

visible, which change the water level to raise and lower canal boats. Beautiful murals in the entrance by Achille Casanova depict ducks flying over a huge field of yellow irises. On the upper floor friezes of roses, irises, lemons and hyacinths painted in soft colours decorate the halls that appear on the sides of the corridor. A decoration masterpiece is represented by the Zodiac Hall, one of the best expressions of the Æmilia Ars, built between 1896 and 1897 by Augusto Sezanne and used by the marquis to look at the sky and interpret it. The palazzo Rosso now houses the Municipal Library and town hall of Bentivoglio.

Municipal Library: 051 6643592

## THE MILL Via Marconi, 1/2 – Bentivoglio



The mill of Bentivoglio. Power Wiring of the Navile canal. Photo by Massimo Brunelli

The mill of Bentivoglio was built by Guido Lambertini on the banks of the Navile canal around the middle of the fourteenth century when the art of milling was a mainstay of the economy of the low plain of Bologna. In 1817 the Pizzardi family bought the large complex of buildings between the two branches of the canal and the last owner, Marquis Carlo Alberto, renovated the mill by enlarging it and building new parts for his farm, and modernizing the mill after 1900 with new machinery made by Alessandro Calzoni company.

The mill was rented out between 1930 and 1960 and was finally closed in the early Seventies. The complex is still an extraordinary example of industrial archaeology of the area of Bologna.

For further information: 051 8904823

## THE CASTLE Via Saliceto,1 – Bentivoglio

The castle at Bentivoglio was built between 1475 and 1481 by Giovanni II Bentivoglio at the height of his powers as the ruler of Bologna. It was located in Ponte Poedrano next to the 14th century fortress of Bologna. It was called the Domus jocunditatis (the

House of Joy) and it served as a hunting lodge and a place for entertainment. The Domus was sumptuous and richly decorated. There was a magnificent hall with a series of paintings depicting the production of bread. After the Bentivoglio family was banished from Bologna the castle was abandoned and gradually degraded over several centuries before being acquired by Carlo Alberto Pizzardi. In 1889 the new owner hired Alfonso Rubbiani to restore

the castle. Rubbiani rebuilt a collapsed wing and battlements of the castle as well as reconstructing the rooms according to the original plans. The castle was restored to the beauty of the noble country home of the Bentivoglio family. During the world wars the castle was used as a field hospital and in 1945 the 14th century tower was mined by the fleeing Germans and collapsed.

For further information: 051 8904823



Ponte Poedrano Castle. The Bread Room



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Palazzo Rosso. Bust of Carlo Alberto Pizzardi



# The legacy of Carlo Alberto Pizzardi

The history of Bologna is also linked to the generosity of Marquis Pizzardi, thanks to whom important monuments were restored and two of the main city hospitals were built.



Comune di Bologna



Carlo Alberto Pizzardi (1850-1922) was the last member of a dynasty of farmers who became rich landowners and ultimately members of the nobility. The history of the Pizzardi family was intertwined with that of the city until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His father, Luigi Pizzardi, was the first mayor of Bologna after the unification of Italy and his mother was marchioness Maria Antonietta Mariscotti Berselli. Carlo died alone and with no heirs, the world of the nineteenth century that provided the framework for his family history no longer existed. He decided to transfer the huge wealth of the family to the hospitals of Bologna before his death. He first donated land between 1919 and 1922 and then all of the remaining assets. He appointed the Hospital Maggiore as his sole heir. These extraordinary donations led to the creation of a truly great medical center.

## 1. PALAZZO RATTA–PIZZARDI Via Castiglione, 29

From 1894 to 1897 Marquis Pizzardi carried out a massive restoration of the rooms of the 16<sup>th</sup> century palazzo that he had recently bought for his residence. The work was performed by well known designers and craftsman of the day. Alfonso Rubbiani and his collaborators of the Aemilia Ars group, planned with Augusto Sezanne the highly coherent design of the first floor interiors which was implemented by the cabinet maker Vittorio Fiori. The wall friezes painted by Achille Casanova and the furniture represent one of the most interesting examples of the Liberty style (Art Nouveau) in Bologna. The building, which was the last city residence of the Pizzardi family, currently houses the Central Administration of the hospitals of Bologna.



Palazzo Ratta-Pizzardi.  
Photo by A. Samaritani

For further information: 051 230260

## 2. PALAZZO MARESCOTTI Via Barberia, 4

This was the home of Carlo Alberto's maternal grandmother, Elena Gozzadini Marescotti. After her daughter died in childbirth at a young age she cared for her four grandchildren (three boys and one girl). The



The grand staircase of Marescotti building

interior of the palazzo includes an eighteenth century relief decoration and frescoes by Franceschini, Caccioli and the Rolli brothers as well as an elegant baroque staircase made by Giangiaco Montani in 1670. Now the palazzo houses the Department of Music and Performing Arts of the University.

For further information:  
051 2092000

## 3. PALAZZO LEGNANI–PIZZARDI Via Farini, 1

This building, which now houses the Court of Bologna, was bought in 1839 by Marquis Camillo Pizzardi, Carlo Alberto's uncle. It became the center of the family's business activities and their city official residence. The building underwent many changes, two of which are especially notable. In 1587 the architects Guerra and Morandi (called Terribilia) were given the task of enlarging the building and in 1627 the baroque staircase designed by Gabriele Chellini was added. In the 1700s the gardens were decorated with statues of centaurs and a majestic Hercules.

In 1869 the engineer Antonio Zannoni restored the building, adding the portico and changing the interior with decorative cycles that are still visible for the most part. The palazzo's Hall of Honour is turned by the Pizzardi family into a hall of the Italian Renaissance with a number of notable paintings, among the others Charles Albert in Oporto by Antonio Puccinelli, Pier Capponi breaching the pacts imposed by Charles VIII by Alessandro Guardassoni, Cavour and Minghetti by Luigi Busi and Napoleon III by Gaetano Belvederi. In 2014 two additional works commissioned between 1861 and 1871 by Marquis Luigi Pizzardi were added: Dante leaving into exile by Andrea Besteghi and Christopher Columbus by Luigi Busi.

In 1885, due to family financial difficulties, Cesare Pizzardi brother of Luigi, sold the building to "Società Italiana per le Strade Ferrate Meridionali" (Italian Company of Southern Italy railways), the future State Railways.

Can only be viewed from the outside.



Palazzo Legnani-Pizzardi.  
Photo by A. Samaritani

## 4. BELLARIA HOSPITAL Via Altura, 3

Carlo Alberto stipulated that part of his bequest to the Hospital Maggiore be used to establish an advanced institute for the study and the treatment of acute and tubercular diseases. Thanks to this donation the Sanatorium for chest diseases Carlo Alberto Pizzardi was inaugurated in Bellaria in 1931. The project was planned by the engineer Giulio Marcovigi, an expert in hospital buildings.

In 1932 under the chapel of the Hospital a tomb was erected in honour of the marquis, despite the fact that his remains are buried in a nameless field of the Certosa cemetery, as requested in his will: "Do not put any distinctive sign nor my name on my grave, since I want to be treated as the poorest of the poor". The round vault that leads to the tomb bears the symbols of the Alpha and the Omega. On the top of the cenotaph (burial monument) stands a golden stucco bust depicting an Ecce Homo (Christ with a crown of thorns).

## 5. BENTIVOGLIO (BO)

In 1817 the Pizzardi family bought this property from the Marquis Carlo Bentivoglio of Aragon. It included the castle with mill, rice storage and neighbouring land. Due to the importance and wealth of the family following the acquisition, the family became an important part of the economic, social and political history of Bologna and were awarded the title of marquises by the Pope.

Bentivoglio lies 20 km north from Bologna in the Po plain ([www.comune.bentivoglio.bo.it](http://www.comune.bentivoglio.bo.it))

## PALAZZO ROSSO Via G. Marconi, 5 – Bentivoglio



Palazzo Rosso. The Zodiac Room

This palazzo, named for color of the red brick construction, was built between 1891 and 1893 as instructed in the will of Marquis Pizzardi. It is one of the finest examples of the Liberty style (Art Nouveau) in Bologna. This noble residence overlooked the system of dikes and locker in the Navile canal: at the entrance the old sluice system is still