



Emilia-Romagna & San Marino

Includes →

Bologna.....	431
Modena.....	443
Reggio Emilia.....	447
Parma.....	448
Busseto & Verdi Country.....	454
Ferrara.....	455
Ravenna.....	460
Rimini.....	464
San Marino.....	470

Best Places to Eat

- Osteria dell'Orsa (p439)
- Trattoria del Tribunale (p452)
- Trattoria Aldina (p445)
- Trattoria dal Biassanot (p439)

Best Places to Stay

- Hotel Metropolitan (p438)
- Hotel Centrale Byron (p463)
- Hotel Button (p452)
- Grand Hotel (p467)

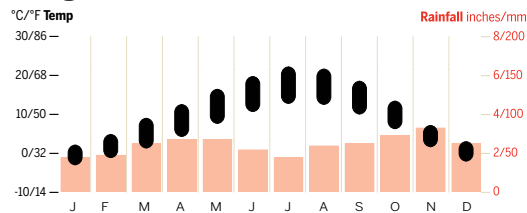
Why Go?

The secret's in the mud. The roots of Emilia-Romagna's supersonic economy lie not in the mechanics of its famous Ferraris, but in its exceptionally fertile soil. Since antiquity, the verdant plains of the region's Po river valley have sown enough agricultural riches to feed a nation and finance an unending production line of lavish products: luxury cars, regal *palazzi* (mansions), fine Romanesque churches, prosperous towns, a sturdy industrial infrastructure, a gigantic operatic legacy (Verdi and Pavarotti, no less) and food. Ah yes, did anyone mention the food?

You can eat like a Roman emperor here, and, if you have any appetite left, dip your toe tentatively into the places that time-poor Rome-o-philes serially miss. There's Bolshie Bologna with its *ragù* (meat and tomato sauce) and porticoes, posh Parma with its opera and cheese, Modena and its balsamic vinegar, the wealthy micronation of San Marino, and Ravenna with its mosaics. Come to Emilia-Romagna *ragazzi* (guys). Just don't forget the mud that made it.

When to Go

Bologna



Mar–Apr Enjoy mild temperatures on the Po plains and fewer crowds on Rimini's beaches.

Jun–Aug Summer festivals galore in Bologna, Modena, Ravenna and Rimini.

Sep Ideal hiking conditions in Parco Nazionale dell'Appennino Tosco-Emiliano.

Emilia-Romagna & San Marino Highlights

- 1 Taking a very long, very slow and very delicious lunch in that well-known bastion of good taste, **Parma** (p452).
- 2 Reawakening your enthusiasm for dark Italian churches amid the lucid mosaics of the **Basilica of San Vitale** (p460) in Ravenna.
- 3 Discovering the personal history behind the fast cars at **Ferrara** (p455).
- 4 Hiring a bike and circumnavigating the muscular medieval walls of Renaissance **Ferrara** (p455).
- 5 Leaving the flat lands behind and taking a bus out to the **Pietra di Bismantova** (p449) for a day of hiking.
- 6 Following the undergraduates and discovering cheap bars and restaurants in Bologna's **university quarter** (p440).
- 7 Swapping high culture for high decibels at Rimini's famous **clubs** (p467).

