Pavia’s Monuments

**Duomo di Pavia (Cathedral)** - Construction began in 1488 but the Cathedral as seen today was not completed until 1898. The central dome has an octagonal plan, and stands 97m high, weighing some 20,000 tons. The dome is the third largest in Italy, after St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican City and Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence.

**San Michele Maggiore (St. Michael)** - An outstanding example of Lombard-Romanesque church architecture, characterized by an extensive use of sandstone and a very long transept, with a façade and aspe of its own. In this church in 1155, Emperor Frederick Barbarossa was crowned.

**The Basilica of San Pietro in Ciel d’Oro (“St Peter in the Golden Sky”)** - Begun in the 6th century, this church houses the remains of Saint Augustine, Boethius and the Lombard King Liutprand. It is also mentioned by Dante Alighieri in the X canto of the Divine Comedy.

**San Francesco d’Assisi** - A Late Romanesque church (1238-98) with a restored gothic façade.

**San Teodoro** - Built in 1117, this Romanesque basilica dedicated to Theodore of Pavia, a medieval bishop of the Diocese of Pavia, is smaller than the others but houses two outstanding bird’s-eye-view frescoes of the city (1525), attributed to the painter Bernardino Lanzani. Situated on the slopes leading down to the Ticino river, this church served the fishermen.
Castello Visconteo- This castle was built by Galeazzo II Visconti (1360-1365), as a private residence rather than a stronghold, despite what the fortifications suggest. The poet Francesco Petrarca spent some time here when Gian Galeazzo Visconti called him to take charge of the magnificent library, which at that time owned about a thousand books and a manuscript, which were subsequently lost. Today it houses the civic museums of Pavia.

Santa Maria del Carmine- Considered to be one of the best examples of Lombard Gothic architecture. Construction was begun by Gian Galeazzo Visconti in 1374, but not completed until 1461.

Santa Maria di Canepanova- A Renaissance style church, although popularly attributed to Bramante, it was built by Giovanni Antonio Amadeo 1500-1507-

The medieval towers- Dating back to the 11th and 12th centuries, at one point there would have been a hundred or more of these brick towers, built by wealthy families as a symbol of power. Today there are only 5 remaining: 3 in Piazza Leonardo da Vinci, and 2 in L. Porta street.

Certosa di Pavia- A monastery and complex, 8km north of Pavia, built 1396-1495. It is one of the largest monasteries in Italy, renowned for its architecture in both the Gothic and Renaissance styles, as well as its collection of artworks.