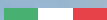


italea



The journey to your roots

Magazine

«Look to your roots

No.12

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The journey to your roots

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DELLA
CULTURA

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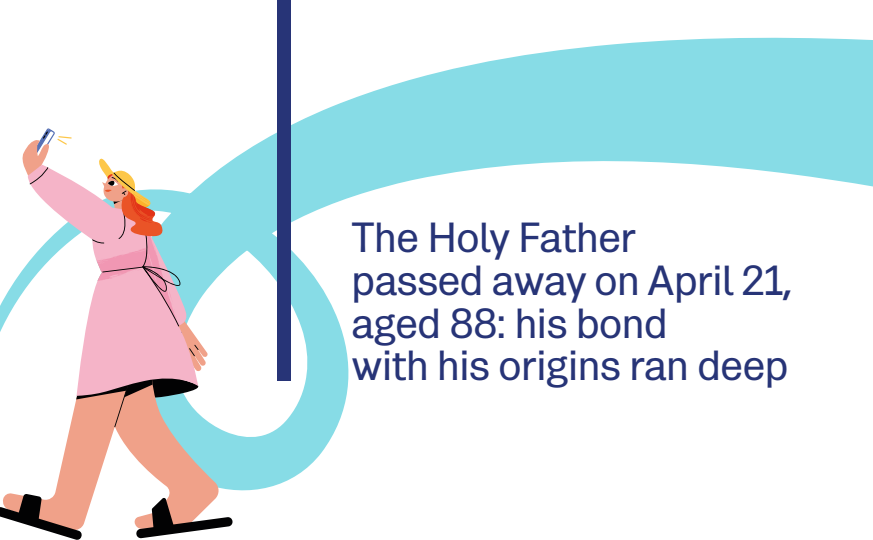
Leaving? Yes, but with the Italea Card

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

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.

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.



The Holy Father passed away on April 21, aged 88: his bond with his origins ran deep



Farewell to Pope Francis a final embrace of his Piedmontese roots

Portacomaro, April 2005: an Argentine cardinal arrives in a small village near Asti to visit the places his family once called home. He gathers a handful of earth to take with him—the same soil where his ancestors were born and raised. That cardinal was Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who eight years later would become Pope Francis, the first Pontiff born in Latin America.

The Bergoglio family—Francis passed away on the morning of April 21 at age 88 in his residence at Santa Marta—was among the many who left Piedmont in the 19th century in search of a better life in faraway lands, towards «the ends of the earth,» as the Pope would later say from the balcony of St. Peter's Square during his first address in March 2013. His great-grandfather was born in Portacomaro and had six children, including Giovanni Angelo Bergoglio, Jorge Mario's grandfather, who moved from the province of Asti to Turin, where he found both work and love. In the Piedmontese capital, the Pope's grandparents had a son—Bergoglio's father. In the archives of the San Bartolomeo parish in Portacomaro,

you can still find the baptism certificate of Giovanni Bergoglio (1884), who migrated to Turin in 1906 and married Rosa Vassallo, a native of Piana Crixia in the Ligurian Apennines. Pope Francis's father, Mario Bergoglio, was born in Turin in 1908. The family later returned to Asti before emigrating to Argentina in 1929. Francis was born in Buenos Aires in 1936, but he never forgot his Piedmontese roots and always stayed in touch with relatives, some of whom still live in Portacomaro and Turin.

In 2015, during a visit to Turin, he was visibly touched as he recited a dialect poem—*Rassa Nostrana*—taught to him by his beloved grandmother Rosa. «My grandparents lived just 50 meters from our house. I spent my whole day with them, and they only spoke dialect. I could say my mother tongue is Piedmontese,» he recalled in a 2018 interview with TV2000.

In 2022, he returned once more to his homeland, in a deeply personal family visit. He traveled to Asti to meet relatives for the 90th birthday of a cousin. «From these lands, my father left for Argentina. And to these lands—made precious by their fine produce and, above all, by the genuine industriousness of their people—I've come to rediscover the taste of my roots,» he said during Mass in Asti Cathedral. He ended with a farewell in dialect: «A la fame propri piasì encuntrevè (It's been a real pleasure to meet you)». And a final wish: «Ch'a staga bin! (Take care!)».





A life rooted in tradition cherished by the world

The emotional tribute of the Italian-Argentine community that saw in Bergoglio a symbol of its migrant history

Mario Jorge Bergoglio was the son of Piedmontese migrants—an Italo-Argentine Pope who, from the very first day of his papacy, embodied the two souls within him: the Italian one, inherited from his grandparents, and the Argentine one, shaped on the streets of Buenos Aires.

«We experienced Francis's papacy with deep personal closeness,» said a tearful Professor Laura Moro, founder of the Familia Piemontesa of Paraná and a member of the Committee of Italians Abroad (Comites) in Rosario. «All the Italo-Argentines who could traveled to Rome to see him, to be close to him. And he always welcomed us warmly, recalling proverbs and sayings from his Piedmontese grandmother. Now, we are receiving this sad news with the same intensity—with deep sorrow, a sense of loss, and a great emptiness.

Not only for the passing of a great Argentinian Pope, but also of an Italian brother, a fellow countryman. Someone who always stood with the most vulnerable. That's one of the reasons we Italo-Argentines admired him so deeply.

He understood the hardship and pain our grandparents endured when they emigrated from a homeland wounded and still bleeding from war. And when they arrived in this new land, which welcomed them with love, it also demanded sacrifice and hard work from the very beginning to settle in what was then still a virgin territory. They made it flourish—with their inherited skills and their calloused hands.»

Moro recalled that Bergoglio was one of the distinguished descendants honored with the Piemontesi Distinti Award, presented annually by the Federación de Asociaciones Piemontesas en Argentina (FAPA). In 2013, he was also made an honorary member of the Piedmontese Association of Corrientes, in the presence of both Italian and Argentine officials.

«I personally feel deeply connected to him. I'm Piedmontese, born in Turin, and I always felt he reflected those values, those roots, that way of being—and above all, that honesty. Like any good Piedmontese, he had very clear goals. And even at the cost of being called "hard-headed," he pursued them with determination until he achieved them. That's how he always was—on his path to the Father, which now comes to an end. We remain faithful to his values, which we feel are also our own as Italians—especially the value of never giving up and always staying true to our purpose. "Always forward," he used to say. "Make a ruckus," he encouraged. "And keep singing, because singing brings people together.»

Francis often spoke of his Piedmontese family, reminisced about bagna cauda, his grandparents' traditional dishes, and sang old songs from the region.

Alfredo Musitani, secretary of the Committee of Venetian Associations in Argentina (CAVA), was also present on Monday morning in Plaza de Mayo, at the entrance of the cathedral where Archbishop Bergoglio used to celebrate Mass, to pay his respects to the Pope. «I never had the honor of meeting him,» Musitani said. «But my daughter's godfather was one of the so-called curas villeros, a very pragmatic priest who supported young people in the Argentine slums. He often told me about life in those places and the support they received from the Pope. It's impossible not to love someone so close, so committed to helping those who are truly solving other people's problems.»





Scilla's charm from Dante to the sea

From crystal-clear beaches to the Feast of St. Roch, and the authentic flavors of local cuisine, beauty and mythology meet in Scilla, a famous destination in the metropolitan city of Reggio Calabria, one of the most charming and picturesque places in Italy. Perched on a rocky promontory overlooking the sea, Scilla is a place steeped in mystery, with a history that recalls the myths of the destruction of Troy, the nymph Scylla, and the legends of Ulysses' encounter with Scylla and Charybdis, as well as those of Homer and Dante Alighieri. Today, it is an important tourist center on the Costa Viola, known primarily for the impressive Ruffo Castle on the rock, the town's most significant monument.

The oldest and most fascinating part of Scilla is the area of Chianalea, also known as the "Little Venice of the South" due to its location almost immersed in the sea, with houses built directly on the rocks. This picturesque fishing village is home to the Church of St. Joseph, the Scategna Palace, the Zagari Palace, and ancient fountains. In its narrow alleys, you will also find various apotropaic masks hanging above the doors of houses, which were once believed to ward off evil spirits.

For those seeking relaxation, Scilla offers beautiful beaches to enjoy quality time. The most renowned and popular is Via-



The Costa Viola's
mythological gem
where history
spirituality
and nature
converge



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

Be sure to visit the historic center of Reggio Calabria. In the hinterland, you can explore the Aspromonte National Park.



HOW TO GET THERE

The nearest airport is in Reggio Calabria (20 km away). Scilla is also served by minor railway stations with regional train services. By car from Rome: take the A24, follow the A1/E45, A30, and A2 to Scilla, exit at Scilla, and follow the signs to the town.



rina Grande. Nearby, there's also Punta Paci beach, perfect for those passionate about scuba diving. Cala delle Rondini, on the other hand, is ideal for those who prefer to immerse themselves in unspoiled nature. The Sirens' Beach, with its deep waters, is another must-see, offering opportunities to swim and explore vibrant marine life.

But Scilla is not only about historical monuments and sea-side tourism. It also offers an authentic taste of Calabrian culture. A returning emigrant can relive the traditions of their homeland by participating in the patronal feast of St. Roch, held on August 16. Alternatively, they can sample typical dishes representing the best of Calabrian cuisine, such as sandwiches with swordfish, vegetables, and olives in oil, homemade pasta "maccarruni i casa," ragù, and sauces made with goat and pork meat. You must also try local dishes like spatola (spatola alla "scigghitana") and, for the holidays, the characteristic "mustaccioli" or "nzud-dhi," "piparèlle," "susumèlle," and "petrali," made with honey, almonds, and dried figs. To complete the meal, enjoy traditional liqueurs made with lemon, orange, and bergamot. The best way to say goodbye to the village is to enjoy the breathtaking view, which stretches from the Sicilian coasts to the Aeolian Islands, along with the stunning sunset over the sea.





Campello sul Clitunno UMBRIA

At the legendary sources of the Clitunno

Brimming with poetic charm
and rural essence, the village
preserves Lombard temples
and medieval castles

In 1876, Giosuè Carducci, who had arrived in Spoleto as an examiner at the Classical Lyceum, visited Campello sul Clitunno and wrote the "Ode to the Springs of the Clitunno," a description of the magnificence of the place. The poet's visit is now commemorated by a stele designed by Turin sculptor Leonardo Bistolfi, with an inscription by Ugo Ojetti. The Umbrian village of Campello sul Clitunno truly deserves all the poetry that human beings can produce.

Located on the Clitunno River, which originates here, the ancient core of the current municipality is found in the district of Campello Alto, a castle built in 921 by Rovero di Champagneaux, Baron of Burgundy. However, even in classical antiquity, the god of the Clitunno River was praised, not only by Propertius but also by Virgil. The latter recorded the curious legend of the oxen that, when immersed in the river's waters, became even whiter.

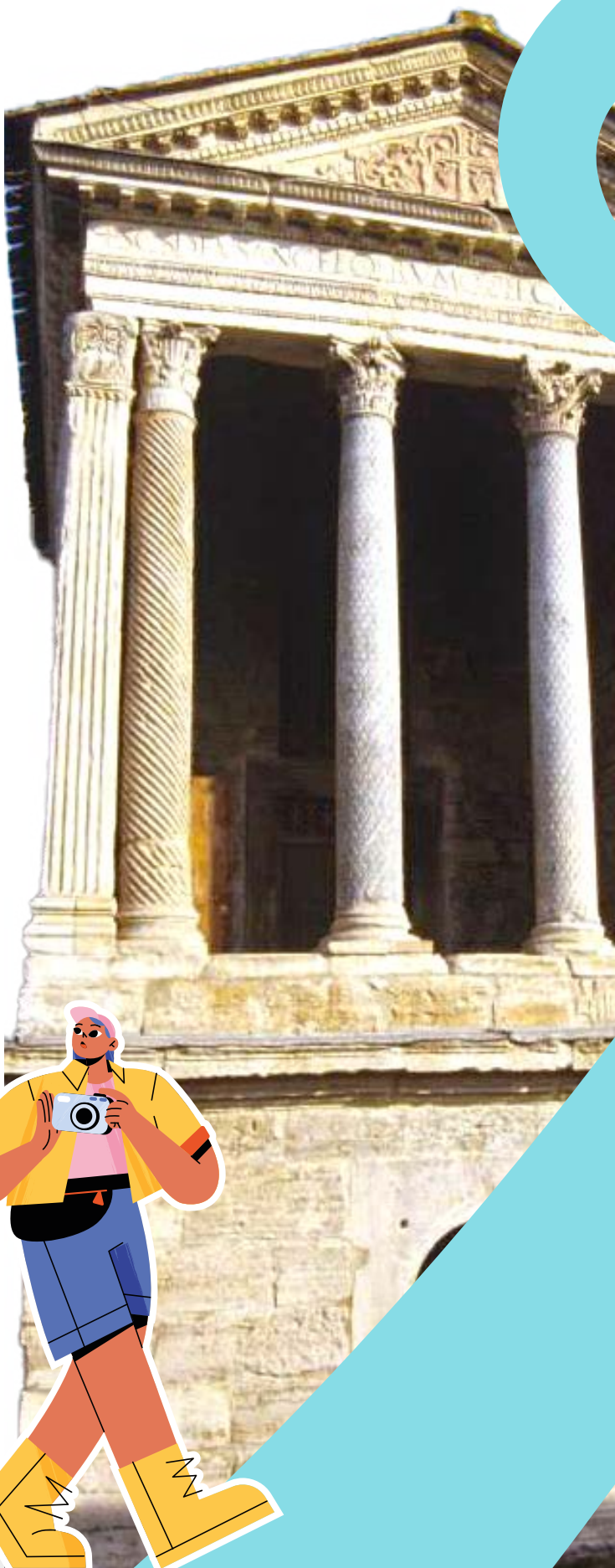




Photo Associazione Italia Langobardorum

Here and on the previous page are some images of the Lombard Temple in Campello sul Clitunno

italea

The journey to your roots



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

The Sibillini Mountains National Park is a must-see. The position is perfect for exploring the historic center of Spoleto.



HOW TO GET THERE

The nearest airport is in Perugia (37 km), while the Spoleto train station is 10 km away. By car from the north: E45 from Perugia, reach Foligno, then take SS 3 Flaminia toward Rome, follow signs for Pissignano, and then for Campello sul Clitunno. From the south: A1 motorway, exit Orte, reach Terni, continue to Spoleto via SS 3, follow signs for Pissignano, and then for Campello sul Clitunno.

The territory also hosts the Tempietto del Clitunno, a small temple-like shrine, considered one of the most interesting early medieval monuments in Umbria, as well as one of the seven jewels of Lombard art and architecture in Italy, recently included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. The visit to the village is completed by the previously mentioned Campello Alto Castle, the 14th-century structure of the village center, well-preserved walls and entrance gates, the parish church dedicated to San Donato, the Pissignano Castle, and the Sanctuary of Madonna della Bianca, built in 1516.

Beyond the undeniable beauty of the historical buildings, the Umbrian village also captivates through its cultural roots, evidenced by the Museum of Rural Civilization and the Documentation Center on Transhumance and Shepherds, which showcase the traditional customs of the surrounding countryside. These lands have always provided its inhabitants with products that form the foundation of the simple local cuisine, including cheeses, olive oil, and truffles. All that remains is to discover the flavors and wonders of Umbria.

Photo Associazione Italia Langobardorum

In Rome

The project celebrated the conclusion of its first edition at the Chamber of Deputies

Identity, community and territory: the success of the Festival of Roots

The first edition of the Festival delle Radici (Festival of Roots) concluded with warm and passionate participation. The event, organized by Glocal Think, aimed to highlight the cultural identity and heritage of local communities through root tourism. The final event took place on April 14th in the Aula dei Gruppi Parlamentari (Chamber of Deputies), where institutions, associations, and citizens from across Italy gathered to celebrate the journey and outcomes of an initiative that successfully blended tradition, community, and the future.

The event began with institutional greetings, moderated by parliamentary journalist Stefano Zago, director of Teleambiente. Notable opening speeches were given by MP Toni Ricciardi, migration historian; Giovanni Maria De Vita, national project leader of Italea; Paolo Giuntarelli, regional director of the Presidency's Affairs, Tourism, Cinema, and Sport; and Michele Cammarano, president of the Internal Areas Commission of the Campania Region.

A symbolic moment during the event was the presentation of a special philatelic cancellation dedicated to the festival, created by Poste Italiane and illustrated by Marco Di Nicola, the company's commercial manager for philately. This tangible gesture underscores the cultural significance of the event and the desire to preserve its memory and meaning over time.

Following this, a session focused on the theme "Sustainable Development of Small Municipalities: the Glocal Think Project" was held, with contributions from President Vincenzo Castaldo, Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, a professor of sustainable tourism and member of the project's scientific board, and Filomena Maggino, a professor at the University of La Sapienza, who joined via video link. The session highlighted how the festival represented a concrete example of territorial regeneration, bridging the past and the future, traditions and innovation.

Festival Artistic Director Emanuela Sica then reviewed the highlights of the 2024 edition and outlined plans for the future: the Festival delle Radici aims to become a recurring event that will grow and involve more territories and communities.

The central moment of the event was the awards ceremony, which recognized the efforts of municipalities, schools, and associations that contributed enthusiastically to the festival's success. Three main categories were honored. The



"Radici in Comune" Award, presented by Ricciardi and Castaldo, was given to Italian municipalities that joined the project with vision and determination. Municipalities present in the room included Lacedonia, Salza Irpina, Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi, Chiusano di San Domenico, Mercogliano, Aquilonia, Calabritto, Sant'Andrea di Conza, Roncegno Terme, Castello Tesino, Allumiere, Alvito, Pofi, Castiglione in Teverina, Castel di Tora, and Bolsena. Recognition will be sent to the other municipalities by mail.

The "Cuore Civico" Award, presented by Pecoraro Scanio, celebrated the value of volunteering and community participation, with recipients including No Profit Vallepietra, Italea Campania, Pro Loco Salza Irpina, Lacedonia Insieme, Consulta Donne Lioni, Pro Loco Roncegno Terme, Gruppo Folk





Castello Tesino, the "Dilettori" group from Castiglione in Teverina, Centro Anziani and Pro Loco of Chiusano di San Domenico, APA Allumiere, and the Nicola Vella Foundation. The "Germogli di Futuro" Award, dedicated to schools and young generations, was awarded to those who nurtured and transmitted the sense of roots: Opera Scuola di Musica di Castelfranci, Istituto Omnicomprensivo F.lli Agosti of Bagnoregio, IIS Francesco De Sanctis of Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi, IIS "L. Vanvitelli" of Lioni, I.C. Alessandro Di Meo of Chiusano di San Domenico, Scuola Media T. Mertel of Allumiere, Istituto Omnicomprensivo Statale of Alvito, and Forum Giovani of Calabritto. Two Special Awards for "Tappe del Cuore" (Heart Stops) were also presented: the "Abate di Montevergine" Award was given to His Excellency Father Abate Riccardo Luca Guariglia for his spiritual and cultural contribution during the Montevergine and Loreto stages, while the "Italea Trentino Alto Adige" Award went to the Italea Trentino Association, represented by President Miriam Lullo, for their commitment to organizing events in the municipalities of Castello Tesino and Roncigno Terme. After the ceremony, the participants were welcomed for a convivial moment hosted by Donna Cira, with support from the festival's sponsor Olidata.

To demonstrate the significance of the festival for the communities involved, two buses arrived in Rome from Irpinia, thanks to the support of DMO Irpinia Montagna d'Amare, which made it possible for schools, associations, and citizens to attend. Representatives from the municipalities of Castello Tesino and Roncigno Terme, accompanied by a local folk group from Trentino Alto Adige, also attended. At the conclusion of the event, a heartfelt thank you was extended to the entire Festival delle Radici organizing staff, with special recognition given to Dr. Emilia di Girolamo, Director of the MAVV of Portici, for her invaluable work.

Some images from the final event of the Festival of Roots



The event

Through insightful presentations and the evocative performance of "Tinta," attendees embarked on a journey of rediscovery

Italea stops in Aosta rediscovering roots through art and stories

Aosta stop for Italea, the Root Tourism promotion program launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the PNRR project and funded by NextGenerationEU. The project was presented on Friday, April 4, at the Arena Plus Theatre in an evening dedicated to rediscovering and celebrating Italian roots: the event featured two main moments, the Presentation of Italea and the show "Tinta. An Autobiographical Story," by Verdiana Vono and Eleonora Cicconi, an emotional and personal journey into the experience of rediscovering one's roots.

«An important stop because the region of Valle d'Aosta, like other areas of the country, shares stories of emigration. There is a significant community living abroad, and one of our objectives is to welcome them to allow them to rediscover this land, full of mountains, culture, and traditions,» said Giovanni Maria De Vita, national coordinator of Italea, while presenting the project.

De Vita emphasized how «it is important to ensure that this initiative can become a reference and a welcoming point for the root travelers who are part of this enormous community of Italians abroad, more than 80 million, who dream of coming to rediscover the places from where their ancestors left. The Valle d'Aosta is ready to welcome root travelers and make them feel at home, so that this community, which



Giovanni Maria De Vita,
national coordinator
of the Italea project





Here next to and below, Marina Gabrieli, national coordinator of the Italea program, and Giovanni Maria De Vita

has been divided over time, can return and be embraced.» «Every root journey is connected to a life story, a family story, and with this show, we tell one of the many family stories that have characterized the collective history of our communities abroad,» emphasized Marina Gabrieli, national coordinator of the Italea program. «We are ready to welcome all the travelers who want to visit this beautiful land.» Jean-Pierre Guichardaz, regional assessor for cultural heritage and activities, also welcomed the Italea project and all the root travelers, highlighting the great work done by the Association of Mountain Creatures and the Palinodie company of Stefania Tagliaferri and Verdiana Vono, who have been able to build connections, weave networks, and build bridges, such as with Italea Valle d'Aosta, of which they are referents, and the new contemporary theater showcase "Voices from Another World," which opened that very Fri-

day evening with the preview of "Tinta." «We are ready; Valle d'Aosta has always been a land of welcome and passage. I recall that our mountains are not walls that push people away; they are bridges, walkways that embrace everyone,» said Guichardaz.

After the presentation, it was time for "Tinta. An Autobiographical Story" by Verdiana Vono and Eleonora Cicconi, the winner of the Scenario Adolescence Award 2024. A true story that begins with the journey of a granddaughter and grandmother to Toronto, revealing a past that speaks of emigrations, proxy marriages, secrets kept for years, courage, and female freedom. A personal story that becomes universal, a story of uprooting and new roots, of returning to one's homeland, a story that intertwines generations, memories, and the present to tell the universality of personal stories.



The book

The topic is explored in depth in "Napoli/New York - Andata e ritorno" by Professor Giuliana Muscio

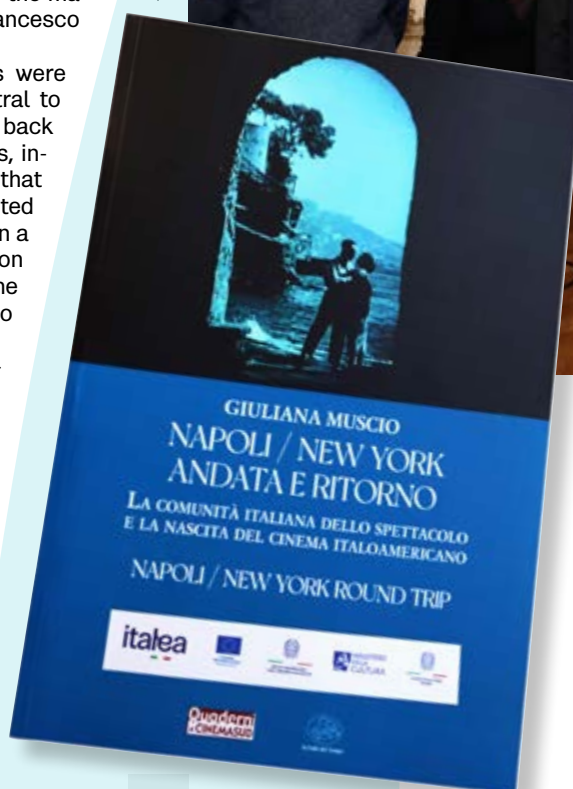
Exploring the Italian roots of American cinema

A book that makes a significant contribution to the study of film history and opens up an "unexplored" path: "Napoli/New York - Andata e ritorno. La comunità italiana dello spettacolo e la nascita del cinema italoamericano", by Professor Giuliana Muscio, a lecturer at the University of Padua, was presented on April 15 in Naples. The book intertwines cinema, emigration, Italian talent worldwide, and roots tourism. «This book,» explains Professor Muscio, «is the result of very challenging research because no one has truly explored these topics. I aimed to reconstruct the history of the popular Neapolitan film industry, particularly focusing on Elvira Notari, its distribution in the United States, and connections with the music world through the maternal grandfather of Francis Ford Coppola, Francesco Pennino.»

In the 1930s, about twenty Neapolitan films were made in New York, and these films are central to the debate. Muscio's project is to bring them back to Italy by organizing a retrospective in Naples, involving Italian-Americans, a large community that played a significant role in the history of the United States. The goal is also to present emigration in a different light, as an opportunity for redemption and growth. This aligns with the aim of Italea, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' program dedicated to roots tourism.

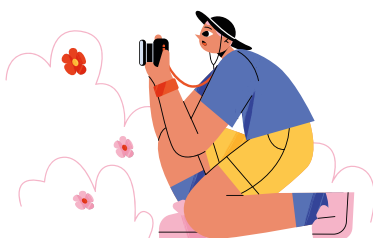
«Roots tourism has been interested in this project from the outset,» says Muscio, «especially Giovanni De Vita (the Project Manager at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), who was particularly keen to promote Italian-American culture in order to instill pride in its heirs and encourage them to learn more about it and visit their places of origin.»

De Vita emphasized during the book presentation at the Italian Institute of Philosophical Studies, «Italea's focus is on raising awareness about the role of emigration as one of its key pillars. Speaking about Italians abroad to Italians in Italy is a great





Some images from the book presentation held on April 15th in Naples



opportunity for our country. Naples is not just a city of transit but a city of emigration, which significantly contributed to the success of Italian emigration. Through our project, we are committed to attracting roots tourists, and Professor Muscio's work is a great stimulus for our efforts.» «It is essential to tell these stories to highlight how Italians have played an important role in the development of communities worldwide, in the countries where they have settled,» De Vita concluded. «The presentation of the book is part of the Italea project, which aims to raise awareness about the vast heritage of our communities abroad, numbering around 80 million people.»



Heritage

Made exclusively with ingredients sourced from the Lazio region, it connects the timeless past of the city with its future

Rome rediscovers the Pan di Via the sweet of the pilgrims



«A combination of tradition, flavor, and innovation. A deep connection between the past and the present, in a Rome that welcomes tourists during an important year, the Jubilee year.» This is how Veronica Piccoli, Project Manager of Pan di Via, describes the Jubilee sweet "Pan di Via," presented last February in Rome by the Accademia di Ricerca Romana. Made with buckwheat, Viterbo hazelnuts, sour cherries from Sermoneta, and organic chestnut honey, all 100% sourced from the Lazio region, this product has deep roots in the millennia-old history of the Capital.

"Pan di Via" was, in fact, the name pilgrims once gave to the food they carried in their satchels: bread, often soaked in water, flatbreads, and crackers made with various flours and ingredients, or prepared on the spot over makeshift fires. Even the soldiers of Ancient Rome had their own version of "Pan di Via," which they would cook in the

evening on stones previously heated by the fire. «It's not just a simple sweet treat, but a representation of the spirituality of the journey and the identity of Rome,» emphasized Piccoli. «Rediscovering an ancient food that was, in some way, part of the millennia-old history of Rome contributes to the enhancement of the region, as this also happens through gastronomy and the promotion of local products,» stated Erica Battaglia, a representative of Rome's municipal government.

In this context, Pan di Via serves as a perfect example of how a local product can become an internationally recognized symbol. «Pan di Via is an element of culture and identity that is entirely Italian. It is both ancient and modern, traditional and innovative at the same time,» concluded Roberta Angelilli, Vice President of the Lazio Region and Councillor for Productive Activities, at the end of the event.



Verona

The Farnesina project
was presented
by the Umbria Region

Roots and vines Italea's journey at Vinitaly 2025

Roots. This was the key word at the many events organized by the Umbria Region at Vinitaly 2025 in Verona. The theme of "roots" was central to a conference focused on enotourism: "Tourism of Roots, Stories of Italodiasporic Travelers", organized by the Region in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. During the event, Italea, the program promoting root tourism launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the PNRR project and funded by NextGenerationEU, was presented.

«This project targets both those who already know their Italian origins and wish to plan a trip to explore the places, traditions, and culture of their ancestors, as well as those who want to discover their Italian ancestry, who will be sup-



ported by a network of expert genealogists ready to guide them on this fascinating journey of exploring their roots,» explained Giovanni Maria De Vita, national coordinator of Italea. De Vita emphasized, «Italea's presence at Vinitaly is an opportunity to create important synergies with one of our country's greatest treasures: wine. The memory of migration is important and should be highlighted even through wine, a product that tells the story of Italy.»

Marina Gabrieli, national coordinator of the Italea program, added, «There are approximately 80 million people abroad with Italian roots, which means 80 million potential travelers. We are very pleased with the results we've achieved so far, as well as with the work done by Italea Umbria. Our website has already attracted 1.5 million visitors. Now, we need to raise awareness among local communities and businesses about the value of the Italea project.»

Maria Elisa Giulietti, president of the Radici Umbre association, emphasized, «In Umbria, the migration phenomenon was not as widespread as in other regions. It was a phenomenon concentrated in the Apennine region, Gualdo Tadino, Gubbio, and other municipalities, with emigration to the Benelux, France, and mining areas. However, we are working on some very interesting projects, such as the one with the Chamber of Commerce of Nice, where the mayor has Umbrian roots, specifically from Gualdo Tadino.»

Finally, Simona Meloni, Councilor for Agricultural Policies and Tourism of the Umbria Region, concluded, «The theme of Roots perfectly represents the deep value of our wine sector, an inseparable bond with the land, the community, and the knowledge passed down through generations.»



Sinergy

The Farnesina and the Holy See
present joint initiatives for the Jubilee

A unified effort to showcase Italy's territories

Jubilee 2025 and Roots Tourism: This was the focus of a press conference held on March 26 at Palazzo Borromeo, where the synergies and opportunities developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Holy See for the rediscovery and promotion of Italy's territories were presented. An event that, as Francesco Di Nitto, Italy's Ambassador to the Holy See, explained, «brings together the millions of pilgrims arriving in Rome this year and the memory of many people coming from abroad to discover their roots.»

«The theme of the event invites us to reflect on the value of travel and how we can integrate it with the enhancement of our traditions,» said Monsignor Graziano Borgonovo, Undersecretary of the First Section of the Dicastery for Evangelization. «The Jubilee is a unique opportunity, a time to strengthen our roots and open ourselves to the world.»

«There are identity factors that may seem natural to us but have a different significance abroad,» emphasized Luigi Maria Vignali, Director General



The synergy
between the
Ministry of Foreign
Affairs and
the Holy See
at the center

for Italians Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. «One of these is religion and spirituality, a sense of belonging that is never lost.»

«Brass bands are an art form deeply rooted in local communities; they are the soundtrack of our history, capable of uniting the nation in a single cultural embrace. Brass bands are ambassadors of our territories,» said Antonio Corsi, Mayor of Sgurgola and advisor to Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani for the promotion of cultural and musical traditions of Italian communities abroad.





In this context, the collaboration between the Vatican and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is noteworthy, with the National and International Table for the Promotion of Popular and Amateur Music, established at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Jubilee of Bands and Popular Music in the Jubilee program, which will take place on May 10 and 11.

Gianluigi Tombolini, Mayor of Numana and Advisor to Minister Antonio Tajani for the promotion of tourism in the territories, emphasized the importance of «constant communication with may-

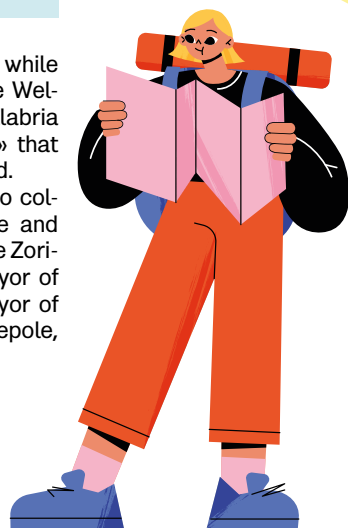
The path back home

From Tuscany to Campania, passing through Abruzzo: the regions are ready to welcome the many Italian descendants who wish to return to Italy and explore their roots during the Jubilee. «I want to send a warm greeting to all our fellow citizens around the world. A special embrace and an invitation to rediscover the roots of their families, especially on this significant occasion,» says Franco Parone, mayor of Caramanico Terme, in the province of Pescara. «As the son of emigrants, I know how important it is to keep the bond with one's homeland alive. This year, in particular, with the Jubilee, there is a unique opportunity for all of us,» explains the mayor. «Our region is rich in historic places, such as the hermitages of Celestino V, and has excellent facilities, from tour guides to accommodations. This is the perfect moment to rediscover the value of Jubilee-related tourism and renew our connection with our roots,» he adds.

«This is the Jubilee year, and I believe it can also be the year of returning home: many citizens, many people with roots in Irpinia, can seize a double opportunity—visit Rome and undertake the Jubilee route, then return to their homeland, which will always remain a place of hospitality,» says Rosanna Repole, mayor of Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi, in the province of Avellino.

«This Jubilee year is a historic and important opportunity, also one of affection for our country, so we invite all our fellow citizens to return and visit our territories as well,» says Raffaella Mariani, mayor of San Romano in Garfagnana, in the province of Lucca. «We are organized with the pilgrimage routes; in our case, Garfagnana is crossed by the Matildic Way of the Holy Face, one of the seven Jubilee paths leading to Rome. We would love for our fellow citizens who had to emigrate to recognize the most important historical and environmental features of our region along part of this route,» she concludes.

ors, particularly from small municipalities,» while Agostino Miozzo, Commissioner for Jubilee Welcome and Advisor to the President of the Calabria Region, explained the «strong connection» that Calabrians abroad have with their homeland. Representing Italy's territories and ready to collaborate to make the most of the Jubilee and Roots Tourism opportunities were Emanuele Zorino, Mayor of Aquileia; Franco Parone, Mayor of Caramanico Terme; Raffaella Mariani, Mayor of San Romano in Garfagnana; and Rosanna Repole, Mayor of Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi.



Enhancement

A cultural and economic opportunity for villages and local communities the Italea project at the center of the session's discussions



Focus on Roots Tourism at the General Council of Pugliesi Worldwide

«Roots Tourism focuses on those who are far from their homeland and wish to rediscover their individual and family heritage by embarking on a journey to explore the places of origin of their ancestors. In Puglia and its villages, even those often little-known and isolated, there has been an incredible surge in this type of slow and sustainable tourism in recent years, made accessible through the Italea project, dedicated to Italians abroad and Italian descendants eager to reconnect with their roots.»

Giovanni Maria De Vita, Embassy Advisor and head of the Roots Tourism Project at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, described it as «an emotional success and an opportunity for economic development» during the new session of the General Council of Pugliesi in the World (CGPM), held in Bari on April 15. This body is legally recognized by the Regional Law "Interventions in favor of Pugliesi in the World" of December 11, 2000. It serves as a true «parliament» of Pugliese communities worldwide, with legislative, propositional, and executive powers, tasked with implementing concrete proposals for territorial management and interventions in the countries where the Pugliese community resides.

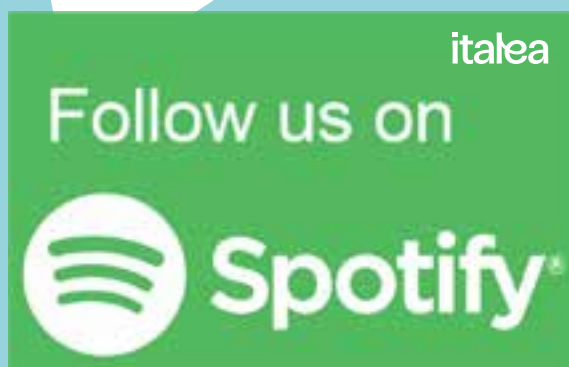
The meeting was an opportunity to explain to representatives from Pugliese communities in countries like Canada, the United States, Australia, China, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, and many other European nations what Italea is and how its network, present in every Italian region, serves as «a concrete bridge for the 80 million Italians scattered around the world.» During his speech, De Vita also emphasized that Roots Tourism offers an opportunity for growth for operators in hospitality, both hotel and non-hotel services, catering, and commerce.

The meeting began with a video message of institutional greetings from Pugliese Gover-





Giovanni Maria De Vita, Head of the Roots Tourism Project



nor Michele Emiliano, followed by the official presentation of the councilors, the election of the Presidium, and the establishment of thematic committees. Several issues were discussed during the session, including the definition of guidelines for the annual plan of social, cultural, economic, and integration interventions aimed at Pugliese communities abroad. Furthermore, the regional strategy for attracting talent and the effects of geopolitics on the tourism sector were also discussed, with contributions from Gianna Elisa Berlingiero, Director of the Department for Economic Development, and Luca Scandale, Director General of PugliaPromozione.»

Experiences

From Piedmont to Calabria: Italy offers immersive activities with the aim of evoking memories and emotions

Parma



Food, heritage, and heart: stories from Emilia's table

An exciting experience to rediscover the culinary roots of an entire generation. The activity takes place in iconic locations of Emilian gastronomy: from the Langhirano Ham Museum, where you can witness the making of Parma ham and create your own "roots sandwich", to the Soragna Parmigiano Museum, where you'll participate in a tasting workshop to explore the cheese's aging process. The final stop is at the Collecchio Pasta Museum, where you'll learn about the origins of one of Italy's most famous dishes worldwide. A journey that, through scents, flavors, and memories, will leave you with a heart full of stories to share.

Villa Castelli



The memory of our past evoked by the notes of the organetto

Villa Castelli, a municipality in the province of Brindisi, preserves the memory of an agro-pastoral past that shaped the culture of the region, especially in its musical tradition. The diatonic organetto, a symbol of folk music, has deep roots here and is still played today. By joining a "roots workshop," you will immerse yourself in local culture through music, dance, and singing, discovering how the organetto accompanies festive and communal moments. Every year, the Organetto Festival celebrates this instrument. Moreover, its notes also tell the stories of emigrants who took it with them, keeping their connection to their homeland alive.

Camini



A living village of integration and creativity in Calabria

In the province of Reggio Calabria, at the very heart of the region, Camini is more than just a picturesque village: it's a living laboratory of integration and creativity. Thanks to the "Jungi Mundu" center, this place has welcomed people from all over the world, becoming a symbol of rebirth and solidarity. Here, you can stroll through spice-scented alleys, participate in ceramics and weaving workshops, create with recycled materials, and explore the ancient art of tailoring. Children will find a dedicated space in the children's workshop, and the visit will conclude with a meal featuring traditional Calabrian dishes, also inspired by Syrian cuisine.

Alessandria



Tradition and memory at "Once Upon a Time" Museum

The "Once Upon a Time" Ethnographic Museum in Alessandria, located in the 18th-century "Gambarina Vecchia" barracks, offers a journey through rural life from the 19th to the 20th century. The exhibition, spread over 1,600 square meters, recreates family settings and significant moments, such as births and weddings, with a section dedicated to the World Wars. On the upper floor, there's a 1930s classroom, a 19th-century library, and a collection of dolls and historical toys. The "World of Work" section delves into traditional trades like shoemaking, blacksmithing, and carpentry, offering a fascinating glimpse into Alessandria's past.

Severini



A cooking class dedicated to Italian and Abruzzo cuisine

An immersive culinary experience in the heart of Abruzzo. In Severini, in the province of Chieti, the ReD Academy Cooking School offers an activity that blends taste, tradition, and fun. It begins with a tasting of local specialties — artisanal cheeses, cured meats, extra virgin olive oil, sweets, and liqueurs — before diving into the heart of Abruzzo's cuisine. Accompanied by expert chefs, you'll select the ingredients and prepare some of the region's iconic dishes by hand. A unique opportunity to learn techniques and secrets from true professionals. At the end, you'll receive a kit with typical products, a certificate, and a kitchen gadget.

Riese



Discovering the birthplace of Pope Pius X in Veneto

The birthplace of Giuseppe Sarto, future Pope Pius X, is located in Riese, in the province of Treviso, in the municipality that received it as a gift from his sister Maria in 1926. The complex, which also includes a museum, was restored in 1985 for the visit of Pope John Paul II and again in 2023 for the peregrinatio corporis of Saint Pius X. Every year, thousands of visitors discover the story of this Venetian pope, born into a modest family. The house, consisting of just a few rooms, was restored by Sarto himself before becoming Pope. The museum houses personal items that tell the story of his life, from childhood to his death in 1914, offering a fascinating connection to the local area.

italea

The journey to your roots



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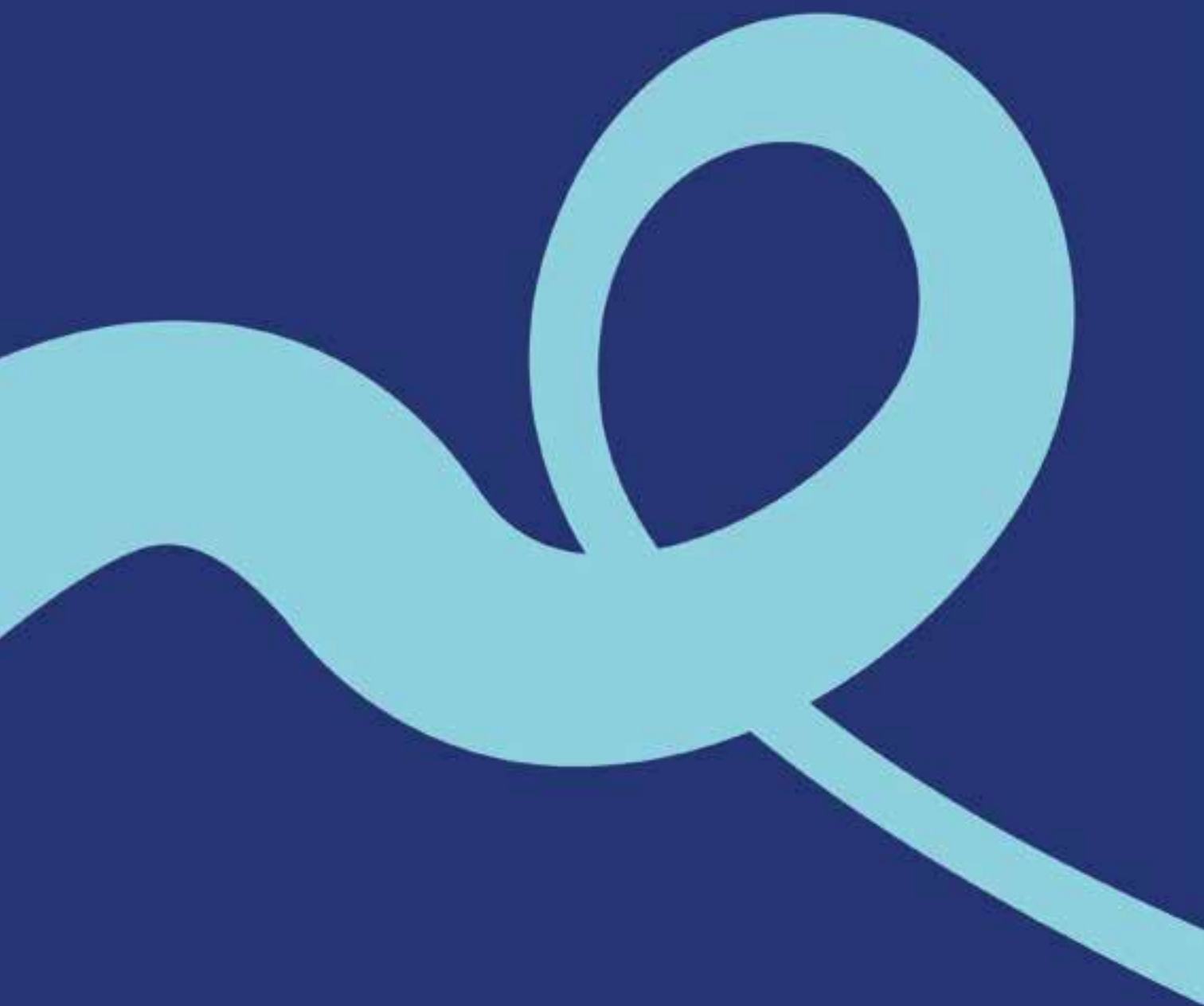


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