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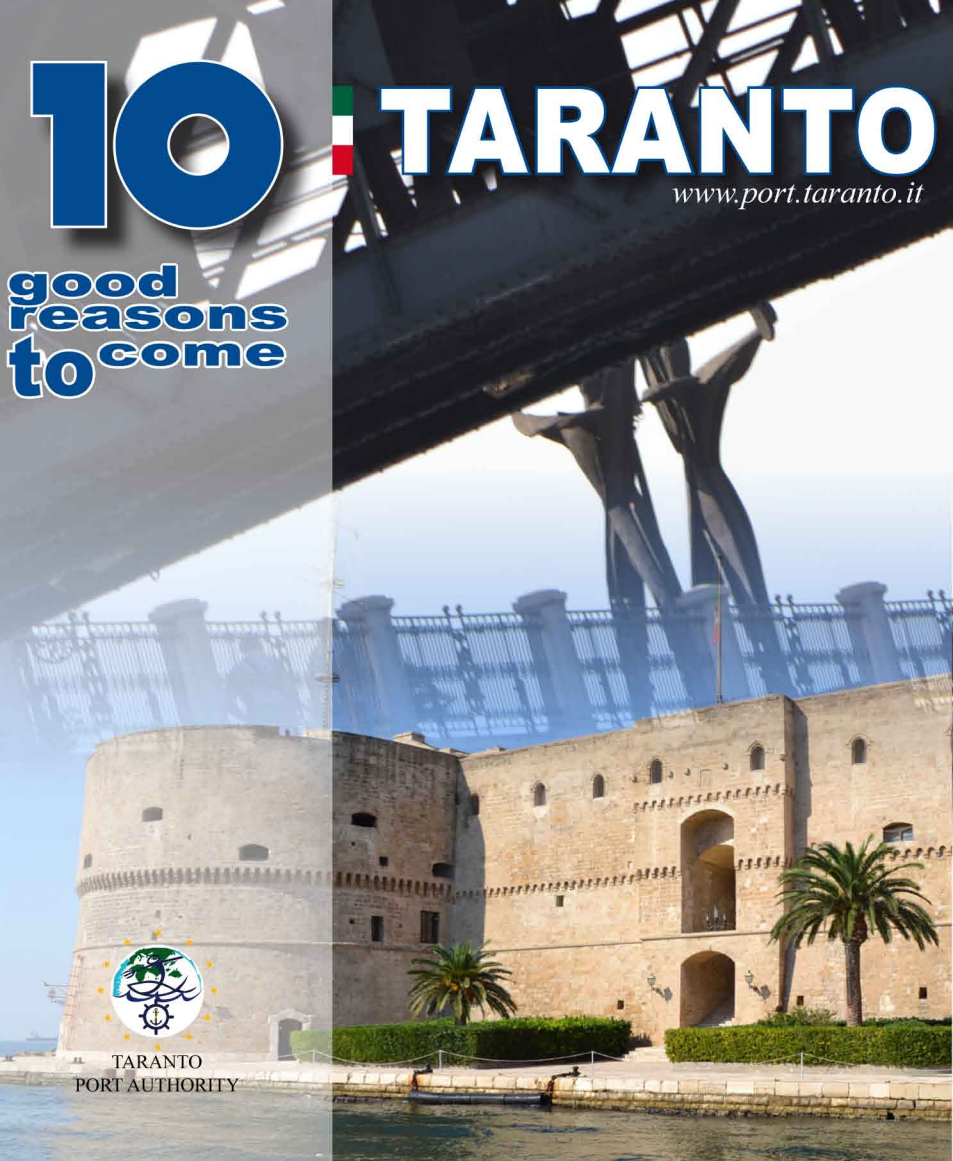
TARANTO

www.port.taranto.it

good
reasons
to come



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PORT AUTHORITY



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Olive oil and wine trails and tours

Apulia is literally full to the brim of vineyards and wineries. There are many trails and roads throughout the wine producing regions where visitors can go on tours and see the wine being produced while also having the opportunity to taste and savour some world class wines.

As well as the magnificent wines that Apulia produces, the Region also boasts some of the finest olive oils in the world. Visitors can also take tours of the olive groves and oil mills and see the process involved in producing the oil having the chance to savour the produce.

Every trail include the possibility to visit wine and oil museums, wine bars and guest houses which accomodate tourists from all over the world.

www.tipicipuglia.it



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100 Farm estates and the Green Road

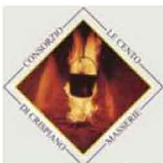
In the province of Taranto there are 100 farm estates, many of which offer a unique chance for visitors to enjoy the experience of staying at one of these beautiful residences and also savour the wonderful food and wine that they produce.

In addition, they provide courses on how to prepare traditional Apulian cuisine for tourists, both international and national. Furthermore, they also stage many events and festivals throughout the year.

The *Green Road Project* leads the visitor to discover the localities from Crispiano to Grottaglie through various tours, each of them exploring a different aspect of the area - religion, gastronomy and archaeology.

www.centomasserie.it

www.greenroad.it



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The Valley of Itria

www.valleditria.info

The Itria Valley is located in the heart of Apulia less than 30 km from the city of Taranto. It is an extensive karst depression at the bottom of the Murge, which is the most significant highland area in Apulia. The Valley which includes the towns of Alberobello, Locorotondo, Martina Franca, Ceglie Messapica, Cisternino and Fasano is characterized by the presence of numerous caves including the famous Grotte di Castellana. The whole area is a blend of rolling hills intertwined with fertile valleys and it is divided into small plots bordered by the typical dry stone walls built with rocks that in ancient times have been mined from the land to make way for pastures and crops. Ancient olive groves, (fine extra virgin olive oil is produced in the valley), stretches of forest and Mediterranean scrub alternate with numerous vineyards, where a white wine of excellent quality is produced. The valley is famous for its thousands of *Trulli* Houses, small limestone dwellings with cone shaped roofs, held together without mortar. Originally *Trulli* were temporary shelters for shepherds and farm tools; they eventually became permanent residences for farmers. Today most of them are being finely restored and transformed into luxury holiday houses and small charming hotels, One of the best examples of this type or architecture is Alberobello, a village entirely made up of Trulli.



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The gravine of the Jonian area

The National Park of the Gravine was established in 2005. It spreads over 13 municipalities in the province of Taranto (among which are Laterza, Castellaneta, Mottola, Massafra, Palagiano, Grottaglie, Martina Franca, etc.) and extends over an area of about 28.000 hectares.

Nowhere else in Europe visitors can enjoy such a concentration of natural beauty, archaeological sites, karst landscapes and historical stone settlements, in the same location. The “gravine” are deep rocky ravines which were once the bed of now extinct rivers. Their dips and heights allow the flourishing of extraordinarily rich natural habitats, featured by beautiful species of flowers (such as wild orchids) and the famous Mediterranean scrub. The ancient rocky settlements in Ginosa, Crispiano, Mottola, Laterza, Statte, Castellaneta, Massafra, Palagianello boast some beautiful religious architecture, such as churches and crypts carved in stone, which were often decorated with wonderful icons of the Virgin Mary, Jesus, Saints and Martyrs. The most stunning examples of these paintings on rock can be found in Massafra and Mottola.



www.parcogravine.it

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The Salento coastline

Taranto's coastline (which forms a significant part of the Salento Jonian coastline) is characterized by gorgeous beaches with soft white sand and crystal clear blue water and spectacular rocky and rugged foreshortenings with picturesque miniature cliffs scattered around.

The beaches along the Jonian coast are connected by a series of sand dunes which are protected by UNESCO as an areas of environmental importance.

The coastline also has something to offer to visitors interested in the military history of the area as there are a number of defence towers and fortifications at various places along the coast.



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The Sassi of Matera (Matera's secret caves)

About an hour's drive away from Taranto lies the ancient Cave city of Matera. The city is famous for its stone houses carved out of caves and cliffs. At first, the Sassi appear to be simple stone dwellings on a hill side with small passage ways running through them. However, walking among the houses you will see that they are actually caves dug into the cliff.

The Sassi are divided into two areas: Sasso Barisano and Sasso Caveoso.

The site was declared a UNESCO World Heritage, in 1993. Many of the caves and ancient buildings have been transformed into restaurants and *cave hotels* where visitors can stay and experience what it was like to live in the Sassi of Matera many centuries ago. The Sassi were made world-famous in 2005 when Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion" was shot there.

www.sassiweb.it





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