

Castenaso. The relics from these excavations of the 1800s are kept at the Museum of Bologna. The MUV contains the relics from the Villanovan necropolis of Marano di Castenaso from the 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C. The most characteristic objects of the exhibition are the stelae of the burial ground; the most noteworthy is the so-called "Stele of Swords", characterized by a complex bas-relief decoration.

## 7. National Archaeological Museum "Pompeo Aria" and Archaeological Area

Via Porrettana Sud, 13 – Marzabotto  
[www.archeobo.arti.beniculturali.ita/Marzabotto](http://www.archeobo.arti.beniculturali.ita/Marzabotto)

Outside of Bologna, towards the southwest, in the foothills of the Apennines, is the town of Marzabotto, with a museum and an archaeological area that are of primary importance to the study of the Etruscan civilization. From the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century to the first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C., in the area of Piano di Misano near Misanello, a real town developed, with a regular urban layout, characterized by residential, production and cultural areas and two surrounding necropolises. The archaeological area is open to visitors. One can walk through the streets of an ancient Etruscan town. The town was built and planned according to the rules of Greek town-planning, proving the close relationship between two civilizations that were distant only geographically.



Head of a kouros (youth)

## 8. Archaeological Museum Luigi Fantini of Monterenzio and Archaeological Park of Monte Bibeale

Via del Museo, 2 – Monterenzio  
[www.storia-culture-civilta.unibo.it/it](http://www.storia-culture-civilta.unibo.it/it)

Here you find significant evidence of the town and necropolis of Monte Bibeale. Both are extremely important for the study of the Celts in Italy and the relationship between them and the local Etruscans. The great invasions of Celts from the other side of the Alps began in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and many settled in the area of Bologna. In the small highland settlement of Monte Bibeale

the Etruscans mingled with these new arrivals. Wonderful burial objects of Celtic warriors, including helmets, swords and javelins, prove how the different populations met and shared the living and burial space for more than two centuries. At the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C., the arrival of the Romans changed forever the balance of the population of the whole area of Bologna. About 10 km from the Fantini Museum is the Monte Bibeale Park where you can have a walk in the beautiful woods and visit a unique and fascinating archaeological site.

Texts: Federica Guidi - Archaeological Civic Museum

Main museums and sites for Etruscan civilization in northern Italy:

Reggio Emilia - [www.musei.re.it/collezioni/](http://www.musei.re.it/collezioni/)  
 Ferrara e Spina- [www.archeoferrara.beniculturali.it](http://www.archeoferrara.beniculturali.it)  
 Verucchio - [www.archeobo.arti.beniculturali.it/verucchio/](http://www.archeobo.arti.beniculturali.it/verucchio/)  
 Mantova - [www.museoarcheologicomantova.beniculturali.it/](http://www.museoarcheologicomantova.beniculturali.it/)



Grafiche E. GASPARI - Cedriano di G. (BO) - Stampalibone srl Piedimonte Matese (CE) - Aprile 2015

Archaeological Museum. Vase with a rider on top of a fantasy animal (720–680 B.C.)



# Discover the Etruscans

There are still important traces of the long Etruscan history in Bologna dating between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. To discover these roots of ancient Bologna, the Etruscan city in the Po Valley, you need to search deeply, especially in the museums of the city and of the province.



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## 1. Archaeological Civic Museum

*Via dell'Archiginnasio, 2*

[www.museibologna.it/archeologico](http://www.museibologna.it/archeologico)

The Archaeological Civic Museum is the best starting point for all those who want to get to know the most ancient Etruscan origins of the city. In the large hall on the first floor of this building, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, archaeological objects tell the history of Etruscan Bologna, from the dawn of the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C. to the arrival of the Celts in the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Enjoy the charm of the precious objects placed in the tombs as a symbol of the importance and of the social status of the deceased and discover how and why more than 14,000 bronze objects were placed in the dolium (the name of a type of huge ceramic container) of St. Francis. Refined Greek vases, that the Etruscans of Felsina imported in large quantities, are waiting to tell you stories of gods and heroes through their images. The sandstone stelae (stone slabs similar to gravestones) are unique Etruscan monuments that will impress you with their winged demons, sphinxes and sea monsters.



Attic krater vase

## 2. Palazzo Pepoli. Museum of the History of Bologna

*Via Castiglione 8*

[www.genusbononiae.it](http://www.genusbononiae.it)

A short distance from the Archaeological Civic Museum, the Museum of the History of Bologna is the ideal continuation of the search to discover the Etruscans. This museum, inaugurated in 2012, gives you the chance to go through the streets of the ancient history of Bologna by means of multimedia equipment and realistic reconstructions that combine ancient artifacts with modern technologies. In a 3D cartoon, Apa (father, in Etruscan) tells the story of Bologna with the voice and the music of Lucio Dalla. Here you will find the reconstruction of an old stretch of the burial route from the Western outskirts of the Etruscan town to the heart of the city. A display of funerary objects and a rich trove of architectural relics completes the visit.

## 3. Margherita Gardens

*Porta Santo Stefano and Porta Castiglione,  
via Santa Chiara and via Sabbioni*

The Margherita Gardens stretch for more than 26 hectares (about 64 acres) at the foot of the hills. Since 1879 they have been the green lung of the city. In 1876, during the construction of the park,

a bronze container was found which clearly dated back to the Etruscan age. This first discovery led to many excavation campaigns which brought to light more than 230 tombs. These dated from the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. The burial objects from these tombs are kept in the Archaeological Civic Museum. There is still an imposing stone sarcophagus dating to the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. on the large lawn near the lake in the centre of the park. This is a clear evidence of the ancient Etruscan burial ground.

A few steps from the sarcophagus, near the old municipal greenhouses, the Margherita Gardens have a surprise for lovers of the ancient world: the perfect reproduction of a Villanovan hut, the type of house common in the oldest phase (Villanovan age) of the Etruscan settlement in Bologna. The hut was recreated on a 1:1 scale, according to traces found during the archaeological excavations and was built with the same materials of the Etruscan age (wood, clay and reeds). It faithfully reproduces the shape and structure of the old houses.



Margherita Gardens. Villanovan hut

## 4. La Corte 9

*Via Bentivogli 34/36*

If you venture into the inner city suburbs, among the blocks of flats of the area called "Cirenaica", the Corte 9 of via Bentivogli will lead you to the discovery of another part of the Etruscan history of Bologna. Here some excavations in 1913 brought to light a necropolis with more than 800 tombs from the 9<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C. The relics from these excavations are now at the Archaeological Civic Museum. The copies of some burial objects and explanatory panels tell the history of the Etruscan community which settled here more than 2,800 years ago.

## 5. Certosa. Historical cemetery

*Via della Certosa, 18*

[www.storiaememoriadibologna.it/certosa](http://www.storiaememoriadibologna.it/certosa)

In one of most interesting monumental cemeteries of Northern Italy, the traces of the Etruscans were hidden below the more recent memorials of the city of Bologna. Here, in 1869, during the renovation works of the 19<sup>th</sup> century cloister "Chiostro delle Madonne", the remains of a bronze Etruscan vase were found. Engineer Antonio Zannoni, who was in charge of the works, became convinced of the need to explore the whole area thoroughly. These first systematic excavations of an Etruscan necropolis were started in Bologna and inaugurated a great period of archaeological explorations in and west of the city. Zannoni brought to light 417 tombs, dating back to a period between the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. This father of the archaeology of Bologna rests here, as well as Giovanni Gozzadini, the other great figure in the city's excavations and in Villanova di Castenaso and Marzabotto.



Sandstone stelae



Certosa. Burial objects and tomb reconstruction.

## 6. MUV – Museum of the Villanovan civilization

*Via Bruno Tosarelli, 191 – Castenaso*

[www.comune.castenaso.bo.it](http://www.comune.castenaso.bo.it)

This area outside of the city is where Count Gozzadini began his research in 1853 and found the first remains of an Etruscan civilization. We now know that this so-called "Villanovan civilization" was the initial phase of Etruscan culture. In order to commemorate these important discoveries and to highlight past and current archaeological research work in the area of Bologna MUV (the Museum of the Villanovan civilization) was set up in Villanova di