









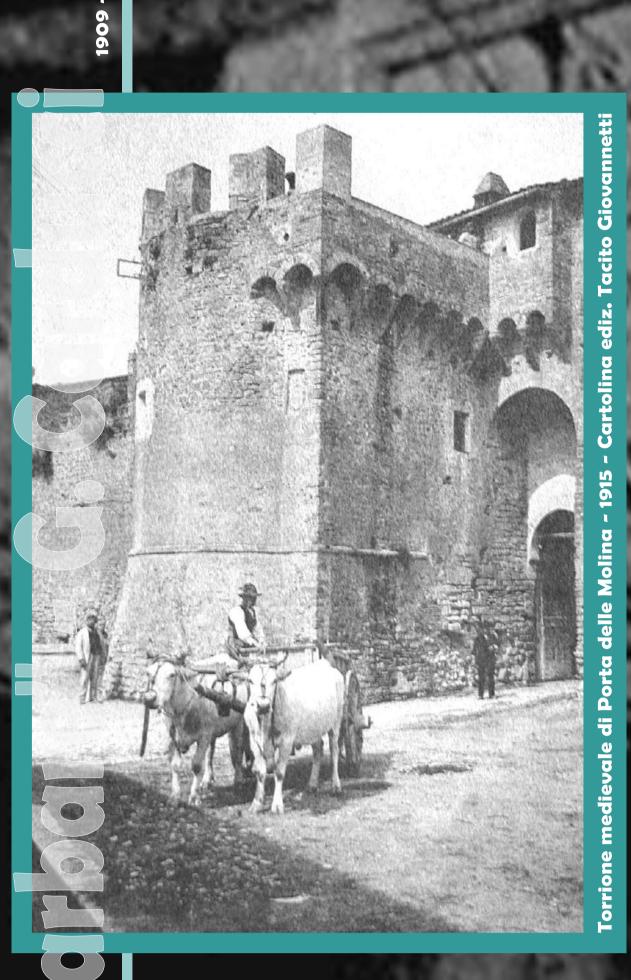
Programma di Sviluppo Rurale per l'Umbria 2014/2020 | Misura 7 Sottomisura 6.2 Parco Fluviale Storico Archeologico del Clitunno | Teverone | Timia

PORTA DE' MOLINI BETWEEN WATER AND LAND

Monumental area among rivers, bridges, washhouses and mills (13th-20th century)

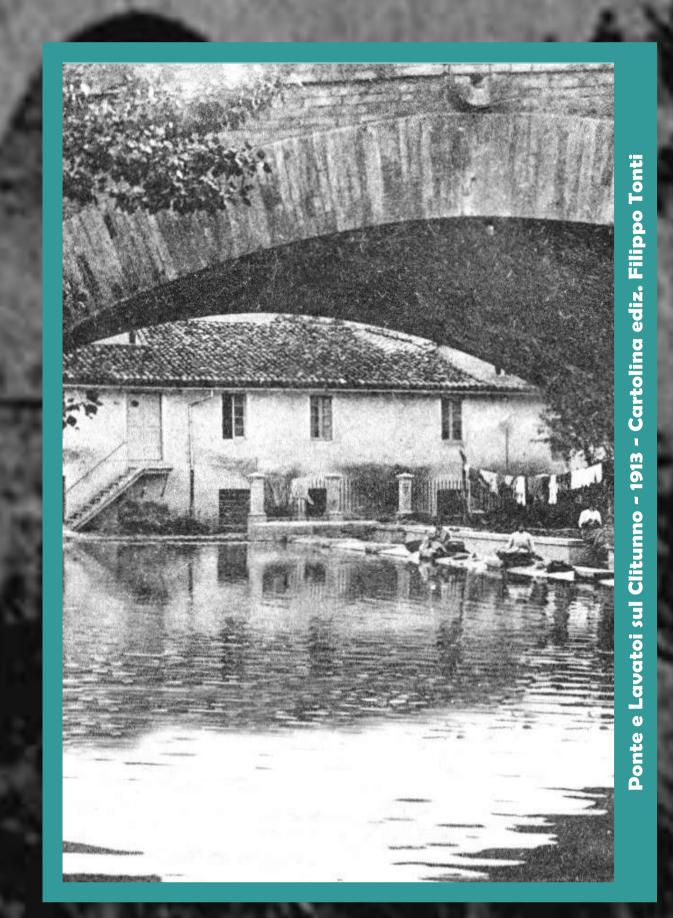
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Since the town's foundation in Roman Age, the abundance of streams and rivers - some of which, the Clitunno above all, were navigable in ancient times - stands out, as a distinctive feature of the settled area of Bevagna with respect to all the others in the surrounding hilly region: a city developed precisely as a post and exchange station on a network of water and land routes (the Via Flaminia). Historical sources, such as the earliest examples of maps and rural or urban land registers, provide ample evidence of Bevagna's dense distribution of grain mills and olive oil mills; though the Medieval Age is richer, there is evidence of later developments at until the middle of the 20th century. Distributed close to, or even, in a couple of cases, within the city walls themselves, their wheels and millstones were driven by the force of water, that in turn was distributed via the artificial channels diverging from the major streams, starting from the Tower of Montefalco to the confluence of the Clitunno-Meandro in the Teverone where they merge into the Timia.





The area of Porta de' Molini underwent major urban works and was redesigned, starting in the second half of the 19th century, both in the area inside the city walls - the quadrant behind the church of San Silvestro - and in the outer area leading up to Ponte de' Molini and Via Todina (today Viale Roma).

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These changes are well recognizable in the drafting of the updates to the map of the Gregorian Cadastre and in the later cartography of the modern cadastre. In the first area, after extensive damage done to the block by the earthquakes of 1801 and 1832 (never restored), the decision was made to tear down the houses and build the embankment sub-structure walls to raise the floor to the level of the Palazzo dei Consoli and the apse of the Church of San Silvestro. The choice freed up the space for the new monumental entrance to the city, which was designed at the same time as the construction of the bridge over the Clitunno river and the customs towers. This facilitated the transit of wagons and carriages, downgrading

the Porta de' Molini to a secondary access, located near the breach opened on Via Santa Margherita.

In the second area, public wash houses were introduced and the water mill structure - whose facilities covered part of the small square near the Ponte de' Molini - was expanded, leading to the subsequent establishment of the small hydroelectric power plant.

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Estratti da mappe del *Catasto Gregoriano* con la restituzione dell'area di Porta de' Molini al 1816 ca. (sx) e al 1886 (dx). A.S.Rm, Fd. Cat., 1816(35) Gregoriano Mappe, Bevagna | A.S.Pg, Roma, Fd. Cat., 1886 Gregoriano Mappe, c_50_Bevagna

