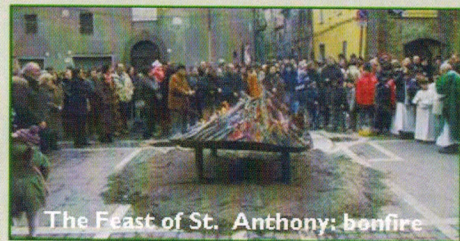


## FOLKLORE and TRADITIONS

The main traditional events of the year are:

**January:** the feast of St. Anthony the Abbot.



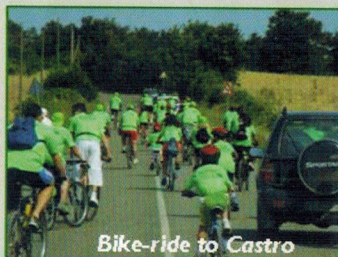
The Feast of St. Anthony: bonfire

**May:** Poggio Bricco in fiore (Blossoming Poggio Bricco)

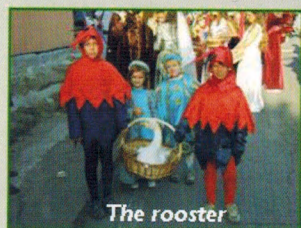
**June:** Meeting of the Knights of the Dukedom of Castro

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Castro, bike ride to Castro

Fair of goods and livestock (on the second Sunday)



Bike-ride to Castro



The rooster

**July:** Motor bike ride

A.M.A. (Art Music and Crafts) Festival.

**August:** The feast of St. Hermes (Patron Saint) Joust of the rooster

**September:** The feast of

*Madonna del Giglio* (Patron Saint)

Fair of goods and livestock (on the third Sunday)

**December:** Christmas Market

During some of these events, you can taste typical local

products (olive oil, wine, honey, meat, cheese) and typical dishes (*biche co'l tonno*, *acqua cotta*, *faciole co' le cotiche*, *torciglione*, *nociatelle*).



Meeting of "the knights"



Christmas cake: "Torciglione"

## HOW TO GET TO ISCHIA DI CASTRO:

**From Viterbo:** take the S.S. Cassia Northward; after 5 km turn left following the directions to Marta, Capodimonte then, Valentano and Ischia di Castro.

**From the SS1 Aurelia:** turn at the junction of Montalto di Castro towards Canino-Valentano; after 5 km turn left to Ischia di Castro.



**From the A1 from the North:** take the exit to Orvieto and follow the signs to Castelgiorgio, S. Lorenzo Nuovo, Grotte di Castro, Latera, Valentano, then Ischia di Castro.

**From the A1 from the South:** exit at Orte and follow the signs to Viterbo then take for Ischia di Castro.

**From Rome:** take the SS2 Cassia past Vetralla turn at the ring for Terni and exit at Viterbo-Montefiascone. Go on towards Siena on SS2 Cassia, after 5 km turn left to Marta, Capodimonte, then Valentano and Ischia di Castro.

**From Siena:** take the SS2 Cassia on a Southern direction to Acquapendente; turn to Grotte di Castro, Latera, Valentano and Ischia di Castro.

### USEFUL NUMBERS

**Municipal office:** via San Rocco 2 - tel 0761/425455 - fax

0761/425456 - [www.comune.ischiadicastro.vt.it](http://www.comune.ischiadicastro.vt.it)

PEC: [protocollo@pec.comune.ischiadicastro.vt.it](mailto:protocollo@pec.comune.ischiadicastro.vt.it)

**Museum:** tel. 0761/425455 int 1

**Library:** tel. 0761/425455 int 9 Email [ischiabiblio@libero.it](mailto:ischiabiblio@libero.it)

**Hospital:** dr. Brunelli tel. 0761/425059

**Police:** tel. 0761/424614/424732



## COMUNE DI ISCHIA DI CASTRO

(Prov. Viterbo)

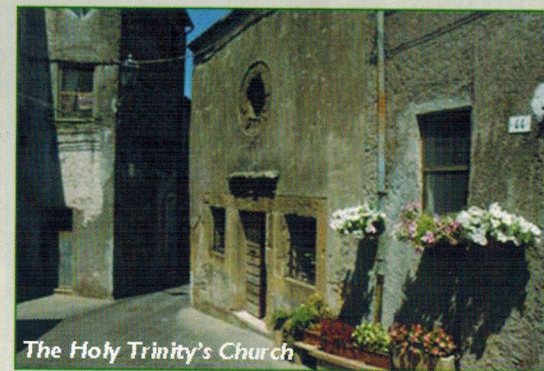
Assessorato alla Cultura



Farnese Palace

## Discovering Maremma

An extraordinary combination ...  
of history, art, archeology and nature



The Holy Trinity's Church

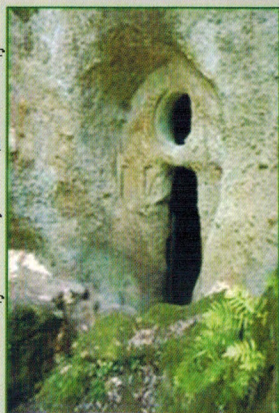
## POGGIO CONTE HERMITAGE



**Poggio Conte Hermitage:**  
little waterfall

A fascinating path along the banks of the river *Fiora* leads to a pleasant place out of time. On the slopes of a volcanic outcrop, made even more fascinating by a lovely waterfall of the river *Ermini*, there is the picturesque rupestrian church, an extraordinary example of Cistercian architecture.

Poggio Conte hermitage, place of worship and residence of monks longing to live their religious faith in solitude, was probably built between the XIIth/XIIIth century. Of particular importance are the remains of the pictorial decoration of which the frescoes representing the Redeemer and the Twelve Apostles were part too. Unfortunately, these were stolen in 1964; only six



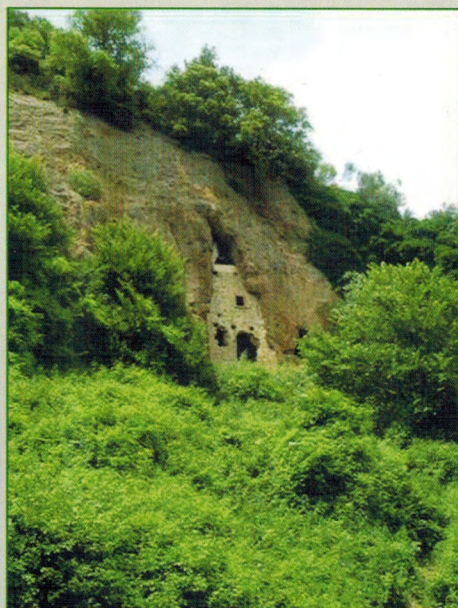
**Entrance**



**Frescoes on the vault**

of them have been found and they can now be admired in the Museum of Ischia di Castro. Adjoining the church, on the right side, you can still see the remains of the rooms where the monks lived.

## CHIUSA DEL VESCOVO HERMITAGE

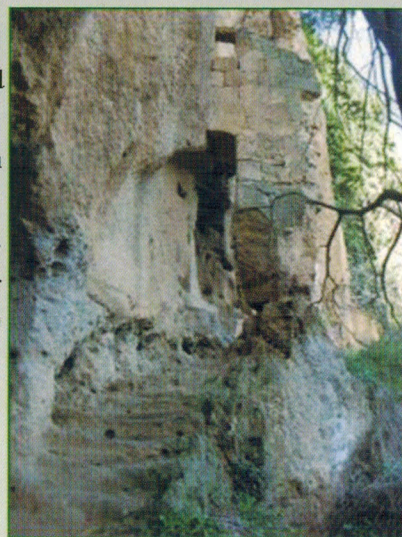


**Chiusa del Vescovo Hermitage:**  
façade seen from the valley

It is situated on the bank of the river *Olpeta*. It is a rupestrian settlement dug out in tufa with a very elaborate and functional division of the living space in various rooms: church,

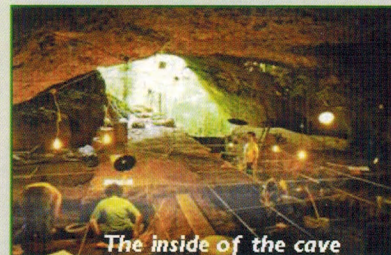
accommodations, larder, kitchen and bathroom.

Inside the church there are two frescoes depicting St. Anthony the Abbot and a Bishop Saint.



**Steps to the Hermitage**

## SETTECANNELLE CAVE



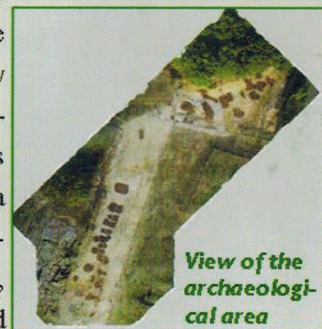
**The inside of the cave**

Situated on the ditch Paternale, the cave opens on the face of a tufa cliff at about 10 km west of Ischia di Castro, jutting out over the river bank.

Thanks to scientific investigation of the site since the 80s, in the archaeological deposit have been found traces of regular human presence especially during the Paleolithic and the Neolithic, and this is particularly significant for our territory. The materials recovered are real treasures of movable art, lithic industry, pottery fragments, animal bones, and of particular archaeological and anthropological interest is a human ritual burial of an individual about 12 years old.

## SELVICCIOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA

The archaeological site is located on a place called Selvicciola, not far from Vulci. In addition to an extensive Neolithic necropolis, ascribable to *Rinaldone's* culture, in the same area a large Roman villa was found: built during the Republican period, restored during the Imperial time, it was finally abandoned in the Vth century A.D. The Villa consists of a residential part and a productive one. Later, during the Longobard period, part of the villa continued probably to be inhabited. A necropolis and a church testify to the Longobard presence.



**View of the archaeological area**

## ISCHIA DI CASTRO



Ischia di Castro: Panorama

Ischia di Castro is on a volcanic outcrop at the confluence of two streams, in a position that denotes its Etruscan origin. The surrounding land, in its vastness

and variety, offers a unique blend of history, art, archeology and nature. The most ancient residential nucleus still retains its urban layout typical of the medieval period and its solid doors, the remains of the walls, the narrow, winding streets and houses leaning against each other. The village was one of the first feuds of the *Farnese* family, who in the sixteenth century restored the ancient medieval castle.



Via A. Caro

### HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

**San Rocco's church:** aisleless church in Romanesque style with frescoes dating back to the XVIth century.



Duomo Battistero

**Sant'Ermete's Cathedral:** dedicated to the patron saint of the village, its current form dates back to the second half of 1700 and it is the work of Prada from Viterbo. Particularly interesting is the travertine baptismal font of 1538, the fresco of the *Madonna del Popolo*, a valuable

work of the Siennese school and two travertine ambos (IXth century) from San Savino's cathedral in Castro.

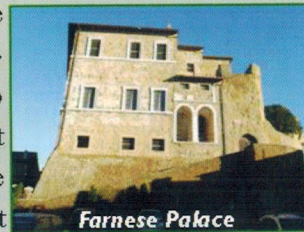


Farnese Palace

### Farnese Palace:

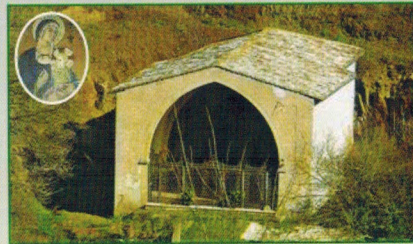
also known as *La Rocca*, it was one of the oldest residences of the Farnese family. The part dating back to the XIth century was furtherly fortified in the

XIVth century and its current form is due to the restoration commissioned in the XVIth century by the Farneses to Antonio from Sangallo Junior, who gave the ancient severe medieval building the aspect of a noble and elegant Renaissance Palace.



Farnese Palace

**Madonna del Giglio's Sanctuary:** located near ditch *Cellerano* in the green valley below the village, it's an aisleless church completely open on the façade; it contains a fresco in the apse chapel with the image of the



Madonna del Giglio's Sanctuary

Virgin nursing the Child dating back to beginning of the XVth century. On the wall above the chapel, there is a crucifixion of the Umbrian school, dating back to the late XVth and the early XVIth century.

## PIETRO E TURIDO LOTTI MUSEUM



Etruscan statuary, VIth sec. b.C. - Castro

Established in 1958 as the Antiquarium "Pietro Lotti", the museum has developed around the collection Stenardi-Lotti that formed its original nucleus.



Stag's antlers - Settecannelle

From the '60s up to today, the museum's heritage has been enriched thanks to the excavations carried out in the territory of Ischia. In 2005, the museum exhibition was renovated with modern equipment. The visitor is offered a journey of a thousand years in the history of Tuscia and the area of *Castro*.



Pendant - Settecannelle



Etruscan vases VIth sec. b.C. - Castro

It starts from prehistoric times, with flint tools and examples of Paleolithic movable art mainly found in the *Settecannelle* Cave.

Through the Etruscan relics, found in the necropolises around *Castro* (among which the Etruscan sculptures of the sixth century B.C. representing fantastic animals stand out), we arrive to the Roman and Longobard Ages, with relics found in the Roman villa and in the Longobard necropolis of the *Selvicciola* area.



**Nenfro" Sculpture (from Castro)**



**Sant Apostle: fresco coming from Poggio Conte Hermitage**

To the medieval period belong the extraordinary frescoes representing the Apostles that decorated the walls of the Hermitage of *Poggio Conte* and the artifacts coming from the *Palazzo Farnese* and from *Castro*. The Renaissance period is represented by a vast collection of architectural elements coming from *Castro*, including the large coat of arms of the *Farnese* family, which once was on the façade of the Mint in *Castro*.



**Room with Roman remains.**

## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA OF CASTRO



**Map and legends Castro**

In a lush natural setting we find the evocative ruins of the so-called "Carthage of Maremma".

The medieval town was restored and embellished during the Renaissance period by the architect Antonio from Sangallo Junior, commissioned by the Farnese family, who in 1537 created the Dukedom of Castro and held it until 1649, when Castro, the capital city of the Farnese domain, was destroyed by order of Pope Innocent Xth.



**S. Pancrazio's Church**



**Capitals of the Mint's façade**

Along the trail through the forest we find the ruins of the most important buildings of the city: *San Savino's* Cathedral, the *Hostaria* located in Piazza Maggiore, the churches of *San Pancrazio* and *Santa Maria intus civitatem*.



**Fresco: Santa Maria intus civitatem's church**

Around the plateau on which stood the city, we also find the remains of the Etruscan necropolis: the remarkable "*Tomba a casa*" dating from the VIth century B.C., whose sculptural decorations can be seen in the Civic Museum and the famous "*Tomba della Biga*", this last one dating from the same period and taking its name from the Etruscan two-wheeled parade chariot exceptionally found there.



**Fresco: Santa Maria intus civitatem's**