



*cor magis tibi Sena pandit*

**SIENA**



# PLACES

# SIENA

una vista arial di Siena



**Palazzo Pubblico**

**Piazza del  
Campo**  
e Fonte Gaia

**Museo Civico**

**Duomo S. Maria  
Assunta**



# ORIGINS OF THE CITY

# SIENA

There are 2 stories of how the town got its name/began (during Etruscan/Roman times):

**1** the name came from an Etruscan patrician family called "Seina"

**2** **Romulus'** nephews **Senius** and **Aschius** fled their uncle after he had murdered their father **Remus**. One had a **white** horse blanket and the other a **black** horse blanket, leading to the black and white coat of arms. The town was named where they settled, after the older brother. They also brought their **she-wolf foster mother**. Her image **la lupa** adorns the coats of arms of many parts of the city.



**sienese  
coat of arms**



# LOCATION

# SIENA

## Located on the Via Francigena

- this enabled it to become wealthy through trade
- in the middle ages it was known as *Daughter of the Road* or *figlia della strada*
- **3 terzi: terzo di Citta (wealthiest & most important),** terzo di Camollia, terzo di San Martino





# BRIEF HISTORY

# SIENA



## **1260 battle of Montaperti**

- economic success fueled a **rivalry with Florence**, which culminated in the Battle on the hill of Montaperti Sept.4

1260

- with the help of Pisa, Cortona, and the German knights of Frederick II, **they beat the larger florentine army**

- before the battle, the mayor **Bonaguida organized a procession in honor of the Virgin Mary**

who they have since venerated with candles burning day and night.

## **1287 rule of nine**

- Rule of Nine was responsible for most of what you currently see
- considered Siena's golden-age
- unique in that they refused to stick to a particular attitude or favor a particular faction
- large patrons of the arts
- rule ended in 1955



# Piazza del Campo

# SIENA



- set in hollow shell of ancient theater
- **most impressive Piazza in Italy**
- **recieved paving in 1347**
- divided into 9 rays to symobli-cally link the **Council of the Nine** to the town square
- rigorous building restrictions on square since 1297
- 11 roads and alleys allow access
- sound of bell of "mangia" sig-nals events in Piazza
- Palio is held here



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# Palio

# SIENA



- horse race between the 17 contrade
- contrade are small communities within Siena that have representatives lead by a Capitano or Priore, responsible for social services and organizing festivals
- happens twice a year
- honors the Virgin Mary
- only 10 contrades can compete
- after 3 days of trials, there is a huge feast and the race starts the next morning
- the palio? It's a silk banner, the trophy of the event, and is lead in a pre-race procession.



# Fonte Gaia

# SIENA



## FOUNTAIN OF JOY

- built in 1342
- at the highest point of the Piazza
- water brought to city center via 19 mile long pipe
- the decorative basin was built in 1409 by Jacopo della Quercia detailing Virgin and Child, scenes from the Creation, and the **story of Siena's origins**



# Palazzo Pubblico

# SIENA



- permanent council seat, built in 1287
- the current facade dates to 1310
- the tower, **Torre del Mangia**, was put up in 1325, named after the bellringer **Mangiguadagni** ("he who eats all his earnings")
- set the pattern for Sienese Gothic
- bottom floor is set with Sienese arches, each with a copy of the balzana
- mechanical clocks added in 1360



# Cappella di Piazza

# SIENA

- sits at the foot of the Torre del Mangia
- built by survivors of the 1348 plague in thanks for their deliverance
- is the only structure that is allowed to violate building regulations and protrude into the piazza





# Museo Civico

# SIENA



- inside the Palazzo Pubblico, this is where the city administration used to reside
- many works commissioned by the Council of Nine reside inside.
- many of these depict the Virgin



# Good and Bad Gov'mt

# SIENA



## **Allegory of Good & Bad Government**

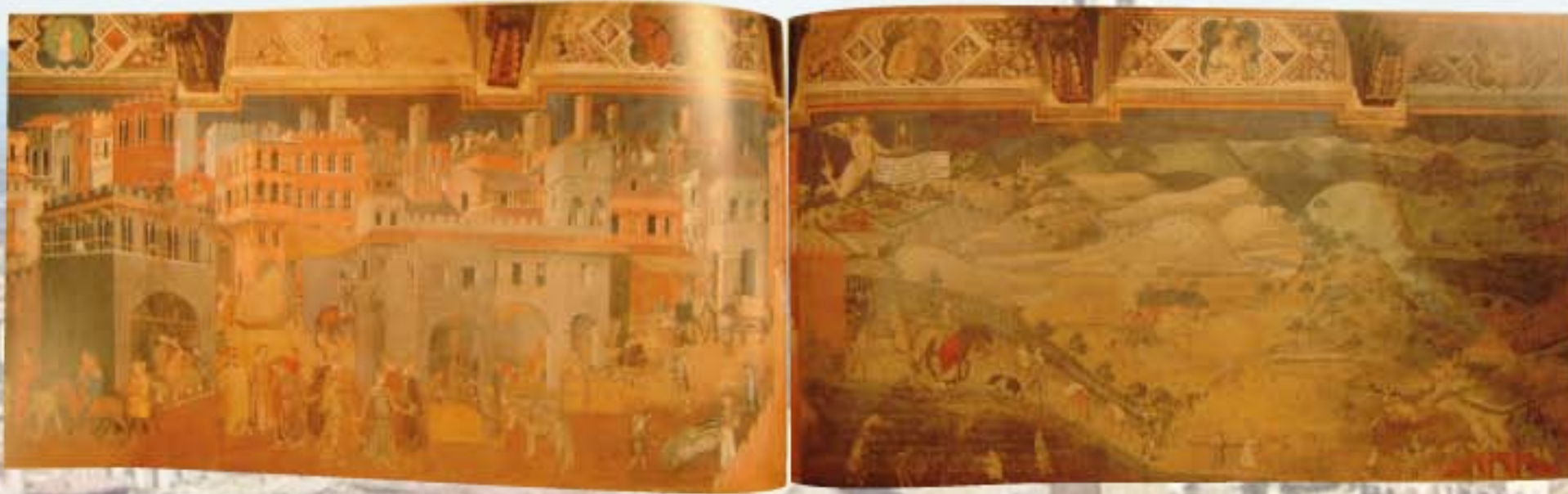
- one of the most extensive and important secular frescos from the Middle Ages
- by Ambrogio Lorenzetti

- left hand side depicts Justice and scales
- above her is wisdom
- Concord at her feet links to ropes and passes to 24 citizens who represent the first government to allow the people to participate
- on the right hand side this rope leads to a King and his counsel, with Peace above his head
- the allegory of bad government (not shown) depicts the King surrounded by a gang of vices and buildings are shown as collapsing



# Effects of Government

# SIENA



## **Effects of Good Government in the City and in the Country**

- left depicts effects in the City and the right in the country
- by Ambrogio Lorenzetti





# *Duomo S. Maria Assunta*

# SIENA

- dedicated to Assumption of the Virgin Mary
  - stands at highest point in Sienna
  - commissioned in 12th century
  - the basilica began in 1210, dome and choir complete in 1258
- first Italian facade to follow the pattern of French Gothic Cathedrals - facade complete in 1284

