



CASTELLUCCIO VALMAGGIORE, IN THE PROVINCE OF FOGGIA, IS CONSIDERED THE TOWN OF LONGEVITY.

CASTELLUCCIO VALMAGGIORE

Castelluccio Valmaggiore was so named after the castle built by the Byzantines around the year 1000 and featuring a cylindrical tower made of local stone. Designed to control Via Traiana, as an outpost and place of observation and defence of the extensive territory of the nascent Troia (1019), it also indicates that the Castle with its tower overlooks the wide concave Valmaggiore, through which the meandering stream Celone runs.

In past time, the old building of the Town Hall was shaped like a triangle isosceles, with two large entrances (Porta del Pozzo at west and Porta del Piscero at east) and a wall formed by private buildings with small towers and fortresses.

The two doors were situated at the base of the triangle, while a third door was set at the opposite corner where, being the most vulnerable and the weak side of the country, the Castle was built. Unfortunately only the tower has remained; from its terrace you can enjoy a beautiful and vast panorama.

The prince's palace, located in front of the church, has various heraldic signs on its portal; near its wall and at the

sides of the portal, you can still see the piers where horses used to be tied. The palace is currently under restore and will probably be the venue of a mega-museum of battles, designed to give witness to careful researches that seem to locate right in the area of Castelluccio Valmaggiore the Battle of Cannae (216 BC) between Hannibal's troops and the Romans. It is also very interesting to visit the historical centre, dating back to medieval time, with narrow steep streets leading to the tower. Not to be missed the richly carved portals and the various decorations on the façade of the numerous buildings situated along the streets, as witness of the ancient art of carving from the local stone.

The town of Castelluccio Valmaggiore rises at 630 metres above sea level. The whole territory of the municipality lies between 313 and 1061 meters above sea level, with a variation in elevation of 748 metres. And it is thanks to the different altitude of location of the vegetation areas that their composition varies so much. If in the areas of reforestation the predominant species generally are Pinus and Cupressus, there is also a significant extension of area occupied by the Mediterranean scrub.

There are two equipped parks in the area:

1. Petrera Park (a pine forest about 20 hectares wide), partially illuminated, is located in the outskirts, 500 meters from the town, along the provincial road 125 - Celone Bridge / Lucifer Bridge. It is immersed in the unspoilt green nature, consisting almost entirely of conifers, and stands along the ridge that from Ponte del Freddo climbs up to Monte Sidone (m 1080). A clear source of water, the well-hinted paths, an equipped area for picnics and a children's playground have made become this area a peaceful oasis where, in addition to the quiet and the healthy air, hikers can venture into a long "hike" from an altitude of 530 m to Monte Cornacchia, called the "roof of Puglia", up to 1154 metres high above sea level.

2. The playground of Via Martiri di Via Fani, lighted and equipped with several games for children, is located within the town, in an area included in a program of development of the green heritage present in the municipal district.

It is also very interesting to visit the Rifugio Difesa and the Celone Visiting Centre.

The Rifugio Difesa was built 25 years ago as a shelter for shepherds and local processing of fresh milk; it is a two floors building located in the flat land for pasture and upstream of the wood area of Difesa Grande.

Today the structure is being reformulated in order to make it useable for nature trails through the wood Difesa Grande, which occupies an area of about 130 hectares, and allows a visit to the "lame turchine" (blue blades) geologically interesting site. The Celone Visiting Centre is a structure built in 2002 and made available to the City Administration. It has an area of 350 square meters and is equipped with a conference room and audiovisual projections about the flora and fauna of Preappennino Dauno. Inside the structure, it has been realized the reconstruction of the river environment, and the description of the river ecology.

The Visiting Centre also contains a "Vivarium" section that includes aquariums and terrariums able to offer the visitors an overview of the micro flora, micro fauna of the river environment. Of great naturalistic interest (flora and fauna) is Monte Felice, which, overlooking the high valley of Celone, is rich in woods of oaks and chestnut trees.

Its top is crossed by the old Roman road "Egnazia" which runs across the Tavoliere up to Taranto. Interesting is also the fauna of the area: it is not difficult to see free-flying peregrine falcons and red kites, or, if you go through the woods, watch squirrels or grouse.

Both in the woods of Monte Felice and in the woods of Difesa Grande you can even find wild asparagus, in the season of spring.

BLASONATURE DELLO STEMMA CIVICO DI CASTELLUCCIO VALMAGGIORE

Lo stemma di Castelluccio Valmaggiore è stato estratto dall'Archivio di Stato di Napoli da un foglio del Catasto Onciario.

Il sigillo, dal quale è stato estratto lo stemma, è esistente e si trova nel Catasto Onciario – Volume 7297 – Provincia di Capitanata – Foglio 13 – anno 1753.

Ha la seguente blasonatura o raffigurazione:

1. Di rosso con castello araldico d'argento: a rappresentare la Baronìa dei Valmaggiore costituita con decreto del 1472;

2. Murato di nero: a rappresentare la cinta muraria che un tempo fortificava la cittadina di Castelluccio Valmaggiore;
3. Con basamento - cioè ben piantato: a rappresentare la solidità del feudo;
4. Aperto e finestrato con due aperture: aperto per sostenere che era un feudo accogliente e ospitale, con due aperture per affermare il potere temporale e il potere ecclesiastico;
5. Corona merlata da cinque torri alla guelfa: a significare che la torre di Castelluccio apparteneva a un sistema difensivo costituito da cinque entità (Castelluccio – Biccari – Tertiveri – Troia – Lucera);
6. La torre centrale più elevata, merlate di 3 alla guelfa ed aperta: a giustificare il dominio della cittadina di Castelluccio sulla Valle del Celone e sui Borghi Saraceni di Faeto e Celle di San Vito.

CASTELLUCCIO VALMAGGIORE FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

San Giovanni Battista Patronal Festival (24th June)

San Rocco Patronal Festival (16th August)

More Fairs and Festivals at Castelluccio Valmaggiore

Sagra della pasta a mano (on the second Saturday of August) - Sagra delle pettole (December 26) - Sagra dell'olio (December 8) - Festa dell'anziano (Late December) - Festa della fratellanza (in August).

Cuisine

Castelluccio with its more than 60,000 olive trees has a good production of extra virgin olive oil. The geographic location of the land favours the production of oil with low acidity and fruity aroma. You can buy oil in the local shops or directly from the mills. Also to be tasted some typical artisan products such as sausages (salsicce and soppressate), still prepared according to tradition, the small orecchiette with tomato sauce, the taralli skilfully prepared (products purchased from the local butchers and bakeries). It could be for the healthy air, for the healthy food, or thanks to the gentleness that characterizes the population, the fact is that Castelluccio Valmaggiore has a record to be envied: the longevity of its inhabitants.

Getting to Castelluccio Valmaggiore

By car: Motorway A1 Rome-Naples connection road of Rome, exit "San Vittore". Enter at Venafro and continue towards Isernia and Campobasso.

Follow the road signs for Foggia and after a few kilometres, close to Lucera and Troia, you will see road signs for Castelluccio Valmaggiore.

By train: Foggia FS. connection by train with Lucera, bus connection, or from Foggia direct connection by bus.

By plane: Bari Karol Wojtyła Airport.

NUMERI UTILI

Municipio

Castelluccio Valmaggiore
0881.972015

Fraternità di Misericordia

Castelluccio Valmaggiore
0881.972696

Proloco Castelluccio Valmaggiore
Piazzale R. Campanaro
71020 Castelluccio Valmaggiore