

## geography

# Paper, a Stimulus for Growth

This cultural hub is in a green valley known as the Switzerland of Pescia: the paper museum is the pivot for the area's candidacy for designation as a UNESCO heritage site.

Among the first villages in the area to start paper making, Pietrabuona found in the Pescia river the fundamental resource for six centuries of development and economic growth.

The collaboration between the paper museum and local institutions grew out of historical identity and environmental consciousness. Thus the project "La Via della Carta in Toscana" brought the paper museum together with Capannori paper-mill district, the municipalities of Pescia and Villa Basilica and the provinces of Pistoia and Lucca: economic actors and institutions, museums, educational and cultural initiatives intertwine to bring together tourism and culture.



## activities

# Paper, an Opportunity for Knowledge

The Pescia Paper Museum offers workshops that enable students and enthusiasts of all ages to learn the techniques, activities, methods and movements that give life to paper; one sheet at a time, following the age-old method of the manual production of paper.

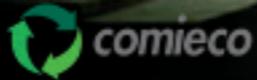
Two educational programs have been set up in collaboration with the Antarte cooperative.

**A journey through the history of paper**  
The seminar is organized into two distinct phases. The first phase retraces the history of paper and touches on contemporary themes such as environmental protection. The second phase illustrates the ancient paper production process through the use of fully functioning scale models.

**The art and craft of paper making**  
In this workshop, the students actually participate in all the phases of the ancient craft in order to produce a finished sheet of paper. At the end of the workshop, each participant receives the sheet of paper that he or she has produced.



# Paper, History and Future



**Opening hours:**  
Reception open from Monday to Friday 9.00 - 13.00

**Guided visits:**  
Monday and Thursday 9.30 - 12.30  
Saturday 9.30 - 13.30

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## heritage

The Pescia Paper Museum located in Pietrabuona, preserves and passes on a universe of knowledge, shared over time and space: making paper.

The Museum targets a wide audience of scholars and students, devotees and casual visitors that can come in, explore the world of paper and learn its secrets: from the priceless collection of watermarks (among which the 1812 portraits of Napoleon and Marie-Louise of Austria) to period tools and machinery used to make paper by hand.

The Paper Museum has a clear mission: to preserve six centuries of tradition, diffusing the history and culture of one of the most ancient means of communication.

The Pescia Paper Museum has become an invaluable reference for restorers, scholars and bibliophiles from the world over.

## Paper, the Stuff of Passion

The Pescia Paper Museum originated from the inspiration and passion of Ferruccio Belluomini and Giuliano Carrara. Their project brought together entrepreneurs of the paper industry, public institutions and a group of devotees in a private association whose mission is to promote the understanding of the tradition and technology of paper: the history, the people, the machinery, the work process, the recycling of raw materials.

The Paper Museum, as the instrument for the diffusion of this knowledge, facilitates its discovery and appreciation by those unfamiliar with it. Yet, it is also the place where people who know about it, can rediscover this world. Memory and culture merge with the new environmental awareness in a Museum where visitors can observe, understand and, above all, experiment.

The Pescia Paper Museum is, above all else, an engaging experience.

## history

Time and the manual labor of both men and women are indispensable resources for making paper and yet, these concepts are alien to today's methods of production. Learning about the history of paper from the sorting of rags to the binding of pages is an opportunity to discover the life of a material that we use everyday. To understand the history of paper-making we need to first go back in time to China in 105 AD and then travel forward from Samarcand to Bagdad, from Syria to Egypt, from Tunisia to Palermo, Amalfi, Fabriano, Genoa and finally Pescia, where the first paper mills where established at the end of the 15th century.

### The Museum

Constructed in the 1920s, the museum building houses exhibitions, a workshop, a library and a conference room where one can learn about paper from its origins to the modern day. A large map illustrates the journey of paper-making from the Far East to the Mediterranean. In the museum can be found documents, tools, samples of ancient paper and functioning scale models that allow visitors to observe all the phases of paper production.

### The "Le Carte" paper mill

The Le Carte paper mill, built at the beginning of the 18th century, is the only one of its kind in Europe still in such good state. Inside the factory, the visitor will find, still in functional condition, the original tools from the 1700 used to produce paper by hand.

## Paper, a Means of Discovery

## resources

Fibers, water, wind, the labor of men and women: paper is all this and much more. For more than 500 years, the history of Pescia has been intricately bound to paper production, centuries of discovery, work and passion.

A strong bond exists with the area and its resources, which is reflected today in the strong commitment to the environment. The preservation of natural resources and the recycling of raw materials are increasingly shared concerns. The Paper Museum, the first in Italy to be EMAS certified, plays an active role in the commitment to the environment. Each educational program deepens the visitor's understanding of the importance of recycling and environmental protection. The Museum collaborates with COMIECO (national consortium for the recovery and recycling of cellulose-based packaging).

## Paper, a Combination of Energies

