

Events Calendar

The “Festa Bella”

An ancient reenactment of the Passion of Jesus, dating back to 1693, which takes place every three years on Good Friday and is still one of the most important religious and cultural events in the area.



Serravalle DeGusto

A food and wine event that enlivens the streets of the medieval village of Serravalle Pistoiese on April 25 each year, with tastings of wines and olive oil from the Montalbano hills and beyond.



Torneo dei Rioni

A historic five-a-side football competition between the districts of Casale Centro, Catavoli, Forti, Abbaino La Brizza, Ponte Stella, Cantagrillo, Masotti, and Serravalle.

Serravalle Rock

A festival dedicated to emerging rock bands, which every year, on the last weekend of July, promotes the best of the Italian independent scene and hosts international artists such as Vök, Priest, Holy Nothing, Louise Lemón, and You Know Who.



Blues Clinics

In July, Serravalle hosts the Blues Clinics, a musical training event that includes performances by students from the courses on stages set up within the village.

Serravalle Opera

An opera festival held at the end of June in the splendid setting of the Rocca Nuova, with performances drawn from the great masterpieces of the classical opera repertoire.

Patron Saint Festivals – San Rocco, Sacro Cuore, Beata Vergine del Carmelo and Santa Lucia

Every year, the hamlets of Castellina, Ponte di Serravalle, and Vinacciano hold celebrations in honor of their respective patron saints: San Rocco on August 16 in Castellina, Sacro Cuore on June 2 in Ponte di Serravalle, Beata Vergine del Carmelo on July 16, and Santa Lucia on December 13 in Vinacciano.



Celebrations of Saint Louis

According to legend, Saint Louis, patron saint of the village of Serravalle, saved the village from siege by the army of Lucca in 1306 by appearing on the ramparts of the castle, enveloped in a luminous cloud, and driving away the enemy army. Every year on August 19, after lengthy celebrations, a procession in medieval costume is held through the streets of the village, followed by a fireworks display inside the Rocca Nuova.

Casalguidi Fair

The Casalguidi Fair is an event that takes place in mid-September, more precisely on the third Monday of the month, a day originally dedicated to the ancient Cattle Fair, the last market in the area before the winter season. Over time, it has become increasingly popular, thanks in part to the numerous evening events that enliven the square. During these days, the traditional grape festival also takes place with a parade of allegorical floats.



Serravalle Jazz

One of the most popular jazz events, held at the Rocca di Castruccio in August. The evening concerts by internationally renowned musicians are preceded by interesting seminars held at the former Oratory of the Virgin Assunta.



Historical reenactments - Assedio alla Rocca, Cena medievale di Castellina e Palio di San Lodovico

In the Serravalle area, there are three important historical reenactments: Siege of the Fortress, a medieval reenactment that recreates the historic siege of 1302 by the troops of Florence and Lucca, with reconstructions of camps, activities of the time, knights' costumes, combat, use of siege engines, fireballs, and historical trials. The Medieval Dinner in Castellina, which takes place every year during the celebrations for San Rocco. The Palio dei Mercenari (August 17) and the Palio di San Lodovico (August 18), traditional archery competitions between the districts of Serravalle, Ponte di Serravalle, Castellina, and Masotti to win the so-called “Cencio.”



Infos

Tourist information office

Piazza Magrini 3, Serravalle Pistoiese - 0573 917308
turismo@comune.serravalle-pistoiese.pt.it

Culture office

Via Garibaldi 54, Serravalle Pistoiese - 0573 917206/218
cultura@comune.serravalle-pistoiese.pt.it

Library

Piazza Vittorio Veneto, Casalguidi - 0573 917414
biblioteca@comune.serravalle-pistoiese.pt.it

Traffic wardens

via San Lodovico 2, Serravalle Pistoiese - 0573 917225 / 328 0411511

Carabinieri – First aid 112 Stazione

Carabinieri Casalguidi-Cantagrillo

via Matteotti 34, Casalguidi - 0573 527004

Carabinieri Masotti - Serravalle Pistoiese

via Provinciale Lucchese 177, Masotti - 0573 51002

Police 113

Firefighters 115

Forest Rangers 1515

Sanitary emergency 118

Misericordia Casalguidi 0573 526196

Misericordia Masotti 0573 919321

Croce Verde 393 6615155

Pharmacies

Via Provinciale Lucchese 22, Masotti - 0573 919138

Via Provinciale Montalbano 371/A, Casalguidi - 0573 929216

Via Provinciale Montalbano 6/8, Cantagrillo - 0573 526879

Post Office

Via S. Ludovico 4, Serravalle P.se - 0573 919037

Via Renato Fucini 4, Casalguidi - 0573 526805



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Visit Serravalle

On the trail of the Middle Ages

It was during the Middle Ages that Serravalle Pistoiese became the decisive object of contention for the power ambitions of the main players in Tuscan geopolitics: the people of Pistoia, Lucca, and Florence fought over it in battle, each leaving traces of their passage, as evidenced by the events surrounding the two fortresses, the New and the Old, with the Tower of Barbarossa, which allows you to gaze out and dominate the two valleys on either side of the village. It is impossible not to be enchanted by the construction of the Rocca Nuova, also known as Castruccio's fortress, which was decided upon immediately after the 1302 siege led by troops from Florence and Lucca, under General Moroello Malaspina at the castle of Serravalle. It was overwhelmed after three months of siege and it is said that on their return from the failed attack on Pistoia, the two armies wanted to make Serravalle pay for its support of the Pistoia Guelphs of the White Party, but they were stopped by San Lodovico, patron saint of the village, who appeared on the ramparts of the castle enveloped in a bright white cloud. The mighty fortress, which would become the symbol of the village, was completed by Ugucione della Faggiola and then by the condottiero Castruccio Castracani, who built the mighty hexagonal watchtower. On the opposite side of the village stands the Torre del Barbarossa. It stands 45 meters high and played a strategic role in sighting enemy armies coming from Lucca and the sea. The guardian responsible for surveillance was chosen from among the wealthier citizens of Pistoia and, during the four months of his assignment, was not allowed to leave the tower. Another little gem is the former Oratory of the Virgin Assumed into Heaven, a space completely frescoed by the Pistoia school of the 14th century, with scenes such as the Passion of Christ, the Last Judgement, and the Crucifixion.

Living in a castle

The name itself indicates its destiny: to “lock,” or rather to represent the natural lock that opens and closes access to Valdinievole, and for this reason it has become a key location in Tuscan geography over the centuries. The Romans were the first to realize its importance, founding a small castrum there that served as a staging post for armies traveling along the Cassia Clodia.

Art and spirituality

To understand its central importance, one need only consider that the Way of St. James—which took pilgrims from Pistoia to Livorno—passed right by this castle and the village that still today houses two treasures: the Church of San Michele and the Church of Santo Stefano, both dating back to the 13th century. Inside San Michele is a triptych depicting the Madonna in triumph with the Child between Saints Hippolytus, Michael, and Stephen. It dates back to 1439 and is attributed to Bartolomeo di Andrea Bochi. In the church of Santo Stefano, we find glazed terracotta statues of Saint Louis of Toulouse and Saint Anthony the Abbot, created by Benedetto Buglioni in the 16th century, and a stucco and papier-mâché statue of Saint Louis, which has been carried in procession through the streets of the village every year on August 19 since the 17th century.



Castellina stands on a hilly area north of the town of Serravalle, offering extraordinary views of the medieval village. The town is dominated from above by the small Romanesque church dedicated to Saints Filippo and Giacomo; originally, it also housed a fortress and was surrounded by a wall.



The medieval village of **Serravalle Pistoiese** is located on the north-west side of Montalbano, on the border between the areas of influence of Lucca and Pistoia. The name of Serravalle recalls the closure of the Pistoia valley compared to that of Lucca. Two fundamental reasons marked the birth of the castle: the control of the road system and the defense of the border.

TRAVEL TIMES



Located on the northern hills of Montalbano, on the border with the castles of Monsummano and Montevettolini, **Vinacciano** is located in a particularly strategic place for controlling the road network between the Pistoia plain and the Florentine plain. The current church dedicated to Saints Marcello and Lucia, built on the pre-existing castle oratory of Santa Lucia, dates back to the 16th- 17th century.



Originally known by the name of Casale, **Casalguidi** is a lowland town, fortified in 1181 by the Pistoia people, following the arrival of Federico Barbarossa. The first inhabitants of the area settled on the hills of San Biagio where they built a temple dedicated to Venus, which after the conversion to Christianity was consecrated to San Romolo.



EX ORATORIO DELLA VERGINE ASSUNTA - FORMER ORATORY

A masterpiece of late fourteenth-century Pistoia painting and already known by the inhabitants of Serravalle as the "house of figures", the oratory is a compact building that has changed its fourteenth-century identity over the centuries. Hidden for centuries under the plaster of a house, it was rediscovered at the end of the 1980s, when some sacred images re-emerged.



CHURCH OF SAINTS MARCELLO AND LUCIA, VINACCIANO

The current ecclesiastical complex has born from the expansion of the pre- existing oratory, once it assumed the role of baptismal church. The interior has a single nave. In the apse, behind the altar, there is the eighteenth-century canvas of Saint Lucia with the saints Antonio Abate and Luigi Gonzaga by the Pistoia artist Pietro Marchesini, known as L'Ortolano.



CHURCHES OF SANTO STEFANO AND SAN MICHELE, SERRAVALLE

The parish church of Santo Stefano was founded in the mid-13th century. The single-nave interior has been remodeled several times since the disastrous fire of 1501. The church of San Michele preserves the only apse that has survived in its entirety among the Romanesque churches in Serravalle Pistoiese and the gold triptych with Madonna, the Child and the saints Ippolito, Iacopo, Michele and Stefano dated to 1439 and attributed to Bartolomeo di Andrea Bochi.



CHURCH OF SAN PIETRO, CASALGUIDI

The church, one of the oldest parish churches in the countryside of Pistoia, has been known since the early 12th century. The current appearance is the result of the transformations and the expansions of 1759, which altered the original Romanesque nucleus. On the south wall rests the body of the eighteenth-century rectory, with the current courtyard, a legacy of the medieval cloister of the collegiate church.