



## Church of Sant'Ottaviano in Collina

It rises up from the first burial place of Ottaviano, who reached Italy in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century along with Saints Giusto and Clement. The story tells that **he lived in the hollow of an elm tree** where the oratory named after him now stands. Today, his remains rest in the cathedral of [Volterra](#).

On its façade, to the right of the entrance, you may find an **epigraph** written in an ancient language. It appears to be a text in **uncial**, an ancient script in capital letters mostly used in manuscripts. One possible interpretation of the text is: AN(N)I DOMINI MCCCCII PAVOLO DI GU(C)CIO E ANDREOC(C)IO DI BARTOLOMEO ERES(SERO) - *in the year 1402, Paolo di Guccio and Andreuccio di Bartolomeo built it.*

If its Romanesque system contradicts this building date, it's more plausible that the two were responsible for some modifications. The name Andreuccio di Bartolomeo corresponds to that of a decorator who was active during that period in Volterra.

Might he have carved the inscription himself?

