

— Come home, come back to Italy —

2ITALY

SENTIMENT

| APRIL 2021

POWERED BY


















Capri Island. Pearl of the Tyrrhenian sea

*Capri, queen of rock,
in your dress
the colour of amaranth and lily
where lived,
experiencing
happiness and pain, the vine
brimming
with radiant clusters
that conquered the earth*

Pablo Neruda



CONTENT

-  **PAGE 4** Back to travel again
Alessandro Mancini
-  **PAGE 6** 2Italy Mag Sections and Topics
-  **PAGE 8** C2I – A platform to meet providers across Italy
Neeraj Kumar
-  **PAGE 10** My secret place in Italy
Maria Fernanda Soler
-  **PAGE 12** In supercars among Tuscan Hills
Giacomo Lombardo
-  **PAGE 14** Milano Cortina 2026 Logo revealed
Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics
-  **PAGE 16** MAHI'S WAY – Fishing in Adriatic Sea
Fernando Rosiello
-  **PAGE 18** Air Europa – Travel securely and safely
Renato Scaffidi
-  **PAGE 20** Breathe in the smell of citrus flowers and sea
Giulia Briguglia
-  **PAGE 22** Easter in Florence – Explosion of the Cart
Folklore2Italy
-  **PAGE 24** Italy is waiting for our return with open arms!
Leo Locke
-  **PAGE 26** An Italy off the beaten track
Juana Barbera Diago
-  **PAGE 28** Taste2Italy – Norma Pasta
Pierangelo Dal Ben
-  **PAGE 30** The heart of Sicily and the Soul of Palermo
Villa Igiea - A Rocco Forte Hotel
-  **PAGE 32** Tropea – A real taste of the Italy deep south
Repost of e-borghi.com



BACK TO TRAVEL AGAIN

First travel mission after a while...

Alessandro Mancini - CEO Mancini Worldwide



I had the opportunity to go to Dubai after almost 1 year. The pandemic stopped all the common physical interactions I was accustomed to and, of course, it was a great pleasure to go back to my common work life, which means: another suitcase, another plane, another hotel, meeting people face-to-face, etc.

Well, it has been a week full of meetings with local Tour Operators. What really surprised me, was their reaction: from the moment we sent them an invitation to meet up, 'till our meeting itself!

All the Tour Operators were "thirsty" of Italy, ready to start again, respecting the safety rules, to establish contacts with Italian members of Connect2Italy and to help them to find out the "perfect match".

It was simply brilliant: we met 23 Tour Operators vis à vis and other 6 virtually as they were not able to travel from an Emirate to another and I was really touched by their love for Italy and how well they knew so many areas of Italia.

Of course, in Dubai almost everyone completed the vaccination program, and they are looking forward to go back to travel and to their old life.

It was a great opportunity, as well, to visit the building site of Expo2020: I believe it will be something outstanding and unique, a real attraction within a City, Dubai, that is an attraction itself.

After 7 days of meetings, I came back to Italy with and I felt very good vibes: "Italy is my second home – We cannot stay far from Italy – No other travel is like Italy", these are few quotes I remember of the Tour operators' directors I met, and that I am proud to share.

We already started planning Fam Trips to Italy both for Influencers and Tour Operators to go back to a "different" normality and the UEA's tourism market reaction was really an empowerment to all the actions we are leading.

A full-page background image showing a night sky with the Milky Way galaxy arching over jagged, snow-dusted mountain peaks. In the foreground, a small mountain refuge with a red roof and a tiny chapel are illuminated by warm lights, contrasting with the cool tones of the night sky.

“Tre Cime di Lavaredo, touch the sky ”

All climbers come to the Dolomites – just as they go to Yosemite – at least once in their life. They come here to express themselves, and to follow their predecessors on the most difficult routes.

Reinhold Messner

2ITALY MAG



CONNECT2ITALY

News from the Club



LOVE2ITALY

Talks about italian beauty



DISCOVER2ITALY

Italian hidden gems



EXPERT2ITALY

Tourism expert advise

SECTIONS



THE EXTRAORDINARY

ITALIAN STYLE

STYLE2ITALY

Italian excellences worldwide



FOLKLORE2ITALY

Italy and its local traditions



TASTE2ITALY

Discover Italy through its gastronomy



INTERNATIONAL CORNER

Feedback from International stakeholders



C2I - A PERFECT PLATFORM TO GET INTRODUCED TO BOUTIQUE HOSPITALITY PROVIDERS ACROSS ITALY!

Neeraj Kumar - Founder & CEO, Le Magnifique Travel (IND)

Le Magnifique Travel is into bespoke trips across the world and hence it is very important and prudent for us as an organization to connect with the right vendors who understand luxury and the level of detailing and finesse required to handle our guests and that's where Connect2Italy comes in.

When we talk about the destinations Le Magnifique Travel caters to, Italy of course is an especially important destination for us, both for travel and our luxury weddings division, given the stunning architectures and natural beauty the country has to offer.

The splendid Roman architecture follows you at every step. Some of the most famous buildings to visit are Colosseum, Pantheon, Duomo di Milano, Palatine Hill and Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore. The place is also known for some of the most spectacular churches and museums in the modern world. Besides the ancient artefacts, Italy also boasts of its alluring romantic vibes of Venice and Tuscany.

We at Le Magnifique Travel would suggest you to spend some time in the Venice canal cruise in a motorboat. The list includes the historic city of Naples too, among many more sites. The country is also home to one of the major fashion hubs. The cosmopolitan city of Milan is in the list of every fashion follower in the world.

You can spare a one-day trip and explore the neighbouring city.

Since the country shares its borders with the Mediterranean Sea, you can enjoy the luxuries of exotic sea view and indulge in island hopping from Capri to other local islands like Egadi and Ortygia. Vatican City, the seat of the Pope, is close by.

While in Italy, you can't miss its world known cuisine which has emerged as one of the healthiest diet.



While this is just a few of the wide range of options that this country provides you, you also need the correct travel company to escort you throughout your trip and this is where Le Magnifique Travel comes into the picture. As mentioned above, in search of the trustworthy and finest travel partners based in Italy, we came across Connect2Italy.

The first interaction I had with the organization was back in 2018, when I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Alessandro Mancini on his trip to India showcasing the wide array of services that Connect2Italy caters to. Since then, we have had a phenomenal experience working with the team at Connect2Italy. We have been able to get in touch with some of the most boutique and sought-after providers in Italy, be it boutique chalets, tailor-made region-specific hospitality providers across different parts of the country including Sicily, Naples

and more, service apartments, vineyards, activity providers, guides, transport providers and much more. It has been an incredible experience working with Alessandro and Vincenzo specially apart from other members of the team.

With Connect2Italy at the helm, we do not need to think beyond them, as we have some of the best providers with us today. I would strongly suggest any travel company who is looking at Italy as an important prospective destination for their guests to get in touch with Connect2Italy. I would also like to point out that today, its not just business but a fine camaraderie that I share with their team, given the humble and extremely courteous top management at the helm.

Italy is by far, one of the most sought-after holiday destinations for most of the experiential traveller here.

Boutique travel providers will be what a lot of Indians and Asians would be looking at, who can provide them safe, reliable travel options. Let's hope for a fantastic recovery very soon, almost equivalent to Pre-Covid times if not more, with the travellers getting to explore this beautiful world again! ■

For further informations:



Le Magnifique Travel

MY SECRET PLACE IN ITALY



Maria Fernanda Soler Torres - CEO, Famas Tours (MEX)

When I first went to Italy, I did not spoke the language did not know the culture, to be honest didn't knew anything! But as I started to go deeper, I found out the joy in the little things, you know that saying that goes: "look with the eyes of a tourist, who see beauty where everyone sees routine"

Well, when I arrived at Italy, I understood this saying perfectly! The food was pulling me, all these gelatos, the Baccalà mantecato, the arancini! I know that Italy is famous for the pasta, but honestly have you tried a Panettone on the Christmas season or eaten a Ravioli di Zucca with that amazing Aceto Balsamico? I know, you might say: "Well of course, you are a chef the food is your passion."

Well... true, the food is my passion, but it is also how I connect with people and let me you, there was not a plate with which I could not connect, all of them made me happy in more than one ways. And then I find the wine ¿Did you know the Italy is the country with the most variety of native grapes? And let me tell you, all of them are more amazing than the other.



Plus, the places, I'm sure everyone wants to see the Coliseum, but have you seen the beauty of a sunset in Amalfi? Or felt the wind in your face in front of Ponte Vecchio? Or how about talking a stroll in the beautiful and joyful city of Bologna...? I know the title says: my secret place in Italy, don't think I have forgotten, here it goes.... My secret place in Italy is.... **THE PEOPLE!**

People: **does not matter if you go to the south, the east or wherever you go the people is always going to be (for me) the best part.**

Even when I came back to my country due to the pandemic, I found this amazing community called Connect2Italy, and they make me feel Italy closer to my heart. The people all over Italy, taught me the food, the tradition, the language (remember I told you I went there with no knowledge of Italian) well they taught me, they showed me the beauty of the Etna and the importance of a risotto, wherever I went, the people made the experience 10 times better and even now, Connect2Italy has kept teaching me ways to connect with people from there, which I believe in this times is what all of us want, connection.

You know, I am Mexican, my soul would always be passionate, curious, and my heart is always with my country. But Italy has become my second home, I like to live things completely, deeply, and Italy has given me all that.

I have experienced the cold weather of Milan and still felt the warm of the place, I have enjoyed one of the most amazing flavours thanks to the nocciola of Piemonte, and being in 4 different weathers in less than 4 hours thanks to the Etna Volcano.

So yes, as a Mexican, I love to live life intense, to the best, as a chef I want to eat the most amazing flavours, as a girl I love to see the most amazing sunsets and as a human being I enjoy the little things in life. And let me tell you, all of these I have found in Italy, from north to south, from old ones to kids. It's an amazing place, and for me, an amazing place.

So, I invite you to travel again, I invite you to discover the world, I invite you to live the most beautiful side of your life, and I invite you to start in Italy.

Then you'll see what I was talking about, a why not, then come and visit me in Mexico! ■



Don't stop chasing!
Don't stop dreaming!
Don't stop traveling!

For further informations:



Famas Tours

IN SUPERCARS AMONG THE TUSCAN HILLS



Giacomo Lombardo - Sales Manager, Life in Tuscany DMC (ITA)

Val d'Orcia: Tuscany's perfectly landscaped countryside



The landscape's distinctive aesthetics of Val d'Orcia, flat chalk plains out of which rise almost conical hills with fortified settlements on top, inspired many artists. Franco Zeffirelli chose Bagno Vignoni, Pienza and Montalcino for Romeo and Juliet and for Brother Sun, Sister Moon. Roberto Benigni chose Cortona, Arezzo and Montevarchi for Life Is Beautiful. Andrej Tarkovskij selected Bagno Vignoni for the set of his captivating Nostalghia but the most famous are, without a doubt, The Gladiator and The English Patient.



The Val d'Orcia is an exceptional reflection of the way the landscape was re-written in Renaissance times to reflect the ideals of good governance and to create an aesthetically pleasing picture.

Val d'Orcia was considered by artists to be the place that most effectively expresses the **balance between Man and Nature!**



Life in Tuscany's objective is to design holidays tailored to the customers in the paradise of Val d'Orcia and in the south of Tuscany. We offer a conciergerie service (assistance h 24), means of transport like vintage cars, vespas, chauffeur, minivans then the best Luxury Relais, Hotel, Villas, Spa, and every kind of experience our land can offer.

Life in Tuscany it is also specialized in the rental of luxury cars or supercars. One of our unique and emotional experiences is to plan an itinerary in Tuscany, in self drive, with any car, choosing from the best and most prestigious car manufacturers: Ferrari, Lamborghini, Porsche or the brand of your choice. ■



The magnificent natural scenery of the Val d'Orcia that extends through the Tuscan hills was inserted onto the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2004.



Life in Tuscany DMC can provide you all the different services to customize a journey through spectacular landscapes, food, wine, art, historic villages that will be the setting for your unique and unrepeatable experience.



For further informations:
Life in Tuscany DMC - lifeintuscany.it

Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics logo revealed

The logo, which features an angular version of a two and six, drawn in a single movement, was decided by a popular vote held online

The winner of the vote, which was opened to the public on March 6 on the milanocortina2026.org website, is named Logo Futura. It captured 871,000 votes from 169 countries, and 74% of the overall vote, so was a resounding win.

This marks the first time that an Olympics logo has been decided by the public. Given the amount of feverish interest that Olympics logos tend to generate, it sort of makes sense to open the final decision to a public judgement, though it's hard not to feel somewhat underwhelmed by the two choices on offer.



A NEW BEGINNING

#Futura - the Future is everyone's victory

For further informations:



Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Games



MAHI'S WAY FISHING IN ADRIATIC SEA



Fernando Rosiello - Founder and CEO, Mahi Sportfishing Puglia (ITA)

"American style" big game fishing in the Adriatic Sea: a learning experience



I am Fernando Rosiello, Angler, RYA Captain, Divemaster, Biologist, Nature Photographer and Founder of Mahi Sportfishing Puglia.

Our charter is based in Ostuni, Apulia, in the heart of Southern Italy, a land dominated by nature.

Shallow waters, strong winds, and warm sunlight are the basis of our everyday life.

We are passionate about what we do and we take the satisfaction of our clients very seriously. For this reason, our crew members are highly talented, skilled and expert, in order to offer the best tailor-made experience possible. Mahi's project has been developed after years and years of experience and secrets learned from the best charters in the World, from Miami to Costa Rica, from Dubai to the Maldives. In particular, our roots come from



the well-known "American Style" Big Game Fishing, which is a one-of-a-kind experience born in the USA at the beginning of 1900.

Big reels, colorful lures, high speed, and big fish are only the highlights of this technique.

Our trip is not just a normal excursion, it is a learning experience. It is all about education.

We are strictly connected to the marine environment, so we have developed the desire of letting people understand what it means to live by the sea and how the sea is vital for our everyday life.

Not only fishing:

Mahi is not just a fishing charter, we offer many types of excursions, such as

snorkeling in the Apulian waters and Aperitif on board, which are very romantic, relaxing, and can give you a taste of the characteristic Apulian territory and culture. In particular, during the aperitif on board, you will have the chance to taste the local, typical and biological food and wine from Apulia.



A tailor-made experience:

Even though we have our fixed excursions, we are 100% flexible in order to offer the clients a memorable experience. Our flexibility covers all the desires: from specific wines onboard, a specific type of fishing, wedding proposals, anniversaries, etc.

Future projects:

Our reality is growing very fast even with a global pandemic. A web course in English will be available in pay-per-view that will help you to learn all about marine life a from the remote. ■



Mahi Sportfishing Puglia is a fishing charter located in Ostuni.

It provides the best fishing trips and boat excursions in Italy. We know we are ambitious, we know that probably not all the ideas will go to plan, but this is our way...this is **Mahi's way!**



For further informations:

Mahi Sportfishing Puglia - mahisportfishing.com



AIR EUROPA - TRAVEL SECURELY AND SAFELY

Renato Scaffidi - General Manager Italia, Air Europa

Air Europa has implemented all safety protocols, in order to allow its passengers to fly in complete safety and tranquillity.

It is important to remember that cabin air never stagnates. It is a mixture of outdoor air and filtered air using HEPA or high efficiency recirculation filters.

To get an idea of their ability, they can capture virus-containing particles with an efficiency of more than 99.9%. They are exactly the same as those used in high-demand hospital settings, such as operating theatres.

No other form of mass transport is as efficient at protecting passengers from potential contagion as the modern and efficient aircraft that Air Europa operate.

Concerning next summer season, we are confident the traffic will substantially rise, for that reason we will reschedule double daily flights exit Italy. We will operate twice a day from Malpensa and Fiumicino to Madrid, which is the 50% of the total pre-Covid offer, in terms of number of flights.

Talking about airports, we will have 2 out of our 3 Italian point of departure-stations working.

In our opinion, Italy will play a relevant role for the recovery of tourism, followed by Greece and Spain.

Difficult to make forecasts regarding International traffic; it will be key to understand how vaccination plans will advance in every single country, in order to increase the number of destinations the travel agencies could offer to the clients. ■





BREATHE IN THE SMELL OF CITRUS FLOWERS AND SEA

Giulia Briguglia - Sales & Marketing Executive, The HotelSphere

Palermo the golden dell, devours hers and feeds the foreigners – the motto of the Genius of Palermo is very telling about the pleasure city dwellers have experienced in welcoming travellers ever since, and the present-day independent and local hotel industry staff and management makes no difference.

Hospitality manuals are filled with good advice on what every Sicilian has already written in their DNA: **be welcoming, smiling, genuinely happy to meet the other.**

Such incredible attention to the wellbeing of visitors, combined with the best international standards and experiences now available at properties such as the ones I am proud to manage – **Hotel Plaza Opéra and Hotel Principe di Villafranca**, two four-star design boutique hotels belonging to the HotelSphere Hotel Collection - make a fantastic mix.

I am sure such vibes will get right to the heart of people wishing to resume their travelling habits this summer, starting in a sunny, unblemished, nature-rich island as Sicily, where a slow and individual

travel pace and goes hand in hand with a safe exploration of the local community, food traditions and historical heritage.

Now more conscious than ever about the importance of authentic connections and mindful living habits, I am very confident that the serene, healthy lifestyle of Sicilians, together with the care and professionalism of tourism industry operators, will make it possible to enjoy unforgettable family trips where the nice weather allows to take activities outdoor almost all year round. ■

The HotelSphere is specialized in Luxury, Boutique and Design Hotels and Hospitality in Sicily, with two 4 star hotels in Palermo.



For more informaion:
thehotelsphere.com



PALERMO, THE GOLDEN DELL



EASTER IN FLORENCE: EXPLOSION OF THE CART



The Scoppio del Carro: On Easter Sunday every year, Florence celebrates the religious holiday in a very special way. The Scoppio del Carro, or the "Explosion of the Cart", dates back over 350 years.

An elaborate wagon built in 1622 and standing two to three stories high is pulled by a pair of oxen decorated in garlands through the streets of Florence to the square between the Baptistry and

Where did it all Begin?

This tradition finds its origins in events that are partly historic and partly legendary. A young Florentine named Pazzino, a member of the noble Pazzi family, apparently took part in the First Crusade in the Holy Land in 1099, where he gave ample proof of his courage (he was the first to scale the walls of Jerusalem and raise the Christian banner). When he came home, he brought back three flints from the Holy Sepulchre that he received for his act of courage.

This reliquary, today preserved in the Church of SS. Apostoli, lies behind the Florentine celebration for the Resurrection of Christ.

Today, the ceremony still bears a strong resemblance to the way in which it has been celebrated for centuries.

A Wagon Load of Fireworks

The Cart, properly rigged with a suitable arsenal of fireworks, then awaits in front of the cathedral. From the cathedral's altar, at around 11 am, when the "Gloria" is sung inside the church, the Archbishop uses the fire to light a dove-shaped rocket (called the "Colombina" and symbolizing the Holy Spirit) and this in turns flies out down a wire to the outside of the church and collides with the Cart in the square, setting off a spectacular firework display to the cheers of all, the Explosion of the Cart ensues!

If the complex ritual proceeds smoothly and all of the fireworks go off, good luck is ensured for a good harvest for this year as well as for the city and its citizens – so we hope for a wonderful explosion of the cart every Easter! ■



The Explosion of the Cart is one of the most important traditional events in Florence, starring the brindellone, a 9 meters high cart covered in fireworks.



ITALY IS WAITING FOR OUR RETURN WITH OPEN ARMS!



Leo Locke - President & Sales Manager, DonnaFranca Tours (USA)

There is light at the end of the tunnel, and soon we will once again be able to send customers back to Italy!

Since the COVID outbreak, Italy has had to close its borders on numerous occasions to help control the spread of this highly contagious virus, however as global populations get vaccinated, soon the country will be reopening its doors to international tourism.

Starting in June 2021, the European Union will be introducing a Digital Vaccination Passport which will allow any fully vaccinated travelers within the Union to travel to Italy and not require quarantine.

This digital passport will also store the latest test results for travelers who have not yet been vaccinated, however tested negative.

A special QR code will be created to ensure the authenticity of the document. Eventually other countries, including the United States, will be enabling similar strategies to help relaunch international tourism.



Since the world has been traumatized by this global pandemic, we will all need to proceed with caution to ensure the health and well-being of our vacationers.

Our strategy to help maintain peace of mind for travelers includes electronic paperless documents which will be available on line or downloaded onto customer's smart devices for easy access.

All of our vacations include small group experiences with the option of upgrading to private touring venues so travelers can stay within their bubble.

We offer a choice of intercity rail, or private car/van and driver transfers.

Insurance coverage has been upgraded that also covers COVID related issues, including possible quarantine expenses and airline ticket change fees.

By offering full flexibility, we are keeping customers both engaged and at ease. ■



At Donna Franca Tours we strive to compliment those changes in order to better meet the needs of the new travel market.

Donna Franca Tours has been offering travelers personalized itineraries for the most discriminating independent travelers to Italy and Europe for over 54 years.



For further informations:
Donna Franca Tours

In 1995, Donna Franca, inspired by the overwhelming appreciation of all her clients who contributed to her success, composed a poem:

I AM ITALY.

She is proud to share it with you:

I AM ITALY

*I'm real, I'm alive
I'm happy, I'm Rome
I'm Florence and Venice
Pisa and Assisi
Taormina and Capri
I'm the Colosseum
I'm the David
I'm Valentino, Ferragamo and Gucci
I'm Ferrari
I'm the best cuisine in the world
I'm art, culture, nature
I'm a generous mother
My heart is 2,000 years old
I'm a friendly country
I bore such children as
Columbus and Pavarotti
Michelangelo and Rossini
Rudy Valentino
and Sophia Loren
I'm yesterday and today
I have the Mediterranean in my eyes
I don't know the cold
I'M ITALY
And I would like to tell you
I love you!*

Donna Franca Franzaroli

AN ITALY OFF THE BEATEN TRACK



Juana Barbera Diago - Italian Luxury Travel Designer, Bambivva Travel

Different experiences, unknown places and custom activities are our trademark, notwithstanding professionalism, exclusivity, dedication and originality. Do you want to discover a Secret Italy?



The world has changed this year and that also applies to tourism, but Italy always remains top of mind in the wishes of tourists from all over the planet. We really want to travel again but we understand that it can sometimes be a challenge to find the authentic Italia of your dreams.

We are specialised in personalised luxury experiences exclusively in Italy and our philosophy is amazingly

simple: we want you to fall in love with Italy through our experiences, allowing you to discover some of the unknown places of the Italian luxury lifestyle. Traditional destinations continue to be in high demand, such as the art cities, where tourists are longing to return, but in new ways and alongside the demand for greater attention to services and a growth in professional skills and technology.



We suggest you unique and High-End Luxury Experiences in your trip to Italy in a special environment. What about deep-sea fishing in Ostuni (Puglia), participate in the most exclusive Venice Carnival party, the Doge's Ball or taste the wines of the Zenato Wineries as an ideal setting to inebriate themselves with the scents of the vineyards and stay at the Allegro Hotels in Italy.

BAMBIVVA
italy luxury travel



We go beyond luxury, beyond the unexpected and all of this is possible thanks to the kind collaboration to Connect2Italy, as they give us the possibility to stay directly in touch with Italian referral or owners of touristic and receptive services and the most important thing, they offer us also the possibility to become part of the digital exclusive club for the tourism professionals that we are in love with Italy. ■

Bambivva Travel specialize in organizing tailor-made luxury travel experiences and High-End luxury emotions in Italy. Different experiences, unknown places and custom activities are our trademark, notwithstanding professionalism, exclusivity, dedication and originality.

Do you want to discover with us a Secret Italy?



For further informations:
Bambivva Travel

PASTA ALLA NORMA

NORMA PASTA



Pierangelo Dal Ben - Italian cuisine expert

Pasta alla Norma is one of Sicily's most loved pasta dishes. Originating in Catania, (Sicily's second biggest city) it is rumored to have been named after Vincenzo Bellini's well-loved opera 'Norma', due to its greatness!

A vegetarian favourite, the sauce consists of golden fried aubergine in a simple tomato sauce, topped with basil and wonderfully salty ricotta (a pressed and salted type of ricotta).

Although the dish is usually served with macaroni or rigatoni, but we've gone for boccole. The sauce clings to its ridges beautifully, and the large holes are just the right size to stow glistening morsels of golden aubergine.



As with all the Italian greats, there is much debate over 'the definitive' recipe from one household to the next.

Is it best to slice or dice the aubergine before frying?

Is wine permitted?

Whether you add a sprinkle of chili flakes to the sauce, or garnish with a few crispy capers, everyone has their favorite version.



Ingredients

1 aubergine
Olive oil
1 garlic clove, minced
400 g of San Marzano tomatoes, (1 tin)
400 g of boccole pasta
Basil, to garnish
Ricotta salata, to garnish



SERVES 4



35 MINUTES



ROASTING



EASY



Step 1 - To begin, evenly dice the aubergine into 1–2 cm cubes and sprinkle with salt. Leave in a colander for 10 minutes to draw out any excess moisture.

Step 2 - Gently sauté the minced garlic in 1 tbsp of olive oil for about 30 seconds, or until just soft (do not allow the garlic to colour or it will impart a bitter flavor into the sauce)

Step 3 - Add the tomatoes (if using whole tinned tomatoes, roughly chop them before adding)

Step 4 - Simmer for 10–15 minutes until the sauce has thickened slightly. Stir intermittently to avoid any sticking

Step 5 - Meanwhile, rinse the salt from the aubergine and pat dry with kitchen paper. Shallow fry the aubergine in olive oil until golden (you may need to do this in batches)

Step 6 - Once golden, drain on kitchen paper to remove any excess oil

Step 7 - Cook the pasta in a pan of heavily salted boiling water for 8–10 minutes, or as per packet instructions

Step 8 - Once the pasta is cooked al dente, drain and add to the tomato sauce. Add the aubergine and toss so the pasta is evenly coated in the sauce

Step 9 - Garnish with shavings of ricotta salata and torn basil leaves

Serve immediately and...**buon appetito!**

REGION

Sicily



VILLA IGIEA
PALERMO

A ROCCO FORTE HOTEL

Designed by Olga Polizzi in collaboration with **Paolo Moschino of Nicholas Haslam Studios**, Villa Igiea's **78 rooms and 22 suites** blend period features with contemporary flair to exquisite effect. Furnished with classic antiques and sumptuous fabrics, each space is fresh, light and inherently Sicilian. Balmy sea breezes sweep in from the azure Gulf, a refreshing reminder of the villa's island location. All this establishes **Villa Igiea as the final word in Palermo coastal glamour.**

Opening in June 2021, **Villa Igiea is a turn-of-the-century palazzo offering a slice of Sicilian history and within easy reach of Palermo's bustling markets, Baroque palaces and ancient sites.**

A long-loved seaside-meets-city sanctuary for royalty, dignitaries and Hollywood luminaries, there are plenty of opportunities to relive Villa Igiea's opulent past, starting with a walk through the hotel's gardens, a swim in the pool built around ancient stone ruins, and a visit to its Italian restaurants, **atmospheric bars and palatial Art Nouveau interior.**



The heart of Sicily and the soul of Palermo

VILLA IGIEA, PALERMO, SICILY. OPENING 2021.



ROCCO FORTE HOTELS

MEMBER OF
CONNECT2ITALY



**HOTEL DE ROME BERLIN HOTEL AMIGO BRUSSELS THE BALMORAL EDINBURGH HOTEL SAVOY FLORENCE
VILLA KENNEDY FRANKFURT BROWN'S HOTEL LONDON THE CHARLES HOTEL MUNICH MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA PUGLIA
HOTEL DE LA VILLE ROME HOTEL DE RUSSIE ROME ROCCO FORTE HOUSE ROME VERDURA RESORT SICILY HOTEL ASTORIA ST PETERSBURG
FUTURE OPENINGS: VILLA IGIEA PALERMO ROCCO FORTE PRIVATE VILLAS SICILY THE WESTBUND HOTEL SHANGHAI THE CARLTON MILAN**

ROCCOFORTEHOTELS.COM

TROPEA: A REAL TASTE OF THE ITALY DEEP SOUTH



Repost of e-borghi.com

The village of Tropea, recently awarded as "Borgo dei Borghi" presents itself as a balcony of rock overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea. The town is divided in two parts: the upper part, where you will find the majority of the population and where he plays the daily life of the country, and a lower part (called "Marina"), which is located close to the sea and the Port of Tropea.

In the upper part, is built on a rock overlooking the sea at a height above sea level which varies between approximately 50 meters at the lowest point and 61 meters at the highest point. The town was a time walled incastellato and on one side and there could only be accessed through the doors provided with defense systems.

The legend wants that the founder has been Hercules when returning from the Columns of Hercules (Spain), stood on the coasts of southern Italy.

In nearby areas were found tombs of origin magno-Greek. The history of Tropea begins in roman times, when along the coast Sextus Pompey defeated Caesar Octavian: south of Tropea The Romans had built a commercial port, near the current Santa Domenica, Formicoli (toponym derived from a corruption of the hole of Hercules), they speak about Pliny and Strabone.

For its characteristic position of terrace on the sea, Tropea had an important role both in Roman times both in the Byzantine era; many are the ruins left by the Byzantines, as the church on the headland or the city walls (termed "mura Belisario"). After a long siege, the city was torn to the Byzantines by the Normans, under which prospered.



Note seaside resort, rises on a high ridge of tuff, **Tropea overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea, in Calabria.** Of remarkable interest is the historical center of the city, with many noble palaces of the XVIII and XIX century, perched on the cliff overlooking the beach below. Interesting are the "portals" palaces which represented the noble families; some are equipped with large tanks dug in the rock, which served to accumulate the wheat from Monte Poro, which subsequently was loaded through ducts of terracotta on ships moored under the cliff of Tropea.

The symbol of the city is the sanctuary of Santa Maria of the island, that rises on a promontory in front of the town. Of great interest is the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Romania, building of 1100, romanesque style, containing the

sacred effigy of the Madonna of Romania, patron saint of the city.

The ancient **Convent of the Pietà**, built in 1639. In addition, the city houses the Diocesan Museum, containing ori e of the cathedral and several articles of various eras.

At the church, the ancient premises of Vescovato, was established a Diocesan Museum, with interesting paintings, sculptures and frescoes, artifacts and furnishings. Recently, moreover, has been opened the archaeological section. Important is the **cultivation of the famous Red Onion**, sweeter with respect to the white.

Other typical products and **crafts of relief are nduja of Spilinga**, pecorino cheese of pore, extra-virgin olive oil, wines and terracotta, the baskets, **the baskets and panniers wicker.** ■





"Spreading and promoting the beauty and the joy of Italy is our aim. It makes us proud and enthusiast to allow people from all over the world to know a different face of the Bel Paese."

Itineraries, hidden gems and unique stays are part of our daily life and still, we get surprised of the magnificent experiences Italy could offer.

If you want to become part of Connect2Italy network, contact us at business@connect2italy.com