

IL VITTORIALE DEGLI ITALIANI

HISTORY

The Vittoriale degli Italiani is a complex of buildings, streets, squares, an open-air theater, gardens and waterways built since 1921, in Gardone Riviera on the shores of Lake Garda by Gabriele d'Annunzio with the help of architect Gian Carlo Maroni, in memory of the "inimitable life" of the poet-soldier and the exploits of the Italians during the First World War. Today the Vittoriale is a foundation open to the public and visited every year by about 180,000 people.



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LUOGHI DEL VITTORIALE

AUDITORIUM

The auditorium with an audience for two hundred people, is used for conferences, events and shows respecting the will of d'Annunzio, and inside it you can watch the projection of a movie showing the interiors of the Prioria and the Museum of Annunzio Hero. At the dome of Annunzio he arranged for the suspension of the S.V.A. with which on 9 August 1918 he flew to Vienna to launch leaflets with the announcement of the Italian victory. In the auditorium spaces it is also possible to see two permanent photographic exhibitions on the life of Gabriele d'Annunzio and on the construction of the Vittoriale, and an exhibition of contemporary artists who were inspired by d'Annunzio: among these Giorgio De Chirico and Mario Pompei.

LA PRIORIA

La Prioria is Gabriele d'Annunzio's last home furnished and decorated according to his taste as an "incomparable upholsterer": "Everything here shows the imprints of my style in the sense that I want to give my style". From a simple farmhouse, formerly owned by the German art critic Henry Thode, d'Annunzio created a house museum that symbolizes his "inimitable life". In the rooms of the Prioria there are about 10,000 objects and 33,000 books, which are combined with enigmatic phrases and mottos, readable on architraves and fireplaces, in a continuous game of symbolic references. The atmosphere of sacredness that you breathe inside is enhanced by the poor lighting. Painted windows, windows with heavy curtains, soft lights in the rooms, make the Prioria a mysterious and evocative place where the photophobic poet could well live. D'Annunzio conceived and built the villa with great attention to detail, creating rooms suitable for various moments of life: from the Music room in which he loved to listen to Luisa Baccara, his last lover, behind heavy curtains, to the Leper's room built as his last home, with the symbolic bed of the two ages, at his workshop, the study of the word worker, as he used to define himself.

NAVE PUGLIA

Under the keep in the park is the military ship Puglia, perhaps the most evocative relic of the Vittoriale. Tommaso Gulli in the waters of Spalato, it was donated to d'Annunzio by the Italian Navy in 1923. The work to bring it to the Vittoriale was particularly demanding. The prow, symbolically turned towards the Adriatic and Dalmatia, was adorned with a figurehead depicting a Victory sculpted by Renato Brozzi. In the ship's sub-castle, since 2002, the Ship Museum has been set up which collects some precious vintage models of warships from the collection of Amedeo di Savoia, Duke of Aosta.

ANFITEATRO

Overlooking the lake, the theater, called "Parlaggio" by D'Annunzio, holds about 1500 spectators and was built reproducing the ancient structure of the Greek theater. Gian Carlo Maroni was sent to Pompeii to study theater in the field and began the works in 1934, finishing them after the poet's death in 1952. In the summer months there is still a prestigious season of shows (www.anfiteatrodelvittoriale.it).

