

THE CARPANETA FOREST AT THE DOORS OF MANTUA: A HAPPY SYNTESIS
BETWEEN NATURE AND CULTURE IN THE RURAL LAND

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Abstract

Next to Mantua, the "City of Art" in the middle of the "Pianura Padana" the "Forest of Carpaneta" has arisen. It is a new forest sized 50 hectares in a forestry farm with a multifunctional valence which has been wanted by ERSAF and Lombardy Region in order to enrich the landscape and the biodiversity of the rural area, but also meet the expectations of fruition, recreation and natural education derived from its positioning near the city.

To a marked biogenetic purpose (resetting of the genetic patrimony of the farnia oak disjointed from the fragmentation caused by the anthropization of the river basin of the Padano-Veneto area) and ecological (construction of a forestry centre well bunched and meaningful for its dimensional parameters in a context of industrialized agriculture) the Forest is strongly connoted for the valorisation of its fruitional aspects, through the definition of four areas linked to history, to culture and to the local traditions which offer many occasions for a witting uptaking of the natural and cultural environment.

Such fields and topics (the "Park of Harlequin" inspired by the famous mask drama interpreted by the XVIII century's artist Tristano Martinelli from Bigarello – Mantua; the "Park of Virgilio" committed to the classical author and its works; the "Park Elzéard Bouffier" linked to the character of "the man who planted the trees"; and the area dedicated to the reconstruction of the traditional agricultural landscape of Mantua) constitute diversification elements of what the forest can offer to its users, trying to maximize the cultural and didactic value, but also enriching the evocative and sensorial meaning of the recently planted close –to- city green areas.

The affiliation of the forest "Carpaneta" to the rural and forestry regional patrimony and the involvement of this young forest into the program of tourist-recreational valorisation of the state properties (promoted since few years ago with the name of "Foreste da vivere") has enabled this new forest to quickly become known and strongly attended.

Key Words

Forest, recreation, urban, culture, fruition