



L'Aquila 2009 - L'Aquila 2019

Speciale Decennale Terremoto

BASILICA OF SAN BERNARDINO

The basilica of San Bernardino was built between 1454 and 1472 in honor of **San Bernardino da Siena** and rises at the top of a staircase that represents the urban union between Via Fortebraccio, medieval and Via San Bernardino, Renaissance, exceeding a vertical drop of about 20 meters. The staircase is flanked by six aedicules, in honor of the six families who helped to build the religious building.

The facade is majestic, in white stone and has a fascinating nine-square design on three lines. The three below enclose the portals, while those of the two high bands contain round windows and the symbol of San Bernardino. It was completed in the early sixteenth century, when the work was resumed by the architect **Cola dell'Amatrice**.

In addition, in this period there were the construction of the dome, one of the largest in Abruzzo, and the **mausoleum** that houses the remains of San Bernardino, in stone and covered in marble, in the form of a large ark isolated on a square base, made by **Silvestro from L'Aquila**.

The construction of the side chapels, however, began by the work of the most influential families of the time, who embellished the basilica with important paintings, and continued until the late eighteenth century.

Following the reconstruction after the **earthquake of 1703** by Cipriani, Contini and Barigioni, the basilica took on a more baroque appearance and in 1724 Ferdinando Mosca enriched it with the magnificent carved wooden ceiling and decorated with pure gold.

The counter-facade of the building is almost totally occupied by an extraordinary pipe organ made in 1725 by Feliciano Fedeli, in baroque style, inserted in a resonance chest in wood finely carved and decorated.



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Th the **earthquake of 2009** brought new damage to the basilica, with the partial collapse of the bell tower and injuries on the drum of the dome and the facade, fortunately restored together with the mausoleum of the Saint and returned to the faithful in 2017.

