

The University

The *Studium*, now *Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna*, was founded in the mid-eleventh century - conventionally in 1088 - and is the oldest University in Europe. The disciplines to which the *Studium* of Bologna owes its century-long world fame are mainly Law, Medicine and Surgery, and Philosophy. Inside the 'Palazzo dell'Archiginnasio', the only location of the University from 1563 to 1803, one can still visit the anatomy theatre, made of fir wood, with the large table where autopsies were performed for educational purposes at the centre. On the walls are thousands of coats of arms of rectors and students of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, among whom are Dante, Petrarch, Erasmus, Copernicus, Thomas Beckett. 'Palazzo Poggi', current seat of the Rector, is decorated with remarkable frescoes dating back to the sixteenth century and contains important scientific collections.

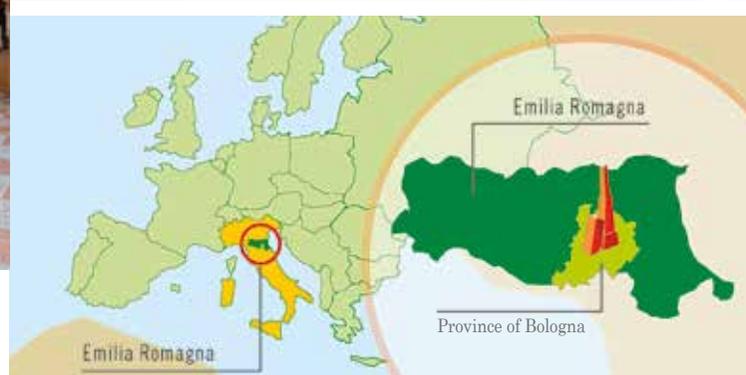


Bologna's art from Vitale to Giorgio Morandi

From Vitale da Bologna to Giorgio Morandi, through Giotto, Niccolò dell'Arca, Raphael, Annibale Ludovico and Agostino Carracci, Guido Reni and Donato Creti, the city's history of art is intertwined with that of the world. The historic centre is as large and well-preserved as that of Venice.

Industry and engines

The area of Bologna has always been passionate about technology and engines and has been able to blend creativity, entrepreneurship and profitability. Examples of this are its famous industrial companies like Ducati and Lamborghini, its leading packaging and mechanical industries and the growing presence in the world of fashion with such Bologna brands as Furla, Les Copains, La Perla. The exhibition centre stands out with a number of fairs in the sectors of children books, construction, farming technologies, leather and perfumery. The Industrial Heritage Museum ('Museo del Patrimonio Industriale') displays the economic and productive history of the city.



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Bologna European Capital of Culture

Bologna likes to think of itself as an all-encompassing city that lacks nothing. With a history of three thousand years behind it, Bologna is open to the future and to what is new. It's a city of art and manufacturing industries at the same time, small in size but big in cultural activities, lively but orderly, learned and popular. A pocket-sized metropolis.



www.bolognawelcome.it

City Information Office
Piazza Maggiore 1/e

Airport Information Office via Triumvirato 84



The porticoes

Bologna is the city of porticoes. Since the 13th century, these have served as a public space for trade and crafts, as well as being criss-crossed by cultural and religious routes. Stretching for around 38 kilometres, with no parallel in any other city worldwide, they constitute the warp of the old town. What is more, the portico which runs for 4 kilometres connecting the city to the shrine of the 'Madonna di San Luca' is the longest in the world. For this reason, Bologna's network of porticoes is a candidate for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List and holds a world record.



The Towers

Typical of Bologna, the towers were built as a status symbol of the wealthiest families in the Middle Ages. Today they are the emblem of the whole city. Amongst the most important are the 'Garisenda' tower (47 m) and the 'Asinelli' tower (97, 20 m). In the Middle Ages, there were about a hundred of them, an astounding number considering that building a 60-metre-high tower took from 3 to 10 years. Of those impressive buildings, only around twenty still survive. Some of them offer magnificent bird's eye views to tourists.



The city of music

In 2006, Bologna was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Music. This prestigious award acknowledges both its rich tradition - Bologna was the hometown of Rossini and Respighi, the city from whose Academy Mozart graduated and whose audience brought fame to Wagner and Toscanini - and vibrant contemporary scene, which spans from pop to jazz and from classical to experimental composition. Bologna has gained prestige as a city of music also thanks to its important institutions: the Teatro Comunale, the International Museum and Library of Music, the Conservatory named after Father Martini, the Department of Music and Performing Arts of its University, the Philharmonic Academy and the collection of musical instruments of 'San Colombano'. All of this coupled with its many community centres, pubs, jazz clubs, festivals and shows make it a city where music is a fundamental part of daily life.



The tortellini

The gastronomy of Bologna has enjoyed great fame since the Middle Ages. In the 14th century, the city was already so popular for its inns that in addition to being called 'La Dotta' (the learned) its *tortellini*, *mortadella*, *lasagne* and *tagliatelle al ragù* also earned it the name of Bologna *la Grassa* (Bologna 'the fat'). The meat sauce has by now become a synonym of Bologna throughout the world. Indeed, "spaghetti bolognese" is a dish easy to find virtually everywhere, but not in Bologna. Here you have to ask for "tagliatelle alla bolognese".



The waterways and the canals

Though far from the sea, Bologna had a port. Its rivers were effectively harnessed into a number of canals, sluices and sewers, which enabled the city to become a big trade centre and provided energy for its thriving textile industry mills. Of this dense network of canals, the majority now run underground. Today only a few surface portions are visible. Some underground stretches can be explored on foot. Vestiges of the ancient port can be still admired in an industrial archaeology area which has been turned into an arts district. On summer nights it is the meeting point of students and intellectuals.

