

MONTEFIORE
DELL'ASO



<< Montefiore l'ho conosciuto come si incontra un'immagine inaspettata che subito conquista. [...] Da questo mio studio, che si affaccia sulla valle dell'Aso e sulla fascia azzurra dell'Adriatico, vedo sorgere il sole sul mare, uno sfolgorio argenteo, e lo vedo declinare, infiammarsi dietro i colli. >>

_ Domenico Cantatore



The tradition links the name Montefiore to the worship of Flora, the goddess of countrysides venerated by the ancient Italian populations before the conquest of the Ancient Romans. Some finds reveal that in this area there were already human occupations dating back the prehistoric period. These populations developed during the Roman period, as proved by the centuriations of lands and the necropolis dating back to the 1st - 2nd century AD.

During the Middle Age the county inhabitants of the valley bottom moved to the mountain ridge and they built fortifications and castles to defend themselves from the attacks of Goths. Thus it were built the two castles (castra) of Montefiore and of Aspromonte that were united as one castle in 1178.

This village extends on 5 hills whose names are Menalo, Baraffio, Castello, Vittorino and Aspromonte.

Indeed the municipal coat of arms of Montefiore dell' Aso is composed by 5 hills from which 5 flowers appears and by 2 rivers that flows on the sides. The castle of Montefiore was for long time the center of many battles between Ascoli and Fermo, up to the signature of the peace treaty in 1421.

In the first years of 14th century Montefiore already had its municipal statutes aiming at collecting the laws which regulated the customs, the obligations, the rights and the list of the holidays that had to be celebrated during the year.

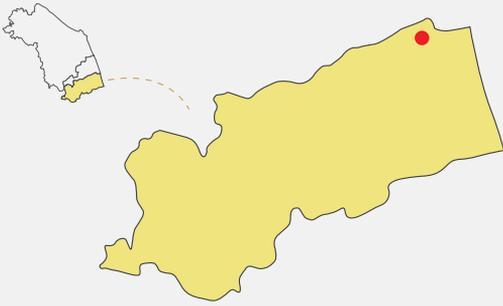
An important part of this collection of laws and customs is the one dealing with the relationship between landowners and peasants, especially the one dealing with the labor contract and the modalities to resolve eventual conflicts.

Montefiore was one of the first villages in Italy to have a water extraction plant starting from 1897 so it could distribute drinking water to all the houses of the area through a modern aqueduct.

The same municipal administration headed by the mayor Luigi De Vecchis, in the same year, built an independent power station for the supply of the electricity in Montefiore, while the other towns still had public gas lighting.

Montefiore dell'Aso is one of village that belong to the association of "I borghi più belli d'Italia"*.

It has 2048 inhabitants and it is situated in the province of Ascoli Piceno, in Le Marche region.



USEFUL INFORMATION

In this village you can see many buildings of 15th - 16th century. Just outside the center there is the church of S. Filippo Neri (St. Philip Neri).

Near to this church there is the church of Copus Domini with its monastery.

You can also visit three churches situated in the suburban area of Montefiore:

- the country church of S. Maria delle Grazie (St. Mary of Graces) and the church of S. Maria in Fede situated along the provincial road heading to Carassai;

- The picturesque church of S. Giovanni Battista (St. John Baptist) situated along the road heading to Campofilone.

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How to get here:

A 14 - Highway exit at Grottamare, northbound

A 14 Highway exit at Pedaso, southbound

Coord: 43°3'6"N - 13°45'5"E

- **MAY:** "The fest of Saint Lucy" - the patron saint of Montefiore dell'Aso.
- **JUNE:** Infiorata of ephemeral art of Copus Domini.
- **JULY:** "Theater in square" - a free summer festival organized by the municipal administration in cooperation with the local associations. It is held in the cloister of the museum center of San Francesco.
- **JULY:** "Montefiore with gusto" - an enogastronomic event full of flavors, landscapes, art and music.
- **AUGUST:** "Fruit festival" - an event in which you can taste fruit based dishes, fresh fruits, fruit based cocktails.
- **AUGUST:** "Festival of symphonies of cinema" - an event dedicated to cinema's experts.
- **AUGUST:** "Pork fest" - a tasting of pork meat roasted in the traditional way, with enogastronomic stands and live music.
- **SEPTEMBER:** "The Autumn Fair" - a traditional local fair held in the street of this village. Enjoy the local delicatessen, handcrafted artistic products and the numerous activities for children's entertainment.



The yard of the church of St. Philip Negri



The polyptych of Carlo Crivelli 1471 - museum center of San Francisco

Fruit salad with peaches

In 1927 the mayor of that time De Vecchis planted the first peach orchard with about 500 plants.

The introduction of the plantation of the peach trees became the cornerstone of the Aso Valley's economy.

Thanks to the importance of the fruit growing, in 1955 the Peach Festival was held for the first time.

Ingredients:

- Donut peaches
- Fuzzless peaches
- Peaches (having fuzz)
- Grapes
- Apples
- Pears
- Strawberries
- Melons
- Lemons
- Sugar
- Maraschino
- Anise (pimpinella anisum)

Method

Peel all the fruits except the peaches.

It is important that the fruits have ripened. Add the Sprite, lemons and sugar (that has to be dissolved in a glass of water previously) a little at time, as the fruits are cut.

In this way you prevent the fruits from turning brown.

As final step, add some maraschino to taste. Before serving it, garnish it with a leaf of anise.

→ Do you know it?

The recipe has already passed down for generations. It is obviously the center point of the Peach festivals that is organized in summer by the Pro loco of Montefiore dell'Aso.



