

Montepulciano

Montepulciano (Italian: [ˌmontepulˈtʃaːno]) is a medieval and Renaissance hill town and *comune* in the *Italian province of Siena* in southern *Tuscany*. It sits high on a 605-metre (1,985 ft) limestone ridge, 13 kilometres (8 mi) east of *Pienza*, 70 kilometres (43 mi) southeast of *Siena*, 124 kilometres (77 mi) southeast of *Florence*, and 186 kilometres (116 mi) north of *Rome* by car.

Montepulciano is a major producer of food and drink. Renowned for its pork, cheese, "*pici*" pasta, lentils, and honey, it is known worldwide for its wine. Connoisseurs consider its *Vino Nobile*, which should not be confused with varietal wine merely made from the *Montepulciano grape* among Italy's best.

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History

According to legend, it was founded by the *Etruscan King Lars Porsena* of *Chiusi*; recent findings prove that a settlement was already in existence in the 4th-3rd centuries BC. In *Roman times* it was the seat of a garrison guarding the main roads of the area.

After the fall of the *Western Roman Empire*, it developed as a religious center under the *Lombards*. In the 12th century it was repeatedly attacked by the *Republic of Siena*, which the *Poliziani* faced with the help of the *Perugia* and *Orvieto*, and sometimes *Florence*, communes. The 14th century was characterized by constant struggles between the local noble families, until the *Del Pecora* family became rulers of the town. From 1390, Montepulciano was a loyal ally (and later possession^[1]) of Florence and, until the mid-16th century, lived a period of splendour with architects such as *Antonio da Sangallo the Elder*, *Jacopo Barozzi da Vignola*, *Baldassarre Peruzzi*, *Ippolito Scalza* and others, building luxurious residences and other edifices here. In 1559, when Siena was conquered by Florence and Montepulciano lost its strategic role, its importance declined.

Montepulciano

Comune

Comune di Montepulciano



Panorama of Montepulciano



Coat of arms

Location of Montepulciano [show]

Montepulciano

After the unification of Italy and the drying of the Val di Chiana, the town remained the most important agricultural centre in the area, while the industrial activities moved mostly next to Chiusi, which was nearer to the railroad being built in that period.

A competitive "barrel race through the city" called the Bravio delle botti has been held on the last Sunday of August since the 14th Century

Main sights

The main street of Montepulciano stretches for 1.5 kilometres (0.9 mi) from the Porta al Prato to the Piazza Grande at the top of the hill. The city is renowned for its walkable,car-free nature.

The main landmarks include:

- *Palazzo Comunale* city hall designed by Michelozzo recalling the Palazzo della Signoria(Palazzo Vecchio) of Florence.
- *Palazzo Tarugi*, attributed to Antonio da Sangallo the Elder or Jacopo Barozzi da Vignola. It is entirely intravertine, with a portico which was once open to the public.
- *Santa Maria Assunta* Cathedral, or the Duomo of Montepulciano, constructed between 1594 and 1680, includes a masterpiece from the Sienese School, a massive *Assumption of the Virgin* triptych painted by Taddeo di Bartolo in 1401.
- *Santa Maria delle Grazie* late 16th-century) church with a simple Mannerist façade with a three-arcade portico. The interior has a single nave, and houses a precious terracotta altar by Andrea della Robbia
- *Madonna di San Biagio* Sanctuary: church, located on the road to Chianciano outside the city it is a typical 16th century Tuscan edifice, designed by Antonio da Sangallo the Elder on a pre-existing Pieve, between 1518 and 1545. It has a circular (central) plan with a large dome over a terrace and a squared tambour. The exterior, with two bell towers, is built in white travertine.
- *Santa Lucia* Baroque church with altarpiece by Luca Signorelli.
- *Museo Civico di Montepulciano* located in the Palazzo Neri Orselli, displaying a collection of archeologic items, paintings, and terracotta works by the Della Robbia family

The walls of the city date to around the 14th century

People

- St. Robert Bellarmine a Roman Catholic Saint, Cardinal, and Doctor of the Church was born here on October 4, 1542.^[2]
- Agnes of Montepulciano a Roman Catholic Saint, was born here in the neighbourhood of Montepulciano 1268.^[3]
- The Florentine classical scholar and poet Angelo Poliziano was born in Montepulciano on July 14, 1454.^[4]^[5]^[6]
- The members of the music band Baustelle", formed in 1994, have origins in the town.

Twin towns—sister cities

Montepulciano is twinned with:



Location of Montepulciano in Italy



Montepulciano (Tuscany)

Coordinates: 43°06'N 11°47'E

Country	Italy
Region	Tuscany
Province	Siena (SI)
Frazioni	Abbadia, Acquaviva, Argiano, Ascianello, Cervognano, Fonte al Giunco, Gracciano, Montepulciano Stazione, Nottola, Salcheto, Sant'Albino, Tre Berte, Valiano
Government	
 • Mayor	Andrea Rossi (PD)
Area	
 • Total	165.33 km ² (63.83 sq mi)
Elevation	605 m (1,985 ft)
Population (31 December 2017)	

- Moulins, France

See also

- Bruscello

References

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2.

Smith, Sydney Fenn (1907)."St. Robert Francis Romulus Bellarmine" (https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Catholic_Encyclopedia_(1913)/St._Robert_Francis_Romulus_Bellarmino)In Herbermann, Charles.*Catholic Encyclopedia* **2**. New York: Robert Appleton Company

3.

Fitzgerald, Edward Gregory (1907)."St. Agnes of Montepulciano" (https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Catholic_Encyclopedia_(1913)/St._Agnes_of_Montepulciano)In Herbermann, Charles.*Catholic Encyclopedia* **1**. New York: Robert Appleton Company

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6.

Leuker, T. (1997). *Angelo Poliziano, Dichter, Redner, Stratege: eine Analyse der "Fabula di Orpheo" und ausgewählter lateinischer Werke des Florentiner Humanisten*. Stuttgart: De Gruyter pp. 1–7. ISBN 3-11-096840-1

<div> <div><div></div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">TotalDensity </div>	13,984 <div>85/km² (220/sq mi)</div>
<div> <div><div></div></div> <div>Demonym(s)</div> </div>	Poliziani or Montepulcianesi
<div> <div><div></div></div> <div>Time zone</div> </div>	UTC+1 (CET)
<div> <div><div></div></div> <div><div>•</div> Summer (DST)</div> </div>	UTC+2 (CEST)
<div> <div><div></div></div> <div>Postal code</div> </div>	53045
<div> <div><div></div></div> <div>Dialing code</div> </div>	0578
<div> <div><div></div></div> <div>Patron saint</div> </div>	St. John the Baptist
<div> <div><div></div></div> <div>Saint day</div> </div>	August 29
<div> <div><div></div></div> <div>Website</div> </div>	Official website

External links

- Montepulciano travel guide from Wikivoyage
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