



'APPUNTAMENTO IN GIARDINO'

5 and 6 June 2021

Special openings and events

in over 150 parks and gardens across Italy

Under the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Culture

Rome, 28 May - Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 June over 150 Italian gardens, some of which usually inaccessible, are opening to the public as part of “**Appuntamento in Giardino**”. Promoted by **APGI-Associazione Parchi e Giardini d'Italia** (the Italian Parks and Gardens Association), with the support of **Ales**, and **under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture**, “Appuntamento in Giardino” has reached its fourth edition. The key concept of the initiative is that of a “**garden party**” inviting the public to discover, and this year in particular “rediscover”, the surprising historic, artistic, botanic and landscape qualities of the gardens of Italy, in major historic sites and small private gardens. “Appuntamento in Giardino” features talks, events, readings and special activities with a cultural offer for all the family.

The event will also be an opportunity to raise awareness in the greater public about the necessary care, maintenance, and protection activities associated with gardens in the framework of a large-scale national valorisation programme. An objective that has finally found support in the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan** with measures in favour of Italy’s park and garden heritage.

Ministry of Culture Dario Franceschini:

“Culture is guiding the country’s restart” declared the Ministry Dario Franceschini underlining how “the Recovery Plan introduces fundamental resources to enhance the Italian cultural heritage and its highlights such as its historic parks and gardens”.

“A choice that acknowledges the existence and the historic and artistic dignity of the gardens of Italy, besides their outstanding environmental and landscape value” affirmed the Ambassador **Ludovico Ortona, President of APGI**.

“Ales, as founding member of APGI – declared **Mario De Simoni Ales Spa President and CEO** – energetically supports this institution, underlining the natural and rightful inclusion of parks and gardens in Italy’s cultural heritage”.

Counting on the participation of almost all Italian regions, “Appuntamento in Giardino” will simultaneously take place in several other European countries joining the ***Rendez-vous aux jardins*** festival testifying the ever-increasing international attention to green heritage.

Forty percent of the gardens joining “Appuntamento in Giardino” are opening specifically for this event: these special openings are a unique occasion to admire gardens that are normally inaccessible or only very rarely accessible, such as the citrus and secret gardens of **Buggiano Castello** exceptionally open to the public. **Important UNESCO sites** such as **Villa Adriana, Villa D’Este, Reggia di Caserta, Venaria Reale and the Boboli Gardens** have also joined the initiative.

“Appuntamento in Giardino” also sees a widespread participation of **private historic residences** opening their prestigious gardens, such as **Villa Torrigiani near Lucca, Tiepolo Passi in Veneto and Rocca Meli Lupi of Soragna**. In many cases visitors will be greeted by the owners themselves or by the gardeners illustrating the history of the garden and describing the ongoing commitment that spaces like these require in order to assure their survival. This will be the case in the 19th-century park of **Castello Roero, Monticello d’Alba; at the Castello Ducale of Agliè** the gardener of the museum complex will lead visitors to the discovery of its monumental trees. **The Botanical Gardens of Rome, Naples, Bologna and Turin plus a few Alpine botanical gardens have also joined the initiative.**

The opening of the gardens – each of which is a small ecosystem and an exact detector of environmental changes – is also a **valuable occasion to raise the public’s awareness on environmental and sustainability issues. This will be the case at the Sustainable Park of Villa Trecci**, where visitors will be greeted by the owners.

“Appuntamento in Giardino” also offers a wide range of special activities: **besides the traditional guided tours, visitors can choose from a variety of workshops, yoga lessons, botanical painting courses, tastings and musical performances.** At **Villa Medici in Cerreto Guidi**, for instance, the **Accademia degli Archi di San Miniato Basso will delight the public with a magical concert under a centuries-old wisteria.** Many locations also offer sensory routes.

“Appuntamento in Giardino” will also be an opportunity to showcase the results of **important restoration interventions**, such as that carried out on the plant heritage of the Horti Farnesiani and on the Fontana Margherita of the Reggia di Caserta.

This year, the subjects of agricultural production, biodiversity and sustainability will be the focus of specific initiatives in a number of gardens in southern Italy, such as the **Conservatorio Botanico Pomona** in Salento, Puglia, where visitors will have access to its collection of fruit trees, or at **Favara Maredolce in Palermo**, with talks exploring the techniques and biodiversity of ancient Sicilian citrus cultivations.

Also part of “Appuntamento in Giardino” is “**Interno Verde Parma**”, the event welcoming visitors to the most evocative and particular private gardens of Parma’s historic centre, with itineraries disclosing the history and the changes of the city that is Italy’s 2020-21 Capital of Culture.

A new feature of the 2021 edition is the photo initiative launched on Instagram, entitled: **Ritorno alla Primavera** (Return to Spring) whose aim it is to create a visual documentation of the two days of “Appuntamento in Giardino”. The focus of this project is on the beauty of nature’s rebirth, and on gardens as places open to culture and socialisation. The hashtag to join the project is **#ritornoallaprimavera** with tags of the gardens part of the initiative.

All the information and the list of gardens part of the project are available at <https://www.apgi.it/appuntamento-in-giardino/> and on the APGI social networks (FB, IG, TW).

Download here the licensed promotional video

<https://we.tl/t-ed0ogwi227>

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