



Wild Italy

Directed by: Francesco Petretti
Produced by: Diomedea Studium
Duration: 8 x 50 min.
Versions:  
Format: HD

In the heart of the Mediterranean region there is a special world, where bears and eagles live still free among the remains of a distant past. It is a true treasure-trove of biodiversity that, from the Alps to the beautiful islands facing Africa, is home of riches of inestimable value, thousands of species of plants and animals, including the continent's largest predators. This is Italy: here, a wild heart still beats side by side to art and history.



Episodes:

- The Eagle of the Etruscans
- The Serengeti of insects
- Treasure's Islands
- Salt pans
- Roma Caput avium
- Survivors of the last ice age
- In the land of hybrid wolf

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Episodes



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The Eagle of the Etruscans

The Short-toed Eagle feeds mainly on snakes. Although it is widespread in many Mediterranean countries, this large bird of prey is still unknown. Despite its large size, it is able to hide very well thanks to its inconspicuous behaviour at the nest. Moreover its snake-based diet keeps it far away from human settlements. This eagle is a true trans-Saharan migratory bird which in early spring move towards Europe to nest in dense evergreen maquis. The film describes in full details the life cycle of the eagle families in the spectacular landscape of Central Italy, plenty of necropolis and acropolis of the ancient Etruscans.



The Serengeti of insects

The film describes insects and spider life, showing the predatory habits of large crickets and cryptic mantis, the social hunt of hornets and many behaviours of small animals, among which the amazing omosex species the Saga pedo, which is not a lion or a leopard, it is simply a predatory bush cricket and reproduces without the contribute of the males. It is able to kill creatures which are as big as itself and so it can be considered the true king of the creatures that inhabit the Mediterranean steppe in the South of Italy, where animals are born and die every day just like in the most spectacular African bushveld.



Treasure's Islands

Small rock islands, located off the coast of Sardinia and Sicily, at the same latitude of central Tunisia, are home of pelagic seabirds, which come here to find sheltered sites for their nests. They arrive during the night and crowd underground caves. Man and birds interact in many ways and together with tuna, which is still culled in the traditional tonnara of Carloforte, their life depends on the complexity of the fragile pelagic equilibrium.



Salt pans

Italy salt flats go back to the Phoenicians and the Roman times. They are still the main source of salt for most European countries, where salt is used to keep roads free from ice and to make meals more tasteful. Salt flats can also be considered biodiversity jewels, because they host impressive colonies of gulls, terns, waders and flamingos, which rear their chicks close to the men who harvest the salt today as well as 2000 years ago.



Roma Caput avium

More than 100 species of birds inhabit Rome. Their life among the archaeological and artistic places, such as San Pietro Cathedral, Colosseum, Pantheon etc. is fully described. Particular interest is given to the fight between crows and gulls and the surprising evolutionary change which is occurring among the urban hooded crow is described.



Survivors of the last ice age

The southernmost glacier in Europe lies at 2800 metres of altitude in Gran Sasso, a striking massif located in the central Apennines, the heart of Italy. This glacier is gradually retreating and the typical arctic plants and animals which all around gives life to it are at high risk. Especially the Snowfinch, the charming sparrow-sized bird, which is able to nest at the real top of the mountain and to overcome the strong winter storms, typical of this environment.



In the land of hybrid wolf

Although massive land reclamation, started already by the Etruscans and then continued by the Romans and by the Medici family, have redeemed most of the Maremma, still at the foot of hills covered with Mediterranean scrub and oak trees, important wetland extend. They are the resting place for flocks of migratory birds that leave Northern Europe to winter in the natural reserves of southern Tuscany. Here fallow deer and wild boar fight with man to control a world of rugged but fertile lands. But in these last years a new apex predator is replacing man at the top of the food chain: it is a new animal, the hybrid of wolves and feral dogs.



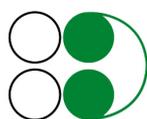
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In the trails of the big five of the Mediterranean

An hour's drive from Rome, the oldest of the Italian national parks, one of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise, still offers the opportunity for large predators and their prey to live a totally wild life in the woods of beech and steep rocky slopes. The Big 5 of the Mediterranean are the red deer, the Apennine chamois, the golden eagle, the wolf and the bear which are described with unique images, which reveals the complex web of relationships that make the mountains a paradise of Italian unique biodiversity in the world.



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