



CITTASLOW BEST PRACTICES CONTEST 2022

City of San Miniato

Presented by Lucia Alessi, Cittaslow delegate councilor



Città di
San Miniato



WINNER OF THE CHIOCCIOLA ORANGE CITTASLOW INTERNATIONAL 2022 AWARD



San Miniato and its territory

WHO WE ARE

The municipality of San Miniato, consisting of about 28,000 inhabitants and located in Tuscany, halfway between Pisa and Florence, has always been attentive to the development of good practices, especially in agricultural, tourism and craft policies, as well as energy, environmental and social cohesion.

Land of the white truffle and numerous other enogastronomic excellences, rich in history and culture, it has been part of the Cittaslow network for many years



SLOW CULTURE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD, EDUCATION



FOOD OF THE EARTH



VICOLI CARBONAI



THE SCHOOL AT THE
MUSEUM

Food of the earth

A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE EARTH MARKET ALLIANCE BETWEEN FARMERS AND CO- PRODUCERS CITIZENS

For ten years, every morning of the third Sunday of the month, in San Miniato, the **Mercatale**, has been held. The Mercatale, a "zero KM" market, organized by the Producers of the heart market of San Miniato with the cooperation of the convivium Slow Food San Miniato. The farmers and producers of the countryside around San Miniato set up a market in the center where they can sell the fruits of their labor and their land directly to consumers





EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT BIODIVERSITY WITH THE LOCAL CHEFS AND WINEMAKERS

For some years now, a special edition of this market has been organized, **"Food of the earth"**, which continues throughout the day spreading the culture of healthy eating and of product quality through showcooking, workshops and tastings. The aim is to present quality and typical products and recipes directly to consumers, at fair prices and guaranteeing production methods that are sustainable for the environment with constant attention to the defense of biodiversity



HEALTH AND FOOD EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The participation of school classes in the event **"Food of the earth"** involved children, teachers and parents in reflection about the issue of local healthy food and about the behavior in conscious production and consumption. A beautiful exhibition of drawings of children called **"Food of the earth through the children's eyes"** and Lab about local food, made by the local Convivium of Slow Food, have involved producers and community about the culture of sustainable food





SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY TOWARDS SHARED COMMON GOALS

The Market's producers, the local Winemakers and chefs, care in local agriculture culture, are resilient micro-economies and social resources for inclusion and shared responsibility

Vicoli Carbonai

THE GUARDIAN OF A LONG HISTORY – LOCAL CULTURE AND ERITAGE

The historic center of San Miniato develops on three hills along which cobbled streets run, enclosed between historic buildings and churches that follow one another without interruptions, or almost.

Around the old walls, incorporated over centuries by the garden of the palaces and churches, between the city and the country side, there are the so called charcoal alleys, pedestrian paths, full of charm and guardians of a long history, connected to the historic centre through ancient passages.

The charcoal alleys already existed since the Middle-ages and were moats placed at the foot of the ancient castle walls and were set on fire, hence the name, to keep enemies away in the event of a siege. In practice it was a defense system. The circuit of the lanes is attested by the municipal statutes of 1337, which gave prescriptions for their maintenance. Today they have become a public route that goes around the city marking the border with the surrounding countryside and its beauty





ORTI TERRAZZATI

From the mid-sixteenth century, the whole city was transformed with the construction of important buildings with gardens, often integrated into the old walls and connected with doors and stairs to the old alleys, which over the centuries became a pedestrian road network that connected the countryside and its products with the city. But later part of the circuit was abandoned and some part of it disappeared



MOTI CARBONARI - FINDING THE WAY – CITTADINANZA ATTIVA

In 2010, the association "**Moti Carbonari - Finding the way**" was born, founded by architect Anna Braschi which in these ten years, thanks to the work of willing citizens, has recovered a long section of the Vicolo Carbonaio, clearing it of the weed scrub and debris that have invaded it, reconstituting the ancient route. The path now makes possible to run, walk, warm up in the sun, control the water, recover stretches of the uncultivated countryside, a different way to experience the city , another resource for tourism in San Miniato



SMALL TRACES OF EVERYDAY LIFE

During the works volunteers collected many fragments of decorated pottery belonging to different periods of time , most of them are remains of the dominican friars dishes and some are dated from XV to XVII Century

2022

AN AGREEMENT WITH A DURATION OF 5
YEARS HAS BEEN SIGNED- ACTIONS OF
INCLUSION AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

In 2022 the Municipality of San Miniato activated a 5-year agreement with the Moti Carbonari association - Finding the road, to give financial aid for maintenance costs of Vicolo Carbonaio and to allow the development of projects, for the benefit of the entire community and visitors. To date, a path of 1000 meters is open, on several levels that forms a long garden overlooking the hills south towards Siena and Volterra



1

ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

A hundred trees and a thousand shrubs, herbaceous plants and bulbs have been planted. The association is working on the formation of flowering parapet hedges along the path and the planting of a citrus grove and a laurel, privet and downy oak forest



2

EDUCATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Over the years, the alley has become a place of experience and study for schools in the city of San Miniato. A project is planned for a space for free activities for children in the nursery and kindergarten

3

CULTURAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Since 2000 until now lots of cultural events of associations have been held such as meetings, exhibitions , roadshows with the aim of spreading more and more the story of the “ Vicoli Carbonai “ and its connection to the city , improving the structure of the track, getting it known by citizens and tourist to be walked through as an extraordinary winter garden in San Miniato

4

ACTIONS TO HEAL DIVISION, DISSOLVE PREJUDICES AND PROTECTION GENDER QUALITY

In the Vicoli Carbonai a rose garden was created in memory of the women victims of femicide. The plaque says: *"It carries the high scent of rose in the air. The rose garden in the alley for women victims of violence"*





San Genesio

MUSEUM AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA

The archaeological area of **San Genesio**, in San Miniato, shows the traces of an ancient Etruscan settlement, an old town that later, in the Middle Ages, was an important center of the Lower Valdarno, until 1248, the year of its destruction by the samminiatesi.

A museum has also been set up near the archaeological site, located in a strategic position on the ancient road called Via Francigena

A school at the Museum

A SCHOOL AT THE MUSEUM

A school at the Museum is a project promoted by the Municipality of San Miniato, activated in September 2020, which envisaged the permanent integration, for the whole school year 2020/2021, of the 15 children of the second class of the "Collodi" primary school in Ponte a Elsa, inside the Archaeological Museum of San Genesio



WHY WAS THE PROJECT BORN?



FOR NECESSITY

The idea stems from the need to rethink educational spaces, following the health emergency from Covid 19, prompting administrations and comprehensive institutions to imagine new places for teaching

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER TWO YEARS?



DIDACTICS

This project of integration between education and culture is the first community experimentation in Italy. With education in art and image, especially through a laboratory and experiential approach, children had the opportunity to develop observation and description skills, reading and understanding the works and objects they approached and placed themselves with curiosity and positive interaction towards the art world of their territory



RESULT OF THE EXPERIMENT

The objectives achieved in these two years have prompted the Municipality of San Miniato and the Comprehensive Institute to renew the project also for the school year 2022/23

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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