

THE SUSA VALLEY

This beautiful ancient valley that stretches out amongst the northern Italian Alps of the Piedmont region, is situated just west of Turin and is known as one of the oldest passages through the western Alps. The valley has been crossed over history by armies, merchants, travelers and pilgrims and is enhanced with powerful fortresses, monasteries, abbeys, churches, noble palaces. In essence the Susa Valley embodies a perfect mix between nature, history and artistic tourism.

The **Sacra of S. Michele**, is situated on the summit of Mount Pirchirano and overlooks the villages of Avigliana and Chiusa di San Michele. The Abbey, which for much of its history came under Benedictine rule, is now entrusted to the Rosminians. A special regional law acknowledges it as the "Symbolic monument of Piedmont and is also known as being the abbey that gave the famous writer Umberto Eco, the inspiration for his book entitled "The name of the Rose".

A visit to the **St Justus Cathedral** (*Cattedrale di San Giusto*, or *Duomo di Susa*) is also a must if you visit the Susa Valley. Established in 1029 by the Marquese Olderico Manfredi to house the newly-discovered relics of St Justus, it is a Roman Catholic cathedral, seat of the Bishop of Susa.

Another branch of the valley is the **Col de Montgenèvre and Sestriere**, also known as one of the most important tourist locations of the region. The high Susa Valley is a paradise for lovers of nature, trekking, mountains and skiing, with accommodation at the highest level, but also with remote villages in the dense woods, where time seems to stand still.



St Michael Abbey - Avigliana



St Justus Cathedral - Susa



View of the Susa Valley