



### How to get there

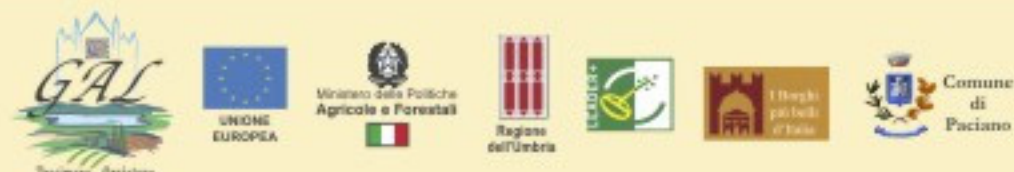
by car: Autostrada del Sole Motorway (A1)  
Chiusi-Chianciano Terme  
exit by rail: Florence - Rome line  
Chiusi Chianciano Terme Train Station

### PACIANO

Paciano Town Council  
Tel: 075 830186  
www.comune.paciano.pg.it  
mail: info@comune.paciano.pg.it  
Tourist Information Office  
Proloco Paciano  
Tel: 075 830430

### GAL Trasimeno Orvietano

Tel. 0578 297011  
Fax 0578 297798  
www.galto.info  
e-mail: galto@galto.info  
Piazza Plebiscito, 2  
CITTÀ DELLA PIEVE (PG)



This initiative is financed by the European Union with the contribution of community programme funds  
Leader Project - Gal Promotions

A medieval Umbrian hill town



# PACIANO

## Paciano

Paciano is a perfect base for exploring the unique attractions of Umbria, and is ideally situated for venturing further afield into Tuscany and Lazio.

The town is two hours from Rome and Florence, just on the Umbrian side of the border with Tuscany (near Siena and Chianti). Paciano is 30 minutes drive from the Tuscan and Umbrian spa towns of *San Casciano dei Bagni*, *Bagno Vignoni*, *San Filippo*, *Chianciano Terme* and *Tane del Diavolo* in Parrano.

Trasimeno is a land of olive groves, vineyards, and oak woodland. Autumn is the season of mushrooms and chestnuts, not forgetting the grape harvest. Visitors in winter come for the silence, the wild strawberries and the new olive oil, while spring is the best time to appreciate the lush green countryside, the fragrant air, the flowers and the blossoming broom, known locally as "maggio" or "May" broom. In summer the town comes to life with local festivals, and visitors can enjoy relaxing walks through the cool shade of the woods.

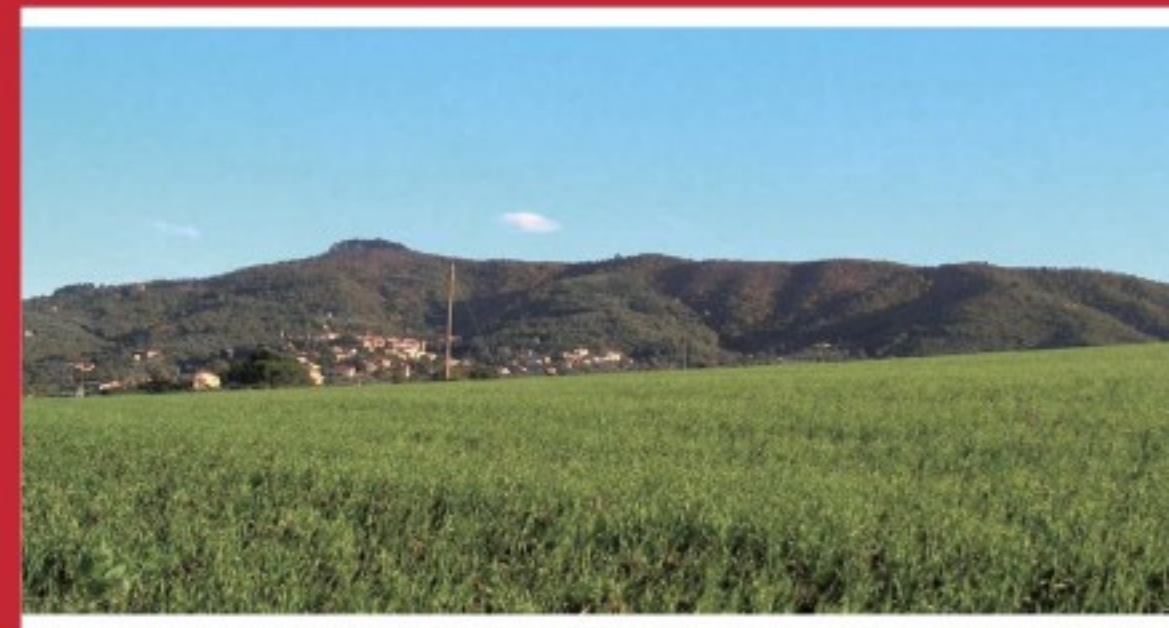
The old centre of Paciano, a charming town situated 392 metres above sea level on the slopes of Mount Petravella, hasn't changed since medieval times, and is surrounded by highly valued olive groves and dense woodland. The origins of the name, according to some historians, can be traced back to Janus and Epeus, while

others hold that it derives from the old Pacianati family from Festo, or from Paciano, the grandson of king Volpinus, known as Lucullus. Some maintain that Paciano takes its name from the Roman Pacia family, who are often cited in ancient texts, especially in Tuscany.

The site of the town has been inhabited since Etruscan-Roman times, and offers a view over Lake Trasimeno, towards the Valdichiana valley and Mount Amiata.

Paciano has a rich and long history: in 917AD the emperor Berengar conceded the territory and the "castle" to Marquis Uguccione II of the Bourbons. In 1461-1477 the town handed its keys over to Braccio da Montone and as a consequence obtained funding to the tune of 190 florins from the powerful city of Perugia, allowing for the rebuilding of the castle walls and the building of an impressive keep. Paciano, selected as one of "Italy's Most Beautiful Towns", is the ideal destination for the traveller seeking a relaxing sojourn in close contact with nature and culture.

These gently rolling hills are home to the olive groves that supply the prestigious extra virgin olive oil, a delicacy enjoyed locally but appreciated throughout the world. To celebrate the olive harvest Paciano holds an Olive Oil festival every year in the first week of December. Experience the delights of Umbrian cuisine at one of the traditional farmhouses scattered around the green hills of the Umbrian countryside. Many of these also offer rooms or apartments, and there are also more modern accommodation options



available. Local cuisine takes advantage of traditional produce from the richest and most fertile farmland in Italy: Umbria. Whether the visitor is planning to set off on lengthy excursions or simply go for a walk through the wooded hills, each season offers its own rewards.

Walk to the top of the hills or ride down to Lake Trasimeno by bicycle or on horseback and take advantage of the picnic areas provided.

Paciano is connected to another delightful small town, Panicale, by a 3-kilometer road that offers wonderful views of the evocative landscapes that inspired the famous local painter Pietro Vannucci, known as "Perugino": take in the whole medieval walled town of Paciano from above, and rest at panoramic viewpoints that offer breathtaking views over the towns and castles around the Lake. Halfway along the road, stop by the San Giovanni church in Ceraseto to admire paintings from the Perugino school, and then continue to Panicale, where there are famous frescoes by Perugino himself.

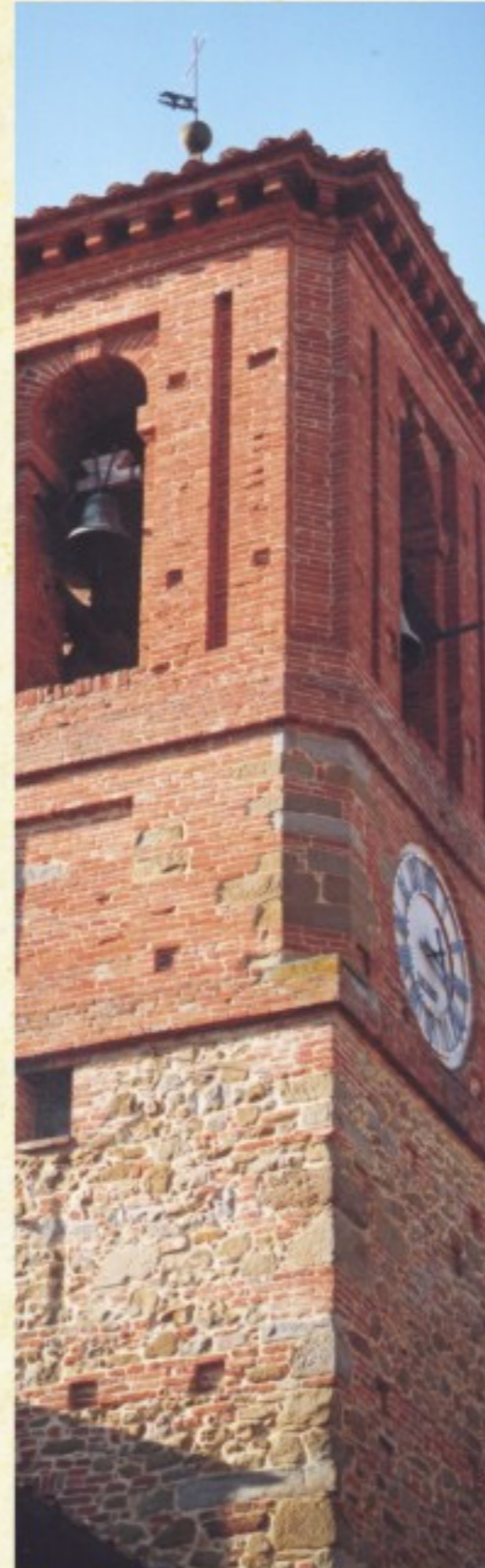
Or simply relax in one of Paciano's local bars and restaurants in and around the old town and enjoy the serene tranquillity, watching the everyday goings on of the hospitable Umbrian people.

Then take a trip to Tuscany to enjoy a hot spa bath, or to visit the classic Chianti countryside or the beautiful town of Cortona.

For a more active holiday, just come during one of the many festival periods: there are plenty of events to participate in. The town's religious festivals are of particular interest, and include the *infiorata* for *Corpus Domini*, when the locals pave the streets with intricate coloured patterns made of flower petals. Other festivals include *Qualità Trasimeno* between May and June, *Trasimeno Blues* at the end of July, *La Discesa a Bestia* go-kart race on 14 August, *Mille e una Umbria* in September, the Olive Oil and Autumn festivals in November and December, the frankly frightening *Bussi con il carburo* home made fireworks festival on 9 December and many more.



**T**he layout of the town dates back to the XIII century: three roads run parallel through the old town, connected by perpendicular alleys and smaller roads. The medieval defensive walls include eight towers and three arched entrances: *Porta Fiorentina* (facing Florence), *Porta Perugina* (facing Perugia) and *Porta Rastrella* (or "rake", with a symbol above the entrance). Paciano was an important medieval lookout post over the Perugia dominion of Chiugi. All that remains of the oldest settlement (*Paciano Vecchio*) is a tower called *Torre d'Orlando*. It is situated just up the hill from where the town now stands. The town boasts the impressive *Rocca Buitoni* or Buitoni Tower, as well as important buildings like the Palazzo Cennini, with its imposing renaissance loggias, and Palazzo Baldeschi, probably based on a design by Vignola, with its broad majestic staircases. The Buitoni tower, situated to the right of *Porta Rastrella* and incorporating the *Porta* itself, was built in 1300 on the orders of the Vitelli family from Città di Castello. In 1600 Cardinal Cennini bought the property and it subsequently passed on to the Baldeschi family and then to the Sertorio family. The private chapel dedicated to the Madonna of the Rosary, at the top of the central stairwell, is of particular interest.



**T**here are numerous churches in the village, starting with the San Giuseppe Church, also referred to as the *Dentro* or "Inside" church. This is the seat of the parish museum, and home to the Madonna della Misericordia banner, painted in the late XV century, during the Perugino period. Beside it is the XVI-XVII century San Carlo Borromeo church, with a XVII century wooden Christ figure. The Santa Maria church is just outside the *Porta Fiorentina*, overlooking Lake Trasimeno. The Madonna della Stella church is also worth a visit. It is situated outside the town walls, and is home to frescoes by the Perugia painter Scilla Pecennini (late XVI century). Visitors to the San Salvatore church in Ceraseto, along the high road to Panicale, can admire a fresco by Giovan Battista Caporali, a work best appreciated in the light of the setting sun.



**I**n the seat of the age-old Brotherhood of the Most Holy Sacrament and the adjacent San Giuseppe church there is a collection that documents the art, history and culture of Paciano from Etruscan times through to the mid XVIII century. The remains of XIV century frescoes, and a large fresco by Francesco Nicolò from Città della Pieve depicting the Crucifixion (1452), are of particular interest. There are also XV century olive oil urns, dozens of silver and gold XVI century reliquaries, and valuable XVIII century statues of the Madonna. As well as the religious exhibits, there are Etruscan finds from the area around Paciano dating back to the IV century BC. A series of valuable canvasses by Castelletti, a Paciano painter from the late XVIII century, completes the collection. Finally, the town hall, or *Palazzo*

*Comunale*, houses the impressive recently restored "Madonna with Child, St. John and three Saints".

