

Social Program

We have an exciting social program planned for the Inaugural Summer School of Arpino including a Social Dinner, a Banquet and post-School tours. We plan to show you the best of Italian hospitality; stunning venues, delicious food and drinks.

Tuesday 21st July – Visit to the Pointed Arch

Civitavecchia was probably the original nucleus of a primitive Volscian settlement (7th-6th century) built as a defence on a place high and steep and then fortified by massive walls. The greatness of these walls, that can be seen in other towns of the Volscians (Atina, Aquinum, Sora, Signia, Arcis) and of the Ernicians (Aletrium), suggested popular imagination to call them pelasgian in memory of the mytical pre-Hellenic Pelasgians or Cyclopeans, Homer's giants. Yet, they should be called polygonal because of the shape of the big stones which stand one upon the other without mortar.

The polygonal walls of Arpino branch off from Civitavecchia at the altitude of 627 m a.s.l. and slope down until they embrace and encircle the town at the small rise of Civita Falconara. They have no foundations and are made of enormous monolith of pudding stone that can be found in the area surrounding the ancient site. The walls originally extended for 3 km but today only some 1,5 km are left and are at times enclosed within the houses. During the Samnite, Roman, and Medieval ages they were restaured and towers and gates were added. They have witnessed an uninterrupted series of historical events. The datation of the walls of Civitavecchia has prompted a debate among scholars: Schmidt dates them back to 7th-6th century BC, Sommella to the Roman era. Titus Livius (IV/57,7) tells of cyclopean Volscian rocks which existed already in 408 BC.



The pointed arch, ancient gate to the Acropolis, revokes strongly the arches of Tyrins and Mycenae. This extraordinary monument is 4,20 m high and is made of overlapping stone blocks that became smaller towards the top and are cut slantwise on the external part. In the 16th century it was enclosed within a semicircular bastion which has been partially demolished. Recently (2005) it was founded another archaeological site, a gate to a fortified complex, situated at the foot of the hill , near the quarter Arco.



Probably it was used as a secondary entrance to the Acropolis. It's different from the famous pointed arch, it was named "Porta del Lupo" (the Gate of the Wolf) and it has well levelled polygonal blocks. It's interesting the cave situated near the wall used for quarrying material for construction of the cyclopean walls.

There are neither architecture nor historical evidence of the Roman age in Civitavecchia but an old popular belief links it to the great Arpinate. It was indicated as Civitas Ciceroniana in the land register of the town in 1581 and the nearby Medieval tower is called "Cicero's tower". Evidence of the Medieval era are on the contrary real. Passing through the gate, built after the enclosure of the archaic one in a circular turret that hampered access to the village, you find on the left another tall square tower built to defend the castrum, encircled by Medieval walls, of which today only ruins are left. Inside it, a reservoir provided a source of water supply.

As Arpino became the Church's bulwark in Southern Italy since 1215 the walls that sloped down from Civitavecchia towards Arpino were reinforced with squares and round towers, with bastions provided with blockhouses linked by rounds. A pleasant scenic walking which branches off from the centre of the village allows you to admire these historical buildings.



Near the ogive arch there is a 18th century jewel: **the Church of SS Trinità** or of the Crucifix. It was built in 1720 by Cardinal Giuseppe Pesce, master and rector of the Pope's Chapel and still is a property of the Pesce family. The church is in Romanesque style with a Greek plant. The dome

stands over four central pillars; the altar's frontal, painted with flowers, is the background of the small church. At its sides two big frescoes: on the left the Immaculate, on the right St Joseph . The Tyrolean Michele Stolz, a wooden sculptor, worked for Cardinal Pesce and was for long time guest in his house in Civitavecchia, where he died in 1779.

Wednesday 22th July – Social Dinner

The Social Dinner will be held in the charming setting of the Agriturismo Il Laureto, in the woods a few kilometers from the center of Arpino.



Thursday, 23th July – Visit to the Certosa di Trisulti or Carthusian Monastery of Trisulti in Collepardo

Another stop on the Benedictine Way gives visitors the chance to immerse themselves in an atmosphere of emotions, art and culture by visiting the Carthusian Monastery of Trisulti in Collepardo in the province of Frosinone. The Carthusian Monastery or Certosa rises up at an altitude of 825 metres, immersed in the secular oak woods of the Hernici Hills, bordering the National Park of Abruzzo. This wonderful complex of buildings is the perfect place to regenerate and find serenity. The construction of the monastery dates back to 1204 when it was built on the remains of the ancient Benedictine abbey dating back to the year 1000, of which some ruins can still be seen today. The building, despite a series of works carried out over time, including restoration in 1958, has kept its original Romanesque-Gothic style. Originally inhabited by Benedictines for around two centuries, in 1204 it was handed over to the Carthusians who constructed the building we can still see today and kept it until 1947, when it was entrusted to the Cistercian Congregation of Casamari.

The complex also includes a 18th century pharmacy, on two levels; it is decorated by trompe-l'oeil frescoes and contemporary furniture. The garden facing the pharmacy was once a botanic garden.



Banquet

In the evening there will be an aperitif followed by the banquet at the enchanting garden of the **Hotel Il Cavalier D'Arpino.**



The Organizing Committee has arranged the transportation for the all activities.