People of the Passeggiata
Intro to Orvieto PPT

1) View of Orvieto from the east
   Orvieto is located on Italy’s main north/south train line
   1 to 1½ hours north of Rome and 2 to 2 ½ south of Florence
   it rests on a large volcanic rock
   it has a proud history as a member of the Etruscan League and later
   as a Roman Colony, and then as an independent commune
   it now has a population of over 20 thousand people 5 thousand of
   whom live in the (original) upper part of the city with the
   remainder living around the edges of the hill

2) Map of Orvieto
   it shows the key locations of the passeggiatta,
   which follows the Corso up from the funiculare on the east.

3) The Opera House
   the building marks the informal beginning of the passeggiatta and
   the place where vehicular traffic becomes most limited.
   the tower in the background marks the key intersection of the
   passeggiata

4) The Piazza Republica
   it is the high point of the city, the site of the earlier Roman Forum
   and is the nominal termination of the passeggiatta and its central
   gathering place.
   it is shown filled with vendors representing the “slow food”
   movement.

5) The Piazza Duomo
   is an important pilgrimage point for many participants in the
   passeggiatta.
   The Duomo is one of Italy’s largest and most noteworthy churches
   and is the home of one of Luca Signorelli’s finest group of frescoes.
6) The Piazza del Popolo
   is a destination for many participants in the passeggiatta
   it is ringed with shops and restaurants and is the site for twice weekly
   gatherings
   of itinerant vendors

People of the Passeggiatta
A Sampling

1) Introduction
   A Passeggiatta is daily ritual characteristic of Italian communities
   which begins after siesta time and extends until after dark
   it is a time when people take to the streets to walk, watch, and
   socialize.
   it is a ritual that has fascinated me, and which I watched every
   evening from mid-August to mid-December

2) Strolling
   the passeggiatta is a place to walk and a place to see and be seen.

3) Strollering
   it is ritual shared by people of all ages and is a place where young
   people learn the customs of the community.

4) Babes in Arms
   it is a place where family life and communal life flow together

5) Toddling
   it is a place where the lessons of life can be learned under the
   watchful eyes of the community

6) Children
   the Passeggiatta is a place where children can learn to socialize
   they learn that the streets and piazzas can become their playground

7) Pre-Teens - 1
   as children grow their behavior begins to mimic that of their elders
8) Pre-Teens - 2
   - as children grow they find their own ways to participate in the passeggiatta

9) Teens
   - teens find places where they can be part of the evening ritual, but can also find a place to share their unique concerns

10) Families
    - growing children are often called upon to care for their younger brothers and sisters

12) Brothers & Sisters
    - brothers and sisters are sometimes called upon to watch for one-another

13) Veterans
    - the passeggiatta serves as an integral part of daily life for people as they age

14) Generations
    - the passeggiata also provides an opportunity for people of different generations to share in daily life

15) Roller-Strollers
    - people who have difficulty walking can still share in the social life of the city with the help of family members or care-givers

16) Watchers
    - the passeggiatta is also an opportunity for people-watching and the route of Orvieto’s passeggiatta provides a variety of venues for spectators

17) Spectators
    - there are a number of people who regularly bring their chairs out of their homes or shops to greet friends as they pass by
18) Regulars
   - there are some who make the passeggiatta part of their daily ritual and move from one observation point to another

19) Nightly Meetings
   - there are a number of places along the route of the passeggiatta where the same group of people meet in the same place at the same time nearly every evening

20) Catching up
   - there are almost always small groups of friends and neighbors who stop to share the news of the day

21) Conversation
   - there are other small groups where one of the members seems to be enlightening the others

22) Visiting
   - some of the participants stop regularly to greet one-another as they pass

23) Huddlers
   - groups travelling together often gather to discuss their agenda

24) Couples
   - couples sometimes stop to share their intimacy

25) Tourists
   - Orvieto entertains many tourists on day-trips from Rome.
   - sometimes they blend in with local participants in the passeggiatta
   - sometimes they stand out/

26) Group Tours
   - usually tour groups arrive in mid-morning and depart in the late afternoon, often bearing shopping bags.
27) Pilgrims
Orvieto and its Duomo is a must-see destination for many officers of the Catholic Church.

28) Musicians
Musicians of various sorts frequently set up on the route of the passeggiata in the hope of receiving donations.

29) Shoppers
Shopkeepers on the route of the passeggiata often place merchandise outside their shops to entice visitors to purchase souvenirs, and to entice locals to shop for bargains.

30) Shop Girls
Shopkeepers often stand in the doorways of their stores to visit with friends and to attract customers.

31) Photographers
Visitors to Orvieto almost always take pictures of one-another and of things that catch their attention.

32) Selfies
This couple seemed particularly pleased with their self-portraits.

33) Eaters
People often walk while they eat. It is a skill that is learned early.

34) Gelato Eaters
The Italian version of ice cream is a favorite among participants in the passeggiata. Sometimes the vendors have places for customers to sit. Sometimes customers find their own places to perch and eat.

35) Bicyclists
- Bicyclists learn to navigate among pedestrians and are welcome in the passeggiatta.
36) Smokers
   - many Italians are smokers and are adept at finding a secluded spot to enjoy a cigarette.

37) Texters
   - cell phones and texting are a common phenomena in Italy. It seems curious however to see people ignoring one another or the pleasures of the public realm.

38) Festa - music
   - sometimes musical entertainment is provided, either by amateur musicians or professional entertainers

39) Festa - dancing
   - occasionally the city arranges for entertainment or displays to attract people to the passeggiatta.

40) Festa - activities
   - seasonal celebrations like a harvest festival are also a highlight of the passeggiata

41) Festa - vendors
   - a pre-Christmas celebration featuring candies and crafts helped to extend the passeggiatta into the winter

42) Dodgers
   - most automobile traffic is restricted in the route of the passeggiatta, but there are a few places where automobile traffic crosses the route

43) Dogs
   - dogs are welcomed at the passeggiatta. They like their masters seem to enjoy the exercise and the opportunity to visit with canine friends
44) Cats
   - cats too seem to enjoy the passeggiatta. Some visit with people; others find a vantage point to watch the flow of people.

45) Conclusion
   - there are different forms of the passeggiatta in other cities in Italy.
     - the passeggiata in Orvieto is, however, among the most robust examples of the phenomena.
   - there are a number of reasons for the success of the Orvieto passeggiatta including
     - the size of the community
     - the mix of locals and tourists that attend
     - the richness of the physical context
     - and the support provided by the city
   - the passeggiata in Orvieto is a real asset to the life of the community.