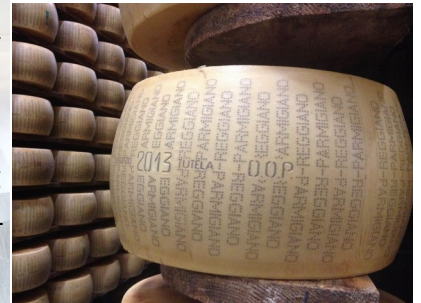


The name **Emilia-Romagna** is a legacy of Ancient Rome. Emilia derives from the via Aemilia, the Roman road connecting Piacenza to Rimini, completed in 187 BC and named after the consul Marcus Aemilius Lepidus. Romagna derives from Romània, the name of the Eastern Roman Empire applied to Ravenna by the Lombards when the western Empire had ceased to exist and Ravenna was an outpost of the east. Before the Romans took control of present-day Emilia-Romagna, it had been part of the Etruscan world and subsequently that of the Gauls. During the first thousand years of Christianity, trade flourished, as did culture and religion, thanks to the numerous region's monasteries. In the early Middle Ages, the University of Bologna—arguably the oldest university in Europe, having being established in AD 1088—and its bustling towns kept trade and intellectual life alive. Its unstable political history is exemplified in such figures as Matilda of Canossa and contending seigniories such as the Este of Ferrara, the Malatesta of Rimini, the Popes of Rome, the Farnese of Parma and Piacenza, and the Duchy of Modena and Reggio. The House of Este had a preeminent in the region's history for its politically and military might as well as the propensity of its members to become generous patrons of the arts, that during the centuries left behind a vast heritage of splendid Renaissance palaces, precious paintings and literary masterpieces, such as the works of Ludovico Ariosto, Torquato Tasso and Matteo Maria Boiardo. Emilia-Romagna is one of the wealthiest and most developed regions in Europe, with the third highest GDP per capita in Italy. Bologna, its capital, has one of Italy's highest quality of life indices and advanced social services. Emilia-Romagna is also a cultural, economic and tourist center: being the home of the University of Bologna, the oldest university in the world; containing Romanesque and Renaissance cities (such as Modena, Parma and Ferrara) and the former Roman Empire capital of Ravenna; encompassing eleven UNESCO heritage sites; being a center for food and automobile production (home of automotive companies such as Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati, De Tomaso, Dallara, and Ducati); and having popular coastal resorts such as Cervia, Cesenatico, Rimini and Riccione. The region of Emilia-Romagna consists of nine provinces nearly half of the region (48%) consists of plains while 27% is hilly and 25% mountainous. The plain was formed by the gradual retreat of the sea from the Po basin and by the detritus deposited by the rivers. The geology varies, with lagoons and saline areas in the north and many thermal springs throughout the rest of the region as a result of groundwater rising towards the surface at different periods of history. Emilia-Romagna has two Italian National Parks, the Foreste Casentinesi National Park and the Appennino Tosco-Emiliano National Park.





## Bologna

is the capital and largest city of the Emilia-Romagna region in Northern Italy. It is the seventh most populous city in Italy with about 390,000 inhabitants and 150 different nationalities. Its metropolitan area is home to more than 1,000,000 people. Originally Etruscan, the city has been one of the most important urban Centres for centuries, first under the Etruscans (Felsina), then under the Celts as Bona, later under the Romans (Bonōnia), then again in the Middle Ages, as a free municipality and signoria, when it was among the largest European cities by population. Famous for its towers, churches and lengthy porticoes, Bologna has a well-preserved historical Centre, thanks to a careful restoration and conservation policy which began at the end of the 1970s. Home to the oldest university in the world, the University of Bologna, established in AD 1088, the city has a large student population that gives it a cosmopolitan character. In 2000 it was declared European capital of culture and in 2006, a UNESCO "City of Music" and became part of the Creative Cities Network .



Bologna is renowned for its culinary tradition. It has baptized the famous Bolognese sauce, a meat-based pasta sauce that in Italy is called ragù and is substantially different from the variety found worldwide; moreover, in Bologna the sauce is used only as a dressing for tagliatelle, serving it with spaghetti being considered odd. Situated in the fertile Po River Valley, the rich local cuisine depends heavily on meats and cheeses. As in all of Emilia-Romagna, the production of cured pork meats such as prosciutto and mortadella is an important part of the local food industry .





## Ravenna

In 49 BC, it was the location where Julius Caesar gathered his forces before crossing the Rubicon. Later, after his battle against Mark Antony in 31 BC, Emperor Augustus founded the military harbor of Classe. This harbor, protected at first by its own walls, was an important



station of the Roman Imperial Fleet. Ravenna greatly prospered under Roman rule. Emperor Trajan built a 70 km (43.50 mi)



long aqueduct at the beginning of the 2nd century. In AD 402, Emperor Honorius transferred the capital of the Western Roman Empire from Milan to Ravenna. The transfer was made partly for defensive purposes: Ravenna was surrounded by swamps and marshes, and was perceived to be easily defensible. After many vicissitudes, Ravenna enjoyed a period of peace, during which time the Christian religion was favored by the imperial court, and the city gained some of its most famous monuments, including the Orthodox Baptistery, the misnamed Mausoleum



of Galla Placidia and San Giovanni Evangelista. The late 5th century saw the dissolution of Roman authority in the west, Theodoric took Ravenna in 493 and Ravenna became the capital of the Ostrogothic Kingdom of Italy. Theodoric built many splendid buildings in and around Ravenna, including his palace church Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, an Arian cathedral (now Santo Spirito) and Baptistery, and his own Mausoleum just outside the walls. Orthodox Christian



Byzantine Emperor Justinian I, in 540 conquered Ravenna. After the conquest of Italy was completed in 554, Ravenna became the seat of Byzantine government in Italy. From 540 to 600, Ravenna's bishops embarked upon a notable building program of churches in Ravenna and in and around the port city of Classe. Surviving monuments include the Basilica of San Vitale and the Basilica of Sant'Apollinare in Classe, as well as the partially surviving San Michele in Africisco .



Walking and cycling through the city Centre is like reliving an ancient history: starting from the Roman era and its magnificent early Christian basilicas, through the Renaissance and up to the 19th century, when the city was rediscovered by famous visitors such as Lord Byron, Oscar Wilde, Sigmund Freud and Gustav Klimt. In addition to the extraordinary richness of its architectural heritage, the city's short distance from the Adriatic coast make it an attractive destination for those seeking relaxation and fun, as well as the ideal place for hiking surrounded by nature. Ravenna is a sparkling city full of artistic and cultural events, which traditionally welcomes its guests with courtesy and spoils them with tasty dishes, always accompanied by a good wine.

## Ferrara

The first documented settlements in the area of the present-day Province of Ferrara date from the 6th century BC. There is uncertainty among scholars about the proposed Roman origin of the settlement in its current location. Ferrara appears first in a document of the Lombard king Desiderius of 753 AD. In 1264 Obizzo II of Este was thus proclaimed lifelong ruler of Ferrara, Ercole I (Este Family) were among the most important patrons of the arts in late 15th- and early 16th-century Italy. During this time, Ferrara grew into an international cultural centre, renowned for its architecture, music, literature and visual arts. Alfonso I succeeded to the throne in 1505 and married the notorious Lucrezia Borgia. Upon his death in 1534, Alfonso I was succeeded by his son Ercole II, whose marriage in 1528 to the second daughter of Louis XII, Renée of France, brought great prestige to the court of Ferrara. Under his reign, the Duchy remained an affluent country and a cultural powerhouse. However, an earthquake struck the town in 1570, causing the economy to collapse, and when Ercole II's son Alfonso II died without heirs, the House of Este lost Ferrara to the Papal States.



Ferrara, a university city second only to Bologna, has broad streets and numerous palaces dating from the Renaissance, when it hosted the court of the House of Este. For its beauty and cultural importance, it has been designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The imposing Este Castle, sited in the very centre of the town, is iconic of Ferrara. A very large manor house featuring four massive bastions and a moat, it was erected in 1385 by architect Bartolino da Novara with the function to protect the town from external threats and to serve as a fortified residence for the Este family. It was extensively renovated in the 15th and 16th centuries. The Cathedral of Saint George, designed



by Wiligelmus and consecrated in 1135, is one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture. The duomo has been renovated many times through the centuries, thus its resulting eclectic style is a harmonious combination of the Romanesque central structure and portal, the Gothic upper part of the façade and the Renaissance campanile.



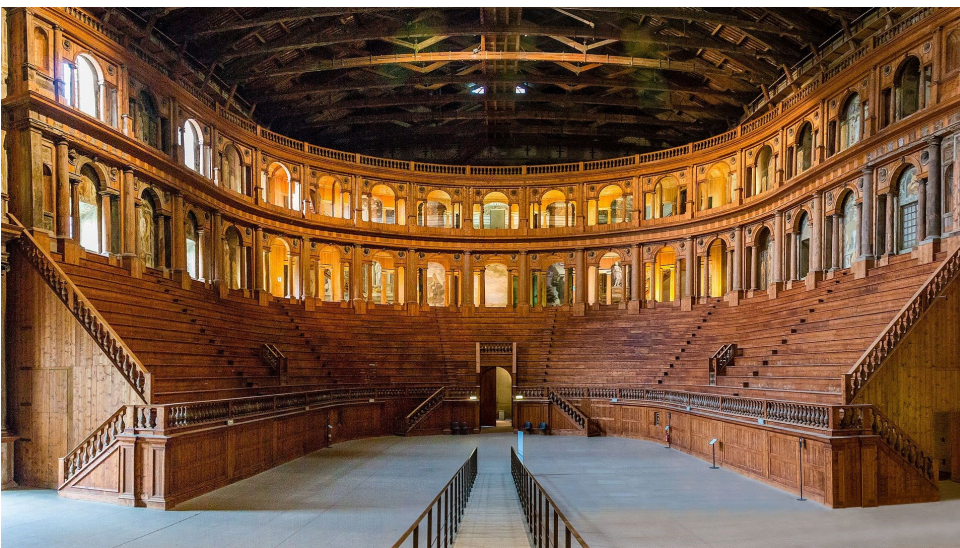
## Parma

The city was most probably founded and named by the Etruscans, The Roman colony was founded in 183 BC, together with Mutina (Modena); 2,000 families were settled. Parma had a certain importance as a road hub over the Via Aemilia and the Via Claudia. It had a forum, in what is today the central Garibaldi Square. In 44 BC the city was destroyed; subsequently Augustus rebuilt it. During the Roman Empire, it gained the title of Julia for its loyalty to the imperial house. Attila sacked the city in 452, and the Germanic king Odoacer later gifted it to his followers. During the Gothic War, however, Totila destroyed it. It was then part of the Byzantine Exarchate of Ravenna (changing its name to Chrysopolis, "Golden City", probably due to the presence of the imperial treasury) and, from 569, of the Lombard Kingdom of Italy. During the Middle Ages, Parma became an important stage of the Via Francigena, the main road connecting Rome to Northern Europe; several castles, hospitals and inns were built in the following centuries to host the increasing number of pilgrims who passed by Parma and



Fidenza . The city had a medieval Jewish community. The Palatine Library houses the largest collection of Hebrew manuscripts in Italy, and the second-largest in the world after the Bodleian Library in Oxford . Under Frankish rule, Parma became the capital of a county in 774. Like most northern Italian cities, it was nominally a part of the Holy Roman Empire created by Charlemagne, but locally ruled by its bishops.

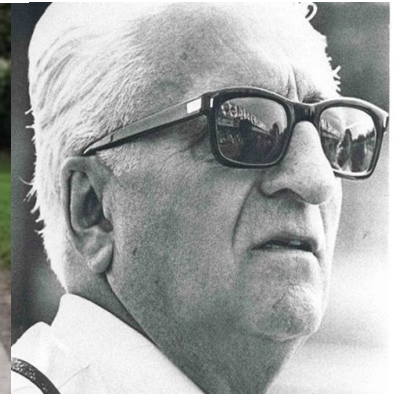
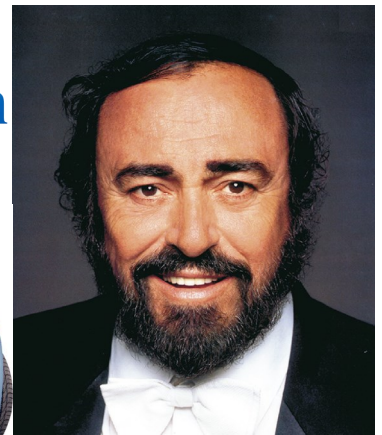
Parma is famous for its food and rich gastronomical tradition: two of its specialties are Parmigiano Reggiano cheese (also produced in Reggio Emilia), and Prosciutto di Parma (Parma ham), both given Protected Designation of Origin status. Parma also claims several stuffed pasta dishes like "tortelli d'erbetta"





## Modena

A town, and seat of an archbishop, it is known for its car industry since the factories of the famous Italian upper-class sports car makers **Ferrari**, De Tomaso, Lamborghini and **Maserati** are, or were, located here and all, except **Lamborghini**, have headquarters in the city or nearby. One of Ferrari's cars, the 360 Modena, was named after the town itself. The University of Modena, founded in 1175 and expanded by Francesco II d'Este in 1686, focuses on economics, medicine and law, and is the second oldest athenaeum in Italy. Italian military officers are trained at the **Military Academy of Modena**, and partly housed in the Baroque Ducal Palace. The Biblioteca Estense houses historical volumes and 3,000 manuscripts. The Cathedral of Modena, the Torre della Ghirlandina and Piazza Grande are a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. Modena is also known in culinary circles for its production of **balsamic vinegar**. Among the most famous persons born in Modena the Tenor **Luciano Pavarotti**, **Enzo Ferrari** himself and **Chef Massimo Bottura** patron of Osteria Francescana, a three-Michelin-star restaurant based in Modena, which has been listed in the top 5 at The World's 50 Best Restaurants Awards since 2010 .





## Reggio Emilia

or colloquially Reggio has a hexagonal form, which derives from the ancient walls, and the main buildings are from the 16th–17th centuries. Reggio began as a historical site with the construction by Marcus Aemilius Lepidus of the Via Aemilia. Apollinaris of Ravenna brought Christianity in the 1st century CE. In 773 the Franks took Reggio. Charlemagne gave the bishop the authority to exercise royal authority over the city. In 1002 Reggio's territory, together with that of Parma, Brescia, Modena, Mantua and Ferrara, were merged into the March of Tuscany, Reggio became a free commune around the end of the 11th, the 12th and 13th century, were a period of violent internal struggle. To thwart the abuses of powerful families such as the Sessi, Fogliani and Canossa, the Senate of Reggio gave the city's rule for a period of three years to Obizzo II d'Este. The city was subsequently under the suzerainty of John of Bohemia, Nicolò Fogliani and Mastino I della Scala, who in 1336 gave it to Luigi Gonzaga. In 1452 Borso was awarded the title of Duke of Modena and Reggio by Frederick III. Borso's successor, Ercole I, imposed heavy levies on the city and appointed the poet Matteo Maria Boiardo, born in the nearby town of Scandiano, as its governor. Later another famous Italian writer, Francesco Guicciardini, held the same position. In 1474, **Ludovico Ariosto**, author of **Orlando Furioso**, was born in the Malaguzzi palace, near the present day townhall.





## Piacenza

founded as Roman military colonies in May 218 BC , Although sacked and devastated several times, the city always recovered . The first Bishop of Piacenza (322–357), declared Saint Antoninus of Piacenza, a soldier of the Theban Legion the patron saint of Piacenza and had the first basilica constructed in his honor in 324. Piacenza was sacked during the course of the Gothic War (535–554). After a short period of being reconquered by the Roman emperor Justinian I, it was conquered by the Lombards . In 1095, the city was the site of the Council of Piacenza, in which the First Crusade was proclaimed. In the 13th century agriculture and trade flourished and Piacenza became one of the richest cities in Europe. This is reflected in the construction of many important buildings and in the general revision of the urban plan. Struggles for control were commonplace in the second half of the 13th century, not unlike the large majority of Medieval Italian communes. The Scotti family, Pallavicini family and Alberto Scoto (1290–1313) held power in that order during the period. Scoto's government ended when the Visconti of Milan captured Piacenza, which they would hold until 1447. Duke Gian Galeazzo Visconti rewrote Piacenza's statutes and relocated the University of Pavia to the city. Piacenza then became a possession of the House of Sforza until 1499. Piacenza was the capital city of the duchy until Ottavio Farnese, Duke of Parma (1547–1586), moved it to Parma. Between 1732 and 1859, Parma and Piacenza were ruled by the House of Bourbon. Remarkable site are Palazzo Comunale, also known as il Gotico, built in 1281, Palazzo Farnese, begun in 1568 by Ottavio Farnese and his wife, modified in 1568 by Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola, better known as "Vignola". **Piazza Cavalli** named for the two **bronze equestrian monuments of Alexander Farnese**, and his son Ranuccio I Farnese, Duke of Parma, The statues are masterpieces of Francesco Mochi, a Mannerist sculptor . **Piacenza Cathedral**: built from 1122 to 1233 is a valuable examples of a Northern-Italian Romanesque architecture. The façade, in Veronese pink marble and gilded stone, is horizontally parted by a gallery that dominates the three gates, decorated with capitals and Romanic statues.



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## Cesena

Cesena was originally an Umbrian or Etruscan town, later known as Caesena. After a brief spell under Gaulish rule, it was taken over by Romans in the 3rd century BC. It was a garrison town of strategic importance which was destroyed in the wars between Gaius Marius and Sulla. Pliny mentions the wines of Cesena as among the best. Cesena was on the border that the Exarchate of Ravenna shared with the Lombards and passed back and forth between the popes and the archbishops of Ravenna; During the period 1379–1465, the city recovered and prospered under the Malatesta, who rebuilt



the castle (called Rocca Malatestiana) overlooking the town. The Malatestiana Library, built by near the castle by Malatesta Novello (1429), is considered a fine example of a Renaissance library and holds many valuable manuscripts. Cesena subsequently turned into a secondary city of the Papal States. In the 18th and 19th centuries Pope Pius VI and Pope Pius VII were born in the city, which also had Pope Pius VIII as bishop, gaining the title of "city of the three popes".

## Forlì

Forlì was founded after the Roman conquest of the remaining Gallic villages, about the time the Via Aemilia was built. After the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, the city was incorporated into the realms of Odoacer and of the Ostrogothic Kingdom. From the end of the 6th century to 751, Forlì was an outlying part of the Byzantine power in Italy known as the Exarchate of Ravenna. By the 9th century the commune had taken control from its bishops, and Forlì was established as an independent Italian city-state. Forlì is the location of various buildings of architectural, artistic and historical significance, that include frescoes as part of their decorations. At the heart of the city sits the Piazza Aurelio Saffi, which includes a statue of Italian politician Aurelio Saffi – who was an important figure in the radical republican current within the Risorgimento movement, headed by Giuseppe Mazzini in the 19th century. The Piazza Saffi also includes the Abbey of San Mercuriale (named after Saint Mercurialis, a bishop of the city who died in the 5th century), which is the main religious building in the city; and contains the famed Sepulchre of Barbara Manfredi. Also of note is the Dominican Church of San Giacomo Apostolo; better known as the Church of San Domenico – a late medieval church built in the 13th century in the southern part of the town.





## Rimini

The city was founded by the Romans in 268 BC. Throughout Roman times, Rimini was a key communications link between the north and south of the peninsula. On its soil, Roman emperors erected monuments such as the **Arch of Augustus** and the Tiberius Bridge to mark the beginning and the end of the **Decumanus** of Rimini. During the Renaissance, the city benefited from the court of the House of Malatesta, which hosted artists like Leonardo da Vinci and produced works such as the **Tempio Malatestiano**. Rimini has a rich historical and artistic heritage, which includes churches and monasteries, villas and palaces, fortifications, archaeological sites, streets and squares. This richness is the result of the succession of various civilizations, dominations and historical events through 22 centuries of history: the Romans, the Byzantines, the role of medieval comune and capital of the Malatesta seignory, the Venetian Republic and the Papal States dominations. The city has always been a key gate to the Orient and the southern areas of the Mediterranean, thanks to its geographical position and the importance of its harbor, and a meeting point between cultures of Northern and Central Italy. Rimini is a major international tourist destination and seaside resort, among the most famous ones in Europe and the Mediterranean basin, thanks to a **long sandy beach**, well-equipped bathing establishments. Tourism in Rimini started as therapeutic stay (thalassotherapy, hydrotherapy and heliotherapy), evolving into elite vacation in the late 19th century, into middle-class tourism during the fascist era and finally into mass tourism in the postwar period. Rimini concentrates a quarter of Emilia-Romagna's hotels, with over 1,000 hotels, 300 of which are open all year round. Tourism is mainly based on seaside holidays, but also includes trade fairs and conventions, events, nightlife, culture, wellness, **food** and wine.





## Food wine and wellness

Together with the great culinary tradition and the food and wine excellence, come along the Thermal Baths and SPA to form a sort of wellness Valley. Among the most important and remarkable places there are **Castel San Pietro Terme** close to Imola in the Bologna area, **Riolo Terme** (well known since ancient time) close to Ravenna very charming and appreciated also for the beautiful itinerary in the surrounding area, **Castrocaro Terme** close to Forlì used since the Etruscan period, **Fratta Terme** close to Cesena one of the most required from Ancient Romans, **Porretta Terme** and **Alto Reno Terme** (Bologna) used since middle age and very appreciate because of the beautiful environment and artistic festivals arranged in the areas not so far from. Last but not least **Sant'Andrea Bagni** close to Parma also used by Ancient Romans for the healthy property of its waters

