



Built in the medieval period nearby the church of Santa Maria delle Bocche, in 1471 the palace passed from the notary public Rinaldo Mezzaprile do the Ariosto family, along with the adjoining building (the Magna Domus of the distinguished family), to which is linked by a bridge in vicolo del Granchio. In 1481 the building passed to the canon Brunoro Ariosto: the Christological monogram placed in the façade dates probably back to this period, in memory of the preaching of Bernardino da Siena in Ferrara, who adopted it as his emblem. The marble portal with archivolt and key bracket can be dated back to the sixteenth century. While Brunoro was canon in Rovigo, his brother Nicolò established himself in the palace, being the father of the world-famous Ludovico, at the time ten years-old. In this building, the author-to be of the Orlando Furioso studied with his tutor, Domenico Catabena from Argenta, and in all likelihood he wrote his first poems and few premature theatrical texts. When his father died, the great poet left Ferrara in order to go to Canossa as castellan of the Fortress, although he returned to live in these rooms several times, until when he bought the house in the quarter of Mirasole. In the house situated in via Del Giuoco del Pallone 31, of which he later became the only owner, Ludovico wrote long passages of the first draft of the Orlando Furioso, published in 1516. After the Ariostos, the palace passed to the noble family Canani and then to the Federicis, Righettis, Agnolettis, until it was bought by the landscape painter and art critic Ferdinando Ughi in the nineteenth century. He then sold it to the painter Oreste Buzzi in 1913, who had just came back from Brazil with considerable financial resources, after having also worked for the President of the Republic. Upon Buzzi's death, in 1943, the son Ugo gave the house to the Cavallinis, parents of Bruno (Eleonora Cavallini's father), Rina and Romana (mother of Mario, Giovanni, Bruno and Anna Verdi). Rina Cavallini got married to Giuseppe Sgarbi and gave birth to Vittorio and Elisabetta Sgarbi. Of Renaissance taste is the front, exquisitely ornamental in the tradition of the Ferrara "terracotta." The ancient portico on the ground floor was tamponed during the sixteenth century, while the façade was raised after Buzzi bought it according to his own plan, and he intelligently tried to keep the stylistic unity with the piano nobile and decorated it personally with fine tempera colours of late Art Nouveau and Art Deco taste, both on the ceilings and on the walls. At the time when Oreste Buzzi bought the house, there was a big room on the ground floor (beck then a wood and carbon shop) where, according to the tradition, Ludovico Ariosto staged his plays in front of his family, as a preview.



Apartment Elisabetta
Tullio Pericoli
Graffito, 2011



Apartment Caterina
Antonio Stagnoli
Pastel on wall, 2011



Apartment Giuseppe
Vanni Cuoghi
Oil on canvas, 2012



Corridor between
Apartment Giuseppe and
Apartment Caterina
Angelo Davoli
Oil on wall, 2012



Details of fresco with young man and hippogriff discovered in the false ceiling, attributed to a Dosso Dossi's student (1486-1542)



Cartouche (XVI century) with Horace's sentence: "Quid sit futurum cras, fuge quaerere"



Apartment Vittorio
Wainer Vaccari
Oil on canvas, 2012



ITINERARIES IN FERRARA

Schifanoia Palace

Symbol of the Estensis' power, it is an ideal equivalent of the Palace of Reason. Here is still alive the memory of the most important painters from Ferrara, and in particular that of Francesco dal Cossa.

Museum of Cathedral Dome

You can't think about this museum of Via San Romano, without the immediate recognition of the organ's shutters, with masterpieces by Cosmè Tura: Saint George with the Princess, and above all The Annunciation.

Antonioni's House

We could speak for hours, days, about Michelangelo Antonioni. Maybe it would be sufficient to say that he has been the only Italian director to tell stories about life silences and spaces.

Biagio Rossetti's House

Located in Via XX Settembre, previously named Via della Ghiara, the house of the most famous architect of Ferrara, Biagio Rossetti, is now the first Italian Museum of Architecture..

Diamonds Palace

In Corso Ercole I d'Este you can also find this palace. Its famous external ashlar in white marble, with pointed ends orientated in different directions to better catch light, give to the building a Borges's fortification appearance.

The most beautiful street of Europe: Corso Ercole I d'Este

A tangle of aristocratic houses and gardens in the most sumptuous street of Ferrara. It is the poets' street, where Giorgio Bassani used to go for a walk, plunging in the memories of a lost past.

Jewish Cemetery

This is one of those places where History and Literature are intertwined, under the aegis of an incredible nostalgia that spells anyone. The tombstone of Giorgio Bassani, created by Arnaldo Pomodoro, stands there to remind us that thanks to The Finzi Contini's Garden there is a special aura surrounding this testimony of the Past, giving it a life, a story.

The Certosa (Catholic Cemetery)

The Certosa, together with the Church of San Cristoforo, is a place to visit by bike, to appreciate the atmosphere of the garden, so different from the one perceived in the Jewish Cemetery. Here rests Michelangelo Antonioni, but also De Pisis

Estes Castle

The Castle is from the Fourteenth Century, therefore it is a late medieval fortress; but its marble balconies lead us to the Renaissance lifestyle, to the luxury of the ducal court, as shown also in the paintings of the Filippi's school.

The Compianto by Guido Mazzoni in the Chiesa del Gesù in Via dei Borgoleoni

The Compianto by Guido Mazzoni catches attention together with other pieces by the same artist and other sculptors, like Niccolò Dell'Arca. To admire these masterpieces is a true adventure for the spirit.

Via dei Duelli, that is the narrowest street of the city

You don't have to go to Naples to find a narrow street. In Ferrara you'll find Via dei Duelli (The Street of the Duels), which is extremely narrow, a fissure for elves and dwarfs. It is nice to go there to think by yourself under the ideal constriction of a narrow space.

Sant'Antonio in Polesine

This cloistered convent of Benedictine nuns stands out not only for its beauty, but also for the XIV century fresco that is to be found within it. It represents Christ climbing a rung ladder to reach the cross, symbolizing the will to offer himself as a sacrificial lamb. It is a unique work of art, powerful in its compositional simplicity.

ITINERARIES AROUND FERRARA

Visit to Foundation Cavallini Sgarbi of Ro Ferrarese, 4000 artworks raccolte dal critico Vittorio Sgarbi

We highly recommend a visit to the Cavallini Sgarbi Foundation - Ro Ferrarese, 4000 works of art collected by the critic Vittorio Sgarbi. It is also possible to visit the ancient Historical Pharmacy, beautiful with its floral Liberty furniture, attached to the Cavallini Sgarbi Foundation.

Trip on the Po river - on board of the Nena

Time: about two hours. Departure from the Darsena in San Paolo of Ferrara, and on through the Po Grande to Ro Ferrarese. This is the route of the river ferry Nena. Better than being in New Orleans: daydreaming along the lands and waters of Ferrara.

The private estate of Zenzalino (between Ro and Copparo), where the mythical horse Varenne has been trained

This is a wonderful place, a tree-lined, straight white road, with very high poplars and a few houses that make a small village. But this is also a place of memory, since the equestrian tradition celebrates this site as the excellent one for Varenne's fans.

Tresigallo - a rationalist city, founded by Edmondo Rossoni in '30s

It's a place out of order: the straight narrow streets, the round squares, the hypnotic geometry of tiled boulevards, the arcades enlightened by the sun, the undetectable sense of the sacred that surrounds everything, the happy rides on bikes in the country's silence.