

With the high patronage of the President of the Italian Republic,
with the support of the Italian Ministry of Culture and Tourism

**Giornate Nazionali ADSI:
Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 May 2016
the sixth edition of the Grand Tour of historic houses**

**Once again this year, two days entirely dedicated to discovering the fascinating historical,
architectural and landscape-related heritage of Italian Historic Houses**

Visitors can become “Friends of Historic Houses”

Rome, 28 April 2016 – Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 May 2016 see the return of the **A.D.S.I. Giornate Nazionali: the sixth annual edition** of the initiative promoted by the **Associazione delle Dimore Storiche Italiane (Italian Historic Houses Association)** opens over **250 of the most fascinating Italian historic residences up to the public.**

The aim of the event, which gets tens of thousands of visitors involved every year, is to raise public awareness of the importance of **preserving privately-owned cultural heritage sites**, which represent a very significant part of Italy’s historical and architectural tradition, **the custody and maintenance of which are entrusted to individual owners.**

In particular this year, on the occasion of the Giornate Nazionali, **visitors** who share the objectives of the Association **can become “Friends of Historic Houses” i.e. members** of the Association, at a discounted price of €35, thus becoming entitled to be informed about and **participate in all the free events open to members**

(visits, conferences, exhibitions) promoted during the year by the national Association and individual regional sections.

This year's edition of the Giornate Nazionali offers the possibility of the **perfect "Grand Tour" through the Italian regions**: Italian and foreign visitors will in fact have **free access to enchanting castles, palaces, mansions, courtyards and gardens** not normally open to the public, **in locations throughout Italy, and be guided by the owners to discover a wealth of history, art and culture** often still little-known.

The emphasis in the exhibition is not only on **promoting historic houses and the surrounding areas**, which represent **a major tourist attraction**, especially in small towns and in places off traditional tourist routes, but also on **information about delights to eat and drink, such as wines and oils of great value and tradition**, which are often produced in the same places, on historic estates and in wineries.

Similarly, visitors will also have the opportunity to learn about **works by masters of art**, such as painters, restorers, glaziers, marble workers, mosaic artists and gardeners, **who play a crucial role in the preservation of the houses**, of the objects that embellish them and of the gardens that surround them.

In each region, the program for the **weekend dedicated to art and culture** is also enriched by numerous cultural events, such as concerts, conferences, art exhibitions and theatrical performances, whose aim is to involve a **vast audience of all ages**.

Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane

The Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane, a charitable trust recognised as a non-profit organisation, is an association that brings together the owners of historic houses located throughout Italy.

Founded in 1977, the Association currently has about 5,000 members and represents a significant component of the historical and artistic heritage in Italy.

The Association promotes awareness-raising activities to encourage the preservation, promotion and management of historic houses, so that these properties, of historical and artistic value and interest to the public, can be protected and handed down to future generations in the best possible condition.

This commitment is aimed in three directions: towards members themselves, the owners of the heritage; towards central and local institutions, responsible for various aspects of preservation; towards the general public, interested in protecting and promoting Italian cultural heritage.

www.adsi.it

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