

FRANCAVILLA AL MARE

1) Palazzo Sirena and the Pier

Viale Nettuno, 66023 Francavilla al Mare, Chieti

Palazzo Sirena is the symbol of the seaside town of Francavilla al Mare. It opened in 1888 with a grand ball, according to Gabriele D'Annunzio when he wrote an article for the roman newspaper "The Tribune". The very first building was designed by Antonino Liberi in floral art nouveau style but was razed by the mines of the german sappers in 1943. It was rebuilt in the post-war period designed by Vittorio Ricci, it was later enlarged at the end of the last century designed by Mose Ricci.

The expansion on the sea front includes a large auditorium in a conch shape with a seating capacity of 600 which is used for concerts, conferences and cultural events. Other smaller rooms are used for meetings and even art exhibitions. Palazzo Sirena lends a helping hand to the artistic image which always brings many visitors to Francavilla.

It is worth taking note of the front of the building near the pier, it has a semicircle brick wall and above it there is the original statue in wrought iron of the mythic wind source by Mitoraj. At the back of Palazzo Sirena there is a semicircle which leads to the sandy beach and to the wide pier which reaches out into the sea. It is the ideal place to admire the Adriatic sea or the spectacular profile of Francavilla immersed in the greenery behind it, on the hills. During the summer months the 8 kilometers of sandy beaches are full of bathers among rows of multi colour beach umbrellas.

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