A STROLL THROUGH BORGO SAN LORENZO

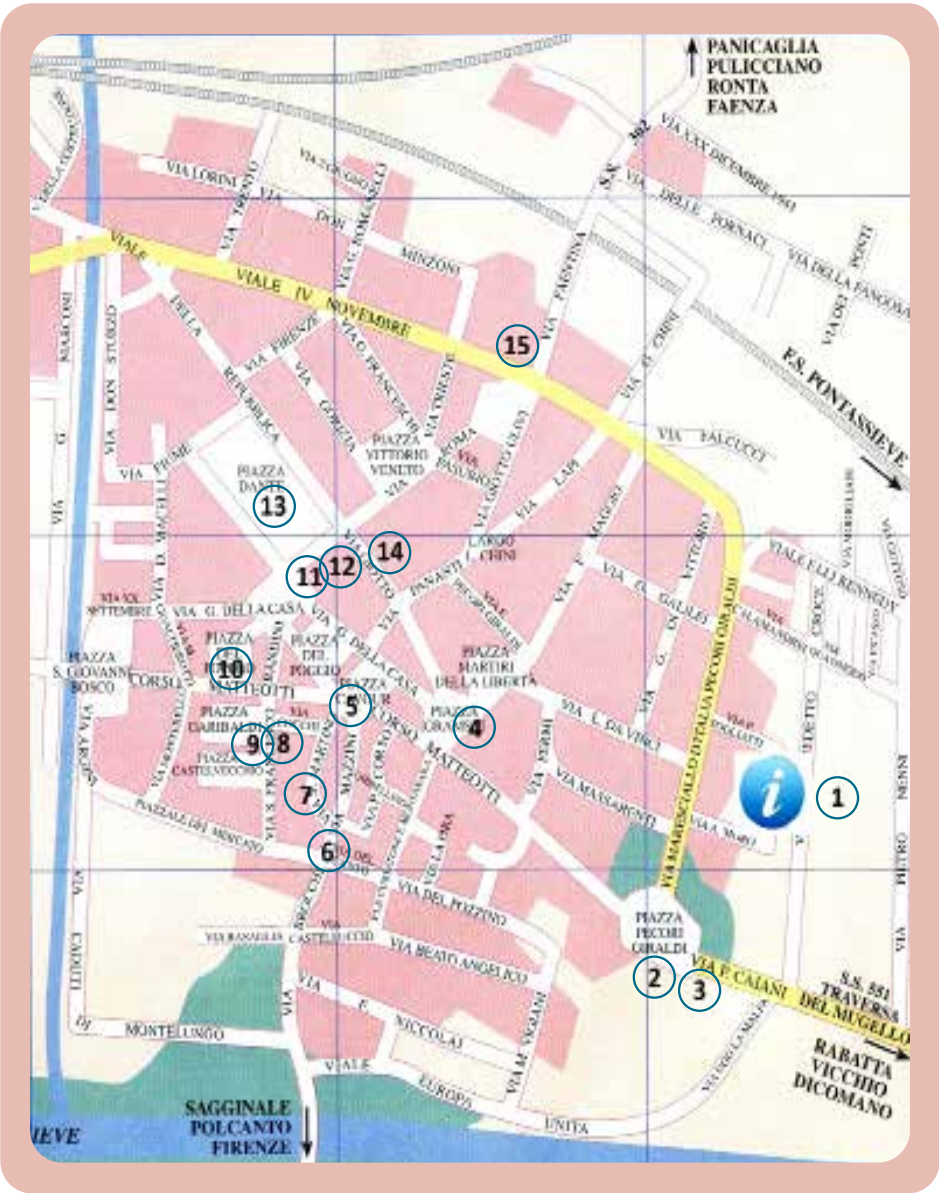


Among art, history and culture

Itinerary for tourists and families ...
on foot, by bike,
and even with strollers!

Distance: 3 km (round trip)
Non-stop walk to museums and churches:
45 minutes / 1 hour
Walk with stops in museums and churches:
3 hours

ALL THE MAIN HISTORICAL AND ARTISTIC EVIDENCES DESCRIBED BRIEFLY IN THE GUIDE, ARE HIGHLIGHTED ON THE MAP





1 VILLA PECORI GIRALDI

Built on the site of the ancient Giraldi edifice, in 1748 it became the property of Count Antonio Pecori, who added his name to that of the original owners. In 1979, the family donated the building to the Town of Borgo San Lorenzo. The façade of the building is in Renaissance style, while the interior design of the Chini Museo, which is housed in the building, reflects true Art Nouveau style, a style that was introduced in Mugello by the Chini family. Starting in the second half of the 19th century, the halls were frescoed by various members of the Chini family, from Pietro Alessio to Galileo Chini, with geometric and floral motifs, and Neo-Medieval style paintings. Worthy of note is the series of decorations in the state room, which represent *Saint George and the Dragon* by Galileo Chini (1902).
The villa houses:
Chini Museum &
Info Point
Piazzale Lavacchini, 1 – Borgo San Lorenzo (FI)
tel. 055 8456230 – info@chinimuseo.it

IL CHINI MUSEO / THE CHINI MUSEUM

The renovated **Chini Museum**, situated in Villa Pecori Giraldi, exhibits an important collection of art works by the artist Galileo Chini. We find a selection of all the "artistic" techniques used by the artist both at the time of the *Arte della Ceramica* and the *Fornaci San Lorenzo* factories.



Openig hours
tel. 055 8456230
- www.chinimuseo.it
- info@chinimuseo.it





2 L'ORATORIO DEL SANTISSIMO CROCIFISSO DEI MIRACOLI

Not far from the Villa, on Pecori Giraldi Square, we find the Oratorio del Santissimo Crocifisso dei Miracoli. This oratory was constructed between 1714 and 1743 by the Florentine architect Girolamo Ticciati. It was built to hold the **Crocifisso ligneo dipinto**, a painted wooden crucifix attributed to the workshop of Giovanni Pisano (14th century), and deposited here in the 15th century by German pilgrims who were fleeing the plague. It is held in a deep niche just above the main altar, and is hidden behind a large canvas created by Giuseppe Bezzuoli (1837), which portrays the *Angelo consolatore che reca pace alla popolazione di Borgo colpita dal terremoto del 1835* (The consoling angel who is bringing peace to the people of Borgo San Lorenzo after the great earthquake of 1835). The oratory, as we see it today, was rebuilt after the earthquake of 1919. The internal structure is built in the shape of a Greek cross and is paved in precious marble: the arms of the cross hold eight canvases by the master Luigi Sabatelli and his pupils representing the *Storie della Passione* (Histories of the passion 1846-1850). Above the lateral front doors, we find two ceramic reliefs portraying the annunciation: the *Angelo Annunziante,* and the *Madonna Annunziata* created by the Fornaci San Lorenzo, and inspired by the *Annunciazione* by Della Robbia, which is found in the Ospedale degli Innocenti in Florence.

Info: 055 8459295

Please Note: the Crucifix is only placed on display on the first and last Sundays in July. You can visit the oratory from Monday to Sunday from 8am-7pm.

3 LA CHIESA E IL CONVENTO DI SAN FRANCESCO / SAN LORENZO CHURCH AND CONVENT

To the left of the Oratorio del Santissimo Crocifisso, we find what was once San Francesco Church (dating back to the beginning of the 13th century, and later restructured), and near it the Franciscan convent (dating back to the 16th - 17th centuries). Damaged in the earthquake of 1919, the church was recently restored, but still maintains its original 13th century plan: a simple façade "*a capanna*" (gabled) gives access to a single nave under a trussed ceiling. Conserved inside are traces of 14th and late 16th century frescos.

Open for concerts and cultural events only.





When travelling along corso Matteotti towards the centre of Borgo San Lorenzo (at street number 152) we pass a **sign with "Restaurant"** written on it in Art Nouveau style. At the traffic light, we find Piazza Gramsci; on our right we can view a building that was once the Casa del Fascio (Fascist Hall) and now houses the Caserma dei Carabinieri.

4 LA CASERMA DEI CARABINIERI
POLICE HEADQUARTERS



On the façade of the building we find a large **eagle ceramic relief** created by Augusto Chini, and a polychrome window made by the Fornaci San Lorenzo, both of which are in Art Déco style.

5 LA PORTA (O TORRE DELL'OROLOGIO
THE CLOCK TOWER OR GATE

6 LA PORTA FIORENTINA
THE FLORENTINE GATE

7 LE MURA TRECENTESCHE
THE 14TH CENTURY WALLS



As we cross the road and continue along Corso Matteotti, the main street, we reach Piazza Cavour. Here we find the **Gate, or Clock Tower**. To the left, we find a **small 14th century loggia** with a cross-vault ceiling supported by elegant octagonal columns. By retracing our steps and turning right onto via Mazzini (once called *Malacoda*) after roughly 150 metres, we reach what was once the **Florentine Gate**. On the right, upon entering via S. Martino, we coast the **14th century walls** that lead back to Corso Matteotti. If we pass under the *Torre*

dell'Orologio, moving towards Piazza Garibaldi, on the left we find the Parish Church on via S. Francesco.

8 LA PIEVE DI SAN LORENZO THE PARISH CHURCH



In the centre of Borgo San Lorenzo we find the Parish Church, which dates as far back as 941. It is the largest Romanesque structure in the Florentine countryside. It was enlarged in 1263, and records seem to reveal that the bell tower



is of that same period. This brick structure is hexagonal, irregular, and with a semicircular apse. The richness of the works of art preserved inside it is evidence of its past importance.
In in the presbytery of the Pieve, we find a wooden panel with the **Madonna**. The masterpiece is attributed to **Giotto** and, although he was born in the nearby Vicchio, **it is the only work by this great master found in Mugello**. This masterpiece was once held in the Oratorio di
Sant'Omobono (see n. 9). In the nave on the right, we find *San Giovanni Battista* (Saint John the Baptist) by Galileo Chini (1950), and the *Madonna col Bambino e angeli* (Madonna with the child and angels) by Agnolo Gaddi (late 14th century). In the nave on the left, we find the *Vergine e i santi Domenico e Francesco che intercedono presso Cristo* (the Blessed Virgin with the Saints Dominic and Frances interceding with Christ) by Matteo Rosselli (1615), the 16th century panel with *San Sebastiano tra i santi Macario e Vincenzo Ferreri* (Saint Sebastian between the saints Macario and Vincenzo Ferreri) attributed to Bachiacca - a native of Borgo - and the painting on canvas of the *Immacolata Concezione e santi* (Immaculate Conception and the saints) by Jacopo Vignali (first half of the 17th century).
On the main altar we find a 16th century wooden Crucifix. The embellishment of the semicircular apse, featuring the *Redentore in Trono tra i santi Lorenzo e Martino* (the Savior on the Throne surrounded by the Saints Lawrence and Martin) is the work of Galileo Chini (1906). The *Madonna col Bambino e i santi Giovanni Battista e Tommaso* (the Madonna with child and the saints John the Baptist and Cosimo), once held in the Oratorio del Santissimo Crocifisso dei Miracoli and attributed to the young Piero di Cosimo, and the 17th century *Pentecoste* by Jacopo Vignali, have recently been positioned on the counter-façade.

As we move towards the exit of the Pieve, on the left wall we find the **Tabernacolo di San Francesco**, created by the Fornaci San Lorenzo. The tabernacle was positioned

there in 1926 on occasion of the 700 year anniversary of the death of St. Frances of Assisi, a recurrence that is particularly dear to the people of Mugello. Franciscan monks, in fact, played an active part in the territory in the past. The ceramic statue of the saint, by Augusto Chini, is situated inside a niche covered in strikingly decorative tiles; it was once situated in the wall of the nearby Santa Caterina Monastery.

Info Pieve: 055 8459295
Open for visits from Monday to Sunday 7am - 7pm.

9 ORATORIO DI SANT'OMOBONO



Opposite San Lorenzo Parish Church, we find the **Oratorio di Sant'Omobono**. This oratory once housed the lay confraternity devoted to the *Natività di Maria Santissima*, (Nativity of Holy Mary) also known as the "Compagnia degli Azzurri" (The Company of the Azure), which was the colour of the robes worn by its members. Built at the beginning of the 19th century, inside this somber and elegant structure we find a small cupola with a fresco of the *Assunzione* painted by Pietro Paolo Colli in 1813, possibly with the help of his young pupil Pietro Alessio Chini. Between 1850 and 1924 many decorative interventions, and restorations were carried out inside the building by members of the Chini family; the beautiful stained glass window found on the counter-façade, representing the *Madonna della Pace* (Madonna of peace, 1925), is directly from the Fornaci San Lorenzo.

Open only during concerts and cultural events.

10 IL PALAZZO PRETORIO (O DEL PODESTÀ) THE PALACE OF THE PEOPLE



Not too far from the Pieve, in Piazza Garibaldi, we find the **Palazzo Pretorio** (also called *del Podestà*), dated between the 12th and 13th centuries. The building, as we see it today, is the result of the numerous interventions that were carried out in 1934, giving the building a Neo-Medieval style that has partially modified its original structure. It was constructed to house the Government of the City; the crests found on the façade are those of upper-class Florentine families, and they bear witness to the fact that the city fell under the rule of the Florentines in 1290. Among other things, inside we can admire the beautiful fresco of the *Madonna col Bambino fra San Giovanni Battista e San Lorenzo* (Madonna with child between the saints John the Baptist and Lawrence) that is dated 1547, and which is of the Florentine school.
Today the building houses the Biblioteca comunale (Town Library). Info: 055 8457197

11 IL PALAZZO MUNICIPALE - TOWN HALL



As we head towards piazza Dante, on the right we find **Borgo San Lorenzo Town Hall**. The structure, designed by A. Lorini and Tito Chini, was built in 1926 - 1931. When open to the public, this splendid building – whose **decorations, embellishments, frescos, and stained glass panes exude pure "Chini" style** thanks to the artistic mastery of Tito Chini, son of Chino Chini – is certainly worth a visit. On the first floor, in a room adjacent to the mayor's office, we find a fresco of San Lorenzo (the room is only visitable on special occasions or by appointment).
Open from Monday to Saturday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm and Thursday 2 pm - 6 pm.

12 MONUMENT TO FIDO



As we exit Town Hall, on the right, we find a **monument to the dog Fido** by Salvatore Cipolla, 1957. Fido, a mixed-breed, lived in Luco di Mugello, and became famous because, after the death of his owner, Carlo Soriani, in 1943, he continued to make his way, for roughly 14 years until his death, from his home to the bus-stop in Luco where he waited for the return of his beloved master.
One night in the winter of 1941, Sorani found a wounded puppy in a ditch. He called the dog Fido, and adopted him for life. Each morning, the dog accompanied his master to the bus-stop in the centre of Luco where Soriani left for his job in Borgo San Lorenzo. At night, Fido was again at the bus-stop waiting for Soriani to get off the bus. On December 30th, 1943, at the height of WWII, Borgo San Lorenzo was hit violently by an air strike, and Carlo Soriani died in the bombing that destroyed the factory where he worked. That night, like every other night before that,
Fido returned to the bus-stop to wait for his beloved master. Carlo Soriani did not return, but the dog never lost hope, and for 14 long years, (over 5,000 times), the dog waited at the bus stop in the hopes that Carlo would return to him.

13 PIAZZA DANTE AND THE MONUMENT TO THE FALLEN SOLDIERS



In the very center of the lovely public gardens in Piazza Dante, opposite Town Hall, we find a **Monument to the fallen soldiers of WWI** (1926 - 1927). It was commissioned by Count Pecori Giraldi and sculpted by Giorgio Rossi of Mugello.
If we retrace our steps - towards the statue of the dog Fido- at the intersection, where Piazza Dante meets via Giotto, we find the Confraternita di Misericordia.

14 CONFRATERNITA DELLA MISERICORDIA



Present in Borgo San Lorenzo since 1847, the Confraternita was transferred to this new location in 1904. It was constructed in Neo-Gothic style following the plan by the engineer Niccolò Niccolai. Through the years, the building was decorated by the Fornaci San Lorenzo, or by the individual members of the Chini family. On the façade of the oratory, we find a large pointed lunette with the *Salvatore sorgente dal Sepolcro* **(The Savior rising from the Sepulcher)**, which was designed by Galileo Chini, created by the Fornaci San Lorenzo, and donated to the Confraternita by Count Pecori Giraldi in 1908.

It is only possible to visit the interior during religious functions.

15 VILLINO CHINI



By turning right along via Roma towards Piazza Vittorio Veneto, again right at via Pasubio, and then left at via Giotto, we reach a traffic light on Viale IV Novembre and, there, **Villino Chini** (n. 67) on the opposite side of the road.

The small villa designed by Chino Chini and his son Augusto, was constructed in roughly 1923 in the vicinity of the Fornaci San Lorenzo. It was the residence of Chino Chini and his immediate family. In those years, in fact, it was mostly Chino who managed the factory, and he, therefore, felt the need to be present at all times. The building still presents the original syncretic structure in brick and stone. The building is L-shaped with a sloping roof, and a jutting façade that is higher than the rest of the building and dominated by a terrace. The outside is decorated in numerous tiles from the Fornaci, especially from the series created for the *Terme Berzieri di Salsomaggiore* Spa (1920-23), which paid for the creation of the Villino.

The façade facing the Viale is an almost permanent exhibition of the company's collection. It presents a display of different tiles: linear, curved, colourful, golden, with geometric lines and interwoven ones. The railing and the terrace are supported by columns in grès with a metallic lustre. In addition, some of the windows that look onto the garden are in polychrome glass, and were created by the Chini's themselves.

The gates, too, and the surrounding walls, are decorated with pieces from the Chini factory, for example, on the left, we find a door plaque and an old bell, which portray a green lizard that is biting its own tail. Near this, in terracotta relief, we can admire a *Putto che stringe una murena* (Putto holding a moray).

Vieri Chini (the son of Augusto and nephew of Chino) presently lives in the Villa, thus making visits impossible, except on special occasions.

We suggest a visit to the nearby *Pecchioli showroom* (n. 71), a company that is in line with the tradition of the Chini family, and continues to produce artistic tiles for the home.

Info: tel. 055 0749109

To reach your starting point, we suggest you cross Viale IV Novembre at the traffic light and move along the boulevard to the Q8 petrol station; turn right on Viale Pecori Giraldi and walk roughly 200 metres until you reach Via Togliatti, where you turn left. This road will then lead you to Piazzale Lavacchini, and to the starting point of your lovely stroll through Borgo San Lorenzo.

OTHERS MUSEUMS IN THE AREA SURROUNDING BORGO SAN LORENZO



Museo della Civiltà Contadina
di Casa d'Erci
(Museum of Farm Life and Customs
Casa d'Erci)
Locality Grezzano
Info: tel. 055 8492519 (in opening hours)
353 455 3187
www.casaderci.it







Villa Pecori Giraldi - Spiral staircase designed by Galielo Chini



INFO POINT BORGO SAN LORENZO
c/o Villa Pecori Giraldi – Piazzale Lavacchini, 1
Borgo San Lorenzo (FI) – 055 8456230
info@chinimuseo.it
www.chinimuseo.it

Realizzazione: studio**noferini**.it