

Bergamo - a place for sustainable gastronomy

The Municipality of Bergamo is a medium-sized city located in the north of Italy with a population of about 120.000 inhabitants, 350,000 with its conurbation area.

Bergamo is composed of two parts, the Upper Town (“Città Alta”), built up on the hills, which corresponds to the Old Town, and the Lower Town (“Città Bassa”), which is a lively financial, industrial and administrative centre of national importance. The two parts are separated by the powerful Venetian Walls, a six-kilometre long circuit built from 1561 and which in 2017 was recognized as a Unesco World Heritage site.

Bergamo has a lively and growing university with seven faculties and several international research units, and a science and technology park, named Kilometro Rosso, which ranks in the top-10 places of excellence for innovation in Italy.

In recent years, the municipal administration committed to safeguard urban agriculture and local biodiversity through its Territorial Government Plan. It also supported efforts by the Municipal Botanical Garden, which since its foundation in 1972 has engaged in education and conservation programs, promotional activities, scientific studies and European projects in order to protect and restore natural habitats and prevent local species extinction in the Bergamo area.



Bergamo is committed to a more sustainable gastronomic industry. On the heels of the 2015 World Expo, Bergamo signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, an international agreement between more than 200 cities globally aimed at the development of sustainable urban food systems, followed by the opening of the Biodiversity Valley, an open-air museum in the beautiful scenery of the Astino Valley within the Bergamo's Hill Park, showcasing the rich world's vegetal biodiversity. In 2017 Bergamo hosted the G7 Agriculture Summit on the 'Future of Nutrition and Agricultural Development' and launched the "Agriculture Week and Right to Food" Festival which has been held every year since then. In 2019 the city was designated as UNESCO Creative City for Gastronomy, boasting a longstanding cheese-making tradition within its Cheese Valleys. Finally, in 2021 the city won the third edition of the National Landscape Award, becoming the Italian candidate for the 7th edition of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe with the project "Biodiversity inside the city: the Val d'Astino of Bergamo".



The Bergamo's beekeeping movement was born about 40 years ago, and today is well established and is actively involved in a number of activities supporting its members. Bergamo's climate and topography have always allowed beekeepers to benefit from a diversity of environments. Bergamo is characterized by the presence of parks and hilly areas with meadows and woods that allow the breeding of bees and the production of different types of honey. Today, the number of beekeepers registered in the provincial association (Associazione Produttori Apistici della Provincia di Bergamo) is about 500, 67 in the city of Bergamo alone. According to the regional beekeeping registry, there are about 90 beekeeping posts (about 2.1 apiaries/km²) active within the city boundaries to date.

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