retto, Annibale and Lodovico Caracci,

Lanfranco, Canaletto, Da Vinci.

#### Farnese theatre

The Farnese theatre, a wooden masterpiece by Giovan Battista Aleotti, was built between 1618 and 1619 at the order of Ranuccio I with the aim to pay homage to Cosimo II de Medici, who had planned to stop in Parma during a journey towards Milan.

It was built in the former arms room of the 19th century, left in 1834 by will Pilotta palace and was opened in 1628 for the wedding of Margherita de Medici tion of San Filippo Neri. The collection,

Dedicated to the Virgin Mary,

can be considered one of the

finest examples of Romanesque

architecture in Italy. It was erected

around the year 1059 and conse-

from blocks of sandstone and de-

is topped by a copy of a gilt cop-

cross. The ceiling and walls are fre-

Deposition by Benedetto Antelami,

one of the finest examples of Ro-

manesque sculpture. The great void

of the dome was frescoed by Cor-

reggio in 1526 with the Assumption

Pilotta palace

The churches

Cathedral

of Giuseppe Stuard to the Congrega-

of the Virgin. Concentric circles of

This art gallery houses the most impor-

tant private collection in the city, more

than 270 paintings from the 14th to

and Duke Odoardo Farnese.

Chamber of San Paolo

festoons of fruit

held up by ribbons

and an umbrella

vault is divided

into 16 segments

by late Gothic ribs.

The visit includes

the room with fre-

Stuard gallery

dro Araldi.

Saint Paul, the chamber of the Abbess

Giovanna Piacenza is a fresco by Cor-

reggio decorated in 1519. The room

presents the illusion of a pergola with

## Giovanni the Evangelist

crated in 1106. The façade is made ble Baroque façade contrasts with corated with a row of loggias and the Renaissance architecture of two tiers of galleries. The bell tower the cloisters and convent; the bell tower on the right side was added in per angel, whose original is at the 1613. The inside, in the shape of a Diocesan museum. The interior of Latin cross, has three nave columns the Cathedral is shaped on a Latin and six chapels. A frieze with the Jewish and Pagan Sacrifice running scoed in the Mannerist style. A 16th along the central nave, was painted century red Verona marble staircase by Correggio and realized by F. M. leads up to the transepts where, on Rondani. By Correggio are also the the right, is the famous relief of the decorations of the hemipillars, the under side of

the arch of the fifth chapel, San Paolo fallen from a horse, the de-

The monuments This Farnese palace was designed not as a

for court and state services and its building began in 1583 under the Duke Ottavio Farnese. It was named after the game "pelota" that was val iconography. The lowest part played in one of the courtyards. It houses the National gallery, the Farnese theatre, the Archaeological bulous beasts, creatures from Hell, museum, the Bodoni museum and sea monsters, centaurs, mermaids, the Palatina library. Baptistery

Located beside the Cathedral, the Baptistery of Parma is one Signs of Zodiac. Above the altar, in of the greatest examples of art in the semi-dome, is a Christ in Glory Italy. This octagonal monument, surrounded by the symbols of the made of Verona marble with four tiers of open loggias topped by a row of blind arches and crowning pinnacles, is certainly the most outstanding example of the transi-

Parma take it easy

the quiet side.

rounded by nature.

Ducal Park

art in Italy. Besupervised its residence but as the headquarters construction and executed almost all the decorative

> unicorns and Zodiac signs. In the four evangelists and two angels.

Commissioned by Marie Louise and designed by

clouds and heavenly hosts that inspired much of the Baroque work of the following century. Monastery and Church of San It was built for the Benedicti-

ne order between 1498 and 1510 but its elaborate white mar-

tion from Romanesque to Gothic nedetto Antelami

sculptures, typical of the medieis encircled by a zoophorus with bas-relief sculptures of animals, fainterior are the notable sculptures by Benedetto Antelami depicting the Months, the Seasons and the

#### Regio theatre

important historical-artistic remains fountain. In the park lies the ancient

that it preserves. Created around the Ducal palace and the Eucherio San-

half of the 16th century, it has a de-vitale palace.

sign that was based in origin on the established principles of the italian Parma is a city of art of the Pianura garden with pergolas and orchards. Padana with about 185.000 resi- A new design of the Garden was dents, its modest dimensions allow then commissioned to the architect citizens and guests to appreciate 

Ennemond Alexandre Petitot, whose work was inspired by the elegance of French classicism. During the Parma is not only art, music and Duchy of Marie Louise of Hapsburg theatre, it is also life outdoor, strol- (1814-47) it was restored again to ling along pedestrian roads of the become a Municipal public Garden city centre, have a drink at one of in 1886. At the entrance of the the several cafes, moving around Garden there is the great étoile, the by bicycle along the many paths starting point for the main avenue for bikes to reach quiet spaces sur- running through the Park, flanked by horse-chestnuts, limes and planetrees; on the background stands out the Fish pool. Noteworthy are also The Ducal park can be considered the sculptures and vases by Jean the symbol of the city not only for Baptiste Boudard, the Temple of its naturalistic side but also for the Arcadia by Petitot and the Trianon

from the 14th and 15th century until the 20th, develops through twenty-two rooms and it includes different works of art and Located in the former Monastery of

> Museum Giordano Ferrari Puppets castle

> > One of the most important collection in Italy dedicated to the animation theatre, "the Castle" is dedicated to Giordano Ferrari, a puppeter from Parma who gave life to this collection. A sugge-

stive and funny tour along the museum halls where are on display puppets, marionettes, scenographies, stage stuff and posters

### House of Music and House of Sound

The House of Music houses the multimedia museum entitled Opera on stage. A journey into the music theatre in Parma through objects, posters, pictures, videos, music and information technology presenting four centuries of opera in Parma. The House of Sound displays a rich collection of communication devices and sound players, from phonographs to mp3 gathered by don Giovanni Patanè, who collected more than 400 items including a wide range of crystal set, vintage, professional, military and standard radios.

Old pharmacy of San Giovanni

The pharmacy can be found within the

walls of the Monastery of San Giovanni

and it was probably opened in 1201. It

consists of three rooms, each of which

contains wooden shelves, frescoes and

ancient tools.

Diocesan museum

The museum houses signi-

ficant archaeological finds

of the Cathedral, Bapti-

stery and Bishop's palace.

Among the Middle age

objects of the exhibition can

be seen pieces of the Ca-

thedral, four marbled lions

and six original statues from

Costantinian museum

and Carlo Rottini.

Charterhouse

museum also hosts the statue of the an-

gel Raffaele replaced with a copy on the

The most beautiful Renaissance church

of Parma, the Sanctuary of Steccata,

Sacristy (1665) by G. B. Mascheroni

Founded in 1225, it became part of

the Carthusian order and monks lived

in there for 483 years. The original

building has been radically changed

up to the current structure. Nowadays

it is used as a training school for pri-

son warders. Only the church and the

This small oratory, part of a larger

building called Ospedale Vecchio, is

dedicated to St Ilario, the patron saint

of Parma. Built in 1663 at the will of

Don Francesco Roncaglia, it is divided

into three aisles separated by pillared

The church of St. Quintino was

first mentioned in 883, but as it

was rebuilt towards the 12th century,

only a capital and a stone door show-

A former sugar factory built in 1899

and dilapidated since the end of the

60's, the Auditorium Paganini has

been converted into a concert hall by

famous architect Renzo Piano who

turned it into a peculiar example

of industrial archaeology. The Audi-

torium has a hall with 780 seats, a

foyer, rehearsing rooms and offices.

Monumental cemetery of Villetta

Built in 1817 on the will of Marie

Louise of Austria, the cemetery is an

octagon with four long opposed sides

and four short ones, it hosts graves

of famous people, among the others,

Created in 1770, it plays host to

wonderful examples of botanical spe-

cies, Bonsai collections, Pelargonium,

old Roses. It also houses the didac-

tical section of the Natural history

Niccolò Paganini.

Botanical garden

columns with stucco grooves.

Church of San Quintino

Auditorium Paganini

cloister are open to visitors.

Oratory of Sant'llario

top of the tower bell of the Cathedral.

#### Bithplace and Museum of Arturo Toscanini

The birthplace of the famous orchestra director Arturo Toscanini, on the west side of the river in the modest district called Oltretorrente, turned into museum in 1967, on the 100th anniversary of his



corations of the cross vault and the dome with the Transit of San Giovanni, the Fathers of the Church and the Evangelists on the pendentives.

### Sanctuary of Santa Maria della Steccata

This outstanding Renaissan-



Nicola Bettoli, the Regio theatre was built between 1821 and 1829. The neoclassical facade has a portico with ten lonic columns, a double row of windows and decorations by Tommaso Bandini on both sides of the tympanum representing the allegories of Fame and the Lyre. It's the temple of

#### Park and Ducal palace

Ex Eridania Park

The elaborated green trees in the Ducal Park was designed in 1560 and extended in the 18th century. Decorated with sculptures by J.B. Boudard, it was subsequently adapted to the French style. The Ducal palace was created by Vignola

dscapes and still lives. architecture of the old Governor's palace

is one of the most innovative works A few steps away from the historical of industrial archaeology reutilizacentre there is the Ex Eridania park, tion, was committed to the famous a real corner of peace and green. architect Renzo Piano. The Ex Erida-Between 2001 and 2003 an urban nia park is connected by a path, that upgrading project restored and tur- can be travelled by walk or bike, to ned a huge industrial area no longer the bigger Falcone and Borsellino in use, that included the Barilla pasta park and among the trees and benfactory, created in 1910 and the su- ches it still preserves the long tanks



frescoes by Parmigianino and Michelangelo Anselmi. The dome is a work by Bernardino Gatti (1560). Noteworthy are also the tombstones and the Noble

of the town, was begun in 1521 in

order to give shelter to a picture of

the Madonna said to be miraculous

that originally hung on the wall of a

small oratory called "dello steccato"

or wooden shield. In the interior are

in 16th century for Ottavio Farnese, later transformed and enlarged by Ennemond Petitot in the 18th century. It houses frescoes in the Mannerist style with 18th century stucco-works and 16th century frescoes by Jacopo Ber-

### Palazzetto Eucherio Sanvitale

toja and Agostino Carracci.

It is an H shaped building, with four corner towers connected by loggias and windows decorated with sandstone candlesticks. In the interior recent restoration works have revealed fragments of 16th century frescoes by Parma school artists, depicting lan-

Seat of the Capitano del Popolo at the end of the 12th century, the palace is now how it was when redesigned in 1760 by Ennemond Alexandre Petitot. It houses temporary exhibitions organized by the Municipality of Parma.

> The area is now a place dedicated to free time and leisure with spaces as the Auditorium Paganini, the Municipal Congress centre, a multiplex cinema, a commercial mall with shops and restaurants, a hotel, the cooking school Academia Barilla, a residential district and a parking.

#### Cittadella Park

The symbol and the name of the district where the park is located come from the pentagonal shaped military fortification wanted by Alessandro Farnese, third Duke of Parma, at the end of the 16th century. For a long time its military vocation alternates with another identity, a place to relax and spend free time. The fortress became then an important green lung of the city and a place for strolling; nowadays the park houses sport fields, playgrounds, sport paths, a track for runners, a snack bar and an area for

#### dogs. Structures of the ancient Cittadella can be noticed in the pentagonal shape and the main entrance in mar-

ble with an ashlar base, with a huge badge of Farnese on top. Monumental Cemetery of Villetta The monumental cemetery of the

Villetta was built in 1817 on the will

of Marie Louise of Austria, Duchess

of Parma, after Napoleon's edict of

from the fact that the graveyard was built near the barracks of the city guards, called Villette. The first Parma citizen to be buried in

Saint Cloud dated June 12th 1804 that prohibited burials in and around the churches within the city boundaries, as done for centuries. The name La Villetta comes



on special themes.

#### National Archaeological museum

The collections are currently displayed on two floors: the first floor houses the finds from Veleja as well as the nonlocal Greek, Roman and Etruscan sculptures, ceramics, glassware and coins; the ground floor houses the pre and protohistoric sections and the one concerning Parma and the surrounding area in the Roman period.

The museum is entirely devoted to the

#### Bodoni museum

preserves a rich artistic and typographer Giambattista Bodoni, who historical documentation on the Duchy of Parma from 1748 to 1859, particularly the external niches of the Baptistery. The on the reign of Marie Louise of Austria, with pieces of furniture, diaries, garments, jewels, documents and Bourbon curiosities. The museum also displays watercolours, engravings and painting of the

hosts a treasure of art and history gathe-

red along the centuries: the museum bo-

asts a rich collection of paintings, textiles

and precious vestments dated back to

the 17th century, 17th and 18th century

silverware, archive documents of the Far-

nese times, heraldry, uniforms and me-

morabilia of the Bourbon family included

museum

19th century, french painting of the 18th

ing Romanesque features remain of

The present shape is the Latin

cross with only one nave ending

in a large presbytery surmounted by

a dome in the style of Vignola. The

ten chapels are divided by pillars by

architect Cristoforo Rangoni, also

On the right side of the Pilotta pala-

ce sets the monument to Giuseppe

Verdi, a big bronze plate by Ettore

Ximenes created in the first years

of the 20th century. The statues on

the two façades recall scenes of the

operas and episodes of the life of the

ment to Correggi

Church of San Vitale

Monument to Verdi

century and the Petitot collection.

the shirt worn by Louis 16th

The museum hosts and

when he was beheaded.

Glauco Lombardi

invented new typographical characters, later known as Bodonian, and as the head of Parma Royal Printing Works from 1768, managed to transform it in an international printing centre endowed with excellent quality standards. The most precious work is certainly the greek version of Iliad printed in 1808.

### Amedeo Bocchi museum

The museum is dedicated to the parmesan painter Amedeo Bocchi, opened in 1999, it is hosted in the restored rooms of the ancient Sanvitale palace. The museum is now displayed thorough an itinerary that is mainly chronological, in order to follow and discover the artistic life of Bocchi.

#### Natural history museum

Established in 1764 by J.B. Fourcault, the museum preserves the Vittorio Bottego Zoological Collection, with over 600 specimens from Eritrea, including madrepore coral from the Gulf of Massawa.

#### Chinese art and ethnographic museum

Located in the Institute of the Saveriani missionaries, the museum offers a panoramic view on the chinese artistic world through a collection of ceramics. bronze items, paintings and everyday objects. The ethnographic section displays works from Japan, Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico and Africa.

buttresses at regular intervals, the Annunciation is celebrated on the Friars' commission above the main portal.

#### Church of Santa Maria del Quartiere

This votive church stands in the centre of an area known as Quartiere since the times it used to house a military garrison. Its hexagonal plan with rectangular chapels was designed in 17th century by G.B. Aleotti and later modified by G.B. Magnani.

#### Church of Santa Croce

The church of Santa Croce, was built in the early decades of 12th century along the path of pilgrims bound to Rome following the Francigena route. It was altered in 1415 and radically transformed in the 17th century, traces of the original building can still be seen in the capitals of the pillars of the three naves.

## expanding in ten radial chapels with

The Gazzetta di Parma contends with Mantova the record of the oldest newspaper in Italy: the first copy preserved is dated 19 April 1735, but probably it had already been printed. In the 18th century it was a leaflet reporting news from the european courts; from 1772 to the Governor's palace, corner with 1779 it was printed by Giambattista Strada Cavour.

known as Ficarelli. The elegant façade

by sculptor Felice Pascetti can boast six

statues attributed to Pietro Sbravati while

in the interior, the urn under the main altar

Built after the year 1566, the

church has an elliptical body

preserves St. Vitale's body.

(Luriosities

Church of the Annunziata

Bodoni. from the latin word parma/parmae,

for every kind of work were used tery of the Villetta.

different unit of measurement and samples. At the beginning of the 19th century they were gradually replaced with the decimal metric system units and abolished with the Unification of Italy. A sample of local unit of measurement known as "Brick of Parma" can be seen on Piazza Garibaldi, on the right side of

The colour yellow Parma, typical The name Parma probably derives of the ducal city, still exists in two from documented names of Etru- different shades: one dated back scan tribes «Parmii» or «Parmnial», to the 18th century, of french orithough the existence of an Etruscan gins and the other more intense, of village in the territory is not sure. Ac- the century after, arrived with Marie cording to others, the name comes Louise and the Austrian age. The yellow used to colour villas and bua round shaped shield that was the ildings has become darker and darequipment belonging to the infantry, ker until the end of the 19th century. that recalls the strategic function of A few examples of the yellow palaces in Parma are the Regio theatre, the Riserva palace, the Governor's For every city of the Duchy and palace and the monumental ceme-

the Villetta cemetery was the poet

Angelo Mazza (1741 - 1817), now

it hosts graves of famous people, among whom Niccolò Paganini,

Ildebrando Pizzetti, General Carlo

Alberto Dalla Chiesa, Pietro Barilla,

Padre Lino Maupas, Paola Borboni.

At the Villetta on some days of the

year it is possible to have fascinating

guided tours with musical moments

# **←**

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