



## THE PARK

Like all ancient manors, the **Castello di Spessa** has a subtle charm even for the most distracted visitor. And it is not only for the refined elegance of the buildings and its history, but also for the beauty of its **secular park**.

The park completely surrounds the castle and is encircled by vineyards and the 18-hole golf course nearby the manor. The **original nucleus** stretched around the castle on the hills where the building stands, and was connected to the property in front and behind by a straight path. The ancient cadastral maps document show a radio centric garden near the castle and other geometric flowerbeds on the remaining part of the top of the hill and confirm the presence of straight axial paths to the complex.

In 1872, after the death of the Count of Torre Valsassina, part of the property was acquired by the family of merchants Voelkl from Trieste and part passed to the Episcopal Table of Gorizia. The castle was restructured according to the plan of the Triestine architect Ruggero Berlam, with some modifications to the greenery. In 1913 the property was acquired by the barons Economo, from Trieste of Greek origin, who carried out some interventions rather consistent to the green patrimony, also giving life to the luxuriant **Italian garden**.

Almost all the villas and castles with parks had to face various vicissitudes in history, especially in the last century, ravaged by two World Wars. Even the Castle of Spessa did not escape. In this regard, the historian Adelchi Tirel in "Il bunker del Castello di Spessa" tells that: "on the same day that World War II ended, the Americans immediately realized that the park was full of mines: on this side and beyond the entrance door, in the middle of the trees, on the avenue of the horse chestnuts. So they surrounded all the mined areas with a strip of white cloth and began to party. For the mined area they had assigned the task to a marshal and his team of specialists of the Italian army. At that time you could go freely and without problems to visit the castle, while with the Germans no one could enter. The people in charge of the reclamation dug a trench about twenty meters from the grids: inside they threw a long rope with a grappling hook to portray the cauldron fallen in the well. They threw out the grappling hook and ripped out the fences, iron stakes, wooden boards, telephone wires, everything. After cleaning the fences, they cut the tall grass of the month of May, slowly so as not to move the green twines of the mines reaching the height of the instep. The mines, which were flush with the ground, were easily distinguished, so said those guys, because they knew them perfectly. And everything went well."

Later the property passed to **Segrè Sartorio**, from Trieste as well. In 1971 a violent accident caused the demolition of the church of Sant'Antonio, located just outside the park to the north, and many damage to plants.

**In 1987 Loretto Pali bought the castle and started important architectural restoration work on the building and the park.** In the early 2000s the agricultural land in the plain immediately at the foot of the hill was transformed into a **golf course**.



## THE SPECIES

In general, the vegetation of the ancient parks has been destroyed, cut, varied compared to the origins and finding plants over 100 years old is today extremely difficult. In the last thirty years, Castello di Spessa carried out several interventions aimed at enhancing the green plant and protecting the oldest and rarest species. In particular, a **reforestation has been done and new flower beds have been planted** and today the park with its lush garden is interesting for the quantity and diversity of species. A real **Arboretum, where stand out oaks, Italic cypresses, holm oaks, maples, farnies, lindens, plane trees, safore, mulberries, photinies and catalpe, but also exotic species such as the Thorn of Judah.** Interesting for its size is a black poplar with a remarkable circumference, which makes it feel centenary. From the romantic classic avenue that goes up to the castle, you can notice all the architectural details as well as the species present here.

## THE LITERARY WALK AND THE THEATRE OF VERZURA

**As a tribute Giacomo Casanova**, who stayed in Spessa in 1773, in 2010 a **romantic literary walk** was traced that develops among secular trees, balconies adorned with statues and enlivened by phrases, aphorisms and quotes of episodes related to the stay of the adventurer (and great man of culture) in the castle.

Finally, in 2021 the **Teatro di Verzura** was created, with its green grassy steps sloping towards the shaded stage of the foliage of an oak centenary, and with flowering bushes and statues to mark the slight slope. **One of a kind in Friuli Venezia Giulia**, the theatre can host **up to 500 spectators** and is inspired by the tradition of the Italian Gardens, where since the eighteenth century they real theatrical spaces entirely made with plant elements for performances in the summer period have been made: a lawn raised as a stage, boxwood hedges as fifths, floral arches as set design and so on. There were also statues reproducing mythological characters or belonging to tragic and comic shows. In Italy, Tuscany is the region that preserves more, but they are widespread everywhere. In Friuli Venezia Giulia, Villa Manin in Passariano had one, which unfortunately has been lost over time. The creation of the Teatro di Verzura enriches the cultural offer of the **Castello di Spessa, a place of beauty and culture** that hosted **Giacomo Casanova and Lorenzo da Ponte, librettist of Mozart.** The structure is perfectly integrated into the park, embraced by beautiful and geometric vineyards, which in the nineteenth century were defined for their beauty (unique in the Collio) **Weingarten**, or Wine Gardens. Its realization is a tribute to the territory and **recalls the morphological characteristics of the Collio** (the **steps** of the stalls reproduce the **terraces of the vineyards**, the **hole of the orchestra** a small **pond**, like those found in the vicinity), to make the spectators live an experience not only artistic, but of complete immersion in the nature and culture of the territory.

## SOCIAL NETWORKS



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