



FONDAZIONE BANCA DEL MONTE DI LOMBARDIA

# Pavia e la sua provincia



## 8-Piazza della Vittoria

Piazza della Vittoria is the principle piazza of the city, antiquely known as Platea Magna, or the grand piazza, in opposition of the Parva, or the smaller one that today is the Piazza Duomo.

Near the intersection between the cardoon and the decumano, the principle road axes of the roman city, Piazza della Vittoria occupies with all probability the area that corresponds to the antique forum, residence of the market and business.

Today, from various points of the piazza it is possible to enter the subterranean market, built in the 1950s substituting the previous open market. On the street level, the granite circles design, on the river cobblestone pavement, the rectangular spaces for the stalls.

The present arrangement of the Piazza is merit of the gentleman of Pavia, Gian Galeazzo Visconti that in the 14<sup>th</sup> century renovated the spaces and architecture. He walled it almost completely by arcaded buildings, imposing as model the Nicolino dè Diversi palace, master of the ducal entrances.

The construction, also known as the red house for the color used to enliven the color of the bricks, is placed in the corner between the piazza and Corso Cavour. It is characterized by an ample arched portico and by elegant windows, like the three opening one that opens onto the piazza, put into light by the renovations of the 1900s. The fresco of the façade, enclosed in a plaster frame donating movement, was painted in 1751 by Carlo Antonio Bianchi. It represents the Virgin with Saint Siro, patron of the city, and other Saints.

The Broletto building, historic residence of the municipal assemblies, delimits the piazza on the south side. In the course of centuries it was enlarged to better respond to the growing needs of the municipal institution.

The wing of the year 1200 faces the piazza. It presents, according to the typical conformation of the public palaces, a colonnade on the ground floor, while the upper level hosts a room of vast dimensions, destined for the reunions of the population's representatives.

The façade, rearranged more than once, is enriched by a lodging of the Renaissance. The two opening, left in display on the right, belongs to an antique bishop's palace, incorporated in 1236 into the structure of the Broletto. Instead, the top with the clock was placed there in 1872.

The most antique wing of the palace, dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, is the southern one, facing Piazza Cavagneria: named from the baskets, cavagne, in which the market's goods were stored.

Recently, this wing was restored to become the place for various citizens' cultural institutions, in which an expository space is also available for contemporary arts.

Behind the Broletto, the massive structure of the Renaissance Duomo stands out, with its powerful chapel, finished in 1882.

Other buildings facing the Piazza della Vittoria worth noting are the desecrated churches of Saint Niccolò della Moneta, and Saint Maria Gualtieri. The latter was founded in the 10<sup>th</sup> century by will of the imperial representative Gualtiero. Today it hosts a municipal space assigned for cultural encounters and temporary exhibitions.

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