

The Villa dei Vescovi is an elegant early 15th-century building that was inspired by classical models. Overlooking the landscape of the Euganean Hills, it was erected as a summer residence for the bishops of Padua. A sublime piece of architecture, designed with input from a number of celebrated names, including Giulio Romano, it was further embellished by frescoes painted by the Flemish artist Lambert Sustris. The villa is a summation of Humanist culture, in which architecture and nature are blended together in the loggias and terraces, with a view to educating the spirit and elevating the mind. Built as a “machine” to admire the landscape, decades before Andrea Palladio’s famed villas, it stands out against the still-intact countryside.

Villa dei Vescovi



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Villa dei Vescovi

www.villadeivescovi.it



2018-2020 partner
for the enhancement of the amenities at Villa dei Vescovi

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For opening times, tickets and the event calendar visit
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Villa dei Vescovi

Donated to FAI by Maria Teresa Olcese Valoti and Pierpaolo Olcese in 2005

DON'T MISS OUT ON

- The extraordinary frescoes by Lambert Sustris, where painted landscape enters into a dialogue with the real one
- Taking a stroll round the vineyards, the vegetable garden and the orchard, savouring the natural landscape
- Reclining on the sofas on the panoramic loggias, reading a book or sipping a coffee
- Spending a night from another age in the guest accommodation



Ancient Figures Room



Putto Room



Fireplace Living Room



Dining Room



Western Loggia



Eastern Loggia



Gate



Courtyard



Cafeteria



Guest accommodation

The Villa dei Vescovi rises proudly on a slope of the Euganean Hills and overlooks the valley that is flanked on either side by Mount Solone and Mount Loncina. Constructed between 1535 and 1542 at the behest of Francesco Pisani as the summer residence for the bishops of Padua, it became the venue for an important cultural circle that included, amongst others, man of letters Alvisè Cornaro and playwright Angelo Beolco, better known as Il Ruzante.

To walk towards the villa, through the courtyard, is to immerse yourself in a sort of role-playing game in which art, architecture and the landscape are fused together, where man-made constructions and nature achieve a sublime synthesis. As soon as you move closer to the Villa, the wild beauty of the amphitheatre of the Euganean Hills makes way for an Italian garden and then for a walled garden – it is a landscape that has been cultivated and forged by mankind over the course of the centuries.

After the stairs, the visit starts from the loggias where the beauty of the expansive landscape takes centre stage and where an intense dialogue takes place between the real landscape and that created on the walls by the Flemish painter Lambert Sustris. This same dialogue is evident also inside the villa. The Villa dei Vescovi is the first example of that love for antiquity that would be expressed once again by Paolo Veronese 20 years later in the frescoes at Villa Barbaro in Maser. As such, the Villa dei Vescovi stands as the first example for

that wonderful series of villas later built across the Veneto region.

You feel that you are walking along the covered walkways described by the Roman architect and author Vitruvius as essential features of the ancient *domus*, the ultimate purpose of which was to enable an escape from hectic city life. At the same time, the Villa embodies the values of sober life expressed by Alvisè Cornaro, administrator of the Paduan curia.

This ideal of living has remained intact across the centuries at the Villa dei Vescovi and is evident also in the magnificent inner rooms, occupied by Paduan bishops till the Second World War, when the Villa was put at disposal of displaced people. Bought by a private family in 1962, the Villa has been restored and furnished. Today, thanks to the donation made to FAI by Maria Teresa Olcese Valoti and her son Pierpaolo Olcese in memory of Vittorio Olcese, it is now within everyone's reach, restored again and furnished to recall the Paduan bishops' time.

The visit continues inside, where you can admire the rooms on the *piano nobile* and the extraordinary frescoes, before heading downstairs to learn in more depth about the history of the site and the villa itself, sampling a glass of the delightful wine made from grapes cultivated on the vineyard. The visit comes to an end with a stroll through the walled garden or with a pause on the loggias, to reflect, read or write, inspired by the enveloping landscape.

Villa dei Vescovi



- 1. Gate to the Courtyard
- 2. Entrance, Ticket office and Bookshop
- 3. Courtyard and Italian garden
- 4. Entrance to the ground floor with Cafeteria and Toilets

- 5. Loggias
- 6. Rural buildings ("Barchessa")
- 7. Vineyard
- 8. FAI Bees hives

- 9. Gate to the Brolo
- 10. "Frog" pond
- 11. Cherry tree wood
- 12. "Hydrangea" path

And nearby...

WITHIN 5 KM

Church of San Martino in Luvigliano



Ancient routes above Luvigliano, along the slopes of Mount Piro



- Villa Pollini in Luvigliano
- The Castelletto in Vallorto
- Fonte Regina in Torreglia
- Valderio mill in Torreglia
- Roccolo Bonato on Mount Rua
- Church of San Sabino in Torreglia
- Villa Tolomei, known as Villa del Mirabello, between Torreglia and Luvigliano
- Villa Gussoni Verson in Torreglia
- Mount Brusà, between Bresseno and Luvigliano

FAI properties in the Veneto



- YOU ARE HERE**
- 1. **Negozio Olivetti**
piazza San Marco, 101 - Venice
- 2. **Casa Bortoli**
piazza San Marco, 2307 - Venice
- 3. **Monte Fontana Secca e Col de Spadarò**
Quero Vas (Belluno)
- 4. **Lazzaretto**
via Lazzaretto, 155 - Verona

NEGOZIO OLIVETTI at piazza San Marco in Venice



A 20th century icon in Piazza San Marco

The Olivetti Showroom was designed by Carlo Scarpa in 1958 at the request of Adriano Olivetti. He overhauled the narrow original unit with an open-plan design based on a brilliant, cutting-edge re-organisation of the spaces, in order to re-shape the volumes while making the most of the light. Thanks to Scarpa's clear design, tradition and innovation coexists with great harmony, creating «one of the best masterpieces of contemporary architecture».