

FABRO

The town of Fabro represents the union of two towns, Fabro and Carnaiola, that took place around 1870. As a result, there are two historical centres on its territory, from which the two more modern urban realities of Fabro Scalo and Colonnaletta later developed. The village of Fabro is characterized by its castle, built around the year 1000 on a pre-existing Roman fortress placed to guard an important ford of Chiana Valley. In the 15th century, Fabro underwent a thorough renovation based on a design by Antonio da Sangallo, thanks to which it was equipped with the tower and walls that still exist today. The settlement developed high up on the hill ridge from 1500 along the axis from the castle to the 15th-century church of San Basilio, which was demolished in the 1960s. In the centre of the town is situated the 19th-century Palazzo Comunale, attributed to Calderini, which was completely renovated in 1985. The hamlet of Carnaiola is dominated by the manor house, built around the year 1000 on the ruins of a Roman fortification placed to guard the Muro Grosso bridge (a hydraulic lock built by the Romans to limit the periodic flooding of the Tevere river) and which underwent a renovation during the 1600s that transformed it from a purely defensive structure into the present-day noble palace. Around the castle, which belonged to Orvieto's powerful Filippeschi family, the village developed along the axis leading to the village church, built in its present form in the second half of the 16th century. Between the 15th and 16th centuries, the castle underwent a series of deep changes, also due to the hand of the papal architect Antonio da Sangallo. In 1602 the palace, after 400 years, passed from the hands of the declining Filippeschi family, to those of the Counts of Marsciano. Count Orazio, the new owner, commissioned major restoration and embellishment works; he was responsible, above all, for the monumental entrance embellished by the balcony supported by carved corbels, of which the central one bears the Marsciano coat of arms. The large hall was redecorated, modelled on that of the Monaldeschi in Orvieto, with mannerist frescoes by Cesare Nebbia (1537-1614), an artist based in Orvieto who became the official painter of Popes Gregory XIII and Sixtus V; the coffered ceiling depicts the heraldic symbols of the family. During the 19th century, the castle passed to the Meoni family of Buonconvento, after whom the square in front of it is named and was acquired by the current owners in 1922. In the second half of the 13th century, the Umbrian mystic Beata Vanna was born in Carnaiola. A small church was built on the site of her birth and dedicated to her. Her cult is still alive today, so that it is celebrated every year on the day of her death, 23 of July. Fabro Scalo has developed since the 1930s around the railway station, and is now the most densely inhabited hamlet, characterized by intense commercial, craft and service activities that make it a reference point also for neighbouring municipalities. Colonnaletta, close to the motorway exit, is characterised by the presence of a large craft-industrial area. Other recurring events are the National Truffle and Quality Agri-food Products Exhibition, now in its 34th edition, which takes place on the second Sunday of November, the Feast of St Martin in Fabro on the 11 of November characterized by the "Sagra della torta sotto 'l foco, co' le salsicce, le rape, le castagne e 'l vino" (with sausages, turnips, chestnuts and wine) the "Sagra del pan col mosto" (Feast of bread with must), which takes place in Carnaiola during the grape harvest period, and the "Festa Contadina" (Peasant Festival), which takes place in Fabro Scalo in the second half of August. A peculiarity of the municipality of Fabro is the presence of the administrative enclave of Poggiovalle, entirely located in the municipality of Città della Pieve, where an agricultural farm and accommodation activities can be found today.