

# Prato Carnico and its Hamlets

## **Prato Carnico**

*Prato Carnico* is the unique municipality of the valley. Walking through this characteristic village you can enjoy the typical and ancient buildings. This place is surrounded by a wonderful landscape, and guards ancient traditions handed down from father to son. The whole area is rich in woods and large meadows, which flow through it streams and the Pesarine Dolomites stand out. *Prato Carnico* is an ideal place for a cultural holiday, a relaxing place surrounded by nature.

The *Casali-Giorgessi* Palace and the *Canonica* house are the perfect examples of 17th century residences with arcaded arcades, intended for officials of the Venetian Republic.

*Prato Carnico* was made up of two different villages: *Subvia* and *Prato*, now linked in one center. The traditional night of candles on 28 December is very beautiful, a walk to rediscover the ancient villages crossing the streets lit only by oil braziers. This event takes place every year in a different hamlet of the municipality. The leaning bell tower belonged to the parish church destroyed in 1859. It, later restored, has a particular pendant shape.

The Parish Church of *San Canciano Martire*: in 1868 was officially consecrated by the bishop. The altar is so beautiful with the representation of the Nativity made by Michele Parth. The wooden altar of the Blessed *Vergine* was made by Eugenio Mangani.

Palazzo Casali: known as "*Palac*", is an 18th century residence originally belonging to the *Giorgessi* family and then owned by the *Casali* family. In 1880 it underwent expansion and renovation works which gave it the current stately structure. After 1976 earthquake it was bought by the Municipality and adapted to social residences.

Casa Canonica: is a building complex that represents one of the most significant examples of the Carnic house of 17th century with arcades and loggias. It belonged to Gio Giacomo Rupil, father of don's maternal grandmother Filippo Casali, who elected parish priest in 1788, refused to living in the battered rectory, and there he fixed his home. When in 1803 Fr. Filippo gave up the job due to his health conditions, the Municipality bought the house and enlarged it assigning it to the use of the parish rectory. After the 1976 earthquake, the home of the parish priest in the *Palazzetto Casali*, the building has been renovated and used for public housing.

Casa "Da Gnana": dates back to the 18th century and is inspired, in the construction elements and in the building structure, by Venetian palace. It is an example of an architectural typology that spreads in the Carnic valleys in historical context linked to the events and interests of the Serenissima Republic of Venice representatives from the exploitation of the wooded heritage of Carnia. With a quadrangular plan, entirely in masonry, spread over three floors plus attic.

## **Prato Carnico Hamlets**

The territory is divided in little and linked hamlets.

Avausa: there are poor historical information about this little village. The toponym seems to derive from the *pelatina* base "*Aussa*", source. Giovanni Battista Cargnali in his "Toponymy File" reports a quotation of 1257 and 1325.

- The Church of *San Osvaldo* preserves a triptych by Giovanni Antonio Martini. At the exit of the church there is a square tuff staircase; the bell tower was erected in 1866 and strangely it is not attached to the church.
- *Casa Rupil Alvisè* is the typical large square house. It stands isolated, on two floors plus attic, and surrounded by an area of relevance. It dates back to the 18th century. On the main facade the entrance is characterized by a round arched portal enclosed by a frame and an architrave. The coverage is hipped.
- Also *Casa Fride* is an example of Carnic architecture, dating back to 1700. It has an hut roof, is divided into two floors and attic. The entrance, located on the main facade, is surmounted by a rectangular mullioned window.
- The Casa del Maresciallo, dating from the late 1700s early 1800s, has three floors with hut roof. Lowered arched entrance door, surmounted on the first floor by a mullioned window and on the second floor, by a balcony with a round arched opening bordered by turned columns. Stone wall without plastering.

Croce: is a extension of Sostasio hamlet. After the analysis of the urban agglomeration, comes up that there would be stables and barns, later turned into real homes, giving origin of building expansion.

Osais: it means, in local dialect, "the 'land of bees'". However beekeeping, is a fairly recent discovery for *Val Pesarina*, where there is a lack compared to that of *Cadore* and *Bellunese* in general. Moreover the toponym is present since 1275 and can be considered of predial origin in –acu from Ociulius. The architecture that dominates is Carnic of the 17th and 18th centuries.

- The Church of *San Leonardo* was frescoed by P. Fuluto. In all the walls there are one or more episodes of *San Leonardo* life. It is a set of Gothic and Baroque styles with two side altars.

Pieria: this name probably derives from the Latin "*pletria*" (funnel, in Friulian "*plera*"), which indicates the particular shape of the land in this area. The first document we have of this hamlet is from 1275, where *Pieria* is named. Here you will find a small Photography and Cinematography museum.

Pradumbli: the hamlet is located on the right bank of the *Pesarina* stream, has developed starting from an ancient castle: "*Pradumbli Castle*", in Latin "*Castrum Dominarum*", was located in the hamlet of Pradumbli, (this is what the historian Nicolò Grassi wrote in the "Historical News of the Province of Carnia" 1782). In this document is certified the existence of a Castle in Pradumbli, in a system of five forts (*Agrons*, *Luincis*, *Pradumbli*, *Frata* and *Monaio*) in defense of *Val di Gorto*. The development of the hamlet began from this Castle. Today the meeting point for the inhabitants is the central square from which many small streets branch off. The street that reaches Pradumbli was an ancient mule track, now widened into a road. The houses in the town are well preserved and stretch upwards, narrow and long. A curiosity: the inhabitants of Pradumbli, during Caporetto, were the only ones in the valley who saved the bell of their church from the Austro-Hungarian soldiers, burying it in the woods.

- *Casa Cattarinussi Puntì* is an interesting example of a 18th century Carnic residential house built against a pre-existing construction of the '600. The entrance portal (round arch) of classical setting is positioned on the right side of the main facade, on its axis, on the upper floor, there is a mullioned window with projecting and molded architrave like the remaining openings. The main front presents on the ground floor an elegant porch with three loggias with round arches and cross vaulted ceiling. Inside the porch stand out two beautiful ancient ovens used for baking bread. The roof covering of the entire building is made of clay tiles.

- *Casa Toniutti* is a square-plan residential building dating back to the 16th-17th century, it stands on three floors plus attic and gable roof. The porch on the ground floor consists of three loggias with a all sixth and cross vaulted ceiling. In line with the central arch, a mullioned window opens on the first floor flanked by single lancet windows distributed symmetrically. The internal stairwell is unique and placed in position decentralized.

Prico: "Prico great once, he was deserted by the plague", writes *Don Antonio Roia* in his memoirs, referring, probably due to the plague that struck the valley in 1511.

- The Church of *Santa Maria di Caravaggio* was built in 1840, but already in 1914 the roof became unsafe, and that is why it was demolished ten years later and rebuilt in 1933. For that occasion Virgilio Gonano painted "La Madonna di Caravaggio", placed above the altar.

Sostasio: is located at 690m, and lies at the foot of Mount *Talm*. All village's streets meet at the center of the small hamlet. The toponym predial in -acu of Roman origin, attests to the remote existence of village: from *Xustus*. The name could derive from "*sub statium*" which means "a station from below", infact it was placed below the level of the road that led to Comelico. The small village was inhabited already in Roman times.

- The Church of *San Gottardo* was born on the ruins of a 15th century church in 1611. The dominant architecture is Gothic, but the high altar is Baroque, with the effigy of *Madonna del Rosario* (probably by *Eugenio Mangani* of *Pieve di Cadore* in the 18th century).
- Italo's Mill is the only surviving mill of the twenty-one that were in *Val Pesarina*, between 1815 and 1851. It still works today. The original vertical wooden water wheel is powered by the water of the nearby *Rio Bianco*.
- Cimenti's House is a building unit from the second half of the 18th century. It spread over three floors plus attic, with rigorous symmetry of the openings. The main front door has a portal entrance surmounted by a balcony on the first floor and a mullioned window on the second floor. Pavilion roof, centrally positioned stairwell and symmetrical distribution of the internal rooms on all floors.
- Gagliolo's House dates back to 1811 with characteristics similar to the Cimenti's House from which it differs for the gabled roof and for the portal entrance.

Truia: the historian *Don Antonio Roia* writes: "Truia is the first village founded in Canale, set up by some woodcutters and hunters."It is said that, already in ancient times, there was a silver mine in this area. Truia is the highest village, located at 881m. Truia came struck by the plague of 1511 too, the population was decimated.

- The Church of *San Lugano*, built in 1685, is very large and oriented towards south east. The bell tower has a square plan and a pyramid-shaped cusp. There is the wood altar of *San Lugano*, made by workshop of *Girolamo Comuzzo*.