



VILLA D'ESTE

You can find this point of interest in Path 1 Stage 3

INFORMATION

Position Villa d'Este overlooks a restful bay of the Como lake; the access is from Regina Street

Paving material Asphalt

Architectural Barriers

The entrance Villa d'Este is a prestigious hotel, with access for the clients only

Services parking Private parking available in the park for the clients only

Entertainment and Catering Villa d'Este offers the best of the entertainment and excellent restaurants

DESCRIPTION

(Silvia Fasana)

The villa was built during the Eighteenth Century from the cardinal Tolomeo Gallio, born in 1525 from a family of Cernobbio, a career diplomat and secretary of State with the pope Gregorio XIII. According to the tradition, the building original project belonged to the architect Pellegrino Tibaldi of Valsolda; the residence was called "Il Garrovo", named after the torrent which flows in the neighborhood. At the end of the 18th Century the villa was sold by the heirs Gallio to the count Ruggero Marliani, and after to his grandson Bartolomeo Calderara who restored the palace and the garden with his wife Vittoria Peluso. With the death of Calderara, the widow married the Napoleonic lieutenant count Domenico Pino. In order to honour the victories of her husband during the campaigns in Spain, lady Victoria built some turrets and forts in the park, still visible today, taken from the drawings of the strongholds conquered by the General. In 1815 the countess Pino sold the Villa to Carolina of Brunswick, wife of the Prince of Wales and heir George IV- to- be. The princess made some changes to the villa making it more sumptuous and changed the name to "Nuova Villa d'Este", in honour of one of his presumed forefathers Guelfo d'Este. For approximately 4 years, from 1816 to 1820, Carolina gathered a cosmopolitan and convivial court, accumulating huge debts. She created the street which connect Como to Cernobbio and Cernobbio to Villa d'Este. In 1820 the princess came back to England where she died the following year. For debts reasons, she was forced to sell the Villa which in a short time changed hands, remaining almost abandoned for some years, until the time in which a rich baron Gaetano Ippolito Ciani bought it. He rendered the villa fashionable again, organizing parties. Unfortunately the villa became also the seat of Anti-Austrian conspiracy. In 1856 he built a palace in Romantic style, called also the Castle (Il castello). This castle was dedicated to the Queen of England and became an hydrotherapeutic establishment. The heirs of Ciani, being no more able to face all the expenses, turned the building into the current Grand Hotel, known all around the world for its beautiful structure, the beautiful furniture, the magnificent park with the scenographic cypress alley flanked by water games and ending with the sculptural group of the 17th century representing *Ercole* and *Lica*. The park, starting with a long horse-chestnut alley, is constituted by a garden parallel to the building, while a long perspective alley with double water jets overlooks the scenographic background of the English-garden embellished with very big plane trees.