



Monteverdi Marittimo

The history of Monteverdi began in 754 with the founding of the

Abbey of San Pietro a Palazzuolo

by Benedictine monks led by Walfredo Lombard St., considered the founder of the Gherardesca. In the Oratory of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as sculptures of the Sienese school and a wooden crucifix of the Florentine school, seems to have buried the body of the saint.

The village is crossed by two types of routes: a circular road system, which consists of three ring circuits that revolve around the highest part, now occupied by City Hall, and a radial road network, represented by a dense network of paths called wrinkles.

In dintroni Canneto worth a visit, former defensive structure still surrounded by walls. The village has a particular urban elliptical, with a number of tower-houses and the lovely church of San Lorenzo.

The wild and untouched land, near the south-west of the rough Metalliferous Hills, makes it a favorite destination for lovers of trekking and cycling. The widespread presence of woods and Mediterranean vegetation watered by numerous rivers presents a perfect environment for flora and fauna of the coastal strip.

Monteverdi is a few kilometers from **Monterufoli-Caselli Nature Reserve**, managed by the Comunità Montana Alta Val di Cecina. Here live wild boar, roe deer, foxes, badgers and squirrels next to latest installment as the species of wild sheep and deer. Currently, the Mountain Community is renovating the old farm buildings, for use as Multipurpose Center to act as tourist accommodation and environmental education.

Among the events stands the traditional **maggerini Festival** (every May 1), which draws its origins from pagan rites celebrated array to ensure the prosperity of crops. Throughout the day, "maggerini", accompanied by poets and bearing a laurel branch which is hung a lemon, knocking from door to door asking for food and beverages offered in return for the generosity with songs and ditties.