



BERGAMO
UNESCO
CREATIVE
CITY OF
GASTRONOMY



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Member of
the Creative Cities Network



BERGAMO

The City of Bergamo is characterized by a peculiar structure, composed of two levels: the Upper Town, the historic heart, and the Lower Town, the more modern and dynamic part.

Bergamo's geographical position - at the centre of a land which features flatlands, hills, lakes and mountains - mirrors its administrative and economic centrality.

During the last two decades, the City has become a destination for important national and international tourist flows, mostly thanks to the significant development that has affected the city airport.

THE LAND

Bergamo, thanks to its geographical and economic centrality, is the capital of a territorial and productive area that boasts a prestigious agri-food business, especially in the dairy sector.

As part of Bergamo's candidacy as a UNESCO Creative City, this territorial and productive area has been renamed *Cheese Valleys*.

In addition to the Bergamo valleys, the area extends to some valleys in the provinces of Sondrio and Lecco that share the same heritage of cultural and productive traditions that has achieved excellence over the centuries.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE: *VENETIAN WORKS OF DEFENCE*

Since 2017 Bergamo is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the Transnational Serial Site *Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: Stato da Terra - Western Stato da Mar*.

Three of its Components are located in Italy (Bergamo, Peschiera del Garda, Palmanova), two are in Croatia (Zadar and Šibenik) and one is in Montenegro (Kotor).



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE: CRESPI D'ADDA

In 1995 Crespi d'Adda (19th century) was inscribed in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, as an "exceptional example of the phenomenon of workers' villages, the most complete and best preserved in Southern Europe". It is the most important example of workers' village in Italy.

UNESCO CHAIR

The University of Bergamo is recognized as a UNESCO *Chair of Human Rights, International Cooperation and Sustainable Development*. The University has established a strong connection between the Chair and the sustainable development studies identified by the United Nations with the 2030 Agenda, and places the affirmation of human rights at the centre of its actions.

BIOSPHERE RESERVE MAB UNESCO

The **Valle Camonica-Alto Sebino Biosphere Reserve**, which includes part of Bergamo's provincial territory, is one of the largest valleys in the central Alps. The predominant habitats in the reserve are inland waters, rivers and lakes, woods and forests, glaciers, meadows and prairies. The Biosphere Reserve, recognized by UNESCO in 2018, is a concentrate of nature, art and culture.

UNESCO CREATIVE CITY OF GASTRONOMY APPLICATION

Bergamo's gastronomic heritage is not just a set of resources, but a unique combination of anthropological expressions that make up the identity, the history and the know-how of the community, a culture linked to a tangible and intangible heritage.

This same heritage today represents a significant element of Bergamo's economy and identity, which led to the city's application as UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, a project that saw the support of a vast pool of supporters and stakeholders.

The founding elements and principles of the project and candidacy action plan are:

- Safeguarding the environment, the territory, the landscape and health, work and social commitment; promotion of local culture.
- Productive cycle. Quality products certified and/or recognized by third parties are favoured (DOP, DOC, DOCG, STG, IGP, Slow Food presidia, «Bergamo, Città dei Mille... flavours» quality brand products, DE.CO.)
- Relationship economy and sociality that allow the establishment of concrete forms of solidarity between producers and between producers and consumers. Activities are promoted to encourage forms of exchange in support of local economies and communities.
- Particular commitment in the sector of education and training of young people and towards the participation of citizens, with particular attention to the creative and cultural sphere.

The activity of the Creative City aims at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

APPLICATION FORM: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In the action plan prepared by Bergamo when submitting its application to UNESCO, strong attention was directed towards the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the objectives of the 2030 United Nations Agenda:

- I. Improve working conditions (SDG 8)
- II. Integrate landscape conservation into knowledge sharing and research projects (SDG 9;12)
- III. Exploit the experience of human capital (SDG 4;5)
- IV. Educating citizens about sustainability (SDG 4;11;15)
- V. Fight against urbanization and depopulation of mountain areas (SDG 11;13)

LOCAL GASTRONOMY

Bergamo and its province offer a varied panorama of quality agricultural productions as well as food and wine products, which represent the result of centuries of tradition and expertise.



AMONG THE LOCAL CERTIFIED PRODUCTS:

11 PDO certified products

1 Extravirgin olive oil: *Olio Extravergine D'oliva Laghi Lombardi*

1 Cured meat: *Salamini Italiani Alla Cacciatora*

9 Kinds of Cheese: *Bitto; Formai De Mut Dell'alta Val Brembana; Gorgonzola; Grana Padano; Provolone Valpadana; Quartirolo Lombardo; Salva Cremasco; Strachitunt; Taleggio*

1 DOCG certification

Moscato di Scanzo

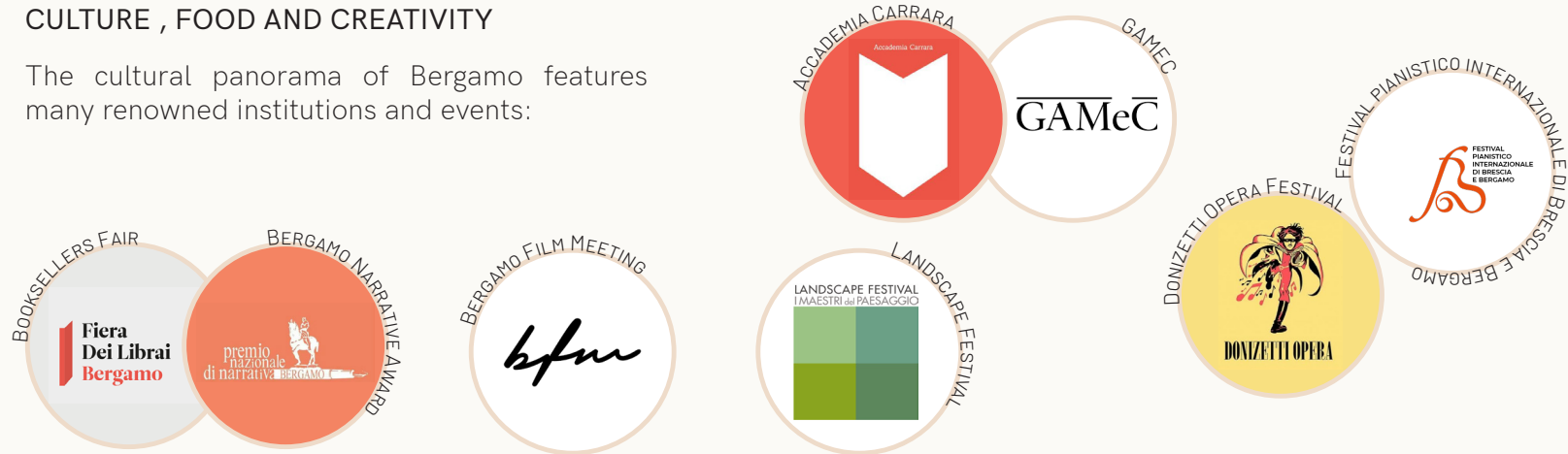
2 DOC certifications

Valcalepio; Terre del Colleoni

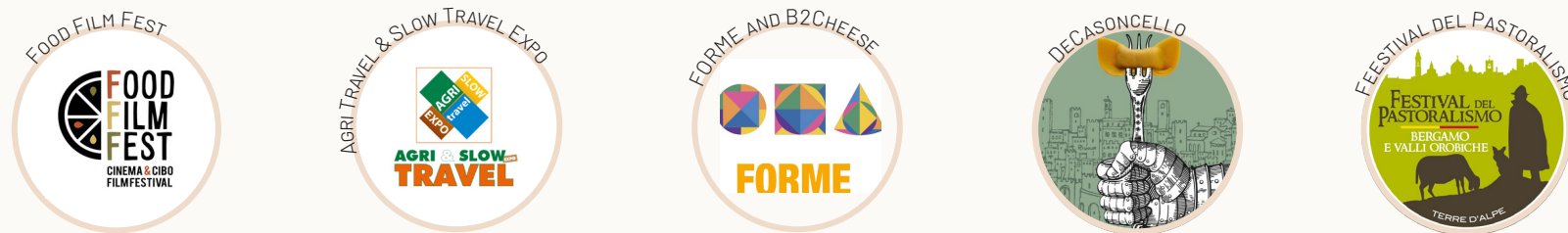
2 PGI certified products

CULTURE , FOOD AND CREATIVITY

The cultural panorama of Bergamo features many renowned institutions and events:



Several projects and events take place in Bergamo and offer their own take on food: they celebrate the gastronomic legacy of the City and the traditions that enrich the land and its heritage.



Film festival with documentaries, shorts and films dedicated to food and nutrition

International fair dedicated to slow tourism, sustainability, agriculture and food

Events that showcase the dairy production of Bergamo an the Cheese Valleys

Festival that celebrates the creative culture of filled pasta

Festival about Transhumance, a practice that gained UNESCO status in 2019

SOCIAL WORK AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Municipal Administration of Bergamo takes care of the well-being of citizens, promoting actions that are supportive and inclusive:

- The Municipality is a partner in the Bio-District of Social Agriculture and hosts the Permanent Table on Food Policy, whose social and educational implications provide projects aimed at the most vulnerable subjects and training on correct nutrition for young people.
- The Bergamo Green portal was developed to give visibility to local sustainable production and distribution channels.
- Bergamo is the leader of the project for the creation of the Food District of the Bergamo, Valleys and Lakes Area to promote virtuous circuits of circular and sustainable economy in the area.
- The Municipality has established social gardens for the inclusion of disabled people, school gardens and urban gardens available to citizens.
- The Municipality ensures the delivery of meals to the elderly and fragile sections of citizens, through *Ol Disnà* service.
- Part of the City's territory is part of the Parco dei Colli (Regional Park) a protected 4,700 hectares green area, which is partially used for urban agriculture.

THE VALLEY OF BIODIVERSITY

In the Astino Valley section of the Botanical Garden of Bergamo, managed by the Municipality, visitors can learn how to appreciate the most familiar plants, while rediscovering ancient crops, an integral part of the complex local agrobiodiversity.

The Valley of Biodiversity is a space that creates relationships and experiences, in order to educate about sustainability and help harmonize the connection between humans, agriculture and nature in a local context.

Astino and the Valley of Biodiversity won the Italian National Landscape Award in 2021 and later the Landscape Award from the Council of Europe.





BERGAMO: UNESCO CREATIVE CITY FOR GASTRONOMY

On October 31st, 2019, Bergamo was designated UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. Bergamo became the third Italian city to obtain the recognition, joining Parma (2015) and Alba (2017).

Being part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) is an important responsibility: it means investing in international relationships and projects, while promoting the sustainable development of the area.

Bergamo is the showcase of a project supported by a complex territorial network. It can count on the support of numerous institutional realities, with the shared goal of widening its gaze towards international contexts and collaborations.

VISUAL ELEMENT AND COMMERCIAL LOGO

Following the recognition, as requested by UNESCO, Bergamo designed its own original and characterizing *visual element*.

The element can also be used as the *commercial logo* of the Creative City: the Municipality of Bergamo grants the use of this logo, upon request through official website, to the promoters of projects and activities that relate to the values of the recognition of Bergamo as a Creative City.



THE UCC NETWORK AND THE CREATIVE CITIES

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network was created in 2004 to promote cooperation between cities that identified creativity as a strategic element for sustainable urban development.

It is divided into seven clusters, each one corresponding to a different cultural sector: Music, Literature, Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Media Arts, Gastronomy, Film. As of 2022, there are 295 Creative Cities all over the world. 49 of those are Creative Cities for Gastronomy.

There are 13 Creative Cities in Italy: Bologna (UCC of Music since 2006), Fabriano (UCC of Crafts and Folk Art since 2013); Turin (UCC of Design since 2014); Rome (UCC of Film, since 2015), Parma (UCC of Gastronomy since 2015), Milan (UCC of Literature since 2017), Pesaro (UCC of Music, since 2017), Carrara (UCC of Crafts and Folk Art since 2017), Alba (UCC of Gastronomy since 2017), Biella (UCC of Crafts and Folk Art since 2019), Bergamo (UCC of Gastronomy since 2019), Como (UCC of Crafts and Folk Art since 2021), Modena (UCC of Media Arts since 2021).

The cities of the Network are committed to sharing good practices and collaborating. Being part of the Network, for each City, means making its own tradition, skills and creativity available to the world.

The Network supports artistic exchanges and research partnerships with both other Cities of the Network and with public and private subjects. The Creative Cities contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

The activity of the Creative City is varied and diversified.

The Creative City plays an active role both by designing and coordinating events and projects aimed at the exchange of good practices and the transmission of knowledge and culture, and by participating and enhancing those organized by other subjects.

Another type of activity consists in supporting initiatives whose core values are in line with those of the Creative City and coherent with the City's action plan.

Both types of involvement serve to spread and share cultural awareness and to put creative values and knowledge in circle. They are also the result of a relationship activity, that creates networks between realities that can work together on future occasions.



BERGAMO CREATIVE CITY FLAGSHIP ACTIVITY

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT OF THE CREATIVE CITIES

- Bergamo Creative City organized the First International Summit of the Creative Cities in November 2020, entitled "FOOD. RESTART FROM CREATIVITY". The event saw the participations of eight Cities of the Gastronomy Cluster.

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=_eHFwmE7Y5E&ab_channel=Comunedibergamo

- In October 2021, the City organized the Second edition of the Summit, entitled "REMEMBER THE FUTURE". Nine Creative Cities from four Continents participated in the conference.

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcoXB9hYpaY&ab_channel=Comunedibergamo

- The third edition of the Summit "BRIDGES ACROSS BOUNDARIES - INTERCLUSTER EXCHANGES FOR CREATIVE SOLUTIONS" took place in October 2022.

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4o6h0zqipcl&ab_channel=Comunedibergamo

THE DISTRICT OF THE ITALIAN UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES OF GASTRONOMY

Bergamo founded, in October 2021, together with Alba and Parma, The Gastronomic District of the Italian UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy, whose goal is to create an international cooperation platform to build projects based on UNESCO cultural and sustainable goals, while designing the future of Italian Gastronomy.

One of the first results of this project is the Agreement Protocol signed by the Traders' Associations of the three Cities (ASCOM).

The coordination of Bergamo Creative City's actions and activities is managed by the Municipality of Bergamo, through the 'Cultura e UNESCO' Office by a dedicated staff, which includes the Focal Point of Bergamo, who is in charge of representing the City.

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