



città di  
**tirano**

A land of history, a city of wine, a "slow" city

Welcome Benvenuti Willkommen

The immutable Allegory of History in the gentle marble profile of "Maria Luisa" greets you in the square. In the Basilica one is immersed in art and music, accompanied by faith, whilst being guided by the layout of a tree-lined avenue which transforms into a vertical momentum of lines and curves. In the courtyards and the frescoed rooms of Salis Palace, one can breathe the patriotism of the Italian Risorgimento in Seventeenth-Century style, where the Garibaldi red inebriates like the ruby and fruity one of the Saloncello. From Door to Door, under the Fifteenth-Century walls, one strolls with Ludovico Sforza and with the military genius of Leonardo da Vinci. One passes from Italy to Switzerland only by changing track. And just like in a fairy-tale, when one boards the Trenino Rosso (Bernina Express), one's eyes are filled with meadows, woods, turquoise, black and white lakes, which mix up with millenary glaciers. At table, one is served full-bodied red wine and buckwheat pancakes cooked in iron pans and seasoned with melting alp cheese. The only additive here is the healthy country conviviality.

This is Tirano. It is referred to as a city not because it is big and noisy, but because history has wanted it to be so, making it a crossroad between the Alps. From north to south, from east to west, it is a crossroad of beauty.



Welcome to our City.

History, art, culture, traditions, the environment, nature, fine food and wine, are the riches that make Tirano a "city of art", precious and unique in its location in the centre of the Alps. Tirano is a crossroad of culture between Italy and Switzerland, where the beauty of the Alpine landscape meets the beauty of art and history. Since 2008 Tirano has been known a Slow City and, as since 2010 it has been City of Wine, but above all, it is a “point of arrival and departure” of one of the most fascinating and admired heritages of the UNESCO: the Bernina Express. We are very proud of all this and are happy to live it every day. That is why we want to introduce to you our City and live it with you.

We wish you a pleasant stay and we welcome you to Tirano



Welcome to Tirano



Tirano is a Municipality bordering with the Swiss Confederation. Situated at an altitude of 420 m ASL, in the valley, between the river Adda and the Poschiavino torrent, Tirano enjoys a natural strategic position, in the heart of the Central Alps, between Italy and Switzerland. During the centuries it was a crossroad of considerable importance and it owes its current tourist importance to the territory and history. Tirano is 25 Km away from Sondrio, 39 Km from Bormio and 55 Km from St. Moritz. This location places it at the crossroads between the Romanesque via Valeriana, today known as the Stelvio trunk-road, and the road that links Valtellina with the Venetian plain (Pianura Veneta), through the Passo dell'Aprica. Towards the north, by crossing the Valle di Poschiavo, the Bernina Pass, the Engadina and the Rezia, departing from Tirano one arrives in Switzerland. A circular hiking trail which is one of the finest in the entire Alpine region, fascinating for the landscapes, environments and nature, hospitality and relaxation.



Crossroad in the Alps, between Italy and Switzerland



History has dipped its pen in the territory, from century to century, from page to page, from the first primitive nucleus of Tirano, at the feet of Monte Masuccio, to the slope which rises to Roncaiola, This is the case - what today is known as a city, experienced Etruscans, Tirrenians, Gauls and subsequently the Romans amongst its inhabitants. In particular it owes its present name most probably to the Romans. The Stele di Tirano and Lovero of the ancient bronze age, the Celtic daggers of Piattamala, the prehistoric cupels above Baruffini, the *tholos* or “crotti” as shelter for shepherds and sheep which we find on the Rhaetian coast of Masuccio and in Val Poschiavo, the Roman tombstones of Stazzona and the Roman bridge of Villa di Tirano. These are all evidence of the prehistoric and Roman Tirano. These are pages which we can leaf during a walk or during a visit to the Ethnographic Museum of Tirano or the Antiquarium of Besta Palace in Teglio.

The territory writes history





From door to door, towards the great historical routes of the Alps. Charlemagne, during the Middle Ages, had already understood the importance of Tirano and of its routes leading to the great mountain passes and foothills. A strategic importance which during the centuries witnessed in Tirano a succession of all the dominations who wrote the history of Valtellina along with that of Lombardy and the neighbouring alpine regions. People, armies, cultures and regal ambitions have left their imprint and testimonies. The medieval church of St. Perpetua, the great 15<sup>th</sup> Century Town-walls commissioned by Ludovico il Moro with its Doors, Bormina, Poschiavina and Milanese - even today, these represent an urbanite fulcrum as well as the town's identity. However, above all one must mention the Sixteenth-Century Basilica della Madonna di Tirano, a votive offering for the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1504, built between 1504 and 1513, just at the end of the French dominion and shortly before the beginning of the Grigioni dominion.

From door to door



From the Grigioni to Austria, passing through France. The 18<sup>th</sup> Century came to a close under the French flag of the Cisalpine Republic. On the other hand, the 19<sup>th</sup> Century represented for Tirano a century of great history, great men and great public works. The construction of the main road, or rather the road which will lead Tirano out of the Sforza perimeter walls to connect with the Sanctuary, dates back to 1815, precisely the day after the Congress of Vienna with which the Valtellina became a Lombardy-Venetian territory. Only a few years later, the Imperial road of Passo dello Stelvio guaranteed the connection with Austria. So much so that, in 1838, Ferdinand of Austria passed through Tirano on his way to Milan for his crowning as King of the Lombardy-Venetian Kingdom. This is recalled by means of the statue of the Allegory of History of Piazza Cavour, then Piazza d'Armi. The Unity of Italy was at the gates and Tirano played a main role for men and ideas. A spirit of the Risorgimento is still in the historical buildings where, after 1848, the Salis, Torelli, Lambertenghi, Visconti Venosta, Merizzi, Della Croce and Pievani noble families made Tirano the centre of the patriotic drifts in Valtellina.

ph: E. Ghilotti

## 19<sup>th</sup> Century at work





The architecture indicates when the border is not a limit. This is also evident from that pleasure for something which is beautiful and which the Tirano Liberty proposes with noble charm. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, some of the most important Liberty buildings of Valtellina have been built in Piazza delle Stazioni Ferroviarie, Viale Italia, Piazza Marinoni and along the Adda Ortigara. The Liberty tour departs from the place of arrival, namely from the stations. The Italian Railways dating back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the decorations in wrought iron and the wooden pediment, inspired by the Swiss architecture of chalets, and, precisely on the same square, the other station, of the Rhaetian Railways, dated 1926, represents a very elegant example of Art Deco Style. Subsequently one proceeds along the streets of the city. Merizzi Palace, House of the antiquarian Chiodi (now the site of a pharmacy), Villa Soncelli (formerly Martinelli), Villa Tognolatti along the riverside, the station of the historic Autolinee Perego in Piazza Marinoni and the School Building with Athena's face overlooking the entrance. Athens is the symbol of wisdom with and has a combing mannerism which is more Liberty than Hellenic.

## The Liberty elegance



ph: E. Ghilotti



This is the heart of Tirano - the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Sanctuary which is a treasure trove of art, history, faith, and at the same time fulcrum of the historic identity and reputation of Tirano and the entire Valtellina. It was built by popular faith after the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to Mario Omodei in 1504. Writing about this Sanctuary, Paolo Arcari, a writer to whom the civic library of Tirano is dedicated, wrote *"it rises victorious in its prodigality of beauty, in its perfection of wealth, in its fearless drop..."*. The Sanctuary, which in 1927 was elected by Pope Pius XI to a minor Roman Basilica, has three naves in the form of a Latin cross and represents the most important example of the Renaissance in Valtellina. It is a harmony of lines and styles which as in a great crossroad of art brings together the Romanesque trait of the great bell tower with the Renaissance trait of the structures on the side of the apse, from the body of the sacristy to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century dome. And what about the interiors, where art becomes a baroque exuberance in the richness of the stuccos and sculptures, but above all in the musicality of the sound, the carvings and the high reliefs of the majestic 17<sup>th</sup> Century organ.



A treasure trove of art, history and faith



From the vineyards to the glaciers, a Heritage of Mankind. Tirano is point of departure and arrival of one of the major UNESCO World Heritages: the Bernina Express. This is a wonder which only by the mention of the name surprises us like children expecting a gift. In fact more than a railway, it is a red fairy-tale on rails which in 2010, celebrated its centenary birthday. One hundred years of "ups and downs", crossing the Alps, from the Valtellina vineyards to the glaciers of the Bernina Pass. And if the years have not left an imprint, the wonders certainly run on the large windows with panoramic views of the Bernina Express. A fairy-tale journey which keeps passengers literally "glued" to windows, as if they were leafing through a great album with the crème of the alpine landscape flowing with pleasant slowness, before their eyes.



A Patrimony of Mankind,  
from the vineyards to the glaciers



While walking through the old town centre of Tirano one can breathe art, nobility and culture both inside and outside the walls. A mittel-European atmosphere, which amongst the small streets, small squares and fountains leads to the discovery of the many palaces which embellish one of the richest historical centres of the Alps. The Seventeenth-Century Salis Palace, with the noble wine cellars and frescoed halls, House-Museum D'Oro Lambertenghi, Merizzi Palace, Marinoni Palace, the ex-convent of the Augustinians which today is the seat of the Municipality, Praetorian Palace, Mazza House, Andres Palace, Visconti Venosta Palace, Buttafava Palace, Omodei Palace, Quadrio Curzio Palace, Torelli Palace and Torelli Tower. Furthermore, "outside-the-walls", there are another two palaces when one gets to Madonna di Tirano - the Casa del Penitenziere, an elegant 18<sup>th</sup> Century residence which overlooks Piazza Basilica, nowadays the seat of the Ethnographic Museum of Tirano and Homodei – Marinoni small Palace, nobly hidden in the greenery of its garden and in the streets that lead back to the historic centre.



A treasure of Palaces and gardens



Tirano is a concert of churches. A harmonious agreement between architecture and landscape, between history and faith, which in Tirano, as in the entire Valtellina, becomes on its own, a reason to visit and amaze oneself. A musicality of styles, from the medieval charm of Santa Perpetua, to the Romanesque bell tower of the Collegiata di San Martino with its baroque style interior, to the preciousness of small churches, often linked to the historical Palaces or overlooking streets and squares, to conclude in the great symphony of Sixteenth-Century lines and vaults of the Sanctuary. Then, if you want to let nature embrace art, all you have to do is ascend to Baruffini and Roncaiola, reaching small hamlet churches where, as the poet David Maria Turolfo wrote " ... *the meadows, vineyards and fields seem to wind up around as vast courtyards* ... ".



A concert of churches



They are like terraces overlooking Valtellina. Cologna, Baruffini and Roncaiola, the three districts of Tirano, look at their city from the top. Immersed in the apple orchards as Cologna, on the orobic side, towards Sernio and Lovero or caressed by the sun among orchards and vineyards as Baruffini and Roncaiola perched on the Rhaetian side of Mount Masuccio. During the last century, they were the last inhabited beaten tracks by the smugglers before crossing secretly the Swiss border, "via mountain". They are accessible both by car or on foot or by mountain bike. They overlook the vineyards and Tirano, as natural terraces on the Media Valtellina and Val Poschiavo.

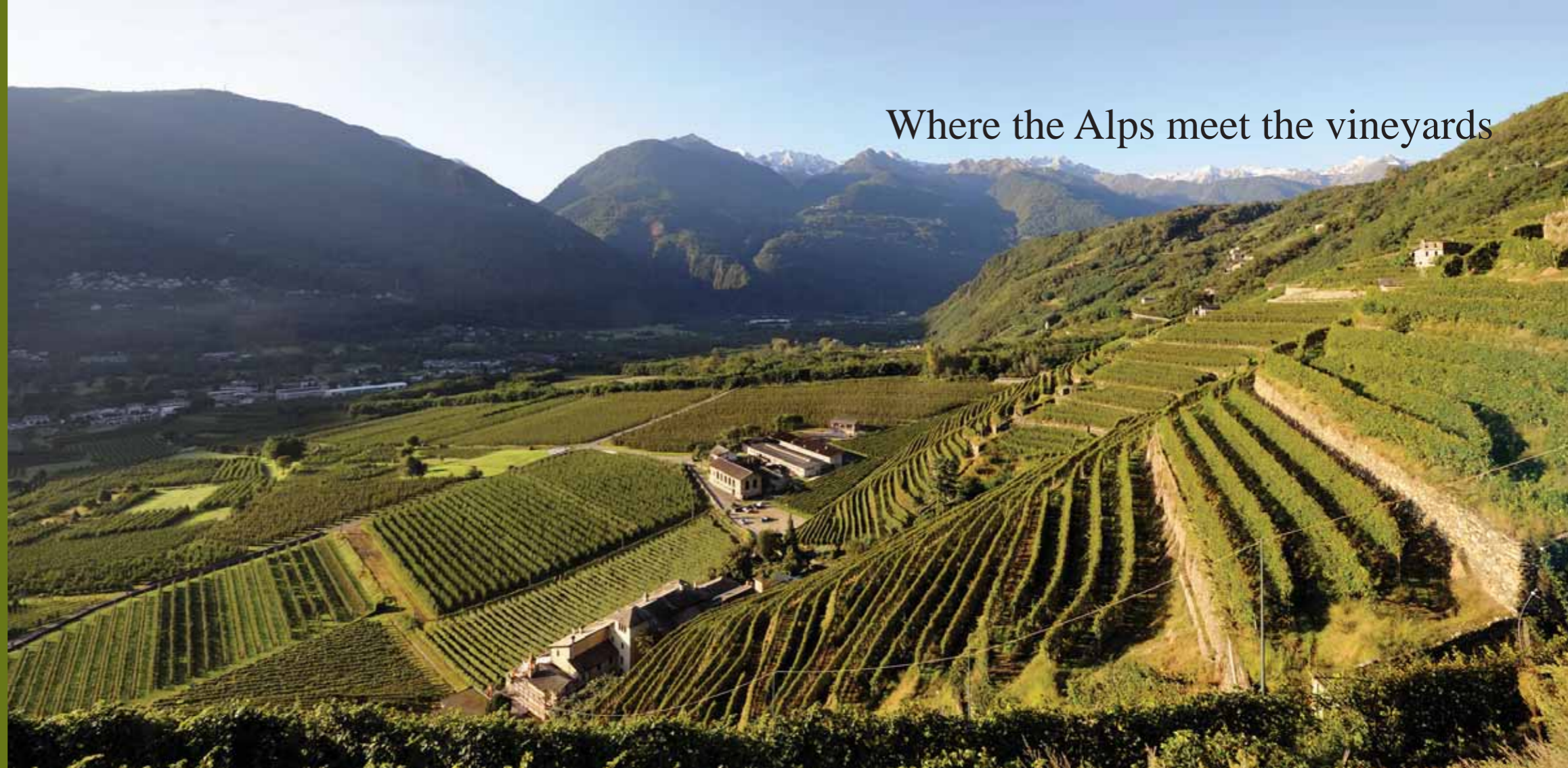


## The terraces of the districts

ph. E. Ghilotti



In the wine cradle. Tirano is lulled by vineyards throughout the whole of the Rhaetian side. The heroic terracing of Valtellina are monuments to toil and labour, castled in regular geometry on the sunny Rhaetian side. A heritage of rural culture, which is a candidate for inclusion, just like the Bernina Express, as one of the world sites on the Unesco World Heritage List. The great Valtellina wines which are appreciated all over the world are born here. The doors of some of the most famous and appreciated Wine Cellars of Valtellina are open between Tirano, Villa, and Bianzone, in just a few, but "tasty" kilometres. A path between wine and history which like many other things here, knows no boundaries, not even the one between Italy and Switzerland. The "Valtellina" barrels directed to the Northern European markets, transit by along the Bernina, on a donkey's back in bygone times and now almost exclusively on rail. This is the reason why Tirano is the City of Wine.



Where the Alps meet the vineyards



The “good and near” is a perfectly normal experience in Tirano. From taste to taste, from producer to producer, the territory offers a "blow-out" of flavours. In addition to the wine, which can be tasted and is available directly from the famous cellars of Tirano, Villa and Bianzone, one must not forget the other pride to taste, the famous Valtellina apples, available directly for sale from the innumerable small producers, from Tirano to Teglio, from Sernio to Lovero. And what should one say about the honey and jams, all of which strictly genuine? However the dish which on its own together with the pizzoccheri, for centuries manages the hospitality and livens up this conviviality is the Chisciöl. Traditional pancakes with a basis of buckwheat and cheese, served crispy with the fresh company of a finely cut chicory salad. Tirano proudly dedicates annually to the Chisciöl a feast, where taste becomes hospitality as only cuisine can do.



Taste at 0 Km



From the hotel to the trail, from the train to the trail. There aren't many cities where nature is at the doorstep. The position of Tirano, barycentric between the Bassa and the Alta Valtellina, between the Swiss valleys of Val Poschiavo and Engadina, Valcamonica and the foothills of the valleys of Brescia, offers to the trekking lovers, a network of trails, historic roads and fascinating hikes, through landscapes, environments, history and emotions. These can be treaded during all the seasons of the year. The Sentiero Unesco, which from Tirano, on the smugglers' tracks, leads to Thusis in the heart of the Canton Grigioni, feels like crossing the landscapes painted by Giovanni Segantini. The Sentiero Valtellina, a large pedestrian and cycle ring which runs along the flow of the Adda, among orchards and small villages and allows one to travel safely on foot a good part of the Valtellina, away from the arteries of automotive traffic. Then "from the train to the trail". The whole route followed by the Rhaetian Railway, intersects with a thousand opportunities for hiking trails, excursions and simple walks, between a station and the other. There is nothing else to do except to put on the boots and leave.

## From the hotel to the trail, from the train to the trail

ph: E. Ghilotti





The bicycle is one of the pleasures that makes of Tirano a Slow City, and is the right companion for a visit of the city and of its squares. If then from Tirano one wants to depart with the aim of discovering the Valtellina and Val Poschiavo, there is an absolute vast and diversified choice of cycle paths, depending on the typology of trails, slopes and journey times. From the most peaceful and relaxing family cycling tourism, to mountain biking on trails, to the more challenging cycling, perhaps climbing from Tirano towards the Bernina Pass or towards the famous Passo del Mortirolo. And that is not the end of it. Thanks also to the bike transfer possibilities offered by the Rhaetian Railways, towards Switzerland, and by the Italian Railways towards Sondrio on the Sentiero Valtellina one can enjoy a plain network of tracks and bicycle trails or pedestrian cycle paths where the flow of the Adda River is the guide, among apple orchards and small hubs.

Cycling among the apple orchards,  
vineyards and valleys





In fact, it is a summer mountain pasture, but it is also a plateau. The Alpe di Trivigno is not far away from Tirano. One gets there either by car, ascending from Stazzona, and passing through the district of Motta and subsequently through Aprica. Otherwise, again by car or better still on a mountain bike, ascending directly from Tirano, after crossing the apple orchards of Cologna to subsequently get to the other "mountain" of Tirano, the Alpe Canali and then from here back to Trivigno. Any one of the two tracks available consents an immersion in nature which here is protected due to its uniqueness. Forests of fir trees, pines, larch and lawn carpets with few houses and small villas now discreetly concealed by nature. During the descent towards the Aprica, one should not miss a visit the Natural Reserve of Pian di Gembro, one of the best preserved peat bogs of Europe.



A green paradise



Tirano is a Slow City and therefore has the taste and pleasure of living. For this reason, each year, it offers a rich calendar of shows and events. Most of these events, such as the traditional Gabinat with the merry mayhem of children on the eve of the Epiphany, constitute the precious legacy of a tradition which has its roots well set in the history of the city and its community. Others, such as Tiranotte, the White Night which during mid-August "animates" the streets and the squares of the city or the Autumn in Tiranese, a food and wine cultural festival, which "animates" a season rich in flavours and traditions for this land situated in the midst of the vineyards and the apple orchards- these events have become amongst the mostly awaited appointments in the calendar of tourist cultural events of Valtellina. A pleasure to live which is enriched every year with exhibitions, festivals, cultural events and of a town entertainment, always new and rich in "delicious" surprises. Because being "slow" gives life to the city, granting it all the time that it deserves.



The pleasure of living the city life



In Tirano, art and hospitality have ancient roots. From the first medieval pilgrims who, during their journey to pass through the Alps, used to find "ospitium" in the so called "Xenodochi" of Santa Perpetua and of San Romerio, to the merchants who made the alpine passes, between north and south, their paths of commerce, Tirano has always opened the doors of its hospitality and even more of its table. A tradition of hospitality which today translates itself into welcoming and refined Hotels, family Bed and Breakfasts and farmhouses, to which one adds restaurants, wine bars, pizzerias and bars. All sharing one characteristic namely taste and goodness of an offer of food and wine which distinguishes itself in the Alpine area.

Hospitality at the top





Getting to know Tirano and its surroundings...



## Historical highlights

The prehistoric findings, located within the boundaries of the territory of Tirano and presently preserved in the Antiquarium of Besta Palace in Teglio, are not numerous but important and they testify the presence of man in the area already in very ancient times. The name of the village is probably of Roman origins, but is attested in documents only from the XI Century. Having established itself as a free Municipality in the XII Century, it was subjected to the Capitanei, Lords of Stazzona. In 1335, with the Visconti domain on Valtellina, Tirano assumed the principal role of the district becoming the chief town of the Terziere Superiore and prethorium centre. In 1487, after a first military incursion of the Grigioni in Valtellina, Ludovico il Moro ordered the construction of the walls and the castle of Santa Maria. The miraculous apparition of the Virgin Mary to the Blessed Marjo Omodei dates to 29<sup>th</sup> September 1504 and he

transformed Tirano into an important pilgrimage destination and led to the construction, on the miracle site, of the Sanctuary, nowadays still the most important place of worship of the valley. Thanks to Tirano's geographic strategic position, the Piazza Basilica and the surrounding area started hosting the most important fair of the Alpine region. This acquired supra-regional importance calling traders from all the surrounding valleys, from Switzerland to the Tyrol, from Lombardy to the Republic of Venice. A protestant community was founded in Tirano during the Sixteenth Century. The bloody revolt against the Protestants and the Grigioni known as a sacred slaughterhouse started off from the city on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1620. This episode opened up a long period of wars for Valtellina. In 1797, Tirano saw the establishment of a "Patriotic Society" among the most active of the valley, to reclaim the separation from the

Grigioni and adhesion to the Cisalpine Republic. During the subsequent Austrian dominion, Tirano distinguished itself for the liveliness of its political commitment by personalities like Luigi Torelli, Ulisse Salis, Giovanni and Emilio Visconti Venosta. During the First World War Tirano was the seat of an important barrack named after the patriot Luigi Torelli, and this housed the 5<sup>th</sup> Alpine Regiment. During April 1945, the barracks housed a battalion of French militia of the collaborationist government of Vichy sent by the Germans. On 28<sup>th</sup> April 1945 the battalion surrendered to the partisans of the 1<sup>st</sup> Alpine Division and the Anglo-American allies.

## Museums Palaces Public Library Museum

### *Civic Library "Paolo e Paola Maria Arcari"*

#### *Opening hours*

From Tuesday to Saturday: 9.00 -12.00 a.m.; 02.00 -06.00 p.m. - Summer time (from mid-June to mid-September): Monday: 02.00 -06.30 p.m.; From Tuesday to Friday: 9.00 -12.00 a.m.; 02.00 -06.30 p.m.

#### *Piazza Pievani, 1*

Tel. 0342 702 572

[www.comune.tirano.so.it/biblioteca-civica](http://www.comune.tirano.so.it/biblioteca-civica)  
[biblioteca@comune.tirano.so.it](mailto:biblioteca@comune.tirano.so.it)

### *Ethnographic Museum of Tirano*

The museum is housed in the Eighteenth Century "Casa del Penitenziere", overlooking the historic square of the Santuario della Madonna di Tirano. The collections document the life and traditional activities of peasants and artisans of the valley, through the objects and some reconstructions of the environment. The exhibition also includes some important pieces from the nearby Basilica, amongst which the splendid sacred vestments donated by Cardinal Richelieu in 1636.

#### *Opening Hours*

June/September: from Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 -12.00 a.m.; 03.30 -06.30 p.m.  
October/May: Saturday 10.00 -12.00 a.m.; 02.30 -05.30 p.m.  
Visits outside opening times to be booked

#### *Piazza Basilica, 30*

Tel. /Fax 0342 701 181  
[www.museotirano.it](http://www.museotirano.it)  
[museo@museotirano.it](mailto:museo@museotirano.it)

### *Civic Exhibitions Hall - Foppoli Palace*

Foppoli Palace is an elegant Sixteenth Century building. The portal and the internal courtyard are typical of the period with an external corridor on stone ledges, in addition to the hall on the ground floor, called Fireplace Hall or Sala Del Camino. During the Eighteenth Century, the property passed on to the Chiesa della Beata Vergine di Tirano, and the ground floor was used as a tavern (there remains the typical opening in the shape of an inverted L on the front towards the river). Subsequently it passed to the Foppoli family, of which it still retains the name. The Foppoli family assigned the property to an institution in favour of the emigrants of the area. It is presently owned by the Municipality of Tirano and is the seat of the civic exhibitions hall.

#### *P.tta Maurizio Quadrio*

### *House-Museum d'Oro Lambertenghi*

Probably built in the Fifteenth Century by the Lazzaroni family and subsequently enlarged, the palace changed ownership several times up to the acquisition, in 1881, by notary Giuseppe Lambertenghi. The palace which is still inhabited by the descendants is now also a house-museum and it is open to visitors with its charming ambience, the rich furnishings and the artistic collections that over the years, the owners collected.

#### *Via Ligari, 7*

Tel. 0342 710262  
Mobile: 388 7952575  
[www.palazzolambertenghi.eu](http://www.palazzolambertenghi.eu)  
[info@palazzolambertenghi.eu](mailto:info@palazzolambertenghi.eu)

#### *Öffnungszeiten*

**von 10/05 bis 10/10**  
Donnerstag-Freitag-Samstag  
10.00-12.30 14.00-16.00  
**von 11/10 bis 09/05**  
Am ersten Montag des Monats  
10.00-12.30 14.00-16.00  
Führungen jede halbe Stunde

### *Salis Museum*

The palace of Tirano is the most important of the Valtellina homes that belonged to the powerful Swiss Salis family, still owned by the direct descendants. Originated at the beginning of the 1600 from 2 historic residences of the 6<sup>th</sup> Century, the historic palace is open to the public in its museum circuit of 10 beautifully frescoed halls, furnished with furniture of the period, original paintings and decorated with important documents of the history of the Salis family and of Valtellina

#### *Via Salis, 3*

Tel. 340 0640653  
[www.palazzosalis.com](http://www.palazzosalis.com)  
[info@palazzosalis.com](mailto:info@palazzosalis.com)

#### *Opening Hours*

**From April to end of October**  
From Monday to Saturday  
10.30-11.30-12.30  
From Thursday to Saturday  
Even 14.40 and 15.30  
From 11/11 to 01/04  
Visits upon prior booking  
Minimum 4 persons.





# Palaces and historic centre

## ROUTE

**Piazza Stazioni, Viale Italia, Piazza Marinoni, Piazzetta Quadrio, Porta Poschiavina, Piazza Cavour, Via San Carlo, Via Albonico, Via Ligari, Piazzetta Salis, Porta Bormina, Via Visconti Venosta, Via XX Settembre, Piazza San Martino, Via Torelli**

Starting from Piazza delle Stazioni, having reached Piazza Marinoni and from here Piazzetta Quadrio, before alighting the iron bridge, on the left is the Sixteenth-Century **Foppoli Palace [1]**, seat of the civic exhibitions. Having crossed the bridge, one get in the ancient village, once surrounded by walls constructed by Ludovico il Moro in 1487. One goes beyond the **Porta Poschiavina [2]**, the best preserved of the three city Gates which exist, with frescoes dating to the sixteenth Century. The **Pretorio Palace [3]** is joined to the Gate. It

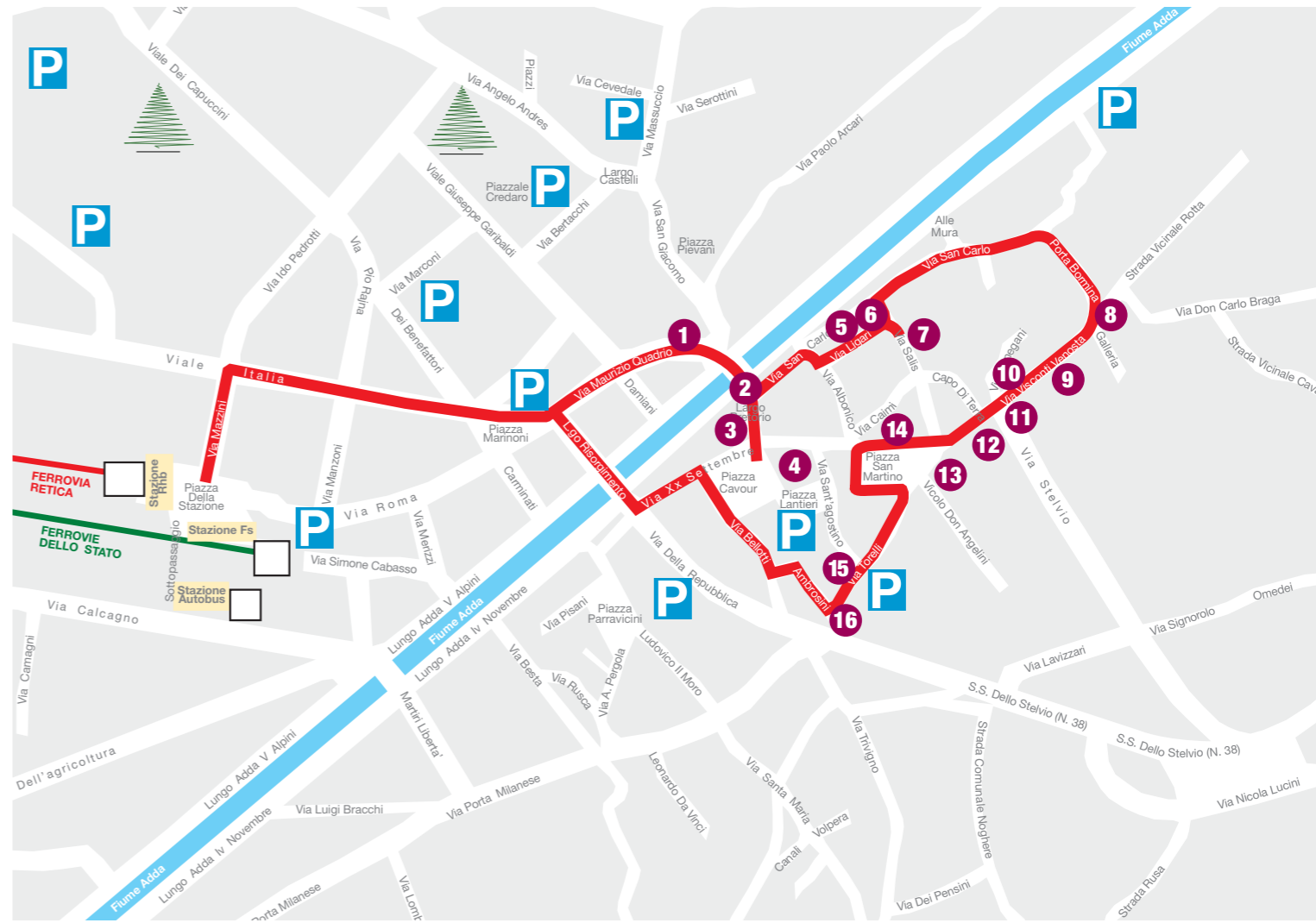
was an ancient seat of the Grigioni Podestà; of relevant importance here are the large portal and frescoed coats in the hallway. Further on is **Piazza Cavour**, with **Marinoni Palace [4]** overlooking it. This palace which nowadays is the Town Hall was an ancient convent of the Augustinians (from the XV-XVII Century). Worth noting is the internal portal, formerly a cloister of the convent, the courtyard and the Sixteenth Century portal on the south side. Attached to the building is the church of **S. Nicola da Tolentino**. Situated

in the centre of piazza Cavour is a fountain with a statue symbolizing History, nicknamed by the people of Tirano **La Maria Luisa**. Returning to Porta Poschiavina, one takes **Via San Carlo**, turning to the left into **Via Albonico** and immediately afterwards in **Via Ligari**, where one finds the Sixteenth-Century **Venosta Palace** now **Mazza [5]**. Of relevance are the external courtyard, the accessing portico and the "Stüa" on the main floor. Nearby in the street, is **Lazzaroni Palace** now **D'Oro Lambertenghi [6]**, which overlooks the north side of Piazza Salis. The internal rooms retain valuable fixtures and fittings. The palace is nowadays a house-museum open to the public by appointment. Further on is Piazzetta Salis. **Salis Palace [7]** overlooks Piazzetta Salis. It is the most important of the Valtellina mansions belonging to the powerful family of the Salis. Built between 1630 and 1690, Salis Palace develops on a structure which

represents a late-Sixteenth Century style façade, flanked by two towers, with a central Baroque portal built on the design by Vignola. Access to the palace is through the frescoed court manor (Corte della meridiana) after which one goes up the imposing staircase. Situated on the main floor are the most prestigious halls, the **Salone delle feste** and **Il Saloncello** with ceilings beautifully frescoed in the Eighteenth Century. Worth mentioning are the cellars and the icehouse. The Palace is the seat of a historical museum on the noble Salis family and Tirano. Back to via San Carlo one enters the alley of **Porta Bormina [8]** and turns to the right on **Via Visconti Venosta**, along which is the **Venosta-Andres Palace** now **Giacomoni [9]**, the most beautiful Sixteenth Century palace of the city. The façade is estimable, with contours and stringcourse in green stone and the lunettes. On the other side of the road is the **Cappella**

**Gentilizia dei Venosta**. Further on along the same road is the Eighteenth-Century **Visconti Venosta Palace [10]**, which belonged to the Visconti Venosta of Grosio. Its baroque access portal and the staircase are imposing. **Buttafava Palace [11]**, of renaissance origin follows next along the road. It belonged to the Venosta family and subsequently passed to other families. It boasts of beautiful railings, an elegant entrance hall with graffito decorations, a wide staircase and a large roof garden. Not far away is the late Eighteenth-Century **Omodei Palace** now **Pradella-Noli [12]**, with numerous late baroque examples, in particular the internal courtyard enclosed by an elevated walkway and with a colonnade, with the two palace buildings overlooking it. **Merizzi Palace [13]** is situated in the beginning of via Visconti Venosta. It was renovated between the seventeenth and early Eighteenth Century, by uniting two pre-existing Sixteenth Century small

palaces. Its facades face the internal courtyard, and windows are framed by elegant stucco decorations. The courtyard has porticos and loggias bearing the coats of arms of the women who married the Merizzi. Taking via XX Settembre, in front of the Parish Church, is **Venosta Palace** now **Quadrio Curzio [14]**. It has been renovated during the Eighteenth Century with the present entrance and the overlying loggia, the courtyard with a portico and the doors enclosed in stone and stuccoes towering over them. Across **Piazza San Martino**, following via Torelli, is **Torelli Palace [15]** articulated around a courtyard – it is a Baroque portal with an overlying elegant balcony. On the facade, now barely visible, is a fresco by Antonio Caimi in remembrance of the visit by San Carlo Borromeo to the Sanctuary of Tirano in 1580. The building was inhabited by the statesman Luigi Torelli (1810-1887). **Torre**





# The Centre outside the City Walls

## ROUTE

**Piazza Marinoni**

**Viale Garibaldi**

**Via Quadrio**

**Piazzetta Pievani**

**Via San Giacomo**

**Piazzetta Quadrio**

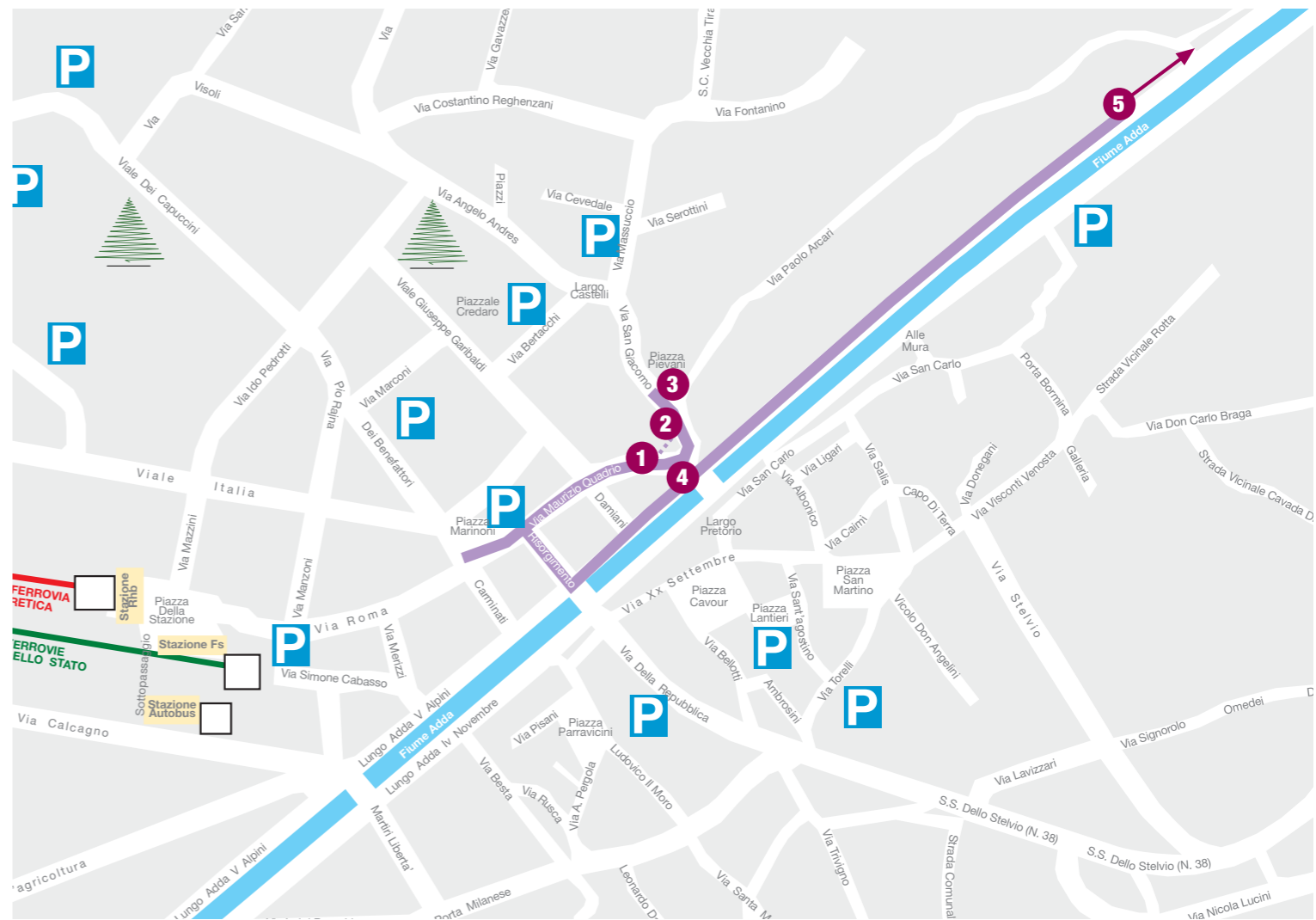
**Via Quadrio**

**Piazza Marinoni**

The route starts from the central Piazza Marinoni, reachable from Piazza della Stazione, following Viale Italia. On the right of Piazza Marinoni is the station of the road transport company Perego. The station represents a combination of late architectural historicism and Art-Deco. Extending on the opposite side of are the public gardens with the Monument to the fallen. Viale Garibaldi starts behind the monument, where one finds the School Building, built in 1908, in Liberty style. Walking along Via Quadrio, one gets to Piazzetta Quadrio, on the left of which is an elevated green space with, at the centre, **the sculpture of Mario Negri, Stele delle Migranti [1]**, dedicated to the emigrants of Valtellina and Valchiavenna. The rustic building that houses the **Public Library "Paolo e Paola Maria Arcari" [2]** overlooks the green area. Beyond the stone arch, next to the entrance to the library, is the small square of the **Casa Grana** later **Pievani Arcari [3]**, with the

adjacent Chiesetta di San Giacomo, deconsecrated during the First World War, and site of the civic library until 1994. Alongside the building along via Arcari one can stop at the internal garden with a vague romantic taste, from which one can admire the small Romanesque bell tower. Walking along via San Giacomo towards the Adda one gets to Piazzetta Maurizio Quadrio, dominated by **Foppoli Palace [4]**, an elegant Sixteenth Century building typical of the period with the portal and the internal courtyard with the external corridor on stone corbels, in addition to the hall on the ground floor, called the Fireplace Hall or Sala del Camino. During the Eighteenth Century, after passing to the Chiesa della Beata Vergine di Tirano, the ground floor was used as a tavern (there remains the typical opening in the shape of an inverted L on the front towards the river). Subsequently it passed to the Foppoli family, of which it still retains the name. The Foppoli family

assigned the property to an institution in favour of the emigrants of the area. It is presently owned by the Municipality of Tirano and is the seat of the civic exhibitions hall. Leaving behind Foppoli palace, on the left, along the River Adda, is an unwinding pedestrian and bicycle trail with fitness trail, along which, not far away, one can stop at the **Parchetto dei Gelsi [5]**. Proceeding along the pedestrian and bicycle path, in fact one walks along the Sentiero Valtellina in the direction of Sernio, Lovero and Grosio. Instead, if one wants to return toward Piazza Marinoni, one can walk along the long embankment towards the valley and turn left on to Largo Risorgimento, thus reaching the starting point of the route. The itinerary in the Centre outside the City Walls is connected from the same Marinoni Square to the other historical routes to discover of the city.





# Towards the Old Castle

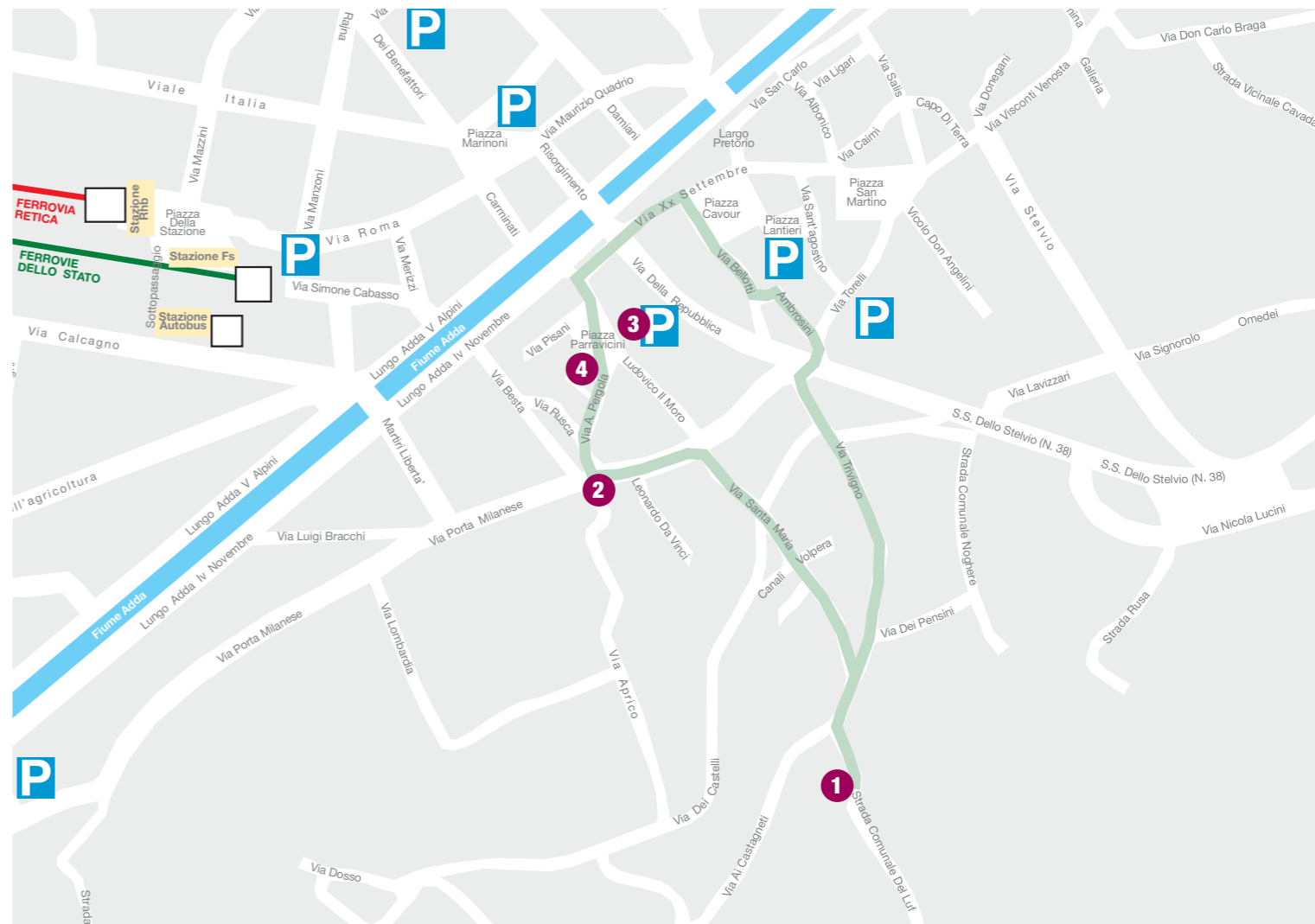
## ROUTE

- Piazza Cavour**
- Via XX Settembre**
- Piazza S. Martino**
- Via Torelli**
- Strada Comunale Castello**
- Via Santa Maria**
- Porta Milanese**
- Via Pergola**
- Piazza Parravicini**
- Piazza Cavour**

Starting from Piazza Cavour and crossing the central streets of the Historical Centre, one gets to Via Torelli. From here, after crossing the Trunk Road, one proceeds towards the municipal Strada Castello to get to **Castello di Santa Maria [1]**, known as *Castellaccio*. Having been an essential element of the defensive system of the village, it was built together with the defensive walls by Ludovico il Moro. The aim was that of defending Valtellina from the possible invasions of the Grigioni. The name "Santa Maria" was given because the old church bearing the same name and the adjoining hospital, dating back at least to the XII Century were demolished and incorporated in castle walls. The fortification of Tirano enjoyed more of a civic importance rather than a military one, with the exception of isolated episodes in the second decade of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, and this affected in

particular the urban development of the city up to the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. The ruins of the castle and the tower have recently been restored by the Municipality of Tirano. Going back along via Santa Maria, one takes via **Porta Milanese [2]** to get to the city gate bearing the same name and which formerly consented the passage towards Milan. Proceeding further on via Pergola one gets to **Piazza Parravicini**, dominated by Seventeenth-Century **Parravicini Palace [3]**, opposite which is a **fountain with an octagonal pool** and the **Chiesetta dell'Addolorata [4]**. From Piazza Parravicini, following the road on the right and then returning along the river, having crossed Via della Repubblica, from Via XX Settembre one gets to Piazza Cavour. At this point, the route can be integrated both with the route aimed at the discovery of the Historical Centre and the Palaces, and with the

broader route which touches the various Churches of the city. When one embarks on the discovery of the **Castles and the Architectures of the Mountain Community of Tirano**, a further suggestion is that of following the same thematic itinerary that connects the various historical sites of relevant in the Municipalities of Sernio, Lovero, Tovo, Mazzo, Grosotto and Grosio.





# Tirano Liberty

## ROUTE

**Piazza Stazione**

**Viale Italia**

**Piazza Marinoni**

**Viale Garibaldi**

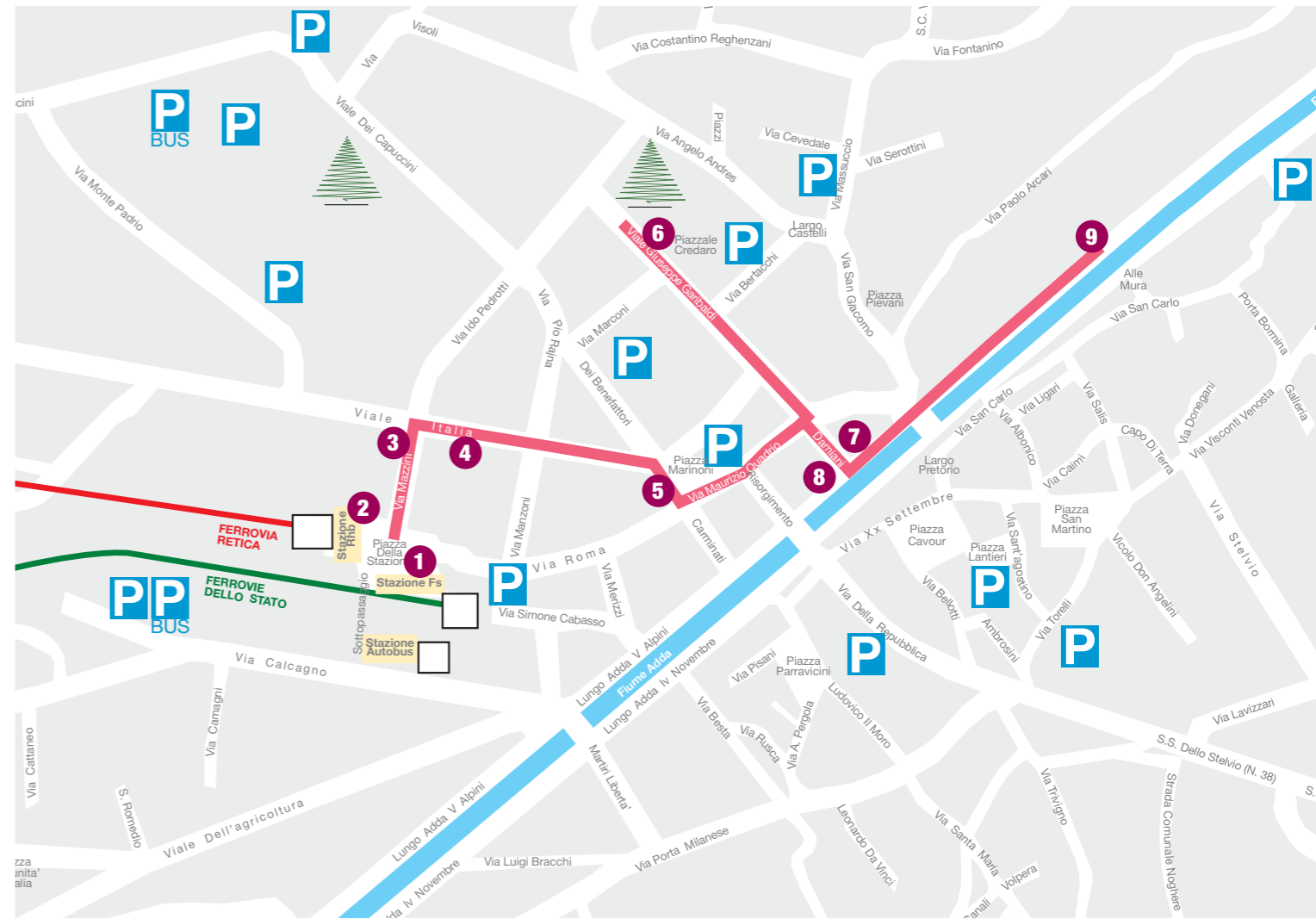
**Lungo Adda Ortigara**

The beginning of the Twentieth Century between the railway station, **Viale Italia**, **Piazza Marinoni** and the **along Adda Ortigara**, saw the construction of some of the most important Liberty buildings of Valtellina. The building of the **Stazione Ferroviaria (1908-1909) [1]**, designed by engineer Piccioli and by architect Ramponi overlooks the **Piazzale della Stazione**. While respecting the typical rules of a public edifice, it presents some originalities that can be found in the rectangular hipped roof surmounted by a wrought iron decorative crest, in the wooden gable, a recollection of the Swiss architecture of chalets, in the decorative motif present in the upper part of the frame of the windows of the first floor, and in Art Deco decoration of the pilaster strips. On the same square is the **Stazione delle Ferrovie Retiche [2]**, designed between 1926 and 1927 by a Swiss architect on behalf of the Bernina Railway. It represents a very

elegant example of Art Deco and pre-rationalist style, with reminiscences of the historic architecture in the columns that articulate the three-light window. The slate roof confers an Alpine tone to the construction. **Casa Merizzi [3]** is situated at the intersection with **Viale Italia**. It is one of the first Liberty buildings of Tirano and was commissioned in 1902 by Girolamo Merizzi to architect Ugo Zanchetta, while still a student at the Brera. The building is in the Venetian neo-gothic style, originally associated with the mountain architecture typologies evident in the top arc. The Alpine character of the building is evident in the corner bow window supported by two logs which come out from the wall of the building. Continuing along **Viale Italia** towards the **Piazza Marinoni**, on the right side of the road, is the **Casa dell'antiquario Chiodi [4]** (today the site of a pharmacy). Commissioned in 1924 by Francesco Chiodi, the greatest Valtellinese

antiquarian of the Twentieth Century, this building is a small concentrate of architectonic and neo-renaissance decorative motifs. The facade reflects the eclectic and historicist taste of the client. At the end of the road, on **Piazza Marinoni**, is **Stazione Perego [5]**, designed in 1926 by the architect of Bormio Clementino Clementi, who built all of the stations of the road transport company Perego using different stylistic forms. The station of Tirano is the one with the greatest scenic effect and perhaps his most important work, together with villa Peloni in Bormio. The facade is a combination of late architectonic historicism and Art-Deco. Across the square and the gardens is **Viale Garibaldi**; proceeding to the left is **School Building [6]**, the seat of the primary school. Designed in 1908 by architect Giuseppe Ramponi, it has a double twin façade system, with a long side facing the road. In the two entrance porches one can note the decorations of the arches

and the stone parapet, surmounted by the face of an Athena, symbol of wisdom, from which there departs a 'lash' hairstyle which is typically Liberty. Returning towards the River Adda and proceeding to the bank, turning right towards **Viale Italia**, is **Casa Clementi now Moretta [7]** (approx. 1910), and the masterpiece of architect Ramponi, the former **Villa Martinelli (1908)**, now **Soncelli [8]**, most accomplished and mature expression of Liberty architecture in Valtellina. Leaving behind **Viale Italia**, strolling along the embankment and taking the pedestrian trail, one can see **Villa Tognolatti [9]**, of which one notes the detail of the circular window on the facade.





# The Churches

## ROUTE

- Piazzetta Quadrio**
- Piazzetta Pievani**
- Piazza Cavour**
- Via XX Settembre**
- Via Caimi**
- Via Salis**
- Via San Carlo**
- Porta Bormina**
- Via Visconti Venosta**
- Via Torelli**
- Porta Milanese**
- Via Pergola**
- Piazza Parravicini**
- Piazza Marinoni**
- Viale Italia**
- Piazza Basilica**
- Via Rasica**
- Via San Rocco**

From **Piazzetta Quadrio**, beyond the stone arch beside the entrance to the library, is the square of **Casa Grana** later **Pievani Arcari**, with the adjacent **Chiesetta di San Giacomo [1]**, deconsecrated during the First World War, with a Fourteenth Century Romanesque bell tower and a portal dated 1731. On the way back to Piazzetta Quadrio and beyond **Porta Cavour**, **Poschiavina** one gets to **Piazza Cavour**. Overlooking **Piazza Cavour** is **Marinoni Palace**, an ancient convent of the Augustinians present in Tirano between the XV-XVII Century. Attached to the building is the **Church** dedicated to **San Nicola da Tolentino [2]**, also known as the Church of **Santa Teresa** or **Sant'Agostino**. Proceeding on **Via XX Settembre** one gets to the **Chiesa parrocchiale di San Martino [3]**, dedicated to the patron saint of the city, built in the XIII Century, but extensively remodelled in the Seventeenth Century. The Church conserves the bell tower

in Romanesque Lombard style of 1479. Considerably important is the **organ** built in 1852 by the **Serassi Brothers**. On the south side one notes a **sundial** dated 1674, while the parish house is impressive for the **copper triptych** dated 1958 of **Renzo Antamati**. After taking **Via Caimi** one turns in **Via Salis** where, connected to the important **Salis Palace**, is the **Chiesetta barocca dedicated to S. Carlo Borromeo [4]** which merits a visit. This is the first church of the Valtellina area dedicated to this saint. Proceeding along **Via S. Carlo** and **Porta Bormina** one turns right to **Via Visconti Venosta**. In front of the Sixteenth-Century **Venosta-Andres Palace** now **Giacomoni**, on the other side of the road, is the **Chiesetta dell' Angelo Custode [5]** (XV century), a family chapel of the **Venosta** family. Following the roads of the historic centre, from **Via Torelli** one proceeds to **Porta Milanese** and from here one deviates through **Via della Pergola**. Side by side the

Seventeenth-Century **Parravicini Palace** in **Piazza Parravicini**, are a fountain, with an octagonal pond and the **Chiesetta dell'Addolorata [6]** (1664). Having left the historical centre one goes back to **Piazza Marinoni** and on **Viale Italia**, is the **Basilica Della Madonna di Tirano [7]** (see description in the next page). Lifting one's gaze to the right on top, one notes the ancient **Chiesetta di S. Perpetua [8]** (X Century), built by a community of monks, perhaps the order of the **Umiliati**, to whom we owe during the Middle Ages, a large part the organization of the agrarian set-up in the area. The medieval frescoes discovered in 1987 were brought to light and restored in the apse of the church. They are some of the most ancient wall paintings of the province. Not far away, towards **Via Rasica** and towards **Valposchiavo** one can reach the **Chiesa di S. Rocco [9]** dated 1526, with an octagonal base. **Giangiaco** de **Medeghino**

(brother of the future pope **Pius IV**, Archpriest of **Mazzo**) ordered the construction of an octagonal fortress against the **Grigioni** masked as a temple. In 1531 the deception was discovered but the people of **Tirano** completed the temple. Beautiful portal dated '700 and a wooden altarpiece with statue of the saint.

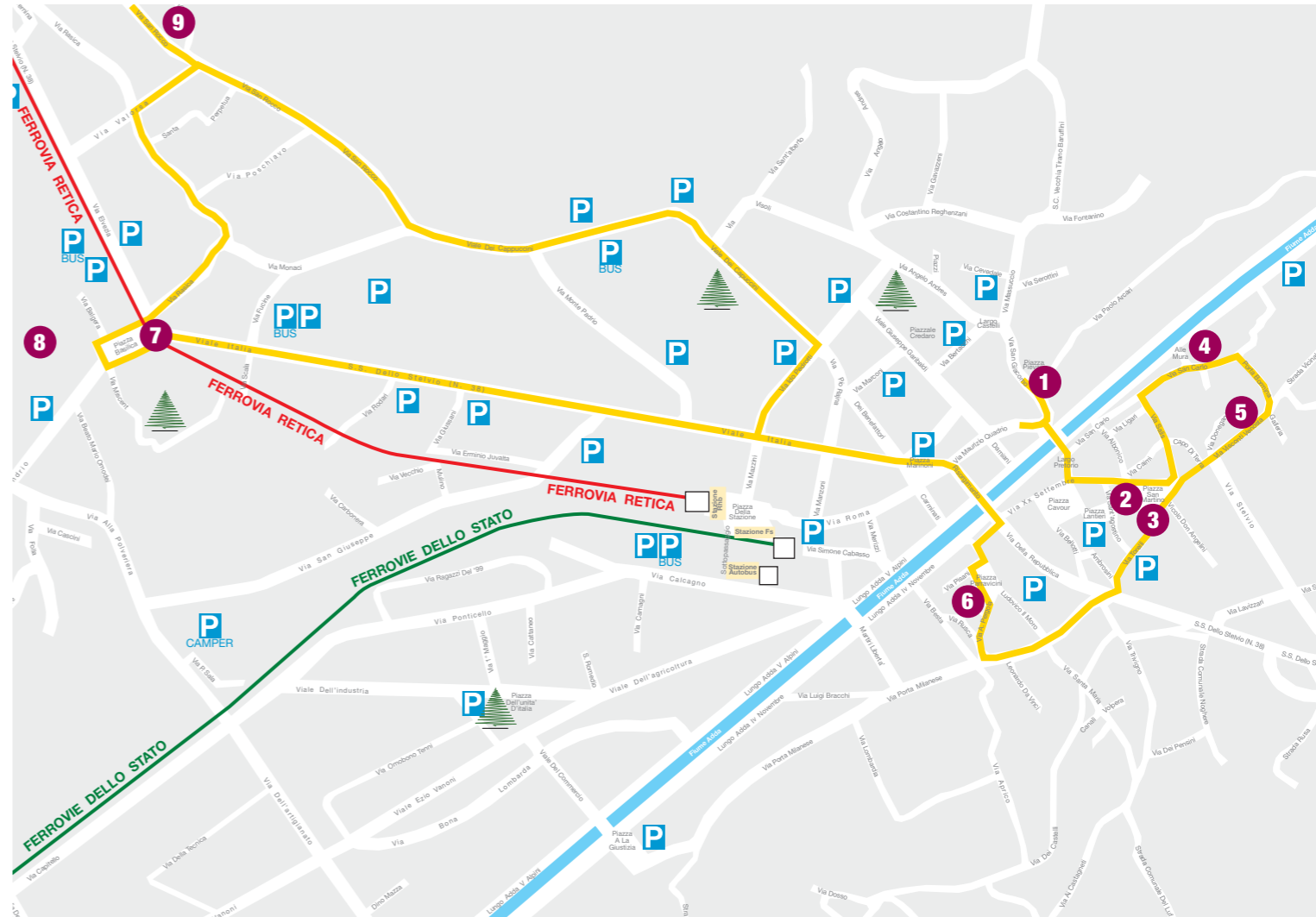
## IN THE DISTRICTS:

**Cologna (610mt):**  
**Chiesa SS. Trinità** (1537)  
Consecrated by the Bishop of **Coira**;

**Roncaiola (790mt):**  
**Chiesa dei Santi Stefano e Lucia**;

**Baruffini (800mt):**  
**Chiesa di S. Pietro Martire** (1536).

**Trivigno (1700mt):**  
**Chiesa di S. Gaetano**  
Constructed in 1701 with the contribution of Count **Ulisse Salis**.





# The Basilica



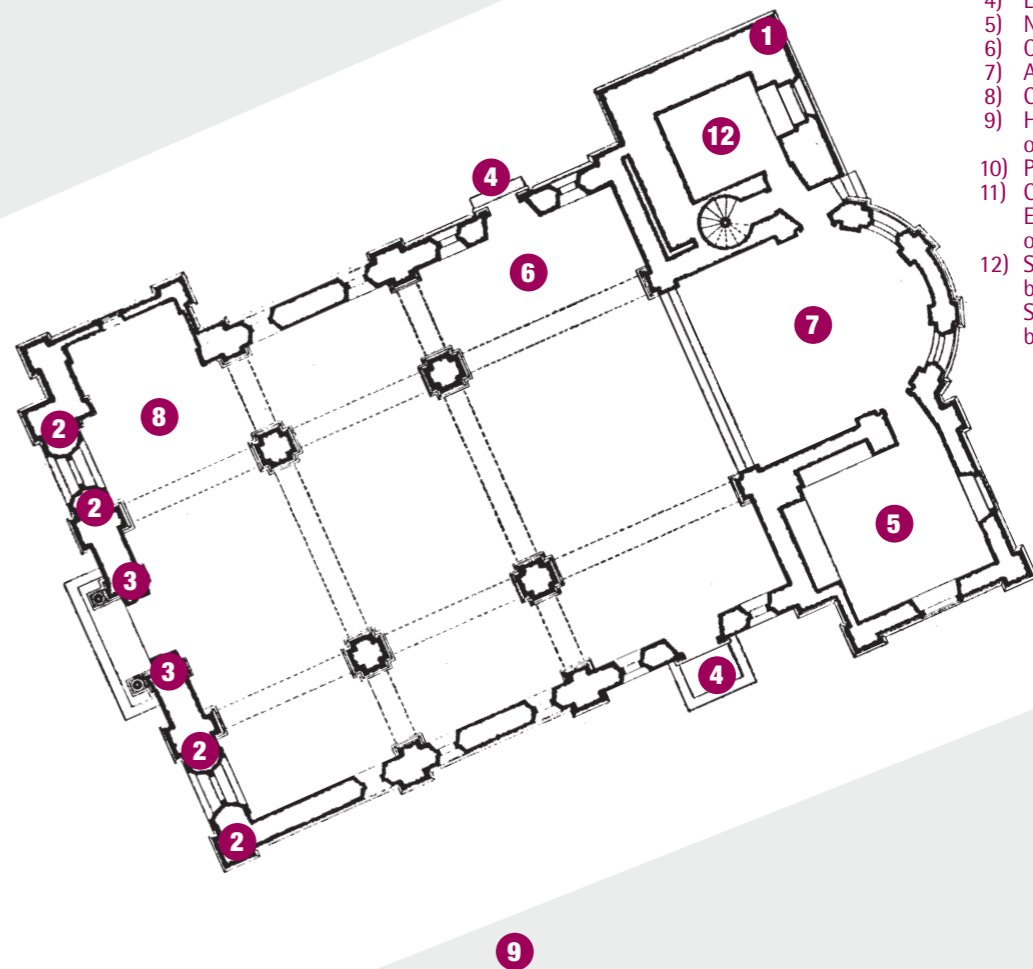
The Basilica is the most important monument of the province from the religious, historical, artistic point of view and is also a place of collective identification for the people of Valtellina. It was erected by popular faith after the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to Mario Omodei (1504). The prevailing renaissance characteristics of the temple, whose builders are deemed to be the Rodari brothers of Como, harmonise perfectly with the lines of Romanesque inspiration of the **belfry [1]** (1578) at the top of which is an elegant baroque marble structure with balustrade (1641). **The façade [2]** very slender is completed by a high gable. It has, at the base a beautiful **portal and two large marble windows [3]** finely worked, by the Ticinese A. Della Scala (1533). Also important are the **side portals [4]**, perhaps by Bernardino Rodari (1506). Even the complex of structures on the side of the apse are of considerable architectural harmony: **the building of the sacristy [5], the dome of Pompeo Bianchi**

(1584), and the bell tower on which one can get a glimpse of the graffiti, probably made by the Grosino painter Cipriano Valorsa. **The interior of the temple is rich in works of art and stuccoes. Among these, the most evident one is the great baroque seventeenth century organ [6]** several times referred to as a national rarity for the wealth of engravings of its case. However, even the **pulpit, the choir loft, the high altar, the choir [7]**, the canvases and the interesting **popular fresco on one side of the aisle on the left, are also very important. In particular, this fresco is the first dedicated to the Apparition. The point of the Church subject to specific devotion of the faithful is constituted by the Altar of the Apparition [8]** (the dominating statue was done by G. Del Majno of Pavia). Behind it, protected by a grate is the place indicated by the Seer where Mary appeared. In Piazza del Santuario the set-up which the buildings constructed for the sake of the temple have conferred to it still

predominates: the ancient "**Hostaria granda**" del S. Michele [9], built immediately after the apparition to host the pilgrims and which now hosts a social work entity, and the series of "fondaci", small shops functional to the renowned fairs of goods and livestock, which took place there and the progression of which was the decisive factor for almost three centuries for the economy of the entire valley. Anyone leaving the temple through the main door will be able to observe in the left corner the two stone pillars still equipped with the hinges of the door that once closed the entrance to the square towards west; in front **the elegant pavilion fountain [10]** concluded by Longhi (the author of the altar of Our Lady) in 1780. On the left side of the Square, while looking at the facade of the Sanctuary, we find the **Casa Del Penitenziere now Ethnographic Museum of Tirano [11]**.

10

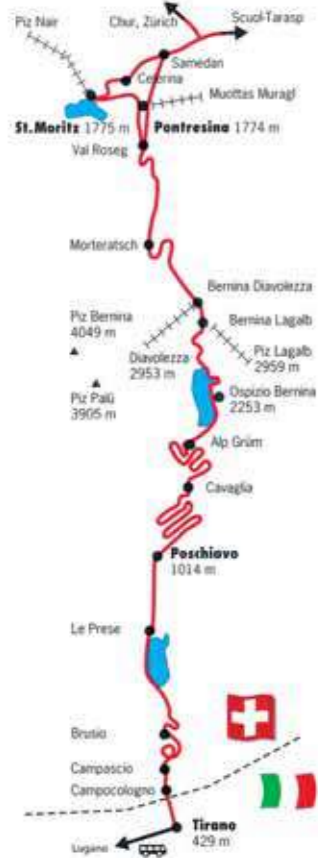
11



- 1) Torre Campanaria
- 1) Belfry
- 2) Façade
- 3) Main Portal
- 4) Lateral Portals
- 5) New Sacristy
- 6) Organ
- 7) Apse
- 8) Chapel of Our Lady
- 9) Hostaria Granda of S. Michele
- 10) Pavilion Fountain
- 11) Casa del Penitenziere - Ethnographic Museum of Tirano
- 12) Sacristy of the beginning of the Sixteenth Century and base of the belfry



# The Bernina Express (Trenino Rosso)



## *From Tirano to St. Moritz, on the road with the nose glued to the window*

The railway tale of the Bernina Express departs from Tirano (429 metres above sea level). Leaving Valtellina, the Bernina Express caresses in its first curve the Sixteenth Century Basilica della Madonna di Tirano, and from here it starts its ascent, from one surprise to another, between the chestnut trees, leaving behind the vineyards of the great Valtellina wines, which are also red not by coincidence. One doesn't even have the time to feel truly on the road that, just like children, one remains immediately enchanted when the train seems to be chasing itself on the exposed helical viaduct of Brusio - one of the many engineering works, certainly the most photographed, such to become a symbolic image of the brand UNESCO World Heritage Site. Such an incredible emotion which leads you to believe that you are sitting in a small train model, just like plenty of Lilliputians. The Bernina Express proceeds and

ascends up to Poschiavo, the capital of this valley, Val Poschiavina, linguistically and culturally linked for centuries with Valtellina, after having brushed against the cobalt green lake bearing the same name. After leaving Poschiavo the train starts its true ascent until it reaches the 2253 metres of the station of Ospizio Bernina. A railway ascent, passing from one bridge to another, from one tunnel to another, from one curve to another, from the plateau of Cavaglia, with its Geological Park "Giardino dei Ghiacciai", to arrive then to the Alp Grüm station, panoramically overlooking the glacier of Palù. After leaving the Bernina Pass, the small train starts its descent, brushing against the Lago Bianco and the Lej Nair (Black Lake), which mark the watershed between the Po river basin and the Rhine river basin, from here accompanying their waters to the Black Sea. It is difficult to watch all that is beyond the windows, especially in winter, when just here - while crossing the

Bernina Pass - the Bernina Express runs with its fantastic slowness between snow walls and white boulders fading gradually in the blue of the sky or in the whiteness of the snow which the wind lifts up. And when you think that you got used to surprises, after having left the departure stations of the two cable-cars of Lagalb and Diavolezza, the first true encounter with the owner of your small train awaits you: the Bernina. You will see it, while with your eyes you will ascend the large glacier of Morteratsch, as you stop in the small station in the woods bearing the same name. Do not worry if at times grumpily, due to a completely regal confidentiality, you will not be able to notice "the great Bernina" because it will be covered with clouds. However its court of glaciers and summits will always be there, only for your eyes. By now, the trip of the centennial is about to end, after having arrived in Engadina. First stop is Pontresina, and from here finally, after the last twirling in the woods

and after 2,5 hours of wonders from the small window, here we are in St. Moritz. A walk by the lake, a chocolate from Hanselman and above all a visit to the Segantini Museum and then, with a simple change of rail, your fairy-tale trip can continue, departing to Thusis through the Albula Pass.





## ***A land of great Valtellina Wines***

From Tirano to BIANZONE, both of them Cities of Wine, passing through Villa di Tirano, one goes through one of the most beautiful enological tours of Lombardy. By car or by bicycle, brushing by the famous grapevine terracings of the Rhaetian side, there are many wine cellars associated with the Consorzio Tutela Vini Valtellina, which welcome the visitors for a visit to their historic cellars, to taste the famous DOC and DOCG wines of Valtellina and for a "tasty" purchase to take home upon their return from the trip to Tirano and the Municipalities of its Commercial District.

*For information*  
Consorzio Vini Valtellina  
[www.consorziovinivaltellina.com](http://www.consorziovinivaltellina.com)

## ***The goodness of the agricultural and food products***

A visit to the various shops and commercial outlets is enough to get to know and appreciate "all the tastes" of the local food products and fine food and wine which the territory of Tirano and the bordering territories can offer. In this way one can purchase the best of the typical produce of Valtellina. Otherwise one can just plan a tasty visit directly to the various agricultural producers. Not to be missed are the various food and wine events which, on their own, are worth a stay with the aim of enjoying the true tastes of the mountain and of the territory of Tirano.

*For information on the producers:*  
Distretto Agroalimentare di Qualità della Valtellina  
[www.valtellinachegusto.eu](http://www.valtellinachegusto.eu)

## ***Main enogastronomic events in Tirano and surroundings***

**May - Tirano**  
**Open Cellars**  
Last weekend of May

**July - Teglio**  
**Pizzoccheri Feast**

**August - Tirano**  
**Festival of Chisciöi**

**August - Tirano**  
**Tiranotte**

**September - Sernio**  
**Chisciöi Feast**

**September - Tirano**  
**Tirano in Autumn**

**From September to November - Teglio**  
**Pizzocchero D'Oro and Tastes of Autumn Festival in the partnering restaurants**

**October - Villa di Tirano**  
**Apple and Grapes Festival**

*Info on the calendar of events:*

**Tourist Information Office**  
Tel. 0342 706066  
[iattirano@valtellinaturismo.com](mailto:iattirano@valtellinaturismo.com)

**Tourist Consortium Terziere Superiore**  
Tel. 0342 705 568  
[www.valtellinaturismo.com](http://www.valtellinaturismo.com)  
[info@valtellinaturismo.com](mailto:info@valtellinaturismo.com)





# Itineraries for Cyclists

## The Valtellina Path

The Valtellina Path is a cycle and pedestrian route of over 90 km which, running parallel to the course of the Adda River passes through a good part of the Valtellina. It is practicable from Colico to Grosio. Stretches that travel across Tirano:

**From Tirano towards Grosio**, with departure from the Lungo Adda Ortigara towards the East.

**From Tirano towards Sondrio**, with departure from the right bank of Poschiavino, towards the West.

*Information on the whole route:*  
[www.valtellina.it](http://www.valtellina.it)

## Itineraries for mountain bikes in the surroundings of Tirano

**Val Belviso** Departure from Tresenda

**Aprica-Santa Cristina-Pian di Gembro-Trivigno**

Departure from Aprica

**Passo della Foppa-Passo di Guspessa** Departure from Grosio

**From Madonna di Tirano to Scala and to Lughina** Departure from Tirano

**From Tirano to Lago Schiazzera** Departure from Tirano

**Anello della Val Grosina Occidentale** Departure from Bivio for Presacce-Western Val Grosina

**Poschiavo-Albertuesc-Canal** Departure from Poschiavo (CH)

**Miralago-Poschiavo-San Romerio-Viano** Departure from Miralago (CH)

*Information and detailed routes:*  
[www.sentieri.cmtirano.so.it](http://www.sentieri.cmtirano.so.it)  
[www.altarezia.eu](http://www.altarezia.eu)

## Itineraries for road cycling

From Tirano, lovers of road cycling can programme different paths.

**Towards Switzerland**, Val Poschiavo and the Bernina Pass;

following the road network axis of the

**Trunk Road 38 of the Stelvio**, or ascending the famous

**Passo del Mortirolo**.

**Towards Valcamonica** through the Passo dell'Aprica

*Information on the detailed routes and road layouts:*  
[www.valtellina.it](http://www.valtellina.it)





# Excursions and tracks

## The UNESCO track

It is a hiking path which from Thusis reaches Tirano, connecting Switzerland with Italy. Running along it is the track of the Rhaetian Railway, which has been declared UNESCO World Heritage. Subdivided into 10 daily stages, it alternates between paths to trails which are practicable also in train and passes through unique and spectacular Alpine landscapes, from the valley of Albula to Val Bever, from the Alta Engadina to St. Moritz, from the Bernina Pass, to Val Poschiavo, thereby ending in Tirano in Valtellina.

*Information:*  
Tourist Consortium  
Terziere Superiore di  
Tirano  
[www.valtellinaturismo.com](http://www.valtellinaturismo.com)  
Ferrovie Retiche  
[www.rhb.ch](http://www.rhb.ch)

## The Alpine Road

The Via Alpina is a great trail that crosses the Alps, from Trieste to Montecarlo. Even Valtellina, from the Stelvio Mountain Pass to Valchiavenna, as well as the neighbouring Swiss territory of the Cantone dei Grigioni, are crossed by 14 stages of the Via Alpina. Two of these, the R75 and R76 pass on the territory of Tirano

STAGE - R75 Rifugio

Schiazzera - Tirano

STAGE - R76 Tirano

Poschiavo

Detailed description of

Via Alpina in Valtellina:

[www.via-alpina.org](http://www.via-alpina.org)

## Valtellina path

This excursionist mountain path is divided in eight stages and follows the path of the "somieri" or wine carriers who used to carry the wine of Valtellina from Tirano to Schruns (Austria) through the Bernina Pass.  
[www.viavaltellina.ch](http://www.viavaltellina.ch)

## Ring road path of Baruffini

It is a panoramic hiking road, long in the development, but with a contained drop. It departs from Baruffini and unwinds, reaching the quarters upstream of the fraction and connects the countless tracks that carve the steep walls of the Masuccio, from the excavated roads to the trails and the military mule tracks, offering a significant route in geographical, ethnographical, historical and naturalistic terms in this mountain range that is not to be remembered exclusively for smuggling.

## Smuggling trail

An excursionist path surrounded by nature and history following the steps of the smugglers or "spalloni" who passed through here towards the neighbouring Switzerland loaded with cigarettes, sugar and coffee.

## The Path of the Sun

It is a hiking path which, passing through the territory of Tirano, winds along the Rhaetian bank

of Valtellina, from Montagna in Valtellina to Grosotto. The "Path of the Sun" follows the old peasants' paths, the cobblestone mule tracks, the transhumance paths, which connect abandoned villages with others which are inhabited all year round, churches and castles. It is practicable, snow permitting, practically all year round.

**From Tirano:** two roads of the path of the Sun. Toward the west, directed to Dalico above Castionetto di Chiuro. Toward the East, in the direction of Grosotto.

## Thematic Tracks

Castles and architectures of the Mountain Community of Tirano

Route: Grosio, Lovero, Grosotto, Tovo, Sernio, Vervio and Mazzo.

At the discovery of the tastes and the perfumes of the Terziere Superiore  
Route: Villa di Tirano, Bianzone, Teglio, Chiuro, Ponte in Valtellina.

*Information:*  
Tourist Consortium  
Terziere Superiore di  
Tirano  
[www.valtellinaturismo.com](http://www.valtellinaturismo.com)





# Nature

## **Natural Reserve of Pian di Gembro (Villa di Tirano)**

The peat bog of Pian di Gembro is a Partial Botany Natural Reserve situated in the Municipality of Villa di Tirano between Aprica and Trivigno. The origin of the peat bog dates back to the last glaciations, about ten thousand years ago, when a strip of the glacier of the Adda River streamed toward that of Oglio river, modelling the basin of Pian di Gembro, then occupied by a lake that over the years has been invaded by vegetable debris. The acidity of the soil and the lack of oxygen have slowed down the processes of decomposition of the plant material thus encouraging the formation of a layer of peat. The vegetation of Pian di Gembro has some rare species, typical of the post glacial periods.

**Route:** from Tirano to Trivigno and then proceed in the direction of Aprica  
**Opening hours:** Always open to the public  
**Information:**  
[www.cmtirano.it](http://www.cmtirano.it)

## **Naturalistic Area Le Piane (Sernio)**

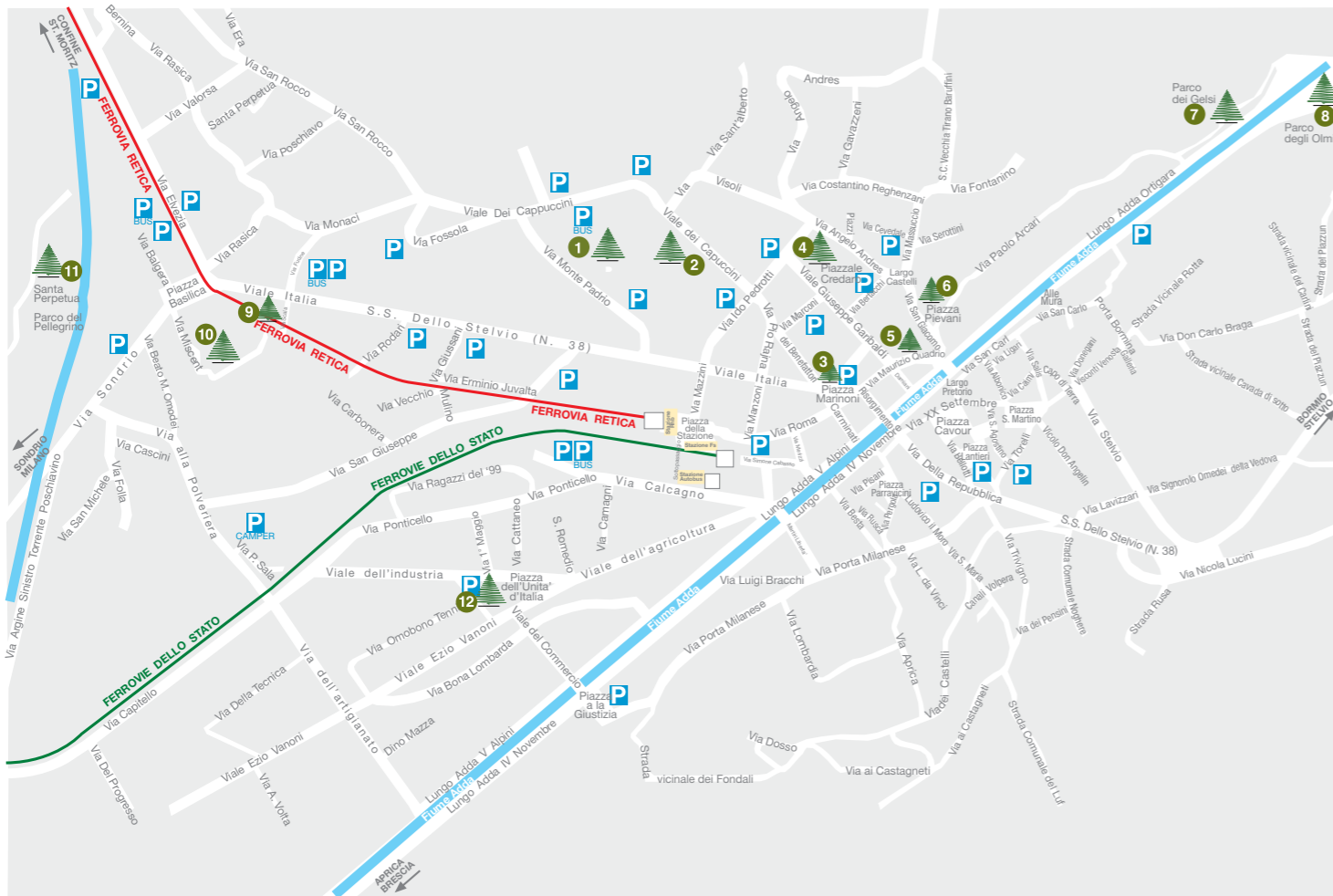
The naturalistic area is located on the shores of the artificial lake of Sernio-Lovero. The naturalistic trails, arranged by Legambiente, in collaboration with A2A spa (the owner of the land and of the hydroelectric plant), have led to change the perception of that place, making it an interesting naturalistic area. The path starts from the environment of the dry wood, in contact with the sunny side, and proceeds on the shores.

**Route:**  
Tirano – From the Lungo Adda Ortigara one proceeds on foot or by bicycle towards the mountain by taking the pedestrian and cycle track  
In the vicinity of the area there is **Casanatura di Legambiente**, available for stays.  
**Information and bookings:** Circolo Legambiente Valtellina  
Cell. 339 3465918  
[ruggero.spada@tele2.it](mailto:ruggero.spada@tele2.it)  
[www.retenatura.it](http://www.retenatura.it)





## Town parks



### Parco delle Torri Nuove [1]

Between Via Cappuccini and Via Monte Padrio, provided with services, car parks and wide tarmac polyfunctional area, it hosts the weekly market and the luna park during exhibitions.

### Parco di Viale Cappuccini [2]

Picnic Area equipped with games and close to parking spaces, accessible from via Cappuccini, Via Monte Padrio and Via Pedrotti

### Giardini di Piazza Marinoni [3]

In the central area of Tirano, a green zone recently enhanced by a new lighting system; between the old linden trees there is now an outstanding obelisk of the Monument to the Fallen of the Great War

### Parco dei Maestri [4]

In Viale Garibaldi, near the Credaro elementary school, an enveloped area equipped with games, particularly suitable for small children.

### Parco dell'Emigrante [5]

Between Piazzetta Trombini and Biblioteca Arcari, a relaxing corner embellished by frameworks of wisteria pergola, in the centre of which stands the monument dedicated to the emigrants from Valtellina created by Mario Negri.

### Giardino di Palazzo Arcari [6]

A quiet green corner has recently been opened to the public in the street with the same name. In this green corner stands the ancient bell tower of the Chiesetta di San Giacomo.

### Parco dei Gelsi [7]

Beyond the inhabited area, passing on the right of the river Adda, an area shaded by old and leafy mulberries.

### Parco degli Olmi [8]

Beyond the Sports Centre, it is equipped with covered areas for various events during the summer period.

### Giardino del Cinquecentenario [9]

In Viale Italia, recently restructured to accommodate the monument "Bene Avrai" by Michele Falciani in honour of the quincennial of the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

### Parco San Michele [10]

It can be reached from Via Sondrio, from Viale Italia and from Piazza Basilica through the ancient via Miscent, a large area equipped with games, basketball pitch, and football area and polyfunctional kiosk.

### Parco del Pellegrino [11]

Sheltered by the very old Chiesetta di Santa Perpetua, in a dominant position above the Madonna district, reachable from Via Elvezia or Piazza Basilica along a steep and suggestive footpath.

### Piazza Unità d'Italia [12]

Located within the "Cartiera" residential area, to the side of Viale Vanoni, it was inaugurated in 2011. The area, equipped with games and a large green space, is characterized by the presence of a polyfunctional steel roof pavilion, suitable for various types of events.

### Numeri Utili

Municipio - tel. 0342 701256  
Comunità Montana Valtellina di Tirano  
tel. 0342 708511  
Museo Etnografico Tiranese - tel. 0342 701181  
Biblioteca Civica - tel. 0342 702572  
Polizia locale - tel. 0342 708 308  
Carabinieri 112 - tel. 0342 709900  
Guardia di Finanza 117 - tel. 0342 701223  
Polizia di Frontiera - tel. 0342 708611  
Vigili del Fuoco 115 - tel. 0342 701222  
Corpo Forestale 1515 - tel. 0342 702295  
Polizia Stradale - tel. 0342 545011  
Dogana - tel. 0342 701198  
Pronto Soccorso - Emergenze - tel. 118  
Ferrovia del Bernina - tel. 0342 701353  
Autolinee Perego - tel. 0342 701200  
Taxi - tel. 0342 701927  
Piscina Comunale - tel. 0342 710385  
Tiro a segno nazionale - tel. 0342 710420  
Tennis (info: c/o Bar Lucignolo) - tel. 0342 701876





## COME ARRIVARE

### In Treno:

Linea Trenord Milano-Lecco-Sondrio-Tirano (treni diretti da Milano Centrale)  
 Linea Trenord Bergamo-Lecco-Tirano  
 Linea Trenord Como-Lecco-Tirano  
 Ferrovia Retica St. Moritz - Tirano

### In Auto / Bus Turistico:

Da Milano si percorre la SS 36 (Milano-Lecco-Colico) e poi la SS 38 (Colico-Sondrio-Tirano)  
 Da Brescia si attraversa la Valle Camonica e il Passo dell'Aprica (sconsigliato per i bus)

### Dalla Svizzera:

Dal Passo del Bernina si prosegue per Poschiavo-Tirano  
 Dal Passo del Maloja, si percorre la SS 36 (Chiavenna-Morbegno) e poi la SS 38 (Morbegno-Sondrio-Tirano)  
 Dal Passo dello Spluga, si percorre la SS 36 (Chiavenna-Morbegno) e poi la SS 38 (Morbegno-Sondrio-Tirano)

### In Bus di Linea:

Linea MILANO-LECCO-(Teglio/Aprica)-BORMIO-Santa Caterina Valfurva-(Livigno)  
 Autolinee Perego  
 Piazza Stazione, 3 - 23037 Tirano  
 Tel. +39 0342 701 200 - Fax + 39 0342 704 400  
[www.busperego.com](http://www.busperego.com)

### In Camper

Area attrezzata in via Polveriera.  
 Da Sondrio: alla rotonda a destra prima di giungere al Santuario.  
 Dalla Svizzera: alla rotonda della Piazza Basilica svoltare a destra, direzione Sondrio, e alla rotonda, a sinistra.  
 Da Bormio: direzione Sondrio, alla rotonda di Piazza Basilica andare dritti, e alla rotonda, a sinistra

