

# AROUND TURIN

*where beauty and passion meet history*



Maurizio Giovannelli

Davide Torchia – Valerio Minato – Chris Ricco – Abdelrahman Elnafrawy





**A Turin you have never seen.**

**And some may never get to see at all.**

**A city of myth, mystery, and magic.**

**Stories and secrets, history and legend, culture and cuisine...  
and even a few curiosities.**

**Discover it through the loving eyes of a native.**

Written by: Maurizio Giovannelli

Images by: Davide Torchia, Valerio Minato, Chris Ricco, Abdelrahman  
Elnafrawy and Maurizio Giovannelli

**1st edition: December 2020**

Information in this collection has been gathered from sources in the  
public domain. Images are copyright of the photographers credited.

Available in 8 languages:        

*Valerio Minato*





Valerio Minato



**Turin** is a vibrant city located in the northwest of Italy, along the Po river and surrounded by the Alps. It's the capital of the Piedmont region, with a population of about 900,000 in the city, or around 1.5 million including the outlying areas.

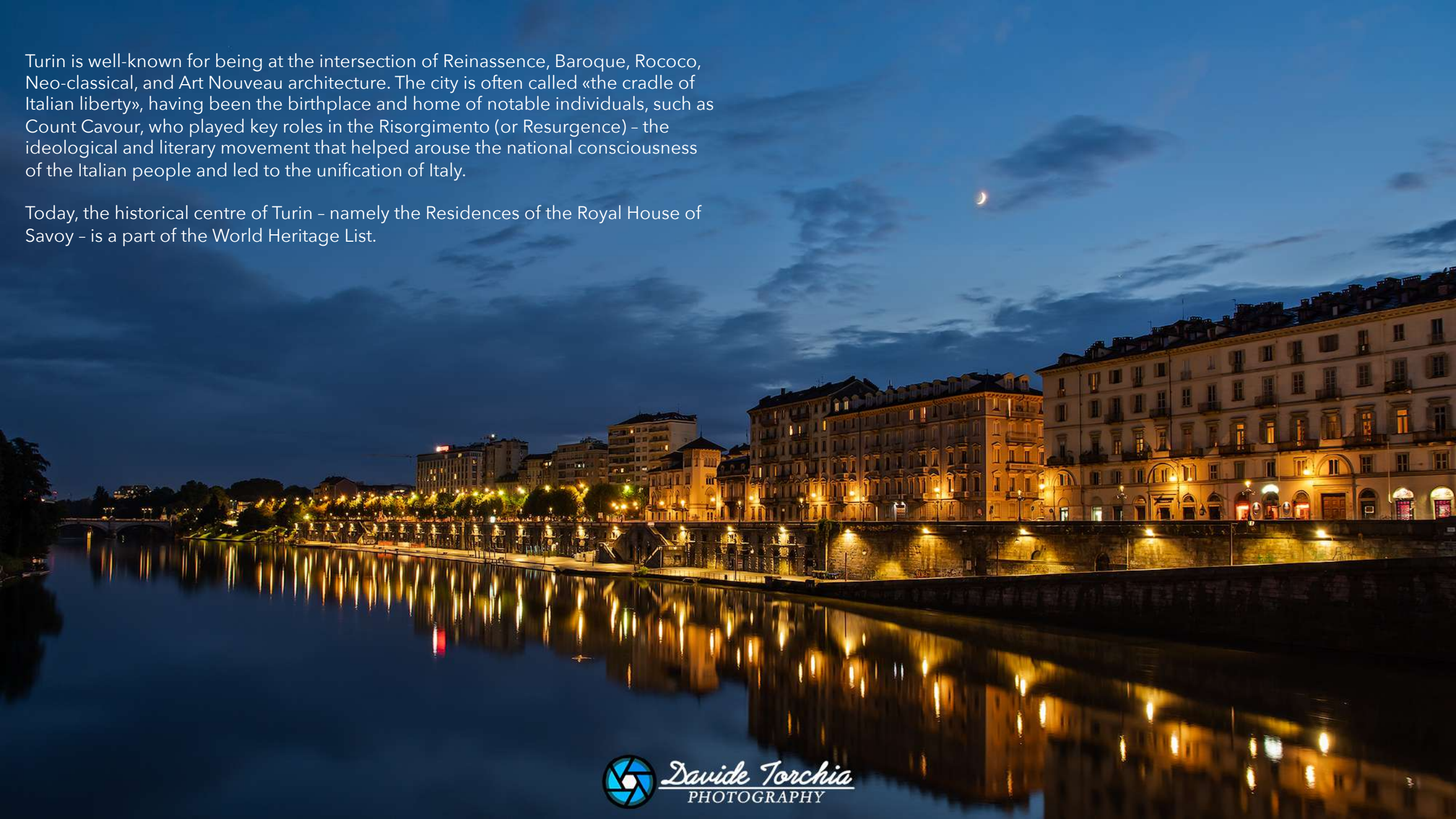
Torino, as it's known in Italian, was the first capital of Italy. As with the other great European capitals, Turin is a result of the stratification of cultures, communities, and civilisations – translated today in its numerous art galleries, restaurants, churches, palaces, opera houses, piazzas, parks, gardens, theatres, libraries, museums, and more.





Turin is well-known for being at the intersection of Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo, Neo-classical, and Art Nouveau architecture. The city is often called «the cradle of Italian liberty», having been the birthplace and home of notable individuals, such as Count Cavour, who played key roles in the Risorgimento (or Resurgence) – the ideological and literary movement that helped arouse the national consciousness of the Italian people and led to the unification of Italy.

Today, the historical centre of Turin – namely the Residences of the Royal House of Savoy – is a part of the World Heritage List.



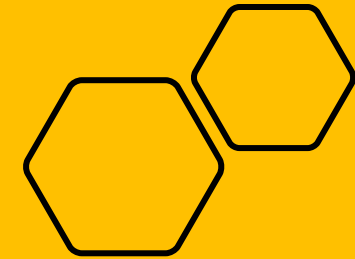


In the centre of Piedmont, the Taurini – an ancient Celto-Ligurian Alpine people – had occupied the upper valley of the Po River. However, in 218 BC, they suffered an attack by Hannibal, who was allied with their long-standing enemies, the Insubres. After a three-day siege, Taurasia, the Taurini chief, was captured by Hannibal's forces – and it's believed that a Roman colony was established at the time under the name of *Julia Augusta Taurinorum* (modern Turin).

At the time, Turin had about 5,000 inhabitants, all living inside the high city walls. After the Roman Empire crumbled in the Middle Ages, Turin was overrun by Lombards, Franks, and Goths until it began to be absorbed into the powerful House of Savoy. By the time it was annexed to the Duchy of Savoy at the end of the 13th century, the city had around 20,000 inhabitants.







Emmanuel Philibert, nicknamed of *Testa 'd Fer* (or Iron Head), made Turin the capital of the Duchy of Savoy in 1563.

In the first half of the 17th century, the same period that Palazzo Reale (the Royal Palace of Turin) was being built, Piazza Reale and Via Nuova were added, together with the first enlargement of the city walls. Today, Piazza Reale is known as Piazza San Carlo and Via Nuova has become Via Roma.

In the second half of that century, the arcaded Via Po was built based on the grid street plan - connecting Piazza Castello to the bridge crossing the Po river.



During the Battle of Turin in 1706, the French besieged the city for 117 days without conquering it. By the Treaty of Utrecht, the Duke of Savoy acquired Sicily, which he soon traded for Sardinia and was proclaimed king - naming Turin the capital of his kingdom. In this era, the architect, Filippo Juvarra, was commissioned to conduct a major redesign of the city.

Like the rest of Piedmont, Turin was annexed by the French Empire in 1802, and until the fall of Napoleon in 1814, the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia was restored with Turin as its capital. In the following decades, the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia led the struggle towards the unification of Italy. From 1861 to 1865, Turin was the capital of the united Kingdom of Italy - and some of the city's most iconic landmarks, such as the Mole Antonelliana, the Egyptian Museum, the Gran Madre di Dio church, and Piazza Vittorio Veneto were built during this period.





The late 19th century was a period of rapid industrialization in Turin, especially in the automotive sector. Fiat was established in 1899, followed by Lancia in 1906. The Universal Exposition held in 1902 is often regarded as the pinnacle of Art Nouveau design, and the city hosted the same event once more in 1911. By this time, Turin had grown to 430,000 inhabitants.

Post-World War I, harsh conditions brought about a wave of strikes and protests by workers, who occupied the Lingotto Fiat factory. The Fascist regime put an end to the social unrest, including banning trade unions and jailing socialist leaders, most notably Antonio Gramsci. On the other hand, Benito Mussolini largely subsidised the automotive industry to provide vehicles to the army.



*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



During World War II, Turin was a target of Allied strategic bombing and suffered significant damage by the air raids in its industrial areas as well as in the city centre.

The Allied's campaign in Italy started from the south and slowly moved northwards, leaving the northern regions occupied by Germans and collaborationist forces for several years. Turin was not captured by the Allies until the end of 1945 – and by the time the vanguard of the armoured reconnaissance units of Brazilian Expeditionary Forces reached the city, it was already freed by the Italian Partisans that had begun revolting against the Germans on 25 April 1945. Days later, troops from the US Army came to substitute the Brazilians.





In the post-war years, Turin was rapidly rebuilt – with the city's automotive industry playing a pivotal role in the Italian economic miracle of the 1950s and 1960s. Hundreds of thousands of immigrants flocked to the city, particularly from the rural southern regions of Italy – resulting in Turin being called «the third southern Italian city after Naples and Palermo».

The population reached 1 million in 1960 and peaked at almost 1.2 million in 1971. This exceptional growth earned the city the nickname *Automobile Capital of Italy* and *the Detroit of Italy* (Turin has been 'twinned' with Detroit since 1998).

In the 1970s and 1980s, the oil and automotive industry crisis severely hit the city, and its population began to sharply decline. This has only begun to reverse itself in recent years, as the population grew from 865,000 to slightly over 900,000 by the end of the 20th century – a number that remains to this day.





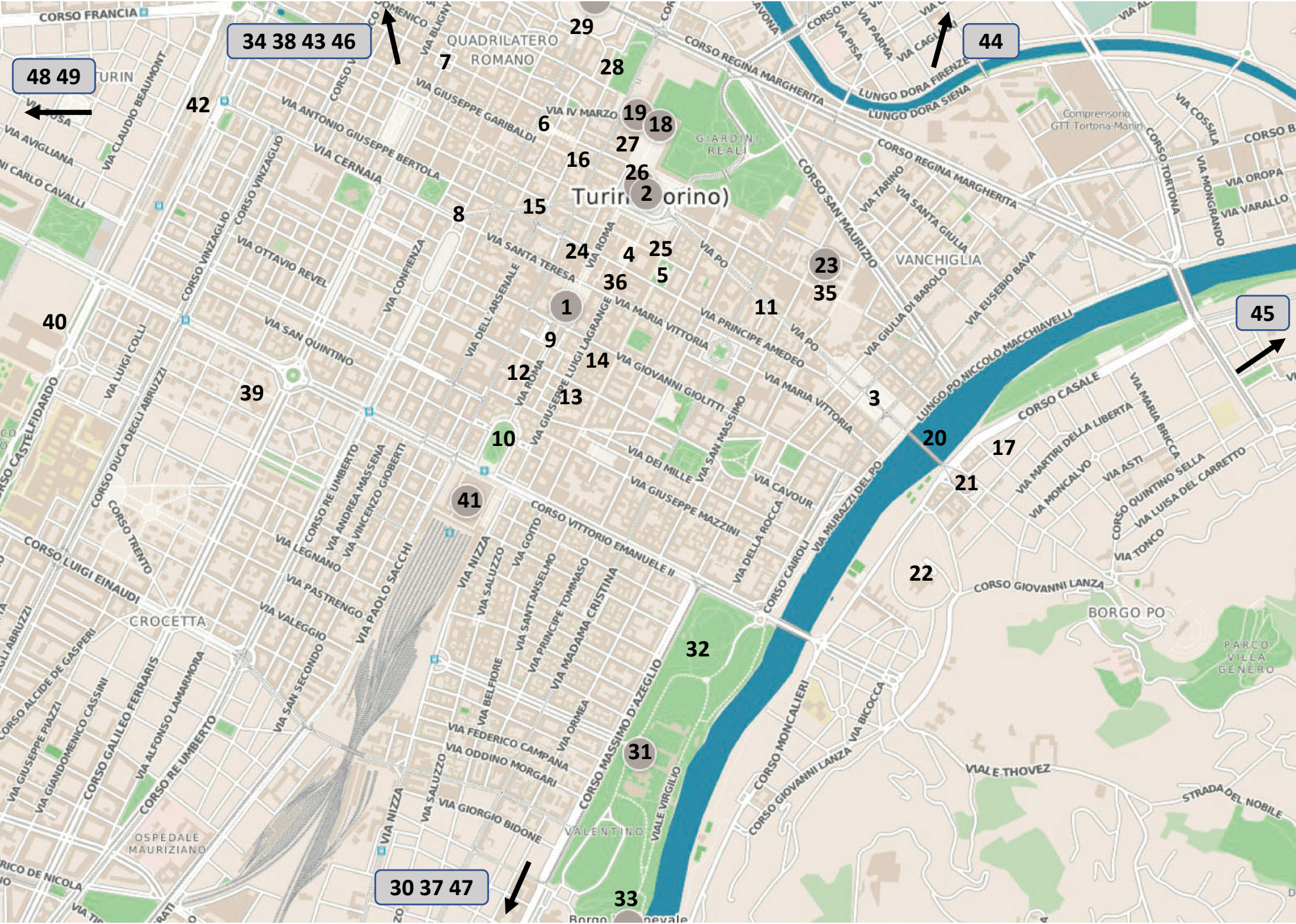


Approved by decree in 1931, the **coat of arms** of the city of Turin consists of a blue Swiss shield on which a furious golden bull is superimposed and topped by a nine-pearl crown.

Turin is twinned with the following cities:

- Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- Campo Grande, Brazil
- Cordoba, Argentina
- Rosario, Argentina
- Quetzaltenango, Guatemala
- Detroit, USA
- Salt Lake City, USA
- Bethlehem, Palestina
- Gaza, Palestina
- Haifa, Israel
- Nagoya, Japan
- Shenyang, China
- Chambéry, France
- Lille, France
- Cologne, Germany
- Ech-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg
- Glasgow, Scotland
- Liege, Belgium
- Rotterdam, Netherlands
- Saint Petersburg, Russia
- Volgograd, Russia
- Tirana, Albania





## POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Piazza San Carlo
2. Piazza Castello
3. Piazza Vittorio Veneto
4. Piazza Carignano
5. Piazza Carlo Alberto
6. Piazza Palazzo di Città
7. Piazza della Consolata
8. Piazza Solferino
9. Piazza C.L.N.
10. Piazza Carlo Felice
11. Via Po
12. Via Roma
13. Via Lagrange
14. Via Carlo Alberto
15. Via Pietro Micca
16. Via Garibaldi
17. Via Monferrato
18. Palazzo Reale
19. Duomo
20. Ponte Vittorio Emanuele I
21. Gran Madre di Dio
22. Monte dei Cappuccini
23. Mole Antonelliana
24. Galleria San Federico
25. Galleria Subalpina
26. Palazzo Madama
27. Real Chiesa di San Lorenzo
28. Porte Palatine
29. Porta Palazzo
30. Ponte Principessa Isabella
31. Castello del Valentino
32. Parco del Valentino
33. Borgo Medievale
34. Parco Dora
35. Museo Nazionale dei Cinema
36. Museo Egizio
37. Museo dell'Automobile
38. Museo Lavazza
39. GAM
40. OGR
41. Porta Nuova
42. Porta Susa
43. Juventus Stadium
44. Torino Outlet village
45. Basilica di Superga
46. Reggia di Venaria
47. Palazzina di caccia di Stupinigi
48. Sacra di San Michele
49. Villaggio Leumann



**Piazza San Carlo**, affectionately known as the lounge of Turin, is the heart of the city for locals. This majestic square, designed in Baroque style, was built in 17th century. Throughout history, it has been called the Piazza Reale (Royal Square), Piazza d'Armi, and during the Napoleonic era, Place Napoleon.

From 1618, it has been dedicated to San Carlo Borromeo, one of the twin churches (together with Santa Cristina) that sits at the southern edge of the square.

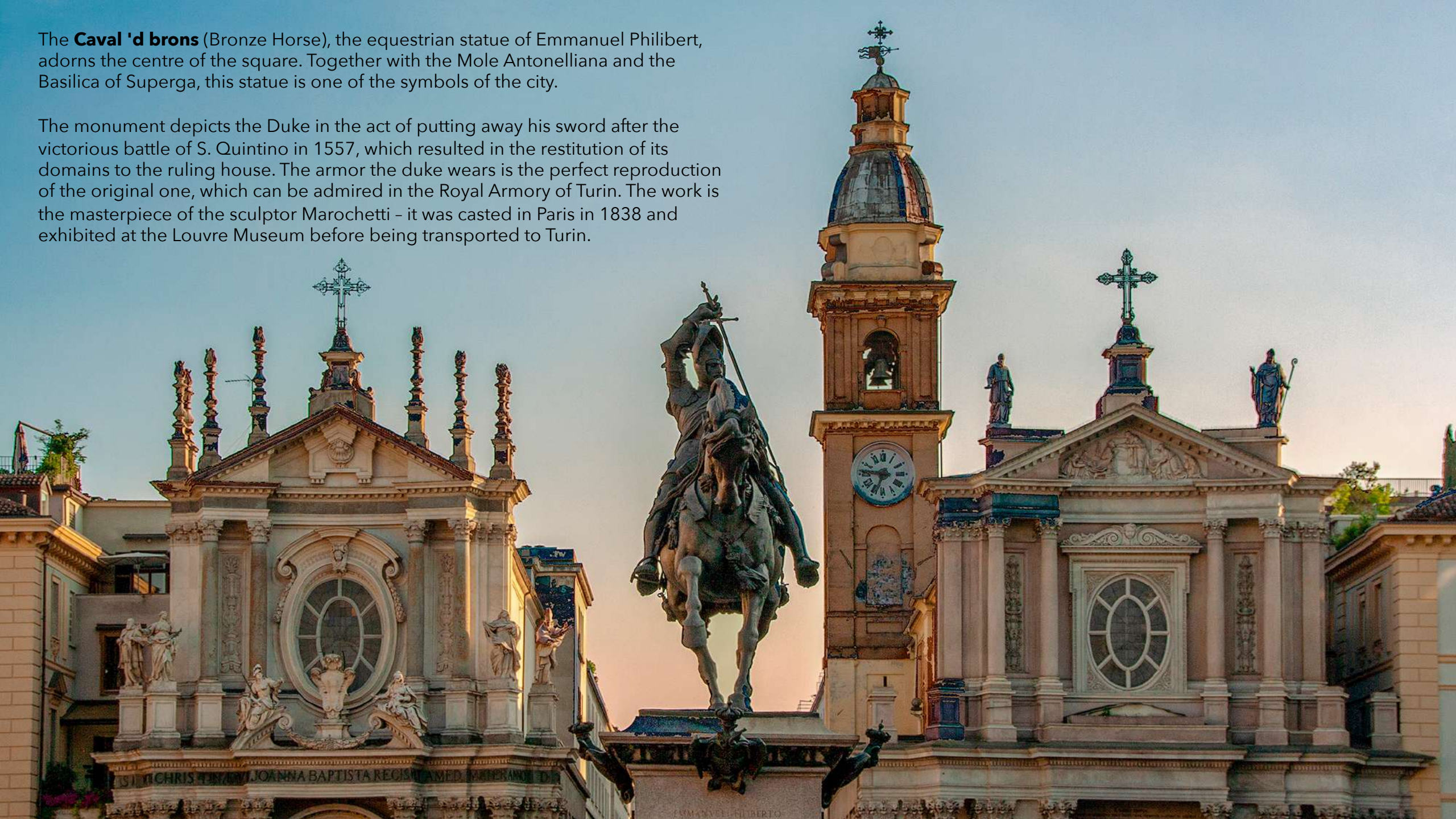
*Valeria Minato*





The **Caval 'd brons** (Bronze Horse), the equestrian statue of Emmanuel Philibert, adorns the centre of the square. Together with the Mole Antonelliana and the Basilica of Superga, this statue is one of the symbols of the city.

The monument depicts the Duke in the act of putting away his sword after the victorious battle of S. Quintino in 1557, which resulted in the restitution of its domains to the ruling house. The armor the duke wears is the perfect reproduction of the original one, which can be admired in the Royal Armory of Turin. The work is the masterpiece of the sculptor Marochetti – it was casted in Paris in 1838 and exhibited at the Louvre Museum before being transported to Turin.









Piazza San Carlo is considered one of the most beautiful squares in Europe, surrounded by elegant porticos designed by Carlo di Castellamonte in the 17th century. The arcades of Piazza San Carlo also host the most ancient caf  s of the city, such as Caff   Torino and Caff   San Carlo.

Located under the western arcades, in front of the entrance to the Caff   Torino, there is a plaque of a rampant brass bull, the symbol of Turin, set in the pavement since 1930. Tradition has it that stepping on its 'attributes' brings luck – and one can observe with amusement a hollow wear of several centimeters on that fateful spot.

It was only in 2004 that the square was transformed into a pedestrian zone, and today, it is a joy to stroll the square while admiring the beautiful surrounding monuments.







In Turin it happens to come across ancient buildings with strange black spheres on the facades. These are not air inlets or attachments for some cables, but small “monuments” in memory of the history experienced by the city of Turin and its inhabitants. The cannonballs stuck on the facades of various civil and religious buildings that pass on the memory of the bombings suffered by Turin during the sieges of 1706 and 1799, both victorious against the French troops (1706) and Napoleonic (1799). These cannonballs symbolize the resistance of the city.»

- Where you can find the 13 **cannonballs**?
  - 5 on Monte dei Cappuccini: two on the facade of the convent, two on the facade of the church and one inside the church
  - 1 on the western facade of the Consolata Sanctuary
  - 1 in Piazza Palazzo di Città
  - 2 in the courtyard of Palazzo Saluzzo Paesana, in via della Consolata 1 bis
  - 3 in Piazza San Carlo: one at 183, two on the facade of the building at 217
  - 1 is located on the facade of the Church of the Oratory of San Filippo Neri in via Maria Vittoria (above the lamp post)





**Piazza Castello** is a large rectangular esplanade considered to be the true centre of Turin. The half-pedestrianized square hosts some significant buildings such as Palazzo Reale (the former Savoy Royal House), the Palazzo Madama (which previously hosted the Savoy senate and, for few years, the Italian senate after the unification), the formerly-Baroque Teatro Regio di Torino (rebuilt in modern style in the 1960s, after being destroyed by fire), the Royal Library of Turin which hosts the Leonardo da Vinci self-portrait, and the baroque Royal Church of San Lorenzo. Piazza Castello also hosts a Fascist era building, the Torre Littoria, a 'skyscraper' which was supposed to become the headquarters of the Fascist party, although it never came to be.







The square regularly hosts the main open space events of the city, including live concerts. The 4 main roads of Turin branch off from Piazza Castello: Via Po, Via Pietro Micca, Via Roma, and Via Garibaldi.







EMANUELE FILIBERTO, DUCA D'AOSTA





Palazzo Reale, the **Royal Palace of Turin**, is a historic palace of the House of Savoy . Regent Christina Maria ordered the construction of the palace in 1645, as a new residence for the court after her sons returned from the civil war. The palace was later modernized with designs by the Baroque architect, Filippo Juvarra.

In between the two barrels of Castor and Pollux, in front of the Royal Palace in Piazza Castello, there is a point in the city believed to hold positive energy. Where the twin sons of Zeus stand on horseback, there was a wall from which the Shroud was exposed to the people - and everyone would touch this wall because they were convinced it would bring them luck and could heal them from any ailment. Its beneficial influence and the adoration of the people would have imbued this positively-charged place so much that its benefits are still seen today.







In 1946, the palace was claimed by the Italian Republic and turned into a Museum of the Life and Works of the House of Savoy. Its rooms are decorated with rich tapestries, including a collection of Chinese and Japanese vases. The Royal Armory houses an extensive array of arms, including those from the 16th and 17th centuries.





The royal gates of the palace have a golden Medusa symbol embossed on them, believed to fend off intruders.

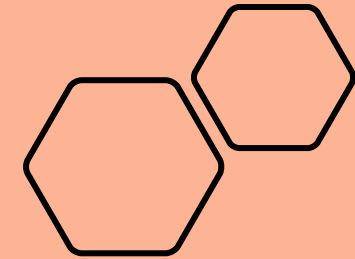
In 1997, the Royal Palace was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along with 13 other residences of the House of Savoy.











Just behind Piazza Castello stands the **Turin Cathedral**, one of the landmark churches of the city and dedicated to St John the Baptist.

Built between 1491 and 1498, it's adjacent to a bell tower erected in 1470. Annexed to the cathedral is the Baroque-style **Roman Chapel of the Holy Shroud**, the current resting place of the Shroud of Turin, one of most famous and controversial religious relics in the world. The chapel, designed by Guarini, was added to the structure between 1668 and 1694 and is connected to the Royal Palace of Turin.



In 1997, the chapel was severely damaged by a massive fire, the cause of which is still a mystery. Firefighters managed to save the Shroud, allegedly by smashing through its bulletproof glass case. Subsequently, the chapel was closed to the public and it took over 21 years to repair and restore to its original splendour. The chapel finally reopened to the public on 27 September 2018.





The **Shroud of Turin**, also called the Holy Shroud, is a length of linen cloth bearing the negative image of a man. Some claim the image depicts Jesus of Nazareth and the fabric is the burial shroud in which he was wrapped after crucifixion. However, the Catholic Church neither formally endorses nor rejects the Shroud, and in 2013, Pope Francis referred to it as an "icon of a man scourged and crucified". The Shroud has been kept in the royal chapel since 1578, and continues to be intensely studied and a source of controversy.









**Via Po** is one of the most important and stately streets in the centre of Turin. Running in a straight line from Piazza Castello through to Piazza Vittorio Veneto, it has been one of the city's main commercial and transportation arteries for more than 300 years. Its porticoes connect to those in Piazza Castello and Piazza Vittorio Veneto, forming a covered pedestrian route that crosses the entire historic centre and ends at the Po River. In addition to shops and boutiques, Via Po is home to the headquarters of the University of Turin and Caff  Fiorio, one of the city's famous literary caf s. Via Po is one of the most popular shopping streets in Turin, crowded with locals browsing the elegant boutiques, late into the evening.





In addition to its architectural beauty, Via Po features a couple of points of interest: The first is that, if you look at a map of Turin, you notice its non-parallelism with the neighbouring streets, almost constituting a break in the well-planned geometry of Turin's city centre. This is due to the need to connect Piazza Castello to the only existing bridge in the city at the time of its construction, between the end of the 1600s and the early-1700s.





Via Po is also characterized by its magnificent arcades – uninterrupted on the left with the perpendicular streets, unlike the right side. It was King Vittorio Emanuele I of Savoy who ordered the architects to erect the arcades in this way, to protect the royals from getting wet in the rain or snow on their way from the Royal Palace to the Gran Madre church.



*Daide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



**Piazza Vittorio Veneto**, also known as Piazza Vittorio, is not just the largest square in Turin – at 39,960 square meters (360 meters long and 111 meters in maximum width) in size, it's the largest in Europe among those entirely surrounded by arcades. Piazza Vittorio takes its name from the Battle of Vittorio Veneto in 1918, featuring the historic Vittorio Emanuele I bridge at the end that connects the square itself to the two lateral river-sides – as well as the Murazzi del Po, on the right bank of the river, and Borgo Po, across the river, where the Church of the Gran Madre, Monte dei Cappuccini, and access roads to the eastern and hilly part of the city are clearly visible. The particularity of this square is that the ground is not level; it flows down towards the river, and from the entrance of Via Po to the Po River, there's a difference in height of about 7 metres. Every evening, the restaurants and cafès around the square will set their tables in the outdoor spaces, which comes to life. The square is lit by empire street lamps with cornucopia arms, introduced in the 1960s. The visual impact of Piazza Vittorio Veneto is truly breathtaking.





Every year on 24 June, Turin celebrates the day of her patron saint, San Giovanni, with a marvellous fireworks display with the city centre as the backdrop.

*Valley Minute*







In the past, almost all cities of a certain importance and strategic position were built near an equally important river. Turin is no exception, with the great Po river running through the city. Bridges unite the two banks of the river and the various parts of the cities, new and old, which are often the settings of battles and fascinating tales and anecdotes.



**Vittorio Emanuele I bridge** is the most important bridge in the city that connects Piazza Vittorio Veneto with the Piazzetta Gran Madre di Dio, on the right bank of the Po, and whose history intersects with nothing less than that of Napoleon Bonaparte.





During the French rule of the nineteenth century, Napoleon ordered the construction of this bridge to cross the Po river and strategically unite various areas of Turin. The new bridge had to be useful, but at the same time, very impressive since it also had the purpose of glorifying the French general as King of Italy. In fact, this would become the first stone bridge in the Savoy city, replacing the then provisional wooden bridge. The first stone was laid with a grand ceremony on 22 November 1810.





However, things went differently from how Napoleon Bonaparte had imagined. The bridge was never completed under the dominion of the French general, who was sent into exile on the island of Sant'Alena. In his place, Vittorio Emanuele I returned to the city - and despite the people of Turin clamouring to eliminate the bridge as a symbol of French rule, he decided to finish the construction as it was considered of fundamental importance for the city. In honor of the sovereign, the bridge, once completed, was named **Ponte Vittorio Emanuele I**.

As a gesture of revenge against the French, it is said that Vittorio Emanuele felt as if he were trampling on France and one of its works every time he passed over the bridge.



*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





As often happens with these historical works of the city, there's a story that enriches its charm and increases its mystery. According to legend, walled inside the central pillar of the bridge are 79 gold, silver, and bronze coins, minted to celebrate the exploits and achievements of then-Emperor Napoleon, as well as a solid silver meter, 10 more coins of more recent minting, and two metal plates with commemorative inscriptions of Vernazza in Latin and by Déperret in French, the two emeritus members of the Academy of Sciences, who explained the reasons for the construction of the bridge. The 89 coins were then closed inside a wooden casket while the meter and tablets were closed in a glass tube. Both were placed in a lead container, resistant to the weight of the construction, then set in the central pillar of the Vittorio Emanuele I bridge.

*Valerio Minato*



Valery Minto

The Gran Madre faces the Vittorio Emanuele I bridge and the central Piazza Vittorio Veneto; and when combined with the nearby Monte dei Cappuccini, it completes one of the most famous and evocative views of the eastern part of Turin's city centre.

On either side of the staircase leading to the church stand two statues, representing Faith and Religion, sculpted in 1828.







*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





The church of the **Gran Madre di Dio** (Great Mother of God) is one of the most important Catholic places of worship in Turin. It was commissioned by the administrators of Turin in 1814 to celebrate the return of Vittorio Emanuele I of Savoy after the defeat of Napoleon. In fact, the church is adorned with a proclamation in large writing, «ORDO POPVLVSQVE TAVRINVS OB ADVENTVM REGIS» - meaning, "The nobility and the people of Turin for the arrival of the King". Completed in 1831, it takes the shape of the Roman Pantheon, in the neo-classical-Hadrianic style.

According to an ancient myth, a church would rise on the place where there was a temple dedicated to the Egyptian goddess Isis, also known as the 'Great Mother'. In those times, abandoned corpses awaiting recognition used to be displayed in front of the church.



*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



Faith, on the left, is represented by a woman with a braided ribbon on her chest. The mantle covers the woman almost entirely, leaving only her face and hands visible – as well as her left foot, wearing the same type of sandal as the other statue, Religion.

In her right hand, she holds an open book, while her left is raised to the sky with a chalice. To her right, a small, half-naked winged angel stands looking up at the woman, and holding a stick in his right hand.

For lovers of esotericism, this statue represents none other than the Madonna herself, holding the Holy Grail, suggesting that this precious chalice can be found in this very city.





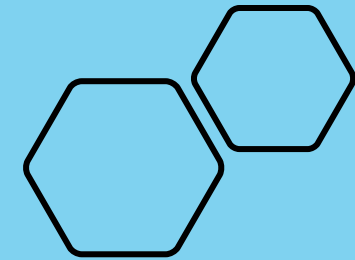


Religion, on the right, is also represented by a woman with a long dress closed by a ribbon, while a mantle covers her entirely. Impassive, she looks towards the horizon and does not seem to notice the young man who is kneeling beside her, and who is holding two white stone tablets. With her right hand he holds a large Latin cross, and he seems to have no trouble supporting it. On the forehead of the Religion statue there is a strange triangle. It is generally used to indicate the omniscient eye of God which turns its gaze in every direction. But not only that: it is also considered one of the most important Masonic symbols.









**Via Monferrato** is one of the most photographed streets in Turin. This pedestrian street is lined with restaurants and boutiques, but its distinctiveness comes from the 400 umbrellas in 5 different colors hanging at a height of 7 meters.



The Church of Santa Maria al **Monte dei Cappuccini** is a late-Renaissance-style church on a hill overlooking the Po river, not far from the bridge of Piazza Vittorio Veneto. From here, the view of Turin and the Alps is sensational.

The Monte dei Cappuccini was led by the Capuchin friars, who carried out memorable deeds during the epidemics that struck Turin, such as that of 1630 when a large portion of the city's population fell victim.



*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



It is also said that in 1640, during the Siege of Turin, a miracle took place right on this hill, inside the church of Santa Maria. Given its height and the view of the city, the mountain was a strategic place of considerable interest in the eyes of the French invaders. Legend has it that, when the soldiers, having overcome the resistance of the population, arrived inside the church to sack it, they were terrified by the sight of a tongue of fire coming from the tabernacle, to protect the consecrated hosts. Thus, the French invaders gave up the conquest of this place, astonished by the Eucharistic miracle. The entire episode is depicted on a canvas, now exhibited inside the church. The Napoleonic era saw the suppression of the monastic orders and, consequently, the convent ceased to exist and the structure was destined for the most disparate uses, subsequently suffering considerable damage due to the bombings of World War II.



*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



Legend has it that, in the woods around the city, lived a frightening dragon that spread terror among the population by spitting fire and flames, eating farm animals and killing many people. The locals, looking for a solution to defeat the dragon and return to live in peace, thought of sending another animal that could fight against this frightening being. The choice fell on a red-haired bull, the strongest and most robust animal they had available. To make it even stronger and to increase the chances of victory, the inhabitants of the city gave the animal a mixture of water and red wine to drink.

And in fact this drink made the bull even more combative and impatient. After he drank this elixir, the red bull was taken to the woods and the fight with the dragon began. The brave animal, fighting with all its strength, managed to wound the dangerous creature with its horns and eventually killed it. During the hard fight, however, the red-haired bull was seriously injured and died shortly after. The population of the village was so grateful to the red bull and its sacrifice that they decided to add it to the Olympus of their deities and put it on the city's coat of arms. From this savior is derived the name of Turin and the bond that the city still has with this animal today - a symbol of strength, tenacity, courage, and freedom, also considered virtues of the Turin people.







The **Mole Antonelliana** is the architectural symbol of the city and its towering dome dominates the skyline. Named after its architect, Alessandro Antonelli, it can be seen from almost any part of the city.

Construction began in 1863, soon after the Italian unification, and was completed in 1889, after the architect's death. Originally conceived as a synagogogue (the Jewish community and the architect are thought to have fallen out over spiralling costs), it is now the home to the National Museum of Cinema. A representation of the building is featured on the 2-cent euro coin.

Antonelli's original vision for the spire was to top it off with a five-pointed star, but he later opted for a statue instead, depicting a winged genie, or «genio alato», a symbol of the House of Savoy. On its head was a small five-pointed star supported by a pole. When the star was set in its place on 10 April 1889, it brought the total height of the Mole to 167.5m – making it the tallest brick building in Europe at the time.

Unfortunately, on 11 August 1904, a violent storm caused the winged genie to collapse, but miraculously it stayed suspended against one of the terraces of the structure. Following reconstruction work, it was replaced by a 5-pointed star made of copper and measuring 4 meters in diameter. The design was similar to the original one seen on the head of the genie; but it, too, fell, in 1953 and has since been replaced by a smaller three-dimensional, 12-pointed star.



During the Second World War, the Mole largely escaped the bombings of 6 December 1942 that hit many military targets in nearby Via Verdi and destroyed the neighbouring Teatro di Torino.

On 23 May 1953 a violent cloudburst, accompanied by a tornado, destroyed the uppermost 47m (154 ft) of the pinnacle, which was rebuilt in 1961 as a metal structure faced with stone. At the end of the reconstruction work, Guido Chiarelli carried out the project for the lighting of the pinnacle.







Valerio Minato

The Mole Antonelliana is today the tallest unreinforced brick building in the world (built without a steel girder skeleton). During the annual Turin Artist Lights, on one side of the four-faced dome, the first Fibonacci numbers are written in red neon lights: they are part of the artistic work *Il volo dei Numeri* (*Flight of the Numbers*) by Mario Merz. According to legend related to white magic, Antonelli's work is a huge antenna that channels all the positive energy coming from heaven and earth, thanks to its pyramidal base and its very high spire.





The **National Museum of Cinema** owes its uniqueness to its exhibition path - spiralling upwards through five levels, creating a spectacular display of its extraordinary collections and retracing the history of cinema from its origins to the present time.

This "temple of cinema" is among the most important in the world for its rich heritage and the diversity of its scientific, educational, and interactive exhibits - from pre-cinematographic optical devices such as magic lanterns, earlier and current film technologies, stage items from early Italian movies and other memorabilia.

The museum also features areas dedicated to different kinds of film crew; and in the main hall, fitted in the temple hall of the Mole, a series of rooms represent key film genres. The museum keeps a huge and growing collection of film posters as well as a library.

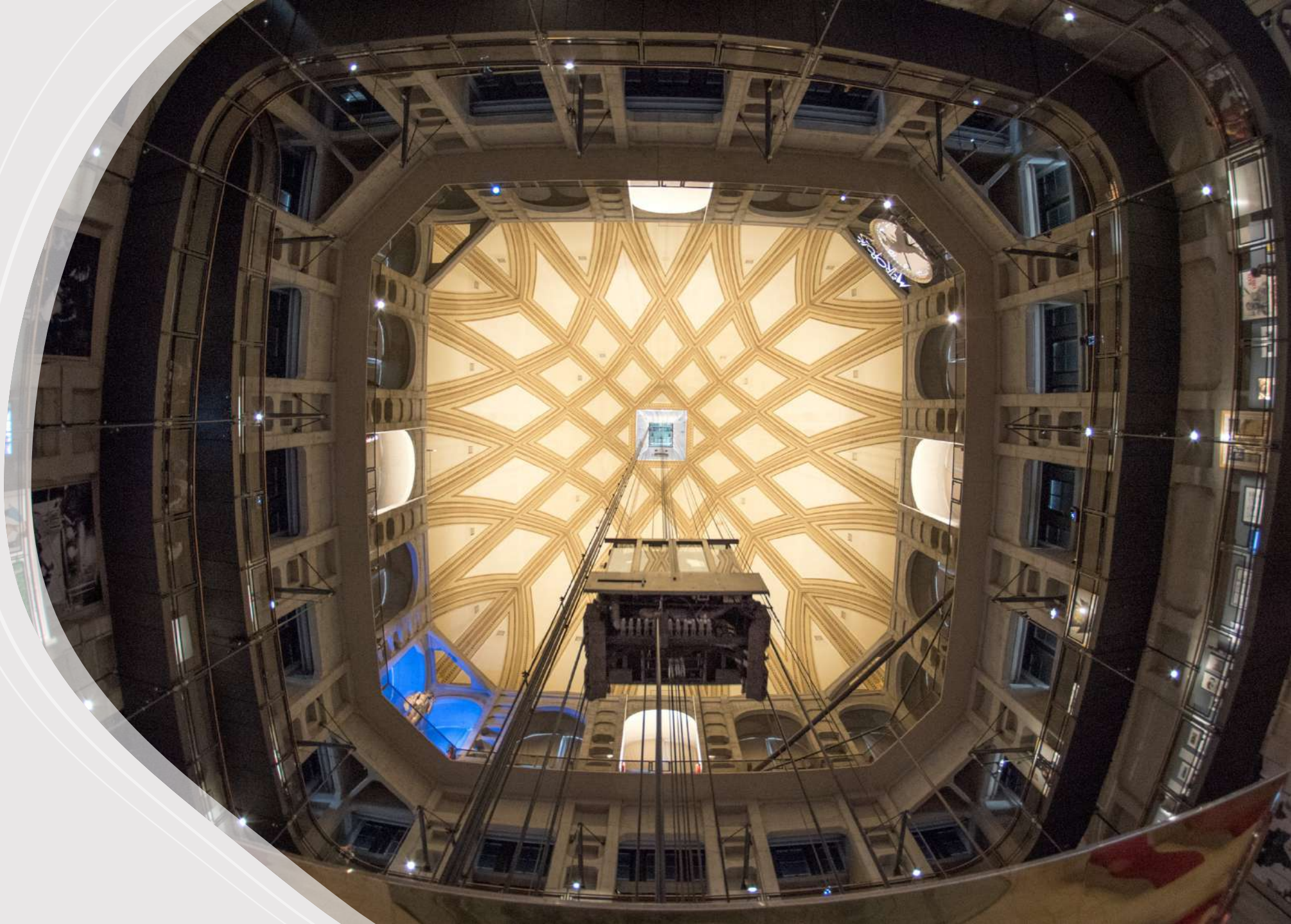


Inside the museum, a panoramic elevator (opened in 2000) takes visitors on a 75-meter ride in 59 seconds - with transparent glass walls that provide fascinating views of the single open space of the building, without middle floors, up to a balcony that offers 360-degree panoramic views of the city.

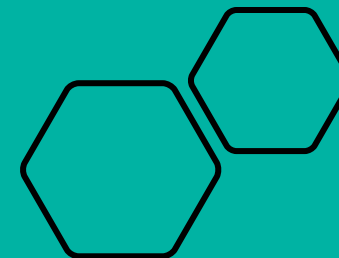
It is believed to be the tallest museum in the world.

In addition to being home to the landmark Cinema Museum, Turin is also the Italian city where film chromatography was first established. Thanks to its geographical and cultural proximity to France, and its rich history with the neighbouring nation, Italian filmmakers were naturally influenced by the Lumière brothers and other traits of French cinema.

In March 1896, the first Italian cinema screening took place in Turin. In November the same year, Italian filmmakers held the first cinema screening before a fee-paying audience.







**Eco** is a modern art work by Marc Didou and located near the Mole Antonelliana. It vertically mirrors two human heads in the act of shouting with their hands near the mouth, to amplify the sound produced.

Approaching the height of the mouths, you can hear the sound of water, an element not visible but present as a sound source. Inside, in fact, there is a water system of which only the sounds are heard. The work represents a reflection on contemporary man's search for communication - overwhelmed by the enormous quantity of messages transmitted through new media. This overload, more often than not, does not allow us to grasp the true object of the communication itself.



With its elegant Baroque porticoes to the north and neat rows of granite columns to the south, **Via Roma** is the backbone running through the centre of Turin. It connects Piazza Castello to Porta Nuova railway station, taking in the monumental Piazza San Carlo and charming Piazza Carlo Felice. The great names from the capital of Piedmont's fashion, culture, and gastronomy are to be found along its arcades and the surrounding street. Via Roma was built during the Fascist era (from 1931 to 1937) as an example of Italian Rationalism, replacing former buildings already present in this area.







**Piazza C.L.N.** is a small square located just behind the two twin churches of Piazza San Carlo. In addition to countless buildings in the Rationalist style, the square has 2 fountains representing the two main rivers of the city: the Po (male fountain) and the Dora Riparia (female fountain). The two fountains had risen to international fame because they were chosen by Dario Argento to shoot some scenes of his cult film *Profondo Rosso*, also known as *Deep Red* or *The Hatchet Murders*.





*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

**Ponte Principessa Isabella** is one of the most elegant bridges in Turin. Isabella was a Bavarian noblewoman of high lineage, who married a member of the Savoy Family, Tommaso, second Duke of Genoa, in 1883. One of the legends circulating around the Isabella Bridge dates back to when the bridge was under construction: a child, who was bringing lunch to his father, employed in the construction site as a worker, accidentally fell into the river and was saved by the readiness of six masons, who threw themselves into the waters and brought him back ashore. To thank the colleagues, the father engraved their names on a terracotta tile and walled it on the shoulder he was working on. Nobody knows where this is anymore, nor if the story is authentic or myth.





Valery Minto




The **Castle of Valentino** is a historic building located in Parco del Valentino. It's one of the Residences of the Royal House of Savoy included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites . Its unique for its horseshoe shape, with four rectangular towers, one at each angle, and a wide inner court with a marble pavement. The façade sports a huge coat of arms of the House of Savoy. Today, it is the central building of the Architecture faculty of the Polytechnic University of Turin.



*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





The celebrated **Parco del Valentino** is situated in the east side of San Salvario, and although it isn't exactly in downtown Turin, it's accepted as the city's central park. Thanks to its vicinity to the city centre, the park is very popular among locals. From the terraces of Parco del Valentino, many beautiful views of the hills on the other side of the river can be appreciated. The Parco del Valentino was opened in 1856 and was Italy's first public garden.

In addition to the many species of flowers and plants inside the Rocky Garden of the Parco del Valentino, you will also find many sculptures and installations. One of the prettiest and most romantic is certainly the «bench in love» - a sculpture depicting a bench on which two street lamps are seated that appear to be in embrace, with a kitten by their side.





The **Borgo Medievale** is a characteristic medieval village inspired by the Piedmontese and Aosta Valley castles of the Middle Ages, complete with a visible fortress. Built in 1884 on the southern-most part of Parco del Valentino, the village also includes several craft shops and a picturesque bar.



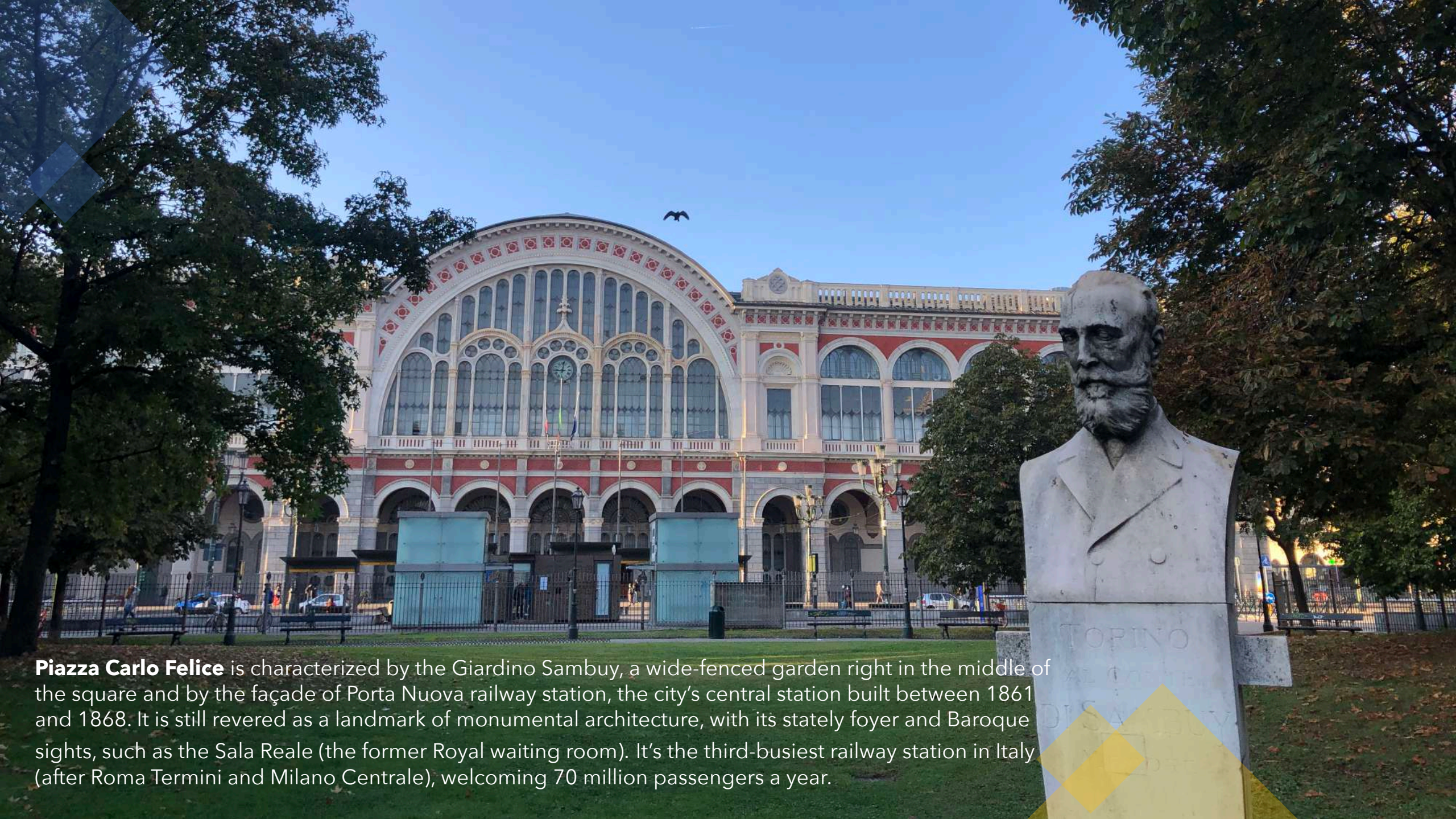


The Fountain of the Twelve Months in Parco del Valentino is an imposing monument built in 1898 - comprising a large Rococo basin surrounded by twelve statues representing the twelve months of the year.



*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





**Piazza Carlo Felice** is characterized by the Giardino Sambuy, a wide-fenced garden right in the middle of the square and by the façade of Porta Nuova railway station, the city's central station built between 1861 and 1868. It is still revered as a landmark of monumental architecture, with its stately foyer and Baroque sights, such as the Sala Reale (the former Royal waiting room). It's the third-busiest railway station in Italy (after Roma Termini and Milano Centrale), welcoming 70 million passengers a year.



**Via Lagrange and Via Carlo Alberto** cross the old town from Via Po to Corso Vittorio Emanuele II.

These pedestrian streets don't just offer a wealth of options for shopping and socialising, they also capture a perfect balance of traditional elegance and a modern, vibrant vibe.

Transforming into pedestrian streets has enhanced their commercialisation – with more luxury boutiques now lining both sides of Via Lagrange.

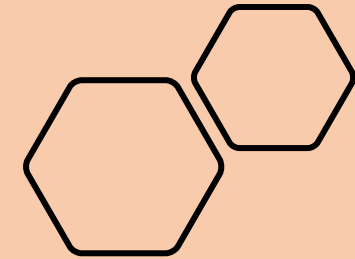




On the roof of Lagrange 12, a 17th-century building full of art, there is a new light sculpture designed by Richi Ferrero called "**Equinox**". It's visible as one walks along Via Lagrange.







The **Galleria San Federico** is the most newest gallery in Turin. Prior to this, the Natta Gallery from the middle of the 19th century was built in an L-shape - but the renovation works of Via Roma in the 1930s, overseen by the architect, Canova, transformed the gallery into its current T-shape.

With a ceiling made of glazed windows, light illuminates the precious marble columns. Here you will also find antique and jewellery stores as well as one of the oldest cinemas in Turin - Cinema Lux, which was built as a single theatre with some 1,500 seats, but recently separated into three halls. Galleria San Federico was the first site of the daily newspaper La Stampa.



Valerio Minato

**Piazza Carignano** is one of the most beautiful spots of Turin and a major symbol of the Italian Risorgimento. It is surrounded by buildings with Baroque architecture: on one side there is Teatro Carignano (1783), flanked by the historic Ristorante del Cambio and Gelateria Pepino. On the opposite side, Palazzo Carignano.

The uniquely-curved façade of Palazzo Carignano, on the back of which is another historic location, Piazza Carlo Alberto, and the Egyptian Museum just a few steps away, make this square one of the richest in artistic, historical, and monumental places in the historic centre of Turin. For many, this piazza remains the one that you cross by force of attraction if you have to go from north to south, or from east to west.






The construction of the **Palazzo Carignano** was ordered in 1679 by Prince Emanuele Filiberto: Guarini designed the structure in the shape of a square, with a straight and restrained east façade and an elliptical façade on the west. Guarini also added a forecourt at the centre of the palace. The Palazzo was the birthplace of the first King of Italy, Victor Emmanuel II in 1820. From 1848 to 1861, the palace was used as the House of Deputies of the Subalpine Parliament. In 1861, with the creation of the parliament of the newly-unified Kingdom of Italy, the room was no longer large enough to host the House of Deputies, so it was moved elsewhere.





The image shows the interior of the Teatro Carignano, a grand opera house. The view is from an elevated position, looking down into the auditorium. The architecture is highly ornate, featuring multiple tiers of balconies with intricate gold-colored carvings and balustrades. The walls and the interior of the balconies are covered in deep red velvet. Numerous chandeliers hang from the ceiling, casting a warm glow. On the right side, a large, detailed statue of a woman in classical attire stands prominently. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and elegance.

The **Teatro Carignano** is one of the oldest and most important theatres in Italy. Designed by Alfieri, it is located directly opposite the Palazzo Carignano.

The origins of the theatre date back to the late 16th century when an imposing project was developed to transform and expand Torino. The House of Savoy needed to affirm the town's status as a modern capital city, emancipating it once and for all from its constricted city plan and plain architecture.

Much of the theatre was destroyed in a fire in 1786, but it was rebuilt in just a few months using Alfieri's original plans. Since then, it has undergone several renovations.

Teatro Carignano is currently one of the most advanced live-performance theatres in Italy.



Arguably Turin's most elegant piazza, **Piazza Carlo Alberto** is completely pedestrianised and fringed by perfect examples of the city's world-class Baroque architecture.

At its heart stands a huge and impressive equestrian statue dedicated to Carlo Alberto of Savoy, King of Sardinia, immortalised in military attire and triumphantly holding aloft a sword. Produced by Carlo Marochetti and inaugurated in 1861, the statue proudly faces Palazzo Carignano.





You can go from Piazza Carlo Alberto to Piazza Carignano (and vice versa) via a 'secret' passage located right in the middle of the west and east entrance of Palazzo Carignano!







The 19th century façade of Palazzo Carignano dominates the eastern edge of the square, but the oldest parts of the palace date back to 1679. It remains a building of huge historical and political significance, and now houses the National Museum of the Italian Risorgimento.

Opposite the Palazzo Carignano stands The National Library, one of the most important in the country. It was completely rebuilt between 1958 and 1973. In the evenings, the square is beautifully illuminated, capturing the enchanting atmosphere that typifies the elegance of Turin.



Not everyone knows that for a short period of his life, precisely from 21 September 1888 to 9 January 1889, the great German philosopher **Friedrich Nietzsche** lived in Turin. A short period of time, but that was enough for Nietzsche to fall in love with the city and its people. In letters addressed to relatives and friends, he wrote: «There is nothing to complain about Turin: it is a magnificent and singularly beneficial city»; and again, «Turin is not a place that abandons itself».

His home was located in Via Carlo Alberto 6, on the fourth floor. Here, Nietzsche used to play the piano for several hours a day. The end of Nietzsche's stay in Turin was decidedly tragic. The story of Nietzsche and the horse, which according to some marks the moment of his mental collapse, tells how on 3 January 1889, the philosopher saw a coachman violently whipping and kicking his horse. Shocked by this unmotivated ferocity, Nietzsche ran to stop the man and once he got close to him, with tears in his eyes, he began to hug and kiss the horse.

It is not known if this anecdote is true, but what is known for certain historically is that that day, Nietzsche fainted in Piazza Carlo Alberto. Since then, he began to write to his friends, relatives, and famous people of the time the so-called «tickets of madness», letters in which he signed himself as «Dionysus» or «the Crucifix».

On 9 January 1890, his friend Overbeck, a Protestant theologian and his former teacher, arrived in Turin to take Nietzsche away and have him treated in a psychiatric clinic in Basel. Nietzsche would never return to Turin again.

In Via Carlo Alberto 6 today there is an effigy that reads: "In this house, Federico Nietzsche knew the fullness of the spirit that tempts the unknown, the will to dominate that arouses the hero. Here, to attest to his high destiny and genius, he wrote *Ecce Homo*, the book of his life. In memory of the creative hours, spring autumn 1888, in the first centenary of the birth the city of Turin posed."







*Daide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





The **Museo Egizio** or Egyptian Museum of Turin is the world's oldest Egyptian museum, founded in 1824. The museum specialises in Egyptian archeology and anthropology, and houses one of the largest collections of Egyptian antiquities, with more than 30,000 artefacts - second only to the one in Cairo.

The Egyptian Museum has always been in the Via Accademia delle Scienze 6. The building itself was remodelled in celebration of the 2006 Winter Olympics, with its main rooms redesigned and featuring an imaginative use of lighting and mirrors in a spectacular display of some of the most important and impressive Pharaonic statues in the museum collection.

Today, the museum is expanding even further. Mummies and sacred animals have always been on display, but ornaments and furnishings are also highlighted to capture - with great precision - the life of both the Egyptian people and its pharaohs. In 2016, it welcomed a record number of visitors (852,095) as reported by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, making it the eighth most visited museum in the world.







The **Subalpina gallery**, designed by Pietro Carrera as a commercial gallery for the bourgeoisie, was inaugurated in 1874. Inside it is one of the oldest cinemas (Cinema Romano) and one of the oldest bars in Turin (Baratti & Milano).

The nineteenth-century building, which is a mix of tradition and modernity, is a symposium of architectural styles and artistic expressions that gives it luxuries and an atmosphere of ancient times. Today, it features numerous art galleries and antiques.







The Teatro Regio (Royal Theatre) is a prominent opera house and opera company in Turin. Its season runs from October to June, with the presentation of eight or nine operas – including contemporary works, although in the first years of the new century, financial pressures made the programming somewhat conservative and favored more 19th-century operas.

Several buildings provided venues for operatic productions in Turin from the mid-16th century, but it was not until 1713 that a proper opera house was considered. Under the architect Filippo Juvarra, planning began. However, the cornerstone was not laid until after Juvarra's death, and during the reign of Charles Emmanuel III in 1738. The work was supervised by Benedetto Alfieri until the theatre was completed.

The theatre survived a number of catastrophes and fires. The current design, with its striking contemporary interior but hidden behind the original façade, was inaugurated on 10 April 1973. The new house seats 1,750 and is elliptical in shape, with a large orchestra level and 37 boxes around its perimeter. An acoustic shell was added to improve its sound.

The building's outer façade has a unique brickwork pattern using custom-cut bricks to create a spray of stars, which seems to overlap itself continuously like the scales of a fish. This is an illusion created by the uniquely-designed masonry pattern as the wall is actually straight. The shadows created by the protruding parts reinforce this illusion.





**Palazzo Madama** was the first Senate of the Italian Kingdom, and takes its traditional name from the embellishments it received under two queens (*madama*) of the House of Savoy. The Palazzo Madama houses the Turin City Museum of Ancient Art., a large collection of paintings, statues, church ornaments, porcelain, and decorative art, mostly from the late Middle Ages to the 18th century. The Madama Medieval Gardens are located on the three sides of the building, in the moat, and they are protected by high walls that separate them from Piazza Castello. The gardens, inaugurated in 2011, followed the medieval cards with a hortus (vegetable garden), a viridarium (forest and orchard), a iardinum domini (prince's garden), and traditional furnishings such as the fence of the hens.











Among the most curious places in town, there is one to which the Turinese are particularly attached:

**Christopher Columbus' finger.**

Located in the central Piazza Castello under the arcades of the Prefecture, a bronze medallion in high relief depicts the most famous navigator and explorer of all times, with his little finger protruding from his hand. In the background, a globe and a caravel memorialise his most famous feat: the discovery of America.

Legend has it that rubbing the little finger of Christopher Columbus' hand brings a lot of luck. This gesture has now become a real tradition of the city of Turin, and for this reason the finger of the statue appears much more polished than the rest of the work. It is above all the university students, wishing to excel in their exams, who rely on the statue of Columbus. Over time, the little finger has thinned so much that it has had to be replaced.



The **Real Chiesa di San Lorenzo** (Royal Church of Saint Lawrence) is a Baroque-style church in Turin, adjacent to the Royal Palace. The present church was designed and built by Guarino Garini between 1668 and 1687.

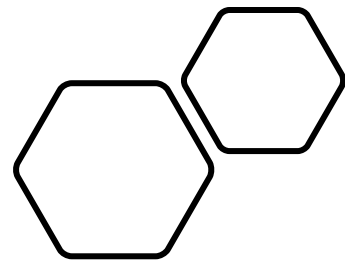
The dome of the church is one of the features of the Turin skyline. Yet, once in Piazza Castello, it is difficult to locate the entrance. This is because the church of San Lorenzo has no façade. The façade project made by Guarino Guarini was never carried out, as the Savoy family did not want to affect the harmony of the square and the view of the royal palace - feeling strongly that a symbol of royal power that should not be overshadowed by that of the religious.

The Church of San Lorenzo houses a copy of the Holy Shroud, the controversial religious relic that is believed to have wrapped the body of Jesus after the crucifixion. Inside the church, you can also admire the splendid dome taken from Islamic architecture, with an eight-pointed star and the high altar, built in 1680.

An intertwining of structures articulated on three superimposed orders, hidden by the architecture of the classroom, support the vertiginous dome which has pairs of crossed arches that reflect the motif of the octagon and form a large eight-pointed star with the regular octagon in the centre of the lantern.







Everything is made airy and light by the light that penetrates from the open windows in the sails of the vault, only broken by the crossed arches that create a surreal optical effect. Guarini focuses attention on the complex, mysterious structure of the dome, which seems to stand in balance like the instant in which the mathematical calculation coincides with the path of the imagination that tends to God.



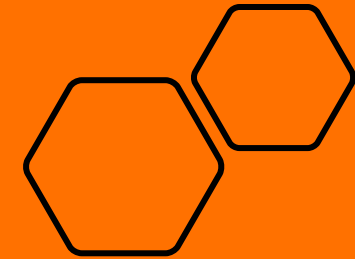


This church has a little secret: There are some hidden paintings inside the church visible only on certain dates of the year and only under certain weather conditions. Guarini, in addition to being a skilled architect, was also an astronomy enthusiast, and inside this building, he showed his great skills and genius. If you look carefully at the radial chapels of the church, you will notice that there is an oculus in the centre of the six-pointed star of each chapel.

The portholes of the chapels were designed to remain in the dark, and it isn't possible to see inside them. Twice a year, however, on the occasion of the Spring and Autumn Equinox, at around noon, the sunlight (on a clear day) enters the dome from above and hits the porthole of the first chapel next to the altar – and a secret fresco becomes visible. The same play of light with another fresco occurs in the porthole on the opposite side as well.

The oculi not affected by sunlight on these particular days were intentionally left without frescos by Guarini. This detail of the Church of San Lorenzo was not conceived by Guarini only to amaze the faithful, but also to focus their attention on the message of faith that is hidden there.





Next to the Turin Cathedral stand the **Palatine Towers**, an ancient Roman-medieval structure that served as one of four Roman city gates along the city walls of Turin. This gate allowed access from the north to the *cardo maximus*, the typical second main street of a Roman town. The Palatine Gate represents the primary archaeological evidence of the city's Roman phase, and is one of the best preserved 1st-century BC Roman gateways in the world.



On the ground near the gate stands a part of the guardhouse that was added in the Roman period. From there, one can see the furrows on the stones caused by the transit of wagons. A pair of bronze statues depicting Augustus Caesar and Julius Caesar are not originals, but copies from the last major restoration of 1934. However, their placement continues to be a topic of discussion – as some historians believe they were incorrectly placed in the internal area, instead of outside the gate where they would likely have greater relevance and significance.







Valley Moments



This network of narrow, cobbled streets between Porta Palazzo and Via Garibaldi was the site of the ancient Roman city, called **Quadrilatero Romano**.

Now a pedestrian area offering a wide array of wildly popular night-spots, it has become one of Turin's trendiest areas.

The hub of the Quadrilatero is Piazza Emanuele Filiberto.

One of the street is called Via delle tre galline (Street of the three hens) and here you will find the restaurant of the same name, one of the oldest of Turin. According to an old story, the name comes from the three sisters who used to own the restaurant in the 17th century and attached a picture of three hens on the door, just to make the place recognizable.





**Mercato Porta Palazzo** is the largest open-air market in Europe. Located in Piazza della Repubblica (or simply Porta Palazzo), the market sits within a large octagonal square in the heart of the city, just a hundred metres or so from Piazza Castello. The food market has hundreds of stalls, including fresh fish and meat sold in large covered halls. It's frantic, fabulously multicultural, and fun. Turin, a city with a thousand faces and a thousand secrets on the surface, has one of the most mysterious underground areas imaginable. In one of the buildings at Porta Palazzo, some of the 19th century underground rooms are still visible. The complex consisted of two rectangular buildings, an annular corridor and two circular rooms – evidence of a bygone time, when electricity was still a distant dream. These rooms were made for the processing required in preservation of ice and foodstuffs.

The historical hub of the district is **Borgo Dora** (Dora Borough), a small neighbourhood next to Porta Palazzo and enclosed on four sides by Corso Regina Margherita, Via Cigna, the Dora river and Corso Giulio Cesare. Once known as **Borgo del Pallone** (literally, Ball Borough) or *Balon* in Piedmontese dialect, this neighbourhood is famous for its tiny and twisted streets that host the Turinese flea market every Saturday.

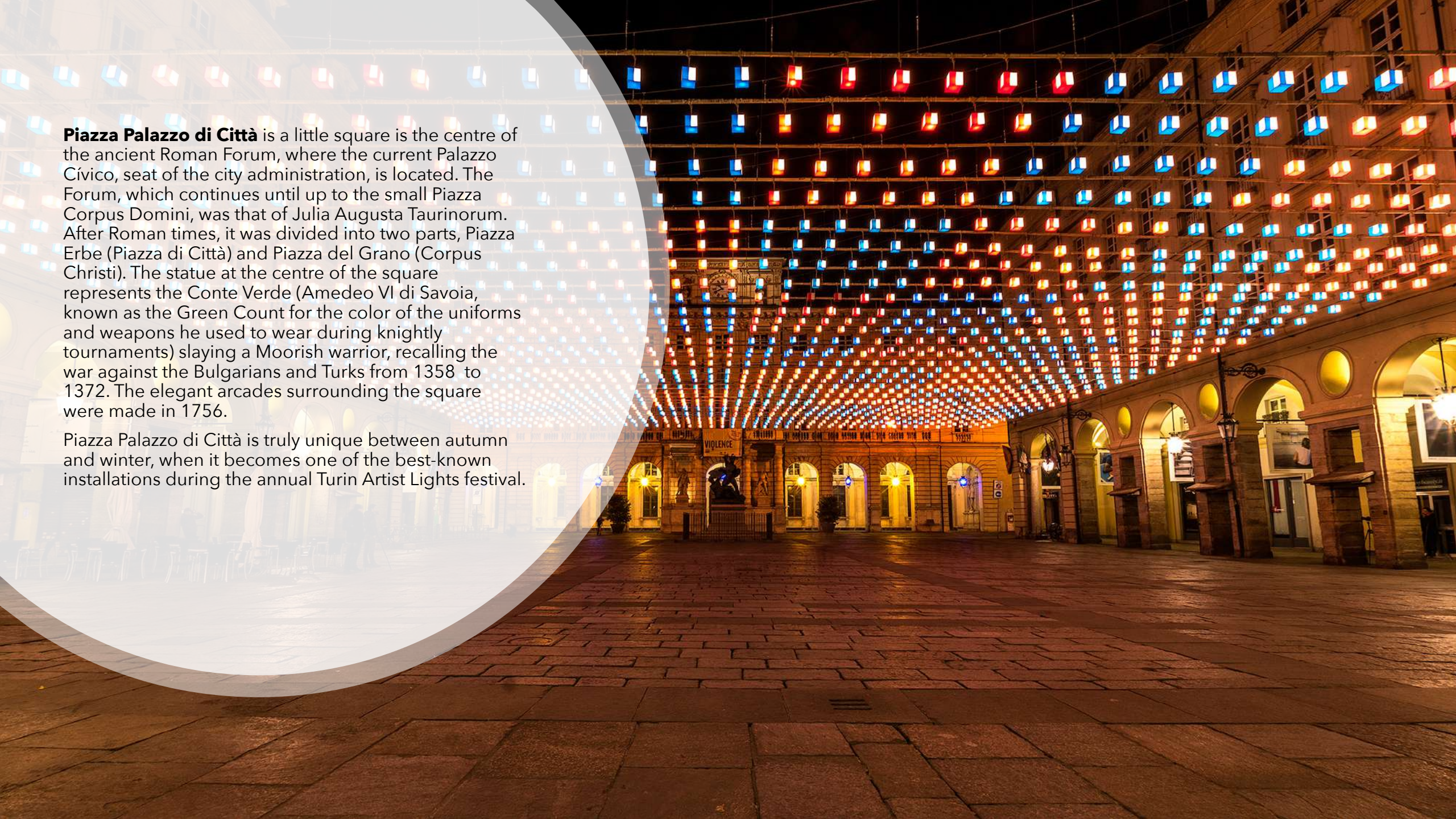
Valerio Minato





**Piazza Palazzo di Città** is a little square is the centre of the ancient Roman Forum, where the current Palazzo Cívico, seat of the city administration, is located. The Forum, which continues until up to the small Piazza Corpus Domini, was that of Julia Augusta Taurinorum. After Roman times, it was divided into two parts, Piazza Erbe (Piazza di Città) and Piazza del Grano (Corpus Christi). The statue at the centre of the square represents the Conte Verde (Amedeo VI di Savoia, known as the Green Count for the color of the uniforms and weapons he used to wear during knightly tournaments) slaying a Moorish warrior, recalling the war against the Bulgarians and Turks from 1358 to 1372. The elegant arcades surrounding the square were made in 1756.

Piazza Palazzo di Città is truly unique between autumn and winter, when it becomes one of the best-known installations during the annual Turin Artist Lights festival.



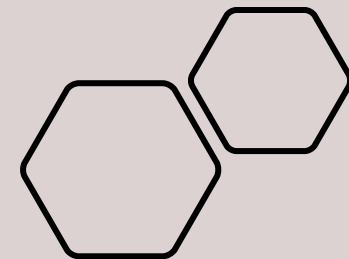


In Corpus Domini square at the height of the fourth floor, you will notice a 'piercing' that gave the building its nickname: «**Palace with the Piercing**».

The installation, well known to the inhabitants of Turin, is a work of modern art titled 'Stolen Kisses'. Born as a temporary installation in the 90s, it's now a permanently fixture and can be seen from the centre of Turin. On the sides of the piercing, one may notice drops of blood gush out, red on one side and blue on the other. Many believe this is to indicate the difference between the poor and the rich: the blue blood is indeed facing Piazza Castello while the red faces Porta Palazzo.







In one of the streets of the Quadrilatero Romano (precisely in Via delle Orfane 20) is a bull with gold horns - a work of contemporary art by the artist Richi Ferrero.

The work is titled **T'ORO** and depicts a bull, symbol of the city of Turin, surrounded by bricks. The animal, represented in the act of breaking through the wall, seems to come out at any moment to conquer the Piazza della Visitazione which the property overlooks. The work of the bull coming out of the wall is a disruptive representation of the history of Turin that looks to the future. Declared the artist, *«This Golden Horned Bull is a vision of the city, of what it has been and what it will be. The frame that freezes the moment of breakthrough is the change of Turin into the present every time the gaze of those who pass by will grasp its presence.»*

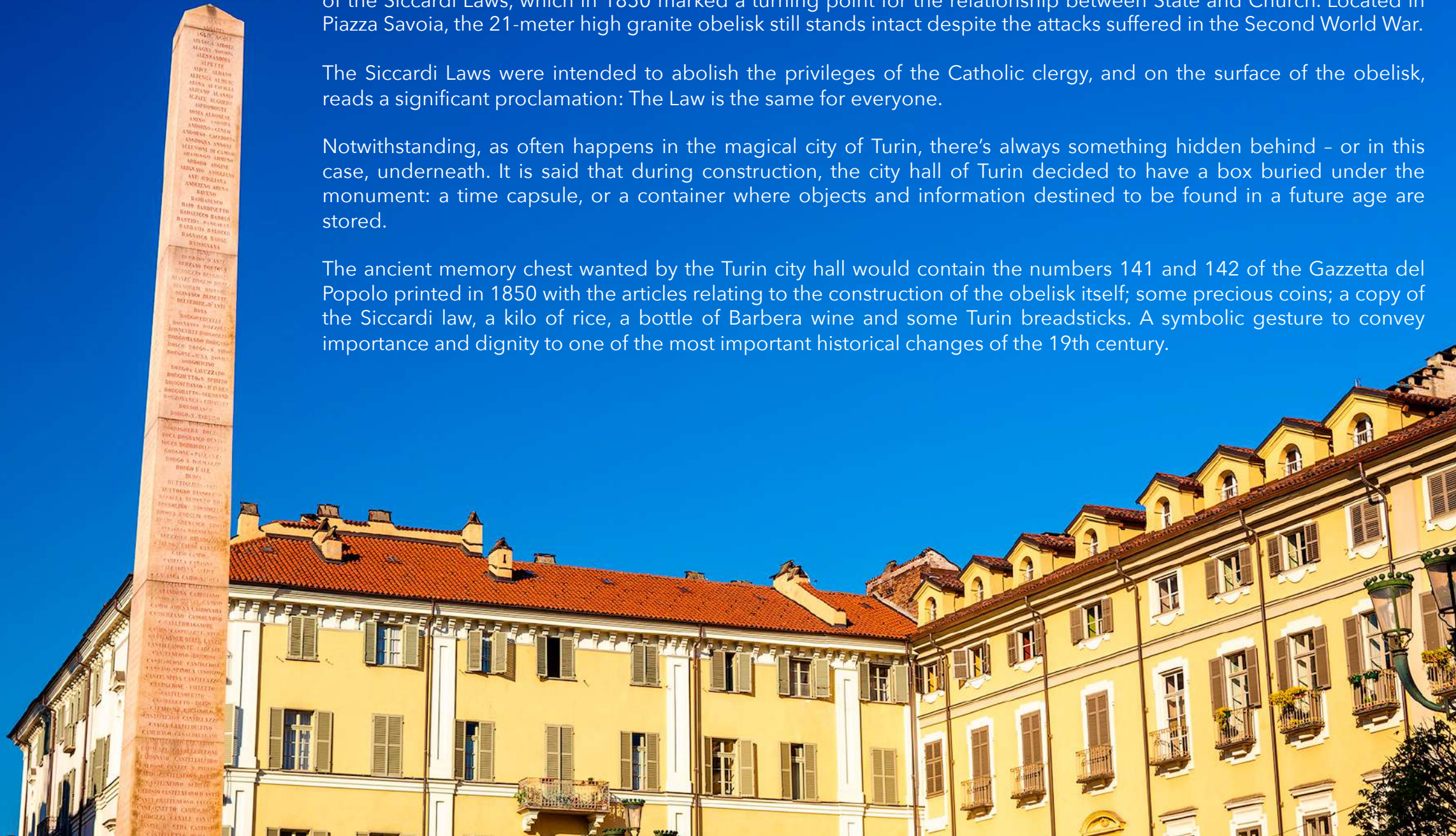


In **Piazza Savoia** at the heart of the Quadrilatero Romano, there is an imposing **Obelisk** built to celebrate the approval of the Siccardi Laws, which in 1850 marked a turning point for the relationship between State and Church. Located in Piazza Savoia, the 21-meter high granite obelisk still stands intact despite the attacks suffered in the Second World War.

The Siccardi Laws were intended to abolish the privileges of the Catholic clergy, and on the surface of the obelisk, reads a significant proclamation: The Law is the same for everyone.

Notwithstanding, as often happens in the magical city of Turin, there's always something hidden behind – or in this case, underneath. It is said that during construction, the city hall of Turin decided to have a box buried under the monument: a time capsule, or a container where objects and information destined to be found in a future age are stored.

The ancient memory chest wanted by the Turin city hall would contain the numbers 141 and 142 of the Gazzetta del Popolo printed in 1850 with the articles relating to the construction of the obelisk itself; some precious coins; a copy of the Siccardi law, a kilo of rice, a bottle of Barbera wine and some Turin breadsticks. A symbolic gesture to convey importance and dignity to one of the most important historical changes of the 19th century.











Piazza della Consolata can be reached from Piazza Emanuele Filiberto, recently restored along with the surrounding district. The square takes its name from the baroque church to be found here, designed by Guarino Guarini and Filippo Juvarra.





Valerio Minato



**Via Pietro Micca** starts in Piazza Castello and ends in Piazza Solferino. The street continues in Via Cernaia - where the remains of the medieval and modern fortress of the city, the Cittadella (Citadel) still stand. This is often the starting point for tours into the old tunnels below the city.



*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





**Pietro Micca** was a Sabaudian soldier who became a national hero for his sacrifice in the defence of Turin against the French troops. In his home village, he was working as a brick-layer when he was enlisted into the Sabaudian army as a sapper, with the rank of a private soldier. His nickname was *Passepartout*.

During the siege of Turin, Micca was employed as a tunneller and brick-layer in the military mines, which ran under the old citadel. The mines were designed to detect Franco-Spanish attempts to dig under the Citadel and to neutralise them by blowing them up. For this purpose, barrels of gunpowder were placed in strategic places around the network of mines.

On the night of 29th to 30th August 1706, a party of French grenadiers crept into a large trench, which had been the site of a failed assault on the Citadel. The Piemontese had lit bonfires in the trench to burn dead bodies, and this meant that they were not aware of the presence of the French grenadiers. The grenadiers attacked a small number of Savoyard soldiers at the base of the trench, who were guarding an entrance to the Savoyard mines and killed them, then entered the upper level of the mines.

On hearing the French attack, Micca and a comrade barred a door at the top of the steps leading to the lower level of the mines. As the French grenadiers attempted to break down the door, Micca sent away his comrade, lit a very short fuse, and placed it in two barrels of gunpowder behind the door. The gunpowder exploded as the French grenadiers broke down the door, injuring and killing most of them. Micca was severely injured in the explosion and died due to his injuries and poisonous carbon dioxide gas from the exploding gunpowder.



Had the French grenadiers reached the lower level of the mines, they could have entered the heart of the Citadel and the city itself. Micca's sacrifice prevented this, and the French assault was dealt with heavy losses. A few days later, the steps where Micca had exploded the bomb were quickly bricked over and Micca's body was buried in a mass grave. – but his sacrifice made him Turin's eternal hero.

According to some, the death of Micca was not a heroic gesture, but a mere calculation error by the soldier. The miner Micca used too short a fuse, having mistakenly considered the position where the explosive had been placed. The 9km of the historical tunnels are still open and you can visit them today. As well as the Museo Civico Pietro Micca, a central street in Turin was named after him, and a statue erected in his honour.





Turin is a city of multiple façades, and hidden from the eyes of most, is the city where magic prevails.

According to legend, Turin is a city where the forces of good and evil are concentrated. The city is indeed one of the tips of both the «magic triangles»: the **Black Magic** triangle formed by Turin, London, and San Francisco; and the **White Magic** triangle formed by Turin, Lyon, and Prague.

**Piazza Statuto** is considered the darkest point of Turin, the black heart. This is the precise point where Turin joins with San Francisco and London to form the black magic triangle. To indicate this, an obelisk sits on the top of an astrolabe to mark the passage of the 45th Parallel. In addition, the ancient Romans had placed the necropolis and the vallis occisorum in this area of the city, and it was also where the gallows, a sad place of executions and burials, were housed.

In the centre of Piazza Statuto, the Frejus Fountain, designed to commemorate the victims of the homonymous tunnel, shows the statues in the act of climbing to reach the top, where an angel is waiting for them with a five-pointed star on his head. Legend has it that this angel is Lucifer, the most beautiful angel - yet at the foot of the monument, is access to the gate of Hell.





On the other hand, in **Piazza Solferino**, we find the Angelica Fountain - the statues of the two male characters, Boaz and Jaquin, the supporters of the columns of Hercules, representing the guardians of the threshold that enters infinity. Looking carefully at the two male figures, you notice a rectangular opening in between them, the threshold - impassable for the layman - beyond which you access an unknown dimension, knowledge without limits, «the door to infinity».





The **Devil's door** of the Palazzo Trucchi di Levaldigi (Via XX Settembre), is rich in floral decorative motifs – but in the centre, the face of the devil and two snakes appear. There are many theories and legends about this place. In fact, the door was installed in one night, thus fuelling legends that it was the work of the devil. It is said to be occupied by ghosts, such as that of a dancer killed in 1790, or that of a soldier, who walked through the doors and disappeared into thin air.



Black magic in Turin also hides among the buildings – in Via Lascaris, in front of a current bank, two eye-shaped slits can be observed on the sidewalk that were used to shed light on the rooms in the basement: the **Devil's eyes!**

But there is also an underground city, made up of kilometres of tunnels and galleries, and the Alchemical caves, with three access points. According to the legend, they are places of maximum concentration of energy where sub-conscious thoughts and fears, can be materialised. It is believed that Prince Umberto, in the first cave, had the precognition of his assassination that took place a few days later in Monza.



In 1882, Giuseppe Garibaldi was memorialised when the oldest street in the city of Turin, the Contrada Dora Grossa, was renamed **Via Garibaldi** in his honor. Garibaldi is considered to be one of Italy's founding fathers (along with Camillo Cavour, Vittorio Emanuele II, and Giuseppe Mazzini).

Via Garibaldi is a pedestrian-only street that runs from Piazza Castello to Piazza Statuto and is lined with shops, restaurants, bars, and street vendors. Along with being a hub for shopping, eating or simply a place to socialise, it's also lined with 16th and 17th century religious buildings such as the Church of Santissima Trinità, the Church of San Dalmazzo, the Church of Santi Martiri, and the newly-renovated Church of the Misericordia.

At 963 meters, Via Garibaldi is the second-longest pedestrian street in Europe, after Rue Sainte-Catherine in Bordeaux.



Valley Moments





**Luci d'Artista** in Turin is an artistic and cultural event, during which Turin is illuminated with real works of art conceived by contemporary artists and installed all over the city - with a focus on the city centre. The lights are switched on every year between the end of October and the beginning of November, and remain until the end of the Christmas holidays. Since 1998, the event has attracted numerous Italian and foreign tourists to the Piedmontese metropolis.





10  
PIAZZA CASTELLO

1 2  
PIAZZA CASTELLO



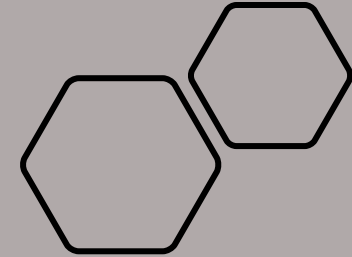
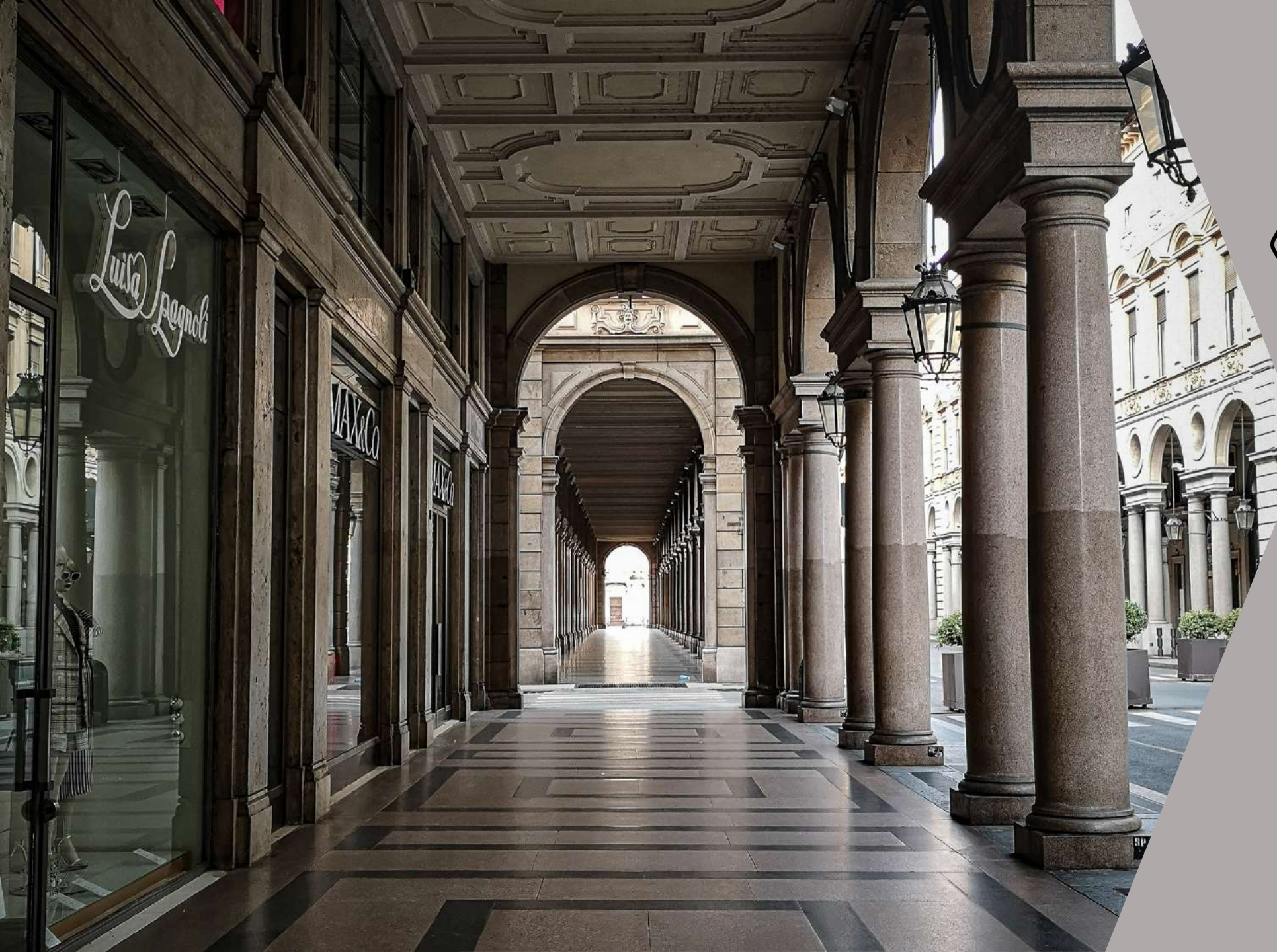
*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





Daide Torchia  
PHOTOGRAPHY





The **arcades of Turin** features 18 kilometres of arches, which have always been a symbol of the Piedmontese capital. 12.5 of these kilometres are made up of continuous inter-connected arcades.

Made with different styles and materials, from the grey stone of Via Po to the marble of Via Roma, with their majesty and their play of light and shadow, these arcades are the perfect setting for a city living room like Turin.

In recent years, the porticoes of Turin have acquired increasing importance, not only locally but also internationally, representing a major tourist and cultural attraction. For this reason, the Portici and Gallerie di Torino association was born in 2018, with the aim of making the most of this incredible heritage.



Turin is not the only European city that boasts an amazing arrangement of arcades, but at 18 kilometres, it does hold the accolade of being the city with the largest pedestrian area on the continent.

Turin's arcades first date back to the medieval period, but the construction of the monumental arcades that remain synonymous with the city today only began in the 1600s. On 16 June 1606, Carlo Emanuele I of Savoy commissioned Ascanio Vittozzi to construct the arcades in conjunction with the development of the majestic Piazza Castello. However, it wasn't until the beginning of the 17th century that Filippo Juvarra built the porticoes of Porta Palazzo, and over a century later when Benedetto Alfieri was given the task of redeveloping the arcades of Piazza Palazzo di Città. The arcades in Piazza Vittorio Veneto, Piazza Carlo Felice and Piazza Statuto were built in the 19th century - completing a mammoth undertaking of more than 300 years





The **Intesa SanPaolo skyscraper** is the third-tallest building in Turin. At 167.25 metres, it stands just behind the skyscraper of Lingotto and the Mole Antonelliana in height.

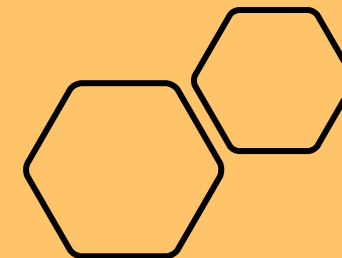
It serves as the office of more than 2,000 employees of the most important Italian bank and includes leisure facilities that's accessible to everyone. At its rooftop is a greenhouse and roof garden that also hosts **Piano35**, a restaurant open to public, with a panoramic terrace that offers far-reaching views of the city.

The skyscraper was built between 2011 and 2015 by the architect, Renzo Piano, who described it as a "bioclimatic building". It's naturally ventilated and cooled with a substantial amount of its power that's generated from photovoltaic panels that cover the southern façade.

A few steps away, the station for international high-speed travel (to Paris, for example), **Porta Susa train station** is increasingly becoming Turin's central hub of railway transportation. Its contemporary architecture, featuring a 300-metre long and 19-metre high glass and steel structure, gives it a distinctive appearance amid Turin's city centre.







Casa Scaccabarozzi, better known by the Turinese as **Fetta di Polenta** (name given by the curious shape of the building, resembling a real slice of polenta with its characteristic yellow color) is a building located in the district of Vanchiglia designed in 1840 by Alessandro Antonelli, the well-known designer of the Mole Antonelliana.

This building, designed by Antonelli on his own land, was undertaken more as a gamble than as a real construction requirement. The building consists of 9 floors, 2 of which are underground, connected by a small stone scissor staircase. On the 54 cm side, to maximize space, Antonelli decided to place the flue. One of the narrowest houses in the world.





Scattered throughout Turin, there are 813 special fountains called **Torèt** - the typical bottle-green-colored fountains with a bull's head as water outlets. Each torèt also has a 'bowl' in the water drain on the ground, allowing birds and dogs to easily enjoy the fountain too.

In recent years, a project called *I Love Torèt* was born, with the goal of mapping the torèts in the city and preserving this symbol of Turin that the city's inhabitants hold dear.

The initiative also offers the possibility of adopting one or more torèts for free. An iPhone application called *iTorèt* was developed to help people find these drinking fountains.




The **Parco Dora** post-industrial park is one of the largest green areas of the city, covering an enormous 456,000 square metres. Characterised by its industrial past, the park has five separate areas where its aesthetics and functions are designed around the industrial remains. The different areas of the park, as well as its surrounding areas, are connected by bridges, stairs and ramps.

The Vitali area, the largest in the park, covers an impressive 89,000 square metres. It takes its name from Fiat ironworks factory (of the same name) that stood in the area. Its design is dominated by the imposing structure of the stripping shed, of which the tall steel pillars – made distinctive by its red paint – and part of the roof have been preserved. Under a large canopy, there is a multifunctional space equipped with playing grounds for football, basketball, tennis, and volleyball, as well as a skate ramp. This area of the park also hosts music festivals such as the Kappa FuturFestival, a famous electronic music festival; and sports activities. Next to it, a vast garden grows around the pillars of the dismantled steelworks, alternating with flower beds, play areas, and an elevated walkway of galvanized steel.

The park is accentuated by various works of street art, decorating the towering vertical spaces in a fascinating juxtaposition of the old world and the new.





An aerial photograph of the Basilica di Superga in Turin, Italy, taken at sunset. The church features a large central dome and two side towers, all illuminated by the warm, golden light of the setting sun. The building is situated on a hill, surrounded by dense green forests. In the background, rolling hills and a valley are visible, with a layer of mist or low clouds settling in the lower areas. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and soft blue.

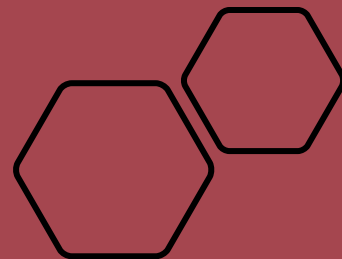
The **Basilica di Superga** is a church that was built by Duke Victor Amadeus II in 1706. Before a decisive battle, the Duke had climbed to the top of the hill for a clearer vantage point of the rival's army. As he prayed, he promised to erect a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary if he was victorious.

The Basilica was completed in 1731 and inaugurated in the presence of King Charles Emmanuel III. It holds the tombs of many of the dukes of Savoy, as well as the kings of Sardinia.



*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





There are several ways to get to the top of Superga hill, but none more quaint than the **Superga Rack Railway**. The journey begins from a station at the foot of the hill in the Sassi suburb, and takes visitors on an unforgettable and picturesque 18-minute ride up the hill – starting with a scenery of the woods along the hillside before opening up to urban views that stretch to the surrounding Alps.

The railway still uses its classic original carriages, offering visitors a trip through time for a total of 3,100 metres and a total climb of 425 metres – at an average gradient of 13.5% that peaks to 21% at the final stretch.

Valerio Minato





*Daide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





Situated on the top of Superga hill and surrounded by panoramic views of the city and the Alps, the Basilica is 75 metres high and visible from all over the city of Turin. On 4 May 1949, an airplane returning from Lisbon and carrying the Torino football team crashed into the back wall of the Basilica. All 31 people lost their lives, many of whom were players from the all-conquering *Il Grande Torino* football team, in what has since become known as the **Tragedy of Superga**.



*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





On 4 May 1949, Torino Football Club was set to win a fifth consecutive Serie A title. With four matches of the season remaining, the team had flown to Lisbon to play a testimonial match for a Benfica player – and amid a thick fog on the way back to Turin, the plane collided with the back of the basilica wall. There were no survivors. Later, it was determined that malfunctioning equipment led the pilot to believe he was well clear of the building, realising he was too close only when it was too late.

Two days after the crash, half a million people lined the streets of Turin as the funerals were held. At the request of their rivals, Torino Football Club was awarded the Serie A title – and it was said that «only fate could beat them». That Il Grande Torino team passed into legend, not just as the Invincibles, but the Immortals.

In one of the greatest tragedies of Italian sport, mourning of that Torino team moved and united all Italians. During a difficult era for the nation, Torino was seen as more than a football team – they were the pride of a country on its knees and suffering after 20 years of fascism and war with Hitler. Players from Torino made up almost all of the Italian national team, and Torino's flag was a symbol of rising from the ashes. Even today, there isn't an Italian city that doesn't have a stadium, a sports centre, a street, or a park named after a Grande Torino player.

The legendary Stadio Filadelfia, home of Torino, was an impregnable fortress where the team didn't lose in 100 consecutive matches, and scoring at least one goal in 76 consecutive ones.

In the season following the Tragedy of Superga, each Serie A club was asked to donate a player to Torino to help them rebuild the team.

The Superga disaster is central to the identity of not just the team, but the city of Turin. Its legacy is not forgotten, and every year, on the 4th of May, thousands congregate at the site where the plane came down. The back wall of the Basilica di Superga, the site of the accident, became a memorial wall and football fans from all over the world have come for years to pay their respects and leave scarves of many different colours and teams. A museum dedicated to Il Grande Torino used to be housed in the Basilica itself, but it has since moved to a larger space in Grugliasco, a suburb of Turin.

A movie that tells the story of the times leading up to and following this tragedy, called *Il Grande Torino*, was released in 2005.





LIBERI DI TIFARE  
NATA

SOMA  
I MEI

SEZZE

ASTI  
SIL

Fratelli  
**Beretta**  
1812

**Wüber**  
Specialista in wurstel



**TORINO FC** 19



Turin is a city of two famous football teams - the other being the most glorious football team in Italy, **Juventus Football Club**.

It was founded on 1 November 1897 by a group of students from the Massimo D'Azeglio high school in Turin, who used to meet on a bench in Corso Re Umberto near their school.

The first outfit worn by the Juventus football team comprised a pink shirt with a black tie. The famous black-and-white stripes - giving rise to the team's *Bianconeri* nickname - was not adopted until 1903. Tired of seeing the pale pink of their shirt fade with each wash, the players commissioned their English teammate, John Savage, to buy a new set of jerseys when he went back to England, and he returned to Turin with the black-and-white-striped jerseys used by Notts County, the oldest club of the English first division.





Since 1923, the ownership of Juventus has been kept within the Agnelli family – making Juventus the ultimate family-owned club in the world. Until today, the Presidency of the club remains with a member of the Agnelli family.

Juventus is famously known as 'Vecchia Signora' (Old Lady), but another curious nickname, reserved mainly for its players and fans is 'gobbi'; or in the Piedmontese dialect, 'goeba'. For one season in the fifties, the players' jerseys would hold in the air as they ran, creating an optical illusion of a sort of hump on their backs. While the nickname is believed to have been given by fans of the rival Torino Football club – meaning a hunch-backed person – Juventus fans saw the opportunity to turn the insult into a term of affection.







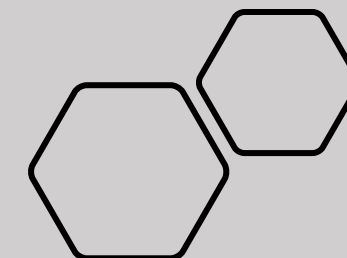


The **Derby della Mole**, played between Juventus and Torino twice a year, is named after the Mole Antonelliana, the architectural symbol of the city. Until after World War I, the match was seen as a battle between two opposing social classes - Juventus representing the aristocracy of the Agnelli family (who are, with their ownership of Fiat, also the city's major employers); while Torino identified with the workers synonymous with the early-industrial world.

The first Derby della Mole was played in 1907, and it was also Torino's first competitive match after its founding. The game was played at the Umberto I Velodrome in the Crocetta district, and Torino won 2-1. The fierce rivalry between the two teams was fuelled by the fact that Alfredo Dick, former Juventus president, broke away to form Torino Football Club - and prior to this inaugural derby, he was locked inside the changing room, causing him to miss the game and having to listen to updates via players and staff.







On the pitch, Juventus has won 38 Serie A titles, 13 Coppa Italia titles, and 8 Supercoppa Italiana titles, making them the record holder in all of these competitions. The Juventus trophy cabinet also includes 2 Intercontinental Cups, 2 European Cups / UEFA Champions Leagues, 1 European Cup Winner's Cup, 3 UEFA Cups, 2 UEFA Super Cups, and 1 UEFA Intertoto Cup.

The club's fan base is the largest at national level and one of the largest worldwide. Among its players are 8 Ballon d'Or awards, 4 of these in consecutive years (1982-1985), which remains an overall record. The club has also provided the most number of players to the Italy national teams that won the 1934, 1982, and 2006 FIFA World Cups.





**FIAT** (Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino), the largest Italian car company, was founded on 11 July 1899 in Turin. One of the founding members was Giovanni Agnelli, and the newly-formed company, which was then called FIA, soon decided to add *Turin* to its name and became FIAT. In Latin, 'fiat' also has a deeper meaning: let it be done.

The first Fiat plant opened in 1900, with 35 staff making 24 cars. By 1910, Fiat became the largest automotive company in Italy. However,, during World War I, Fiat had to devote all of its factories to supplying the Allies with aircraft, engines, machine guns, trucks, and ambulances - which was actually good for business. By the early 1920s, Fiat had an 80% market share in Italy

In 1923, Fiat opened the famous Lingotto car factory – then the largest in Europe. It was the first Fiat factory to use assembly lines, and once again, Fiat became the go-to supplier of military machinery and vehicles during World War II. It's worth noting that the Agnelli family had ties to Benito Mussolini's government - and so, when Mussolini was overthrown in 1945, the National Liberation Committee removed the Agnelli family from leadership roles in Fiat. It was only in 1963 when the family returned to the fold, with Giovanni's grandson, Gianni, taking over as general manager until 1966, and remained chairman until 1996.

At its peak in 1970, Fiat employed more than 100,000 people in Italy to support its production of 1.4 million cars in the country.

Today, FIAT is part of the Netherlands-based holding company Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV (FCA).





The **Museo Nazionale dell'Automobile** or **MAUTO** for short, was founded in 1932 and boasts one of the rarest and most interesting collections of over 200 original cars from 80 automobile brands representing eight countries - Italy, France, Great Britain, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and USA.

Among others, the museum's collection includes the first Italian cars, a Bernardi from 1896 and a Fiat from 1899.

A must-visit for the automobile fan, visitors will journey through history with vintage cars, important prototypes, and iconic models, while songs from the sixties and the roar of Formula One engines create a fascinating atmosphere.



The **Lavazza Museum** is one of the newest in the city, inaugurated in 2018. Located in the Nuova Lavazza complex, the new business centre of the world-renowned coffee brand, it celebrates the Italian espresso, which was born in Turin in 1884.

On a circular two-storey path, the museum provides visitors with an interactive and immersive experience of Italy's coffee culture through 5 areas: Casa Lavazza, retracing more than 120 years of history of the Lavazza family and the development of the Lavazza brand; the Factory, featuring the sounds, colors, and aromas, from the plantations to harvesting to the methods of production and distribution of Lavazza's many coffee varieties; the Piazza, showcasing the design and mechanisms behind an array of coffee machines; the Atelier with the Carousel, a high-interactive space with advertisement campaigns and multi-media; and the Universe, with a 360° immersion into the different settings related to the world of coffee. Through fascinating technological installations, the museum takes visitors through an amazing journey to a special cup of coffee.





**GAM** (*Galleria d'Arte Moderna*) is one of the two Museum of Modern Arts in Turin's metro area. (The other is at Castello di Rivoli, a former Savoy castle in the suburbs). It stands in front a huge statue of Vittorio Emanuele II and next to a building that was formerly the head office of Juventus Football Club. Beginning with the founding of the Civic Museum in 1863, Turin was the first city in Italy to promote a public collection of modern art. Today, GAM is home to the city's permanent collections of 19th and 20th century art, comprising more than 47,000 paintings, sculptures, installations, and even video.



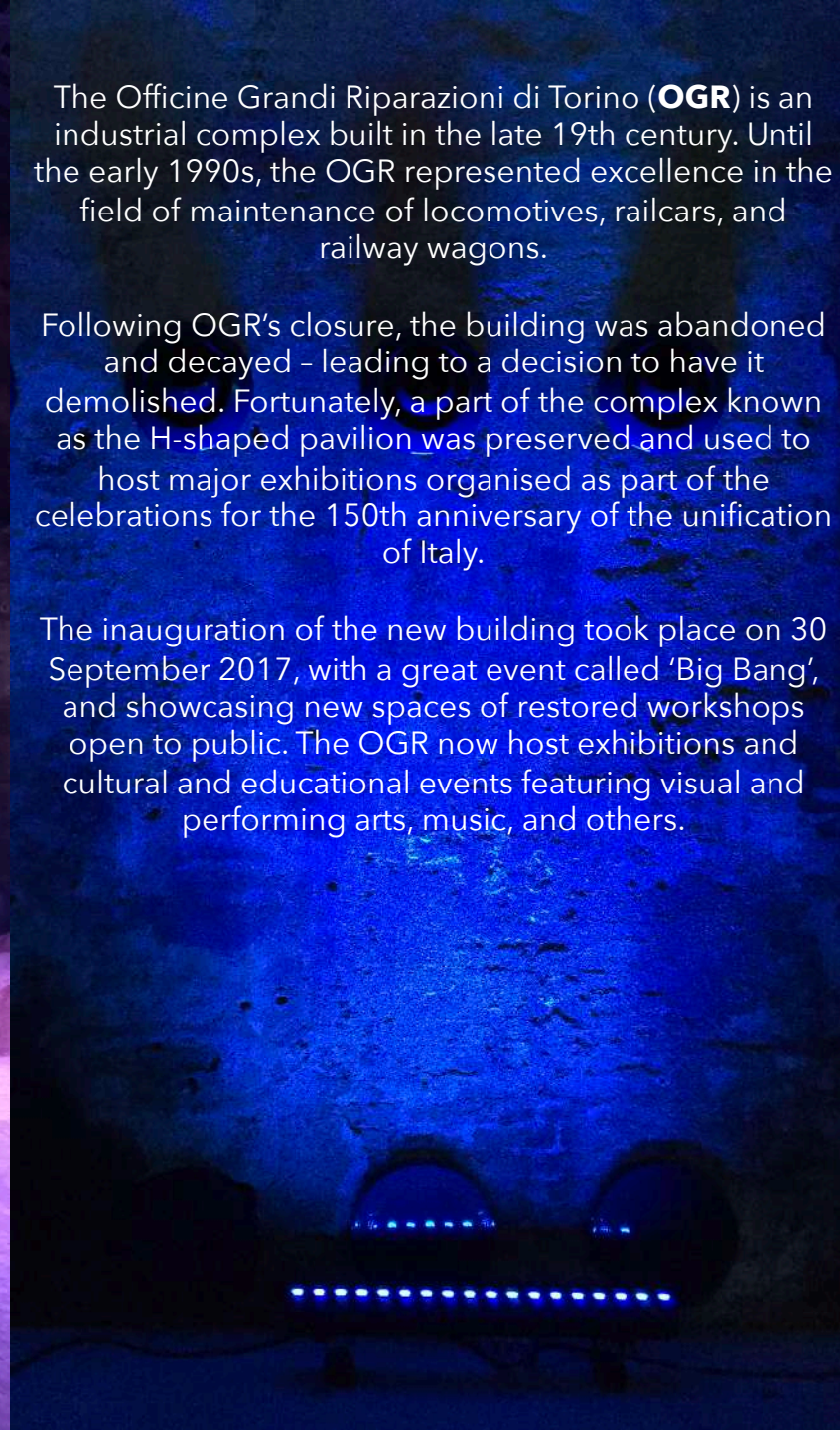




The Officine Grandi Riparazioni di Torino (**OGR**) is an industrial complex built in the late 19th century. Until the early 1990s, the OGR represented excellence in the field of maintenance of locomotives, railcars, and railway wagons.

Following OGR's closure, the building was abandoned and decayed - leading to a decision to have it demolished. Fortunately, a part of the complex known as the H-shaped pavilion was preserved and used to host major exhibitions organised as part of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy.

The inauguration of the new building took place on 30 September 2017, with a great event called 'Big Bang', and showcasing new spaces of restored workshops open to public. The OGR now host exhibitions and cultural and educational events featuring visual and performing arts, music, and others.







Winner as best outlet in 2019, at the **Torino Outlet Village** you can shop in style at outlet prices and enjoy great food! Once you arrive at the village register yourself at the info point to get access to extra discounts and benefits.



**The Reggia di Venaria** is a former royal residence with lush gardens located in Venaria Reale, just outside Turin. With a built-up area of 80,000 square metres over 950,000 square metres of land, it's one of the largest palaces in the world. It is also one of the Residences of the Royal House of Savoy that's included in the UNESCO Heritage List.

The palace was designed and built by Amedeo di Castellamonte in 1675 for Duke Charles Emmanuel II, who needed a base for his hunting expeditions. The name of the palace was derived from the Latin words *venatio regia*, meaning 'royal hunt'.

Its interiors were designed by the well-recognised Filippo Juvarra, who lavishly lined the Galleria Grande with marble decorations.

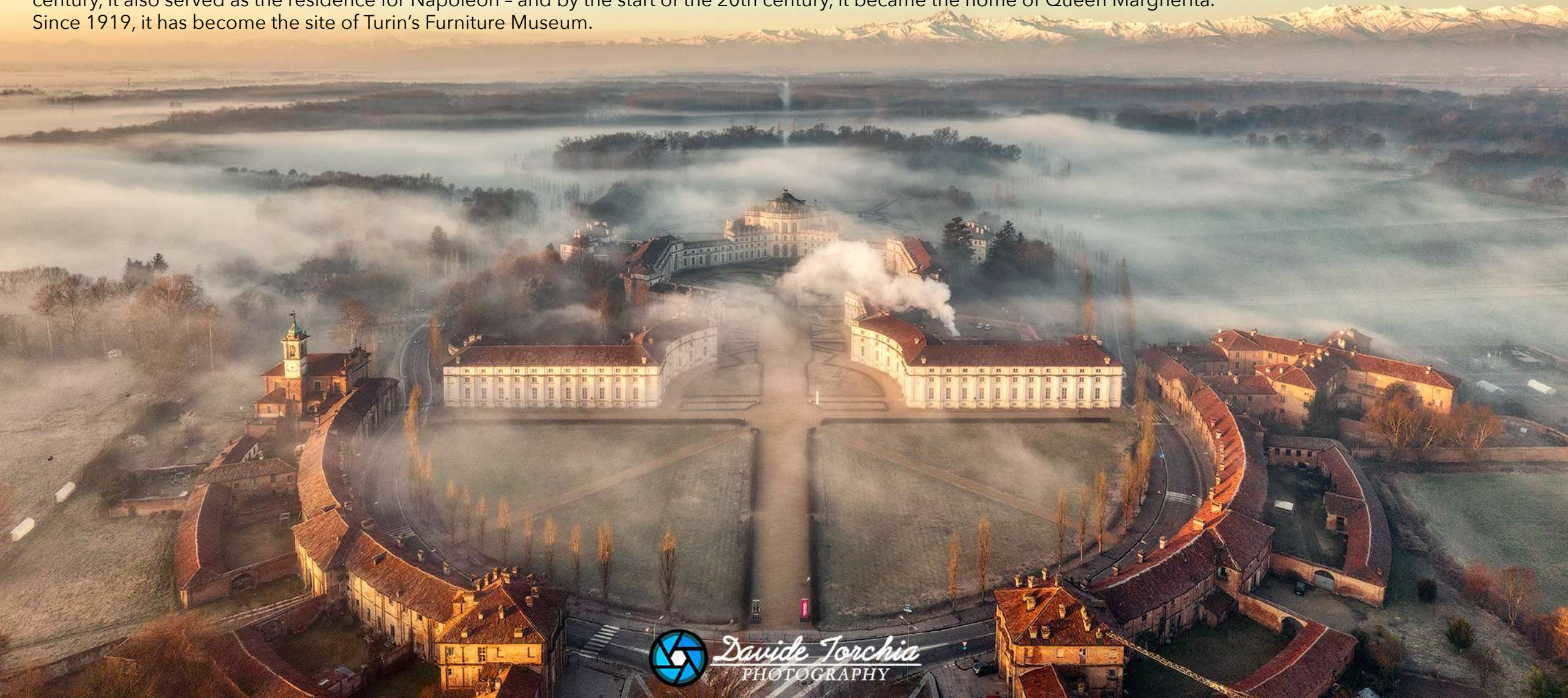
The palace complex has long been recognised as a masterpiece of Baroque architecture, but was only opened to the public on 13 October 2007. It has since become a popular tourist attraction, and for the locals, an exhibition space.





**Palazzina di Caccia**, also known as the Hunting Lodge of Stupinigi, is one of the most extraordinary 18th-century complexes in Europe. Its construction began in 1729 based on the vision and under the supervision of Filippo Juvarra, but continued right up to the end of the 19th century under the guidance of Benedetto Alfieri and other architects. The central hall was considered the core of the building and was the first to be built, following which the rest of the complex was constructed. In its interior, the central hall is a large oval-shaped room accentuated by a dome enclosed by a vaulted ceiling.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, this was the Savoy family's favourite spot for leisure hunting as well as spectacular parties and solemn marriages. In the early 19th century, it also served as the residence for Napoleon - and by the start of the 20th century, it became the home of Queen Margherita. Since 1919, it has become the site of Turin's Furniture Museum.



*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



Valley Minute

The **Sacra di San Michele** is an emblem of Piedmont and the inspiration for Umberto Eco's best-selling novel, *The Name of the Rose*.

This ancient abbey was built between 983 and 987, atop the Pirchiano hill around 40 kilometres from Turin. From its towers, visitors get a breathtaking view of Turin and the Susa Valley. In the abbey's 12th-century tombs, members of the House of Savoy are buried to this day.

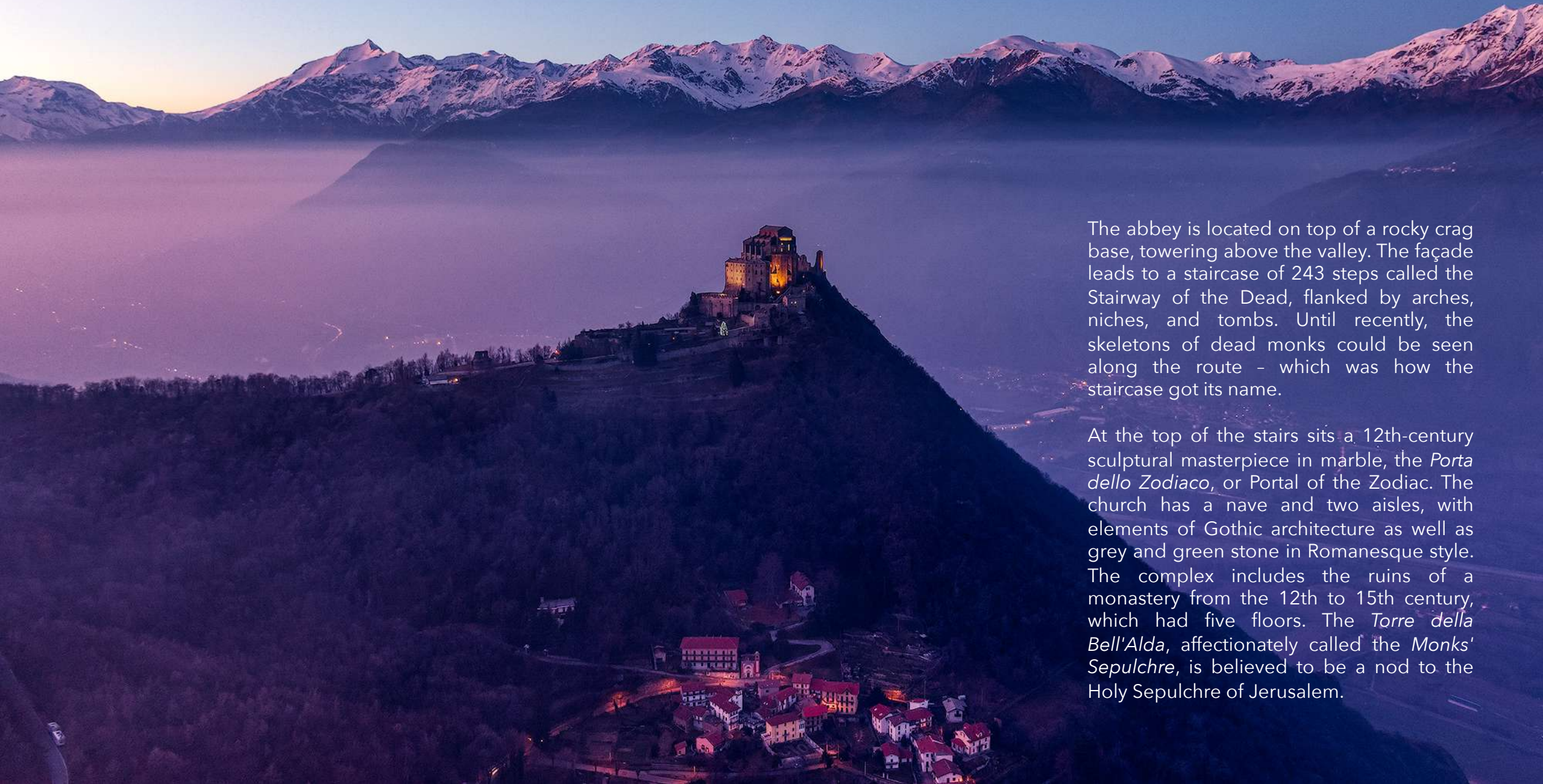
Dedicated to the worship of the Archangel Michael, defender of the Christian people, the Sacra di San Michele is a significant site along a 2,000-kilometre pilgrimage route that runs from Saint-Michel in France to Monte Sant'Angelo in Puglia, in the south of Italy.








*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



The abbey is located on top of a rocky crag base, towering above the valley. The façade leads to a staircase of 243 steps called the Stairway of the Dead, flanked by arches, niches, and tombs. Until recently, the skeletons of dead monks could be seen along the route - which was how the staircase got its name.

At the top of the stairs sits a 12th-century sculptural masterpiece in marble, the *Porta dello Zodiaco*, or Portal of the Zodiac. The church has a nave and two aisles, with elements of Gothic architecture as well as grey and green stone in Romanesque style. The complex includes the ruins of a monastery from the 12th to 15th century, which had five floors. The *Torre della Bell'Alda*, affectionately called the *Monks' Sepulchre*, is believed to be a nod to the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.





In the outskirts of Turin is the **Leumann village**, a working-class neighborhood in the municipality of Collegno. It was developed at the end of the 19th century, on the request of Swiss entrepreneur Napoleon Leumann - who wanted a residential complex in Art Nouveau style to be built around his flourishing cotton mill to house his employees. The Leumann cotton mill didn't survive the financial crisis on the 1970s, and over the years, numerous restoration works have been carried out to return some of the buildings to their former glory. Entering this fairytale village is like taking a step back in time - the Leumann village is a magical place where history, art, culture, and daily life come together.

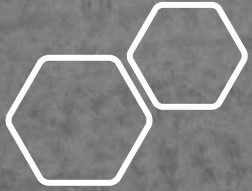
*Valery Mints*





*Davide Torchia*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



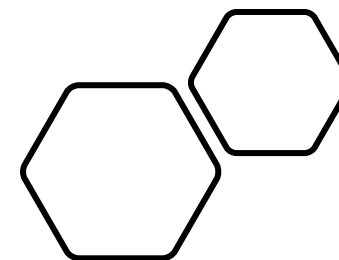


**Pizza margherita** is one of the most famous foods in the world – and legend has it that it was invented in Turin in June 1889, to honor the first Queen of Italy, Margherita di Savoia.

Chef Raffaele Esposito selected the toppings, tomato, mozzarella and basil, to represent the same colors as those on the Italian flag.







**Bicerin**, literally meaning 'small glass, in Piedmontese, is a historic hot, non-alcoholic drink typical of Turin. Served in a rounded glass, it comprises a mixture of coffee, chocolate, and creamed milk sweetened with syrup. The bicerin ritual requires the three ingredients to be served separately. Initially, there were three variants: *pur e fior* (today's cappuccino), *pur e barba* (coffee and chocolate), and *pòch ëd tut* (a bit of everything), with all three ingredients mixed. It was the latter formula that was most successful and prevailed over the others. Each component is accompanied by *bagnati*, or artisanal sweets, with a total of 14 different kinds.

It is believed that bicerin was invented in Turin's Al Bicerin café, which is located in Piazza della Consolata and has been in existence since 1763. The café jealously guards its traditional recipe, requiring its employees to sign a contract to commit to secrecy. Nevertheless, bicerin can be found on the menu of many coffee shops around Turin, with slight variations from the original that may not even be obvious to the common man's tastebuds.



In 1865, confectioners and chocolatiers across Italy were suffering from a lack of cocoa imports during the Napoleonic embargo - but this also led to a delicious discovery. Chocolatiers Gay and Prochet from the Caffarel confectionery factory in Turin's Borgo San Donato decided to replace a part of the cocoa portion with hazelnuts, which was readily available in the Langhe region and considered the best in the world. They presented this creation in that year's carnival and distributed it through a person dressed in Gianduja, the mask from which the chocolate takes its name - and **Gianduiotto** was born.

It was the first chocolate wrapped in a fine silver card and was able to keep its scents and flavour. Even today, gianduiotto remains one of Turin's products of excellence and can be found in the best Turin chocolatiers. Top pastry chefs recommend eating gianduiotto one after the other, so as to unite the flavours and aromas to those that emerge as each piece of chocolate melts in one's mouth.





In the city of Alba, less than hour south from Turin, Pietro Ferrero opened a bakery laboratory that brought about the world-famous **Nutella** in 1964.

A lesser-known fact is that Nutella is made with a gianduia cream recipe, created in Turin in the 19th century, and accentuated with hazelnuts - which remains one of the greatest riches of the territory.








Another world-famous flavour invented in Turin is **Vermouth** – the aromatised, fortified wine, flavoured with roots, barks, flowers, seeds, herbs, and spices.

Vermouth was traditionally used for medicinal purposes, but in the late-19th century, it became popular with bartenders who began using it as a unique ingredient in classic cocktails – the Martini, the Manhattan, and the Negroni, just to name a few.

In 1786, the 22-year-old distiller Antonio Benedetto Carpano from Turin goes in search of a new drink that was typically Piedmontese – and his instinct led him to combine wine with botanicals. To cater to the feminine palate, he selected a white wine – and infused it with about thirty aromas, together with alcohol and sugar. He sends a case of the resulting concoction to King Vittorio Amedeo III's court, which the sovereign appreciated tremendously. It became the turning point for Carpano and his business, which takes off from the small shop in Piazza Castello, at the corner with Via Viotti, where a plaque celebrates his memory.

Other notable Vermouth brands from Turin are Cinzano, Contratto, and Martini & Rossi, a top-selling international brand today.





**Agnolèt dël plin**, a special Piedmontese stuffed pasta, is characteristic of the Langhe and Monferrato area. The term 'plin' refers to the pinch at the top to 'close' the pasta. These delicious pasta dumplings are protected by the Piedmont region and is recognised in the list of Traditional Italian Food Products - a must-try for any visitor to Turin!





**Vitello tonnato** is a Piedmontese dish that combines cold, sliced veal, with a creamy, mayonnaise-like sauce flavored with tuna.

The dish is prepared at least a day in advance by braising or simmering the veal, then cutting it into thin, individual servings. For the sauce, fresh white tuna is simmered until fully cooked in white wine, cider vinegar, white onion and garlic, then puréed with a mix of olive and vegetable oil and egg yolks in a food processor to form a thick mayonnaise. A variety of seasonings can be added to the mayonnaise, including anchovies, cayenne pepper, capers, and lemon juice. The thick, smooth purée is slightly thinned with a little water and cooking liquid from the veal, with a few capers are stirred in. Some of the sauce is spread out on a serving platter and the cold slices of veal are arranged in a single layer on top. The rest of the sauce is then poured over the veal so that it's completely covered.

It's a delicacy not for the faint-hearted!



A true Turinese will tell you that a good meal can only end with a glass of **San Simone**, the city's traditional herbal bitters. Its intense aroma and delicious flavor also comes with beneficial properties and a storied history.

The **Amaro San Simone** takes its name from a brotherhood of monks who lived in Turin in 1500 in the Dora Grossa district, (known as Via Garibaldi today). Here, more than half a century ago, the learned monks created a purifying herbal elixir from plants, fruits and roots that had medicinal values. In the early 1950s, the recipe for this herbal elixir was found in the archives of the Antica Officina Farmaceutica San Simone. Inspired by this original recipe, a more palatable version was created to cater to modern tastes.

In the following decade, again in the pharmaceutical workshop, the current Amaro San Simone formula was created with 34 herbs from the region. With a 26% alcohol content, San Simone is traditionally served at room temperature - but is also good when served cold.

The success of San Simone isn't restricted to Turin. Today, it can also be easily found in the bars of Milan, Rome, and other parts of Italy. For the Turinese, it's a comforting taste of home - wherever they may be.





The list of delicious Piedmontese biscuits is a long one, but a special place is reserved for the **Baci di Dama** (Lady's Kisses).

<

Legend has it that in 1852, King Vittorio Emanuele II requested the royal cooks to come up with a new dessert that he had not tasted before. The cooks set to work with flour, sugar, eggs, and chocolate and shortly after they baked – bringing to life this delightful biscuit, much to the King's delight. With the sovereign's approval, the delicacy was then served on royal tables in the rest of Italy and even Europe.



In reality, Baci di Dama originated from Tortona, a Piedmontese town in the province of Alessandria, not far from Turin. The two round biscuits seem to be locked in a romantic embrace and kiss, held together by a drop of dark chocolate. Others suggest that the name references the shape of the biscuit as a whole, which resembles the lips of a girl about to give a kiss.



**Bonèt**, one of the oldest and best desserts from Piedmont, comprises just five ingredients - eggs, sugar, milk, cocoa, liqueur, and dry amaretti.

The origins of Piedmontese Bonèt are very ancient, but the era of its creation date is undetermined, although there is indication of similar desserts from as early as the 13th century.

In Piedmontese, the word *bonèt* means a rounded hat or cap worn by the men of the countryside - which is reminiscent of the shape of the copper and aluminium mold in which the dessert is made. A more interesting theory has its origins in Langhe, where the dessert was first created: Because it was served at the end of the meal, the bonèt was the 'hat' to everything that was eaten before - the hat being the last thing one puts on before leaving a place.







**Battuta di fassone al coltello**, or Piedmontese Fassona meat tartare, is a typical dish of Turin featuring a very tasty meat as its main element.

The Fassona is a fine breed of bovine bred in Piedmont, producing meat that is very tender and lean, and suitable to be eaten raw.

The meat tartare dates back to the time of the Tartars, a nomadic warrior people accustomed to galloping for many kilometres, used to put raw meat between the horse's back and saddle to support themselves during travels. In this way, during the rides, the meat was minced and beaten, and ready for immediate consumption.

The quality of the meat and of the oil is essential, and today, this meat tartare is a gourmet dish for true connoisseurs and refined palates.





In Turin, no lunch or dinner can be served without this delicious and fragrant **grissino** (or breadstick) on the table.

The birth of this crumbly bread is closely linked to the Savoyard city and its history.

History has it that Antonio Brunero, a royal baker, was tasked by the royal doctor with creating a type of bread that could be digested by future king, Vittorio Amedeo II, who was in poor health and couldn't digest the crust of regular bread.

It is said that King Carlo Felice loved them so much that he ate them in large quantities, even during shows at the Teatro Regio. Napoleon Bonaparte, on the other hand, loved them to the point of creating, at the beginning of the 19th century, a bus service between Turin and Paris dedicated almost exclusively to transporting what he called «*les petits bâtons de Turin*» (the sticks of Turin).

Around the world, breadsticks are one of Turin's most well-known (and much-appreciated!) inventions - while representing the ingenuity that has beautifully painted the history of the Savoy city.





Turin is the birthplace of **espresso**, one of the most popular beverages in the world.

In 1884, the Turin-born hotel-owner Angelo Moriondo created a machine to produce coffee more quickly to better serve the rush of customers at certain times of day - thus brewing the first cup of espresso.

That same year, Moriondo presented his espresso machine at the Turin General Expo. In this machine, water was boiled and through a system of pressurising coils, it reached the container with the coffee beans. With this ingenious machine, it was possible to make 10 cups of coffee every 2 minutes and up to a whopping 300 cups in an hour - hence the name, 'espresso'. The resulting cup of coffee was more concentrated, and, therefore, better at preserving the fragrances and flavours of coffee. Moriondo earned the bronze medal at the Expo.

However, while he filed the first patent in 1884, Moriondo never commercialized his idea - preferring, instead, to create a few machines by hand that were used in his hotels.

It wasn't until the early years of the 20th century when the Milanese Desiderio Pavoni bought all of Moriondo's patents and began mass production of these machines, founding the Pavoni company. The spread was rapid and the success enormous. Over decades and generations, many different espresso coffee machines have been created - but their mechanism will always be the one born in Turin.







Locals will argue that the **aperitivo** originated from Turin, then spread to the rest of Italy. Whatever the case, the aperitivo is a well-loved tradition - usually taken around dinner time (from 6pm to 10pm) in many clubs across the city.

Its price is modest and varies from €5 to € 15, depending on the location. With an order of a cocktail, a glass of wine, a beer, or any other drink, patrons will also have free access to a buffet - not just of snacks and chips but proper food such as pasta, potatoes, vegetables, meats, and even a selection of Piedmontese dishes. Many aperitif buffets also include fruit and dessert; in essence, a complete dinner.

In Turin, aperitif buffets can be found in practically every part of the city - often accompanied by live music.

Turin is the city of the aperitivo, the art of drinking and eating before you start eating and drinking.





Valerio Minato



# Turin Calendar 2021

Spend every month of 2021 in Turin with this beautiful calendar, showcasing all the best pictures taken by **Valerio Minato**!

Available in two versions:

- wall calendar, 42x30cm, 10€
- desk calendar, 21x15cm, 6€

To purchase one, please send your request directly to Valerio Minato:

- e-mail: [valerio.minato@gmail.com](mailto:valerio.minato@gmail.com)
- Instagram: [@valeriominato](https://www.instagram.com/valeriominato)
- Facebook: [ValerioMinatoPh](https://www.facebook.com/ValerioMinatoPh)

Alternatively, you can buy this calendar and posters directly in Turin every Saturday and Sunday in Piazza Vittorio 12 under the arches, from 11:30AM to 7PM.





# POSTERS & CANVAS

A wide selection of beautiful picture by our professional photographers to always keep Turin with you.  
You can not only chose your preferred picture but also the type of finish you prefer: forex, piuma and dibond. Customized sizes available.

**Pick your photo from this book or from their social accounts, your finish, your size...  
and contact the photographer directly!**

## Valerio Minato

- e-mail: [valerio.minato@gmail.com](mailto:valerio.minato@gmail.com)
- Instagram: @valeriominato
- Facebook: ValerioMinatoPh
- Website: <https://valeriominatoph.jimdofree.com>



### Piuma

*starting from*  
30 x 45 cm, 30€  
40 x 60 cm, 50€  
50 x 70 cm, 60€  
70 x 100 cm, 90€

## Davide Torchia

- e-mail: [torchiadavide92@gmail.com](mailto:torchiadavide92@gmail.com)
- Instagram: @davidetorchiaph
- Facebook: Davide Torchia Ph
- Webiste: [www.davidetorchiaph.com](http://www.davidetorchiaph.com)



### Forex panel

*starting from*  
30 x 45 cm, 15€  
40 x 60 cm, 30€  
50 x 70 cm, 40€

## Chris Ricco

- e-mail: [mailto:chrisricco10111@gmail.com](mailto:mailto:chrisricco10111@gmail.com)
- Instagram: @chrisriccophoto
- Webiste: [www.chrisriccophoto.myportfolio.com](http://www.chrisriccophoto.myportfolio.com)



### Dibond

*starting from*  
30 x 45 cm, 50€  
40 x 60 cm, 70€  
50 x 70 cm, 90€  
70 x 100 cm, 120€  
100 x 150 cm, 200€



# Photo Shoot session in Turin with a professional photographer!

*DIFFERENT PACKAGES AVAILABLE | WE TRANSFER OF ALL IMAGES*



## Info & booking:

WhatsApp message :+393294240623  
E-mail: [info@aroundturin.com](mailto:info@aroundturin.com)





# MADE IN TURIN PAINTINGS

**Alberto Vittorio Viti - Designer & Painter**

Work on commission | Shipments all over the world



## Info & orders:

WhatsApp message : +393294240623

E-mail: [info@aroundturin.com](mailto:info@aroundturin.com)





# Around Turin

SOCIAL COMMUNITY & TRAVEL AGENCY

*We Plan, You Travel!*

Airport transfers

Accommodation

VIP and customised packages

Reservation at restaurants and other locations

Discounts at Around Turin partners

Guided tours

Day trips to nearby locations

Itineraries for large groups

International Match Day parties

Around Turin Club & Store



Around Turin S.r.l.

[www.aroundturin.com](http://www.aroundturin.com)

WhatsApp + 39 329 4240623

Sponsored by **Skrill**

*Vallone Milano*



Valery Minato



*See you in Turin...*