



MACERATA



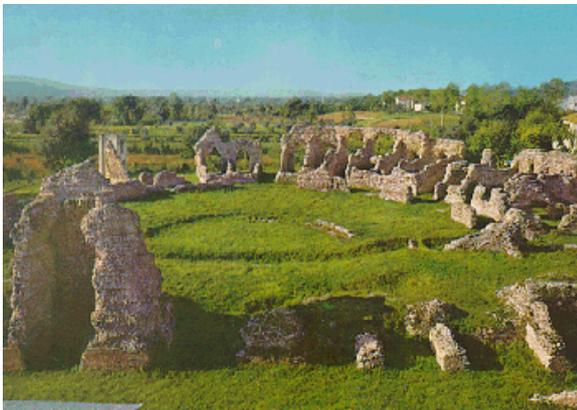
The town of Macerata, is situated in the centre of the region Marche, one of the richest in Italy for its natural and artistic beauties. Thanks to its hills and colours of the countryside it is called by the Local Authority "land of harmonies".

Located at 314 m. above sea level, Macerata has a population of about 43.000 inhabitants concentrated mainly in its municipality (92 square km) and gathered around the medieval town walls. These walls surround the

"historical" centre of the town to which one can have access through 4 old doors.

At the first places in the classification as concerns the quality of life, Macerata people have still a good way of living and the different activities still comply with the resources of the environment.

A lot of immigrants from Albania, Senegal, Romania, Pakistan and other countries have come in the recent years, changing the pattern of the population who are becoming more and more multicultural.



Macerata was probably a Roman town. The ruins of "Helvia Recina" are evidence of its Roman origins. There are different hypotheses on its name, the most probable is the Latin word "maceria" referring to some collapsing ramparts.

Macerata started to grow in the 13th and 14th century when it became the seat of the bishop, but achieved the highest development in the Renaissance period (1500)

There are many aristocratic palaces of different periods (from Renaissance to XVIII cent) which are the evidence of a richness and increased taste for art.



The town is also characterized by a lot of churches which show the faith of its inhabitants, in fact it is dedicated to the Virgin Mary as one can see from the painting on the town hall. One of the most important is the sanctuary of "Madonna della Misericordia" a work by Luigi Vanvitelli.

Thanks to University, one of the oldest in Italy, and to Academy of Fine Arts, there are a lot of University students, coming both from the nearest regions and also from European countries.



The economic activities of the town are mainly based on services, trade and agriculture
In the outskirts there are a lot of small and middle enterprises producing footwear, furniture, musical instruments, papermaking, clothing, handicraft and food.



Cultural facilities are represented by some museums, an art gallery, 3 public libraries, the theatre, the Sferisterio which houses the Summer Opera Festival every year, cinemas.

In Macerata there are also sport facilities such as a sports centre, football and baseball pitches, tennis courts, 2 swimming pools and gyms.

In their free time students go to bars, pubs and discos and often to "pizzeria.

