



PIAZZA DEL MERCATO DI INCINO (INCINO MARKET SQUARE)

You can find this point of interest in Erba - Path 1 - Stage 1

INFORMATION

Location: Piazza Vittorio Veneto, more commonly known by its old name of “Piazza del Mercato (*Market Square*)” of Incino is located approx. 100 metres away from piazza S. Eufemia.

Paving: the square is paved with porphyry cubes and stone slab strips.

Architectural barriers: the square is in a slightly raised position with respect to the adjacent streets; to access the square one must climb the concrete tiled sidewalk which borders it.

Services: parking available in Piazza Vittorio Veneto and adjacent areas; automated teller machine in via Volta – corner of via Mazzini; Chemist in Piazza Vittorio Veneto.

Leisure and Food: bars, cafes and restaurants in the area

DESCRIPTION

Piazza Vittorio Veneto is more commonly known by its old name of Incino “Market Square”, as it is here that the market was held since at least the 15th century. At the centre of the square stands the large nine-arch porticoed building built in 1827-28 according to a plan by engineer Piero Corti of Pomerio, which resumed the design of the typical old porticoes of the Brianza area under which sellers could exhibit their goods out of the rain and tether animals to the rings which are still visible on the columns.

In the past Incino was - rather forcedly - identified with the Roman "*Licinii Forum*", indicated by Pliny, together with Bergamo, as the seat of the Orobii Gauls. Recent studies, however, put this hypothesis in doubt, or even deny it. Still, Incino was an important centre in Roman times, as attested by the numerous discoveries made in the last century in this very square, including some tombs and a Roman sarcophagus.

Market Square is the setting for the traditional feast of the *Masigott*, which is celebrated on the third Sunday of October and named after the typical Erba cake prepared by the community to celebrate the time of harvest. The feast dates back to the second half of the 16th century, when Saint Charles Borromeo, the archbishop of Milan, transferred the title of Provost Church from the nearby church of S. Eufemia to S. Maria Nascente in Villincino, ruling that the clergy of the latter, in homage to the former mother church (from then onwards downgraded to the status of mere subsidiary), was to come here in a procession every third Sunday of October, to celebrate solemn religious services. The religious feast was gradually accompanied by the profane dimension linked to the myths and traditions of the harvest, until they became inseparable. Stalls, dances and songs, shows and all the typical apparatus of folk feasts animate the square, and the previous evening a large propitiatory bonfire is held.

(Drawn from G. Mauri, *Alla scoperta di Erba e dintorni. Itinerario N. 1*, Comune di Erba)