



VIA FRANCIGENA
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
of the Francigena Ways



Cultural Route of the
Itinéraire Culturel du
COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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New issue of the “Via Francigena and the Pilgrimage Ways” Magazine

The prestigious seat of the Italian Institute of Culture of Paris is hosting the launch event

The VIA FRANCIGENA is on a journey through Europe and ready to celebrate the **20th anniversary of its acknowledgment by the Council of Europe as a Cultural Route (1994)**. Therefore this is an important stage as the Via Francigena project has become a substantial part of the initiatives announced in the framework of Italy’s six-month Presidency of the EU (July – December 2014) and of the Milan Expo 2015; as a result, this achievement will contribute to raise the visibility of the route on a worldwide scale.

The Via Francigena and the Council of Europe Cultural Routes strive for the ideals of peace, of tolerance and of dialogue and they contribute to build peoples’ Europe, a Europe that we ought to bring together through diversity.

The number of ramblers, pilgrims and hikers is significantly increasing, and associations as well as institutions are more and more committed to making the Via accessible through enhancement projects on a local, regional, national and international level. The Via Francigena is taking root more and more in the relevant territories through the reinforcement of an important and significant phenomenon of local cultural identity and the creation of new job opportunities in a sustainable economy.

The launch event of the latest issue of “**Via Francigena and the Pilgrimage Ways**” Magazine is taking place on Thursday **12th December** at the prestigious seat of the Italian Institute of Culture in **Paris**. The issue offers an overview of the Via Francigena in the four relevant countries – England, France, Switzerland, Italy – and opens to the other Council of Europe Cultural Routes: the Ways of St. James, the Historical Thermal Towns and the St. Martin of Tours Route.

The **trilingual magazine**, rich in stunning pictures, includes interesting in-depth articles about the route, associations and events. The special is devoted to the pilot project of the “**Via Francigena Ways in the mountain area**” of Piacenza with regard to the institutional aspects, the route, new technologies and local food and wine.

Tidbits from the territory of Piacenza – namely cured meats and wines – will be in the spotlight with **Parmigiano-Reggiano** (whose Consortium has been the main sponsor of the magazine for years) at the tasting which usually follows the presentation. A way to discover the Via Francigena also through the flavours and superior quality food of the relevant territories.

An issue to keep, read and carefully leaf through. You may also download your online copy from www.rivistaviafrancigena.it

In this issue:

Editorial

Massimo Tedeschi

Documents

Via Francigena and Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage – by Ilaria Borletti Buitoni

Focus on Europe

- Council of Europe Cultural Routes – by Penelope Denu
- Region Champagne-Ardenne, an interview with Régine Pillière

- Second visit of inspection in Franche-Comté – by Jacques Guy
- Fifty pilgrims from Burgundy on Via Francigena – by Gilbert Pescayre
- The Ways of Saint James, interview with Laurent Wauquiez
- Week-end in Canterbury for pilgrims of Via Francigena France, by François Louviot
- St. Martin of Tours Route, by Marie Gaillard
- Via Francigena in Great St. Bernard region , by Gaëtan Tornay
- *Café de l'Europe* by Michel Thomas-Penette

Special

The Via Francigena Ways in the mountain area of Piacenza by Giuseppe Cattanei

Opinions

From Porta Francigena to Rome : a Spanish Via Francigena by Raul Santiago Goni

Places and routes

The *Via Podiensis* - along the Ways of Saint James by Luca Bruschi

Associations

Coordinating the fellows of the Via Francigena Ways, by Stefano Tacconi

Accommodation

Formello to host the most beautiful hostel in Italy by Valentina Maccari

Via Francigena towns

Colle di Val d'Elsa, the Town of Cristal by Federica Casprini and Filomena di Marco

News

- Presentation of the June 2013 issue
- La Locanda del Pellegrino
- *A Centro Commerciale Naturale* on the Via Francigena in San Miniato

Much information on: www.viefrancigene.org and www.rivistaviafrancigena.it

