



# Casalecchio di Reno

## Guide to the territory



COMUNE  
CASALECCHIO DI RENO





*Beach of Casalecchio di Reno (Historical Archives)*

welcome in Casalecchio di Reno!

You are just arrived in a place full of history and surprise.

In Thousand years, civilization and events have occurred, layering artifacts, monuments, experiences and remembers. the aerial bombing that destroyed Casalecchio from 1944 till few days before the liberation of Italy, caused many victims and transformed the 90% of this little municipality in ashes and rubble, and for this reason most of the people considered it like a peripheral part of Bologna. All the citizens from Casalecchio were always so proud about their place and they always take care about identity of that, in the age between 800 and 900, were called „The little Paris“. Here is one Italian hide corner, made of amazing place, incredible stories and unbelievable people.

In these last years, Casalecchio is discovering again the ancient vocation for the tourism. most off the public sights ,are most often opened. like „the gate“, the most older hydraulic construction built in Europe, nowadays still in function. we want that All our public sights could become place to relax and refresh from the hot summer, especially in our many parks, in the „lido“ and in the Hills with the suggestive „Eremo“.

This little guide of Casalecchio is born to offer a indication and suggestion to all the people that want to visit the city. the old citizen could find again corners and remembers almost forgotten, the new one will watch their new city with a different point of view and all the people that will reach this place, will have the possibility to discover this site full of story to tell.

**Amministrazione Comunale**



## Historical notes

**Casalecchio di Reno** was the land of two ancient civilities, Villanovans and Etruscan that left here many archeological evidence. After that, The Romans create here a Castrum with many farms and calling this place "Casalicum" (from Latin little group of houses). After being the venue of a district of Papal state, Casalecchio become a autonomy Municipality in 19 January 1804. In his „diary of board“ Stendhal wrote about his experience in Bologna explain his assiduous tour in Casalecchio every morning to the Falls calling the river Reno "The Bois De Boulogne", the river "Reno" is the most important protagonist in Casalecchio, a real square of the city, so much important to being part of the name

From the end of age 800, for 50 years, Casalecchio become the favorite place where to go in the Sunday vacation for many people from Bologna and also many from all the region. There are few pictures with families who started from Modena to get some days of vacation here, in the hills or in the lido, a real different kind of beach and for all this reason Casalecchio deserve the nickname "little Paris". Te being real strategic position, with important streets and rails, Casalecchio was strafed during the second world war, and was destroyed for the 90%. In 2003 the Italian president give to Casalecchio the gold medal for the civil merit like a acknowledgment for all the damages suffered from the city and the citizens, with their active part in the battle for the resistance.

In the last decades, thank to his important infrastructures, the citizenship of Casalecchio is grown up with many thousand people more and creating own economic system with commercial activity and two big industrial areas. The deeper change of economic side of this last years gave to Casalecchio the possibility to discover again his touristic side giving great importance to places like I the Gate park, Eremo di Tizzano and historical villas and and the system of "the gate", the most important hydraulic system of the past, in use nowadays that won a award in 2010 and the official acknowledgment from Unesco like " cultural patrimony of peace for the young"



## Notes about paths

All the paths you will find in the next pages are created taking care about important issues for Casalecchio. The area of Casalecchio's municipality is not so wide, and for this reason could be considered less interesting for the lovers of outdoor activity. despite it, there are many interest sights full of quality (you can find it in the map). Our proposal is about three paths for trekking and mountain bike between in the middle of the nature and many interesting historical sights. The first track was planned in the gate's park, to give you possibility to feel the nature and history passing through Nobles's Villas and raising up till Basilica of San Luca. To come back to the start you have to pass in front of a historical covert from the second world war. The second path is about the river "Reno", the power of Casalecchio and Bologna. Nowadays we have four bridges over the river and the road pass to the "Lido"(beach) full of visitors in the past and also currently, the Gate and other particular sights like the "house of the ice" and "the bridge of the peace and spinning mill". The third road embrace the hill in the top of the city, always inside of nature and story. in the map there are all the others ways, like the street of gods, the roads of CAI and also the paths not signaled .all the roads are unite with a QR code and there's possibility to download the maps in file gpx and kml



The Cà Bianca, first stop of this path

## the Gate's park San Luca the road „De Bregoli“

### the Gate's park

The gate's park, also known from the citizen like Park Talon, take this name from the family that owned it and lived in that areas since from 600. With the help of ancient pictures and maps we can image the wonder of the abode of the marquis Zampieri Talon and the beauty of the park, as they wanted and planned. Around the Villa there were two gardens, one with French style and the other with Italian and another big English park, all perfectly mixed between hills and vineyards. The forest, extended for many hectares, was the best resource for food and wood. till the moment the Marquis owned this place, many party and facilities were made, often for a celebrities guest. In 1975 this area was gave to the municipality that decide to open it to all the visitors. The gardens were immediately the most favorite place to visit and love and it's the best sight to visit in summer time, looking for some refresh. In this area there's also Margerita's House, ancient residence recently restored, where the cooperativa Biodiversi own some field to cultivate with the BIO method. [15]



View of the Gate from the side of the park

### the gate of Casalecchio

The Gate of Casalecchio is the most older hydraulic system of the Europe and it's nowadays working. It's in function from more than 800 years and its consider the boss of the water of Casalecchio. Was built in 1208 to make a shelter from inundation and to make energy for the mills and factory of the medieval city. Was also used for the commercial navigation between bologna and the Europe. After the canal Reno recovering, Bologna used this netting of canals, becoming a important city of water, beyond a big and important center for the production of the silk. The power of the water were too much strong and the gate was restored many times. after that the Pope Pio V in 1567 order to the people that get money from the river to rebuild the gate and maintenance it. Was born the big Gate, designed from Jacopo Barozzi "called Vignola" and nowadays is a incredible testimony of engineering of that age. In December 2010 the Gate had the official acknowledgment from Unesco like " cultural patrimony of peace for the young". Currently this patrimony is managed from consortium of the Gate that organizes many guided tours and events.[16]





Route

1

Typology: round  
Interest: Landscape  
Duration: 02:00 H.  
Length: 6,0 Km  
Climb difference: 267 mt.  
Descent difference: 267 mt.  
Supplying water: yes  
Reported: yes  
Signposting: CAI 112/A  
Difficulties: E- Hiking



### *A easy track between the gate's park, Basilica of San Luca and the historical road De Bergoli.*

*This itinerary is technically simple but varied, not only for the ambient to cross but also for the story starting from the main entry of the gate's park, also called Tallon Park [15], close to the Church of San Martin [9]. In the beginning it's along avenue of trees that cross a little street via Panoramica to take in left side and cross till the end, in a big field called Ca' Bianca. In this first step is important to watch Villa Sampieri Talon [14], now in restoring status. Further on we will ride through a narrow path through the vegetation (sentiero delle montagnole) begin to rise up, touring around the hill, till the top and after little bit time to the Montagnola di Sopra, head office of the park. From here continue keeping right direction. In few time you will reach a real street called Via di San Luca. From this position you can see all the valley of river Reno and a piece of the hills of Bologna. Continuing in the street, in the left side, you will reach the Basilica of San Luca in few time. From that position you can decide to fall to Bologna using the amazing arcade till the Arch of Meloncello or come back to the start between a fascinating other track called Bregoli. To take this last road you must come back in the street for 500 m and after the parking, in the right side, keep the little road that fall, called CAI 112/A [9] till reach the church of San Martino [9], starting point of this trekking. A little bit before the end of this track there's a important sight to see, it's the entry of the refuge from the bombs [13], used from all the people till the end of the war.*

### **Refuge from the bomb Ettore Muti**



Along the road "dei Bergoli" there is the refuge from the bomb Ettore Muti. Here, during the second world war, many people from Casalecchio get a shelter from plane attack. It was built by municipality in 1943 with the project of Ing. Raulo Re. the tunnel was considered one of the most sure ever, also against the best hit. This gallery is long 114 m. [13]



nature walking for all the road till San Luca to participate to the Catholic functions and then come back in the Gate's Park ending the afternoon with a meal in the open area. nowadays this kind of tradition is still actual also thanks to many historical associations for the protection of the tradition. [10]

### **the road "De Bregoli"**

on the right side of Church San Martino start the road De Bregoli that, after a winding route along the hills, arrive at Basilica di San Luca. The name Bregoli come from the dialect language. Fantasy stories says that the poor came here to stole the "Briguel" (pieces of wood) to turn on the fire. Seems that this route was the ancient Via Flaminia, used to unite Florence and Bologna. This road combines Bologna and Casalecchio and give the name to the street Via de Bregoli, where you can find a "way of the cross" that start in the Church of San Martino and end close to Basilica of San Luca, in the mountain of guardian. this track is full of suggestive sights like "balzo della Pizzacherra" (name of the rio close to the route), all the landscape about Casalecchio, the nature and many animals. This traditional route were used in the Monday of Angel, to unite devotion and

## Old Bridge on Reno



It's really believable that Romans and Etruscan built a bridge on this river. The first documents about it are from year 110, when the council of elderly of Bologna made a fund for the maintenance of the bridge. The Historical Abate Trombelli said that in XII century, the old bridge of sandstones was rebuilt in brick. In that age the bridge were owned from the canonical of Santa Maria del Reno who made maintenance like after the big inundation of 1296 that damage many part close to the river and broke two arches. There were also a big battle over the bridge in 26 July 1402 known as Battle of Casalecchio between people from Bologna and the ducal of Giangaleazzo Visconti. In the middle of 800 the construction was beauty and imposing, with a medieval style, Arch not aligned and much slope in the street over. The bridge, that originally was wide 4 meter was always expanded and fixed from all the administration of the city. In 1882 was still expanded more to let the railway pass over. In June 1944 and April 1945, after the aerial bombing, was completely destroy and in 1946 built again.



the walkway on Reno [19]

## the path of four bridges on Reno



the bridge of spinning mills [2]. in this place, till the age '40, the boatman Aldo Mandini, ferried the people between the sides of the river.



the bridge of peace [3] and, in the background, the municipality building

## "signed" Bridges

The bridge of peace [3] and the new bridge of Filanda [2] are designed from the architect and Engineer Massimo Majowiecki, both really particular for the structural solution used. the first give you a remind of the Venice's gondola with all this steel cables and wood. the second get inspiration from the swan with elegance and lightness. This two constructions are studied from practitioners, students from university of Architecture and engineering and many pictures about it are inside of architectures book and magazines of contemporary architecture. Together the bridge over the Porretana and the other over the river make together "the fourth bridges on Casalecchio" [2] [3]





# Trekking

## FOUR BRIDGES ON RENO



Route

2



Typology: round  
 Interest: Historical and Architectural  
 Duration: 02:50 H.  
 Length: 9,1 Km  
 Climb difference: 131 mt.  
 Descent difference: 143 mt.  
 Supplying water: yes  
 Reported: partly  
 Difficulties: T-Touristic

*A long zig/zag on one of the most important river of Emilia Romagna, discovering bridges and hidden places full of history and architecture value*

The ring touch few of the more characteristic places of Casalecchio. Starting from Filanda [1] and just throwing in the first bridge[2], arriving in the Garibaldi district. Continuing in Via Tripoli, Via dei Mille and Via dello Sport you cross the center for young Blogos and the municipality's palace. Then walking on the wonderful bridge of the peace [3]you arrive in Romainville, a big park with sporting area, called in this way for the exchange of twin city with the French city. under this bridge, walking close the river you will reach the bridge over the Reno (Via Porretana) [7], also along this this last bridge you arrive in the square of monument dedicated to the fallen. Restarting from here you will reach the Lido [18] and taking a little road that bring you in Via Ronzani you will reach the board who signal the last little catwalk [19]. The turning back is between the gate's park [15] till San Martin [9], and then following the bicycle path direction Bologna to come back to the start



### The house of Ice



In the complicated artificial hydraulic system of Bologna there is also the "paraporto Scaletta" called "the house of ice" opened to the public views, after recovering, in 2009. Nowadays is one of the more visited site in the hydraulic system of Bologna. In the past a big grate were putted in the water to blocked the big ice's plate formed in the winter time, and leave free to work with water only the big rounds of mills and factories. Now, this barricades is mostly used to block the trash and all the materials that the river pick them up, cleaning the river. this building was recover from the architect Jacopo Barozzi, called "Il Vignola" who worked in this existent structure in '500. The original build was realized about 1000 together with the canal.[8]

### The Spinning mill



In 1851, a group of rich and nobles from Bologna, with also the minister Marco Minichetti and earl Zucchini, decided to realize a big and modern place to work hemp in Casalecchio di Reno, in locality Canonica, incorporating existing places used for realize paper, oil etc etc. the hemp factory were, in that age, one of the first in Italy for dimension, machines and availability of money. this structure grown up always more, mostly after 1906, when the national hemp factory bought the manufactory from the old owners. from the beginning of production till 1910, the manufactory worked only with the hydraulic energy, using the "jump" of the water of canal. The activity was blocked during the first world war and started again after 1918. With the crisis of hemp and the earthquake of 1929 started the decline of this factory. The owners decided to move the activity in other place. because all the damage suffered from the structure of Casalecchio di Reno, this plant was definitely closed. This building was give to military authority. With the armistice, the barrack was left from militaries, and in only one day all the population run inside to steal every kind of weapon, furniture, food, horses cars and motorcycle. [1]









Hermitage of Tizzano

## the hill, the villas and the Hermitage



Villa Marescalchi

### Hermitage of Tizzano

This monastery is made from many building and has lived many various events. born after decision of hermits monks Camaldolesi from Monte Corona, who decided to realize a new community in the lands of Bologna in the fields of Guastavillani's family. The church, dedicated to San Benedetto, was started in 1655 and after slow work , was ended in 1741 and consecrated in 27 August from Cardinal Giovan Battista Scarselli. The facade have simple lines, elegant baroque style, with monastic severity. inside there's a unique nave, tall and shine with side chapel connected with narrow passage. on the main altar and in the sides chapels there's several works of artist from Bologna with ages between XVI and XVII century. The most important is a Cross set in a marble frame. In the basement there's reliquary with original cross scraps and other proof of the passion of Christ. on the left side there's the bell tower, made in 1724, and formerly lived by the Prior. In the big field in the back of building, there were 22 cell for hermit monks, and now just perimetric walls and two little houses. from the field there a awesome view of Bologna and Casalecchio. [20]

### Villa Marescalchi

In the middle of XVIII century, the Cont Vincenzo Marescalchi, descending from important family subscribed to the Bologna's senate, bought by Benedictine monks a manor, and built over and giant and elegant Casino with English forest, garden water games and beauty paints and using the rest of fields for agriculture. In 1811, Antonio Marescalchi, back from France decided to restored the Villa, adding to the building double lodges with thin column. When he died, all the heredity goes to the only daughter Matilde who married the Count Guido Carlo Visconti of Modrone. From this couple descending the actual owner of the manor. the building was damaged during the world conflict and recover with a different and modern style. From the ancient building were saved only the tower and one arcade. all the internal paints has been loosed, who were made from local artist Cesare Baglioni. Close to the entry there's a little chapel dedicated to Saint Antony. the park with green fields and trees is really beauty. The Villa is not open for the public views but is allowed to visit the cellar, always owed from Visconti, full of good wine from the wonderful vineyards all around.[23]







Route

3



Typology: round  
Interest: Landscape  
Duration: 01:30 H.  
Length: 17,3 Km  
Climb difference: 379 mt.  
Descent difference: 378 mt.  
Supplying water: yes  
Reported: partly  
Difficulties: MC-  
hikers with average technical skills

### *17 kilometers between vineyards, hills and suggestive landscape of the Reno's valley*

The park of Gate [15] is the starting place of this long round, for a bikers with a strong and trained leg. The road CAI 112 VD is called "road of Gods", the famous connection between Bologna and Florence through the Apennines. Cross the bridge on the Reno, [19] after the sporting facilities you arrive in Via Allende. close to the crossing with Via Porretana is better follow the bicycle path who arrive till to Faianello's park, not using the dangerous main street. From this park, crossing Via Porretana you can take Via Rosa. From this moment everything become more hard. You must rise up to the hill, through vineyards and century trees. In this route you will meet Villa Marescalchi [23] and Hermitage of Tizzano [20]. The road start to fall till the district Marullina, where you can stop in the park [17]. ahead in Via Manzoni, then Via Respighi and then crossing Via Bazzanese. Following the indication to the rail station, you reach another bicycle path and after used it you will come in a round about, straight on taking Via Ugo Bassi and Via dei Mille. You arrive in front of Bridge of Peace [3], you can cross it or decide to continue straight on in Via Tripoli till the new bridge of Spinning Mill [2]. From here you can follow a part of "the four bridges on Casalecchio" (described before) till come back to the Gate's Park.



### *The Olive trees of Casalecchio*

The Olive tree, typical Mediterranean essence, absent in the last three centuries from our land, was current in Emilia Romagna from Middle age. Also Casalecchio were land of Olive trees and is still living one exemplary with 300 years founded in the west side of manor of Viscounts of Mordone [22]. Close to the Hermitage of Tizzano, falling direction Cà Bianca [21], are there two stumps with five meter of circumference, that give us impression that

they are old many centuries. Other two Olive trees were found in Ceretolo, in Villa Guidi [6]; still nowadays their branches are cutted and gives to families for the Sunday of palms. Seems that the oldest Olive trees of Casalecchio were planted in "podere Cà di Sotto": there's a paper evidence about 1607. The Olive trees were cultivated for all the century XVIII and probably also after this time; after the development of transport become more cheap buy the oil from the south Italy than produce it here, and the plants were changed with others. Also inside of the Gate's park seems that were living olive trees and vineyards: there's some evidence in the land register "Boncompagni". Today there's no sign about these Olive trees but there's a new plan to fix all the park and cultivate again the old fields of "Sampieri-Talon" and is really probably that soon we will see again some Olive in this municipality.

### *The road of Gods*

The route Bologna-Florence (indication in White/red with writes BO-FI and schedule) in the municipality of Casalecchio start in the entry of the Gate's park and through the main venue with centuries trees and rest of Villa Talon till arrive in a big field. Soon you reach the fence from where you can see the gate of river Reno. Walking close to the river you will find a little bridge to go in the opposite side. the route in the other side is often closer to the river and sometimes far from it but always in the shadows because of the forest. In autumn, winter and spring, along the route you can find muddy and bother parts. After the exit from the forest there a white road that, outmatch the Rio Rii, arrive in a big farm/Villa with a little lake. after the landslide, because of the river, you will reach soon the normal road direction south (via Vizzano) and then Via Ganzole. The road of Gods is the most famous route to connect Bologna and Florence trough Apennines and hundreds persons with passion of trekking, every years, choose this way.





The beach was born randomly, without official celebrations with authorities, but thanks to intelligence and rumors between the people that haunt this improvised beach. In the beginning was used by citizens, "people of house" that use this river everyday for the work and also for fun. After a bit time the rumors of this new summer paradise close to the city arrived also in Bologna and the people begin to move from the city to reach this beach in the summer time. It's the age '30, the first world war is ended from 10 years, and the people want to start again thinking about the future and, to get money also using fantasy, they creating something like a ticket to entry in the beach (exactly as nowadays in some beach). The beach of Casalecchio was a weird place, just with a little cabin, used like a dressing room far from the eyes of costumers, and with some

cold and refreshing drinks. The municipality decide to give to Association of war invalids the management of this place, to give them a little help beyond the poor state's pension. It's the summer of 1932, there's about 10.000 people in the holidays and 20.000 in the middle august. The beach is a real important way to get money and the management is moved to a professional who, after getting his own money, and after payed the taxes, give also money to Association of war invalids. From that moment you can rent umbrella and chairs, you can use showers and cabins. The service of refreshment were gave to Adelmo Sandri, who fix up everything till realize a real own restaurant. Traditional plates from Bologna's culture and, obviously, the most important plate is the frying of fish from the river just fished. This amazing season of the beach continue till 1942 when, cause of the war, the wants and possibility to enjoy is not so important anymore. After the second world war the people from Casalecchio comes back again in the beach, and already from 1946 the place comes back beautiful like before. From that moment there also a news: "the green Isle", a special dance place, between Isle and beach, that become one of the most famous club in the zone and continue to work nowadays from the 1952. In Italy, after the war, there's a economic boom and almost all the family can have car and scooter. With all this ways of transports, the people want to visit far places and the holidays far from the house becomes something like a real status symbol. For all this reason the beach is always less used from the people. The end of the age of beach were in 1966, with a terrible flood who destroyed all the structure close to the river. For many years the beach was forget from the people till when, in 1998, the municipality administration decide to recover this important historical part of the city. This decision was right because nowadays the beach is managed from some privates, who rent umbrellas and chairs and make the service of refreshment just when the sun start to come out. [18]

### The road of Cavera

The connection road between Casalecchio and Sasso Marconi tread the hill in the right side of river Reno and is not so famous but really interesting for the excursion. In 1262 the municipality of Bologna planned a new road alternatively to the little route of the hills, and decide to built another road in the right side of the river and give the possibility to the people from Tuscany to reach Bologna and sell wood. This road started from Vizzano, then "la Tomba" (in middle age were a fortress factory with warehoused and stables), La casetta, Ragazzon, Cà Bianca till the church of San Martin using the road of Cavera that originally were the main street and nowadays is just a road internal in the park. This route between Casalecchio and Vizzano was covered from people of Bologna because it simplified the transit and gave them possibility to control the side of river, used from the people of Tuscany to move the woods in the water till the gate of Casalecchio. This road was used also to move the blocks of selenite and gypsum tacked from the "Cavera" (quarry) that were between Cà Bianca and Borgo di Gesso (the village of Chalk also called "Gessaroli"). To make this important work were called all the municipality crossed by the road: Casalecchio, Paderno, Sabbionno, Pieve del Pino, Ancognano and Vizzano. The citizens of this villages made the road with their own money and they had the obligation to maintain everything in a good condition. This route between Casalecchio and Sasso was used less in XV century and reused till the construction of Via Porretana. The important families from Bologna gave a lot of money to build this road and they weren't sure to leave it, but the other route in the left side of the river, more close to the city and flat, seems more interesting in the economic side. This new owners (that obtained the power in the city) asked to municipality of Bologna to guarantee the security of this zone from bandits and old landowners. They asked also the maintain of the route because it will help the development. Step by step this little white roads, will become the important Via Porretana and Strada di Fondovalle del Reno also if, only in the XVII century, will becomes the real project that will be stopped because of missing money. Neither the arrivals of French with Napoleon in 1796 helped, because they were interested only in military roads and connection with France. In this years, Lizzano in Belvedere start new activity of mining of Oil of beech for alimentary, therapeutic and fuel use. The producers of this oil want more connection with the markets and finally the municipality of Bologna ask to Ing. Giovanni Battista Martinetti to plan the definitely plan of Via Porretana. The first part of it between Casalecchio and Sasso ended in 1813, then the street will arrive in Porretta in 1848. Since that moment the old route in the right side of river between Casalecchio and Vizzano loose every importance. It will be always used from the local people also because along this way there are many farmhouses and fields.





### the Church of San Martin

This Church is really old, there's news about it since from VII century. Was destroyed from Barbarian invasion and then rebuilt in 1074. In the beginning of '900 the rector Mons. Filippo Ercolani, gave to Collamarini the order to recover definitely the building, who ended the work in 1937. The church has never changed since that moment and there's many important works inside from '600. The most interesting part of the church is the elegant profile and the bell tower. Close to the church there is a monument of the cross, work made in ancient age. In 1681 were already a ruin and was restored many times. In 1805 the Pope Pio VII goes by this place and were made an incision in the base of monuments to remind this moment. During the first world war was destroyed again and in 1996 restored again thanks to help from family Ghillini.



### Villa Troiano

The Villa was ordered by Camillo Bolognetti and ended in 1559. The project was attributed to Arch. Domenico Tibaldi, but he was too young to project it and most probably the real planner was Pellegrino Tibaldi. It's a typical Senator's Villa from '500 who get the mansion and the houses for bondages and farm workers that take care about fields, the name Toiano comes from Roman language, from Tullius (owner of field) and changed in vulgar Toiano. The Villa was damaged during the second world war and thanks to the current owners were restored and pick up to the ancient splendor. The building have four arcade, one for every side; the most imposing support the elegant triangular pediments of main sides. The arcaded loggia, on the south side, opens up an avenue that bring up to the Caffè house, surrounded from grove, formerly used by guests. In the back of the house, close to the end of the lawn delimited from statues from '700, are there the farm houses [24]



### Villa Ghillini and the "Bamboza"

The elegant noble residence, with ancient origins, it's a rare example of the continuity housing from the first century a.C. till today. All the diggings made in the end of '800 gave us a lot of leavings of walls, floors and roman bath from late republican age. After the transformation in fortress in the middle age, this building become the castle of Casalecchio that, thanks to his high position, control the street, the bridge, the river and all the valley below. Only in 1500, after the entry of the land of Bologna in the Papal state, the castle change from military use to mansion. The castle was owned from family Ballantini, Counts Cospi that were inside of the government of Bologna. In 1406 they were at people's Senator and was nominee Marquises in century XVIII. In the first half of '800 the Marquises Cospi sold the Villa to Prof. Giovanni Aldini, important scientist and political man, nephew of Luigi Galvani brother of Lawyer Antonio Aldini who were minister of Napoleon. from family Aldini, the Villa goes to family Ghillini thanks to which the Villa was restored and comes back wonderful.[4]

In the Via Porretana, close to Villa Ghillini, there's an ancient fountain that times ago, gave refreshment to wayfarers and horses with his fresh water from Rio della Pizzacchera. The people from the village called this fountain "Bamboza" cause it look like the tailor's dummy (called Bamboza). There's not certain age of this work, probably from XVII century, neither about who was the purchaser that made it for a public utility. Just nowadays, after the last restored, comes new information about the origin of fountain, that made in connection the three columns, and a particular noble symbol of Cospi. We can probably think that were the family of Cospi, when they were owner of the Villa, to purchase this fountain to public utility. [5]



### The theater

The building, planned from Ing. Carlo Tonelli was built in 1928. Was used in the first times as a theater and house of Fascism also if the structure, simple and linear doesn't remind the modernist architecture used in that age. The construction is more soft thanks to the air loggia built in the terrace roof. This space were used for the training of fencing and gym. the theater was used as cinema, was the first for Casalecchio and were always full of people. After the war, the house of Fascism become house of the people and the theater was called Communal theater Alfredo Testoni, in the honor of the celebrities playwright of Bologna, who loved a lot Casalecchio. In the '60 the building was restored and all the ancient furniture by Melchiorre Bega were loose. From 2012 the name of the building is public. The theater of Casalecchio di Reno. [11]





### Villa Sampieri Talon

the first tidings about family Sampieri are from '300. this family becomes rich with trade routes. in the beginning of '500 they starting to buy more fields in Casalecchio widening their owned and building the Villa Sampieri vecchia (old Villa), nowadays still visible in the park. in the '700, after grown up with rank, they ordered a new Luxurious and giant house that sooner become a fashion place to meet people in elegant party till the beginning of '900. between the most important people that were in that party we cannot forget Gioacchino Rossini, Gaetano Donizetti and Stendhal who loved to walk in Bologna and Casalecchio admiring the nature and river landscape. after the military attack from the second world war this amazing Villa was almost totally destroyed and nowadays we can just see a little ruin in the entry of the park. [14]



### Church of St. John the Baptist

the most important and central, between the four churches built after war, is the Church of St. John the Baptist in Via Marconi, in the side of public gardens, along the river Reno. the author of the project was the Architecht Melchiorre Bega, with fame all over the world, that dedicated lots of diligence in this work (it's the only Church he planned). the plant is polygonal, a Greek cross, composed of four aisles, three for the faithful and one for the liturgical functions. the altar, built in the center of church is a block of sandstone weight 40 quintals. also the tabernacle is a work of artistic merit, being a bronze casting of six quintals made from sculptor Vignoli, teacher of sculptor in the Academy of fine arts of Bologna. inside, the visible structures in cement are enlivened by the coating of white marble walls which gives greater brightness. the external walls are enlivened with blocks of sandstone gold-yellow, comes from Montovolo.

another original elements is the baptistery. with a square plan, with access from inside and outside, with a font in sandstone and bronze statue representative of St. John the Baptist. that's a work of sculptor Luciano Minguzzi. On the upper wall of the facade stands a stained glass window with sculptural decorations in bronze particularly original and striking. [12]



### Villa Marullina

about the old Villa Marullina, totally different from the actual building, we have tidings from 1466. was restored and extended from 1620 to 1640, with a rich interior full of decorations, painted coffered perhaps by Curti and Colonna or Milietti. after several owners, the Villa was inherited to Marquis Beccadelli. the last noble descendant who lived the beautiful Villa, a little decadent in its elegant decor. was the Marquis Beccadelli James, who died in the 80s. Currently you can entry to the park by Via Calzavecchio. the park is less rich of century old trees, less wide but always ordered in its new function. the Villa, restored respecting the maintenance of its architecture and artistic internal decoration is nowadays used as a prestigious head office from many companies. [17]

### traditional events in Casalecchio di Reno

#### Cioccolatiamo

important date for the lovers of "food of gods", every year in the weekend before S. Valentine celebrating. it's a greedy opportunity to discover secret and recipes of real craft Italian chocolate or to buy special gift to the people we love.

#### So e zo.....

traditional date of the Easter Monday of Casalecchio. "So e zo per I Bregaul" is a historical trekking along the ancient road of Bregoli. the walk, with start in the morning time from the center of Casalecchio expected the rise up to the Shrine of Our Lady of San Luca. during the route you can admire beautiful panoramic views over the plains and the Bolognese Apennines. On the way back is provided refreshments with the products of the Easter tradition.

#### politically incorrect

Series of shows and conferences about the theme of active citizenship and the fight against mafia in all the shapes its infect the social state and economic. the event was born in 2005 with a collaboration between municipality administration and Mr. Carlo Lucarelli. website [www.polticamentescorretto.org](http://www.polticamentescorretto.org)

#### party of craft ice-cream

the quality ice-cream is the protagonist of the event that turn on the Casalecchio's summer in the last week of July. shows, bike tour, music, gastronomy, toys, summer shopping and competition about ice creams. website [www.festadelgelato.net](http://www.festadelgelato.net)

#### party of kites

Every first may in the Gate's park. It's a funny day in the open air with labs for the kids that after to building a kite, trying to make it fly

#### party of Saint Martin

it's a traditional party dedicated to the patron of Casalecchio and it's in the days close to 11 November. during all the party you can taste the traditional plate in the gastronomic stand, walk between stands and markets about art, craft stuff, hobbies and typical products. there are many events, shows of cultural entertainment.

#### markets and fixed manifestations

the fixed markets are: Wednesday morning in Via Toti; Thursday morning in the cross of Casalecchio; Friday morning in Saint Biagio; Saturday morning in Ceretolo. in Wednesday afternoon, from April to October, there's many interesting events with selling of bio product in the youth center Blogos.



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**Cibò**  
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www.cibo.bo.it

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Published by the Association "Casalecchio fa Centro" sponsored by the municipality of Casalecchio di Reno,  
Department of Industry and Tourism

Info:

[www.comune.casalecchio.bo.it](http://www.comune.casalecchio.bo.it)

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[www.trackguru.net](http://www.trackguru.net)

Translation: Tommaso Matti

Printing: Tipografia Zampighi

First Edition June 2013

Kilometric grid UTM WGS-84 GPS compatible

Cartography prepared on the basis of the Topographic Map of the Region of Emilia-Romagna

Printed on recycled paper Cyclus