



## THEMATIC GUIDED TOURS FOR GROUPS OF ADULTS

- ✓ Do you have a group of adults wanting to know more about Villa Carlotta botanic and art collections?
- ✓ Are you a company? Would you like to provide your staff with an experience to be shared?
- ✓ Would you like to come and visit us with a group of friends? Would you like to discover the garden and museum in a funny way?

We offer a set of thematic trails that will help you understand the beautiful heritage we are preserving on behalf of everyone. We promise there will be pleasant entertainment moments in a relaxed atmosphere.

### Costs:

- 15 euro per person for groups of at least 20 people
- entrance ticket fare (per person) + 100 euro as a lump sum for groups of less than 20 people.

**Info and reservations:** [prenotazionididattica@villacarlotta.it](mailto:prenotazionididattica@villacarlotta.it)

### Discover Villa Carlotta: let's explore the MUSEUM and GARDENS!

This activity enables you to follow two itineraries illustrating both the artistic and botanical heritage of Villa Carlotta. An expert botanist will reveal some interesting facts regarding the hundreds of plant species growing in the gardens, while an art historian will introduce you to the secrets behind numerous artworks kept in the museum. The aim is to give you an overall view of all the interesting things this extraordinary place can offer visitors.

### Discover Villa Carlotta: let's explore the GARDENS!

An expert botanist will accompany you along a step by step itinerary inside the extensive gardens of Villa Carlotta, encouraging you to reflect on the characteristics of its protagonists, that is to say, the trees, bushes and plants of all forms and colours, and on the important relationship between man and nature. You will see how the expert intervention of skilled gardeners and landscape designers has artfully combined the requirements of plants coming from the most diversified areas of the world with the features of the garden, to give shape to an authentic open-air museum.

### Discover Villa Carlotta: let's explore the MUSEUM !

One dwelling and three owners. A private home which, in the course of two centuries, has been turned into a veritable museum. Strategy, advertising and acumen: these are the elements which have made Villa Carlotta one of the most sought-after tourist spots ever since the 1800s. With an expert art historian, you will get the chance to learn the history of its owners, while observing the physical signs of their presence: the richly adorned rooms, the precious artworks, the lavish 19th



# MUSEO E GIARDINO BOTANICO VILLACARLOTTA

LAGO DI COMO

century furniture, the Venetian terrazzo floors... who commissioned them? And why? An experience that takes you through the collections of the Villa to discover the secrets and interesting facts behind them.

## **Trees or monuments?**

Come to discover the magnificent and silent presences that delight the walk of visitors with their silhouettes, different tone of green leaves (and not only green!), foliages with assorted forms, branches' bearing and barks of incredible textures and colours. This journey in the botanical garden will allow us to discover secrets and curiosity.

## **One garden, thousand plants, many applications**

An itinerary to discover the countless applications of plants. During a workshop of herbal medicine, it will be possible to create simple preparations (toothpaste or body cream) that highlight the deep relationship between humans and plant kingdom.

## **Landscaping and architecture in the garden**

Through the survey of the architectural values and the most significant botanical elements at Villa Carlotta, we will collect clues for understanding how to design a garden or a building. During the workshop, different knowledge will be connected: natural philosophy, art history, physics, architecture, geography and biology.

## **Rainbow in the garden**

Countless colours of flowers, different shades of green and garish berries: what is the meaning of colours in vegetable kingdom? After the visit of the garden, we will explore the numerous tones of colours by pigment extraction from plants for creating delicate watercolours.

## **Bio-camouflage: when nature inspires human intelligence**

What is the relationship between *Arctium lappa* grass and Velcro? What is the connection between a lime tree fruit and a helicopter? Throughout history, man has sharpened his wits to find solutions to problems by drawing inspiration from nature. This workshop will be an opportunity to develop an ability for critical thinking and to stimulate problem-solving skills.

## **Francesco Hayez and his colour palette**

The collections of Villa Carlotta contain a significant nucleus of works by Francesco Hayez. This extraordinary itinerary takes a close look at his artistic and pictorial activity, starting from the findings of some chemical analyses recently carried out on the painting of the Last Kiss of Romeo and Juliette, which have provided some interesting information on the palette composition used by the artist. You will experience an alternative way to explore the complexity of an artwork, its various levels of interpretation and the different professional figures at work in a museum.



### **Artists' techniques and secrets**

Stucco decorations, plaster casts, mosaics and Venetian terrazzo, marble statues, oil paintings, frescoes, marquetry tables and tapestries. For centuries, Villa Carlotta has safeguarded all sorts of artefacts. But how is a tapestry actually made? And what about a piece of marquetry? This experience will help us to learn and familiarize with the techniques used by artists to create the masterpieces we can see all around us. The visit will be followed by a workshop during which we shall get to prepare tempera colours using natural pigments and fixatives, just as the great masters used to do before the advent of industrial paints.

### **Creativity and composition: what lies behind a masterpiece**

How is a work of art created? We shall find out, armed with pencil and paper, by observing the compositional elements and studying the colours of the artworks on display in Villa Carlotta. A successful painting is the sum of numerous elements we often take for granted: light and shade, colour combinations, proportions, highlights and symmetry. This activity sets out to explore what lies beneath the surface of the canvas, because what we see is not only fruit of creative genius but also of a precise set of compositional rules.

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### **Metasaga (for companies)**

Metasaga is the name of a process or framework: it's a fantastic tool as it encourages the people involved to explore local culture and understand their place in the wider world. Each metasaga belongs to the people involved in it, they have ownership. It is an experience developed through a trail with multiple stops (a saga) where participants will discover the garden's secrets. These will become metaphors/opportunities to think of our working life and will be used as a stimulus for developing key skills such as team work and leadership. At the end of this experience the group will take part to a workshop: this will offer the opportunity of having a short moment during which people will share in an informal way their personal achievements from the metasaga



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## SPECIAL THEMATIC TRAILS 2020

### *Nature and delights at Villa Carlotta*

#### **A museum and a garden... to be eaten**

Food is often present in the art collections at Villa Carlotta: you can find it in paintings, statues, friezes, prints and decorations. In the park, also, if we observe carefully, we will discover that many of the plants placed in those beautiful scenographies for ornamental purposes are also edible.

Let's immerse ourselves in a deep and unusual reading of human heritage.

#### **At lunch with Carlotta: everyday life in a historical villa on Lake Como**

What did the Sachsen- Meiningen eat? And how did they spend their days? How did their servants live? Starting from food habits we will investigate about the way of living in this historical dwelling and in its garden.

