

Le Villæ
Istituto autonomo
Villa Adriana e Villa D'Este
(MiBACT)

Starting from 2016, the monumental sites of **Villa Adriana, Villa d'Este, Santuario di Ercole Vincitore, Mensa Ponderaria** and **Mausoleo dei Plautii** in **Tivoli** (Rome) are brought together under a single autonomous management. It is a “young body”, born in September 2016, which brings together and stimulates the excellence and qualities of the territory and which is configured as a unique system of promotion and enhancement of cultural heritage.

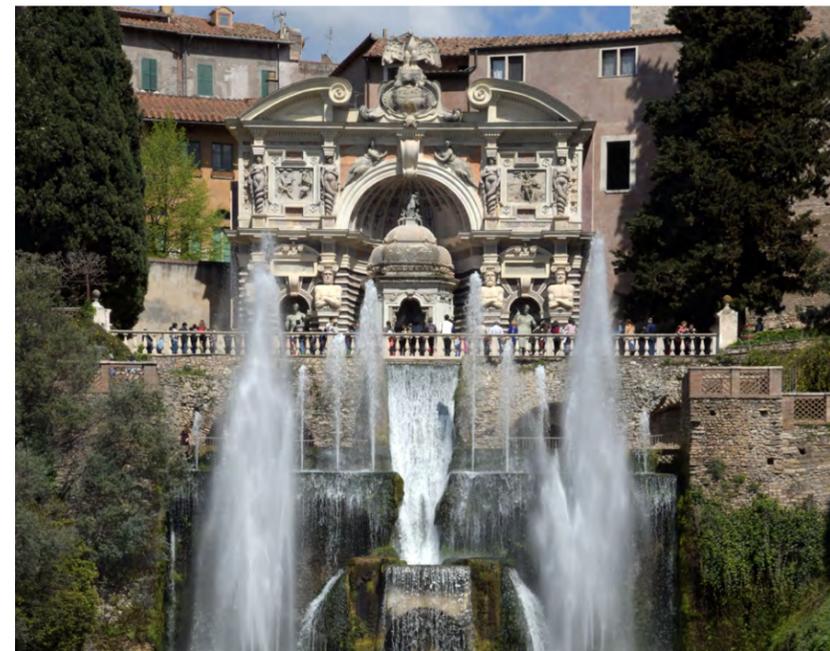
VILLA ADRIANA
VILLA D'ESTE
SANTUARIO DI
ERCOLE VINCITORE
MENZA PONDERARIA
MAUSOLEO
DEI PLAUTII

TIVOLI

VILLA ADRIANA

Villa Adriana, declared a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site in 1999, was built between 118 and 138 AD by **Emperor Hadrian**, in a green area full of water near Tivoli, the ancient *Tibur*. The Villa extended over an area of at least one hundred and twenty hectares, including **residential units, baths, nymphaeums, pavilions and gardens**.

The various buildings were connected to each other, by not only surface routes, also by a network of underground streets and footpaths for services. Extraordinary was the richness of the decorative display, now dispersed among important museums and collections in Europe, following pillagings. Currently the area that can be visited is of about 40 hectares.



SANTUARIO DI ERCOLE VINCITORE

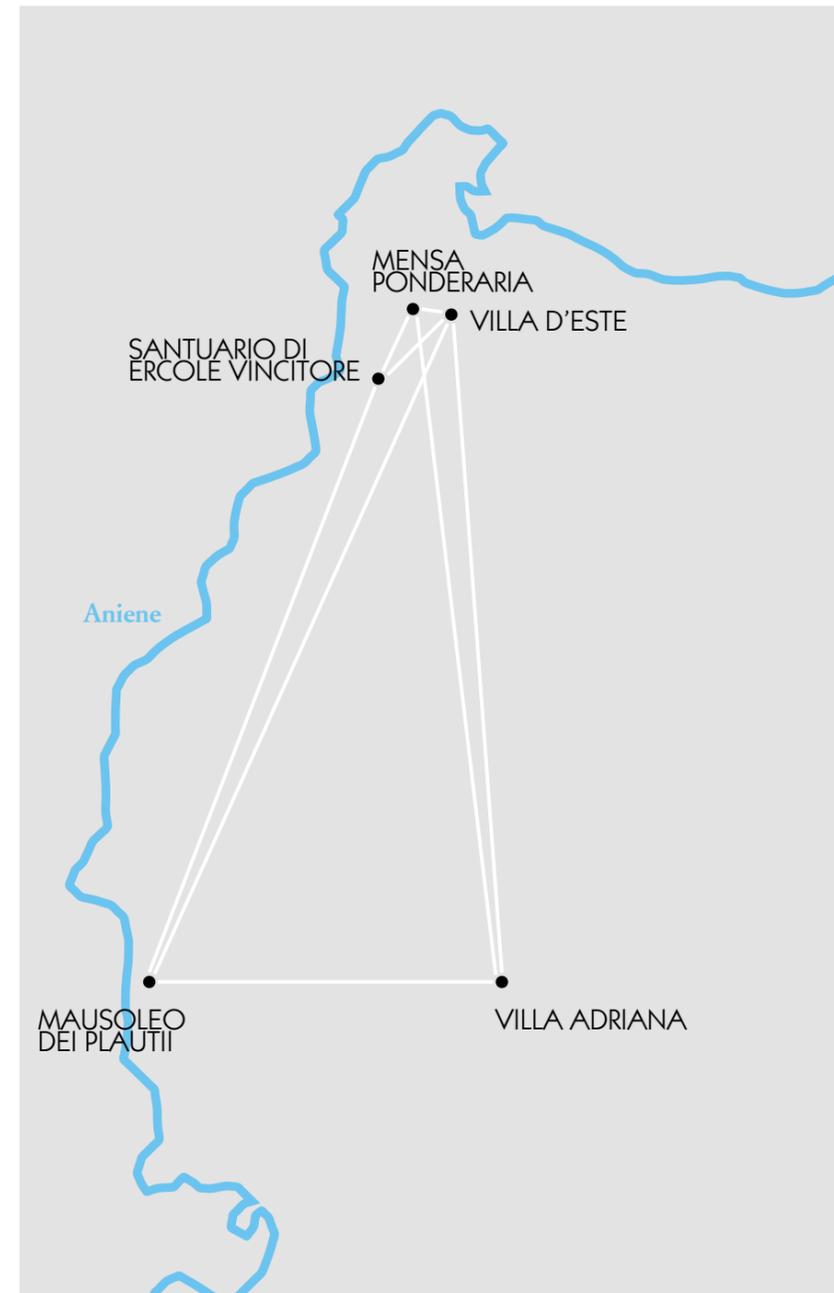
Santuario di Ercole Vincitore is one of the greatest **sacred complexes of Roman architecture** of the **Republican age** (built starting from the 2nd century BC). It is a scenographic structure of imposing dimensions, built on a terracing overlooking the Aniene river, along an ancient transhumance route that would later become the Via Tiburtina. The road was incorporated into the architectural ensemble as a monumental gallery (*Via Tecta*). The sanctuary consisted of three main parts: the theater, which

exploited the natural sloping of the land, a large square bordered by porticos and the actual temple. Following the decadence of the place of worship, the presence of water pipelines favoured the establishment of mills and foundries, as well as the first Italian hydroelectric plant remotely transmitting AC electrical power and, finally, a paper mill. The Sanctuary therefore presents today an extraordinary patrimony of **industrial archeology**.

MENSA PONDERARIA



Mensa Ponderaria, or **public office to control weights and measures**, was located in the forum of the city of *Tibur*. The building, probably of the Augustan age, was accidentally found in 1883. It is one of the rare cases in which the specific public weighting function could be identified thanks to the presence of two *mensae*, made of marble and provided with concave cavities of different sizes to accommodate the official reference weights. A contiguous environment, discovered in 1920, was probably dedicated to the cult of the emperor (*Augusteum*). An inscription gives us information on the architect of the exhibition, the freedman Marco Vareno Difilo, *magister* of the *Herculanei* corporation.



MAUSOLEO DEI PLAUTII

In the availability of the Institute at the end of major restoration works, Mausoleo dei *Plautii* is a first-century **funerary monument**. The most ancient inscription recalls M. Plautio Silvano, consul in 2 B.C. with the emperor Augustus. Also used by descendants, the mausoleum – a high cylinder clad in travertine – has today a profoundly changed appearance compared to antiquity due to the fact that it was transformed into a **tower** in the fifteenth century to protect the nearby **Ponte Lucano** on the Aniene.



VILLA D'ESTE

Villa d'Este, declared a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site in 2001, represents a masterpiece of the Italian garden with the impressive concentration of **fountains, nymphaeums, caves, water games and hydraulic music**. Commissioned by Cardinal **Ippolito II d'Este**, the Villa was almost completed upon his death in 1572. The architectural and iconological program was conceived by **Pirro Ligorio** and realized by Alberto Galvani.

The palace was decorated by the protagonists of late **Roman mannerism**. Further interventions in the seventeenth century followed a period of decline, until the cardinal Gustav Adolf von Hohenlohe revived its splendor by hosting the musician **Franz Liszt** (1811-1886). Between the Twenties and Thirties of the twentieth century, acquired by the Italian State, the Villa was restored and opened to the public.

