

Four-monthly Art magazine of the Italian Historic Houses Association

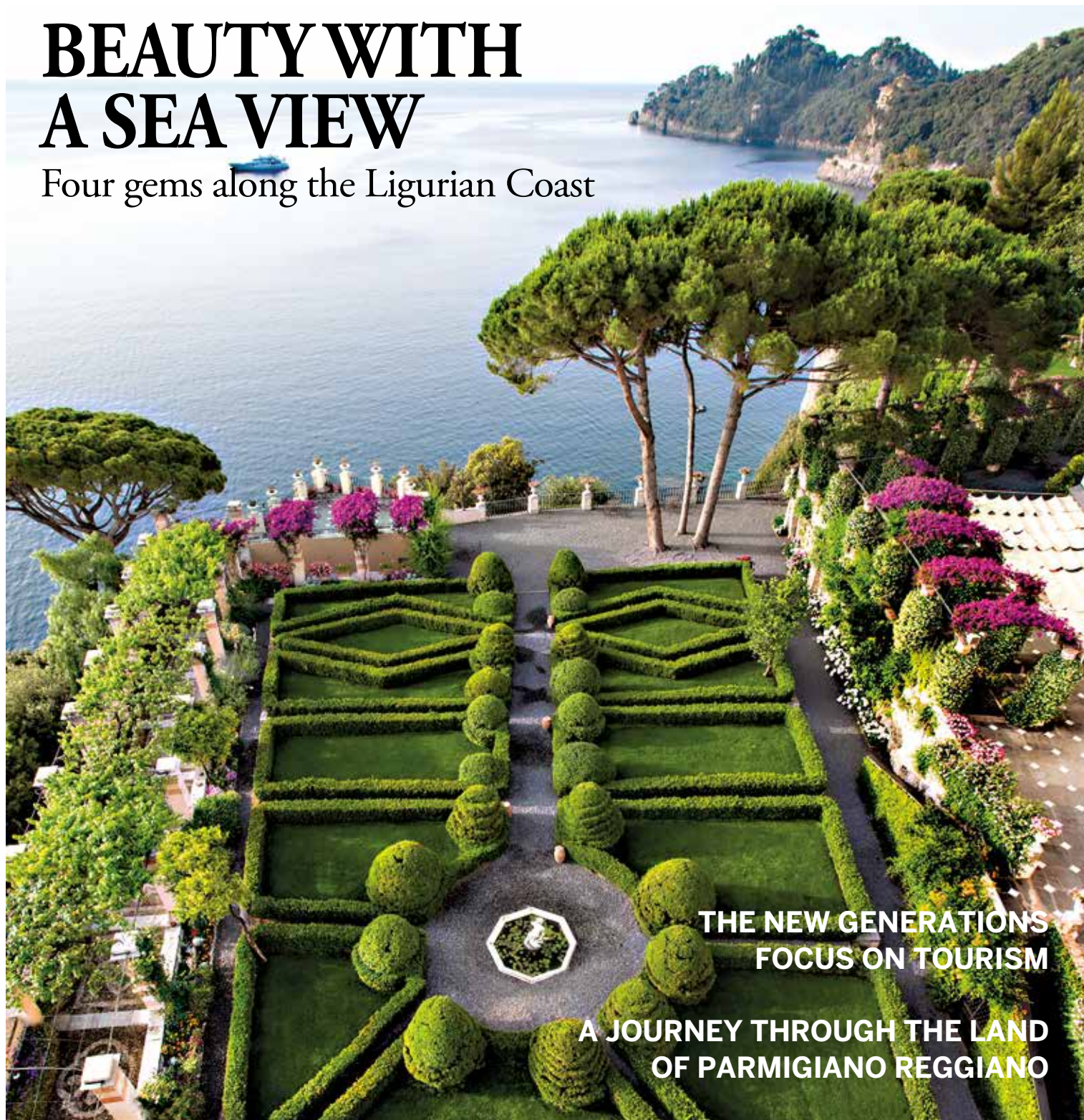
ADSI
Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane

le DIMORE STORICHE

Issue 1 – Year 2023

BEAUTY WITH A SEA VIEW

Four gems along the Ligurian Coast



THE NEW GENERATIONS
FOCUS ON TOURISM

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE LAND
OF PARMIGIANO REGGIANO

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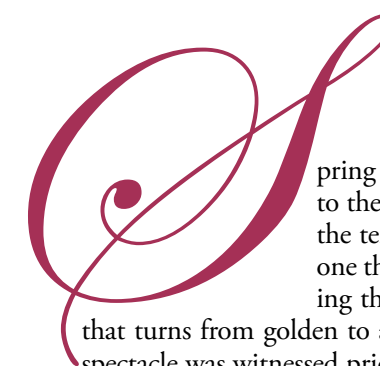
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 Cover: panorama from the gardens of Palazzo Hanbury
 Photo Archive Gbh - Daniela Guglielmi

 Palazzo Hanbury, Pavillon
 Credits photo: Daniela Guglielmi

From young people comes a change in hospitality


Spring is now turning toward summer and it is already time to head to the beach. Admiring the spectacle of a golden-hour sunset from the terrace or garden of a historic house with a “sea view,” like the one that appears on the cover of this issue of our magazine, is exciting thanks not only to the rapidly changing colours and the light that turns from golden to almost fiery, but thanks also to our awareness that the same spectacle was witnessed prior to our time by women and men who have written important pages in the history of our country. The journey of Le Dimore Storiche continues, therefore, even in this year of 2023 which is marked by the strong development of tourism following the encouraging signals received during the previous biennium and strengthened by the return even of those nationalities that remained at the window after the pandemic, such as the Chinese. Our historic houses are ready to welcome this varied travelling populace, attracted by the wonders discussed in the features shown in the next pages: Sicily and its wine itineraries, trips to the land of Parmigiano Reggiano, the practice of equestrian sports. And then there is an in-depth look at young ADSI members, our new generation, who are increasingly convinced of the role their residences can play in defining a sustainable economy that enhances in the medium and long term the territories where they are located. Hospitality thus takes on an ethical and moral value: it means sharing with educated and curious visitors the contents of the residence itself of which the owners, as one of our young people points out, are only the custodians, caretakers of an asset that stands as a heritage of humanity.



LUCA BONACINI

Luca writes about travel, food and wine, literature and cinema for QN Resto del Carlino, La Nazione, Il Giorno, James Magazine, Gambero Rosso, L'Espresso, Adv. In 2021 he received the Friend of the Women of Wine Award and in 2022 the Gianni Fossati Award from the Italian Academy of Cuisine.



ANDREA CUOMO

A Roman transplanted to Milan for the past eight years, Andrea is a correspondent at Il Giornale, where he has worked since 1998. He contributes to the Gambero Rosso and Identità Golose restaurant guides and to The Good Life and Civiltà del Bere. Sommelier and coffee expert, he is the author of several food and wine books.



GABRIELE PRINCIPATO

A journalist for Corriere della Sera, Gabriele covers food, wine and spirits for Cook. A lecturer and coordinator of the master's degree in Philosophy of Food and Wine at the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University of Milan, he is also a lecturer at the University of Perugia in Contemporary History and Geopolitics.



FULVIA CAMISA

A native of Parma, yet Milanese thanks to the city where she lives. In a previous life, Fulvia participated in the women's Giro d'Italia. Now she pedals to keep fit and to see the world from a different point of view. She writes about lifestyles and is always on the lookout for places (even just around the corner) that have stories to tell.



ANDREA GUOLO

An economics journalist, Andrea ranges from food to fashion, from design to spirits, telling the story of all that is Made in Italy. He writes for Vogue Italia, Milano Finanza, Gambero Rosso and many other Italian and foreign publications. He is a theatre author, essayist, ever driven by a passion for new projects.



CAMILLA ROCCA

Camilla collaborates with Repubblica, Vanity Fair, Io Donna, Elle, Capital, Food&Travel. Specialising in travel, hotels, food & wine, she now heads a vertical team in these four-account sectors. Her secret? Always on the lookout for enticing news to share.



CRISTINA CIMATO

Born and raised in Milan, Cristina proudly defends her Calabrian origins. A journalist since her university days, she covers design, art, food and tourism. She loves writing, reading, travelling and drinking good wine. Her dreams include studying the cello and writing a novel.



GIAMBATTISTA MARCHETTO

A freelance journalist and blogger in the fields of economics, food and wine, tourism, art and culture, Giambattista collaborates with Il Sole 24Ore, Il Gazzettino, Pambianco, Food & Wine Italia, Winenews, Italia a Tavola, Paneacquaculture. He directs VinoNews24 and supports the editorial staff of ItalianWineTour.

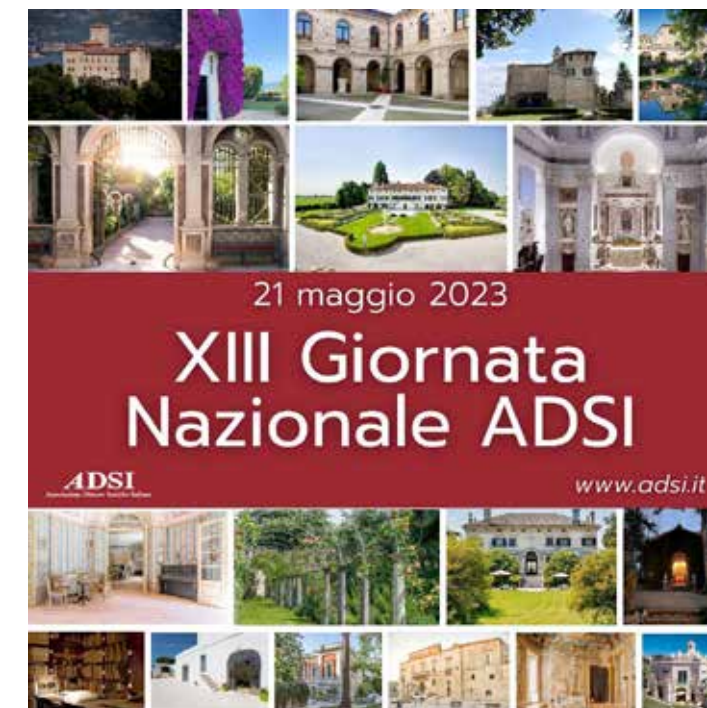


LA SIGNORA IN DOLCE

A pastry detective brought to life by actress Tiziana Di Masi. Wrapped in a fuchsia trench coat, wearing a magic magnifying glass for her investigative missions, La Signora in Dolce travels in search of the perfect cake. Author of the book "La Signorina in Dolce" (Buk Buk Editore)

SUNDAY, 21 MAY IS HISTORIC HOUSES DAY

Everything is ready for the 13th **National Day of the Italian Historic Houses Association**. It will be held on Sunday, 21 May with the opening of more than 400 exclusive places including castles, fortresses, villas, parklands and gardens. These special sites will be open to visitors free of charge, offering an experience of history which, as ADSI states, "gives Italy its identity in the eyes of the world even today, and which could be the fulcrum for long-term sustainable development in our country." Interested visitors may book directly through the ADSI website by registering and then going to the homepage and viewing the page dedicated to the National Day, where the residences open to the public for the occasion are listed. For each residence, visiting times and the maximum number of people for each visit are indicated.



SICILY, JUNE BOOK FESTIVALS IN PIAZZA ARMERINA AND SYRACUSE

The first **Piazza Armerina Book Festival**, an event conceived of and organised by the TV producer Damiano Gallo, will be held on 15 and 16 June. The initiative has received the patronage of the Municipality of Piazza Armerina (Enna), the Region of Sicily, and the European Parliament. Over the two days of the festival, the centre of the city of mosaics, a destination for art and culture, will become a stage for book presentations and events featuring prestigious names from contemporary literature, leading names from the printed media, television journalists and important personalities from the worlds of culture and entertainment. In addition to Gallo, to the patroness of the first evening Silvana Giacobini, and to Susanna Messaggio who will present the second evening, other participants will include Mario Giordano, Toni Capuozzo, Marina Di Guardo, Mario Calabresi and Gianni Barbacetto. Over the following two days, 17-18 June, there will also be the third Syracuse Book Festival, organised by Damiano Gallo once again, at the Castello Maniace in Ortigia, which will include the sixth Alessandra Appiano Literary Prize and the organisation of a fashion show with creations by Martino Midali.

A PRIZE FOR DEGREE THESES ON PRIVATE HERITAGE ASSETS

The deadline for submitting applications has been set for 31 July. What is it about? The fifth **Premio tesi di laurea sui beni vincolati privati**, or **Award for University Degree Theses on Private Heritage Assets**. This national competition aims to promote and highlight theses written by young scholars in the field of private heritage assets. The commission will award a cash prize of €1,500, gross of withholding taxes, to the master's or specialisation thesis considered the most deserving. Honourable mentions will also be awarded for the second- and third-place winners, and each of the three finalists will receive a one-year membership as a Friend of Historic Houses. The examining board, whose decisions are final, will be composed of members appointed by ADSI. The board will complete its work by 21 October 2023, indicating the names of the 3 finalists and their theses on the institutional website of the Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane. The call for entries is aimed at graduates who have completed a master's thesis or obtained a specialisation degree in architectural heritage and landscape architecture concerning one or more private listed buildings, including decor, furnishings, appurtenances, parks and gardens. The theses may cover the following topics: conservation, maintenance, enhancement and productive use of these assets with an economic return for the sites themselves and for the surrounding area; innovative installations and the use of new technologies (including information technology) to make the utilisation of these assets sustainable and their capacity for communication ever more efficient. The competition is specifically aimed at young people from faculties of Architecture, Agriculture, Engineering, Art History, Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Superior Institutes of Conservation and Restoration, Opificio delle Pietre Dure, Communication Sciences, Economics and Law. The property discussed within the thesis submitted to the competition must be private, and subject to the regulations of historical interest; if the work deals with several residences, all of them must be private property. Participants must declare in the application, under their own responsibility, the existence of such regulatory constraints, of which official documentation must be provided in the event of the awarding of a prize or at the request of the commission. All documentation may be consulted and downloaded from the Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane website at <https://www.associazionedimorestoricheitaliane.it/article/391119/v-bando-tes/>



Youth members of the Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane

THE NEW GENERATION

The future of historic houses is in their hands. They take personal care of palaces, villas and castles that are open to the public, direct testaments to the ongoing lives of their families within domestic walls. They are the youth of ADSI, entrepreneurs of culture and tourism

A VISION REACHING INTO THE FUTURE

Anna Maria Pentimalli explains what it means to be twenty or thirty years old and to choose to take care of a historical residence. Not only does she manage her family's palazzetto in Venice, but she is also the national head of the youth group of the Italian Historic Houses Association (ADSI), which "accompanies future owners in the activities they will carry out when their turn comes to look after the family's historic residence." Speaking with Anna Maria, one discovers that there are basically two types of young members: those who orient their studies from the

outset towards targeted professionalism (and she, an architect specialising in historical restoration, belongs to this group of enlightened ones), and those who find themselves looking after the family home after building other life projects and to whom "the association comes to the rescue as a support network." The youth group organises workshops on topics related to heritage protection and conservation and relies heavily on team-building activities, "because it gives you a boost to see other young people like yourself who face the same challenges." The group includes around 400 members, "a substantial number but one that could be higher because there are many more historic houses in Italy." And yes, here too there is a problem of generational handover. Young people often feel



lost, and parents don't give up, "but when the seniors realise they can't do it without us, things will move forward." Indeed, there are certain assets, such as digitalisation, sustainability, a trend towards innovation and a change of vision, which are natural for the younger generation. "Italy's historic residences have a future, and they are also the future for a country like ours. Strengthening the skills of young people is one of the elements that will bring this about. Everyone must contribute, even non-owners, knowing full well that the owner is a caretaker who is simply passing the dwelling from one generation to the next. Historic houses are complex machines, but with the right skills, support network and a lot of enthusiasm, extraordinary results can be achieved."

A BEAUTY FACTORY BETWEEN JONIO AND SILA

Amy Cherubini and, below, two images of Palazzo Cherubini in Rossano



**PALAZZO CHERUBINI
WELLNESS E SPA**
Via I Emanuele 11,
Rossano (Cosenza)
palazzoherubini.it



Amy's sense of caring. Twenty-three years old, a law student at the Cattolica University in Milan, **Amy Cherubini** has her heart in Rossano Calabro, where she rushes to every time her academic commitments allow, though the journey is neither short nor easy. It is there that Amy's heart dwells, because Palazzo Cherubini has been the family home since 1868. For the past year, it has also been a hospitality facility of rough elegance which the student's parents, mother Gina and father Nicola, have restored to 19th-century splendour with the addition of every contemporary comfort. The place is a continuous factory of beauty that has always enchanted Amy. "All my memories are based here in the family palazzo. When I was a child, when the Neapolitan-school frescoes by Capobianco were being restored, there was scaffolding in the hall of mirrors and I used to watch in amazement as this craftsman did his work. That's how I learnt to appreciate what it meant to care for what has always belonged to us. These are the values of the Cherubini family, which I hope to convey in turn to those who will join me in taking care of the residence in the future."

Palazzo Cherubini offers relaxed, homey luxury that is best expressed in the two suites, particularly the Wanda, dedicated to the great-grandmother whose boudoir it once was. The Cherubinis still live here, and in the mornings Mamma Gina—Amy, too, when she's there—sees to preparing breakfast, perhaps with crustoli and scolatelli, traditional local sweets, and the family eats together with guests in the lounge that is the heart of the house. "It is lovely to chat with people who have never been to Calabria, to recommend excursions, to learn more about our territory through the eyes and stories of others." The area is off the beaten path, but it offers visitors the sea just a few kilometres away, the Sila Mountains looming overhead, the legendary Amarelli liquorice factory, a village full of stories and silences. "Whatever my life project turns out to be, it cannot fail to include caring for my home. This is absolutely crucial."

MY ROME? IT'S IN TUSCIA



Giovangiorgio Afan de Rivera Costaguti manages the Costaguti Castle near Viterbo



**ALBERGO DIFFUSO
CASTELLO COSTAGUTI**
Piazza Umberto I° 19,
Roccalvece (Viterbo)
castellocostaguti.it

The name is that of someone who carries the baggage of a family with a capital F. But **Giovangiorgio Afan de Rivera Costaguti**, 37, sees himself as a country entrepreneur. Some ten years ago he decided to join his father Diego in managing Castello Costaguti in Roccalvece, near Viterbo. And when his father Diego died, he took over the management to honour his parent, "who had dedicated the last thirty years of his life to restoring this place which had previously fallen into a state of neglect, making it usable once again."

Palazzo Costaguti originated as a medieval fortress in the 13th century, a military outpost around which a village grew. Prospero Costaguti bought it in 1642, thus becoming Marquis of Sipicciano, Roccalvece and Sant'Angelo. For centuries it was the "second home" of the family who lived in Palazzo Costaguti in Rome. Over the centuries it was transformed into a noble palace ("although I continue to call it a castle out of affection and marketing") and eventually it suffered the fate of slow decay. Then in the 1990s, Giovangiorgio's father Diego decided to restore it and equip it with all modern comforts—"including an internal lift." Initially rented out for events, today it is the heart of the Castello Costaguti albergo diffuso, or dispersed hotel, which also occupies several flats in the village. Roccalvece has become the Rome of Giovangiorgio, who left the capital to move here, a brave choice if you are thirty years old. "It's my job. You can't do anything else, that's how much it occupies me. I have five permanent employees plus seasonal staff." And he does it alone. "If anything, my family boycotts me," he chuckles, even though in two months he will marry Giulia, an architect from Rome. He is unrepentant, despite the many sleep-depriving responsibilities and investments. "I was studying political science, but then I revised my plans because I believe that maintaining these properties is a challenge that we young people who come from certain families have a duty to accept. Besides, by now I could no longer give up my space. The life of the countryside centres you and brings you back to more human rhythms." A magnificent recklessness.

FOR FIVE CENTURIES, THE FAMILY HOME

Luisa Winsemann Falghera
and an image of Casa Bassi
in Trezzo sull'Adda



CASA BASSI
via De Magri 21,
Trezzo sull'Adda (Milano)
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Casa Bassi is located in the centre of Trezzo sull'Adda, where the ancient border between the Duchy of Milan and the Republic of Venice lay. What makes it unique? First of all, it stands on the remains of a structure that was connected to the Visconti castle of Trezzo. After being abandoned, it was transformed into a villa. Secondly, since the 16th century, it has always been inhabited by the family that gave the mansion its name. Finally, the family are direct descendants of Alessandro Manzoni. **Luisa Winsemann Falghera**, a member of the new generation, is investing time and energy into studying, cataloguing and preserving the family archive, as evidenced by publications issued in recent years, including the latest one dedicated to the correspondence between Margherita Trotti Bentivoglio and her nephew Alessandro Trotti Bentivoglio, son of Lodovico and Sofia Manzoni, grandson of the great Milanese writer. Indeed, Luisa is the most determined supporter of opening the residence to the public, a process initiated by her grandfather Alessandro. "A forward thinker, he opened it for village festivals, for scholars interested in the archive, and for other various occasions." The residence has been open on a regular basis since 2019. Unfortunately, the pandemic meant that hospitality services had to be suspended, but they were relaunched last year. "In the past, few believed there could be so much interest in visits to historic houses. People love these places, though, because they can experience houses that were lived in by the same families, and they can find the objects of our everyday life, the paintings, all the furnishings," she says. "The mansions are a true adventure in storytelling." Luisa explains that opening to the public is the first step toward formulating something more complete: events, concerts, hospitality. "One step at a time, we will arrive at opening the doors of what was once a private property, a home, with immense historical and artistic value."

THE CASTLE BECOMES AN EXPERIMENTAL HUB



Alessandro Calvi di Bergolo.
Below, the Castle of Piovera
and Alessandro with his father Niccolò



CASTELLO DI PIOVERA
via Balbi 2/4, Piovera (Alessandria)
castellodipiovera.it

"I owe a lot to my father because he made me responsible for this historic house, giving me the opportunity to do what I thought was right. Thus, as a potential prisoner of the castle, I obtained the truly great satisfaction of my life: the realisation that I was helping to save a heritage of humanity of which we, as a family, are merely the custodians." Alessandro Calvi di Bergolo started out as an agricultural entrepreneur before dedicating himself to Castello di Piovera in Basso Piemonte. The castle's history began in the 1300s, then it passed through various owners over the centuries until it reached the Calvi di Bergolo family in 1967, thanks to Alessandro's father, Count Niccolò. As Alessandro recalls, "he bought it and went into debt in order to make it a place of art and culture." Piovera was one of the first private castles to be opened to the public as far back as 1972. It also became a venue for maxi events, including a special event dedicated to Florentine football. Alessandro's entry ("I chose to take care of it because it was my home and I didn't want it to decay") entailed a qualitative leap in the management of hospitality, with the creation of a truly dedicated team. "I wanted to enhance the functional use of the historic residence, transforming it into a living thing, into a construction site where we could be put into practice ideas arising from the universities with which we collaborate. Today it is the venue for workshops, organised by the Polytechnic University of Turin and dedicated to the use of ancient spaces for contemporary activities; it is an artists' residence in collaboration with the Pinacoteca di Brera; educational workshops are organised here; it is a museum and cultural centre, and it also collaborates on environmental issues with the University of Eastern Piedmont. "We host private events, which represent the current economic core business, while the focus of the future will increasingly be on experimentation with new ideas. In this way, by overcoming the lack of homogeneity that represents the real problem of historical residences and the limiting factor for the activities that can be carried out there, the residence becomes a place of avant-garde innovation and special vitality." This is happening in Piovera, but not only. "Among the new generations, powerful human sensitivity is being created towards residences which count as a historical asset and not an ephemeral market security."

AN ANCIENT MANOR HOUSE IN EVOLUTION

From left: Alessandro Cavazza de Altamer, Giacomo Corazza Martini and Giacomo Cavazza de Altamer. Below, three images of the Castello di Tabiano



CASTELLO DI TABIANO
via Castello 1
Salsomaggiore Terme (Parma)
castelloditabiano.com



In the hills of Salsomaggiore Terme, a variety of hospitality offerings revolve around the Castello di Tabiano. Here events related to Emilia's Motor Valley and Parma's Food Valley are organised. There is the hamlet that has been transformed into a Relais de Charme with 65 suites, a spa, an outdoor swimming pool, and the Il Caseificio restaurant located inside the old creamery (nomen omen) where Parmigiano Reggiano cheese was once made. The surrounding farmhouses have also been reopened, transformed into private villas with swimming pools, made available to visitors who want to experience a unique atmosphere, rediscovering the ancient villages of the Apennines. The property is owned by Giacomo Corazza Martini, whose family has owned the ancient manor house since 1882. Many years ago, he himself decided together with his children Maria Cristina, Maria Chiara, Anna Maria and Carlo, to open the mansion to the public for cultural, corporate and ceremonial events. Today, six of Giacomo's grandchildren are involved in managing everything. One of them is **Giacomo Cavazza de Altamer**, 35, who lives year-round in Tabiano and personally takes care of the farmhouses and the farm that returned under the direct management of the family six years ago. There are many projects in the pipeline: there is the ongoing recovery of 4 hectares of parkland, the refurbishing of the castle's ancient vineyard from which the wines typical of the Parma hills will be made (primarily Malvasia and Barbera), and above all the reopening of the castle not only for events but also as a boutique hotel. Young Giacomo, having completed his studies in Switzerland and after gaining experience in the world's major hotel chains, decided to leave it all behind and come back here because, as he says, "hospitality is my vocation. And when my family decided to open to the public, it seemed logical to take care of things myself, since this is my home. I'm not alone, though. Uncles and aunts and cousins gather here every weekend, seeing to the many things that happen in Tabiano. It's nice for the clients, too, and it's important to have someone in front of them who is not only a competent guide but also a representative of the family that owns the castello."

BERGAMO E BRESCIA, A TRULY SPECIAL YEAR



On 21 May, young volunteers will welcome the public to the two 2023 Capital Cities of Culture for the event "Cortili Aperti (Open Courtyards) Bergamo Brescia 2023 – National ADSI Day"

The year 2023 exalts Bergamo Brescia as the Capital of Culture. For the first time in Italy, two cities have given birth to a single capital. The two Lombard cities, united in an embrace of historical importance, are abuzz with initiatives to which the owners of historic residences naturally contribute. Young people will play a crucial role, such as on 21 May for the 13th National Day of the Italian Historic Houses Association. On this occasion, young volunteers from ADSI Lombardia will offer the event "Cortili Aperti (Open Courtyards) Bergamo Brescia 2023 – National ADSI Day" in the two capitals. The private treasures of both cities will be opened free of charge from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In Bergamo there will be guided tours inside palaces, while in Brescia visitors may tour all the courtyards. The 21 May initiative is the highlight of a series of Sunday openings that ran throughout April, continue during the entire month of May, and will then be repeated on the last two Sundays in September and the first two Sundays in October. Being held for the sixth time, the initiative called "**Sundays in Villas, Palaces and Castles...**" includes the participation of seventeen owners of private historic houses in Bergamo and its province, three from the province of Brescia and two from Crema. The group has grown every year thanks to the involvement of new residences, to the point of expanding beyond the Bergamo border in celebration of Bergamo and Brescia Capitals of Culture 2023. "We have put together no less than twelve open days," say the organisers, "with guided tours of our residences from spring to autumn, guaranteeing a varied and distinctive offering to an increasingly enthusiastic and passionate public interested in cultural itineraries. And we are happy to offer our visitors not just guided tours, but genuine, immersive experiences."

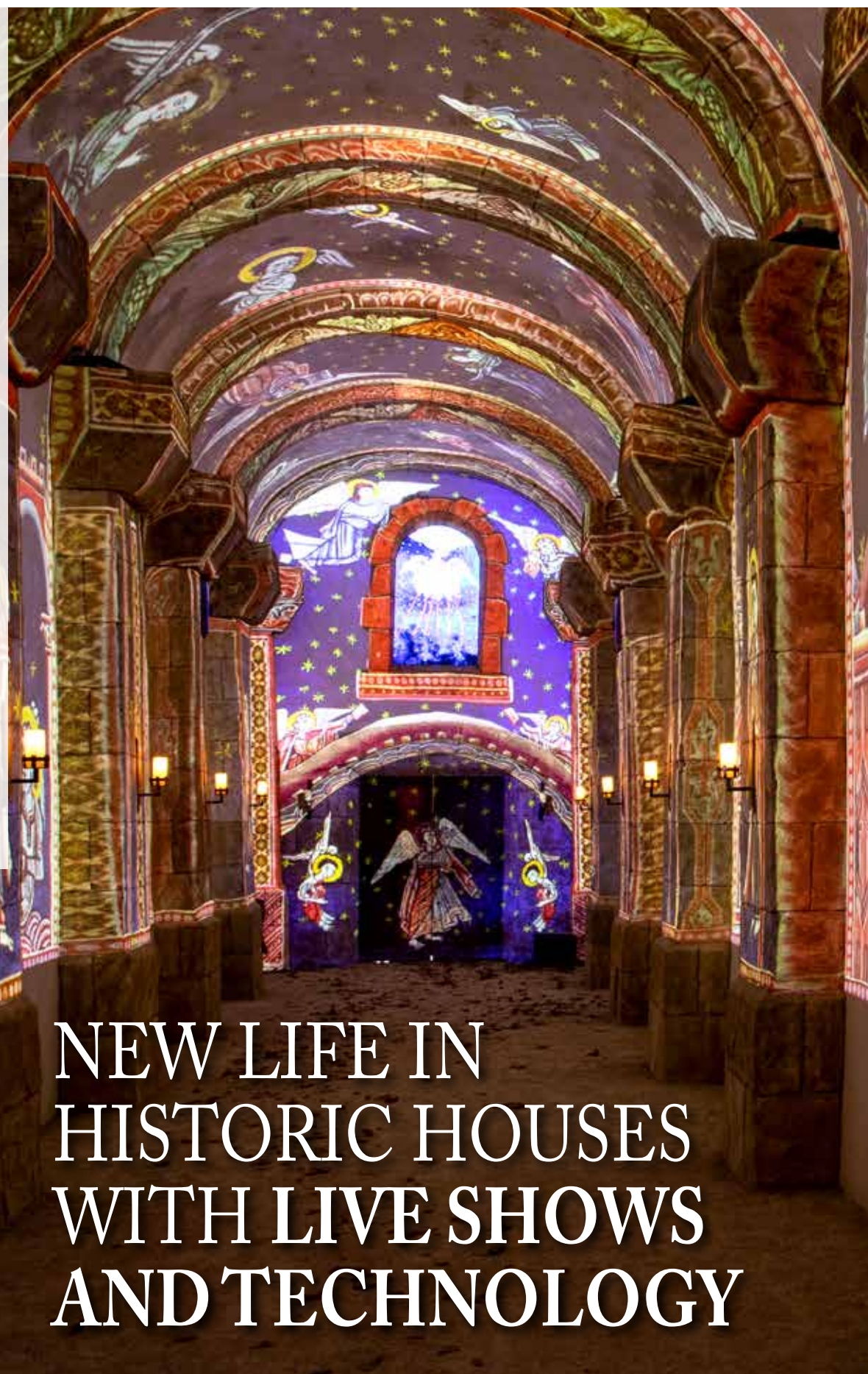


Top, Palazzo Agliardi in Bergamo.
Above, Palazzo Facchi in Brescia



Vianney d'Alançon, born in 1986, transformed a fortress in the Velay and a château in Provence into locations for shows inspired by the history of the buildings. Today he heads a company with 400 employees and says, "We have opened our properties. They are a testament to collective memory."

by ANDREA GUOLO



NEW LIFE IN HISTORIC HOUSES WITH LIVE SHOWS AND TECHNOLOGY

An installation curated by Rocher Mistral. Above, Vianney d'Alançon. On the other page, Forteresse de Saint Vidal

"This entrepreneur, who is in love with old stones, has an idea in mind: to share his love of French history with as many people as possible and bring it to life." This is how France's most prestigious newspaper, *Le Figaro*, defines **Vianney d'Alançon**, born in 1986, who heads the Forteresse de Saint Vidal and Rocher Mistral, which operates in Provence in the castle of La Barben—two companies founded on two historic houses, which have been interpreted in a contemporary key, becoming venues with enormous appeal, now open to the public and intended to host the production of events and shows arising from a historic matrix. "When he bought them, his goal was not to live there but to open them to the public with the help of volunteers and create shows there," adds the Parisian newspaper. The growth has been exponential. Today d'Alançon, whose career had begun with the opening of a jewelry and anniversary medal company called Laudate, still owned by him, is at the head of a business that sets an example for his peers in Europe, so much so that in 2022 he was named the winner of the EHH (*European Historic Houses' Young Heritage Entrepreneur of the Year*) award intended for the young entrepreneur of the year working in the field of historic houses on the Old Continent.

How did this recognition affect you?

I was very moved and thrilled to receive this award, which honours the hundreds of people who work with me. It is truly a tribute to our organisations, and it values the efforts of all those who have worked to restore these sites.

Could you tell us about your historic houses?

The Forteresse de Saint Vidal is an austere and familial medieval fortress located near Auvergne in the heart of the Velay, a region in the French Massif Central. It bears the marks of history: it has remained absolutely authentic, with a few minor transformations dating back to the 18th century. The castle of La Barben is more than a thousand years old, built on a rocky peak some 80 meters high. We can say that a millennium of Provençal history has



passed at its feet, and its owners include, in order, the monk of the Abbey of Saint-Victor de Marseille, King René d'Anjou known as le Bon Roi René, and the De Forbin family that annexed Provence to the Kingdom of France under the reign of Louis XI. The castle was modified several times and continued to evolve until 1913 when a new tower was built. Between the 17th and 18th centuries it experienced its best period, from which we inherited the apartments where it is particularly pleasant to stay today, and the salons that host sumptuous receptions.

How did the idea of opening the historic houses to the public come about?

These two sites have been restored with the aim of bringing Provence and Auvergne to life through live performances and state-of-the-art technology so as to convey the heart of European civilization.

How much time and how many resources did it take to adapt the properties' purpose of use?

It took an average of 18 months for each dwelling and more than 50 million euros overall for both interventions, involving many companies in the respective areas.

Did success come immediately or did it require patience?

Success was immediate, whereas raising the finances for the interventions required patience. In the end, we created 200 direct jobs and 200 indirect jobs.

What types of shows do you organise?

We organise live performances in which state-of-the-art technology is used, with film sets and original compositions for music. Artistic direction and creation are the core of our business.

What kinds of audiences come to your historic houses?

The visitor audience is broad and family-oriented. The mansions are designed to be visited by families and all sorts of people between the ages of 5 and 95.

What are the upcoming projects that you have in mind?

Perhaps to create this kind of cultural dynamic with you in Italy!

Speaking of Italy... what would you like to advise mansion-owners in Italy who are increasingly oriented toward opening to the public?

Europe is going through a time of suffering and economic crisis in culture-related areas and generally in fields directly linked to our degree of civilization. The heritage we have inherited from the past is the true testament to our collective memory. That is why I believe that the owners of historical monuments, by opening them to the public and telling the story of their region and country, are the messengers of a society in which handing on this cultural heritage has never been as urgent as it is now.

What is your favourite historic residence in Italy?

It is a palazzo where my great-grandparents stayed on their honeymoon, at the home of the Franchetti family, who were their cousins. This palazzo is located in Venice and it is the Ca' d'Oro.



: Castello Canevaro in Zoagli (Genoa), photo castellocanevaro.com

DIVE INTO THE PAST WHILE ADMIRING THE LIGURIAN SEA

Crossing Liguria west to east, from Ponente to Levante, travellers encounter four jewels, immersed in the silence and scents of the territory, between green vegetation and the blue waters of the sea

by **FULVIA CAMISA**

S plunge into the nature and fragrances of Liguria, discovering historic residences overlooking the sea. Unique panoramas and splendid gardens. Unforgettable experiences and landscapes that touch the heartstrings. A treasure hunt that in spring and early summer is coloured by enchanting blooms. Ornamental and medicinal plants, fruit trees, cultivated terraces and gorgeous views to relax and unwind. Among the treasures of Liguria lies one of the most famous acclimatisation gardens in the world, the **Hanbury Botanical Gardens** at Mortola near Ventimiglia. We have Sir Thomas Hanbury to thank for this botanical jewel that overlooks the sea. After purchasing the estate from the Orenco family, he began painstaking and passionate work with his brother Daniel in 1867, including the addition of South African, Australian and American plant collections, the redesigning of the paths, the architectural ornamentation of the gardens, and the renovation of Palazzo Orenco, enriched with marble terraces, frescoes and mosaics. The property, which was purchased by the Italian State in 1960, is currently managed by the University of Genoa and is open to the public all year round. **Palazzo Hanbury** is home to offices and laboratories of the University of Genoa. It is not open to the public, but visitors can discover the rooms located on the ground floor during art exhibitions held during the spring and summer seasons. Another useful tip is that, when conferences are being hosted, it is possible to access the conference room on the second floor as well the terraces, while guided tours of the palace's interior are offered throughout the year.

Another eye-popping view of the sea is to be found near the Castelletto, a historic mansion that is not open to the public and that lies just a stone's throw from the Agriturismo Terrazza sul Golfo. The history of the owners, the Di Negro family, dates back to the 1400s, when they were sent by Genoa as representatives of the Republic to monitor the coast that was under threat by pirates. The **Castelletto Di Negro** was built as a lookout

From above, Palazzo Hanbury (photo GBH Archive - Daniela Guglielmi) and view of La Spezia from the Castelletto; photos below, private residence within the oasis of peace and greenery surrounding Villa Bello Sguardo



GIARDINO E PALAZZO HANBURY

Corso Montecarlo 43 - La Mortola - Ventimiglia (Im)
www.giardinihanbury.com
0184/229507, info@cooperativa-omnia.com



VILLA BELLO SGUARDO

Via Coregna 24 - La Spezia (Sp)
www.terrazzasulgolfo.it
0187/20033, terrazzasulgolfo@libero.it



fortress on the rise of Coregna overlooking the Gulf of La Spezia.

It is now immersed in an oasis of peace and greenery together with the country compound made up of two farmhouses: Il Casale, with its predominantly stone façade and beamed ceilings, and the elegant **Villa Bello Sguardo**. Both are available for overnight stays, amid the beauty of Mediterranean maquis, six hectares of olive groves and meadows of flowers that change with the season: anemones, daffodils, daisies, violets, wild orchids, cyclamens and colchicums. In spring, it is possible to see hoopoes flying, while in summer you can taste ancient flavours. Near the Castelletto stands a small chapel dedicated to San Rocco. On the afternoon of 15 August, the wooden statue of the saint, who is celebrated the next day, is carried in procession along a path overlooking the coast. And on the large terrace of the farmhouse in the evening, "la mesciua" is offered to all—a traditional soup prepared with chickpeas, wheat and beans.

La Cervara, originally a religious complex overlooking the sea, is another destination not to be missed. It is located along the road from Santa Margherita to Portofino. Its full name is La Cervara Abbazia di San Girolamo al Monte di Portofino and its foundation dates back to 1361, the year that Benedictine monks laid the first stone of the new monastery dedicated to St Jerome (to which they added a church and a quadrangular cloister). Over the centuries, the monastery acquired enormous prestige and hosted illustrious personalities. It became a private residence in 1937, but only after being declared a national monument in 1912. This made it possible to initiate an important restoration and preservation project that has seen, starting in 1990, the current owners begin significant recovery work under the supervision of the Superintendence for Environmental and Architectural Heritage of Liguria.

What makes this architectural complex truly special is the Italian-style garden overlooking the stretch of sea that forms part of the Portofino Marine Protected Area. This

concentrated botanical experience takes you on an extraordinary journey around the world: American Agave, Strelitzia, Chinese Palm, Bougainvillea and Aleppo Pine. Both the monumental complex and the gardens are open to the public for guided tours, in agreement with the Ministry of Culture. And it is possible to stay in one of the rooms and suites located on the main floor of the Convent or in the ancient Saracen Tower, or alternatively use the entire complex for private occasions.

A strategic position and picture-postcard views are also to be found at **Castello Canevaro** in Zoagli, overlooking the Gulf of Tigullio. Rich in history, it is perched on a rocky spur embellished by enchanting green spaces. Immersed in a three-hectare park, it hosts events such as wedding banquets and concerts, business meetings and conferences, as well as exhibitions and courses in Pilates, yoga and painting. Elegantly furnished by the Canevaro Dukes of Zoagli for those seeking peace and privacy, it offers the possibility of staying in rooms and suites furnished with 19th-century pieces. History tells us that it was Giuseppe Canevaro, the first Duke of Zoagli, who bought the 1550 villa with the tower from the Malfanti Spinola family.

Today's architectural complex is the result of significant transformations, including the addition of a wing toward the hill and two turrets with Guelph merlons in neo-Renaissance style raised on either side of the façade. In 1943, after being bombed, the central body was rebuilt and reduced in size. This design choice made it possible to highlight the 1547 tower, an interesting example of a fortification inspired by the working module of the famous architect Giuliano da Sangallo.



LA CERVARA ABBAZIA DI SAN GIROLAMO AL MONTE DI PORTOFINO

Lungomare Rossetti - via Cervara 10 - Santa Margherita Ligure (Ge)
www.cervara.it
0185/293139, abbazia@cervara.it



CASTELLO CANEVARO

Via Luisa Canevaro 18 - Zoagli (Ge)
www.castellocanevaro.com
0185/250015, info@castellocanevaro.com



From above, the gardens of La Cervara (photo La Cervara - Fusaro) and a view of Castello Canevaro (photo castellocanevaro.com)

ANCIENT FLAVOURS OF THE ALPINE PEAKS

In a village of only 40 souls in the Aosta Valley, a historic house with medieval alpine architecture organises themed dinners in period costume, offering local dishes such as borage gnocchi. It is called La Confrérie du Moyen Âge

by **GABRIELE PRINCIPATO**



Grandmother Bruna saved this centuries-old house. There is a date: 1992. That was the year she managed to buy back this building with its medieval alpine architecture from relatives scattered throughout France, saving it from an uncertain future,” says Bruna’s granddaughter, **Giada Bessone**. Together with her parents Marco and Monica, Giada runs what has become **La Confrérie du Moyen Âge** in the village of Grand Villa, where some 40 souls live in the municipality of Verrayes at an altitude of approx. 1500 metres in the province of Aosta—the ideal starting point for hikes along scenic trails surrounded by nature. “The origins of this house are lost in time,” she explains. “We know that it existed in the 15th century as an important dwelling, perhaps a notary’s house.” It was in 2008 that the Bessones decided to transform it into a place that could provide hospitality. “It took seven years of restoration work to return it to its original splendour, stripping it of the more recent components added in the 20th century, and redesigning the rooms in a manner faithful to late-medieval iconography.” Thus do we find unique spaces, with thick lime-plastered stone walls, old wooden ceilings with exposed beams, floors made of old hand-sawn coniferous boards, boiserie walls, low nail-studded doors with voluminous bolt locks and small windows, some carved in an inverted keel shape. “Not an easy job, but it was exciting for a family like mine. We’ve been antiquarians and lovers of medieval architecture for two generations,” she says. “The most difficult part was to make modern comforts coexist with the austerity of a medieval mountain house. We studied every detail.” The beds, though modern, are draped with fabrics in colours that recall those of the period. In the bathrooms, the shower cubicle is replaced by walls covered in stone and waterproof fabrics reminiscent of medieval field tents, complete with a gabled valance. Heating comes through the floor or the walls via a pellet-fueled boiler. “And of course we include the comfort of a large whirlpool tub.” Each room is furnished with paintings, sculptures, period objects and old maps of the



region. “These are real works of art, listed in a catalogue that is available to guests.” The pieces can be found throughout the house, from the library full of Valdostan publications to the massage room. More are in the dining room and the wine cellar, where fine local wines and regional dishes are served, such as borage gnocchi with Verrayes thyme, growing wild in the area. “Here we also organise medieval-themed dinners in costume,” adds Giada Bessone. Moments that serve to immerse guests in an atmosphere suspended in time. “During restoration work, we found ancient medieval crosses engraved on stone pillars, perfectly symbolising the mysticism worthy of an ancient monastery, which inspired the choice of the name: La Confrérie du Moyen Âge. We’re eager to introduce our guests to this realm of peace and mountain serenity.”

LA CONFRÉRIE DU MOYEN ÂGE

Località Grand Villa 7, Verrayes, Aosta

A family-run historic house, with six period rooms confreriedumoyenage.com

On the page to the left, La Confrérie du Moyen Âge in Verrayes (Aosta) and, above, Marco Bessone with his grandson Orlando, Monica Caliendo and Giada Bessone in the old kitchen. On this page, from top, the dish made by the historic residence and farmhouse, Giada Bessone’s great-great-grandparents and the borage gnocchi

THE RECIPE

BORAGE GNOCCHI

INGREDIENTS FOR 4 PEOPLE

For the gnocchi: 800 g mountain red potatoes, 200 g boiled and drained borage, 300 g flour, 1 egg, salt to taste, 1 sprinkle of grated nutmeg. For the dressing: 1 knob of butter, 20 ml of fresh liquid cream, 50 g bleu d’Aoste. To decorate: borage flowers and wild Verrayes thyme.

PROCEDURE

Boil the potatoes in plenty of salted water. Mash them with a potato masher, then form a well with the flour and previously chopped borage. Add the egg, salt and nutmeg to the centre. Knead and then divide the mixture to form gnocchetti. Dress with a sauce made by melting the butter, cream and bleu d’Aoste in a saucepan. Decorate the dishes with borage flowers and a sprinkling of wild thyme.



FUGASSA WITH A RETRO FLAVOUR

by **LA SIGNORA IN DOLCE**

La Signora in Dolce makes a stop at Dominio di Bagnoli, discovering the secrets of a peasant cake made with cornmeal, sultanas and grappa, all ingredients from the farm owned by the Borletti family



Dominio di Bagnoli.
Above, La Signora in Dolce with Niccolò Torsello and Laura Borletti



In the place where Carlo Goldoni acted in the first person, sharing the stage with Count Widmann and composing one of his most famous plays (*La Bottega del Caffè*), another masterpiece of memory originating from peasant traditions is being put on. We are in the Veneto region, and the setting is that of Il Dominio di Bagnoli, a unique property with more than a thousand years of history. This particular masterpiece, which fits perfectly into the harmony of the manor house and its gardens open to the public, is a cake made with cornmeal from Il Dominio's fields. It is called Fugassa Mula, but it has nothing to do with the traditional focaccia veneta because it is not a leavened cake but rather a cake conceived as if it were a polenta, with similar procedures during baking and with a final passage in the oven. It is an ancient cake of the poor, lacking the canonical ingredients of the end of a dinner such as eggs and butter, which were too expensive for those on a subsistence diet in this land—the Paduan lowlands—where poverty reigned supreme. There is little sugar as well, for that was also a rare commodity. The Fugassa Mula was prepared with what was available in the larder: cornmeal, the kind used to make polenta, and then a few raisins and a little grappa. The dessert appeals to those who are fascinated by history, for it is a counterpoint to the magnificence of a Dominio like that of Bagnoli, owned by the Borletti family since 1917, with its artistic treasures such as the statues created by Antonio Bonazza, dedicated to characters from the *commedia dell'arte*, or such as the presence of the granaries that still constitute the largest room in the Veneto region in a private house to be built without the presence of pillars inside: a true masterpiece of engineering. Today, Il Dominio is a farm of primary importance, home to the winery that is a reference point for the Friularo wine DOCG, and it is also a place to stay in the flats converted from the old stables, made available to those seeking a place steeped in history with the comforts of a swimming pool, located in a strategic position between Venice, Bologna, the Euganean Hills and the Adriatic Riviera. But back to our Fugassa. Tasting it is an immersive experience, because it is not a contemporary dessert. The first thing that strikes you is the cornmeal, the one from Il Dominio, because it squeaks between your teeth as if it were making a sound. This initial effect is followed by the roundness, the softness given by the fleshiness of the raisins—Friularo sultanas, also a Dominio product—and by the addition of grappa distilled from the marc of the same grapes, which gives it a vintage touch, a bit like grandmother's starched lace. In the



mouth there is a lot of cleanliness, an almost imperceptible touch of sugar, ideal for those who love things that are sweet-yet-not-sweet. The consistency is peculiar, almost chewy, the result of a process similar to that of polenta cake. Identity, belonging to the territory and its agricultural traditions, makes this Fugassa a unique dessert, just like the Dominio where I tasted it, much appreciated by “gourmands” with a taste for retro. My advice is to accompany the dessert with a glass of Il Dominio's Friularo Passito Classico. When tasting this wine, keep in mind that the grapes are the last in Italy to be harvested, usually when the first snowflakes are already falling and the horizon, from the large windows of the villa, is enveloped in the soft embrace of November fog in the land of the great rivers.

IL DOMINIO DI BAGNOLI

Agritourism, winery, airfield, events, ceremonies
Piazza Guglielmo Marconi 63, Bagnoli di Sopra (Padova)
ildominiodibagnoli.it

La fugassa dominates the garden of Il Dominio, the manor house of which, Villa Widmann-Borletti, was built in 1656 by Baldassarre Longhena, commissioned by Ludovico Widmann, on the site of a vast Benedictine monastery dating back to the year 1000.

THE RECIPE FUGASSA MULA

INGREDIENTS

300 g Marano del Dominio cornmeal, 200 g type-00 flour, 150 g sugar, 100 g sultanas, 1 glass of Dominio grappa, half a sachet of yeast

PROCEDURE

Bring the water to the boil, pour in the cornmeal and the flour and cook for 20 minutes, then add the other ingredients and cook for another 20 minutes. Finally, place in the oven at 200 degrees for another 30 minutes until fully cooked.





RIDING THROUGH THE HISTORY OF ITALY

Rediscovering nature while riding on the back of a thoroughbred? Today it is a reality. Here are the historic houses that offer this experience, giving shape to a tourist trend destined to grow in the future

by **CAMILLA ROCCA**

Villas, horses and knights. Which sounds like a paraphrase of “the women, the cavaliers, the arms, the loves” penned by Ariosto. Although we now have a romantic view of historic houses and horses, we sometimes forget that the horse was primarily a means of locomotion. Inasmuch as beauty and horse breeds are hailed today, in the past having a beautiful horse was synonymous with owning a robust and tireless steed. Fast, responsive, untamed. Docile only with the master. A Ferrari *ante litteram*, complete with an anti-theft device. Because all the villas of the time, the ones that are now the historic residences, had stables for keeping and hosting horses, just as today every family has its own car, often more than one. And since several families lived in the villas, often numerous and with many workers, the number of horses was a symbol of power and wealth, even more so than the frescoed façades of the houses.

It appears that Genghis Khan's campaigns of conquest owed their success to the practice of riding with saddle and stirrups, for the weight shifted to the horse's withers and not the kidneys, giving greater stability to the rider. Furthermore, mares were used during lactation, able to provide up to two litres of milk per day in excess of the foal's needs. Yes, the horse was also crucial in wars of conquest and defence, especially in the protection of important dwellings such as those surviving today, complete with surrounding land and noble titles.

With the introduction of gunpowder in warfare and the disappearing use of heavy armour in the 1400s, this type of horse was replaced by lighter, more agile and faster breeds, yet the love of horses never waned. They remained a means of getting around, with and without a carriage, at least until the introduction of cars. Since then, the horse has become a sporting companion, a lifestyle in contact with nature, a pet. And Italy played a historical role in all this because the first riding school was founded in Naples during the Renaissance.

HISTORIC HOUSES FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS

VERONA

RELAIS VILLA AMBROSETTI

The current appearance of the Relais Villa Ambrosetti is the result of restoration work that was completed in 2017. The villa offers different solutions suitable for families—for long periods as well—and shorter stays for couples or singles. The rooms, with a fresh and elegant style thanks to the original period furnishings, all have air conditioning and a fireplace, a private bathroom and a splendid view of different parts of the garden. The suite, ideal for longer stays, has its own kitchen and a living area with a sofa bed to accommodate up to four people.

Via San Martino 10, Avesa, Verona
villaambrosetti.it



PERUGIA

VILLA POSTA DONINI

This lovely villa was built by the Conti Donini family between the late 1500s and early 1600s. In 1999, Engineer Ennio Mencaroni purchased the villa and opened it to the public as an accommodation facility classified as a Period Residence, today protected by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. It is a charming hotel and location for weddings and events in Umbria. It may also be visited by groups of a minimum of 15 people: the price includes a guided tour of the Villa and a tea or aperitif.

Via Deruta 43, San Martino In Campo, Perugia
postadonini.it



Another far more recent Italian first comes from a historic house: the opening of the first pony club for children who could not afford private lessons during the early nineties of the last century. At the head of the project was Charlotte Talbot, the lady of the Isola del Garda, who at the age of 50, mother of seven children, decided to dedicate herself to her passion for riding. She made it accessible to all, even to the point of driving children to competitive events. This passion, which continued until 2010 in San Felice del Benaco just opposite the **Isola del Garda**, has today been interrupted for health reasons alone. Yet Countess Alberta Cavazza, owner of Isola del Garda, has plans to bring it back to life. “I remember that, when I was a child, we had three ponies running around on the island, and one in particular, Livigno, a Welsh animal, used to pull a gig. It would be wonderful to bring the ponies back to the Isola del Garda.”

Every castle had its horses, and **Castello di Reschio**, in the heart of Umbria, today brings



to light the ancient splendour of the manor marked by millenary majesty. Here on the over 1,500 hectares of the estate, Count Antonio Bolza, a profound lover of equines, trains 40 Spanish thoroughbreds, raised for dressage and acclaimed in the most prestigious international competitions. Inspired as a boy by the famous dancing horses of Vienna, he acquired his first stallion in 1999. The horses are available to castle guests for rides (there is also a riding school in the grounds), or guests may watch the dressage show, on par with the best European schools. “At a trot or a gallop, with the wind ruffling your hair, the free flight of birds in the sky and wild boars rambling in the undergrowth, in the wilderness”—this is how the Count describes riding.

A different stop, this time in Tuscany. In the Upper Valdarno, we find a castle that is part of the Relais & Châteaux circuit. Its name, **Il Borro**, derives from the deed of sale dated 1254 when Marquis Borro Borri bought the property from the Mascagni family. Il Borro has remained in the possession of the most important lords of every era. In the 18th century, it was bought by the Medici Tornaquinci family and in 1903 it was sold to Prince Emanuele Filiberto, Duke of Aosta. The entire estate, covering over 1000 hectares, was renowned for its numerous stables, and horses were bred here. Since 1993, it has belonged to the Ferragamo family, who had long since fallen in love with the wild nature and history of the estate. The Ferragamos undertook a major restoration of the hamlet and the villa, fully respecting the traditions and history of the place. Hence, even today, horseback rides may be organised within the estate and beyond. Among the various routes, we recommend a ride at sunset, with a final aperitif with Il Borro wines.

One event combines the beauty of the Veneto villas with the love of horses: **Cavalli in Villa** returns for the second year this autumn, under the patronage of FISE and the Veneto Region, bringing equestrian performances and competitions to the Veneto villas. Last year, thanks to the event, some 50 thousand people visited the historic houses to admire a thousand horses and riders, many of whom have established themselves internationally and worldwide. The Patron of Cavalli in Villa will be Vittorio Sgarbi, who will present several of his books, including “Rome, From the Renaissance to the Present Day,” leading his audience on a passionate journey through history as seen through the bright and penetrating eyes of art.

HISTORIC HOUSES FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS

AREZZO

RELAIS VILLA BELPOGGIO

Located in the heart of Tuscany, on a hillside position with a beautiful view of the Valdarno and Chianti, Relais Villa Belpoggio is a historic 17th-century residence that has been converted into a small charming hotel. All rooms have heating and air conditioning, minibar, electric kettle, etc. There are also two flats with kitchens. The restaurant, open in the evenings for guests only, serves refined cuisine that respects local traditions and products.

Via Setteponti Ponente 40

Loro Ciuffenna (Arezzo)

villabelpoggio.it



Facing page, from top, Isola del Garda and the stables of Castello di Reschio. Above left, a horse on the Il Borro property (credits Valeria Raniolo) Top, Castello di Reschio

THE VILLAGE OF OUR FUTURE

by **FULVIA CAMISA**

Near Udine, the renovation of a farmhouse recognised as a historic home has given rise to a community of young people who now stand out as a reference point for the area and for their parents

The **Casa del Melograno** (Pomegranate House), which houses the Associazione Comunità del Melograno Odv, is a dwelling converted from one of the historic farmhouses built at the beginning of the 20th century by the Hospital of Santa Maria della Misericordia of Udine to store vegetables and other foodstuffs. It is located in Lovaria di Pradamano (Ud), and since the end of 2013 it has been the headquarters of the laudable voluntary organisation set up in 1996 on the initiative of a group of parents of people with intellectual disabilities with the aim of improving their quality of life. "We are a reference point for the entire community in the area. Ours is a day centre that accommodates thirteen adults between forty and sixty years of age for eight hours a day. The atmosphere here is that of a family home, and we are also about to become a residential reality, with accommodation for ten people," explains **Giorgio Dannisi**, president of the voluntary organisation that operates in coordination with the Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Friuli Centrale.



More than thirty activities and workshops are organised in this former farmhouse, with large outdoor spaces, which in 2021 became part of the Italian Historic Houses Association. "We chose this structure because it preserved its prestigious original characteristics, so much so that it was subject to the regulations of the Superintendence. In 2009, we started working hard on the renovation of the house, which was entrusted to us on a perpetual free loan for the social purposes for which it was intended. It was Count Antonio Orgnani who introduced us to the Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane. I would like to point out that our community was visited by Gaddo Della Gherardesca, the Association's former president, and we enjoyed the support of the late world-famous cardiologist Attilio Maseri," Dannisi concludes. An exemplary story of social commitment and integration with the territory to provide an answer to the question of "after us."

CASA DEL MELOGRANO
Via della Libertà 8, Lovaria (Udine)
assmelograno.org

From above, aerial and street view of the farmhouse where the Casa del Melograno is located. Facing page, clients and staff of the organisation

WORTH VISITING IN THE AREA

VILLA MANIN GUERRESCO

The Villa is located in Clauiano, which is listed in the famous guidebook "I Borghi più Belli d'Italia" ("The Most Beautiful Villages in Italy"). Built in the second half of the 17th century by the Manin Counts amidst the vineyards of the Friulian countryside, Villa Manin Guerresco offers rooms for overnight stays, and the entire villa may be rented for events and ceremonies. Guided tours by appointment, for a minimum of 15 people, from mid-April to the end of October. **Via della Filanda 54, Clauiano (Udine)**
villamaninguerresco.it



CASA FOFFANI

Also in Clauiano, this residence offers two rooms in the ivy-covered turret, with views over the rooftops of the village and the large garden. The residence can be visited and also offers tastings of the wines produced by the estate.

Piazza Giulia 13, Clauiano (Udine)
foffani.it/borgo-clauiano





FIVE DAYS IN THE LAND OF PARMIGIANO REGGIANO

An itinerary among accessible cheese-producers, artistic cities, historic residences. The flavours and culture from the birthplace of the King of Cheeses, the world's most beloved Italian PDO

by **LUCA BONACINI**

The production area for Parmigiano Reggiano traces the boundaries of a splendid ancient territory that engages all the senses in satisfying the expectations of even the most demanding traveller. Indulging in history, art, literature, bel canto, motors and, of course, food and wine is the best way to get to know the region that gave birth to Giuseppe Verdi, Giovannino Guareschi, Luciano Pavarotti and Enzo Ferrari, all while enjoying an experience in the round. Parma, Reggio Emilia, Modena, Bologna (to the left of the Reno River) and Mantua (to the right of the River Po) are the five provinces where, according to regulations, the milk from cows fed on local fodder is transformed into the King of Cheeses. These territories have been devoted to the production of *caseus parmensis* for over nine centuries, ever since Benedictine and Cistercian monks discovered the secret and then spread it to the “*grancie*,” the farms of the time. It was a cheese that travelled well, keeping its characteristics intact even after interminable journeys to delight the tables of the most sumptuous courts of Asia and Europe, a reputation that garnered admirers of all ranks, from Boccaccio, who wrote about it in the *Decameron* in the mid-1300s, to Robert Louis Stevenson, who mentions it in *Treasure Island*, to Molière, Napoleon, Dumas and Casanova. Here, then, is an itinerary to discover all the good and the beautiful that these extraordinary territories have to offer, through historic houses, excursions in nature, monuments, museums, cathedrals, local restaurants and artisans of taste, as well as centuries-old cheese-producers with a venerable vocation for conviviality that attracted over 150,000 visitors in the year 2022.

PARMA / DAY 1



Villa Paveri Fontana della Zoppa

Villa Paveri Fontana in San Ruffino was originally built in the 16th century and renovated in the 19th century in a neo-classical, single-storey style. The elegant central body is surmounted by a classic triangular pediment with two balustrades extending to the sides with a series of statues and 11 front-facing windows. A large and well-kept English garden with a chapel and an elegant hemicyclic access gate surround the mansion.

Founding year: 16th century

Unique features: Venetian mosaics, neoclassical body, garden.

Visits: Visits with experiences (drinks and meals), by appointment. No overnight stays.

Address: Strada Montanara, 368 - San Ruffino 43124 Parma PR

Tel.: +39 338 8948585 / ferrante.

paverifontana@galaw.it

www.associazionedimorestoricheitaliane.it/evento-dimora/258039/villa-paveri-fontana-della-zoppa/

Reference: Ferrante Paveri Fontana, Attorney-at-Law



Credits photo: Dezaib, Pixabay

*A*n initiation into beauty that begins in the city of Marie Louise of Habsburg-Lorraine, wife of Napoleon, known to everyone as Marialuigia. Parma, though, is also the city of Giuseppe Verdi and Arturo Toscanini, as well as the adopted home of Nicolò Paganini.

You can relive its grandeur by wandering through the halls of the Glauco Lombardi Museum, which preserves and exhibits the personal effects of the Duchess and her beloved-hated consort Napoleon Bonaparte, or by visiting the magnificent Regio Theatre, the Cathedral, the octagonal Baptistery, the Pilotta, the Farnese Theatre, the Barilla Academy Library, and the splendid Reggia in Colorno, home of the Alma International School of Italian Cuisine. The local table offers anolini in brodo, tortelli d'erbette, punta di Parma, zuppa inglese, all to be enjoyed at Ai Due Platani in Coloreto and at Ristorante Cocchi in Via Gramsci. Famous local cured meats and dessert favourites are to be savoured at Anima di Parma in Via Pisacane. A twenty-minute drive takes you to the Caseificio Gennari in Collecchio, where Parmigiano Reggiano (available in organic varieties as well) has been produced since 1953, with milk from Frisona, Bruna and Rossa Reggiana cows, fed on local fodder.

MANTUA / DAY 2



Credits photo: Rosy Torelli, Pixabay

*A*ccording to the “Leone d’oro” award winning-director Gianni Amelio, “Mantua has the most beautiful city skyline in the world.” Upon entering from the San Giorgio Bridge, one cannot help but be awestruck by the sight of the medieval silhouette reflected in the water.

A city of art, where there still echoes the splendour of the Gonzaga dynasty that elected it as its capital, with Andrea Mantegna who painted his masterpiece, the “Camera Picta,” in the Ducal Palace between 1465 and 1474. Among the sights not to be missed are Palazzo Te, designed by Giulio Romano; the “Camera dei Giganti,” a monumental fresco praising Jupiter; Piazza Sordello, the Duomo, Piazza delle Erbe and the Basilica of Sant’Andrea. Mantuan culinary tradition includes squash tortelli, rice alla pilota, pike in sauce, torta sbrisolona, which can be tasted at the Cigno Trattoria dei Martini in Piazza Carlo D’Arco and at the Osteria dell’Oca in Via Trieste, while cured meats may be purchased at the Salumeria Bacchi Giovanni in Via Orefici. About half an hour’s drive away is Palidano di Gonzaga and the Caseificio Fienilnuovo1644 cheese factory, active since 1876 and one of the oldest in the Consortium.



Villa La Personala

On the way back to Emilia we find the first mansion of the Personali family in Mirandola. It boasts a 12th-century tower with Ghibelline battlements, built by the “Sons of Manfredo” from whom the Pico family derived. At the end of the 15th century, the Lords of Mirandola ceded the keep of San Giacomo Roncole to the Personali counts, who then, over the course of the centuries, built two buildings on either side of the tower, transforming it into the Villa “La Personala,” a name that dates back to the 16th century. During the 2012 earthquake, the villa was badly damaged; following extensive restoration work, the ancient residence, now a luxury relais, returned to its ancient splendour in 2021.

Founding year: 1100

Unique feature: the 12th-century tower

Visits and overnight stays: visits by appointment / overnight stays in 6 luxury suites

Address: Via Personali 17/19 - San Giacomo Roncole (Mirandola – MO)

Tel.: +39 344 4090967 / info@

lapersonala.com

www.lapersonala.com/

REGGIO EMILIA / DAY 3



Villa Spalletti Trivelli

An elegant mansion dating back to the 1500s, acquired in 1776 by Domenico Andrea Trivelli, the Estense Ducal Treasurer; in the early 19th century, a major restoration was inspired by French classicism. The 50,000 hectares of English-style parkland, with rare tree species, overseen by the Superintendence, bear the signature of Achille Villoresi, a famous landscape botanist and curator of the Royal Gardens of Monza.

Founding year: 16th century

Unique feature: The beauty of the interior is complemented by the largest private grounds in Emilia Romagna.

Visits: Group visits by appointment. No overnight stays.

Address: Via Franceschini, 11 42013

San Donnino di Liguria - Reggio Emilia

Tel.: +39 348 4450480 / +39 0522

980126 / corte@cortespalletti.net

www.cortespalletti.it

Reference: Giuseppe Spalletti Trivelli



Credits photo: Wikimedia, PhotoVim

It was in the City Hall of Reggio Emilia that, on 7 January 1797, representatives from Reggio, Modena, Bologna and Ferrara met to proclaim the Cispadane Republic, and it was here that the Italian flag was born, in a room with an adjoining museum that can be visited when not in use by the Municipal Council. In the nearby Church of San Prospero, visitors can admire the monumental “Last Judgement” by Camillo Procaccini and, in the Basilica della Ghiara, the “Crucifixion of Christ” by Guercino. Well worth seeing are the Maramotti Collection, which boasts over two hundred works of contemporary art created from 1945 onwards, the architecture of the Three Bridges and the Mediopadana High Speed Railway Station, designed by Santiago Calatrava. The local table includes erbazzone, cappelletti in broth, tortelli di erbe, boiled meats, and zuppa inglese, to be enjoyed at the Osteria di Scandiano, in Via Palazzina 40 and at Cà Matilde in Via della Polita 14 (Quattro Castella), with cured meats from the Salumeria San Prospero, in Piazza Fontanesi. Also in Quattrocastella is Fattoria Rossi, an organic, closed-cycle dairy run by a family with 150 years of history.



CHEESEMAKERS OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND

To discover the secrets of the King of Cheeses, every year in spring and autumn the Consorzio del Parmigiano Reggiano holds “Caseifici aperti”—Open Cheese-Producers—a journey into flavour and memory, letting you get to know the cheesemakers through guided tours, open shops, events for children and tastings. During the rest of the year, too, you can visit the dairies and discover the production techniques by booking on the website <https://www.parmigianoreggiano.com/it/caseifici-visita-degusta/> or by contacting the cheesemakers directly through a handy geolocation tool that locates the nearest cheese-producer.



Credits photo: Linda Vukselj, Alcod

MODENA / DAY 4



La Rocchetta

In a dominant position, the Rocchetta di Montegibbio, built at the end of the 19th century with turrets and double-arched mullioned windows, inspired by the nearby Castle, stands as a testament to the neo-medieval taste that characterised noble mansions built in the fin-de-siècle period. Owned by the Cionini heirs, it retains a large, centuries-old park, while inside there is a beautiful vault painted with a flight of putti by Fermo Forti and a ceiling with Latin mottos and valuable frescoes. Near the mansion is the excellent San Pietro Caseificio cheese factory.

Founding year: from 1891 to 1897

Reason for uniqueness: a “Virgil among the Muses” by Evaristo Cappelli, inspired by a mosaic discovered in Tunisia.

Visits: Visits by appointment. No overnight stays.

Address: Via Montegibbio, 144 – Montegibbio di Sassuolo 41049 – Modena

Tel.: +39 335 676 2121 / slbc@iol.it



Credits photo: Raffaele Mangano, Pixabay

Described by Cicero as *firmissima et splendidissima*, it was thanks to the Este family, who arrived from Ferrara in 1598, that Modena became the capital. Four centuries of the Duchy wait to be discovered by visiting the Galleria Estense, with the Portrait of Francesco I d'Este by Velázquez, the Triptych by El Greco, and the Bible by Borso d'Este. But Modena is also the land of motors, with the Enzo Ferrari Birthplace Museum (Modena) and the Ferrari Museum in Maranello, the Drake's office, unpublished films and the legendary racing cars. Gastronomy is a must, with gnocco fritto, tortellini in brodo, tortelloni di ricotta, boiled meats, and Torta Barozzi, to be savoured at Trattoria Zemian in Via Fonte d'Abisso and at Trattoria Hermes in Via Ganaceto. Selected cured meats call out to be tasted at the Salumeria Giusti 1605, the oldest in Europe, and then there's mountain Parmigiano cheese from the Malandrone 1477 dairy (Pavullo), aged for more than 10 years.

BOLOGNA / DAY 5



Credits photo: Rita Michelon, Pixabay



Montevecchio Isolani

Azienda Agricola Montevecchio Isolani stands next to the Isolani Senatorial Palace, built in the mid-sixteenth century, together with the first cellars for storing wine dug into the rock. The construction includes the 11th-century Matildic tower, a lookout point of the defensive complex that surrounded Bologna at the time. The vocation for winemaking has been in existence since 1456, as evidenced by the discovery of an ancient document mentioning the presence of vineyards on the estate at that date.

Founding year: 1456

Unique feature: the family's ancient vocation for winemaking, dating back to the 15th century

Visits and overnight stays: visits to the garden and historic cellars connected with wine-tasting. Overnight stays in the adjoining farmhouse.

Address: via San Martino 5 – Monte San Pietro (BO)

Tel.: +39 329 021 2254 / +39 334 6695561 / vini@montevecchioisolani.it
www.montevecchioisolani.it/

“In an ancient and austere city with something serious and learned about it” was Dickens’ definition of Bologna in November 1844. The city offers scores of stimuli to the cultured and curious tourist, with its Neptune, Piazza Maggiore, the Basilica of San Petronio, the Asinelli Tower. The Sala Borsa library is magnificent, as is Via delle Pescherie Vecchie with its shops selling cured meats, vegetables and spices. Piazza Santo Stefano is breathtaking, with the “Seven Churches” complex, a basilica that contains six others. There is also the Music Museum, Casa Carducci, Morandi's Studio and Lucio Dalla's House. The local table is iconic, with tortellini in brodo, cotoletta alla petroniana, stecco bolognese, torta di riso, to be enjoyed at Cambio in Via Stalingrado and at Trattoria Bertozzi in Via Andrea Costa. And before leaving, try the pastry shop of world champion Gino Fabbri in Cadriano and the Scirocco Gelateria of Andrea Bandiera, king of savoury ice cream. On the Parmigiano cheese front, just head to Castel D'Aiano, where you will discover the award-winning mountain cheese of the Pieve di Roffeno dairy.



THE BIRTHPLACE OF FRANCIACORTA

Standing next to the historic cellars of the house that invented one of Italy's most prestigious appellations along with its classic method of production, Palazzo Lana Berlucchi was the meeting place of Guido Berlucchi and the young Franco Ziliani. Today it is the estate's museum and a venue for art exhibitions

by **CRISTINA CIMATO**

Memories of autumn festivities, of the first customers arriving from all over the world, of a special wine that bears its name. **Palazzo Lana Berlucchi** is today the symbol of a territory, indeed of a terroir, but above all, of a friendship and a partnership that began in the 1950s. The Palazzo is home to the entrepreneurial adventure that arose from the meeting between Guido Berlucchi and the young oenologist Franco Ziliani. Together with their friend Giorgio Lanciani, they conceived an ambitious project: to develop the wine-growing potential of Franciacorta and make it an important reality in the panorama of national and international classic-method bubbles. "The butler escorted me into the living room... The notes of 'Georgia on My Mind' vibrated in the air. Guido Berlucchi sat at the piano. I was enchanted by the elegance of the figure... I looked at the centuries-old walls, the family portraits, I noticed the precious furniture..." This is how Ziliani recalled their first meeting, the sense of electricity in the air surrounding a man and his environment. "My father had experience behind him in a business he didn't love, while in his heart he dreamt of French castles and creative work. This house gave him the inspiration he sought. Here he saw something close to his dream for the first time," says **Cristina Ziliani**, vice-president and communications manager at Guido Berlucchi. She runs the company alongside her brothers Arturo and Paolo. The great house where Cupid shot his arrow has its origins in 16th century. It was built upon pre-existing medieval structures by the Lana de' Terzi family, the noble lineage from which Berlucchi descended. He lived here until his death. Part of the Italian Historic Houses Association since 2019, this place is experiencing a new Renaissance. Precious starting point that it is for discovering an area, its history, anecdotes about the famous people who have visited here, such as the pianist Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli, and the Queen of Cyprus and patron of the arts, Caterina Cornaro,



whose portrait stands in the fireplace hall, the Palazzo is now opening to artists and to the modern notion of participatory art. On the tower of the Castello di Borgonato, which is part of the complex, the first luminous sculpture of the Vite Operose cycle was unveiled last March. This is the inaugural artistic project of Casa dei Talenti Berlucchi, a format overseen by the art curator Caroline Corbetta with the intent of organising cultural programmes as part of the regeneration and promotion of the Franciacorta territory. The body of works, conceived by the artist Valerio Rocco Orlando, will be developed over the course of 2023 in the heart of Bergamo and Brescia, the two Capital Cities of Italian Culture 2023. “This project, linked to Academia Berlucchi, was established in 2019 as a modern-day Agora for discussion on issues related to sustainability, care of the territory and innovation. It continues to grow as a creative workshop for promising young talents who can express their art here, be it through a novel, a piece of music or a painting,” Ziliani explains. The Palazzo is therefore a place not of memory alone but also of the future. “Sharing it means making it more accessible and more widely known, putting it in a container of beautiful, valuable things. It is our company’s museum, while it also tells a piece of Italian history. Perhaps the Palazzo is the very reason this wine was first created here,” the manager concludes. After a long talk with Guido Berlucchi, Franco Ziliani was about to take his leave. In bidding farewell to the then producer of Pinot-based still wines, he said, “What if we also made a sparkling wine in the French manner?” The rest is history, and Palazzo Lana Berlucchi is still here as a testament to his brilliant intuition, more than 60 years after the birth of the first bottle of Franciacorta.

PALAZZO LANA BERLUCCHI

Piazza Duranti 4

Corte Franca, Brescia

Visits may be booked through the site berlucchi.it for special events or with a “tailor-made” format



Facing page, from top: Cristina Ziliani and several pictures of the interiors and entrance of Palazzo Lana Berlucchi. On this page, the Berlucchi '61 “family” and the interiors of the palazzo in Corte Franca. Top, the Sala Camino where Guido Berlucchi and Franco Ziliani “invented” Franciacorta





IN SICILY, AMID WINES AND HISTORIC HOUSES

A journey with several stops along the way, from Messina to Trapani, to discover historic buildings and wine estates, in search of the “great beauty” that Guy de Maupassant described when he discovered the “pearl of the Mediterranean” on the big island

by **GIAMBATTISTA MARCHETTO**

“Sicily is the land of oranges, the land of flowers which, in spring-time, turn the air into one great perfume. But what makes it a land that must be seen, unique in all the world, is the fact that, from one end to the other, it can be defined as a strange and divine museum of architecture.” So said Guy de Maupassant who, during his Grand Tour of Italy, was awestruck by the island’s powerful beauty, its history-laden charm, and the Sicilians in whom the writer recognised a hybrid soul mingling Europe and the Arab world. Following the suggestions offered by the French storyteller throughout the island he called “the pearl of the Mediterranean,” a journey into the beauty of Sicily cannot help but include a high concentration of historic houses, places of enchantment that make the landscape unique. Villas, palazzi, castles and agricultural estates today are also places that provide hospitality and new experiences, often accessible to the public for exciting discoveries. And since the cultivation and production of wine have embroidered the profile of this land, travelling here becomes an opportunity to sample excellence in wine tourism.

Our journey begins at Capo Milazzo in Messina as soon as we disembark. **Villa Paradiso Bonaccorsi** was built in the 1700s, most likely on the ruins of one of the watchtowers built in the 1600s by order of Viceroy Marcantonio Colonna to defend the coastal towns from raids, which explains its privileged position commanding a spectacular view of the islands of Stromboli and Panarea as well as the coasts of Messina and Calabria. Today, the villa hosts private and public events, providing ample spaces in the noble house, the ancient stables, the Italian-style garden and the garden terraces. Adjacent to the house stands the Chapel of the Madonna del Paradiso, from which the locality takes its name. Setting out from Messina in the direction of Catania, the traveller crosses the most appreciated wine-growing area in Sicily today, which revolves around Mount Etna. After half a

To the side, the vineyards of Cantina Maugeri on Mount Etna, enchanting as a terrace overlooking the sea. Previous page, the vineyards of Tenuta Zisola in Noto, land of Nero d'Avola

VILLA PARADISO BONACCORSI

Private events or occasions open to the public, sets for film or photo shoots, workshops

Contrada Paradiso 128,
Capo Milazzo (Messina)
villaparisobonaccorsi.it



RELAIS SAN GIULIANO

Relais de Charme, restaurant and spa

Via Garibaldi 280, Viagrande (Catania)
relais-sangiuliano.it



century spent in the shadows, Etna wines today are enjoying a true renaissance in terms of production quality and (re)evaluation on the world's best tables and among international winelovers. A visit to the cellars makes it possible not only to taste wines of great depth, but also to rediscover the ancient and scenic *palmenti* where winemaking took place until a few decades ago. Among the producers to be visited for a stroll through the vineyard and a tasting in the midst of incredible beauty, stop by **Terra Costantino** where you can even experience what it means to press grapes with your feet. Among hills dotted with vineyards overlooking the sea, visit the ancient cellars of **Barone di Villagrande** on the knoll of the **Cottanera** winery, where you can relax in the spacious tasting room, and in the stupendous *palmento* of **Tenuta di Fessina**, fascinating because of its in-depth work on autochthonous grapes. Be sure to stroll among the centuries-old vineyards of **Tenuta Terre Nere** (tasting wines with a French aura) or among the enchanted slopes of **Maugeri** and **Custodi dell'Etna**. Finally, come and be amazed by the city setting of the **Etna Urban Winery**, created inside the city of Catania.

If the allure of Etna's vineyards becomes irresistible, you may choose to spend more than one day in the area by staying overnight at the **Relais San Giuliano**, located at the beginning of the Etna Wine Route and thus logistically ideal for excursions to the volcano as well. The charming boutique hotel, created from the renovation of a historic 18th-century mansion, has around its courtyard the *palmento* wine-press, the farmer's house and the stables restored to their original splendor while respecting their identity. With 15 rooms, a swimming pool and spa, as well as the gourmet iPalici Restaurant and

the Palmento del Serra Bistro & Bar, the Relais San Giuliano is perfect for a charming, authentically Sicilian experience.

Travelling south again, a splendid destination of unquestionable charm is Syracuse. In the heart of the Island of Ortigia, travellers discover the beauty of the historic **Palazzo Beneventano del Bosco**, rebuilt in the late 1700s by Baron Guglielmo Beneventano on the remains of a 15th-century palace destroyed by an earthquake, traces of which are still visible on the ground floor of the building thanks to the synthesizing work of the architect Luciano Ali. If the façade on the Cathedral Square shows the splendour of the owner's family, the interiors and the garden—which may be visited today—offer a glimpse of Sicilian artistic syncretism, including Rococo stuccoes of the Palermo school and mirrors and illuminations of the Venetian school.

Continuing further south, the traveller crosses the lands of Nero d'Avola and the beautiful area around Noto, a town that is emblematic of the Sicilian Baroque. In search of wine tourism experiences, do stop at **Tenuta Zisola**, where the Tuscan Mazzei family has 50 hectares of property around three *bagli* buildings overlooking “gardens” planted with vineyards, citrus, olive and almond trees. In the vineyard, Nero d'Avola grows alongside Syrah and Petit Verdot, yet the wines to get to know are Grillo and especially Catarratto. Planeta, too, has invested in the “cradle” of Nero d'Avola with the **Tenuta Buonivini** estate, where vineyards spread among almond groves that slope down to the sea. Sustainability and hospitality in an informal atmosphere characterise the project, with the



PALAZZO BENEVENTANO DEL BOSCO

Visits, events, meetings in the Palazzo

Piazza Duomo 20, Siracusa
beneventanodelbosco.it



VILLA FEGOTTO

Visits by appointment, tastings of local producers, events

S.P.6 km 6 + 700
Chiaramonte Gulfi (Ragusa)
fegotto.it



From above, the inner courtyard of Tenuta Cammarana and a path through the vineyards of Terra Costantino on Etna

TENUTA CAMMARANA

Mansion, farming estate, charming hotel

Contrada Cammarana, Ragusa
tenutacammarana.it



CASTELLO DI FALCONARA

Hospitality, swimming pool, private sea-access

Strada Statale 115, Km 245, Butera
(Caltanissetta)
castellodifalconara.it



CASALE MODICA

Hospitality, historic garden, farm

Contrada Casale Modica, Noto (Siracusa)
casalemodica.it



To the side, the terrace overlooking the vineyards of Tenuta di Fessina in the Etna region, where visitors may taste wines from indigenous varieties in the ancient renovated *palmento*

birth of the Invisible Winery and the restoration of the *palmento* and several small rural residences.

Moving on toward Pachino, the traveller discovers the charm of the **Le Mandrie and Gaudio** estates, owned by the family of the Sergio Barons for generations. Today the historic farm, under the leadership of Baron Giovanni Sergio, works by integrating tradition and technology to produce wines that tell the story of a territory, from Nero d'Avola to Moscato di Noto.

Then begins the westward ascent. Along the way, we reach what was once the heart of the **Feudo Borgia** fiefdom in Sicily, where for more than a hundred and fifty years the Modica family of San Giovanni has been organically cultivating their estates with citrus, wheat, almonds, and carobs. In the heart of the agricultural estate, the elegance and tranquility of the Casale Modica shine out. This stately villa, built between the 18th and 19th centuries, houses a walkway of discovery that is well worth visiting. From the inner courtyard, through a passage with vaulted ceilings, there is access to the garden dominated by centuries-old trees and fine plants, a cross-section of Mediterranean scrubland in which thematic and sensory paths have been laid out. Several rural structures have been restored, allowing guests to stay on the estate, enjoying time away devoted entirely to relaxation (with a swimming pool) amid the beauty of nature.

Our route continues through three genuine jewels of the most authentic Sicily: Modica—where the excellence of chocolate is beyond praise—and the enchanting Scicli, before arriving in Ragusa. We then move into the territory of Sicily's only DOCG, that of Cerasuolo di Vittoria, a crisp wine with fine tannins and a hearty alcoholic boost. Worth mentioning among the wineries that can be visited in the region—in the Acate area—there's the **Donnafugata** estate for an excursion among the vineyards and tastings paired with local cuisine; **Valle dell'Acate** with its 70 hectares of organically farmed vineyards, run by the Jacono family since the 19th century; and the estate of the **Barons of Pianogrillo**, which hides an ancient early Christian necropolis among the vineyards. And then there's the intriguing winery of **Arianna Occhipinti**, a natural-born winemaker capable of expressing the soul of her land.

Between a vineyard and a chalice, not to be missed is the **Villa Fegotto** complex in Chiramonte Gulfi, which still stands intact as a testament to the villa's evolution not only as the vital center of a highly productive fiefdom, but also as a social, political and religious reference point for the area. From the manor house with two courtyards to the oil mill,



from the wine cellar with its historic *palmento* to the granary, to the church and school, everything tells of ancient agricultural wisdom.

For visits and overnight stays, the **Tenuta Cammarana** estate offers hospitality in the rooms of an ancient 18th-century mansion, ensuring guests the ultimate in relaxation with a garden that houses plants from the period of construction, a swimming pool overlooking the valley, a small spa and a library dedicated to ancient and contemporary Sicilian literature.

Proceeding back up the coast and past the plain of Gela, the **Castello Falconara** in Butera offers the opportunity to stay in a historic mansion dating back to the 14th century, while the historic **Principi di Butera** fiefdom works with native and international grape varieties, proposing an interesting zero-dosage classic method bubble, and the **Pietra Cava** winery concentrates on terroir with wines characterised by a marked personality. Heading north, it is intriguing to explore wineries in the Caltanissetta area—less well-known than others—with stops at the **Masseria del Feudo** and **Cantine Sollami**, while in the Enna area there's the vineyard of **Nicolò Grippaldi**, a small producer who defines himself as a pioneer in his territory.

Where to sleep? In rooms replete in history at **Mandrascale**, a 17th-century fortified farmhouse that is a typical expression of the old Sicilian *latifundia*, which still has stables, haylofts and storehouses around its courtyard.

Before concluding our Sicilian journey in the heart of Palermo, we reach Trapani first to experience the excitement of the ancient **Tonnara di Scopello**, a unique place steeped in history protected by the rocky coast and enveloped by the sea. In addition to staying in the ancient fishing village, in one of the timeless apartments refurbished in the tuna fishery, you can visit the museum of traditional tuna-catching.

The road ends in the Sicilian capital, a city rich in history and with a restless soul. Where better to stay than in the elegant, timeless suites of the 16th-century **Villa Tasca**, set in an 8-hectare park emblematic of 19th-century Sicilian Romanticism? The Lanza Princes of Trabia and Dukes of Camastra transformed the architecture and garden according to neoclassical tastes, making it “one of the most beautiful villas anciently held by our barons,” according to the Marquis of Villabianca. The villa was also renowned for the parties that Pietro Lanza di Branciforte organised here.

MASSERIA MANDRASCALE

Hospitality, events, ceremonies, museum of rural civilisation

Contrada Mandrascale, Enna
masseriamandrascale.it



VILLA TASCA

Suites, grounds, historic gardens, weddings and events

Viale Regione Siciliana 397, Palermo
villatasca.com



TONNARA DI SCOPELLO

Hospitality, museum, events, and organisation of excursions

Largo Tonnara, Scopello (Trapani)
tonnaradiscopeello.it



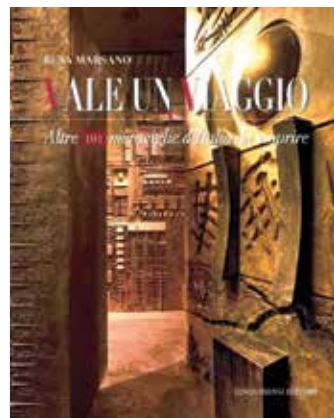


EDWARD LEAR. GIORNALE DI VIAGGIO A PIEDI IN CALABRIA

RAFFAELE GAETANO. TRANSLATION BY GIUSEPPE ISNARDI
Laruffa Editore – 2023

Edward Lear's Travel Journal in Calabria and the Kingdom of Naples stands as a timeless masterpiece of travel literature, a kind of *zibaldone* miscellany of thumbnail portraits that glide from the good-naturedly mischievous to the comic, while speculating on the character of the southern populations. The Journal also includes a set of twenty topographical illustrations with a romantic flavour, making it a book within a book of exceptional artistic and documentary value. Here is the translation of

the chapters on Calabrian subjects prepared years ago by Giuseppe Isnardi—who met Lear while still a child in Sanremo—in a powerful, literary and florid style, restoring for us a land that is still primitive, archaic and naive. All of this is entrusted to the elegant care of Raffaele Gaetano who, in his wide-ranging and thoughtful introductory essay, draws upon the vast reservoirs of diaries, correspondence and memoirs deposited over time in genre literature, in addition to his direct experience of Lear's work, matured in other successful monographs. This edition unveils the secrets of a classic imbued with all the colours of romantic literature, giving us back the portrait of a man troubled in his irreducible peculiarity as a writer and landscape painter.



VALE UN VIAGGIO. ALTRE 101 MERAVIGLIE D'ITALIA DA SCOPRIRE (VOL.3).

BY BEBA MARSANO
Cinquesensi Editore – 2022

Beba Marsano is one of the great names in Italian journalism. A critic and art historian, an expert on cultural tourism, she writes for major national newspapers and has curated exhibitions, events and monographs of numerous contemporary artists. In addition, Beba is a tireless traveller, ever exploring the wonders of Italy, which she has already collected and described—101 at a time—in two other volumes published by Cinquesensi. Now the third volume is in bookstores, the result of extensive research

that the author conducted while travelling to the respective places, not only with the aim of providing the reader with a valuable anthology of artistic sites and places of natural beauty to be rediscovered and proposed in their objective value, but also with the intention of conveying the emotions experienced firsthand. And she has done so through a brilliant writing style that does not yield to the temptation of specialized language, choosing instead a narrative/non-fiction style of quick yet dense content. At the conclusion of each story, the author, in keeping with the happy idea of inviting the traveller to spend a less hurried visit, recommends a hotel and a restaurant, as well as a designer store, a winery and, when appropriate, a further suggestion for more in-depth art excursions.



CIELI DIPINTI SOFFITTI LIGNEI NELL'EUROPA MERIDIONALE FRA MEDIOEVO E RINASCIMENTO

EDITED BY MAURIZIO D'ARCANO GRATTONI AND FRANCESCO FRATTA DE TOMAS
Silvana Editoriale – 2023

The predilection for painted wooden ceilings constitutes a phenomenon that mainly affected southern Europe from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance, serving—though inflected in different structural and decorative ways—as a characteristic and unifying element. While such artifacts are repositories of manifold

information about the culture of the time and often constitute the only cipher capable of handing down the decor of interiors, only recently have they become the subject of ever-increasing interest. Part of a research project within the Department of Humanities and Cultural Heritage Studies (DIUM) of the University of Udine, the conference brought together scholars from Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. In addition to addressing strictly scientific aspects, it aimed to stimulate interest in this artistic expression that is partly at risk of dispersion and destruction, still little known to a non-specialised audience. Texts in their original language.

Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane— Italian Historic Houses Association

OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF AN ITALIAN LEGACY

The **Italian Historic Houses Association (A.D.S.I.)** brings together the owners of historic properties from all over Italy, for they represent an important component of our cultural heritage. Historic houses are cultural assets of significant historical and artistic interest, “subject to constraints,” and therefore protected by the State, which must favour their conservation, and are entrusted to the responsibility of the owners. It is a vast and heterogeneous heritage: houses and palaces, villas and castles, as well as gardens and agricultural estates. They are distributed throughout the nation and, in almost 80% percent of the cases, are located in the countryside or in the province. Each of these assets has a precise identity, unique in Europe, in terms of its individual history, its cultural value and close ties to the territory where it is located.

However, the serious difficulties entailed in the maintenance of these assets are also extraordinary, and the owners, in their role as custodians, must face such challenges every day. Yet these assets, if well-maintained and well-managed, can make an important contribution to the cultural, social and economic life of the communities where they are located. To achieve this result, the Italian Historic Houses Association, with its 4,500 members, is constantly

committed, together with the European Historic Houses Association (EHH), to promoting the protection and enhancement of historic homes.

The commitment of A.D.S.I. is therefore devoted to ongoing work in several directions:

- towards the Members who own the assets, to whom it provides legal, administrative, tax and technical advice and assistance regarding the management of the houses;
- towards national and local institutions, towards public and private bodies with which it collaborates in planning interventions, including those of a legislative nature, most suitable to the conservation and enhancement of listed properties in Italy, also in terms of tourism;
- towards the school and university system, to promote knowledge among young people of the opportunities offered by the protection and promotion of these resources. The historic houses, in fact, cannot be relocated, and they create precious job opportunities in the territories where they are located;
- towards public opinion and the media, to promote knowledge of such a significant part of our cultural heritage.

ADSI

Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane



INFORMATION: info@adsi.it – www.associazionedimorestoricheitaliane.it

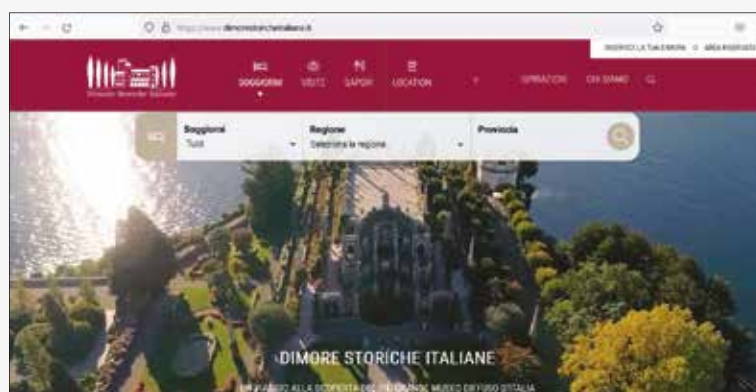


ITALIAN HISTORIC HOUSES

A journey to discover the most broadly spread out museum in Italy

“Italian Historic Houses” is a project under the auspices of ADSI Consulenze e Servizi SRL (a single-shareholder company owned by the Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane, A.D.S.I.). All residences appearing on the site are owned by members of the Italian Historic Houses Association. The project stems from the desire to create an online platform for the promotion of historic monumental Italian real estate in synergy with the cultural excellence of the country. For almost four decades, the Italian Historic Houses Association has been actively involved in the enhancement and protection of Italy’s private monumental real estate. With this goal in mind, intense nationwide activity has been launched through itineraries dedicated to the discovery of these architectural treasures, which are the natural repositories of important artistic and historical artifacts, traditions, identity and culture. It is also thanks to historic houses that the ancient professions of craftsmen remain in existence. Through the portal, you have the opportunity to discover extraordinary places and gain access to **cultural journeys** which, thanks to experts from the Italian cultural scene,

let you relive the atmosphere and emotions of the **Grand Tour of the 1700s**. From **Venetian Palladian Villas** to the **Castles of Sicily**, from **Tuscan villages** to the **ancient fortified farm estates of Puglia**—an odyssey through time to discover the manifold identities of Italian cultural through direct experience in diverse parts of the nation. Explore not only the historic houses of the most famous Italian cities but also other hidden pearls scattered throughout the peninsula, unknown to the general public but of absolute importance and beauty. Here, where nature blends with art and traditions, the character that makes this country unique, largely undiscovered, sings through. In numerous houses it is still possible to get to know firsthand the world of Italian **oenogastronomy** which, replete with **fine wines, unspoiled landscapes and crenellated towers**, allow visitors to savour history and share in the delights of Italy. All properties included are subject to Ministerial Constraints pursuant to Legislative Decree 42/2004 (formerly Law 1089/39) and have been evaluated and approved by the Italian Historic Houses Association.



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