THE HOUSE WHERE LEONARDO WAS BORN

Surrounded by the centuries-old olive trees on the Montalbano, in a landscape almost untouched by time, the house in Anchiano where Leonardo was born is the place which is symbolic of Leonardo’s ties to his home town. In this modest country farmhouse, just a few km from the town of Vinci, Leonardo was born on 15 April 1452.

The ancient group of buildings, the existence of which was already documented in 1432, was donated to the town of Vinci in recent times by Giancarlo Nervi. The building was restored in 1952. The annual opening ceremony takes place in the 25th anniversary of Leonardo’s birth, and the house in Anchiano became the place where the memory of Leonardo in Vinci was kept alive.

Now the house, which has become the destination of authentic cultural itineraries, has become the meeting point of the great Tuscan genius. Digital animations and interactive video screens present Leonardo’s paintings and drawings as well as some aspects of his life history.

This ancient house, which remained in the Vinci family for over a hundred and fifty years, was donated by their descendant, who is still living, to the Association of Historians in the Memory, which comprises over fifty bodies which used to be left in the hands of famous historical figures.

THE HOUSE WHERE LEONARDO DA VINCI WAS BORN
BACK TO THE ORIGINS OF THE GENIUS
Leonardo and his land

Many of Leonardo’s sketches and drawings show the Arno Valley, the Fucecchio Marshes, Vinci and the Montalbano. These works tell us of his detailed knowledge of the surrounding area and bear witness to the close relationship the man from Vinci had with his home territory throughout his life.

The exhibition route through the House of his birth illustrates Leonardo’s close ties with Vinci and invites visitors to discover the places and the scenery which inspired his works. The house in Anchiano is indeed an excellent starting point for excursions into the surrounding area, thanks to a network of paths ranging over the hills of the Montalbano. One of these is the Green Route or Strada Verde connecting Anchiano to the medieval town of Vinci via an old path winding through ancient olive groves.

Leonardo and Painting

The key events in the life of Leonardo the artist, from his early days in Andrea del Verrocchio’s workshop to his most famous masterpieces, live again in Leonardo’s birthplace through a brand new virtual route.

The interactive application Leonardo Touch presents Leonardo’s paintings and drawings according to routes based on different openings and subjects and allows the visitor to interact with the drawings and paintings to discover even their decorative details.

On the other hand, a whole wall is dedicated to the Last Supper: Leonardo’s most famous and most complex work, which the visitor can explore thanks to an innovative multi-sensory system.

Meeting with Leonardo

Nowadays we know almost everything about Leonardo, but his private life and the relationship he had with his home town remain less well-known aspects. It is Leonardo himself who welcomes visitors into his house, opening up the most intimate and personal part of his world.

A life-size hologram, which weaves together film, theatre and digital painting work, will lead the visitor to an old and tired Leonardo who, from his final home in Anchiano, invites us to join him on a walking tour of the house, making a virtual return to Anchiano to tell us all about where he worked and where he met while his studio and the room he lived in in his house are shown.

A very special meeting with Leonardo through images, memories and landscapes which bring alive the story of his life between Vinci and Florence.