



Carassai



*The Castle of Carassai, nestled between the valleys,
stands as a testament to a civilization that
knew how to blend strength and beauty*

(Giuseppe Colucci, *Antichità Picene*, XVIII sec.)

A village suspended between distant horizons and deep roots

Carassai is situated on a ridge that overlooks the Adriatic Sea on one side and the Sibillini Mountains on the other, a position that in itself tells its spirit: a village suspended between distant horizons and deep roots. The traces of the Neolithic period, preserved in the Antiquarium Comunale, and the Baroque elegance of the Oratorio di Santa Monica, now an art gallery, reveal a history that spans millennia. The village harbors two souls: the Castello Vecchio, with its medieval alleys, towers, and covered passages, and the Castello Nuovo, built between the 14th and 15th centuries with walls, towers, and walkways. Spirituality is reflected in churches like Santa Maria del Buon Gesù and in places of collective memory such as the Lavatoio (laundry) from 1901. Beyond the walls, the landscape opens up to silent countryside, votive shrines, and fortifications, including the majestic Castello di Monte Varmine and the Abbey of Sant'Angelo in Piano, a destination for pilgrims and travelers.





Carassai is a vibrant village where museums, workshops, and popular festivals restore the authentic soul of a community that knows how to welcome, intertwining history, art, and flavors in a landscape that invites slow discovery.

DISCOVER

Carassai recounts a thousand-year-old story

Carassai tells a millennial story. The first settlements date back to the Neolithic period, with artifacts preserved in the Antiquarium Comunale, originating from Rocca Monte Varmine, the necropolis of Sant'Agata, and the valleys of Aso and Menocchia.

In the Middle Ages, Benedictine monks promoted the reclamation of lands and the establishment of churches and defensive structures, shaping the Castello Nuovo (14th and 15th centuries), with walls, towers, and covered walkways that still reveal its military vocation today. Thanks to its strategic position on the ridge, Carassai became a control and exchange hub between cities and valleys. After various dominations, it established itself as a free commune in 1537 and gained administrative autonomy only in 1860. In the 20th century, it modernized with schools, a library, and infrastructure. Today, the village preserves the Castello Nuovo, the Renaissance-Baroque church of Santa Maria del Buon Gesù, and the picturesque Castello di Monte Varmine, among the best-preserved in the Marche region.







TRADITIONS, CULTURE, FLAVORS AND EVENTS

Carassai preserves a living heritage of traditions

Carassai preserves a vibrant heritage of traditions that renew from generation to generation.

The most anticipated moment is the Sagra della Salsiccia alla Brace (Sausage Festival) takes place, a symbolic event celebrating the "Queen of Carassai": a unique sausage, slowly cooked over aromatic wood embers, encapsulating the intense flavor and culinary tradition of the area.

A nationally recognized event that attracts numerous tourists, thanks to the quality of the sausages produced in the local salami factory.

However, the calendar is rich throughout the year: festivals, craft markets, musical evenings, and food and wine events animate the historic center, transforming it into a meeting place.

The local cuisine reflects the authentic soul of the Marche: cured meats like ciauscolo (a soft, spreadable salami) and coppa (cured pork shoulder), pecorino cheeses (sheep's milk cheese),





handmade egg pasta, peasant soups, and festive sweets like ciambelle al mosto (must doughnuts). Accompanying these are the wines of the hills – Rosso Piceno, Passerina, Pecorino – and local extra virgin olive oil, which enhance the genuine flavors of tradition.

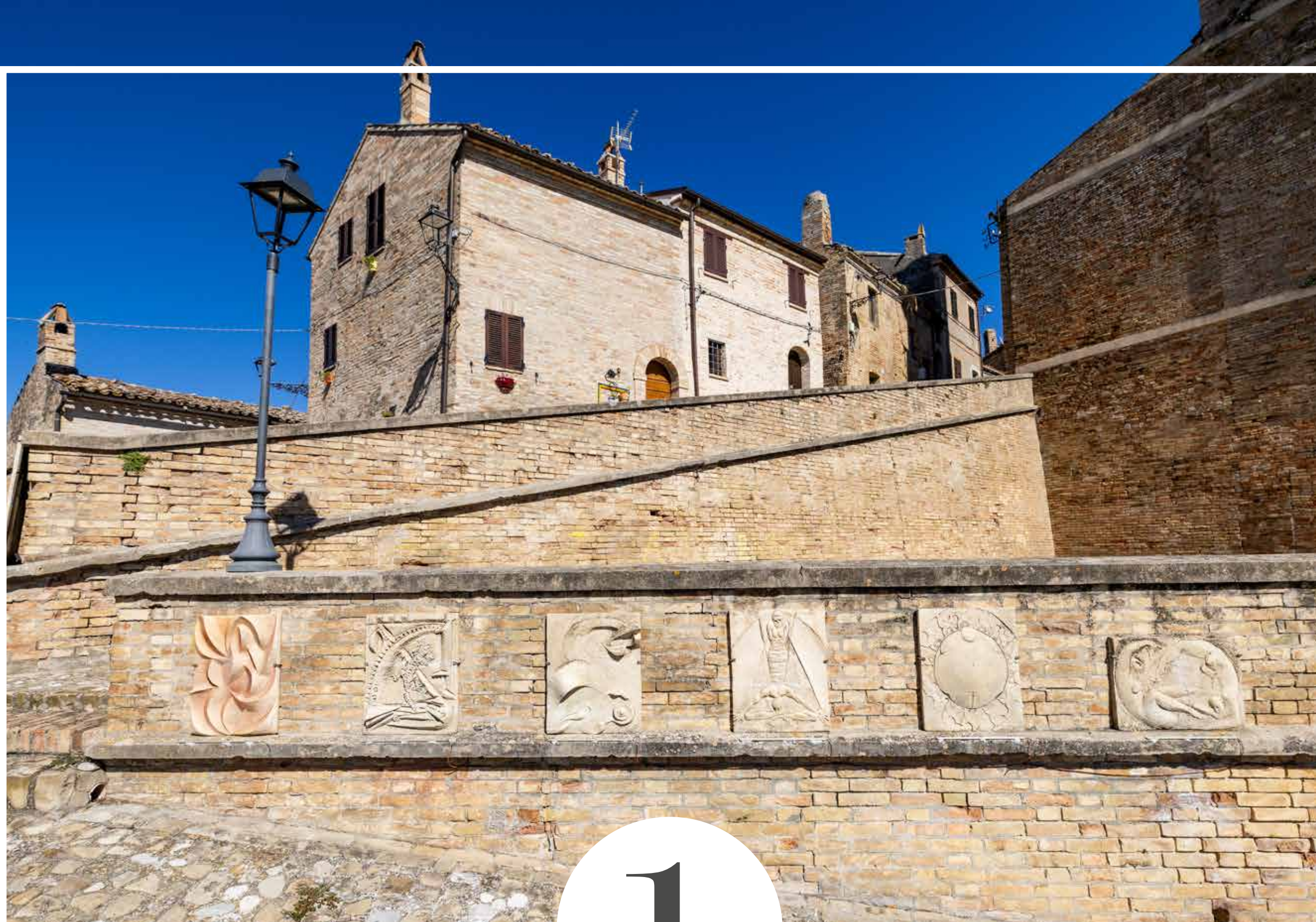
Every event in Carassai thus becomes an opportunity to discover the village, share moments of community, and experience the warm hospitality that has always characterized it.



MUST-DOs

Five Authentic Experiences to Enjoy in Carassai





1

GET LOST IN THE TWO CASTLES

Carassai harbors a fascinating dual soul, encapsulated in its two castles. The Castello Vecchio, the original nucleus from the feudal era, is distinguished by its elliptical layout, narrow cobbled streets, and the Church of San Lorenzo Martire: a blend of medieval architecture that narrates the birth of the village and its defensive function. Just a little lower is the Castello Nuovo, built between the 14th and 15th centuries,

with a rectangular layout, three parallel streets connected by "bridges," and fortified walls punctuated by towers. Here, you will find the evocative covered military walkways and the Collegiata di Santa Maria del Buon Gesù, home to Renaissance and Baroque artworks.





2

ADMIRE THE MONUMENTAL ROVERELLA OF CARASSAI

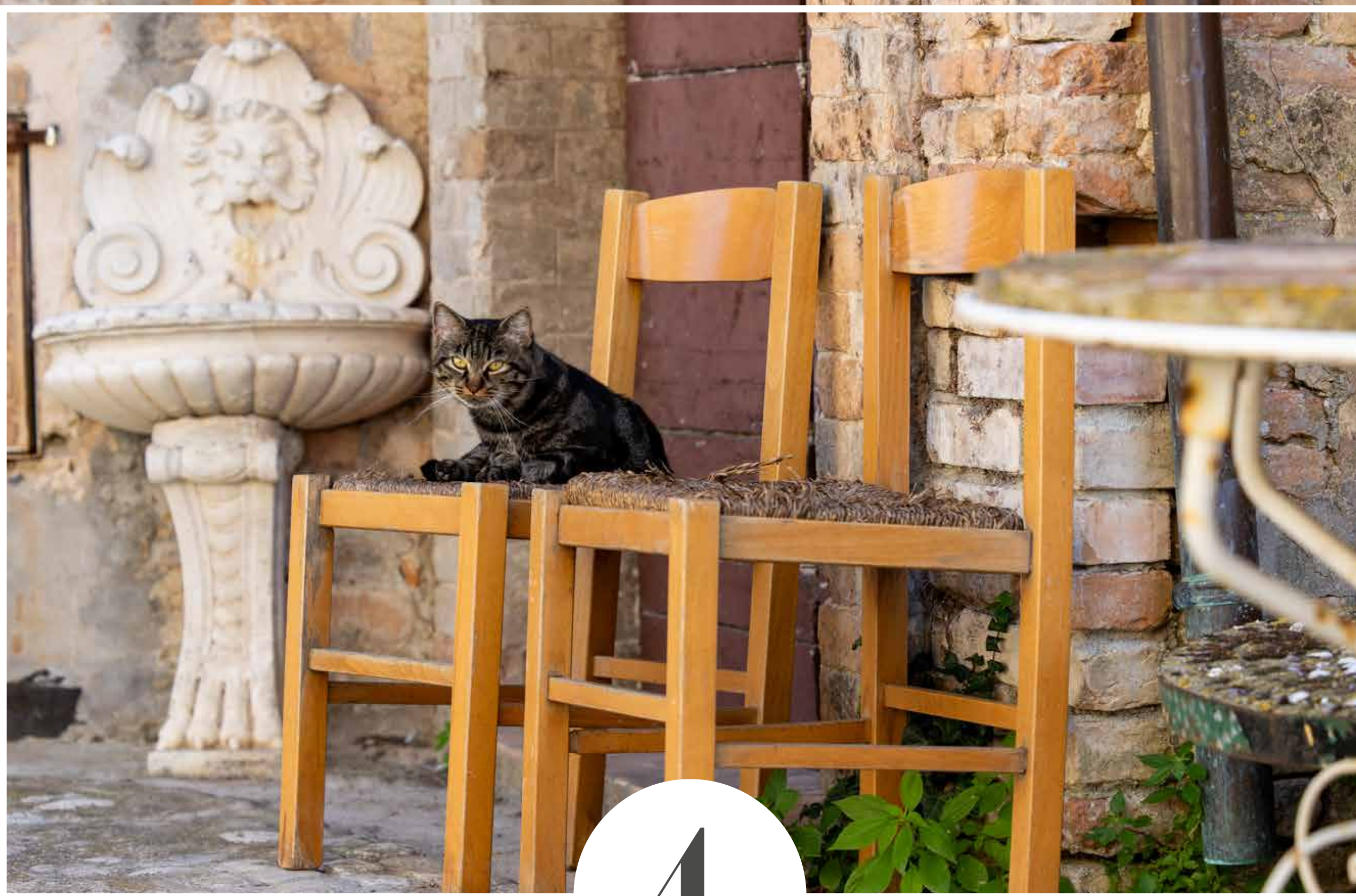
A few kilometers from the village, in the locality of San Vito, stands the majestic Monumental Roverella, a centuries-old oak that dominates the landscape like an ancient guardian of the Valdaso. Its roots delve deep into time, its branches stretch to the sky with strength and harmony, telling stories of longevity, resilience, and wisdom. A place that invites contemplation and offers unique views of the Valdaso, easily accessible by foot or car.



3

DISCOVER THE ROCCA OF MONTE VARMINO

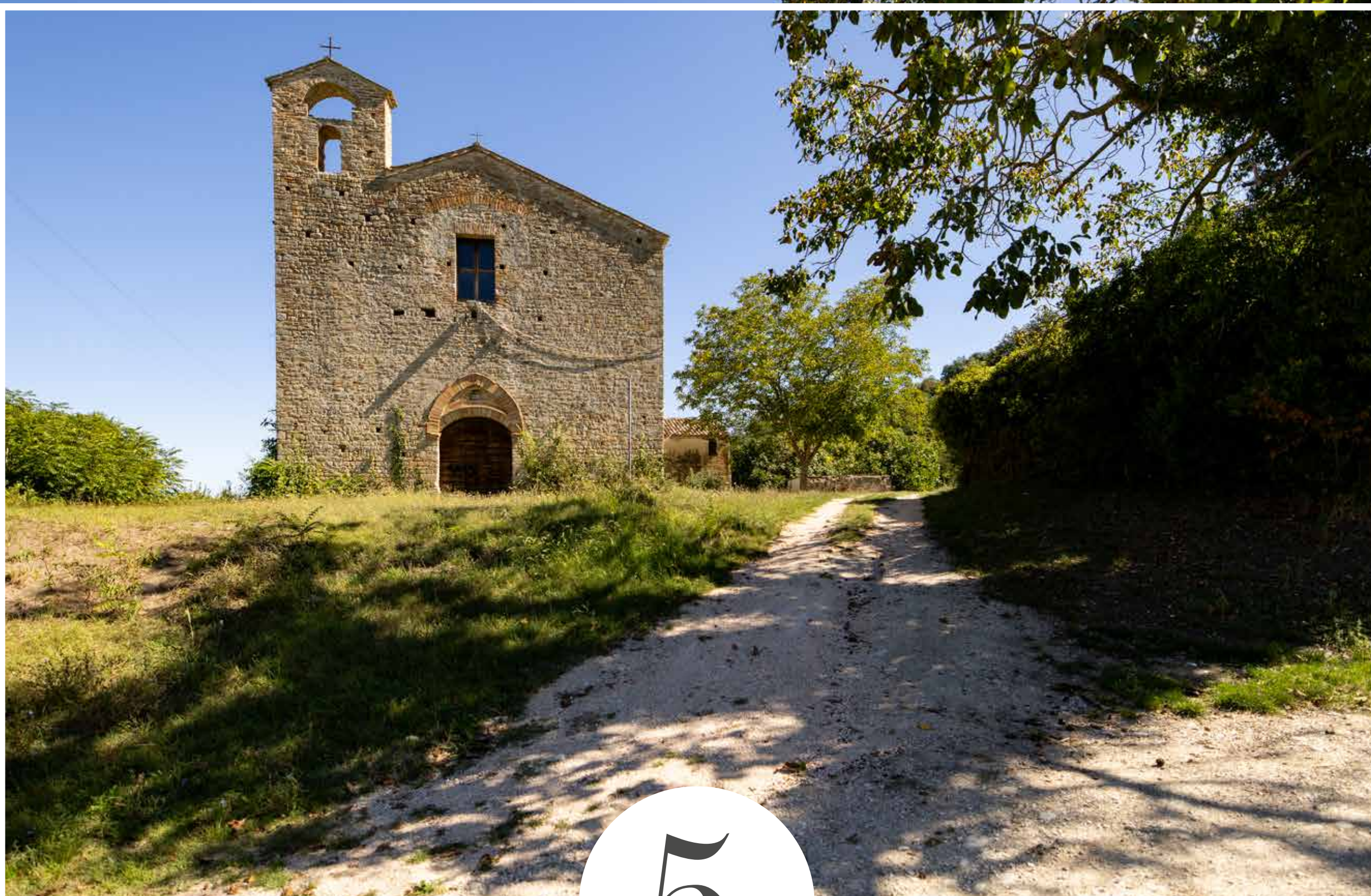
Just a few kilometers from the village, between the Aso River and the Menocchia Stream, rises the Rocca di Monte Varmine, a rare example of a medieval castle that has remained intact over time. Originally a Lombard stronghold and later a fortified farm, it retains towers, Ghibelline battlements, and the Church of San Pietro. Surrounded by vast farmland, it is today an extraordinary testament to a past that unites defense, faith, and agricultural life.



4

ENJOY THE SLOW LIFE OF THE VILLAGE

In Carassai, time flows at a slow and authentic pace, inviting one to rediscover the value of small things. Among the streets of the center, one can get lost in unexpected views, hidden artistic details in a portal or a small votive shrine, lush gardens, and landscape glimpses, while the aroma of coffee accompanies moments spent in the village bars, where daily life flows through simple chats and genuine smiles. Slow down, observe, breathe. You are in the right place.



5

WALK AMONG THE COUNTRYSIDE, VINEYARDS, AND RURAL CHURCHES

Among gentle hills, vineyards, and olive groves, Carassai reveals its most authentic and contemplative face.

Along the paths winding through the countryside, ancient rural churches emerge, small treasures of devotion often restored and kept in the silence of the greenery. Walking in these places, one breathes the fragrance of vine and olive, the slow rhythm of agriculture, and the echo of distant prayers.

Every glimpse offers a surprise: a bell tower
peeking through the fields, a faded fresco telling
forgotten stories, a half-open door inviting memory.
An experience of peace and discreet beauty,
to be lived without haste.





PROJECT DEVELOPED BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARASSAI
WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE MARCHE REGION (PR FESR 2021/2027)

