

# Orto Botanico

## Catania



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**Opening times:** From Monday to Friday, 9:00 am -1:30 pm; 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Saturday, 9:00 am -1:30 pm

**Admittance:** Adults 4 € Children, Students and Over 60's 3 €  
No charge for disabled persons

**Visits:** Unguided visits  
Guided tours for groups by previous booking

**Access GPS:** N 37° 30' 07" E 15° 4' 15"

**Surface area:** 16,000 sqm

Built in 1858 by the Benedictine monk and Botany professor Francesco Tornabene, this University owned Botanical Garden is one of the few historic gardens found in the heart of Catania. To this day, the garden still remains faithful to its original 19th century design and is divided into two distinct areas, namely, the *Hortus Generalis* which is a typical Italian style garden primarily consisting of a selection of exotic plants and the *Hortus Siculus*, which is an informal garden used for the cultivation of wild Sicilian species. The General Garden has a symmetrical layout consisting of geometric flower beds, orthogonal paths and several botanical collections. The collections of palms and succulents are amongst the most valued in the garden and are well renowned for their rich botanical diversity. Other attractive collections include those of the cycads, water plants, medicinal plants and monumental trees. A big warm glasshouse, named *Tepidarium*, showcases several species of tropical plants, including delicate palms, orchids and bromeliads. The Sicilian Garden provides a good representation of the main natural landscapes in Sicily, and is devoted to plant conservation. Sandy dunes, evergreen wood, Mediterranean maquis, rocky terrain, and artificial ponds allow plants to develop naturally and feature both common and rare Sicilian species. The Botanical Garden does not only display the beauty of the local flora, but is also a living museum, a cultural and natural heritage and an educational research centre, where visitors can appreciate the charm and mystery of plant diversity.

# Villa Reimann

## Siracusa



**Via Necropoli Grotticelle, 14 I 96100 Siracusa (Italy)**

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🌐 [www.comune.siracusa.it/Politiche\\_Culturali/Turismo/villa-reimann.htm](http://www.comune.siracusa.it/Politiche_Culturali/Turismo/villa-reimann.htm);  
[www.gardmed.org](http://www.gardmed.org)

**Opening times:** From Monday to Friday, 9:30 am -1:30 pm

**Admittance:** No charge, free entrance.

**Visits:** Unguided visit  
Guided tour by previous booking

**Access GPS:** N 37° 04' 48" E 15° 16' 46"

**Surface area:** 35,000 sqm

This garden has been under the patronage of the Commune of Syracuse since 1979, after its previous owner, the Danish-born noblewoman Christine Reimann, left it in her will. Lady Reimann moved to Syracuse in 1936 and bought an 1881 villa with a large garden. Besides enriching the garden with plants and orchards, Reimann also discovered interesting Greek archaeological remains, beneath her property. The garden has a formal style and is embellished with terraces, geometric flower beds and various decorative features, such as fountains, gazebos, stone benches, terra cotta urns and pillars. There are many monumental trees and exotic plants in the garden, such as *Synadenium grantii*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Ficus lyrata*, *Casimiroa edulis* some of which are rare in Sicilian gardens. A large area in the garden, called "the Hesperides Garden", hosts hundreds of lemons, oranges and tangerine cultivars which were treated by Christine Reimann herself paying attention to old local cultivars, such as "Femminello" for lemons. A big collection of succulents is another pride of this garden, with many opuntias, euphorbias, *Cereus* and *Aeonium* (black rose, velvet rose and others). The garden also possesses well preserved Byzantine burials, necropolis remains, and part of the Latomie complex, the old caves which were used to build Syracuse. In this garden, history and nature meet to create a unique environment rich in culture and plant diversity.

# Latomia dei Cappuccini

## Siracusa



### Largo della Latomia, I 96100 Siracusa (Italy)

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**Opening times:** Monday to Friday, 9:30 am -1:00 pm

**Admittance:** Ticket 3 Euros

**Visits:** Unguided visits

Guided tours by previous booking

**Access GPS:** N 37° 04' 47" E 15° 17' 44"

**Surface area:** 23,000 sqm

An unusual garden that is found 40m deep within the largest and the oldest limestone quarry of the archaeological complex of Latomie; a quarry that was purposely dug by the Greeks in the sixth century BC. to build Syracuse. The site initially had several functions and was used as prisons, burial sites, cave dwellings and shelters, however, over time its vaults collapsed due to weathering erosion and earthquakes and the Latomia became an open-air cavity where fertile gardens flourished. The name of the garden comes from the Capuchins who live in a convent nearby and have managed the garden since 1588. Nowadays, the garden is a public garden where fruit trees and many exotic species thrive surrounded by vertical rock walls that are home to a rich natural vegetation. Palms and many monumental trees such as laurels, cypresses, hackberries and Judas trees are cultivated, together with many citrus trees, loquats, apricots, olives and pomegranates, all of which are typically represented in Mediterranean gardens. At the top of the rocky ridges one can find fragments of Mediterranean maquis and rocky vegetation where some rare native plants also grow. The huge pillars, steep walls and gorges are still evident after thousands of years of stone extraction; as do many other relics indicating human activity (graves, votive signs, wells and local irrigation systems) which reveal the ancient uses of this place. Rocks and plants perfectly combine to form a unique kind of secluded garden in the town centre. Such garden makes it difficult to tell where human activity stops and nature starts.

# Il Giardino del Biviere

## Lentini (SR)



**Contrada Case Biviere, I 96016 Lentini, Siracusa (Italy)**

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 [www.ilgiardinodelbiviere.it](http://www.ilgiardinodelbiviere.it); [www.gardmed.org](http://www.gardmed.org)

**Opening times:** By previous booking

**Admittance:** Ticket 10 Euros

**Visits:** By previous booking

**Access GPS:** N 37° 18' 32" E 14° 58' 42"

**Surface area:** 25,000 sqm

A beautiful private garden, partly built on a private old natural lake known as the "Biviere di Lentini", near Syracuse. Arabs called the lake "Beveré" meaning "place of water". Rich as it was with aquatic flora and fauna, the lake was a valuable resource for local people. However, it was completely drained off in the thirties to prevent the spread of malaria and was left empty until the late Seventies when a smaller artificial basin was constructed in a part of the old area. Once drained, that site was no longer frequented by fishermen and hunters and consequently all property on the lake was abandoned. Since 1968, under the nurturing hand of its current owners, the barren and desolate land was changed into a flourishing Mediterranean garden, which wonderfully combines the historical value of the area with the immeasurable beauty of plants and nature. Memories of this ancient village are still kept alive within the old stone quays of the harbor, the chapel and the large bell, which was used to warn inhabitants. The garden comprises three levels and contains a richly diverse plant collection which includes yuccas, palms, olives, acacias, jasmynes, big poplar trees, pines, jacarandas, and many other exotic plants of great ornamental value. There is also a high diversity of succulents, opuntias, cacti, giant agaves, mammillarias and big xanthorrhoeas, which grow fully in field thanks to the mild climate. Plant textures and flower colors are skillfully combined to provide a fascinating representation of Mediterranean gardens.

# Villa Comunale

## Palazzolo Acreide (SR)



**Piazzale Marconi, I 96010 Palazzolo Acreide, Siracusa (Italy)**

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🌐 [www.comune.palazzoloacreide.gov.it](http://www.comune.palazzoloacreide.gov.it); [www.gardmed.org](http://www.gardmed.org)

**Opening time:** From Monday to Sunday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Admittance:** No charge; free admittance

**Visits:** Unguided visit

**Access GPS:** N 37° 03' 32" E 14° 54' 80"

**Surface area:** 30,000 sqm

This garden was originally built as a public promenade in 1880, thanks to the efforts of Vincenzo Messina, baron of Bibbia and mayor of the city at that time. Bibbia, who was also the owner of the garden and directed construction works, died in a work-related accident just within the gardens which were later named in his memory. Throughout the years, the garden has been enlarged and new areas have been annexed for public use. The original 19th century layout consists of three straight paths; one large middle path and two smaller ones at the sides whose attractive blooms delight visitors mainly in spring and early summer. Within the rectilinear flower beds, which outline the main path, one can find a symmetric repetitive pattern of trees and shrubs punctuated by artistic topiary boxwoods. This together with stone statues and a pond rich in water plants reflect the formal style of this garden. One of the most interesting features in the garden is the area called "Walkway of Remembrance " where many Holm-oaks were planted each in memory of the local fallen soldiers of the Great War and are today towering trees, with trunk more than 1 m in diameter. The gentle elevation of the garden allows many lush conifers to grow including Cypresses, Pines, Firs and Cedars as well as other deciduous trees typical of the cool Mediterranean climate, such as lime, chestnut and plantain trees. This welcoming manicured garden fits well with the baroque architecture of the town and is part of Val di Noto UNESCO Heritage.



# Parco di Donnafugata

## Ragusa



### Contrada Donnafugata, I 97100 Ragusa (Italy)

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🌐 [www.comune.ragusa.gov.it/turismo/castello](http://www.comune.ragusa.gov.it/turismo/castello); [www.gardmed.org](http://www.gardmed.org)

**Opening time:** From Tuesday to Sunday, 9:00 am -1:00 pm  
Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday, 2:45 - 4:30 pm  
**Admittance:** Park Ticket 3,00 Euros; reduced ticket 1,00 Euro  
Castle & Park Ticket 8 Euros; reduced ticket 4 Euros  
**Visits:** By previous booking  
**Access GPS:** N 36° 52' 55" E 14° 33' 49"  
**Surface area:** 80,000 sqm

Just few kilometres away from Ragusa, embedded within the Hyblaean countryside, one can find the magnificent Parco di Donnafugata. The property dates back to the 19th century when Corrado Arezzo de Spuches, baron of Donnafugata, built his stately mansion on the pre-existing fortifications. The intellectual and progressive baron, who was very fond of plants, loved to surprise his guests. This can be seen from the numerous water games, amusements, and jokes that fill the garden: the labyrinth of stone, the neo-classical coffee-house, the pavilion, the "Monk Chapel" (which conceals a trick to frighten visitors) and several artificial caves. The original design is still distinguishable, despite being repeatedly altered, and clearly reflects the classic style of stately houses. The park incorporates two different gardens. The formal gardens are close to the building and possess a symmetric layout of geometric flowerbeds, lined with clipped hedges, a nice 20th century parterre and many decorative artefacts. The informal gardens are situated further away from building and include plantations of pines and cypresses, a citrus orchard and other monumental trees. Very old specimens of *Ficus macrophylla* and *Phoenix dactylifera* stand out in the garden; some of the plants present are uncommon to Sicilian gardens, examples include *Pinus roxburghii*, *Sideroxylon inerme*, *Gleditsia triacanthos*. Owned and maintained by the Municipality of Ragusa since 1982, it is one of the most unique displays of Mediterranean gardens and perhaps the most popular site in SE Sicily.

# Giardino Ibleo

## Ragusa



**Piazza Giambattista Odierna, 97100 Ragusa (Italy)**

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🌐 [www.gardmed.org](http://www.gardmed.org)

**Opening times:** Form Monday to Sunday, 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

**Admittance:** No charge, free entrance

**Visits:** Unguided visits

**Access GPS:** N 36° 55' 33" E 14° 44' 56"

**Surface area:** 15,800 sqm

Located in a majestic architectural setting amongst three antique churches in the oldest part of Ragusa one can find the Giardino Ibleo. The garden was built in 1858 thanks to funds provided by some wealthy locals and small monetary contributions from citizens of the entire town. It consists of a main entrance path bordered by rectilinear flower beds containing *Phoenix canariensis* and *Cercis siliquastrum*, together with stone benches and short columns topped by terra cotta urns. The original garden was originally designed as a public promenade, a design which is quite common in 19th Century Sicilian Gardens. Then, the garden was enlarged into a formal style garden and embellished with symmetrically arranged geometric flower beds, box-trimmed hedges, topiary elements and a gently elevated rockery. A panoramic balcony overlooking the Irmínio valley also provides breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. Several trees can also be found throughout the garden including palms, Lebanon cedars, Judas trees and Italian cypresses. Some other parts, not in line with the original design, were annexed around the 1930s. These include a pinetum and a stone memorial dedicated to local fallen soldiers as well as ponds and modern benches for the public to enjoy. Perfectly harmonized in a unique framework, that is part of Val di Noto UNESCO Heritage, this garden is one of the major Mediterranean gardens in SE Sicily.

# Villa Fegotto

## Chiaramonte Gulfi (RG)



Case Rizza, I 97012, Chiaramonte Gulfi, Ragusa (Italy)

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**Opening time:** By previous booking  
**Admittance:** Garden Ticket 10 Euros; Buildings included Tickets 20 Euros  
**Visits:** Guided tours, by previous booking  
**Access GPS:** N 37° 04' 34" E 14° 38' 38"  
**Surface area:** 9,000 sqm

A residential complex of the late 19th century consisting of a typical Hyblaean manor house and rural buildings around an inner stone courtyard called "*baglio*". The large estate provided employment to hundreds of people and was a centre of intense productive activities. This can be witnessed by the winery building, oil mill, barns, stables, carpentry and other farm houses still present. The garden, which is situated in a secluded section beyond the main dwelling, possesses a formal style typical of many Sicilian gardens of the 19th Century, and was constructed for both practical and recreational purposes. It has geometric planting beds and orthogonal paths, with a NS and EW orientation which lead visitors to the main viewpoints in the garden. The garden showcases a rich plant collection which comprises many fruit trees and exotic plants including figs, palms, cycads, magnolias, American pepper trees, honey myrtles and huge trees. There are also uncommon yet original features in the garden, which reflect the botanical expertise of the original owner, the most prominent being the rows of jujube (*Ziziphus jujuba*) and the informal planting style within the furthest beds. These beds contain pines and other big trees which create a cosy environment and tall trimmed hedges which form tunnels and arches. Many decorative stone elements and a pavilion portray the typical Mediterranean style. Carefully maintained by the current owners, this private garden is a characteristic example of the Sicilian rural lifestyle and culture.



# Orto del Piombo e Gradinata di San Giorgio

## Modica (RG)



**C.so Garibaldi/Via Maggiore G. Barone I 97015, Modica (Italy)**

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🌐 [www.gardmed.org](http://www.gardmed.org)

**Opening times:** From Monday to Sunday, 9:30 am – 6:00 pm

**Admittance:** No charge; free admittance

**Visits:** Unguided visits

**Access GPS:** N 36° 50' 45" E 14° 45' 68"

A beautiful baroque-style Sicilian garden consisting of a collection of small gardens, originally called "fiolette" (little flowers), which are symmetrically arranged alongside the monumental staircase leading to San Giorgio cathedral. Two of these gardens are situated at the bottom of the stairs, two bigger hemispheric ones are at the centre, and two others are at the top. The staircase was built during the 19th century and probably remodeled over the years; the same happened to the gardens. Each garden possesses a symmetric planting design of palms, cycads, privet trees, angel's trumpets, china roses, magnolias, jacarandas and rosemaries, and is surrounded by low bordering walls covered with a combination of jasmynes, bougainvilleas, rambling roses and wisterias which form an amazing cascade of blossoms from spring to autumn. In the top right side of the stairs, there is another small terraced shady garden, even bigger than others, named "Orto del Piombo" after the baron who owned this property. It is probably the last remaining part of an old productive orchard which still contains numerous fruit trees, such as oranges, lemons and tangerines, olives, laurels and walnut trees. Overlooking the astonishing historic city centre, San Giorgio staircase and its gardens offer a unique and compelling display of Mediterranean style.

# Villa Grimaldi alla Gisana

## Modica (RG)



Contrada Gisana, Vanella 127 n. 1, I97015, Modica (Italy)

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**Opening times:** By previous booking  
**Admittance:** Ticket 10 Euros;  
**Visits:** Guided visits by previous booking  
**Access GPS:** N 36°46'41" E 14°48'15"  
**Surface area:** c. 7,000 sqm

This is a typical Hyblaeen country house with an inner courtyard, built in the early 19th century by the noble family of Grimaldi princes and located just outside the town centre. The original garden design and composition was designed by the old owner Clemente Grimaldi, who was an eminent agronomist and expert in plant cultivation and acclimation practices. The garden consists of two parts, a small front garden and a bigger lateral one the left side of the house. The front garden is built along the main path leading to the courtyard and consists of geometric flower beds separated by small paths ending in stone benches. Most flower beds contain a rich diversity of plants including old specimens of Judas tree, cedars, oleanders, jasmine and bougainvilleas. The flower beds closest to the building host a citrus garden with lemons, oranges, tangerines and grapefruits around a small circular pond. The side-garden may be accessed either from the front or the inner courtyard and it has design which possesses both formal and informal features. The lateral garden is the most remodeled part of the garden, but it still contains authentic features, including the unique limestone-volcanic rockery and some old specimens of *Cycas revoluta*, *Ficus magnolioides*, *Aloe plicatilis*, *Phoenix dactylifera*, as well as carobs, olives and many examples of topiary box shrubs. Beyond the confines of the garden, the country landscape provides the perfect setting for this typical Mediterranean garden.

## The President's Kitchen Garden Attard



**The President's Kitchen Gardens, San Anton Street, Attard**

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Website: [www.mccf.org.mt](http://www.mccf.org.mt)

**Opening:** Winter: Monday to Friday — 9:30 am to 2:00 pm  
Summer: Monday to Friday — 10:00am to 10:00pm  
Saturday, Sunday, Public Holidays — 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

**Admittance:** Free

**Guided tours:** On request

**Surface area:** 3,882 sqm

The Kitchen Garden was constructed in at the time of the Order of the Knights of St. John during the 18th century to serve as a kitchen garden for the needs of the Grand Masters. Since the garden was in a dilapidated state, it was restored and renovated and was later launched by Mrs. Margaret Abela, wife of H.E. the President George Abela, on the 16th June 2011. The garden still serves its original purpose, that of growing vegetables used in meals at San Anton Palace. It comprises of 3 levels. The first level consists of a child recreational area and a Sandwich Bar & Café, the second level contains a Herb and Rose Garden and on the third level one can find the Swan terrace, which was designed over an enormous reservoir constructed in 1766 by the Knights of St. John for water storage and irrigation. The main attractions of the garden include different kinds of herbs and vegetables, a Greenhouse, which serves as an educational venue for hands on practice for school children and the 'Ghorfa' which is a walk-through tour outlining Malta's flora and fauna. The Kitchen Garden is the only smoke-free recreational park in the Maltese Islands and is accessible for all those who visit since it is well equipped with lifts and ramps for wheelchair users. Guided tours are also available on request.

## Argotti Botanical Gardens Floriana



**Argotti Botanical Gardens, University of Malta Section,  
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🌐 Website: <http://www.um.edu.mt/discoveruniversity/activities/argotti>

**Opening:** Monday to Friday, 9:00 am –2:00 pm;

**Admittance:** €3 donation per person

**Guided tours:** Group tours on request

**Surface area:** 4,506 sqm

Argotti Gardens started off in 1741 as a private garden belonging to Bailiff Ignatius de Argote, the knight after which the garden is named. In 1805, just after the departure of the Knights of St. John, the new British rulers converted the private garden into a botanical garden under the tenure of the University of Malta. Several Professors contributed to the development of Argotti as a botanical garden. These include Fr. Carolus Giacinto who imported several exotics, Prof. Stefano Zerafa who transferred Floriana's dispersed botanical collections to the garden and Prof. John Borg whose world famous private cactus collection was donated to the Argotti Gardens. The gardens were taken over in 1973 by the Department of Agriculture but the inner part of the Garden was returned to the University in 1996. The roles of the Argotti Botanic Gardens today include that of maintaining indigenous and exotic collections of plants mainly adapted to Mediterranean climate as well as cacti and succulents. It is also involved in collecting and cataloguing specimens for the herbarium and seeds for the seed bank. The gardens are also involved in conservation projects, focusing on the propagation of rare species including a number of endemics. The gardens are also used as a means of education. Several undergraduate and postgraduate research projects are undertaken on a yearly basis at the garden. Guided tours for students and tourists are also provided at the garden.

## Villa Bologna

### Attard



Villa Bologna, 30, San Anton Street, Attard ATD 1282

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Website: [www.villabologna.com](http://www.villabologna.com)

**Opening:** Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Saturday 9am—1pm  
**Admittance:** €10 per person for guided Tours  
€5 per person for unguided Tours  
**Guided tours:** On request  
**Surface area:** 30,000 sqm

Villa Bologna is an 18th century home surrounded beautiful gardens. In the 19th century it was inherited by Lord Strickland who later became Prime Minister of Malta. It is now lived in by his grandson, Gerald de Trafford and his family. The garden was built in 1745 and is spread over 8 acres and contains several attractions of historical and natural importance. The entrance to the garden is lined with stone vine covered pergolas built in the early 18th century, whilst deeper into the garden one can find beautiful ponds and fountains, the most prominent being the Dolphin pond, designed in the 1920s and the Sunken Pond designed in the 1930s. The gardens also possess stunning buildings from the Roman Period as well as the period of the Second World War. Besides historical attractions, the garden also offers a marvellous botanical experience since it is embellished with citrus orchards, vegetable gardens and formal gardens containing age-old trees. The garden also possesses old stone irrigation channels and a water tower which used to provide water to the plants in the gardens. At Villa Bologna you will also find a ceramic workshop called 'Ceramika Maltija.' This is Malta's oldest ceramic workshop and a place where quality hand painted earthenware is sold. Tours round the are given upon request. A brochure is given to people who would like to tour the gardens by themselves.



## Tal-Kmandant (Luqa Briffa) Gardens Żejtun



**Tal-Kmandant Gardens, Luqa Briffa Street, Żejtun**

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Website: <http://www.zejtunlocalcouncil.com/>

**Opening:** All Day

**Admittance:** Free

**Guided tours:** Not Available

**Surface area:** 2,084 sqm

Tal-Kmandant Garden was built in 1802 and was commissioned by the British High Commissioner Alexander Ball. It was given as a gift to the Leading Representative of Żejtun, Lieutenant Ġuze'Abela as a recognition for the participation of Żejtun in the revolts against the French. The garden gets its name from the Maltese word "Kmandant" meaning Lieutenant. On the main entrance to the garden, one can find the coat of arms of King George III of the United Kingdom and beneath it an inscription describing the purpose for which the garden was built. Once the garden was constructed, it gradually started to accommodate a diverse selection of plants and subsequently helped to improve horticulture in Malta; in fact it later also was given the status of "Giardino Botanico". In recent years, the garden was renamed several times. At first the garden was renamed "Ġnien Luqa Briffa" after the Maltese Hero who showed exceptional bravery in the Great Siege of 1565 but in 1999 the Town Council decided to give it the name of "Ġnien Mikiel Cachia" (1760-1839) after the one of the Maltese Leaders who fought against the French between 1798-1800. The garden today is freely accessible for the public to enjoy.

## King George V Recreational Garden

### Attard



#### King George V Garden, Telgħa tal-Kurcifiss, Floriana

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📠 +356 21237723

✉ [floriana.lc@gov.mt](mailto:floriana.lc@gov.mt),

Website: <http://www.florianalocalcouncil.com/>

**Opening:** All Day

**Admittance:** Free

**Guided tours:** Not Available

**Surface area:** 9,640 sqm

King George V Garden was constructed and inaugurated by King George V in 1936 and was one of Malta's first Playing Fields. Originally it used to form part of the then King George V hospital but it was then opened to the public. The garden is mostly renowned for its elaborate stone arch, which dates back to the time of the British as indicated by the British Monarchy coat-of-arms at its top. In 1939, a bronze bust of King George V was unveiled at the entrance of the garden. Unfortunately, the original bust was moved to San Anton Gardens but a replica of this bust still lies in the garden. King George V garden is situated over the bastions and provides breathtaking views of the Grand Harbour. The garden also contains a series of exotic species including the common oleander, yellow oleander as well as several palm species. These species are accompanied by species from the Mediterranean region including pine, olive and laurel trees. The garden still serves its original purpose and possesses a football ground, a tennis court and a playing field for young children which were constructed by the Malta Playing Fields Association, a 60-year old association which always had a strong link with the garden.

## Sir Luigi Preziosi Garden Floriana



**Sir Luigi Preziosi Garden, Vilhena Street, Floriana**

📍 Floriana Local Council, 15 Pjazza Emmanuel S.Tonna, Floriana FRN 1483

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
**Opening:** All Day  
**Admittance:** Free  
**Guided tours:** Not Available  
**Surface area:** 4,470 sqm


Sir Luigi Preziosi Garden was constructed around the 1930s and was known as Piazza Miratore Garden. It was then renamed after the ophthalmic surgeon Sir Luigi Preziosi whose studies were instrumental to prevent blindness caused by the trachoma virus. This garden is renowned for its excellent panoramic views of the Grand Harbour, fortifications and the Valletta waterfront. At one end of the garden, one can find an old gun emplacement dating back from the World War II whereas a walk through the garden will also allow a close view of the bastions used for defence during the time of the Knights. During the year 2000 and the first months of 2003, this garden underwent a complete transformation following a project by the Floriana Local Council. The garden is now embellished with fountains, benches and spaces for recreation. Sir Luigi Preziosi Garden also possesses a number of interesting botanical specimens. Along the bastions, one can find a series of age-old olive trees which not only contribute to the natural heritage of the garden but also provide shade to the area. Towards the middle of the garden, one can also find several majestic *Ficus* specimens and a selection of palms. Other interesting exotic species found in the garden include *Hibiscus*, *Yuccas* and *Oleanders*. In this garden one can also come across the indigenous Maltese National Tree, the Sandarac Gum Tree.


## The Mall Garden Floriana



**The Mall Gardens, The Mall Street, Floriana**

 Floriana Local Council, 15 Pjazza Emmanuel S.Tonna, Floriana FRN 1483

 +356 21235523

 +356 21237723

 floriana.lc@gov.mt,

*Website:* <http://www.florianalocalcouncil.com/>

**Opening:** All Day

**Admittance:** Free

**Guided tours:** Not Available

**Surface area:** 6,650 sqm

The Mall Garden is narrow garden of about 400m in length which lies along an axis stretching from fort St. Elmo at tip of Valletta, along Republic Street along the Mall and on to St. Philip bastion. It was constructed by Grand Master Lascaris in 1656 as a place for recreation for the Knights where they used to play a ball game called '*Palla a Maglio*'. A sort of croquet much in vogue at that time in which a ball was driven through an iron ring suspended at the end of a long alley. The Mall Garden served its purpose for almost 250 years when its aspect was changed in 1805 by order of Sir Alexander Ball when it was converted into a public garden and became known as Maglio Gardens. The garden used to be totally enclosed by a wall which was removed after World War II as it was extensively damaged. Today Mall Gardens is a public garden lined with trees and ponds. Several monuments can be found in the garden commemorating prominent Maltese personalities of the Islands' political and social history. At one end of the garden, one can find the majestic Independence statue, which commemorates the independence of the Malta from the English Rule.

## Palazzo Parisio & Gardens

### Naxxar



Palazzo Parisio, 29 Victory Square, Naxxar, NXR 1700

☎ +356 21412461

📠 +356 420447

✉ info@palazzoparisio.com

Website: <http://www.palazzoparisio.com/>

**Opening:** Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm;

**Admittance:** Adults €12, Students Over 16yrs €7, Children from 5-15yrs €5, Children Under 5yrs Free .

**Guided tours:** Audio Guided Tours Available from 9:00am to 5:30pm  
Private Guided Tours on request

**Surface area:** circa. 3,000 sqm

Palazzo Parisio was originally built in 1733 by the Portuguese Grand Master Manoel De Vilhena and developed into a palazzo by the Marquis Guiseppe Scicluna. Its magnificent gardens are half a mile long and are classically baroque in style. They are ranked to be amongst the finest gardens in Malta. The garden at Palazzo Parisio contains two main sections. The first garden features four lawns surrounding small stone fountains and bordered by Euonymus hedges with wide structured terraces, oleander, bougainvillea and cascading geraniums. The second garden is structured around an central fountain with formal quadrants of traditional Sicilian Pebble mosaics and seasonal border plants including pansies, fresias and cinerarias. In this garden one can also find an orange grove surrounded by Mediterranean species and numerous exotics. Amongst the many exotics, the gardens possess an impressive collection of hybrid *Hibiscus* with over 60 different species and colours as well as a vast collection of bougainvilleas and citrus trees. One can also admire, the complex stone irrigation systems that pass throughout the garden. These were connected to an underground water reservoir and were used to supply water to all plants in the garden. Besides marvelous botanical features, Palazzo Parisio also offers visitors a wonderful historical experience with buildings and architectural features dating back to the 18th century.