



COMUNE DI SANREMO



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CRA Officina

The wonderful world of EXOTIC PLANTS in the gardens of Sanremo
Le monde merveilleux des PLANTES EXOTIQUES dans les jardins de Sanremo

Villa Nobel Alfred Nobel, le scientifique de renommée internationale et inventeur de la dynamite, acheta une splendide villa sur le Corso Cavallotti en 1890. Il s'y installa l'année suivante pour profiter des effets bénéfiques de l'air marin, qui faisait tant de bien à sa santé fragile. Il passa les cinq dernières années de sa vie à Sanremo où il mourut le 10 décembre 1896. C'est pendant cette période qu'il décida de créer les futurs Prix Nobel, auxquels une partie du musée est consacrée à l'intérieur de la villa. Depuis cette ville de la Riviera, il écrivit une belle lettre à la baronne Bertha von Suttner, sa très chère amie, dans laquelle il lui confia son intention de créer un prix pour la paix et elle fut la première femme à le recevoir en 1905. La villa est en enchantement pour le visiteur : depuis la rue principale, on peut admirer la magnifique façade caractérisée par une curieuse tourelle de style mauresque, et le parc luxuriant bien entretenu. Aujourd'hui, la villa appartient à l'Administration Provinciale d'Imperia, qui organise des congrès et des expositions à caractère international.
Jardin du Palais Bellevue À la fin du XIX^e siècle, Sanremo est devenue une destination hivernale pour le tourisme d'élite de toute l'Europe. Pour répondre aux besoins d'une clientèle si particulière, on a construit de magnifiques hôtels qui existent encore aujourd'hui et que l'on peut admirer dans cette belle ville de la Riviera. Parmi eux figure l'imposant hôtel Bellevue, construit en 1894 sur un projet de l'architecte Pietro Agosti, qui devint plus tard maire de Sanremo. Par son élégance et son raffinement, l'hôtel répondait au goût des aristocrates de l'époque : à l'intérieur on trouvait de somptueuses salles de réception, des chambres et des suites spacieuses et très luxueuses, un restaurant renommé ainsi que des espaces réservés aux serviteurs qui suivaient sans relâche les illustres personnalités de la Riviera. L'élite de l'époque aimait les splendides jardins exotiques, si bien que le Bellevue fut embellie d'un parc extraordinaire qui se développe encore aujourd'hui à partir du Corso Cavallotti. Les luxuriantes espèces exotiques du parc invitent le visiteur et l'accompagnent jusqu'à la somptueuse façade de l'ancien hôtel qui, contrairement à beaucoup d'autres, n'est protégé par aucune barrière. Après la Seconde Guerre mondiale, le roi déchu d'Égypte, Farouk, séjournait à l'hôtel Bellevue. Il fut un grand amateur de la ville de Sanremo et un habitué du Casino. Aujourd'hui, le complexe hôtelier appartient à la ville de Sanremo qui l'acheta en 1963 et le transforma pour y héberger les bureaux de l'Hôtel de Ville. Enfin, le parc a été rénové en 1988, lorsqu'a été construite la jolie fontaine, bien visible depuis le Corso Cavallotti et animée par des jeux d'eau. On y trouve plusieurs exemplaires d'Araucaria bidwillii (bunya-bunya) dont le port est superbe grâce à la forme curieuse des branches linéaires verticillées se terminant par des feuilles pointues et rigides.
Jardin de Villa Zirio Non loin du parc d'Ormond, se trouve la villa construite par l'avocat Giovanni Battista Zirio sur un projet de l'architecte Berenger antérieur à 1868. Ce somptueux édifice révèle de précieux éléments décoratifs, le cadre idéal pour la loggia panoramique et un magnifique tympan qui domine la splendide façade. L'intérieur a été réalisé par des artistes talentueux, tels que Filippo Ghersi et Gio Batta Novaro, tandis que les fresques sont l'œuvre de Francesco Semino. C'est l'une des villas les plus célèbres et les plus aimées de Sanremo, puisqu'en 1887 elle a accueilli l'héritier du trône de l'Empire allemand, Frédéric III, qui a décidé de passer quelques mois sur la Riviera en raison de graves problèmes de santé, et a choisi Morell Mackenzie comme médecin personnel. La douceur du climat semblait être bénéfique au physique éprouvé du futur souverain jusqu'au jour où, le 3 mars 1888, il reçut la nouvelle de la mort de son père Guillaume. Frédéric III quitta alors Sanremo pour rejoindre sa patrie bien-aimée, qui le proclama empereur et où il mourut après seulement trois mois de règne. Le séjour du souverain dans notre belle ville est commémoré par une plaque monumentale que les passants peuvent voir depuis la Via Aurelia. La villa abrite le premier ascenseur de la société Stigler-Otis, installé pour faciliter les déplacements de cet hôte important souffrant d'une grave maladie et encore en fonction aujourd'hui. Il ne faut pas oublier qu'un autre illustre personnage a séjourné à la Villa Zirio : c'est Richard Wagner, avant d'être célèbre, dont une belle estampe de 1868, dans laquelle il est représenté avec Von Kettell dans un joli coin du parc, témoigne de sa présence. Une preuve que déjà à cette époque, le jardin était très luxuriant, bien que l'intervention de Ludovico Winter soit considérée comme postérieure. Ce splendide jardin revêt une grande importance environnementale grâce à des plantes magnifiques comme la Washingtonia robusta et la Washingtonia filifera, Phoenix canariensis et Cycas revoluta. In particular, two Ficus macrophylla, extraordinary examples of "living monuments", are worth a special mention.
Garden of Villa Ormond When strolling along Corso Cavallotti, visitors are enchanted by the wonderful park surrounding Villa Ormond. The property, formerly owned by the Rambaldi family, was bought by a wealthy tobacco merchant as suggested by his wife, who was fascinated by the colours and climate of the Italian Riviera. Marie Marguerite preferred Sanremo to chilly Switzerland and she found peace and relief here, despite her health being quite poor. Therefore, out of love for his wife, Michel Luis Ormond had a splendid villa built, based on a project by Architect R. Verdin, as well as the large park which, at the time, was already crossed by the road and railway line. Today, visitors can still admire this extraordinary landmark of Sanremo, which dates back to the early 20th century. The magnificent Villa Ormond was a noble residence and hosted the Prussian emperor, the Duke of Aosta and Princess Elisabeth of Austria. This lovely property was then purchased by the Municipality of Sanremo in 1928, after Marie Marguerite, by then a widow, had passed away three years earlier. In the park, the "Palmatum", with more than 70 plant species from five continents, is worthy of note. These include the monumental Phoenix reclinata, a splendid specimen introduced here in the 19th century by the botanists that were the first to create the acclimatization gardens in the Italian Riviera. The beautiful palm trees, which tower majestically over the buildings, along with the many plants of exotic origin, create a lush and fascinating oasis. In a picturesque spot in the park there is the famous "Japanese Garden", born out of the friendship between Sanremo and the city of Atami, which is a pleasant reminder of the East and its philosophy. The mild climate of the Italian Riviera allows remote species to develop, as well as the spread of "monstrous" specimens of the sinuous and gigantic Ficus macrophylla or the odd Yucca elephantipes with a robust, wrinkled trunk resembling an elephant's foot. The trunk of the beautiful Nolina longifolia is covered by a wrinkled, corky bark, with tufts of leaves at the tips of the branches and upright panicles with hundreds of white flowers, creating a striking decorative effect.

Villa Nobel In 1890, Alfred Nobel, the world-famous scientist and inventor of dynamite, bought a magnificent large villa along Corso Cavallotti. The following year, he moved there to enjoy the beneficial effects of sea air, which did wonders for his health, which was quite poor. He spent the last five years of his life in Sanremo and died here on 10 December 1896. At this time, he decided to establish what would later become the Nobel Prizes, with a dedicated section in the interesting museum in the villa, which is open to visitors. In this city in the Italian Riviera he wrote a nice letter to a dear friend of his, Baroness Bertha von Suttner, informing her of his intention to establish a peace prize. Incidentally, she was the first woman to receive it in 1905. The villa enchants visitors: from the main street one can admire the magnificent facade, with its unusual Moorish-style turret, and the lush, well-kept park. It is now owned by the Provincial Administration of Imperia, which hosts conferences and major international exhibitions here.
Garden of Palazzo Bellevue In the late 19th century, Sanremo became a winter elite tourism destination, with visitors coming from all over Europe. In order to meet the needs of such a unique clientele, splendid hotels were built, which are still standing and can be admired in this picturesque city in the Italian Riviera. These include the impressive Hotel Bellevue, built in 1894 based on a design by Architect Pietro Agosti, who later became the respected Mayor of Sanremo. With its elegance and sophistication, this hotel satisfied the tastes of aristocratic guests: in fact, it offered spacious and sumptuous reception halls, large stately rooms and suites, a renowned restaurant and lodgings for the servants that always accompanied the illustrious guests of the Italian Riviera. At the time, the renowned guests loved visiting stunning gardens with an exotic charm, which is why the Bellevue was embellished with an extraordinary park that still stretches out from Corso Cavallotti. The luxuriant exotic plant species in the park entice visitors and lead them to the splendid building of the former hotel which, unlike many others, has no gates around it. After the Second World War, the deposed king of Egypt, Farouk, stayed at Hotel Bellevue and enjoyed the city of Sanremo; in fact, he went to the Casino quite regularly. Today, the complex is owned by the Municipality of Sanremo, which bought it in 1963 and converted the building, which is now the seat of public administration. The park was then renovated in 1988, when the charming fountain with water games was built, which can be clearly seen from Corso Cavallotti. Several specimens of Araucaria bidwillii can be found, with superb poise due to the unusual shape of the linear verticillate branches ending with sharp, rigid leaves.
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The wonderful world of exotic plants in the gardens of Sanremo
The gardens of Sanremo offer an environmental heritage of considerable interest from a naturalistic, environmental and historical point of view.
In fact, they are the symbol of the great transformation of Western Liguria, in the late 19th century, from agricultural land, intended especially for olive and citrus groves, into gardens embellished with exotic species introduced by botanists and gardeners from all over Europe, almost forming a huge acclimatisation garden in the Italian Riviera. A walk in the gardens of Sanremo becomes a delightful opportunity to take an imaginary journey through various continents where numerous plant species grow wild, as well as to discover odd shapes, bright colours, alluring and intriguing scents, and interesting adaptations to the environment. The wonderful world of exotic plants in the gardens of Sanremo.



Il meraviglioso mondo delle PIANTE ESOTICHE nei giardini di Sanremo

I giardini di Sanremo costituiscono un patrimonio ambientale di notevole interesse sia dal punto di vista naturalistico-ambientale che storico. Sono infatti il simbolo della grande trasformazione del Ponente Ligure, a fine Ottocento, da territorio agricolo, destinato a olivi e agrumi in particolare alla creazione di giardini arricchiti da specie esotiche introdotte da botanici e giardineri provenienti da tutta Europa, quasi a formare un immenso giardino di acclimatazione in Riviera. Una passeggiata nei giardini di Sanremo diventa una piacevole occasione per compiere un viaggio immaginario nei vari continenti dove le specie crescono spontanee, ma anche un contatto con forme curiose, colori intensi, profumi attraenti e accattivanti e interessanti adattamenti all'ambiente.



VILLA NOBEL

Alfred Nobel, lo scienziato di fama internazionale ed inventore della dinamite, acquistò una grande e splendida villa sita lungo Corso Cavallotti nel 1890. Vi si trasferì l'anno seguente per godere degli effetti benefici dell'aria di mare, che tanto giova alla sua cagionevole salute. A Sanremo trascorse gli ultimi cinque anni di vita e qui morì il 10 dicembre del 1896. In questo periodo decise di istituire i futuri Premi Nobel, ai quali è dedicata una sezione dell'interessante museo, visitabile all'interno della villa. Dalla città rivierasca confidò in una bella lettera alla Baronessa Bertha von Suttner, sua cara amica, l'intenzione di istituire un premio per la pace e lei fu la prima donna, alla quale venne conferito nel 1905. La villa incanta il visitatore: dalla strada principale si ammira la magnifica facciata caratterizzata da una curiosa torretta di stile moresco, e il parco curato e lussureggianti. Oggi è proprietà dell'Amministrazione Provinciale di Imperia, che qui organizza convegni e importanti mostre a carattere internazionale.

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GIARDINO DI VILLA ZIRIO



Non lontana dal parco Ormond sorge la villa fatta costruire dall'avvocato Giovanni Battista Zirio, eretta su progetto dell'architetto Berenger in data precedente al 1868. La costruzione sontuosa rivelava pregevoli elementi decorativi, ideale cornice della panoramica loggia e un magnifico timpano, con cui culmina la splendida facciata. L'interno è stato curato da meritevoli artisti come Filippo Ghersi e Gio Battista Novaro, mentre gli affreschi sono opera di Francesco Semino. Si tratta di una delle più celebri ed amate ville sanremesi, giacché ospitò nel 1887 l'erede al trono tedesco, Federico III, il quale decise di trascorrere alcuni mesi nella città rivierasca, a causa di seri problemi di salute, e scelse Morell Mackenzie quale suo dottore personale. Il clima mite parve giovare al fisico provato del futuro sovrano sino al giorno in cui, era il 3 marzo 1888, gli giunse la notizia della morte del padre Guglielmo. Federico III abbandonò, allora, Sanremo per raggiungere l'amata patria, che lo proclamò imperatore e dove morì dopo soli tre mesi di reggenza. La permanenza del sovrano nella nostra bella città è ricordata da una targa monumentale visibile al passante dalla Via Aurelia. Nella villa si conserva tuttora funzionante il primo ascensore della ditta Stigler-Otis, installato per agevolare i movimenti dell'importante ospite colpito da grave malattia. Non si deve dimenticare che a Villa Zirio soggiornò un altro personaggio, il non ancor celebre Richard Wagner, la cui presenza è testimoniata da una bella stampa del 1868, nella quale è ritratto assieme a Von Kettell in un grazioso angolo del parco. Questa è la prova che già in quel tempo il giardino appariva assai rigoglioso, sebbene l'intervento di Ludovico Winter sia da considerarsi postumo. Lo splendido giardino ha grande importanza ambientale grazie a magnifiche piante quali la *Washingtonia robusta* e *Washingtonia filifera*, *Phoenix canariensis* e *Cycas revoluta*. Meritano particolare attenzione due *Ficus macrophylla*, straordinari esemplari di "monumenti viventi".

GIARDINO DI PALAZZO BELLEVUE



Sul finire dell'Ottocento Sanremo divenne meta invernale di un turismo d'élite proveniente da tutta Europa. Si costruirono, allo scopo di assolvere alle esigenze di una così particolare clientela, magnifici alberghi che ancor oggi esistono e si ammirano nella bella città rivierasca. Tra questi l'imponente Hotel Bellevue, eretto nel 1894 su progetto dell'architetto Pietro Agosti, il quale divenne in seguito apprezzato Sindaco di Sanremo. Tale albergo rispondeva con la sua eleganza e raffinatezza al gusto degli ospiti aristocratici: esso offriva, infatti, grandi e sontuosi saloni di rappresentanza, ampie e signorili camere e suites, un ristorante rinomato ed alloggi per la servitù, che immancabilmente seguiva in Riviera gli illustri personaggi. La rinomata clientela di quel tempo amava splendidi giardini di carattere esotico, cosicché il Bellevue fu impreziosito con uno straordinario parco che si sviluppa a tutt'oggi da Corso Cavallotti. Le rigogliose specie esotiche del parco invitano il visitatore e lo accompagnano sino alla sontuosa costruzione dell'ex hotel che, a differenza di molti altri, non è difeso da alcuna cancellata. Nel secondo dopoguerra all'Hotel Bellevue soggiornò il deposito re d'Egitto, Faruq, che seppe apprezzare la città sanremese e fu abituale frequentatore del Casinò. Oggigiorno il complesso è di proprietà del Comune di Sanremo che lo acquistò nel 1963, trasformando l'edificio nell'attuale sede dell'amministrazione pubblica. Il parco fu infine oggetto di ristrutturazione nel 1988, occasione in cui si realizzò la graziosa fontana, ben visibile da Corso Cavallotti, animata da giochi d'acqua. Si segnalano diversi esemplari di *Araucaria bidwillii*, dal portamento superbo per la forma curiosa dei rami verticillati lineari terminanti con foglie acuminate e rigide.

GIARDINO DI VILLA ORMOND

Lungo Corso Cavallotti lo sguardo del visitatore è rapito dallo splendido parco che circonda Villa Ormond. La proprietà, già della famiglia Rambaldi, fu acquistata da un ricco commerciante di tabacchi su suggerimento della moglie, che si lasciò incantare dai colori e dal clima della Riviera. Marie Marguerite preferì Sanremo alla fredda Svizzera e qui trovò tranquillità e sollievo, nonostante la sua salute fosse assai cagionevole. Per amore della moglie, quindi, Michel Luis Ormond fece costruire una sontuosa villa su progetto dell'architetto Réverdin e realizzò il grande parco, già allora attraversato dalla strada e dalla linea ferroviaria, che il visitatore può tutt'oggi ammirare quale straordinaria testimonianza della Sanremo dell'ancor inizio Novecento. La magnifica Villa Ormond fu prestigiosa residenza ed ospitò l'imperatore prussiano, il Duca d'Aosta e la Principessa Elisabetta d'Austria. Tale incantevole proprietà fu poi acquistata dal Comune di Sanremo nel 1928, essendo scomparsa Marie Marguerite, ormai vedova, tre anni prima. Nel parco merita particolare attenzione il "palmetum", ove si contano oltre settanta specie qui giunte dai cinque continenti. Tra queste si distingue la monumentale *Phoenix reclinata*, splendido esempio qui introdotto nel XIX secolo da quei botanici, che furono i primi autori dei giardini di acclimatazione in Riviera. Le superbe palme, che si ergono maestose al di sopra degli edifici, creano assieme alle molte piante di provenienza esotica un'oasi lussureggianti ed affascinante. In un suggestivo angolo del parco si sviluppa il celebre "Giardino giapponese", nato dall'amicizia tra Sanremo e la città di Atami, che costituisce un gradevole richiamo all'oriente e alla sua filosofia. Il favorevole clima della Riviera permette lo sviluppo di specie lontane, il diffondersi di "mostroso" esemplari di *Ficus macrophylla* dalla sinuosa e gigantesca mole o della curiosa *Yucca elephantipes* dal tronco robusto e rugoso simile alla zampa di elefante. La bellissima *Nolina longifolia* mostra il suo fusto ricoperto da una rugosa corteccia sugherosa, sovrastato agli apici dei rami dai ciuffi di foglie e dalle pannocchie erette con centinaia di fiori bianchi, di magnifico effetto decorativo.



FLORISEUM-MUSEO DEL FIORE DI SANREMO

Nello splendido Parco di Villa Ormond sorge il primo Museo del Fiore di Sanremo, una collezione di testimonianze storiche conservate dalla famiglia Ester ed Ermanno Moro. Più di cento anni di floricoltura sanremese in mostra: dai primi brevetti in Italia alle storiche immagini della vita nei campi e ai vecchi utensili di lavoro, attraverso un percorso con mostre fotografiche e floreali. I giardini in esterno omaggiano con targhe commemorative i pionieri della floricultura.

 Dans le splendide Parc de Villa Ormond il y a le premier Musée des Fleurs de Sanremo, une collection de témoignages historiques gardées par la famille Ester et Ermanno Moro. Une exposition de plus de cent ans de floriculture à Sanremo: des premiers brevets en Italie aux images historiques des travaux des champs et aux vieux outils du travail, à travers des expositions photographiques et florales. Les jardins à l'extérieur rendent hommage aux pionniers de la floriculture avec des plaques commémoratives.

 In the magnificent Park of Villa Ormond there is the first Flower Museum of Sanremo, a collection of historical records held by the family of Ester and Ermanno Moro. An exhibition of more than a hundred years of floriculture in Sanremo: from the first patents in Italy to the historical images of work in the fields and to old working tools, going through photographic and flower exhibitions. The outdoor gardens honour the pioneers of floriculture with commemorative plates.

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