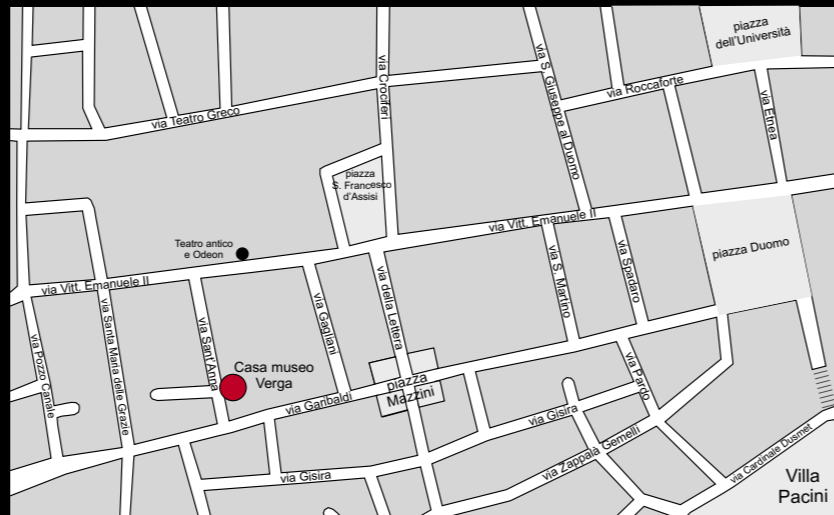




Regione Siciliana
Assessorato dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità siciliana
Dipartimento dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità siciliana
Museo interdisciplinare regionale Vito Amico e Statella di Catania
Casa museo Giovanni Verga



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Casa museo Verga



Museum houses contain furniture, books, objects, but essentially they help us not to forget the past and to live it as a continuum to our present. They open their inner space to visitors with the simplicity of everyday life, with a suite of homely rooms that make it easy to understand their use and functions.

Here, at No. 8 Via Sant'Anna, at the very heart of Baroque Catania, Giovanni Verga (1840 – 1922), coming back from his long stay in Milan, lived until his demise. Sober and elegant rooms, simply furnished, harbor his personal library, the prints donated by his friend etcher Francesco Di Bartolo, an intense painting by the Catania artist Calcedonio Reina, portraits of his dearest relatives, two large colored photos issued by one of the most important photo studios of the time. The atmosphere brings us back to the cultural liveliness of Catania in the years between the 19th and the 20th century, the city of Mario Rapisarda, Luigi Capuana, Federico De Roberto, Nino Martoglio, to name but a few. This house harbors memories but, as all museum houses, it is a place for the imagination, where life habits and literary events happily coexist, and it opens its doors to all those who feel they belong to this collective memory.

Room after room ...



Wooden box containing the wax mask of Giovanni Battista Verga Catalano, the writer's father, who died in 1863.

Giovanni Verga's bust in blackened gypsum, by sculptor M. Bruno.

CASA VERGA FORMER SITTING ROOM

Alessandro Abate (Catania, 1867 - 1953) watercolor on paper painted in 1920, on the occasion of Verga's eightieth birthday. It depicts the places dearest to the writer: mount Etna, the sea, Acitrezza. The frame is contemporary to the painting, locally manufactured and bearing the family coat of arms.

LIBRARY

The books that Verga would leaf through, read or receive as presents: his works, but also those by Capuana, De Roberto, Martoglio and by novelists, journalists and intellectuals of the time. First editions, rare and not so rare books, a publishing microcosm that gives us an overview of the book circulation in Italy in the years between the 19th and the 20th century. Great publishers, such as Emilio Treves; clever and resourceful craftsmen, as Niccolò Giannotta from Catania as well; brand names that would mark an epoch, such as the Edizioni Futuriste di Poesia. The walnut bookcases are the work of local craftsmen. On the table: writing table objects (a pen, an inkstand, a blotting pad) and period ornaments (paperweight hands, little terracotta bell decorated by Dina di Sorvedolo, a friend of Verga's).



In the same room: commemorative plaque in cast metal, by sculptor Giovanni Niccolini (1872-1956), a present for the writer's eightieth birthday.



Giovanni Verga Portrait by Amedeo Bianchi (1882 - 1949), oil on canvas, 1912 (?)

WRITER'S BEDROOM

On the walls unsigned paintings portraying an uncle and Verga's father. Two important gilt frames contain the photographic colored portraits of Verga himself and his nephew Marco, who died prematurely (taken by Michele Grita photo studio in Catania)



SECOND BEDROOM

Iron bed in the Sicilian taste of the time and prints on the walls. The etchings representing animals are by the Catania artist Francesco Di Bartolo (1826- 1913).



DINING ROOM

Cozy space of everyday use, furnished with severe and functional furniture (second half of the 19th century), marked by the presence of a handy service hatch that used to be in communication with the kitchen.



The oil painting, dated 1897 (*Revenge of the Reptile*) is by the Catania artist Calcedonio Reina (1842 – 1911), a cultivated and refined painter and poet, eclectic representative of end of 19th century Catania.

