# PIACENZA CALCIO 1919

One team, one history, its city, its people





Football has been the centre of conversation in Piacenza since the 1800s, but it wasn't until 1919 that a football club in the city affiliated itself with the Italian Football Federation, the F.I.G.C., and took the name Piacenza Football Club.

From then on the Biancorossi, who, a few years later, earned the nickname «I Papaveri», («The Poppies») from the fans, represented the city of Piacenza from one end of Italy to the other, across every single football category in the peninsula, until finally reaching the heights of Serie A for many a season, becoming famous throughout the world and gaining the reputation of a small provincial side who were not afraid to take on the bigger clubs.

# The HISTORY





Piacenza, a hugely proud provincial town in Emilia, given the informal title of «La Primogenita» («The First Born»), the first town to join a unified Italy over 150 years ago, has always earned huge praise for its cuisine, culture and richness of its surroundings.

During the 90s, Piacenza Calcio became an integral part of the city, and became a veritable ambassador for the excellence of the region across Italy and throughout the world.

# One City, Its Territory







#### The Leonardo Garilli Stadium

22,000 seats, half in covered stands, as well as other multifunctional sporting structures and areas. The Leonardo Garilli stadium (previously called The Galleana) bears the name of the single most glorious former President of Piacenza Calcio and is home to the Biancorossi.

Built in 1970 it was heavily modified in 1993, following the club's promotion into Serie A.



The ground has played host to the Italian national side on various occasions.







Even today, football fans remember and have huge respect for the Piacenza side that took on the rest of Serie A with a side made up entirely of Italian players. The tale is «the stuff of legends» and has fascinated many a football fan, even outside Italy, with many looking on the «tiny» provincial side in a positive light, irrespective of results and sporting allegiances.

# The legendary all-Italian Piacenza side



Dario Hubner and Pietro Vierchowod, Italian through and through and protagonists of the «all Italian» along with Di Francesco, who, thanks to his heroics for the Biancorossi, earned his first call-up to the Italian national side





#### Piacenza, a breeding ground for talent

Many a star player has come through the ranks at Piacenza.



PIACENZA CALCIO

Di Francesco went on to play for Roma and the Italian national side, Taibi to Milan and Manchester Utd, Turrini and Campagnaro Napoli



Gilardino went on to play for Milan, Fiorentina and Italy, Cacia joined Verona, Lucarelli joined Parma and Piovani is still a hero at the club



Brothers Pippo and Simone Inzaghi, Beppe Signori, Matuzalem played for the likes of Lazio and Genoa, Nainggolan joined Roma



Madonna played for Lazio and Atalanta, Cornacchini Milan, Amauri Juve, Sacchetti joined Samp and Roma joined Monaco





## One shirt, a galaxy of stars

World-class and top Serie A players have worn the Biancorossi shirt



Stroppa played for Foggia and Milan, Gautieri Roma, Di Francesco Roma, Hubner and Caccia, Pepe joined Juve, Beghetto



Paolo Poggi joined Udinese and Roma, Guardalben, Ruggiero Rizzitelli Roma and Torino, Pasquale Luiso, Paladino and Matteo Sereni



Totò De Vitis also joined Verona, Moscardelli, Renato Buso and Maresca joined Juventus, Graffiedi and Arturo Di Napoli



Corini and Pari joined Sampdoria, Paolo Tramezzani joined Inter, Sergio Volpi Sampdoria and Bologna, Kharja e Ambrosetti





#### Top challenges, top football

Some 10 seasons spent in Serie A, some 20 seasons in Serie B, a century of challenges and thrills, saw the Biancorossi play the length and breadth of Italy.







#### Forza PIACE, a new adventure

Despite 94 years of history characterised by honesty, initiative and seriousness in the way Piacenza Calcio was run, things took a turn for the worse, with Calciopoli and the financial crisis hitting the club hard. It started a downward spiral that, in a matter of months, saw the club being in the position of just missing out on the Serie B promotion play-offs to relegation in 2 consecutive seasons until the club filed for bankruptcy in the summer of 2012.

After initially overcoming the bewilderment, the fans decided to get behind the take-over proposal of the Gatti family and their bid to re-build the club.

After, under the name of «Lupa Piacenza», running away with the championship in their first season in Eccellenza, Piacenza Calcio 1919 won the right to play in Serie D and continue to use the much-loved name. All this with the centenary celebrations just around the corner.



President Marco Gatti







# The rebirth, with the fans at the heart of things

The first goals set in the summer of 2012 came to fruition a few years later with the victory of the D series championship and the landing among the professional in the C series 2016/17, season among other things culminating with a great sixth place with the derby Won against Cremonese's rivals and an eighth final against Parma Calcio, which re-energized the enthusiasm, bringing 7,000 people to the Garilli stadium to follow their own team of hearts.

The next sporting goals are the achievement of the B series with a three-year project based on the indisputable economic sustainability of the football company and an increasingly oriented vision for the promotion of young people.

Infrastructure investments are also a priority for the club: in June 2018, the "CASA PIACE" redevelopment work will begin in the sports center of the white-collar youth sector, while property is working with institutions for a feasibility study of the NEW STADIUM with 'aim to conceive and build a plant that can live 7 days a week with business, citizen services and value-added initiatives in a strategic area of the city such as the one in which it is currently located.



The club is 100% detained by Mrs. Marco and Stefano Gatti, entrepreneurs from Piacenza, head of Steel Holding SpA, a company that deals with the purchase, processing and sale of special steels worldwide. With operating or legal offices in several countries including Italy, Venezuela, Switzerland and China, Steel is a key player in the industry.

The Lords Marco and Stefano have important and fruitful relationships of work and friendship in China and Qatar that have given an increasingly international breath to the company and strengthened ties with those countries.







# The future starts here

Rebuilding a football club focussing on the youth academy is, as well as a matter of moral obligation to the local community, probably also the best way to reconstruct enthusiasm on solid and sound foundations.

Hence why the club has immediately set about creating the necessary foundations, in order to bring out the best in young footballers and allow them to play to the bets of their ability. 100s of young footballers who, wearing the shirt of their home town club can develop a healthy sporting ambition in a friendly environment.

Particular importance is given for example, to the Scuola Calcio (Football School) for the youngest footballers, who use the same facilities of the first team, attend swimming lessons provided by one of the club's technical partners and are even given English lessons during training.







#### Piace calls, the fans respond

Following the rebirth of the club, Piacenza needed the help of their fans, perhaps more than ever before. Being a fan took on a new significance, more than being a mere supporter.

The city was decked in red and white, with Biancorossi scarves appearing on local monuments and points of interest and the players mingling with residents, taking Piacenza Calcio into the very heart of the city!

Despite Serie A being a distant memory, with a campaign in Serie D about to kick off, season ticket sales again hit records heights. The fans responded with aplomb. It also meant that sections of the stadium closed off while the club was in the lower leagues, were able to be opened to fans again.







# Supporters' Trust

Piacenza Calcio is at the forefront of football and is one of the first clubs to get fully behind the idea of a Supporters' Trust.

As envisaged in the rebuilding plans of the club, Piacenza Calcio 1919 threw open its doors to the fans, kicking off plans to create a Supporters' Trust. It was a dream come true for the fans and an avant-garde idea pushing the boundaries of current thinking in Italian football.







# Football, at home at the Garilli

Italian football still has a home in Piacenza.

The game at the Garilli, against a Modena side coached by former Piacenza manager Walter Novellino, took place to mark the occasion of the official presentation of the new players and the Supporters' Trust, as well as the return of the Italian national side to the Garilli, under the watchful eye of former Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi.







# Piace, History among us

The players forever in the hearts of the Biancorossi fans

Fate would have it that the rebirth of Piacenza Calcio coincided with the 20th anniversary of Piacenza's historic first ever promotion into Serie A, and the club brought back some of the heroes from that 1993 side to play a charity match at the Garilli. An embrace, a symbolic hand over of the reins.











#### The shirt

Getting the fans involved: initiatives and touching promotional activities

Football needs heroes, stories, fans and emotions. Piacenza is a team that believes in the romance of football, where a football shirt is a symbol of passion and belief.

To celebrate the sense of belonging that the shirt of Piacenza Calcio has, the club decided that the fans should submit designs and the one most voted for by fans would be adopted by the club as its official third choice kit.









### Promoting the excellence of the territory

One of the joys of being part of such a noble and much admired province such as Piacenza is having the chance to showcase and promote the vast range of local culinary excellence, working in partnership with regional producers.









#### Partners, always by our side

Today, more than ever, the role of a sponsor is more than that of financial support, and instead synergies and collaborations are sought.



Unveiling of the official club shirt at L'ALTRO VILLAGE who, together with LPR, another local company, are the official shirt sponsors along with BCC Banca Centropadana and Rossetti Market.



Presentation of the Scuola Calcio at the offices of INA GENERALI and official presentation of the first team along with Technical Sponsor LE CLUB, who also play a role in the athletic preparation and training of the first team.



Promotional event at DECATHLON, at the McDONALD'S Corner at the stadium and Santa Lucia celebrations with some local children.



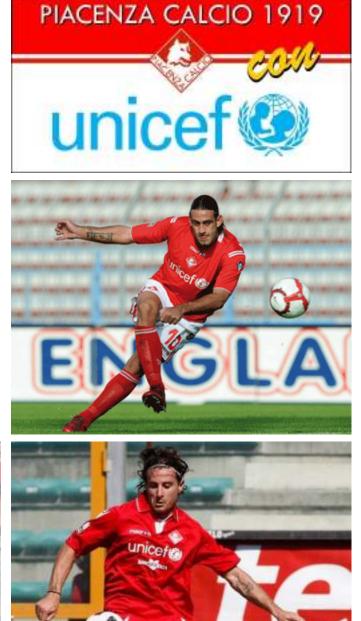


# Unicef, strong ties

Piacenza Calcio is known throughout the world as a club that has strong links to UNICEF

What do Piacenza Calcio and Barcelona FC have in common? A good cause. The club from Catalonia and Piacenza were unique in top flight football, in La Liga and Serie A, to have chosen to promote UNICEF on their official match day shirts.

As has been the case since the partnership began, even today Piacenza Calcio donates funds to UNICEF and is proud to carry the logo on their match day shirts.









#### Piacenza and piacentinità

Piacenza Calcio has always had a close affiliation with local residents and supports the work done by the local arm of Italian charity Caritas, in collaboration with La Famiglia Piasinteina and their work towards protecting the historic culture of the town.













#### Local community work, Our people

What Piacenza Calcio has never lacked is a strong sense of the local community: the club has a big heart and a strong sense of belonging.



Piacenza Calcio supports the HARMONY and MANINA associations, both involved in local community work.



Training sessions overflowing with excitement thanks to the fantastic work done by the members of local sports club "Acquarello".



It's always a joy to play host to a stadium full of exceptional football fans, such as the lads and coaches of UISP, visiting our friends at the local charity, whether it's while they enjoy a 'kick-about' or when out first team and manager visit social rehabilitation centres "Faro Rosso" and "La Girandola" in Ca' Torricelle.





### Living Biancorosso 365 days a year

The projects the club has for local children and their families are always at the forefront of the thinking of Piacenza Calcio - and they are open to everyone.

As well as the Scuola Calcio and the hundreds of youngsters who represent the Biancorossi junior sides, there are plenty of other things for youngsters to do outside school time. They can attend a City Summer Camp (held at the Garilli, which involves games and swimming) or a Summer Camp on the Dolomites, as a way of growing and developing while having fun.





