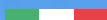


italea



The journey to your roots

Magazine

Where identity flows

No. 10

www.italea.com



italea



The journey to your roots

REGIONAL WEBSITES

			italeaabruzzo.com
			italeabasilicata.com
			italeacalabria.com
			italeacampania.com
			italeaemiliaromagna.com
			italeafriuliveneziagiulia.com
			italealazio.com
			italealiguria.com
			italealombardia.com
			italeamarche.com
			italeamolise.com
			italeapiemonte.com
			italeapuglia.com
			italeasardegna.com
			italeasicilia.com
			italeatoscana.com
			italeatrentinoaltoadige.com
			italeaumbria.com
			italeavalledaosta.com
			italeaveneto.com



NATIONAL WEBSITE

italea.com



Finanziato
dall'Unione europea
NextGenerationEU



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



MINISTERO
DELLA
CULTURA

Summary

4



Routes Corinaldo
One of Italy's most beautiful villages, it is known for the anecdotes that have marked its history

12



Traveling "Le Strade più Belle d'Italia"
The project was presented at the BIT in Milan in the presence of Italea

6



Routes Marostica
The ancient city in Veneto is the setting for a famous game of "living" chess played in September

15



Sport From Marciano to DiMaggio
The stories of four legendary American athletes with Italian roots

11



Focus «A major project»
Luigi Maria Vignali gave an overview on the Year of Roots Tourism and Italea

22



Experiences Activities to discover
From the "dinner with ancestors" in Trento to the Sardinian dance workshop in Cagliari

News



Leaving? Yes, but with the Italea Card

In the context of the project, the Italea Card is envisaged: a digital card that will entitle holders to discounts, benefits, and services from Italea's partner companies.

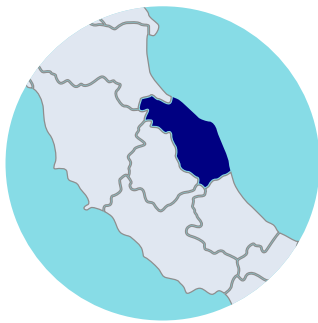
2024, a year to remember

In the context of the project, the Italea Card is envisaged: a digital card that will entitle holders to discounts, benefits, and services from Italea's partner companies.

This is what "talea" means

The name Italea derives from "talea," a practice by which a plant is allowed to propagate. By cutting off a part of it and replanting it, a new life can be given to it.

Corinaldo MARCHE



Mystical trails and quirky tales of the "town of madmen"

Corinaldo is one of Italy's most beautiful villages: its charm is also rooted in the many "crazy" anecdotes that have marked its centuries-old history

Corinaldo, perched atop a hill in the province of Ancona, is a medieval and Renaissance town surrounded by one of the best-preserved defensive walls in the Marche region, dating back to 1367.

Known as the "town of madmen" due to numerous quirky anecdotes woven into its history, Corinaldo boasts legendary tales such as the Contesa del Pozzo della Polenta (the Contest of the Polenta Well), Scuretto, and the fig cannon—fascinating stories best discovered through the words of the locals.

Within the town, numerous significant monuments showcase Baroque and Neoclassical influences. Among them are the former Augustinian convent, built between 1767 and 1780 by Corinaldo-born architect Gimignani, and the neoclassical Town Hall. Noble residences such as Palazzo Amati, the first Palazzo Orlandi, and the 16th-century loggia inside Palazzo Cesarini Romaldi add to the town's architectural charm.

Other highlights include the Carlo Goldoni Municipal Theatre, built between 1861 and 1869 to replace the old and inadequate Teatro del Sole nascente, and the Sala del Costume e delle Tradizioni Popolari, which houses historic "cucal

garments" and tools used in textile production. The archaeological area of Santa Maria in Portuno, named after the Roman god of ports Portunus, now hosts the Church of Santa Maria in Portuno. Meanwhile, the Antico Molino Patregnani displays artifacts and tools from rural life, including the ancient stone mill used for oil pressing.

Corinaldo's deeply rooted sharecropping tradition forms the backbone of its local cuisine, featuring truffles, cheeses, cured meats, olive oil, honey, sour cherries, passatelli in brodo, maccheroncini di Campofilone, Christmas "pecorelle," and renowned wines such as Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi, Rosso Piceno, Esino, and Verdicchio Riserva.

Corinaldo boasts a vast and highly significant artistic heritage, showcased in its places of worship, civic buildings, and the Claudio Riboldi Art Collection. Outside the town walls, visitors can explore the Collegiate Church of San Francesco, the Church of Sant'Anna, and the Sanctuary of the Incancellata, all of which contribute to the town's growing appeal for spiritual tourism.

Officially named "Italy's Most Beautiful Village" in 2007, Corinaldo embarked on a revitalization project in 2021 to enhance its religious tourism offering. The town now promotes



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

A must-see is Senigallia, with its promenade and beaches. Inland, it's worth exploring the Regional Natural Park of Gola della Rossa and Frasassi, home to the famous Frasassi Caves.



HOW TO GET THERE

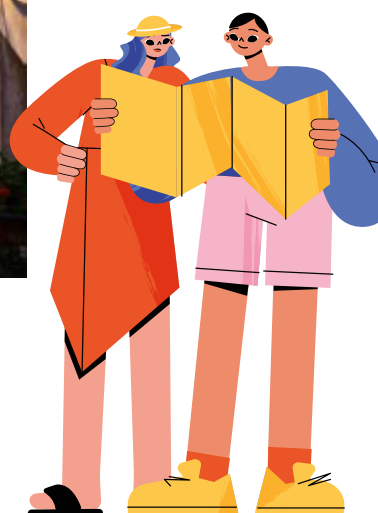
The nearest airport is Ancona (Falconara Marittima), which is connected by a direct train service departing from the Castelferretti station, located right in front of the airport. The closest train station is in Senigallia. By car, you can take the A14 motorway, exiting at the Senigallia toll booth, and continue along the SP Corinaldese road to reach Corinaldo.



Credit Regione Marche

ten Gorettian itineraries, routes that recount key moments from the life of Saint Maria Goretti, who spent her earliest years in Corinaldo. These paths connect Corinaldo to major sites across the Marche region, from Recanati, Loreto, and Urbino to the castles of Arcevia and Genga, the Frasassi Caves, and the enchanting Velvet Hills. Travelers can also visit the hermitage of Santa Maria di Valdisasso in Valleremita, the Abbey of Chiaravalle, the

Sanctuary of Macereto in the Sibillini National Park, and Serra de' Conti, home to a fascinating museum dedicated to monastic arts. These routes offer a journey through Italy's spiritual heritage—an experience worth undertaking to keep its traditions alive.





Marostica VENETO

The ancient walled city that puts history in checkmate

There is a story from the 15th century behind the famous living chess game that takes place in September in the now-iconic Piazza Castello

Marostica, a Veneto village in the province of Vicenza, nestled in the foothill area stretching from the Astico to the Brenta, has a long history that dates back to pre-Roman times. The presence of Paleoveneti in the area is evidenced by the necropolis of Angarano in nearby Bassano (13th-7th centuries BC). The Romans fortified the settlement on Monte Pauso to control the surrounding territory. According to legendary tradition, the Pieve di S. Maria, also known as the Domo, dates back to the 1st century AD, although it is more likely from the 4th century AD.

After the tumultuous events of the barbarian invasions, which saw the dominance of Ostrogoths, Lombards, Franks, and Hungarians, Marostica passed to the Della Scala family of Verona in 1311. They decided to build the two most significant civil and military constructions in the city as a consequence of the struggles against the Padua: the Lower Castle, also known as Castello Da Basso, and the Upper Castle on Monte Pausolino, built on the remains of a previous tower mentioned in documents from the 13th century. The defensive walls, featuring charming bastions and towers, were built later, with construction starting on March 1, 1372. Thus, under the Scaligeri, Marostica took on its current appearance as a heavily fortified, rationally planned, and orderly city.

During the Venetian rule from 1404 to 1797 (the year of Napoleon's conquest), the village was enriched with religious buildings. The Church of S. Marco and the Scoletta del SS. Sacramento were erected in 1450 and 1486, respectively, the latter directly across from the Church of S. Antonio Abate (dating back to the Scaligeri period). The Church

of S. Gottardo was also built, while the Pieve di S. Maria, the Domo, was restored and enlarged. The most significant construction to occur in the last years of the 15th century is the famous Convent of S. Sebastiano, of which remnants can still be seen today. In 1510, the Dominicans completed the construction of the church and the Convent of S. Rocco in the current Borgo Panica, west of the city, which is now the chapel of the Civil Hospital. Finally, the Church of the Carmini (1618-19) completes the series of religious buildings within the city walls.

Don't miss Piazza Castello, bordered to the south by the Lower Castle, to the north by the Palazzo del Doglione, and flanked by palaces and long porticoes. It provides a perfect location for the famous Living Chess Game held in the second week of September in even-numbered years, inspired



On the right, a spectacular view from above of the living chess game
Below, the typical I.G.P. cherries of Marostica



by an event believed to have taken place in 1454—a tradition revived in 1923 by university students Mirko Vucetich and Francesco Pozza.

Also worth visiting are two testimonies of the Great War: the Command Post at Vallonara, a hamlet of Marostica where the famous Sassari Brigade also stopped, and the Italian military outpost on top of Monte Agù. Marostica's allure also lies in its cultural roots, such as those of transhumance (also evidenced by the Ecomuseum of Straw and Peasant Traditions) or the harvest of the typical IGP Marostica Cherry, the crowning jewel of local agriculture. All these elements are reminders of a past peasant civilization, complemented by the "masiere" (dry stone walls) and the ancient rural paths celebrated during the Antica Fiera di San Simeone in the last weekend of October.

italea

The journey to your roots



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

Don't miss the prehistoric village of Monte Corgnon. For rafting enthusiasts, it's the perfect opportunity to tackle the Brenta River starting from the village of Campolongo sul Brenta.



HOW TO GET THERE

The nearest airports are Treviso's Antonio Canova Airport (52 km) and Venice's Marco Polo Airport (90 km). By train, the main stations are Bassano del Grappa and Vicenza. By car from Rome: take the E35, A1 var - Variante di Valico, A1/E35, A13, and A31 towards SP111 in Mason Vicentino. Take the Colceresa/Pianezze/Marostica exit from the Pedemontana Veneta expressway, then follow SP111 and SP248 towards Viale Stazione in Marostica.



Muro Lucano BASILICATA

The village in the province of Potenza stands out against the stunning backdrop of the Marmo Platano Valley atop a limestone spur

Journey to Muro Lucano through flavor and history

Muro Lucano, in the province of Potenza, is known as the "Nativity Village" for its urban structure built on a limestone spur, showcasing its fairy-tale and evocative beauty. The backdrop is the natural scenery of the Marmo Platano valley, where, according to legend, the legendary battle between Hannibal and Marcellus was fought in 210 BC, precisely where the remains of megalithic walls and the ruins of a Basilian monastery have been found. The first inhabited center was likely the Roman municipality of Numistro, and following the end of Roman rule, various dominations succeeded one another: from the Lombards to the Normans, under whom the village became a diocesan seat in 1050, followed by the Angevin and then Aragonese presence.

In the narrow streets, history and religion intertwine in this town that gave birth to Saint Gerard Majella (Muro Lucano, 1726 - Materdomini, 1755), patron saint of Basilicata, and where Queen Joanna I of Naples died in 1382 within the castle. The historic center

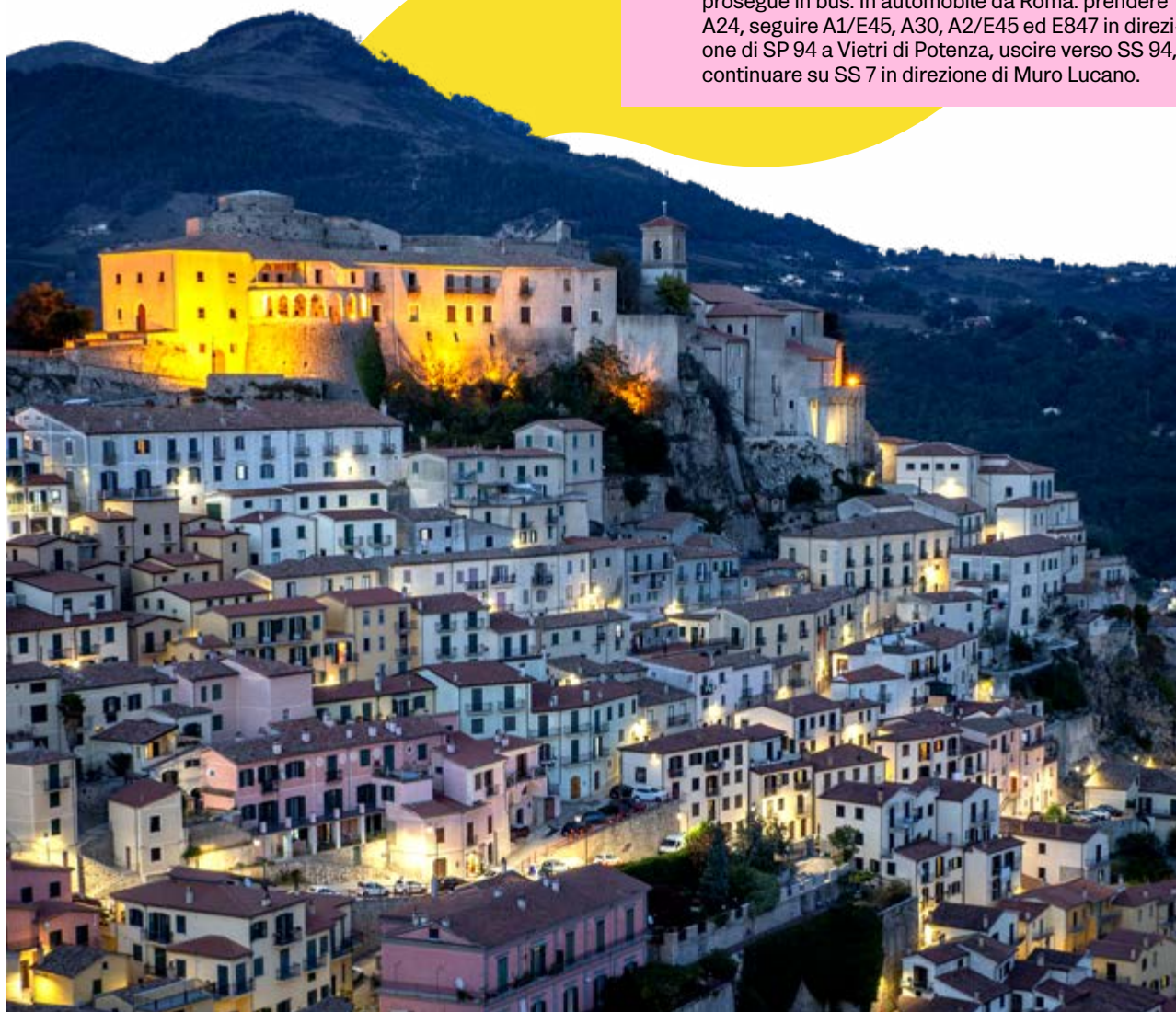


reflects the various historical phases it has undergone, from the Pianello district, the oldest, where Roman influence survives, to the highest point, where medieval imprint is strong, evidenced by the monumental castle from the 9th century. In the Pianello district, the oldest part of the village, is the birthplace (1726) of Saint Gerard Majella, which has since been transformed into a house-chapel dedicated to him. Among the other places that recount the saint's childhood and keep his memory alive is the Church of the Madonna di Capodigiano (12th-13th century), which, according to legend, the saint would visit as a child to venerate the statue of the Virgin. Regarding religious heritage, notable sites include the Convent of Sant'Antonio, with its adjoining Church of Sant'Andrea Apostolo (15th century), the Church of San Marco Evangelista (16th century), the Church of the Madonna del Soccorso (17th century), and the Church of the Madonna della Neve (16th century).

Adjacent to the medieval castle stands the Cathedral of San Nicola, dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries, which, due to numerous earthquakes, has undergone various restoration interventions that have altered its original appearance as a rock church. The responsibility of preserving cultural roots, thanks to the close relationship of the inhabitants with religious traditions, lies with both religion and traditional cui-



sine. In the first case, the patronal feast dedicated to Saint Gerard Majella at the beginning of September is a much-anticipated moment in the village, while in the second case, it is worth participating in the Sagra della Patata di Montagna, held in mid-September. In both cases, it is the perfect opportunity to taste the flavors that enrich the tables of Muro Lucano, where truffles—referred to as the “diamond” of Lucanian cuisine—are the main attraction. Also worth tasting are lagane with beans, cavatelli with breadcrumbs, tagliolini with milk, acquasale, potatoes with beans, chestnut desserts, and “cuccia” made with legumes and corn. During your visit, it is worth exploring the territory of Muro Lucano, among enchanting landscapes, caves known in dialect as “vucculi,” meaning “trapdoors” or “hiding places,” and archaeological sites in the valley, such as in the locality of Raia S. Basilio, where the ancient Numistro stood, the traces of which are housed in the National Archaeological Museum of Muro Lucano, located in the former episcopal seminary.



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

For those seeking trekking and nature, there is the Monti Picentini Regional Park. Among the nearby villages worth visiting are San Fele and Melfi.



HOW TO GET THERE

Gli aeroporti di riferimento sono quelli di Napoli e Bari, mentre le stazioni ferroviarie sono quelle di Melfi (29 km) e Potenza (30 km), dalle quali si prosegue in bus. In automobile da Roma: prendere A24, seguire A1/E45, A30, A2/E45 ed E847 in direzione di SP 94 a Vietri di Potenza, uscire verso SS 94, continuare su SS 7 in direzione di Muro Lucano.

The journey to discover our roots continues

Here is the tenth issue of the magazine dedicated to Roots Tourism. The journey continues through all the Italian regions, discovering the wonders in over 800 municipalities that are part of the Italea project.

Cycling

The Corsa Rosa 2025 will start with a stage from Durres to Tirana before moving into our Country

From Albania to Rome: the epic journey of the Giro d'Italia 2025

«We are placing a strong emphasis on sports diplomacy to promote the lesser-known beauties of Italy through the Giro. We are currently working on the Roots Tourism project, a program dedicated to Italian descendants who wish to return to Italy to rediscover their places of origin, and the Giro is an invaluable tool for introducing the lesser-known aspects of Italy to a wider audience.» These were the words of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Antonio Tajani, who spoke on January 13 at the presentation of the route for the Giro d'Italia and Giro d'Italia Women 2025 at the Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome. The Corsa Rosa will start in Albania and will include three stages in the country: Durres, Tirana, and Vlorë. «For us, this is an opportunity to showcase the beauties of our country and to attract even more Italians to Albania. In recent years, we have seen enormous growth: in 2023, we welcomed 800,000 Italian visitors. In 2024, we reached 1.3 million, and we hope this number will continue to rise,» commented the Albanian Prime Minister, Edi Rama. Also present was the Mayor of Rome, Roberto Gualtieri: «For us, this is a great joy because we are revitalizing and strengthening the relationship between Rome and the Giro,» said the mayor. «This marks the 50th time a stage of the Corsa Rosa has passed through Rome, the seventh time it has finished in the Capital, and the third consecutive year it has concluded here. It is wonderful that it starts in Durres, Albania, and finishes in Rome, creating a very evocative historical continuity. These events generate significant economic benefits, but it's not just about the economy. The route will pass through the new Piazza Pia and the new Lungotevere, as well as the new sites related to the Jubilee.»

The Giro d'Italia 2025 promises to be a spectacular edition, featuring a diverse and challenging route that will put the athletes to the test. The race will include two time trials, six stages dedicated to sprinters, eight medium mountain stages, and five high mountain stages. A distinctive feature of this edition is the inclusion of 38 kilometers of unpaved roads: 30 kilometers of white roads, which will characterize the end of the scenic stage with arrival in Siena's Piazza del Campo, and eight kilometers on the legendary Colle delle Finestre. The latter, at an altitude of 2,178 meters, will be the

Cima Coppi for the third time in the Giro's history, marking the highest point of the route, strategically located in the penultimate stage. Among the tributes to cycling tradition are the Passo del Mortirolo, chosen as the Montagna Pantani, and the Bartali Stage, which will connect Gubbio and Siena in a historically significant route.

The itinerary opens with the departure across the border in Albania, with an inaugural stage between Durres and Tirana, followed by a short individual time trial in the Albanian capital. From there, the Giro will move into Italy, traversing the southern regions with spectacular stages that will visit places like Alberobello, Matera, and Naples. The race will continue towards central Italy, passing through Castel di Sangro, Gubbio, and Siena, before reaching the roads of Tuscany, where a time trial between Lucca and Pisa promises to shake up the standings. Northern Italy will host demanding stages crossing Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Friuli, and Trentino, culminating in climbs such as those of Asiago, Bormio, and Sestriere. The final stage will conclude in Rome, providing an iconic finish amidst the beauties of the Eternal City.



Above, all the details of the route and stages of the Giro d'Italia 2025

Focus

Luigi Maria Vignali gave an overview on the Year of Roots Tourism and the Italea initiative



«A major project to reconnect Italians around the world»

«A major project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Italians abroad.» Luigi Maria Vignali, Director General for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, summarizes the Roots Tourism project in this way. He recently did so during the round table "The Italy We Want: Young, Dynamic, and Inclusive," held in Rome, which concluded the conference "@Migration from Social Phenomenon to Identity Factor" promoted by INPS and the Migrantes Foundation.

At the center of the debate were the themes of migration flows, with particular reference to the consequences in the pension sector. Also discussed were returnees, Italian communities abroad, and the differences between past and present emigration. Regarding ties and returns, Vignali provided an overview of an initiative to which his Directorate dedicated exceptional efforts in 2024, the Year of Italian Roots Worldwide, namely, Roots Tourism: «We have created or, rather, systematized a model of tourism that has always existed because many Italians – including famous ones in the past – have returned to Italy to visit their places of origin. But be careful: we have made it systematic, that is, we have created a network of experts and guides in the territory, we have established 20 regional groups, and involved more than 800 Italian municipalities.»

Vignali then recalled the initiatives in Italy and around the world organized by Italea, «which thousands of people participated in»: «The numbers we have indicated that about 500,000 people participated in our events in Italy. But we also presented the project abroad, where we proposed a tourism offer that did not exist, a varied offer, an experiential and emotional journey. Because traveling for

roots today does not just mean going to the small village in the hinterland to rediscover the house of one's ancestors. Instead, it is about living a unique experience that includes Italian language courses, discovering cuisine, craftsmanship, nature, and many, many other opportunities that our beautiful country offers. Large events have been organized abroad: in Toronto, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, New York, and Melbourne. These were events – Vignali continued – that involved one and a half million people: we received a great response and now we are waiting to see what the impact will be.»

Now, indeed, we look to the future: «We expect between 2024 – the Year of Italian Roots Worldwide – and 2026, about 5 million additional presences in Italy linked to roots tourism, with one billion in tourism spending in the territory and an economic impact of 5 billion euros.» Roots tourism, Vignali concluded, «is an important program that serves Italy and also helps reconnect with Italians abroad.»



italea



Il viaggio verso le tue radici

Luigi Maria Vignali, Director General for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Sinergy

The project was presented at BIT in Milan, where it "met" Italeaea



"Le Strade più Belle d'Italia" unveils a new way to travel

On February 10, at BIT in Milan, "The Most Beautiful Roads in Italy" was unveiled, a project promoted by Italy Discovery in collaboration with Countryside and The Most Beautiful Villages of Italy, supported by the Ministry of Tourism, the Lombardy Region, and Anci. The initiative aims to enhance the journey itself as an experience by tracing routes that showcase the landscape, history, and culture. The inaugural route starts in Lovere, passes through Val Camonica, and arrives in Teglio, in Valtellina, ideally leading towards the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina.

The presentation, moderated by Fabrizio Santori, included representatives from tourism and culture. Councillor Barbara Mazzali emphasized the importance of enhancing peripheral areas, while Barbara Casagrande, Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism, highlighted the sustainability of the initiative. Giovanni Maria De Vita, Counsellor of the Embassy and responsible for the "Roots Tourism" project at the Directorate General for Italians Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, linked the project to Roots Tourism, underlining the emotional and historical value for Italians abroad.

«The tourism of paths and roads is, like roots tourism, slow and precisely what allows people to relate to the territories, to live and discover small realities. Eighty million people around the world who have Italian origins feel the desire to reconnect with their places of origin. They all want to see the locations they have always heard about from their grandparents and parents. Roots tourism and road tourism do not involve the construction of large hotels but aim to preserve the real estate heritage, traditions, cultures, and the lifestyle that Italians abroad want to discover.»

The strategic role of local



On the left, Giovanni Maria De Vita, Counsellor of the Embassy and Head of the "Roots Tourism" project at the Directorate General for Italians Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

entities was highlighted by Vincenzo Santoro of Anci, while Simona Tedesco, director of Dove, reiterated the importance of communication. The conclusions were entrusted to Loubna El Bhara, Vice President of Italy Discovery, who presented the digital platform dedicated to the project. An interactive portal designed for national and international tourism that will allow users to virtually explore the routes, providing multimedia content and detailed information on itineraries, points of interest, and services available along the way.

Trend

Florence hosted a conference on the potential of the sector



Who is the Root Traveler? Insights from SWG

He comes from afar, but Italy has always been in his heart. He is between 40 and 60 years old, lives in North America, South America, Australia, or Europe, and is a descendant of Italian emigrants. He returns to our country for a journey that is much more than just a vacation: it is a return to his roots, a path filled with emotions that leads him to discover the villages, homes, and streets traveled by his ancestors. He is the "rootist," or "roots tourist," as defined by the survey conducted by SWG for Confcommercio-Imprese per l'Italia. This particular type of traveler stays in our country for an average of 12 to 15 days, with a budget ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 euros, including flight, accommodation, meals, transportation, and activities. He typically travels as a couple or with family and prefers stays in small hotels, B&Bs, or vacation homes in his ancestral villages. He seeks authentic experiences, from visiting the places where it all began to enjoying local cuisine, and often relies on organized tours to piece together his family's past.



A new drive for Roots Tourism from the heart of Tuscany

More and more people around the world are seeking to trace their genealogy, returning to the places of origin of their families. This trend is becoming an opportunity because Roots Tourism revitalizes struggling territories, counters the phenomenon of depopulation, generates income, and supports employment. Today, it holds crucial importance for Italy, where the Roots Tourism initiative has gained momentum with Italea, a program launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation as part of the PNRR project and funded by NextGenerationEU.

Roots Tourism «can also be a response to overtourism: those who come are interested in experiencing something different. They come to visit our small villages but also to live the traditions and habits of those places they have heard so much about through the memories of previous generations,» said Giovanni Maria De Vita, the project manager, speaking at the conference "Roots Tourism: Rediscovering Origins, Enhancing Traditions, Connecting to the Future" organized by Italea Toscana and Confcommercio Toscana.

Enhancing roots tourism «means strengthening the attractiveness of our country,» emphasized Eugenio Giani, president of the Tuscany Region. «I am fully convinced that tourism, in all its forms, is a fundamental engine of our economy and its enhancement. However, Roots Tourism should not be seen merely as a segment of this tourism dimension, but something much more important.»

«This type of tourism is very dear to us because it is con-



scious tourism, extremely interested in knowing the history and culture of a place: an aspect that involves us,» said Aldo Cursano, president of Confcommercio Toscana. Renato Mattioli, deputy director general of Confcommercio Imprese per l'Italia, highlighted the relevance of the project and the importance of «working together: the only key to growth.»

«The deep ties» of Italian descendants with Italy «have remained strong. The principle,» added Leonardo Marras, Councillor for Economy and Tourism of the Tuscany Region, «is to keep this culture alive, so that it can encourage return.»

The exhibition
On the occasion
of the Jubilee, "En Route"
was presented

A journey of return the Vatican Library celebrates the pilgrimage of the soul

On the occasion of the Jubilee 2025, from February 15 to December 20, 2025, the Vatican Apostolic Library is hosting an exhibition on travel as an experience of discovery and a return to one's roots. En Route explores this theme through a recently rediscovered collection: the Poma.Periodici archive, a trove of over 1,200 newspapers from five continents gathered by diplomat Cesare Poma. Among them, one stands out: the story of En Route, a periodical created to chronicle the world tour of two French journalists between 1895 and 1897. Alongside their journey, the exhibition highlights the ventures of 19th-century women who defied conventions and borders, embarking on solitary travels.

Enriching the exhibition, three contemporary artists interpret the meaning of travel through different creative expressions. Singer-songwriter Lorenzo Jovanotti Cherubini recounts his personal pilgrimage through music, writings, and symbolic objects, while illustrator Kristjana S Williams reinterprets Poma's travels in a dreamlike visual universe. Maria Grazia Chiuri, artistic director of Dior, reflects on the relationship between clothing and movement, emphasizing fashion's power to accompany the body in its ex-



ploration of the world. The exhibition concludes with Mappa by Alighiero Boetti, a work that depicts travel as a universal experience of cultural connection.

The project, supported by Maison Dior and the Galateri di Genola and di Suniglia family, also includes the digitization of the Poma.Periodici archive, making it accessible to all.

En Route is not just a celebration of travel but a reflection on return: a journey that is never purely physical, but also an inner path of memory, identity, and rediscovery of one's roots.



On the page, some
works exhibited
in the "En Route"
exhibition



Sports

Here are the stories of four legendary US athletes with roots in our Country

Italian heart, American success

The United States has given birth to some of the greatest sports legends in history, many of whom have Italian origins. Athletes who, with their talent, determination, and competitive spirit, have managed to conquer the world stage. Their presence has had a decisive impact on sports, marking not only eras but also global sports culture. Today, we revisit the stories of great Italian-American athletes who have left an indelible mark on the international landscape.

Joe DiMaggio

The baseball legend

Joe DiMaggio, nicknamed "Joltin' Joe," is one of the greatest baseball players of all time. Born in Martinez, California, to Italian parents, DiMaggio played for the New York Yankees from 1936 to 1951. His career is filled with success: 9 World Series championships and 3 MVP (Most Valuable Player) awards. But his most legendary record is the 56 consecutive games with at least one hit, which still stands today as one of the most unbreakable records in baseball. His figure has become synonymous with class and elegance, and he has been a symbol for the Italian-American community.



Rocky Marciano

The heavyweight Champion

Rocky Marciano is another giant of Italian-American sports. Born in Brockton, Massachusetts, in 1923, Marciano became the world heavyweight champion, maintaining an unbeaten record of 49 wins and 0 losses. His strength, fighting spirit, and determination made him a boxing legend, an athlete who never backed down and challenged every limit. Marciano is considered one of the greatest boxers of all time and has left an indelible mark in the hearts of boxing fans.



Vince Lombardi

The legendary American Football coach

Vince Lombardi is one of the most iconic names in the history of American football. Born in Brooklyn, New York, to a family of Italian descent, Lombardi became a legendary coach in the National Football League (NFL), first as head coach of the Green Bay Packers and later of the Washington Football Team. Under his leadership, the Packers won 5 NFL championships in 9 years, and Lombardi is remembered not only for his success but also for his ability to inspire his players with immense passion for the game. The Super Bowl trophy bears his name in his honor.



Mario Andretti

The super champion of Motor Racing

Mario Andretti is one of the most important figures in motorsport, a true icon of auto racing. Born in Italy but raised in the United States, Andretti was the Formula 1 world champion in 1978 and also won the famous Indianapolis 500 in 1969. His career has been marked by incredible versatility, achieving success in various racing categories, from Formula 1 to NASCAR. With innate talent and the ability to adapt to different situations, Andretti has been a pioneer of modern auto racing.



National economy
Farnesina and CONI
have long been
partners in events
and meetings

Sports as a bridge to Italian roots

In Celano, Abruzzo, the opening ceremony of the third edition of the CONI Winter Trophy took place, attended by Luigi Maria Vignali, Director General for Italians Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CONI have long been partners in promoting culture and sports practice, as well as the promotion of the Italian System through the organization of meetings and sporting events for Italian Communities Abroad, such as the National Sports Day and, indeed, the CONI Trophy.

«The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CONI have long been partners in promoting Italy and its excellence through what we call sports diplomacy. Through the CONI Trophy, we also promote Roots Tourism. This means inviting many Italians abroad and their descendants to visit the places from which they came, including Abruzzo. There are 830 municipalities that have joined, 47 of which are in Abruzzo, and we are happy to be here. Thank you for this partnership,» Vignali said.

«We are excited and proud,» added Settimio Santilli, the mayor of Celano. «This event celebrates sport and unites the community in a warm embrace of passion in honor of its values. Friendship and healthy competition: sport is much more than just a game; it is a universal language that speaks of sacrifice, determination, and teamwork. The importance of this event goes well beyond the sporting competition.»

Marco Marsilio, President of the Abruzzo Region, stated: «We are proud, delighted to host you. We have bet on sport as a means of promoting the territory. Sport means a healthy lifestyle: being well together, growing together, losing, winning, and overcoming one's limits.» Present were the mayors of the Abruzzo municipalities involved in organizing the CONI Winter Trophy 2024, Silvia Marrara (Sports Office of the Ministry





On this page and the previous one, the images from the presentation of the CONI Winter Trophy



of Foreign Affairs), and Mico Licastro, the CONI Delegate for the Italian Community Abroad in the United States. At the end of the speeches, a video greeting from the President of CONI, Giovanni Malagò, was shown. He is currently engaged in Cortina for a visit from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in preparation

for the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games: «There is an umbilical cord between the CONI Winter Trophy and Milan Cortina 2026. It is a preview, it is a prologue. It is an event that tells the story through under-14 athletes of the desire to promote winter sports on snow and ice with the people who will be involved in admiring, cheering for, and following their Olympic idols.»



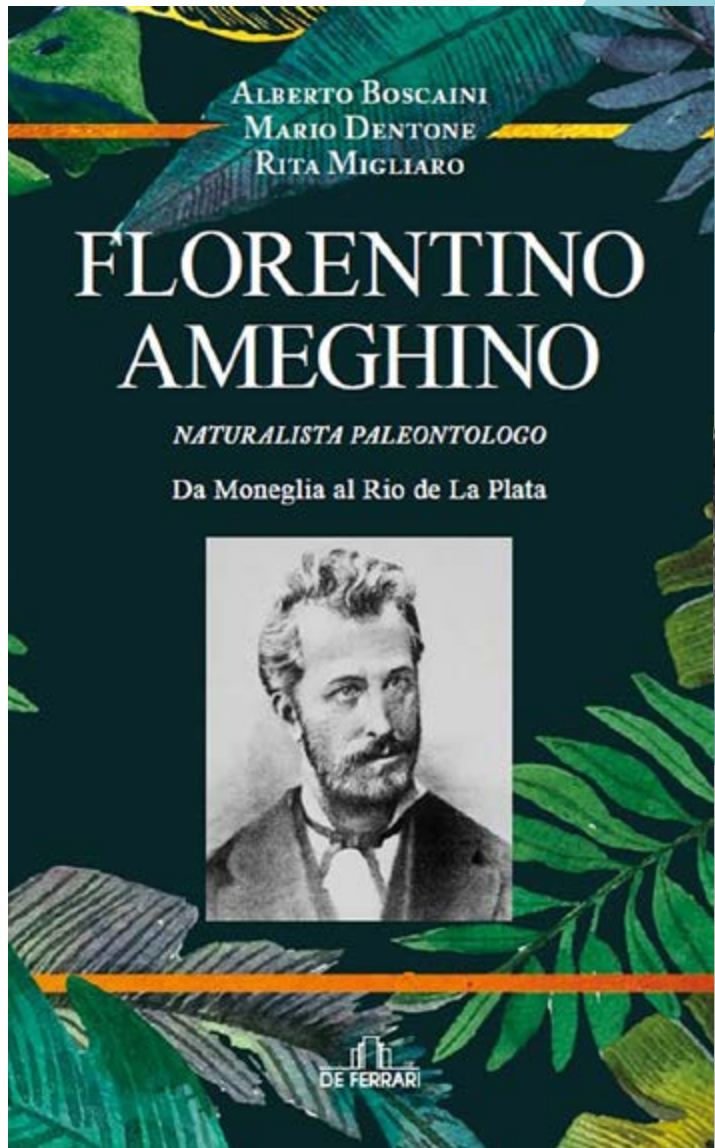
The story

Florentino Ameghino, a leading 19th-century paleontologist, was born in Moneglia and later emigrated to Argentina. A new book recounts his biography.

The life and legacy of the genius who challenged Darwin

Florentino Ameghino was Argentina's most important natural scientist and one of the leading paleontologists of his time. He had Italian origins: he was born in Moneglia, in the province of Genoa, on September 19, 1853. The story of this devoted evolutionist from Liguria, who emigrated to Argentina in the mid-19th century, has now been turned into a book, presented in the first days of the new year in Genoa and Sestri Levante.

The book, "Florentino Ameghino. Naturalista Paleontologo. Da Moneglia al Rio de La Plata", chronicles the life and work of the renowned Italo-Argentine scientist. It was first presented on January 3 at Palazzo Fasce in Sestri Levante and later, on January 22, at the Museum of Italian Emigration in Genoa. On both occasions, the three authors of the book were present: Alberto Boscaini, an Italian researcher living in Buenos Aires, who has been studying Ameghino's enormous contribution to paleontology and the understanding of fossils and extinct animals in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego for years; Rita Migliaro, who reconstructed Ameghino's childhood—born in September 1853 in the hamlet of San Saturnino in Moneglia—and the subsequent migration of his family to Argentina; and Mario Dentone, who explored the Ameghino family's ties to Genoa.





On the left,
Florentino
Ameghino
At the top,
an ammonite
and a trilobite

and the historical context of Liguria at the time. A naturalist, zoologist, paleontologist, and anthropologist, Florentino Ameghino was long believed to have been born in Argentina. However, a handwritten document that surfaced in 2020 revealed that his actual birthplace was Moneglia, a Ligurian town that was then part of the Kingdom of Sardinia.

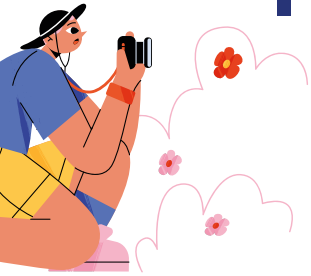
«It all started with that surname, Ameghino, which leaves no room for doubt: if you hear it in Moneglia and its surroundings, you immediately say, "It comes from Bracco." Then, when you look it up online and in encyclopedias and see he

was born in Argentina, you still feel a pinch of pride, thinking that—whether it was his father, grandfather, or great-grandfather—his family once came from Italy,» reads the website of De Ferrari, the publishing house that released the book.

The book unveils the life of Florentino Ameghino, a celebrated figure in Argentina, a scientist and visionary who dared to challenge Charles Darwin on the origins of species and extinct animals. In Argentina, cities and lakes bear his name; a mineral and even a crater on the Moon have been named after him. A life that began in Moneglia, a small rural village in Genoa. Even Pope Francis has expressed his admiration for this fellow countryman of his. But he is also ours.

The story

The Italian-American actor made his way to Hollywood cinema from a small town on the Ionian Sea



From Calabria to the USA the movie-like life of Mario Corry

Mario Corry, born Mario Coccari in Sant'Andrea Apostolo dello Ionio, Calabria, embodies the fusion of two worlds: his Italian roots and the American dream. His story traverses the sacrifices of emigration, success in the restaurant industry, and an arrival in the world of cinema.

In the 1950s, when Mario was a year and a half old, his family emigrated to the United States in search of a better future. In New York, in the Prospect Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn, they found refuge with his grandfather, who had already emigrated years earlier.

His home, a classic three-story brownstone, became the hub of family life, where they spoke in dialect and passed down Calabrian culinary traditions. His grandfather made everything from scratch: from soppressata to mozzarella, keeping the connection to their homeland alive.

Growing up in a strong and supportive Italian community, Mario became a father at twenty and found in the restaurant industry a means to support himself. He worked at the famous "21 Club" in New York, starting as a busboy and learning

the secrets of cooking and dining service. In the following years, he honed his managerial skills by working in renowned Italian restaurants, eventually revitalizing the "Marco Polo" in Brooklyn, turning it into a city landmark.

Despite his career in the restaurant business, his passion for acting accompanied him. In the 1980s, at the suggestion of a friend, he auditioned for Martin Scorsese's "Raging Bull." He didn't get the part but discovered a natural inclination for acting. However, fate led him to focus again on the restaurant business before he could realize his cinematic dream.

Music always held a special place in his life. During his military service, he performed for his fellow soldiers, and later took singing lessons from a teacher who had worked with Pavarotti. He performed in New York clubs but decided not to pursue a musical career to avoid compromising with an industry that did not share his values.

In the 1990s, he opened "Baci," a restaurant in Brooklyn, where he combined his passion for cooking with that of music, performing for cus-





Mario Corry has acted in films directed by Steven Spielberg and Darren Aronofsky, as well as in TV series such as "The Blacklist" and "Law & Order"

tomers. Thanks to a series of television features, he caught attention and realized it might be time to follow his artistic dream.

His first significant role came with director Darren Aronofsky, marking the beginning of an upward career. However, the real breakthrough came with Steven Spielberg's "Bridge of Spies." On set, during a break, Tom Hanks told him, "Welcome to the big league." For Mario, this was confirmation that cinema would be his future.

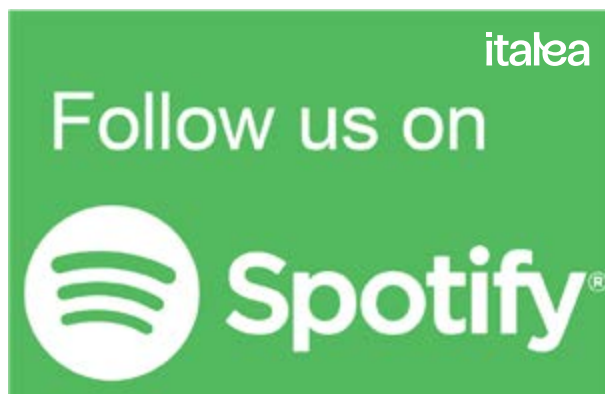
After Spielberg, Mario participated in successful productions such as "Law & Order" and "The Blacklist," solidifying his career. At the same time, he wrote books on Italian cuisine and engaged in theatrical and film directing. His film "Black Mike," inspired by a true story, won awards at various international festivals, confirming his talent behind the camera as well.

The latest chapter of his career unfolded in Italy. While on vacation at Lake Como, he received a message for an audition for the series "Tulsa King," starring Sylvester Stallone. With the help of his wife and hotel staff, he recorded the self-tape. The next day, he discovered not only that he had landed the role but that he had been assigned a more significant part: Fat Jimmy, a New York mafia boss.

Two days after returning to the United States, he was already on set in Atlanta, ready to work with Stallone. "Tulsa King" further solidified his career, opening new opportunities in international cinema and television.

Behind the name Corry lies a story of emigration and integration. Mario's grandfather, who arrived in New York in 1910, enlisted in the U.S. Army to gain citizenship. A sergeant suggested he change the surname from Coccari to Corry, which was easier to pronounce. Thus, the family name transformed, marking the passage between two worlds.

Today, Mario Corry is an established actor who has managed to unite his Italian roots with the American dream. His story is that of a man who, without ever forgetting where he comes from, has built a unique path among culture, art, and tradition. «I am Italian, but also Italian-American,» he states, aware that his identity is a perfect synthesis of both worlds.



Experiences

From Trento to Cagliari: Italy offers immersive activities with the aim of evoking memories and emotions

Boville Ernica



Olive growing in Ciociaria a deep-rooted tradition

Olive growing has deep roots in Ciociaria, a land where the olive tree is the main crop. Ancient trees dot the landscape of Boville Ernica, in the province of Frosinone, symbolizing strength and longevity. Experiencing the production of extra virgin olive oil means immersing oneself in the sacrifices behind every bottle. The journey begins on the paths of the olive groves, discovering the cultivation and harvesting of olives. The heart of the experience is the ancient olive mill, which has been transformed into the Museum of Oil and Olive of the Ernici Mountains. Here, visitors can taste local products with Itrana extra virgin olive oil, learning about its excellent organoleptic qualities.

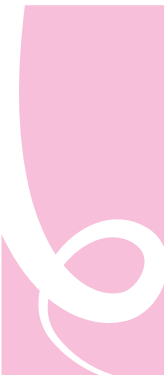
Ascoli Piceno



From dough to dish: a flavorful masterclass experience

Are you ready to get your hands “in the dough”? In Ascoli Piceno, masterclasses dedicated to egg pasta, olive ascolane, and other “icons” of Marchigiana cuisine—renowned and appreciated worldwide—are on the agenda. It’s not enough to just savor the flavors during your journey: with practical workshops, you’ll take home techniques and secret recipes to impress your friends and family, feeling like ambassadors of your land. The cooking lessons adapt to your origins: from fish stew made with humble fish to fried fish, from chestnut ravioli to truffle polenta. Depending on your roots, you’ll discover typical ingredients and various local specialties.

Trento



A taste of heritage in a dinner with your ancestor

Imagine being transported back in time to discover your origins with “Dinner with Your Ancestor,” a gastronomic event that celebrates your family and cultural heritage in Trentino-Alto Adige. While enjoying traditional dishes, an expert storyteller enriches the evening with tales and anecdotes related to your genealogy. You will have the opportunity to interact, ask questions, and delve deeper into your history. In the end, you can reflect and share your experiences with other participants. You will also receive a personalized dossier containing the stories and information learned, creating a tangible link between your present and your family’s past.

Calvello



Making ceramics like our grandparents used to

Did you know that in Basilicata there is a town with an ancient tradition of ceramics, where typical handmade products are exported all over the world? Calvello is a beautiful town in the heart of Basilicata that, alongside the multimedia Museum of Ceramics located within the Carafa-Ruffo Castle, offers you the chance to participate in educational workshops dedicated to this ancient art. You can get hands-on experience with the world of ceramic craftsmanship, guided by the skilled hands of master artisans. In the workshop, you will learn not only how a ceramic piece is made but also about the tools and various techniques involved in the crafting process.

Milan



The "survival" kit for the root traveler

Are you interested in embarking on a roots journey but don't know where to start? You could participate in the Milanese workshop "Survival Kit for a Roots Traveler," where you will acquire the skills needed to reconstruct your family history. Together with a professional genealogist, you will explore your origins and learn how to search for historical documents and information. You will start with the basics: gathering information about your family, identifying your ancestors, applying the "three-rule" to find documents, and using genealogy websites. You will also receive a printed family tree and an ebook full of resources to continue your research at home.

Cagliari



Danza e tradizione: alla scoperta della cultura del ballo sardo

Sardinia, an island rich in fascinating traditions, offers a unique opportunity to explore its culture through traditional dance. This art form reflects the island's identity with fluid movements, accompanied by the music of launeddas or the organetto. If you are a root traveler of Sardinian descent, the Sardinian dance workshop is the perfect occasion to rediscover your origins. It takes place in a friendly and informal environment, with experienced instructors who will make even the shyest feel comfortable. During the workshop, you will discover the origins of Sardinian dances and regional variations. You will learn the fundamental steps and have the opportunity to dance with other participants.

italea

The journey to your roots



Finanziato dall'Unione europea
NextGenerationEU



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

MINISTERO
DELLA
CULTURA

Conceived and produced by the Nove Colonne News Agency, which curates it within the framework of the Project "Tourism of Roots - An Integrated Strategy for the Recovery of the Tourism Sector in Post Covid-19 Italy," CUP: J51B21005910006, as per the Agreement between the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for the realization of media information services, conception, production and development of editorial and multimedia content.

italea



The journey to your roots



Finanziato
dall'Unione europea
NextGenerationEU



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



MINISTERO
DELLA
CULTURA