

ACQUACANINA

Altitude: 740 m

Population: 130

Location

The village is located on the western slopes of Monte Ragnolo (1557m).

Origins of the name

Of very uncertain origin, at first the village appeared as Acqua Cumina or Acqua Canina. The first part of the name has its origin in the abundance of water in the area; the origins of the second part are only speculation: Cumina could be derived from a plant common in the area or from the vulgar

Latin word Cumma which means "condominium", so the water may have been for common use. Another hypothesis refers to the dogs (cani) which guarded the high Fiastrone valley. This version finds favour in the town crest which features a dog standing on its hind legs on the water.

Historical Interest

Initially a fiefdom of the count of Manardo di Sigfredo, which is referred to in a manuscript in 977. However the fundamental papal document of Celestino III was written in 1192, which empowered the abbey of Benedettina di Rio Sacro, under the direct protection of the pontiff; due to the presence of the monks the valley took the name of San Salvatore and the Rio stream which flows into the Fiastrone river was held to be "sacred". At the height of its splendour the abbey began to buy up, commencing in 1284, the "Castrum Acquae Claninae" from the Manardi, a family with Lombard origins which, from the IX century, dominated vast territories in Marche and Umbria. Subsequently, Acquacanina, part of the Dominium of Camerino, became a free municipality although it always kept alive the sign of the Benedictines, who meanwhile had moved from the abbey of the Rio Sacro to the lower altitude of Santa Maria di Meriggio, around the middle of the XV century.

Itinerary

Following the provincial road which links Fiastra to Bolognola, the route reaches the village of Acquacanina. Before arriving in the piazza, take the road on the right and after crossing a small bridge arrive at Meriggio (1) where there is an awesome view over Lake Fiastra (2). This is the location where first the Picene people, and subsequently the Benedictine monks made their home in 1000, building the famous Romanesque abbey of S. Maria di Rio Sacro (3).

Featuring an evocative Romanesque crypt with three naves (IX century), which is part of the original building, it has a crucifix of the Lazio school from the XII century of which, however, only remains the cross, as the valuable wooden form of Christ was stolen in 1974. There are also a number of frescos such as that of S. Sebastiano, attributed to Girolamo di Giovanni, a small octagonal painting by Maratti, which represents the Madonna del Suffragio and the wooden Madonna di Rio Sacro with Child, from the XVI century. Double-backing down the route and leaving the car at the beginning of Piè del Colle, it is worth taking a short walk in the sleepy hamlet, which is the home of the town hall and from where the church of the Vallone (4) can be easily reached. Inside there are seven altars, which have been deprived of their shelves to make the place of worship in

line with the new liturgy post-concilium and interesting paintings, among which stands out a Deposition of Christ from the XVII century and a Madonna and Child from the XVI century. To extend the itinerary carry on towards Bolognola to visit the localities of Vallecanto and Campicino. In the latter are the ruins of the once Romanesque church of S. Michele Arcangelo (5), perhaps dating from prior to 1000 and defined by a beautiful dovecot tower from the XV century that was also used as a fortified dwelling. At Vallecanto there are the recently restored castle walls of the Castle of the Da Varano (6), with the church of Santa Margherita (7) within.