

NATURALIST INTELLIGENCE

SCHOOLTRIP TO BOTANICAL GARDEN

RIO ELBA



Dei Semplici Garden is situated next to the Santa Caterina Hermitage in Rio nell' Elba and has two aims: promoting and spreading knowledge about both **naturally grown and cultivated plants in the Tuscan Archipelago**, and keeping the **ethnobotanical traditions** connected to these plants alive.

Welcome to “Orto dei Semplici Elbano”



Its main aim is that of protecting and making the most of those species of particular naturalistic, pharmaceutical, agrarian and forestal interest in the Tuscan Archipelago, so as to become a natural part of the numerous institutional activities of the Tuscan Archipelago National Park, like the protection of natural resources, the most important aspect of the insular biodiversity.





Naturally grown, unique and rare plants (endemic) from various, typical areas of Elba have been found, picked and classified, each in their own section. Moreover, the major types of fruit trees (plum, pear, peach, cherry, almond), and also some vines, some of which run a high risk of becoming extinct, have been gathered and classified in a special catalogue.





The Garden is divided in 14 areas:

1. The Labyrinth: contains a collection of medicinal plants .

2. The Terrace: citrus trees, pomegranate, lavender and bulbous.

3. La Pergola: ancient vines of Elba: Aleatico, Biancone , Procanico, Alicante...

4. La Macchia: Mediterranean plants: Cistus, rosemary, broom, arbutus ...

5.The Rarity: endemic and rare plants of Archipelago: linaria capraria Centaurea var.,orchids

6. Le Dune: plants of the dunes and beaches of Elba: poppy sand, Navy chamomile, sea lilies ...

7.The Summer Garden of Rio: plants of the typical summer backyard: tomatoes, zucchini, eggplant, green beans, celery, basil...

8. The Garden Silver: plants with silver foliage: cineraria maritima, helichrysum, eucrium fruticans ...

9. The Olive Grove: olive plants

10. The Amphitheatre: a collection of carob, lavender, myrtle...

11. The Orchard: ancient cultivations of fruit trees of archipelago.

12. The Lecceto: ilex trees, mastic trees, cypresses...





13. The Butterflies Garden: it contains plants that attract butterflies: centaurea, lantana, buddleia ...

14. The "Barcoche" Garden ': contains ancient apricot cultivations.





Cinzia is an expert guide of the Archipelago Park and explains about the botanical garden.

The children are very interested!



