

Characteristics and feature of the Bologna hills



A city leaned against the hills

Writing at the start of the 18th century, Stendhal defined San Michele in Bosco as “the loveliest of the wooded hills against which Bologna leaned” he identified one of the characteristics unique to Bologna. It is the only city in our region close enough to the Apennines to have partially expanded onto its slopes. This particular location explains why this Bologna hill is full of great value in terms of history, landscape and environment, playing a significant role for the city in terms of environment, air quality and biodiversity. Fortunately the special character of this area has been recognized since the 1960s in a period of building frenzy that had started to threaten the hill. The urban plan of the city rectified the previous decisions and provided general protection to the hill. This action envisioned the future of continuing traditional agriculture interwoven with the conservation of natural asset for it's recreational and tourist value. As soon as the 70s this led to purchases of a number of villas, farmhouses and farms, opening vast green areas of the hill which continue to be important parts of the quality green areas of the city.



Hillside parks



1 Parco Villa Spada
The park surrounds a beautiful neoclassical building adorned with a small Italian garden, both of which were designed by Giovanni Battista Martignetti. The park opened its door to the public in 1974 and it's ornamental spaces are characterized byholm-oak, cypress, cedars, yews, stone and maritime pines, buckthorns and other Mediterranean evergreens. Beyond the ornamental spaces are the more typical hillside species of tress along with wide meadows of former croplands in the high park along with beautiful glimpses of the surrounding hills and the historical center of town. The marquis Jacopo Zambeccani had the villa built in the late 1700s, then the marquise of Beaufort, wife of the Prince Clemente di Spada-Veralli, bought it. Today the villa houses the Museum of Tapestry featuring a remarkable fabric collection from different countries and from various time periods. Where the old stables were, now there is a neighbourhood library. Ugo Bassi and Giovanni Livraghi, while escaping after the fall of the Roman Republic, were kept prisoners for a few days by Austrians at Villa Spada in August 1849, before being executed at the top of via della Certosa.

2 Villa delle Rose Garden
Villa delle Rose is an ornamental garden surrounding an eighteenth-century summer house which is very close to Villa Spada which was donated to the Municipality of Bologna in 1916 by count Armandi Avogli to become the first seat of the Gallery of Modern Art and continues to be a venue for interesting temporary exhibitions. The villa features an elegant open gallery and can be reached walking along a serpentine avenue lined with plane trees or climbing the flights of a beautiful staircase among imposing evergreens, hedges of bitter orange trees and yews which ends next to a magnificent beech. The grounds in the back are characterized by pines and oaks through which runs an avenue lined with horse chestnut trees.

3 San Pellegrino park
The vast park was inaugurated in 1995 and features a beautiful panoramic view of the narrow ridge between the

Villas and farm estates

Villas are a key element of the hill landscape: they are surrounded by farms and often accompanied by thick ornamental gardens. Over the years they have modified the neighboring landscape as a result of the dual function that they performed within the farm estates. Villas acted, indeed, as organizing centre of production activities, determining the framework of the surrounding countryside, and also the place where the owners spent a few months of the year on “holiday”. For this reason, villas were always surrounded by a green setting which is still today studied in detail, in particular as regards the view of croplands and the choice and layout of the trees as well. Sometimes, these ornamental areas either featured a formal design of flowerbeds, such as in Villa Spada, which is the only Bolognese example of Italian-style gardens, or various decorative elements, such as in Villa Guastavillani. As tastes evolved they came to have the look of English-style parks. Over the years buildings have taken on simple and austere architectural features, such as those of Villa Ghigi, or rich and more complex ones, with arcades, loggias, and decorated façades like in Villa Hercolani. Usually, buildings first appeared in a panoramic position in the early 16th century, but they became popular mostly between the 18th and 19th centuries, along with the establishment of the rich middle class. Villas often were built on the sites of previous religious buildings such as at Villa Guastavillani built on the leveled hill, where there once was the church of S. Maria di Camerlata. In other cases, some parts of the religious building were preserved, as happened with the valuable romanesque frescoes of the Rotonda della Madonna del Monte sanctuary, incorporated in the building of Villa Aldini whose neoclassical façade is visible from many parts of the town. Lower on the same hill, in the late 18th century, La Marescalca, a villa for ceremonial use with garden belonging to the Marescalchi family, rose in the place of a manor house. A short distance away, Villa Baruzziana was built in 1836 in the place of a mansion in a lush park. Together with S. Michele in Bosco, villa Baruzziana features one of the most evocative viewpoints over the city.

The first to be established at a certain distance from Bologna in the area of Sasso Marconi was the “Agricultural Park of Prati di Mugnano” on the site of a large farm 17 km from Bologna. This was the cornerstone of the birth of a cooperative which served as a model for the establishment and care of future hill parks, many of which were purchased and opened in the 70s. This further drove the funding of public green areas of the city which since then has firmly ranked among the richest ones in our country. In this urban design, hill parks were the leisure venues preferred by the Bolognese, in an environment which will forever preserve its rural character. Economic and social dynamics over the following decades, however, inevitably modified this design and the sudden abandonment of hilly agriculture led to the predominance of the residential function over time, with a lot of farmhouses, stables and barns turned into beautiful residences. With less agriculture the landscape was obviously affected as shrubs and wooded areas invaded the abandoned farmlands Landslides and other signs of reduced maintenance of the land have occurred over the years. Over the course of more than forty years agriculture has almost completely disappeared from the Bologna hills and the parks and their buildings have grown old. As a consequence, the vitality of the still pleasant environment has diminished but thanks to some lucky management and the resourcefulness and initiatives of various actors the area has regained strength and reinvented itself in the past few years.

Meloncello brook and Ravone stream valleys. Its name comes from Ritiro San Pellegrino, a religious institution founded in the late 19th century by the clergymen Giuseppe and his brother Luigi Brevantani (a prominent scholar of local history) who owned a few small farms in this area previously belonging to the noble De Buoi family. Many features of the traditional agricultural landscape remain, such as the long rows of fruit trees which follow one after the other nearly in parallel on the slope overlooking the Ravone valley, emphasising the cultivated areas now converted to grassland. A stretch of woodland characterized by black hornbeams, hazel trees and a few downy oaks covers the slopes descending toward the Meloncello brook, flanked by black poplars, white willows and elders.

4 Baden Powell park
This green area follows the lower slopes of the hill of Monte della Guardia, on the top of which stands the Sanctuary of the Madonna di San Luca, reachable by walking along the historic portico. The vast meadows, which were once cultivated, have been recently planted with various native species and equipped with benches and playground for children. The park was opened in the year 2000 and it's named after the founder of the Boy Scouts Association. In the nearby area the base station of the old funicular which went to the Sanctuary (converted into a house) and it's half-way pylon are still visible.

5 San Michele in Bosco park
S.Michele in Bosco hill overlooks the city centre from an altitude of 132 meters and is one of the most evocative places in Bologna. The monastic complex, which is now the seat of the Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli, was built in the 14th century by the Olivetans on the site of a 13th century monastery. The church, rebuilt with the convent in the first decades of the 16th century, is attributed to Biagio Rossetti. For centuries this traditionally farmed hill was a preferred destination for walks by for the Bolognese. The park was created at the end of the 19th century when the the convent was turned into a hospital. Much of this area was planted both then and later with conifers. The western side of the park is populated mostly by typical species of the hill together with some centuries-old downy oaks. The square next to the church offers a spectacular view over Bologna and the plain. Over the centuries this panoramic viewpoint has been depicted in paintings and drawings and described by famous visitors, among them Stendhal. San Michele in Bosco park is the starting point of the CAI 902 hiking trail, which winds through the hills to Forte Bandiera Park.

A glance at a map or a satellite photograph shows that no Emilia city is so close to the foot of the Apennines: nowhere else is the 200 m isohypse line so close to the via Emilia, which also runs parallel to the axis of the Apennine chain, linking all the alluvial cones deposited by the rivers at the outlet of their valleys. One could say that, in correspondence of Bologna and the Reno Valley, the Apennines made a step forward towards the plain, that they stumbled on this step and that their advancing forehead wrinkled, thus raising that backdrop which now closes the southern skyline of the city.

Delino Insolera, "A geomorphological walk", 1982

6 Villa Ghigi park
In 1975 the vast green area of Villa Ghigi park only a short distance from the center became public property. It is immersed in a hilly environment rich with historical sites such as Eremo di Ronzano, Convento dell'Osservanza and Villa Aldinia and it is easy to see the structure of the historic farm property, partly agricultural and partly natural. The park features rows of old fruit trees, vineyards, arable crops (now grasslands) patches of spontaneous vegetation, a little grove of beech trees

An overview of the Bologna hills

The hilly land of Bologna is almost one third of the surface area of the city and rises immediately south of the city to an altitude of over 200m. The brooks Aposa and Ravone and the streams Meloncello and Monte Griffone, which long ago supplied the city with water and energy, carve through narrow valleys with rather steep slopes, flowing almost parallel in a complex of sedimentary rocks. Going further into the hills, the valleys expand, the streams flow into their small tributaries, the slopes get less and less steep, and the landscape clearly reveals the agricultural tradition of a land which for centuries supplied the city markets with early produce and traditional quality products (artichokes were among the most renowned ones). Small vineyards, orchards and crops still occupy the arable slopes, once largely included within the vast estates of religious institutions and noble families and cultivated by the peasants that lived in the farmhouses close to the farms. This part of land is characterized by areas of remarkable natural beauty linked to the chalk outcrops situated in Gaibola, Casaglia and Monte Donato. A little further south, the sometimes winding roads climbing from the city join at a well recognizable mountain ridge, which across the Reno and Savena valleys acts as a watershed for the rivers descending into the city and separates the hills from the nearest residential area. Monte Paderno park, Cavaioni park and Forte Bandiera Park cover this ridge, which culminates in the rounded summit of Monte Paderno (358 m), a reference point for all of the hills. Beyond the ridge, the landscape changes abruptly, with one single crest separating the two largest valleys and the vast area of the calanques, where the remote “Scaly Clays” and the geologically more recent blue grey clays emerge. The latter are arranged all around Monte Sabbiuino (390 m), the highest summit of the Bologna hills. Calanchi di Sabbiuino park is the southern limit of the municipal area, but further ahead the hills keep a certain morphological and landscape uniformity, with lateral crests which break off from the main ridge, crossed by an ancient trail going through the historic Pieve del Pino, finally reaching the valley of the Ganzio stream, from which there is a view of the spectacular arenaceous (sandy) summits of the Contrafforte Piocenico.



A valuable heritage of biodiversity

The variety of different micro-climates of the damp valley sites, sunny slopes, arid badlands and shady forest areas – make the Bologna hills a land rich with biodiversity and natural discoveries, which have been the subject of studies and research by noted geologists and botanists and an opportunity for rewarding exploration by illustrious travelers and enthusiasts. In the last few decades agriculture has been abandoned, thus fostering the growth of spontaneous vegetation. Now large areas are covered by oak woods and mixed shrubberies, where downy oaks, Turkey oaks, maple trees, minor ash trees, black hornbeams, hazel trees, Cornelian cherry trees and other spontaneous species sometimes mix together with patches of cedars, cypress and other evergreens left from the reforestation dating back to the middle of the last century. Other species of botanical interest,

and various ornamental corners with native and exotic trees which are centuries old. The villa has a nineteenth-century appearance but it's origin is earlier. The name “Villa Ghigi” comes from its last private owners, especially Alessandro Ghigi (1875-1970), a zoologist and prominent figure of the University of Bologna and a forerunner of wildlife conservation in Italy as well. For over 30 years has been the source of comprehensive education and dissemination of environmental information for schools and citizens. In the park Fondazione Villa Ghigi, located in one of the old farmhouses of the property, has arranged environmental disclosure and education activities for school groups and citizens. Today Fondazione Villa Ghigi, located in one of the old buildings of the farm, is responsible for the management of the park.

The fertile hills of Bologna other than nuts, melons, and all kinds of fruit, produce also the golden grape, poetically named uva paradisa, mentioned in the agreeable letters of the elegant Father Roberti. This grape, on account of its solid skin, keeps in excellent preservation till the months of March or April, it is eaten in theatre boxes, during the carnival and also tolerates cold weather and journeys. [...] The Bolognese senate annually made a present of these grapes to the emperor Charles VI, Prince Eugene of Luxembourg twice a year at his residence in Munich, sent in a kind of wagon that crossed the Alps. At Christmas and at Easter the Prince had the pleasure of offering these grapes to the royal family.44v

Antoine-Claude Pasquin (Valery), "Italian curiosities and anecdotes", 1842

7 Monte Paderno Park
This park, opened in 1974, covers the upper part of Monte Paderno (359 m) along the ridge cutting across the Bologna hills. Shady woods rich with an undergrowth of grassy plants cover the northern side of the small hill, on top of which there's an antenna, while the other side is characterized mainly by downy oak, manna ash, broom and other typical species of sunny slopes. Via del Forte leads to the top of the hill where there were once defensive fortifications that dated from the Italian Unification. The panoramic views over the surrounding areas are worth mentioning. The gullies just south the hill were once known for the presence of barytes (barium sulphate - also called "phosphoric stone of Paderno"). Goethe visited the area in October 1786 and who took a bunch of this stone with him.

8 Cavaioni Park
The vast park was opened to the public in 1973, covers the upper part of the Ravone Valley. It features thick oak groves, typical hill plants, mushrooms and large grassy areas once that were once farmed. The name derives from the Bologna dialect word cavañh which means “a large quantity of sheaves”. Among the few bodies of water of the hill, there is an fair-sized artificial pond, surrounded by a strip of water plants and inhabited by various species of animal and plant life. One of the old farmhouses in the park houses a popular riding stable. The Villa Silvetta, built in the early 20th century and located at the end of a long row of cypress trees, was recovered according to bio-architecture standards and in 2011 was turned into Ca' Shin by the Le Ali cooperative organization. It has a restaurant and other facilities and is a venue for exhibitions, meetings, courses and other initiatives for children, families and adults concerning ecology, art and sustainability.

9 Calanchi di Sabbiuino park
The park is located in the southern part of the municipal area and covers both sides of the narrow ridge crossed by via di Sabbuino which gives lovely glimpses of Reno and Savena valleys. Some limited grassy areas with wild rose and hawthorn bushes, rows and groves of typical hill plants stretch towards the Savena river. The wild slope in the direction of the Reno river is inaccessible but with a view of vast scenic gullies. In 1974 when the park was opened they erected a memorial to the 100 partisans and civilians, carried here from the town and killed by the Nazis in December 1944. The neighbouring Cà Croce hosts a small exhibition concerning the massacre.

such as the buckthorn, a species of Mediterranean origin are also present. The spring undergrowth features beautiful blooms of primroses, anemones, violets, hellebores, and pulmonarias together with less common species, such as periwinkles, little carnation flowers, the soft Dog's tooth violet and the beautiful red lily. Clearings and semi-natural grasslands are embellished by wild orchids belonging to Orchis, Anacamptis, Ophrys species and others of the same beauty and rarity. Difficult environments like gullies are places of naturalistic interest and of remarkable chromatic effects when they are colored by the lively spring blooms of the broom and the Sulla coronaria and those of the less attractive Aster inocypris at the end of summer. Despite the vicinity to the town, the fauna is well represented with birds of prey like the peregrine falcon and other kinds of birds like the nightjar, the red-backed shrike, the green woodpecker, the major red woodpecker, the golden oriole, the jay, the cuckoo, the hoopoe and dozens of other species. Also found are reptiles like the Aesculapian snake and protected amphibian species, such as the rare Apennine howler toad and the Sav's salamander. In the Bologna hills you can also frequently see a chamois, a boar or a fox, and find the spines of a porcupine in the grass by the roadside. As many people already know, for many years even the wolf has been a regular visitor to the hill and you may happen to see one in the woods a few kilometres from town.

Religious settlements

Narrow streets beyond the city gates, which sometimes follow the former network of roads which, like the fingers of a hand extend through the small valleys in the Bologna hills between the Savena and Reno rivers. After leaving the city behind, these streets lead to a varied landscape where religious buildings and old elegant villas are found at regular intervals among still active agricultural areas and farmland. Besides being points of observation and defense, in the Middle Ages the most important sites close to the city were also secluded, healthy and safe shelters for hermits and pious women. Later on, these shelters became monasteries, shrines and impressive religious buildings always with close economic and religious links to the city. The best known is the Beata Vergine di San Luca Sanctuary, with its beautiful portico connecting to the city. The Franciscan convent of S. Paolo in Monte, called "dell'Osservanza", reached through the homonymous street, had a traditional pilgrimage to the Madonna del Monte Sanctuary which was on the current site of Villa Aldini. On the nearby Colle di Remondato, on the opposite side of the Aposa Valley, the Olivetans built the religious complex of San Michele in Bosco with its rich artistic heritage and its magnificent vista of the city. Slightly beyond San Michele in Bosco there are two old monasteries, the Romanesque Cenobio di San Vittore – with its beautiful twin-column cloister - and the Ronzano Hermitage. The latter, standing high and silent among tall oak, chestnut and ancient cypress trees, has very old origins and in the 19th century was the residence of the Gozzadini family. The only religious buildings on the southerly part of the hill are the small churches of the parish areas into which the land was once divided: Gaibola, Casaglia, Paderno, Roncizio, Jola, Sabbuino and others. Almost all of them have 18th-19th century features even if dating back to the Medieval period and were landmarks for the rural population. However they may have been modified and sometimes turned into houses, these small churches, remain features of the traditional agricultural landscape.



10 Umberto Bagnaresi Garden
Umberto Bagnaresi garden is a green quiet area recently named after the environmentalist professor of forestry at Bologna University who died in in 2003. The garden borders the Archbishop's mansion of Villa Revedin and the wide garden of Villa Teresa municipal Schools. Besides giving an unusual and amazing glimpse of the city, it features beautiful oak trees and some ornamental specimens typical of an aristocratic garden such as one cedar and a few pine trees.

11 Villa Aldrovandi Mazzacorati Garden
An elegant gate leads to the part of the Italian garden dedicated to the composer Ferruccio Busoni. The garden surrounds the façade of a magnificent villa owned by the Marescotti, Aldrovandi and Mazzacorati families between the 17th and 19th centuries. The neoclassical style of the villa is due to the Aldrovandi family and the Mazzacorati family installed the charming little theatre in the 18th century which is still used for concerts and performances. The villa became a public building in 1953 and over the years it was used for several purposes, such as convalescent home, military hospital, sanatorium, health centre, and community centre. Dense scrubs of evergreen grow on each side of the building and the hill behind where in the late 12th century there was the Santa Maria di Camaldoli hermitage. A big cross at the corner between via Toscana and via Croce di Camaldoli is at the site where the hermitage once stood.

12 Oliviero Olivo Park
This modern green area was opened in 2005 and is named after a professor of human anatomy at Bologna University who died in 1981. The park was set up to recover an old piece of countryside delineated by the as the rows of old mulberries and a stretch of the historic Savena Canal. The Savena Canal runs from the Lock of San Ruffillo to Margherita Gardens and then connects to the network of the several underground canals of the city centre.

13 Forte Bandiera Park
The park covers the area around Jola and Bandiera hills in a panoramic position over Savena Valley and the surrounding hills. It retains various marks of the past agricultural structure: farm fields turned into meadows and lined with rows and hedges which alternate with small woods and shrubs. The park, inaugurated in 1976, takes its name from one of two defensive positions on top of the two hills which in the 18th century were owned by the Bandiera family. Little remains of these positions which were erected after the unification of Italy. The Canova farm and part of the surrounding park are managed by Ventaglio di Orav, an association which deals with social inclusion.

From that small lawn you could gaze over the expanses of the fields in front which blended into the distant horizon, or over your side, following the corrugation of the hills which, sinuous, short, stupendous, are leaning against Bologna and surround it [...]. If from the city the hills appear to be beautiful in their unequally prominent summits, in the glimpse of their features, in the fragmentation of the sweet hillsides sometimes hidden by the trees, sometimes made visible by a villa standing on, they turn out to be much more beautiful from a hilltop position. In fact, the double and triple range of the hills can be seen in all the poetical deformity of its framework only from the middle, and then the hills seem to come out from each side, compete and lose shape in the same effort...

Alfredo Oriani, Beyond, 1877

Parks and Gardens in the Bologna hills

By the
Fondazione Villa Ghigi



Comune di Bologna



Sostenibilità è Bologna



per il verde di Bologna

Parks and Gardens in the Bologna hills

As Dino Campana wrote "Bologna is a city that has "hills in the outskirts". Thanks to a well known series of walks and excursions the Bolognese are rediscovering the pleasure of leaving the city for a beautiful part of the area somewhat forgotten despite the fact that it has always been a fundamental part of the identity of the area. Notable travelers in the past have rarely ignored the hills near the city. They were attracted to the pleasant landscape of houses, churches, farms, pastures, valleys and woods and the magnificent views of the city center and the plain. In addition, from the geographical point of view the slopes of the Contrafforte Piocenico certainly deserves its status as a "protected natural and semi-natural landscape" which it has had since 2014. In recent years the hills are becoming more lively and welcoming thanks to the initiatives focused on the beauty of the landscape, contact with nature, and genuine and biological food. These measures as well as the offerings for families, children and leisure, update the dream of a hill in balance between leisure activities, culture and environment. To complete the picture perhaps it lacks only the opportunity for the rebirth of hillside agriculture which in the relatively recent past furnished the seasonal produce and other quality products for the city markets.



Edited by Fondazione Villa Ghigi © 2014 – Reprint 2017

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14 Paleotto Park
The park, was opened to the public in 1973, stretches on the hilly slopes to the left of Savena river and descends to the river banks for a short distance. The landscape is mostly characterized by meadows and cropland crossed by rural roads lined with rows of fruit trees and field maples. Patches of natural woods line the Savena river and follow the slope just upstream. The park was named after the Bolognese dynasty of Paleotti, who owned most of the land in the area and a very old mill which has since disappeared. In the upper part of the park there is the Casa del Paleotto, managed by Selene Centro Studi, which arranges environmental educational and sports activities.

15 Chiusa Park
Chiusa Park, opened in 1975, covers the land of the historic estate of Sampieri-Talon and is the largest green area in Casalecchio di Reno. The park runs along the massive lock (chiusa) on the Reno river from which the canal, which has been carrying its water into the heart of the town for centuries, originates. The big park includes traces of the ornamental garden of the 18th century Sampieri-Talon villa and a long stretch of the riverside area, thick woods of majestic oaks, rare flora and fauna species, vast meadows, vegetable gardens and biodynamically cultivated agricultural areas. La Casa per l'Ambiente, at the entrance to the park, is the seat of various associations and is used for courses and meetings. The recovered farm complex of Montagnola di Sopra also is used for meeting and as a guest house while another rural centre, Casa Margherita, is used for park management. The recently restored old lemon orchard, adjoined to the Sampieri-Talon villa, houses the Municipal Garden Nursery for Biodiversity.

16 Prati di Mugnano Park
The natural agricultural park of Prati di Mugnano is a lovely green area owned by the Municipality of Bologna but located in the territory of Sasso Marconi. It was opened to the public in 1973 on part of the land previously belonging to a large agricultural farm. Today half the surface of the park is situated in the Contrafforte Pliocenico Nature Reserve. The park includes river areas, wide meadows and wild wooded scrubs, with rare herb species, and offers superb views on the Reno Valley, Bologna hills and the Contrafforte relief (Monte Mario is the closest one). The park features rest and barbecue areas and is crossed by a beautiful network of paths which leads to the natural and historical heritage of the protected area from the rural villages of Mugnano di Sopra (with ample parking) and Piazza. Since 2014 Fondazione Villa Ghigi has been responsible for the maintenance of green areas.



The hills on foot

The network of pathways which once allowed people to walk along the hills and connected churches, villas and farms, has been the subject of rehabilitation projects aimed at creating hiking trails. These projects are partially completed and it is now possible to walk freely along some stretches of the hills. Other portions are still at the project stage and require verification and agreements with the property owners. For years the program "Le colline fuori della porta" (the hills outside the gate), promoted by the Municipality of Bologna, Fondazione Villa Ghigi and Consulta dell'Eccursionismo, has provided Bolognese citizens the opportunity to take walks and hikes leading to historical sites and public green areas of the hillsides. Citizens' growing interest in the hills aroused by Le colline fuori della porta and other similar initiatives has prompted the associations gathered within the Consulta to define a series of trails which allow people to walk along the Bologna hills from the city centre. The first trail which opened was CAI 902 leading from S. Michele in Bosco to Forte Bandiera Park in about one hour and a half. The second trail, CAI 904, leads from the viali di circonvallazione, walking up via dell'Osservanza, to Villa Ghigi Park, Eremo di Ronzano and S. Michele di Gaibola. Other trails are still being defined and are walkable only for some stretches: CAI 914, which leads from Villa Spada Park to Casaglia, and CAI 900, a long trail linking the Reno Valley with the Savena Valley. Finally, don't miss the historic Sentiero dei Bregoli trail which leads from San Martino Church in Casalecchio di Reno to the Beata Vergine di S. Luca Sanctuary.

Info www.consultaeccursionismobologna.it



The hill by bike

Cyclists have always trained along the arduous trails of Bologna hills and these same routes have been used for national level competitions. In 2013 on 25th April (Italy's Liberation Day) three cycle-tourism routes opened. The riders can visit places of historical and environmental interest as well as be reminded of the Resistance. Besides featuring route directions, these three trails are punctuated by panels with details about events that occurred here and in the city of Bologna during the Second World War (a version suitable for smartphone with audio texts is also available). The first trail is 12.5 km long and leads from San Giovanni in Monte to the Sabbino Memorial, the second one is 10 km long and leads from Villa Spada Park to Calanchi Sabbino park, and the third and shortest one stretches along the Ravone Valley for 2.3 km.

Info www.tour.bo.it



- 1 Villa Spada Park**
Surface area 6.7 hectares
Opening times 7.30am - 10pm (April - September) and 7.30am - 6pm (October - March)
- 2 Villa delle Rose Garden**
Surface area 2.3 hectares
Opening times 6am - midnight (April - September) and 7am - 6pm (October - March)
- 3 San Pellegrino Park**
Surface area 27 hectares
- 4 Baden Powell Park**
Surface area 7.2 hectares
- 5 San Michele in Bosco Park**
Surface area 7 hectares
Opening times 5.30am - 11pm
- 6 Villa Ghigi Park**
Surface area 29 hectares
Info www.fondazionevillaghigi.it
- 7 Monte Paderno Park**
Surface area 26 hectares
- 8 Cavaioni Park**
Surface area 38 hectares
Info www.ca-shin.com
- 9 Calanchi di Sabbino Park**
Surface area 15 hectares



- 10 Umberto Bagnaresi Garden**
Surface area 1.5 hectares
- 11 Villa Aldrovandi Mazzacorati Garden**
Surface area 3.6 hectares
- 12 Oliviero Olivo Park**
Surface area 1.7 hectares
- 13 Forte Bandiera Park**
Surface area 16 hectares
- 14 Paleotto Park**
Surface area 21 hectares
Info www.selenecentrostudii.it
- 15 Chiusa Park**
Surface area 104 hectares
Info www.parcodellachiusa.it
- 16 Prati di Mugnano Park**
Surface area 111 hectares

Living in the hills

Kilowatt - Le Serre dei Giardini Margherita
via Castiglione, 134 - www.kilowatt.bo.it
Rest area "Vetro" - 370 336439

Ai 300 scalini - Cultivation and Culture in the hills via Casaglia, 39 - 339 4455497
teatrodeimignoli@alice.it
<http://ai300scalini.blogspot.it>

Ca Shin via Cavaioni, 1
051 589419 - www.ca-shin.com
Orto dei Giusti via dei Colli, 54
<http://ortodeigiusti.wordpress.com>

Podere Canova via Gaibara, 1
051 581160 - www.ilventagiodiorav.eu
Apericó Bar & Grill - 348 8410800

ASD Turismo Equestre Parco Cavaioni via Cavaioni, 3 - 051 589218
www.maneggiocavaioni.com

Cenobio di San Vittore via San Vittore, 40
051 582331 - www.sanvittore.info
Casa del Paleotto via del Paleotto, 11
051 443494 - www.casadelpaleotto.it

Restaurant and Holiday Farm with B&B Fienile Fluò via Paderno, 9 - 051 589636
www.fienilefluò.it

Ristorante Antica Grotta via Roncio, 30
051 3399513

Ristorante Il Boccone del Prete via Siepelunga 56/4 - 051 780038
www.ristorazionebolognese.it
next to Siepelunga Golf Club

Trattoria Monte Donato via Siepelunga, 118
051 472901 - www.trattoriamentedonato.it

Osteria dal Nonno via di Casaglia, 62
051 589093 - www.osteriadalnonno.bologna.it

Ristorante Pizzeria Pepperoni via di Barbilano, 7 - 051 333658
www.ristorantepepperoni.com

Pizzeria Vito - San Luca via di Monte Albano, 5 - 051 437711
www.vito.it

Ristorante La Lumiera via di Sabbino, 4
051 589409 - www.lumiera.it



For information
www.comune.bologna.it/ambiente
www.fondazionevillaghigi.it

