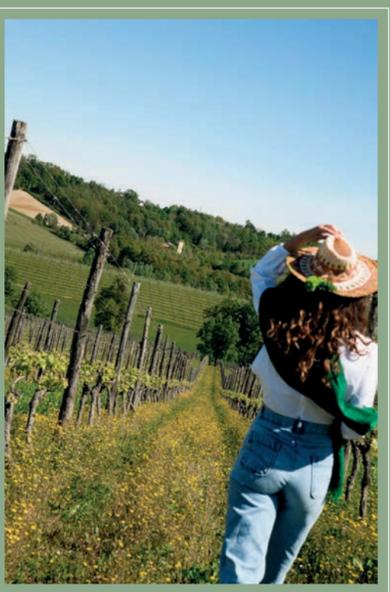


**Wine, art and biodiversity itineraries**

- ..... Routes and trails
- Cortese, Barbera and Pinot Noir vineyards farmed according to biodynamic principles
- Hedges and ecotonal areas that offer a shelter to reptiles and small mammals
- Woods and sheltering forests Chestnut, acacia and turkey oak
- Meadows and pastures for animal breeding and land rotation
- Widespread gardens for pollinating insects
- Fields Ancient cereal

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|---|---|
| <b>1 - Eutierra</b><br>Teresa Giannico                      | <b>7 - Nel momento</b><br>Remo Salvadori                              |
| <b>2 - Piralide BIOMEGA Multiverso</b><br>Cosimo Veneziano  | <b>8 - Continuo infinito presente</b><br>Remo Salvadori               |
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| <b>5 - Oak Barrel Baroque</b><br>Michael Beutler            | <b>11 - OUSSER</b><br>Koo Jeong A.                                    |
| <b>6 - Palazzo delle Api</b><br>Adrien Missika              |   |



Wine, art and biodiversity itineraries

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# Biodiversity itinerary

The promotion of biodiversity is one of the values that have inspired us over the years and the commitment that animates our work every day.

Within the 180-hectare La Raia farm, wild plants, fruit trees and vines tended by men's work live in harmony with a huge variety of animals. The panorama is a mosaic of contiguous constantly changing environments: vineyards, cultivated fields, pastures, woods, hedges, gardens, small streams, lakes and buildings.

To this unique ecosystem **Renato Cottalasso**, famous ornithologist, has dedicated a volume: **"Alla scoperta della Biodiversità"**, published by Fondazione La Raia. The book investigates the delicate intertwining of animal and plant lives, the unsuspected dynamics of struggle and survival and photographs with great artistry several creatures that inhabit La Raia.

The texts you find here are taken from this book. We invite you to travel through La Raia and discover its unique landscape.



## The watercourses and the riparian woods

These are the most natural environments in the estate. Native plant species - sometimes appropriately replanted - and animals of all kinds grow along the small streams: fish, amphibians and squirrels that use tree belts as ecological corridors between the woods.



Among the most important species: the black alder, a hydrophilous tree whose trunk can reach up to 25 metres, and newts - amphibians similar to salamanders - are present here with no fewer than three species including the increasingly rare great crested newt.

## The hedges

They are maintained because of their great ecological importance despite the encumbrance they represent for agricultural activities. They are permanent refuges for reptiles and small mammals, seasonal nesting birds and not only that.

A variety of animal species thrive within them, in particular invertebrates that are auxiliary to organic and biodynamic agriculture: spiders, hymenopteran parasites of other insects...

Here you will find plants such as the blackthorn and hawthorn, and animals such as the variegated singing dogfish and the lizard.



## The woods

They are semi-natural tiles within La Raia's agricultural mosaic. They host high biodiversity at every level: from the shady soil rich in detrimental organisms (which recycle organic matter) to the bright foliage rich in birds and insects.



Dead wood represents a very special microcosm where ecological chains are also activated by the larvae of insects that feed on it, at the same time digging tunnels that become micro-habitats for other species, such as ants (themselves food for woodpeckers). The black locust woods provide, thanks to the bees, the delicious acacia honey.

Here you will find the oak and turkey oak, on whose branches no fewer than four species of woodpeckers can be seen.

## Meadows, pastures and cereal fields

Hay meadows and grazed meadows are quite rich in life (with high numbers of flower species and small fauna), spelt fields or alfalfa fields are poorer but can be home to rare species such as the field tulip, favour the hunting of kestrels and even the short-toed eagle, that hunts almost exclusively reptiles.



## The lakes

Water collections created for agricultural irrigation purposes are reservoirs of life at maximum efficiency. Animals, not only aquatic ones, benefit in various ways from these environments that, although artificial, are nevertheless important surrogates for natural environments that man's work has obliterated. Important species are the water butterfly and the grey heron. Among the fish, eels and carp can be seen.



## The gardens and the tree rows

Gardens, generally artificial environments of great aesthetic value, at La Raia take on surprising and interesting shapes. In fact, thanks to the concept of the 'diffused garden' and the consequent intermingling with natural elements, the wine cellar and the Locanda are home to a diverse wildlife that finds in these spaces a rich and varied micro-habitat similar to that of spontaneous hedges. The great variety of flowers attracts a multitude of pollinating insects, to whose fundamental importance for life on the planet artist Adrien Missika has dedicated "Palazzo delle Api" (Palace of Bees), a work that is part of the Fondazione La Raia collection.

The rows that criss-cross the estate have numerous old trees with cavities that are home to small fauna that finds here predator-proof refuges. The cypress poplar and the lime tree are the most numerous trees, while among the birds the owl and the goldfinch characterise the sound and the nocturnal and diurnal landscape in spring.

## The vineyards

They are the most extensive crop at Raia thanks to the lack of pesticides and the practice of green manure which create a valuable natural environment capable of hosting species of European significance such as the woodlark. The grape varieties present are Cortese, Barbera and Pinot Noir.



The texts are edited by Renato Cottalasso, ornithologist and author of "Alla scoperta della biodiversità" (Discovering biodiversity), edited by Fondazione La Raia.

# Art itinerary

**Fondazione La Raia - arte cultura territorio** was established in June 2013 with the aim of promoting in Italy and abroad a critical reflection on the landscape, through contributions covering several fields of investigation. It develops artistic, cultural, educational, scientific and research activities aimed to promoting a deep knowledge of the Gavi region.

Fondazione La Raia, directed by **Ilaria Bonacossa**, was created by **Giorgio Rossi Cairo** and **Irene Crocco**, the creator of the project **Nel Paesaggio**, that has traced, with the realisation of the first works and a series of public meetings, the Fondazione's direction of investigation.

Over the years, artists, philosophers, landscape architects agronomists and architects have been invited to live and experience the vineyards, fields and woods of La Raia, and to create, through interventions and works of art, opportunities for a new knowledge and new identity in the extraordinary landscape of Gavi.

To date, eleven works are on the estate - between the cellar, the Locanda, the Borgo and the vineyards. We invite you to discover them and, through them, to learn more about the landscape of this corner of Gavi.



## 2013 - Remo Salvadori Nel momento 7

According to Remo Salvadori, art is a communion of opposites. Artworks are based on dialectics: conceptual and formal, indoors and outdoors, uniqueness and multiplicity, spirituality and matter. Nel Momento is a vertical installation of sixteen elements that recall his favourite materials and shapes. It is placed on one of the main house's walls.



## 2013 - Remo Salvadori Il sabato piantare il cipresso... 4

This site-specific work is placed along the main path inside the estate and is made of marble with water and essences. The water mirror in the smallest concentric circle contains a lead slab that recalls another artwork, Nel momento, that is placed close to the wine cellar.

## 2013 - Remo Salvadori Continuo infinito presente 8

Continuo infinito presente is a never-ending ring of steel cables, which was created before an audience on the Fondazione's inauguration day in June 2013. The heavy steel cables were wrapped around a circular metal core; then the structure was extracted and the work, both stiff and flexible, came alive to be finally moved to its final seat, in front of the wine cellar.



## 2013 - Koo Jeong A. OUSSSER 11

Korean artist Koo Jeong A. mainly invents spaces. The most important goal of her installations is giving a soul to a space. For Fondazione La Raia she created OUSSSER using a technique similar to frescoes: a drawing in a special enamel that recharges with sunlight during the day and shines in the night. It is placed on a wall at Il Borgo, one of the refurbished farmsteads in the property.



## 2017 - Michael Beutler BALES 2014/2017 3

For the Kunstareal Park in Munich, Michael Beutler created project BALES 2014/2017, converting the urban site to a farming field where the baler presses collected the industrial fluorescent-coloured straw scattered by the artist on the park's well-kept greens, and made round multi-coloured bales. Those bales have been shining in the Gavi landscape at La Raia since 2017.



## 2018 - Adrien Missika Palazzo delle Api 6

This site-specific sculpture is an overturned pyramid made with Luserna stone, a local grey granite, with over 2300 holes of various sizes dug into the stone block. The shape, size and material used for Palazzo delle Api are a melting-pot of sculpture, architecture and environmental design.

## 2019 - Francesco Jodice Il Corsaro Nero e la vendetta del Gavi 9

Il Corsaro Nero e la vendetta del Gavi is the offspring of a one-year-long research by Francesco Jodice on the Gavi's landscape, culture and society. In his research the artist discovered the works by Angelo Francesco Lavagnino, one of the 'fathers' of Italian movie soundtracks, who chose Gavi as his permanent residence. The images taken from the posters of the movies whose soundtracks he wrote are a part of Jodice's picture project.



## 2019 - Cosimo Veneziano Piralide - BIOMEGA Multiverso 2

Piralide, the emblematic work of BIOMEGA Multiverso, was presented at Tenuta Cucco in Cosimo Veneziano's solo show. The caterpillar of this butterfly, engraved in gold on black marble, enchants us all with its elegance and illusory fragility. Nevertheless, this charming butterfly is the metamorphosis of a caterpillar, a dangerous parasite that destroys corn cultivations. This work, as well as the others of this project, analyses how deeply aesthetic and the implementation of neuroscience studies can affect our choices as consumers in the agri-food industry.



## 2020 - Michael Beutler Oak Barrel Baroque 5

Four years later Michael Beutler returns to Gavi and creates a new work for Fondazione La Raia - arte cultura territorio: Oak Barrel Baroque. Made with La Raia's old barriques staves at the end of the life of the Raia, it takes the form of a small chapel surrounded by young oaks, which make manifest the life cycle of this plant.



## 2023 - Teresa Giannico Eutierra 1

Eutierra is the outcome of a transfiguration between reality and imagination, the work that creates memories meant as the totality of stratifications (tactile, olfactory and visual ones) that contribute to create on our mind snap shots of our experiences. Using a multi-step technique that avails itself of the pictures she took, Giannico overlaps layers until the sources become something new, the result of an evolving personal process, close to the memory and the perception of those moments.



## 2023 - Tami Izko Inventory 10

Tami Izko with her Inventory interprets the theme of the landscape in an unexpected way, encouraging us to take a closer look at the magnificence of biodiversity. A small cave along the entry road to the wine cellar becomes the ideal location for storing the pixels of the multi-colored landscape of this biodynamic estate in the Gavi.



View the interactive map