

The Sforza Castle



The Sforza castle wasn't built by the Sforza family, but by the Visconti's and it belonged to the Sforza's because of the end of the dynasty. Filippo Maria Visconti, the last Visconti duke, only had a daughter (Bianca Maria Visconti) and she was considered an illegitimate child. He needed to find a strong man to carry on the dynasty so he chose a "condottiero" (a military leader who defended cities for his boss). This condottiero was Francesco Maria Sforza and he worked all over Italy. He was quite a rich person by itself and when he married Bianca, they became the richest family in Europe. They had seven children and Ludovico was one of them. Ludovico decided to build an ideal city and so he needed ideal people. From his point of view, ideal people were the one that worked in the art. He started to bring all the best painters, musicians, inventors and writers to create the perfect city. He sponsored all the artists especially Leonardo da Vinci who, at the age of 20/25, was famous for paintings and sculptures.