



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



III International ISHS Symposium on Botanical Gardens and Landscapes

Reggia di Caserta, Italy · 9–12 September 2027

Delegate Information Pack

A symposium under the auspices of the **International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)** — ISHS Event ID: 878
Organised by the University of Bologna (DISTAL) and the University of Naples Federico II (UNINA), in collaboration with the Museo Reggia di Caserta.

Intro

Welcome to the III International Symposium on Botanical Gardens and Landscapes (BGL 2027), hosted at the Reggia di Caserta — a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Caserta, Italy.

This four-day event will provide an international forum to network, exchange research results and discuss innovations in botanical garden management, landscape conservation, plant biodiversity, sustainable horticulture, and heritage garden restoration.

We very much look forward to welcoming you!

Prof. Dr. Alberto Minelli

DISTAL – Landscape and Ornamental Tree Unit, University of Bologna Convener, BGL 2027

Timings Overview

Wednesday 9 September — Day 0

Wednesday 9 September — Arrivals & Registration	
09:00	Registration and Welcome Desk opens — Ground floor
Morning–Afternoon	Optional staggered guided tours of the Royal Park and Historic Apartments (max 20 per apartment group / 25 per park group)
18:00	Welcome Cocktail Reception at Diana's Fountain (Daman Restaurant area). In case of rain: New Greenhouse. Hosted by Prof. Minelli and Arch. Maffei.

Thursday 10 September — Day 1

Thursday 10 September — Scientific Sessions & Gala Dinner	
08:30 – 09:00	Musical overture — short concert (15–20 min) in the Cappella Palatina

09:00 – 10:00	Institutional welcome and opening addresses — Main Conference Hall 'Terra di Lavoro'
10:00 – 10:25	Keynote Lecture I
10:25 – 10:55	Morning coffee break — Queen's Apartment Courtyard (Sala Giunone if wet)
10:55 – 13:00	Session I — Symposium macro-themes and parallel tracks (max 50 per room)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch and poster viewing session (50 display panels)
14:00 – 15:30	Session II — Scientific presentations
15:30 – 16:00	Afternoon coffee break
16:00 – 18:00	Session III — Scientific presentations
19:00 – 23:00	Gala Dinner — Palazzo Paternò di Montelupo, Caserta

Friday 11 September — Day 2

Friday 11 September — Scientific Sessions & Closing	
08:30 – 09:00	Morning coffee and networking
09:00 – 10:30	Session IV — Scientific presentations
10:30 – 11:00	Morning coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	Session V — Scientific presentations
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch and poster discussion
14:00 – 15:30	Session VI — Scientific presentations
15:30 – 16:00	Afternoon coffee break
16:00 – 18:30	Session VII — Final panel presentations and closing remarks. Official close of working sessions at 18:30.

Saturday 12 September — Day 3 (Technical Tour)

Saturday 12 September — Technical Tour (open to all registered participants)	
08:30	Board coaches — departure from Caserta
09:00 – 11:00	Herculaneum (Ercolano) and Villa of Poppea, Oplontis — ancient botanical frescoes
11:00 – 13:00	Royal Palace of Portici (Reggia di Portici) — Faculty of Agriculture and Botanical Garden
13:00 – 14:30	Light lunch / social cocktail at a historic private villa (Villa dei Gregorio or Villa del Cardinale)
14:30 – 16:00	Museo del Corallo Basilio Liverino — Torre del Greco

Sunday 13 September — Day 4 (Optional Tour — Naples)

Sunday 13 September — Optional Day Tour: Naples	
Morning	For participants extending their stay:
	Royal Botanical Garden of Naples — herbarium and historic prints
	Farmacia degli Incurabili — cloister and Giardino dei Semplici

	Optional visits: Veiled Christ (Cristo Velato), Monastery of Santa Chiara, National Archaeological Museum
--	---

The programme is preliminary and subject to change. The final programme will be distributed at registration. All times are local Italian time (CEST, UTC+2).

Detailed Programme

To view the detailed programme of talks and poster presentations, please visit the symposium website at BGL2027.com once it goes live. The full programme will also be distributed in printed form at the registration desk on arrival.

There will be breaks during the symposium. If you need to leave the room for a break at any other time, please do so quietly and be considerate of other attendees.

There will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions following each talk. Please raise your hand and wait to be invited to speak.

ISHS Young Minds Award

The BGL 2027 symposium will include the ISHS Young Minds Award for the best presentation by an early-career researcher. Further details will be announced on the symposium website.

Abstract Submission

All abstracts must be submitted exclusively via the ISHS online submission platform ROSA (Review and Online Submission system for *Acta Horticulturae*). The link to ROSA will be available at BGL2027.com. Direct submissions by e-mail are not accepted.

Milestone	Deadline
Abstract submission opens	15 June 2026
Abstract submission deadline	15 February 2027
Abstract modification deadline	15 March 2027
Full-text submission deadline	1 June 2027

Presentation formats available: oral (PowerPoint 16:9) or poster. Please provide your presentation file to the symposium secretariat in advance or bring it to the registration desk on arrival.

*All accepted contributions will be considered for publication in *Acta Horticulturae* (ISHS), subject to peer review.*

Registration

Registration details and online payment are handled via BGL2027.com. The registration portal is powered by an external events management agency (Sawadi) and offers dedicated filters for each participant category. On-site registration will also be available on arrival.

Registration Fees

Category	Fee
Regular ISHS Member	€ 560
Non-ISHS Member	€ 660
Student — ISHS Member	€ 350
Student — Non-Member	€ 450

Accompanying Person	€ 180
---------------------	-------

What is included in the registration fee

- Electronic Acta Horticulturae symposium proceedings (e-Acta), subject to a minimum of 100 paying participants
- 2 light lunches at the Reggia di Caserta (Days 1 and 2 of the scientific sessions)
- 4 coffee breaks during the scientific sessions
- 1 Gala Dinner at Palazzo Paternò di Montelupo
- Access to all scientific sessions, keynote lectures, and poster display areas
- Free access to the Reggia di Caserta complex on symposium days

What is not included

- Travel expenses from home city to Caserta
- Hotel accommodation and personal expenses
- Personal accident and travel insurance
- Technical Tour (Day 3) — cost to be announced separately
- Optional Day 4 tour — cost to be announced separately

Accompanying Persons (€ 180)

The accompanying person fee of €180 includes access to the Reggia di Caserta gardens and historic apartments on symposium days, but excludes the Gala Dinner and the Technical Tours on Days 3 and 4. These can be added as optional extras during online registration:

- Gala Dinner: + €60
- Technical Tour Day 3: cost to be confirmed

The approximately €100 difference between ISHS member and non-member rates corresponds to the approximate cost of annual ISHS membership. Joining ISHS before registering is therefore cost-neutral and also waives the ROSA abstract submission fee. Visit www.ishs.org for membership details.

Venue

Reggia di Caserta

The III BGL Symposium will take place within the Reggia di Caserta complex, inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997. Commissioned by Carlo VII of Bourbone in the 18th century, the Royal Palace and its gardens are among the finest examples of Baroque architecture and landscape design in Europe.

The palace gardens extend over more than three kilometres and include formal Italian-style parterres, an English landscape garden (the first in southern Italy), a historic camellia collection, and a series of monumental fountains.

Address

Reggia di Caserta, Viale Douhet 2/A, 81100 Caserta CE, Italy museoreggiadicaserta.cultura.gov.it

Symposium spaces

All symposium activities are located within the Reggia di Caserta complex and will be clearly signposted.

- Talks and plenary sessions — Main Conference Hall 'Terra di Lavoro' (fully equipped with audio/video)
- Parallel sessions — 3 ground-floor rooms and 1 upper-floor room (max 50 participants each)
- Poster display — Ground floor (50 exhibition panels provided by the Reggia)
- Coffee breaks — Queen's Apartment Courtyard; Sala Giunone as wet-weather alternative
- Musical overture (Day 1 morning) — Cappella Palatina
- Registration desk — Ground floor entrance

A special temporary display of historic botanical atlases and the historic camellia catalogue (e.g. the Berlese catalogue) from the Reggia Library will be on show during Session III on Day 1.

Travel

Air

Naples International Airport (NAP – Capodichino) is the closest airport, approximately 35 km from Caserta. Direct trains and buses run from Naples Centrale station to Caserta in 30–40 minutes. Taxis and private transfers are also available from the airport.

Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO) is approximately 200 km away and connected to Caserta by high-speed rail (Frecciarossa).

Train

Caserta railway station is served by regional and intercity trains from Naples (approx. 30 min) and Rome (approx. 1 h 15 min via Italo- Frecciarossa- Trenitalia). The Reggia di Caserta is a 10-minute walk from the station. For timetables and fares, please visit trenitalia.com or italiatrenonow.it.

Car

Caserta is accessible via the A1 motorway (Autostrada del Sole). Take exit Caserta Sud or Caserta Nord and follow signs to the Reggia. Paid public car parking is available near the Palace. GPS coordinates: 41.073611, 14.325278.

Accommodation

A range of accommodation options in central Caserta are within easy reach of the Reggia. Delegates are responsible for arranging and paying for their own accommodation. We strongly recommend booking early, as September is a busy period in Campania.

Full details of recommended hotels and any preferential rates negotiated for BGL 2027 delegates will be published on the symposium website at BGL2027.com.

Preferred option — SNA (Scuola Nazionale dell'Amministrazione)

The SNA offers 49 spacious rooms located directly opposite the Reggia di Caserta at a preferential rate of approximately €37 per night. Availability is to be confirmed — booking information will be provided on BGL2027.com once arrangements are finalised.

Other recommended hotels

- Hotel dei Cavalieri — Caserta city centre (preferential rate under negotiation)
- Grand Hotel Vanvitelli — Via Ettore Fieramosca, Caserta (4-star)
- Hotel Jolly Caserta — Via Vittorio Veneto 9 (3-star, central)
- Hotel Europa — Piazza Vanvitelli (3-star, walking distance from the Reggia)

Travel, accommodation and social dinner for the five keynote speakers and official ISHS representatives are fully covered by the symposium budget (up to €2,000 per international speaker).

Social Programme

Welcome Cocktail Reception

All registered participants attending on Wednesday 9 September are warmly invited to join the Welcome Cocktail Reception at 18:00, at Diana's Fountain within the Reggia di Caserta grounds. In the event of rain, the reception will be held in the New Greenhouse. Light refreshments and drinks will be provided, including non-alcoholic options. Hosted by Prof. Alberto Minelli and Arch. Maffei.

Gala Dinner

For those attending the Gala Dinner, this will take place on the evening of Thursday 10 September, from 19:00 to 23:00, at the historic Palazzo Paternò di Montelupo in Caserta. The dinner is included in the full registration fee and will feature traditional Campanian cuisine. Accompanying persons may add the Gala Dinner to their registration for an additional €60.

Technical Tour — Saturday 12 September

The main technical tour is open to all registered participants and takes place on Saturday 12 September. Coaches depart from Caserta at 08:30.

- Herculaneum (Ercolano) and Villa of Poppea, Oplontis — archaeological site with a focus on ancient botanical frescoes
- Royal Palace of Portici (Reggia di Portici) — guided visit to the Faculty of Agriculture and the Royal Botanical Garden of Naples (Orto Botanico di Napoli, UniNA)
- Light lunch / social cocktail at a historic private villa (Villa dei Gregorio or Villa del Cardinale)
- Museo del Corallo Basilio Liverino, Torre del Greco

Technical tour cost will be announced separately and added as an optional extra at registration.

Optional Day Tour — Sunday 13 September

For participants wishing to extend their stay, an optional guided day tour of Naples will be offered on Sunday 13 September.

- Royal Botanical Garden of Naples — herbarium and historic botanical prints
- Farmacia degli Incurabili — cloister and Giardino dei Semplici
- Optional visits: Veiled Christ (Cristo Velato), Monastery of Santa Chiara, National Archaeological Museum (MANN)

Full details and cost for the optional Day 4 tour will be published on BGL2027.com.

Food and Refreshments

Your registration fee includes two light lunches (Days 1 and 2), four coffee breaks (two per scientific day), and the Gala Dinner on the evening of Day 1. The Gala Dinner is excluded from the Accompanying Person fee but may be purchased as an add-on.

All catering will be provided at the designated spaces within the Reggia di Caserta. Coffee breaks will be served in the Queen's Apartment Courtyard (or Sala Giunone in wet weather). Lunches will be held adjacent to the poster display area.

Your meals will be provided in line with the dietary requirements you supply during registration. Clearly labelled special dietary options will be available.

Useful Information

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi will be available throughout all symposium rooms at the Reggia di Caserta. Connection details will be provided at the registration desk upon arrival.

Registration Badge

For security purposes, please ensure you wear your registration badge at all times within the symposium venue.

Filming and Photography

Event photographers and videographers will be active throughout the symposium for use in promotional materials. If you do not wish to be photographed or filmed, please notify staff at the registration desk on arrival.

Mobile Phones

As a courtesy to speakers and fellow delegates, please set all mobile phones and electronic devices to silent mode before entering any session room.

Lost Property

Please hand in any lost property at the Registration Desk, where it will be held for collection.

Language

The official language of the symposium is English.

Dress Code

Smart-casual for all scientific sessions. Comfortable walking shoes are strongly recommended for the outdoor tours and garden visits. Smart attire is appropriate for the Gala Dinner.

Currency and Payments

The local currency is the Euro (€). Major credit and debit cards are accepted at most venues and shops in Caserta.

Insurance

A mandatory event insurance policy with a coverage of €2,000,000 is in place for the symposium. This does not cover personal accident, medical expenses, or travel insurance for individual delegates. Participants are strongly advised to arrange adequate personal travel and medical insurance before attending.

Emergency

European emergency number: 112. Nearest hospital: Ospedale Sant'Anna e San Sebastiano, Via Palasciano, Caserta.

Organising Committees

Conveners

- A. Minelli — University of Bologna (DISTAL), Italy
- M. Rao — University of Naples Federico II (UNINA), Italy
- Third convener — to be confirmed

Scientific Committee

- A. Minelli (Chairman) — University of Bologna, Italy
- M. Rao — University of Naples Federico II, Italy
- U. Mossetti — University of Bologna, Italy
- A. Chiarucci — University of Bologna, Italy
- G. La Mastra — APGI (Associazione Parchi e Giardini d'Italia)
- M. Volterrani — University of Pisa (to be confirmed)
- K. Thammasiri — XTBG, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

International Advisory Committee

- F. Orsini — University of Bologna, Italy
- R. A. Criley — University of Hawaii, USA
- P. D. O. Paiva — Federal University of Lavras, Brazil
- H. W. Pritchard — Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, United Kingdom
- S. M. Khasim — Acharya Nagarjuna University, India

Editors — *Acta Horticulturae*

- A. Minelli — University of Bologna, Italy
- M. Rao — University of Naples Federico II, Italy
- Third editor — to be confirmed

Contact

For enquiries regarding the programme, abstract submission, registration, or general organisation, please contact:

Prof. Dr. Alberto Minelli

DISTAL – Landscape and Ornamental Tree Unit, University of Bologna, Italy

Symposium website: **BGL2027.com**

ISHS event page: www.ishs.org/event/878

The symposium website (BGL2027.com) will publish a preliminary landing page by 15 June 2026, with the full site — including registration, programme, abstract submission link and accommodation details — going live by 30 June 2026.

A symposium under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)

www.ishs.org · BGL2027.com