

## Administer a public good

It is from the foresight of the municipal administration of Montegrotto Terme in 1972 that Villa Draghi and its park are, today, a property of public ownership.

32 ha. which represent in fact the eastern gate of the Regional Park of the Euganean Hills, a natural paradise that is a distinctive element not only for the city of Montegrotto Terme but for the entire tourist destination of the thermal baths and the Euganean Hills. The rich calendar of events 2018, linked to Villa Draghi, has been curated with skill and competence by the Villa Draghi Association and the Arci Association. A series of events dedicated to citizens and the many tourists who spend their holidays and their moments of relaxation in our tourist destination. The Terme and the Euganean Hills combine in a masterly way the care of the body, the thermal otium with cultural, sporting, naturalistic and enogastronomic paths. In the next days we will also witness the birth of the first museum of thermalism in the world at Villa Draghi, thanks to the collaboration between the Municipality of Montegrotto, the University of Padua and the Archaeological Superintendence, Fine Arts and Landscape for the Metropolitan Area of Venice and the provinces of Belluno, Padua and Treviso. Our commitment as a municipal administration aims to enhance a public environment that is a source of infinite wealth for the whole territory.

The Mayor  
Riccardo Mortandello



### VILLA DRAGHI IN SHORT

- With its castle and a 32 hectares large park, Villa Draghi is situated in the municipality of Montegrotto Terme in the heart of the Regional Park of Euganean Hills. Padua is just 10 km away from Villa Draghi, whereas Venice is 40 km away.
- The whole Villa Draghi complex belongs to the municipality.
- The Villa was restored in 2014 and it hosts regularly cultural events.
- The Villa Draghi farm building was restored in 2001 and will host the Terme Museum, an Info point and a snack lounge. Furthermore, it will be the setting for events for young people and courses on environmental topics.
- In the park a great variety of plant species and centuries-old trees are to be seen. Currently we are planning ordinary as well as extraordinary maintenance interventions to map every walking trail.



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## Il Parco e Villa Draghi



### A Landscape to Love

Mit ihrem Schloss und ihrem 32 ha. großen Park befindet sich  
Der gesamten Gebäudenkomplex gehört der Gemeinde.

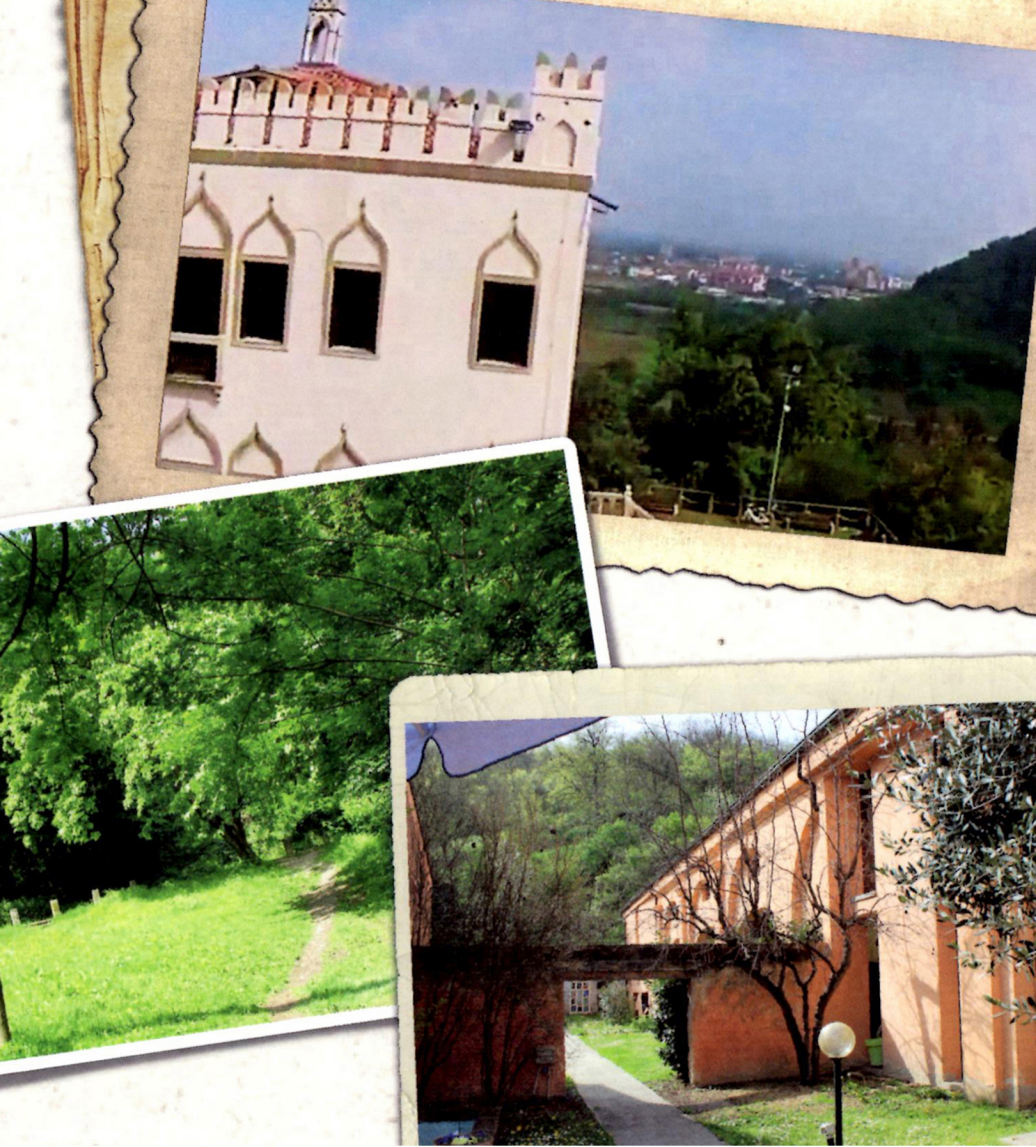


### ASSOCIAZIONE VILLA DRAGHI

The Villa is open every Sunday from April to October  
with events and excursions in the Park

MONTEGROTTO TERME - PADOVA - ITALY





# Environmental Context

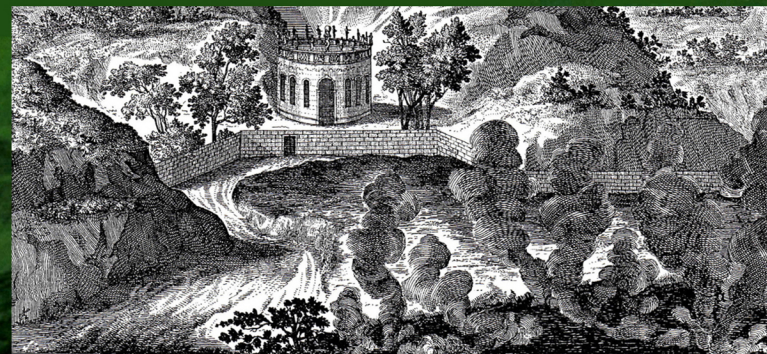
It is strategic the location on which stands Villa Draghi: on one side overlooking the plain on which lies the spa town, on the other almost a gateway to the hills of the Regional Park of the Euganean hills.

From the villa you can go forward into trails leading to the Mount Alto or to the Mount Ceva, between forests and cultivated lands rich of infinite botanical variety. Different, but no less attractive, the things that emerge looking towards the plain: from waterways such as the Spinoso river and the Rialto, to the Hill of Berta and to the complex of the Torre al Lago (locations of ideal natural pedestrian and cycle trails).

And yet, just a little further away, the mystical site of the Benedictine monastery on the hill of S. Daniele.

As most prominent example of nineteenth-century villa of the euganean area, it can occupy a prominent place in a circuit linking the most representative cases of different types of Venetian villas that are located in the surrounding area: from the villas with the famous gardens of Valsanzibio and Rivella, to the villa Castle of S. Pelagio and of the Cataio, to the villa of the Bishops in Luvigliano.

The Villa Draghi complex is a great resource for the Euganean thermal basin, the largest in Europe.



# Two intertwined stories

According to the historian Claudio Grandis, **Villa Draghi**, which stands on the slopes of Mount Alto in Montegrotto terme, is the latest example of Villa Veneta. With the eclectic style dominant in the nineteenth century, it assumes the ogival shapes of the typical sizes of windows and doors of Venetian Gothic and in the Ghibelline battlements the appearance of the castle house. **Surrounded by a park of 32 has.**, immersed in the evocative landscape of the Euganean Hills, Villa Draghi stands on the ruins of the seventeenth-century **Villa Lucadello** consisting of 44 rooms and adorned with 133 statues of Vicenza stone of natural size, then recovered in the construction of the Villa Draghi but looted in the period between the donation to the Jesuits by the last heir and the purchase of the historic complex by the City of Montegrotto, occurred in the year 1972. But even before the Villa Lucadello **stood in the same place the Sunday home owned by paduan noble woman Capodivacca.**

On the occasion of the "opening of the summer villa 2018" season, the factor that once lived there revealed the presence of **a section of walls hidden in the forest** that is in the same position as the circular building, represented **in the engraving of Delfenbach of 1713**. It could probably be an artifact used for thermal treatments, given the presence of abundant vapors, illustrated in the same incision, next to the copious **"natural boiling waters"** as the caption describes them.

Without the mending of the elements competing to characterize the 5-meter high wall as part of the **ancient "Stua"**, this would have remained ignored, protected from oblivion that the ivy and the forest would have secured. The discovery of its true nature instead returns it to the community and the work of the volunteers of the Villa Draghi Association, which for years has taken care of the protection and enhancement of this complex and the volunteers of the circle of Legambiente Selvazzano, tracing a path in the woods and freeing it from the infesting vegetation, made it visible and reachable

*Luisa De Biasio Calimani  
Presidente dell'Associazione Villa Draghi*