

WHAT IS “IL BUSO DEL FERRO”?

It's the most important iron and manganese mine in the area around Verona. It's made up of winding tunnels that penetrate into the hill for about 2 km. The origin of this iron-manganese deposit is hydrothermal.

Certain reports of its exploitation date back to XV century and the extraction of the mineral lasted up to the end of the Second World War. Today most of its tunnels are no longer practicable as the roof of the tunnels have collapsed.

HOW OLD ARE IRON AND MANGANESE?

They were formed about 40 million years ago, in the last phases of volcanic activity that affected the Valpolicella (VR).

WHAT IS VERONA'S YELLOW SOIL?

The Yellow soil of Verona or Yellow Ochre (*from the Greek yellow okhrós*) is an inorganic pigment of mineral origin.

It is found as a filler of caves.

It was extracted in the hills north of the city: the extraction revealed the existence of a complex of tunnels that spread over an area of 20 km. **The earthy masses of limonite are called ochre and used as dyes. It is now no longer extracted; in the past it was used in frescoes by many Renaissance painters and up to fairly recent times it was in great demand by paint factories.**

A study of the pollen contained in yellow ochre has made it possible to establish that it was formed about 15 million years ago.

Did you know?

The difference between rocks and minerals?

Rocks are an agglomeration of one or more minerals.

Minerals are natural substances, mostly solid, with specific physical properties and with a crystal lattice.

What is the difference between a cave and a mine?

A cave is a natural cavity of karst origin.

A mine is totally artificial.