

## **Argenta And Argentani: The Origin Of The Names**

According to several historians, the two names derive respectively from the latin terms: Rura Argentea or Arientea; and Arientenses or Argentenses.

The Arientenses of the early ancient and early medieval peoples are possibly of Cisalpine or possibly Transalpine, if not trans-Adriatic, ethnic background.

## **Hunting in the valleys**

In the past, hunting has always been a widely practised activity in the valleys, but today it is no longer permitted in the Campotto oasis.

It has long been a place where fauna is studied and monitored by the National Institute of Wild Fauna.

Hunting activities became part of local sporting customs after the 1960s; but for centuries, hunting in the valley has mainly responded to the vital needs of the small domestic community.

The surface ducks that bear regular cuts for consumption are the mallard, wigeon, pintail, garganey and teal; but other birds, with less prized meat, are also part of the eating habits by

necessity, enriched with strong seasonings to make them more appreciable.

## **Medieval archaeology in Argenta**

The opportunity to verify how the environment appeared in the Middle Ages and how man exploited its characteristics to the full was provided by the excavation, carried out in 1993.

The excavation has recovered about 150 wooden objects in excellent condition.

They are artifacts of everyday life: crockery, personal items, tools, parts of furniture and houses.

To understand the reasons for this abundance of wooden finds, it is necessary to remember that in the Middle Age wood was a widely used material.

## **Disappeared animals and food**

In centuries past, the cuisine of Argentina included several animals that have now disappeared.

Sturgeon was certainly a part of the local diet, at least in the Middle Ages.

The otter, present in Campotto at least until the nineteenth century, was perceived in the Middle Ages as an "aquatic" animal,

thus considered a fish and eaten on Fridays.

Also appearing on their table was the shrimp, once common in all fresh waters.