

The first part of this route is the same as that of the 'Great Loop of Water', Burana-Destra Po (see route n° 2, p.38). At **Bondeno** take the road that runs alongside the Panaro and head for **Finale Emilia**, leaving the province of Ferrara for a moment. From up on the embankment we can see the Santa Bianca sluice and the water works of the same name, part of the Burana land reclamation. Water is really the dominant element of this route, although the watercourses are contained behind high artificial embankments.

Finale Emilia is an old waterfront town, worth rediscovering. It is dominated by the bulk of the 15th century Castello delle Rocche, built by the same Bartolino da Novara to whom we owe the Este Castle in Ferrara; it is one of the best preserved in the region.

From Finale Emilia cross the Panaro back into Ferrarese territory, and after **Alberone**, **Dodici Morelli** and **Renazzo**, we get to **Cento**.

Guercino and his studio, The Dinner at Emmaus, Cento, Municipal Gallery



Cento - a little jewel of art, architecture, cuisine and commerce - has ancient roots but they are not well documented. It was owned by the Bishop of Bologna in the 12th century, then given to the Estensi by Pope Alessandro VI Borgia as part of his settlement for the marriage of his daughter Lucrezia to Alfonso d'Este. In the 17th & 18th centuries it saw years of great splendour thanks to the rebuilding of the town, as well as a flourishing artistic and cultural life, when the great painter Giovan Francesco Barbieri, known as 'il Guercino', was active.

An old Cento tradition is its Carnevale, today an internationally known event.

After visiting Cento, on the return leg we use the minor roads with little traffic through **Dosso** and then **Molino Albergati**.

Turn towards **Santa Bianca** along the track that runs alongside the Cavo Napoleonico and back to **Bondeno**, and then to **Ferrara** along the FE101 Burana cycle track.



Sant'Agostino, Bosco della Panfilia

Diversion to the Bosco della Panfilia

These woods at Sant'Agostino can be visited at any time of the year, but preferably in autumn or spring. The entrance is beside the Cavo Napoleonico, and the wooded area extends along a riverside terrace of the Reno, which has determined the vegetation. The river takes a clear turn to the south-east here, and forms the southern border of the Province of Ferrara.

Santa Bianca, water works

