

Partnership from 11. 9. 1964
distance from Nový Jičín 1 041 km

The town of Novellara (population 14 000) is located in the province of Reggio Emilia in Italy. The oldest archaeological findings made in the town are the remnants of a Roman settlement. The noble family of Gonzaga made this place into the capital city of a small, independent kingdom, which lasted nearly four centuries. The Gonzaga family enjoyed a golden period in the 16th century, when they began minting their own coins and transformed the town into the ideal place to live.

The foundations of the fort (Rocca Gonzaga) were laid in 1385 by Guido Gonzaga, the son of the town's founder "Gonzago Novellara". During the 16th Century the fort underwent modifications giving it the character of a Renaissance chateau. The individual wings of the chateau currently house the Novellara Town Hall, the richly decorated Municipal Assembly Hall, the Historic Theatre, which still serves its purpose, and also the magnificent Gonzago Museum, which has undergone several years of restoration and holds a very valuable collection of 170 16th century vases from a Jesuit pharmacy.

Novellara has a beautiful historic centre with a large square and arcades and many preserved and restored houses. One of the most important monuments is the Capitular Church of Saint Stephen, which is located on the main square.

Best-known events:

San Cassiano – similar to the Nový Jičín Municipal Festivities (turn of April and May)

Miss Anguria – contest for the heaviest and sweetest melon (July)

Novellara balsamica – festival celebrating traditional production of balsamic vinegar (turn of September and October)

Interesting information:

- the town participates in the Cittaslow project (towns that are a good place to live in)
- Parmigiano-Reggiano is a trademark for authentic parmesan, which comes from the Parma District in the Emilia Romagna Region
- the best quality balsamic vinegar comes from the Modena and Reggio Emilia regions and bears Aceto balsamico tradizionale di Modena or Aceto balsamico tradizionale di Reggio Emilia on the label
- there is a street called Via Novy Jicin in the new part of Novellara
- Augusto Daolio, the vocalist of the Nomadi band, was born and died here