

Singing the Middle Ages

The Lauda in Cortona between Devotion and Civic Identity

EXHIBITION

28 June > 5 October 2025

The city of Cortona is home to the oldest known collection of laude, a literary genre that emerged at the dawn of the Italian language to express popular religiosity in simple terms; sung by both men and women, especially within lay confraternities, this oral tradition was passed down from generation to generation. For symbolic reasons, it was sometimes transcribed into special collections to preserve its memory: such is the case of the *Laudario di Cortona*, studied and admired in the whole world.

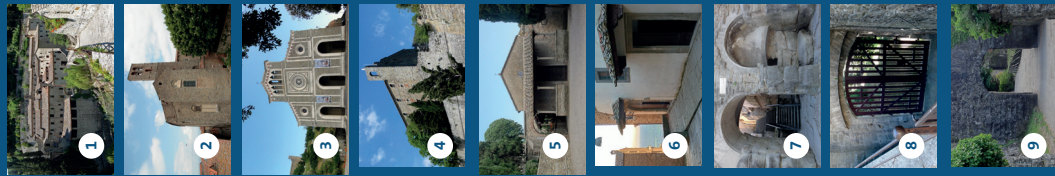
During the visit, the public will be accompanied by melodies from the *Laudario di Cortona* and other collections of that time: an invitation to immerse oneself in a captivating atmosphere, enhanced by the presence of artistically powerful and evocative masterpieces such as the 13th century *Painted Cross* of the Accademia Etrusca, originally from the church of San Francesco, and the *Stories of Santa Margherita*, once held by the Poor Clares of Cortona and now housed in the Museo Diocesano di Cortona. The exhibition offers a unique opportunity to rediscover monuments and scenic views of the Cortona landscape, beginning with those linked to Medieval and Franciscan sites.

Recalling the discovery of this precious manuscript in 1876 by Girolamo Mancini, the Accademia Etrusca, in collaboration with the Municipality of Cortona, has organized this exhibition to draw visitors' attention to the important heritage held in its Library and to key testimonies of Cortona's medieval history.



MAEC MUSEUM
Piazza Signorelli, 9. Cortona
10:00 - 19:00





- 1 Hermitage of Le Celle
- 2 Church of San Francesco
- 3 Church of Santa Margherita
- 4 Fortress of Ginfalco
- 5 Church of San Niccolò
- 6 Monastery of Santa Chiara
- 7 Porta Bifora
- 8 Porta Berarda
- 9 Porta Montanina

Medieval and Franciscan sites