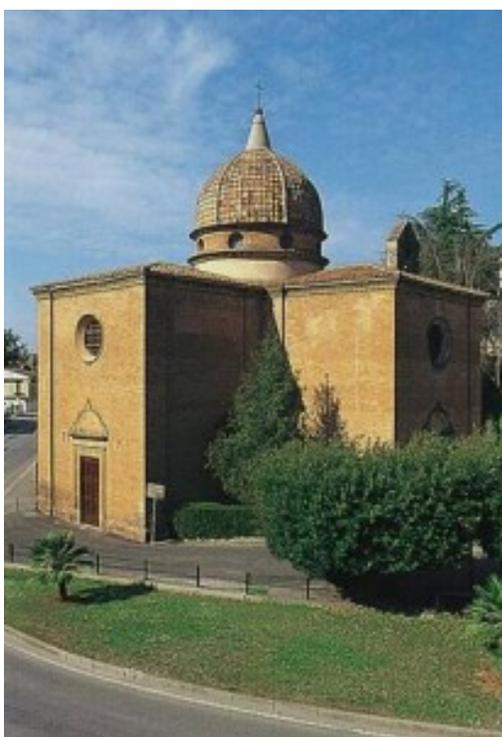


*Small Guide to places of worship
and Christian shrines
in Bibbona and surrounding areas*

Sanctuary of S.Maria della Pietà – Bibbona (Livorno)



Located at the entrance to the town, the church of Santa Maria della Pietà was built at the end of the 15th century by Vittorio Ghiberti and Ranieri da Tripalle.

The structure is a Greek cross and is characterized by a beautiful dome, placed at the intersection of the four arms

Two rectangular slabs in which the coat of arms of the municipality of Bibbona stands out embellish a facade of the church.

Among the internal decoration, the image of the Pietà, painted on a tempera tablet, stands out on the high altar.

Also interesting is the Trinity painted by the seventeenth-century artist Cesare Dandini and the marble furnishings dated 1700, including the ciborium inserted in a tabernacle painted with the images of Saints Bernard, Paul, Thomas and Stephen, on the high altar.

A small bell tower rises to the side of the church.

Sanctuary of Madonna di Montenero – Livorno -

Montenero, located on a hill overlooking the sea and the port of Livorno, is among the most famous places in Tuscany due particularly to its famous Sanctuary dedicated to the Madonna delle Grazie.

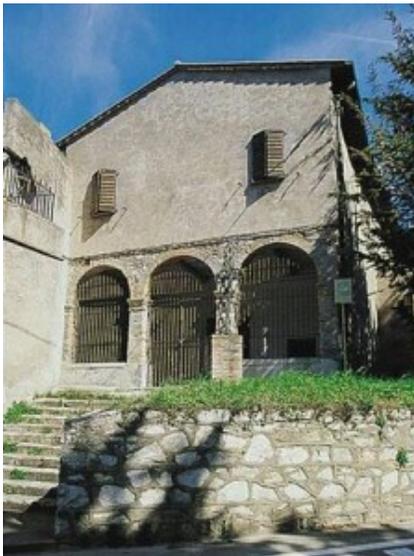


The origins of the Sanctuary date back to May 15, 1345, the feast of Pentecost, when, according to tradition, a poor crippled shepherd found the miraculous image of the Virgin Mary and following an inner intuition took it to the Montenero hill, a place already known as a refuge of brigands and for this reason considered dark, gloomy ... the "*mountain of the devil*".

Beyond the many legends surrounding the story of the discovery of the image of the Madonna, which critics attribute instead to a certain Iacopo di Michele known as Gera, it seems that this image appeared in Montenero following a rebirth of religious fervor, around to 1341.

Precisely in this year the inhabitants of Livorno, then little more than a fishing village, would have organized an autonomous cult of recently painted sacred images, however opposed by the ecclesiastical authorities who ordered the cessation of the cult and the disappearance of the related images.

Sanctuary of Madonna di Fucinaia – Campiglia Marittima (Livorno)



Located in the small town of Botro ai Marmi, where in ancient times there was an extractive activity, along the road to San Vincenzo, the church was built for the discovery of an image of the Madonna over a forge.

The facade of the building is made up of a lower part characterized by three arches supported by stone pillars and a hut-like upper with no particular ornaments.

The interior is covered with cross vaults resting on semi-pillars

The main altar is leaning against a wall, flanked by the eighteenth-century statues of San Giacomo and San Matteo from the eighteenth century.

Sanctuary of Madonna della Cittadella – Piombino (Livorno)



The chapel of the princely residence of the Citadel was built around 1465 on commission from Jacopo III Appiani by Andrea Guardi.

The building, with a single nave, was built on the model of the Malatesta Temple in Rimini. Andrea Guardi is also the lunette of the access portal depicting the "Madonna and Child".

On the altar from the 18th century there is a polychrome terracotta by Andrea della Robbia, the "Madonna with Child".

Sanctuary of Madonna del Desco – Piombino (Livorno)



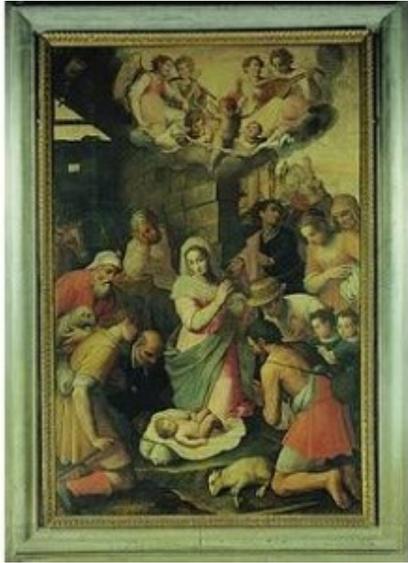
Little has been handed down in the history of the Chapel of the Madonna della Neve, known as "del Desco".

The first documentary news of the chapel dates back to 1499. The premises were temporarily reduced to a hospital in the seventeenth century and was a pilgrimage destination as the "Madonna del Desco" was venerated there, unfortunately today dispersed.

It also seems that the Chapel was a Convent of Capuchin Friars around the year 1610. In 1925 the vault of the church was decorated by Luigi Arcangeli, who in the same year also made the altarpiece in the late Gothic style.

Currently there is a small community of Sisters of contemplative life: the "Missionary Sisters of Charity", of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Sanctuary of Madonna di S. Sebastiano in S. Francesco – Volterra (Pisa)



The Sanctuary of the Madonna di S. Sebastiano is inside the church of S. Francesco in Volterra. Titled Marian sanctuary since 1931, the Madonna is venerated which was originally located in the oratory of San Sebastiano.

The Miraculous Madonna is also called Madonna dei Maremmani. The building is located on a hill at an altitude of 525 meters and has a simple stone facade built in the thirteenth century.

The object of the cult is represented by a table with the Virgin and Child dating back to the early 15th century. Tradition has it that the building was built following the lament of a nine-year-old child, from a peasant family, for the conditions of abandonment of the small oratory in the village of Conco, where the image of the Virgin was kept.

The main festival is the third Sunday in September, where the painting of the Virgin is exposed to the faithful for three days.

Sanctuary of Madonna della Neve – Volterra (Pisa)



The Madonna della Neve Sanctuary, adjacent to the city cemetery, not far from the parish church of Villamagna, was built between 1675 and 1715 under the pontificate of Pope Liberius. The object of the cult is the fresco of the Madonna and Child from the end of the 15th century attributed to Pier Francesco Fiorentino (1444-post 1494).

Tradition tells that the population of Villamagna, hit by a typhus epidemic in the nineteenth century, invoked the help of Madonna della Neve and made a vow of thanks if they escaped the danger.

So it was and the population remembers the event every year with the feast of the Madonna, which takes place on the second Sunday of October.

Sanctuary of Madonna di Monteforti – Santa Luce (Pisa)



The area of Santa Luce was known since the times of the Etruscans. The first written testimony about these places dates back to the year 877. In that period the lands passed under the dominion of some families: the Cadolingi of Fucecchio, the Upezzinghi of Pisa, then in 1406 the territory had to surrender to the dominion of Florence.

Sanctuary of Madonna del Libro – Castelnuovo Val di Cecina (Pisa)



The origin of the sanctuary is connected to a miraculous event that occurred during the war that Lorenzo de 'Medici waged against Volterra in 1472.

The population addressed supplications and prayers to the Virgin until she appeared to a local woman promising peace and protection. Thus was born the devotion, still alive today, for the Madonna delle Grazie, also known as the Book.

The church has a T shape with a three-sided portico and massive external bastions that support asymmetrical arches. It takes its name from a painting that was venerated here until 1958 with the Virgin and Child crowned by two angels, absorbed in reading a book.

For security reasons, the church is closed to the public, and the painting moved to the parish church of San Bartolomeo where it is kept today.

Church Oratory of Madonna di San Sebastiano – Casale Marittimo (Pisa)



The origins of this place of prayer date back to 1775, the date of its construction, on the site where there was the pre-existing oratory that belonged to the Confraternity that existed since the 15th century.

In the staircase, on the left side, we find 2 stone spheres which are probably tombstones from the Etruscan age.

Of particular interest is preserved in this church a very particular wooden flag dating back to 1570, by Giovanni Maria Tacci da Piombino which depicts the "Wounded Christ supported by angels" and the "Virgin and Child between Saints Sebastian and Rocco" which is today in the Museum of Sacred Art located in Volterra.

Jerusalem or Sacro Monte of San Vivaldo - Montaione (Firenze)



Near Montaione at 460 in a hilly landscape, there is the splendid monastery sanctuary of San Vivaldo known as **the Jerusalem of San Vivaldo**.

History tells that forms of religious life were organized around the primitive church of Santa Maria in Camporena starting from 1185, when a hospice was established for the hospital friars of the "Normandy Cross" who resided there until 1280.

Later it became a place frequented by hermits and tradition tells in particular of the life of the hermit Vivaldo that from 1320 the devotion to San Vivaldo began.

Tradition reports that the hollow oak trunk where he lived and where the body of St. Vivaldo was found was taken away by the faithful in very small pieces, including the saint's jaw as a relic.

The chapel of the same name was built on the site of the tree, next to the church.

In 1499 the Observant Friars Minor arrived on the site and they established the "**Jerusalem of San Vivaldo**".

The chapels of the **Jerusalem of San Vivaldo** were built in such a way as to retrace the model of the Sacro Monte and the "Viae Crucis", based on the idea of a pilgrimage to replace the one in the Holy Land.

All the chapels of San Vivaldo offer very appreciable artistic testimonies. Each chapel has one or more sculptural groups made by the Florentine and Sieneese workshops around the first half of the 16th century, in painted terracotta or majolica.

The recently restored chapels are a museum and exhibition itinerary to testify to one of the most remarkable and singular spiritual traditions of the Valdelsa.

For the Jubilee of the year 2000, the church of San Vivaldo was declared a jubilee church, so it is possible to gain the plenary indulgence.
