

# Arriving in Perugia

**The Panorama Walk** - You're up on a hill surrounded, at least on three sides, by beautiful valleys. Enjoy these vistas. Start with the one behind the Provincial Building on Piazza Italia, in the Giardini Carducci. It's populated mostly by cooing couples at night, when the lights of the city below sparkle. If you go to the far corner of the gardens and cross the street, there's an overlook and a drawing explaining the sights (which mountains are which, etc.)

Next head down Via Baglioni (Corso Vannucci's parallel) to where it widens to become Piazza Matteotti. Now head out to the panorama on top of the Mercato Coperto: at Piazza Matteotti 18a, go through a little arch/tunnel, go around the stands selling clothing, and to the terrace. Look out across the Val di Sol (Valley of the Sun) towards the city on the far side of the valley halfway up the mountain, Assisi. The mountain above Assisi is Monte Subasio – Perugians say “*Quando il Subasio ha il cappello, esci con l'ombrello.*” The two spires to your right are San Domenico (the nearest) and San Pietro. When it's foggy the valley will fill up so that Assisi looks like a port on the far side of a big lake.

From here go back to Piazza IV Novembre. Go around the right side of the *duomo* and up Via del Sole, the only road that ascends. Go up and bear left when it becomes Via delle Prome. At the end you'll find the best picture in Perugia. Off to your right you can see the medieval walls and the Monteluca neighbourhood where Alan lives. The area where you are now, known as Porta Sole, is the highest, publicly-accessible point in Perugia. You are standing on the remains of a fourteenth century addition to the city's fortifications. As you descend the steps you can catch a glimpse of the supporting arches.

After you take a picture, go down the steps to your left. The area below that overlook is the vineyard we take care of with Dominik and Nikos. Will you catch us going in our newly-painted green door that opens off the steps? At the bottom of the steps, continue down along the wall to Piazza Fortebraccio, also commonly known as Piazza Grimana or even Piazza Gallenga. Noting the Etruscan Arch on your left, cross the piazza to Palazzo Gallenga, the home of the University for Foreigners (*Università per Stranieri*), which hosts Italian classes year-round. Go up the stairs in front of you as you enter and act like you know where you're going. At the very top you'll find a great terrace that will give you a perfect view of the twelfth century aqueduct (Via dell'Acquedotto, now a cool footbridge) that occasionally in its eight-hundred year existence brought water to the Fontana Maggiore. Go back down and snaffle an ice cream at the nearby Gelateria Augusta at Via Pinturicchio 2 and eat it sitting on the overlook off to the left of the Etruscan Arch. Visibility changes a lot in Perugia; some days you can see mountains that are seventy kilometres away. If a panorama leaves you underwhelmed, go back for another look on a different day. There are two other panoramas looking back on the city. Go to the Monteluca hospital parking lot, just to the right of the main entrance. For the other, walk Corso Cavour and duck left down Via Bonfigli until you hit the view.