

# UNESCO HISTORIC CITIES HERITAGE OF PEACE

*"The happiness of foreigners cannot be divided from the dignity of citizens"*

A.D. 1309 COSTITUTO SENESE



**SIENA, SAN GIMIGNANO, PIENZA**

**14-15-16 APRIL 2023**

# UNESCO HISTORIC CITIES HERITAGE OF PEACE: HISTORY

The Rotary Clubs of Siena, Siena Est, Siena Montaperti, Valdelsa, Alta Valdelsa and Chianciano/Chiusi/Montepulciano organize and promote the international conference "**UNESCO historic cities heritage of Peace**", open to all Rotary Clubs of Unesco historic centres, which will be hosted in Siena, San Gimignano and Pienza on 14, 15 and 16 April 2023. Our conference was born in 2012 and it is the result of the synergy from clubs from all over Europe, united in the spirit of service of our territory and of all the historic centers Unesco. During the 2012-2013 Rotarian year, the members of the Rotary Club Urbino, inspired by the "Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage", signed by the member states of UNESCO and by the motto of the president of Rotary International Sakuji Tanaka, which made explicit reference to the construction of peace through service, they felt it was their duty to organize the conference "UNESCO historic cities, heritage of peace" in Urbino.

At the end of this conference, all the delegations present approved the "Declaration of Urbino", which commits the Rotary Clubs of UNESCO cities and historic centers "to help above any personal interest, in the way to let historic urban landscapes be a synergy with the sounds, colors and planning of today and be a reality that can be enjoyed by every woman and man in a future of peace."

# 2015 CONFERENCE: ISTANBUL

In April 2015, the second Rotary convention was held in Istanbul on the theme "UNESCO historic cities, heritage of Peace", with which the intention was to strengthen the Rotarian commitment to intervene with constancy and determination for the conservation and enhancement of historic centers and UNESCO historic cities.





# 2017 CONFERENCE: FLORENCE

In 2017 Florence welcomed the third edition of the conference, with the theme "Which lighting for historic cities". It was an opportunity to promote, with testimonies and proposals, a reflection and a comparison for the correct use of artificial light, in relation to the characteristics of historic centers and monuments, also following the progressive introduction of LED technologies.

# 2019 CONFERENCE: ZAMOSC

"Synergies in architecture" was the theme of the 2019 edition of the conference, hosted in Zamosc (Poland). An opportunity for discussion on the theme of design in historic cities, between conservation and contemporaneity, with the participation of architecture students from various European universities, who gathered in a series of workshops to study and design restoration actions for a part of the city of Zamosc.





# 2023 CONFERENCE: SIENA, SAN GIMIGNANO, PIENZA

The theme of our conference, which will take place between Siena, San Gimignano and Pienza, will be the relationship between tourism and the world heritage city, exceptionally written in the "Costituto Senese" of 1309 with the sentence: *"The happiness of foreigners cannot be divided from the dignity of citizens."*

The theme is the teamwork of our six Rotary Clubs and it will have to represent for all the Italian Clubs based in UNESCO historic centers or cities, an important objective so that all the UNESCO historic cities can be brought together in a positive circuit, operating in favor of an improvement of urban quality and the research of a methodology for the implementation of development policies for UNESCO historic centers and cities.

WORLD HERITAGE FROM 1990

# SAN GIMIGNANO





Among the sunny hills of Val d'Elsa, stands the splendid city of San Gimignano, surrounded by thirteenth-century walls that embrace a medieval environment of intact beauty.

Visiting San Gimignano means immersing yourself completely in the atmosphere of a fourteenth-century city; its appearance has remained mostly intact and the city still represents one of the best European examples of urban organization of the communal age.

*“A masterpiece of human creative genius, it bears the unique testimony of a civilization of the past and the exceptional example of an architectural and landscape complex, testimony of important stages in human history.” For these reasons, in 1990 UNESCO inscribed San Gimignano in the World Heritage list.*



WORLD HERITAGE FROM 1995

# SIENA





**Siena** is a city of art, a city of culture, the city of the Palio. It has many faces, so the city is unique.

Placed in the Tuscan hills it still maintains its appearance unchanged and time in Siena seems to have stopped in the thirteenth century, when the city began to be enriched with an artistic and architectural heritage that has consecrated its glory forever.

Many great artists had the opportunity to express their art, such as **Duccio di Boninsegna, Simone Martini and the Lorenzetti brothers**, known as the great masters of the Sienese school.

Unesco inscribed Siena in the world heritage list in 1995, for having skilfully preserved important characteristics of its medieval structure, defining it "*A masterpiece of dedication and inventiveness in which the buildings have been designed to be adapted to the entire design of the urban structure*".

WORLD HERITAGE FROM 1996

# PIENZA



Legend has it that Corsignano was founded by the soldier Sillano Corsinio. Originally Corsignano was a small inhabited center located on a hill overlooking the Val d'Orcia, part of the larger rural district of Rutiliano.

The current structure of the city, with its Renaissance buildings that rise above the main square and the Corso, is the result of the transformation that the medieval village underwent between 1459 and 1462 under the papacy of **Pope Pius II** who was born there. The new urban center took the name of **Pienza**.

Due to its peculiarities and unique amenities, Pienza has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996.

*"Living in Pienza is considered today either a privilege or a goal to be achieved with joy. We who are its citizen administrators 'pro tempore' and its citizens who have always been protectors and admirers, enthusiastically welcome the recognition of those who share this ancient history and this beauty with us".*



WORLD HERITAGE FROM 2004

# VAL D'ORCIA





The **Val d'Orcia** is a wide valley crossed by the river Orcia, which gives it its name, and is characterized by pleasant landscape views and various centers of medieval origin.

The landscape of the Val d'Orcia was celebrated by the **painters of the Sienese School** which flourished in the Renaissance period and its images, especially the representations of landscapes in which people are depicted living in harmony with nature, have become an icon of the Renaissance which has influenced the theme of the landscape over the centuries.

Due to its excellent state of conservation, it became part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2004, defining it:

*"A marriage of art and landscape, geographical space and ecosystem, it is the expression of marvelous natural characteristics but it is also the result and testimony of the people who live there. Between the hard, bumpy landscape of the clays and the softer one of the hills where the Mediterranean maquis, vineyards, olive groves, promiscuous crops exchange and intersect in frescoes of rare beauty, we can clearly understand how and how much has weighted mankind's awareness for depending on the resources of the surrounding environment and on their use in a non-destructive way."*



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SIENA, SAN GIMIGNANO, PIENZA 14, 15, 16 APRIL 2023





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ROTARY CLUB VALDELSA



ROTARY CLUB SIENA-EST



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COMUNE DI SIENA



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**San Gimignano**



**Città di Pienza**