



museum info

OPENING HOURS AND TICKET PRICES OF THE MUSEUMS ON THE TERZO DI CITTÀ ITINERARY

PINACOTECA NAZIONALE (National Painting Gallery) Palazzo Buonsignori Via San Pietro 29
Tues.- Sat. 8.15-19.15, Mon. 8.30-13.30, Sunday and public holidays
8.15-13.30. Closed 1 January, 1 May, 25 December
Tickets: Euro 4,30 - Reduced Euro 2,00

PICCOLOMINI LIBRARY in the Duomo
1 Nov.-14 March 10.00-13.00, 14.00-17.00; 15 March-31
Oct. 9.00-19.30; Sunday and public holidays open from 13.30 - 19.30
Closed: 25 December, 1 January
Tickets: Euro 1,50 - groups of 15 or more 1,20

SANTA MARIA DELLA SCALA Piazza Duomo
16 March-5 Nov. 10.00-18.00; 6 Nov.-15 March,
10.30-16.30, 24 Dec.-6 Jan. 10.00-18.00
Tickets: Euro 5,20 - reduced 3,10 - groups of 15 or more 4,20
www.santamaria.comune.siena.it - infoscala@comune.siena.it

PALAZZO DELLE PAPERSE Center for Contemporary Via di Città
12.00-19.00 Closed: Monday
Tickets: Euro 5,00 - reduced 3,50 - groups of 20 or more 4,00
www.papesse.org - papesse@comune.siena.it

useful numbers

TOURIST INFORMATION phone +39 0577 280551

24-HOUR TAXI SERVICE phone +39 0577 49222

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE Le Scotte Hospital - phone +39 0577 585807-0577 585809



Grosseto

T

he Terzo di Città, or Third of the City, was the

original residential nucleus of Siena that

relied on the Castelvechio for its defense.

Art and Culture in Siena

To get the hang of Siena it helps if you appreciate that

the city is still divided into Terzi, or Thirds, known as

the Thirds of the City, of San Martino and of Camollia.

By devoting a simple itinerary to each of these Thirds,

we can help you understand the city's history and

discover its foremost works of art.

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Siena Terzo di Città



COMUNE DI SIENA

Quattro Cantoni and Pinacoteca Nazionale
Castelvechio
Chiesa delle Carceri di Sant'Ansano
Pian dei Mantellini
Via Stalloreggi
Piazza Jacopo della Quercia
Duomo
Santa Maria della Scala
Battistero
Palazzo Chigi Saracini
Palazzo delle Papesse

Terzo di Città

1 QUATTRO CANTONI, PINACOTECA

The main streets of the Terzo di Città begin in Piazza Postierla, which the Sieneze refer to as the “Quattro Cantoni”, or Four Corners. Not only does this square harbor the little fountain of the Contrada dell’Aquila, but it also features the smallest window in the world, on the facade of the palazzo on the



THE BLESSED AGOSTINO NOVELLO BY SIMONE MARTINI

right. The National Painting Gallery (Pinacoteca Nazionale), located in Via San Pietro, boasts a unique collection of precious works painted on backgrounds of gold leaf, including masterpieces by Duccio di Buoninsegna, Simone Martini, Pietro and Ambrogio Lorenzetti and other artists of the Sieneze School. A little further on is the flight of steps leading to the Church of S. Pietro in Castelvechio, opposite the lane of the same name.

2 CASTELVECCHIO

Legend has it that in the year 700 BC the sons of Remus, Aschius and Senius, escaped from Rome and the wrath of their uncle

Romulus and headed north. Once they had crossed the river Tressa, Senius built himself a castle (Castelsenio) on the highest hilltop with the help of some shepherds. In time it came to be known as Castelvechio, which is also the name of the road that climbs up to the courtyard that was once the fortified nucleus of Castelsenio.

3 CAPPELLA DELLE CARCERI DI SANT’ANSANO

This is where the city’s first martyr is said to have been jailed. Despite his imprisonment, he continued to baptize the Sieneze from the little window in the tower, thereby spreading Christianity throughout the city. Sant’ Ansano is now the Patron Saint of Siena, and his feast day is celebrated on 1 December.

4 PIAN DEI MANTELLINI

A *mantello* in Italian is a cape, and since the monks of the Church of San Niccolò al Carmine wore a cape over their habits, the area itself acquired its curious name. Inside

CASTELVECCHIO



DUOMO

the church there are important paintings by Sieneze artists, including a work by the Mannerist painter Domenico Beccafumi, who was forced to produce a second version of the same subject since the first one did not meet with his clients’ approval.

5 VIA DI STALLOREGGI

Duccio di Buoninsegna painted his Maestà at number 91 in this street. The largest painting of the Middle Ages, in 1311 it was carried in procession to the Cathedral. Further up the street is the Tabernacle of the Madonna of the Crow, which legend says was built where a crow fell to the ground in 1348, spreading the Plague throughout the city. Along this street there are numerous Tower Houses.

6 PIAZZA JACOPO DELLA QUERCIA

The size and spacing of the columns of what would have been the facade of the Duomo give an idea of just how big the Cathedral was supposed to have been. But what the Sieneze hoped would become the greatest cathedral in Christendom was undermined by the enormous costs involved, by the Plague itself and by technical problems deriving from the fact that the ground was unable to bear the weight of so much stone. The great facade, beyond which is the Museum of the Opera del Duomo, offers an exceptional view over Siena. The original marble statues sculpted

by Giovanni Pisano for the facade and the Maestà painted by Duccio di Buoninsegna between 1308 and 1311 are among the masterpieces housed in the Museum.

7 DUOMO

Faced in black and white marble, the cathedral entirely dominates the square. Designed by Giovanni Pisano, the facade is a masterpiece of the Romanesque Gothic style. An impressive interplay of black and white is also a feature of the interior, where the columns are offset by the blue of the vaulted ceiling and the splendidly decorated floor. Composed of 56 images of mythological figures and Old Testament scenes portrayed in inlaid marble, it was created between the years 1379 and 1547, and is only visible in its entirety a few months of the year. Other works of art of remarkable importance



MAESTA’ BY DUCCIO DI BUONINSEGNA

include the St. John the Baptist by Donatello and the famous pulpit by Nicola Pisano. The

chapel known as the Cappella del Voto, on the right, is where the Sieneze expressed

votive thanks to the Madonna following the victorious Battle of Monteperti in 1260. To this day, citizens still come here with special pleas for divine intervention. A door on the left side of the interior of the cathedral leads through to the Piccolomini Library, built in 1495 at the behest of Cardinal Francesco Piccolomini. Apart from the magnificent collection of illuminated antiphonaries, the Library also boasts a colorful fresco cycle painted by Pinturicchio to illustrate the life of the Cardinal’s famous uncle, the great Humanist Pope Pius II.

8 COMPLESSO MUSEALE DEL SANTA MARIA DELLA SCALA

Legend has it that Santa Maria della Scala was founded by a cobbler name Sorore, who died in 898. In reality, the structure was set up by canons of the Cathedral, right opposite, as the headquarters of a confraternity that offered pilgrims bound for Rome hospitality, in other words a place to stay and regain their strength. As a result it became one of Europe’s first hospitals, extending its care to the poor and homeless.



PILGRIMS’ HALL

The original nucleus of the complex is the Church, built towards the middle of the 1200s and further developed at the end of the 15th century. Over the years the structure enjoyed the benefits of generous endowments and donations, investing these riches in agricultural estates whose output could be stored in specially built fortified granaries known as *grance*. The life of the “Spedale” is portrayed in the frescoes that decorate the Sala del Pellegrinaio. With its fine collection of works by important Sieneze artists, today Santa Maria della Scala is a museum complex that vies in importance with the Duomo and the Palazzo Pubblico.

9 BATTISTERO

There are steps leading down from the right side of the Cathedral that will bring you to the Church of San Giovanni Battista, in other words the Baptistery, which is also rich in works of art. On one of these steps there is a little cross, which marks the spot where St. Catherine is said to have fallen while climbing up to the cathedral on her knees. Via di Città will take us from here to the headquarters of the Accademia Chigiana, the famous international Music Academy that is especially acclaimed for its summer school.

10 PALAZZO CHIGI SARACINI

The eagle that features on the mullioned windows belongs to the coat of arms of the powerful Marescotti family, who had the first part of the palazzo built in the 12th century. Later additions to the building enhanced its strategic importance, to the extent that the tower is said to have been used as a vantage point in 1262 to provide the Sieneze with a blow by blow account of the victorious Battle of Monteperti. During its long history the property has changed hands several times, finally to be acquired by the Chigi-Saracini family in 1877. The last scion of this noble stock, Count Guido, made the palace over to the prestigious Accademia Musicale Chigiana that he had founded in 1932.



AN INSTALLATION IN PALAZZO DELLE PAPPESSE

11 PALAZZO DELLE PAPPESSE

On the right, a little beyond Palazzo Chigi Saracini, you will find the Palazzo delle Papesse, now a Center for Contemporary Art. Its curious name (a neologism equivalent to “Popess”) derives from the fact that it was built in 1460 at the behest of Caterina Piccolomini, whose brother became Pope Pius II.

