

VISIT TO THE PARK AND THE GARDENS

Villa Marcello is one of the most beautiful and well-maintained examples of Palladian style villas which lays in the middle of the Veneto region. It is still lived by some descendants of the noble Venetian Marcello family who built it in the 16th century. In 1700, the villa was enlarged, finely decorated with frescoes and plaster works and enriched with precious furniture, built or bought in that period for this house. The building is encircled by an harmonious park of the same period, which is more than 9 hectares wide.



The whole park is 90.000 square meters wide and surrounds the villa on every side.

The Marcello archive disappeared in a fire, leaving much to speculation. A garden is not thought to have existed here until the eighteenth century, when the house was impressively renovated for large-scale entertaining. In that period the new façade was enriched adding the semi-columns, the balconies, the lateral loggias, and the series of statues on the tympanum and the terrace. The comparison between 18th century's front façade and the back one is very interesting: the back façade has remained unchanged since 16th century, more rigorous and sober with its Palladian classical stamp.



THE ITALIAN STYLE GARDEN

The centuries-old park can be divided in two different architectural areas: the Italian garden and the English garden. In front of the villa the Italian Garden holds eighteenth and nineteenth century statuary of mythological figures, centred around a fountain and simple grass parterres. There are several flowering plant varieties, which flourish alternatively from April to October. From this point you get a complete view the lateral arcade wings (*barchesse*).

On each side the gate piers are surmounted by statues of the Four Seasons, with Winter depicted as an old man and Summer grasping a scythe. This austere elegant lay-out was put in place in the twentieth century to replace a fussier, nineteenth century composition. The more recent introduction of soft powder-blue plumbago in pots successfully lightens the severity of the stone.



THE ENGLISH PARK

Continuing the walk in the wide and luxuriant English park, through long rows of hornbeams, lime trees and oak trees you can find some essences which are very rare in their longevity. It is worth mentioning the three-hundreds-year old hornbeam and liriodendron, which are among the oldest in Veneto. Trees of particular interest are also the age-long red beech and plane. A small portion of the park is dedicated to the nursery and to the flowers. Apart from the naturalistic-botanical heritage, the walk leads the visitor to an picturesque sixteenth-century dove cote (*colombaia*), used for breeding the pigeons (useful to send daily messages to Venice, but also exquisite ingredients of many traditional Venetian recipes). You can also see a private chapel and a large fish-pond (obtained by filling the quarry, needed to build the house, with running water). Some parts of the park are left as woods with age-long trees and numerous statues representing animals and realistic or fairytale characters (among them the curious series of "the dwarfs" and of the "musician monkeys").



GARDENS MAP



LEGEND

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|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | LIGUSTRO – (<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> – Oleaceae) | 17 | FAGGIO COMUNE – (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> – Fagaceae) |
| 2 | PIOPPO CIPRESSINO – (<i>Populus nigra italica</i> – Saliceae) | 18 | IPPOCASTANO COMUNE – (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> – Hippocastanaceae) |
| 3 | TASSO – (<i>Taxus baccata</i> – Taxaceae) | 19 | PIOPPO BIANCO – (<i>Populus alba</i> – Salicaceae) |
| 4 | TIGLIO – (<i>Tilia x europaea</i> – Tiliaceae) | 20 | CIPRESSO – (<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> – Cupressaceae) |
| 5 | PINO NERO – (<i>Pinus nigra</i> – Pinaceae) | 21 | OLMO – (<i>Ulmus carpiniifolia</i> – Ulmaceae) |
| 6 | MAGNOLIA BIANCA – (<i>Magnolia soulangeana alba superba</i> – Magnoliaceae) | 22 | CEDRO DEODARA – (<i>Cedrus deodora</i> – Pinaceae) |
| 7 | LAUROCERASO – (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> – Rosaceae) | 23 | FAGGIO PENDULO – (<i>Fagus sylvatica pendula</i> – Fagaceae) |
| 8 | CEDRO DEL GIAPPONE – (<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> – Taxodiaceae) | 24 | MAGNOLIA – (<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> – Magnoliaceae) |
| 9 | BOSSO – (<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> – Buxaceae) | 25 | ACERO CAMPESTRE – (<i>Acer campestre</i> – Aceraceae) |
| 10 | AILANTO – (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> – Simaroubaceae) | 26 | IBISCO – (<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> – Malvaceae) |
| 11 | CIPRESSO ARIZONICO – (<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> – Cupressaceae) | 27 | PIOPPO NERO – (<i>Populus nigra</i> – Salicaceae) |
| 12 | CARPINO – (<i>Carpinus Betulus</i> – Betulaceae) | 28 | LIQUIDAMBAR – (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> – Hamamelidaceae) |
| 13 | ROBINIA – (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> – Leguminosae) | 29 | FAGGIO ROSSO – (<i>Fagus sylvatica purpurea</i> – Fagaceae) |
| 14 | FARNIA – (<i>Quercus robur</i> – Fagaceae) | 30 | PLATANO – (<i>Platanus acerifolia</i> – Platanaceae) |
| 15 | TUIA – (<i>Thuja plicata</i> – Cupressaceae) | 31 | LIRIODENDRO – (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> – Magnoliaceae) |
| 16 | NOCCIOLO – (<i>Corylus avellana</i> – Betulaceae) | 32 | CASTAGNO – (<i>Castanea sativa</i> – Fagaceae) |

Most remarkable aged trees

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