Fabrica di Roma

Clustered on thè slopes of thè (Zimini Mountains, Fabrica di Roma is situated along thè southernmost border between thè province of Viterbo and thè first offshoots of thè Cimini Mountains. This geographical position has allowed thè town to develop resources from thè mountain area while extending its interests toward thè industriai area of Civita Castellana, traditionally thè home of ceramic manufacturing. Fabrica di Roma was probably founded by refugees from Falerii Novi. It was an important urban center of thè Roman federation. After thè barbarian invasions, thè area was repopulated in 1093. It belonged to thè Prefects of Vico until 1308, when it passed into thè hands of thè Orsini family. In 1367, it became thè property of thè Hospital of thè Holy Spirit of Rome, and was acquired by Pier Luigi Farnese in 1539 as part of thè Duchy of Castro. In 1800, it became thè property of thè Cencelli family, and later, like ali thè lands in thè Patrimony of S. Peter's in Tuscia, became part of thè Kingdom of Italy. The name probably originates from thè quarrying of peperino, a traditional economie activity of thè area since ancient times. Another possible derivation may be connected to thè beehive, or "favo," heraldic symbol emblazoned on thè city's coat-of-arms, known in locai dialect as a "fabro." This perhaps refers to thè city's appearance in medieval times, rising on a cliff, scattered with many grottoes, resembling thè cells of a hive. The territory extends towards thè heart of Faliscan territory. The whole zone is riddled with gorges, lined by steep rocks, gullies, and irregular water torrents gushing at thè bottom of tali cliffs. Today those gorges are small areas of wild nature and luxuriant vegetation thriving ali year round, as well as a direct testimony of thè ancient past, carved with tombs and necropolises from thè

Enclosed within thè industriai area of Civita Castellana, this town has a long history connected to thè Farnese family who included it in thè duchy of Castro. Here are found impressive ruins of thè ancient city of Falerii Novi, and thè church of Our Lady of Falleri, completely restored today.

Above: Panorama of thè town. The Olà Via Amerina mar Falerii Novi. On thefacing page: The procession of San Firmino and thè Church ofSaint Charles at thè Fort.

era of thè Faliscans and Romans. The locai flora is of special interest: in thè flatter zones approaching thè slopes ilex and turkey oaks abound. Moving up thè slopes, oaks tower above a thick woody underbrush, mixed with poplar trees, maples, hazelnut trees, hornbeam trees, and alder trees. The economy of thè town is based mainly on agriculture (hazelnuts, vineyards, and fruit), livestock, and thè processing of agricultural products. The manufacturing of ceramics, especially tiles and bathroom fixtures, thè chief activity of thè nearby industriai center of Civita Castellana, has become increasingly more important

FABRICA AT TOUR FINGERTIPS

How to get there

From Rome: take thè Via Cassia to Monterosi and then thè turn off for Ronciglione and Fabrica di Roma (about 70 kilometers)

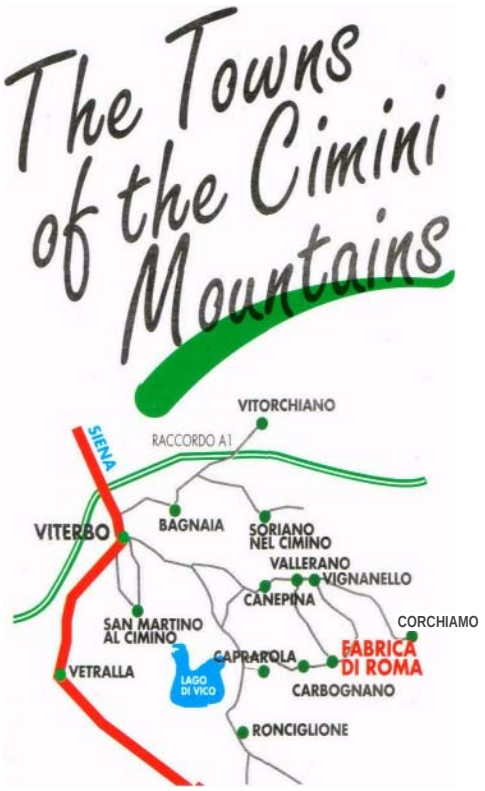
From Viterbo: Take thè Via Cimina to thè junction for Canepina and Fabrica di Roma (25 kilometers)

Where to Stay

There is a four- star hotel: Aldero Hotel 1 (82 beds, tei. 0761-514 757) and two three-star hotels Aldero Hotel 2 (40 beds, tei. 0761-514 757) and Falisco (48 beds, tei. 0761- 569976) Accommodations in bed & breakfast establishments may also be arranged

Where to eat

There are several restaurants in thè historic center and outlying areas.



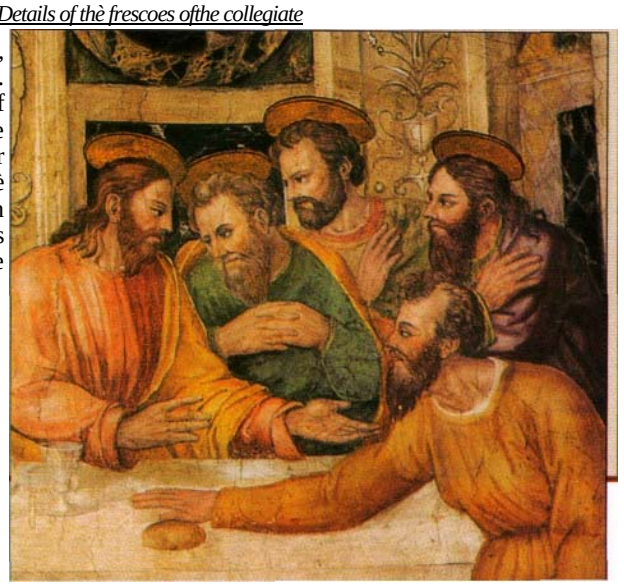
THING TO SEE

torical center, was built prior to thè 12th century and was completely restored by thè Farnese family in thè times of thè Duchy of Castro. In thè apse of thè collegiate church of Saint Sylvester is a large 16th century fresco attributed to thè Lorenzo brothers and to Bartolomeo Torresani, depicting *thè Lasi Supper, thè Crucifixion, thè Flagellation*, and *Paradise*. Above thè lateral altars: *The Assumption, Saint Elisabeth of Hungary, Saint Gaetano, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Rose of Viterbo, Souls in Purgatorii, and Our Lady of thè Assumption.* In thè Palace of thè Pre-fects of Vico (13th-14th century) we find displayed thè power wielded by this family in thè Patrimony of S. Pe-ter's in Tuscia. The "Palaz-zotto" was built by thè Della Rovere family in thè 16th

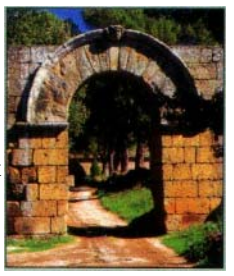
century. The monastery of thè Augustinians was founded in thè 17th century for thè religious education of youth, thè church of Saint Sebastian in thè Old Quarter, was built before thè 15th century. Today it is known as Our Lady of Victory, and preserves an ancient sacred image of thè Holy Savior, painted on a clay tile, believed to possess miraculous powers. The church of Our Lady of Mercy (14th century) and Our Lady of thè Lane (built prior to thè 17th century,) bofn ha ve an octagonal pian and are built in thè Romanesque style of upper Lazio. The church of Saint Carlo flanks thè castle.

ìint Sylvester.

Details of thè frescoes ofthe collegiate



FALERII NOVI



This is thè name of thè ancient city built after thè destruction of thè Etruscan town *Falerii Veteres* in 241 B.C. Today there is nothing left but a pile of ruins (which can be seen from thè road while driving in thè direction of Civita Castellana). Thrusting up from amid thè thick vegetation are a few sections of a massive wall and thè *church of Our Lady of Falleri* (recently restored), which are ali that remains of a Cistercian abbey. The layout of thè ruined town reveal its dependency on Roman power. The town grew and prospered until thè times of thè Imperiai Age, when it declined and thè countryside became depopulated. In thè lOth century thè Normans attacked *Falerii Novi*, but thè city was saved thanks to thè intervention of thè Benedictine and later thè Cistercian monks. This carne about due to thè presence of thè abbey of Saint Mary's, thè ruins of which now stand in thè center of thè ancient town. Other ruins include thè town walls almost intact, with 50 equidistant towers and nine gates, thè main door of which is thè *Door of }upiter* (see photo) and thè *Door of Bove*, corresponding to thè axis of thè Amerina Road and thè side road branching off from thè Via Flaminia . In Faleri Novi, traces of thè ancient city and theater are stili visible.