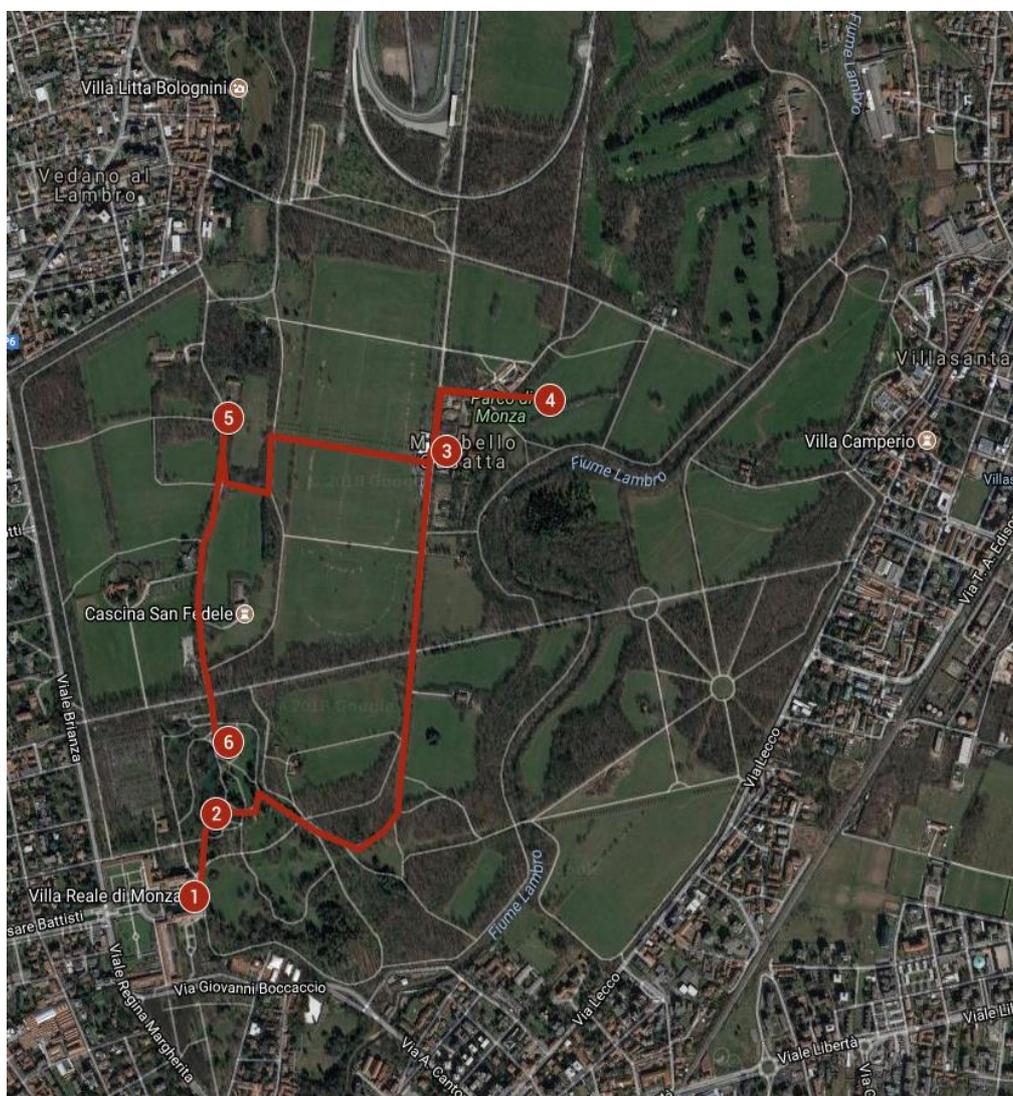


CULTURE ROUTE

BETWEEN HISTORY AND LEGEND

The creation of the park goes back to 14 September 1805, when Eugenio, Napoleon's stepson, emitted an imperial decree for its realization. The project was meant to be a huge estate and a hunting reserve. Luigi Canonica, the court architect, was chosen to be in charge of the project. He extended the green area up to over 700 acres, adding eighteenth-century mansions, which belonged to counts Durini, as well as farmsteads, mills, a big wood area and a large section of the Lambro river. The Park is considered the largest walled park in the whole of Europe.



1. ROYAL VILLA



It was built in 1777 by the architect Giuseppe Piermarini as the summer residence of Ferdinando of Asburg, the governor of Milan. The Villa is a “U”-shape neoclassical style building, refined and sober at the same time. From 1796 it has been entrusted to Napoleon’s stepson, who preserved it from being destroyed, and then it was restored as the property of the Habsburgs and later on, of the Savoy family. Umberto 1st of Savoy loved the Villa and the city very much, and the reason for that can be attributed to the love story between him and Eugenia Litta, his mistress, considered the third most beautiful woman in Europe. After the king’s murder, the Villa was kept closed until 1934, when it was entrusted to the city of Monza. If you wish you can take a guided tour within the building, just seize the day and enjoy one of the

most beautiful mansions in Europe!

Did you know that the Royal Villa was one of the first buildings in the in which someone has been able to turn the lights through electricity?

2. ROYAL VILLA’S GARDENS

Created between 1778 and 1783 by Giuseppe Piermarini, they are one of the first examples of English garden, which, although artificial seems natural. Indeed, there is a well thought project behind. The Swan Lake is quite important together with the ancient Greek Temple, and Neptune’s Statue in the background.



“It isn’t simple to have a garden: it’s as difficult as governing a reign.”

Hermann Hesse



3. VILLA MIRABELLO

Built in 1656, Villa Mirabello belonged to the Durini family, who had already owned the feud of Monza for some years. It is set where once were the ruins of an ancient castle, property of the noble “De Leyva” Spanish family. It was well-known for the Monaca di Monza (nun of Monza), an important character in Alessandro Manzoni’s novel “I Promessi Sposi” (“the Betrothed”). In late 1700, Villa Mirabello was restored and enriched with frescos,

becoming “place of delights and circle of intellectuals”. Since the main hall has been reopened, it is said that at twilight count Durini’s steps and laughters can be heard...intriguing, isn’t it?

You have to know that Cesare Beccaria, Alessandro Manzoni’s grandfather used to go to Villa Mirabello, together with men of culture of his time, as Verri and Parini.

4. THE WRITER

This modern work, donated to Monza park by Giancarlo Neri in 2005 on its bicentenary, “celebrates the writer's loneliness” representing the creative process of writing, which “forces” the writer to a state of isolation from the outside world. The height of the huge chair goes up to 10 meters, while the desk is 7,5 m high and 11 m large!



“Writing loneliness is a loneliness that’s fundamental to make the writing happen, otherwise it crumbles while trying to write again..” Anonimo



5. VILLA MIRABELLINO

It was built in 1776 by cardinal Angelo Maria Durini, as guest house for intellectuals' gatherings, music and poetry. It is located in front of Villa Mirabello and in 1805 it became the residence of Eugenio's wife, Napoleon's stepson. It was left unattended until it was entrusted to Monza and Milan. Currently, it is impressive to see the pleasant façade in neoclassical style.

The cardinal loved this kind of "twin" villas "one opposite the other, that he did replicate them in the villas of Balbiano and Balbianello on Lake Como.

6. MEDIEVAL TOWER

Built in the early 19th century by the architect Giacomo Tazzini, this medieval-inspired tower is placed inside the Villa's Gardens and has a rectangular shape with two floors. Emblems of the town of Monza, together with that of the Sforza and Habsburg lineage, decorate the structure together with a clay bas-relief representing hunting scenes.



This tower is said to be home of the ghost Poesia, a young woman who on June 24th pleases the visitors with her singing. Will you be lucky enough to hear her?.

EUROPE IN A PARK

- The Park of Monza is the largest walled park in Europe, strongly wanted by the French leader, Napoleon Bonaparte, to host his troops.
- The Park of Monza is the largest walled park in Europe, strongly wanted by the French leader, Napoleon Bonaparte, to host his troops.
- The Royal Villa was commissioned by Queen Maria Theresa of Austria and the architect Giuseppe Piermarini took inspiration from the Austrian castle of Schönbrunn.
- Inside the royal gardens you can still find areas, whose designs follow the Italian, English and French garden fashion .
- The rose garden of the Royal Villa, which has 4,000 rose varieties, was created by the industrialist Niso Fumagalli, after his numerous trips to France, Belgium, Holland and England.
- According to the legend, Villa Mirabello was erected on the ruins of an ancient castle owned by the de Leyva family, the famous Monaca di Monza.
- The Park of Monza used to house a Liberty racecourse, built in the 1920s on the model of the hippodromes typical of the French Belle Epoque. On the other hand, from the same period, we still have the oldest functioning racetrack in Europe, while the Golf Club, dating back to the 30s, was designed by two Anglo-Saxon architects Peter Gannon, priest golfer, and Cecil Blandford former major of the British army, considered among the best European golf designer.

WHO ARE WE::

DEMETRA SOCIETA' COOPERATIVA SOCIALE ONLUS



Demetra is a social cooperative, which has been involved in the care and culture of green, also intended as an enhancement of the territory. The environmental and cultural sector realizes and designs numerous and diversified activities for schools, institutions and families such as guided tours and itineraries, museum services and libraries, information courses, , workshops for events, educational projects, nature campuses and participate in educational, cultural and environmental tenders. (www.demetra.net – aea@demetra.net –

FB Educazione Ambientale e Culturale AEA Demetra))

LICEO STATALE "CARLO PORTA" OF MONZA



All the three areas of "Liceo Statale Carlo Porta", Linguistics, Humanities and Social Economics, aim to provide a broad cultural education as well as to arise in young people the desire to develop an attitude of curiosity and openness towards reality.

www.carloporta.gov.it

PARCO REGIONALE VALLE DEL LAMBRO



**Parco Regionale
Valle del Lambro**
il tuo parco

The Valle del Lambro Regional Park was founded in 1983 and currently includes 35 Municipalities, scattered throughout the provinces of Monza Brianza, Lecco and Como. Founded with the intention of

protecting and preserving a largely urbanized and exploited territory, the establishment of a protected area of over 8000 hectares has allowed the safeguarding of some environmental jewels: over the years the Park's tasks have however expanded to the popularization of the environmental values and ability to make the territory usable and livable for present and future generations. (www.parcovallelambro.it - info@parcovallelambro.it - FB [parcovallelambro](https://www.facebook.com/parcovallelambro))

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DEMETRA
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PARCO REGIONALE
VALLE DEL LAMBRO



LICEO STATALE
"CARLO PORTA" DI MONZA

