

A Must-See

ADVERTORIAL



IN SARASOTA!

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art is the remarkable legacy of circus entrepreneur and collector of art John Ringling and his wife, Mable.

The 66-acre estate on Sarasota Bay includes the 21-gallery Museum of Art; the Venetian-Gothic Ca d'Zan mansion, winter-residence of John and Mable Ringling; the 18th-century Historic Asolo Theater; Circus Museums, including the Ringling's private Pullman railroad car the Wisconsin and the world's largest miniature circus at the Tibbals Learning Center. All located among historic grounds and gardens.

John and Mable Ringling traveled to Europe often and they appreciated the culture and treasures of the continent's architecture. They fell in love with Venice, and determined that their home would emulate the grandeur of the Doge's Palace, combined with the gothic grace of the Ca d'Oro. Ca d'Zan or "House of John" in Venetian dialect was, as one writer called it, John's "love letter to Mable". Completed in 1926, the Ringling's winter home became the epicenter of cultural life on Florida's west coast.

Upon his death in 1936, John Ringling left his art collection and estate to the State of Florida. In 2000, the State transferred stewardship to Florida State University, establishing

the Ringling estate as one of the largest museum/university complexes in the country. Today, the Museum of Art displays European, American and Asian works. The Old Master paintings, among the rarest and most celebrated in the United States, are the most important of the Museum's holdings.

In 2006, the Ulla R. and Arthur F. Searing Wing was opened creating the space necessary to host traveling exhibitions. Featured exhibitions in 2009 include *The Triumph of Marriage: Painted Cassoni of the Renaissance*, (through April 19), *Treasures Rediscovered: Chinese Stone Sculpture from the Sackler Collections at Columbia University*, (through April 19) and *Picturing Eden* (May 9 - August 1).

The partnership between Florida State University and the Ringling estate is designed to preserve the legacy of John and Mable Ringling. More than 300,000 visitors a year come to the estate to experience and take delight at this world-renowned complex that was a gift from John Ringling. For more information visit www.ringling.org. *