

# Hamlets

## **Presa**

Historical hamlet of Piedimonte Etneo, known for the freshness of the climate, for the wonderful landscapes and for the healthiness of the water that gushes from the features "Three Fountains".

Presents in the center of the principal square, the Church of the Madonna delle Grazie, built in 1873 in a neoclassical style, composed of three naves. Inside there are marble altars and paintings of artistic value.

## **Vena**

The Sanctuary of Maria SS. della Vena dates to 597 of the Christian era. Basilian monks to elude to the first iconoclastic persecutions, they climbed on the heights of mount Etna, carrying to safety a picture of a Madonna painted in Byzantine style, on a board in cedar. Legend says that the mule that bore the picture stumbled on the ground, where a vein of water appeared. Today's church stands on the ruins of the old Basilian hermitage disappeared due to telluric phenomena and lava flows that over the centuries have succeeded.

## **San Gerardo**

The hamlet of San Gerardo, originally was called Millicuccio for the presence of a large tree that a violent storm broke down during the first year of 1950. The cult of San Gerardo Maiella began in 1923 by a pious woman, lady Menica Mazza, who saw the Saint that he had healed her from her evils. With personal efforts of Donna Menica in 1928 was built a small church.

## MUNICIPALITY OF PIEDIMONTE ETNEO



095 644500



Corso Vittorio  
Emanuele II, 34



comune.piedimonte-  
etneo@pec.it



www.comune.piedimonte-  
etneo.ct.it



## Let's tell about Piedimonte Etneo



## History

Thanks to its enviable position and the enchanting views it offers, Piedimonte Etneo, in its birth at the dawn of the seventeenth century, was baptized with the name of Belvedere. Its foundation is due to Ignazio Gravina Cruyllas, feudal lord of the lands of Calatabiano.

However, it was his nephew, Ignazio Sebastiano Gravina Amato, Marquis of Francofonte and third prince of Palagonia, who obtained the licentia populandi from the Real Patrimonio Tribunal in 1687. On 30 August 1687 the deed of sale of the licentia populandi was signed. On 22 September 1687 the viceregal decree was issued which officially sanctioned the birth of the new town. The name requested from the Royal Curia was "Piedimonte". Later, "Etneo" was added to distinguish it from other towns with the same name.



### Square Giacomo Matteotti

In the center of this square you can admire Fonte Vecchio, recognized by the name of "Pisciapupu".

### Fonte Vecchio

Built in Eighteenth century, it was built from an octagonal basin at the center of which it rose a putto with a hug from which it came out a large gush of water. Today you can admire, in Square Matteotti, the putto pouring water into a circular basin.

### The Calvary Chapel

It dates back to the eighteenth century, inside it is located a reproduction of Michelangelo's Pietà.

Concerning the description of the sculptural group we have the body of Christ, that we notice slightly on Mary's legs with extraordinary naturalness. Strongly expressive is also the gesture of the left hand that seems to invite the viewer meditate on representation in front of his eyes.

### Porta San Fratello

An entrance door built in lava stone approximately during 1712 called San Fratello because ideally looked towards the possessions of Prince's wife, Baroness of San Fratello.

### The Music Museum and the Museum of Grapevine

They were also designed and built two public works: the Music Museum (former oratory) and the Museum of Grapevine(ex market).

### Mother Church

Built in 1713, today it shows a basilican form with three naves, in Baroque style, with the particular stylized columns in the facade, with inside Doric, Ionic and Corinthian capitals. Inside there is the chapel of patron Saint Ignatius with an embossed door with silver panels. Noteworthy also the numerous paintings depicting the life of the Saints, and an eighteenth-century organ, gift from the Prince.

### Square Mother Church

There is the War Memorial, work of the Roman artist E. Gazzari, implanted in 1922.

### Former Convent of the Capuchins

Inside they can be admire: side altars in wooden inlay and the high altar carved in wood on which dominates a picture of the Immaculate Conception. At it is base there is the most valuable piece: a majestic wooden tabernacle in minutes notches, handcrafted work of 1700 carved by brother Celestin from Aidone. Within the composition, processed with overlapping columns and niches, there are the figures of the Saints.

### Family Group

In the villa of Square Roma there is the Art Nouveau concrete work made in 1932.

## Monuments

### Church of Saint Ignatius of Loyola

First church of Piedimonte Etneo, was elected church in 1689. Dedicated to Saint Ignatius the patron of Piedimonte Etneo.

### Church of San Michele

Commissioned by Prince Ferdinando Francesco in 1718 as a vote to archangel Michael which he had fulfilled his prayers afterwards a popular uprising in Palermo when covered the charge of Praetor.

### Square Belvedere

Here you can admire the beautiful view which includes the territory that goes from Riposto to Taormina.

