



PRESS RELEASE

Mr. Leonard Gianadda, founder of the Fondation Pierre Gianadda, among the laureates of the Europa Nostra Awards 2019

The Hague, 21 May 2019 – The winners of the **European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2019**, Europe's most prestigious honour in the field were announced today by Europa Nostra, the leading European heritage network. The **27 laureates from 18 countries** have been recognised for their impressive accomplishments in conservation, research, dedicated service, and education, training and awareness-raising. **Among the laureates of the Europa Nostra Awards in the category Dedicated Service is Mr. Leonard Gianadda from Martigny, Switzerland.** The winners will be honoured at the **high-profile European Heritage Awards Ceremony on 29 October in Paris**, during the European Heritage Congress.

Citizens from around Europe and the rest of the world can now [vote online](#) for the **Public Choice Award** and mobilise support for the winning achievement(s) from their own or another European country.

Among those dedicated individuals and exemplary European heritage initiatives that were awarded in 2019 are: the sensitive restoration of the Chapel of the Holy Shroud in Turin, an iconic site of religious heritage which was destroyed by fire in 1997 and which has now been reopened to the public; the development of a digital archive of the Roma, an internationally accessible space that would make Romani cultures and histories visible as well as respond to stereotypes with a counter-history told by Roma themselves; the dedication of one of the oldest heritage NGOs in Europe which has committed itself to heritage protection in Norway for over 175 years; and a training programme for displaced, skilled heritage specialists from Syria, run by a German institute in Istanbul, which serves as a powerful example for countries in Europe and beyond.

The European Commission and Europa Nostra have also announced a **Special European Heritage Award** to honour the Paris Fire Brigade. Together with the police forces and conservation experts, the city's firefighters bravely and skilfully battled the flames which ravaged the Notre Dame cathedral on the night of 15 April and successfully protected the main structure of the monument from complete destruction, as well as the priceless artefacts within. Read the separate press release on this Special Prize [here](#).

"I am immensely proud to congratulate all winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2019. These heritage heroes - professionals and volunteers from across Europe – have accomplished something truly amazing. Their work to restore, preserve, support or promote Europe's heritage monuments and sites, as well as the intangible heritage of Europe, is of the highest quality imaginable. The Awards are proof of the tremendous impact that heritage projects have on our economy, our environment, our culture and our quality of life. Europe's heritage is a key asset for Europe's future and our prosperity. This is an important message for all EU citizens and all future leaders of EU Institutions ahead of the forthcoming European elections", stated **Plácido Domingo**, the renowned opera singer and President of Europa Nostra.

Independent [Juries](#) of heritage experts from across Europe examined a total of 149 applications, submitted by organisations and individuals from 34 European countries, and selected the winners.

The laureates will be celebrated at the [European Heritage Awards Ceremony](#), co-hosted by European Commissioner **Tibor Navracsics** and Maestro **Plácido Domingo**, and organised under the high patronage of the President of the French Republic, **Emmanuel Macron**, on the evening of 29 October in Paris. Seven Grand Prix laureates (each of whom will receive €10,000) and the Public Choice Award winner, chosen from among this year's winning projects, will be announced during the Ceremony.

The Ceremony will be attended by an audience of high-level officials from EU Institutions and Member States, leading representatives of heritage organisations and dedicated professionals and supporters from all over Europe.

The winners will present their heritage accomplishments at the Excellence Fair on 28 October. They will also contribute to various other events of the European Heritage Congress, to take place from 27-30 October 2019.

The Call for Entries for the 2020 edition of the Awards will be published in June 2019 on the dedicated [website](#).

CONTACTS

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TO FIND OUT MORE

About each winning project:

[Information and jury's comments](#),
[Photos](#) and [Videos](#) (in high resolution)

[Press release in various languages](#)

2019 Award Winners

(listed alphabetically by country)

Category Conservation

Castle of Montreuil Bonnin, FRANCE
Fortified Settlement of Mutso, GEORGIA
Chapel of the Holy Shroud, Turin, ITALY
Cathedral of Saint Bavo, Haarlem, THE NETHERLANDS
The Queen Louise Adit Complex, Zabrze, POLAND
Pavilion for the Presentation of Archaeological Remains, Celje, SLOVENIA
Lithica Quarry of s'Hostal, Menorca, SPAIN
Oratory of the Partal Palace in the Alhambra, Granada, SPAIN
The Portal of Glory, Santiago de Compostela, SPAIN
Medieval Tithe Barn, Ingatorp, SWEDEN
Yr Ysgwrn, Trawsfynydd, Wales, UNITED KINGDOM

Category Research

Solak 1: a Model of Predictive Archaeology, ARMENIA/ITALY
VERONA: Van Eyck Research in Open Access, BELGIUM
RomArchive - Digital Archive of the Roma, GERMANY

Category Dedicated Service

VVIA - Flemish Association for Industrial Archaeology, BELGIUM
Fortidsminneforeningen – National Trust of Norway, NORWAY

Category Education, Training and Awareness-raising

TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, Yerevan, ARMENIA
History Radar 1938, Vienna, AUSTRIA
Betina Museum of Wooden Shipbuilding, CROATIA
Monument Europe, Berlin, GERMANY
Stewards of Cultural Heritage, GERMANY
Greek Paths of Culture, Athens, GREECE
Commonlands: Cultural Community Mapping in Alpine Areas, Parco Nazionale Val Grande, ITALY
Le Dimore del Quartetto, Milan, ITALY
A Place at the Royal Table, Warsaw, POLAND

A **Europa Nostra Award** will also be presented to two remarkable heritage achievements from European countries not taking part in the EU Creative Europe programme.

Category Conservation

Boğaziçi University Gözlükule Excavation Research Center, Tarsus, TURKEY

Category Dedicated Service

Mr. Léonard Gianadda, Martigny, SWITZERLAND

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Mr. Léonard Gianadda has been the driving force behind the manifold activities of the Pierre Gianadda Foundation since its establishment in 1978 in Martigny, Switzerland. Over the past 40 years, he has been instrumental in the organisation of the Foundation's activities, which are distinguished by world-class art exhibitions and classical music performances within its iconic building. This is also the home of a large collection of locally discovered Gallo-Roman antiquities, of a Classic Automobile Museum and of a modern sculpture park. Mr. Gianadda's dedication to cultural heritage has been a major contributor to the transformation of his birthplace into a world renowned cultural centre in Switzerland. Since 2009, Mr. Gianadda has also directed a philanthropic institution created with his late wife Annette.

Léonard Gianadda first became acquainted with the cultural world in his early youth while travelling the world as a photojournalist. In 1976, on the construction site of an apartment building in Martigny of which Gianadda was the engineer, the remains of a Gallo-Roman temple were discovered. Gianadda halted the construction to shield the temple from destruction. Over this site, he erected the Pierre Gianadda Foundation, a cultural centre dedicated to his brother who had tragically lost his life in the same year. The organisation would not only protect the archaeological remains in situ, along with the antiquities from the nearby Roman settlement of Octodurum, but would gradually evolve into a world-renowned hub for culture and the arts.

Spurred by Léonard Gianadda's enthusiasm, the Foundation launched an ambitious programme of different cultural activities including world-class temporary art exhibitions, featuring prominent names such as Rodin, Giacometti, Picasso and Chagall among many others.

While the cultural achievements of the Pierre Gianadda Foundation are apparent, the social, touristic and economic impact that these efforts have had in the region should also be underlined. In Martigny, Léonard Gianadda also founded an art library, installed 17 modern sculptures on roundabouts, gifted stained glass windows to two local churches, created The St. Bernard Museum and highlighted all of the archaeological remains he discovered on its properties.

The jury commended Mr. Gianadda for his lifetime of dedication to heritage and philanthropy, stating: *"In launching his Foundation, Léonard Gianadda has built and operates four museums that have received over 10 million visitors since their inception in 1978. He has protected the heritage of his region and organised world-class painting exhibitions and classical music concerts. His personal involvement in their organisation proves his hands-on approach in the valorisation of heritage. These exhibitions brought artworks from sources that would ordinarily be difficult to access to a broader European public. In addition, the legacy and sustainability of his foundation in the future has been ensured by Mr. Gianadda with an endowment of over 70 million Swiss francs."*

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Background

European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards

The [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#) were launched by the European Commission in 2002 and have been run by Europa Nostra ever since. They celebrate and promote best practices related to heritage conservation, research, management, voluntarism, education and communication. In this way, they contribute to a stronger public recognition of cultural heritage as a strategic resource for Europe's economy and society. The Awards are funded by the **Creative Europe** programme of the European Union.

In the past 17 years, organisations and individuals from **39 countries** have submitted a total of **3,032 applications** for the Awards. Concerning the number of entries by **country**, **Spain** is first in the ranking, with 527 projects, followed by **Italy**, with 308 entries, and the **United Kingdom**, with 299 applications. With regard to the **categories**, Conservation has had the most submissions (1,744). Next comes Education, Training and Awareness-Raising (555), then Research (381), and, finally, Dedicated Service to Heritage (352).

Since 2002, independent expert juries have selected **512 award-winning projects** from **34 countries**. In line with the number of entries, Spain tops the list with 67 awards received. The United Kingdom is in second place (61 awards) and Italy comes third (45 awards). Regarding the **categories**, Conservation has the most winners (291) followed by Education, Training and Awareness-Raising (82), Dedicated Service to Heritage (76) and, lastly, Research (63).

A total of **116 Grand Prix** of €10,000 have been presented to outstanding heritage initiatives, selected from among the award-winning projects.

The European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards highlight best practices, encourage the cross-border exchange of knowledge and connect various stakeholders in wider networks. The Awards bring major benefits to the winners, such as greater (inter)national exposure, follow-on funding and increased visitor numbers. In addition, the Awards foster a greater understanding of our shared heritage amongst the general public. The Awards are therefore a key tool to promote Europe's heritage.

Europa Nostra Awards are given to heritage achievements from European countries not taking part in the EU Creative Europe programme. They are not eligible to receive a Grand Prix.

Europa Nostra

[Europa Nostra](#) is the pan-European federation of heritage NGOs which is also supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals. Covering more than 40 countries in Europe, the organisation is

the voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting Europe's cultural and natural heritage. Founded in 1963, it is today recognised as the most representative heritage network in Europe. Plácido Domingo, the world-renowned opera singer, is the President of the organisation.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the [7 Most Endangered programme](#). It celebrates excellence through the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards. It also contributes to the formulation and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a structured dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the European Heritage Alliance 3.3.

Creative Europe

[Creative Europe](#) is the EU programme that supports the cultural and creative sectors, enabling them to increase their contribution to jobs and growth. With a budget of €1.46 billion for 2014-2020, it supports organisations in the fields of heritage, performing arts, fine arts, interdisciplinary arts, publishing, film, TV, music, and video games as well as tens of thousands of artists, cultural and audiovisual professionals. The funding allows them to operate across Europe, to reach new audiences and to develop the skills required in the digital age.