



# Montelupone



*Montelupone is like a medieval book:  
every gate, tower, and palace is a page  
that tells the story of the value  
of time and community.*

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# An embrace of stone and memory

Montelupone is a charming village that overlooks the Marche hills, just a few kilometers from Macerata and the Adriatic Sea. Included among the Most Beautiful Villages in Italy and awarded the Orange Flag by the Touring Club, it preserves an intact historic center, protected by medieval walls with four access gates, characterized by cobbled streets and harmonious little squares.

Strolling through its streets means immersing oneself in a rare harmony, where historical memory dialogues with contemporary life. Noble palaces, churches, museums, and theaters coexist with well-kept green spaces, community areas, and traditions that continue to renew themselves.

Among the most significant places are the 14th-century Palazzo del Podestà, now home to the Pinacoteca Civica, the elegant Teatro Storico Nicola degli Angeli, the Monumental Church of San Francesco, and the museums that preserve testimonies of

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art and collective memory. Just outside the walls, the splendid Romanesque Abbey of San Firmano adds a precious piece to this heritage, with its millennial architecture immersed in nature. The culture of the village also lives through figures who have marked its identity, from the cartoonist Gabriele Galantara (Ratalanga) to the painters Corrado Pellini and Cesare Peruzzi, and the humanist and jurist Nicola degli Angeli, after whom the historic theater is named.

Among the village's identity symbols is also the Carciofo di Montelupone, a Slow Food Presidia and the star of a festival that attracts visitors from all over the region every year. Together with millefiori honey and traditional peasant dishes, it tells of a deep connection with the land and the ability to preserve agricultural knowledge passed down through the centuries.





DISCOVER

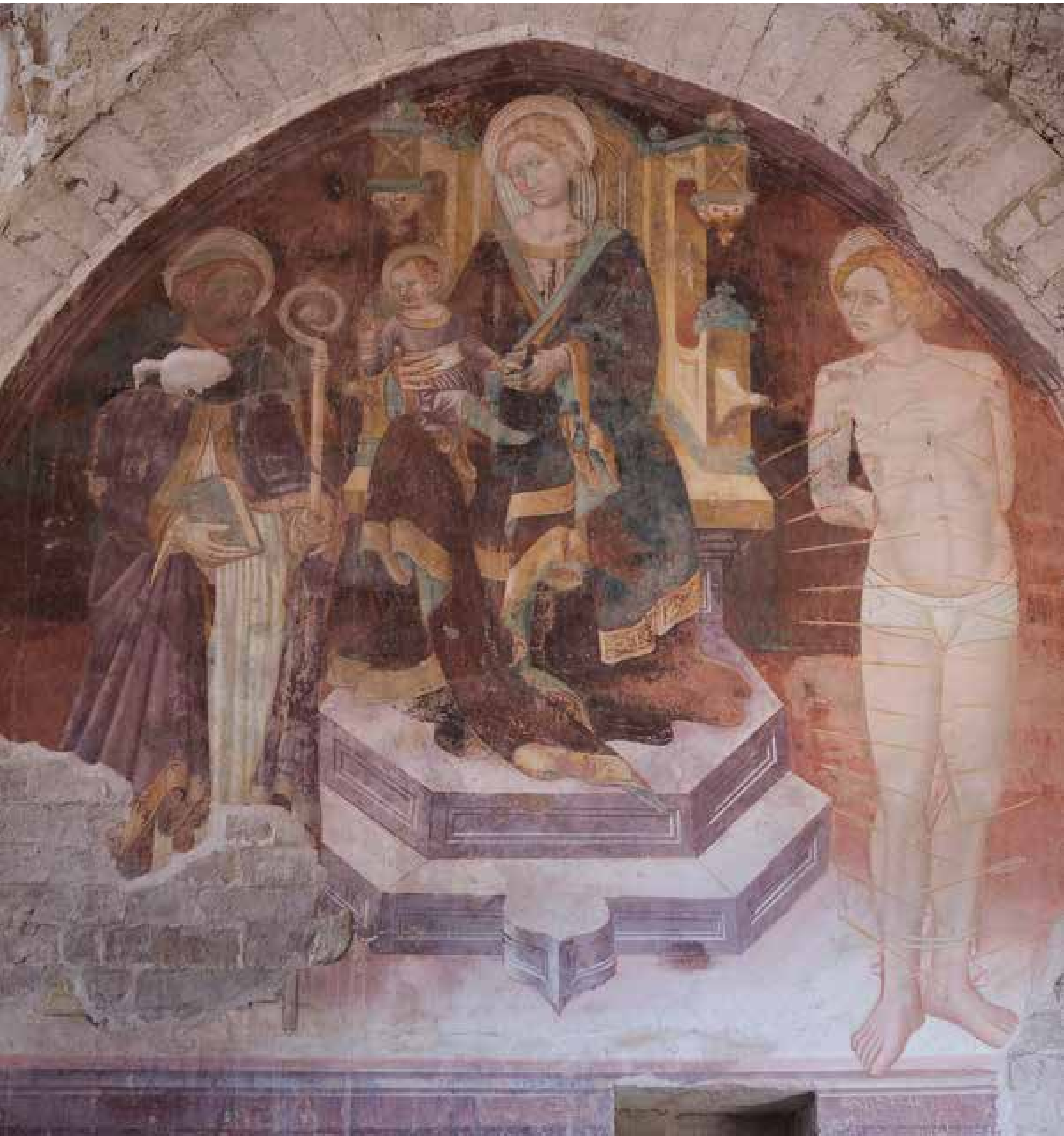
# The origins of Montelupone are connected with legend

The origins of Montelupone intertwine with legend. According to some versions, the village was founded under the sign of Hercules Libycus; more likely, the name derives from the powerful Lombard family of the Luponi, known since the 8th century. The oldest traces date back to the 6th century BC, with a necropolis that testifies to human presence on the hill.

In Roman times, the area hosted rustic villas, and in the locality of Cervare stood the Castle of Posoli, with the temple of Apollo and numerous religious buildings. From the 10th century, the Benedictine Abbey of San Firmano became a spiritual and economic center of vast influence, controlling territories as far as Civitanova Marche. In the Middle Ages, Montelupone fortified itself with walls and towers, becoming embroiled in the disputes between lordships and following the fortunes of the Papal State. In the following centuries, the village enriched itself with palaces, churches, and cultural institutions, arriving intact to our days as a treasure trove of art, faith, and memory.

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TRADITIONS, CULTURE, FLAVORS, EVENTS

# A blend of traditions, flavours and creativity

Life in Montelupone is marked by popular festivals that intertwine spirituality, conviviality, and local products. In spring, the patron saint San Firmano is celebrated with rituals and processions that involve the entire community.

In May, the Sagra del Carciofo takes center stage, celebrating the local excellence of this tender, spine-free vegetable, now a Slow Food

Presidia and king of traditional cuisine. The village also lights up with Apimarche, a fair dedicated to beekeeping and millefiori honey, another local excellence, while autumn is colored by cultural events that keep the village's social fabric alive. Alongside the festivals, Montelupone boasts a cultural tradition that has given birth to or welcomed prominent figures such as caricaturist Gabriele Galantara (Ratalanga), painters Corrado Pellini and Cesare Peruzzi, and humanist and jurist Nicola degli Angeli, after whom the historic theater is named.

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The community, today as in the past, stands out for its associative vibrancy, artisanal creativity, and strong ties to the territory. Completing the picture are the flavors of the peasant tradition, accompanied by the wines of the Marche hills, which authentically narrate the agricultural history of the Valle del Potenza.

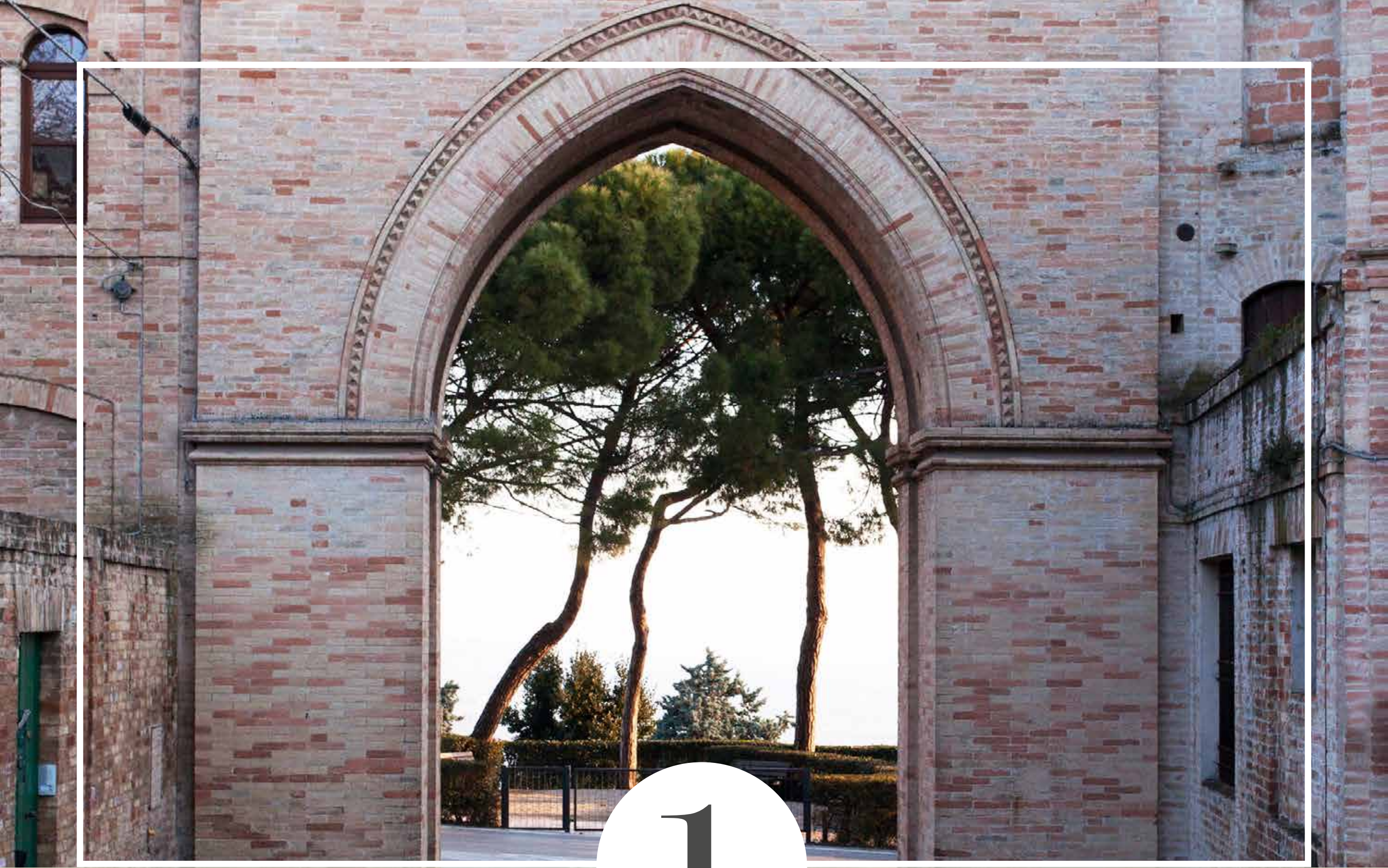
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MUST-DOs

# Five Experiences to Enjoy in Montelupone





1

## ENTER THE HISTORIC CENTER

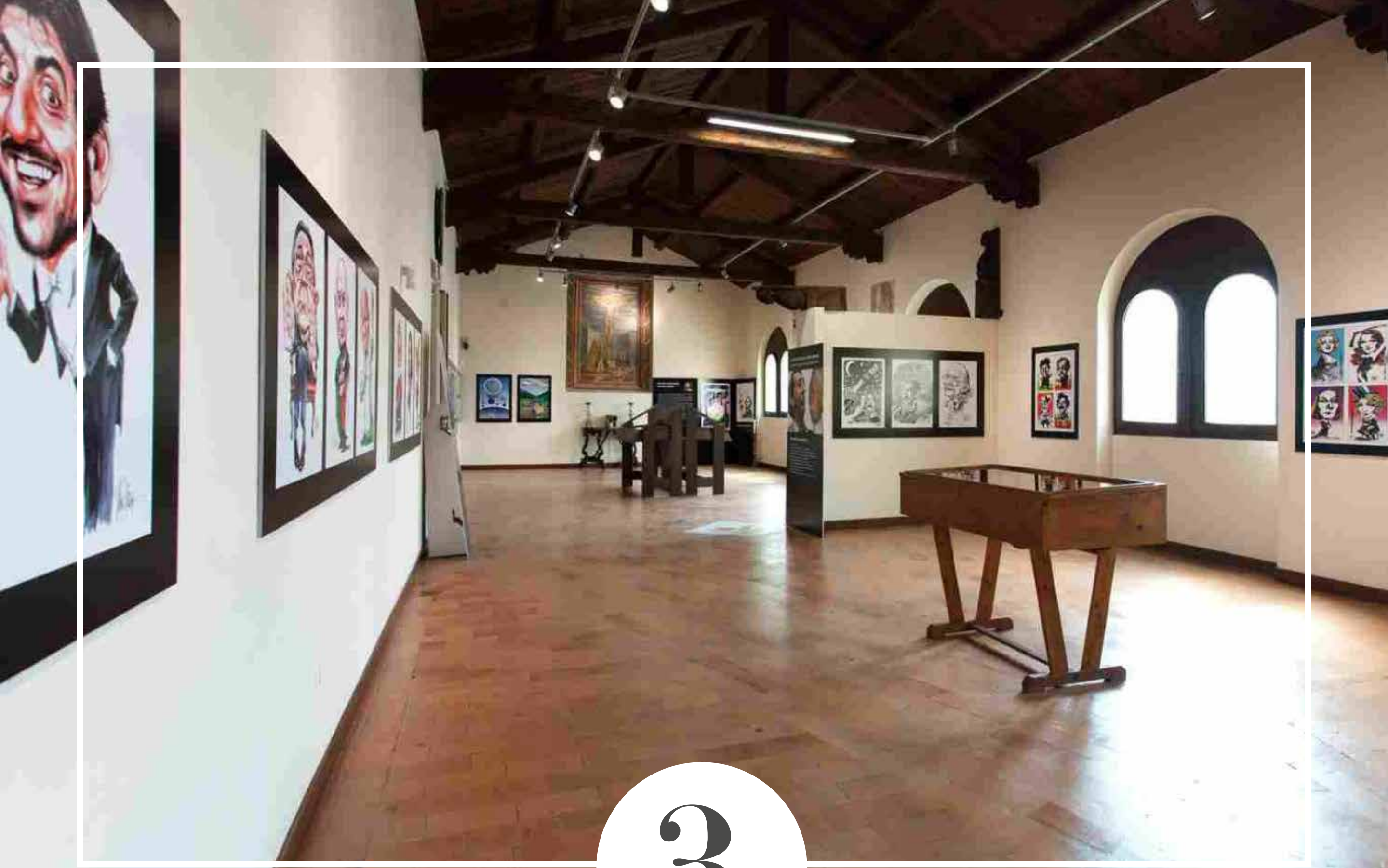
Crossing the ancient gates of Montelupone means entering a village that has managed to preserve its medieval soul. The walls, stone alleys, and silent squares lead visitors on a journey back in time, among glimpses that seem untouched and an authentic atmosphere that invites slowing down and observing.



2

## VISIT THE “NICOLA DEGLI ANGELI” THEATER

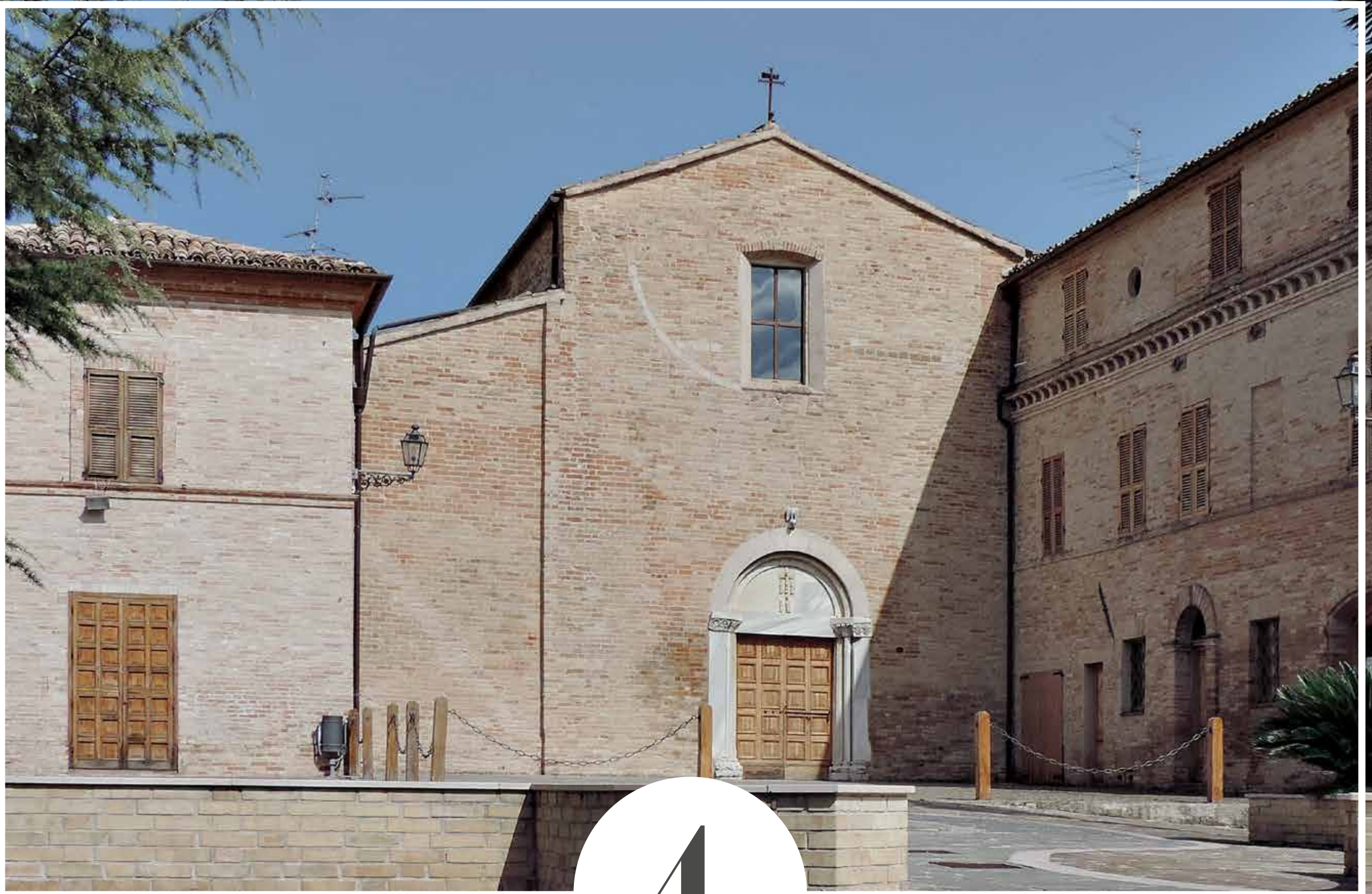
Stepping into this 19th-century gem means discovering a place born from the collective will of the citizens, who united in 1846 to build it. Designed by Ireneo Aleandri and completed by Giuseppe Sabatini in 1884, the theater still impresses today with the harmonious elegance of its auditorium, two tiers of boxes, and balcony loggia. Sitting inside means reliving the atmosphere of the great theatrical and musical seasons that have animated Montelupone for over a century.



3

## DISCOVER THE WORKS OF GABRIELE GALANTARA

Montelupone is the birthplace of Gabriele Galantara (1865-1937), known as Ratalanga, one of the most important figures in Italian satire. Founder of the famous magazine "L'Asino", he humorously and critically depicted society and politics in post-unification Italy. His works – caricatures, sketches, and paintings – are housed in the Pinacoteca Civica within the Palazzo del Podestà: an unmissable stop to discover the artist who transformed drawing into a language of protest and freedom.



4

## ADMIRE THE ABBEY OF SAN FIRMANO

Just outside the village, the Abbey of San Firmano stands solemnly among the fields.

Its Romanesque façade, the Byzantine lunette of the portal, and the fascinating crypt, which houses the saint's relics, offer an experience that unites history, spirituality, and landscape.

It is one of the most evocative places  
in the Marche, capable of surprising  
with its millennial tranquility.





5

## TASTE THE "CARCIOFO DI MONTELUPONE"

A gastronomic symbol of the village, the artichoke is much more than a typical product: it is a piece of collective identity. A Slow Food Presidia, it is celebrated every May with a festival that transforms the streets of the village into a celebration of aromas, recipes, and conviviality.

Tasting it means participating in a tradition that binds the community to its land, with authentic and unique flavors.



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