

## TIMOLINE

Timoline has been an area of considerable importance since prehistoric times; its territory, which partially falls within the Torbiere del Sebino Nature Reserve, has yielded numerous finds since the 19th century, during excavations for the recovery of peat and clay, covering a time span from the Mesolithic (8000 - 5000 B.C.) to the Bronze Age (2200 - 900 B.C.). Of great interest was the discovery in 1910 of a Gallo-Roman (1st century B.C. - 2nd century A.D.) incineration necropolis, whose grave goods document the phase of integration of the Celtic peoples with the Roman civilisation. Scholars do not agree on the origin of the name: it could derive from 'tumuli', given the modest elevation of the moraine hill around which the first settlement was built, or, according to others, the name could go back to the fishiness of the 'Temolo' in the small lakes and peat bogs of the marshy area, hence 'Temolinas' in the sense of fishmonger's shop. Timoline is the first locality in Franciacorta handed down in a written document (766 A.D.): in it, Adelchi, son of Desiderio, the last king of the Lombards, confirms the possession of the 'curte Temoninas' to the Monastery of San Salvatore (later Santa Giulia) of which his sister Anselperga was abbess.

Also in the Polyptych of Santa Giulia, an inventory of the properties of the powerful monastery drawn up in the early 10th century, the court of Timoline with a chapel appears and the most significant production of the farm was the supply to the Brescian monastery of a large number of wine amphorae. The most valuable document, however, is Berengar's diploma (915) in which the king granted his daughter Berta, abbess of the Monastery of Santa Giulia, use of a public road around the village of 'Temolina' to erect the necessary fortifications for the defence of the castle. Traces of the medieval castle, now converted into a private residence, can still be seen today in the buildings on the top of the hillock above the small historic centre. Opposite the castle entrance is the monumental complex of Palazzo Pizzini, formerly the home of the Lana family (17th-19th century). To the north of the main body is the vast English-style garden from which the view sweeps towards Lake Iseo and Monte Isola. Incorporated into the property is the chapel (13th century) dedicated to Santa Giulia, testimony to the early medieval monastic court that resided there.

To the south of the hill is the old parish church of Saints Cosmas and Damian, built in 1532 and remained a place of worship for the community until the 20th century when the new church was built next to the old one to a design by the engineer Tagliaferri.