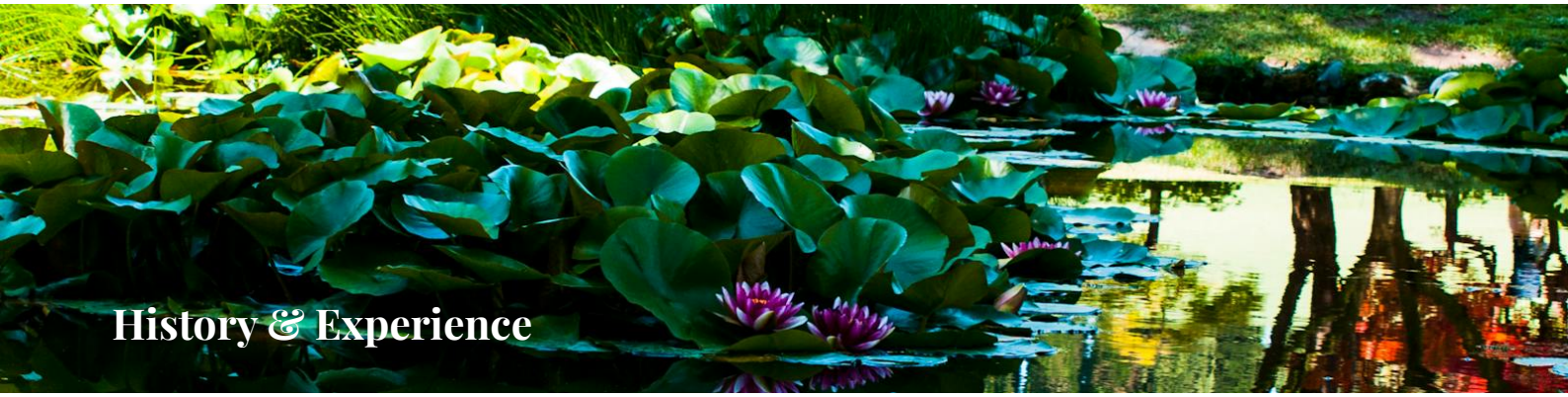


OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Parco Giardino Sigurtà

Valeggio sul Mincio · From 16€

https://sigurta.visit-tickets.com/en/... Skip-the-Line Tickets & Official Prices



History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From Walled Estate to Botanical Masterpiece

GOOGLE 4.6 ★★★★★ 32 671 reviews

TIQETS 4.7 ★★★★★ 3 492 reviews

The origins of Parco Giardino Sigurtà trace back to **1417**, when the land was established as a 'brolo cinto de muro,' a typical walled rural estate common in Venetian territories. For centuries, this secluded property changed hands among noble families like the Contarini and Guarienti, serving primarily as an agricultural stronghold rather than a botanical sanctuary. It remained largely neglected until the mid-20th century, preserving its rustic charm but lacking the structured beauty that defines it today.

In **1941**, pharmaceutical industrialist Giuseppe Carlo Sigurtà purchased the estate, driven by a vision to transform the neglected landscape into a place of scientific and aesthetic wonder. Leveraging historic rights to draw water from the nearby Mincio River, he initiated a massive restoration project. His industrial precision applied to botany allowed him to create complex irrigation systems and cultivate rare species, laying the foundation for what would become one of Italy's most celebrated gardens.

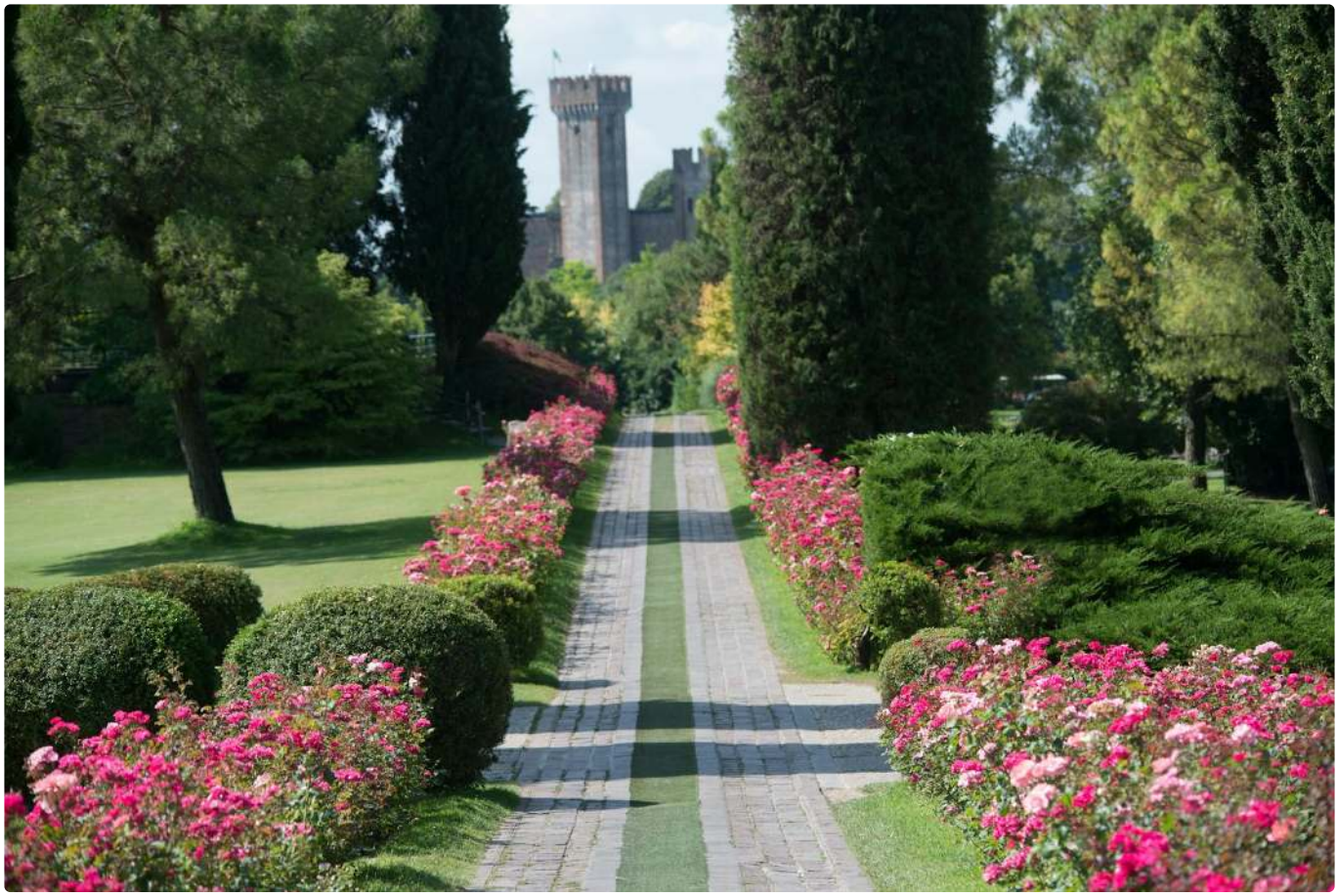
The park officially opened to the public on **March 19, 1978**, under the stewardship of his adopted son, Enzo Inga Sigurtà. Initially accessible only by car through an 'auto-guide' system, the park evolved significantly in the early 2000s to prioritize pedestrian exploration. This shift emphasized immersion over speed, allowing visitors to truly connect with the diverse microclimates created across the two gentle moraine hills.

Today, managed by the third generation of the Sigurtà family, the park has earned international acclaim, including being named **Most Beautiful Park in Italy** in 2013. It hosts over 400,000 visitors annually and continues to evolve with new installations like the Adrian Fisher maze. The estate remains a testament to how private passion can preserve nature while sharing it with the world.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping through the gates of Parco Giardino Sigurtà feels less like entering a garden and more like crossing into a living painting. The air is immediately cooler, scented with the earthy aroma of damp soil and blooming flowers. Sunlight filters through the canopy of ancient hornbeams and oaks, creating a dappled light effect that shifts constantly as you move along the winding paths. There is a profound sense of **tranquility** here, insulated from the noise of the modern world by the surrounding hills and dense vegetation.

As you walk deeper into the park, the scale of the landscape reveals itself. You are not just walking on flat ground but navigating gentle slopes that offer ever-changing perspectives. One moment you are enclosed by towering yew hedges, the next you emerge onto a vast lawn with a panoramic view of the **Scaliger Castle** in the distance. The experience is sensory and immersive; every turn promises a new color palette, whether it's the vibrant reds of roses or the serene blues of water lilies floating on the ponds.



PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Practical Information

ADDRESS

Via Cavour 1, Valeggio sul Mincio · Easy access from A4 (Peschiera exit). Free parking 600m away.

OPENING HOURS

Open only from March to November. Hours vary by season and daylight saving time. Closed December-February.

PRICES

Adults ~€16. Reduced online rates on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Golf-carts charged separately.

VISIT DURATION

Allow at least 3 to 4 hours to enjoy the gardens and maze. Plan more if you rent a golf-cart to explore the heights.

PHOTOS

Freely allowed. The Viale delle Rose offers the best photo backdrop with the Scaliger Castle in the background, ideally at the end of the day.

AUDIENCE

Perfect for families (treasure hunt app), romantic couples, and gardening enthusiasts. Wheelchair accessible with caution on slopes.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & Transportation

Metro

: Valeggio S/m — 4 min à pied

Verona Airport (36 min) · Valeggio S/m (7 min)

Bus

: Valeggio S/m — 4 min à pied

Verona Airport (58 min) · Valeggio S/m (10 min)

Car

Verona Airport (45 min) · Valeggio S/m (4 min)

Bike

Verona Airport (60 min) · Valeggio S/m (4 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Parco Giardino Sigurtà ?



📍 Via Cavour 1 — 37067 Valeggio sul Mincio

🌐 45°21.466′ N, 10°44.088′ E



ORGANIZATION

Navigating the Hills and Paths

Lower Level (Entrance & Farm)

Begin your journey near the entrance where the educational farm awaits. Children can interact with donkeys, sheep, and hens, learning about plant intelligence and sustainable agriculture. This level includes the Castelletto, housing historical artifacts related to the Sigurtà family, and serves as the starting point for the treasure hunt app.

Middle Level (Water Gardens & Lawns)

This central zone features the park's iconic 18 ponds, populated with tropical water lilies and lotus flowers. Wide expanses of shaded lawns invite picnics and relaxation. Here you will find the Neo-Gothic Hermitage and the Great Oak, a specimen over 400 years old, anchoring the landscape with historical weight.

Upper Level (Viale delle Rose & Maze)

The highest point of the park offers the most dramatic views. Walk the one-kilometer Viale delle Rose, lined with thousands of remontant roses facing the Scaliger Castle. Conclude your ascent at the Giant Maze, a 2500 m² labyrinth of yew trees designed by Adrian Fisher, featuring a central tower inspired by Paris's Bois de Boulogne.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Accessibility for people with reduced mobility**

Accessible paths but hilly terrain; golf carts may be helpful.

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Ideal for families: treasure hunt app, green spaces, golf carts for accompanied children.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, German, Italian



SELECTION

Unmissable Gardens and Hidden Gems

01 Upper Garden

Viale delle Rose

This one-kilometer avenue is the park's crown jewel, hosting tens of thousands of roses from May to September. The path aligns perfectly to frame the **Scaliger Castle** in the background, creating a postcard-perfect vista. The sheer volume of blooms creates a tunnel of fragrance and color that is overwhelming in the best way possible.

> 💡 The alignment was meticulously calculated so that the castle appears centered between the rose bushes, regardless of the season's bloom density.

02 ADRIAN FISHER Top Hill

The Giant Maze

Inaugurated in 2011, this 2500 m² maze uses **1500 precisely trimmed yew trees** to form an intricate geometric pattern. It includes a central tower offering a bird's-eye view of the puzzle below. Designed by the world-renowned Adrian Fisher, it challenges visitors with multiple exits and hidden pathways.

> 💡 The design draws inspiration from the maze in the Bois de Boulogne, Paris, but adapts it to the Italian hillside terrain for unique visual surprises.

03 Water Garden

Lotus Ponds

Between June and July, the park's 18 ponds come alive with **tropical water lilies and rare lotus flowers**. These aquatic bodies are particularly spectacular during summer heat, when the inflorescences reach their maximum size. The stillness of the water reflects the sky and surrounding greenery, creating a mirror-like effect.

> 💡 Some lotus species here are considered rare in Europe, requiring specific temperature controls maintained by the park's advanced irrigation system.

04 Spring Exhibition

Tulipanomania Festival

Held in March, this event transforms the park into a sea of color with over **one million tulips**. Considered the second-largest tulip festival in Europe after Keukenhof, it features floating flowerbeds and large-scale floral designs. The spectacle attracts around 100,000 visitors who marvel at the sheer scale of the installation.

> 💡 The festival started with just 5,000 tulips decades ago, growing exponentially as the Sigurtà family expanded their horticultural ambitions.

05 Woodland Area

The Great Oak

Standing majestically in the broadleaf woodland, this oak tree is over **400 years old**. It serves as a silent witness to the estate's transformation from a walled farm to a public park. Its massive trunk and sprawling branches provide shade and a sense of ancient continuity amidst the manicured gardens.

> 💡 Local legends suggest this tree marked the boundary of the original Venetian estate, surviving wars and neglect for centuries.

06 Lower Garden

Castelletto Museum

This small castle houses historical and scientific materials related to the **Sigurtà family**. Visitors can explore exhibits detailing the park's evolution and the industrial innovations used in its maintenance. It provides crucial context for understanding the human effort behind the natural beauty.

> 💡 The collection includes personal items from famous guests like Maria Callas, linking the park to global cultural icons.

07 Middle Garden

Neo-Gothic Hermitage

A picturesque structure nestled among the trees, the Hermitage adds a touch of **romantic architecture** to the landscape. It serves as a quiet retreat for contemplation and photography. Its pointed arches and stone facade contrast beautifully with the organic shapes of the surrounding foliage.

> 💡 Built in the late 19th century, it was originally intended as a private chapel for the estate's owners before becoming part of the public park.

08 Woodland Path

Stone of Youth

Located along the hiking trails, this stone is associated with local folklore regarding **vitality and health**. Visitors often pause here to reflect or take photos. While its origins are rooted in legend, it stands as a symbolic marker of the park's connection to well-being and nature therapy.

> 💡 Legend says that touching the stone while making a wish ensures good health for the coming year, a tradition passed down through generations.

TIPS

Essential Tips for a Perfect Visit

TIMING

Arrive exactly at opening time (9:00 AM) if you plan to rent a golf cart. They operate on a first-come, first-served basis and cannot be reserved, so early arrival guarantees availability.

BILLET

Purchase tickets online on Tuesdays and Thursdays for reduced rates. For special events like Tulipanomania or holidays, book dated tickets in advance as access is capped.

PARCOURS

Save the Giant Maze for the end of your visit. Knowing the general layout of the park helps you orient yourself mentally, reducing stress and making the escape more enjoyable.

PHOTO

For the best shot of the Viale delle Rose, position yourself in the middle of the path around 5-6 PM. The soft afternoon light enhances the rose colors and frames the Scaliger Castle perfectly.

PAUSE

Dine at Ristorante Sigurtà for a meal with a view. Reserve ahead if you have an electric car, as they offer charging stations for Tesla, Porsche, and universal connectors.

ENFANTS

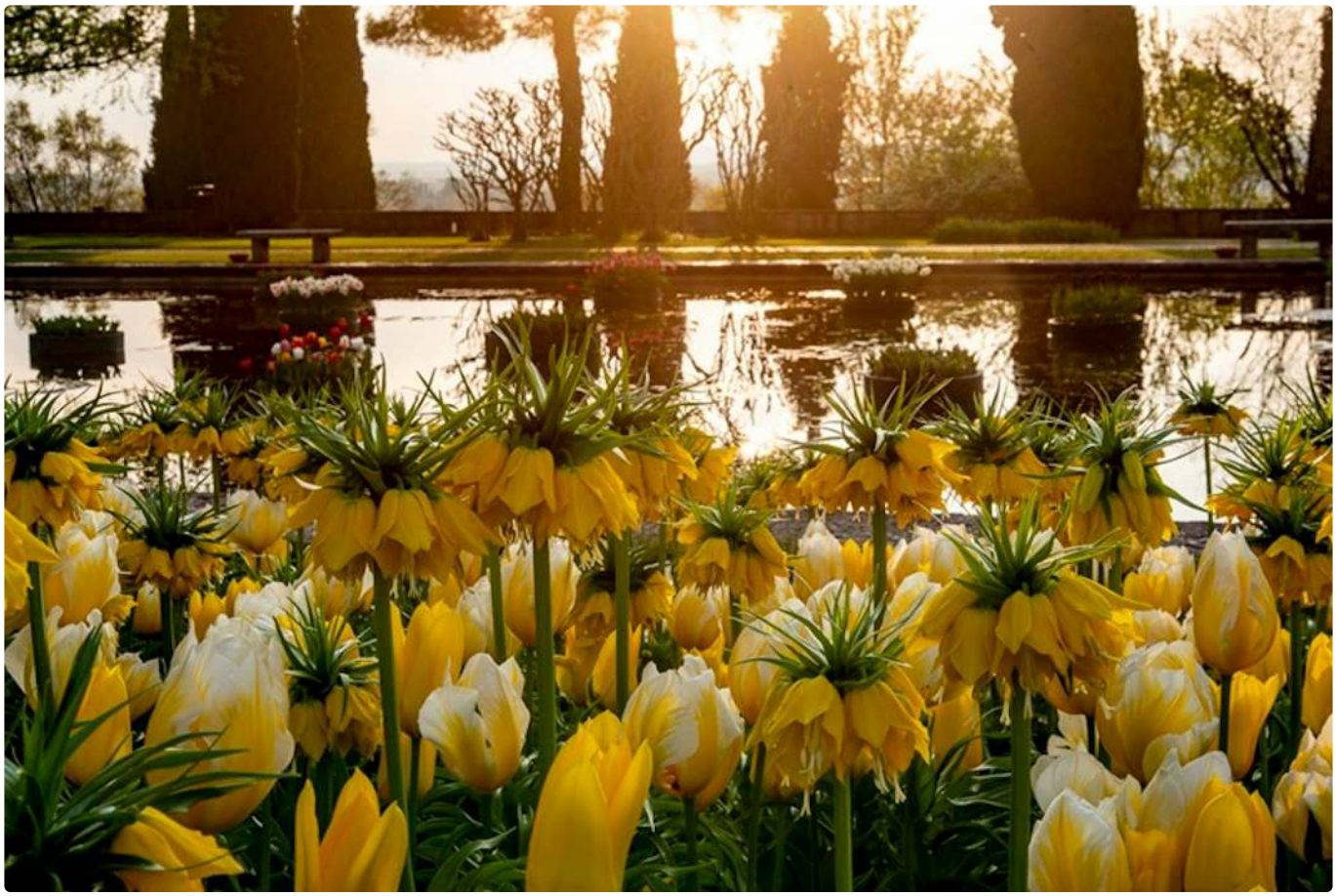
Download the free app 'Sigurtà: i giardini incantati' before arriving. The treasure hunt gamifies the visit, keeping children engaged as they search for virtual golden acorns throughout the park.

AUDIOGUIDE

The audioguide is available in French, English, German, and Italian. It is highly recommended for understanding the botanical significance of specific collections and the history of the Sigurtà family.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable shoes with good grip. The park covers 60 hectares of morainic hills with varied slopes. Even with a golf cart, mandatory walking sections require sturdy footwear.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I need to book my ticket in advance?

Booking is not mandatory for the standard open-date ticket. However, it is highly recommended for special days (holidays, Tulipanomania) where access is limited. For Tuesday and Thursday discounted rates, online purchase

Are there any discounted rates available?

Yes, discounted tickets are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the season. These offers are exclusively available online on the official website, subject to availability. Discounts are also available for groups

How does the dated ticket work?

The dated ticket is mandatory for certain special dates such as March 8th or festive days in April/May. It guarantees your entry because capacity is limited on these days. For a classic visit outside of events, the stand

Can I cancel or modify my reservation?

Conditions vary depending on the type of ticket. Generally, standard tickets offer reasonable flexibility. Always check the specific conditions when purchasing online, especially for discounted tickets or limited-capacit

How long does it take to see everything?

Allow at least 3 to 4 hours for a complete walking tour including the gardens and the maze. If you opt for the golf cart, allow about 1 hour 30 minutes of driving, but this will allow you to cover more ground. Arrive ear

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

Royal Guests and Divas

The park has hosted an impressive roster of celebrities, including **Maria Callas** and King Charles III. These figures were drawn to the tranquility and exclusivity of the gardens, which offered a private retreat far from the public eye. Their visits highlight the park's status as a haven for those seeking peace and natural beauty.

International Acclaim

Recognized as the **Most Beautiful Park in Italy** in 2013, Parco Giardino Sigurtà later secured second place in European rankings in 2015. This distinction underscores the landscape excellence achieved through decades of careful planning and horticultural innovation by the Sigurtà family.

Water Rights Legacy

Giuseppe Carlo Sigurtà's purchase in 1941 was made possible by his historic right to draw water from the **Mincio River**. This resource was crucial for transforming the neglected estate into a lush garden, demonstrating how legal heritage can enable environmental restoration.

Maze Design Complexity

The maze was designed by **Adrian Fisher**, a renowned British maze designer. He incorporated a central tower inspired by the Bois de Boulogne, adding a vertical element to the horizontal puzzle. This design choice allows visitors to see the complexity of the paths from above, enhancing the intellectual challenge.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Beyond the park gates, the charming town of **Valeggio sul Mincio** offers a delightful extension to your visit. Start or end your day at the **Scaliger Castle**, a 14th-century fortress perched above the river, which provides historical context to the region's medieval past. For dining, the **Ristorante Sigurtà** within the park offers gourmet cuisine with stunning views, ideal for a leisurely lunch. Alternatively, venture to the nearby shores of **Peschiera del Garda** for boat rides and lakeside cafes. The area is rich in artisan shops and gelaterias, perfect for refreshing after exploring the park's varied terrain.



Leaving Parco Giardino Sigurtà is often bittersweet, as the park leaves an indelible mark on your senses. It is not merely a collection of plants but a carefully curated emotional journey. Whether you came for the history, the romance of the rose avenue, or the challenge of the maze, you depart with a renewed appreciation for **nature's resilience**. This is a place where time slows down, inviting you to breathe deeply and remember that beauty requires both patience and care.