

8. Porta Saragozza



Memorial stone
Villa Cassarini Gardens

Porta Saragozza is the place that shows the long-term presence of the LGBT community in Bologna. In 1982 the City Council guided by Mayor Zangheri gave the place to one of the first LGBT associations of the city, the *Circle of homosexual culture 28th of June*, leading to some criticism. The place remained the seat of the largest association for the rights of gays, lesbians and

transgenders until 2002. Now the building hosts the municipal museum dedicated to the Blessed Virgin of San Luca. The Gardens of Villa Cassarini are not far from the gate. Bologna was the first Italian city to create a public symbol to commemorate the Nazi-fascist persecution of gays, lesbians and transsexuals, a harsh persecution that was not mentioned for many years. Here is the monument, the first one on the Italian territory and one of the three official ones in Europe, that consists of a memorial stone, an upturned triangle of pink marble, to commemorate the symbol that homosexuals were forced to wear, pinned to their jacket, in extermination camps. The project is by the architect Corrado Levi. Every year, on the 27th of January and on the 25th of April, a commemoration ceremony is held here.

9. Villa Aldini – Via dell'Osservanza, 35

It was built between 1811 and 1816 on a pre-existing Benedictine complex by count Antonio Aldini, who in this way intended to commemorate the excursion that Napoleon Bonaparte (of which he was minister and plenipotentiary) had made in those places in June 1805. The building is u-shaped and looks like a temple on the Acropolis, characterized by a front part supported by eight ionic



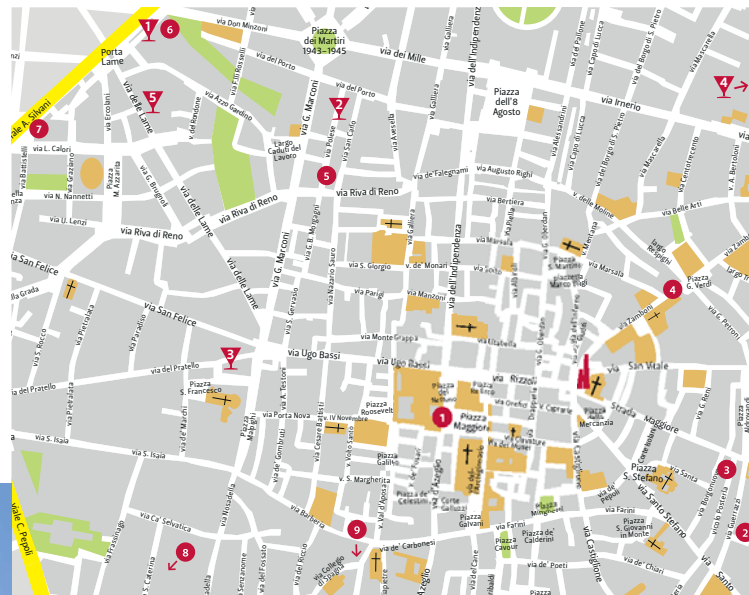
Villa Aldini

columns and accessible through symmetrical lateral staircases. The complex includes the church *Rotonda della Madonna del Monte* (XII century), whose thirteenth-century frescoes are still visible. Here Pier Paolo Pasolini shot the external scenes of his last film *Salò or The 120 days of Sodom*. Pasolini was partially inspired by the work of Marquis de Sade, undertaking an extreme journey into the darkest side of human soul. The film caused a lot of scandal because it had strong images for the period, and some of them were images of homoeroticism.

Recommended clubs

- 1 **Cassero** (via Don Minzoni, 18)
- 2 **Bar't** (via Polese, 47/a)
- 3 **Les Rois du Monde** (via del Pratello, 29)
- 4 **Red Club** (via del Tipografo, 2)
- 5 **Stile Libero** (via Lame, 68)

In collaboration with the Arcigay Association "Il Cassero" of Bologna.



Porta Saragozza

LGBT Friendly Bologna

Bologna is also known as a place with a long tradition of openness towards diversity and minorities. Already in the Seventies, meeting places and amusement places for the LGBT community were opened in the city.



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1. Palazzo D'Accursio

Piazza Maggiore

Palazzo D'Accursio, seat of the Municipality of Bologna and of its institutional bodies. Marcella Di Folco was elected Municipal Councillor of Bologna in 1995, she was the first trans in the world to hold public office. In the Seventies she worked in the movies and was one of the protagonists of the cinema of Federico Fellini. She also worked, among others, with Rossellini, Risi and Sordi. In 1988 she becomes the President of the Transsexual Identity Movement (MIT) and in 1997 she becomes the Vice-President of the National Observatory on Gender Identity. She also created a counselling centre for transsexuals, the first in the world, which was self-administered.

2. Igor Bookshop

Via S. Petronio Vecchio, 3

It is the only bookshop in Bologna that is entirely about the LGBTQ culture, it takes its name from the nice little dog of the two owners that welcomes you at the entrance. The shop often hosts book presentations and meetings on LGBTQ subjects. Upon request it can obtain books from all over the world, because it was created as a commission agency for foreign editors in 1975. www.facebook.com/igor.libreria



Igor Bookshop

3. Birthplace of Pier Paolo Pasolini

Via Borgonuovo, 4

In 1922 Pier Paolo Pasolini was born in Bologna, in this street, he was an Italian film director and intellectual, a symbol of the rediscovery and development of the identity of the Italian homosexual community. He lives here during his school years (Galvani High School) and his university years (Letters degree) and

he writes his first poems here. In 1955 he founds and manages, together with Francesco Leonetti and Roberto Roversi, the magazine "Officina". The Renzi Library of "Fondazione Cineteca" (Film Collection Foundation) of Bologna is the seat of the Study Centre-Archive Pier Paolo Pasolini, which includes, among other things, documents of the artist, magazines, monographs and essays of scholars on the work of Pasolini, more than 1,000 audiovisual materials with his films, photographs and tapes of speeches by Pasolini.



Pier Paolo Pasolini - photo by Roberto Villa

4. University area

Via Zamboni

Throughout the years there were many different forms of activism, with young people who were the protagonists of feminist, lesbian, homosexual, trans and queer groups which were often linked to faculties or the university. At number 1 in Via Zamboni lies a place that can be defined as a historic meeting place and amusement place of the LGBTQI community, the Kinky Club (www.kinkyclub.com). In the 70s it was one of the first clubs of the city to welcome without any prejudice the LGBTQI community, in a historical period during which very few Italian towns had openly gay-friendly bars or clubs. Today the club is still one of the most open and friendly ones towards the homosexual and transsexual community of the city.

5. Seat of the Transsexual Identity Movement (MIT)

Via Polese, 15

MIT, which was founded in 1982, is a non-profit organization that defends the rights of transsexuals, transvestites and transgenders. The movement works at a national and European level, fighting against discriminations concerning gender identity, it provides specific services and promotes important cultural activities. Paquito was in this street, it was a historic cruising bar of the city, one of the first ones in Italy. Today it is replaced by a similar club, the Bart's Club. www.mit-italia.it

6. La Salara

Via Don Minzoni, 18

This building, an old salt warehouse, lies inside the *Manifattura delle Arti*, which also includes the Film Library (Cineteca) of Bologna, the Departments of Music and Entertainment and of Communication Sciences of the University of Bologna and MAMbo. The Salara building hosts the Cassero LGBT Centre, the oldest LGBT Italian association which is also the office of Arci Gay in Bologna. It also hosts many other LGBT associations. Inside the building lies the Arcigay Cassero documentation centre, the most important LGBT library in Italy and one of the most important ones in Europe. It was founded in 1983 to promote, preserve and make available to the public critical processing tools on sexuality, gender identity and social exclusion. The centre includes a large collection of materials on the history of Cassero (the first Italian homosexual association to obtain a seat owned by a municipality, in 1982). www.cassero.it



Cassero LGBT Centre

7. Stefano Casagrande Gardens

Via Calori/Via Graziano/Viale Silvani

A garden, located within the medieval walls and inaugurated in 2012, that is dedicated to one of the most famous artists and activists of the gay movement of Bologna, Stefano Casagrande, one of the founders of Cassero, who in 1994 inspired the event *The Italian Miss Alternative*, aimed at collecting funds for the associations working to fight Aids, which was the cause of the premature death of Casagrande, in 2000, at the age of 39.