Venice, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore

The Fondazione Giorgio Cini

**The rebirth of an island**

The Fondazione Giorgio Cini was established on 20 April **1951** on the initiative of **Vittorio Cini**, in memory of his son Giorgio, with the aim of **promoting the restoration of the monumental complex on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore,** severely deteriorated after almost one hundred and fifty years of military occupation, so as to breathe new life into Venice and to **make it an international centre for cultural activities, research and** a stage for **major** **events**.

Over its more than seventy years of history, the Foundation has promoted countless social, cultural and artistic activities in a constant dialogue with other institutions and the most authoritative Italian and international representatives of culture and science. It has always maintained **a hybrid vocation, midway between humanism and science**, promoting and hosting hundreds of seminars and conferences on contemporary challenges, from a technological, ethical, philosophical and global stance, bringing together the very finest researchers and experts on an international level.

**A meeting place**

The Fondazione Giorgio Cini has transformed the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore into a prestigious venue for international meetings in the name of mutual dialogue and listening between different worldviews. Since the 1960s and throughout the Cold War, it served as a privileged meeting place for academics and personalities from both East and West. In 1971, it signed a programme with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the development of international cultural and scientific activities. It hosted ministerial meetings of the then EEC and ECSC, UNESCO, the European Investment Bank, OCDE, to name but a few. In 1987 it was the venue for the G7 and in 2021 for the G20 Economic Summit.

**A hub of thought and research**

In addition to **exhibitions, research activities, study meetings and seminars, and training and advanced training courses**, the Foundation hosts **seven Institutes and three Research Centres** (Institute of Art History, Institute for the History of Venetian Society and State, Institute for Music, Italian Antonio Vivaldi Institute, Intercultural Institute of Comparative Music Studies, Institute for Theatre and Melodrama, Seminars in Ancient Music; Centre for the Study of Comparative Civilisations and Spirituality; Vittore Branca Centre and the ARCHiVe Digital Centre), each of which specialises in areas ranging from theatre to spirituality, from music to art, from historical research to new technologies for digitising and enhancing forms of cultural heritage.  
  
The Cini Foundation is also home to the **‘Vittore Branca’ International Centre for the Study of Italian Civilisation**, named after the illustrious Italian scholar and historic Secretary General of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini. It is a humanities centre set up in 2010 to welcome academics, writers and artists from all over the world who wish to spend a period of study here, living on San Giorgio Maggiore and visiting the Foundation’s libraries and those of Venice.   
Every year, the Foundation **provides residential scholarships to young scholars from international universities and institutes.**

**A heritage of memories and activities**

The **extraordinary importance of** the Foundation is well testified by the excellence of **the events,** documented in publications, organised and hosted on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore and by the **mass of its cultural heritage** consisting of ancient books, drawings, miniatures, tapestries, paintings, furniture, sculptures and **archives** with documentary and photographic collections from all over the world.

In 1984, the **Galleria di Palazzo Cini** in San Vio, in the historic centre of Venice, was added to the Foundation, with its collection of Tuscan and Ferrara Renaissance paintings from Vittorio Cini's personal collection.

On the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, **the Auditorium ‘Lo Squero’** is the venue for major classical and contemporary music concerts, while **large exhibition spaces** host shows dedicated to the most interesting expressions of contemporary art and architecture.

**For further info:**

Fondazione Giorgio Cini onlus

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