

Boniface VIII thermal spring



The name of the spring derives from the illustrious Pope Boniface VIII who was the first to obtain benefits from Fiuggi water and praised its extraordinary health-giving qualities.



This pope lived between the end of the 13th century and the beginning of the 14th century. He was born in Anagni, a town near Fiuggi and he studied law at the University of Bologna. He suffered from gout, uric acids and kidney stones (renal calculosis) therefore, according to his personal doctor's advice (Arnaldo Da Villanova), he used to treat successfully all his illnesses with this water.

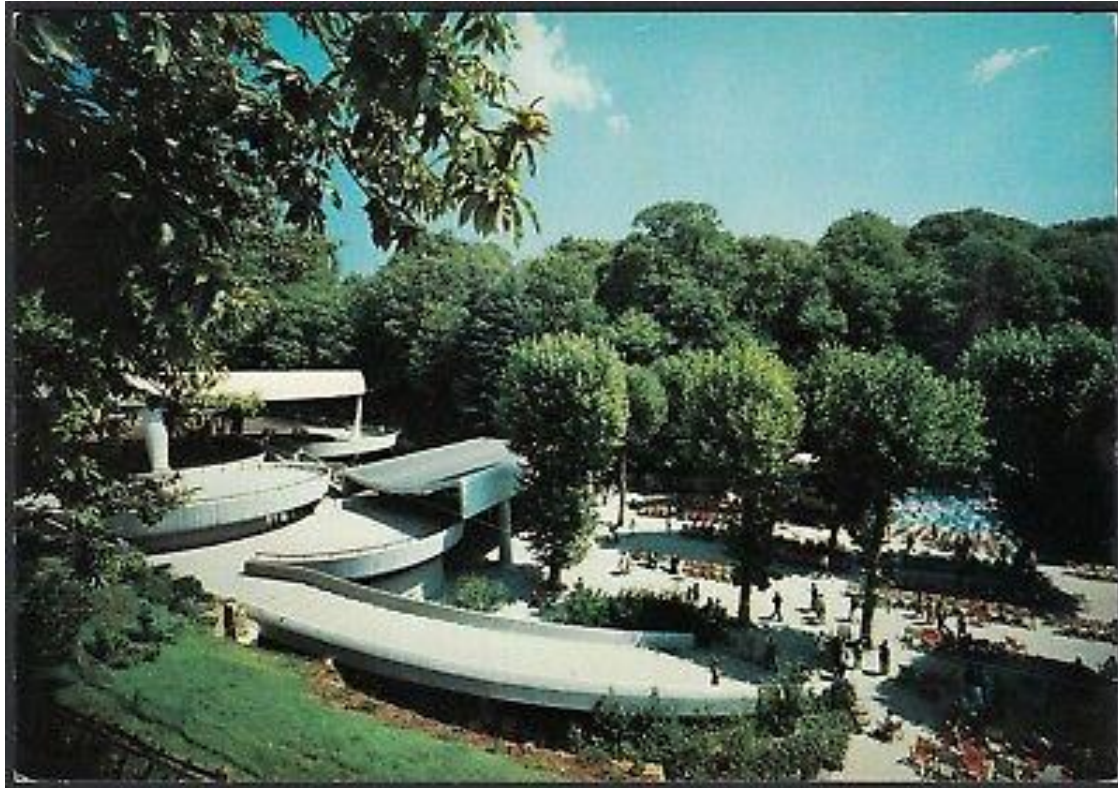


In the 16th century the great painter, sculptor, architect and poet of the Italian Renaissance, Michelangelo Buonarroti, also used to drink our water to treat his illness. He suffered from renal calculosis, “the stone Illness” according to an old definition of this disease, and he recovered his health thanks to Fiuggi water, as he wrote to his nephew Lionardo in some letters that have been found in the Vatican historical archives.

This is the spring where the drinking cures usually take place in the morning. People can get water from the hundreds of fountains and take a walk along the secular chestnut tree woods.



The complex, completed by the architect Luigi Moretti in 1970, is harmoniously made of indoor and outdoor spaces and covered isles, in order to extend the spa season.



There is a big mushroom-shaped building that is like an arena for concerts and it is also like a roof of the big hall downstairs; there is also a covering called “Arabian tent” which is like the ceiling of a stage and finally there are two long side-buildings called “the sails”.



This complex is located in the heart of the modern part of the town, not far from the shops and the hotels (there are about 100 nowadays, while in the past there were 250 with 15,000 bedding accommodations).



This complex replaced the previous building which was realized in 1907 on the project of the Architect Garibaldi Burba, just when the real development of Fiuggi as a spa town began. Until that time, the area was like a marsh, it was muddy and it was difficult for people from Fiuggi and from other towns and villages to collect the water. For this reason, the decision to build a proper building was taken.

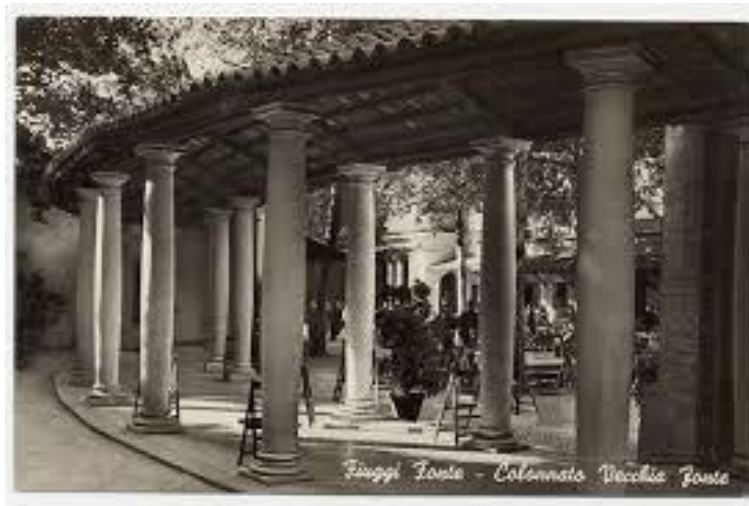


The original building, similar to the thermal springs of Montecatini, was really beautiful and elegant.





It was in umbertine style, (from the Italian king reigning at that time) and was characterised by arcades with lots of columns.



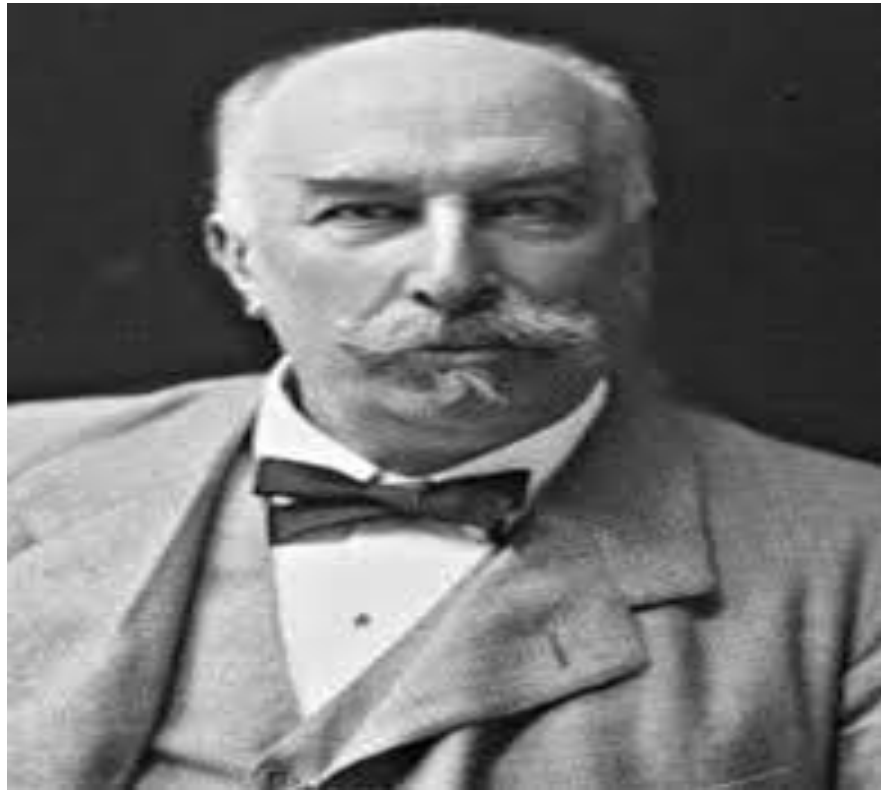


The basis of the columns was in liberty style while the capitals were in neoclassical style.

What is left from this previous building is only the lovely half-rounded entrance in liberty style.



Since 1910 many politicians and famous people used to come to Fiuggi for example Giovanni Giolitti, the Italian Prime Minister, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs Antonino di San Giuliano. For many decades Fiuggi has been a very well known spa resort all over Italy and Europe.





In 1914 the Queen Mother Margherita di Savoia came to Fiuggi and stayed at Palazzo della Fonte Hotel. Soon after the King Vittorio Emanuele III with his wife Queen Elena from Montenegro arrived and they used to go for walks in the wood of the town, with their children, Princess Jolanda and Prince Umberto, the future King Umberto II.

Later, also the Prime Minister Alcide De Gasperi used to spend some weeks here, in Fiuggi.



He was the Minister for Foreign affairs from 1951 to 1953 and the Prime Minister from 1945 to 1946.



In more recent years other illustrious personalities who used to come to Fiuggi and resort to the therapeutic properties of its water were Benedetto Croce, Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, Guglielmo Marconi, Ignazio Silone, The Nobel-Prize-writer Matilde Serao, Federico Fellini and many others from the world of culture, cinema, theatre and sports.

There is also another spring in Fiuggi called “Fonte Anticolana” or “New Spring”, built in the 1920s and renovated in 1960. Here people usually go in the afternoon to complete the morning treatment at Boniface VIII Spring.



Gardens, trees, and flower beds embellish the walks in the large park which also offers recreational facilities such as tennis courts, minigolf, playgrounds, a small tourist train which goes through the park, and a small orchestra which animates the dance-floor. Inside the “Fonte Anticolana” there was also a Theatre.





In the past people came to take the waters in Fiuggi from April to November. Today they still come to Fiuggi because drinking this water and going for walks in the woods and in the parks give huge benefits to the health.



Fiuggi water is a natural and oligomineral water, this means that it has a very low quantity of mineral salts. It is a light, cold and palatable water and it is only used to be drunk.



Fiuggi water's healthy qualities are due to the geological features of the area where this town is located. The water veins run through tufaceous layers partially or totally permeable; in this passage it purifies and enriches becoming that particular water, low in mineral content, which can increase the diuresis and «break the stone», as Michelangelo wrote in 1549.



The chestnut trees also give an extremely important contribution to the properties of Fiuggi water because they are responsible for the presence of a biomolecule, which make this water unique in the world.



It is a water which helps the diuresis in fact it is against the retention of urine, and it is used to treat the gout, the infections of the urinary tracts and above all the renal calculus, in fact it induces the expulsion of the renal calculuses (kidney stones) and it prevents the forming of new ones.

