

# Parco San Grato Carona

The San Grato Park lies between Monte San Salvatore and Monte Arbòstora, at approximately 10 km from Lugano and extends up to 690 m in altitude; it offers an exceptional view over the immediate surroundings and the peaks of the Alpine chain.

## The flora

The 62,00 square metre park, hosts the largest and most varied collection of azaleas, rhododendrons and conifers of the entire region. During the months of April and May the azaleas and rhododendrons form a wonderfully coloured and scented carpet. We do not wish to reveal all the secrets of the flora to be found in the park, it will be up to you to learn from the information signs placed along the botan cal paths, which lead you to a natural, more complete and quiet environment, where the park meets the surrounding wooded areas.

#### Historical background

The park was once part of the property of the patron of Carona. It was bought in 1943 by Dr. Martin Winterthalter, owner of the RIRI zipper factory in Mendrisio, who turned it into his second residence; the property included a stable, since the owner was passionate about horses. In 1957 the complex was bought by a society headed up by Luigi Giussani, administrator of the Monteforno steelworks in Giornico. A man of great initiative, it was actually Giussani who transformed the buildings into a restaurant and apartments, and created the park, as well as the swimming pool, which now belongs to the municipality of Carona. In 1983, the property was passed on to the Union Bank of Switzerland, and in 1997 it was subsequently donated to the Lugano Tourist Office, which went on to promote and expand it.

## Theme walk

Given the multitude of walks (around 5.5 km) and in order to get the most out of your visit, we suggest that you take one of the theme walks which leads you to discover the most attractive corners of the park. The suggested walks have various themes, which let you see the park from different perspectives and these vary greatly according to the season. Just choose the most suitable route and follow the corresponding coloured signposts.





# **Comitato ad Hoc**

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