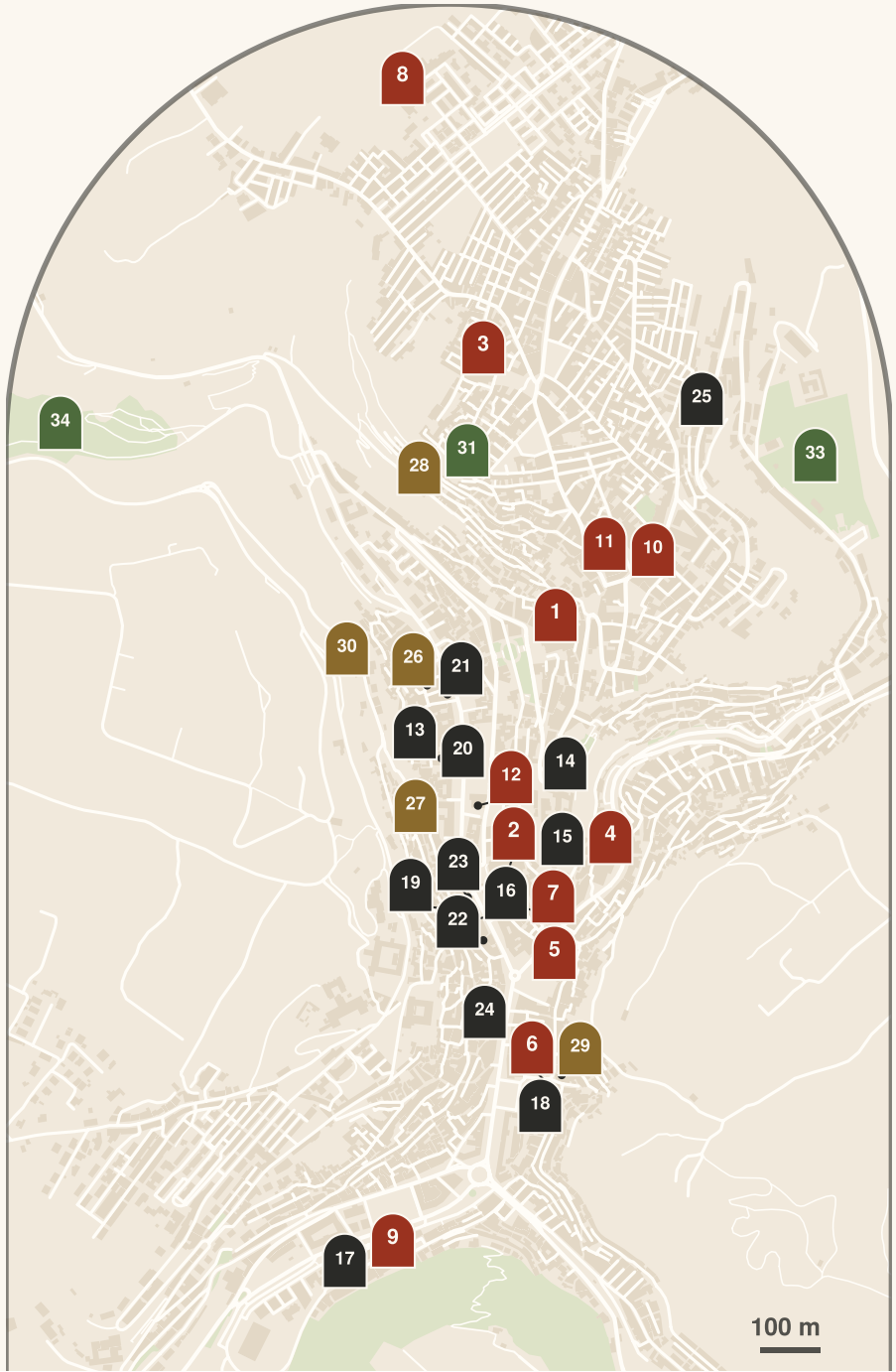


A guide by people who live here.

Modica: the places to see, and where to stop and eat.

visitmodica.it



Modica, on one sheet.

A town inside a valley. Modica Bassa down below, along the Corso, where the streets once ran; Modica Alta above, in tiers, up to San Giovanni. End to end it's about two kilometres, nearly all of it uphill or downhill.

CHURCHES

- 1 Duomo di San Giorgio
- 2 Duomo di San Pietro
- 3 San Giovanni Evangelista
- 4 Santa Maria di Betlem
- 5 Chiesa di San Domenico
- 6 Chiesa del Carmine
- 7 San Nicolò Inferiore
- 8 Chiostro di Santa Maria del Gesù
- 9 Santuario della Madonna delle Grazie
- 10 Chiesa di Santa Teresa
- 11 Chiesa di San Nicolò ed Erasmo
- 12 Santa Maria del Soccorso

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- 14 Castello dei Conti
- 15 Casa natale di Quasimodo
- 16 Palazzo della Cultura · Museo Civico
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- 34 Parco di San Giuseppe "U Timpuni"

The churches.

The 1693 earthquake brought down much of the town, and the Baroque is the answer: tall façades, long flights of steps, bell towers watching each other across the valley. Some of what came before survived, if you know where to look.

1	**Duomo di San Giorgio**	Corso San Giorgio
2	**Duomo di San Pietro**	Corso Umberto I
3	**San Giovanni Evangelista**	Modica Alta
4	**Santa Maria di Betlem**	Via Marchesa Tedeschi
5	**Chiesa di San Domenico**	Piazza Principe di Napoli
6	**Chiesa del Carmine**	Piazza Matteotti
7	**San Nicolò Inferiore**	Via Clemente Grimaldi
8	**Chiostro di Santa Maria del Gesù**	Piano Gesù, Modica Alta
9	**Santuario della Madonna delle Grazie**	Piazza Madonna delle Grazie
10	**Chiesa di Santa Teresa**	Corso Santa Teresa
11	**Chiesa di San Nicolò ed Erasmo**	Modica Alta
12	**Santa Maria del Soccorso**	Modica Bassa



The churches.

1 Duomo di San Giorgio
Corso San Giorgio

Come from above, down the steps: the façade appears all at once. Look back now and then on the way down.

3 San Giovanni Evangelista
Modica Alta

The church at the very top of Modica Alta. From here you see how the town works: Modica Bassa down in the valley, houses climbing both sides.

5 Chiesa di San Domenico
Piazza Principe di Napoli

On the town-hall square; the town hall itself sits in what was the Dominican convent. Church and civic power, door to door.

7 San Nicolò Inferiore
Via Clemente Grimaldi

A rock-cut church a few steps from San Pietro, with old frescoes on the walls. It's small: give your eyes a moment to adjust to the dark.

9 Santuario della Madonna delle Grazie
Piazza Madonna delle Grazie

At the far end of Modica Bassa, where the Corso opens up. The sanctuary Modica's families have been attached to for generations.

11 Chiesa di San Nicolò ed Erasmo
Modica Alta

Two saints in one church, in the heart of Modica Alta. A plain façade, a few steps from Santa Teresa.

2 Duomo di San Pietro
Corso Umberto I

On Corso Umberto, with the apostles lined up along the steps. Go in, then sit on the steps and watch the town go by.

4 Santa Maria di Betlem
Via Marchesa Tedeschi

Inside: a monumental nativity scene and a fifteenth-century chapel that survived the 1693 earthquake. In December the queue grows: there's a reason.

6 Chiesa del Carmine
Piazza Matteotti

One of the few façades the 1693 earthquake spared: the Gothic rose window is still there, a reminder of Modica before the Baroque.

8 Chiostro di Santa Maria del Gesù
Piano Gesù, Modica Alta

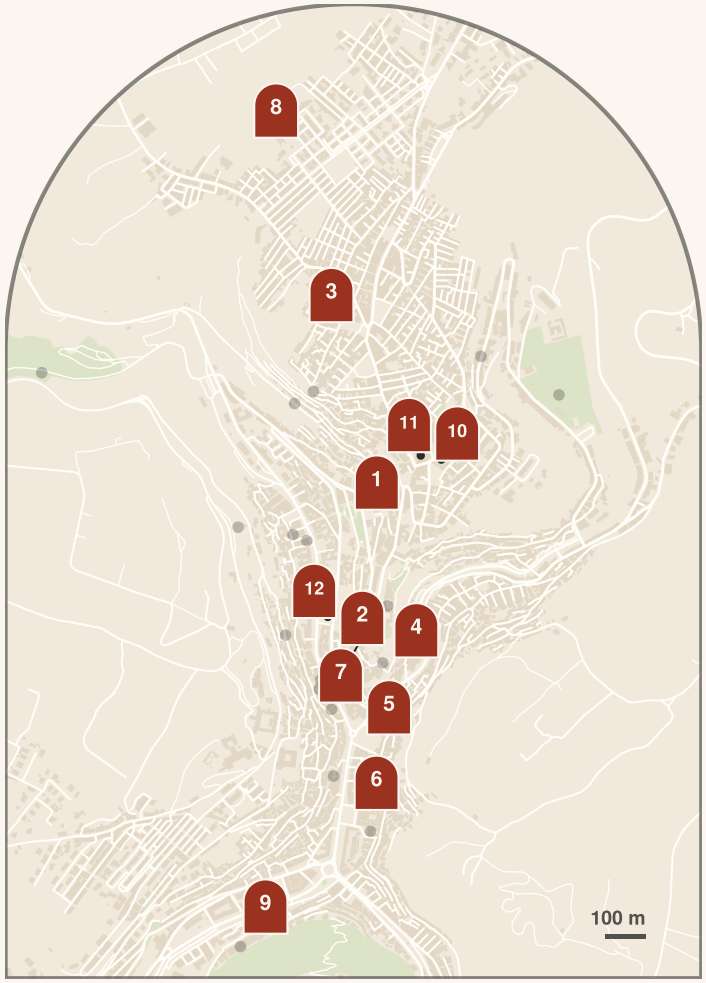
A fifteenth-century Franciscan convent at the top of Modica Alta, with its cloister: arches, silence, and a town that feels very far away.

10 Chiesa di Santa Teresa
Corso Santa Teresa

The church on Corso Santa Teresa, with its little square: a shady stop on the climb to Modica Alta.

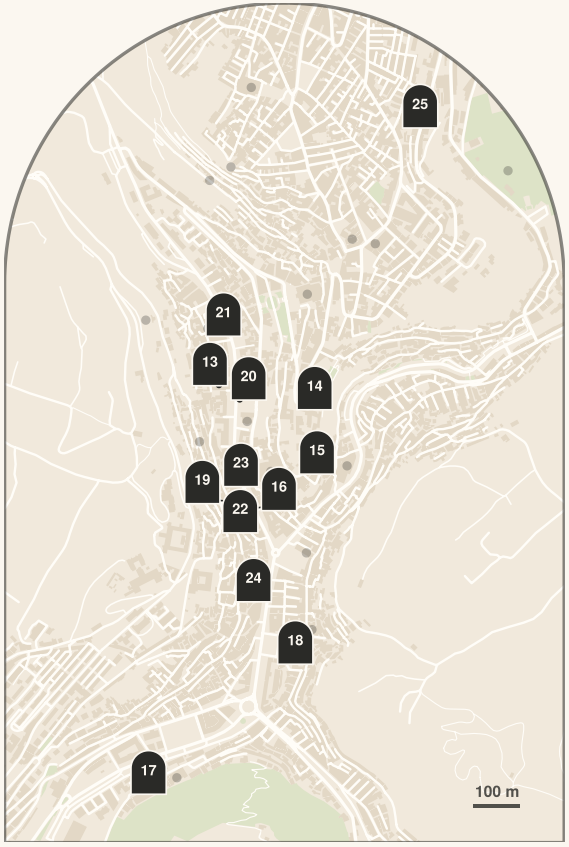
12 Santa Maria del Soccorso
Modica Bassa

A small church a few steps from the Corso. The kind of place you step into for a pause and leave lighter.



Palaces, museums, the theatre.

Where the nobles lived, where people studied, where they went in the evening. Today: small museums packed with things, a library, a nineteenth-century theatre and, to change centuries, a contemporary art gallery.



13 Teatro Garibaldi
Corso Umberto I
The Corso's nineteenth-century theatre, small and precious. Worth a look at the programme alone: the season is alive.

14 Castello dei Conti
Via Castello
What's left of the fortress is the clock tower, on the rock above the Corso. Lean out: all of Modica Bassa is in front of you.

15 Casa natale di Quasimodo
Via Posterla
The house where Salvatore Quasimodo, Nobel Prize in Literature 1959, was born. Small, and that's why you shouldn't skip it.

16 Palazzo della Cultura · Museo Civico
Corso Umberto I 149
The "Franco Libero Belgiorno" civic museum: local archaeology, including the Hercules of Cafeo, a small bronze worth the climb to the first floor on its own.

17 Museo delle Arti e Tradizioni Popolari
Palazzo dei Mercedari
The "Serafino Amabile Guastella" museum in the Palazzo dei Mercedari: old workshops rebuilt piece by piece. The cobbler, the blacksmith, the cartwright.

18 Museo della Medicina Tommaso Campailla
Ex Sifilicomio, Piazza Campailla
In the former Sifilicomio, the hospital where syphilis was treated. Doctor Tommaso Campailla's "barrels" are still there: eighteenth-century medicine, no anaesthetic.

19 Museo del Cioccolato
Palazzo della Cultura, Corso Umberto I 149
In the same building: the story of Modica chocolate, worked cold the old way. You leave wanting a bar (it happens).

20 Palazzo degli Studi
Corso Umberto I
Built between 1610 and 1630 as the Jesuit Fathers' convent, it has housed the Tommaso Campailla classical lyceum since 1878. Four centuries of students on the same staircase.

21 Biblioteca Comunale
Corso Umberto I
The civic library on the Corso: old books, a reading room and a midday silence that does you good.

22 Palazzo Grimaldi
Corso Umberto I 141
A noble palace on the Corso, now an exhibition venue. Grand rooms, grand stairs and, often, a contemporary artist where the family portraits used to hang.

23 Società Operaia di Mutuo Soccorso
Corso Umberto I 157
The historic workers' mutual-aid society. Today its rooms host exhibitions: check what's on.

24 Portale De Leva
Via De Leva
A medieval doorway set among the houses, along the Via De Leva steps: one of the few traces of Modica before the Baroque. You have to look for it, and that's the point.

25 Garage Fontana
Contemporary art gallery
An independent space for contemporary art, run by Margherita Ratti. After all that Baroque, another Modica: the one being made now.

The quarters.

The Corso, and then the steps. Each quarter has its saint, its little square, its washing on the line. Walk them with no plan: that's the right way.

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26 Corso Umberto I
Corso Umberto I

Modica Bassa's drawing room runs where two streams once ran: after the 1902 flood they were covered over, and the Corso was born on top. Palaces, churches, pastry shops: on foot, and slowly.

27 Quartiere Cartellone
Via Cartellone

Steps, alleys, washing on the line and, at the top, a viewpoint over the Corso. The quarter you climb short of breath and come down with a phone full of photos.

28 Quartiere Santa Lucia
Via Santa Lucia

Between Modica Alta and the Pizzo: stairways, courtyards, low doorways. The quarter where you hear Modica dialect.

29 Quartiere San Paolo
Chiesa di San Paolo

A quarter of alleys above the Corso, around the church of San Paolo. You wander in by mistake and stay on purpose.

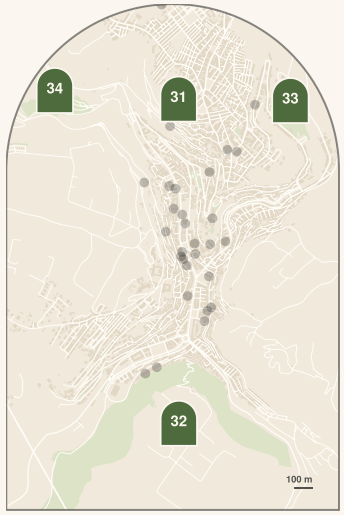
30 Quartiere d'Oriente
Belvedere del Quartiere d'Oriente

The quarter of the eastern viewpoint: where the town looks east and morning arrives first.



Viewpoints and parks.

To see all of Modica at once you have to climb. And then sit down.



31 Pizzo Belvedere
Modica Alta

Modica Alta's balcony over the valley. At this hour the stone catches the first light while the town below is still opening its shutters.

32 Collina di Monserrato
Monserrato

The hill to the south: from here you see Modica from the other side, with Modica Alta rising opposite. At sunset the stone changes colour.

33 Parco Urbano Padre Basile
Modica Alta

The town park: trees, benches, children. Where Modica walks the dog on a Sunday morning.

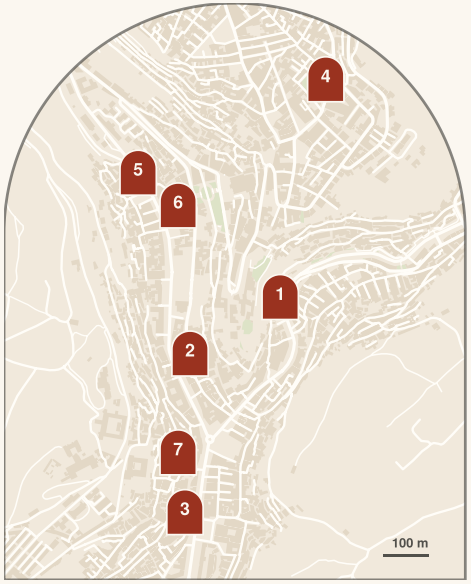
34 Parco di San Giuseppe "U Timpuni"
Modica Alta

On the ridge sits a rock-cut church, San Giuseppe "u Timpuni". The name comes from the rock outcrop it stands on: here the town ends and the gorge begins.



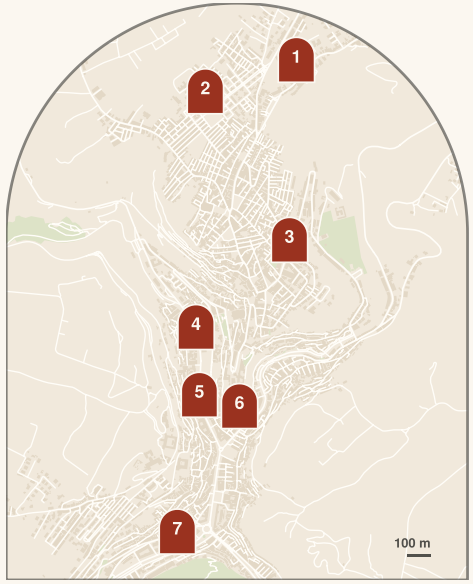
Where to stop and eat.

Four maps instead of one full of pins. These are our places, the same as on the 3D map: opening hours and phone numbers are online.



Restaurants, trattorias and pizza

1. **Rione Mulino Pizzeria**
   Via Marchesa Tedeschi 95 · €20–30 per person
2. **Radici · L'Osteria di Accursio**
   Via Clemente Grimaldi 55 · €30–50 per person
3. **Fattoria delle Torri**
   Vico Napolitano 14 · €30–50 per person
4. **Rosticceria Antichi Sapori**
   Corso Vittorio Emanuele 2, Modica Alta · €5–10 per person
5. **Ricotta & Co**
   Corso Umberto I 261 · €20–30 per person
6. **Osteria dei Sapori Perduti**
   Corso Umberto I 236 · €20–30 per person
7. **A Putia ro Vinu**
   Modica Bassa



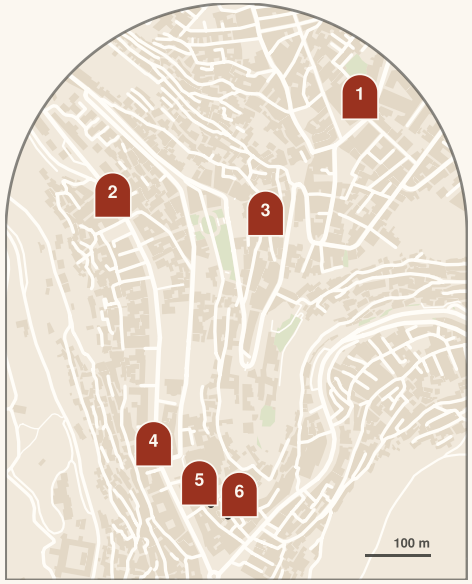
Pastry shops, bread and gelato

1. **Biscottificio Rendo**
   Modica · €5–10 per person
2. **Pasticceria Pulino**
   Modica Alta · €5–10 per person
3. **Bann · Pane Libero**
   Corso Sottotenente Nino Barone, Modica Alta · €5–15 per person
4. **Pasticceria Di Lorenzo**
   Corso Umberto I 225 · €5–10 per person
5. **Antica Dolceria Bonajuto**
   Corso Umberto I 159 · €5–10 per person
6. **Caffè Adamo**
   Via Marchesa Tedeschi 15/17 · €5–10 per person
7. **Gelati e Granite**
   Viale Medaglie d'Oro, Modica Bassa · €5–10 per person



Meat, fish and cheese

1. **Colombo Carni e Putia**
   Modica
2. **Macelleria Blandino**
   Corso Umberto I 296
3. **Nele's fruit shop**
   Corso Umberto I, accanto alla Macelleria Blandino
4. **Macelleria Molè**
   Corso Umberto I 184
5. **Casa del Formaggio**
   Via Marchesa Tedeschi, Modica Bassa
6. **Pescheria Salemi**
   Piazza Principe di Napoli 3, under the Pulera arcades



Bars, wine and aperitivo

1. **Rappa Enoteca**
   Corso Santa Teresa 97/99, Modica Alta · €10–30 per person
2. **Indigeno**
   Corso Umberto I 267 · €10–30 per person
3. **Bar del Duomo**
   Via San Michele 6 · €5–10 per person
4. **Martin Cafè**
   Corso Umberto I 173 · Espresso €1.30
5. **Goccia**
   Via Clemente Grimaldi · €10–20 per person
6. **Hemingway**
   Via Clemente Grimaldi 36 · €10–20 per person

Visit Modica

The rest is online.

Opening hours, phone numbers, average spend, walking routes and the 3D map you turn with one finger. The guide gets updated; paper doesn't.

visitmodica.it

Scan the code

Write to us.
info@visitmodica.it

For a tip, a table, a day shaped around you: we answer ourselves.

We don't earn anything from it. We know the people who do things well, and we put you in touch.

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