

Sirmione Award for Photography, 17th Edition, 2026

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR A PHOTOGRAPHIC RESIDENCY IN SIRMIONE

Fourth edition, December 2025 - March 2026

Art. 1

Sirmione Award for Photography

The Municipality of Sirmione organizes the Sirmione Award for Photography, 17th Edition, a photographic competition dedicated to Sirmione and Lake Garda (det. n. 998 of 09.12.2009) and promotes a

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR A PHOTOGRAPHIC RESIDENCY IN SIRMIONE, Fifth edition, December 2025 - March 2026

Art. 2

Participation

The Call for submissions is open to everyone with the sole exclusion of directors and employees of the Sirmione town council, Jurors and their family members.

Art. 3

Registration and participation

Registration and participation in the Call for entries can only be made by following the procedures indicated on the websites visitsirmione.com and sirmionefotografia.it

Art. 4

Registration costs

Participation is free of charge.

Art. 5

Procedures

The Call for Submissions for a Photography Residency promoted by the Sirmione Award for Photography offers the opportunity for a photographer to independently develop an original project and the subsequent production of a book, with the guidance and supervision of:

Andréa Holzherr, Global Cultural Director, Magnum Photos International and

Ludovica Pellegatta, Partnerships Director, Magnum Photos International.

Art. 6

Project delivery

The photos and the accompanying texts must exclusively be submitted in digital format by 11:59 p.m. (G.M.T. +1) on 31st March 2026, in accordance with the instructions published on the websites www.visitsirmione.com and www.sirmionefotografia.it

Each participant must deliver a PDF document containing:

- a **photographic project** already realized and composed of no less than 20 pictures for which is not relevant the date of production (no relevance between the project and Sirmione and/or lake Garda is required). The PDF document must contain no more than one picture per page;
- a text illustrating the project (maximum one page, in English);
- the photographer's curriculum vitae, including the web address of any official website and/or social media profiles (in English);

- **a summary of the project proposed for the Residency in Sirmione** (in English).

Art. 7

Copyright

By submitting the project, the photographer implicitly declares their responsibility and ownership of the photographs.

In any case the author relieves the organisation from all responsibilities, costs and charges of any nature, that might be incurred due to the content of the work.

Selected project

Limited to no more than 10 photographs of the selected project and the text illustrating it, the author grants the Municipality of Sirmione a free, non-exclusive and non-revocable license, lasting two years starting from 31st March 2026. The license of use is strictly limited to the publication, aimed exclusively to advertise the event, on the websites, social profiles and official publications of the Municipality of Sirmione.

Photographic project realized during the Photographic Residency in Sirmione

Limited to the photographic project realized during the Photographic Residency in Sirmione, the Author guarantees the Municipality of Sirmione and the main sponsors of the Call for Submissions a free, non-exclusive and non-revocable license to use a selection of photographs from the Residency project. The license of use is strictly limited to the possible publication of a volume (see Art. 12) and to the publication, aimed exclusively at documenting and promoting the event and the author, on the websites, social profiles and official publications of the Municipality of Sirmione and the main sponsors of the Call for Submissions. The license to use the photographs is in no case transferable to third parties. In accordance with current legislation, each participant has full rights of ownership and use of the images submitted in the competition.

Art. 8

Exclusions

Any omissions or inaccuracies in the data in the registration form or in any other form of documentation required to complete the registration process, may lead to the cancellation of participation in the Call for Submissions.

Art. 9

Liability

The author of the photographs is solely responsible for their content.

Photos that may offend personal dignity or damage in any way the image and the name of the Organizer, of the sponsors, of the Public Administration or of any other person or entity are not permitted.

In the event that submitted or produced images infringe the law, the rights of third parties or are even merely inappropriate, the author of these images will fully indemnify the organisation and will keep it unharmed from any claim, financial or otherwise, by third parties.

Art. 10

Selection panel

The Call for Submissions selection panel is chaired by the Mayor of Sirmione and is composed as follows:

- the Mayor or their delegate
- the Municipal Councilor for Culture or their delegate
- the Culture and Tourism department manager of the Municipality of Sirmione
- 2 Photography experts:

Andréa Holzherr, Global Cultural Director, Magnum Photos International

Ludovica Pellegatta, Partnerships Director – Italy and Switzerland, Magnum Photos International

The Mayor, who is the President of the Panel, has the right to appoint further members to the Panel chosen from among the institutional delegates of the Authorities for tourism, promoting Lake Garda, and recognized experts of photography.

The final composition of the selection panel will in any case be officially announced on the websites: www.visitsirmione.com e sirmionefotografia.it

Art. 11

Selection of projects

The Selection Panel's assessment will take into account the quality, completeness and consistency of the submitted projects (see art. 6). The Selection Panel, at its sole discretion, could request to participants an online in-depth interview.

Art. 12

Awards

The author of the selected project will be awarded:

- a two-week stay in Sirmione in October 2026;
- a reimbursement of travel expenses (up to a maximum of € 1.000);
- a total allowance € 2.500,00 for the two weeks;
- 50 copies of the volume that will be printed by the Municipality of Sirmione using the photographs of the photographic project carried out during the Photographic Residency in Sirmione. The volume will be printed only if the Municipality of Sirmione and the project supervisors consider the material produced during the Photographic Residency worthy of publication. Otherwise no volume will be printed;
- guidance and supervision in the realisation of the project and in the editing of the book by Andréa Holzherr, Global Cultural Director, Magnum Photos International and Ludovica Pellegatta, Partnerships Director – Italy and Switzerland, Magnum Photos International.

The Selection Panel reserves the right to award further prizes or, if deemed appropriate, not to award prizes. Further prizes will be announced on the websites www.visitsirmione.com and sirmionefotografia.it.

All prizes are personal and non-transferable.

The selected photographer undertakes, during their stay in Sirmione, to hold a public lecture related to their work.

Art. 13

Disputes

Any dispute arising from the interpretation or performance of this Call for submissions is subject to Italian law.

The parties will undertake to seek initially an amicable solution to any dispute before seizing the competent courts. Failing such amicable solution, all disputes arising from this agreement shall be brought before the courts of Brescia.

Art. 14

Communications

The Organization will communicate with the candidates only by e-mail. It is therefore compulsory for participants to provide contact information.

Any changes will be promptly communicated on the websites www.visitsirmione.com and sirmionefotografia.it and directly to the participants.

Art. 15

Acceptance of the Guidelines

Participation in the Call for Submissions implies full acceptance of these Guidelines.

Art. 16

Headquarters and contacts of the Award

Sirmione Award for Photography, 17th Edition

Comune di Sirmione - Piazza Virgilio, 52 - 25019 Sirmione (BS) - Italy

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