

The other UNESCO sites of Varese

The province of Varese is home to four UNESCO sites. In addition to the Sacro Monte of Varese, the Isolino Virginia, the Monate San Giorgio and Castelseprio-Torba have also been declared World Heritage Sites.

Isolino Virginia



Isolino Virginia is part of the serial site "Prehistoric Pile-Dwelling Sites of the Alpine Arc", which comprises a total of 111 settlements, dating from 5000 to 500 BC, located on the shores of lakes or rivers in Switzerland, Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia. Situated in Lake Varese opposite Biandronno, Isolino Virginia was inhabited from the early Neolithic period (7th-6th millennium B.C.) until the end of the Bronze Age (around 10th century B.C.), a long period during which man, in order to cope with the changing waters of the lake, often had to adapt or move their dwellings, occupying different places on the island from time to time.

Monte San Giorgio



Monte San Giorgio is a fossil mine dating back to the Middle Triassic. Before its historical value was recognised, Monte San Giorgio was also intensively exploited as a mining site for bitumen and other materials, with mining activities documented as far back as the 18th century. The area, shared with Canton Ticino, is today an international reference point for palaeontology. The mountain was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2003 for the Swiss side and in 2010 for the Italian side.

Castelseprio and Monastery of Torba



The Archaeological Park of Castelseprio with the Monastery of Torba is part of the serial site 'The Lombards in Italy. The places of power (568-774 A.D.)', which includes important monuments from the Longobard era that represent, each for its own specific typology, the most significant model or the best preserved among the numerous testimonies spread over the Italian territory. Castelseprio is a fortified settlement connected to the Torba tower (now owned by the FAI) to guard and control the Olona Valley.

For more info: www.varese4u.it