

## FRANCAVILLA AL MARE

### 7) The Asterope district

Viale Alcione, 315, 66023 Francavilla Al Mare (CH)

In the years following the second world war, the town of Francavilla was rebuilt and the majority of the reconstruction took place in the area between the River Alento and the pine forest of Pescara. The intense concentration of buildings during those years meant that Francavilla became part of the metropolis which has its hub in Pescara. This new district is known as the asterope area, taken after the name of its main square. The names of all the roads are taken from the constellation of the Pleiades, previously used by Gabriele D'Annunzio for the titles of his books and lauds. The wide main road is named Via Alcione and it runs along the seafront, joining the old part of Francavilla to Pescara. It is a busy tree lined avenue, on one side there are splendid private villas surrounded by gardens whereas on the other side there are shops, coffee bars, restaurants and hotels. Via Alcione crosses the wide square, Piazza Asterope which looks out on the beach ending in a round terrace. At the other side, piazza asterope ends at the railway line, with green hills in the background. Under the arcades of this square there are popular eateries, shops and even a cinema named after the square. A school building and a church, Sant'Alfonso de' Liguori overlook the square and at the same point there is a subway under the railway which leads to another main road, named Nazionale Adriatica. Turning left into Via Maiella, a road which borders the railway line, the public Swimming pool is a short distance away. It offers various sporting activities both for children and adults such as swimming lessons, gymnastics, dance and also a sauna and a relaxation room.

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