

direction: Siena
San Gimignano

Madonna del Carmine Church

map of PECCIOLI



Peccioli is an Orange Flag Municipality

Orange Flag (Bandiera Arancione) is a trademark of the association Touring Club Italiano awarded to small villages and communities in the Italian inland that stand out for high quality of hospitality and excellence in accommodation services.



- Tourist Information Office
- Praetorian Palace Museum
- Collection of Russian Icons "Francesco Bigazzi"
- Collection of wooden and bronze icons "Belvedere S.p.A."
- Collection of Russian bronze Icons "Giuseppe e Paola Berger"
- Collection of Engravings and Litographies "Donazione Vito Merlini"



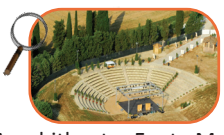
La Castellaccia (panoramic garden)



Caffè Haus



Public Library Fonte Mazzola



Amphitheater Fonte Mazzola



San Verano's Church and Bell Tower of Bellincioni

- Foundation Peccioliper
- Town Hall

Countryside of "Le Serre"

direction: Fabbrica
Montelopio
Montecchio

direction: Pontedera
FI-PI-LI Expressway

- Multifunctional Centre
- Belvedere S.p.A.

- Local Police
- Sport Facilities and Cycling Track
- direction: Volterra



Legend

	Free Parking		Local Police		Public Library Fonte Mazzola
	Multilevel Car Park		Panoramic Point		Free WIFI area
	Lift		Children Playground		Tourist Information Office
	ATM		Public Toilet (inside the underground car park)		Misericordia of Peccioli
	Post Office		Public Fountain		Carabinieri Station
	Pharmacy		Quality Filtered Water		

Museums

- 1 Praetorian Palace Museum
- 2 Tourist Information Office
- 3 Archaeological Museum
- 4 Museum of Sacred Art
- 5 Bell Tower

Contemporary Art

Monuments and historical palaces

Details about contemporary art, monuments and historical palaces are shown in the backpage of this map and are marked by lightblue or violet color.

Useful numbers

Municipality of Peccioli...	(+39)0587/67.261	Postoffice.....	(+39)0587/63.54.37
Belvedere S.p.A.....	(+39) 0587/67.20.72	Civil Protection Department (24h.).....	(+39)0587/73.44.56
Foundation Peccioliper.....	(+39) 0587/67.21.58	Emergency medical service (USL5 La Rossa).....	(+39)0587/27.38
Tourist Information Office...	(+39) 0587/93.64.23		
Underground car park.....	(+39)0587/63.52.82		
Misericordia of Peccioli...	(+39) 0587/63.51.32		
Local Police.....	(+39) 0587/67.24.67	Public Services:	
Carabinieri of Peccioli....	(+39) 0587/63.50.18	Public Library.....	(+39) 0587/67.21.22
Pharmacy of Peccioli....	(+39)0578/63.50.15	Sport Facilities.....	(+39) 0587/67.02.44
Pharmacy of Fabbrica...	(+39)0587/69.72.22	SwimmingPool.....	(+39)0587/67.02.44

The hamlet of Peccioli

Peccioli is an old hilltop village in the Era Valley, whose name probably refers to the archaic "picea", in Italian "peccio" (English "spruce", "wild pine tree"). It arose and grew around a castle that, from a high vantage point, overlooked a wide stretch of the land crossed by the Era river, which was the theatre of fierce disputes between Florence, Pisa and Volterra. The outline of the town, made unique by the original bell tower, is included in a landscape of Tuscan countryside with olive groves, vineyards and pleasant hills. The land is rich in historic and artistic landmarks and it is dotted with characteristic villages such as Cedri, Fabbrica, Ghizzano, Libbiano, Legoli, Montecchio and Montelopio.

Commented route

We suggest you park in the multilevel car park, take the lift to level 6 and visit the historical centre of Peccioli, which is rich in medieval and contemporary works of art, following our suggested route. Exiting the **Multilevel car park**, almost immediately you can admire the work **Fessura e Contravvento II** by Federico De Leonardis **1** which represents both the wind gusts that lash the hill and the effects of time by means of cement slabs and a deep crack in the structure of the car park. Going on to the left along Via del Giardino, you arrive at **St. Verano's Church** **1** whose existence has been documented since the second half of 12th century. Despite all the alterations that followed, one after the other, since that time, it remains an important example of the Pisan Romanesque style. We would like to point out the Latin inscription "Albertino fecit (h)anc operam" on the façade, which probably preserves the name of the builder of the church, and on the southern side a plaque, which according to a popular urban legend could be the effigy of the countess Matilde di Canossa (1046 – 1115). Worth a visit is the **Museum of Sacred Art** inside the church in the Assumption Chapel **4**. Our walk continues into Piazza del Popolo, where you will find the **Palace of the Municipality of Peccioli**, just opposite the **Bell Tower of St. Verano's Church** **5**. Forty-two metres high and with its distinctive outline, the bell tower recalls some arabesque architectures. Soon after its construction, it became the symbol of Peccioli and a reference point for the whole territory. Opposite the church on the same square is the **Praetorian Palace** **2**, dating back to the medieval time, home first to the consoles of the Pisan Commune, and later to the podestà of the Florentine Government. The coats of arms of the podestà that governed the town one after another are preserved on the façade and on the inner walls. The old building houses the **Praetorian Palace Museum** **1** and the **Tourist Information Office** **2** and two works of the artist Vittorio Corsini: one is **Chiacchiere** **2** (1995), a space suspended in time and a tribute to the Tuscan tradition of

using the internal courtyards of palaces as a place for the community to meet and sit; the second is **Fonte** **3** (1995), in a location once used as a prison, where thirteen cabinets of glass display traditional demijohns or damigianas which can be found in all Tuscan cellars. Walking on along Via Matteotti, at number 53, you can see the **Palace Nieri – Nocchi** **3**, a residence of landowners from Pisa and Florence since the 18th century, including the families Orsini and Pescatori. A bit further on there is a very well preserved stretch of the **medieval brick walls** **4**, which is probably where the Pisan Gates once were, namely one of the two main access ways to the old town. The walls continued most probably along the existing via Borgherucci, via Del Giardino, via Monsavino and on the opposite side along via dei Bastioni and via Corbiano, ending onto via del Carmine.

The **Church of the Madonna del Carmine** **5** overlooking Piazza del Carmine, was built around the mid 17th century, as the date 1644 on the wooden leaves of the portal suggests. Inside you will find a fifteenth-century fresco, which represents the **Madonna on Throne with the Child, St. Joseph and St. Verano**. During the second half of 17th century a canvas with a central rectangular opening was superimposed onto the fresco. This canvas today is preserved at the Museum of Sacred Art. Over an altar on the left is a 17th century canvas portraying the **Madonna del Carmelo**. At the opposite end of the same square you find the **Fondi Rustici Palace** **6**, which belonged to the New Hospital of Pisa at least since the Middle Age, as witnessed by the coat of arms A(lexander) E(piscopus) and the inscription H(ospitali) N(ovi) P(isarum) over one of the portals. In the 18th century the palace belonged to the family Dufour-Berte and from the beginning of the 20th century to the Gaslini Foundation of Genoa. Today it is a property of the company **Belvedere S.p.A.** and hosts the offices, as well as the **Archaeological Museum** **3** which is set up in the old cellars. The **Red Tower** **7** of the Palace dates back to the medieval time and, in all likelihood, was a part of the ancient walls.

Continuing up along via del Carmine and turning into via Marconi, at number 7 you can find an interesting example of a palace in Art Nouveau style. Through a gate in one of the buildings on the opposite side you can access a staircase which takes you up to the **Punto Panoramico La Castellaccia** **8**, the highest point of the urban centre, where the original fortress of the medieval castle was once located. In the fortress there were probably two dungeons, even though in the effigy of the coat of arms of the Municipality of Peccioli we see only one (the same effigy is also visible in the locket buckle of St. Verano's cloak, in the painting displayed in the Sacred Art Museum). Here Vittorio Messina made his sculpture **Acropolis** **4** in 1993, which highlights the fundamental importance of the place. It is a clear reference to the worship facilities of the ancient world, that were usually set in the

highest point of a town. At the bottom of the staircase, the same artist created **Fontana** **5** which calls to mind the presence of a fountain for the purification near a sanctuary. Going on along via Corbiano and via dei Bastioni, you will see another work made in 1992 by Messina. It is a **brick stele** **6** with an opening that is crossed by the sunlight at sunrise. Further on it is possible to see a **Cross** **9** with the Symbols of the Passion of Christ, an attestation of ancient forms of popular devotion. A further reference to the traditions of rural world is **Bastone** **7** by Federico De Leonardis, a work of 1996. At the crossing between via Bastioni and via Carraia you find **Colonna che scende** **8** (1992), a sculpture by Hidetoshi Nagasawa which is inserted into the medieval wall structure. Going down left along via Carraia, at number 9 there is a **palace** which belonged to the noble family **Almeni** from Florence and then to the family **Dufour Berte**, important landowners and wine producers. The palace is on three floors and the basements house a cellar with casks. On the main door are the initials of the family in wrought iron. On the façade is a rectangular stone plate with the writing "Almeni" next to the coats of arms of the family. The palace was restored by Mario Cucinella and took the name of **Timeless Palace** **10**. It has a suspended terrace that overlooks a magnificent countryside. Going back up into town you pass through the **Volterranean Gates** **11**, still today the Southern access into the medieval town. Left from the gates is Piazza Monsavino and the **Pescatori Palace** **12**. This Renaissance building is a property of the descendants of the noble family Pescatori from Florence. On the main floor of the palace are frescoes and decorations from the 18th century which portray some stories from the Old Testament, along with allegorical and mythological scenes.

Continuing through via del Giardino you arrive at the so-called **Caffè Haus** **13**, built around the end of 18th century as a meeting point for the nobility of the time. Recently the backyard of the building was enhanced by the work **Omaggio a Benozzo Gozzoli** **9**, by Mariella Bettineschi, who is inspired by the frescoes of the original tabernacle of Gozzoli in Legoli, 15 minutes from Peccioli.

Restaurants, bars and shopping

In the centre of Peccioli visitors can choose among several restaurants, pizzerias, bistros and bars where local specialities may be sampled.

The town also offers many opportunities for shopping, with stores and small shops especially in the old centre.

Legend

- Museums
- Monuments and historical buildings
- Works of contemporary art

PRÆTORIAN PALACE MUSEUM

The old Praetorian Palace, dating back to the Medieval time, hosts four Collections:



COLLECTION OF RUSSIAN ICONS "FRANCESCO BIGAZZI"
COLLECTION OF WOODEN AND BRONZE ICONS "BELVEDERE S.P.A."
COLLECTION OF RUSSIAN BRONZE ICONS "GIUSEPPE E PAOLA BERGER"
 The museum was opened in 2000 as the result of an agreement between the Municipality of Peccioli and the collector Francesco Bigazzi, a long time reporter from Moscow for Italian newspapers and magazines. The Bigazzi Collection includes Russian icons dating back to 18th – beginning of 20th century. Another permanent collection, available since 2007, is owned by Belvedere S.p.A. It includes two main sections: dated and/or signed icons from 18th to 20th century; Russian bronze crosses, icons and polyptychs from 15th to 20th century. The Berger Collection includes 51 Russian bronze Icons.

Address:
 Praetorian Palace Museum
 5, Piazza del Popolo, Peccioli
 Tel. +39 0587 936423

1

Free admission



COLLECTION OF ENGRAVINGS AND LITHOGRAPHS "VITO MERLINI DONATION"

The Collection of Engravings and Lithographs – Vito Merlini Donation includes 279 sheets: engravings, lithographs, woodcuts and screen printings, collected by Vito Merlini, a physician from Peccioli, who donated them to the Municipality of the town in 2006. They include artworks mostly concerning Figurative Art, Informal Art and Metaphysics.

Opening Hours:
 Tuesday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Wednesday 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 Saturday, Sunday and Festivities
 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.

The museum is closed on January 1st, May 1st, August 15th, December 24th, December 25th, and December 31st.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM



The Archaeological Museum was opened in 2004, in order to preserve the numerous finds from the Etruscan archaeological site of Ortaglia, a few miles from Peccioli. From a 10m deep and 4m wide well, archaeologists drew out several votive objects and parts of a construction which suggested something similar to a temple or a

sanctuary. Later, some materials found on the late antique and medieval site of Saint Mustiola near Ghizzano were added to the Etruscan collection. They include a female burial with precious bronze grave goods (14th century).

Address:
 33, Via del Carmine, Peccioli

Opening Hours:
 Tuesday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Wednesday 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 Saturday, Sunday and Festivities
 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.

The museum is closed on January 1st, May 1st, August 15th, December 24th, December 25th, and December 31st.

Free admission

3

For further information:
Foundation Peccioliper
 5, Piazza del Popolo, Peccioli
 info@fondarte.peccioli.net
 www.fondarte.peccioli.net

SACRED ART MUSEUM



The Museum of Sacred Art is housed inside the Romanesque Pieve di San Verano, inside the Assumption Chapel, built in 1580 to house the homonymous fraternity. In the museum you can admire a Madonna with Child dating back to the first half of 13th century. The image is also called "Our Lady

of the Graces". In addition there is a dossal with St. Nicholas and stories of his life dating back to the third quarter of 13th century, a wooden crucifix datable to the fourth decade of 14th century, a Holy Conversation by Neri di Bicci dating to 1463 and an Assumption with Angels and Saints by Giovanni Bilivert, dated 1628

Address:
 Pieve di San Verano, Peccioli

Opening Hours:
 Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Sunday and Festivities 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

The museum is closed on January 1st, May 1st, August 15th, December 24th, December 25th, and December 31st.

Free admission

4

BELL TOWER



The Bell Tower of Peccioli was constructed in 1885 by the engineer and architect Luigi Bellincioni (1842 – 1929). The tower of Peccioli is the result of a rebuilding and raising of the previous Pisan Romanesque

tower. Completed in 1898 and 42m high, it is covered by dark bush hammered stones. From there you can experience a wonderful panoramic view. It is possible to climb the bell tower by arranging an appointment with the Foundation Peccioliper.

Admission only on appointment

5

See also...

- in Fabbrica:** Church of Santa Maria Assunta (open on Sunday morning)
 Chapel of San ROCCO (open everyday)
- in Ghizzano:** Chapel of Santissima Annunziata
 opening hours: on the second Sunday of every month
- in Legoli:** Chapel of Santa Caterina (which preserves the Tabernacle by Benozzo Gozzoli)
- in Libbiano:** Astronomical Observatory "Galileo Galilei"
 for bookings of guided visits call the Foundation Peccioliper:
 + 39 0587 672158

For information in English:

Tourist Information Office

Piazza del Popolo 5, Peccioli (PI)
 Tel: +39 0587/936423
 e-mail: turismo@comune.peccioli.pi.it
 www.comune.peccioli.gov.it



Opening hours
 Tuesday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Thursday, Friday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and Festivities: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; 2 p.m.-7 p.m.
 Closed on January 1st, May 1st, August 15th, December 24th, December 25th and December 31st.

2