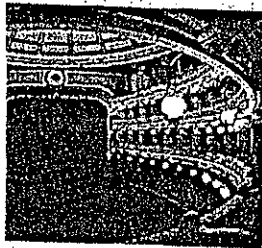
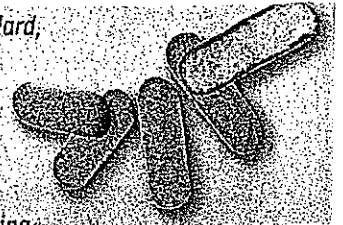




 The wines of the Novara hills, already celebrated by Pliny the Elder in his *Naturalis Historia*, are among the best in Piedmont and they represent the synthesis of the oldest winemaking tradition of the region. Boca, Fara and Sizzano are D.O.C. wines that can be laid down for aging; they include the prestigious Ghemme D.O.C.G. they are all full-bodied wines from the traditional vineyards of the hills: Nebbiolo, Vespolina

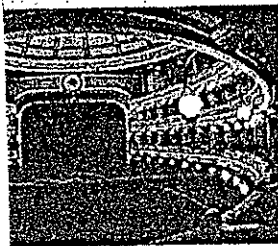
and Uva Rara. The wine list can satisfy the most demanding palate, and concludes with the...

famous risotto, consisting of vegetables, lard, salami and wine. Other typical specialties include tapulone, a dish based on donkey meat, and Gorgonzola, a very tasty and creamy cheese. There are also the different kinds of salami. The Novara area has different kinds of dessert, including the famous Biscottini of Novara, the Pane di San Gaudenzio, sprinkled with pieces of almond, Brutti ma Buoni, a specialty of Borgomanero, and the delicious Gramolini, covered with the finest sugar grains of Galliate. The area is somewhat important as a producer of honey, the most famous of which is acacia.



 Novara is the capital of the most Western province of Piedmont. It is about 100 kilometers from Turin and only 50 from Milan. The city is on a strip of land surrounded by rice fields and between the two rivers the Sesia and the Ticino. Novara today is a flourishing technological and scientific area that still retains the feeling of a city built for

people where tradition and history come together in a city center that has the characteristics of a 19th century salon. The city is dominated by the Cupola of San Gaudenzio. This is 121 meters tall, and is the masterpiece of Alessandro Antonelli who was also the architect of the Mole at Turin. He designed the neoclassic Duomo which can be admired in the heart of the city. Alongside the Duomo is the most ancient monument contained in the city, the fifth century Battistero. Nearby is the Cloister of the Canonica di Santa Maria. This was built in the 16th century and extended in the 17th century.



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According to an undocumented tradition, the *Castellum Vergani* was founded by Giovanni Luigi Tormelli in 1283, but the first certain news was provided by Chronicle Pietro Azario (1312-1366) and it concerned Cal-cino (Pietro) Tormelli, an agent in the 1339 plot against Azzone Visconti. It is on the other hand proved that in 1336 Calcino dwelt in Vergano with his children and a nephew, the son of his brother Ribaldone.

This Romanic building of the 12th century is the symbol of Medieval Borgomanero and joins its name with one of the first names given to the borough, that is, "Borgo San Leonardo". Several frescoes are extant in the interior, among which, in the apse, Christ Pantocrator and Evangelists, the Apostles and surviving parts of the Cycle of the Months; on the first span the Madonna and Child and Two Saints. On the second span "The Last Supper" and some stories of the Passion with the renowned host of armed figures.

The monumental Statue of the Immaculate was erected in the borough square in 1721. It was realized on commission of the Rev. Marquis Gabriel Francesco Saverio d'Este, who, in September 1720, had written to the Podestà - the Lord Mayor - of Borgomanero that "the present calamities urge our zeal to do all we can for these subjects of ours, and, driven by such impulses, the thought has occurred to us to put under the Ever-Immaculate Blessed Virgin's special care both us and these subjects of ours by erecting, as an act of homage, a statue in the middle of this square, which will serve as a sacred ornament to the Borough and as a sainted reason for such fervent devotion".

Building of Romanic plan achieved in the second half of the 12th century with nave and aisles; restored at the end of the 15th with a single nave and completely renovated and widened in the years 1670-1682 on commission of Giuseppe Pagani, merchant. The façade, of 1871, was planned by the Rev. Architect Ercole Marietti with classical and Renaissance patterns. Remarkable works of art by Morazzone, Bustino, Fiammenghini and Pini can be admired in the interior.

Quoted in a 1204 parchment as Herald Bridge, the *pons ultra Burgummaynerium super Aconia* is mentioned in the Novara Bylaws as one of the Borough's three bridges, previously built in wood on the *strata novariensis* towards the "Riviera d'Orta". Maybe pre-existent to the building of the Borgofranco, it was rebuilt in stone on the occasion of the Agogna flood of 1590 and of the hydraulic works on the stream undertaken by the community at the beginning of the 17th century. It was also called "the mill bridge" - Ponte del molino - in ancient documents.

The cornerstone of the church, which had already been planned in 1909 by Engineer Architect Stefano Molli (1858-1916) in the Lombard style of the 15th century, was laid in 1929 and its solemn consecration took place on 17 september 1933. The church has stately dimensions: it is 44.70 m long, 26 m wide, 44.50 m high-height at the belfry cross. It covers 2,915 sqm and encloses 9,000 cubic metres of space. In it, along with the 17th century painting of the Patron Saint coming from the old church, which had already been established as Parish Church in 1909, notable are also the Via Crucis by Prof. Luigi Fornara and the large paintings by Ettore Mazzini.

There is a lapidary museum here. The Broletto rises from the traditionally paved streets. The Broletto is a complex of four buildings that go back to the Middle Ages. It is today the site of the Civic Museum and contains significant archeological and artistic works. Then there is the Teatro Coccia, which was inaugurated in 1888. It is evidence of the cultural ferment of the city and its performances are among the most prestigious in Piedmont. Nearby is the Sforzesco Castle with its rock and rectangular towers. The city center is an ideal place for shopping or for a visit to a bar where one can enjoy some biscottini di Novara which are excellent when dunked in chocolate or coffee.



The 16th - century "noble house outside the Borgomanero Gate on the way to Arona" was the ancient property of the prominent Rossignolis and Torniellis, and in 1782 was yielded to the Bonolas, who came from Vacciago and Corconio, and whose last descendant in Borgomanero was Giulio Bonola, Lawyer, (1865-1939), who bequeathed it to his nephew the Honourable Mr Achille Marazza (1794+1967). This illustrious politician bequeathed it to the Town of Borgomanero in his will of 26th August 1966.