

BOLOGNOLA

Altitude: 1070 m

Population: 170

Location

Situated on the slopes of Monte Valvasseto, it is made of three Ville which form the village and are found along the southern headland of the Fargno valley, at the source of the Fiastrone.

Origins of the name

There are only some indications as to the origin of the name: according to some authors the name Bolognola comes from Bononia and therefore from Boi; according to others from the adjective bonus in reference to the goodness (bontà) of the water, the fertile land, and the rich pasture; a third hypothesis is that the name comes from Bona, a divinity of Umbrian-Celtic origin.

Historical Interest

Inhabited since ancient times, according to popular tradition (though not supported by documentation) it was founded by three noble families: the Pepoli, the Malvezzi and the Bentivoglio, who, having fled from the city of Bologna, established their homes here, in correspondence to the three existing hamlets today. Regarding the real origins there are only indications.

The first written document, attesting to the existence of the town by name, is that of Bolla Queties a Nobilis by Pope Celestino III in 1192. In the Roman era the territory of Bolognola was an integral part of the Civitas of Camerino. After the fall of the empire it was the subject of dispute between the Byzantines and the barbarian conquerors. It was a fiefdom of the Lords of Falerone, a family of Lombard origin, then of the Abbots of S. Salvatore di Rio Sacro. During the "period of the communes" it was under the control of the Varano family from Camerino. In 1539 it passed with the Duchy into the hands of Pope Paolo III and then to his nephew Ottavio Farnese. In this way the pontiffs held control over the dominium rights of Bolognola until 1860. During the Napoleonic invasion it was assigned to the Cantone, or Department, of the Musone which was based in Pieve Torina.

Itinerary

Leave from piazza G. Leopardi (1), home to the church of Matrice S. Michele Arcangelo (2) which was totally rebuilt after the original structure was destroyed in a landslide in 1934. Inside are two altars, one on either side: the one on the right is dedicated to S. Fortunato da Montefalco, S. Michele Arcangelo and S. Nicolò di Bari, while in the one on the left, overlooked by a precious painting on wood by Vergari, the "Madonna del Rosario", is an organ, made by the much admired Martinelli in 1850. Around the ancient church of Matrice in the Lombard era was formed the Villa di Sopra or Pepoli, now Bolognola's administrative centre. Walking down via Piano the route passes through the heart of the original settlement, which developed around the characteristic water font (3). Walking around the modern villa Marconi, built for those left homeless by the landslide, the route arrives at Villa da Capo or Malvezzi, developed around the church of S. Maria delle Grazie (4). Realised in the baroque style, around the middle of the 1600s, at the initiative of the Roman basilica of S. Giovanni in Laterano, within are eighteenth century

oil paintings and a fresco of the Virgin Mary, which came from a very ancient pre-existing chapel, by

Girolamo di Giovanni.

Opposite the church is the birthplace of the maestro Filippo Marchetti (5) (1831-1902), esteemed composer in musical circles at the time of King Umberto of Italy. A marble plack records the event and the person. Crossing the contrada Piano once more take via Sotto Castello, overlooked along the last section by the powerful perimeter wall at the base of the fortress (XV century). Walking down the hill for about a kilometre along the provincial road, the route arrives at Villa da Piedi or Bentivoglio which is present in the original town plans with numerous remains of thirteenth century buildings and the church of San Nicolò (6), elevated to parish church status in 1694. Rebuilt, from new, in a neo-classical style between 1828 -1831; inside is a precious wooden baptismal font, by Bernardino Tagliacchi. Near the church is the Primavera building (7) from the XVI-XVII centuries; a communal building, it was recently restored and has frescos from the past. Its large cellars, from the beginning of the 1900s, were used to make wool. Heading back to the centre on the old cemetery road, the route meets the Pincetto with the war memorial dedicated to the fallen of both wars (8) and, further on, piazza Marchetti with a monument to the victims of the Nevi (9) and a bronze bust of the maestro. In the piazza there are also the school building and the Maurizi town hall building (10). In the "Piano nobile" room, so called in homage of its wonderful decoration, including the Sphinx, the Creation, the Meduse and Jupiter and Diana, is an exhibition of the historic archive, while the Centauri room has become the council meeting chamber. On the ground floor is the historic archive while the library is found in the school building. Continuing along via Luigi Maurizi the route arrives at piazza Leopardi where to the right it is possible to observe the castle ruins (11) with a public garden and tourist information centre within.