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DISCOVER MONTEPULCIANO, ONE OF THE PEARLS OF TUSCANY

Montepulciano is a medieval town in the province of Siena, perched on top of a hill between the Chiana Valley and the Val d'Orcia; when thinking about this town, the first thing that comes to your mind is probably the beautiful landscape: Montepulciano – full of history and masterpieces – is completely surrounded by the sweet hills of Tuscany, covered with olive trees and vineyards, from which the worldwide famous Vino Nobile di Montepulciano is also produced.

Montepulciano has kept all the characteristics of a medieval village and it is still surrounded by three circles of walls, dating back to the 14th century; besides the wine, the town is famous for its **Renaissance palaces** but also for the elegance of its religious buildings like the **Sanctuary of San Biagio**, a masterpiece in white travertine.

Since the 1950s, the town has been used as a film location for many national and international hits: in 1966 Montepulciano was chosen for filming **L'Arcidiavolo** by **Ettore Scola**, in 1983 **Andrej Tarkovskij** came here to film his beautiful **Nostalghia**, in 1999 the town was picked for filming **A Midsummer Night's Dream** by **Michael Hoffman** and in 1996 it was also the location for **Anthony Minghella**'s unforgettable **English Patient**, nominated for 12 awards and walked away with 9 in 1997!

And three years ago also **The Cullens** arrived in Montepulciano, or rather Edward and Bella Swan, the main characters of the super lucky **Twilight Saga**:

from May 18 to May 29 - 2009 in Montepulciano were filmed the Italian scenes from **New Moon**, the second chapter of the beautiful love story between the restless vampire **Edward** (*Robert Pattinson*) and the sweet blooded human **Bella** (*Kristen Stewart*). The choice of filming the **Volterra scenes** in Montepulciano (about 120 km away from the home of the **Volturi**) was due to the fact that shooting here was simply much more comfortable and convenient: the production crew admitted in fact that they knew they could work better here, they knew that major assistance was going to be given and finally it was also a real opportunity to save a lot of money. **Volterra** did not respond that good of course, but in the end Montepulciano has been awarded the world's most famous modern vampires and the ancient rival just a little bit of fame at least.

Are you interested in visiting Montepulciano?
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