



## Giardino di Palazzo Sàssoli - Strada Maggiore 54

There's an entrance hall that opens under a portico –at 54 Strada Maggiore– opposite the elegant portico that runs alongside the Santa Maria dei Servi basilica. This leads into the first open space, which features the main facade of Palazzo Sàssoli. Once upon a time, this courtyard was a service area for the aristocratic family—presumably, this is where the carriages and horses of visitors were left, and service personnel lived in the nearby buildings. Today, the paved passageway has a mixed hedge –with laurel, privet and yew on an ivy base– that serves to enclose a small garden with hibiscus trees, forsythia, bignonia and oleander. Turning back and before walking along the palazzo's long loggia – in addition to the small building on the portico in a wonderful Bolognese red with a rustic balcony that stands out among the rooftops– the eye can't help but notice the elegant bell tower and spires of the brick-adorned Servi church. The garden itself is situated between the trailing edge of the building, with a well leaning against the entrance, and a building with terracotta decorations and glazed porch, probably with service functions. Many notable tree species are clustered in the small green area and combine naturally with certain architectural and decorative elements, creating a nice setting where the traces of the historical garden are almost hidden by the natural growth of the vegetation. A beautiful linden tree stands in the middle whose leaves, which fortunately are not pruned, graze the ground. A very old cypress tree and a fine example of catalpa dominate the area near the greenhouse, whose entrance is guarded by a lion and a characteristic group of sculptures made of three figurines. An old confining wall, leaning against the greenhouse and made partly in brick and partly in pebbles, borders most of the garden and includes, among flowering shrubs and climbing plants, many other evergreen tree species as well as old pieces of furniture (a round table with concrete seats, large terracotta vases decorated with yucca plants and plantain lilies and another lion).