

Artistic Itinerary

San Terenzo - Church of the Nativity of Mary

The itinerary begins starting from the left, with respect to the entrance:

Vocation of St. Peter (17th century) by Paolo Gerolamo Piola (late 17th - early 18th century)

A large brightly coloured work, it shows Jesus in a red tunic, depicted in the act of talking to Saint Peter, kneeling. In the background is the Lake of Tiberias and a boat with male figures.

Madonna of the Arena (15th century)

Attributed to Gottardo da Piacenza, it is a fifteenth century icon, which is the object of profound devotion in San Terenzo. According to tradition, it was found near today's Colombo beach (once known as Santa Caterina beach): this is why it is called "dell'Arena". In reality, in 1482, as recorded in the book of the parish's legates, a polyptych was ordered from Gottardo, of which the Madonna was to occupy the central compartment.

The Landing of San Terenzo (19th century)

The work, by an unknown painter, is located on the left wall of the apse. It depicts St. Terenzo at the moment of his arrival to the hamlet, according to the tradition for which he, a Scottish bishop, would have stayed in the ancient village of "Portiolo" before continuing his journey to Rome. Since then, the village would have changed its name to the current San Terenzo.

Bas-relief with Saints Fabian, Roch and Sebastian (16th century)

Work created by the Lorraine sculptor Domenico Gar, characterised by the presence of three saints invoked against plagues: Fabiano, Rocco and Sebastiano. Note the little angel who, according to tradition, came to cure Saint Rocco's leg, struck by the plague, as well as the miraculous little dog (on the right) which brought relief to his wound. It is one of the several masterpieces that Gar left in our territory: larger and more magnificent triptychs are preserved in Lerici (sacristy of the Church of San Francesco) and in Trebbiano.

The work, originally part of an altar, was commissioned in 1528. This is the period immediately following the great plague that left a deep mark on the local community, hence the representation of saints invoked against the terrible disease.

Tellaro - Stella Maris Church

There are three sacred places in Tellaro, and they deserve special attention. We have the ancient Oratory S. Maria 'n Selàa, the Church of San Giorgio – consecrated in 1584 – and the more modern Stella Maris. Despite its modernity, this church preserves works of great value:

- A seventeenth century reliquary, with an angel on a pedestal decorated by coloured glass, supporting the actual shrine, characterised by two concentric circles decorated with glass gems, surrounded by sun rays. Donati attributes the workmanship to the Roman silversmith Francesco Comi, who also made the framing of the Holy Face preserved in the Vatican. The reliquary arrived in Tellaro in the second half of the seventeenth century, enriched by a piece of bone of Saint Massimo.
- Also dating back to the seventeenth century are the bronze crucifix and the gilded frame with lapis lazuli and jasper inlays, which housed the ancient painting on panel of the Virgin Mary with the Child Jesus.
- The panel with the Madonna, Child and Angels preserved in the Stella Maris Church, is a true masterpiece of medieval art, dating back even before the construction of the Church of San Giorgio, where it was originally located. Before a final restoration, a golden metal frame covered it almost entirely, leaving only Jesus, intent on reading, and Mary's face and hands visible. Today, the painting is once again visible in its entirety: the figures stand out against a gold background, while a finely engraved golden foil simulates a drape of honour held by angelic figures. In the style of the unidentified "Maestro della Madonna di Tellaro", art historians have recognized similarities with a work in the Museum of Fine Arts in Malta, "The Flagellation". Undoubtedly, this is a creation of a very refined artist, which is well-placed in the sphere of the so-called Lombard "Giottesque School" of the mid fourteenth century.

