

## THE NEW GREEN MAXXI PIAZZA

**Inauguration Thursday 18 June at 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting with Bas Smets, the project's landscape architect, laboratories for people of all ages, green food and a DJ set to mark the opening of the 2026 Summer at MAXXI**

**Free entrance to the full program of events**

maxxi.art | press kit: <https://www.maxxi.art/area-riservata/>

*Rome, June 2026.* An afternoon of fun – for the neighbourhood, the city and the general public – in the pursuit of green space, nature and wellbeing.

**The MAXXI will be inaugurating the Museum's new square on Thursday 18 June, from 6:00 p.m.** This event will present the green regeneration designed by the leading contemporary landscape architect **Bas Smets**. The project is part of the Grande MAXXI masterplan program to expand and renew the Museum.

As **Maria Emanuela Bruni**, President of the Fondazione MAXXI, tells us: "The MAXXI is transforming, renewing and becoming increasingly more accessible, sustainable and participatory, responding to the challenges of the contemporary world and the needs of an ever more diverse public. This new green oasis will further enhance the many initiatives in programme and make a visit to the Museum even more attractive and engaging, strengthening the Museum's role in society".

**Margherita Guccione**, Scientific Director of the Grande MAXXI adds: "The introduction of new plantings in Piazza Alighiero Boetti is a true sign of the regeneration of the Museum's public spaces, and hints at what is to come with the creation of the park along Via Masaccio and the MAXXI Hub building, where works are about to begin. I like to emphasise how this project is integrated with the vision of Zaha Hadid, reinforcing the role of the square as a space of encounter and connection with the neighbourhood and the city, one of the Museum's strengths since day one".

**Bas Smets** explains: "Piazza Boeti was designed as part of the MAXXI museum. It was precise in its architectural design but lacked vegetation, resulting in a heat island in summer. Using the original lay-out of Zaha Hadid, we cut away sections of concrete to reveal the soil beneath. We brought in fertile medium, trees, shrubs and ground covers. Together these plants lower the perceived temperature through shade and evapotranspiration".

### **The New Piazza Alighiero Boetti**

In the project developed by Bas Smets, which develops his conception of landscaping as more environmental than aesthetic, nature enters the Museum. The project was made possible by support from **ALES S.p.A.** and the collaboration with Pierfrancesco Malandrino, an agronomist with Folia Consulenze.

New trees, shrubs, and hundreds of herbaceous plants representing various species typical of Mediterranean vegetation now inhabit Alighiero Boetti Piazza, engaging in a dialogue with the fluid lines and pathways designed by Zaha Hadid, and creating a more welcoming and hospitable environment.

Entering from Via Guido Reni, the new green oasis stretches along the right-hand side of the square, tracing the Museum's façade, an invitation to step inside.

Here we find **Mediterranean maples, Judas trees and holm oaks**, together with **myrtles, strawberry trees** and other species typical of the Mediterranean environment.

Then there is **the great lime tree**, a living memory of the Museum, standing on the site long before the MAXXI was born.

Moving on, along a gentle undulation of the ground that appears as if shaped by the wind, we find **Aleppo pines, holm oak, manna ash and smoke tree**, whose blooms resemble pink clouds.

Proceeding towards the heart of the square, the trees and plants gradually thin out to make way for an open space, an agora for events, installations and performances, but also for play, meeting and rest. Looking up, the eye is drawn to the theatrical and surprising Gallery 5, the Museum's most iconic space. To the right, three **jacarandas** with broad canopies that blaze purple when in bloom frame the square. Towards Via Masaccio, the **row of poplars** originally conceived by Zaha Hadid, framed by a carpet of **acanthus**, has been recreated to shelter the cavea, a green amphitheatre where five large trees whose shady crowns light up with autumn foliage will take root.

In the new Piazza Boetti, visitors stroll along the pathways designed by Hadid to reach the museum hall, the Extra MAXXI spaces, the library, the restaurant and café, and the centre of the square, which thus strengthens its vocation as a public space, now also green, open to the neighbourhood and the city.

### The Day's Program

Numerous activities and appointments are planned to take place in the square, all free of charge, with no need to reserve and for people of all ages.

**6:00 p.m.** The program begins with a number of **laboratories** curated by the Festival del Verde e del Paesaggio: visitors will be able to create and launch peace bombs made of seeds, experience plants as new inhabitants of the neighbourhood, and touch and smell elements from the garden to evoke emotions and moods.

From 6:00 pm onwards, the square will also host the **Green Corner**, curated by Coldiretti, an immersive green space that will take visitors on a journey through nature, health and agriculture. Flower beds, plants, woodland settings and urban gardens will highlight the value of greenery to human wellbeing. The event will also feature activities for children, as well as environmental and food education initiatives. Visitors will be able to enjoy **street food** showcasing authentic Made in Italy agricultural products served from the yellow Campagna Amica "ape" food trucks: high-quality, healthy, guaranteed and short-supply-chain products that authentically represent local territories and the work of Italian farmers.

At the end of the event guests will receive a **gift of small trees** from the Giardino Malandrino, with instructions on how to grow and care for them.

**7:30 p.m. Talk with Bas Smets: *The Green Design for the MAXXI Piazza*** introduced by **Maria Emanuela Bruni**, President of the Fondazione MAXXI and **Fabio Tagliaferri**, President and CEO of ALES S.p.A, in dialogue with **Margherita Guccione**, Scientific Director of the Grande MAXXI and **Alan Cappelli**, EU Climate Ambassador, **Bas Smets** will present the philosophy behind his project, its plant species and the reasons for their selection, as well as his expectations for the project.

**8:45 p.m.** The evening will conclude with a **DJ set** curated by **Luce Clandestina b2b Marco Folco**, marking the official start of the 2026 edition of the Summer at MAXXI.

This intervention will triple the area of the square dedicated to greenery, and reduce the amount of concrete. A fragment of Mediterranean scrub is now part of the MAXXI, creating a mosaic of colours, scents and leafy textures.

The selected plant species (15 trees and shrubs and 20 grasses), chosen for their resilience and low water requirements, will also help regulate the microclimate and mitigate heat waves, improving air quality and supporting overall wellbeing.

**Trees** | **Montpellier maple** (*Acer monspessulanum*), **Judas tree** (*Cercis siliquastrum*), **Strawberry tree** (*Arbutus unedo*), **Jacaranda** (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), **Holm oak** (*Quercus ilex*), **Manna ash** (*Fraxinus ornus*), **Paulownia / Empress tree** (*Paulownia tomentosa*), **Aleppo pine** (*Pinus halepensis*), **Fastigate white poplar** (*Populus alba* "Bolleana"), **Smoke tree** (*Cotinus coggygia*), **Purple smoke tree** (*Cotinus coggygia* 'Royal Purple' / purple-leaved cultivar), **European lime** (*Tilia × europaea*).

**Shrubs** | **Phillyrea** (*Phillyrea angustifolia*), **Mastic tree** (*Pistacia lentiscus*), **Common myrtle** (*Myrtus communis*).

**Grasses** | **Acanthus** (*Acanthus mollis*), **Scabious aster** (*Aster sedifolius*), **Borage** (*Borago officinalis*), **Shrubby hare's ear** (*Bupleurum fruticosum*), **Yellow germander** (*Teucrium flavum*), **Globe thistle** (*Echinops ritro*), **Neapolitan cyclamen / ivy-leaved cyclamen** (*Cyclamen hederifolium*), **White rockrose** (*Cistus albidus*), **Blue cupidone** (*Catananche caerulea*), **Italian strawflower** (*Helichrysum italicum*), **Shrubby spurge** (*Euphorbia characias*), **Giant fennel** (*Ferula communis*), **Yellow iris** (*Iris lutescens*), **Narbonne flax** (*Linum narbonense*), **Carpet lippia** (*Phyla nodiflora*), **Hairy oat-grass** (*Melica ciliata*), **Wild thyme** (*Thymus serpyllum*), **Hairy scorpion vetch** (*Dorycnium hirsutum*), **Bitter scorpion vetch** (*Dorycnium pentaphyllum*), **Chaix's mullein** (*Verbascum chaixii*)

per saperne di più:

<https://www.maxxi.art/piazza-verde-maxxi/>

**MAXXI PRESS OFFICE**, +3906324861 [press@fondazionemaxxi.it](mailto:press@fondazionemaxxi.it)

**GRANDE MAXXI PRESS OFFICE**, +3906324861, [beatrice.fabbretti@fondazionemaxxi.it](mailto:beatrice.fabbretti@fondazionemaxxi.it)