

# Promenade Bologna



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[booking@bolognawelcome.it](mailto:booking@bolognawelcome.it)

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Bologna is back as a national and international tourist destination. A relaunch following the pandemic which will allow us to get back to experiencing our city and enjoying its beauty with greater freedom. The awarding of UNESCO World Heritage status to our porticoes is a very important recognition for one of the most important aspects in terms of our city's identity. Not only from an architectural, but also from a symbolic point of view, as they are able to best represent the idea of welcoming and solidarity, something which envelops and protects people as they cross the city. It is a reason for pride, but also a great opportunity to make the most out of this amazing aspect of our heritage. In this issue of Promenade, you will discover all their artistic and historical peculiarities, and much more besides. All the information and curiosities about the city's medieval towers, the buildings of its university, the museum collections, and the exhibitions which bring the city to life. A fully fledged journey through the heart of the city.

## Matteo Lepore

Mayor of the Metropolitan City  
and of the Municipality of Bologna

After two years of uncertainty, Bologna's tourist industry has finally reopened: the city and surrounding area have shifted into gear once again and are ready to welcome back Italian and foreign visitors in safety. Bologna has put in place numerous actions and initiatives to aid the resumption, in addition to a multi-faceted and well-organised tourism offering which facilitates the discovery of the infinite possibilities offered by our city and surrounding area. In this issue of Promenade, you will find cultural offerings to meet all tastes: from the oldest university in the world to medieval towers and its renowned porticoes. A UNESCO World Heritage site which does not know mass tourism and can be explored at your own pace in complete peace and safety; this is thanks to its peculiar nature, which makes it an extensive architectural site that embraces the entire metropolitan area. Bologna's porticoes are an expression of the city's hospitality: a place for meeting up, spending time together and socialising. Let the Bolognese people guide you in the discovery of a completely unique piece of shared heritage.

## Giovanni Trombetti

Former President of Bologna Welcome

Like every year, with the arrival of spring, tourism also begins to flower once again. We see it in the streets, in the outdoor restaurant and bar seating areas, and the upturned noses looking for details which we residents often take for granted. The guests return, and the doors of the city and entire metropolitan area are thrown open to show them all the work which has been carried out during the apparently slow and sleepy winter. Italy has an enormous amount to offer tourists, and Bologna is a microcosm of the country as a whole, with porticoes, exhibitions, walks, cycle paths, sporting events, ancient hamlets, castles, conventions, trade fairs and exhibitions, and village festivals. Welcoming visitors allows us to take a look at ourselves and remember that we live in a unique metropolitan area which makes you feel at home along the irrigation channels and endless countryside of the Po Plain, but also amongst the alleyways of medieval hamlets. So, we wish to thank those who have made the journey to come and knock on our door. Thanks also to all the operators who open that door each and every day to act as ambassadors to this splendid territory.

### **Mattia Santori**

President of Tourist Territory  
Bologna-Modena

Culture and Porticoes, distinctive elements of Bologna. An indissoluble bond with deep roots. Now a UNESCO World Heritage site, Bologna's porticoes have been here for centuries, and the city's renowned hospitality resides here. Born from the need to create rooms for students arriving from distant lands, today they still accompany Italian and foreign travellers across the city. They do so as welcoming arms which protect and shelter – taking visitors firmly by the hand and turning them into children who look on wide-eyed. Arms which warm the city with sociability, encounters and discovery, immersing everyone in its culture. Because porticoes are ancient architecture behind which hide little treasures and works of art. Architecture which conceals and protects wonderful mansions, incredible people and amazing stories. And which opens itself up to exhibitions like those mentioned in these pages, to corners of the energy and life of our Bologna, a city which never ceases to amaze.

### **Valerio Veronesi**

President of the Bologna Chamber of Commerce

# Walking under the UNESCO Porticoes



presented by  
Cristina Ambrosini

Head of the Cultural Heritage Sector of the Emilia-Romagna Region, she worked on the candidature dossier for Bologna's porticoes as Superintendent of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for Bologna.

**Experiencing and  
living the beauty of  
Bologna's Porticoes  
in all their conviviality  
and thinking of  
their protection as  
a UNESCO World  
Heritage site...  
A commitment for the  
entire community**

## San Luca

For all those reaching the foothills of the Apennines along the “Via degli Dei”, exploring Bologna's UNESCO World Heritage statusPorticoes begins with those of San Luca, from the 17th-18th centuries. The longest portico in the world starts at the eponymous sanctuary and descends all the way to the city centre, along 666 spans totalling 3,800 metres in length, allowing walkers to gain confidence with the urban landscape thanks to the winding path made up of curves back and forth. The path also features steps, votive stones and frescoed chapels which induce a continuous change in perspective, but allow the many making the climb to catch their breath.





## **Certosa (cemetery)**

On reaching the level of the city, you can choose whether to follow a more linear chronological path, or to take a leap in space and time. In the first case you will continue along the straight covered section leading to the Cimitero Monumentale della Certosa – Certosa Cemetery – a unique example of a modern sepulchral portico; it was designed after the Napoleonic edict of Saint Cloud, on the model of the ancient Roman sepulchral roads, but with the entirely local addition of the covered street. The Certosa portico is a short walk from the Arco del Meloncello, the largest arch which gives visitors their first view of the verdant Bolognese hills, inviting them to visit the Santuario della Madonna di San Luca on the Colle della Guardia hill.

## The “Treno della Barca”

The alternative route, on the other hand, leads to one of the most significant city planning works in postwar Bologna, the Treno della Barca (Train of Barca), designed by Giuseppe Vaccaro between 1957 and 1962 at Parco Fluviale del Reno. Here, the traditional model of the portico was reworked in a modern key, with the construction of a very long porticoed social housing building, constructed in accordance with rigorous rationalist principles. This portico, more than anywhere else in the city, is the meeting place *par excellence*, a familiar passage, somewhere you can feel at home.





## Santa Caterina and Saragozza

Resuming the itinerary from the city centre, returning inside the gates at Porta Saragozza, you will find a further type, even more ancient than those we have already seen: the architraved porticoes of Santa Caterina. They betray the medieval origins of this type of construction, which was born of the need to expand buildings towards the street to increase their size, starting from the upper storeys. Arising from the division of a large monastic property, and surviving the gutting of the area in the 19th-20th centuries, these buildings were restored thanks to the Bologna city centre conservation plan of 1970, and since then have been considered an international model of conservation. What is striking – and indeed stimulating – to the senses of those crossing these streets, maybe arriving from the traffic on the ring road, is the pervasive silence and also the smell of cooking which comes from the inns at the right time of day.

## **Piazza della Mercanzia, via Farini, Piazza Cavour and Piazza Minghetti**

Approaching the *Quadrilatero*, the porticoes seem to lose their working-class attire and begin to look more distinguished, such as in the late-medieval and renaissance examples which you can admire between the Basilica di Santo Stefano and Palazzo della Mercanzia, where the wealth of the senatorial families is highly visible in the abundance of columns, plinths, capitals and vaults. Or, like in Via Farini, maybe the most elegant and finely decorated portico in the historic centre, which today is full of luxury boutiques, as well as Piazza Cavour and Piazza Minghetti, where the increase in the size of the covered area is indicative of the 19th-century desire to re-evoke the Middle Ages, nevertheless affirming with civil pride the primacy of the modern age.



Ph. Lorenzo Burlando



## Santo Stefano and Baraccano

On reaching Porta Santo Stefano, more attentive visitors will have noticed that the pavement of the porticoes has changed height multiple times, requiring walkers to climb up and down: this is the plastic effect of the voices of power, which at times led aristocratic residences and religious buildings to be raised above the road surface. In one of the highest points, with a true *coup de théâtre*, the portico of Via Santo Stefano is intersected by the “voltone del Baraccano”, a huge vault created to provide a telescopic view of the Santa Maria del Baraccano Church. And for those who walk around distracted or lost in thought, the effect of opening up to the light and air can be really surprising. The portico is shelter for everyone, as art, culture and beauty should also be.

## Strada Maggiore

To reach the next stage of the UNESCO World Heritage Porticoes, you will need to turn back a little and cross Via Fondazza, made famous by one of its most renowned residents: painter Giorgio Morandi, who lived here. At the end of this street you will come out into the one named for being the “biggest”, because it divides in two not only the city, but the entire region. In this section, indeed, the ancient Via Emilia takes the name of Strada Maggiore and on both sides shows off a genuine catalogue of porticoes, with the most diverse shapes and sizes: from that of the Chiesa di Santa Maria dei Servi church (which is noteworthy for its remarkable width) to that of Casa Isolani, considered one of the oldest extant medieval porticoes in Europe.



Ph. Lorenzo Burlando



## Piazza Maggiore and Pavaglione

On reaching the bottom of Bologna's famous Two Towers, our promenade now provides us with a choice. Continuing straight along Via Emilia, the porticoes lead us into the oldest part of the city centre and to Piazza Maggiore, the Portico del Pavaglione and the Archiginnasio. The latter has been the beating heart of the city's culture since the 11th century, when the first university in the Western world was founded here, which led the way for the Italian university tradition. Decorated by the crests of scholars and tutors from all over the world, the Archiginnasio still retains today the lively yet solemn atmosphere of academic life of the time.

## University and Academia

Turning right into Via Zamboni, on the other hand, the covered route passes by the modern university buildings and continues to those of the Pinacoteca Nazionale (National Art Gallery) and Accademia di Belle Arti (Academy of Fine Arts). If I had to choose which of the wonders of this street traversed over many centuries by countless students always amazes me, I would have no hesitation: it is the medieval façade of the Basilica di San Giacomo Maggiore, with the renaissance portico which runs alongside it and leads to the entrance of the famous Oratorio di Santa Cecilia and its incredible frescoes. For those looking for “exotic” details, amongst the decorations which adorn the exterior of these buildings, I would suggest looking for the beautiful shell of Santiago, one of the most moving symbols of ancient pilgrimage.



Ph. Lorenzo Burlando



Ph. Lorenzo Burlando

# Galliera

The final part of the route then leads to Via Galliera, which from the central axis of Via Emilia fades towards the urban plain, offering a remarkable sequence of ancient aristocratic residences: these include Palazzo Bonasoni, where the Cultural Heritage Sector of the Emilia-Romagna Region, of which I am head, is based. The riches of the 15th-16th century families and their desire to distinguish themselves from each other is very clear in the particular architectural typologies on display. In their innumerable expressions, the porticoes tell the story of the city and welcome us into their protection, while inviting us not to forget how much this exceptional piece of heritage needs daily care and attention.

## MAMbo and Forno del Pane

The ancient desire to distinguish oneself has more recently been translated into a popular key as well, as shown by the choice to build porticoes on the building which in the early 20th century housed the Forno del Pane industrial bakery, and now is home to MAMbo, il Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna (Bologna Museum of Modern Art). Exploring the city's porticoes reveals a wealth of forms, materials and uses, but has also made equally clear the need to work with a UNESCO site management plan, which necessitates the active participation and involvement of its primary users: the citizens who walk along them, the owners of the buildings above, the business owners.



Ph. Lorenzo Burlando

## Focus

# The porticoes beyond the city walls

The porticoes are everywhere: you just need to look beyond the city's walls to see how long and wide their embrace is.

Starting from Pieve di Cento, on the plain to the north of the city and known as "la piccola Bologna", little Bologna, where the presence of well-preserved porticoes in the historic centre of the town makes it a real jewel. Here you will find the Casa degli Anziani, an ancient building supported by one of the oldest wooden porticoes in the country, which in the past was an inn and resting place for pilgrims.

Located in the historic centre of Imola, the imposing Palazzo Comunale features porticoes of exceptional beauty, which we also find in the portico of Palazzo Sersanti and in the old hospital pharmacy. Featuring a wealth of porticoes, the city welcomes visitors on a walk of discovery, amongst capitals and wide arches. Finally, in the Apennines lies the 16th-century Chiostro Olivetano della Cisterna, where rain water was captured for public use. It is in Piazzetta San Leonardo square in Monghidoro where the sun peeps out between the columns, creating shadows to chase after.

Find out more at

[tinyurl.com/twotowersbeyond](http://tinyurl.com/twotowersbeyond)



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# Among the permanent collections



presented by  
Roberto Grandi

Former President of Istituzione Bologna Musei  
(Bologna Museums Institution). He has an excellent knowledge  
of Bologna's culture, having been Councillor for Culture, and Vice  
Rector of the University of Bologna for nine years.

**The great masterpieces of Bologna housed in the most remarkable locations: ancient aristocratic buildings, the former Forno del Pane industrial bakery, elegant 17th-century villas, a former warehouse and a kiln just outside the city walls**



Courtesy of Istituzione Bologna Musei

## **Museo Civico Archeologico (Archaeological Museum)**

We start out from the Archaeological Museum in Palazzo Galvani, beside the Basilica di San Petronio, which houses – in addition to a precious collection of ancient Egyptian items – the oldest memory in the region: Etruscan, Gallic and Roman Bologna. The museums contain objects and materials which tell fascinating and unknown stories. Of these many museums, for me it is wonderful to lose myself in the account carved on parallel rows on the outer walls of the Etruscan *situla* in laminated bronze, used to contain the ashes of the deceased. We are in Sala X, tomba 68.

**Via dell'Archiginnasio 2, Bologna**  
[museibologna.it/archeologicoen](http://museibologna.it/archeologicoen)

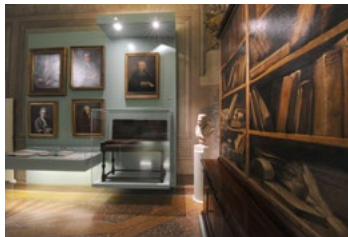


Ph. Roberto Serra

## **Museo Civico Medievale (Medieval Civic Museum)**

Walking through the splendid rooms of this museum contrasts with the stereotype of the dark ages. Sculptures, paintings, ceramics, illuminated manuscripts, ivory, bronzes, glassware – all leave us literally stupefied and make us rethink the prejudices with which we came in. In the dual *loggia* internal courtyard, we can see the selenite remains of the imperial Rocca, or castle, destroyed in 1115. The museum's collections describe a path between the seventh century and the Baroque period, with particular emphasis on the metropolitan area. There is also a collection of Islamic art.

**Via Manzoni 4, Bologna**  
[museibologna.it/arteanticaen](http://museibologna.it/arteanticaen)



Ph. Roberto Serra

## **Museo internazionale e biblioteca della musica (Music Museum and Library)**

As a UNESCO Creative City of Music, in 2004 Bologna designed the International Museum and Library of Music. In reality, the priority was to shine light on the rich heritage of Bolognese music, which had remained hidden for too long. At the museum we can indeed admire the only remaining example of the first collection of sheet music in history (1501, Ottaviano Petrucci) and discover the mystery of Mozart's three examination exercises to pass the entry exam to the Philharmonic Academy.

**Strada Maggiore 34, Bologna**  
[museibologna.it/musicaen](http://museibologna.it/musicaen)

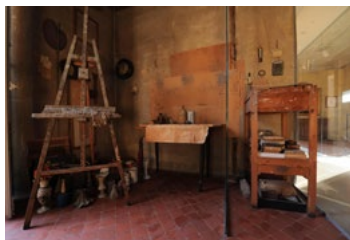


Ph. Ornella De Carlo

## **MAMbo and Museo Morandi (Modern Art Museum and Morandi's House)**

At MAMbo, we run through Italian art from the end of the war to the modern day. Guttuso's *Funerali di Togliatti* is a significant example of the relationship between art and ideology, the video of Marina Abramović and Ulay's performance for the 1977 Settimana Internazionale della Performance (international performance art week) which was a worldwide artistic event. Climbing a few stairs takes us to the exhibition route of Museo Morandi, which illustrates the subject matters and seasons of activity of one of the most important artists of the last century, Giorgio Morandi.

**Via Don Giovanni Minzoni 14, Bologna**  
[mambo-bologna.org/en](http://mambo-bologna.org/en)



Ph. Roberto Serra

### **Casa Morandi (Morandi's House)**

Restored and opened to the public in 2009, the house/museum represents a unique space to learn more about the life and work of the Bolognese artist, where it is possible to experience the artist's atmosphere right down to the smallest details: from his studio with its numerous objects and original models which he used for his canvases, passing through colour swatches on the walls, up to his personal library with more than 600 volumes.

**Via Fondazza 36, Bologna**  
[tinyurl.com/morandi-en](http://tinyurl.com/morandi-en)

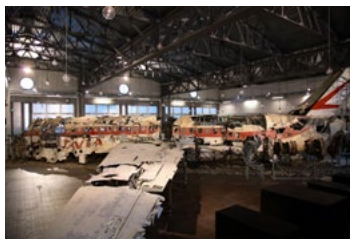


Ph. Roberto Serra

### **Museo del Patrimonio industriale (Industrial Heritage Museum)**

Since 1997, after major renovation work by the Municipality of Bologna, the former Fornace Galotti bakery has housed the museum which features 3500 m<sup>2</sup> of display space and six routes. It is here that we are amazed at the site of a functional 1:2 scale model of one of the 100 silk windmills which in the 15th century represented the cutting edge of European technology. The Fabbrica del Futuro (factory of the future) then transports us from yesterday's technology to that of tomorrow.

**Via della Beverara 123, Bologna**  
[tinyurl.com/industriale-en](http://tinyurl.com/industriale-en)



Ph. Sandro Capati

## Museo per la Memoria di Ustica (Museum for the Memory of Ustica)

It was the 27th June 1980 when the Itavia DC9 crashed into the sea during its flight from Bologna-Palermo, causing the death of 81 people. The pain of the loss and this terrible accident is still felt in the hearts of the Bolognese. To the eternal memory of this tragic event, the museum was inaugurated in 2007 on the date of the 27th anniversary. The wreck of the aircraft can today be seen within the permanent installation *A proposito di Ustica* by artist Christian Boltanski.

Via di Saliceto 3/22, Bologna  
[mambo-bologna.org/en/museoustica](http://mambo-bologna.org/en/museoustica)



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## Focus

### Cimitero Monumentale della Certosa

Certosa is one of the oldest cemeteries in Europe, which is entrusted to the Museo civico del Risorgimento (Bologna City Museum of the Risorgimento).

It was founded in 1801, reusing the structures of the Carthusian monastery built from 1334 onwards and then suppressed by Napoleon in the late 18th century. Its history dates back much further than the 14th century, however, to the Etruscan period, when the area was occupied by a genuine necropolis. You will feel immersed in the austerity of history, the past which watches over the present, and attracted by the numerous stories of the famous celebrities who lie here, such as painter Giorgio Morandi, winner of the Nobel prize for literature Giosue Carducci, and singer songwriter Lucio Dalla. Chapels, cloisters large and small, effigies and imposing statues are just some of the details which you will discover each and every step of the way. And then many monuments of great artistic prestige, such as the painted tombs, unique in Europe; the Cappella Gregorini Bingham chapel with Vincenzo Vela's *La Desolazione* in cloister III; and Carlo Monari's roaring lion for the Monumento ai Martiri per l'Indipendenza (Monument to the Martyrs of Independence - Sala delle Tombe).

**Cimitero Monumentale della Certosa**

**Via della Certosa 18, Bologna**

**[tinyurl.com/certosa-en](http://tinyurl.com/certosa-en)**



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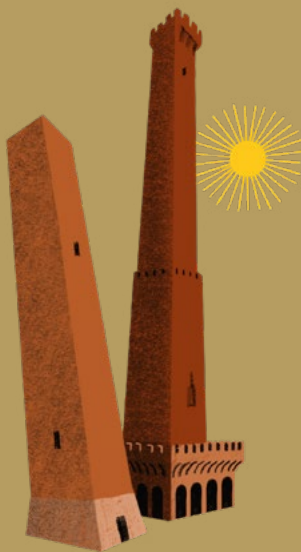
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# Not just the Two Towers



presented by  
Andrea Malossini

Writer and journalist, he has worked with Garzanti, Vallardi Editore, Rai1 and Libri di Emil. An aficionado of history and folk traditions, his writings include: *Manuale di Stregoneria*, *I giochi dei bambini italiani*, *Superstizioni italiane* and *Le torri di Bologna*.

**La Bologna Turrita (towered Bologna), also known as the New York of the Middle Ages, with around 100 towers just in the area comprising the current historic centre. Today, 22 of these remain, in addition to others in the wider area.**



Ph. Bologna Welcome

## Torre degli Asinelli

It is the tallest original medieval tower in Italy (97.20 m), and together with its neighbour the Garisenda, it forms *Le Due Torri*, the Two Towers, long-standing symbol of Bologna. Built around 1100, it passed to the rich Ghibelline family the Asinellis. After its interior was destroyed by fire in 1398, masonry stairs were added, then the vault at the height of 30 metres, and in the mid 15th century, the crenellations. The tower was used as a prison and place of execution for men of the church condemned to death. It is possible to climb right to the top (498 steps).

**Piazza di Porta Ravegnana, Bologna**  
[mybologna.app/asinellitower](http://mybologna.app/asinellitower)



Ph. Andrea Malossini

## Torre Garisenda

This is the “leaning tower” of Bologna which, with a lean of four degrees (3.22 metres off plumb), is a shade more than Pisa's (currently 3.97°). Built around 1100, today it stands 47.50 metres tall, having been lowered by a little over 12 metres in 1353 by despot Giovanni Visconti da Oleggio for reasons of safety. The lean, evident from the time it was built, is also referenced by Dante Alighieri in the Divine Comedy (*Inferno*, XXXI), the canto in which it is compared to the giant Anteo, which is quoted on the plaque on the east side of the tower.

**Piazza di Porta Ravegnana, Bologna**  
[tinyurl.com/garisenda-en](http://tinyurl.com/garisenda-en)



Ph. Andrea Malossini

## Torre Alberici

Standing 27 metres tall, this tower was built by the Alberici, a powerful Ghibelline family of Lombard origin. Since 1273 it has housed the oldest commercial business in Bologna, space for which was made by reducing the thickness of the walls. Since then, there has always been a business under the Alberici tower, from the famous seller of precious silks, opened in the early 1300s by the Bolognini family, through to the current restaurant. The characteristic overturned wooden serail, typical of medieval shops, is particularly evocative, along with the original six-metre entrance door, framed with selenite ashlar.

**Via Santo Stefano 4A, Bologna**  
[tinyurl.com/torrealberici-en](http://tinyurl.com/torrealberici-en)



Ph. Andrea Malossini

## Torre Uguzzoni

It is the most beautiful and best-preserved residential tower in Bologna. Destined for inhabitation since its construction (around 1200), it is 32 metres tall and attributed to the Ghibelline family the Uguzzoni. It subsequently passed to the Ludovisi family, forerunners of Pope Gregory XV (Alessandro Ludovisi). Completely restored in 2017, today the tower "is hidden" in a corner of the most "medieval" area of Bologna, the Jewish Ghetto. The outside features a selenite base, the original lancet door, and the terracotta windows.

**Vicolo Mandria 1, Bologna**  
[tinyurl.com/uguzzoni-en](http://tinyurl.com/uguzzoni-en)



Ph. Andrea Malossini

## Torre Prendiparte

Rising 59.5 metres in height, it was built around 1150 by the Prendiparte family, owners of a large estate between Modena and Bologna who had married with the Pico family of Mirandola. In 1530 the tower passed to the archbishopric, which first used it as a canteen, then a seminary and finally a prison, where those condemned for crimes against the church were imprisoned. The tower is also known by the name Coronata, due to the recessed section at 50 metres. Although not regularly open to the public, it can be visited during special events.

**Piazzetta Prendiparte 5, Bologna**  
[tinyurl.com/prendiparte-en](http://tinyurl.com/prendiparte-en)



Ph. Andrea Malossini

## Torre Lambertini

This tower, 25 metres in height, was built by the Lambertini family between 1120 and 1142, a century before Palazzo del Capitano del Popolo which today surrounds it. A later member of this Guelph family was Prospero Lambertini, who in 1740 rose to the papacy under the name of Pope Benedict XIV. In 1327 it was converted to a female prison, and in 1356 the first public mechanical clock in Bologna was installed here. Between 1903 and 1909 the tower was revamped in neo-medieval style with the addition of a roof terrace with canopy, windows and a balcony.

**Piazza Re Enzo 1H, Bologna**  
[tinyurl.com/lambertini-en](http://tinyurl.com/lambertini-en)



Ph. Andrea Malossini

## **Torre dell'Orologio or Accursi Tower**

Facing onto Piazza Maggiore, the tower is 46 metres tall (including the lantern). Renovated various times over the centuries, it was already part of the property of Florentine jurist and commentator Accursius in the early 13th century. In 1451 an initial mechanical clock was installed, replaced with the current one in 1773. Between 1498 and 1796, wooden automata with the three wise men would prostrate themselves at the feet of the statue of Madonna with Child to mark the hour. Recently renovated internally, it is possible to visit it and climb to the top.

**Piazza Maggiore 6, Bologna**  
[mybologna.app/clocktower](http://mybologna.app/clocktower)



Ph. Andrea Malossini

## **Torre Galluzzi**

This is the last aristocratic tower built in Bologna (1257). Constructed by the powerful Guelph family the Galluzzi to defend themselves from the Ghibelline Carbonesi and protect the ancient municipal seat (Curia di Sant'Ambrogio). It was the setting for the forbidden love between Alberto Carbonesi and Virginia Galluzzi, both killed by family members. From the outside you can see the original six-metre-tall door, whose threshold has a clearly visible hollow after 800 years of foot traffic. Part of the interior of the tower can also be seen from the restaurant below.

**Corte Galluzzi 1, Bologna**  
[tinyurl.com/galluzzi-en](http://tinyurl.com/galluzzi-en)



Ph. Paolo Barone

## Torre Colombaia

The elegant Torre Colombaia, part of the Rocca Isolani complex in Minerbio, on the plains outside Bologna, dates back to 1536. Designed and built by architect Jacopo Barozzi, known as Il Vignola, its octagonal floor plan welcomes visitors – with guided tour mandatory – onto a wooden helical stairway which is completely original and absolutely charming. One of the most interesting features is the presence of a complicated system of cells, designed to house more than 3000 bird's nests.

**Via Garibaldi 1, Minerbio (BO)**  
[tinyurl.com/colombaia-en](http://tinyurl.com/colombaia-en)

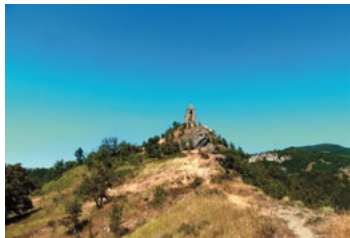


Ph. Gilberto Minguzzi

## The “twin towers”

In Mordano, in the Imola area, are two hidden gems of recent Bolognese architecture. Dating back to the late 19th century, the so-called “torri gemelle” or twin towers welcome visitors to the entrance of the ancient fortified nucleus of the city. They were designed by engineer Giovanni Brusi, who was inspired by the towers of the Venice Arsenal. As was the fashion at the time, the construction features strongly medieval-inspired elements and heavy crenellations, typical of medieval towers.

**Via Lughese Sud, Mordano (BO)**  
[tinyurl.com/twotwintowers](http://tinyurl.com/twotwintowers)



Ph. Chiara Tallone

## Torre di Rocca Corneta

Nestled amongst the mountains of the Corno alle Scale complex, in the Lizzano in Belvedere (BO) area, the hamlet of Rocca Corneta is a collection of houses spread around the still strongly agricultural area. Dating back to the 14th century, the hamlet's tower stands in all its majesty on a mountain ridge, acting as a symbol of an unforgettable medieval past.

**Loc. Rocca Corneta 36,  
Rocca Corneta (BO)**  
**[tinyurl.com/torrecorneta-en](http://tinyurl.com/torrecorneta-en)**



## Visit to Torre dell'Orologio and Collezioni Comunali d'Arte

Immerse yourself in a unique atmosphere made up of symbolic places and power. Visit the Torre dell'Orologio (Clock Tower), enjoy its view over one of the city's most beautiful squares – Piazza Maggiore – and savour the ancient splendours in the Collezioni Comunali d'Arte (Municipal Art Collections museum).

### Highlights

- Climb the Torre dell'Orologio and look down onto Piazza Maggiore
- Enter the Municipal Art Collections museum and discover unique works of art
- Learn more about the history of Palazzo d'Accursio and its Clock Tower with the audioguide

From €10

Scan the QR code and purchase



[mybologna.app/clocktower](http://mybologna.app/clocktower)

## Focus

# The towers between curiosity and legend

From the Middle Ages to present day, the history of Bologna's towers is full of fascinating anecdotes.

The Asinelli Tower, according to legend, owes its name and its origins to two donkeys who one day discovered a chest full of gold; the money was used by the son of their owner to build a very tall tower in order to marry the aristocratic young girl he was in love with. Not everyone knows that there is a tower which is not visible from below, but clearly recognisable from the top of the Asinelli Tower or the terrace of San Petronio Church. This is Torre dalle Perle, a residential tower behind Palazzo della Mercanzia. Finally, under the great vault of Palazzo del Podestà, by Torre dell'Arengo, there is the “wireless phone”. You will often find two people with their backs to each other, on opposite sides of the vault, whispering intently to each other without anyone being able to overhear them! A remarkable way to confess a secret!



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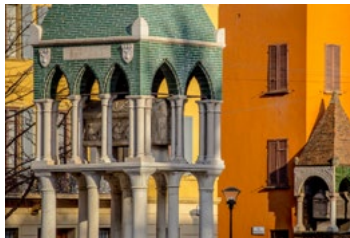
# The university citadel



presented by  
Enrico Desideri and Marta Forlai

Enrico Desideri is an art historian and scientific collaborator at the Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna. He is responsible for the development of the university's historical and artistic heritage. Marta Forlai is an art historian and expert in 17th-19th century Bolognese architecture. She works at the University of Bologna's Federico Zeri Foundation.

**Wander through  
the history-making  
buildings of the first  
university in the  
Western world and  
imagine meeting  
scholars and lecturers  
from the Middle Ages  
with their books  
under their arms**

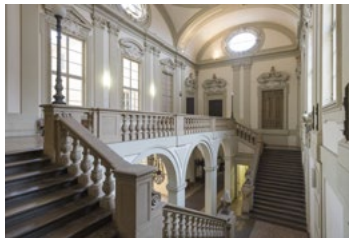


Ph. Wildlab for Bologna Welcome

## Arche dei Glossatori (Scholars' graves)

The city's most visible monuments are not dedicated either to rich sovereigns or to patron saints. In Bologna, the true hero to be remembered and worshipped is the university professor! And so, in addition to the suggestive reliefs today preserved at the Museo Civico Medievale (Medieval Civic Museum), we find still intact in the piazza in front of San Domenico and behind the apse of San Francesco, the venerable Arche dei Glossatori, so called because they were dedicated to the medieval scholars who would affix their *glosse* (notes) on the ancient juridical writings.

**Piazza San Domenico, Bologna**  
[tiny.one/sandomenico-en](https://tiny.one/sandomenico-en)



Ph. Antonio Cesari

## Palazzo Marescotti Brazzetti

The Bolognese Baroque lives here! From 1680, the 15th-century aristocratic *palazzo* of the Counts Marescotti was completely transformed and enriched with extraordinary decorations. The most surprising element is undoubtedly the grand dual staircase designed by architect Gian Giacomo Monti. It is a genuinely theatrical space, amplified by numerous openings and views, both real and simulated, designed to accommodate the splendid cortège and the magniloquent protocol of the era.

**Via Barberia 4, Bologna**  
[tinyurl.com/palmarescotti-en](https://tinyurl.com/palmarescotti-en)

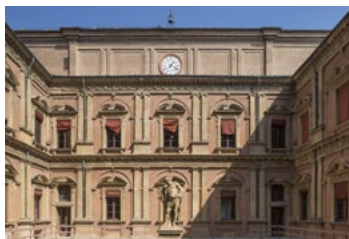


Ph. Bologna Welcome

## **The Archiginnasio and Teatro anatomico (Anatomical Theatre)**

Finally, in 1563 by Papal decree the university found its seat in Palazzo dell'Archiginnasio, built by the architect known as Il Terribilia to the left of San Petronio. Above the 30 arches of the Portico del Pavaglione, the current location of the Biblioteca Comunale municipal library housed classrooms and offices, all completely covered in crests, mottoes and insignias which still document the building's more than two centuries of academic life. Not to be missed is the Teatro Anatomico – Anatomical Theatre – where the practice of anatomical dissection was first performed.

**Piazza Galvani 1, Bologna**  
[tinyurl.com/archiginnasio-en](http://tinyurl.com/archiginnasio-en)



Ph. Antonio Cesari

## **Palazzo Poggi**

A sumptuous 16th-century cardinalial residence, the renowned seat of an 18th-century institution, a building which in the last two centuries has been expanded to better house the university: Palazzo Poggi is an essential destination for visitors to Bologna! Inside it is a genuine university citadel: ancient scientific collections and academic rooms under the vaults frescoed by Tibaldi, Fontana and Niccolò dell'Abate right through to the Specola observatory, from the top of which you can see the entire city.

**Via Zamboni 33, Bologna**  
[tinyurl.com/poggi-en](http://tinyurl.com/poggi-en)

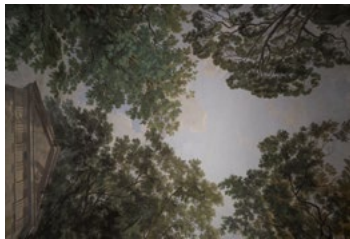


Ph. Antonio Cesari

## Istituto delle Scienze (Academy of Sciences) library

A universal temple of knowledge! The grandiose environment destined to house the institute's remarkable library was designed by Carlo Francesco Dotti (the architect of the Portico and Basilica of San Luca), starting the project in 1741 and completing it a decade later. This fascinating place can be seen today almost unchanged: a 36-metre-long room broken up by four monumental columns which still now house the ancient volumes.

Via Zamboni 33-35, Bologna  
[tinyurl.com/unibiblio-en](http://tinyurl.com/unibiblio-en)



Ph. Antonio Cesari

## Palazzo Hercolani

The swansong of the *ancien régime*! In 1793 construction began on this splendid building, the last aristocratic *palazzo* built in the city, three years before the arrival of Napoleon. The project was entrusted to architect Angelo Venturoli, the foremost proponent of neo-Palladian classicism in Bologna. The vast porticoed courtyard gives onto the monumental staircase decorated with neoclassical stucco statues by Giacomo de Maria, of which the labours of Hercules stand out.

Strada Maggiore 45, Bologna  
[tinyurl.com/hercolani-en](http://tinyurl.com/hercolani-en)



Ph. Oscar Ferrari

## Engineering Faculty

For those who love the contemporary, the Engineering Faculty's historic building is a must-visit! This enormous complex is an interesting example of rationalist architecture, symbol of a renewed construction culture. Designed by Giuseppe Vaccaro in partnership with Enrico De Angelis, it was solemnly inaugurated on 28 October 1935, anniversary of the March on Rome. At the entrance we are greeted by the bulk of the brick-clad tower destined for the storage of books: a technological feat for the time.

**Viale del Risorgimento 2, Bologna**  
[tiny.one/EngineeringFaculty](https://tiny.one/EngineeringFaculty)



## Discover Bologna Walking tour

Have you got a few hours to spend in Bologna and would like to get to know the historic centre better, accompanied by an expert tour guide? Porticoes, monuments, towers, and the oldest university in the Western world in just two hours. What are you waiting for?

### Highlights

- Discover the secrets of unmissable city locations such as the Two Towers, Cortile dell'Archiginnasio and Basilica di San Petronio
- Walking tours with local guides
- Learn everything about the city's present and past

From €15

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[mybologna.app/walkingtour](https://mybologna.app/walkingtour)

## Focus

### Do you know what Goliardia is?

The type of bicorn hat you wear reveals which faculty you come from and how many years you have been enrolled at the University of Bologna.

This is a type of historical headgear which, if embellished by fringes, pins, braids and other accessories, tells you a lot about the student wearing it and the respect they are due. Not everyone knows that Bologna is the birthplace of Goliardia, a type of Italian university student association, similar to the fraternities and sororities of the United States. Each year, freshers are subjected to unexpected tests such as "fake lessons or exams" with the collaboration of lecturers, where they are forced to take unexpected tests for admission to the faculty. Those who pass the tests become part of the student community, often outside the university, and make new friends. There is then the matriculation festival, where the entire city is involved in ceremonies, music, parades and competitions of all types, during which the *Liberatio Scholarum* takes place – when veterans of Goliardia meet the high-schoolers, taking them from the clutches of their teachers to give them a taste of the freedom which will await them at university.

Find out more at  
[tinyurl.com/goliardy](http://tinyurl.com/goliardy)



Courtesy: S.V.Q.F.O.

## Disclosing Bologna

Present-day Bologna, the result of behind-the-scenes work, commitment to social and territorial promotion, excellence, local and adopted citizens

President of the Cassero LGBTI+ center

# Giuseppe Seminario



# Interview with the President of Cassero and LGBTI+ rights activist

## **Giuseppe, tell us about your work and its impact on the territory**

The Cassero LGBTI+ Center, which I've been working in as an activist for over ten years, is technically a social promotion association. It is actually a political and cultural workshop active year-round which promotes the rights of people from the LGBTQIAP+ community and their well-being through personal services, socialisation groups, artistic, cultural and recreational activities, advocacy and training.

It has been doing this for forty years, since the Circolo XXVIII Giugno was entrusted management of the Porta Saragozza Cassero or bridgehouse, from where it took its name, in 1982. In 2002 the organisation's headquarters moved to the Salara building in the Manifattura delle Arti (Factory of the Arts), between MAMbo, Cineteca and DAMS, where we have continued to design and schedule activities and initiatives aimed at the entire city of Bologna and visitors to one of the cities in Italy with the most active and stimulating community of LGBTQIAP+ associations.

**What are your favourite places away from the conventional tourist trail?**

The gardens of Villa Cassarini, where there is a memorial stone in the shape of a pink triangle in commemoration of the victims of Nazism and Fascism, is one of the mandatory stops of the 25th April celebration and seat of some city pride events which they are closely linked to. Obviously the Salara, which can be visited during the day with the Flavia Madaschi Documentation Center open, and in the evening for dancing!

And then if I had to choose some places where I feel at home, I would say Barattolo and Moustache for a drink with friends, and Libreria Igor and Senape Vivaio Urbano, where I go to buy books and plants, respectively, which I can't find anywhere else.

**What's your favourite Bolognese word, and why?**

## Busone

The Bolognese insult directed at homosexuals. It may seem strange, but as an activist I've learned to reappropriate some of the words used to insult me and the community I am part of in an ironic and proud manner.





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