



The Garden of the Patriarchs of Italy

Villa dei Quintili

~~~

***Santa Maria Nova***





the garden  
of the patriarchs  
of Italy

VILLA  
DEI QUINTILI  
—  
SANTA  
MARIA NOVA



Ministero  
dei beni e delle  
attività culturali  
e del turismo

**SOPRINTENDENZA SPECIALE  
PER I BENI ARCHEOLOGICI  
DI ROMA**





LOMBARDY

**Besana Cherry Tree**  
(*Prunus avium* L.)

*Estimated age: over 100 years*

This is Italy's largest cherry tree; its trunk measures over six metres in circumference. Its top in flower looks like a snowy mountain and when the wind blows its detached petals appear like snow





TUSCANY

**Montieri Cornelian Cherry Tree**  
(*Cornus mas* L.)

*Estimated age: several centuries*

This tree grows at Travale (a hamlet of Montieri, in the province of Grosseto). This cornelian cherry tree grew up next to the farmhouse, overlooking the fields. For its size, this is the largest cornelian cherry tree in Tuscany, and perhaps the whole of Italy.





LAZIO

**Rome Pomegranate Tree**  
(*Punica granatum* L.)

*Estimated age: several centuries*

The tree stands in the park behind the Scala Santa, near the Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano in Rome. According to experts, the tree may be several centuries old and therefore one of Italy's oldest pomegranate trees.





TRENTINO

**Alto Adige Fondo Apple Tree**  
(*Malus domestica* Borkh.)

*Estimated age: over 120 years*

This old apple tree grew in the Val di Non, the cradle of Italian apple growing, and was probably the largest and oldest apple tree in Italy, or perhaps Europe. It has since died but it was reproduced in time and planted at the Villa of the Quintili, thus saving its genes.





UMBRIA

**Trocchi Walnut Tree**  
(*Juglans regia* L.)

*Estimated age: several centuries*

This tree is located in the village of Poggiodomo (PG), inside the Monti Sibillini National Park. It is probably the largest and oldest walnut tree in Italy, and perhaps in Europe. Unfortunately, its broken trunk is in need of attention, but this patriarch's centuries of life show that its genetic material has adapted to its environment ensuring resistance to adversity.



## ALL THE "PATRIARCHS"

**Piedmont Campone Apple Tree**  
Estimated age: centuries

**Fondo Apple Tree**  
(*Malus domestica* Borkh.)  
Estimated age: around 130 years

**San Vigilio Olive Tree**  
(*Olea europea* L.)  
Estimated age: millennia

**Besana in Brianza Cherry Tree**  
(*Prunus avium* L.)  
Estimated age: around 100 years

**Brusson Pear Tree**  
(*Pyrus communis* L.)  
Estimated age: around 300 years

**Quarona Apple Tree**  
(*Malus domestica* Borkh.)  
Estimated age: centuries

**San Remo Olive Tree**  
(*Olea europea* L.)  
Estimated age: millennia

**Montieri Cornelian Cherry Tree**  
(*Cornus mas* L.)  
Estimated age: several centuries

**Faenza Quince Tree**  
(*Cydonia oblonga* Mill.)  
Estimated age: centuries

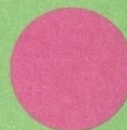
**Campofilone Olive Tree**  
(*Olea europea* L.)  
Estimated age: several centuries



**Poggiodomo Walnut Tree**  
(*Juglans regia* L.)  
Estimated age: several centuries



**Reginella Fig Tree**  
(*Ficus carica* L.)  
Estimated age: around 60 years



**Rome Pomegranate Tree**  
(*Punica granatum* L.)  
Estimated age: several centuries

**Venafro Olive Tree**  
(*Olea europea* L.)  
Estimated age: millennia

**Taurasi Vine**  
(*Vitis vinifera* L.)  
Estimated age: over 200 years



**Ferrandina Olive Tree**  
(*Olea europea* L.)  
Estimated age: millennia

**Otranto Fig Tree**  
(*Ficus carica* L.)  
Estimated age: centuries

**Mantonico di Bianco Vine**  
(*Vitis vinifera* L.)  
Estimated age: over 100 years



**Corinto Bianco Vine**  
(*Vitis vinifera* L.)  
Estimated age: around three hundred years

**Luras Wild Olive Tree**  
(*Olea oleaster* L.)  
Estimated age: around 3800 years





**YOU ARE IN THE HEART OF ONE OF THE MOST GRANDIOSE ROMAN RESIDENCES OF THE IMPERIAL PERIOD, THE VILLA OF THE QUINTILI, AND ABOUT TO VISIT A RARE – OR MORE ACCURATELY UNIQUE – GARDEN.**

The garden is made up of twenty “twins” of centuries or even millennia-old fruit trees representing all the regions of Italy and arranged to form an outline of the peninsula and the major islands: from the pear tree of Brusson in the Val d'Aosta to the Sicilian vine from Corinto and the wild olive of Luras in Sardinia, the most ancient of all at 3800 years. These trees form the country's only garden of Italian Unification, a living testimony to the year 1861 when the Risorgimento came to its first and essential conclusion.

In this park we have attempted to showcase the amazing aesthetic and botanical diversity of Italy's landscapes, natural and agricultural, mountainous or flat, inland or coastal, northern and Mediterranean. This biodiversity is also a result of the many ethnicities that over the millennia have populated this beautiful country, unified for the first time under Republican and Imperial Rome and then definitively, again in Rome, in the year 1870. This is the meaning of this garden at the foot of the majestic Villa of the Quintili (the owners and expert farmers) on the Appian Way, known to the Romans as the “queen” of all roads. Trees and vines speak of an Italy that has been evoked from the Second Punic War (218-220 BC) to unite its various peoples against the Carthaginian Hannibal.

The Patriarchs among which you find yourselves evoke ancient legends. The quince of the “golden apple” awarded by Paris to Helen of Troy, the fig beloved of Dionysus, symbol of Romulus's Rome, the vine present in so many religions, the pomegranate that heralds new life in Christianity, the olive created by Minerva, whose oil represents civilization, the cornelian cherry sacred to Apollo, sung by Virgil in the Aeneid, the pear with its thousand varieties, the apple widespread throughout Italy, the walnut symbolizing fertility but also the tree of witches. Enjoy your journey around Italy.



THE GARDEN OF THE PATRIARCHS OF ITALY  
Villa Dei Quintili  
Via Appia Nuova, 1022

Development and botanical project  
Sergio Guidi Arpa Emilia Romagna

Coordination  
Rita Paris SSBAR

Architectural project and works management  
Massimo De Vico Fallani  
with the collaboration of Giampaolo Rimedio

Text by Vittorio Emiliani

[www.viappiaantica.com](http://www.viappiaantica.com)  
[www.archeoroma.beniculturali.it](http://www.archeoroma.beniculturali.it)

VIA  
APPIA  
ANTICA

Printed in january 2015





*[www.patriarchinatura.it](http://www.patriarchinatura.it)*

~~~~~

info@patriarchinatura.it

elaborazione grafica e sfondo
www.tesorivicini.it