



Pienza

A small jewel in the heart of Tuscany

Founded at the behest of Pope Pius II, **Pienza** is a small town in the province of Siena known for its breathtaking views, its wonderful example of Renaissance urban planning and its local specialities, first and foremost the famous **pecorino cheese** of Pienza.

Its history began in the 15th century when **Enea Silvio Piccolomini**, once he became Pope, entrusted the renovation of his hometown to architect **Bernardo Rossellino**, who between 1459 and 1462 redefined its appearance and transformed the town into a typically 15th-century urban and architectural treasure.

This is how what is now known as the ideal city was born: “*born from a thought of love and a dream of beauty*”, as **Giovanni Pascoli** wrote.

Due to its unique characteristics, it was recognised as a UNESCO **World Heritage Site** in 1996.

Strolling through the historic centre of Pienza, you can lose yourself in the narrow streets with their romantic names, admire the extraordinary views and retrace history through its beautiful buildings.

The main buildings of the city overlook the main square, **Piazza Pio II**: the **Cathedral**, dedicated to Santa Maria Assunta; the **Palazzo Borgia** or Palazzo Vescovile, which houses the **Diocesan Museum**; and the **Town Hall**, the former residence of the Priors, characterised by its three arches that create an elegant portico, inside which are the stone coats of arms of the Podestà who lived there.

Other important points of interest are **Palazzo Piccolomini**, also known as Palazzo Pontificio, and the **parish church of Corsignano**, a small 12th-century church located a few kilometres from the centre of Pienza.