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GROSSETO'S AMIATA MUSEUMS



The Amiata Museum system was set up by the Comunità Montana Amiata of Grosseto to valorize the network of thematic and environmental facilities spread throughout its territory. The System is a territorial container whose special museum identity is represented by the tight relationship between the environment and landscape values and the anthropological and historical-artistic elements of Monte Amiata. The Amiata Museum system is part of the Maremma Museums, the museum network of the Grosseto province and is a useful tool to valorize smaller isolated cultural areas which characterize the Amiata territory.

FOR THE DEMOETHNOANTHROPOLOGICAL SECTION WE WOULD LIKE TO MENTION:

Casa Museo di Monticello Amiata - Cinigiano

The Home-Museum is in the town's historical center and is housed inside an ancient palace where each environment faithfully recreates a late eighteenth century home. The ground floor features "the heart of the home" with the kitchen and the bedroom furnished with authentic furniture and tools of daily use. On the lower floor you can visit the stable, the warehouse and an old oil mill which was animal-drawn. Here you will find work tools and agricultural equipment which bear witness to work in the fields and forests. Next to the Home-Museum there's a Cultural Center with an educational laboratory for those who wish to carefully study the themes tied to the chestnut cycle and to the material culture (not only local). Two appealing naturalistic paths are available: "Via della castagna" and "Via delle Fonti".

Archivio fotografico Sistema Museale foto C. Bonazza - Realizzazione grafica C&P Adler effigi - traduzione by Ingrid B. Frick Lodi



Santa Caterina Ethnographic Museum - Roccalbegna

Santa Caterina's ethnographic collection is housed in the rooms of an old blacksmith forge. The museum tells the story of Monte Amiata's toil, folk customs and rituals tied to fire and trees. The exhibition has two sections: the first houses a collection of items used for work and household activities tied to the fire cycle. The second features the "stollo" or haystack pole, long wooden pole which synthesizes the Focarazza feast: ancient ritual to honor Santa Caterina d'Alessandria which is held each year on November 24th, the most important local feast for the entire community. An extensive photographic documentation illustrates the most evocative moments of the feast. In addition, the museum houses a significant collection of traditional children's games.



Wine and Vine Museum in Montenero d'Orcia - CasteldelPiano

The Museum is housed in a part of the old Montenero d'Orcia factory. The exhibition includes panels with descriptive pictures of vine cultivation and traditional tools for viticulture and wine-making. Especially interesting is the "grape press" which has come down to us intact. Used for pressing up until 1910, it dates back to 1700 and was found in the



Petricci countryside (Semproniano town council) with the original hull, levers and gratings. You can also find information on two of the most important typical products of the Monte Amiata region inside the Museum: the chestnut and the extra virgin olive oil. The Museum also offers an audio-tactile itinerary for sightless people.

Monte Amiata Mercury Mines Museum - Santa Fiora

The Museum is housed on the ground floor of the ancient Sforza-Cesarini palace. The exhibition's itinerary unwinds through six halls where visitors can run down the mining activities and events which strongly marked Monte Amiata's past between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with special reference to the area between the town councils of Santa Fiora and Castell'Azzara. The itinerary documents mercury search and extraction techniques starting from the



most ancient and showcases the territory's mining areas, exhibiting tools and instruments used for extraction by miners. Especially interesting is the section reconstruction of an underground gallery called "inclined shaft," set up with all work instruments commonly employed by miners. In addition, the museum outlines the tragic consequences of mine work through documents and pictures, but also the strikes and the workers' struggles to improve their employment conditions. The structure also houses a small archeological section with finds dating back to the III century b.C.

FOR THE HISTORICAL-ARTISTIC SECTION:

David Lazzaretti Research Center - Arcidosso

The Research Center has been dedicated to David Lazzaretti (1834-1878), "Amiata's Prophet" who acted as God's instrument to accomplish an important reformative mission. The social and religious life of Lazzaretti represents a utopian time of great evocative power and participation in the historical background of the Amiata mountains and more



generally speaking in the history of the subaltern classes of post-unitary Italy. Through two specific sections: documentary and exhibition, the Center aims to recall the past with the aid of pictures, paintings, clothing, banners and a vast bibliography and archive documentation produced by the Lazzaretti movement; documentation which has been catalogued, sorted and placed at the disposal of researchers and scholars.

Palazzo Nerucci art collection - Casteldelpiano

Kept in a hall in the noble floor of Palazzo Nerucci, the collection is composed by a series of artworks left as inheritance to the Vegni family at the Casteldelpiano hospital late nineteenth century. Of private origin, the collection is appealing for its collector's importance, revealing a significant series of landscapes and views. Amongst the nine artworks exposed, another genre stands out however: the portrait.

Worthy of note, in fact, is the valuable pastel self portrait of the Venetian artist Rosalba Carriera (1675 - 1757) and the portrait of Cosimo III dei Medici silk embroidered and also by female hand. The collection owned by the public hospital A.S.L.9 - Grosseto, has been lent to the Casteldelpiano town council. The same hall also hosts a sketch by Giuseppe Nicola Nasini purchased in 2005 by the Town Council.



FOR THE NATURALISTIC SECTION:

Fauna Park Visitors Center - Arcidosso

The Visitors Center was born as an educational pole of the Fauna Park and, by extension, of the six Monte Amiata natural reserves (Monte Labbro, Pescinello, Rocconi, Poggio all'Elmo, S.S.Trinità, Monte Penna). The Center unwinds through five halls set up with blow-ups, cartographies and mineral finds and its objective is to supply an overview of the Amiata Ecosystem stimulating the visitor to investigate the most interesting themes in-depth. To complete the itinerary there are two dioramae where special indigenous habitats have been reconstructed.

