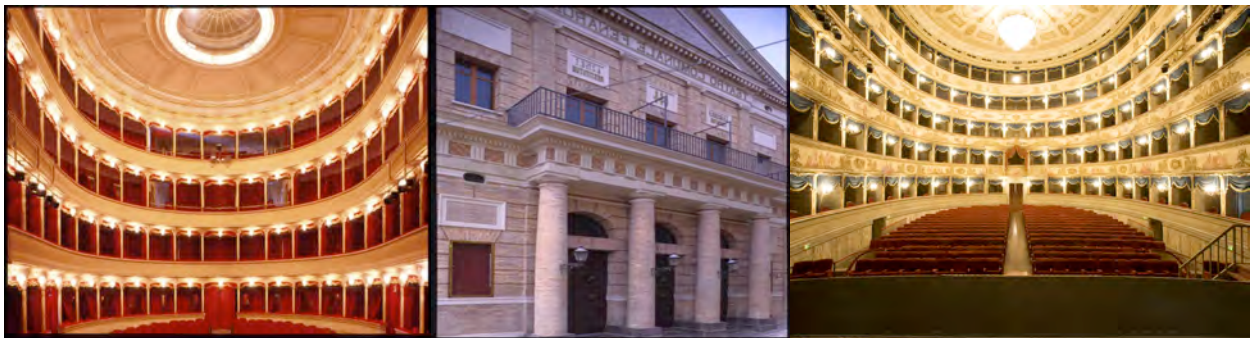




HISTORIC THEATRES

A SEA WORTH OF THEATRES, Historic theatres on the Adriatic shores

Abandoning the use of weapons, from the mid-eighteenth century the scions of the wealthiest Adriatic families devoted themselves to literature, poetry, theatre and music, which fostered the creation of a myriad of small theaters for staging their compositions





ABRUZZO



The Teatro Marrucino, Chieti

As in the rest of the country, the Theatre, the privileged place for the diffusion of culture and social activities, was immediately identified as a fundamental value of the Abruzzo's community life. Among all the theaters that still exist and that are culturally active the oldest are, the "Aventino Theatre" of Palena (circa 1815), one of the smallest theaters in Europe, the "Rossetti Theatre" of Vasto (1818) and the "Municipal Theatre" of L'Aquila (1820) with a typically neoclassical structure; seat of the *Teatro Stabile d'Abruzzo*, the Theater has been closed to the public since 2009 because of damages caused by the earthquake of April 6. Also the "Marrucino Theatre" of Chieti (1818) was built in the nineteenth century; with a complex and wonderful decorative and iconographic equipment, the Theatre has become over the years a point of reference for shows and events that have marked the cultural history of the entire region (in 1904 the scenes of Marrucino Theatre hosted the first performance of "La figlia di Iorio" by Gabriele D'Annunzio). In the city of L'Aquila is located the *Amiternum* Archaeological Area, where you can admire the ruins of theaters and an amphitheaters from the Roman period (I century A.C.). At the same period dates the construction of the theater and the amphitheater of Teramo

FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

Let's discover the historical theatres in Friuli Venezia Giulia. We start following their building date; just a few kilometers from Valsasone, we reach the central square of San Vito al Tagliamento and we visit the ancient social theatre "Gian Giacomo Arrigoni". It was the site of the old local Council, of the justice palace and of the local administration, together with the bell tower the most ancient architecture facing the square. It had been built close to the clock tower and the castle, since 1600 it became theatre and in between '700 and '800 with a typical venetian style.

We drive then further to Palmanova and inside the walls we can admire the neoclassical Theatre dedicated to Mazzini's friend and politician as well, Gustavo Modena. This theatre dating back to the 19th century became the site of the bourgeoisie and the temple of new political trends: the Risorgimento. We will end up along the coast close to Duino: Trieste is our final destination. Close to the amazing and wonderful main square facing the sea, we reach the Historical Theatre; built at the end of 18th century it is dedicated to the famous Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi. Let's take the chance of join on the many performances during the year or in Sommer the Operetta Festival.



LE MARCHE

The Marche is a region with high density of historic theaters, consider that between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries almost all municipalities, even the small ones, were equipped with a theater. Many of these historic theaters, about a hundred, have come so far and constitute a precious cultural heritage in the region.

The more than seventy historic theaters Marche host then opera seasons, symphony, dance and drama, classical and experimental offering content in beautiful historic venues. Most of the theaters of the Marche in fact, are structures of high artistic and cultural value, the real jewels of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. There are historical theaters big and glitzy as those of Pesaro, Macerata and Ascoli Piceno, or small and precious because they retain stage machinery of the era, such as Offida.

Many medieval villages preserve these buildings that are authentic miniature caskets, including Montegiorgio and the Theatre of the Rock of Sassocorvaro. In Jesi (AN) the Theatre G.B. Pergolesi is known for ceiling decoration executed by Felice Giani.

In Fabriano (AN) at the Teatro Gentile, the acoustics are the best of all the theaters in the Marche. In Fermo, at Aquila Theatre was a section dedicated to the historical documentation of the activities of the place. We have to mention also smaller theaters such as the Misa Arcevia, The Victory of Ostra and La Fenice in Osimo, Province of Ancona; The Fortune Theatre in Pesaro Fano and the Teatro Comunale in Cagli with magnificent neo-baroque forms.

In theaters of Marche Region the contents and the container are inseparable and together attract fans, tourists and curious people who are looking for a holiday in the Marche region of beauty, music and culture in general.



The Teatro Rossini, Pesaro

Le Marche SEGRETE Association

In the Marche there were more than a hundred in 1860, today reduced to seventy by demolitions or transformations into cinemas after the second World War. To design these theaters, the leading specialists in the field were called, from Bibbiena, an expert of international fame who also worked for the Emperor of Austria, to Piermarini, responsible for La Scala in Milan, to Morelli, so that the Marche can be considered the Adriatic region in which the characteristics of modern theatre building were defined. The more wealthy citizens contributed to building these halls, who then had permanent boxes, but they also had to contribute to the management of the opera season and the maintenance of the building: and for this reason, since the sixties of the last century, were the old co-owners persuaded to sell their shares to the municipalities who then restored the buildings. Between Romagna, Marche, Abruzzo and Molise it is now possible to make a fascinating tour of historic theaters, some of which are the seats of prestigious music festivals such as the Sferisterio of Macerata or the Rossini Festival in Pesaro, which testify to the vitality of these Adriatic territories in the field of music.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, the cultural needs of the rising merchant class in Dalmatia also engendered the construction of theatres, such as the Bonda (today called Marino Darsa) in Ragusa (1863), the Baiamonti theatre in Split (1859) and the New Theatre, then named after Giuseppe Verdi, in Zara (1865).



MOLISE



The old town of Scapoli

Scapoli is one of few countries in Italy, where together with the presence of skilled and talented musicians, survived the ancient tradition of the factory of bagpipes, thanks to a small number of craftsmen that, construction techniques handed down, keep it alive this musical instrument and ensure the necessary generational change. Through the theme of the Bigpipe, since the 1975, organizes the "International Festival of bagpipes", which recalls the last weekend of July each year, many artists and folk groups from various European countries and not, and with them a large number of visitors and spectators from all over Italy and all the world. In this case, the whole village becomes an open-air theater, where throughout the day artists and folk groups parade with their performances and interpretations through the narrow streets and picturesque corners of the village. Then in the course of the evening, the focus is on the square where they performed for the large number of visitors, national and international musicians and folk music-dance groups.

It is easy to imagine the charm of the village of singles, and unique are the emotions that gives thanks to its ancient tradition and the events held there, accompanied by unforgettable fragrances and flavors of a particular land.

PIRAN

The all-round development of Piran in the early 20th century, its ever increasing cultural needs and ambitions of the town's inhabitants as well as visitors of the rapidly developing health resort and tourist destination of Portorož just a stone's throw away gave rise to the construction of the Piran Town Theatre. It was named after Giuseppe Tartini (1692-1770), the violinist, composer and the town's most prominent citizen. The dominant theatre, once decorated with Art Nouveau floral ornaments, was erected in 1910 along the Piran harbour, where its main landing pier runs into the vast stone-paved surface of the former main town entrance. The theatre was designed by the Trieste architect Giacomo Zammattio (1855-1927), who was educated at the Faculty of Technology in Vienna. He became acquainted with the special features of theatre architecture at the time when living in Rijeka and when participating in the construction of Rijeka Theatre.

Zammattio, who favoured rational architecture that gives preference to function over decoration, designed the Piran Theatre (as well as the Pazin Theatre) in the Historicist-Secessional style. The theatre hall has retained its original design, with the thin iron columns carrying the first balcony with five boxes on each side and the second balcony or gallery. Particularly rich design boasts the stage wall with the inscription Tartini.

The Art Nouveau spirit is best felt in the ceiling paintings, with numerous women mythological figures – muses – personifying different art forms. They were made by somewhat less known Trieste painter Napoleone Cozzi (1867-1916).

The Tartini Theatre in Piran is one of the rare well preserved settings that still serve their original purpose and again and again enable new cultural experience.



The Tartini Theatre in Piran



RAVENNA



The Teatro Rossini, Lugo di Romagna

Lugo. The famous family of architects, decorators and designers has worked in many prestigious European theatres, but they have spent their time also in these small cities.

In our area you can't forget the Municipal Theatre of Cervia: with its only two hundred seats in the stalls, boxes and gallery makes every representation almost an intimate dialogue between artists and spectators. Finally, the Municipal Theatre of Conselice represents the typical rationalist style of the 1930s when, in the public buildings, the linearity was combined with functionality.

BARI

From destruction to rebirth, the Petruzzelli Theatre is one of the most important monuments in Bari. The theatre, built in the centre of the Puglian capital in Via Cavour, was inaugurated on the 14th February 1903. The theatre was a modern construction, complete with central heating and electric lighting and which surprised people with its gold decorations and splendid frescos by Raffaele Armenise. Among the largest theatres in Europe, its original capacity was 2,192. In 1973 it was recognised as a "Theatre of Tradition", a cultural hotspot, the same year in which part of the film "Polvere di Stelle" was filmed inside the theatre.

Beniamino Gigli, Alfredo Kraus, Renata Tebaldi, Renato Bruson, as well as Frank Sinatra, Liza Minelli, Ray Charles, Totò, Eduardo De Filippo, Lucio Battisti, Giorgio Gaber, Claudio Baglioni, Luciano Pavarotti, Carla Fracci, Nureyev, Paolo Conte: from opera to light music, from ballet of Roland Petit e Maurice Béjart to the modern dance of Momix, Bejart, Pina Bausch, the theatre has played host to a cast of memorable stars.

The flames which enveloped the building on the night of the 27th October 1991, at the end of the performance of "Norma" by Vincenzo Bellini, cast a shadow over Bari's theatre culture. The collapse of the roof suffocated the flames, set by an arsonist, and prevented the complete destruction of the building.

The projection of the frescos, lost in the fire, on the night of Ludwig van Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, performed by the Provincia di Bari's Symphonic Orchestra, signalled the return of the theatre, handed back to the city in all its splendour on the 4th October 2009. This was the beginning of a great, new and timeless season



The Teatro Petruzzelli, Bari



VENETO



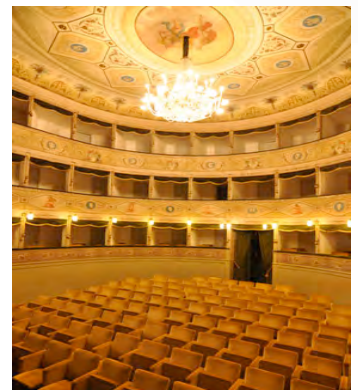
The Theatre La Fenice, Venezia

At the end of the eighteenth century, Venice was the queen of the opera and therefore boasted seven theaters. One of these, which was destroyed by fire, was rebuilt under the name of La Fenice (The Phoenix), symbolizing the beautiful rebirth. Opened in 1792, the theater has been place of many “premiere” in the nineteenth century of Rossini (Tancredi, Sigismund, Semiramis), Bellini (I Capuleti e i Montecchi, Beatrice di Tenda), Donizetti (Belisario, Pia de 'Tolomei, Maria de Rudenz), Verdi (Ernani, Attila, Rigoletto, La Traviata, Simon Boccanegra). Richly decorated by master craftsmen, with an extraordinary acoustics, La Fenice is renowned for the important symphonic and opera seasons. The deep artistic passion is revealed also in the Teatro Comunale of Adria, which opened in 1935. Everywhere, near the theatre, in the narrow streets, nice squares and long alleys you can breathe an unmistakable atmosphere of the Venetian style.

Veneto Walled Towns Association

Small jewel of the architecture of the 19th century, the theatre of Cittadella was built between 1817 and 1828. It was designed by Giacomo Bauto and completed by Francesco Cibale. The elegant façade, instead, is ascribed to Giuseppe Jappelli, author of the famous Caffè Pedrocchi in Padua. Organized with an entrance-hall, a semicircular audience with a stage and three rows of boxes, the place is made even more special and elegant through the magnificent frescoes representing flowers, cupids and allegorical figures made by Francesco Bagnara, decorator of the famous theatre “La fenice” in Venice.

The theatre has an history of over 180 years of traditions. Inaugurated in 1828, it has hosted many national and international personalities of the cultural and theatrical landscape with comedies, operettas, opera and concerts. Even today, it is a landmark in the theater scene and it hosts annually a full theater season with very important names. This is the reason why the theatre has become the cradle of culture and one of the main centers of attraction of Cittadella.



The Social Theatre, Cittadella –
view of interior

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