



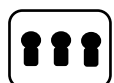
LICEO Delle SCIENZE UMANE (ex Magistrale) "C.T. BELLINI" – NOVARA

Baluardo La Marmora, 10 – 28100 NOVARA – tel. 0321 – 627125 fax 0321 – 399618 – www.liceobellini.gov.it

Casella di Posta Certificata nopm010005@pec.istruzione.it E-mail: nopm010005@istruzione.it

codice fiscale 80016580039 – Codice univoco PA: UFUDDL

SIGHTSEEING NOVARA



STAY WITH US



LEARN MORE



BE HAPPY



ENJOY YOUR TRIP!



HISTORY

A Roman settlement

Ancient Novara was founded in ancient times by the Romans. Its name is formed from *Nov*, meaning "new", and *Aria*, the name the Cisalpine Gauls used for the surrounding region.

Ancient *Novaria*, which dates to the time of the Ligures and the Celts, was a municipium and was situated on the road from Vercellae (Vercelli) to (Mediolanum) Milan. Its position on perpendicular roads (still intact today) dates to the time of the Romans. During Roman

occupation (196 b.C) Novara was called Novaria. In this period the city was defended by walls. The walls were more than 2 Kilometres long. These walls had four doors which connected:

1. Novara to Milan
2. Novara to Vercellae
3. Novara to Tortona and Genoa
4. Novara to Ossola mountain passes.

Today you can see remains of these walls in Cavour Square and Largo Solaroli. You can also visit the "Canonica Museum" and the "Archeological Museum" to find interesting artifact of this era.

After the city was destroyed in 386 by Magnus Maximus for having supported his rival Valentinian II, it was rebuilt by Theodosius I. Subsequently, it was sacked by Radagaisus (in 405) and Attila(in 452).

The spread of Christianity in Novara

After the celtic deities, called "Matronæ", the Christianity was born in 350 in Novara, thanks to the influence of Saint Ambrogio from Milan and Saint Eusebio from Vercellae (Vercelli). The first Bishop in Novara was Saint Gaudenzio, he was sacred in 397.

Saint Gaudenzio had his major influence during the years 395 and 419 b.C.

At the beginning of the 400, Novara and Milan, were occupied by the Byzantines and around the middle of the centuries they were defeated by the



Historical Map during the Roman period in Novara (89 b.C)

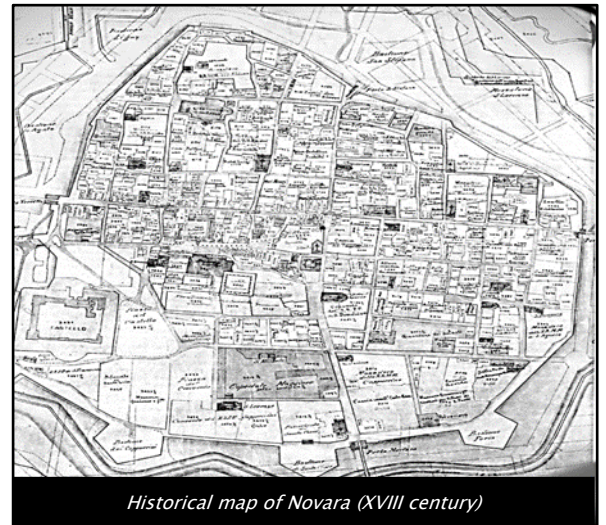
Goths. After this defeat the citizens left Novara and the Bishop had to move too. He took refuge in the Castle on the 'Island of Saint Giulio (Lake d'Orta).

High Middle Age

Under the Lombards, Novara became a duchy; under Charles the Fat, a countship. Novara came to enjoy the rights of a free imperial city. In 1110, it was conquered by Henry V and destroyed, but in 1167 it joined the Lombard League. At the end of the 12th century, it accepted the protection of Milan and became practically a dominion of the Visconti and later of the Sforza. In the Battle of Novara in 1513, Swiss mercenaries defending Novara for the Sforzas of Milan routed the French troops besieging the city. This defeat ended the French invasion of Italy in the War of the League of Cambrai.

In 1706, Novara, which had long ago been promised by Filippo Maria Visconti to Amadeus VIII of Savoy, was occupied by Savoyard troops. With the Peace of Utrecht, the city, together with Milan, became part of the Habsburg Empire. After its occupation in 1734, Novara passed, in the following year, to the House of Savoy.

Novara, in this period, had an economic improvement growing two cereals: rice and maize



Historical map of Novara (XVIII century)

Napoleon campaign

After Napoleon's campaign in Italy, Novara became the capital of the Department of the Agogna, but was then reassigned to the House of Savoy in 1814. In 1821, it was the site of a battle in which regular Sardinian troops defeated the Piedmontese constitutional liberals. In the even larger Battle of Novara in 1849, the Sardinian army was defeated by the Austrian army of Field Marshal Joseph Radetzky von Radetz. This defeat led to the abdication of Charles Albert of Sardinia and to the partial occupation of the city by the Austrians. The defeat of the Sardinians can be seen as the beginning of the Italian unification movement.

The XX century

A decree in 1859 created the province of Novara, which then included the present-day provinces of Vercelli, Biella, and Verbano-Cusio-Ossola.

The city of Novara had a population of 25,144 in 1861. Industrialisation during the 20th century brought an increase in the city's population to 102,088 in 1981. The city's population has changed little in subsequent years.

Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, former president of Italy and Italian senator for life, was born in Novara in 1918.



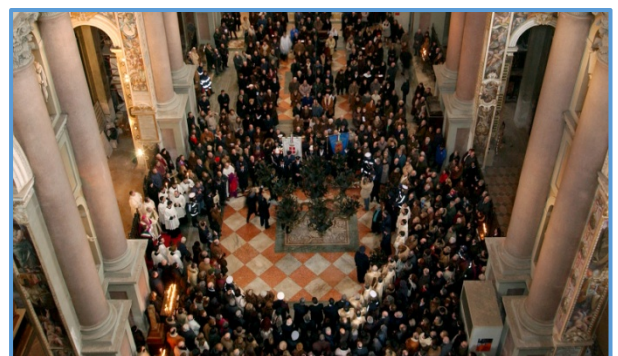
LIGHT BLUE PATH

THE CERIMONY OF THE FLOWER

The St. Gaudenzio's patronal feast is celebrated on the 22nd of January. This celebration dates back to the XV century: it starts with a procession along all the streets of the center and it ends inside the Basilica of Saint Gaudenzio. Here it starts the "cerimony of the flower" and then the Holy Mass. Hanging in the nave, is a great flower basket of wrought iron, attached to pulleys. Every year on the saints' day, the 22nd of January, it is lowered to receive the traditional gift of flowers, also in wrought iron, from the local authority. This act commemorates the miracle done by St Gaudenzio. The "omaggio del fiore" (cerimony of the flower) reminds you of when, many centuries ago, the Saint played host to Ambrogio, the Bishop of Milan. During his stay flowers in the garden burst into bloom for the guest. Memory of this miracle still makes winter warmer in Novara.

During the day it's possible to visit the grave of St. Gaudenzio in the Crypt of the Dome (scurolo).

Typical to eat in this period are "Marroni di Cuneo". (smoked chestnuts pierced and strung together).



TYPICAL MASKS

The first masks in Novara dates back to the last century. They represented two conditions of life: the citizen with the cobbler (“SCIAVATIN” called also “PATACHIN”) and the paesants with the “GRUGNIN”.

Patachin was a negative term which gave the peasants to the citizens because of their fine manners and flashy dresses. In the second half of the 19th century the town started to change and the first pastry was born. We remember the two most famous of the time: Gaiani-Grassini e Camporelli. In 1872 the Carnival Party Committee decided to recall the city Biscottinopoli and a new mask was created "KING BISCOTTINO", to enhance a typical product of Novara that was capturing the confectionery market, the famous “biscotto”.

During this party the King had a new Wife. In 1885 King Biscottino was dressed as a king of the XV century with a sceptre and a crown, At his side a new Queen called CUNETTA.



Re Biscottino

TASTE AND TRADITION

Novara and Vercelli are the most important area of rice production. Rice influenced our cultural tradition and not only the local memories but also our art, literature, photography and cinematography. The classical recipe is the “*paniscia*”, made with cabbage, butter, garlic, lardo, pork skin, onion, beans, carrot, celery, *salam dla doja*, red wine, salt and pepper.

Today, the simple and poor dish of the past has become a refined dish, listed among the delicacies praised by the most demanding gourmets. They represent an image of excellence of Novara’s gastronomy. Frogs are cooked in different ways: fried, with rice or broth.

There is no more traditional product, than bread. For example in Novara the presence of paddy fields influenced the production of local bakeries. You can find Rice-bread and Corn-bread.



Paniscia

CHEESE AND SALUMI

The most famous local cheese is Gorgonzola DOP, you can taste “Spicy Gorgonzola” that is perfect with full-bodied wines, like Ghemme DOCG, Fara, boca, and Sizzano DOC, but also with sweet Moscato. You can also taste “Sweet Gorgonzola” requires soft white or red wine such asv Colline Novaresi DOC, Uva Rara and Croatina.

Local cold cuts reanimate the appetizers with genuine and strong savours. Some of the most famous salami of Novara, they are all made with pork.



Gorgonzola DOP

- ▲ The *salam d'la duja*.
- ▲ The Marzapane, a tasty, spiced sausage that can be eaten either sliced or fried.
- ▲ The savoured "*Fidighin*" a traditional raw cold cut prepared with liver, pork, jowl and bacon.
- ▲ The famous goose salami and goose graton.
- ▲ There are cooked salami, cotechini, best served with potato purée and raw salumi.
- ▲ The most sophisticated ones: donkey salami and tongue, served with the traditional *bagnetti*, a green dressing prepared with parsley, garlic and anchovies.



Salam d'la duja

SWEETS

Jubilation of Novara's biscuits whose elegance is proverbial. The "Biscottino di Novara", a cookie rectangular with rounded corners very light and fat free, they don't contain any butter but only flour, sugar and eggs. The first news about this biscuit are dated to the XVI century. It was prepared by nuns in convents. The Biscottino gave its name to the typical mask of Novara's Carnival : "King Biscottino".

Also very famous is "Pane di San Gaudenzio" (San Gaudenzio's bread); it has been the traditional dessert of the patron-saint celebrations for more than fifty years. It is a sort of panettone, its surface garnished with pine-nuts, hazelnuts and sugar. The outside is covered with short-crust pastry and stuffed with a rich filling.

The sweet of the Cathedral: wheat flour, saffron, honey, seasonal dry fruits, mixed with goose-fat: all poor and common ingredients. This was the ancient sweet of the cathedral, today proposed in its up-to-date version with butter, sugar and a famous grappa del Nebbiolo.



Biscottino di Novara



Pane di San Gaudenzio

DRINK

Novara is the land of the famous Campari, known all over the world. It was in the: "Bar dell'Amicizia" that *Gaspare Campari*, in the 1860, invented this drink. He gave his name to the drink.



Gaspare campari



1828-1882



RED PATH

HISTORICAL CENTER

THE DUOMO: “ST. MARY CATHEDRAL”

Its origins are remote, even though the structure that can be seen today is a result of the extensive 19th century restoration operated by Alessandro Antonelli from 1855 and 1869; on the site of an ancient Romanesque Cathedral, it's still evident a detail of the 12th century presbytery mosaic that used to be part of the old church. The black and white mosaic representing the Eden. The remains of the old church are displayed in the cloister of the canonical (official residence of the cathedral clergymen) and on the interior of the Bell tower. The Bell tower stands to the left side and consists of a romanesque base, surmounted by a belfry and a dome from the 16th century. The façade's, featuring a tall pronaos with Corinthian columns. Inside the Cathedral are displayed famous paintings, including outstanding works by Bernardino Lanino such as: “Life of the Virgin Mary”. In these paintings the style of Lanino is characterized by the delicacy of the decoration and by a compositional elegance strongly reminiscent of the taste of the Lombard court. Lanino is also the author of the altarpiece, a Crucifixion and Saints. Some painting of Gaudenzio Ferrari also displayed in the Cathedral, such as: Lo sposalizio di Santa Caterina (15th century). Remarkable is the wooden Crucifixion hanging on the Southern wall, at the beginning of the right aisle, a fine example of Gothic-inspired production in



Eastern Piedmont. Adjacent to the church are the Palazzo Vescovile and the closter of the Canonica.

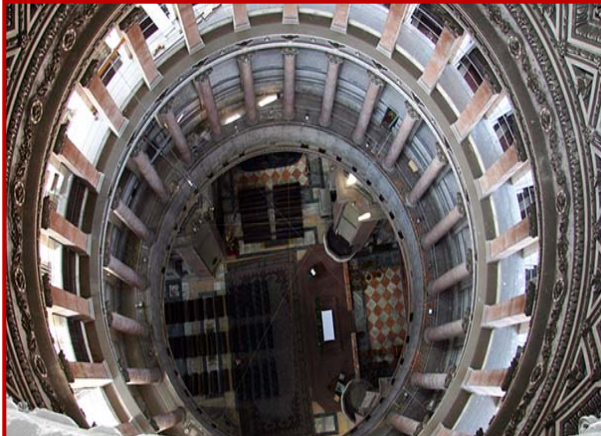
SAINT GAUDENZIO BASILICA AND ITS STRIKING PINNACLE DOME

The Neoclassical Basilica of Saint Gaudenzio was designed by Pellegrino Tibaldi and built between 1577 and 1656 on the orders of the Emperor Charles V. Its striking pinnacled dome, designed by Alessandro Antonelli, towers to a height of 121 metres, and was added to the main body of the church in 1878. Alessandro Antonelli worked on this project for many years because it was often interrupted by bureaucratic and administrative reasons. For example in 1863 he stopped working on it for ten years, because he quarrelled with the master of the farm. During this period he built the “Mole Antonelliana” in Turin. In 1878 the Dome was definitely finished and the 16th of May of the same year the statue of Christ the Savior was raised on top. The statue was realised by Pietro Zucchi. The statue is gold-plated bronze, The overall height with the statue is 126 metres with a total weight of over 5000 tons.

The Bell tower (92 metres), designed by Benedetto Alfieri, was also a later addition to the church. The Basilica is built on a Latin cross plan and has a single nave with side chapels, a transept and a deep presbytery. The chapels contain important paintings by Gaudenzio Ferrari, Tanzio da Varallo, Moncalvo, Morazzone and Fiammenghino. The Basilica’s Scurolo (a sort of ground-level crypt) holds an urn with the remains of St Gaudentius, the first Bishop of the city. The impressive Dome of San Gaudenzio was built using only local material, and although less well-known than



the celebrated Mole Antonelliana in Turin (by the same architect), is an especially daring piece of architecture given its construction wholly in load-bearing brick and its masterly incorporation into a pre-existing building. The Bell tower, set apart from the church, is built of terracotta and Baveno granite, and possesses the largest peal of bells using the Ambrosian system.



Saint Gaudenzio basilica from the dome



Saint Gaudenzio basilica from the dome

ROMAN WALLS

Some historians believe that the city was founded by the Ligures. What we do know for sure is that it became municipium under Julius Caesar. The main roads of the Roman city still exist today, and intersect the so-called “corner of the hours”. Inside the “Musei Civici” are preserved relics of that era. A wide variety of movable objects found in the area, such as sarcophagi, inscriptions and vases are displayed at the Museo Lapidario della Canonica and at the Museo Archeologico. It’s also possible to see a portion of the old Roman walls dating back to the 1st century b.C, in largo Cavour and in Via Solaroli.



Roman walls

THE BROLETTO

Built in several stages between the 13th and the 18th centuries, the building of the Broletto are arranged on a square enclosing a courtyard. The Palazzo dell'Arengo to the North side, dating from the beginning of the 13th century is the oldest of the whole complex. The painting frieze that decorates the Arengo Palace is the city's oldest non-religious painting (half of the 13th century). It portrays war scene that, describe the foundation of the city. Here, in the 16th century, the city's first printing plant was established by the Sesalli family. On the right the Palazzo dei Paratici, the medieval guild hall. The Palazzo del Podestà is located in front of Palazzo Arengario, dates back to the 14 and 15th century. You can see the terracotta decorations that adorn the windows on Palazzo del Podestà. To the western side stands the 15th century Palazzo dei Referendari. It houses today the City Museum and the Modern Art Gallery. The city museum has a rich Archeological department. The Modern Art Gallery boasts more than 800 works, displayed on 13 rooms, representing Italian painting in the last two centuries.

The two Broletto entrances to the North and South were very important because they joined the Portico to the commercial life of the city.



Broletto



Old frescoes

THE BAPTISTERY

From the four-bay portico preceding the Cathedral you enter into the Early-Christian octagonal Baptistery; among the most ancient of the entire Piedmont. Almost certainly erected in the 5th century the baptistery was probably elevated in the 10th century, with the addition of a drum and a circular dome. The restoration carried out between 1959 and 1967 has resulted in the distinctive appearance of the building, once ornamented with baroque statues. Interesting is the frieze with frescoes depicting episodes from the Apocalypse and the Last Judgement.



Frescoes

THE "SFORZA" CASTLE

The castle was built in 1357, under the rule of Galeazzo Visconti. But what we see today is the result of works completed during the 13 and 14th century by the Sforza family. The structure was largely damaged by Renaissance conflicts, and later underwent years of abandonment. It was also used as jail for a very long time, until the 1970's. Legend has it that a life-size gold horse commissioned by Ludovico il Moro is still buried here, somewhere. You can see the remains of a tower and the moat of the castle. The entrance to the castle decorated with the Visconti family coat of arms. There is also an etching showing the castle before the renovation works carried out during the 14th century. Today the Castle it has been restored and it hosts city's art collections



THE UNDERGROUND CITY

You can book a tour of the Castle's underground passages; these cavities have long exercised a fascination over local people, bringing stories of secret escape routes and passages. The water tanks built below Piazza Cavour, Largo Puccini and Piazza Gramsci (del Rosario) during World War II still exist today.

.

COCCIA THEATRE

Born on the remains of the ancient Morelliano Theatre,. The old project of the architect Morelli had frescoes inside. It had fixed scenery kit made by Galliani's brothers and the curtain represented Hercules. The Morelli Theatre was opened in 1779 with the drama "Medonte Re D'Edipo" (music by Giuseppe Sarti, written by De Gamerra and choreography by Onorato Viganò). In the 1830 the theatre was restored by Luigi Canonica, and it was re-opened in 1832 with the opera "La Straniera" by Vincenzo Bellini. During the years 1853-1855 a second theatre was built near, it was The Social Theatre. Soon started a hard competition between the two theatres. In 1880 the Council bought the two buildings (Morelli theatre that in 1873 was re-named Coccia Theatre, and the Social theatre) and they decided to build a new one. The project was entrusted to the architect Giuseppe Olivero. Erected in the second half of the 18th century, the current Coccia Theatre was inaugurated on 22 December 1888. It is in the Neo-classical style. Well balanced and symmetrical, the façade features an airy portico with granite columns, almost entirely surrounding the building. The Coccia theatre looks on to Piazza Martiri della Libertà at the



center of which is located an equestrian statue of King Vittorio Emanuele II. Inside the theatre is located Carlo Coccia's bust that it's been dedicated to him. In the foyer a monument portrays another key figure: Giuseppe Gallarini (1920-1956). He gave his name to the Collegio Gallarini that hosts the city's music conservatory, and is easy to spot thanks to its roof covered with colourful glazed tiles. Novara has a distinctive and venerable passion for music. The Coccia Theatre was inaugurated by Toscanini in 1888 and is dedicated to Carlo Coccia. It is been named one of Italy's "traditional theatres" due to the impulse given to local musical tradition.



Equestrian statue



GREEN PATH

ALLEA DI SAN LUCA

Breathing in the fresh air of a green city. Novara resembles an island, and has a large green area at its heart, where centuries ago trees gave rise to what is now the Allea park were planted. Allea is much more than a mere public garden-it is the place where children come to play and learn to ride their bikes. It is also the antechamber to the historical center of the city, and people invariably pass through it on their afternoon stroll. A recent survey has revealed that there are hundreds of different plant species in the city's public and private gardens, in its flowerbeds and on terraces within sight of the



Allea park

dome- an extraordinary catalogue of colours and scents. Between the old trees there are: big plan trees, the century-old gingko bilboa, Gleditsia triacanthos .

Close to the Unuci tennis courts there is the famous “Cuneta”. In the past years it was called “the little mountain”. Elders recall that they were toys there. The legend told that this popular belief came from the Castle but the reason for this remains a mystery.

At the end of the Park there is the Monument of “La vittoria mutilata”, erected in 1929 to remember the fallen of the first World War.



Allea park

PIAZZA DELLE ERBE

Its real name is Piazza Cesare Battisti, but it had in the history different names: piazza delle Beccherie Maggiori, piazza Nuova, piazzetta, piazza di St. Rocco, piazza della Verdura. Around the 1230 it was bought by the cobblers, they wanted to close it and build workshops, but citizens didn't agree. Up to 1900 there was exposed in the square a large picture of an unknown painter about the priest and martyr St Lorenzo. This picture was revered by grocers and greengrocers.



Piazza Cesare Battisti

PIAZZA MARTIRI DELLA LIBERTA'

In the middle of the square is located an equestrian statue of King Vittorio Emanuele II. The style is neoclassical and dates back to the 19th century. On the South side of the place there is The Castle, on the East side there is the Coccia Theatre, on the North side the Orelli Palace, on the West side the Venice Palace. The square is a gathering spot for happy hour, markets and fairs.



Piazza Martiri

