



Città di Mendrisio

WELCOME TO MENDRISIO

Via Municipio 13
CH-6850 Mendrisio
T +41 (0)58 688 32 91
info@mendrisio.ch
mendrisio.ch

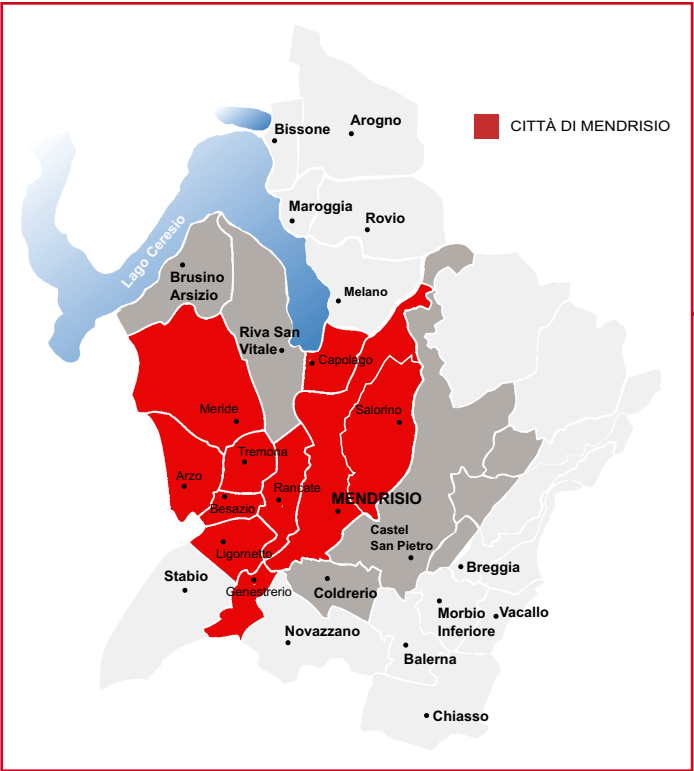


Mendrisio, «Ri-Fioriamo», A garden in the city (2021)

LOCATION.

Mendrisio is situated in the south of Cantone Ticino, the only Swiss canton positioned entirely south of the alpine arc. Italian is the official language of the Canton, but many inhabitants also speak French, German or English.

From an economic point of view, the city is placed in the center of a “magical triangle”, comparable to Bavaria. Inside this area, composed of Ticino and Lombardy, Mendrisio is strategically positioned; directly on the highway and railway routes connecting Zürich to Milan.



Mendrisio at a glance	
Mayor	Samuele Cavadini
Population	15 509
Boroughs	10
Companies	2 013
Jobs	16 431
Area	32 km²

Cities nearby	
Lugano	18 km
Como	23 km
Varese	19 km
Milan	50 km
Zürich	230 km

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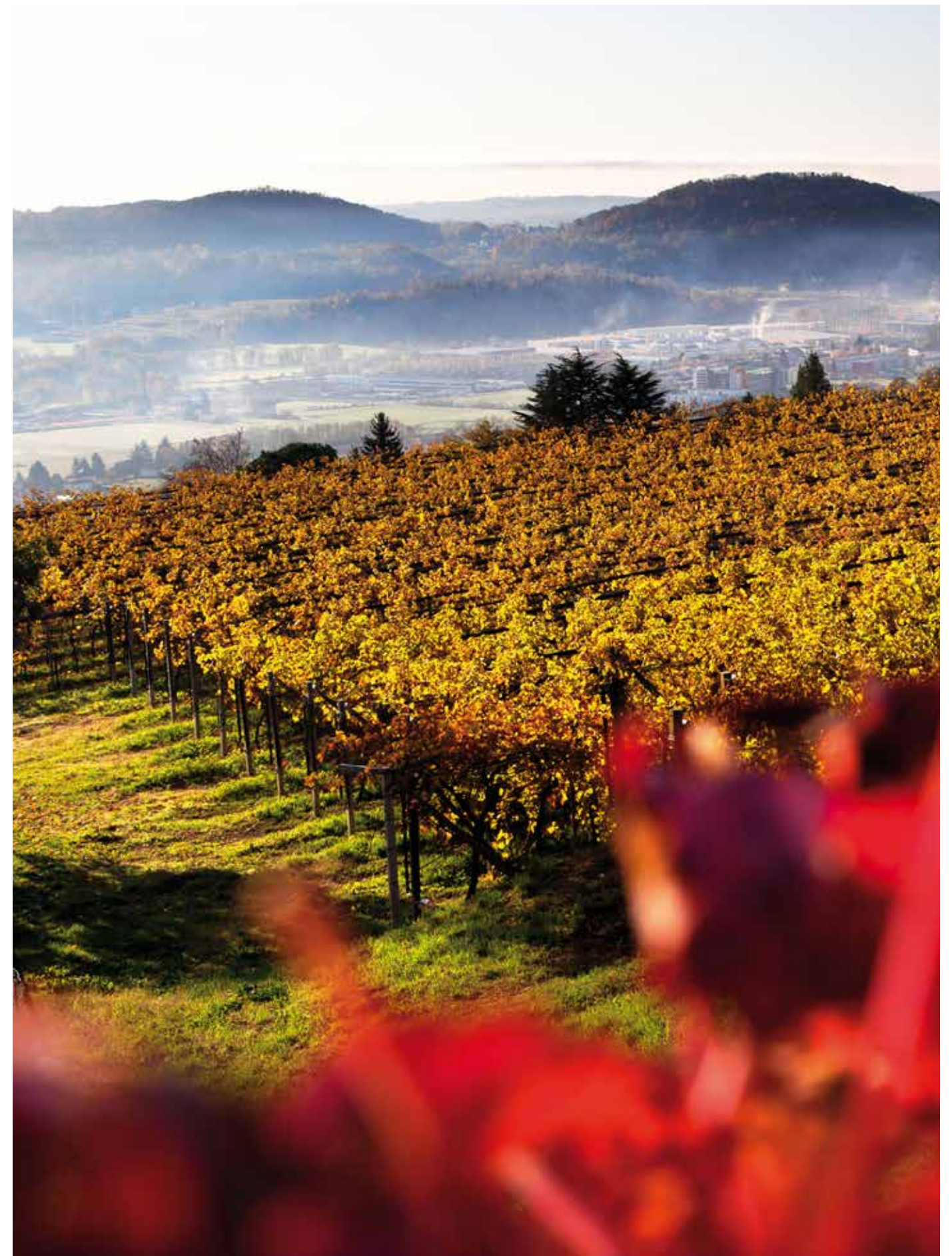
LANDSCAPE.

Mendrisio, also called the “Magnifico Borgo”, is the administrative center of a region composed of around thirty villages. The city is positioned in the gulf of Lake Lugano, on the slopes of the Monte Generoso and Monte San Giorgio mountains.

The region is a small corner of paradise with a magnificent landscape of iridescent hills alternating with majestic mountains. The climate is mild and the scenery is wide-ranging: forests, lakes, green plains, terraced vineyards, hillside villages, historical town centers; a region that is suitable for holidays all year round.



Monte Generoso, scenic viewpoint



Arzo, Tenimento dell'Ör, photo Jacques Perler

Monte San Giorgio



Monte San Giorgio (1097 m) was declared a UNESCO world natural heritage site in 2003 because of its thousands of fossils of great scientific value. Small is the new big: dive into the beauty of Meride.



Monte San Giorgio



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Monte Generoso



From the summit of Monte Generoso (1704 m), one has a breathtaking view of the lake region. The panorama stretches from the plain of the Pô to as far as the Apennines and the Alps, including the Matterhorn. The summit is easily reachable via a small cog wheel railway which was inaugurated in 1890. The new visitor center, "Fiore di Pietra" (stone flower), by star architect Mario Botta, has opened its doors in the spring of 2017. The slopes of the Monte Generoso are a paradise for hiking, mountain biking and for paragliding.

EXPANSION.

The city of Mendrisio is expanding forcefully.

An important merger process started in 2004 when Salorino became part of the municipality. In 2009, the villages of Arzo, Capolago, Genestrerio, Rancate and Tremona also joined Mendrisio, followed in 2013, by Besazio, Ligornetto and Meride. The City of Mendrisio now counts 10 townships.



Mendrisio, station compartment, intermodal hub

MAJOR PROJECTS.

In the period 2013-2022, the municipality actively promotes the completion of various “major projects”. The sectors which mainly benefit from these activities are culture, education, transport and healthcare.

safety

- In 2016, creation of a new entry gate to the city thanks to the construction of the “Fuori Porta” building which houses various city-departments and emergency services. The second wing of the complex was completed in 2020 and brings the total area of the building to approximately 10 000 m².



The first wing and the rendering of the entire «Fuori Porta» project, Arch. Mario Botta

healthcare

- The Cantonal Health Authority (EOC) invests over 33 million francs to expand Mendrisio's Beate Vergine regional hospital. Since 2021 a new wing is operational allowing the hospital to better serve the requests of modern medicine which increasingly relies on ambulatory and short-term care.



Project and construction site for the expansion of the Beata Vergine Hospital

transport

- Since 2014 the San Martino station for the TILO metro-system, strategically located just a few footsteps away from the FoxTown Factory Outlet, allows a great number of people to easily access an important shopping and industrial compound.



- Between 2014 and 2018, the Confederation, the Canton and the City invested over 100 million francs for the redevelopment of the Mendrisio highway interchange. The works have, in particular, made it possible to create a new exit and a ring road that decongest a major commercial and industrial area.



- Around the recently modernized railway station, many important activities are coming to life; in particular, the SUPSI campus, as well as a new residential complex. The whole area has been reorganized in order to better serve the great number of passengers and the increasingly numerous users of eco-friendly mobility. Since 2020 the new intermodal public transport hub has become reality, allowing easier connections between the various means of transportation.



Intermodal node (Bassicarella Architectes SA project)



Intermodal hub overlooking the SUPSI Campus

- Since 2018 the new cross-border railway line Como-Mendrisio-Varese-Malpensa has brought important benefits to the entire region. The volume of commuting road traffic has been reduced and Ticino now has direct rail access to the intercontinental airport of Milano-Malpensa. In addition, the new infrastructure reduces travel time between Ticino and Geneva by one hour.

education

- Since 2021, the Department of Environment, Construction and Design of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland opened a new campus in Mendrisio with over 700 students and teachers.



«Ascensus» project by Bassicarella Architectes SA © 2020 SUPSI

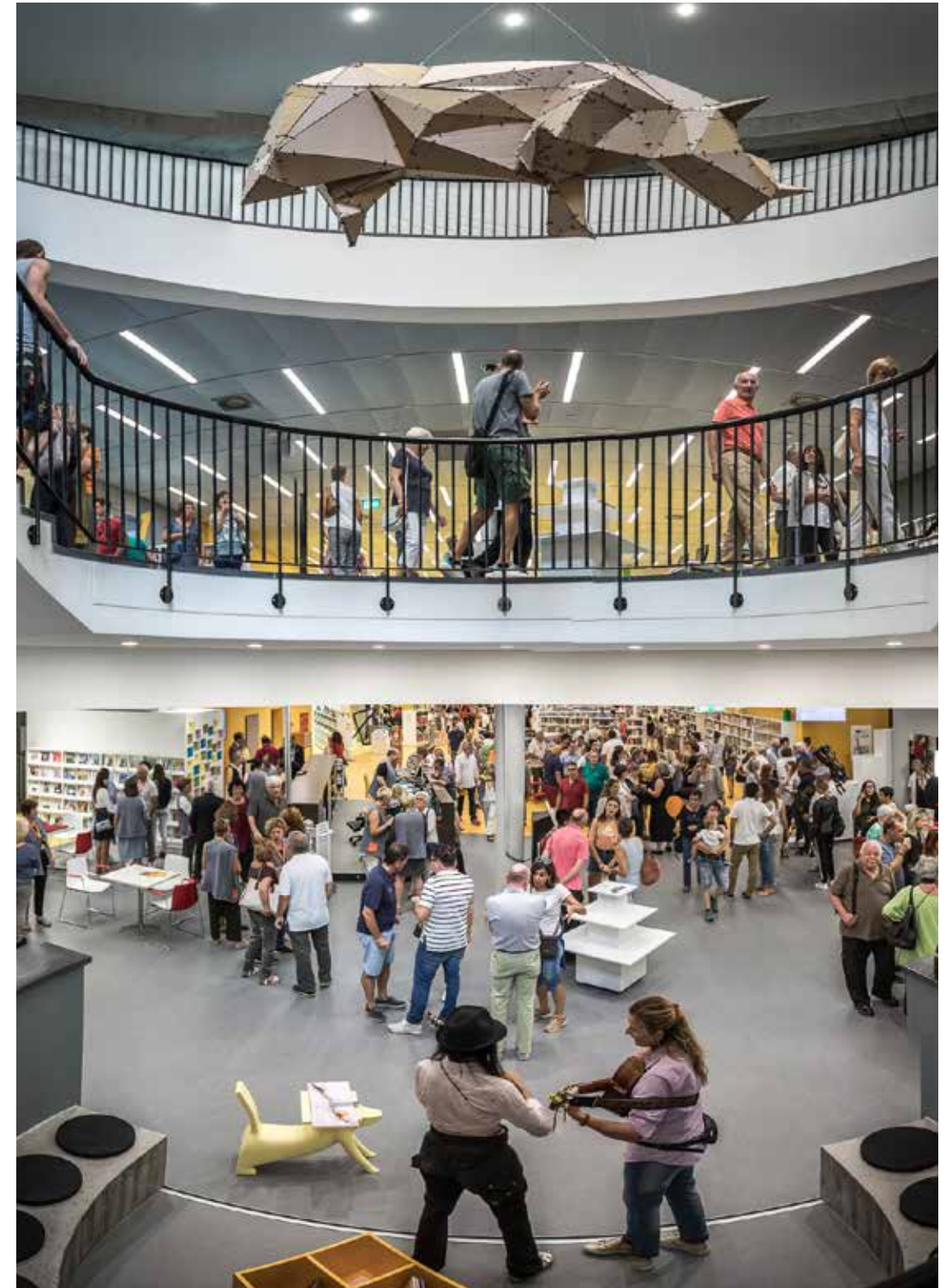
- Extension of the campus of the Academy of Architecture. The «Theater of Architecture» opened its doors in 2018. This new building, designed by Mario Botta, allows the Faculty to host exhibitions and congresses and provides new spaces for educational activities.



«Theater of Architecture», Arch. Mario Botta

culture

- LaFilanda - Cultural Center and Cantonal Library - opened in September 2018. The venue replicates the characteristics of what used to be the Italian Piazza. The population from the entire region greatly appreciates the new structure aimed at gathering, exchanging and building relationships. LaFilanda's 2400 square meters are accessible to the public from 9 am to 9 pm 7 days a week.



LaFilanda - inauguration 15-16 September 2018 (photo Jacques Perler)

ECONOMY & RETAIL.

Mendrisio is the 2nd economic hub of Canton Ticino and attracts numerous businesses.



Argor-Heraus SA Mendrisio

Despite the fact that the primary sector has undergone a strong contraction over the years, the local economic framework still shows wide diversity. In Mendrisio, one finds factories, service providers, laboratories, retail businesses, workshops, etc. representing nearly all trades and ranging from the most traditional crafts to the newest technologies.

Wine growing remains an important activity in Mendrisio. With over 120 acres of vineyard, Mendrisio is the largest production site in Ticino.

One appreciates Mendrisio's historical center for its traditional shops. Many craftsmen are still active and strolling through the suggestive alleys one will come across butcher shops, a fine bookbinder, traditional bakeries, seamstresses, jewelers, booksellers, florists and many other specialty shops.



In the Swiss federal system, Canton Ticino and the City of Mendrisio are noted to apply a moderate fiscal system for both corporations and individuals. Thanks to the high level of life quality in Mendrisio and adjacent villages, it is relatively easy to attract well-trained staff. Moreover, thanks to its geographic position, Mendrisio has easy access to a large pool of workers.



Mendrisio, panoramic industrial area

The arrival of the FoxTown Factory Outlet complex in 1995 also widely contributed to spreading the name of Mendrisio throughout the world: every year over 2.5 million travelers visit the 160 boutiques of what has become a "temple of fashion".



The new facade of Foxtown

EDUCATION.

Mendrisio features a university since 1996. However, the city has been an important center for education in the region long before that date.

Each year, over 700 students from 30 countries enroll at the Academy of Architecture. The presence of this university campus in the heart of the town since 1995 brings an international and decisively young feeling to the Magnifico Borgo! In 2021 the opening of the SUPSI Campus further contributes to the vitality of the city.



Elementary School in Arzo



School visiting the Museo d'arte

Nearly 5'000 young people receive education in one of Mendrisio's numerous institutes. The city has many schools (nursery, kindergarten, elementary, high-school, technical school, etc.).

Companies also actively participate in the education process: a large number of young people accomplish an apprenticeship in Mendrisio.

Another specificity of Mendrisio is the presence of several foster care institutes for children and adults with disabilities, as well as Canton Ticino's well-known psychiatric hospital.



Campus USI, Accademia di Architettura, Students' housing



Campus USI, Accademia di Architettura, Palazzo Canavee

CULTURE AND EVENTS.

Mendrisio has a good cultural offer thanks to the preservation of its natural, architectural and artistic heritage. The city has also succeeded in keeping local traditions alive.

Most events of great importance relate to ancient traditions or to religious celebrations, which have maintained their significance in the local culture. One will in particular mention the very suggestive Historical Easter Processions and their antique “transparencies” – these transparent pictures, which are lit up at night, depict important scenes of Christ’s Passion and are placed on the procession’s route – (unique in the world), the Saint Martin Fair and the Grape Harvest Festival that attract several thousands of visitors each year.

Lately, visitors started coming to Mendrisio attracted by recently established events: theatre and musical festivals or sporting events. In 2009, Mendrisio organized, for the second time in its history, the Cycling Road World Championships. The event attracted over 220’000 visitors and was seen by 70 million de television viewers.



Historical Easter Processions



Fabian Cancellara,
Cycling Road World Championships
(2009)

Mendrisio boasts the presence of various museums on its territory.

The most important cultural sites are: the Art Museum, the Fossil Museum on the Monte San Giorgio, the Cantonal Pinacoteca Giovanni Züst, the Vincenzo Vela Museum, the Galleria Baumgartner (model trains) and the Tremona-Castello Archeological Park.

The Academy of Architecture greatly contributes to the local cultural life as it regularly organizes art exhibitions and conferences by internationally famous speakers (e.g. Kenneth Frampton, Salvatore Settis, Zygmunt Bauman, Adam Michnik, Giorgio Agamben).



Tremona-Castello Archeological Park



Casa Croci



Museo d'arte Mendrisio



Accademia di Architettura,
Palazzo Turconi



Museo Vincenzo Vela

Grape Harvest Festival



Photo courtesy of L'Informatore

GREAT MEN.

Among the most famous artists of the region one finds the architect Francesco Borromini (1599-1667), one of the great masters of Baroque Art, also called the “architect of Rome” and the sculptor Vincenzo Vela (1820-1871), one of the most important artists of his era, who founded his own museum (Museo Vincenzo Vela, Ligornetto).

Today the tradition continues! Mendrisio proudly flaunts the name of Mario Botta, famous contemporary architect, native and still resident of the town..

Amongst his most prestigious works are, notably, the Cathedral of the Resurrection, Evry (1995, France), the Cymbalista Synagogue, Tel Aviv (1998, Israel), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, (1994, USA), the Kyobo Tower in Seoul (2003, South Korea) and the Municipal Library of Dortmund, (1999, Germany).

Obviously, Mendrisio also features several Mario Botta buildings!



Architect Mario Botta, photo Maurizio Molgora

In the sporting field, one must obviously name Gianclaudio “Clay” Regazzoni (1939-2006), the legendary Formula 1 pilot of the 70s, who spent his life between Lugano and Mendrisio where the family garage still stands.

With his 49 selections on the National squad, Claudio Sulser, another Mendrisio native, is still a soccer-icon in Switzerland. His career started with the Mendrisio Star team. He was National Champion in 1978, 1982, 1983 and 1984, winner of the Swiss Cup in 1983, top scorer of the Champions League in 1979 and top scorer of the Swiss Championship in 1980 and 1982. In 2010, Claudio Sulser, who is now a lawyer, became President of the FIFA Ethics Commission.

Mendrisio is “land of cycling” and Emilio Croci Torti is one of its best representatives. Born in 1922, pro-rider from 1946 to 1957, he acted as teammate for legends such as Kubler, Koblet, Coppi and Bartali. After his career as a pro-rider, Emilio Croci Torti returned to his initial passion, painting and actively pursued his artistic career until he died in 2013.



The Cathedral of the Resurrection, Evry (1995, France)



The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (1994, USA)



The Cymbalista Synagogue, Tel Aviv (1998, Israel)

ENVIRONMENT.

Mendrisio's economic dynamicity naturally causes some inconveniences. The city has however been able to react incisively by implementing a number of measures aiming at the conservation of the territory and the preservation of life quality.

Since the nineties, the City passionately strives to enforce strong environmental policies: limitation of energy wastage, intelligent waste management and recycling, implementation of Minergie-criteria building standards, support of eco-friendly transport, etc.

In practical terms, Mendrisio financially supports citizens and companies interested in using public transport, buying electric bikes or instituting shuttle busses for the collective transport of employees.

A recent example: the city has implemented 20 bike sharing stations strategically distributed throughout the area. This «bicycle sharing» system, already in use in the Lugano area and in other villages of the Mendrisiotto, favours slow mobility at a more regional level.



Pedibus



Bike sharing

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

Services to the population.

The municipal Authority insists on providing its population with fast and easily accessible services.

Social services.

Mendrisio is very attentive to the wellbeing of its population. The assistance and integration of underprivileged people has a strong tradition here. The city's social services are very active.

A particularity of Mendrisio are the visits to the alone living elderly citizens provided by the local Police since over 20 years. Numerous volunteer associations are active in areas such as child care, health, education, senior care, etc.

The Mendrisio community is decisively generous and solidarity oriented.

Economic development.

The City provides companies with a welcome desk catering specifically towards their needs. The Economic Promotion desk facilitates contacts between companies and authorities in all areas of business life. In Mendrisio, the public authorities aim at being a partner for businesses. Companies can expect a personal service, adapted to their specific needs.



Welcome visit for new Citizens



Visits to elderly people living alone

Metnica

Integrating communities



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