

Rimini as a city of the arts: culture and environmental sustainability to promote growth

For its renaissance, Rimini has chosen art, culture and environmental sustainability. It was the obvious choice for a city that plays host to over two thousand years of history in its historic centre. From the Roman town of Ariminum, with the Tiberius Bridge, the Arch of Augustus and the Surgeon's House, to the medieval one and the buildings that look onto Piazza Cavour. From the fourteenth-century frescoes by the Rimini school in the church of Sant'Agostino and Renaissance Rimini, with the Castel Sismondo and the cathedral, the Malatestiano Temple. And from the rooms of the City Museum to the ancient halls of one of the world's most beautiful libraries, which was founded with a bequest from Alessandro Gambalunga in 1619, to the 19th century architecture of the Amintore Galli Theatre, a neo-classical masterpiece by Luigi Poletti. And then we reach modernity in the shape of the Fulgor, the legendary cinema that was immortalised in *Amarcord*, and where Fellini discovered the wonder of film as a child. It has now been refurbished with set designs from Oscar winner Dante Ferretti.

It is a wealth of history that Rimini has been recovering over the past few years with important renovation work which has led to the city asserting itself as an artistic centre at a national level. The development model has delivered a historic boost to the artistic and architectural heritage and to the city's sights by closing the gap between the sea and the old city centre.

Places with a symbolic and also great historic and artistic value have benefitted from recent renovations, restoring them for the public. An example of this is the **Piazza sull'Acqua** - the Piazza on the Water - a pool located opposite the Ponte di Tiberio - the Bridge of Tiberius. The creation of the "piazza" has renewed awareness of the Roman roots of Ariminum through a new beauty spot in front of the ancient monument which this year has celebrated its two thousandth birthday, **having been started in AD 14 under the Emperor Augustus and finished in AD 21 under Tiberius.**

Another cultural location that the city has reclaimed is the **Galli Theatre**. Opened by Giuseppe Verdi, who wrote *Aroldo* specially for its inauguration in 1857, in 2018, seventy-five years after the 1943 bombing that had destroyed it, the theatre was faithfully restored back to its old splendour. It is now not just an attraction, but a venue where culture is created and produced. The latest renovation project in the historic centre, recently opened in 2020, is **PART - Palazzi dell'Arte Rimini**. Named "Best Italian Museum 2020" by *Artribune* magazine, **PART** is the new museum site that brings together into a single project the repurposing for cultural ends of two historic buildings in the heart of the city, and the housing of the eclectic collection of works of contemporary art donated to the San Patrignano Foundation, thus creating a marriage between past and present that reflects Rimini's commitment to evolving.

A cornerstone of this project for cultural regeneration and renewal of the planning of the historic city centre is the **Fellini Museum**, which was opened in 2021. It has been included by the Ministry of Culture in the list of major cultural heritage projects, and is a magical place where different art forms blend together. It is a space that generates emotions and delivers an impact in which innovation, research and experimentation come to grips with the classicism of art. The museum doesn't intend to portray the cinema produced by the Rimini-born producer as a work that has come to an end, as a sacred creation whose memory is honoured, but the approach is instead the idea that everything can be imagined. It is a project which, in redesigning the planning of the historic centre, isn't just returning a new piece of hardware to the city, but is a real driver of what Rimini has to offer in terms of culture and tourism for the future. There are three axes along which the plan has been developed: Castel Sismondo, the fifteenth-century fortress which was partially designed by Filippo Brunelleschi and whose rooms have real Fellini sets on display, exploring the most performance-driven and emotional aspect of the Fellini Museum; Palazzo Valloni, founded in the eighteenth century, houses the

Fulgor cinema on the ground floor, while the upper floors of the Palazzo del Fulgor are places set aside for information, study and research; the third and final axis consists in a large urban area, the Piazza dei Sogni which deserves its name as the Square of Dreams with green areas, venues for performances and artistic installations. Together they constitute a cultural hub that and embraces in a ring – and one that is not just symbolic – the Fellini Museum, the Galli Theatre and the PART - Palazzi dell'Arte whose sculpture garden blends into the outdoor section of the Fellini Museum.

Press Office

Rimini City Hall

Tel 0541 704262

ufficio.stampa@comune.rimini.it

turismoufficiostampa@comune.rimini.it