

# Villa Draghi



CITY OF MONTEGROTTO TERME

RECOVER THE ENTIRE COMPLEX: A CHALLENGE FOR A UNIFIED PROJECT

Villa Draghi, the park and the the building for accommodation of farmers and gardeners, **owned by the town since 1972**, should continue to be a whole not divided because the **re-launch of this place comes from the enhancement of the complex as a whole**. The **32-hectare park** is a distinctive and important element for all the Euganean thermal basin and not just for Montegrotto Terme, as well as the strategic area to which it is attached, the so-called "door of the northeast hills " as required by the environmental plan of the Park of Euganean Hills: so a ideal point to start exploring the hilly euganean paths. The building for accommodation of farmers and gardeners as well as serve **as a museum of spas should facilitate the aggregation of youth activities**, start-ups and similar things, the park should be relaunched with a view of cooperation with the university (botany, rehabilitation, sports) and with innovative ideas. To the Villa you have to **give a central role** and new life ,engaging in the management and organization of the whole district also the association Villa Draghi who for many years worked, often unheard by the institutions, to bring ideas and new life to the whole district. The re-launch of the complex of Villa Draghi should also lead, given the proximity and especially given the environmental directives of the Park of the Hills, to a **re-evaluation of Tower at the Lake, of Mount Castle whith the Tower of Berta and a recovery of the abandoned quarries**. All elements at a few hundred meters from the Villa, building for accommodation of farmers and gardeners and park that need to remain **municipal (or public) property regardless of any private collaborations**. Any concessions must be limited in time to avoid practically sellings that would deprive the community of very precious goods.

Town councillor delegated  
**Michele Tibaldi**

The Mayor  
**Riccardo Mortandello**

## VILLA DRAGHI BRIEFLY

- Villa Draghi, with the rustic building and its **32-hectare park**, extends into the **Regional Park of the Euganean Hills** in the town of Montegrotto Terme, 10 Km from Padua and 40km from Venice.
- The entire complex is owned by the city.
- The villa has been restored in 2014. Periodically it hosts cultural events.
- The rustic renovated in 2001 will house the Museum of the Thermalism, an information center and youth activities, environmental education activities, a refreshment point.
- The park is home to a wide variety of vegetal species and secular plants. Routine and extraordinary maintenance is being prepared with the mapping of all trails.



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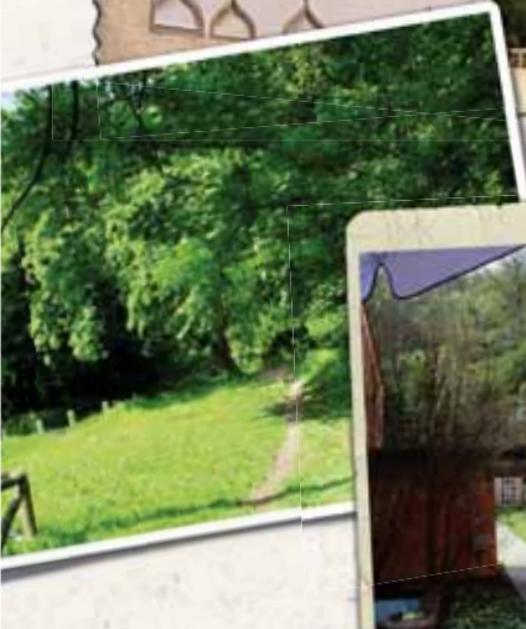
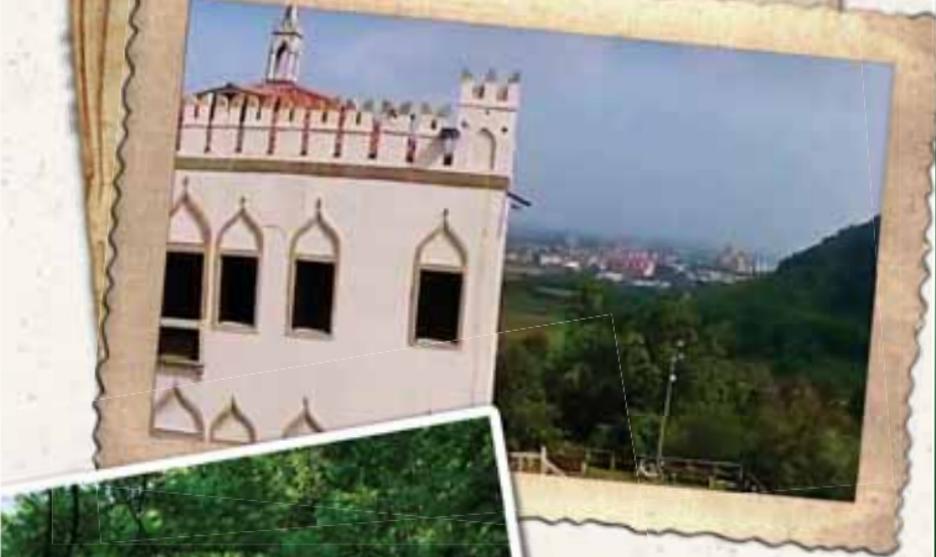
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# The Park and Villa Draghi

*A Landscape to Love*



MONTEGROTTO TERME - PADOVA - ITALY



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

It is strategic the location on which stands Villa Draghi: on one side overlooking the plain on which lies the spa town, on the other almost a gateway to the hills of the **Regional Park of the Euganean hills**.

From the villa you can go forward into trails leading to the **Mount Alto or to the Mount Ceva**, between forests and cultivated lands rich of infinite botanical and floral variety.

Different, but no less attractive, the things that emerge looking towards the plain: from waterways such as the Thorny river and the Rialto, to the Hill of Bertha and to the complex of the Tower at the Lake (locations of ideal natural pedestrian and cycle trails) .

And yet, just a little further away, the mystical site of the **Benedictine monastery on the hill of San Daniele**.

As most prominent example of nineteenth-century villa of the euganean area, it can occupy a prominent place in a circuit linking the most representative cases of different types of Venetian villas that are located in the surrounding area: from the villas with the famous gardens of Valsanzibio and Rivella , to the villa Castle of S.Pelagio and of the Cataio, to the villa of the Bishops in Luvigliano.

The complex of Villa Draghi with its values and its history is a place that can enrich and reward anyone who approaches it with respect and curiosity.

*Villa Draghi is*



THE VILLA



THE RUSTIC BUILDING



THE PARK

## Background History

The history of Villa Draghi starts in **the second half of 1600** when **Alvise Lucadello**, wealthy auditor at the service of the Venetian Senate, arrives at St. Peter Montagnon as it was called at that time Montegrotto Terme.

In the quarter Monte Alto, near a source of drinking water, he, between 1685 and 1689, builds a luxury holiday residence with 46 rooms, a chapel and a circular viewpoint ; around, over thirty hectares of hilly land, partly cultivated and partly woodland.

All this property passes in succession to the great grandson **Francesco Donati** with the exclusion of the building for accommodation of farmers and gardeners assigned to the Camaldolesi of Venice. During the 1800 all the goods pass to the family of the **Scapin**, wealthy Paduan traders, who provide to design and build on the foundations of the house of Lucadello, **a Venetian Gothic style villa**, what is now called Villa Draghi after the name of its last owners. The family Draghi in 1965 gives the villa and the park with all the annexes, miraculously undivided after many changes of ownership, to the **Jesuits of Venice**, from which the City of Montegrotto Terme acquired them in **1972**.

After decades of neglect in 2001 the City Council completes the restoration of the ancient building for accommodation of farmers and gardeners at the base of the hill of the Draghi and **in 2014 ends the restoration of Villa Draghi**. First steps towards a complete recovery of the entire patrimony by assigning functions and unitary management.

