

Churches in Val Pesarina

"Church of San Osvaldo" (Avausa)

Climbing a tuff staircase you will reach the church of *Avausa* consisting of a rectangular hall with pointed triumphal arch and a squared presbytery with ribbed ceiling. It was built around 1580 by the two villages of *Avausa* and *Prico*. Inside there is a single altar with a triptych by *Giovanni Antonio Martini*, with statues representing *SS. Trinità* and Saints *Osvaldo* and *Vincenzo*, by A. G. Agostini. On the left of the altar there is a wall tabernacle for the custody of the *S.S. Specie*. The bell tower, detached from the church, it was built in 1866 with a square plan and a pyramid-shaped spire.

"Church of San Leonardo" (Osais)

The church of *San Leonardo* in *Osais* is considered a real jewel. Built in 1391, it was consecrated only in 1497. Frescoes, by *Fuluto*, which adorn the ceiling, depict the Annunciation, the Eternal Father, and various scholars of the church, while the walls are dedicated to St. *Leonardo's* life. The two side altars are valuable. The one of *St. Valentino* preserves the 17th century altarpiece of *Giovanni Antonio Agostini*, while the other of *San Leonardo*, with six compartments, contains the wooden altarpiece of *Antonio Tironi* from Bergamo. The church was rebuilt and enlarged in the second half of the 18th century and consecrated in 1790 and the old choir reduced to a sacristy. The building has, in size and proportions, similarities with the church of *Pieria*. The entrance portal framed by an overhanging frame is dominated by a rectangular window.

The font is embellished with three small Gothic-style openings and a running denticule motif along the slopes. The bell tower is next to the north wall, has a square stone plinth with a round access arch.

"Votive church of Our Lady of Culzei" (Pesariis)

This small church was born as a vow made by the inhabitants of *Pesariis*, with the advice of the parish priest *Don Aldo Soravito*, to the Madonna on 15 August 1944 for the tragic events of the Second World War. Every five years locals renew their vow celebrating the Blessed Virgin and bringing her statue to the parish church of *Pesariis*.

"Church of San Antonio of Padua" (Pieria)

The church dates back to 1690 and stands at the nodal point of the ancient urban development of *Pieira* hamlet. There are not historical sources but interpreting tuff structures emerging on the right side of the wall facing the street, emerges that the original church had a typical porch with the entrance in the south. In 1737 the choir was enlarged and the sacristy was added.

Don Antonio Roia writes that in 1764 was decided to remake it. The rebuilding probably changed its orientation moving the entrance in the west side. The big building with a pavilion roof, has a simple front characterized by a portal framed by a projecting frame and a rectangular window.

It has three altars:

1. The main altar with the statues of *San Antonio* in one niche and *San Lorenzo* and *San Fermo* on the two lateral pillars by *Andrea Mattia*;

2. The altar dedicated to St. *Francesco d'Assisi* (carved and painted wood by an unknown Friulian author) commissioned by *Mattia Leonardo Federico Giorgessi* of *Prato Carnico*. The altarpiece depicting St. *Francesco d'Assisi* is an oil on canvas (1822) in a fairly good state of conservation by *Cherubini Giuseppe* in;

3. The altar of the Blessed Virgin (second half of the 17th century in gilded and painted wood coming from *Comuzzo* studio in a fairly good state of conservation). The altarpiece, depicting *San Antonio*, the *Madonna del Rosario*, *San Lorenzo* and the souls in purgatory, is datable to the 17th-18th century, work of an unknown Friulian painter.

The ceiling above the main altar is frescoed (18th-19th century) by an unknown artist with the representation of the SS. Trinity and is in poor condition. The ceiling of the central nave hosts an oil on large canvas, it depicts the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. The construction of the bell tower dates back to 1869 as stated on the plaque at the entrance "Pieria erect 1869", and it was restored and consolidated in 1990.

"St. Peter's Church" (Pradumbli)

This church dates back to 1859 and consists of a rectangular hall distinct externally from the presbytery with a simple tuff pilaster. The edges of the front are made of the same material. The gateway is rectangular. The bell is on a small bell tower located on the ridge of the roof consisting of an armature of rafters.

"Church of SS. Filippo and Giacomo"

It is remembered for the first time in 1348. *Gian Francesco* from *Tolmezzo* painted there in 1505 and *Antonio Tironi* in 1516 placed the altarpiece of *San Giacomo* which remained shattered. Following the earthquake of 1700 to demolish the crumbling bell tower they miscalculated and the tower fell on the church reducing it in a pile of rubble. On April 5, 1861, was laid the first stone for the erection of the current building designed by *Girolamo D'Aronco*. It has three altars: the main one in polychrome marble with the statues of Saints Philip and James, the altar of the Blessed Virgin hosts two statues from an old restored altar, the wooden and painted plaster altar of St. Joseph. A 1975 mosaic by *Giuseppe Cancan* adorns the facade of the church.

Leaning bell tower of Prato Carnico

The characteristic leaning bell tower of Prato Carnico welcomes the visitor who crosses *Val Pesarina*. Its state is due to the unstable strand of plaster on which it rests. From the ancient documents it emerges that it should be contemporary to the old parish church demolished in 1859 which stood near the old cemetery. The bell tower was damaged by the earthquake of the 28th July 1700 and required considerable restoration work.

"Parish Church of San Canciano Martire" (Prato Carnico)

The works for the erection of this building began on May 5, 1858 and already in 1860 the church opened to the public even if the works were not completed. Inside you can find an example of "flugelaltar" by the South Tyrolean sculptor *Michele Parth*. The altar with doors, of Gothic derivation, contains in the center the images of the Aquileian saints *Canzio*, *Canciano* and *Canzianilla*. Inside are depicted saints Peter and Paul.

Inside the church is possible to enjoy the high altar in Baroque style purchased in 1790 by the parish of *Ampezzo*, the altar dedicated to *Madonna del Rosario* by the sculptor *Eugenio Manzani*.

Church of *Santa Maria di Caravaggio (Prico)*

The current chapel was rebuilt in 1933 following the demolition of the previous building dated 1840. Worthy of note is the altarpiece placed above the altar depicting *Madonna by Caravaggio* and *Elisabetta* work of Arrigo Poz.

Church of *San Gottardo (Sostasio)*

The church of St. Gottardo was built in 1430 in the area of Quel. In the area of Quel. Rebuilt in 1611 in Gothic style with a rectangular and polygonal arched presbytery separated by an ogival triumphal arch. The high altar, in Baroque style, bears the effigy of *Madonna del Rosario* by the artist *Eugenio Manzani* from *Pieve di Cadore* (17th century), the one of *San Gottardo*, owner of the church by Sebastiano Martini (1547-1573), remodeled in 1736 by *Eugenio Mangani*. Interesting is also the altar from 1600 with a recent statue of *San Luigi* which replaced the lost one of *San Gottardo*. The small bell tower, with a square plan, is located above the main front in line with the entrance portal.

Church of *San Lugano (Truia)*

The small church of *Truia* was built in 1685. It is a building of modest proportions oriented towards the southwest with a double pitched roof. The square-plan bell tower with a pyramidal spire rises to the left of the entrance door. The church preserves the altar of *San Lugano* in carved and painted wood from Girolamo Comuzzo shop.