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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 root 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.



On the road

Buenos Aires, Melbourne, New York: Italea ready to tour the world

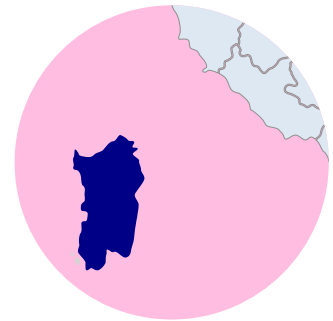
The "Turismo delle Radici" operation has entered its active phase. This project, part of the NRRP (National Recovery and Resilience Plan), aims to promote the return and welcome of Italian-descended emigrants to their regions of origin. In 2024—dedicated to Italian roots around the world—Italea was launched, a MAECI (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation) program funded by NextGenerationEU for the period 2022-2025.

The project was presented abroad in recent months, and now Italea is preparing for three new international events: gatherings and exhibitions where the project will be introduced to the Italian-origin community. Italea provides a range of tourism services—including itineraries, workshops, benefits, and discounts—to facilitate travel to Italy, supported by a dense network of professionals in every Italian region dedicated to informing, welcoming, and assisting travelers.

After events in the United States, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Peru, Toronto, São Paulo, and Uruguay, the promotion program for Turismo delle Radici will make its debut in Buenos Aires from September 27 to 30, participating in the FIT (Feria Internacional de Turismo). Italea will then be in Melbourne from October 3 to 8 for the Melbourne Italian Festa, and a mission to New York is scheduled from October 9 to 15 for Columbus Day.

These three stops—featuring various regional Italea representatives showcasing workshops and initiatives designed to better welcome root tourists—will be accompanied by local press and tour operator meetings. There will also be events dedicated to local gastronomy, cooking shows, and performances of traditional Italian music and dance.



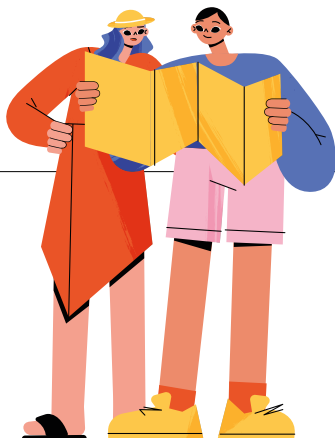


In the heart of Gallura with a view of the coast

The village near Sassari stands a few kilometers from the sea, between imposing rocks and green valleys

Situated in the immediate inland a few kilometers from the sea, Aglientu is a charming village in the province of Sassari that offers the best of Gallura, including the coastline, archaeological sites, and traditions. The 22-kilometer-long coastline is renowned for the beauty of its beaches and stretches of unspoiled nature. About half an hour's drive from Santa Teresa di Gallura (pictured on the adjacent page), the northernmost town in Sardinia, and right across from the Bocche di Bonifacio, Aglientu is close to Rena Majore (pictured on the right), Litarroni, and Vignola, a fishing village where a 12-meter-high Spanish tower from 1606 stands. The nuraghi, particularly those of Tuttusoni and Finucchjaglia, are also of significant interest, as they testify to the distant past of human settlements in the area. The urban center dates back to 1776, when Vittorio Amedeo III commissioned the construction of the Church of San Francesco d'Assisi, around which the settlement subsequently grew. There are numerous rural churches: from the 17th-century one dedicated to San Pancrazio to the more recent ones dedicated to San Giovanni and San Silverio in the Portobello marina (dating from the





OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

On the coast, Palau and Capo d'Orso are must-see destinations. Also, be sure not to miss the opportunity to visit the Island of La Maddalena.



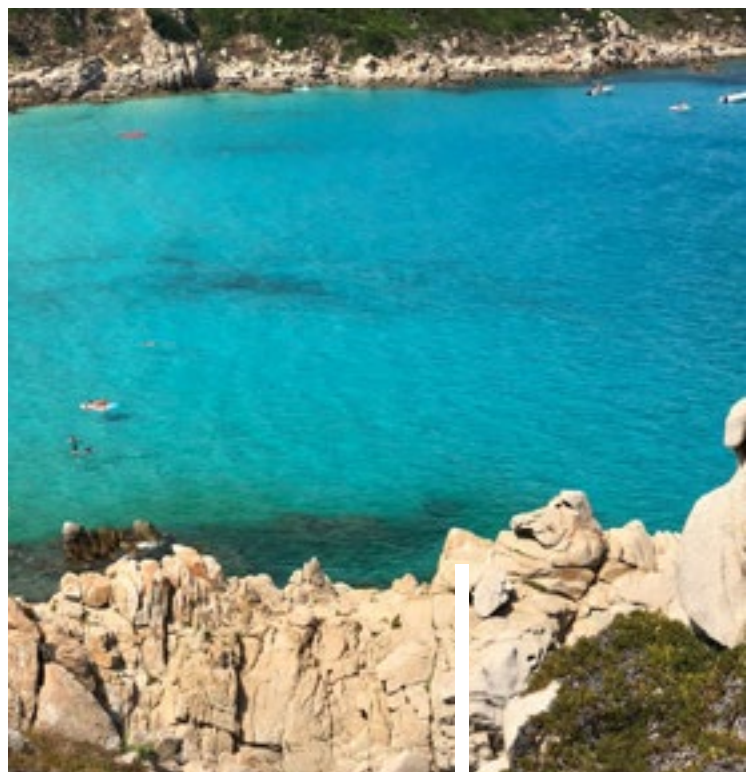
HOW TO GET THERE

The reference airport and train station are in Olbia (39 km and 37 km away, respectively). By car from Olbia (reached by ferry from Civitavecchia): follow the E840 towards Banchina Isola Bianca in Olbia, take the SS 125 Orientale Sarda, Via Stazzi Spridda, and SP 14 towards Via Tempio in Aglientu.



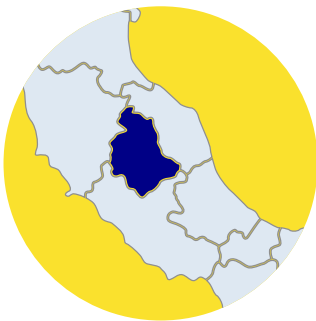
1930s to 40s). Outside the town is the Church of San Biagio (1967), built to replace a previous one. For curious visitors and those interested in local cultural roots, the first step is to participate in the many annual events that bring the town to life. At the end of January, San Paolo di Lu Laldù is celebrated, including a meat and lard-based lunch, while early February sees the celebration of San Biagio in the homonymous rural church. In mid-May, the most heartfelt popular festival dedicated to San Pancrazio takes place. Since 1972, the Proloco has organized the "Festa del Turista," reflecting

the community's great sense of hospitality. There are also many festivals, including the June "seadas" festival (featuring typical Gallurese sweets handmade by women and drizzled with myrtle honey, often enjoyed with Gallura moscato) and the sausage and cheese festivals in mid-August. All popular and religious events are also opportunities to taste local specialties such as beef, roast pork, and Gallurese soup. To conclude the visit, be sure to sample the excellent Vermentino di Gallura DOCG wine.



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The journey to your roots



Architecture and art: the heritage of Spoleto

The municipality in the province
of Perugia hosts evidence
of our Country's history
starting with Roman monuments

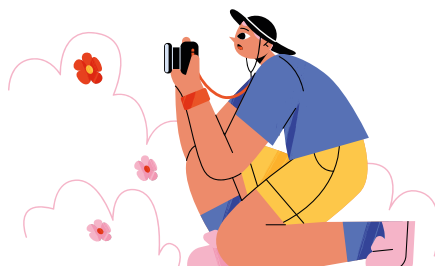
«The ten arches that span the entire valley, built of bricks, have withstood the test of time, while water continuously flows from one end to the other of Spoleto. This is the third of the ancient works I see before me, and I observe the same grand imprint,» wrote the German author Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in the early 19th century in his "Italian Journey," describing the Ponte delle Torri in Spoleto, a monumental structure built by the Romans as an aqueduct and now appearing as an imposing arch bridge. It is just one of the many testimonies to Spoleto's long his-

tory. This town in the province of Perugia, surrounded by the hills of the Valle Umbra, has inspired many artists, including Michelangelo Buonarroti, as well as painters William Turner, Edward Peticolas, and Johan Ludvig Lund. The heart of the town is represented by Piazza del Duomo (pictured on the adjacent page), a large "salon" of pink stone accessed via the scenic staircase of Via dell'Arringo, dominated by the cathedral dedicated to Santa Maria Assunta.

Dating back to the late 12th century but built on the even older Church of Santa Maria del Vescovato (8th-11th century), it captivates with its harmonious blend of styles, featuring a medieval façade and a Renaissance portico. This building combines grandeur and elegance, thanks to artists such as Pinturicchio, who frescoed the Eroli Chapel, Giovanni da Spoleto and Jacopo Siciliano, who decorated the Chapel of the Assumption, and Filippo Lippi, who between 1467 and 1469 adorned the apse with the cycle of frescoes depicting the Stories of the Virgin.

Throughout the centuries, however, Spoleto has also been traversed by numerous conquerors. After the Romans and following the wars between Byzantines and Germanic peoples, the Lombards arrived, establishing the Duchy of Spoleto in the 6th century, which survived for several centuries. This period left magnificent architectural testimonies in the small town, which today are part of the UNESCO World Heritage as part of the serial site "The Lombards in Italy. The Places of Power (568-774 AD)."

Among these buildings stands the Basilica of San Salvatore (pictured above), built between the late 4th and early 5th centuries, on the site of a Roman villa. A meeting of Roman-Hellenistic, Byzantine, and Lombard styles, the church is an example of the reuse of "spolia," materials from numerous Roman buildings in the area, reassembled harmoniously.



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

Near Spoleto, there is a place immersed in nature, full of charm and history. It is the Sacred Wood of Monteluco, an ancient sacred grove dedicated to the Gods by the Romans: a law prohibited anyone from profaning the Wood and cutting down its trees, except for one day of the year. Today, this wood has been designated as a Site of Community Interest according to EU directives.



HOW TO GET THERE

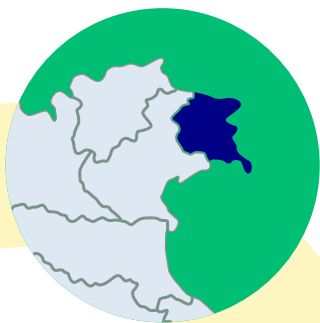
Spoleto can be reached via the A1 highway, exiting at Valdichiana from the north or at Orte from the south, or via the A14 highway, with exits at Cesena (continuing on the E45 towards Rome), Fano, Ancona, and San Benedetto del Tronto. On the website fsbusitalia.it, you can find the schedules for urban and interurban buses in Spoleto and Umbria. The nearest airports are in Rome and Ancona.



Foto Sailko

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The journey to your roots



Sappada FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

The town is a jewel of the Dolomites: architecture, culture, and gastronomy are the reasons for its popularity

The traditions of Sappada in the natural beauty of the Alps

Situated in the heart of the Dolomites, Sappada (known as Plodn in the local dialect) is an Alpine gem that has preserved its cultural and architectural identity intact. The name Sappada derives from Žepod'n, a term from the German dialect of the Cima Sappada area, which might mean "on the plateau" (zum poden) or be related to the Piave River (Plavis), which originates here, from the Indo-European root plou, meaning "to flow." Sappada is a town that tells stories of wood and thousand-year-old traditions. In 1871, a traveler described its houses as "stacks of beams rising from the meadows." This description perfectly matches the traditional architecture of Sappada Vecchia, where German-style "Blockbau" houses stand out: structures almost entirely made of wood, with horizontal beams interconnected at the corners and stone bases.

The hamlets of Mühlbach, Cottern, Hoffe, Fontana, Kratten, Soravia, Cretta, and Cima Sappada are custodians of this architectural heritage. Each hamlet offers a dive into the past, with houses from the 17th and 18th centuries, such as Casa s'Greatlan in Hoffe or Casa s'Gott Paur in Kratten, one of the oldest dating back to 1634. In Cima Sappada, at nearly 1300 meters altitude, is the Spanglar's Haus, an 18th-century Blockhaus perfectly preserved and open to the public, featuring its ancient stone hearth and smokehouse. Here, it is also possible to visit the old dairy Zepodar Sende, a museum in a well-preserved house from 1650.

Along the Piave River, a sawmill and a watermill are reminders of the rural civilization that once animated these places. The hamlets have been preserved thanks to the construction of a new road in 1922, which allowed the old part of the town to remain intact. The parish church of Granvilla, with its 18th-century Baroque style, houses an altarpiece by Joseph Renzler from 1802.

In Cima Sappada, the Sant'Oswaldo chapel, with its portico open on the sides, dates back to 1732 and resembles the religious buildings of Carnia. Numerous small churches, crucifixes, and paintings are scattered throughout the hamlets, along with fountains and small chapels, such as the oldest one from 1726 in the Bach hamlet. Cima Sappada was se-



Foto Fabrice Gallina

lected by director Terrence Malick as the filming location for his movie "A Hidden Life" due to its authentic Alpine village appearance. The sources of the Piave are located in the upper Val Sesis, at 1816 meters, under Mount Peralba, near the Austrian border. Here, one can see some fortifications from the Great War and enjoy a pleasant walk along the Rio Mühlbach, a path illuminated at night in summer and enriched with small waterfalls and wooden bridges.

The journey to discover our roots continues

Here is the fifth 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

The Sources of the Piave are a must-see in Sappada, a place that inspires peace and tranquility. They can be reached with a pleasant walk from Cima Sappada or from the Cretta hamlet.



HOW TO GET THERE

From Veneto, you can take the A27 Mestre-Belluno motorway to the last exit at Longarone (Pian di Vedoia), then continue towards Pieve di Cadore. Near Auronzo di Cadore, turn towards S. Stefano and then head to Sappada. The nearest train station is Calalzo di Cadore, from where you can catch a direct bus to Sappada. From the Friulian side, get off at the Carnia station and then take a bus to Sappada. The nearest airports are Treviso's "San Giuseppe," Venice's "Marco Polo," and Bolzano.

Sappada's cuisine, with its Germanic influences, favors melted butter and hearty diets. Cured meats and smoked cheeses are prominent, accompanied by polenta and sour ricotta seasoned with aromatic herbs, reintroduced by the Latteria Plodar Kelder. The Sappada Carnival is the most anticipated winter event, featuring elaborate masks and the imposing figure of the Rollate, representing the bear, a symbol of strength and endurance. The Sappada ski area, with its 20 km of slopes and modern facilities, is particularly appreciated by families. This makes Sappada an ideal destination for those seeking mountain tranquility, authentic traditions, and the pleasure of outdoor sports.



Foto Nicola Brollo

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The journey to your roots

The initiative

The Farnesina project made a stop at the Casa degli Italiani in Montevideo



Italea on show in Uruguay

After its debut at Expo Prado, the Italea project made a stop on September 10 at the Casa degli Italiani in Montevideo, where it was presented to the local Italian community. At the heart of the initiative, promoted by the General Directorate for Italians Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is root tourism. Italea is indeed the root tourism promotion program launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) as part of the PNRR project and funded by Next-GenerationEU. The project aims to attract Italians abroad and Italian descendants interested in discovering the places and traditions of their origins, providing a range of services

to facilitate travel in Italy. The presentation in Montevideo is part of the 2024 celebrations, declared the Year of Italian Roots Worldwide. The event was attended by numerous associations from the Italian community, with speeches by Paolo Monea, representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Professor Paola Ceraolo from the University of Montevideo, and Alessandra Crugnola, head of the consular chancery in Montevideo.

«With over 40% of the population of Italian origin, Uruguay is the ideal place to launch an initiative like this, which has enormous potential,» Crugnola said in her welcome address. «Our goal is to strengthen ties with the 80 million Italian descendants scattered around the world,» Monea explained, highlighting the close collaboration with local institutions: «Being here simultaneously with Expo Prado, where the Italian Embassy has its own pavilion, is no coincidence. We want to connect with local realities to promote a high-impact project.»

The Italea portal offers a wide range of options to customize travel and, thanks to the Italea Card, visitors will have access to numerous benefits.

«We firmly believe,» Monea continued, «that every journey is



unique and that those who undertake this path will experience an unforgettable adventure.» A living testimony to this experience was offered by Paola Ceraolo, a psychologist and lecturer at the University of Montevideo. After a trip to Sicily, she founded the Raíces Italianas Uruguay association: «I have always wondered how it is possible to feel at home in a place never visited before, thousands of miles from home. Italy has this magic: it makes us feel at home in the lands of our ancestors, which have always been in our hearts, even if we had never seen them.»

The experience in Sicily prompted Ceraolo to explore this phenomenon, first studying at the University of Calabria and then continuing her research in Uruguay. «This type of journey enriches us profoundly, giving us an inner fulfillment that no other experience can offer,» she explained. «After my trip, I felt the need to do something to help others who, like me, wish to rediscover their roots. With Italea, everything is easier today, and I strongly recommend descendants to experience this journey, which can truly change lives, as it happened to me and many others.»



Here and on the previous page are some moments from the presentation of the Italea project at the Casa degli Italiani in Montevideo

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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

In the province of Salerno

The exhibition was established in 2012 in the small village of Padula
Today, it is visited by enthusiasts and curious visitors

The Museum revealing ancestral name origins



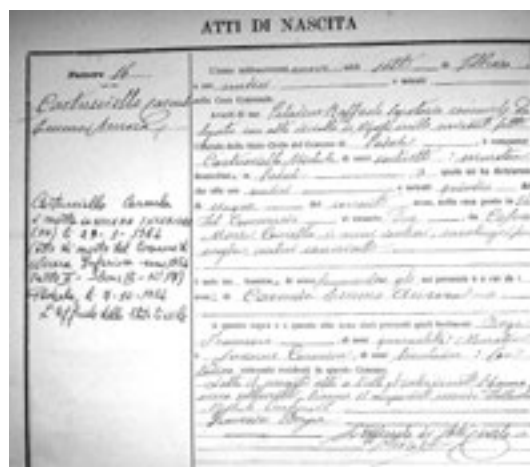
In Padula, in the province of Salerno, there is the Museo del Cognome (Surname Museum), founded by Michele Cartusciello, a lover of local traditions and culture. Cartusciello began cultivating his passion for genealogy back in 1984, when he first entered the municipal archive of his hometown, Padula, a small village in southern Salerno. His research for creating his family tree led him to municipal, parish, and state archives. In April 2012, all the experience accumulated over the years was condensed into the museum's exhibition.

«The idea for the Museo del Cognome was born from my passion for genealogy. Previously, where the museum is now located, there was a restaurant—my restaurant. Often, the customers were foreigners who came to Padula searching for their origins and would stop by to learn about traditional dishes and chat, asking me if I knew about their ancestors. I started almost as a joke to do research (with the advent of the Internet, it was easier as many civil status records were online). After the restaurant failed, I decided to open the museum,» says Cartusciello, who in recent years has visited municipal, parish, and state archives throughout Italy, reconstructing his family tree back to the 1600s, with over 4,000 names.

But who visits the museum today? «Most are people looking for their ancestors, but there are also many curious individuals,» says Cartusciello, who explains the services offered: «In addition to guided tours of the museum, we also handle genealogical research, citizenship recognition requests,

certificate requests, genealogical tours, and genealogy lessons.» The museum also hosts many young students through an internship program with the University of Salerno: «The internship arises from an agreement with the University of Salerno, allowing students to choose from among its partner locations. Students are hosted at the museum and are taught how to conduct genealogical research. They learn how to read civil status, parish, and notarial documents, as well as conscription lists, military roles, and land registers. We also deal with daily correspondence, primarily in English and Spanish, from many international clients who contact us every day and visit us.»

Above: on the left, the Museo del Cognome; on the right, Michele Cartusciello. Here on the right, a birth certificate from the Cartusciello family



Rediscovering roots with folk music

Mimmo Cavallaro is regarded as the leading interpreter of Calabrian tradition. His latest work, "Mirjiu", is a tribute to the region and its wonders

Mimmo Cavallaro is currently the most authoritative interpreter of Calabrian musical tradition. Born and raised in Caulonia, in Reggio Calabria, he has always conducted his own particular research through field investigations, analyzing and recording the variety of stylistic traits that characterize different areas of the region. Dialect singing and the use of traditional instruments, such as the Calabrian lyre, combined with original lyrics and harmonies, make him one of the leading figures in Italian folk music. His latest work is "Mirjiu": a tribute to Calabria and its wonders, an album produced by Cavallaro himself and distributed by iCompany. The style that has always characterized the artist, marked by the modern use of Calabrian ethnic instruments, has reached its most mature phase, minimizing external influences and focusing on experimenting with elements that exclusively reflect his musical and cultural identity.

«"Mirjiu",» he says, «comes after a long break, seven years since the last album Calanchi. It is an album that contains new tracks about characters and places in the Locride.» «I believe that folk music,» Cavallaro emphasizes, «represents a way to strengthen one's identity, the identity of the territories and the populations living there. In this world, where globalization is rampant and seeks to sweep away peripheral cultures, protecting and making folk music known is a way to relate to the rest of the world.»

Cavallaro has gained extensive experience abroad over the years: in April 2018, Mimmo performed with his band in Buenos Aires at BA celebra Brasil 2018, making more than 30,000 people dance at Plaza de Mayo. The following year, in addition to numerous concerts in major Calabrian and Italian squares, he performed in important foreign locations, including Bous in the Saarland (Germany), the Hankyu Department Stores, hosted by the Italian Cultural Institute of Osaka (Japan), and in some of the main cities in Australia such as Melbourne, Sydney, and Adelaide.

«I have extraordinary memories of every place we went. Abroad, we always met a lot of people, many Italians and Calabrians in particular, who welcomed us with joy and nostalgia for their places of origin. The most beautiful memory was perhaps that of Buenos Aires, where there was so much Calabria listening to us. What I preferred was the post-concert, where many came to greet us, hug us, tell us their stories, their emigration, and the Calabrian villages from where they left and had not seen for many years, people who perhaps have not returned to Italy,» Cavallaro recounts. «I





also hold dear the encounters with the Italian community in Canada and Australia. In Osaka, it was incredible! The Japanese people did not know our music, language, or culture, but after a week of workshops and the two final concerts, we saw the audience go wild with the Calabrian tarantella.»

Calabria is a land experiencing the phenomenon of depopulation and emigration. The musician is aware of this: «The depopulation of small villages and the internal areas of Calabria is a daily drama for our land. I wouldn't know how to provide a precise solution, a "recipe" to counteract the phenomenon, but I think that becoming aware of the great opportunities offered by this land - its beauties, from the sea

to the mountains - and investing in tourism activities, local craftsmanship, or quality and environmentally friendly agriculture could be elements to counter this phenomenon. Folk music and being anchored to the culture of the territories, I think, is also important for what the Calabrian anthropologist Vito Teti calls "restanza." Yes, music can be a recipe to curb this phenomenon that is harmful to Calabria and all of Southern Italy.»

In conclusion, Cavallaro also talks about Roots Tourism: «A positive phenomenon, that of the return of new generations to their ancestors' places of origin. Young people want to understand and discover where their parents and grandparents were born and left from. This phenomenon is important because it promotes tourism, and the resulting economic benefits can only improve this land.»



The event focuses
on promoting
the Italea program

The Festival of Italian Roots at FIT 2024 in Buenos Aires

Coinciding with the International Tourism Fair (FIT), which will take place from September 28 to October 1 in Buenos Aires, the Italian community in Argentina will hold the "Festival of Italian Roots," focused on promoting the Roots Tourism program, promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. «The Festival of Italian Roots will be a major event. Musical groups from the regions of Sardinia, Puglia, Lazio, and Marche will perform during the day, along with more than forty cultural and gastronomic stands,» explains Carlos Malacalza, president of the Confederation of Federations and Italian Associations of the Argentine Republic (Feditalia). «The Italian government, through the Directorate General for Italians Abroad, has selected five cities worldwide for the development of a mission related to Italian roots: Melbourne, Toronto, São Paulo, New York, and Buenos Aires. Since the International Tourism Fair was already scheduled in our city for September 29, the Consulate General of Italy in Buenos Aires proposed organizing a major gathering of the Italian community, along with the Committee of Italians Abroad of Buenos Aires and the government of the capital.» The event, which will be held in Plaza República Oriental del Uruguay, right in front of the headquarters of the state TV, will have as its main objective the promotion of the Year of Italian Roots in the World, declared by the Farnesina for 2024.

«Roots Tourism has a strong impact on Italian descendants across the country,» emphasizes Malacalza. «More than 50% of Argentine citizens have Italian origins. The consular district of Buenos Aires boasts one of the largest Italian expatriate communities in the world. During the Festival, there will also be an interactive map





that will allow attendees to locate the village or town from where their ancestors came. It's a great opportunity to re-discover one's roots and learn about the advantages of the proposed program, which, through local tour operators, will allow interested people to personally visit those often remote or difficult-to-reach villages, which our grandparents often mentioned when we were younger.» Malacalza stresses that Italian and Italian-descendant associations in the country are at the forefront of promoting and implementing the project.

«Today, Feditalia is actively working with tour operators from various Italian regions to offer the Italian community in Argentina the opportunity to return to the Belpaese through affordable proposals, enabling them to visit not only the major cities but especially the small villages, which are the main focus of this initiative. The goal is to work with the key players in tourism, from airlines to Trenitalia, or individual municipalities, religious associations, and local pro loco organizations, to encourage the discovery of that often-unknown Italy. Feditalia aims to be part of this promotion of returning to one's roots, and for this reason, it is coordinating several activities related to the FIT.» Among these is an event promoting Italian cuisine, which will be held at Costa Salgueiro Park, on the Río de la Plata, organized together with Buenos Aires Italian Chefs, the association of Italian chefs in the capital, and will take place alongside the Fair.



Ethnomusicology

The studies of the Voxteca project were presented at a seminar held at the University for Foreigners of Perugia

Exploring the soundscapes of Calabrian folk music

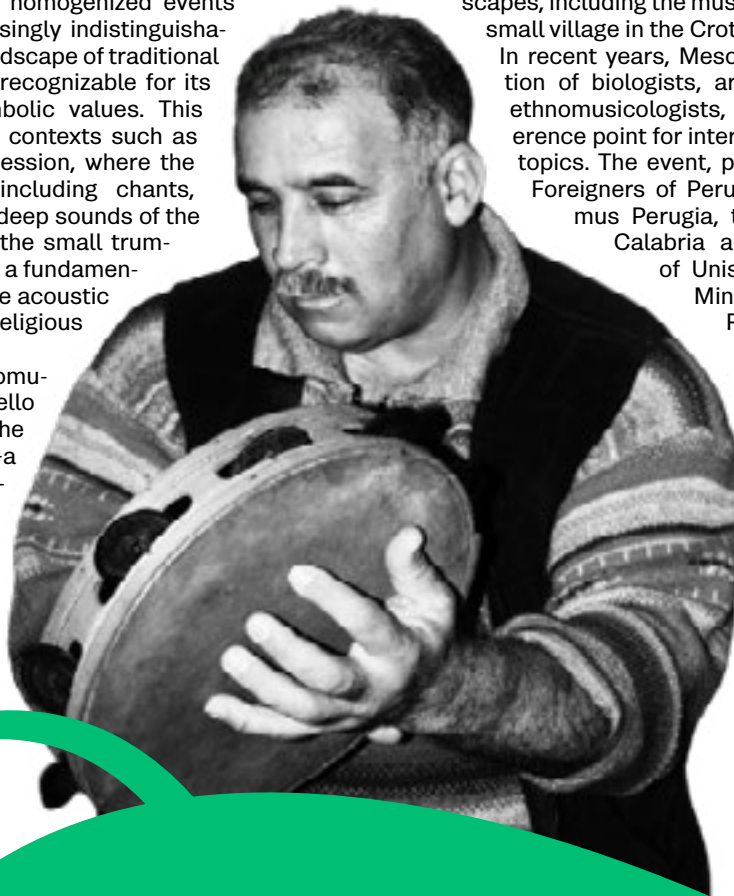
«In much of Calabria, traditional musical repertoires are still alive, particularly those of Holy Week, which are characterized by their soundscape—a symphony produced during the Good Friday procession ritual. Unlike the urban soundscape, described by Murray Schafer as “low-definition,” and all those “non-places” associated with the consumption of homogenized events that produce increasingly indistinguishable sounds, the soundscape of traditional contexts is entirely recognizable for its functional and symbolic values. This is especially true in contexts such as the Holy Week procession, where the sound apparatus (including chants, prayers, voices, the deep sounds of the traccole (clackers), the small trumpet, and so on) plays a fundamental role in shaping the acoustic phenomenon of the religious rite.»

This is what ethnomusicologist Antonello Lamanna, head of the Voxteca project—a permanent archive-observatory of voices, sounds, and languages—

had to say during a meeting held at the University for Foreigners of Perugia.

The university hosted the event “Soundscapes of Calabria: Traditional Music and Contemporary Oral Narratives in a Southern Italian Village.” Organized as a seminar-performance, it addressed topics ranging from orality to soundscapes, including the musical repertoires of Mesoraca, a small village in the Crotonese area of Calabria.

In recent years, Mesoraca has attracted the attention of biologists, archaeologists, ethnobotanists, ethnomusicologists, and linguists, becoming a reference point for interdisciplinary research on these topics. The event, promoted by the University for Foreigners of Perugia in collaboration with Agimus Perugia, the Association of Friends of Calabria and Umbria (AMCU), Voxteca of Unistrapg, and supported by the Ministry of Culture, the Umbria Region, and the Municipality of Perugia, provided an opportunity to immerse oneself in the musical traditions of Calabria, exploring the connection between traditional music and orally transmitted stories that continue to live and transform in contemporary times.



Interview

The stories of two young Italian-Americans: testimonies of those searching for their roots

Natalia, from La Plata to Rieti: "What a thrill to visit Italy"

Natalia lives in La Plata, the capital of the Buenos Aires Province. She has been to Italy only once, in 2005, but the memories of that trip are more vivid than ever because it was a special journey: a true exploration of her Italian roots. From Argentina, she traveled to Lazio, specifically to Corvaro: the most populous hamlet of the Municipality of Borgorose, in the province of Rieti. The medieval village of Corvaro – on the border between Lazio and Abruzzo – has preserved its harmony and charm thanks to the castle and the imposing tower that still stand as a defense of the town. «I'm the granddaughter of Italians,» she explains. «My paternal grandparents were born in Italy, and in 2005, I went to meet my family of origin. I also went to Rome for work reasons: there, I attended a course in pedagogy and Italian language teaching, as I am an Italian teacher. In my grandparents' town, I stayed at my uncles' house and experienced a very beautiful, profound, and emotional feeling because I met people of my own blood and saw in their eyes my dearest loved ones: in their eyes, I found my roots.»

In addition to rediscovering her family's origins,

Natalia pursued studies related to methods and techniques for teaching languages: «I was fortunate not only to study but also to visit various cities like Venice, Florence, and Pisa. Naturally, I also discovered the numerous beauties of Rome, where I had the opportunity to attend major cultural and religious events in August and September.»

«I still remember,» Natalia adds, «the festival in my grandparents' village for Ferragosto: a celebration was held in the square. There was also a small market, a dinner, and a concert where people sang, danced, and had fun, and I was very moved. In Corvaro, I visited my family's ancestral home, which was damaged by a major earthquake in the early 1900s, and I also visited the cemetery where my ancestors are buried. My relatives gave me many gifts: sweets, perfumes, clothes. I brought back memories and photos to Argentina to share with my family. A journey to explore one's roots is certainly an experience to have, and I would recommend it to all descendants of Italians. It is an honor and a deeply emotional experience to visit Italy: the emotional and spiritual connection with this land is very strong.»



A view of Corvaro

From Venezuela to a village in the Salerno area: Ida's journey

Rome? Naples? Milan? «Certainly beautiful, but if I had to return to Italy, I would choose the town of my grandparents once again.» The speaker is Ida Pastore. Ida was born in Venezuela, where her parents emigrated more than twenty years ago, but she has been living in Orlando, Florida, for seven years. She is 25 years old and works for a travel agency. She has traveled extensively; she was less than a year old when she first visited Italy to see the town of her parents' and grandparents' origin: Montesano sulla Marcellana. A municipality in the province of Salerno with more than six thousand inhabitants, Montesano is one of the 15

towns in the Vallo di Diano, a valley on the southern borders of Campania that borders Basilicata and holds many large and small artistic, historical, and natural treasures. «For me, Italy is Montesano: that's where I feel part of a world. There are my grandparents, my cousins, my family—my roots in a single word. There I find the most sincere hugs and the best things, like the tomato pasta that only my grandfather knows how to make. Every time I return, I make new discoveries, and I often ask my father to tell me the story of our family and the origins of our surname. My search concerns places, language, cuisine, and people.»



The Church of Sant'Anna in Montesano

In Argentina The new edition of the competition for young comic book artists returns in Rosario

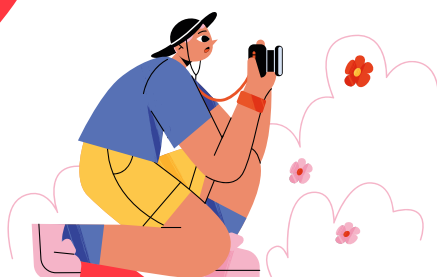


A contest to celebrate the connection with Italy

The Youth Group of the Committee of Italians Abroad (Com.It.Es.) in Rosario has launched, for the second consecutive year, a comic book contest aimed at both young people and adults across the country, with the goal of bringing more people closer to the Italian community. If in 2023 the theme centered around creating an "Italian superhero," this 2024, declared the Year of Italian Roots by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, focuses on memory and identity.

«We are particularly interested in promoting the project and helping people establish a connection with their roots, which often remain unknown,» explains Alana Bobalini, one of the three coordinators of the Youth Group of Com.It.Es. in Rosario. «For many, beyond the stories from grandparents and great-grandparents, the places from which their ancestors came are unknown. This proposal is an invitation to discover what knowing those places can represent for each individual. It is extremely important for us to maintain that connection with Italy, and as young people, we aim to keep it alive among us and beyond. We especially want to reach schools and educational insti-

tutions to start with the youngest.» According to Bobalini, the comic book contest is now the most popular initiative among those proposed by the Com.It.Es. youth and is the one that reaches a very young audience. «This ensures





that schools and institutions working with children become interested in the initiative, allowing us to introduce the Roots Tourism project to a young audience while also encouraging artistic expression.» The contest is divided into three

categories: under-13, teenagers aged 13 to 17, and adults. Interested parties can download the registration form and a project template from the social media profiles of the Youth Group of Com. It. Es., with each entry consisting of a maximum of five comic strips. A comic book expert will then evaluate the submissions. The jury will consider not only the technical execution but also, and especially, the story presented and its message. The awards ceremony for the winners will take place in Rosario, at the Com.It. Es. headquarters. «This type of activity serves to reach not only those actively involved in the Italian community but also to encourage the participation of those who might not always engage. The goal is not only to reach a young audience but also to be as inclusive as possible. That is why most of our proposals can be carried out remotely,» Bobalini emphasizes.

The contest includes three age-divided categories



Experiences

From Genoa to Vieste: Italy offers immersive activities with the aim of evoking memories and emotions

Genoa



Discovering the secrets of Ligurian papermaking technique

The Mele Paper Museum welcomes visitors by taking them back in time to an era when human migrations brought, from the distant East, the knowledge of papermaking to Liguria, which was particularly suited for paper production. The Mele Paper Museum is located in Acquasanta, in the suburbs of Genoa, within the 1756 paper mill known as Sbaraggia, where ancient papermaking machinery is preserved. The charm of this visit is largely due to the fact that the museum is still active today: visitors are greeted by a young Master Papermaker who continues to produce handmade paper, sheet by sheet, just as it was done in the past.

Vibo Valentia



From ancient flavors to artisan traditions

In the heart of Monte Poro, surrounded by the majestic beauty of nature, an unforgettable hands-on experience awaits: the traditional production of Pecorino di Monte Poro. This activity is steeped in authentic flavors, intense aromas, and a passion passed down through generations. Pecorino di Monte Poro is considered one of the finest cheeses in the Mediterranean. Originating in the 1500s, this ancient production has established its reputation over time as a true gastronomic masterpiece, highlighting the richness of Calabrian culinary culture. This unique experience offers travelers with roots the opportunity to connect with the local culture.

Mirabello Sannitico



The dialect workshop for "time travelers"

In a picturesque location like that of the Museum of Images and Stories (MIRA) in Mirabello Sannitico, in the province of Campobasso, guided by expert linguists and enthusiasts of local culture, you can participate in an engaging and immersive experience. Among the museum spaces and installations, you will learn or rediscover the unique expressions, sayings, and linguistic secrets of the Molisan dialect. In the workshop, authentic materials will be used, such as folk songs, dialectal poems, photographs, and local stories preserved in the Museum, to fully immerse yourself in the beauty and diversity of this fascinating language.

Casole d'Elsa



Open-air artworks in the heart of Tuscany

In Casole d'Elsa, in the province of Siena, art is not confined to the Civic Museum and various studios, but it also thrives in its streets. As soon as you arrive at the entrance to the village, you can admire the installation dedicated to Gino Bartali, designed by Duccio Santini and created by Luca Ferrini on the occasion of the Giro d'Italia, which passed through here in 2019. Near the town center, you'll find various tiles and murals painted by local school students under the guidance of Giuseppe Ciani, a Roman painter and sculptor who has been working in the Siena area for over fifty years. He is also the creator of the warm "Welcome to Casole" sign visible in the elevator shaft leading to the town center.

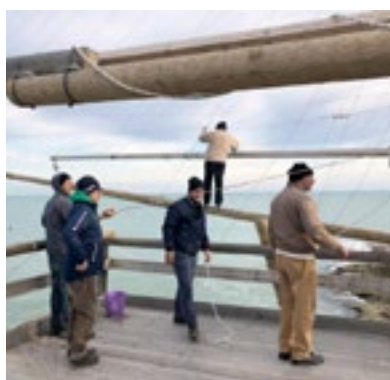
Roasio



A Museum to tell the story of a town "on the move"

Founded in 2001, the Emigrant Museum of Roasio brings together the memories of five generations of emigrants who fought for the survival and well-being of their families, facing the difficult roads of the world. The permanent exhibition of the Emigrant Museum consists of three rooms filled with testimonies of the lives lived by the people of Roasio in the countries they emigrated to. Among the paper documents, you can find passports, work contracts, letters, travel tickets, bank checks, honors, and vintage postcards. Additionally, over 300 images are displayed, depicting the work, journeys, and daily life of Roasio's people in distant countries around the world.

Vieste



Experience traditional fishing on the "trabucchi"

The trabucchi, which mark the coast between Vieste and Peschici, are rudimentary structures built by local fishermen to ensure their livelihood while avoiding the many dangers of the sea, from storms to pirate raids, which for a long time were the scourges of these small villages. The trabucchi stand at the edge of the shoreline, extending into the sea with two enormous arms (the "antennas") to which a net is attached, using ocean currents to catch fish. In a workshop in Vieste, on the Gargano Peninsula, you can learn about one of the oldest trades and experience firsthand the fishing tradition as it was practiced by our ancestors.

italea

The journey to your roots



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