

THE PATH OF GIUSEPPE VERDI: AN ITINERARY IN THE PROVINCE THROUGH THE LIFE AND MEMORIES OF THE SWAN OF BUSSETO

Route stages

Start: Giuseppe Verdi's Birthplace (Strada Processione 1, Roncole Verdi).

The most evocative of Verdi's places, namely the small house where Giuseppe Verdi was born, located at a crossroads in the centre of the village. Overlooking the square, it was also used as a post office and, in its simplicity, has remained unchanged since 1813 at the behest of the Marquises Pallavicino.

Stage 1: Church of St. Michael Archangel (Piazza Guareschi 65, Roncole Verdi).

A few steps from his birthplace is the Church of San Michele Arcangelo, where Giuseppe Verdi was baptised and where, in his early childhood, he had the opportunity to practise under the guidance of his first teacher Pietro Baistrocchi on an organ built in 1797 by Francesco Bossi from Bergamo, with which he served Mass and played for his fellow villagers.

Stage 2: Renata Tebaldi Museum (Via Ferdinando Provesi 35, Busseto).

This is the intermediate stage of the route, which interrupts the chronological events of the Verdi tour for a moment to visit the museum dedicated to Renata Tebaldi. The museum was created to celebrate the life and career of the famous soprano, described as “the voice of angel” by Arturo Toscanini. The exhibition, curated by stylist Daniela Gerini, is a multimedia exhibition that showcases the rich artistic heritage left by the singer. Starting from the west wing of the ground floor, it is divided into six themed rooms: the Document Room, the Jewellery Room, Renata's Room, Madama Butterfly's Room, the Photography Room and the Stage Costume Room.

Stage 3: Church and Convent of Santa Maria degli Angeli (Via Ferdinando Provesi 39A, Busseto).

A Gothic church with an adjoining Franciscan convent located on the south-western outskirts of the town, built between 1470 and 1474 by Pallavicino and Gianludovico Pallavicino. Inside, in a niche covered with rock formations, is Guido Mazzoni's Lamentation over the Dead Christ, a masterpiece of 15th-century Emilian sculpture. Giuseppe Verdi, who attended the church as a child, held a highly popular organ concert there on 6 January 1836, in a climate heated by controversy over the competition for the position of chapel master of the Collegiate Church.

Stage 4: Barezzi House-Museum (Via Roma 119, Busseto).

This was the place where the young Giuseppe Verdi received his first musical and emotional education, quickly realising that he had a great vocation for opera. The historic hall of Casa Barezzi, formerly the headquarters of the Bussetana Philharmonic, not only welcomed him in his early compositions and public student performances but also saw the blossoming of his love for Margherita, daughter of Mr Antonio Barezzi, who later became Verdi's first wife. Today, the rooms house a vast exhibition of Verdi memorabilia, including autographed letters, portraits, documents and posters.

Stage 5: Oratory of the Holy Trinity (Via Pietro Balestra 20, Busseto).

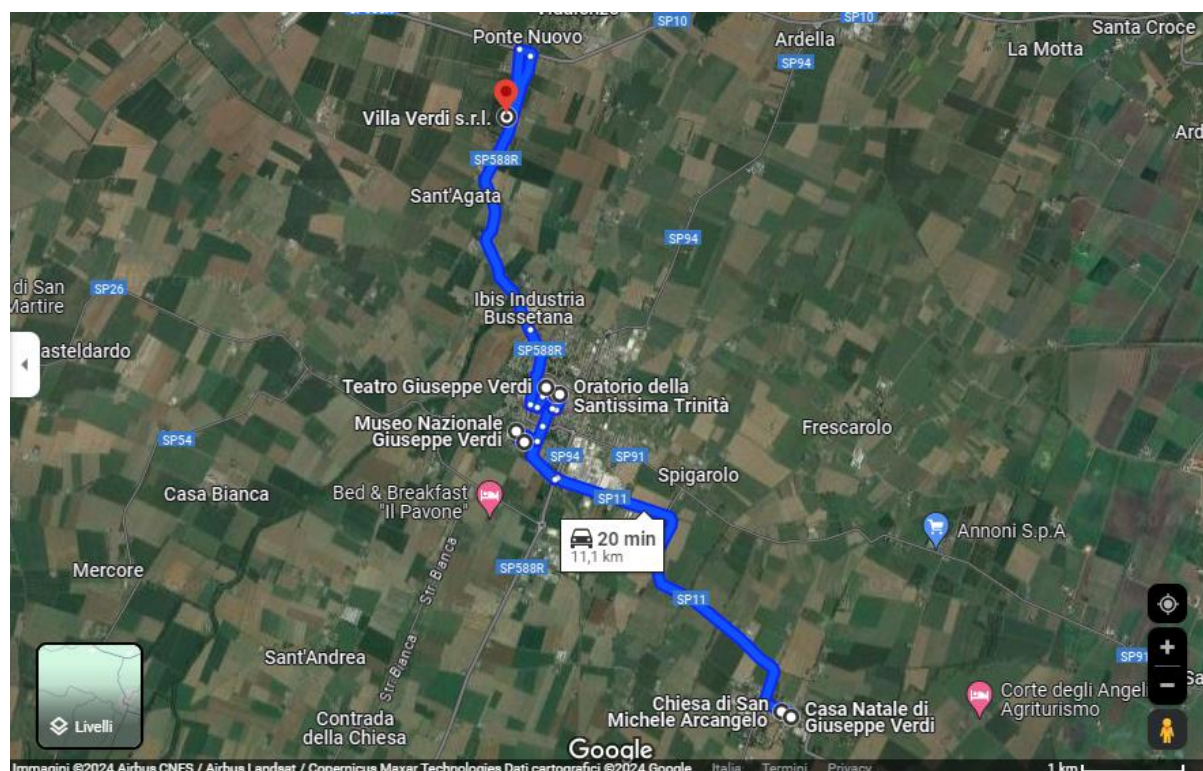
Piazza Roma is lined with elegant 15th-century buildings, embellished with characteristic Lombard-style terracotta decorations on their façades, such as the Oratory of the Holy Trinity, where Giuseppe Verdi and Margherita Barezzi were married on 4 May 1836. Adjacent to it, you can also admire the Collegiate Church of St. Bartholomew.

Stage 6: Giuseppe Verdi Theatre (Piazza Giuseppe Verdi 1, Busseto).

La Rocca, formerly the castle of the Pallavicino family, houses a small gem: the famous Verdi Theatre. The theatre's fame is also linked to the presence of Arturo Toscanini, who conducted Falstaff and La Traviata there in 1913 during the Verdi celebrations.

Arrive: Villa Verdi (Via Giuseppe Verdi 22, Sant'Agata).

Villa Verdi is the residence where Giuseppe Verdi lived in his later years, purchasing it in 1848 and living there from 1851 with his second wife Giuseppina Streponi. Verdi himself took part in the design of the modifications to both the interior and exterior spaces, which gave the villa its current appearance, jealously guarded by the composer's heirs. It was here that Verdi sought and found the isolation necessary for his creative genius and his shy and reserved character. Today, Villa Verdi is the best key to understanding the spirit of the great composer and man Giuseppe Verdi.



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- **Renata Tebaldi Museum**

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- **Barezzi House-Museum**

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