RECOMMENDED ROUTE


SAN SEVERINO MARCHE - A JEWEL to be discovered

After the intense life of the Roman municipality of Septempeda, preceded by the experience of the Picena civilization the city of San Severino Marche was reborn in the form of a castle a short distance from the top of the hill called Montenero so named by the local Bishop Severino in the sixth century. From the economic and social boom of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries a village formed at the foot of the hill and quickly became the new city. All this is evident by today's footprint of the city of San Severino included within the walls on Montenero where the distribution of settlements keeps faith to traditional medieval town planning, like interspersed and scattered huts, vegetable gardens on terraces and public and ecclesiastical buildings in dominant positions on top of hills. More evidence is provided in the valley on the slopes, where a large plateau is located for a market that runs as close as possible to the trade roads and to the River Potenza along which were also the the manufacturing villages of Cesalonga, and Fontenuova and Conce. It was only from the sixteenth century that the feudal nobility that urbanised many castles started to build their magnificent palaces in the Piazza del Mercato where the local folk earned their living. In the area between the Piazza del Mercato and the slopes of the hill, the urban and medieval fabric is still today preserved that consists of narrow streets and hovels, which first cling to the walls of the castle searching for its protection.

**Piazza del Popolo - Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Palazzo Comunale, Teatro Feronia**

It's no coincidence that the monumental Piazza del Popolo is one of the most beautiful of the Marche. Particularly striking is its elliptic form, born and spontaneously created as two arches along the road that descended from the castle towards the river Potenza. It's noble appearance depends on many the noble palaces with porticos and the most pompous of which is the Palazzo Comunale which was built to replace the public Medieval Palace of the castle. The Modern Art Gallery is found on the first floor and includes the very rich exhibition in the Consiliare rooms of numerous works of the San Severino Marche painter Filippo Bigioli that in the eighteen century had great success in Roman aristocratic circles. Near the Clock Tower stands the Teatro Feronia, theatrical jewel of the Marche, the work of Irenaeus Aleandri, a San Severino Marche architect who built the imposing Sferisterio Arena di Macerata. Especially valuable are the historic sketches by Bigioli on the theatres' curtains.