



Sulmona's hidden corners Walking Quiz Answers

1. The main door to the Cathedral of San Panfilo

The engraving probably dates to the time when Sulmona was ruled by Federico II of Svevia who was Holy Roman Emperor and King of Sicily in the late 12th and early 13th centuries. The symbol would appear to be a lion - and is similar to the emblem of the Sforza family - although no more than this is known.

2. Carlo Tresca

Carlo Tresca was born in Sulmona in 1879. He was an American newspaper editor, orator, and labour organiser and was assassinated in New York by the Mafia in 1943.

3. Pizza

This bas relief in white cement by Omero Taddeini is of Pietro da Morrone who became Pope Celestino V. It has a companion piece at the far end of the portico on the corner with Via Roma showing the poet Ovid together with scenes from his Metamorphosis.

4. Palazzo Sanità

The majority of this large but currently empty and abandoned palazzo, sits behind this relatively newish building and takes up most of the block between Via Solimo, Via Aragona and Piazza Santa Monica. You can glimpse a small section of the 15th century building at the end of the alleyway to the left of this entrance with two fine mullioned windows both with an oculus above.

5. Piazza SS Annunziata

This building was indeed Sulmona's Post Office during the period of Bourbon rule from 1735 until the unification of Italy. In those days the postal service was called the 'Regia Posta'.

6. Opposite Ovid's statue in Piazza XX settembre

This bas relief depiction of a mermaid, held aloft by two angles in flight, is in the keystone above what was probably the principal entrance to the palazzo. It might be a reference to the cargo which was transported by the original owner of the palazzo who came from Venice.

7. 1931

This bar sells over a dozen different types of coffee and is the only bar in Sulmona which has had a mention in the Gambero Rosso good food guide.

8. 2 angels

This is called the Fontana del Vecchio not because the fountain is old but in reference to the bearded head of the 'old man' at the very top of the back wall of the fountain. One interpretation is that he is 'Solimo' - a companion to Aeneas who was the legendary founder of Sulmona.

9. 13 steps

This was at one time the monumental entrance of the church of San Francesco della Scarpa. The church was irreparably damaged in the earthquake of 1706 and subsequently rebuilt on a much smaller scale with the entrance on the other side of the building on Via Mazara.