

# Audiovisual Museum of the Resistance

## ***Background to the formation of the Museum***

In 1948 a summertime mountain camp for boys and girls was created on land given by a private citizen to the Comune of Sarzana using voluntary labour provided by ex-partisans and local townsfolk. From that date until the summer of 1971 the camp provided summer holidays for thousands of children.

In the years that followed, the building fell into disrepair due to lack of adequate maintenance. During 1994, at the initiative of the ANPI of Sarzana and with the support of the local Comune, it was decided to transform the building into a Museum of the Resistance of the Provinces of La Spezia and Massa Carrara; cities which had been decorated with the Gold Medal for Military Valour in recognition of the efforts made by their citizens to re-establish freedom and democracy in Italy.



In the fullness of time and with the assistance of numerous public bodies, associations and private citizens, the old camp was rescued and transformed into a monument for peace in a zone that had been a theatre of violent conflict between partisans, Germans and fascists and had endured both physical destruction and the senseless slaughter of many of its defenceless inhabitants.

Restoration of the building structure of the museum was completed in 1999 and the Museum was officially opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2000. It contains modern audio-visual installations complete with multimedia support that allow people to journey through modern history and to deepen their knowledge both of the Resistance movement and of the development of Italian democracy.

The Museum is dedicated to the memory of the Partisan Commandant, Alessandro Brucellaria “Memo” and Flavio Bertone “Walter” and all those that fought for freedom.

## ***Format***

The Museum is small. The main building is U-shaped, there being a kitchen/staff area in the left hand wing and public toilets/cloakrooms in the right hand wing. The central area is fitted out with tables on which the multimedia equipment is installed.



### **Comments**

We have attempted to visit the Museum twice. On the first occasion we couldn't find it (the signage at the front is not exactly prominent). On the second occasion we found the place, but discovered that although it was officially open, the curator was not in attendance that day so we couldn't get in. This is unfortunately symptomatic of a general problem with museums in the Lunigiana. On average for every museum/gallery we get into there are two which, though advertised as open, are actually closed.

On the face of it, the Museum should be well worth a visit, especially if you have some Italian language skills.

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