



VILLA VALMARANA AI NANI

Villa Valmarana ai Nani Vicenza Frescoes by Giambattista and Giandomenico Tiepolo.

Villa Valmarana ai Nani

The Villa includes the Palazzina (1657), the Foresteria (Guest House) and Scuderia (Stables) built by Francesco Muttoni in 1720. It gets its name from the statues of the 17 dwarfs on the walls surrounding the house, most likely from the drawing by Giandomenico Tiepolo. The legend tells of a dwarf princess who lived secluded in the villa surrounded by dwarfs. Upon seeing a beautiful prince in the garden, she realized her handicap and threw herself from the tower. The pain the dwarfs felt for the princess transformed them into statues of stone.

The Palazzina and the Foresteria have frescoes by Giambattista and Giandomenico Tiepolo, hired in 1757 by Giustino Valmarana. His descendants still live in the Villa, which is universally considered the maximum expression of the painting of the eighteenth century and one of the highest examples of the Tiepolo's genius. In the Palazzina, frescoed by the father, and in the Guest House, work of the son, one can find the different matrices that have inspired the two artists: the vocation towards the "sublime" of Giambattista and that towards the "natural" of Giandomenico. The very special frieze and the architectural decorations are by Gerolamo Mengozzi Colonna.

The Palazzina

The themes of the frescoes are taken from Virgil's Eneid, Ariosto's Furious Orland, Tasso's Liberated Jerusalem and from the Sacrifice of Iphigenia, the grand fresco occupying the whole main room.

The Guest-House

With the exception of the Olympus room, painted by the father, all of the other frescoes are by Giandomenico who abandons the classical themes in favour of the spirit of the time. He represents exoticism in the Chinese room; the world of the nobles in the Vacations room, one of the first example of the neo-gothic style in Italy; the world of ordinary people in the Peasants' room; caprice and irony in the "Mondo novo" room, with figures of players, masks, charlatans. The Guest House hosts the only portrait of Palladio, who worked many years for the Valmarana family.

The Villa in literature

"Today I have visited Villa Valmarana that Tiepolo has decorated, giving free course to all his virtues and faults. He didn't succeed in realizing the sublime style like the natural one, but in this aspect there are splendid things: as a decorator, broadly speaking, he is full of happiness and cleverness", writes Goethe in his *Tagebuecher* in 1786, knowing intuitively the difference in styles.

Antonio Fogazzaro, husband of Margherita Valmarana, sets in the Villa the plot of his *Piccolo mondo moderno*; Edith Wharton includes it in the limited group of the *Italian Villas and their Gardens*; Guido Piovene, son of Stefania Valmarana, describes it in numerous essays; Goffredo Parise wrote many pages of *Il Prete bello* in the Villa. In the 1970's Carlo Scarpa set up his architectural studio in the Stables.

How to get there:

By foot: the villa is a 20 minute walk from the center of Vicenza and at 5 minute walk from La Rotonda

By car: there is a parking lot in front of the Villa

By pullman: parking at la "Spianata del Cristo" or at the "Shell" pump on the Riviera Berica

Opening hours and tickets

From March 8th to November 6th, from Tuesday to Sunday. Closed on Mondays Opening time: 10-12 a.m. 3-6 p.m. (Please check the precise dates from the web-site)

During the Winter, the Villa will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 12 a.m. and from 2 to 4.30 p.m.

Tickets: individual tickets: euro 8.00 Groups (min. 15 people): euro 6.00 Students in group: euro 4.00
It is also possible to visit the Villa outside the set time by paying a supplement. Please phone before.

The Villa is open for weddings, meetings, conventions, concerts and dinners for a maximum of 200 people

For any further information:

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