems to me appropriate to tell and to remember the origin and commencement of this famous city..."

Giovanni Villanni (AD 1276-1348)

The map of "**Florence and its Province: The Archaeological Locations**" is a journey into the past, in which our imagination must also be involved, to address the origins of a city that has certainly played a leading role during the Renaissance, which finds in its roots the conditions and the reasons for this glorious destiny.

The map "**Florence and its Province: The Archaeological Locations**" is a path that will retrace the steps of this story through the relics of its prehistoric and proto-historic periods, the Etruscan evidence, the birth and development of Florentia, the crucial transition to the post-classic period, brought to light during the excavations of the late nineteenth century for "Florence Capital" up to the most recent urban archeology discoveries.

***NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM***
*(see A on the city map)*
Piazza Santissima Annunziata 9b.
Tel. 055-23575
www.archeotoscana.beniculturali.it

***"PAOLO GRAZIOSI" FLORENTINE MUSEUM OF PREHISTORY***
*(see B on the city map)*
Via Sant'Egidio 21.
Tel. 055-295159
www.museofiorentinopreistoria.it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**CREDITS**
***1a, 1c, 1d, 1f, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 4c, 4e, 5a, 5b:*** after M. Pagni (ed.), Atlante Archeologico di Firenze, Polistampa: Firenze 2010.
***1b, 2a:*** Cartoline postali dell'architetto Corinti.
***1g, 2g:*** after S. Buonsignori, Nova pulcherrimae civitatis Florentiae topographia accuratissime delineata, Firenze 1584.
***1, 3, 8, 1i, 4b, 4f:*** Archivio CAMNES.
***1e:*** after Valeria d'Aquino et alii, "Firenze, Ex Canonica di S. Giovanni. Il cortile principale", Notiziario della Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana, 3, 2007; Valeria d'Aquino et alii, "Firenze. Ex Canonica di S. Giovanni", Notiziario della Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana, 1, 2005
***3:*** after C. Salvianti (ed.), La collezione Costantini, Milano 1985.
***4:*** http://www.imaginem.it/sale-multimediali.php
***5:*** after A. Chiarotti, Museo archeologico dell'alto Mugello, Roma 2006.
***7:*** after L. Cappuccini, C. Ducci, S. Gori, L. Paoli (eds.), Museo Archeologico Comprensoriale del Mugello e della Val di Sieve: catalogo dell'esposizione, Aska Edizioni 2009
***10:*** Archivio della Missione Archeologica (Archeologia Medievale, UNIFI).
***11:*** http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomba_dell%27Arciere
***12:*** http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pieve_di_Sant'Appiano
***14:*** http://notizie.antika.it/

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COMUNE DI FIRENZE
CAMNES Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies