

MUNICIPALITY OF CASTROPIGNANO

Campobasso



«*This is the land of good people...*»

The village

Castropignano is a pretty Molise village netled on a rocky ridge, at 612 meters above sea level, from which it dominates the valley of Biferno river. It is 20 km from the capital Campobasso; it is close to all the most interesting historical and naturalistic sites of the region and in addition to preserving the features of a picturesque medieval village, downstream it develops a dynamic and receptive industrial area.

It is the ideal place to spend a few days of vacation also practicing sports, especially in contact with nature and tasting the typical dishes of peasant culture.

The landscape is marked by the ancient sheep track, called *tratturo*: an ideal setting for long walks or bikes ride or perhaps on horseback.

The origins of the town are very ancient: the presence of the remains of stone walls from the 4th century b.C. attest to the presence on site of a Samnite fortress. Evidence of the subsequent Roman domination are, however, the ruins of two villas found downstream of the town.

3 km from the town is the hamlet of Roccaspromonte, a spectacular village perched on a very panoramic rocky ridge.

In 1777 in Roccaspromonte a terracotta statue of Athena dating from the 5th century b.C. was found, now on display in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Wien. It is possible to visit the fourteenth - century church of Santa Maria della Pietà with a beautiful contemporary portal and the Sanctuary of the Madonna del Peschio, a beautiful open - air church, whose dome is the sky and the walls are the oaks of the wood.

The spots to visit

Old town

The historic center has the characteristics of the medieval village; the visitor, through a maze of alleys that climb towards the top of the hill, will meet the bell tower, the remains of the clock tower and the ancient baronial palace.



Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie

Considered one of the most beautiful churches in Molise, it is located outside the medieval village and was built in 1560 at the behest of baron Vincenzo d'Evoli.

The facade consists of an uncommon Neo - Renaissance style portal and inside the are stucco bas - reliefs decorated in pure gold and various frescoes of saints.

Church of San Salvatore

Ancient and graceful church of the XII century.

The gothic portal is very precious; inside it preserves an artistic holy water font and a rare example of an organ from the 1600s.



Castello d'Evoli

The Castello d'Evoli in Castropignano, built in the 14th century near a previous Samnite fortification, is located lower than the old part of the town, on the end of a rocky ridge in a very suggestive panoramic setting.

For almost two thousand years it was an important garrison on the Lucera - Castel di Sangro tratturo, along which the characteristic transhumance took place, of extraordinary importance for the local nobility who based their wealth and that of the village on hearing activities.

During 15th - 16th century the castle was enlarged, becoming a real noble residence in 1636; the interior must have been truly sumptuous, full of tapestries and canvases, which testified to the economic greatness of the D'Evoli family who built and lived there until the early 1800s. Today, after long maintenance and consolidation works, the manor is visited by tourists from all over Italy.

The legend of *jus primae noctis* is linked to the castle: the young Fairy, of popular extraction, as soon as she got married did not dare to spend the night of marriage with the duke, preferring to commit suicide by throwing herself at the rocky ravine which is still known today as the «*Big rock of the Fairy*».



enjoy
CASTROPIGNANO



Traditions, Art, Poetry

The transhumance

The territory of Castropignano is crossed by the Tratturo Castel di Sangro – Lucera. Every year, just before summer, the centuries – old passage of the herds is repeated which, following mores, customs and traditions consolidated over time, go up «*the silent river erbal*» towards the pastures of Frosolone (IS). Since 2019 it has been a UNESCO cultural heritage site.



The dodda

Classic and eagerly awaited summer appointment with which the ancient and picturesque ritual of carrying the bride's trousseau to the groom's house in procession through the streets of the town, is recalled. Adults and children in costume animate the event with popular songs and folkloristic dances.

Eugenio Cirese (1844 – 1955)

«*The poet of Molise*» was a teacher and above all a scholar of the folklore and traditions of Molise. He has written numerous books of poetry in Molise dialect and is the author of «*Big rock of the Fairy*» where he tells the legend linked to the Castle and jus primae noctis.

Gilda Pansiotti (1891 – 1986)

Since the 1930s, the important Italian painter of twentieth century has regularly spent summers in Castropignano, who painted the faces, colors and landscapes of Molise.

Many of his works are kept in Italian and foreign public and private collections.

Paolo Trivisonno (1898 – 1987)

Photographer, the man of dreams.



Honors

Michele Arcangelo De Palo (1915 -1944).

Partisan gold medal for military valor.



Typical products

- Tintilia wine
- Black and white truffle
- Honey
- Jams
- Sausages
- Pecorino cheese
- Scamorza
- Caciocavallo



Contacts ad useful numbers

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