





DISCOVERING  
CONSELICE

## HOW TO GET THERE

Conselice is located northwest of Lugo, where the ending part of the road SP Selice - Montanara crosses the main road SS16. The town is about 15 km from the motorway A14.

## THE TOWN OF FROGS

Conselice lies in a territory that used to be dominated by water and marshes. The town boasts a reputation for gastronomy related to this ecosystem, to the extent that it's known as the "town of frogs". Every year, at the beginning of Autumn, Conselice celebrates this gourmet delicacy with a renown feast.

## HISTORY

The earliest historical document about Conselice dates back to 1084; the place was known as *Caput Silicis* and was a port in the marshes of Po di Primaro, in the "Valle Padusa", a strategic location for commercial exchanges between Imola and Venice. The settlement started to grow around the fort and its mooring docks. The village of S. Patrizio grew up in a more salubrious location south of Conselice; it had a parish

church, woods and lands for pasture (in San Giovanni in Pentecaso) which were the cause of centuries-old quarrels with the neighbours in Massa Lombarda. Conselice was often flooded and its inhabitants used to find shelter in S.Patrizio; this led the two communities to merge in 1430. The town was ruled by the church and by the House of Este, but in 1460 it achieved a degree of autonomy by setting up its own municipal statute, which ranks amongst the oldest in Romagna. In 1598 the Pope Clement VIII declared the town "Castello della Delegazione di Ferrara", under the rule of the Prince of Ferrara, but still in his own control. Conselice also cultivated strong links with Imola's bishop.

During the Napoleonic period the town was annexed to Massa Lombarda; in 1814 it became an independent municipality again and Rodolfo Vacchi was nominated podestà.

The village of Lavezzola, which was once independent, joined Conselice. Over the centuries locals have maintained and created new canals, protecting the ancient mills canal and planting rice fields. However, major reclamation works only took place from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards; the canal Destra Reno was created in 1930. When Conselice was annexed to the Kingdom of Savoy in 1859 it was a very poor community; it was only then that the town hall, the squares and the school were designed and the first segment

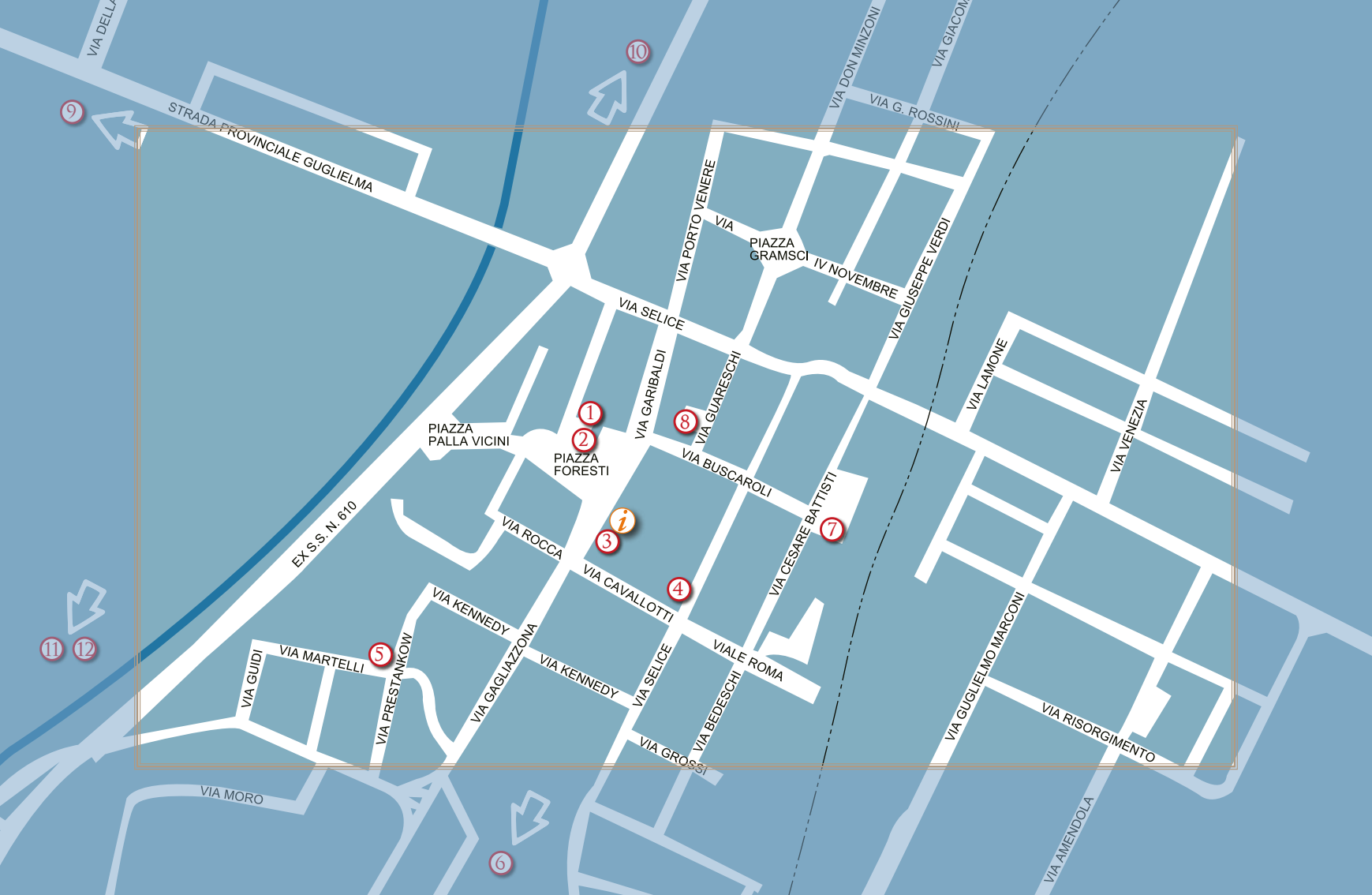
of the railway was opened by the MP Andrea Costa, thus connecting the area with the main towns of Romagna. The fact that two-thirds of the population lived in extreme poverty and worked in the harsh environment of the rice fields led to social unrest and violence in 1890. This was the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century economic development; workers' associations of "mutuo soccorso" started to provide welfare support. These were followed by workers cooperatives in Conselice and Lavezzola; the harsh economic landscape of the 19<sup>th</sup> century started to change. Thanks to the effort of the locals, rice fields and large estates gave way to great reclamation works and to a new economic system based on modern farms and flourishing small and medium businesses.



POPE  
CLEMENT VIII

· CONSELICE ·





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STRADA PROVINCIALE GUGLIELMA

EX S.S. N. 610

PIAZZA PALLA VICINI

PIAZZA FORESTI

PIAZZA GRAMSCI IV NOVEMBRE

VIA ROCCA

VIA CAVALLOTTI

VIALE ROMA

VIA MARTELLI

VIA KENNEDY

VIA KENNEDY

VIA SELICE

VIA BEDESCHI

VIA GROSSI

VIA MORO

VIA SELICE

VIA GARIBALDI

VIA GUARESCHI

VIA PORTO VENERE

VIA

VIA G. ROSSINI

VIA GIUSEPPE VERDI

VIA LAMONE

VIA VENEZIA

VIA GUGLIELMO MARCONI

VIA RISORGIMENTO

VIA AMENDOLA

VIA DON MINZONI

VIA GIACOMINI

VIA DELLA

## THINGS TO SEE



### 1 CHIESA ARCIPRETALE DI SAN MARTINO

*Piazza F. Foresti*

The church is located in the main square of the town and was built in 1830 on the ruins of an 11<sup>th</sup> century Romanesque church. It was designed by the architect Giuseppe Magistretti in 1820; it was consecrated in 1869 and decorated by the Ferrarese painter Augusto Paglierini in 1928. It houses an altarpiece, painted by the local 19<sup>th</sup> century artist Martino Vacchi, depicting the *Saints Martin and Patrick*; the oval *Madonna and sleeping child* is an 18<sup>th</sup> century painting of Bolognese school. The last chapel on the right has an interesting decoration on the theme of the rosary and was painted by Alessandro Scorzoni in 1880.



### 2 MONUMENTO A DON FRANCESCO GIANSTEFANI

*Piazza F. Foresti*

The monument was created by Cesare Rabbi in 2004 to celebrate the decades-long effort of Father Francesco Gianstefani in helping the local population, from the '30s till the long and difficult reconstruction after World War II.

### PALAZZO COMUNALE

*Via Garibaldi, 14*

The Neoclassical town hall was designed by the engineer Lorenzo Fontana and built in 1880. It has two storeys and a portico with five arches on the ground floor. The large windows and the decorated pilasters contribute to refine the façade.

### TEATRO COMUNALE DI CONSELICE

*Via Selice, 125 - Tel. +39 348 7095919 - [www.teatroconselice.it](http://www.teatroconselice.it)*

The theatre originates from a former 1866 cholera ward. The building has typical 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural features. The theatre has a varied programme of entertainment and events, amongst which a theatre season directed by the famous actor Ivano Marescotti.

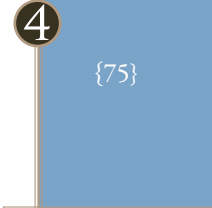
### MONUMENTO AL RANOCCHIO

*Via Prestankow*

This curious monument celebrates frogs, the protagonists of one of the oldest feasts in the region and important contributors to the local economy. The sculpture was created by Gian Piero Baldazzi and inaugurated in September 2000.



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## 6 MONUMENTO ALLE MONDINE E AGLI SCARIOLANTI

*Via Copernico, corner with via Di Vittorio*

The monument celebrates the earliest workers revolts and the rice weeders claims, which lead to the 1890 massacre, during the infamous "Settimana Rossa". The sculpture is by Luciano Caldari.

## 7 MONUMENTO ALLA LIBERTÀ DI STAMPA

*Piazza della Libertà di Stampa*

The monument celebrates press freedom; in particular, it's a memorial to the brave World War II clandestine printers and couriers of CNL. The sculpture was created out of an old printer activated by pedals; today it proudly reaffirms the importance of freedom of information in the history of Italian democracy.

## 8 PIAZZETTA GUARESCHI

This small and magic square lies along Via Buscaroli, near the main square. Inaugurated in October 2004, it features a series of mural paintings created by the stage designer Gino Pellegrini; the paintings depict the local rural landscape, events of the collective memory and images from the films based on Guareschi's novels.



## IN THE AREA

### 9 MAGAZZINO MANIFATTURA TABACCO E RISO

*Via Coronella (Tarabina di Chiesanuova) - Tel. +39 0545 980013*

Lovers of industrial archaeology should not miss this old building, which used to be a tobacco and rice factory and warehouse. It was probably built before 1877 and featured in the land register of the Kingdom of Italy. Today it houses a small museum with a display of objects related to World War II.

### 10 CHIESA DI SAN MAURELIO

*Piazza Caduti (Lavezzola)*

The church of San Aurelio was the original ancient centre of the village of Lavezzola. It was designed by Giovan Battista Aleotti and built at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1609 it became the parish of the area, following the request of Alfonso Lavezzoli; Pietro Aldobrandini, bishop of Ravenna, granted him the privilege of *jus patronato*.

### 11 CHIESA DI SAN PATRIZIO

*Via Mameli (San Patrizio)*

This 9<sup>th</sup> century parish is the earliest Romanesque church of the area; it was established by a group of Irish pilgrims that settled here and worshipped St. Patrick. The pilgrims first set up an aedicule and then erected the church; the building has been modified over the centuries and the current architectural features date back to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the central nave was expanded and the façade and bell tower were rebuilt. The bell tower was embellished with a precious 19<sup>th</sup> century clock; the vaults and the apse were decorated by the Ferrarese painter Augusto Paglierini.

### 12 MULINO DI SAN PATRIZIO

*Via Selice, 2 (San Patrizio)*

The mill was built at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and was owned by the Duke Francesco Pico della Mirandola; it was located along the mills' canal (Canale dei Molini) which connected San Patrizio with Imola. The two-storey building was erected across the canal; in the 1950s two rooms were added and one of these still hosts the old machinery of the mill.

## SHOPPING

### SHOPS

Conselice and Lavezzola feature a variety of typical shops with local produce, some of which sell high quality gastronomy such as "La Bottega del Vino e dei Sapori", which is specialised in wine, liqueurs and oil.

### MARKETS

- Saturday morning: piazza Foresti - Weekly market Lavezzola
- Saturday morning: town centre - Weekly market San Patrizio
- Tuesday morning: town centre - Weekly market

## MAIN EVENTS

Dates are subject to change. For information please visit the website [www.romagnadeste.it](http://www.romagnadeste.it)

FROM THE 1<sup>st</sup> DAY of LENT - **Carnevale di San Grugnone** - Carnival celebration starting on the first day of Lent and ending on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent with a sparkling parade in the town centre.

3<sup>rd</sup> WEEK of MAY - Lavezzola - **Sagra della Porchetta e del Tortellino** - Gourmet event - Tel. +39 0545 986970

JUNE - **Carnevale dei fiori in notturna**  
Tel. +39 0545 88067

JUNE - **Motoraduno Femminile** - Tel. +39 0545 89003

🍷 LAST of AUGUST - San Patrizio - **Sagra del Tortellone**  
Gourmet event

3<sup>rd</sup> WEEK of SEPTEMBER - **Sagra del Ranocchio**  
Gourmet event - Tel. +39 0545 986970

NOVEMBER 11 - San Martino - **Celebration of the Patron Saint** - Tel. +39 0545 986970

URP and Tourist Information Centre  
Via Garibaldi, 14 - Opening hours: Monday to Saturday,  
08:00 - 13:00; Thursday, 08:00 - 18:00  
Tel. +39 0545 986970; fax +39 0545 986967  
e-mail [urp@comune.conselice.ra.it](mailto:urp@comune.conselice.ra.it)  
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