

lage many privileges. In this period the Visconti had to sustain a hard war versus The Republic of Venice, interested in this area. The disputes ended with the Treat of Ferrara - 5th May 1428 – which ratified the power of Venice on Martinengo. The Serenissima gave the village with its territory to Bartolomeo Colleoni, who ordered to raise many buildings, among which the Captain's House, his residence, St. Claire's convent and one Franciscan monastery. Besides he reinforced the boundary wall, which is still known as Vallo Colleonesco. The Venetian domination lasted till 1797, year in which started the Cisalpine Republic. The new domination lasted a short time because in 1815 it was substituted by the Austrian Empire. In 1859 Martinengo and the whole province of Bergamo were included in the Reign of Italy.



EVENTS IN MARTINENGO

- **ANTIQUÉ TRADE FAIR:** first Sunday of the month.
- **PATRON SAINT DAY, ST. AGATA:** 5th february.
- **FEAST OF THE POTATOES OF MARTINENGO:** *third Sunday of September.*
- **FEAST OF THE LADY OF THE FLAME:** second Sunday of October.
- **OCTOBER IN MARTINENGO:** *exhibitions, concerts, athletic race Palio delle Porte...*
- **MARTINENGO ART PRIZE,** *national contest of sculpture and painting.*
- **PALIO DEI CANTÙ:** *third Sunday of October.*



Around

- Castle of Malpaga,
- Castle of Cavernago,
- Visconti fortress in Romano di Lombardia.



Patata di Martinengo De.Co.

LUCA PARAMELLI



PRO LOCO MARTINENGO



UFFICIO INFORMAZIONI E ACCOGLIENZA TURISTICA DI MARTINENGO E COMPRESORIO

*Magnificae Communitatis
Martinenghi*

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MARTINENGO

DISCOVERING THE ANCIENT VILLAGE

Land of De.Co. Potatoes and Palio dei Cantù

HISTORICAL NOTES

Martinengo dates back to the Roman period. Several archaeological findings show that the area was widely colonized. After the fall of West Roman Empire, lots of Germanic populations invaded Italy. Particularly, on the municipal land settled the Longobards, as significant finds and toponyms reveal. The very name of Martinengo, with the characteristic Longobardic ending *-engo*, means property of Martinus.



The new colonizers, after their conversion to Christianity, founded some sacred buildings dedicated to the worship of St. George, St. Agatha and St. Michael. Above all, they built a boundary wall including the castle, around which a housing unit arose. The first written document that mentions Martinengo is a will dating back to 774, between the Longobard domination and the Frank one. The village was at first given to Bergamo diocese, then put under jurisdiction of the Ghisalbertini family. The importance of this family for Martinengo is still visible in the municipal coat: a red eagle on a yellow background, symbol of the family, which changed its name from Ghisalbertini to Martinengo. The counts Martinengo, in the XIIth century, decided to move to Cortenuova. Their departure meant the end of the lordship upon the village, which became a municipality, as a document of 1221 reports.



The XIIIth century was characterized by a high increase of population, due to the immigration of many families from Cortenuova, whose village was razed to the ground by Frederick Barbarossa in the battle of 27th november 1237. In the XIVth century, the power was held by the Visconti family from Milan, who allowed the vil-

1

MAJOR SQUARE

The Major Square has got a rectangular shape and it is the heart of the village. Once it was occupied by the first moat. The town hall and the neoclassical hospital overlook the square.

2

THE CASTLE

On the east side of Major Square there is one remarkable gothic arch leading to Castello Street, bordered by medieval houses, and to Castello Square. The Colleoni Tower and St. George Church are here. Under the little square there are the remains of one great early medieval tower, marked by the present cobbled paving.

3

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. AGATHA

Built between 1455 and 1465 in old Gothic style, it was changed into neoclassical style by arch. Giacomo Bianconi. The inside keeps great pictorial works.

4

THE ARCADES of TADINO STREET

Gabriele Tadino (a militar engineer) Street keeps its original appearance with its characteristic, elegant arcades. Once moat of the castle, it had its definitive settlement between the XIVth and the XVth century.

5

THE WATCH TOWER

Built in the Middle Ages, it was rebuilt in the XVIIth century. It has got two dials, with Roman and Arab fonts engraved into the marble. Under the tower there is the Ancient Pharmacy of the Community, reporting the date 1639.

6

THE TOWN HALL

Built after the move of the Ghisalbertini family to Cortenuova, the present town hall occupies the area of the ancient Broletto. On the wall face there are the remains of our coat of arms.



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THE FILANDONE

A typical example of industrial archaeology, the Filandone was built in neo-Gothic style by the Daina family around 1870. In 1977 the director Ermanno Olmi shot some scenes of his film *Tree of Wooden Clogs*, which won a Golden Palm at Cannes Festival of Cinema.

7

ST. CLAIRE'S CONVENT

It was founded by Bartolomeo Colleoni in 1474 to fulfill one of his dead wife's vow. From the cloister, rebuilt in the XIIth century, we can admire the spired bell tower, of the XVth century. Inside the convent there are beautiful frescos of the anonymous Master of Martinengo.

8

THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSE

It was leader Bartolomeo Colleoni's house. He made it built for him and his family in 1467. Beside the tower, we can see the stairs and one window on the court.

9

GARIBALDI'S GATE

It is the main access to the village. After the demolition of the walls (1817-1820) two toll-houses were built. It is now called Garibaldi's gate because he overpassed it in 1859.

10

THE XVth MONASTERY OF OUR LADY CROWNED

The monastery was founded by Bartolomeo Colleoni in 1475 and it is one of Martinengo jewels. The interior is in Gothic style, with extraordinary frescos, among which those of the famous painter Pietro Baschenis.

11

ST. FERMO AND RUSTICO CHURCH

The little church has a cross plan and is of longobard origin. The interior walls are covered with frescos of St. Rocco and St. Sebastian.

12

Bibliography: *Guida storico-artistica di Martinengo*, Francesco Pavoncelli.