



italea

The journey to your roots

Roots and traditions

Magazine

No. 7

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The journey to your roots

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MINISTERO
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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

2024 marks the Year of Italian roots worldwide, dedicated to welcoming roots travelers, and signaling the perfect time for a journey to the Belpaese.

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.



Paestum CAMPANIA

Each year, it attracts millions of visitors from all over the world thanks to its Archaeological Park. But that's not all

From the glories of Magna Graecia to the Allied landing in 1943

Capaccio Paestum is a place which embodies the history and beauty of Magna Graecia, a true treasure that attracts millions of visitors from around the world every year. With its Archaeological Park, added to the UNESCO World Heritage sites in 1998, this area of Campania offers a fascinating journey into the past, featuring some of antiquity's best-preserved classical buildings. Paestum was an ancient Greek city known as Poseidonia, and what we can explore today is only a part of its former splendor.

Among its monuments, the Temple of Athena, known as the Temple of Ceres, stands out. Built at the end of the 6th century BC on an artificial rise, this topographical choice has preserved its grandeur and charm, making it one of the most significant sacred structures in the area. Just a short distance away, the Heroon and the Ekklesiasterion, symbols of the political and social life of Paestum, continue to tell the story of the city's public and religious fervor. The Heroon, probably dedicated to the city's founder, and the Ekklesiasterion, the assembly hall, are witnesses to a culture that blended the sacredness of worship with civic power.

Among the Roman remains, there are houses, an amphitheater, and the Sanctuary of Venus, which features a ritual pool once used in ceremonies to invoke fertility and safe births—an intensely symbolic place for the women of the era. The commercial and political heart of ancient Paestum was the Roman Forum, flanked by significant public buildings like the Comitium and the Temple of Peace, symbolizing Latin influence. The southern part of the site hosts the majestic Sanctuary of Hera, which is home to two extraordinary Doric temples: the Basilica, dating back to 530 BC, and the Temple of Neptune, built in the 5th century BC.

The Basilica, with its intact colonnade of fifty columns, is one of the most well-preserved Greek temples in the world, while the Temple of Neptune, the largest of Poseidonia, captivates visitors with its impressive structure and exceptional state of preservation. Adding to the experience, the National Archaeological Museum of Paestum—one of Italy's foremost archaeological museums—houses invaluable artifacts from the city's defining eras: from prehistory



to Greek, Lucanian, and Roman domination. Here, visitors can admire extraordinary finds, such as Lucanian funerary goods, archaic sculptures, and epigraphic documents, as well as the famous "Treasure of the Hera Sanctuary" and the celebrated painted slabs from the Tomb of the Diver, dating back to 480 BC, unique for their style and symbolic significance. Moreover, the Narrating Museum of Paestum is an innovative interactive facility that, through multimedia displays, allows visitors to immerse themselves in the site's archaeological history, offering a visual and auditory narrative that illustrates the myths of ancient Greece,

The journey to discover our roots continues

Here is the seventh 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.



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

Near Paestum lies the Cilento National Park, the second largest in Italy, a unique treasure of the biosphere. It is the perfect place to immerse yourself in the lush nature of this extraordinary land.



HOW TO GET THERE

Coming from the A3 Salerno-Reggio Calabria highway, from the north, exit at Battipaglia; from the south, exit at Eboli. From the SS18 state road, exit at Capaccio Scalo and reach the via Laura of Paestum. Salerno and Battipaglia are the main stops on the Naples-Reggio Calabria railway line; from there, regional trains continue to the stations of Capaccio and Paestum. To reach the archaeological area, get off at the Paestum station and follow the road that passes through Porta Sirena. The nearest airport is Naples-Capodichino.

such as the deeds of Heracles and the Trojan War. However, Capaccio Paestum is not solely about ancient history. Along its beautiful coastline, we find the Torre di Paestum, built between the 16th and 17th centuries as a bulwark against invasions. This tower also witnessed one of the most crucial moments in modern history: the Allied landing on September 9, 1943, during World War II. On that occasion, the waters in front of the tower were filled with Allied ships for Operation Avalanche, the second-largest landing in history after Normandy. The tower, which the Germans used as a defense position, was targeted by Allied cannons but, incredibly, remained standing, thus becoming a symbol of resistance. Near the tower, the Torre del Mare bunker, a fortified military structure with strategically placed loopholes, stands as another tangible reminder of the defenses built to contain the Allied advance. Each year, Capaccio Paestum commemorates this chapter of history by hosting events and ceremonies that allow people to relive those challenging years and honor the fallen. During the celebrations, visitors can view exhibits of military artifacts, tour the bunker, and witness military parades that bring to life the memory of a tragic yet decisive period for the future of Italy.

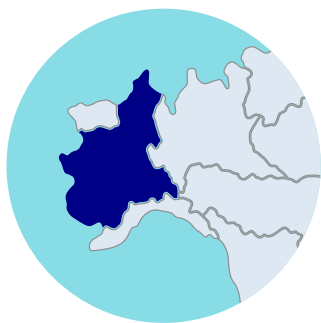
Capaccio Paestum is, therefore, an extraordinary destination where the millennia-old history of Greek temples intertwines with memories of the last century, creating a timeless journey that both fascinates and moves its visitors.



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The journey to your roots

Venaria Reale PIEDMONT



Venaria Reale, the Baroque masterpiece of Piedmont

Rich in culture and natural beauty
the town in the heart of the region
is home to the renowned
17th-century Savoy residence

In the heart of Piedmont, between the banks of the Ceronda and Stura di Lanzo rivers, lies the majestic Venaria Reale, a town rich in history, culture, and natural beauty. Founded in Roman times as Altessano, this place has seen its history intertwine with that of the House of Savoy, creating one of the most fascinating destinations in northern Italy. Venaria Reale holds a privileged position within the Piedmontese landscape, being the only town, aside from Turin, to host more than one Savoy residence on its territory. Among its most treasured gems are the magnificent Royal Palace of Venaria, dating back to the 17th century and designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the elegant Royal Apartments of Borgo Castello, nestled within the scenic La Mandria Regional Park. Commissioned by Duke Charles Emmanuel II of Savoy in the 1600s, the Royal Palace of Venaria is a true masterpiece of Baroque architec-

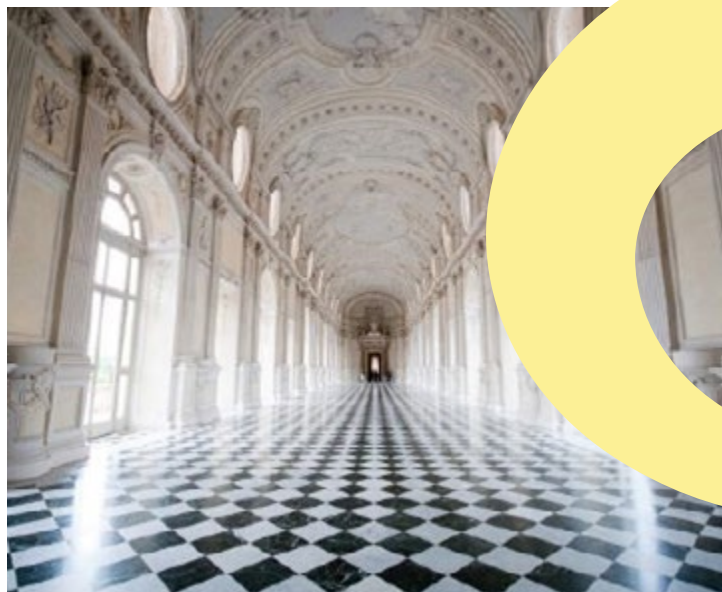




Photo La Venaria Reale



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

If you have enough days, a visit to nearby Turin, the regional capital, is a must

HOW TO GET THERE

By car, take the Turin-North ring road and exit at Venaria/Druento (for the Venaria Reale - Palace and Gardens) or at Savonera (for the Venaria Reale - Juvarra Stables). By train, get off at Venaria on the sfmA Torino - Airport - Ceres railway line. The nearest airport is Sandro Pertini Airport in Turin-Caselle.



ture. Designed by esteemed architects such as Amedeo di Castellamonte and Filippo Juvarra, the palace and its gardens captivate visitors with extraordinary works of art, including the Diana Room, the Great Gallery, and the Chapel of Saint Hubert.

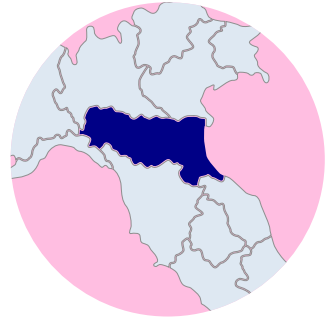
The Historic Village of Venaria Reale, built between the 17th and 19th centuries, offers a fascinating journey into the past. Through Via Maestra, originally called Contrada Granda, visitors can immerse themselves in the atmosphere of times gone by, discovering the town's architectural and culinary excellence.

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, La Mandria Park provides a unique experience of connection with nature. With its moors, ancient woodlands, and rich wildlife, the park invites visitors to explore its trails on foot or by bike, enjoying breathtaking views and unparalleled tranquility. Venaria Reale also stands out for its commitment to sustainability and green mobility. With a 30-kilometer cycling network and a bike-sharing service integrated with local public transport, the town offers residents and visitors an eco-friendly and healthy alternative to discovering its wonders.



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The journey to your roots



San Leo, the village that charmed Dante and Eco

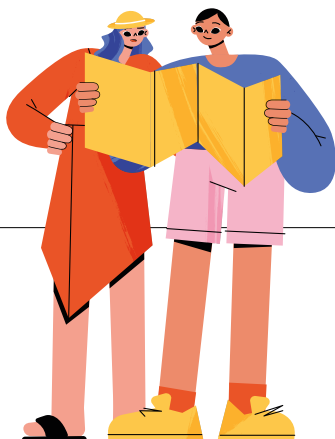
It is the heart of the Valmarecchia
The author of "The Name
of the Rose" called it
"the most beautiful city in Italy"

Both Dante and Umberto Eco fell in love with it, so much so that the latter called it the most beautiful city in Italy, with "a fortress and two churches." It is precisely these few, simple elements, along with its unique location perched almost 600 meters in altitude on the slopes of an imposing rocky formation in the province of Rimini, and the splendid view of the surrounding landscape, that make San Leo one of the Most Beautiful Villages in Italy. A magical place capable of captivating anyone who ventures inside and discovers the wonders it holds. Among these, certainly standing out is the San Leo Fortress, the faithful guardian of the town, located at the highest point of the massive rock that overlooks the Valmarecchia.

The fortress, once a refuge for Berengar II of Ivrea – King of Italy between 945 and 951, represents a true jewel of the historical and architectural heritage of these lands.

In 1795, the same structure also became the place where Giuseppe Balsamo, known as Count of Cagliostro, died while imprisoned in his cell. It is at the top of this magnificent structure that one can admire one of the most beautiful and breathtak-





OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

A visit to discover this magical place would not be complete without a visit to the Sant'Igne convent, located a couple of kilometers north of the village. The church, founded by Saint Francis according to tradition, dates back to the 13th century and not only houses a fragment of the bark of the Elm tree under which the Saint preached in San Leo, but also faithfully preserves a priceless fresco of the Madonna with Child, flanked by Saints Joseph and Anthony of Padua.



HOW TO GET THERE

From the city of Rimini, take the SP258 towards Pietracuta, then continue on the SP22, following the Mazzocco stream, and proceed on the same road until the destination.



ing views of the entire region over the surrounding valley. And so, descending towards the heart of the town, one encounters the majestic San Leo Cathedral, one of the main tourist spots in the village. A stunning medieval Romanesque-style architecture, made externally of sandstone, of rare beauty, decorated in the background by the imposing Civic Tower: another emblem of the town. Continuing the exploration of this charming, timeless place, as you venture into the historic center, you arrive at the Pieve di Santa Maria Assunta, the oldest place of worship in the entire Montefeltro area. Unmissable, the final stop is the famous San Leo fountain, located just behind the church, in Piazza Dante Alighieri. A true cardinal point and landmark for every citizen of the town.



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Frankfurt

At the Book Fair, Director General Vignali and Sociologist Giumelli discussed the phenomenon

Roots tourism takes center stage at the Buchmesse 2024

It is estimated that, over a period of a century and a half, from the mid-19th century to the end of the 20th century, more than twenty million Italians left in search of fortune abroad, heading to nearby countries (Switzerland, France, Germany), distant ones (the Americas), or far-flung destinations (Australia). Many settled in their new countries, and today, it is their descendants who are retracing their steps, even temporarily, to rediscover their origins: this is the "roots tourism" phenomenon, which has a growing economic impact alongside the recovery of the connection with the homeland. This was discussed on Saturday, October 19, at the Frankfurt Book Fair, where Italy was the guest of honor, by sociologist Riccardo Giumelli, who addressed the topic with other authors in the book "Scoprirsi italiani," and Luigi Maria Vignali, Director General for Italians Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As part of the rich program of events filling the Italian Pavilion on the penultimate day of the 2024 Buchmesse, the panel 'Andata e ritorno: il turismo delle radici' (Going and Returning: Roots Tourism) was held, moderated by journalist Ilaria Bianchi.

Root trips (or roots tourism) refer to the journeys made by emigrants and their descendants to their places of origin. They represent a key opportunity for the tourism, and not



only, revival of post-Covid-19 Italy. But what do we mean by roots tourism? What are the places of origin? What do roots travelers seek? How many different kinds of roots travel are there? Giumelli, Marina Gabrieli, Delfina Licata, and Giuseppe Sommario answer these questions and more in the book "Scoprirsi italiani," the result of passionate and multi-disciplinary research based on an in-depth questionnaire administered in areas affected by Italian emigration. The book is an essential guide for municipalities, Italian and foreign institutions, travel agencies, and, most importantly, an opportunity to bring the stories of the 30 million Italians (and their 50 million descendants) who have left Italy over the past 150 years to the forefront, because "We go from where we come from." As Vito Teti says in the interview included in the book, «leaving, staying, and returning are inseparable terms; they cannot be separated.»

But it's not just "Scoprirsi italiani." Vignali also presented to the audience at the Fair the graphic novel "Sotto lo stesso cielo" by Simona Binni, a comic inspired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Roots Tourism project, which encourages Italians and their descendants living abroad to return to Italy to rediscover their origins and learn about what their ancestors had only told them about. The cartoonist created a story about a roots journey in which the protagonist, Cintia, travels from Argentina to Liguria, the land of her family's origins.





Some images
from the event held
as part of the Festival
of Diplomacy program



The "Soft Power of Origin's" at the Diplomacy Festival

«Italians abroad and their descendants around the world are Italy's soft power.» This was stated by Luigi Maria Vignali, Director General for Italians Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during his speech on October 22 at the event "The Soft Power of Origins" as part of the Diplomacy Festival in Rome. «A great soft power,» continued Vignali, «which has enabled many Italians to succeed globally. We want to develop this soft power to keep these communities connected to Italy. That's why the Roots Tourism program, Italea, was created, with the goal of keeping Italian descendants "linked" to their country of origin.» This, he explained, is a «different, emotional, and experiential type of tourism that we also want to promote to revitalize small towns and rural areas.» Vignali also introduced the comic book "Sotto lo stesso cielo" by Simona Binni, which captivantly tells the story of the roots journey of Italian-Argentine Cintia in Liguria.

«2024,» Vignali reminded, «is the Year of Roots Tourism, and our presence at the Diplomacy Festival is essential. It is important to help Italians abroad rediscover their origins and take trips to the places their ancestors came from. Equally important is for the new generations in Italy to understand the potential of our communities abroad and their history. This is a challenge that can be won by engaging in events like this, helping the new generations learn about what Italians abroad have done for them.»

During the event, Vignali engaged with second-year students from the Global Governance degree program at the University of Tor Vergata, emphasizing the importance of reconnecting with their identity. Slow tourism, craftsmanship, a sense of belonging, and the Italian language are the key factors for roots tourism, according to the young people who participated in the evening. «With the Italea project,» Vignali concluded, «we aim to recover the sense of belonging for the many Italian descendants around the world.»





Photo APT Basilicata

"Roots-in": international success for roots tourism

The figures from the third edition of "Roots-in - Roots Tourism International Exchange," which took place on November 18 and 19 in Matera, highlight the event's significance for all those involved in roots tourism: 155 sellers from every region of Italy, 74 buyers from around the world, 12 exhibitors including entities and companies, and 13 Italian regions showcasing their stands and offers. "I care deeply about this successful event that offers an exceptional platform for our small towns and villages, custodians of a priceless historical, cultural, gastronomic, and environmental heritage," said the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antonio Tajani, in a message sent to the Fair. «Roots tourism is a unique opportunity to rediscover our origins, promote traditions, and support local communities. At the same time,» added Minister of Tourism Daniela Santanchè, «it is a valuable



Matera

The Lucanian city hosted the third edition of the event

opportunity to encourage de-seasonalization policies and distribute tourist flows to lesser-known areas that represent the most authentic Italy. We are proud to showcase to the world the beauty and richness of our culture, which continues to influence and inspire generations around the globe.» Roots-in is the result of an alchemy that harmoniously brought together the Basilicata Region, the Regional Government, and Apt Basilicata. It is from this cohesion of intentions that a vision was born, one that draws from resources, embraces the energy of the territory and local businesses. The tourism of Basilicata is made up of people who put their whole lives, hearts, passion, and professionalism into their daily work,” said Antonio Nicoletti, Director General of Apt Basilicata. Italea could not miss an event that has been an important opportunity for three years to celebrate the deep bond between Italy and its citizens abroad, and to promote Made in Italy (the focus of this edition). «Roots-in has now become a traditional meeting point to discuss and take stock of Roots Tourism and Italea. We are happy to be in Matera for a new edition, especially in the Year dedicated to Italian roots around the world,» said Luigi Maria Vignali, Director General for Italians Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Roots-in is organized by Apt Basilicata, the Basilicata Region, in collaboration with Enit and with the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.



De Vita: «Italea is a key opportunity for local areas»

«This is a project born from the sharing of experiences,» said Giovanni Maria De Vita, head of the Roots Tourism Project at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during his speech at Roots-in, the International Roots Tourism Fair, which took place on November 18 and 19 in Matera. He discussed Italea, provided an initial assessment, and focused on future prospects. After retracing the steps from the technical meeting initiated in 2018 that led to the launch of the project, now part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), De Vita shared some key figures that highlight its success. Italea has built a widespread and dynamic network, with 20 regional groups and 16 coordinators. There have been over 4,000 requests for travel or genealogical research, 650 partners for the Italea Card, and more than 1 million visits to the Italea platform. Additionally, 833 “Comuni delle Radici” (Roots Municipalities) and 742 events have already been organized. More than 60 awareness-raising events have been held in Italy by regional Italea groups to foster collaboration and dialogue, and 19 missions abroad in 13 countries, with an estimated participation of over 1.5 million people. «This is an important opportunity for local areas because the destinations for roots travelers are not those of traditional tourism but are still relatively unknown places,» concluded De Vita.



Flavors and roots

Casa Italiana San Vincenzo Pallotti hosted an event focused on the MAECI project and Italian cuisine abroad



Italea Emilia Romagna brings its culinary tradition to London

Within the Italea project, the work carried out by the 20 regional Italeas is invaluable, as they are tasked with informing, welcoming, and assisting root travelers. Many events and activities have been organized in recent months by the Italeas for both root travelers and those who have emigrated abroad. London, for example, recently hosted an event promoted by Italea Emilia Romagna: at the Casa Italiana San Vincenzo Pallotti, a meeting was held dedicated to Root Tourism and the presentation of Italea.

The initiative, sponsored by the Consulate General of Italy in London, was a valuable opportunity for Italian descendants in the UK – and particularly for those from Emilia-Romagna – to reconnect with their roots and celebrate Italian cultural and gastronomic heritage.

The November 9 event, organized in collaboration with

Casa Artusi, took place in the Roberto Russo Room at Casa Italiana San Vincenzo Pallotti. The meeting was attended by institutional and association representatives, including the Consul General of Italy in London, Domenico Bellantone; the president of the London Comites, lawyer Alessandro Gaglione; the president of the Parma Association, lawyer Domenico Sidoli; and Francesco Repetti, representing the Consulta of Emiliano-Romagnoli in the World. Each speaker offered words of support and encouragement for the project, which promotes Italian culture and traditions abroad, with a focus on gastronomy as a symbol of our identity. The core of the event was the presentation of the Italea project: Leticia Carpinelli, the representative of Italea Emilia-Romagna, illustrated the specific initiatives promoted in



The exhibition
will be on display
for six months
at Eataly in London



"Italianisms Around the World" the exhibition opens in the City

On November 8th, the exhibition "Italianisms Around the World" was inaugurated at Eataly, a project by Casa Artusi in collaboration with the MAECI, with the support of Italea. The exhibition will be on display for six months and offers a fascinating journey into the language of food, telling the story of the uniqueness and global spread of Italian culinary culture through the words of Italian cuisine. It is a tribute to how Italian cuisine has become one of the most beloved and widespread cuisines in the world. The event and exhibition were made possible thanks to the collaboration between the Emilian-Romagnol community, Italian associations in London, and Casa Artusi.



the region, offering a range of services to those wishing to discover their land of origin and the cultural traditions of Emilia-Romagna.

Following this, a conference was held on Italian cuisine abroad and the fundamental role of Pellegrino Artusi in spreading Italian culinary culture worldwide. Mattia Fiandaca, a culinary expert from Casa Artusi, shared the history of Artusi's recipes and their cultural significance, emphasizing the importance of Italian gastronomic traditions on a global level.

Next, participants had the opportunity to engage in a unique sensory tasting, savoring typical Emilia-Romagna products: 30-month-old Parmigiano Reggiano DOP with Traditional Balsamic Vinegar of Modena DOP, paired with Chardonnay "Colibri" from Poderi dal Nespole, which highlighted the authentic flavors of our country.

To close the event, Matteo Milandri, head of the Casa Artusi Cooking School, conducted a live cooking demonstration, preparing a recipe from Pellegrino Artusi's famous book: chestnut flour passatelli in broth, paired with Sangiovese di Romagna Superiore "Prugneto" from Poderi dal Nespole. Participants were able to learn the secrets of Italian cooking and taste the Artusian dish prepared on the spot.

Italians abroad

An official mission to Rosario to promote the Italea project and strengthen ties with the Marchigiani community abroad

A bond that brings distances closer

Last month, the mission led by the regional councilor of Marche, Mirko Biló, concluded in Argentina. After participating in the presentation and promotion of the "Italea" project dedicated to roots tourism at the Italian pavilion of the International Tourism Fair, the mission made a stop in Rosario, the third most populous city in the country. Rosario is home to one of the largest Marchigiani communities abroad. The visit provided an opportunity to strengthen the ties between the Marche region and its expatriates, as well as to deepen the relationship between the Italian region and the local institutions.

«The Marchigiani community in Rosario is deeply integrated into the local context, as confirmed by the Consul," explained Biló. "The Marchigiani who emigrated here have built relationships of esteem and respect with all levels of government over time. Our fellow citizens have successfully integrated into the country's economic and social fabric, ensuring stability and well-being for their families.» «It is essential," he added, «to maintain continuous contact



Here and on the previous page are some images from the mission to Rosario, led by the regional councilor of Marche, Mirko Biló



with this community by sending promotional materials to raise awareness about our approach to economic development and tourism policies. It is important to keep alive and consistent the value and interest our regional government places on its fellow citizens in Argentina.»

During the mission, Biló had the opportunity to meet with the General Consul of Italy in Rosario, Marco Bocchi, the president of the Dante Alighieri Institute, Dr. Amadeo Lombardi, and several local authorities, including the Chief of Staff of the Municipality, Rogelio Biazzi, accompanied by leaders from the Tourism, Infrastructure, and Economic Policies sectors, as well as the President of the Rosario Legislative Council.

«During the mission, Luigi Contisciani, president of the Consortium of the Tronto River Basin in Ascoli Piceno, awarded a scholarship to the best students at the Dante Alighieri Institute and made a significant contribution to the Familia Marchigiana to enhance Italian language courses for the descendants of our fellow citizens,» Biló explained. He then emphasized the importance of the meetings with Gustavo Nardelli, president of Rosario-Islas Malvinas International Airport, and Esteban Bretto, president of the Rosario Port Authority. «Both expressed great interest in future collaborations with the Marche region. Topics of interest included the luxury shipbuilding district in the port area of Ancona and the development of the Amazon logistics platform, which connects the Port of Ancona, Falconara Airport, and the Interporto of Jesi,» Biló concluded.

The story

Italea welcomes Jimena Grandinetti:
the Argentine TV host and influencer
travels to Lamezia Terme
rediscovering her Italian roots

From Argentina to Calabria Jimena's roots journey

A journey to rediscover one's roots that takes the heart to "move" from Argentina to reach Lamezia Terme. This is the return to the origins of Jimena Grandinetti, an Argentine journalist, TV host, and influencer. Jimena was born to an Italian father, originally from Sambiasi, who came across the ocean with her grandfather in the immediate post-war period. This bond has been strengthened today thanks to the Italea Project, dedicated to roots tourism, launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to offer descendants of Italians worldwide the opportunity to trace and visit their places of origin.

Jimena was welcomed in Lamezia Terme by Mayor Paolo Mascaro, the President of the City Council Giancarlo Nicotera, and the Councillor for Entertainment Luisa Vaccaro. The "Luisi" council hall hosted the event. As Nicotera himself pointed out: «This is the home of all the people of Lamezia, and we wanted to welcome her here for this reason, for an emotional discourse with institutional value.» Also

present was Cristina Porcelli, the regional coordinator of the project, who clarified: «Italea Calabria is happy to welcome Jimena and to build this experience of rediscovering her roots for her.»

Giovanni Maria De Vita, the Embassy Advisor and the project's coordinator, thanked the municipal administration for «welcoming Jimena Grandinetti, a great Italian abroad, a well-known journalist, who comes here to rediscover her origins. There are so many Italians in the world, and this initiative was born precisely for this reason: to facilitate their journey of rediscovery of their roots and to encourage the many descendants of Italians worldwide to undertake the roots journey. But,» he emphasized, «it is also an opportunity to show Italians who the descendants of Italians abroad are. These Italians, who have distinguished themselves in all fields in the countries that hosted them, are an opportunity for us to develop bilateral relations and offer them the possibilities that Italy offers as a whole. It is a winning





Some moments
of Jimena
Grandinetti's
journey to
Lamezia Terme



relationship that we want to support, and Italy represents a unique case in the world due to the vast presence of this Italian community worldwide.» Jimena was deeply moved and thanked everyone, specifically Italea: «It is a great emotion I am experiencing here, rediscovering my origins and my land. It is important for me to live all of this and take it with me to Argentina.»

Mayor Mascaro stressed the importance of such moments of exchange: «This is a beautiful initiative, and we are happy to host this important moment here in the Luisi hall. We need to ensure that in our land and in our territories, there can again be a return of those generations who left our territory and went to other parts of the world, always trying to keep the connection with our territories alive and strong. We are happy because, in our small way, we can also be protagonists of this roots tourism.» Jimena Grandinetti received as a gift directly from the hands of the Mayor of Lamezia the family tree of her ancestors, along with the bronze emblem of the city of Lamezia. Jimena's stop in Calabria will be marked by a program of guided visits, which will also be the subject of interviews and reports by Grandinetti, taking her to explore Pizzo Calabro and «her» Lamezia Terme, thanks to a guided tour through the historic centers of both cities.

The book

The Italian version of “Algún día será” by Maria Laura Sergio has been presented: it tells the story of her family, which arrived in Argentina from Cava de’ Tirreni in 1923

A journey to discover roots after a hundred years

The Italian version of “Algún día será” was presented, a book by the Italo-Argentine Maria Laura Sergio, which reconstructs the history of her family and the bond that ties them to Italy. «What pushed me to write this book was the need to share with the Italian community in Argentina and the descendants of immigrants the story of how I discovered my Italian roots, and what it meant for me and my family,» says Sergio. Her grandfather, Luigi Sergio, left Cava de’ Tirreni, in Campania, in 1923, after World War I, and arrived in the vibrant Buenos Aires of the 1920s. «The book speaks of the journey to my roots and the reunion with my Italian family, almost a hundred years after my grandfather emigrated, never to return. The title, “Un giorno sarà” (One Day It Will Be), evokes a very deep desire of my grandfather to return to his homeland and find his relatives; as well as my father’s desire—who died at the age of 57—to meet his family.»

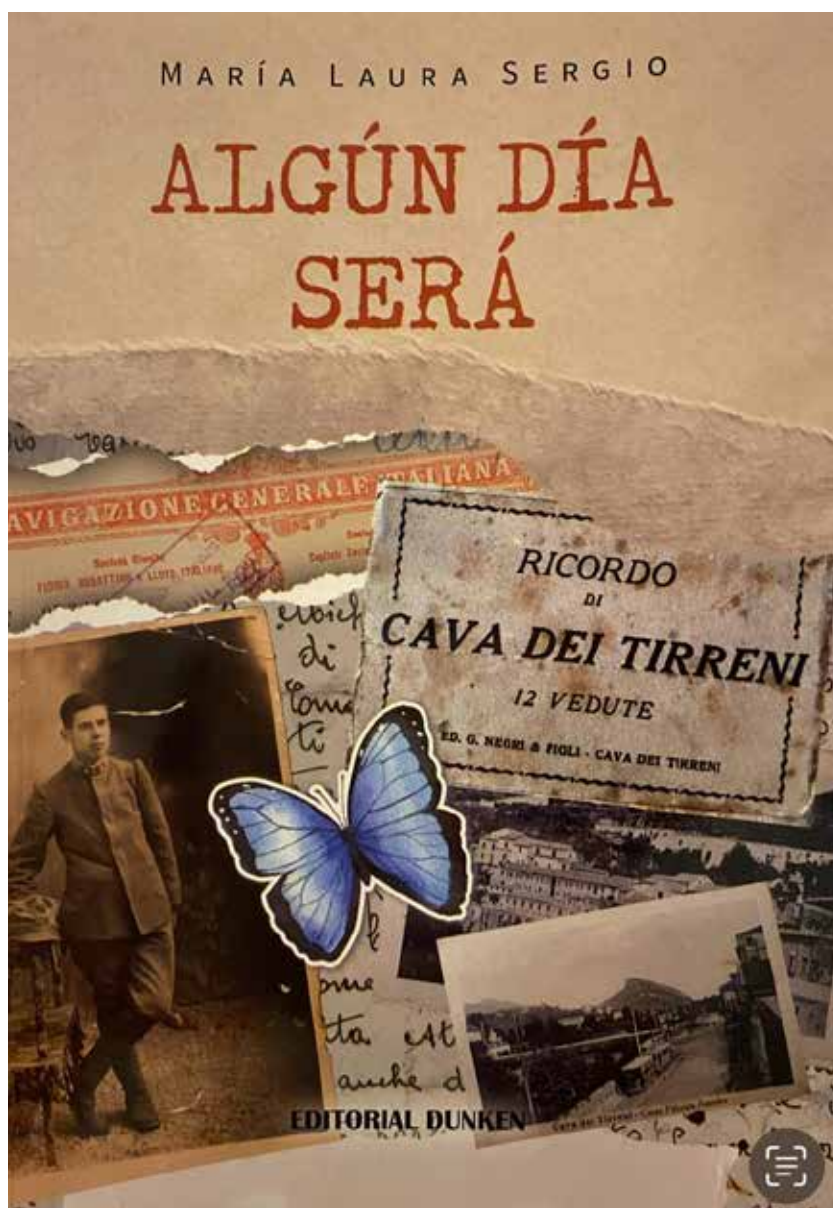
Maria Laura explains that many of these emotions, hidden in her family history, were revealed to her when she arrived in Campania, where her Italian cousins kept letters in which her grandfather and father had written to their loved ones about their desire to return to their homeland. A dream that in some way was realized thanks to Maria Laura’s trip in 2016. «That trip changed my life and my family’s

life forever,» reveals the author, who now lives in Buenos Aires.

It all started with the discovery of a box kept secret for years, containing documents from her grandfather Luigi, photos, and postcards from Italian relatives. «That box was left to us as an inheritance by our uncle Luis, the last to die in my father’s family. He used to tell the story of my Italian family, of my grandfather. When I found the postcard from Cava de’ Tirreni with the photo of the Benedictine Abbey (which appears on the cover of the book), sent from Italy in the 1940s, I was overwhelmed with a huge emotion and a desire to visit that place. So, I went. I was amazed by the beauty of the place, the hospitality of its people, and I wondered: why would my grandfather want to leave such a beautiful place?»

Maria Laura explains that after ringing dozens of doorbells searching for her relatives, she stopped by the municipal registry office. Her search didn’t stop there: in Italy, there was also a box of memories kept by her aunt Maria Giovanna, who passed it on to her daughter Isabella, a tango lover determined to go to Buenos Aires to search for her Argentine relatives. «In the book, I tell how, in the end, the long-awaited meeting between the Italian and Argentine families was realized, the result of both searches and of events that simply happened at the right moment and





On the left, the cover of the book. On the previous page, at the bottom left, the author Maria Laura Sergio



place, revealing secrets that had been kept for years, indecipherable for the new generations, which allowed us to know and reconstruct the history of my paternal family, and the reason why my grandfather had emigrated, giving new meaning to my life and my family. We saw that there were invisible bonds, love networks that connected the two families across the ocean, time, and generations. We share similar traits, traditions, the value of family as a guiding light, a love for good Italian food, and much more. This reunion was for the joy and benefit of both families. Today my daughter, Agustina, lives and studies in Italy. And this is exactly why I truly recommend all Italian descendants to take a roots journey to Italy.»

“Un giorno sarà” was presented last September at the municipal library of Cava de’ Tirreni, in the province of Salerno, in the presence of the author. The event was held in the room named after Patrizia Reso, a local writer who, in one of her books, also reconstructed the story of Luigi Sergio, Maria Laura’s grandfather. «That book was another reason why I decided to get to work and reconstruct my own story,» concludes the writer.



Experiences

From Trentino to Basilicata: Italy offers immersive activities with the aim of evoking memories and emotions

Isera



The magic of "canederli": history and flavors of Trentino-Alto Adige

An interactive workshop celebrates the culinary tradition of Trentino-Alto Adige, taking you on a journey to discover the origins of canederli, a simple yet ingenious dish created to reuse stale bread. In this workshop, every participant will be the protagonist. There are no spectators, only co-creators ready to get their "hands in the dough." Under the expert guidance of a chef, a guardian of local traditions, you will have the opportunity to knead and cook the canederli, discovering secrets and tips that make this dish so special. The most anticipated part will come at the end of the workshop: the tasting will be the moment to enjoy the dish you've created.

Cagliari



"Su framentu: here is the soul of Sardinian leavening

Bread, a central element in Sardinian culture, has deep roots that stretch across centuries, serving as a pillar of the diet and a symbol of identity and community. At the heart of this tradition lies sourdough, also known as "pasta madre" or, in the Sardinian language, "su framentu." It is a natural leaven made from a simple base dough consisting of just two ingredients: water and flour, where the fermenting agents are microorganisms from the *Saccharomyces*, *Candida*, and *Lactobacillus* genera. The sourdough workshop is a unique experience that will allow you to discover an extraordinary ingredient, with a rich heritage of history and culture.

Ossimo



Discovering the tasty tradition of charcuterie

The Sagra del Porsèl in Ossimo, in the province of Brescia, which takes place in winter, is a must-attend event for those passionate about traditions and mountain cuisine. The event offers an authentic immersion in the world of charcuterie, with demonstrations and a wide selection of local, zero-kilometer products from local "salumifici". Visitors will have the opportunity to watch the work of the butchers, take part in workshops to try their hand at traditional processing techniques, and sample typical products prepared on the spot. The festival is brought to life by folk music and mountain costumes, with performances from local bands and musicians.

Maratea



Learning the secrets of Lucanian mozzarella

If Basilicata is the destination for your journey to discover your roots, Maratea is a must-visit stop. In addition to being captivated by the breathtaking landscapes, you'll have the opportunity to take part in an exciting workshop dedicated to the production of local mozzarella. The workshop is led by experts in the tradition and a renowned local dairy company, who will provide you with a unique experience, allowing you to immerse yourself in the artisanal world of cheese-making and learn about its distinctive qualities. This is the perfect opportunity to try your hand at making one of the many genuine, typical products of the region.

Sant'Apollinare



"Pallotte cacio e uova" on the path of Abruzzese cuisine

Become an expert in traditional Abruzzese cuisine by participating in the culinary workshop "The Path of Abruzzese Cuisine": a free cooking lesson where you'll prepare and taste "pallotte cacio e uova," a traditional dish typical of Abruzzo. In Sant'Apollinare, in the province of Chieti, you'll have the chance to learn the traditional method of making one of Abruzzo's most renowned dishes, beloved in Italy and beyond. You'll be guided by experienced hands and eyes, creating dishes with precision. Along the way, you'll discover fascinating stories and hidden curiosities linked to traditional Abruzzese cuisine and the people who still prepare these dishes as they were made in the past.

Recanati



An evening of Marche heritage: dance, music, migration stories

Special evenings to rediscover the rural culture and ethnomusical traditions of the Marche region. A wide array of activities awaits roots tourists exploring this region. It begins with lessons in the saltarello and other traditional Marche dances, where participants can learn the steps of folk dances that have enlivened Marche festivals for centuries. Next, there are accordion classes to learn how to play this traditional instrument and to experience the authentic music of the region. Finally, there is "Tango in Italian," a unique tango performance with songs translated into Italian, telling stories of characters of Marche origins and bringing to life the emotions of migration.

italea

The journey to your roots



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