The Alcide Cervi Institute, dedicated to the father of the seven brothers shot down from the fascists in 1943 on the dawn of partisan fight, was found the 24 april 1972 in Reggio Emilia for initiative of the National Alley of Farmers (today Italian Farmers Confederation), of the National Association Italian Pariurians, of the Province of Reggio Emilia and of the Gattatico Municipality.

The Institute originate with the purpose to promote and realize scientific and cultural activities in range of studies and elaborations of the matters that interesting agricultural and rural world, researched under an historical, economic, social, legal, literary and artistic profile.

In particular, the Institute promote researches, studies and initiatives in relation to demands of civil and social development in the country, to popular movements for the improvement of ploughmen and “still” in relation to farmers participation to anti-fascist struggle and Resistance.

Handing over the extraordinay heritage of values represented by the person of Alcide Cervi, together with the memory of his seven sons, the Institute, from the emilian’s countryside experience, begins to work with coherence and dedication for the preservation of all the values at the base of Republican Constitution.

The symbolic and historical value of Cervi house, with the name of this extraordinary family, emblem of much more humble and generous events of the Italian democratic resuscitation, enabled that a big community and Institutions rally around the Institute, keeper of this memory.

As Alcide’s house was, in the Post-war, a point of reference for farmers, for the local farmers’ movements, for artisans and craftsmen, but also for the farmers and workers of the whole region, it has been the meeting point of a lot of local, national and international Institutions.

The Alcide Cervi Institute manage the Cervi Museum, operative core of its own activities, and the Emilio Sereni Library – Archive that give hospitality to the private Library of this notable thinker who the structure is dedicated to, and the national historical Archive of Italians farmers’ movements. A documentary, library and archivistic heritage of inestimable value for agricultural, rural society and Italian, European and non-European’s farmers movements’ history.

The Library – Archive in open in according to this timetable: morning: Tuesday and Thursday 9.00 – 11.00.

The Library can be visited on other days and times by appointment.

Services:
- Guided tour upon booking for groups and pupils (educational workshops are available)
- Bookshop
- Lift for disabled persons
- Rest stop
- Equipped didactic hall
- Conference hall

Emilio Sereni Library – Archive

The Park of Cervi Museum

The Park of Cervi Museum, in collaboration with Gattatico Municipality, Manodori Foundation and Reggio Emilia Province, had inaugurated in 2005 the Cervi Museum Agronatural Park. The Park is in a part of the farm annexed to the house where Cervi family lived and worked, and represent an itinerary into the natural and cultural environment of the middle Po valley, since it keeps and recreates, in the area of agricultural land, natural spaces supporting agricultural practices more respectful of the environment, aiding to preserve in the territory elements of local agricultural landscape like, for example, the “piantates reggiana”, now at the limit of its definitive disappearance.

So the Park continues the historical narrative of the Cervi Museum and enriches it, putting it into a context, with the study of evolution about the relationship between man and territory, focusing on the changes apported to the environment during the history.

These changes determined transformation that enabled the development of one of the more flourishing agricultural economy of our country, and that left tracks in the Roman ceramicization even now perfectly clear in the grid of streets and waterways that surround the Cervi Museum, in the imposing drainage works of marshy land, in the rivers regimations and in the buildings and channeling for irrigation that are typical of the current environmental and landscape order.

The topic key of the Park, entrusted to a permanent modular exhibition, is the analysis of the enviromental features of middle Po valley through historical evolution of human settlement, connexed in particular to the agricultural utilization of the territory.

The Agro-environmental Park is a space conceive for a large audience: passionate and specialists of the field, pupils and simple curiouses.

The Park is open from March to October 9.00 – 12.00/15.00 – 19.00. Guided tours upon booking.
The Cervi Museum is located in the “reggiana” low plain and it is set in the house where Cervi family lived from 1934, a wide farmhouse located at “Camprossi”, a farm with an extension of 16 “bollche reggiane” (about 16 hectares) on the borderline between the village of Gattatico and Campagne. The Cervi Museum originate like development of the collection of objects that the family of the seven brothers preserved since the years of the war and those donated them afterwards (prints materials and manuscripts, honours and official decorations, albums, relics, works of art). This material found a first settlement, during the sixties of the last century, with the enlargement of the building and the creation of a proper little room. Just in 1975, when the province of Reggio Emilia bought the building and its land, it has been possible to start a work of consolidation of the structure, that finished in 2001 thanks to a funding of the Department for Cultural Heritage. With the requalification of the building, all the way to visit the museum has been set again according to a new itinerary between technology, interactivity between technology, graphs and thematic in-depths. The objects preserved from the fascist retaliation stored in the display cases stand by side with the video recordings testimony of the people who met the seven brothers.

First “porta morta” - Entrance
The “porta morta” is traditionally the point of admittance to the living and work spaces in the farmer’s house. The visit to the Cervi Museum starts here – from the tractor bought in 1930 on top of which stands the famous “globe”, and from the tale of the Cervi family together with the stories of the peasant families who lived in this area at the beginning of the XXth century. At the end of the “porta morta” is a scale model which represents the house as it was during the war, after the extension made by the family, and it deepens the knowledge of the rural construction in the countryside of Reggio Emilia and Emilia Romagna as whole.

First cowshed - The agricultural labour
The “first cowshed” is dedicated to the history of the Cervi as agricultural labourer family and to the transformation of the rural-agricultural world of Emilia Romagna during the first half of the Twentieth century. It highlights Cervi’s will to improve the productivity of the farm and to strengthen the cowshed, but also the complexity of the work, the life of the agricultural labourer family and the role of women in it. The objects are subdivided according to thematic areas: the working of the land (in the cowshed’s central row three plough used by the Cervi are shown), the cowshed and the production of milk, the other activities connected to agricultural work, the hemp cycle from its growing to spinning and weaving. In the display cases, documents proving that the activity is shown together with the books they used to study the most advanced techniques (at the time) on cattle breeding and land labouring.

Second “porta morta”
In the second “porta morta”, a passageway between the two cowsheds and also the access to the conference and temporary exhibition hall, a typical old four-wheel agricultural truck is shown. It was used, at the time, for all kind of transport. In this hall as well.

Second cowshed - Anti-fascism and Resistance
This section of the second cowshed is dedicated to the activity of the Cervi family during the fascist regime and the subsequent Resistance period. It opens with an overview on the political and social traditions of the Reggio area, to come to the description of the Anti-fascist fight and the role that the Cervi brothers performed in it. The Cervi’s tale on their participation to the Resistance and that of Resistance in the Reggio area is enriched with maps, graphs and thematic in-depths. The objects preserved from the fascist retaliation stored in the display cases stand by side with the video recordings testimony of the people who met the seven brothers.

Second cowshed - The slaughter of Cervi brothers
More than telling a story this little hall wants to call for the sense of emptiness caused by the shooting of the seven brothers. For this purpose, significant testimonies are used such as Salvatore Quasimodo and Piero Calamandrei’s and some passages of the letters written by the seven brothers imprisoned in Reggio Emilia jail before being shot.

The little cowshed - A family in the memory of the Post-war Italy
This section of the Museum is dedicated to the building of the Cervi’s memory in Post-war Italy: first of all the seven brothers, then Papà Cervi. The latter is told through a selection of the objects donated by the visitors to the Museum during the last fifty years, and subdivided according to different categories: the Resistance, politics and work, internationalism and peace, the Pioneers. It is possible to listen to some testimonies on Papà Cervi in this hall as well.

The Cervi’s rooms
This section of the Museum remained unaltered, except for some little interventions that tend to make some objects on display more visible. The kitchen and the cellar, where it is possible to know the wine cycle more thoroughly, and on the upper floor Alcide Cervi and Genofofa Coccon’s, Gelindo Cervi and Iolanda Bigi’s bedrooms can be visited. On the first floor Alcide’s trilly adds chok (shabdi) and a chart explaining Cervi’s family tree are on display. Combining up the stairs between the bedrooms front doors there is the first barn of Cervi house where it has been hosted the “Quadrifera”, an innovative multimedia installation thought expressly to involve the visitor to a 360° experience of images and sounds. The quadrifera’s experience wants to be above all emotional, give a new way to conceive the interactivity between technology, historical narrative and human being, catapulting the spectator in a world made of images endlessly multiplied, thanks to a sistem of mirrors and lights.

The short film has a duration of 7 minutes and recount the parable of the farmers – with a particular attention to Cervi family’s events – from the first half of the XXth century to Liberation.

Reading hall - The Cervi Museum and its history
This room, originally the second kitchen of the house, hosts the medals that Alcide Cervi and his sons have been awarded with. Reference documents, miscellaneous publications and pictures on the Cervi family can be consulted here for in-depths on the history of the Museum in the Post-war period.

Projection room - Papà Cervi a life tale
At the beginning of the sixties, thanks to the contribution of Reggio Emilia Communist Federation, the living spaces of the house are broadened: this allows the realization of a room to collect all the objects that were donated to the family, and to give Alcide Cervi the possibility to meet groups of visitors. It is here that Alcide Cervi tells the story of his sons, and it is here that the first nucleus of future museum is set up. This meeting is still possible nowadays, thanks to the projection of Alcide Cervi’s interviews and documentary film of his life.