

Villages

The true essence of Lucania is its hinterland

Artistic treasures

Small, 'secret' masterpieces of great value

People

Getting to know the hospitable heart of the region

BASILICATA

UNUSUAL WONDERS



IN COLLABORATION WITH

VANITY FAIR



COVER
View of the Satriano Tower in Tito. It is located at the top of a 956-metre-high hill that you come across along the road from Tito to Brienza. Visible from several points from a distance of several kilometres, it dominates the territory and is home to a museum



UNUSUAL WONDERS

The word 'wonder' literally describes something that deserves our attention, something that, just by the fact of existing, must be admired. We chose 'unusual wonders' as the payoff to Basilicata because this is the definition we set ourselves when we selected the places, people and experiences to present in these pages. How to choose between so many wonders? We started with the 'unusual' ones, either because they are less well-known or because they are among those you would least expect to find in a classic guidebook. But ours is not an invitation to travel in search of sensationalism; not at all. Here we propose a journey that asks you to take the time 'that is needed' and to adopt the right approach: that of someone who is ready to be amazed by small, simple, beautiful things. It is about discovering places, works of art, popular and ancient traditions, about tasting new flavours, listening to stories you have never heard or read. It is about seeing, hearing, touching and experiencing these wonders first-hand, because they deserve to be admired. Enjoy your discovery!



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Human

Traces



From the frescoes in the rock churches of the Murgia to street art seeking to combat the depopulation of Lucanian villages
PUBLIC ART in Basilicata tells of the region's beauty

OLD AND NEW
Left, ceramics covering the walls along the streets of Forenza.
Right, the rock church dedicated to Santa Lucia di Melfi



PAINTED VALLEYS

From left, Satriano, which with Sant'Angelo Le Fratte and Savoia di Lucania is part of Italy's most painted valley. The Crypt of Original Sin in Matera, with frescoes from the eighth-ninth centuries. A Stigliano mural promoting a street art festival

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hat do cave paintings have in common with the murals of contemporary street artists? They are all traces. Traces of human thought, marked in time and space, capable of capturing not so much a single moment as the soul, heart and matter – in a word, the life – of a place. This itinerary brings together a number of locations in Basilicata, starting with these traces, left behind in very different eras. We will visit the most beautiful rupestrian churches in the region and also pass through small villages, which have been promoting street art for years in order to preserve the memory of the places. After all, this is the essence of Basilicata, a continuous succession of peoples and cultures through the centuries, which have left and continue to leave signs of their passage.

The enchantment begins in Matera, visiting the Sassi, 'the most outstanding, intact example of a troglodyte settlement in the Mediterranean region, perfectly adapted to its terrain and ecosystem', according to Unesco, which declared it a World Heritage Site in 1993, together with the Archaeological, Historical and Natural Park of the Rupestrian Churches of Matera. This is where we begin to familiarise ourselves with these rock-hewn treasures: the oldest churches date back to the early Middle Ages and many of them preserve spectacular frescoes. There is the Byzantine church of Santa Barbara, which overlooks the Gravina and has two entrances, one of which is decorated with columns with capitals. Within,

a *Madonna and Child* and the saint to whom the church is dedicated can be seen on the walls. Then there is the rock complex of Madonna delle Virtù and the wonderful San Nicola dei Greci, set on several levels and carved entirely into the rock.

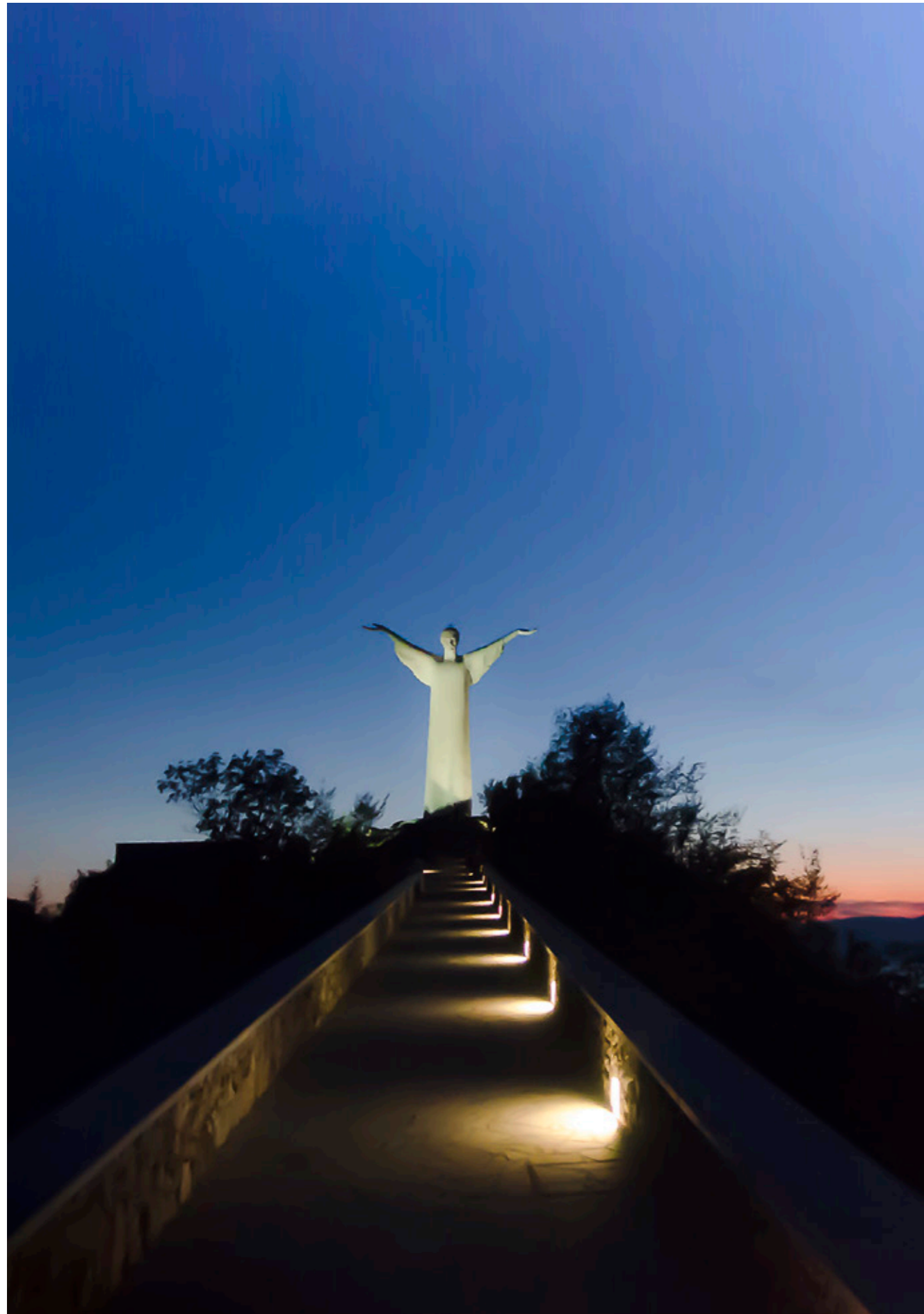
Almost all the churches seem to have depended from large Benedictine abbeys. For example, the link between the wonderful Cripta del Peccato Originale (Crypt of Original Sin) – also called the 'Sistine Chapel of rupestrian art' – and the Longobard Benedictine abbey of San Vincenzo al Volturno, 150 km north of Naples, is unusual. It is the oldest evidence of rupestrian art in southern Italy. It is located overlooking the Gravina di Picciano and its cave is decorated with an extraordinary cycle of frescoes.

Once past the Gravina stream, you enter the Parco della Murgia, which covers the territories of Matera and Montescaglioso and has more than 150 places of worship

carved into the rock, including the church of the Madonna delle Tre Porte and those of San Falcione, Madonna delle Croci and Sant'Agnese. It is an area where art, nature and archaeology enter into dialogue, and a visit is essential for an understanding of this small region. Travelling north, three stops await us: Oppido Lucano, Filiano and Melfi. In the first, we visit the thirteenth-fourteenth century church of Sant'Antuono. Spectacular, it was founded by Antonin monks and has 19 hollowed-out caves 'covered' with beautiful frescoes. Filiano, famous above all for its PDO pecorino cheese, has a beautiful prehistoric site at Tuppo dei Sassi: it is called Riparo Ranaldi and is the oldest cultural evidence of mankind in Basilicata. In Melfi, the church of Santa Margherita has a Byzantine-style frescoed crypt with the famous Monito dei Morti, while the church of Santa Lucia retraces the life of the saint.

We move southwest to discover some much more

recent murals. The first stop is in Forenza, where the walls of the streets are covered with mosaics and wax works by artist Mario Brienza. They are reminiscent of the works of Gaudí, Duchamp and Calder. But one can also 'immerse' oneself in the 3D street art work of the Neapolitan artist Jena Soul, which depicts a view of the town immersed in a chasm and guarded by a Knight Templar. We then travel to Satriano and Sant'Angelo Le Fratte, open-air museums, where murals along the streets of the centre tell of the village's legends and life. In Savoia di Lucania, the works are mainly dedicated to the anarchist Passannante, who made an attempt on the life of Umberto I. In the wake of that episode, to apologise to the monarchy, the municipality changed its name from Salvia to Savoia. In Montemurro there is the Graffito School and in Stigliano the AppARTengo festival is held every year, which combats depopulation through public art. ■



The statue of Christ of Maratea at the top of Monte San Biagio measures more than 21 metres high

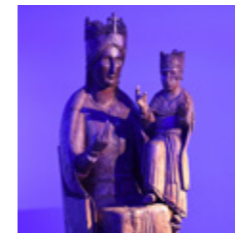
Let me tell you a secret

It's a great time to discover the still hidden treasures of Basilicata, from wooden madonnas to Baroque polyptychs and the extraordinary Giotto-like frescoes in Ripacandida

Basilicata is a land of discreet people, who prefer to reveal themselves to those who know the value of discovery, without giving in to the temptations of mass tourism and instead letting the local treasures emerge a little at a time. In the small villages of this region, nurtured for millennia by art, nature, history and culture, there are a number of 'hidden' masterpieces by Venetian masters, such as those by Giovanni Bellini in Genzano and Lazzaro Bastiani in Matera. There is a famous work by Mantegna, commissioned in the mid-fifteenth century in Venice by the priest Roberto De Mabilia: a painting of Saint Euphemia now in Capodimonte. Less well known, however, is another work attributed almost unanimously to the most important Renaissance artist (others attribute it to another sculptor close to Mantegna, Pietro Lombardo): a processional sculpture in the church of Irsina. And let's not overlook the frescoes on the vault, walls and presbytery in the church of San Donato in Ripacandida. These are all extraordinary works of art, and it is not possible to list them all, but the suggestion is to start with these and discover others during the journey. ■



The Saint Euphemia attributed to Mantegna



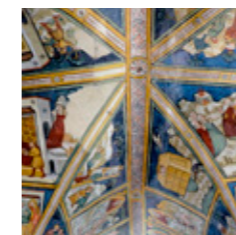
LUCANIAN WOODEN MADONNAS

Their fame is inversely proportional to the devotion of the Lucanians towards them. Among the many wooden Madonnas of Lucania, some of the most beautiful are those of Orsoleo, Viggiano, Banzi, Rapolla, Armento, San Martino d'Agri and the Madonna del Sauro in Guardia Perticara. Many of the Madonnas are depicted enthroned and, in accordance with Byzantine iconography, holding the blessing Child on their left side. The proximity to the Romanesque style of the Spanish and particularly Catalan and Aragonese Madonnas of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries is evident.

SANTA MARIA ASSUNTA IN IRSINA

Construction of the cathedral dedicated to Our Lady of the

Assumption in the town of Irsina, once called Montepeloso, began in the thirteenth century, but did not end until the late eighteenth century. Imposing, from a distance it looks rather like a fortress, and all the more so because it is incorporated into the city walls. It houses many treasures, including the sculpted *pietra di Nanto* statue of St Euphemia, patron saint of the city, a work attributed to Mantegna. It is said to be the only known sculptural work by the artist known to date. There are also other works from the 'De Mabilia Donation' to be admired; De Mabilia was the local-born priest who lived in Padua and commissioned Mantegna to paint the St Euphemia now in Capodimonte.



SAN DONATO IN RIPACANDIDA

Known as the little Assisi of Basilicata, the sanctuary of San

Donato in Ripacandida, dedicated to the bishop of Arezzo, has been a UNESCO messenger monument of culture and peace since 2010, 'for the profound spiritual values it has conveyed for centuries'. Its enchantment lies in its frescoed interiors, dating back to the sixteenth century, and also called the Bible of Ripacandida, as they depict the Genesis cycle, the Christological cycle and the cycle of Saints. From the entrance one sees the life and passion of Christ, and then Hell on the right and Paradise on the left, with Christ enthroned surrounded by angels. The second and third bays include themes drawn from Genesis. The blue of the vaulting is stunning, recalling the Basilica of Assisi.

GIOVANNI BELLINI IN GENZANO

A work by one of the most important Venetian Renaissance artists, Giovanni Bellini, can be admired in Genzano di Lucania: the polyptych of Santa Maria della Platea. It depicts an Annunciation in which the landscape is also a protagonist. The angel seems to be looking at a crucified Christ while

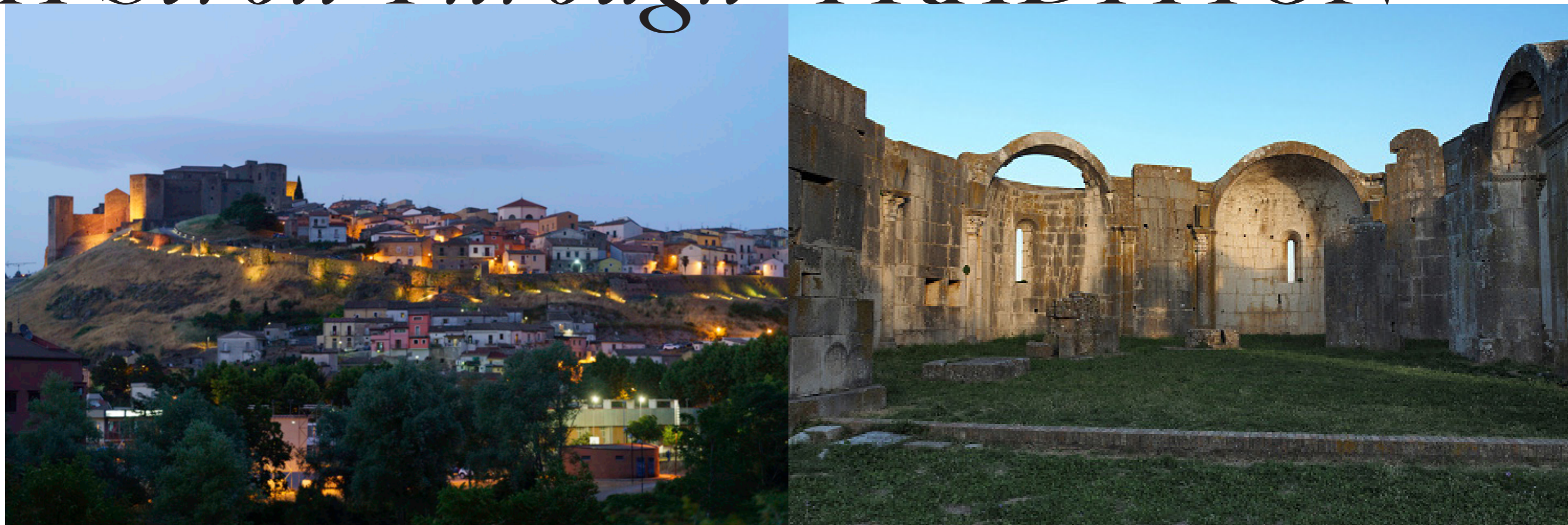
announcing the news to the Virgin. The upper right-hand panel shows Saint Francis adoring the Virgin, while on either side, there are St. Peter, St Sebastian, St Anthony Abbot and St John the Baptist. The marble floor and the gold background are echoes of medieval art.



CIMA DA CONEGLIANO IN MIGLIONICO

In the right aisle of the church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Miglionico, you can admire a splendid polyptych by Giovan Battista Cima da Conegliano, dated 1499. A monumental work, perhaps conceived for a Venetian church, it consists of 18 panels. In the central scene, the Madonna and Child has behind her a landscape of towns with towers, streets and lush fields: it is not just a backdrop, but an attempt to bring God closer to man also through nature.

A Stroll Through TRADITION



THE MOST AUTHENTIC BASILICATA is its hinterland, made up of small towns surrounded by gullies and forests. Here's an itinerary to discover the most beautiful sites, from north to south

Without haste. This is how one should approach a journey through the land of Basilicata: with curiosity and slowness. This is the only way to get in tune with this region, with its people, living exponents of ancient traditions, with its villages that are sometimes surrounded by walls and seem to emerge directly from the rock, and with landscapes dotted with mountains, castles and bell towers. It is the inland villages that hold the great little treasures of Basilicata, where everything is so well preserved that time really does seem to stand still. They are small and surrounded by a sometimes hard nature, a space of encounters between peoples and cultures. This region has been able to preserve its tangible and intangible heritage over the years, thanks to a state of 'dignified isolation', as art historian Gabriele Scarcia puts it. Today, Basilicata is making

itself known to the world, but not by giving in to ostentation or shortcuts by promoting only its capital. Starting with the 'City of Art Action Pact', which has created a cultural tourism circuit that starts in Melfi and arrives in Montescaglioso, passing through Ripacandida, Venosa, Forenza, Acerenza, Tricarico, Irsina and Miglionico.

MELFI

The fourth-largest Norman town in Basilicata, it is located at the northern end of the region and was the fief of Robert 'Guiscard' de Hauteville, who had a castle built there, which was enlarged by Frederick II. It is here that our tour of the town should start. It is one of the most remarkable castles in southern Italy and is home to the Vulture Melfese Massimo Pallottino archaeological museum. Also worth a

CLAUDIO/GETTY

LITTLE JEWELS

On the left, a view of the village of Melfi with its famous castle, one of the most beautiful in southern Italy. On this page the most fascinating – because unfinished – part of the abbey dedicated to the Holy Trinity in Venosa, which contains Roman, Longobard and Norman traces

visit is the Byzantine-style cathedral of the Assumption with its splendid Romanesque bell tower. Don't miss out going for a wander through the streets of the town, visiting the churches and sitting in a local inn to try vegetables in oil, Aglianico wine and marroncino di Melfi, the chestnut to which a festival is dedicated in October.

RIPACANDIDA

A town of honey, wine and oil, Ripacandida is visited above all for its artistic masterpiece: the sanctuary of San Donato with its Giottoesque frescoes. Perched on a hill, it overlooks the Vulture Natural Regional Park, with its rich biodiversity, where mountains, hills, flowering meadows and rivers, lakes and dense forests alternate. In the village, visit the Civic Art Gallery and the churches of

Santa Maria del Sepolcro and San Giuseppe. And try the honey, with its delicate or aromatic taste, which is also used in many recipes.

VENOSA

Famous for the Aragonese castle of Pirro del Balzo and for being the birthplace of the Latin poet Horace (he of *carpe diem*), Venosa is surrounded by hills of olive groves and vineyards. Visit the church of San Domenico, with a magnificent marble triptych on the façade, and the church of San Biagio with its fifteenth-century stone Pietà. Also of interest are the Jewish catacombs and the archaeological park with its thermal baths and amphitheatre, along with the unfinished church of the Santa Trinità, one of the most fascinating places in the entire region. In the town centre,



THE SOUL OF THE REGION

Left, a view of Acerenza with the cathedral dominating the village. On this page from above, anticlockwise, a view of the castle of Miglionico; the abbey of San Michele Arcangelo in Montescaglioso and the entrance arch to the old town of Irsina

there are many craft workshops and shops with local specialities to discover and taste.

FORENZA

On a hill in the heart of the Vulture region there stands a village, surrounded in part by Angevin walls and towers, and from which on a clear day the view extends as far as the Gargano. This is Forenza. We are in the Bradano valley, north of the Lucanian Apennines, and it is because of the views that this hill is called the Balcony of Puglia. Another great attraction of the village is its sacred heritage, with a number of interesting altars, wooden sculptures and sixteenth-century paintings. The rural nature that has always characterised this area is celebrated in the Casa Contadina, a house-museum in the centre that presents the traditional domestic hearth of the past.

ACERENZA

A Roman, Norman and Renaissance town, it is also called a cathedral city due to the grandeur of the church of Santa Maria Assunta e San Canio, dating back to the eleventh century. One of the oldest towns in the region, Acerenza dominates the upper Bradano valley in the

south of Vulture with its cultivated fields and Aglianico vineyards. Viticulture is central to the local culture: go to visit Pietragalla and the so-called Palmenti, cellars dug into the rock and still used today for storing wine.

TRICARICO

Leaving the province of Potenza, you enter that of Matera at Tricarico, one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Basilicata, nestling in the midst of oaks of various kinds. It is also famous for its Arab quarters – Saracena and Rabata – and its Norman quarters – Monte, Piano and Civita – of which a 27-metre-high tower remains. Definitely worth seeing in the centre is the Ducal Palace, which now houses the archaeological museum. While in town, try the *frizzuli* and *acquasale*, traditional bread-based dishes. Tricarico, which overlooks the Basento river valley, is also famous for its carnival, which evokes transhumance with masks inspired by cows and bulls.

IRSINA

Named one of the most beautiful villages in Italy, it is also one of the oldest and dominates the Bradano and Basentello valleys. The cathedral boasts Mantegna's only

sculpture, a processional figure of St Euphemia. Some refute the attribution, but no one can deny that it is a masterpiece, as are the fourteenth-century frescoes in the underground chapel of the church of San Francesco. The *bottini*, a system of underground tunnels designed to feed the city's fountains and cisterns, is well worth to visit. Try the *cavatelli* pasta with beans and wild fennel and the *crosti* peppers, a roast with tomatoes and onion.

MIGLIONICO

The Malconsiglio castle in Miglionico was the scene of the barons' conspiracy against Ferdinand I of Aragon in the fifteenth century. The village lies around its cylindrical and quadrangular towers, all atop a hill offering an exceptional view of the Lago di San Giuliano nature reserve. The town's treasure lies in the polyptych of 18 panels by Cima del Conegliano, dating from 1499. It may be found in the church of Santa Maria Maggiore. In

addition to the production of Lucania PDO extra virgin olive oil, the most typical product is fresh and dried figs, to which a festival is also dedicated in August.

MONTESCAGLIOSO

Also called the town of the monasteries, due to the presence of no less than four (the abbey of San Michele Arcangelo, the monastery of Sant'Agostino, that of SS. Concezione and that of the Capuchin Fathers), Montescaglioso is close to both Matera and the sea. The most beautiful abbey is that of San Michele Arcangelo, dating from the seventh century. Just outside the town centre, you can visit several rupestrine churches in the Murgia Park, such as the sanctuary of the Madonna della Murgia with its beautiful fresco of the *Virgin and Child*. The traditional *Carnevalone* sees masked groups parading through the streets of the town, ringing cowbells. The vegetables preserved in oil are a must. ■

MILLA1974/GETTY

ANDREA SEBASTIANI/GETTY, MILLA1974/GETTY, LAZ@PHOTO/GETTY

To each its own museum

They are small, but special, because they are places that tell the traditions and history of Basilicata. Rooted in the territory, they are well worth visiting as you come to them along the way.



CASA DELLE MUSE DI SINISGALLI, Montemurro

The Casa delle Muse (House of the Muses) contains the story of Leonardo Sinisgalli, a 'radical' intellectual defined as the 'Leonardo of the twentieth century' thanks to his multidisciplinary interests, which ranged from poetry to mathematics, cinema to drawing. The museum itinerary is thematic and also has a room for temporary exhibitions.

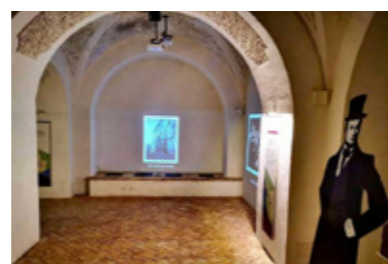
www.fondazioneisinisgalli.eu



MUVIG – MUSEUM OF LOCAL TRADITIONS, Viggiano

The MUVIG documents the agricultural and pastoral work, crafts and domestic life of ancient Viggiano. It is housed in the fifteenth-century monastery of Santa Maria del Gesù and is an ideal attraction for everyone interested in popular culture. In addition to the classic guided tour, visitors can enjoy videos and augmented reality images with information on the use and meaning of the more than three hundred objects on display.

www.facebook.com/muvig



MULTIMEDIA MUSEUM – A JOURNEY TO BASILICATA, San Mauro Forte

In the eighteenth-century Palazzo Arcieri Bitonti in San Mauro Forte, this museum offers a journey of discovery through the Lucania region, combining echoes of the past with references to modern technology. The modern installations evoke the impressions experienced by the writer Cesare Malpica during his Lucanian journey in 1847, which inspired the book, *La Basilicata, Impressioni*.

www.facebook.com/InViaggioInBasilicata

MUSEO DELLA PAROLA, Fardella

Palazzo Donato, an elegant mid-nineteenth century building, is home to the Museo della Parola (Museum of the Word), a space designed to bring visitors closer to the life and rural culture of Fardella. It presents a virtual and itinerant display that uses multimedia installations to guide guests through the discovery of the old municipal oil press, recounting the history, places, language and traditions of the village through multimedia images and with the voice of its inhabitants.

www.museodellaparola.it



MULABO – MUSEO LABORATORIO DELLE ARTI E DEL PAESAGGIO, Brienza

MuLabo is a laboratory museum, conceived as a space where art and landscape can be understood, where visitors can interact, learn and experiment with sustainability, creativity and innovation. The visit starts at the church of Santa Maria degli Angeli, built in 1622 and entirely frescoed by Giovanni De Gregorio known as Il Pietrafesa, and continues inside the former lazaret with sections dedicated to history and landscape.

www.mulabo.it

PEPEM FABULEUM, Satriano di Lucania

A museum entirely dedicated to a great protagonist of Lucanian cuisine: the chilli pepper. The venue is a permanent installation in the historic centre of the village and presents everything there is to know about this much-loved spice. It offers a journey through art, cinema, music, curiosities and symbolism. A multimedia itinerary also features photographs and handcraft installations and a research area for those wishing to delve deeper.

www.comune.satriano.pz.it

MEC - MUSEO EMOZIONALE, Craco

As its name suggests ('Emotional Museum'), this is an immersive journey of discovery through a 'ghost town' of Basilicata called Craco. Set up in the rooms of the old monastery of San Pietro dei Frati, this museum is a special place where, just like the village that hosts it, time seems to stand still. The layout is multimedia and very engaging.

www.oltrelartecraco.it/product/museo-emozionale



MICROMONDO, Nemoli

Founded in 2005 by two Lucanian geologists, Micromondo is a didactic museum that also organises workshops and excursions, and is dedicated to families and all natural science enthusiasts. The museum consists of two thematic routes, one to discover the secrets of planet Earth and the other to explore the evolution of life.

www.ilmicromondo.com



MULA+, Latronico

This acronym was chosen to encapsulate the Museo Civico Archeologico, the Museo delle Arti dei Mestieri e della Civiltà Contadina, the Museo del Termalismo and the Latronico municipal library. Of particular interest is the one dedicated to the baths, which is housed in the premises of the municipality's old spa, dating back to 1928. The museum was created with the aim of deepening and disseminating knowledge about the area's thermal activity.

www.museodeltermalismo.it



MUSEO VIRTUALE PARCO DEI COLORI DEL PIETRAFESA, Satriano di Lucania

For art lovers, this is the best place to get to know the most famous of Lucanian painters of the seventeenth century: Giovanni De Gregorio, known as Il Pietrafesa. The museum is housed in the stately residence of the Rocca di Poggiardo, in Satriano di Lucania, his hometown. Forty digitised works can be admired and in a second room a digital book allows visitors to trace the cultural contribution of other central figures of this historical period.

www.comune.satriano.pz.it



MAM-MUSEI AIELLO MOLITERNO, Moliterno

The MAM, in Moliterno, consists of eight museums: the Museo Michele Tedesco e dell'Ottocento Lucano (nineteenth century), the Museo del Paesaggio (landscape) and the Museo di Arte Contemporanea (contemporary art). Then there are the Spazio Riccardo Dalisi, the Museo del Novecento Lucano (twentieth century art in Lucania), Museo della Ceramica (ceramics), Museo di Arte Moderna (modern art). And, finally, the Biblioteca Lucana (library) and a space dedicated to temporary exhibitions.

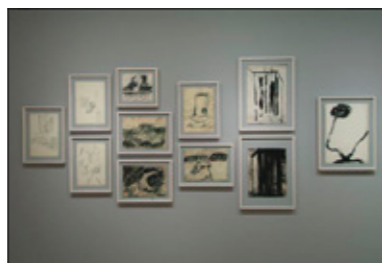
www.aiellomusei.com



ESSENZA LUCANO, Pisticci

'What more could you want from life?', everyone remembers these words from a famous TV spot, but few know the story of Amaro Lucano. Through an immersive and multi-sensory journey through colours, scents and history, this site reveals the true essence of Amaro Lucano via five thematic areas (Lucania, Lucano, Amaro, History and Pacchiana).

www.essenzalucano.it



MIG – MUSEO INTERNAZIONALE DELLA GRAFICA, Castronuovo di Sant'Andrea

In one of the oldest hilltop villages in Lucania stands the MIG. Museo Internazionale della Grafica, a museum dedicated to graphic art, that is, works engraved or printed using different techniques. The MIG offers exhibitions and educational events.

www.mig-biblioteca.it



MUSEO NATURALISTICO E PALEONTOLOGICO, Rotonda

In the heart of the Pollino, the remains of a specimen of *Elephas antiquus italicus* – an elephant – from the Upper Middle Pleistocene (400,000 - 700,000 years ago) were found in 1982, in the locality of Calorie, in the fields of Rotonda. There are also fossils of other animal species, such as the almost complete jawbone of the *Hippopotamus antiquus*, which probably lived in the Middle Pleistocene, and also fossils of plant and mineral species that testify to the history of the area.

www.mugeparotonda.it



MOON - MUSEO OFFICINA OGGETTI NARRANTI, Potenza

In the old building of a toy wholesaler on the outskirts of Potenza, there is this place open to the community, created to host temporary exhibitions, artistic productions, workshops, residences, seminars and learning projects for schools and social workers.

www.museomoon.it

MAMED - MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO MEDIEVALE, Brienza

Recently opened, the Museum of Brienza guides visitors along an innovative path dedicated to the history, culture and transformations of Brienza, from its origins to the present day. A surprising journey through more than 2000 years of history, told in a multimedia and sensorial way. The MAMed is housed in a symbolic place: the former monastery of the Friars Minor Observant, dating back to the sixteenth century and now home to the town wall, which occupies the spaces on the first floor.

www.comune.brienza.pz.it

MUSEO DELLE ANTICHE GENTI DI LUCANIA, Vaglio Basilicata

The museum was created as a didactic centre to illustrate two sites in the archaeological area of Vaglio through testimonies, reconstructions and projections: Serra and Rossano. The former was an Italic settlement from the ninth-third century BC. The sanctuary of Rossano, dedicated to the Oscan goddess Mefitis, dates back to the mid-fourth century BC.

www.comune.vagliobasilicata.pz.it

MUSEO MULTIMEDIALE DELLA CERAMICA, Calvello

At the top of the village of Calvello, there is a museum in the Carafa-Ruffo castle dedicated to an art that has been a feature of this town since 1200. The layout takes the form of a journey to rediscover the craftsmanship and skills of the artisans called 'faenzari'. The museum displays vases, plates and other objects, while interactive and 3D screens allow visitors to learn the secrets of this art from up close.

www.visitcalvello.it



MUSEO DELL'UTOPIA, Campomaggiore

Campomaggiore is famous for being the town of Utopia. The multimedia museum was created to tell the story of old Campomaggiore, or rather the events linked to the utopian design of Teodoro Rendina who, between the end of the eighteenth century and the nineteenth century, sought to create an urban layout inspired by the principles of utopian socialism. The village, abandoned due to a landslide, now hosts highly interesting summer shows among its ruins.

www.campomaggiorecittadellutopia.it

MUSEO ARCHEOANTROPOLOGICO DI CHIAROMONTE, Chiaromonte

The full name of this museum is the Museo archeoantropologico di Chiaromonte Lodovico Nicola di Giura. Opened in 2017 in the heart of Enotria, through a number of fine artefacts, it illustrates the lives of the Oenotrian communities that lived between the ninth and fifth centuries BC in Chiaromonte and between the eighth and fifth centuries BC in Guardia Perticara. These were very important places for inland Oenotria because they controlled the routes between the Tyrrhenian and Ionian seas. This is a great place to learn about the history of a very ancient region of Italy.

www.museochiaromonte.it

MUSEO DEL BRIGANTAGGIO, Rionero in Vulture

The former Bourbon prison is home to this very interesting museum illustrating a very important part of history for the Lucanians: banditry. Why here? Because one of the protagonists of Lucanian brigandage, Carmine Crocco, was born here. The museum is partly immersive and when you visit it, you are confronted with the avatar of a brigand, while in other rooms, thanks to touch screens, you can discover details about the brigandage in this area.

www.prolocorioneroinvulture.it/museo-del-brigantaggio



MUA - ALIANO MUSEUMS, Aliano

The united museums of Aliano, the village described in Carlo Levi's *Christ Stopped at Eboli* as Gagliano, bring together the Pinacoteca Carlo Levi and the Museo Permanente Paul Russotto di Palazzo Caporeale. The first is a small museum containing letters, documents and drawings that recount Levi's confinement in Aliano between 1935 and 1936. The second is dedicated to the historian of Abstract Expressionism, born in America but of Lucanian origin.

www.museialiano.it

NICOLA IELPO NUMISMATIC MUSEUM, Rotondella

The numismatic museum in Rotondella is dedicated to Nicola Ielpo, a native of this district, who was the director of the State Mint and who patented the 500 lire coin, the result of a study carried out by him and his collaborators and which became a model used by many other countries to minimise the risk of counterfeiting. It was also he who promoted the working group to decide on the characteristics of the single European currency. The museum houses a rotation selection of coins from his collection.

www.museonumismaticiconicolaielpo.it

ANTICA FILANDA DE ROSA, Laurenzana

The Antica Filanda De Rosa is a testimony of industrial archaeology and a place that preserves the memory of a now-defunct form of productivity: the wool industry in Basilicata, which flourished between 1870 and 1950. A FAI *Luogo del Cuore*, the Filanda is in the municipality of Laurenzana and was founded in the early 1900s by Michele De Rosa.

www.comune.laurenzana.pz.it

MOOM - MUSEO DELL'OLIO DI OLIVA, Matera

The Museo dell'Olio di Matera of Matera was set up in a former rupestrian olive oil press in the Sassi of Matera, dating back to the fifteenth-sixteenth century (and later enlarged), to tell the story of this long and ancient tradition. The ancient underground oil press can still be seen and tastings can also be held.

www.moom.bio

MIB - MUSEO IMMERSIVO DELLA BRUNA, Matera

The Bruna is one of the most heartfelt festivals in Basilicata, and is held on 2 July. And the MIB, in the heart of the Sasso Barisano, is a multimedia itinerary that describes the patron saint's feast through legends, images, sounds and stories. The heart of the display is the 360° projection of a 'strazzo' (the destruction of the cart), to be enjoyed through 3D glasses.

www.oltreartematera.it



MUSEO DEL LUPO, Viggiano

Inside the beautiful beech forest in the village of Fontana dei Pastori di Viggiano, at an altitude of 1,400 metres, you can visit the Museo del Lupo (Wolf Museum). Some stuffed wolves are on display in the building and you can learn about the species through videos or by consulting a rich and comprehensive thematic bibliography. The museum also has a small educational centre offering guided field trips.

www.aceaviggiano.it



MUSEO TORRE DI SATRIANO IN TITO, Tito

In Satriano, the walls of the ancient square stone tower, the only remnant of ancient Satrianum, now house the multimedia Museo Torre di Satriano in Tito. On the first floor you can discover the environmental resources of the landscape and the transformations it has undergone over time. The second is dedicated to material culture and religiosity, from the pre-Christian era to the Middle Ages. Finally, the terrace is mainly used at night for stargazing with the computer-guided telescope.

www.comune.tito.pz.it

MUSEO DIVINA BANTIA, Banzi

In a multimedia space at Banzi, a journey through history traces the roots of the local people, involving all the senses, through immersive experiences and large installations. One room is dedicated to ornithomancy, the art of divination through the flight and song of birds.

www.comune.banzi.pz.it

MUSEO DELL'ARTE ARUNDIANA, Sant'Ilario di Atella

In Sant'Ilario di Atella, the village of the brigands, you can visit the museum of 'arundian art' by the artist Franco Zaccagnino, a master of working with a Mediterranean reed called *arundo*. Following the path, you can see the transformation of the cane into sculptures.

www.francozaccagnino.net



MUSEO DI STORIA NATURALE DEL VULTURE, Monticchio Laghi

This museum occupies a wing of the eighth-century abbey of San Michele Arcangelo in Atella, from where there is a beautiful view of two volcanic lakes. The museum tells 750,000 years of the history of Vulture, a Pleistocene volcano that became dormant 130,000 years ago. An exciting journey through history.

www.parcovulture.it



MUSEO INTERATTIVO DEL GIOCATTOLO POVERO E DEL GIOCO DI STRADA, Albano di Lucania

A retired teacher, Donato Allegretti, set up this museum with the aim of providing research, documentation and the promotion of traditional toys and games, especially through the revival and preservation of popular and traditional toys, and street games, otherwise destined to disappear.

www.museodelgiocattolopovero.it

MUSEO MULTIMEDIALE C.E.R.A. UNA VOLTA..., Rapone

Rapone is known as the town of fairytales: there is a dedicated festival, an adventure park with trails dedicated to fairytale characters, but above all there is this multimedia museum that makes clear the importance of the tradition of handing down fairytales orally in this small town. Many, indeed, are the folk tales, stories, legends that have been handed down from generation to generation, but which are in danger of disappearing. This museum protects them.

www.raponepaesedellefiabe.blogspot.com

Welcome Home!



There is no better way to discover a territory than **TO EXPERIENCE IT TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE.**

In Basilicata it is easy to come into contact with local people who accompany you in the discovery of history, culture and traditions

There are places that over time have updated their narrative towards the outside world, making it contemporary, and others that have remained anchored in the imagery of the past. Then there is Basilicata, that small southern region, unnoticed for years, which today shines throughout the world, thanks in part, of course, to its great treasure, the Sassi di Matera, but above all for what it represents: a treasure chest of traditions. Where tradition, to quote Gustav Mahler from memory, is not the cult of ashes, but rather the custody of fire. Here, Basilicata has distinguished itself and still distinguishes

itself for this, for the cult of all that is precious and valuable. First and foremost, therefore, it is distinguished by its people, among its most protective custodians. And this is how it welcomes visitors, bringing them into contact with those who live, love and return to this barren land, which alternates between high gullies and thick forests. We have selected a few representative individuals, but there are many more (see the Basilicata En Plein Air website). You will meet smiling faces and open hearts, ready to show you the best of this extraordinary region. ■

BE AN ARCHER FOR A DAY IN ATELLA

Archery on horseback in Basilicata? Yes, maybe not everyone knows this, but Frederick II's 'bodyguards' were archers and the Byzantines also had a large cavalry force equipped with bows in their army. And for both, Basilicata was a land of passage; indeed for Frederick II it was his land. La Valle dei Cavalli, in Atella (PZ), has been offering courses in this discipline for years. For those on holiday, there are introductory courses in which Stefano Summa and other rangers make their skills available with demonstrations and coaching in practical tests. Is archery not for you? Then you can take part in some rides in the surrounding area: the equestrian centre is located in the heart of the area of former Italian brigandage, between Monte Vulture and Monte Caruso. The excursions take you to the places where, after the Unification of Italy, battles were fought between Lucanian brigands (partisans of their land) and the Italian army, and visit the caves where the former used to hide. Bookings can be made on the site.

www.lavalledeicavalli.com





FOLLOW THE RIVER

The Pollino Park, between Basilicata and Calabria, has some special treasures, such as the Loricato pine, an endemic species that grows only here and can live for up to a thousand years. It has earned itself a role as symbol of the Park itself. In the heart of this extraordinary nature lies the Infopollino Centro Escursioni, founded by four young men who love their land, Adalberto, Luigi, Alessandro and Daniele, who in 2012 invented Acquatrekking – walking against the current – and registered the brand. The river that flows through the Pollino Park lends itself to many activities. In addition to Acquatrekking of different levels, one of the most fun activities is river tubing, the descent down the river on inflatable one-person donuts, which in Italy can only be done along one other river as specific characteristics are required. The descent, which can last 60 to 90 minutes, is suitable for children from 8 years up and is always accompanied by a guide.

www.infopollino.com



COOKING WITH WORDS

In Sant'Angelo le Fratte, where he has his restaurant, and further afield, everyone knows him as the Storyteller Chef. Emilio Pompeo has chosen this bucolic place, the most painted village in Italy, to open a restaurant where he combines the suggestions that food creates with those of words. A born teller of tales, the son of an actress and a politician, the 'Chef Narrante' extends the pleasure of food with his tales: 'I try to make it go round the heart twice', he says, accompanying his guests into a dreamlike dimension. There is no menu: those who choose to come to his restaurant, Palazzo Giachetti, a beautiful sixteenth-century building, decide to go on a journey, accompanied by the chef and his partner and companion Cristina, who is the hostess. It is a relaxing place, where dishes change often and can be adapted to the intolerances and tastes of guests – no more than 30 at a time. People eat and only afterwards, for those who wish, does the Storyteller Chef sit at the table and talk about the dish... and more.

www.facebook.com/bottegadellochefnarrante

IN BASILICATA'S NATURAL THEATRE

Say Basilicata and you think of its incredible *calanchi* (gullies). Since the establishment of the protected area of the Riserva dei Calanchi di Montalbano Reserve, Legambiente has set up the *Cea I Calanchi* to promote the area and organise moments of environmental education. Maurizio Rosito, president of the CEA, and other authorised guides, accompany visitors on old mule tracks, once used as working routes. A circular route that starts from the historic centre of Montalbano allows you to descend into the valley and climb up the hill from two opposite sides, to enjoy the panorama to the full. For more experienced walkers, a coast-to-coast trek also starts from Montalbano and arrives at Craco Peschiera, crossing not only the gullies but also the countryside and forests. As of this year, a collaboration with Ginestre Bike provides electric bike hire. Guided excursions can be booked on the website, on which is also published a calendar of summer events, such as one combining trekking and yoga.

www.ceaicalanchi.com



5 SAILS

Policoro is located in the centre of the Gulf of Taranto between Metaponto and Nova Siri, between Puglia and Calabria, where there is a microclimate that is always perfect for sailing. The amateur sports association 5 Vele in the Marina di Policoro organises activities and outings throughout the year. In summer it plans summer camps for children and young people (also for those on holiday), and every day you can book outings, such as for sunset, which is invariably beautiful, and to enjoy the calm sea. Or offshore sailing trips together with marine biologists to areas where dolphins and loggerhead turtles, which nest here, pass through. Thanks to a collaboration with the Mare Vivo association, the outings organised by 5 Vele are carried out in a manner that is respectful and sustainable for the marine fauna. Last but not least, thanks to Anffas, trips on special boats are also organised for people with disabilities.

www.facebook.com/www.cinquevele.net



THE GUARDIAN OF TRADITION

He is young, but it was no less than ten years ago that Vincenzo Di Sanzo opened his own stringed instrument making business in the village of San Paolo Albanese. After studying art and attending the conservatory, he became passionate about violin making, but in addition to the more 'classical' wooden musical instruments (violin and cello), Vincenzo has also learnt the art of traditional local instruments, in particular bagpipes. There are no manuals: one learns by doing and from those who knew the craft beforehand. So Vincenzo learnt the art of bagpipes from his uncle Antonio Forastiero, who in turn is from the Trimarco school. If he is not on tour, Vincenzo is in his workshop where he welcomes the curious and enthusiasts to tell them about his art (better contact him first, though). Vincenzo personally chooses the tree from which he will make the instrument and this must be cut at a specific time of the year, on days of a waning moon in winter. In 2019, he also launched the Antiche Radici festival, which takes place in the third week of September and is dedicated to these popular musical instruments.

www.instagram.com/liuteria_di_sanzo



THE SAFFRON HARVEST

With a past in the gastronomy industry that took him around Italy, in 2011 (but work had started years earlier), he took the decision to start his own farm in Ripacandida. Donatello Chiarito studied and decided to bring innovation to a region historically dedicated to the production of oil, wine and wheat: he cultivates spices and saffron, a novelty for Basilicata. His company opens its doors to schools during the academic year and always to tourists who want to visit the fields where the 'gold of the kitchen' is cultivated. You can also participate in the saffron harvest (which usually starts in October and continues for about a month and a half). Visitors can see the cultivated fields, but also enter the workshop to see the processing and finally participate in a tasting of spiced and saffron-flavoured products such as biscuits, taralli, chocolate, honey and jams, the company's specialities.

www.aziendagricolachiarito.it

OWEN FRANKEN/GETTY

Unforgettable nights

Basilicata also stands out when it comes to hospitality, offering a wide variety of original solutions. They range from the austere luxury of a hotel in the Sassi of Matera to a transparent bubble in which to sleep under the stars, surrounded by silence; from a tree house immersed in the greenery to apartments in some of the most beautiful historical villages in the region, such as Tursi or Grottole, where you can integrate with the community and experience a holiday made primarily of relationships. Five structures that, more than hotels or B&Bs, are strongholds of Lucanian hospitality

ATMOSFERA BUBBLE GLAMPING

'Behind' the bubbles of Atmosfera Bubble Glamping are Chiara and Daniele, a Roman couple who, in love with Basilicata where they owned a piece of land, decided six years ago to open Italy's first bubble glamping. There are two rooms and one suite, all with ample space around them to assure maximum privacy for guests. All the bubbles have a private, external bathroom. The glamping is located in Satriano di Lucania, in the province of Potenza. It has Legambiente's sustainability certification as it has a very low impact on the environment (there are no air conditioners because they are not needed, and the bubbles are heated when needed in winter) and has been selected as one of the FAI's *luoghi del cuore*. Each bubble, in its outdoor area, has a table with chairs, sun loungers and a whirlpool bath. Breakfast is served in the room, with organic and zero-mile products. Starting from €290.

www.atmosferabubbleglamping.it



FRANCKREPORTER

THE ORANGERY RETREAT

Martine Greslon Collins was born in London, where she lived and worked until 2007. The year before, looking for a place to take a holiday away from the hectic pace of the city, she arrived in Tursi. It took only two days to decide, after 18 months, to leave everything and move to this village of almost 5,000 people in Basilicata. Today she has three flats for rent in the historic centre (The Mandarin, The Bergamot and The Stacc), all furnished with pieces from her previous life and inherited from her French grandparents, and all with views of the countryside. Depending on the season, and the flow of guests, you can also book cooking experiences personally guided by Martine, who has always been a keen cook. You arrive and immediately feel at home, thanks to the little details: Egyptian cotton sheets, Victorian bathtubs and fully equipped kitchens. From €100 per night.

www.theorangeryretreat.com



SEXTANTIO - THE CAVES OF THE CIVITA

Sextantio is the cultural project behind the conservative recovery by Daniele Kihlgren of 18 caves, some of them very large, and a common space in an ancient rupestrian church. The aim is to enhance the Italian heritage of historic villages. The albergo diffuso ('scattered hotel') is located in the oldest part of the Sassi of Matera, the Civita, overlooking the Gravina stream, with a view of the Murgia Park and its rupestrian churches. Born with the intention of providing space for a tourism linked not only to monuments, but also to a civilisation and a territory dense with history, flavours and memories, the caves have undergone minimalist and essential furnishings, with many pieces of furniture made to measure. The hotel organises aperitifs, cooking classes and also provides guests the opportunity to dine by candlelight in a deconsecrated church. From €350.

www.sextantio.it



LOOK AT THAT MOON

In the small village of Sasso di Castalda, with 800 inhabitants, Giovanni and Erica opened a b&b with two rooms in 2017. In 2021 they expanded their business by building a tree house, a small dwelling with a double bedroom, bathroom and two large terraces, immersed in the nature of Basilicata. The name underscores the two owners' deep connection with the environment and their land, but it also has to do with Rocco Petrone, an Italian-American, son of Lucanian immigrants who was originally from Sasso di Castalda: it was he who directed the launches of the Apollo programme and sent mankind to the moon in 1969. The tree house also has a relaxation area with a transparent igloo for sleeping under the starry sky and a Finnish tub. From €199 per night.

www.guardachelunabasilicata.it



SEXTANTIO

WONDER GROTTOLE

A wonder home that is not so much b&b as a home welcoming travellers who want to experience – albeit for a short period – the life of a small town in Basilicata. This is Wonder Grottole, a territorial promotion project founded by Andrea, Silvio, Claudia and Valentina in Grottole, a small town of 1,800 inhabitants, of which only 200 live in the historic centre. The house has two double rooms with private bathrooms and shared spaces that can also be rented individually. Besides the Wonder Casa, Wonder Grottole also suggests experiences to try during your stay, such as visiting the caves where wine is made or meeting Rocco, the village beekeeper and one of the few official honey tasters in Italy. Try Wonder Bee&Bee a bee-sound or bee-aroma experience in a little wooden house, surrounded by millions of bees. From €50 per night, the room; €80 the house.

www.wondergrottole.it