

# MEDIEVAL CASTLES, PALACES AND VILLAGES

OF THE MIDDLE LOMBARD PLAIN

## HOW TO GET



BY CAR

**A4 Milan-Venice motorway exits** of Capriate San Gervasio, Dalmine, Bergamo, Seriate, Grumello/Telgate

**A35 Bre.Be.Mi. motorway exits** of Calcio, Romano di Lombardia, Bariano, Caravaggio, Treviglio



BY PLANE

**Milan-Bergamo Airport**

(from Orio al Serio bus line 1 ATB to bus station of Bergamo and then line SAI from Bergamo to various places of the plain); line 1 ATB to railway station of Bergamo and then train line Bergamo-Treviglio or Bergamo-Milan (Arcene and Treviglio Ovest stops)

**Milan-Linate Airport**

(from Linate airbus to Milano Centrale railway station or Milano Dateo, then train to Treviglio Centrale; from Linate bus to Segrate and then train S5 to Treviglio Centrale)

**Milan-Malpensa Airport**

(from Malpensa Mpx Express to Milano Garibaldi/Centrale, then train to Treviglio Centrale)



BY TRAIN

**From Bergamo**

- line Bergamo-Milano Lambrate (Arcene and Treviglio Ovest stops)
- line Bergamo-Treviglio (Arcene, Treviglio Ovest and Treviglio Centrale stops)

**From Verona**

- line Verona-Milano Centrale (stops of Calcio, Romano di Lombardia, Morengo-Bariano, Vidalengo di Caravaggio, Treviglio Centrale)

**From Brescia**

- line Brescia-Milano Centrale (stops of Calcio, Romano di Lombardia, Morengo-Bariano, Vidalengo di Caravaggio, Treviglio Centrale)
- line Brescia-Sesto San Giovanni (stops of Calcio, Romano di Lombardia, Morengo-Bariano, Vidalengo di Caravaggio, Treviglio Centrale)

**From Cremona**

- line Cremona-Treviglio Centrale (Caravaggio and Treviglio stops)

**From Milan**

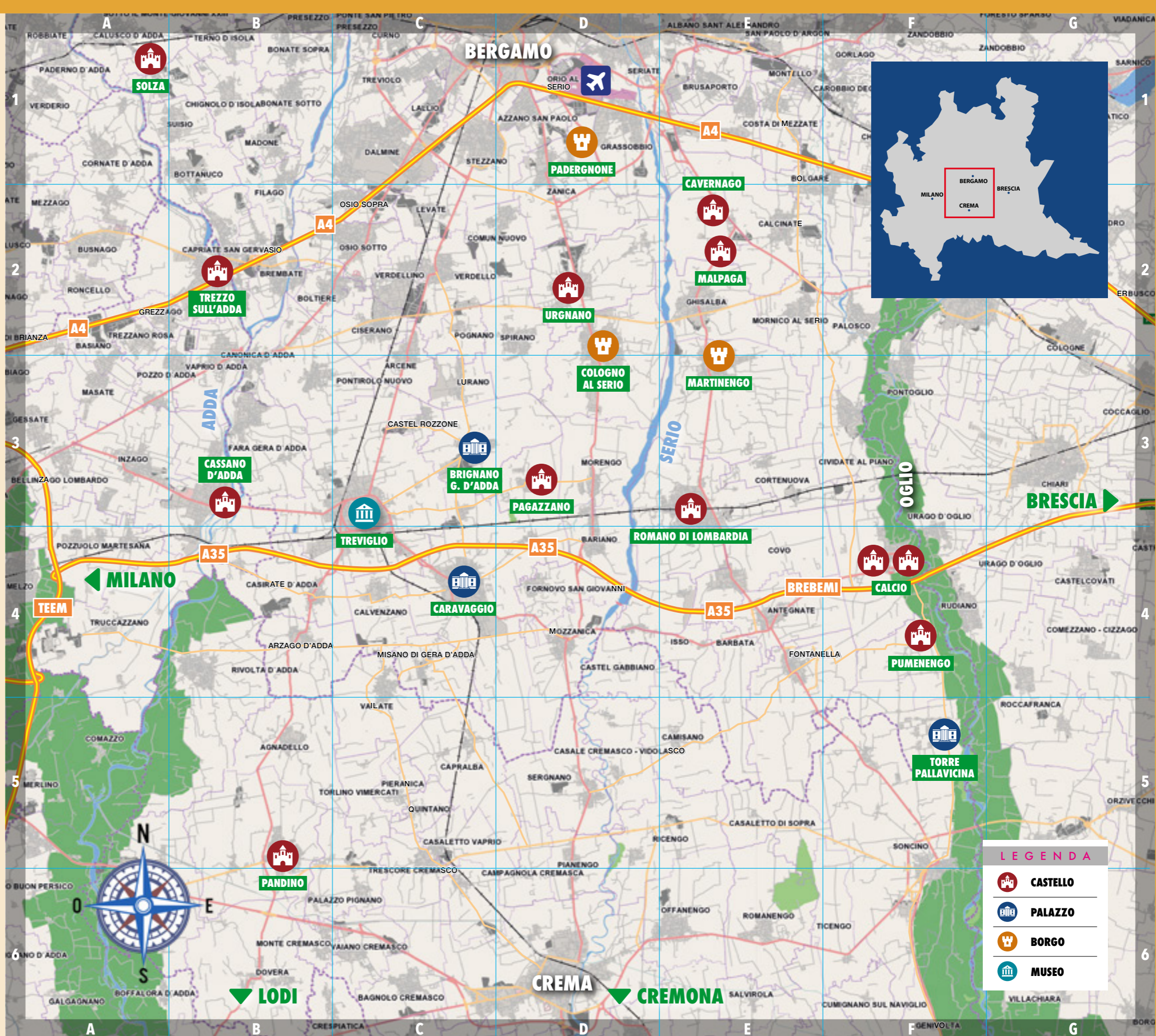
- line S5 Varese-Treviglio suburban passerby (terminal)
- line S6 Novara-Treviglio suburban passerby (terminal)
- line Bergamo-Milano Lambrate (stops of Treviglio Centrale, Treviglio Ovest, Arcene)
- line Milano Centrale-Verona (stops of Treviglio Centrale, Vidalengo di Caravaggio, Bariano-Morengo, Romano di Lombardia, Calcio)

## CONTACTS

For all the informations concerning hours, openings, costs and events:

**Ufficio Infopoint  
Pro Loco Martinengo (Bg)**

Phone number: 0363 988336  
info@bassabergamascaorientale.it  
www.bassabergamascaorientale.it  
www.pianuradascoprire.it



Infopoint  
Pro Loco Martinengo



Provincia  
di Bergamo



# MEDIEVAL CASTLES, PALACES AND VILLAGES

OF THE MIDDLE LOMBARD PLAIN

**Let's come together and figure out places full of history and art! Guided tours, exhibitions and lots of events**

There's a land in the heart of Lombard plain which stands out for history, customs, art and architecture: in each centre, little village or big town you can find evidences of a whirlwind riveting past.

Castles, fortresses, fire-towers, walls and ditches have come to us to tell their story, which leads through great leaders, battle-fields, places of culture and legends, intrigues and curious anecdotes. This is only to be expected: for centuries these areas had been lands of passage and connection between different politic, cultural and commercial fields.

The construction of a so vast and full of fortifications system became essential to defend the borders, initially bones of contention between the municipality of Bergamo and the ones of Cremona, Brescia and Milan, and then between the Duchy of Milan and the Republic of Venice, around the known-to-history "Bergamo Trench". It was a border that linked the rivers Adda, Serio and Oglio, which even now draw horizons of unique beauty, through parks, plains, resurgences and bodies of water.

A jump into the Middle Ages, in a landscape that will get hooked not only the architecture and history lovers, but also the ones who want to get lost into rural setting, between local products and nature.

## THE VISCONTI PALACE - BRIGNANO GERA D'ADDA (BG)

The Visconti Palace was built between the second half of 1500 and the early 1600s. The monumental staircase was approximately painted between 1730 and 1740. It shows mythological scenes and false painted architectures. The most attractive setting in the whole palace is located on the noble floor: the throne room. It embodies 1675's baroque theatricality. The permanent exhibition of Visconti's masks is staged in the centaurs room, where it is possible to see 1600's spectacular woodcarvings.



## THE SILVESTRI CASTLE - CALCIO (BG)

Old stately home with a monitoring role of River Oglio, old border between the State of Milan and the Republic of Venice. It is located in the very medieval heart of village, near the old Pieve and other historical buildings. On the last ones it is possible to start admiring some of murals that stud Calcio.

For centuries the castle has been home of the Secco family and condones of Calcio territory, an independent fiefdom from the then Cremona County.



## THE OLDOLFREDI CASTLE - MANSION - CALCIO (BG)

The building, that hosts the Passionist Sisters order, presents a horseshoe shape structure with a drawbridge, a ditch and finely decorated inside walls. These walls are guided by eastern and mythological themes. The home is linked to the name of Ercole Oldofredi Tadini, Italian patriot of the Risorgimento and close friend of Cavour and Napoleone III.

The emperor and his army stayed there in 1859, under preparation of the Battle of Solferino during the Second Independence War.



## THE GALLAVRESI PALACE - CARAVAGGIO (BG)

The Gallavresi Palace originally was the municipality location, but Sforza Marquises chose it as mansion and venue of the Marquisate. As the centuries passed, the palace became a property of a series of noble families, that have enriched the building with styles and furniture until arriving at Gallavresi family, after whom it was named.

The palace is also the Civic art gallery location, which hosts paintings, sculptures and murals of artists from XV to XIX century.



## THE VISCONTI CASTLE - CASSANO D'ADDA (MI)

The castle is setting itself up as a massive (mole) to guard the border between the Duchy of Milan and the Republic of Venice. Unfortunately we don't know its edification date. Around 1350 it has its heyday, when the castle is adorned with frescoes, nowadays partially visible. Francesco Sforza finishes the construction with impressive ramparts, circa 1450. Subsequently its bulwark function ceases, and it is completely abandoned. The castle is reborn only thanks to now completed 1999's restorations.



## THE CASTLE OF CAVERNAGO (BG)

The nowadays castle of Cavernago was built on an earlier fortress dating back to the XIII century. The castle was bought by Bartolomeo Colleoni in 1473 and then it was inherited by his daughter Ursinia and the husband of her, the Count Gherardo Martinengo Colleoni. It was a nephew, Francesco Martinengo Colleoni with his wife Beatrice Langosco the Marquise of Pianezza, who built the castle as we see it today: a baroque 16<sup>th</sup> century building with a big yard and a double eave.



## THE CASTLE OF MALPAGA - FRAZ. DI CAVERNAGO (BG)

Acquired by Colleoni in 1456, the castle became his main house. Like every Renaissance princes, Colleoni wanted to show his prestige through masterpieces and architectural works, which reminded of his deeds.

The castle was restructured and it became an impregnable fortress and accommodation area for its soldiers, as well as a wonderful and entirely frescoed residence.



## THE MEDIEVAL VILLAGE OF COLOGNO AL SERIO (BG)

In its long history, Cologno stood out as outpost of the Visconti Lordship before, and of the "Serenissima" Republic of Venice after, until it became a property of the famous leader Bartolomeo Colleoni. A village whose origins date back to more than 2000 years ago, even today preserved in its historical identity and its artistic splendor: from the unaffected town walls to the four towers to enter the old town, via the old Cavagna frescoes.

## THE HISTORICAL VILLAGE OF MARTINENGO (BG)

The history of Martinengo village has its roots in the Roman age and retains the remains of the following domains: the name has longobardian origins, the medieval fortifications and the "Filandone" constitute an example of industrial architecture.

The deeds of leader Bartolomeo Colleoni are of great importance, such as the construction of the finely frescoed convents of Santa Chiara and of Incononata and the Captain's House. A flourishing village full of history and curiosities.



## THE VISCONTI CASTLE - PAGAZZANO (BG)

An ancient Visconti Castle with a square ground plan arises not far from Treviglio City, surrounded by a broad ditch. It presents 1300's architectural features in the north-east area, but it shows up in its greatness as an example of military fortress from the second half of 1400. The Castle is also characterized by the presence of a rink called "mansion", the "noble" part of the monumental asset, built by the high priest of Pagazzano Galeazzo Visconti from 1553. It currently hosts important museums.



## THE VISCONTI CASTLE - PANDINO (CR)

The construction of Visconti Castle of Pandino starts in 1355 and it ends by the will of Bernabò Visconti - the then Lord of Milan - and the wife of his, Regina Della Scala.

The square ground plan Castle had four square towers, one for each corner. Only two now remain - the oriental ones.

The most interesting peculiarity of the Castle consists of several original paintings carried out in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and preserved in rooms, under the arches and also on the outside.



## THE BARBÒ CASTLE - PUMENENGO (BG)

Inside the Oglio North Park, that is where the Barbò Castle of Pumenengo arises, situated to the outer South edge of Bergamo County. The broad inner courtyard has a trapezoid shape and a cobblestones flooring.

The whole structure was built with clinker and river cobblestones. On the South Side, then supposed to be the "noble" floor, there is a big parlor with entirely frescoed walls, today used as the council chambers.



## THE VISCONTI FORTRESS - ROMANO DI LOMBARDIA (BG)

The Rocca foundation is located along the walls perimeter and it dates back to 1171. The present appearance of the fort is a result of the successive continuous transformations over the centuries.

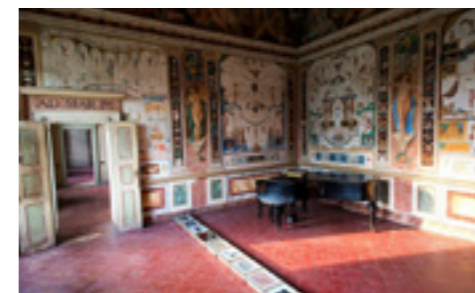
The village presents numerous noteworthy artistic expressions: the two main churches (the Parish of Santa Maria Assunta and the Basilica of San Defendente), the 300<sup>th</sup> century "Palace of Ragione", the Colleoni Porches of Mercy, the Brescia Gateway and the 800<sup>th</sup> century Rubini Palace.



## THE COLLEONI CASTLE - SOLZA (BG)

The castle of Solza is known to be the place where the famous leader Bartolomeo Colleoni was born in 1395. The structure is the result of multiple measures that have taken place over the last centuries: the agricultural structures - trace of poor country lifestyle - and the noble, powerful military buildings have combined.

The castle is of exceptional value, reflecting the Isola Bergamasca's own story.



## THE BARBÒ PALACE AND TRISTANO TOWER - TORRE PALLAVICINA (BG)

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century Torre Pallavicina territory was a then estate of the Duchy of Milan and it was the stage for the battles against the Republic of Venice. Tristano Sforza Tower gave its name to the township and it still takes us to that period.

After 1454's Peace of Lodi, the Tower lost its defensive-military prerogative and it has become a country mansion, beside which Renaissance Palace of Marquis Adalberto Pallavicino and Oldofredi Tadini Botti Palace have been raised.

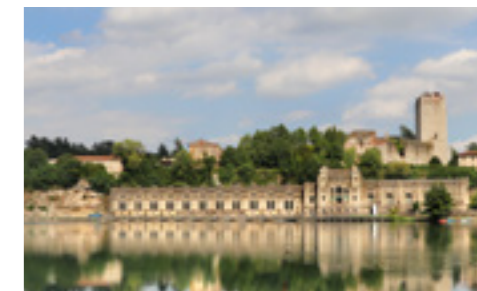


## THE HISTORICAL VERTICAL MUSEUM - TREVIGLIO (BG)

The Vertical Museum of Treviglio is a route in history that develops in departments, going down the civic tower's seven levels. Walking up the stairs, the visitor dives in a sequence of multimedia interactive experiences, which are able to communicate the history of the city and the collective events that have set up its identity over time. From the highest accessible point of the tower, located just below the belfry, it is possible to enjoy an awesome view of the surrounding plain.

## THE CASTLE OF TREZZO SULL'ADDA (MI)

The Visconti Castle of Trezzo rises between Milan and Bergamo. The castle had been the scene of numerous affairs linked to Barbarossa and the families of Torriani, Visconti and Sforza. Between 1370 and 1377 was built the "New Castle" wanted from Bernabò Visconti, of which remain the suggestive dungeon, the tower and the remains of the majestic bridge destroyed in the 1400s. From the top of the mighty tower (42 meters high) it is possible to admire the ancient village, grown around the fortification.



## THE ALBANI FORTRESS - URGANO (BG)

The castle of Urgano is nowadays called "Rocca Albani" in honor of the family that owned it for over 350 years and it appears to the visitor with all its elegant majesty. The castle is surrounded by the ditch, which constitutes an effective defense against enemies and is entirely made of (cotto), according to a tradition dating back to Visconti age. Despite being a purely military structure, the castle has the specific feature to welcome within its walls a rooftop garden and some fully frescoed rooms.



## THE HISTORICAL VILLAGE OF PADERGNONE - FRAZ. DI ZANICA (BG)

The village history is rooted in the early Roman imperial age. In the Middle Ages Padergnone became a *castrum* with defensive functions. As from 1500 it has become a country estate of the rich Poncini family, that keeps the ensemble for nearly 300 years and turns it into a real villa of pleasure.

Significant efforts are also due to the new owners of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Counts Albani and Lords Sonzogni.



19 REALTÀ  
TUTTE DA  
SCOPRIRE

[www.bassabergamascaorientale.it](http://www.bassabergamascaorientale.it)  
[www.pianuradascoprire.it](http://www.pianuradascoprire.it)