

# Oropa



The Sanctuary of the “Black Madonna of Oropa” is located thirteen kilometers from the center of the city at an altitude of 1180m. This is the most famous pilgrimage shrine of Piemonte, as well as one of the most important in Italy and perhaps the oldest shrine of Mary in the west.



Popular legend has it that the **Bishop of Vercelli**, Saint Eusebio, took refuge on these mountains in 369 to escape persecution. It is presumed that a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary (probably the work of **St. Luke the Evangelist**) was brought to Oropa by St. Luke from Jerusalem and preserved in a niche under an erratic boulder. The first documents concerning the sanctuary date back to the XIII Century. During the plague of 1599, the city of Biella made a vow to build a new church, the present church after the demolition of the little 13th Century church.

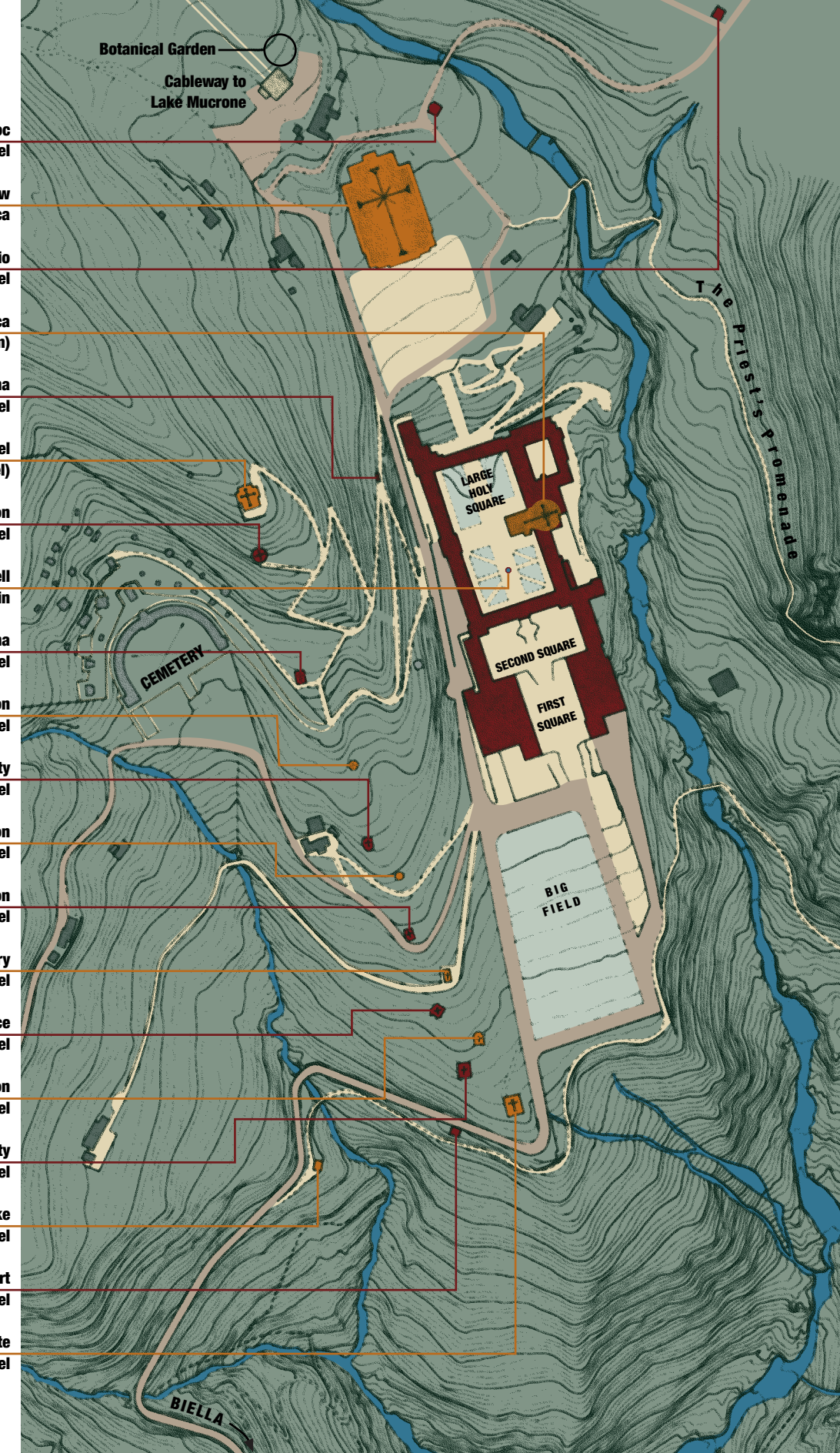


The complex was later completed by two squares carried out between 1600 and 1800. Beyond the large square rose the majestic **new basilica** characterized by a large dome which is visible almost everywhere in the Biellese area. Work on this church started in 1885 but was partially completed only in 1960. The complex is a **UNESCO** world heritage site and includes **nineteen chapels**, a few of which were built between 1620 and 1720. The life of Mary is illustrated in these chapels.

At the sanctuary there is also a post for meteorological and seismic observation as well as a radio station. Behind the sanctuary there are also **ski facilities** and a **Botanic Garden**.



- Roc Chapel
- New Basilica
- S. Eusebio Chapel
- Ancient Basilica (Sacellum)
- Maddalena Chapel
- Paradise Chapel (or Coronation Chapel)
- Assumption Chapel
- Burnell Fountain
- Marriage at Cana Chapel
- Purification Chapel
- Nativity Chapel
- Visitation Chapel
- Annunciation Chapel
- Marriage of Mary Chapel
- Residence of the Temple Chapel
- Presentation to the Temple Chapel
- Nativity of Mary Chapel
- St. Luke Chapel
- Transport Chapel
- Immaculate Conception Chapel



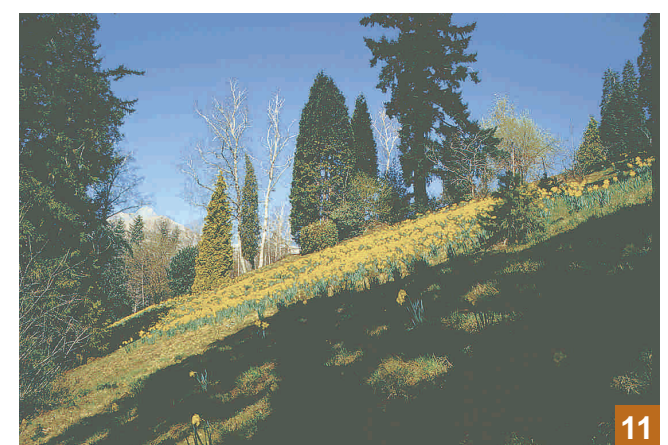
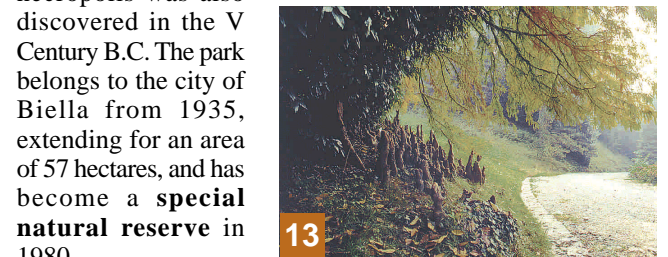
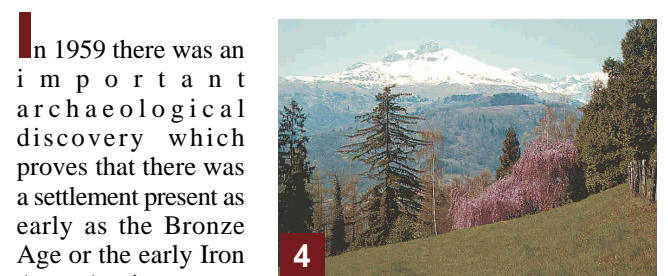
# La Burcina



The Burcina “Felice Piacenza” Park is on top of a hill at an altitude of 826m. In the second half of the 19th century the wool manufacturer **Giovanni Piacenza**, who was fond of gardening, decided to change the hill into an informal garden according to the custom of that period by introducing many precious plants.



Later on Felice Piacenza supplied the hill with many **rhododendron** and **azaleas** which offer a marvelous spectacle when they are in bloom. There are also many **conifers** and exotic **broad-leaves**, perfectly integrated with the local vegetation.



- Archeological Site
- Rhododendron
- “Scarf Tree” Davidia Involucrata
- Japanese Cherry-tree
- Sequoia Sempervirens
- Larch Trees Larix Decidua
- Giant Sequoias Sequoiadendron Giganteum
- Judah's Trees Cercis Siliquastrum
- Citron-trees
- Criptomerie Cryptomeria Japonica
- Daffodils
- Hydrangeas
- Bare Cypressess Taxodium Distichum
- Beech-trees Fagus Sylvatica
- Box-hedge Boxus Sempervirens
- Red Beech Trees Fagus Silvatica (Purpurea)
- Marsh Oaks Quercus Palustris
- Azaleas
- Sequoia Sempervirens
- Horse-chestnut Trees
- Rhododendron
- Tulip Trees Liodendron Tulipifera



# The City of Biella

# Oropa Sanctuary

# Burcina Natural Park

CITTÀ di BIELLA