THE MIRAVAL FIELD GUIDE

A Walking Companion to the Capital of Marvidinia



Royals of Marvidinia — Kellie Baker Books

Finding Your Way

Miraval at a glance — districts, landmarks, and the paths between them.



The Royal Palace

Not technically in Miraval — but you can't talk about one without the other.



Set on its own promontory just south of the capital, the Royal Palace commands sea views on three sides and a clear line north to the rooftops of Miraval below. White limestone, blue-gray slate, crenellated towers — five centuries of Gratiani history, still very much lived in.

The palace isn't open to the public, but it doesn't need to be seen up close to be felt: it's visible from the Piazza Principale, from the harbor, from half the city's rooftop cafes, a constant presence on the skyline no matter where else in Miraval you happen to be standing.

The Royal Palace

The approach, just after sunset.



The forecourt fountain along the Viale del Palazzo, lit from within as the palace windows come alive for evening. This is the view from the formal approach — the one every state visitor sees first, and the one that tends to stay with them.

Piazza Principale

The heart of the capital, since before the capital had a name.



Miraval's central square has held its shape for five centuries: the Basilica di San Francesco anchors the west side, the Palazzo Civico faces it from the east, and the old bell tower stands sentinel on the north — its voice still marking the hour across the rooftops the way it has for generations.

At the square's center is Miraval's newest addition: a modern fountain, its jets rising and falling in no fixed pattern. Elegant by day, and — as the engineers who designed it would tell you, if asked the right way — rather more than decorative by night.

Cafe tables spill across the stones on the south side. Come at golden hour, when the light hits the Basilica's rose window and the whole square turns the color of the crown itself.

Piazza Occidentale

Miraval's quieter face, tucked into the old town.



A few streets back from the crowds of the Piazza Principale, the Piazza Occidentale keeps its own pace. Blue-shuttered facades, wrought-iron balconies, and a weathered stone fountain give this corner of the old town its charm — along with a sightline straight down to the sea.

Locals favor the cafe tables here over the tourist-heavy Piazza Principale, and it shows: unhurried mornings, the smell of espresso, and conversations conducted entirely in the rhythm of people who have nowhere else they'd rather be.

The Harbor

Where the fishing boats and the ferry lines share the same water.



Miraval's harbor has always done double duty. Weathered fishing boats — the same handful of families have worked these waters for generations — moor alongside the covered pier where ferries depart for Statos and Coravina.

Come early enough and you'll catch the fishermen mending nets on the stone quay before the first ferry crowd arrives, gulls wheeling overhead, the whole harbor lit gold with the morning off the water.

The Gold Coast

Miraval's answer to Monte Carlo — and it doesn't apologize for the comparison.



Along the coastal boulevard, palm-lined promenades give way to a glittering strip of luxury hotels and a grand casino, its Belle Epoque facade lit gold at dusk. Yachts crowd the small marina just offshore, and the string lights come on before the sun has finished setting.

This is the Miraval visitors photograph. It is not, by any stretch, the whole of Miraval — but it earns its reputation all the same.

The Royal Naval Air Station

Modern hardware, ancient stone — and a history the tour guides don't mention.



Perched on a rocky headland, the RNAS pairs a fully operational naval installation with something considerably older: La Roca, a weathered Roman-era fort whose thick round towers have watched over this coastline for the better part of two thousand years.

These days La Roca serves a very different function than it once did — a fact of quiet interest to exactly the sort of person who would find it interesting. The RNAS itself is, unsurprisingly, not open to the public.

Miraval Medical Center

New stone for a new district.



Outside the old town, where glass-and-stone apartment towers have risen over the last decade, the Miraval Medical Center anchors a modern district built from scratch. Clean architectural lines, a covered ambulance bay, and young trees still finding their footing along wide, quiet streets.

It's a world away from the ocher stone of the old quarter — deliberately so. This is where Miraval keeps building forward.