

The Spezzano Castle

Via del Castello, 12

41042 Spezzano di Fiorano Modenese (MODENA)

The Spezzano Castle's origins trace back to medieval times: the moat, drawbridge and embattled walls testify to the 14th and 15th centuries; a pentagonal tower (today the seat of the Municipality's Vinegar producing Consortium) attests to its calling as a defensive stronghold. In 1529 Lord Pio of Carpi started transforming the medieval structure into the present-day noble palace with its fulcrum in the sensational medieval courtyard with an arched portico in the Sala delle Vedute and the Galleria delle Battaglie (Hall of Views, Gallery of battles). The widest hall of the Spezzano castle exhibits a unique pictorial series commissioned by Marco Pio III to celebrate the economic power of his family through an exhibition of a real estate cadastre with 57 reproduced views of the landscape with towers, castles and villages. Frescoes, pictorial series and 16th Century lacunar ceilings with polychromatic panels decorate the other rooms of the ground floor and piano nobile. The Fiorano Town Council bought and renovated the castle in 1982. Surrounded by an attractive historical park, it became the permanent seat of the Ceramics Museum, a venue for meetings and temporary archeology and contemporary ceramics exhibitions.

The **Ceramics Museum** documents the techniques and methods of ceramic production from the Neolithic to contemporary ages. It synthesizes three types of museums, the technological, archeological and historical-artistic types spread out in a Historical Section, a Contemporary Section and a Modern collection completed with a Clay Laboratory.

INFO

Cultural Services 0039 0536.833412-833438, Public Relation 0536.833239, cultura@fiorano.it, www.fiorano.it; IAT-ITER 0536.1844853.

The Castle is open from May to November from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. with free entrance.

Groups and schools: book to visit all year round (tel. 0536/833412 –833418). Guided tours and laboratories: tel. 0536/833412. Bookshop and touristic informations. The structure is accessible to the disabled. There are 2 parking lots, a historical park and itinerary with picnic facilities. For Congress Halls and exhibition venues tel. 0536/833418; Bar - Restaurant 0536/926884.

HOW TO GET TO THE CASTLE

MOTORWAY A1, exit at MODENA NORD; Beltway Modena - Sassuolo up to the end (exit 31), then take the road to Maranello; upon entering Spezzano, turn to Nirano St. and follow the directions for Castello di Spezzano.

Coaches: Line 671 Modena/Sassuolo; Line 800 Modena/Abetone. By train and bus: at the Modena Station