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tirano

Crossroads of the Alps





In the heart of the Alps and of those who visit it

Located in the heart of the Alps on the Italian-Swiss border, Tirano has always been a natural melting pot of peoples and cultures, vendors and travellers. Here history meets nature, and art knowledge. This is why Tirano sticks in the minds and hearts of those who visit it, even if just for a day.

In Tirano you will discover a prime example of the Renaissance in Valtellina – the imposing Sanctuary of the Madonna of Tirano. Strolling through the loggias and gardens of the noble buildings in the historical centre, you will reach Palazzo Salis where you will be able to admire its splendid frescoed rooms. Then, from gate to gate under fifteenth-century walls, you will be accompanied by Ludovico Sforza and Leonardo da Vinci. Finally, all the secrets of this land will be revealed to you at the

rich Ethnographic Museum housed in the eighteenth-century House of the Penitentiary.

At the table, on the other hand, you will feel inebriated by the intense aromas of vintage Sforzato wine and the strong taste of irresistible buckwheat fritters flavoured with mountain cheese.

Tirano is the ideal starting point for walks and excursions (on foot or by bicycle) up the Mortirolo Pass or along the Adda in a stunning landscape of terraced vineyards and charming hamlets.

A Slow City since 2008 and historically a wine town, Tirano is the point of arrival and departure of one of the most fascinating and admired UNESCO World heritage Sites: the Bernina Express.

In the heart of the Alps and of those who discover it – this is Tirano!



UNESCO
World
Heritage
Rhaetian Railway in the
Albula/Bernina Landscapes

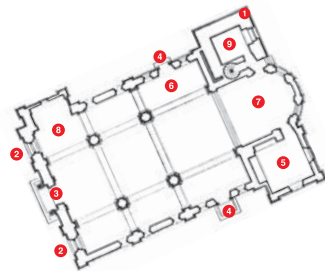




A tribute to the faith and the art of these places

The sixteenth-century Sanctuary of Tirano is a treasure trove of art, history and faith – the cornerstone of the town's identity and fame and of that of the whole of Valtellina. Built after the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1504, the Sanctuary “*rises victorious in its prodigality of beauty, in its perfection of wealth, in its fearless drop*” (Paolo Arcari, scholar). With its three naves in the form of a Latin cross, the Sanctuary of the Madonna of Tirano represents the most important example of Renaissance architecture in Valtellina. Its perfect harmony of lines and styles embodies the great bell tower with its Romanesque features, the structures on the side of the apse with their Renaissance features, the body of the sacristy and the sixteenth-century dome.

Inside, the richness of the Baroque stucco and sculptures is fascinating, as are the carvings, the high reliefs and the majestic 17th century organ which, with its 2,200 pipes, is one of the largest in Europe.



- 1) Belfry
- 2) Façade
- 3) Main Portal
- 4) Lateral Portals
- 5) New Sacristy
- 6) Organ
- 7) Apse
- 8) Chapel of Our Lady
- 9) Sacristy of early Sixteenth Century and base of the belfry





Art and architecture born out of the territory's history



In Tirano, art and architecture are part of the territory and its history. Even Carlo Magno understood the importance of Tirano and its access routes to the great Alpine passes. Hence a succession of dominations has been seen over the centuries which have written the history of these border areas. People, armies and cultures have left testimonies and their imprint, such as the small medieval church of St. Perpetua, the city walls with their gates built by order of Ludovico il Moro – Bormina, Poschiavina and Milanese – and the monumental Basilica. Having ended the eighteenth

century under the French flag, for Tirano the nineteenth century marked a time of major works, such as the Strada Regia (the Royal Road) and the Strada Imperiale (Imperial Road) of the Stelvio Pass. The beginning of the twentieth century saw the erection of some of the most important Art Nouveau buildings in Valtellina, such as the railway stations, the school building and the numerous houses that one comes across whilst walking through Viale Italia, Piazza Marinoni and the Lungo Adda Ortigara.





In this land one's eyes never tire of looking...

Through the eyes of a visitor, Tirano's historical centre offers a myriad of sensations. Different historical periods coexist in perfect harmony. Ancient dwellings, buildings, squares and gardens all contribute to creating a unique setting.

Tirano's perfect harmony between architecture and landscape is also expressed through its churches: the thousand-year-old church of St. Perpetua in its panoramic position, the Romanesque bell tower of the Collegiate Church of San Martino with its Baroque interiors, the splendour of several small churches attached to historical buildings or overlooking streets and squares, and, last but not least, the Sanctuary, the great sixteenth-century work of art.

A charming panoramic viewpoint where the eye stretches out over the entire town is provided by the Castle of Santa Maria, known as il Castellaccio.

Fundamental to the town's defence system, it was built by order of Ludovico il Moro, together with the city walls, to defend Valtellina from possible raids from the Grisons.



A magnificent meeting of buildings, squares and gardens



Art, culture and nobility permeate the air in Tirano's historical centre, both within and outside the walls. It is a Middle-European air which, within the small streets, squares and fountains, reveals the many buildings that make up one of the richest historical centres in the Alps. Visit seventeenth-century Palazzo Salis with its frescoed rooms, Casa Museo d'Oro Lambertenghi, Palazzo Marinoni (former convent of the Augustinians and today the Town Hall), Palazzo Pretorio (former seat of Grison power), sixteenth-century Palazzo Andres, Palazzo Visconti Venosta with its splendid Baroque gate, Palazzo Merizzi with its elegant loggia, Casa Mazza with its remarkable seventeenth-century

“stüa” (dining lounge), Palazzo Omodei-Noli Pradella, Palazzo Quadrio Curzio and Palazzo Buttafava, as well as Palazzo Torelli and its elegant garden, the austere Tower Torelli, and the precious Palazzo Pievani with its adjoining medieval bell tower and romantic interior garden.

Outside the walls, however, there are another two buildings worth visiting: the Casa del Penitenziere (House of the Penitentiary), an elegant eighteenth-century dwelling overlooking Piazza Basilica which houses the Ethnographic Museum, and the noble Palazzetto Homodei-Marinoni hidden among the streets leading back to the historical centre.



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Walking through the terraces of Valtellina

Cologna, Baruffini and Roncaiola are the three hamlets of Tirano that overlook the town from above. Immersed in apple orchards, like Cologna, on the Orobic slope, or caressed by the sun amongst gardens and vineyards, such as Baruffini and Roncaiola, which are perched on the Rhaetian side of Monte Masuccio, these splendid terraces overlooking Valtellina are easily accessible by car, mountain bike or on foot. Numerous are the ring routes that provide wonderful views over the ancient passes and centuries-old terracing, such as the “contraband” paths which were frequently used not too long ago, or the flat and scenic “bread” path which was once used by the inhabitants of Roncaiola who brought rye to the mill in Baruffini. The Sentiero dei Castelli (Castle Path) will lead you on a discovery of churches, castles, towers and archaeological finds, whereas from the romantic small church of St. Perpetua the Via dei Terrazzamenti (Terrace trail) will take you as far as Morbegno along a bicycle-pedestrian path. Excursions range from being accessible to anyone to the more challenging; they cross over into Switzerland or go as far as Lake Poschiavo, such as the Albula-Bernina path, the historic route to Coira that runs along the Rhaetian Railway and offers spectacular alpine views.

A heroic landscape

The landscape in which Tirano is immersed has no equal in the world. The town is surrounded by vineyards arranged in terraces that occupy the entire Rhaetian face. These are the heroic terraces of Valtellina, formed with patient and regular geometry. South facing, the vineyards were planted by terracing the rocky and very steep mountainside with dry stone walls. It is precisely due to the presence of living rock between the narrow terraces that there is an

increase in the solar heat retention. These terraces stand as monuments to man's tenacity and skill, and represent rural cultural heritage. There are a good seven wineries located in the area of Tirano where the great wines of Valtellina, appreciated worldwide, are made. These wines are characterised as strong and generous but at the same time multi-faceted and complex, like the people who live on this land.



From vineyards to glaciers, with a stop-over in St. Moritz

Tirano is the point of arrival and departure of the Bernina Express, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2008.

This breathtaking, exciting train journey is unique in the world. Starting at an altitude of 429 meters in Tirano, it descends to 2,253 meters at the station of Ospizio Bernina and then descends again through the gentle valley leading to St. Moritz, in the heart of the Engadine.

It is not merely a railway line but, rather, a red fairytale on rails which, in 2010, celebrated its hundredth birthday: an entire century of “ups and downs” across the Alps from the vineyards of Valtellina to the Bernina glaciers.

The trip is an unforgettable experience. Glued to the large panoramic windows of the Bernina Express, one is mesmerized by the extraordinary alpine landscape slowly and pleasantly passing before one’s eyes.



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A town open to the world and to culture

Tirano is a culturally vibrant town where numerous events, exhibitions and shows are put on for citizens throughout the year in collaboration with cultural promoters and associations. The rich programme of events includes “Tirano Teatro”, “Teatro Festival Valtellina”, “Il Cuore in Montagna” – a show featuring well-known faces – and initiatives such as “Il Maggio dei Libri”, just to name a few. Nationally recognised as a “city that reads”, Tirano organises several events connected to the world of

books, art and knowledge in the very welcoming public library, one of its cultural landmarks and a gathering place for children and adults alike.

The Ethnographic Museum of Tirano offers a journey of discovery into the rural culture of the area through fascinating period reconstructions comprising a kitchen, bedroom and an interesting collection of objects. This trip down memory lane perfectly recounts the life and traditional peasant activities of the artisans of the valley.





Cycling, hiking or skiing, in uncontaminated countryside



A bicycle is the perfect companion for visiting Tirano and its squares but also for getting out into Valtellina. Options range from quiet cycle rides and mountain biking along set routes to more challenging cycling involving perhaps a climb up to one of the most famous passes of the Giro d'Italia, the Mortirolo Pass, or towards the Bernina or Stelvio Passes.

Thanks also to the “rent a bike” and “bike shuttle” services, it is possible to adventure into the valley along the Valtellina Path which runs along the course of the Adda river, going through apple orchards and small villages, or let oneself be seduced by the mountain slopes of the “Five Crazy Down”, five truly spectacular descents.

Not far from Tirano is Alpe di Trivigno which offers an extraordinary panorama. One can get there by car, or better still by mountain bike by going up directly from Tirano via Alpe Canali. In Trivigno you will find yourself immersed in a unique natural environment consisting of spruces, pines, larches and a carpet of meadows dotted with the odd house. Very unspoiled, the place begs to be explored. One can do so either in summer on foot or in winter with snowshoes, and, for the more sporty, by bike or with cross-country skis. Then, heading down towards Aprica, don't miss a visit to the Natural Reserve of Pian di Gembro, one of the best preserved peat bogs in Europe.







Life's pleasures in all its forms



Tirano is a Slow City and every year life's pleasures translate into a rich calendar of shows and events. Top on the list is the Eroico Rosso Sforzato Wine Festival dedicated to Sforzato, the most noble of Valtellina wines. The event combines the territory's food and wine excellencies with the splendour of Tirano's noble buildings.

Linked to a tradition that is still very much alive are the Gabinat with the happy outings of children on the eve of the Epiphany on the hunt for gifts and sweets, and the arrival of the Befana in Piazza della Basilica celebrated with hot chocolate and mulled wine, as well as the historical fairs including that of San

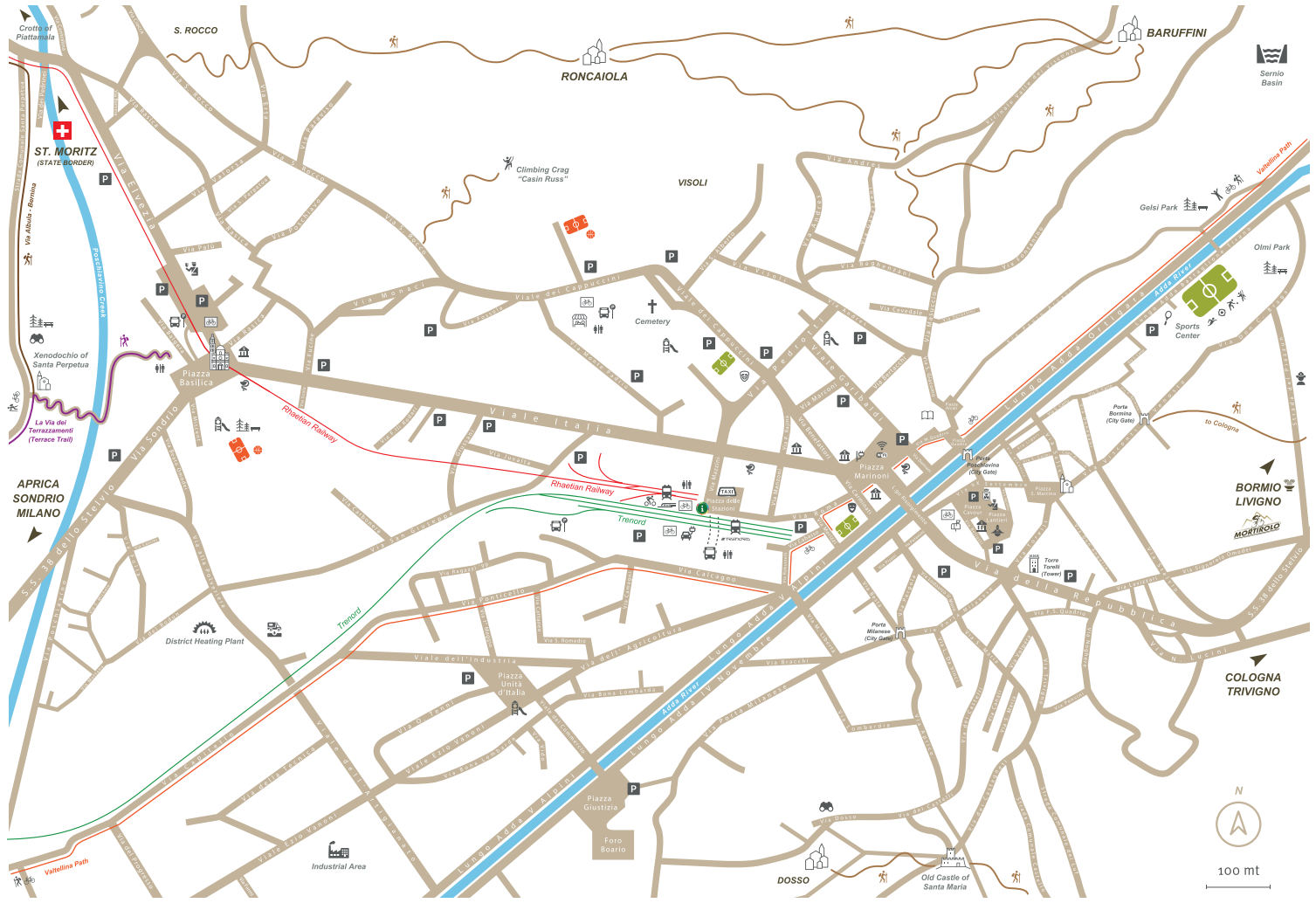
Michele in September, which is one of the oldest fairs in the Alps. In summer "I Love Tirano", which lasts an entire night, provides entertainment throughout the town: the Magico Crocevia street artists festival animates Piazza della Basilica and its surroundings, and for food lovers there is the Sagra dei Chisciöi at Parco degli Olmi. European Town of Sport 2017, Tirano offers a range of opportunities to people who love physical activity: football, swimming, basketball, tennis, bowling, target shooting and climbing as well as cross-country skiing in Trivigno and cycling and Nordic walking along the terracing around the town.



Tirano – home of good eating and better drinking

Like Valtellina, Tirano is synonymous with characterful red wines. Some of Valtellina's most famous wineries where one can sample and buy wines such as Sassella, Inferno and Grumello – perfect representatives of the territory – lie between Tirano, Villa and Bianzone. Sforzato DOCG deserves a particular mention: a red wine with a superb concentration of flavour and aromas, it can stand proud alongside more renowned Piedmontese Barolo wines and after substantial ageing is sheer bliss. In Tirano what is classed as so-called “good and close” is an entirely natural experience. Taste after taste, producer after producer, the territory offers a triumph of flavours. Valtellina apples are worth trying and can be purchased from several small farms in the area, in addition to honey and preserves. Valtellina wines can be accompanied by bresaola and the famous pizzoccheri. However, Tirano's finest dish has for centuries been its Chisciöi – buckwheat fritters made with stringy cheese. Before concluding the meal, sample some local cheeses prime examples of which are Bitto DOP and Casera DOP.





Grotto of Platanoia
ST. MORITZ
(città Russi)

S. ROCCO

RONCAIOLA

BARUFFINI

Sernio Basin

VISOLI

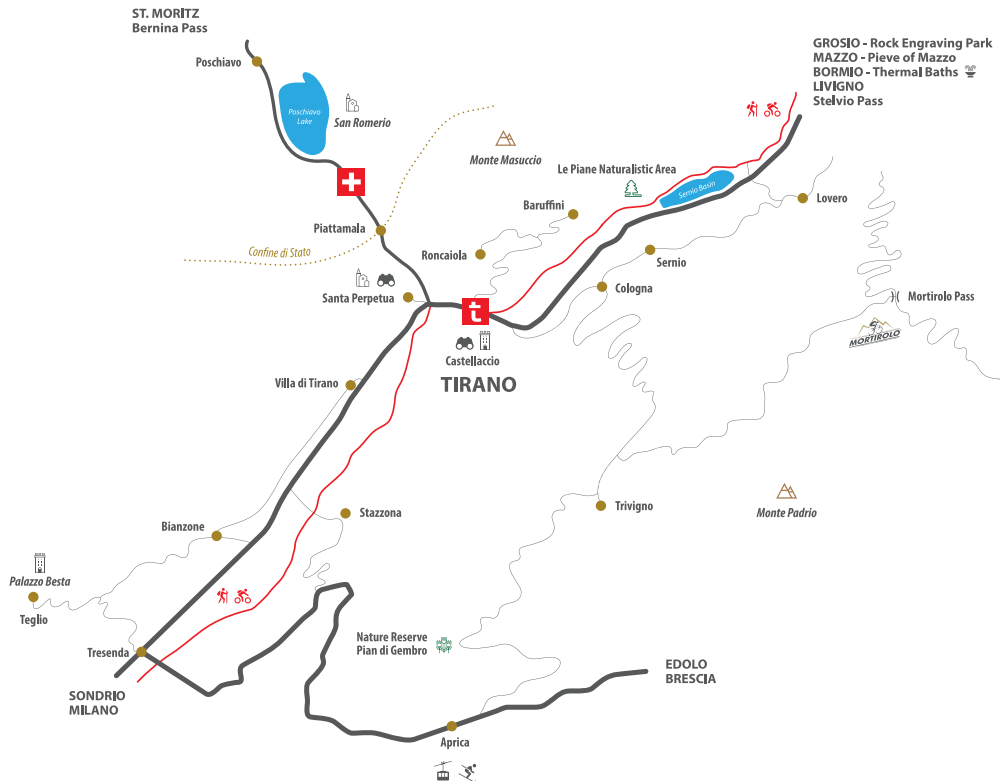
APRICA
SONDRIO
MILANO

BORMIO
LIVIGNO

COLOGNA
TRIVIGNO



100 mt



Credits

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INFO
POINT

in LOMBARDIA

Piazza delle Stazioni, 18
23037 Tirano (SO)
Tel. (+39) 0342 706 066
Fax (+39) 0342 706 066

iattirano@valtellinaturismo.com
info@visitatirano.it
www.visitatirano.it

Opening time:

from January 1st to June 14th:
Monday – Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm
Sundays and holidays 10.00 – 15.00
from June 15th to September 15th:
Monday – Saturday 9.00am – 6.00pm
Sundays and holidays 9.00 – 15.00
from September 16th to December 31st:
Monday – Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm
Sundays and holidays 10.00 – 15.00



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