

# CATALOGUE OF DOCUMENTARIES



sd cinematografica

worldwide distribution

lungotevere delle navi 19 - 00196 roma - italy  
ph: +39.06.3215114 - fax: +39.0664520220 - mail: [info@sdcinematografica.it](mailto:info@sdcinematografica.it)

# OUR HISTORY

SD CINEMATOGRAFICA was formed in 1961 as a production company. Since its founding, the company has produced Films, Variety Programmes, and Science and Cultural documentaries for the Italian public broadcaster RAI and other leading international television companies. In recent years the company has focused on wildlife, Science and History documentaries with such success that it now counts National Geographic Channels, Discovery Channels, TF1, ARTE, NHK, TSR, ARD/BR, PBS and ZDF, as well as RAI and Mediaset, among its clients. Many SD documentaries have won major international prizes at the world's leading festivals, including Academy Award, Emmy and Banff nominations. Today SD Cinematografica has over 800 hours of programming to its name.

## OUR PRODUCTS

Documentaries are in our blood.

Our vast library of products is constantly being updated with our own productions and a growing number of distribution agreements with Italian producers.

In 2006, a totally independent distribution division was created in order to establish a sector that is still in early stages of development in Italy: the Worldwide distribution of high quality documentaries.

With over 50 years of production experience and long-established relationships with the top buyers and commissioning editors of the World's leading broadcasters, SD Cinematografica aims to become the first port of call for Producers who want to get their products onto the international market.

For more information and to submit your documentary for distribution, please write to [submission@sdcinematografica.it](mailto:submission@sdcinematografica.it).

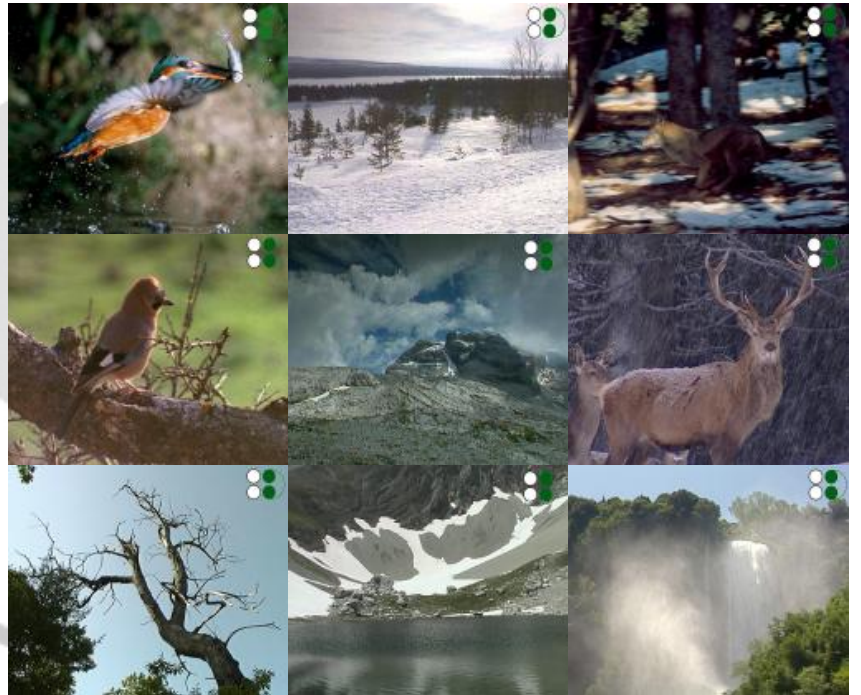


sd cinematografica

worldwide distribution



# NATURE

---





# Italian Parks - 1st season

**Directed by:** Various  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 18x30'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** SD

The protected areas of Italy now cover around 10% of the country. National parks are now a reality in Italy. But it is not just a question of size; they represent an extraordinary resource, much of it unknown. And yet this is the real face of Italy: the alpine landscapes, coniferous forests, mixed forests, the Mediterranean Maquis, the hillsides, coast lands and marine environments. This series, shot by a number of directors, offers foreign viewers an unusual view of an Italy rich in flora and fauna. Some of these documentaries have won prestigious international prizes.



## Episodes:

- |                       |                     |                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| - Adamello-Brenta     | - Majella           | - Circeo              |
| - Bellunese Dolomites | - Monti Sibillini 2 | - Aeolian archipelago |
| - Gran Sasso          | - Maremma           | - Nera river          |
| - Gargano             | - Tolfa             | - Cilento             |
| - Monti Sibillini     | - Tavoliere         |                       |
| - Vesuvius            | - Gennargentu       |                       |
| - Abruzzo             | - Asinara           |                       |



# Episodes



## Adamello-Brenta

A few kilometers west of Trento, and about two thousand meters above it, is a mountainous territory which has won hearts of Italian mountaineers and skiers. Here you will find the Brenta Peaks, a dolomitic complex formed of impervious pinnacles and vast snow-fields dominating the Sarca and Noce Valleys with a spectacle of magnificent beauty. And it was in order to protect these wonders from speculative greed and touristic carelessness that the Adamello-Brenta Natural Park was born. It has provided a refuge for the Alpine brown bear as well as deer, chamois, foxes, marmots and eagles. The documentary films the park territory from a bird's eye view, following it through the seasons, from the valley to the snowy peaks, in search of its secret wonders.



## Bellunese Dolomites

At less than 100 kilometres from Venice, famous for its name, but little known to the public at large, the Bellunese Dolomites give to the visitor the possibility to make extraordinary discoveries. 32,000 hectares of virgin mountain landscape, often wild, and rich in animal life. A vegetation which is unique in the world, and the signs and tracks of an ancient history. Solitary, silent, and mysterious, these are the mountains of Buzzati, and its Barnabo, today contained in a new highly explorable National Park.



## Gran Sasso

The documentary is about the Gran Sasso and Laga Mountains history in the hearth of the Abruzzi Apennines that became populated with animal life nowadays protected in the great national park, after a long period of habitation and after man's transformation in a place for sheep. Life at elevate altitude, the endemic plants, the big animals as the chamois and the wolf, the alpine birds live in these summits, the higher of the Apenines, where a little glacier survives, a relict of the glacial eras.



## Gargano

The Gargano National Park: a bridge between land and sea, between Italy and the Balkans, between past and present, between nature and human beings. And in the very middle of it, a forest which is amongst the oldest and best preserved in Italy; along the green coastline, sweet-smelling pinewoods overlook crystal clear sea and steep cliffs. It's a paradise of animal and vegetable bio-diversity with extremely rare animals such as the Italian roe deer, as well as over 60 species of wild orchids. In Gargano, for thousands of years, people's lives have been bound up with nature in a harmonious relationship which finds expression in the cultural heritage (castles, museums, archaeological sites, sanctuaries, ancient towns and villages), in the peasant farming and the fishing communities, in a centuries-old religious tradition (the Shrine of the Archangel Michael) as well as a present-day tradition (Padre Pio). The documentary narrates these aspects, combining spectacular images gathered after long and patient filming, with the knowledge of a fascinating story.



## Monti Sibillini

In front of the infinite heights of Castelluccio, one is struck by the grandiosity of the countryside, and in spring, by the marvels of the flowers. Kingdom of fairies, mythological legends, and hermits, the Sibillini are the ideal place for the dreamer and lover of silence. Norcia and Visso, enclosed behind their mediaeval walls, are towns which are still intact.



## Vesuvius

The Vesuvius National Park was set up following strong pressure from environmental groups whose aim was to protect the world's most famous volcano from human depredation and urban encroachment. Since the setting up of the park, there has been a noticeable change of attitude in the area - many harmful activities, such as wildfires, rubbish tips, illegal building and poaching, are now memories of the past. Their place has been taken by environmental engineering, cleaning operations and recovery of the natural surroundings with its flora and fauna. It is a rewarding experience to move from the squalor of urban sprawl to the revived surroundings of the park with its plant and animal life including various species of hawks, foxes, hares, ring-doves and wood pigeons. A park in the front line struggling against degradation - a park which seems to have won an almost impossible battle.



## **Abruzzo**

In the area of the Abruzzo National park, with its villages, its people and its unique environment in Italy, the union between man and nature has been really very fruitful. It harmonised the need for natural protection with that for economic development and employment. The park is famous not only for the presence of the chamois, the Apennine wolf and the Marsican brown bear, but also for its cordial inhabitants and attractive villages, very rich in tourism and handycraft.



## **Majella**

Majella is a mountain of a thousand faces and a thousand stories. In the heart of the Apennines, facing and dominating the Adriatic coast, the old mountain was described by Pliny as the "Father of Mountains", but then in time, it was to become "The Mother Mountain," for all the Abruzzesi, rich in water, pastures, woods, and as prodigious as a mother. From the summit to the base, the voyage of discovery of the "mother mountain" delights one with its surprises. The wolf is the symbol of the National Park of Majella. Today, its population is growing, and the wolf continues to live its natural life in the wild spaces of the Massiccio, and to hunt its prey which has also returned to its Natural numbers thanks to the reintroduction projects. The program of reintroduction of the deer has had particular success, which since 1984 has returned to inhabit the mountain slopes.



## **Monti Sibillini 2**

Padre Pietro is the last knight of the court of the Sibilla. After 30 years of solitude in the house he built stone by stone, vertically over the abyss of hell, a long way from civilisation and closer to his God, he recounts the emotion of his extraordinary life. He guides us into the discovery of the place where nature, magic and tradition merge in a unique entity: the park of Monti Sibillini. On horseback between Marches and Umbria, between legend and reality, rises this little world of impossible colours, breathtaking views, and men of times past.



## **Maremma**

The Uccellina Mountain Park preserves 9000 hectares of a wonderful Tuscan Maremma, from the seashore with its sandy dunes e its cliffs, to the fifth Masquis, to the ilex groves, to the pine-forest. Wild boars, roebucks, does and other kind of birds live there. Horses and wild cows are bred there. Sveva Sagramola, with the naturalist Francesco Petretti's guide, shows us the most important and curios particulars of Maremma, everybody's reach.



## **Tolfa**

Seventy hectares of oak trees, meadows, a thick extension of impassable spots, 200 species of mammals and wild birds, some toward extinction, a rich collection of vegetable species that roves from the tropical species to the boreal ones. We are not talking about a wild land at the frontiers of the inhabited world, but of a hilly region of volcanic origin at the door of Rome, miraculously escaped from the siege of buildings and roads, thanks to its inhospitable territory and particular nature of its land. Large estates, one time properties of marquis and princes, now managed by the towns of Tolfa, Allumiere, Manziana, Cerveteri, are devoted today, like many centuries ago, to the cutting of trees, to the breeding of wild horses and maremma cattle with their beautiful horns and irascible nature. In these deep and hostile canyons, the Etruscans built their necropolis. Visiting those ones of recent discovery, that are still deeply immersed into the woods, it feels like that two millennium had never passed. Ready to becoming a natural park, undoubtedly one of the most important in Italy for its treasures, the hills of Tolfa will continue to preserve for many centuries ahead its wild and unforgettable beauty.



## Tavoliere

Between Foggia and Barletta, in the heart of "Il Tavoliere" a 4,300 square-meter plain, there is an archeological, artistic and natural heritage which could compete with that of an entire European country all by itself. On horseback, we discover the ruins of the mysterious "Dauno" Civilization, which inhabited these parts more than 3,000 years ago. We pass through the sites where, in 216 B.C. Hannibal inflicted on Rome the bloodiest military defeat of its history: at Canne the armies of Carthage encircled and massacred more than 47,000 foot-soldiers and 2,700 horse-men. We visit the ruins of ancient Roman towns, the Cathedral of Santa Maria Maggiore and the eleventh-century Abbey of San Leonardo, unfortunately abandoned to the ravages of time. Everything is in a charming and uncontaminated setting. On our way we encounter buffaloes, herons, egrets, night-herons, hawks, great crested grebes, as well as gulls, terns and stilt birds. From the helicopter, we discover the Cathedral of Trani and Castel del Monte, which, with its octagonal lay-out, is an example of one of the most perfect and original buildings that the Middle ages have handed down to us. We get to the salt-flats of Margherita di Savoia by helicopter. Mountains of salt rise up in the midst of a gentle country-side characterized by marshes, canale and various species of birds. At the end of the day, as the sun goes down and everything glows in a pinkish light, we recall the words of Emperor Frederick II of Swabia, who chose to live here, "If the Lord had known this plain of Puglia, the light of my eyes, he would have stayed to live here".



## Gennargentu

In the heart of Sardinia there are 60.000 hectares of virgin soil, that will be a national park, in a near future and, just in the centre of this area a mountain rises, Gennargentu. In Italian its name can have two meanings "the door of the wind", because of the strong streams flowing from it all over the island, and "the silver door", for its silver shining rocks, when, in winter, they are completely covered with snow. There, in an isolated valley, among the calcareous cliffs surrounding the granite massif, an old shepherd is living. When we met him, the time seemed to stop: he had kept the same way of living and thinking as his ancestors. His name is Natteddu and his house is a sheepfold made up with logs, after the manner of the Indian huts. His stories, sometimes told in a difficult Italian, sometimes in his ancient dialect, acted as a background and a guide to our tale. Through his words we could perceive an unexpected sensibility and delicacy for the nature around him, together with a primitive and violent conception of his relationship with the animals "hostile" or "harmful", as he said.



## Asinara

The island of Asinara, which is found off the extreme North-West coast of Sardinia, is one of the most unknown places in Italy. Visitors have not been allowed on the island since the last century and except for local fishermen, who were allowed to land here until fifteen years ago, the only human presence has been a small penal colony. It is for these reasons that no documentaries of the island have been made. Today, with the closure of the Fornelli maximum security prison, there are 150 guards and prisoners left on the island and it is already being considered for reopening. Therefore, the fate of the island is in question. On one side, environmentalists are urging that it be converted into a national park, whilst local interest would like to develop tourist-oriented projects on the island. Furthermore, in addition to the proposal that it continue to be used as a penitentiary, there has also been a stunning proposal that it be put up for sale. A glance at the island and one understands why Asinara attracts so much attention: 51 square kilometers of wild Mediterranean bush, 100 km of virgin coast, crystal white beaches, fish-filled bays among granitic rocks, groves and pastures where one can encounter mouflon and rare plants in abundance. However, the most interesting aspect from a naturalistic point of view are the 51 species of birds found on Asinara (of which 32 are protected).



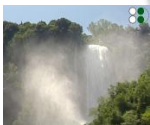
## Circeo

In between Rome and Naples, facing the Tirreno Sea, lies Circeo's National park. It is the first protected area found on the Italian Coast. Fauna, flora, landscapes and other sights make it an ideal tourist attraction. Our first visit begins in Circeo's headland: an original portrait of rocky walls and sides covered in impenetrable maquis. A remarkable environment full of blossomings, a place where hawks are easily seen. The visit continues through the many "Quarto Caldo" caves, overlooking the Tirreno Sea. It is through the following cavities - the Blanc Shelter, the Guattari Cave - the Goats Cave - that traces of Circeo's rich prehistoric civilization were found. Where arrows, obsidian scratchings and the skull of a man from Neanderthals were found. Closer to our present time, man's history on Circeo carries on with the italic walls of the Circeo people, the Roman villas and baths and medieval and sixteenth-century towers. For years, malaria was the cause of unhappiness for brèèders and woodsmen around the Pontine marshes. A past, which is still remembered by the herds of buffalos that graze there. The Pontine accretion, which took place between the years 1936 and 1939, changed the plains landscape, thus transforming marshes and forest into very fertile lands. However, 3500 acres of forest were left untouched and have now become the nucleus of Circeo's National Park.



## Aeolian archipelago

Aeolian sounds explained by flautist-composer Calogero Giallanza during a journey to the island of Salina and its nature reserve. Giallanza talks about the reserve on the "mountains of the ferns and leeks". We travel the paths through the Mediterranean maquis with him. We cross the vineyards and caper fields on the hill. We observe the falcons using the thermal currents to fly over the "Monte delle Felci". We discover a controlled, protected ecosystem where plants and animals coexist in harmony with the traditional human productive activities: winemaking (Malvasia), caper growing and fish trapping. We watch the musician recording samples of the almost imperceptible frequencies produced by nature, like the whistle of the wind through the bushes of the maquis. We will take a boat trip with him along the coast and encounter dolphins. The musician will tell us about his research and the ancient myths invoked by these locations: Pan, Aeolus, Poseidon and Syrinx. Then we will watch Giallanza in his Salina study as he listens to his samples. We will hear the crash of the surf and the breath of the wind transformed into music for his flute. As we listen to the notes, we see again the lava rocks and the foam on the waves. Finally, we will climb the mountains of the reserve again with the musician to hear the voice of Aeolus one last time. We end our story with the magnificent view of the Aeolian archipelago at sunset.



## Nera river

The Nera River Park, rich in historic and artistic remains, is an area of great environmental interest that extends for around 8 km. Water has shaped this landscape: the Nera and its tributaries, as well as the spectacular waterfalls, the Cascata delle Marmore, have had such an impact on the landscape that it has become "the park of the waters". Being in a valley, there are a number of towns and villages that make up an integral part of the landscape. The history and life of the whole area is closely linked to the river. The Nera flows through a steep gorge and is flanked by characteristic riparian vegetation. It is home to trout and a particular species of freshwater shrimp that is on the verge of extinction. The calmer stretches of the river are home to the white-throated dipper and the grey wagtail. The park is full of historical remains, such as the Roman bridge, the Ponte del Toro, built at the time of Augustus, the Cascata delle Marmore, the original of which dates back to 271 B.C. and the abbey of San Pietro in Valle. There are also Mediaeval remain such as the watchtowers and the small towns that overlook the valley: San Liberatore, Ferentillo, Arrone, Terria, Casteldilago, Collestatte, Torreorsina and Montefranco. Ferentillo is made up of the two villages of Matterella and Precetto. The church of Santo Stefano houses the famous "mummies". The Park is very popular with young people, who enjoy outdoor sports such as rafting, hiking, free climbing, canoeing, mountain biking and potholing in "the green heart of Italy". But the most fascinating feature of all is undoubtedly the Cascata delle Marmore (the highest in Europe). Night or day, they are a breathtaking sight.



## Cilento


Dorina, a sprightly old lady approaching her centenary, is the last inhabitant of an abandoned village in the heart of the Cilento. She and the otters of the River Calore are the only remaining survivors of a still-untamed land, protected as a National Park, between one of the most unspoilt coastlines of the Tyrrhenian Sea and the agricultural plain. For the first time in a century, high up on a pylon, a stork is nesting.





# The Trees

---

**Directed by:** Massimiliano Sbrolla  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 5x12'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

Five brief documentaries about an essential element of our existence, trees. They are so much a part of our daily lives that they are often ignored or taken for granted.

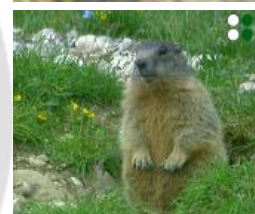




# Focus in Italy (4')

**Directed by:** Antonio D'Onofrio  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 30x4'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

A Collection of the very best footage of the animals found in Italy and all the countries of the Mediterranean Basin. The series combines great scientific precision and fascinating narration, and was supervised by the National Geographic Channel.



## Episodes:

- |                      |                      |                           |                   |          |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| - Gray heron         | - Heleonora's falcon | - Montague's Harrier      | - Swifts          | - Wasp   |
| - Goshawk            | - Ants               | - White Stork             | - Fire salamander | - Vipers |
| - Abruzzo Chamois    | - Herring Gull       | - Lepidoptera             | - Cuttlefish      |          |
| - Black-winged Stilt | - Wild duck          | - Kingfisher              | - Starlings       |          |
| - Locust             | - European Kestrel   | - Mediterranean Jellyfish | - Jackdaws        |          |
| - Deer               | - Fresh water crab   | - Bats                    | - Turtles         |          |
| - Cormorant          | - Bee-Eater          | - Octopuses               | - Badgers         |          |

# Episodes



**Gray heron**



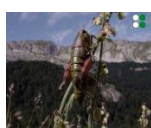
**Goshawk**



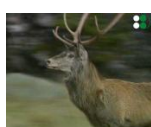
**Abbruzzo Chamois**



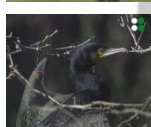
**Black-winged Stilt**



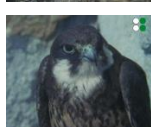
**Locust**



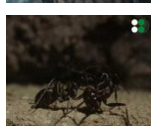
**Deer**



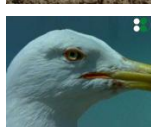
**Cormorant**



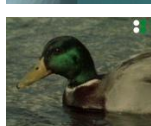
**Heleonora's falcon**



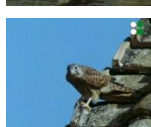
**Ants**



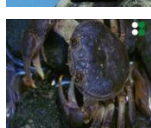
**Herring Gull**



**Wild duck**



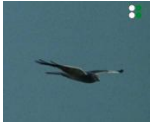
**European Kestrel**



**Fresh water crab**



**Bee-Eater**



**Montague's Harrier**



**White Stork**



**Lepidoptera**



**Kingfisher**



**Mediterranean Jellyfish**



**Bats**



**Octopuses**



**Swifts**



**Fire salamander**



**Cuttlefish**



**Starlings**



**Jackdaws**



**Turtles**

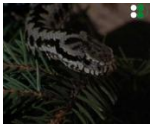




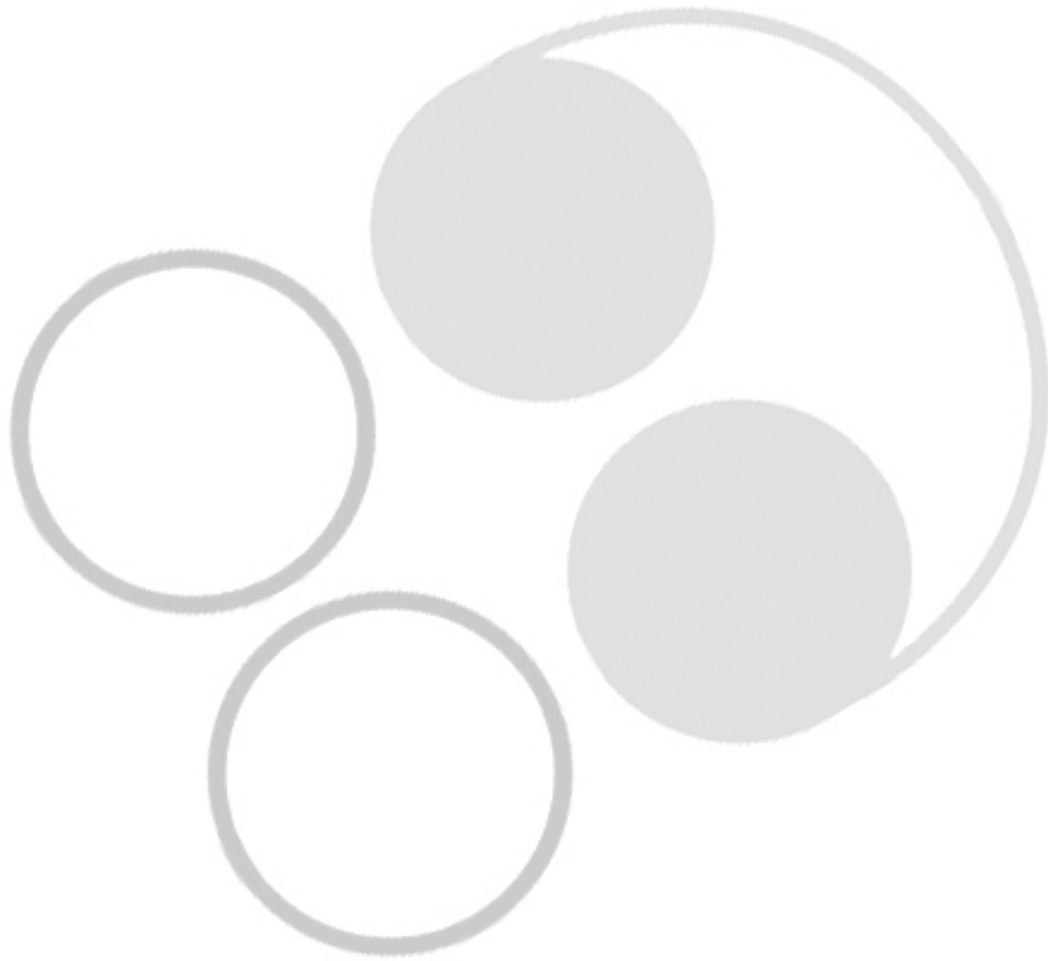
**Badgers**

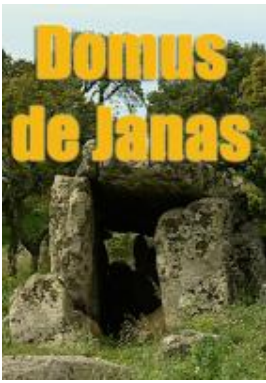


**Wasp**




**Vipers**





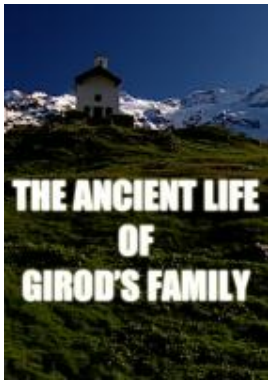
# Domus de Janas

---

**Directed by:** Antonio D'Onofrio & Salvatore Bacciu  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 30'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

Shrouded in mystery, the Domus de Janas are the most imposing testimonies of a Sardinian ancient civilisation which goes back to 3,500 years BC, in the Neolithic period. Here lived the first shepherds, in a hostile world populated by many wild creatures and subjected to natural forces often difficult to comprehend.

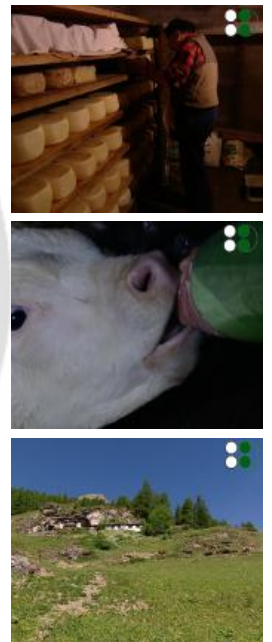


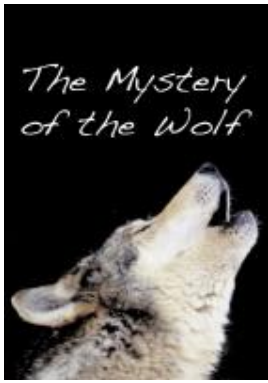


# The Ancient live of Girod's Family

**Directed by:** Jost Geppert  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 30'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

This short film tells the true story of the Girod family from the Valle d'Aosta. There's a traditional way of life, unchanged for generations, in total harmony with nature. The Girod family have been Alpinists for generations. It is a hard life, characterised by physical hardship and the loneliness of the open mountain spaces. It would not be possible, if the whole family, from grandparents to grandchildren, were not involved. The Graian Alps, the highest mountains in Europe, form the backdrop to this story. They are a fascinating natural environment of wide blue skies and a never-ending panorama of snow-capped peaks. They are home to many rare and beautiful animals - from the chamois to the ibex, from the wood grouse to the golden eagle. However, today, even the highest and most inaccessible peaks are regularly climbed and the region is beginning one great theme park of mass tourism, a fairground for visitors from all over Europe. If the world around has changed so drastically, what, if anything, remains of the ancient alpine culture that was once so closely linked to nature? Are there still people prepared to forgo four-wheel drives and refrigerators, televisions and electricity?



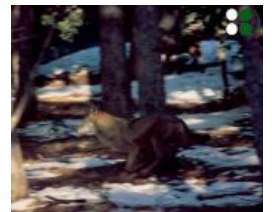


# The mystery of the Wolf

---

**Directed by:** Fabio Toncelli  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 52'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** SD

The wolf, the last great European predator, has survived for thousands of years in the Pollino National Park in Italy. Surrounded by mystery, until recently little was known of its habits and its delicate relationship with man and his domestic animals. For the first time, a group of researchers managed to follow two wolves, Francesco and Rebecca. Their moving story could supply information that is vital for managing the expansion of the species in Europe.







# Hunting for 'Ngotto

---

**Directed by:** Fabio Toncelli  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 52'  
**Versions:**     
**Format:** SD

A dramatic environmental dilemma: is hunting by pigmies and the Yanguere threatening the survival of animals in the Ngotto rainforest in Central Africa? The research project of a young biologist (and beach volleyball champion) is told using unique footage. Hunting with nets, lethal traps, meat traders and the extraordinary relationship that grows up between the scientist and the inhabitants of a remote village in the unexplored jungle. We are in Kanaré, in the heart of the rainforest of N'Gotto, a completely isolated spot fourteen hours travel over dirt roads from Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic. In this Bantu village of 80 inhabitants, in an abandoned mud hut, lives a white zoologist, the 33-year-old Italian Andrea Ghiurghi. This year, as always, he has left the beaches of the world, where he plays beach-volley, representing Italy in the last Olympics. For many months Andrea has been getting up at dawn or in the middle of the night, whenever the weather permits, to join a group of men from this or one of another three villages and following them into the heart of the forest as they pursue their main activity: hunting.





# Majella

---

**Directed by:** Jost Geppert

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 3x15'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

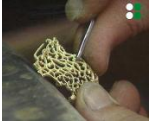
A mountain of incomparable beauty stands in the heart of Italy, Majella. Covered in streams, meadows and woods, Majella is the realm of the Apennine wolf. This series introduces us to a world where time has stood still.

**Episodes:**

- The park and the man
- The park for life
- The birth and life of the mother mountain



# Episodes



## **The park and the man**

Among the Italian national parks, that of Majella, planned since 1991, and then definitively instituted in 1995, was strongly desired by the local population which in various forms showed their desire to conserve the territory and their inheritance of natural resources, traditions, and culture, which has always constituted their world. For these people, the Majella, is the "Mother mountain", a huge elevation of land, which faces the Adriatic coast, which in a territory of over 74,095 hectares, includes 39 communities.



## **The park for life**

The wolf is the animal symbol of the National Park of Majella. In these very mountains it has managed to survive, while in the rest of western Europe it has been exterminated. Today, its population has grown, and the wolf continues to live its natural life in the wild spaces of the slopes, and hunts its prey which has also become once more numerous, thanks to the projects of reintroduction. But the area of the Majella is so rich in wild life, to represent a veritable haven of biodiversity, and alongside large and famous mammals, there are many "minor" species, such as amphibians.




## **The birth and life of the mother mountain**

We are in the heart of the Mediterranean region, two steps away from the Adriatic sea, but not a year passes without abundant snows, which in the winter months cover with a white blanket, the more than seventy summits of the Majella heights, protected by the most important national parks in Europe. The story of the Majella landscape is long, tormented by processes of mechanical erosion and chemicals. And to study its morphology and the intimate nature of its rocks, one must follow the flow of the water, which in all its forms, liquid or ice, has profoundly modified the sedimentary rocks. The Majella is an ancient mountain formed by huge limestone deposits which came from the bottom of the ancient sea, called Tetide, millions of years ago.



# Discovering Nature

**Directed by:** Various  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 11x30'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

Today it is still possible to discover remarkably uncontaminated territories barely touched by development, even in populous and industrialised countries. Territories which are home to animals which are unique in the world, whose habits and ecology are often still little known.



## Episodes:

- The king of the Sardinian forest
- Love calls
- Undesired guests
- Swedish winter
- Surprises of winter
- The forest of the lynx
- The return of the chamois
- Never cry wolf!
- Ahmed and the return of the Arab Phoenix
- The brown bear
- A good land for the bear



# Episodes



## The king of the Sardinian forest

The Sardinian red deer (*Cervus elaphus corsicanus*), an indigenous Sardinian-Corsican subspecies of the Red deer, has for some time been on the list of animal in danger of extinction. It has completely disappeared from Corsica but is present in Sardinia in several circumscribed areas. These hoofed animals live in various types of natural environments. In the highlands in the southern part of the island, they live in thick brushwood and woods. Along the western coast the animal has established itself in more open areas extending as far as the splendid dunes of the Piscinas coast. The Sardinian red deer is a social species with the females and young deer forming into small groups, while the male adults, who are generally solitary, gather into herds only during the mating season. The latter occurs earlier in Sardinia than on the mainland, reaching its climax during the month of September when the woods and brushwood echo with the cries of the males. The young are born in the spring when the luxuriant vegetation offers rich grazing lands that facilitate milking the fawns. Each year, especially in the spring and summer, researchers and volunteers control, study and take a census of the deer population. As a result of the protection they enjoy and the intense fight against poaching, the Sardinian population has grown to 3.000. But this does not mean that the Sardinian red deer can be considered out of danger.



## Love calls

One of the most spectacular moments of animal communication is without doubt courtship. Competition and often fights between males bent on conquering the female. The courtship takes place in every species according to precise rules, which are contained in a ritual of movements, sounds and display. All the rites of courtship have been filmed, the spectacular ceremonies and behaviour, during the cycle of love of some species of animals: the mammals, where it's all a game, where it's a fight, the reptiles, who fix each other in immobile staring matches before combining in a veritable "knot of love"; the inhabitants of the submerged world which improvise a love dance, and last but not least, the birds, for whom the colour of the plumage and particular capacities of mimicry, constitute a language which is both finely structured, but also spectacular, for anyone who has the fortune to see it. Once more, the continuation of the species has been assured, and on the mountain, in the dead of night, a deer continues to sing its love song to the moon...



## Undesired guests

Rome, Termini Station, an area with a thousand problems. In winter a million and a half birds create another one. They are starlings («*STURNUS VULGARIS*» for ornithologists) who, with their droppings, terrorize the Roman citizens they soil clothes, dirty the pavements and provoke car accidents. Rome Town Council in cooperation with LIPU has experimented with innovative systems for removing the birds. It is the first time that such action has been taken in a great European city. After more than half a century perhaps the Romans will no longer see the coreographic flights which the flocks of birds perform in the skies of the Eternal City every year.



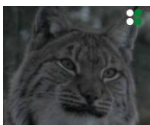
## Swedish winter

A journey through the Swedish subarctic winter, discovering the rarefied silence of Vindelfjällen snowy mountains (at the border between Sweden and Norway) and the protected animals living in the homonymous preserve - the largest in Europe - including lynxes, elks, reindeers, and arctic wolves. The life of such animals is intertwined with the problematic relationship between Lapps - the native inhabitants of that area - and the Swedish settlers, who arrived at the beginning of this century. Ice fishing practice is a typical example of the extreme character of human relation with nature, while the extraordinary world of sledge dogs - link between wolves and dogs, through the evolution of the Siberian and Alaskan Huskies - witnesses the value of the fellowship between men and animals. The background is an uncontaminated nature, one of the last green "lungs" in Europe, perpetually snow-covered, and hibernated under a thick layer of ice, at a temperature falling even at 30 degrees below zero. As soon as the first sign of a tardy spring begins to be felt, the scenery changes, snows melt away, and the crystalline waters of the rivers begin to rush headlong again ...



### **Surprises of winter**

When snow covers the countryside, the whole country becomes magical and is transformed into one vast National Park ranging from the Alps to Etna. When this silent, white blanket falls, it may seem that everything is dormant. Yet, here and there, the calls of alpine chough and chamois, wolves and chaffinches, ibex and griffon, eagles and lynx and many other woodland animals transform the wintry desolation into a great natural concerto. Our documentary crosses ten national parks the length and breadth of Italy, listening to the voice of each of these animals as they narrate their relationship with the winter chill.



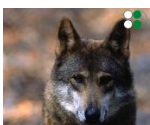
### **The forest of the lynx**

A feline of the Italian Alps. Reality or legend? For the very first time this film documents the existence of the lynx in the cold Friuli region, in northeastern Italy. We will follow a pool of researchers who have been studying its behavior and habits for 10 years, in Switzerland.



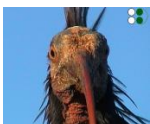
### **The return of the chamois**

High altitude is the kingdom of the Abruzzo chamois. Disappeared from the Majella more than a century ago at the hands of unscrupulous hunters, this beautiful animal risked its extinction in Italy. Today, in the Abruzzo National Park, there are many packs constituted by hundreds of individuals, therefore the Abruzzo Park managers decided to promote the transfer of some of these animals in the other mountain chains in Abruzzo.



### **Never cry wolf!**

Covering all the Apennine chain through the years, the wolf reached the Maritime Alps and from here it seems determined to conquer the whole Alpine arch once again. After the ancient fight between men and wolves, today the mood has changed and the wolf is now protected by several National laws.



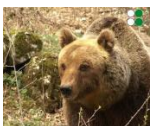
### **Ahmed and the return of the Arab Phoenix**

In a land of wind and legends, a long forgotten myth is about to take wing again. The Bald Ibis, the Arab Phoenix of the desert is back, re-discovered in a remote valley in the Syrian steppe by an Italian researcher and a group of Bedouins. Ahmed and the Return of the Arab Phoenix is the story of a handful of visionary men who are fighting in the desert to protect what is left of the biodiversity of Al Badia, the semi-arid desert steppe stretching from the Iraqi border to almost the Mediterranean coast. Their efforts will be rewarded by the discovery, in a remote area, of the last Middle Eastern breeding colony of the Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) in the wild, one of the rarest migratory birds and a symbol of wisdom for the Bedouins of the desert... Shot around the Palmyra oasis, Syria, not far from the Euphrates river and the Iraqi border, this documentary shows the efforts of the Syrian government to protect its natural heritage.



### **The brown bear**

The last population of Brown Bears of the Appennines, in Central Italy, consists of less than 50 individuals which inhabit a magnificent environment of mountains, streams and beech wood protected in large parks. The bears are active by night, but some of them, tameless, changed their attitude towards the human beings and visit by day villages and farmhouses to steal food.



### **A good land for the bear**

The film deals with the efforts of Italian Forestry Rangers in Italy to protect the last Bears, which are killed by poachers and by shepherds who put poison baits to kill predators in order to protect their sheep. It is a strong battle, fought day by day in the magnificent mountains in Central Italy.



# Animal Files

**Directed by:** Carlo & Lodovico Prola

**Produced by:** Ditta Prola

**Duration:** 20x26'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

A complicated system of relationships inextricably binds each title of the natural ecosystems. In fact, scientists are just starting to understand the complex nature of the animal world. In their opinion, each behavior, each shape, and colour is never there by mere chance. Everything takes place following a rigorous survival law. How to proceed? In front of this still greatly unknown world, researchers and scientists find themselves as if they had to translate an unknown language without a dictionary! Little by little, with patience, deep study and analysis, they explain the oddest (or funny) behaviours, disclose the mystery of strange shapes, flashy colourful feathers or the designs on the snakes' skin. They find answers to the motivations of rituals and dances, they reveal the mechanism that governs the relationship between the species and the language they use. Following the guidance of specialists in ecology, animal behavior and natural sciences, this series will allow the viewer to get to know and better understand the marvelous world of animals. And it might also, very often, uncover the deep roots of many human behaviours.



## Episodes:

- Animals' sight and seeing
- Animals without frontiers
- Biodiversity
- Instinct and learning
- Just meeting or mating
- Numbering Nature
- The biological clock

- The ecological niche
- The global rulers
- Together or alone
- An alibi for the violence
- Extra-sensory perceptions
- Let's start from the tail
- Lies

- Life is a game
- Feet: life support
- Nature's engineers
- Nature's orchestra
- Private property
- Sleeping beauties

# Episodes



## Animals' sight and seeing

Almost every animal has eyes, but not all see as we do. Each species has a special eye sight, appropriate to its needs. The shape of the eye, its position on the head, the development of particular sensibilities, have allowed each species to have the kind of sight which allows it to localise food, to defend itself from predators, to find its partner. Until recently it was believed that many animals saw the world out of focus and only in black and white. New research on both the eyes and brains of animals has allowed a more precise understanding of the different visual faculties of animals. The discoveries made by scientists allow us to see the world just as animals do.



## Animals without frontiers

Parrots in the streets, among houses, gardens and trees. We are not in a city of Africa, the Amazon or Australia. We are in a quiet residential neighbourhood of Rome. In a group of old coniferous trees, a colony of monk parakeets has set up home, built voluminous nests which grow in number with every new year. These parakeets certainly did fly here from their native South America. This large population is probably the direct descendant of a couple which escaped or was intentionally freed from a cage. Nor is this case in Rome an isolated one. There are parrot populations in a number of other European cities. They find refuge from predators among the houses and benefit from friendly humans, to the point that they are gradually colonising city parks. The presence of exotic animal and plant species is not a novel or unusual phenomenon. The passion for importing and acclimatising animals and plants from far away lands is a bad habit that has a long history of which the examples are almost infinite. We can find "aliens" not only between birds, but also between fishes, reptiles, mammals and insects: these reckless imports threaten to destroy the careful ecological equilibrium that has developed over the course of millennia. It is important to stress, moreover, that ultimately it will not be just single species who will pay the consequences but all the members of the ecosystem, human beings included.



## Biodiversity

Spring has been described innumerable times by poets, writers and artists as a bursting forth of colours, of life, of joy. It is almost as if nature put on her best dress to pay homage to the good season, to celebrate the end of the cold and arid winter. In reality, and despite the value of the poetic and aesthetic interpretation of Spring, the frenetic explosion of life that follows the stasis of winter has precise biological motivations that have been carefully examined by scientists. The totality of the organisms, both animal and vegetal, that populate our planet in a multitude of forms, are the result of long and complex evolutionary processes that have engendered the incredible variety of life on earth which biologists have coined biodiversity.



## Instinct and learning

As life was evolving on our planet, the ability to learn gradually developed along side instinct. This faculty steadily contributed to the cultural patrimony of individuals. In some species learned behaviour even predominated over instinctive behaviour. Being the fruit of individual experience, learning does not manifest itself in uniform and fixed responses or solutions, but varies from individual to individual. Instinct operates in the opposite way: it manifests itself as a series of immutable schemes which every individual of the species follows. Today etologists no longer maintain as they once did that there is a marked separation between instinctive and learned behaviour. Indeed, the category instinctive behaviour is falling into disuse. Thanks also to research on imprinting, learning acquired in the prenatal phase and in the first few days after birth, instinct and learning are now recognised as a complex synthesis of behaviour.



## Just meeting or mating

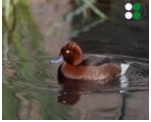
Observing the animal kingdom we recognise much of our own behaviour. It looks as if all living beings had a common pool of symbols, rituals and gestures to regulate the social interaction and to contribute to the harmonious progress of their communities. Among animals the strategies to find, approach and seduce a partner are seemingly infinite. But why do all animals, from mammals to birds, from reptiles to insects, spend so much energy in courtship? Why have they developed such complex and time-consuming methods? The answer is relatively simple. Among the mechanisms of selection that precede mating, courtship is the most important for it allows avoiding any waste of the genetic patrimony of the species. Courtship is made of "key incentives" or "rousing incentives" that work only among members of the same species. These signals allow recognition, help to remove natural aggressiveness and synchronise sexual maturity of both partners, therefore excluding the risk of copulation between different species.





## Numbering Nature

Many nature lovers are willing to hike up steep inclines in the hope of seeing the typical fauna that inhabits high altitudes, for it is the very symbol of freedom, of nature in its most pristine state. Finally the excursionists are rewarded with the sight of chamois observing them from the rocks above. But the view through binoculars produces an unexpected and unwelcome surprise. Some of the antelopes have a colored tag affixed to their ears: the chamois seem to have been branded as human property. A number impressed on a piece of plastic suddenly undermines the feeling of being in uncontaminated wilderness. That unseemly tag reveals that scientists are actively involved in studying and preserving the species in their natural habitat. To protect any wildlife population it is first necessary to assess its size and distribution in a territory, to understand its biological needs, its habits and behavior. And this is possible only if the individual components of the population are identifiable so as to observe them over a long period of time. Researchers invented a large number of systems able to tag, identify and monitor single individuals of the species living in our Planet.



## The biological clock

We are in the middle of equatorial Africa at the end of Winter. In this region of the world, the course followed by the sun is identical all year round and the temperature never changes much. And yet in the past few days, the white storks behave in a different way: they are fidgety and move about constantly. Nothing around them has altered but they have grown restless. They "feel" that the hour has struck, that in Europe, 3000 kilometres away, cold weather is coming to an end and that it is time to leave their winter residences and start the long journey. But how did the storks know that it was time to migrate? How do animals measure the passage of time? What clock schedules their life? As long ago as 1729 a French botanist, Jacques d'Ortous de Marain conducted an experiment with a surprising outcome. Having noticed that the leaves of the mimosa tree opened in the morning and closed at night, he took a specimen of the plant to his laboratory, which he kept illuminated day and night. To his great astonishment it continued to open and close its leaves for several days. This was probably the first experiment that led scientists to understand that living beings have a biological clock that is at the root of the circadian rhythm, that is a clock that regulates the cycles of the 24 hour clock itself.



## The ecological niche

Humid environments such as marshes, swamps and ponds are excellent open-air laboratories to study the relationship between different species and the natural environment. The concentration of birds in these areas reaches levels that are unparalleled in any other habitat. The secret to the peaceful coexistence of the different species is specialisation. Every animal belongs to a particular ecological niche which is complementary to its physical and biological characteristics and which allows it to flourish without entering in competition with other species. Let's hypothetically assume that two bird species with similar characteristics and the same eating habits occupy the same ecological niche. It is inevitable that they will compete with one another and that the weaker, less resistant of the two will eventually be eliminated. If, however, one of the two evolves into a long-legged bird and develops a new hunting strategy it will move to a different ecological niche and avoid all competition. This kind of evolution is, in fact, one of the explanations for the extreme variety and specialisation of swamp-dwelling birds. The different morphological characteristics of the single species are not the product of Mother Nature's whims but a response to the difficult art of cohabitation.



## The global rulers

The number of insects that live in our world today far exceeds the total population of all other living organisms put together. Over 900,000 different species of insects are known, an enormous and impressive number. Since it is estimated that for every human being on earth there are over 200 million insects, we should consider ourselves lucky that it is only occasionally that an insect pesters us and other warm-blooded animals. We don't know exactly when insects first appeared on our planet. The oldest insect fossil dates to 400 million years ago. Once bugs conquered the earth, an excellent invention, wings, permitted them to also invade the air space. Since then they have never ceased to diversify, to develop into new species, occupying an infinite number of different ecological niches. Even at this very moment, somewhere in the world, new insect species are being born. The total number of different animal species in the world is estimated at just over 1,200,000. Of these over 900,000 are insects.



## Together or alone

Almost every animal gets in contact with its own fellows at least once in life: in the sake of procreation. It is the safest way to ensure the genetic patrimonial exchange, which is basic to the survival of the species and to evolution itself. In order to find a partner, even the most aggressive and solitary animals are compelled to totally modify their usual behaviour, engaging themselves in all sorts of rituals to seduce their mates. Some species, however, not only get together during the love season, but live in herds, packs, flocks and shoals all along, impelled by biological and environmental reasons. Many examples suggest that animals "choose" to live in groups when this solution brings undeniable advantages: defence against predators, raising off spring, obtaining food and so forth. Communal as well as solitary life-styles are never due to chance. They are always the result of a well-thought out evolutionary strategy that ensures the survival of individual species.



## An alibi for the violence

Violent, aggressive and ruthless, merciless with their prey, angry, combative and always ready to fight. This is how we often define animals, attributing ferocious violence and ruthlessness to them. But what about us? When we define the human action of killing other humans as beastlike, we are wrong: this is human behaviour because only man kills, tortures and attacks other individuals from its own species. The justification that violence is an inevitable primeval instinct and part of our genetic inheritance, due to our evolutionary link to the animal world, doesn't hold up at all. In the animal world intraspecific violence, meaning among individuals of the same species, does exist, but it rarely leads to extreme consequences. Therefore, we clearly cannot find an explanation for our violent tendencies in the natural world, nor can we find an alibi for individual crimes by looking at animals as our accomplices. We cannot simply say that war is a pathological event. It was invented and has been used over time to carry out specific functions like defence and conquest of a territory and control over new resources. But war is not the only way to achieve these objectives. We need to explore other means of carrying out the functions of war, if we want peace to prevail.



## Extra-sensory perceptions

They teach us at school that there are five senses through which we perceive the outside world. This may be true for us humans, but not at all for many other living beings. Let's find out why. Animal behaviour helps us demolish some common beliefs: for example, we believe that we "see" with our eyes and "hear" with our ears...well, bats demonstrate otherwise. Eyes can't help us perceive the outside world when in the dark. But bats, even if they are almost blind, can move with great ease in the dark. Their flying is fast and precise. The secret is in their big ears, similar to parabolic antennae. Their sophisticated navigation system is based on the emission of ultrasounds which travel thru the air and bounce off any object they encounter, then returning to the base. We realize that most of our highly advanced technology is not the result of an original idea! For example, the rattlesnake should get a patent for its infrared glasses. In fact, these reptiles have special sense organs in the front of their snout called foveas which can detect the heat and infrared radiation emitted by their tiny prey. Thanks to this stunning sixth sense they can sense the presence of their victims even in the dark. Marine turtles, instead, invented the GPS. These reptiles are capable of perceiving the variations in the terrestrial magnetic field, and to use them to orient themselves during their endless migrations in the ocean. In conclusion, we will learn that many animals, even some we erroneously consider primitive, have an extraordinary ability to perceive a reality, which is unknown to humans.



## Let's start from the tail

Happy tails... "aristocratic"... tails..."friendly" tails... long, soft and hairy tails... "pachydermic" tails... fluffy tails... conceited tails... dangerous tails... and also some kind of... yucky tails!! Oh yes, no doubt about it, today we're talking about tails, that funny looking part that we often consider useless and annoying, but which actually is, as we shall see, a precious thing for many animals. In kangaroos, the tail is very well developed and has multiple functions. In birds, the tail supports the long flight feathers. But the tail is not only useful for flying: the modified feathers of the tail play an important role during displays of courtship. In almost every arboreal species the tail is long and prehensile, as if it were a fifth hand which helps the monkey climb and hold on during its spectacular aerial exhibitions. Sometimes, the tail is used like a signal flag to communicate hierarchies within the community or the moods of single individuals. In wolves, the position of the tail communicates its rank or status within the community. Down on the sea floor, there is someone who uses its tail like a true underwater engine, breaking all records in the water: the shark. On the other hand, we can see the sea-horse, probably the slowest fish of all, using his tail as an anchor.



## Lies

Fortright, simple and spontaneous, and so extremely sincere that they could never lie. This is how we perceive the animals around us. But is this really true? Deception is actually a truly ancient talent, used both to escape a predator and to surprise a prey. Camouflage, which is the art of hiding by imitating the colours of the surroundings, is perhaps the most effective trick. Sometimes some harmless animals don't try to camouflage in the natural setting but, on the contrary, to show off bright and easily recognizable colours to send a clear message to keep out, 'I am dangerous'! But the champion of tricks and deception is the toad. Facing a predator it freezes, hoping to blend in with the green grass. Then it tries to scare off its stubborn enemies by puffing up to look bigger and scarier. When all the other tricks have failed, the toad plays the card of thanatosis: he rolls over on its back, pretending to be dead.



## Life is a game

One of the activities humans share with many animals is the playing of games. Ethologists have shown that many animals have a strong disposition to curiosity and play. They search out and explore new situations, following an inner instinct, finding any opportunity to play - either by themselves or with others. Movements and activities carried out during playtime may seem exaggerated and amplified compared to corresponding "serious" behaviours: that's because they are fully executed, with more energy outlay, more speed and frequency, as if to make them more noticeable. Compared to other behaviour, playing doesn't display any apparent immediate benefit to the individual. Differently from hunting or courting, for example, playing uses up a lot of energy for no immediate purpose, but just for its own purpose. Playing is fun in itself, and in fact one of the most important features of playtime is the gratification derived without any particular goal. Playing requires a lot of energy and can make animals vulnerable: playing may appear like an error in evolutionary terms. However, its widespread presence across species and its frequency lead us to believe that it may offer considerable biological advantages, and that strong selective forces may have determined the establishment of this behaviour.



## Feet: life support

What allows some animals to graze at a height of 6 metres, and others to perform acrobatic feats, or remain glued like suction cups to any type of surface? Their feet, of course. Let's prepare for a journey to discover the most curious "extremities" in the animal kingdom. If giraffes have the longest legs in the world, the elephant has the widest and heaviest hooves. From macro to micro: from the infinitely huge to the infinitely tiny. Have you ever tried to count a millipede's feet? Are they, or are they not, also champions in the animal kingdom? We can see animals that walk on their toes, and others that prefer using the whole foot. On the other hand, the ungulates choose to walk on the tips of their hooves. Speaking of spiders, how do they walk on their webs without becoming entrapped themselves? Easy: by skating! Insects' feet never cease to amaze us: each little creature's feet serve "specialised" purposes, tailored to their particular movement and use. Butterflies' taste is all in their feet! In fact, they don't use their feet just for walking or clinging to leaves, thanks to sturdy claws. They are also veritable sense organs, through which lepidopters perceive touch and smell. And these are only few examples of what we will see on our journey. And once again, we will be amazed at the extraordinary spectacle Mother Nature has to offer.



## Nature's engineers

Birds' nests, spiders' webs, foam houses, wasps' tunnels are only a few examples of the incredible constructions that nature's engineers manage to build most of the time unaware of what they've accomplished, guided only by mysterious instincts. Nature equipped them with simple but efficient tools: beaks, legs or other body parts, they are all beautifully trained to fulfil these needs. To create their masterpieces they use clay, stone, wood and materials they produce themselves, and on this natural base they apply the ingenious techniques of the bricklayer, the plumber, the potter, and the weaver to create an endless and spectacular gallery of large and small wonders of nature.



## Nature's orchestra

Daily life in a city is defined by a series of sounds, loud or soft, more or less continuous, but all with a common feature. These sounds have a negative impact on our physical and mental health. Even though, and this is the worst part, we no longer even realize it. In an attempt to escape from the chaos of the city, we'll focus on the opposite of noise, which is not silence, because silence in itself does not exist, but rather on the ensemble of natural sounds, generally soft and delicate types of sounds, which for millions of years have been the only soundtrack of life on Earth and which we very rarely hear today. So let's try, for a few minutes, to tune out the noises brought on by a society of machines in order to listen, with affection and concentration, to the concert offered to us by Mother Nature.



### **Private property**

Have you ever tried to get close to a herd of African elephants? Well, it sure doesn't happen every day, but whoever's had the courage to do so must have soon realized that the leader of the herd exhibits total indifference until a certain line is crossed. As we get closer to the happy family we reach a point where the large pachyderm loses his patience and starts trumpeting and exhibiting a very aggressive attitude. We have crossed the line of acceptable distance. Moreover, it's important to know that for many animal species there is also an inviolable "personal space". Proxemics is a science that was born in the 1960's and which studies the ways in which humans and animals deal with their personal space and the distance they keep from others, a distance which of course varies from species to species. This distance usually depends on size: among flamingos, for example, it is around 60 cm, twice the distance enjoyed by seagulls and four times that of swallows. The criterion is a simple one: even when surrounded by family, it's always safe to keep out of pecking range! Many animals defend an area of their habitat which they perceive as their own property. A territory can be occupied by one single animal which defends it from the presence of its own kind, or it can belong to a group which will defend the territory from individuals of the same species who don't belong to the group. The territory can be defined as a space in which one animal or group of animals dominates another. Or the territory is simply "a defended area".



### **Sleeping beauties**

Alone or in company, all animals sleep, even though length and intensity of sleep greatly varies from species to species. As for sleep time, everyone has their own preferences: some like to sleep alone, others prefer sleeping in company. The bear is a solitary sleeper and reacts very badly when someone dares to bother it. Other animals have much more sociable dispositions: many birds which spend their day in solitude, gather in large dormitories to spend the night. For many invertebrates like beetles, butterflies and many other insects, the temporary "resting", or sleep time, is almost absent and the animal remains conscious of the outside world. On the other hand, the organisms with a nervous system directed by one large neuron mass, a true brain, switch off their "conscious" control centre of activity, reducing or almost blanking out the flow of stimuli from the outside world. For some of them, sleep helps save energy: besides being a physiological need, sleep is an adaptive response to the environment an ideal solution to survive in situations characterized by a negative factor like extreme cold or drought. Some others have developed a special type of sleep which involves only half the brain at a time: while one hemisphere rests, the other is on the alert to maintain vital functions and detect obstacles. Some can sleep at an altitude of 11,000 metres. Some others hold the record of all sleepyheads.





# World Champions: man against beast

**Directed by:** Lodovico Prola & Gabriele Norcia

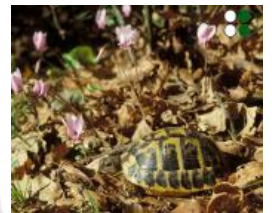
**Produced by:** Ditta Prola

**Duration:** 52'

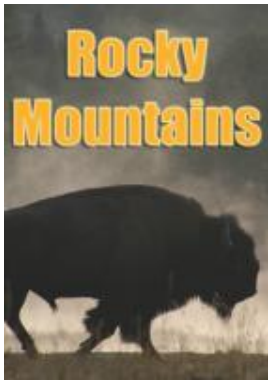
**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

Imagine an amazing sporting competition open to all living beings on Earth. Mammals and birds, fish and insects, reptiles and amphibians... and, of course, human beings. Who would be the true champions in the different specialties? Who would score the most sensational records? Well, in such a tough and exhausting competition even the strongest human beings would end up miserably defeated. With original and spectacular techniques animals belonging to different species attain fantastic scores and unmatched performances in disciplines executed in air, water, or land. The explanation for this is quite simple: The fastest runners, the champions in the high jump and long-distance running, the best swimmers among animals don't compete for a medal, for fame or fun, but to eat, reproduce, and escape from predators. In one word, they succeed in order to survive. Thanks to spectacular images shot in every corner of our planet, we'll discover the holders of the best records in best known disciplines within the animal kingdom. Their mythical feats will be compared to human beings' best sporting attempts with fast-paced images from nature juxtaposed with images of striking human athletic performances.







# Rocky Mountains: the source of Colorado

**Directed by:** Massimiliano Sbrolla

**Produced by:** Zoofactory

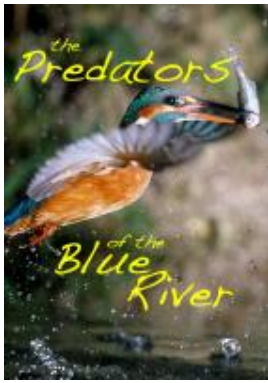
**Duration:** 26'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

One of the longest mountain ranges in the world. From Alaska to Mexico, the Rocky Mountains are the backbone of the United States of America. They include some of America's largest national parks: the incomparable Yellowstone, the beautiful Gran Teton and the Rocky Mountains Reserve. And it is here that the River Colorado rises, the symbol of the West and the product of one of nature's great masterpieces: the Grand Canyon.





# The predators of the Blue River

**Directed by:** Paolo Fioratti e Eugenio Manghi

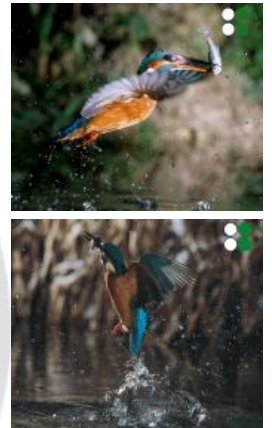
**Produced by:** Fioratti Srl / White Fox Communications

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  


**Format:** SD

More than 80 species of Kingfisher appeared millions of years ago in the Malaysian region, before spreading themselves all around the world. Around 10,000 years ago, a number of Kingfishers from the Alcedo gender, began a long trip reaching Europe and colonizing the most adapt areas. They never got back to their places of origin. In the new land, they had to modify their way of living in order to adapt to the cold and different environment they found here, compared to the tropical areas they came from. They changed their metabolism and became more prolific to cope with their high mortality rate. This documentary tells the story of Martin, a young Kingfisher born in late summer who, after being chased away by its parents, finds its own territory, where it can survive. In this environment, populated by a large number of other organisms, such as the otter, Martin will succeed - not without some difficulty - in surviving, reproducing itself and becoming an excellent hunter.





# Focus in Italy (2')

**Directed by:** Antonio D'Onofrio  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 20x2'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

A Collection of the very best footage of the animals found in Italy and all the countries of the Mediterranean Basin. The series combines great scientific precision and fascinating narration, and was supervised by the National Geographic Channel.



## Episodes:

- Cattle egret
- Golden Eagle
- European lobster
- Sea horses
- Brown groupers
- Cervone
- Peregrine falcon

- Flamingos
- River goby
- Griffins
- Porcupine
- Little bustards
- Otters
- Wolf

- Nymph of the strawberry-tree
- Sea slugs
- Bears
- Hermit crabs
- Dalmatian Pelican
- Fox

# Episodes



**Cattle egret**



**Golden Eagle**



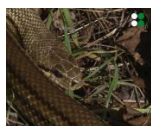
**European lobster**



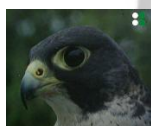
**Sea horses**



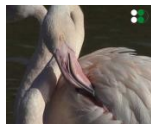
**Brown groupers**



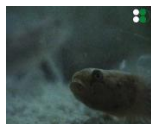
**Cervone**



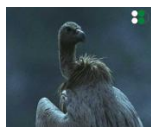
**Peregrine falcon**



**Flamingos**



**River goby**



**Griffins**



**Porcupine**



**Little bustards**



**Otters**



**Wolf**



**Nymph of the strawberry-tree**



**Sea slugs**



**Bears**



**Hermit crabs**



**Dalmatian Pelican**




**Fox**





# Italian Parks - 2nd Season

---

**Directed by:** Various  
**Produced by:** Various  
**Duration:** 17x30'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

The protected areas of Italy now cover around 10% of the country. National Parks are now a reality in Italy. But it is not just a question of size: they represent an extraordinary resource, much of it unknown. And yet this is the real face of Italy: the alpine landscapes, coniferous forests, mixed forests, the Mediterranean Maquis, the hillsides, coastal lands and marine environments. This series, shot by a number of directors, offers foreign viewers an unusual view of an Italy rich in flora and fauna.

**Episodes:**

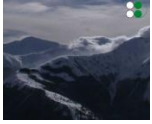
- Val Grande
- Monti azzurri
- Po river delta Park
- Padule di Fucecchio
- Tiber's jewel
- WWF oasis
- Campo dei Fiori
- Ticino, borderline nature
- Lomellina rice fields
- Torre Guaceto, living water
- Sabatini mountains
- Sabini mountains
- Diary from the lagoons
- The ancient heel of Italy
- The Serchio river
- Marturanum
- The smallest reign

# Episodes



## Val Grande

The Val Grande National Park: a unique landscape, an environmental sanctuary almost inaccessible. We will discover the beautiful tale of the mountain culture recounted by the places and people from the small villages surrounding this area between Ossola, Verbano, val Vigezzo, Valle Intrasca and Cannobina.



## Monti azzurri

At the foot of Monti Azzurri, under the severe eyes of the Sibilla, countrymen still transmit emotions of yore. Emotions that put to sea in the colder seasons, over the wide and lonely peaks of the Umbrian-Marchigian Apennines. Silence, colors and reflections in a land rich in enchantments.



## Po river delta Park

Starting from the portrait of the black-winged stilt, the symbol of the Regional Park of the Po river delta, this documentary goes over the most significant animal species in the vast natural area and its precious ecosystems. Between dunes, woods and groves of reeds, untold images from the daily life of herons, deer, great reed warblers and a great number of other animals follow one after the other.



## Padule di Fucecchio

The warm light of the sunset enlightens the show of the migratory birds in a marshy area with no comparison in Italy: the Fucecchio Padule, in northern Tuscany, inevitable stage for ducks, herons and wading birds in their never-ending trip between Africa and northern Europe.



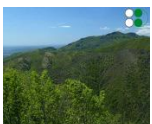
## Tiber's jewel

What would Tiber be without Rome? To answer this question, it is sufficient to go outside the ancient town walls. Quiet and regardless of millenniums of human events, the Tiber goes through the municipalities of Montopoli di Sabina, Nazzano and Torrita Tiberina and flows surrounded by an incredibly rich and multiform environment. This is one of the most beautiful and well organized Natural Reserves in Latium.



## WWF oasis

A journey to discover the WWF oasis in the Italian Peninsula, from the Burano lake – the first Italian oasis, instituted in 1967 – to Orbetello lagoon, from the oasis of Valle Averte to Palo, up north Rome, from Monte Arcosu in Sardinia to the marine reserve of Miramare in Trieste, and many more... a whole year at the discovery of the Italian naturalistic heritage and of the efforts by WWF to protect it.



## Campo dei Fiori

In the Lombardy Prealps an area of relevant naturalistic importance is found: the park of Campo dei Fiori. Apart from some monumental buildings of artistic relevance, such as the Sanctuary of Santa Maria del Monte and the Via Crucis, the peculiarities of this park pertain to natural aspects: birds of prey, deep karst caves, deer, roes, wild boars and a mass of birds, such as the Peregrine falcon and the common raven, can be found.



## Ticino, borderline nature

Less than 25 kilometers far from the Milan Cathedral, a beautiful regional park protects the clean waters of the Ticino river. Thanks to reintroduction programs, the otter has reappeared. The most shy and threatened mammal of the Italian fauna.



## Lomellina rice fields

The ancient beds of the rivers that thousands of years ago ploughed the Po valley, almost unrecognizable nowadays, maintain a particular richness of water, unique in this landscape. The proximity of the groundwater to the ground made these areas unsuitable for agriculture and remained forgotten by mankind. We are at the border of the Lomellina rice fields, in the Pavia province.



### **Torre Guaceto, living water**

Up north Salento, in the Brindisi province, two natural reserves defend hectares of enchanted land, survived almost as a miracle at the aggression of concrete, streets and highways. They are the Marine reserve and the Terrestrial reserve of Torre Guaceto. An important peculiarity of this area is the inaccessibility of part of the coast, protected from fishing and scuba diving: it is, in fact, a true "natural sanctuary".



### **Sabatini mountains**

Sabatini mountains are 35 kilometers north-west from Rome; together with Volsini and Cimini mountains, they are also known as Latium Anti-Apennines. Sabatini are a hill area of small altitude, originated by the remains of the ancient Sabatino volcano, from which the two craters which constitute the Bracciano and Martignano lakes stand still.



### **Sabini mountains**

Sabini mountains are a relief chain running parallel to the Tiber waterway almost in the nearby of Rome. This mountains are the watershed between Tiberina valley and Velino river valley. Almost all hills and cliffs of the Sabini mountain chain host small villages perched on the mountain, with a church or an ancient castle as their centers.



### **Diary from the lagoons**

The Burano and Orbetello oasis are two moist areas at the foot of the Argentario mountains, in the Tuscan Maremma. Following the daily work of Fabio and Alessandro, two oasis guards who oversee the protected areas, we discover the natural world of this area during the four seasons.



### **The ancient heel of Italy**

At the bottom of the Italian boot, there is a heel separating the Adriatic sea from the Ionian sea. It is the Salento peninsula, a vast plain surrounded three-fourths by the sea. At a glance, one may think that as this area - excluded from the greater communication roads and with limited economic resources - must be a poor land, without history and traditions, but this documentary shows how this can be completely false.



### **The Serchio river**

The Serchio river is generated by the confluence of countless torrents that on one side come from the Apuane alps - rich in pointed peaks and overhanging rocks - and from the other come from the Apennine chain. In the first part of its flow, the Serchio river basin of 60.000 hectares mainly covers mountain prairies and woods of beech, hornbeam, salix, oak and chestnut inhabited by deer, mouflons and marmots.



### **Marturanum**

In Etruria, there is no other place where you can feel such emotions admiring the ancient Etruscan architectures as in the Marturanum Park valleys. Here the colors, the silence, and the wild vegetation create a mysterious and fascinating atmosphere.



### **The smallest reign**

In front of the north-eastern coasts of Sardinia, a group of islands constitutes a small archipelago dominated by the enormous mass of the Tavolara island. It is a corner of uncontaminated nature, rich in exclusive plants and animals, breathtaking landscapes and sea beds.



# The kings of the Mediterranean Sea

**Directed by:** Emanuele Coppola

**Produced by:** Panda Film

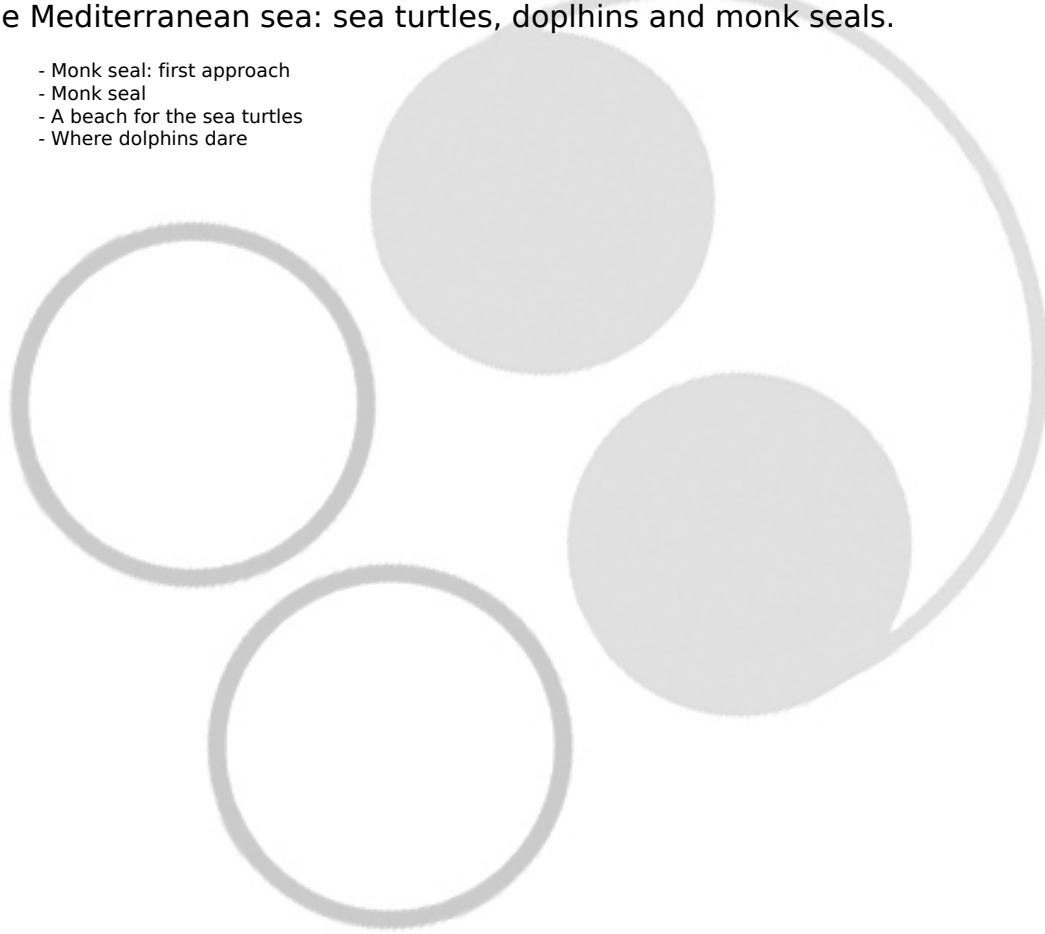
**Duration:** 4x30'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

A brief series at the discovery of some of the most known animals living the Mediterranean sea: sea turtles, dolphins and monk seals.

- Episodes:**
- Monk seal: first approach
  - Monk seal
  - A beach for the sea turtles
  - Where dolphins dare



# Episodes



## Monk seal: first approach

Mediterranean monk seal is one of the animal species that are the most threatened by extinction in the world. Observed by human beings until the antiquity, the monk seal's life habits are still enshrouded by mystery. The documentary recounts the experience by some researchers of the Gruppo Foca Monaca ( of the Italian WWF) together with SAD, the Turkish organization for marine researches. Using a closed-circuit camera system, powered by a little photovoltaic power station, this team of biologists has been able to control the inner part of a cave used by seals in a uninhabited island of the western Turkey for a whole month. For the first time it has been possible to shoot the nocturnal activities of the seals inside the cave and record their voices without disturbing these animals.



## Monk seal

Monk seal is the rarest animal of the european fauna and one among the twelve rarest animal species of the world. Its progressive disappearing from most of the places where it could be observed in the past has brought many researchers to consider this species doomed to extinction. Contrary to these gloomy premonitions some groups of monk seals, followed and protected in Egeo and Ionio Sea, are showing revival signs. The documentary tells the experiment managed by Gruppo Foca Monaca, a little Italian voluntary organization along the Cilincia coast, in the south Turkey. In these places far from mass tourism, a little group of italian visitor observe directly some monk seals: an experiment with a lucky outcome that recurs by now every year.



## A beach for the sea turtles

Every summer human masses invade Mediterranean beaches. In similar conditions wild fauna must withdraw or succumb, but it isn't always the same. In Greece, along the southern coast of the Zacinto Island, there is a strange phenomenon. Big marine turtles approach to the crowded beaches showing indifference towards the persons. Tourists are intrigued and attracted by this novelty. In fact in the bay it has just developed an activity with a great success: the Turtle watching, that is the observation of the marine turtles in their natural environment. The reason that brings these animals on the coasts in broad daylight is not yet clear, but meanwhile in the whole bay area strict behaviour rules are in force, such as the absolute prohibition of the engine private navigation, in order to avoid incident and limit the disturb to this precious animals.



## Where dolphins dare

The bottlenose dolphin is a marine mammal very common in our seas but seriously threatened by fishing job, ship traffic and pollution. Del.Ta project - dolphin and turtle protected - is just born with the aim to protect this cetacean and marine turtles of the Caretta caretta species, supported by the European Commission thanks to Life Natura program. The documentary shows different activities of the project, describing the patient and difficult job carried out by biologists in the protected marine area of the Pelage Islands. In the waters surrounding Linosa, Lampione and Lampedusa, the most southern Italian point, the highest density of dolphins of the whole Mediterranean Sea has been found.





# The mistake

**Directed by:** Emanuele Coppola

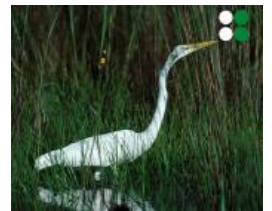
**Produced by:** Panda Film

**Duration:** 30x4'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

A series of 30 episodes of 4 minutes, each one structured as a scientific card dedicated to a single animal species of the european and international fauna. This series is conceived as a "quiz show" for the audience, that is invited to find the wrong assertion from the 4 highlighted during the documentary.





# Nature: LIVE!

---

**Directed by:** Emanuele Coppola

**Produced by:** Panda Film

**Duration:** 16x5'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD


For the very first time, in the series "Nature: LIVE!", we'll follow - step by step - the shooting of a naturalistic documentary. Francesco Petretti and Emanuele Coppola will guide us at the discovery of two extraordinary animals: the eagle of the snakes and the Marsican bear. Therefore we'll be able to feel "live" the emotion of the first flight of a young short-toad eagle or the bear fighting for survival during the long winter.





# Winged dreams

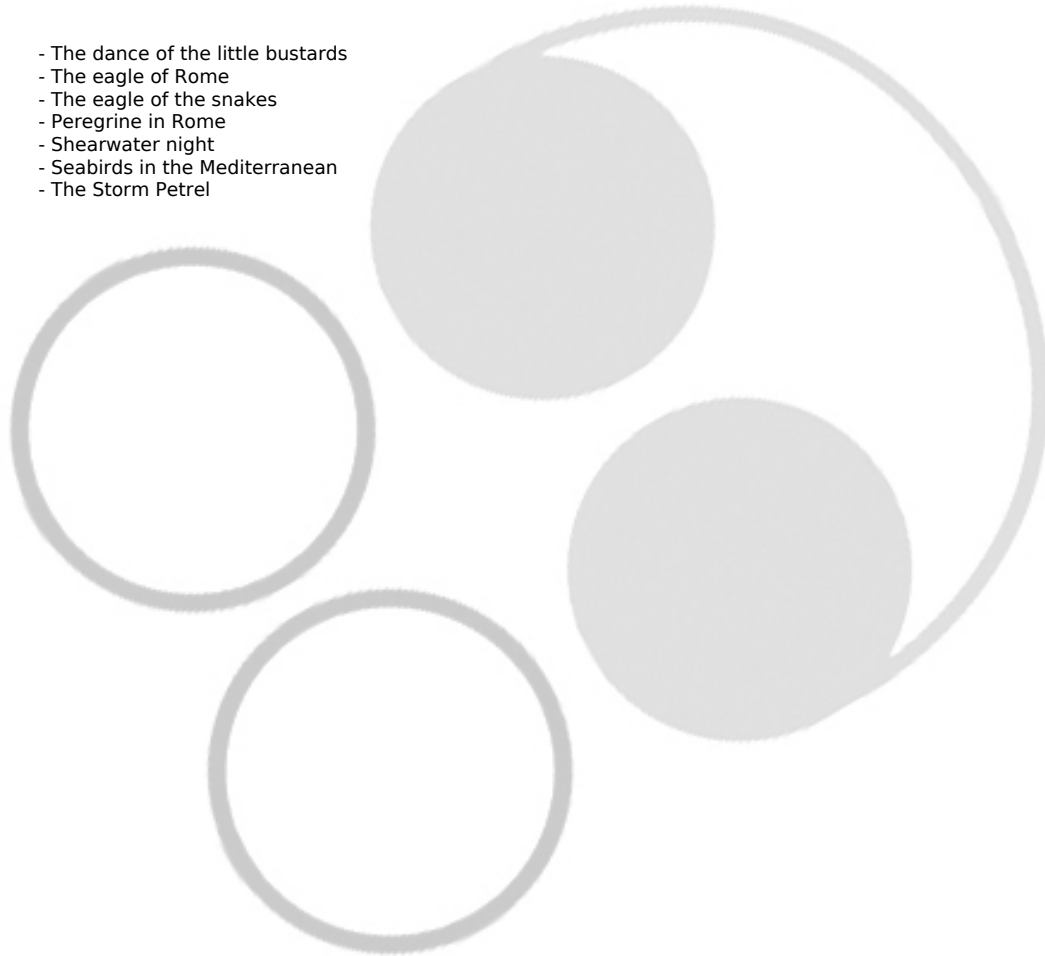
---

**Directed by:** Various  
**Produced by:** Various  
**Duration:** 7x30'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

A Series of documentaries at the discovery of the bird world.

**Episodes:**

- The dance of the little bustards
- The eagle of Rome
- The eagle of the snakes
- Peregrine in Rome
- Shearwater night
- Seabirds in the Mediterranean
- The Storm Petrel



# Episodes



## **The dance of the little bustards**

Every spring little bustard males perform an amazing wedding ballet taking place at dawn and at sunset. As soon as the lights fade, the males, in their gaudy black and white plumage, show off for the occasion. They take up positions in their tiny lek and begin jumping into the air while flapping their white wings conspicuously in the dim twilight of the plateau.



## **The eagle of Rome**

Since 2000 years ago, the rock faces of the Pelliccia mountain give hospitality to the golden eagle nests. From generation to generation eagles took up this landscape, regardless of the changes man caused to this area. This documentary guides us during a suggestive journey through the Lucretii Mountain Park, one of the largest of the whole Latium, populated by a large wild fauna.



## **The eagle of the snakes**

The protagonist of this documentary, entirely shot in the Maremma in Latium, is one of the most fascinating European birds of prey: the short-toed Eagle, a migratory eagle colored in white and brown, specialized in reptile-hunting. Winner of a prize at the International Wildscreen festival, this film puts together spectacular shooting and a rigorous scientific approach, thanks to a long and never-before-seen ecological research on the short-toed eagle.



## **Peregrine in Rome**

The presence of the peregrine falcon in the ancient center of Rome is a novelty of the recent years and it indicates a general improvement of the life conditions of a species that only a few decades ago was seriously threatened. Just few kilometers south of Rome, in the Roman Castels Regional park, a couple of peregrine falcons has been constantly kept under surveillance for several years thanks to a special system of video monitoring.



## **Shearwater night**

Linosa is one of the smallest and most remote island of the Mediterranean, between Sicily and Africa. In the crevices among lava flows a huge colony of Cory's Shearwaters nests each year. The birds come from South-East Atlantic Ocean and start laying in May. Their eggs have been collected in the past by people living in the small village, but fishermen and farmers now cooperate with ornithologists.



## **Seabirds in the Mediterranean**

Lampedusa and Linosa, in the Sicily Channel, are the most remote territories of Italy. In these islands Loggerhead Turtles, Shearwaters and Storm Petrels breed each year. Here Birdlife Italy is monitoring the movements of seabirds with satellite radiotags in order to know their flight paths in the open seas and to identify their foraging areas.



## **The Storm Petrel**

As small as sparrows, the Storm Petrels are related to albatrosses and there are very mysterious birds. Every night they return to their nests in the caves which open in the cliffs of Marettimo isle, in Sicily. The films shows all the nesting behaviours of this little known species.



# Histrio's journey

---

**Directed by:** Fabio Picarelli

**Produced by:** Acqua

**Duration:** 50'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

Every underwater environment, even the seemingly barest one, gives thousands of small creatures the possibility to live and reproduce. This hostile habitat hosts a universe of small and big creatures that managed to find a safe life, by the means of surviving techniques evolving through the years. We will discover this hidden world following the journey of a tiny fish, able to camouflage itself (Histrio histrio) among the sargassum algae. Carried away by the flood-tide, the tiny explorer will visit a vast variety of underwater environments and animal species.







# The art of defence

---

**Directed by:** Fabio Picarelli

**Produced by:** Acqua

**Duration:** 50'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD


In the coral reef plankton is the tie which bounds open sea and coast, big fishes and micro-organisms living and performing a show that seems created by mere love of beauty. In reality, coral reefs are an immense and unique mouth where everyone's effort is to eat and not been eaten. Some try to solve this problem making themselves bigger, some others are able to hide or camouflage themselves, changing their colors or trying to appear different from what they are: algae, sponge or madrepora. Our eyes, not trained to the light games of the underwater world, find it difficult to perceive what they are looking at.



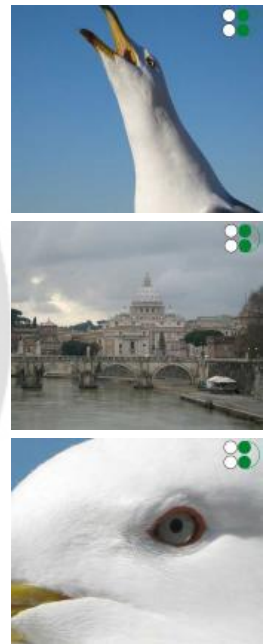


# Rome's Angels

---

**Directed by:** Francesco Petretti  
**Produced by:** Diomedea Studium Srl  
**Duration:** 42'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

An unusual portrait of Rome, the ancient town in Central Italy, which hosts its old buildings, churches and monuments huge colonies of Herring Gulls which nest close to Kestrels, Parrots and other birds. By winter the town is invaded by million of Starlings . The film describes the behaviour of gulls and their relationship with human beings and feral cats.





# Extremadura

**Directed by:** Massimiliano Sbrolla and Carlotta Nuccetelli

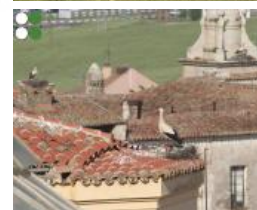
**Produced by:** Zoofactory

**Duration:** 45'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

We are in the heart of Extremadura, in the natural park of Monfragüe. Protected since thirty years, it's an isolated land, with wide spaces and a rich biodiversity. It is a dry, untamed region where the rural culture has contributed to protecting an extraordinary biodiversity. These harsh hills, known to the Romans as the "mountains of crevices", are home to one of the most impressive concentrations of birds of prey in Europe. The storks are a sign of the authenticity of this land, which, thanks to its low population density, retains an atmosphere that has changed little over time. Cáceres, better known as "the town of Storks", has become famous for its unusual spring panorama. The sound of this bird's beaks and the really big nests are a part of the center town, which has remained almost unchanged since the 15th century. It is so unique that it has been named an official UNESCO world Heritage site.





# A butterfly's life

**Directed by:** Renato Cottalasso

**Produced by:** Piviere Film

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

The lively story of a butterfly, which becomes adult - and therefore able to fly - after two years. Through different stages of larva and countless dangers, we follow the life of this beautiful animal specie and of other animals living the same environment. All this documentary has been shot in one of the most important areas for butterflies in the whole Italy, the Park of Antola.





# Out with Tuscany's rangers

---

**Directed by:** Carlo & Lodovico Prola

**Produced by:** Ditta Prola

**Duration:** 52'

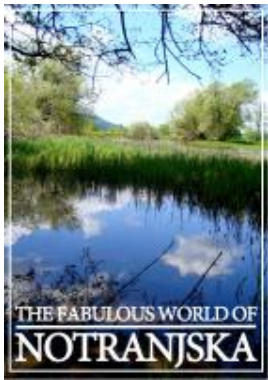
**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

We are in Tuscany, at the foot of Mount Argentario, a broad extent of wild territory, among the most beautiful and rare natural parks in Europe. We are here with Fabio and Alessandro, the passionate park rangers of the Burano and Orbetello lagoons, for whom every day is an adventure. Their job is difficult and tiring: so much to do, at any time, under any weather. But it also brings them great satisfaction. They list and count the aquatic birds, protect the threatened or rare species, repair the fences and the ornithologists' observation cabins after the storms, trace out paths without altering wild nature. But they also build show-cases intended to illustrate the different ecosystems for visiting schools. Introducing children to nature and ecology is one of the activities that they feel as more necessary and interesting. Life in the Lagoons does not flow in identical cycles from one year to the other. As hunting throughout the park is forbidden, more and more species and individuals gather and settle down. Among them, the rangers also find those who have managed to escape death, but arrive wounded to the lagoons. Like their old friend the heron, who inspires Fabio's words: "Each time a bird is able to fly again, I feel an overwhelming emotion".



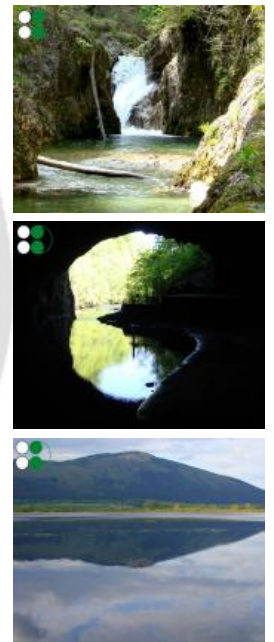




# The fabulous world of Notranjska

**Directed by:** Jost Geppert  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 50'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** 16:9 anamorphic

On the border between Slovenia and Croatia, not far from Mount Sneznik, which in Slovenian means snowy, on a high plateau dotted with forests, we find the regional park of Inner Carniola, the Notranjska, where, apart from a few cultivated fields, nature still reigns. This is the world of karst. Limestone rocks are very porous and easily soluble, but the waters do not affect the landscape, they excavate and loosen the rock beneath the surface, forming crevices and tunnels, a labyrinth of caves. A world that can be discovered following its waters, which change name seven times on their way from the slopes of Mount Snesnik to the Danube. It is the kingdom of light and darkness, following the river disappearing in the unfathomable depths of the earth, and then reappearing into the light of day, in a variety of caves, sinkholes, gorges, enchanted forests and rocky walls, where nature reigns undisputed. The abundance of water, unspoiled nature and the multitude of flowers make the Inner Carniola a wildlife paradise. The link between the dark and mysterious world of the underground and the light-filled world of the surface, between the noise of the subterranean waters and the enchanted silence of the woods, gives 'The fabulous world of Notranjska' its special charm.



# ADVENTURE / TRAVEL

---

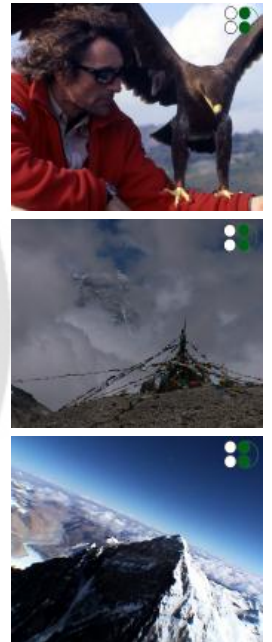


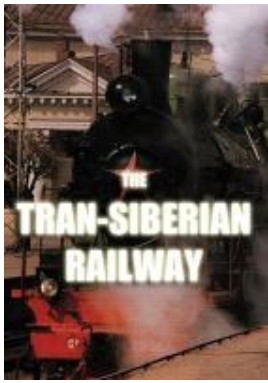


# Flying over Everest


**Directed by:** Fabio Toncelli  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 60' or 2x45'  
**Versions:**     
**Format:** SD

For the first time ever, a man has flown over Everest on a hang-glider. The story, the myth and the legend of this ancient Himalayan land will form the backdrop to a story that grows in tension as Angelo D'Arrigo approaches the moment of truth. He will encounter winds of over 200 kilometres an hour, unpredictable changes of climate, and suddenly find that he cannot turn back. Angelo will take two splendid raptors with him, Steppe Eagles, now extinct in this region, as part of an attempt to reintroduce them into this area. A film on the preparation, the tension and extreme risk of this exploit, with exclusive footage of Everest shot from above!



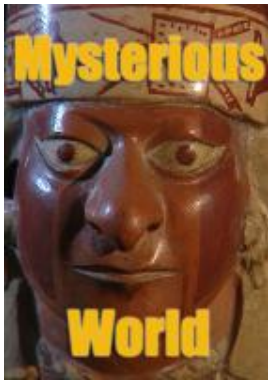


# The Trans-Siberian Railway

**Directed by:** Daniel Corner  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 50'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** SD

The Trans-Siberian Railway is one of the most colossal works ever created by man. It was built in only 16 years at the end of the 19th century by tens of thousands of workers, many of them convicts, who overcame immense difficulties and faced challenges that seemed almost insuperable at the time. A journey of 9,300 kilometres. From Moscow to Vladivostok, passing through seven time zones. Novosibirsk and Lake Baikal, the fascination and contradictions of the cities of Siberia. The longest, most fascinating railway line in the world, a train that has become a legend. Dream-like landscapes and mysterious peoples. A journey of exploration; through the faces and the testimonies of the real travellers, those in third class, who move over great distances, often sustained only by hope.





# Mysterious World

---

**Directed by:** Various  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 3x30'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** SD

A series of beautiful documentaries at the discovery of some of the most unreachable and mysterious places in the world.



**Episodes:**

- Antarctic
- Lybia - Crossroads of civilisation
- Peru - presence of the past



# Episodes



## **Antarctic**

The last true barrier to human exploration, the most inhospitable place on the earth. The Antarctic is a true open-sky laboratory, which contains precious scientific information for researchers from all the world over. To study rock samples, analyse the fish, to carry out unceasing surveys at depths of thousands of metres, to carry out astronomic surveys, to monitor the activity of the volcanoes: all this not only helps us to understand what has happened in the past, but furnishes in advance, indications of the future scenarios. From the most distant and dramatic explorations, to the most modern methods of scientific research, the document delineates the most important phases of the tough adaptation of men to this extreme continent. The ice mantle is in continuous movement. Huge rivers run at the interior of the continent, creating immense barriers, fissures and slopes. The wind and the freezing temperature form a unique landscape, that the human eye is unable to compare with anything else seen on the earth. The scenery of dreams, a lunar landscape, and an extraordinary wild life, create an unrepeatable environment which brings forth the best of the scientific documentaries.



## **Lybia - Crossroads of civilisation**

In antique times, the confines between the states had a different political connotation. What is today called Libia is a territory where there are collected some of the most diverse marvellous products of man from distant times. In the incomparable beauty of Tadrart Akakus, in central Sahara, are the most famous rock gratifies of prehistory. They have an age of between ten thousand and forty thousand years; the men which lived in the thick forest, which at that time covered what is now dry desert have left rock graffiti and pictures of extraordinary efficiency. They depict the animals which surrounded them: giraffes, elephants, rhinoceros, gazelles and camels. Through all these signs on the rocks, it is today possible to reconstruct the life-style, the climactic conditions, and the transformations which have happened in the arc of thousands of years. When the desertification was total, man was forced to move to the north. Ten thousand years after these first graffiti, civilisation has left another stupefying sign of artistic beauty, this time on the coast. The Forum, the market, the Baths, the Theatre, the port...all positioned between the desert and the sea, and moving through the paved streets is an emotional experience.



## **Peru - presence of the past**

In Peru, there are places which are the most dry of the planet. It doesn't rain, and the desert advances. Heat, a dry climate, and the absence of bacteria: these are ideal conditions for the conservation of extraordinary and unique remains. A documentary which is truly moving, with rare images of mummies from the Nazca civilisation. For more than a thousand years the wind has modified and changed these places, remains of bones, skeletons and mummies buried by the sand, and then unearthed again in a continual discovery of human remains. In Peru, almost all the civilisations which have followed, have left traces of their existence. the cloths and the Paracas mummies, the disturbing mummy "Sarita" conserved at Arequipa, sacrificed on the Andes to placate the anger of the Gods, so well conserved, that it seems to be sleeping still. And then there's Chan Chan, the grandiose capital of the Chimù kingdom considered the largest capital of antiquity, made of the mud which is inexorably crumbling. Then the erotic ceramics, the deformed or transplanted craniums...to end with the "Signore of Sipan" one of the ancient Emperors of the Moche dynasty, buried with his gold and his family in a pyramid very similar to that of ancient Egypt. A zone which in fact, the architects define as the "Valley of the Gods" of South America.



# Cape Verde - ten islands of history

**Directed by:** Giorgio de Finis

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 30'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

A journey through the archipelago of Cape Verde's history, culture, landscape and music. This bridge between Africa and America was a popular destination during transoceanic travels since the epoch of Columbus. Cape Verde is a very good example of Creole society, it is the result of cohabitation between European colonialists and African slaves. From fishing with one's bare hands to vineyards planted among the lapillus of the volcano, to the "ciabeta" (a dance once forbidden by Portuguese colonialists because it was considered obscene).





# Johnny seagull taught me to fly

**Directed by:** Massimiliano Sbrolla

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

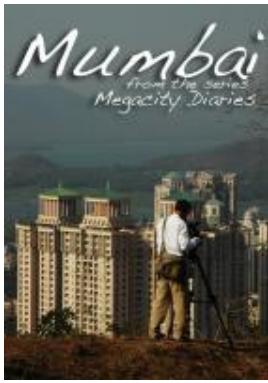
**Duration:** 50'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

For the very first time, the pilot of a motorised hang-glider crossed the Western Sahara alone and without ground assistance. This feat was achieved by Achille Cesarano, a 30-year-old Italian from Le Marche who flew six thousand kilometres from Ancona to Dakar. In 36 days, 27 stages, 65 hours of flying, 600 litres of fuel and 12 days of forced waiting due to bad weather. Achille flew over Italy, France, Spain, Morocco, the Western Sahara, Mauritania and Senegal. "And Johnny taught me to fly" recounts Achilles' incredible journey, his passion for flying and his extraordinary encounter with a seagull, who he cared for as it first took to the air and who inspired the technical solution that made his trans-Saharan flight possible.





# Mumbai

**Directed by:** Giorgio de Finis

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 52 min.

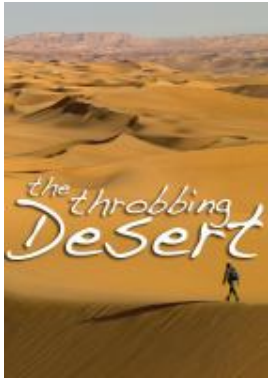
**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

Mumbai, the financial capital of the Indian sub-continent (producing 37% of India's total earnings), home to Bollywood (the world's largest film industry), a city of over 16 million inhabitants that is also home to the largest slum in Asia. "Why do people still live in Mumbai?" wonders the writer Suketu Mehta. "Every day your senses are assaulted... the exhaust fumes are so thick that the air boils like soup. Too many people touch you, in trains, in lifts, when you go home to sleep... At night the mosquitoes emerge from the malarial swamps, and the criminals from the underground, and you hear the deafening loudspeakers from the parties of the rich and the festivals of the poor." The population of Mumbai is forecast to reach 33 million by 2025, with areas of poverty that will have become both medically and ecologically intolerable. But if on the one hand pollution, refuse, poverty, lack of infrastructure and urban planning are suffocating the city; on the other hand Mumbai looks towards New York and Singapore as its models: the government's Vision Mumbai plan aims to turn the city into a metropolis of "global importance" by 2013. But how do the two cities - the pukka city of the rich and the kutcha city of the poor, the solid city of concrete and glass and the flimsy city of cardboard and plastic - co-exist? Among those interviewed: architects Charles Correa and Hafeez Contractor, the billionaire building constructor Niranjan Hiranandani, the long-time leader of the slum dwellers Jockin Arputham, journalist and essayist Kalpana Sharma, Anurag Kashyap (director of Black Friday) and Pralhad Kakkar (director of Bumbay, a controversial documentary about the lack of lavatories in the city and how its inhabitants defecate), artists Sunil Gawde and Shilpa Gupta; and actors, producers, designers, gallery owners, and voluntary associations.







# The throbbing desert

**Directed by:** Marc Innaro e Sandro Vannini

**Produced by:** Laboratoriorosso

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HDV



"The throbbing desert" by Marc Innaro and Sandro Vannini is the product of two months of filming spanning over ten thousand kilometers. It describes an Egypt that no tourist has ever seen, one still linked to ancient traditions and the arduous task of converting desert sand into fertile soil to harvest olives and dates. The vast expanse of Egypt's western desert still bears the imprint of prehistoric civilizations, offering extraordinary evidence of an unbelievably rich past. It is also one of the driest places on Earth, a mysterious landscape that has yet to be fully explored. Our expedition visited the huge plateau of Gilf-el Kebir (the Great Barrier) on the border between Sudan and Libya, one of the least accessible locations in the world. It was utterly unknown until 1926, when it was made famous by the Hungarian explorer Laszlo von Almasy, and more recently by the film adaptation of Anthony Minghella's "The English Patient." Today, the western desert suffers considerable damage on an ongoing basis from the increasing diffusion of mass tourism, asphalt roads, and new systems of irrigation that extract water from ancient underground sources. The development of the grand project of the New Valley (Wadi el-Gedid) is slowly but forever changing the oases of Bahariya, Farafra, Dakhla and Kharga. Thousands of Egyptian farmers (or "fellahin") have moved to the area, overlapping with the local population and altering the social system and way of life there. We encountered their effects on the delicate environmental and hydro-geological balances, particularly on the area's fauna and on the ancient oasis villages that are now surrounded by modern outskirts of brick and concrete.







# The Pharaohs' gate

**Directed by:** Sandro Vannini  
**Produced by:** Laboratoriorosso  
**Duration:** 52'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

The intent of this documentary is to travel along the Egyptian coast of the Red Sea from the Sudanese border to Port Said, and discover an always more vital area for Egypt. Actually, it is just along the Red Sea coast that important projects of turistic development are taking shape (Gouna, Ain Sukhna, Marsa Alam). After the discovery of important oil and natural gas resources it is some years that Red Sea has also become the energetic "Eldorado". Thanks to the Suez Channel (in 2009 it will occur the 140th anniversary of its inauguration), that is a precious gate to the Mediterranean sea for the tankers and the huge cargo boats coming from the Far East, the rights of way are now the most important precious income for Egypt. Therefore, oil refineries, cement factories, industries, ports, construction sites and mass tourism are today changing the face of the Egyptian coast on the Red Sea in an impulsive and maybe with no remedy way. Our reportage tells you the contrast and the positive and negative consequences regarding the economical and occupational problems and also the environmental, cultural and archaeological questions. Is it still possible and sustainable this kind of development the Egyptians have been following? And how much is it actually useful to Egypt and Egyptians?





# Myanmar

**Directed by:** Fabio Picarelli

**Produced by:** Acqua

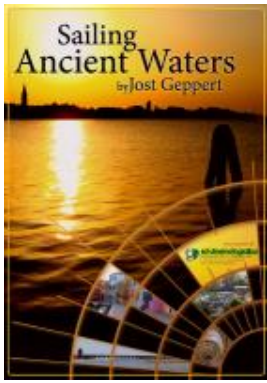
**Duration:** 50'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD



From the Irrawady river to the beautiful Pagodas of Bagan, Myanmar gives the visitor incomparable sights and ancient sensations. Our exploration of Burma started with the Ayeyarwady River, once known as the Irrawady, that rises in the Himalayas near the borders with Tibet and southeast China and crosses the whole country until it flows into the Indian Ocean. Although today's Myanmar may seem like a closed country with many problems, on the banks of the river of a thousand pagodas life continues undisturbed, maintaining a connection with the past and the vibrant Buddhist culture that pervades this fascinating corner of the Orient. Leaving the river up as we rode a horse and cart along the paths of this spectacular Burmese plain punctuated by thousands of ruins dating back over 800 years, the infinite towers of the temples of ancient Bagan, which we were finally about to see, let us remember the words of Marco Polo when he first saw the pagodas: "...They make one of the finest sights in the world, being exquisitely finished, splendid and costly. When illuminated by the sun's golden glow, they are especially brilliant and can be seen from a great distance."



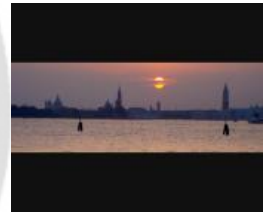


# Sailing ancient waters

---

**Directed by:** Jost Geppert  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 90' - 2x50' - 3x30'  
**Versions:**     
**Format:** SD

The story we are about to recount takes place against a background of some of the most beautiful scenery in the northeast of Italy: the rivers and lagoons of the Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia. We will travel only along the inland waterways connecting Venice to Trieste and the Istrian coast, which were at their glorious height in the days of La Serenissima. Like thousands of sailors of centuries past, we set off from the arsenals of Venice. Unlike most of them, we are not carrying cargo in our holds, but rather the desire to describe a piece of Italy that has increasingly faded from memory in recent decades.





# The fabulous world of Notranjska


**Directed by:** Jost Geppert  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 50'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** 16:9 anamorphic

On the border between Slovenia and Croatia, not far from Mount Sneznik, which in Slovenian means snowy, on a high plateau dotted with forests, we find the regional park of Inner Carniola, the Notranjska, where, apart from a few cultivated fields, nature still reigns. This is the world of karst. Limestone rocks are very porous and easily soluble, but the waters do not affect the landscape, they excavate and loosen the rock beneath the surface, forming crevices and tunnels, a labyrinth of caves. A world that can be discovered following its waters, which change name seven times on their way from the slopes of Mount Snesnik to the Danube. It is the kingdom of light and darkness, following the river disappearing in the unfathomable depths of the earth, and then reappearing into the light of day, in a variety of caves, sinkholes, gorges, enchanted forests and rocky walls, where nature reigns undisputed. The abundance of water, unspoiled nature and the multitude of flowers make the Inner Carniola a wildlife paradise. The link between the dark and mysterious world of the underground and the light-filled world of the surface, between the noise of the subterranean waters and the enchanted silence of the woods, gives 'The fabulous world of Notranjska' its special charm.





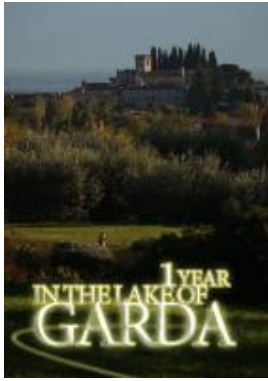
# THE ROADS OF TIME

**Directed by:** Daniele Cini  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 120 min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

Since the dawn of humanity, men have traced their paths: paths made by their footsteps, by their animals, roads rutted with the wheels of their chariots. But only the ancient Romans built eighty thousand kilometres of roads that radiate out to the whole of Europe: roads for eternity. Like the Salaria, the old salt road, along which antiquity's most valuable mineral was carried by mule. Or the Appia, the first real consular road, built after bloody wars with neighbouring peoples in order to consolidate Roman rule in the south of the peninsula. This military road was constructed by the blind censor Appius Claudius, who examined the paving stone by stone, with his bare feet. Or the Aurelia and the Tiburtina, roads created to facilitate the transhumance of flocks. Or the Cassia, which in the Middle Ages became part of the Via Francigena for pilgrims heading to the great shrines of Europe. The centuries pass and these ancient paths become controlled by brigands. But the roads resist and are still here: the roads of time.









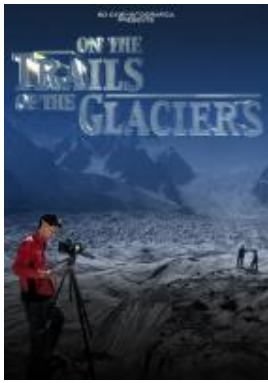
# One year in the lake of Garda

---


**Directed by:** Marco Preti  
**Produced by:** The Coral Climb  
**Duration:** 52 minutes  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

In the centre of north Italy, there is a place famed for the beauty of its landscape, the mildness of its climate, the majesty of its setting. It's a place once popular with the ancient Romans, a piece of the Mediterranean locked away among the imposing mountain chains of the Alps...It's called The Valtenesi. Nestled among the morainic hills and the banks of Lake Garda the Valtenesi stretches from the Gulf of Salo' to the Bay of Desenzano. It contains some ten or so communes, each linked to its own ancient castle: Soiano, Moniga, Manerba, Polpenazze, San Felice, Padenghe. For centuries The Valtenesi was a farming area: beautiful but exceedingly poor. The economic boom linked to tourism has radically changed the nature of the villages and their inhabitants. Fields and vineyards have given way to new housing, residences and hotels. But there's a part of the Valtenesi that's remained intact, romantic, a reminder of a time gone by.





# On the trails of the glaciers

**Directed by:** Different Directors  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 3 x 52 min.  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

Is it really possible to predict the fate of our planet? A famous photographer accompanied by a team of scientists has taken up the challenge: for the first time, three episodes from the most remote glaciers in the world provide visual evidence of the climate change that has occurred over the last century. Years of research have succeeded in uncovering unpublished photographs and film of the early explorations of the twentieth century. These invaluable images, scientifically compared with others taken today from the same perspective, allow experts to establish the "health" of some of the world's largest glaciers, reliable and sensitive indicators of global climate change. Every episode contains surprises. Most glaciers have retreated for kilometres, others have disappeared entirely, while some, on the contrary, are expanding. The adventure, difficulties and particular characteristics of the locations make each episode very different. This thrilling quest travels to Karakorum, the Caucasus, Patagonia, Alaska and the Alps in an attempt to understand the fate of our planet.



**Episodes:**

- On the trails of the glaciers: Mission to Karakorum
- On the trails of the glaciers: mission to Caucasus
- On the trails of the glaciers: Mission to Alaska

# Episodes



## **On the trails of the glaciers: Mission to Karakorum**

A hundred years after the climbing and scientific expedition of Duke of the Abruzzi to the Baltoro glacier in Karakorum, a team of scientists and photographers, lead by photographer and alpinist Fabiano Ventura, is following in his footsteps with the aim of carrying out an accurate analysis of the climate change effects and to compile for the first time a visual record of the transformations that have taken place in the Baltoro glacier during the last century. By comparing Vittorio Sella's and Massimo Terzano's photographs with those of Fabiano Ventura, as well as through data collection on field and laboratory analysis, the purpose of the mission is to highlight the environmental and glacier changes that have taken place over the last century in the most sensitive and relevant system, that is cryosphere. At present, it is widely recognized at scientific as well as at public level that glaciers represent a reliable indicator of the global climate and environmental changes that our planet is experiencing.



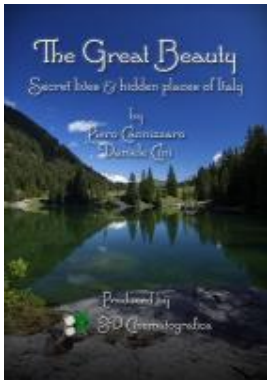
## **On the trails of the glaciers: mission to Caucasus**

After the successful expedition to Karakorum and the Baltoro glacier, photographer Fabiano Ventura and his team of experts continue their mission to study the effects of climate change on the world's largest glaciers. Their latest expedition takes them to the Georgian Caucasus, an area of incomparable beauty rendered inaccessible for decades by the Soviet regime and thus still unspoiled and timeless. For the first time, photographic evidence gathered by the explorers of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century is compared with the same shots taken by Fabiano Ventura, then scientifically analysed to determine the "health" of some of the largest glaciers in the world.



## **On the trails of the glaciers: Mission to Alaska**

After the successful expedition to Karakorum and to Caucasus, photographer Fabiano Ventura and his team of experts continue their mission to study the effects of climate change on the world's largest glaciers. Their next expedition will take them to Alaska. Thanks to the cold weather and the frequent precipitations, glaciers are found in Alaska at low altitudes; they pass through the long valleys and merge just before they arrive at the sea. Their particular characteristics make Alaska's glaciers very interesting from a scientific point of view. Once again, in this documentary, photographic evidence gathered by explorers of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century is compared with the same shots taken by Fabiano Ventura. These are then scientifically analysed to determine the "health" of some of the largest glaciers in the world.



# The Great Beauty

**Directed by:** Piero Cannizzaro, Daniele Cini, Luigi Cammarota, Francesco Adolini, Paolo Sodi, Andrea Frigerio

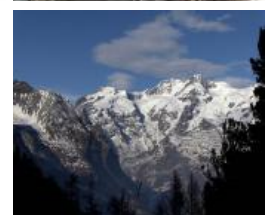
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 89 x 26 min.

**Versions:**

**Format:** HD & UHD

Ours is an age in which a simple click is all it takes to download lots of information, and deepen one's knowledge and learning from the Internet. Today, everything tends to be globalized, to merge, to level cultures, social activity and behaviour. Precisely for this reason, more and more people are looking for "something different", the places lived by curious people from a far off time, rich in squares, theatres, shops, cafes, and restaurants; places of the spirit, inhabited by artisans who are passionate about their work, where people still know how to recognise the slow, beneficial succession of the seasons, where they eat seasonal products, that respect both flavour and health, and enjoy the spontaneity of living together as a community. These reflections, together with a search for little known places in Italy, gave rise to a journey through the "boot" in the middle of the Mediterranean, discovering hidden towns rich in ancient traditions, where the secrets of the delicious local cuisine, traditional crafts and folk music are still passed down from generation to generation by residents who have not given up their cultural identity, or the traditional ways of cultivating the land or riding the waves of the sea that laps at their villages; people who still carry on an "alternative" and "non-globalized" popular culture that otherwise would be lost. This series of documentaries of 26 minutes each explores these places and their characters.



Episodes:												
- Hydro-Eden	- Taormina	- Ischia	-	- Maratea	-	- The	- Filicudi	- The	- Pastures	- The	- The	- A dive
- The landscape with the orange flag	- Stories of Salento between past and present	- Procida	- Lagonegro	- Sambuca di Sicilia	- Benevento	- Paganella	- The Po Delta	- The enchanted forest	- without borders	- The Campobrun Brothers	- The Nebrodi valley	- A dive into the countryside
- Primiero and San Martino di Castrozza	- The Valle d'Agro'	- Modena	- Tiburtina: on the way to dawn	- Peter the hermit	- On the banks of the Sile river	- The shops of Perugia	- The Gran Paradiso National Park	- On the border with the Cinque Terre	- Among the Asolo hills	- The natural balance in the mountains and in the barn	- The Valtellina and surrounding fruit	- A Hidden Treasure of the Apennines
- Val di Fassa	- Tolfa, at the borders of the maremma	- Acireale and Acitrezza	- Cassia, in the heart of Italy	- The unknown Trulli	- In the heart of Veneto	- Trani and Barletta	- The Palù	- Belluno, the shining city	- Pantelleria	- Alpe di Siusi	- Urban	- The summits of the soul
- Wild Maremma	- Stories from the Val d'Aosta mountains	- Madonna di Campiglio	- Aurelia, riding along the sea	- Lecce	- Civita di Bagnoregio	- The white gold of Cervia	- In the east of Sicily	- Salento out of the sea	- The Mocheni Valley	- The New Light on the Alpine Meadows	- Among the Madonie Mountains	- The new inhabitants of Masetti
- The roads toward the salt and the sea	- Gressoney-Sain-Jean	- Vallagarina	- Salaria: with salt towards the mountains	- Molise of traditions	- Cimbra	- Alpe Cimbra	- Pumpkins and carriages of the King	- The other side of Orvieto	- The Land of Accordions	- The Four Valleys of Arezzo	- Under the Forzela dell'Om	- The roots for Renewal
- Crater's pride	- Cesena and Cesenatico	- Pollino national park	- Appia road: Regina viarum				- The Chiese valley	- Walking huts	- ALTO POLESINE, In the Carousel District	- The Baù's Village		
			- Santa Margherita di Belice					- Mantua, a pearl among the lakes		- Builders of Babel		



# Episodes



## Hydro-Eden

There are unexpected places to be found in Italy: there is no need to go to far away countries or seek out unexplored, untamed lands, or even look for them in parks or protected areas. These are places that are created by chance, by a landslide, a flood or other natural disaster that suddenly cuts off an area of land until it is forgotten by man. And so it is given back to the animals, who return as if to their own paradise on earth, no longer fearing even the seasons. A paradise born of the only element able to produce life on its own, a paradise of water.



## The landscape with the orange flag

There's a land between the mountains and the sea, right at the Italian border with France, that recently has become a Regional Park. Its peculiarity, together with the great variety of its environments, is the presence of a landscape that has been colonized by man for centuries and that now has partially gone back to its wilderness: a landscape now protected, which has also been awarded with the Touring club "orange flag" for three of its beautiful villages. A twenty-year old breeder and a young naturalist with a passion for bats, together with a repentant fisherman who studies the river prawns and an old lady who cooks following the ancient tradition of the "white cousine", will guide us in this wonderful park at the border.



## Primiero and San Martino di Castrozza

Dominated by the legendary peaks of the Dolomites, such as the Pale di San Martino, lies the Valle di Primiero, which borders on Veneto and Alto Adige. In winter, among these mountains there are still those who, like Silvana, carry on the snow an authentic relationship between man and nature. Immersed in the scenery of the Paneveggio Natural Park stands, instead, San Martino di Castrozza, loved by nobles and artists, a historic destination for the pioneers of modern alpinism. Around San Martino, the plateaus are covered with old trees, especially firs and pine pines, even sought after by Stradivari for its violins. Nestled in the Valle del Primiero is also the village of Mezzano, where you can admire impressive piles of wood: the famous songs. Stacking is an ancient custom, as is weaving, an art carried on with passion by LUCIA. North of the Valle di Primiero is Siror. Here, the typical flavors are those of the fumada meat, produced for over forty years by the butcher shop inherited by FRANCESCO BONELLI. Another place in the Valley where tradition and creativity walk together is a craft brewery, managed by FABIO together with his friend NICOLA. Between Primiero and San Martino, the flavors are still genuine, like that of the Cheese of Primiero, used in the kitchen by the chef LUCA SIMONI. Among these rock giants, in the Valle del Vanoi, the houses have preserved ancient structures and original elements, such as the frescoes left by passing travelers. Here, CARLA and her husband Ivano, have maintained the customs of the past, when each family raised cattle for their livelihoods. With the advent of modernity, the small breeders gathered and founded the Caseificio di Primiero, where the Trentingrana PDO cheeses and the famous Tosela are produced. These places were frequented even by the Welsperg counts who chose to build a magnificent villa in the park of Paveneggio; but, above all, by the well-known writer Dino Buzzati. A large library, dedicated to him, is present in Villa Welsperg and represents a tribute to the memory of this great man of letters. Finally, in the Valle del Vanoi, MARIANO also decided to carry on a craft business, and build snowshoes for the snow. Thus, surrounded by beauty and admiring these mountains, we can only share the reflection of Dino Buzzati, who was stuck in his notebook: "Are they rocks or are they clouds? Are they true or is it a dream? "





## Val di Fassa

At the north-eastern border of Trentino, surrounded by the mountains of Catinaccio, Sella and Marmolada, lies the Val di Fassa. In a magnificent basin, lies the village of Canazei, with its ancient wooden houses and the charm of many frescoes left by travelers coming from beyond the Alps. Dominated by the Gran Vernel massif, Canazei has preserved unspoiled nature and the inhabitants often perform more than one trade. This is the case of GIACOMO CIOCCHETTI, a winter gaitista and manager of a high altitude estate during the summer. In Val di Fassa, in the past, during the long winters, the peasants carved small handicrafts with wood, an activity also dedicated to DAVIDE DEFLORIAN, which also sculpts the famous wooden masks worn during the characteristic carnival of Penia. Also in this country, the architecture of the houses refers to a mythological peasant universe, when the dwellings rested on a solid wooden foundation. Today, there are still those who, like Maddalena, live respecting the customs of their ancestors. In the modern Caseificio Sociale Val di Fassa, on the other hand, local farmers bring milk, which is useful for producing the soft Tosela cheese and the typical Puzzone di Moena, known for its aroma. In the heart of the Dolomites, the Fassa cuisine has its roots in the traditional flavors, also loved by the chef PAOLO. Coming down from Canazei, at the end of Val Duron, one arrives in the village of Pian. Protected for its value and still inhabited, the town preserves some ancient bread ovens. They recall the memory when bread was prepared from all over the country, which met in the homes of families who had one. This old custom is remembered by ELISABETTA. In this valley, when the snow falls, to reach the high altitude shelters is necessary the snowmobile, which is also used by the managers of the old shelter Gardeccia, born in 1902. Built at 1950 meters in height in heart of the Catinaccio, surrounded by spectacular spiers like the Towers of Vajolet and the Cliffs of Larséc, the refuge belongs to the De Silvestro family. Center of the culture of Fassa, this land has preserved the Ladin language, officially recognized as a linguistic minority, also taught in schools. He has a vocabulary and a grammar, but only a few inhabitants continue to speak it. Among these is MARTINA IORI, an emerging singer-songwriter. His music accompanies us at the end of this journey in Val Fassa, among the Dolomites landscapes that at sunset are colored red and give an explosion of light that radiates the horizon ...



## Wild Maremma

In the territory alongside the ancient Aurelia road, we follow the daily routine of some of its inhabitants, who live their lives in a strong relationship with nature. A land of surprising beauty, inhabited by wolves, wild boars and a beautiful bird of prey, the harrier. Their nests are in constant danger, as they are hidden between the sheaves of wheat and might be destroyed by the threshing machines. We're just 100 km off Rome, but there is still space for some of the most beautiful wild landscapes in Italy.



## The roads toward the salt and the sea

The ancient Roman roads are one of the most fascinating and longlasting infrastructures in the world. Most of these roads derive from the ancient roads of salt, connecting the coasts to the mountain regions, where this precious resource couldn't be found. At dawn, salt flats are populated by flamingos, little egrets and shelducks, all of them birds of rare elegance. Going south to reach the environment of the Roman coast natural reserve, we can see the damages caused to the underwater resources by the trawlers throughout the years. Entire grassfields of posidonia, a submarine plant that constitutes a "natural lung" of the sea, where most of the fish lay their eggs, has been eradicated.



## Crater's pride

100 km off of Rome, we can find the largest crater in Europe: the lake of Bolsena. It was the center of a rich ancient population, the Etruscans, and this territory is now inhabited by people who really love their territory, and who do everything they can in order to preserve their traditions and their history, even in its most obscure and unsettling aspects. Like the story of the two not easily reachable islands at the center of the lake, dominated by obscure legends about brutal murders, cruel penances and magical doors to hell.



### **Taormina**

Since ancient times, many legends have spoken of the origin of the name of Taormina, this beautiful town of “a thousand beauties” founded in 358 BC on Mount Tauron by Greeks from Naxos, one of the most ancient Greek colonies on the island. The inhabitants of Tauromenium were so influenced by this colony that they built the famous Greek Theatre, now a symbol of the city. But Taormina is much more than breath-taking views, stunning coves and lush flora. Particularly beautiful architectural monuments can be found in its streets and among its old buildings, remnants of the various powers that, over the centuries, created the history of the city, like the Romans, Arabs and Bourbons. But today as yesterday, it is the majestic volcano Etna that looms over the town, seeming to rule over the fate of the men. And Taormina, in the past as in the present, continues to be part of its kingdom.



### **Stories of Salento between past and present**

The sun, the sea, the wind. It is the nature that strikes you when you arrive in this narrow strip of land that stretches between two seas. Dry stone walls, olive trees, fields of wheat, sand and pebbles beaches. This stretch of Puglia, the Salento, is famous worldwide for its ancient traditions, Mediterranean landscapes and the mystery of an ancient culture. The Salento continues to enchant travellers who cross it with the charm of its legends and the many secrets hidden within the walls of its historic remains. A place of sounds, songs and folk music located at the extreme south of the Italian peninsula, once a magnificent harbour for ships from the East, it still retains a great artistic heritage and an atmosphere that, more than any other, preserves the sense of its origins. In this corner of the Mediterranean, the atmosphere remains unique, wonder overwhelms reality, human rhythms meet those of nature and are repeated as in an ancestral ritual.



### **The Valle d'Agro'**

The Valle d'Agro lies on the eastern slopes of Mount Peloritani, in the Province of Messina and owes its name to the river that ploughs a furrow along its entire length. Beautiful landscapes, endless horizons, clear sea, verdant countryside, centuries-old Sicilian traditions that are still very much part of the present: this strip of Sicily allows us to “plunge into the emotions of the past” and is still influenced by a number of deep-rooted cultures, both sacred and profane. Due to the nature of its territory and of its position, the Valle d'Agro has been a crossroads where many powers have met: Greek, Roman, Arab, Byzantine, Norman and Bourbon. Today as yesterday, it retains a great artistic heritage and excellent culinary tradition, linked to the products of the land and of the sea. Here the legends of the past have become the present reality.



### **Tolfa, at the borders of the maremma**

We will travel through one of the most important natural areas of the southern part of the Maremma, in a borderland where the marshes ends and the terrain becomes more rugged. With its 17,000 hectares of pristine land near Tolfa, its value is also recognised by Europe, being identified as a Site of Community Interest and a Special Protection Area. The Maremma pastures are very characteristic, with horses and cows still grazing freely in the oak forests. Almost all the land is publicly owned and the forests and pastures are managed for civic use.



### **Stories from the Val d'Aosta mountains**

The charm of the Val d'Aosta mountains is timeless: simply stop in the ancient capital of the valley and look upward and gasp, enchanted by the beauty and hues of Europe's highest peaks. The Matterhorn, the Gran Paradiso, Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa frame the blue sky and make the valley – with its approximately 330 km of mountains – one of nature's masterpieces, with its glaciers, forests and valleys stretching as far as the eye can see.



### **Gressoney-Saint-Jean**

Beneath the beautiful Monte Rosa mountain chain, which lies between the boundaries of Valle d'Aosta and Switzerland, is the Gressoney valley and the town of Gressoney-Saint-Jean, home to the Walser culture. Handed down from archaic populations of Germanic origin that settled on the slopes of this beautiful Alpine region during the Middle Ages, the Walser culture and its oral traditions have a timeless appeal. From the ingenious architecture of its wooden houses to its Germanic cuisine, from the mysterious "Titsch" language spoken by their German ancestors and the characteristic costumes and headdresses, the Gressoney valley has carefully guarded its ancient roots as well as the beauty of its mountains, also beloved by Queen Margherita of Savoy. Among those who refuse to give up their cultural identity, we find Rudy, a craftsman who works wood just as his father did, Signora Mercedes, who guards the secrets of the Gressoney cuisine, and Carla, a skilled seamstress who designs typical Walser costumes and also teaches skiing. Finally, great ski champions like Arianna Follis, World Gold and former Olympic champion cross-country skiing, and Federico Pellegrino, five times world cross-country champion, live and train in Gressoney.



### **Cesena and Cesenatico**

A fascinating journey through this magical land and through its history, which winds between the past and the present. An extraordinary historic centre, churches and buildings of great artistic value, ancient walls, towers, fortresses and abbeys founded in the mists of time: these are the first images that welcome visitors to Cesena. A port dating back to the sixteenth century, a medieval tower, ancient columns, historic memories and maritime traditions: this is Cesenatico. In our journey we meet characters who live in Cesena and Cesenatico and who guard their cultural identity like a precious treasure.



### **Ischia**

A wonderful island of volcanic origin overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea, the largest and most enchanting in the Gulf of Naples: this is Ischia. A world of beautiful landscapes, of ancient settlers, spas, monuments and gorgeous sunsets, Ischia has an ancient history. The documentary is an extraordinary journey through the most fascinating places on the island and tells the stories of some island characters who, today as yesterday, continue to carry on their traditions, to carefully guard their customs and traditions, and respect their cultural identity.



### **Procida**

Procida with its multi-coloured houses, its rich vegetation that blends with the typical Mediterranean architecture, its limpid, glimmering sea and beautiful coastal rocks, offers visitors breath-taking views. The documentary focuses on the natural beauty of the island, trying to capture the rich charm of its history and the ways and customs of Procidan culture.



### **Modena**

In ancient Emilia, there is still a city on a human scale, where the charm of history sits alongside the works of modern artists: it is Modena. The central streets evoke the splendor of the Middle Ages and the exceeding greatness of its monuments, such as the Duomo and the Ghirlandina Tower, two true masterpieces built centuries ago. City founded over many channels, such as the historic Canal Chiaro where there were numerous workshops of master tanners, Modena still has many traditions. Modena has given birth to Luciano Pavarotti and is considered the capital of music "beat", born between the counters and the tables of the legendary "Italian Bar". Outside the city walls, however, the rhythms and habits are still marked by the cycle of the seasons, as eight centuries ago, and the characteristics of its food, such as Parmigiano Reggiano, retain the same authenticity of time. In the province of Modena coexist, however, different universes, like the passion for mechanics and the myth of speed, embodied by the timeless legend of Ferrari.



### **Acireale and Acitrezza**

Acireale lies in the shadow of the majestic Mount Etna and with its beautiful narrow streets, ancient houses and the lava portals with masks, it is a charming town, known for its delicious rice timbales called arancini. One of the most exciting events of the island folklore, is the Carnival of Acireale. Another beautiful seaside village is Acitrezza. Every night here opens the old "Fish Market". There you will find the most varied species of fish, from tuna caught off the stacks, swordfish, seafood, the white bream, amberjack from sardine. For the inhabitants of these small towns to preserve their identities is a value that must be safeguarded. They do not intend to give up to their roots, despite the historical and social transformations.



### **Madonna di Campiglio**

In winter, the magic of the Dolomites and the Trentino Alps enchants travelers: just look at its snow-capped peaks to be enchanted by the beauty of landscapes. Surrounded by the Presanella glaciers, stands the beautiful Madonna di Campiglio, an elegant resort set at 1,550 meters altitude, one of the most renowned villages in the entire Arco Alpino, famous not only for its beautiful nature and its skiing facilities but also Even for keeping the richness of its culture. Few steps away from the town center, you can admire lakes, streams, mountain pastures and shelters, which keep the memories of heroic gestures.



### **Vallagarina**

In the south of Trentino, on the border with the beautiful countryside of Verona and Vicenza, there are some magnificent valleys where dominate uncontaminated landscapes and secular traditions. Vallagarina was also one of the most significant theaters of the First World War on the Italian-Austrian front.



### **Pollino national park**

In Pollino National Park, between Basilicata and Calabria, there are numerous water springs, protagonists of the beauty of the landscapes. This territory is, however, well-known for the sulfur waters of "thermal baths", which have always given health and well-being due to their mineral properties. In this universe marked by the repetition of the seasons, the paths still breathe the fascination of the customs and culture of the peoples who live in the Pollino Park



### **Lagonegro**

In the area of Basilicata, between the Vallo di Diano and Pollino Park, stands the suggestive Massif of Sirino, a group of mountains of the Apennines. In this hidden place of Basilicata, modernity is advancing but the bells still mark the rhythms of these peoples of the south, a crossroads of civilizations influenced by the Greek and Saracen, Roman and Bourbon cultures.



### **Tiburtina: on the way to dawn**

In the heart of the capital there is a square with ruins now inhabited only by cats, from which one of the oldest Roman consular roads started: the Tiburtina road. The aim of this road, at the beginning, was only that of uniting the Capital to an older city of Rome itself, following the course of the river Aniene: the city of Tivoli.



### **Cassia, in the heart of Italy**

Cassia road crosses the center of Italy and from 2,000 years its path winds through a landscape of extraordinary beauty. Starting from Florence and descending towards Rome, the scenery enchants the gaze that rests on the rows of cypress trees, on the hills, on the castles and on the lands of different colors.



### **Aurelia, riding along the sea**

From the Gianicolo hill, where the magnificence of Rome is captured, the Ancient Aurelia began, the largest of the great consular roads, which in the Imperial era, even reached Arles, in France. Outside the perimeter of Rome, the ancient consular road runs along the sea near the Norman castle of Santa Severa, built around the year 1000. From Santa Severa, the mountains of Tolfa begin, and the road is lost inside the heart of the Lazio Maremma. Although the ancient Aurelia no longer exists in the form it had at the time of the Romans, the places it passes through still bear its memory, a certain flavor and perhaps even the traces of the horses that have traveled through the centuries.



### **Salaria: with salt towards the mountains**

There is a material that, from the dawn of time, was extracted from the sea and sold to the peoples of the mountains, as precious as gold: salt. And yet today, if one names the Via Salaria, the Roman consular road that was used to transport it, no one thinks of it in the halls. But the road, over the centuries has united two peoples (the Romans and the Sabines) and two seas (the Tyrrhenian and the Adriatic) as a way of continuous exchange of goods and activities. Like the olive oil, which in Sabina is the main product, with archaic oil mills like that of Marco, at Poggio San Lorenzo, or the ford to dye the fabrics, as Alberto shows us, who cultivates it at the edge of Lake Ripasottile, in the plain of Rieti. A road that climbs the mountains, reaches the areas affected by the earthquake of Amatrice, where volunteers like Roberto help farmers like Amelia and her brothers, to resume activities destroyed by the earthquake. A path that after passing Lazio and Abruzzo reaches the Marche in Ascoli, where Miro and Ottavio climb huge oaks and plane trees to be able to deliver them to eternity, with a careful work of arboriculture. A road that reaches the Adriatic after cutting "the navel of Italy", the exact center of the peninsula and reminding, even in the name, what is today the "salt of life": solidarity for those who are going through difficult times and a cure that thinks of the future, of the generations to come.





### **Appia road: Regina viarum**

At the time of the Republic, three centuries before Christ, the censor Appius Claudius the Blessed built one of the great consular roads, which depart from Rome, perhaps the most beautiful. The Appian Way, 120 years later, will arrive in Brindisi, opening its doors to the East: it was since then called the "Queen Viarum", the queen of the streets. Just a stone's throw from Rome, when it is still one of the most beautiful urban parks in the world, a young graduate in mathematics, Silvia Brannetti, has inherited the family winery and produces wine and organic oil working from morning to night. It is the wine route that climbs into the Roman Castles, where a brilliant composer, Giorgio Battistelli, devised a concert made only by ancient craftsmen who live in this area. Alfredo the cooper and Antonio the selciaiolo, are two of the performers of this show made only of noises: a great fresco to the dignity of the craftsman work. The road then continues in the Pontine plain at the foot of the Lepini mountains where we meet the city of Cori, where Vito builds stained glass windows and Caterina, with his brother Vincenzo, stuffs chairs as is ancient family tradition: so widespread a time, next to the marshes and reeds, to give a name to the road, which here is called "strammari". Continuing towards Campania, we meet one of the most extraordinary gardens in Europe, a "plant monument" appreciated by writers and artists from all over the world. A place that can not leave indifferent. Stella Catani, wife of her administrator and Roberta, a gardener, introduce us to her marvels. And that shows how our heritage, when treated with love, can go through history and remain intact for future generations. Just like that consular road, the ancient Appia, which two thousand years later, continues to remain the most beautiful of all roads: the Regina Viarum.



### **Santa Margherita di Belice**

Land of "The Leopard" and its author, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, Santa Margherita di Belice rises southwest of Sicily, at the confluence of the provinces of Palermo and Agrigento. Among the narrow streets, the flavors and aromas of the past reign; in the bakeries, tumminia bread is baked, a local variety of aromatic wheat. There are numerous typical sweets, linked to the centenary confectionery tradition of the Belicin families. Santa Margherita di Belice has always been an agricultural country and, not far from the center, there is Solì, a place specialized in the production of artisanal preserves. Another typical crop of the area is prickly pear. In addition, until the nineteenth century, the donkey lived in the stable next to the peasant family and "washed" it with a special machine called "muli-lavaggio", the only one of its kind in Italy. Instead, between symbolism and sacredness, there is the artistic production of this country and its sounds, which recall the story of banditry. Thus, a journey through the beauties of Santa Margherita di Belice, also represents a journey through the ancient Sicilian culture.



### **Maratea**

Set in the Gulf of Policastro and overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea, Maratea is a town of Basilicata with legendary beauty thanks to its landscapes and the heady scents that cover it in every corner. Overlooking the blue sea and the green of the Mediterranean vegetation, it embraces the rocky cliff and the surrounding nature. Entering its ancient historical center, enriched by portals and alleys, arches and eighteenth-century buildings, caves and towers, you can reach, thanks to an old coast, also the top of Mount San Biagio, on which stands "The Christ of Maratea", a statue second in size only to that of Rio de Janeiro. In an alley of the historic center, instead, you can taste the old flavors of the past, like the typical bocconotti biscuits. To enhance the beauty of the city is its port, where Maratea has preserved a universe linked to fishing and maritime activities, as well as customs, traditions and knowledge related to an ancient peasant world, which has always coexisted with the traditions of the coast.



### **Sambuca di Sicilia**

In Sicilia, in the province of Agrigento, Sambuca di Sicilia lies at the foot of Mount Adranone, on a hill sloping down towards the Orange Lake. Here, among the cultivated hills, vineyards and golden wheat stand out. In addition, the grape has excelled in quality since it was brought by the conquering peoples, the Greeks, the Arabs and the Phoenicians. Entering the alleys of the old town, it turns out that Sambuca was built on an Arab architectural structure. Besides the courtyards, artists and craftsmen work in the bazaars, creating works of art, textile sculptures, ceramics and pottery. In addition, the flavors of the past are handed down, like those of the "minni di virgini", the typical shortcrust pastry. Outside the walls, in the quiet of nature, ancient culinary traditions can be found, such as those linked to the Vastedda del Belice, the only spun cheese in Italy. In the Masserie, it is produced at kilometer zero. Between present and past, Sambuca tries to bring forward a deep link between the history of the territory and popular wisdom.





### **Peter the hermit**

Is it possible in 2000 to live without electricity, without television, without a telephone, without internet? Pietro has lived for over 25 years in a hut lost in the mountains of central Apennines, far from everything and everyone. We follow him in his days, in his difficulties and in the pleasures that nature reserves him. And when, at the end of the shooting, we leave him in "his kingdom" we start to share his choice!



### **Pescasseroli**

Pescasseroli, a small jewel of the Abruzzese Apennines in the province of L'Aquila, is immersed in the nature of the Monti Marsicani, 1167 meters high. A place that the writer Dacia Maraini frequents assiduously, where she often takes refuge to write. Here was born in 1866 Benedetto Croce, philosopher and writer. During the winter months, the country and the nature that surrounds it have learned to live with the snow. Rich in beech woods, Pescasseroli is also the cradle of the National Park of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise, as well as old crafts.



### **The unknown Trulli**

The Valle d'Itria, in the Murge plateau, in Puglia, hosts one of the most bizarre forms of habitation that man has maintained until today: the trulli. The town of Alberobello is certainly the place that has preserved the most and for their maintenance an art has developed that has specialized over time: the art of master trullari. At Locorotondo, the same structure develops into another type of construction: cummersa. The Valle d'Itria then plunges from the plateau to Fasano, where in ancient caves excavated in the tuff reborn in a living crib, the ancient crafts of this area so attached to the traditions: from the underground oil mills to the cultivation of the queen tomato, an excellence of the area.



### **Lecce**

Lecce, the Pearl of Salento, the Florence of the South, is one of the southern cities most visited by tourists, second only to Naples. Perhaps the aspect that most attracts, already in the floral baroque of its churches and in the elegance of its palaces, is the feeling of a city always in celebration. From the works in Lecce stone of an original stonemason to those in colored wrought iron, passing through the terracotta whistles and the art of papier-mâché, the city is filled with lights and lights up the overwhelming energy of a band a little out of the normal.



### **Molise of traditions**

Molise is one of those regions known to few, also because its mountainous shape and the absence of large cities, keeps it outside the main routes. In these evocative but isolated landscapes, traditional activities unique in Italy are maintained. Like that of the construction of the bagpipes, in Scapoli, a village on the border with Lazio and Abruzzo. Or the art of lace, kept by the women of Isernia as well as the perforated steel in Campobasso. But the most significant capital for Molise craftsmanship remains the city of Agnone, where the art of copper develops alongside the oldest bell foundry in Italy, an authentic glimpse of the Middle Ages that has remained intact to this day.



### **Benevento**

The Sannio of Benevento area develops between Campania, Molise and Puglia. In this strategic crossroads between different populations, the Samnites have developed some artisan excellences that have allowed them to trade and develop more than any other province of Campania: as in Cerreto Sannita, where after a terrible earthquake, an economy of reconstruction was reborn that has favored the flowering of local ceramics, or to San Marco dei Cavoti, which has become the home of torrone and croccantino, or to Sant'Agata dei Goti, in the center of an important wine-growing valley, where one of the most prized Campanian wines has developed: Falanghina. But the center of this Samnite land remains Benevento, a city full of history and dominated by a legendary figure that inspires one of its most famous liqueurs, the witch.



### **Anacapri**

Anacapri is located in the highest part of the famous island of Capri, opposite the Gulf of Naples. Until the end of the nineteenth century, there was only the "Phoenician scale" that connected the two parts of the territory. Today, a chairlift leads to Mount Solaro from which you can admire a breathtaking view. A short distance away, lies the valley of Cetrella where the hermitage of Santa Maria in Cetrella stands, guarded by OTTAVIO RUSSO. From here, an ancient trail reaches the home of the famous writer Compton Mackenzie. The name of the island, however, comes from the widespread presence of goats. In the Orric Valley, on the other hand, there are cultivated impressive olive trees that overlook the "path of the Fortini", dotted with the majolicas in the shape of a book by the master SERGIO RUBINO. In Anacapri, however, there are also those who, like JOHN ANASTASIO, have chosen the fisherman's craft while the most famous attraction is the extraordinary Blue Cave. For its beauty, the island has always fascinated the world of cinema and modernity was introduced also thanks to taxis brought by the family of ANTONIO DE GREGORIO. Climbing to the top of Anacapri, you can visit the fabulous Villa San Michele while in the area of the Migliera stands the "Philosophical Park". IN this lovely area also lives ANTONIO PARLATO, nature lover and blacksmith by profession. Among southern spices and scents, Lena Gargiulo cooks the typical "Goat ravioli", a symbol of the island. Another important artistic testimony is found in the Baroque Church of St. Michael Archangel, which preserves prestigious majolicate floor and an organ from the 1800s. Finally, Anacapri continues to celebrate life thanks to the cheerful tarantelles composed in this land...



### **On the banks of the Sile river**

The Trevisan lands are crossed by the Sile River, the longest resurgence waterway in Europe. In Treviso, the deep relationship between the city and the river, is evidenced by the presence of the canals, but also by its mercantile history. In fact, not far from the Lodge of the Knights, stands the Fishmonger, a famous fish market, where the protagonists are stockfish and cod. Stefano Zanotto, manager of a historic inn, is also here, a type of restaurant that in Treviso is a real institution. Leaving the city, you will meet the Cervara Oase, where Erminio Ramponi works, engaged in the recovery of the nesting of storks. But also the element of fire belongs to the tradition of this area and is carried on by the sailor Marco Varisco, who inherited it from his forearms. In the Trevisan countryside, however, you can also find the prized white Asparagus of Badoere, while, from a passion for flight by Giancarlo Zanardo, the Foundation "Jonathan Collection" was born, which collects a series of models of historical aircraft. Even today, some fly over the Piave, the scene of the heroic events of the Great War. In Castelfranco Veneto, where the wounded were sheltered from the front, the castle city maintained its ancient military structure. Along the banks of the Sile there has also been a passion for craft boats and, among those who delight in using it on the river, there is Stefano Marini. Finally, these valleys and their culture inspired the songs of the Male Choir "Voices of the Sile", directed by Raffaella Pupo in Quinto di Treviso.



### **In the heart of Veneto**

Valdobbiadene and the famous "prosecco road" represent a beautiful natural amphitheatre set in the hills of the high Treviso brand. In this land full of avian panoramas, lives CHRISTIAN ZANATTA, who dedicates himself to the production of prosecco in the vineyard of Bastia of Mondeserto. In this area, there are also the ancient hills of Cartizze, where the clay soil and a ventilated microclimate, generate an extraordinary oasis for the production of a unique and valuable wine. Nestled in these millennial atmospheres, he also works PASQUAL REBULI, a "cechèr" profession, a craftsman who makes traditional wooden shoes in his workshop. The values of this historic valley are also reflected in the eyes of LUIGIA RUGGERI, who recently celebrated her 107th birthday and who lived, firsthand, the "refugee". In Guia, on the other hand, there is GINO BUSO, called "Scarpèr", "one of the last cobblers" in the area, witnessing a job that is disappearing. Further on, in Bigolino di Valdobbiadene, the protection of the coastal territory is carried out by the sculptor GIOACCHINO VETTORELLO, known as "Gioki". In the area of the Piave, on which the trunks used to build part of Venice were transported, Gioki selects the most suitable sauces for his works of art. Finally, here is still alive the tradition of choral singing, carried out by the "Coro di Valdobbiadene", which combines the memory of the past with innovation.



### **Civita di Bagnoregio**

The first lights of the sun penetrate the morning haze of the Calanchi Valley, a land out of time located in upper Lazio, between Lake Bolsena and the Tiber Valley. In the middle of the valley stands Civita di Bagnoregio: an ancient village gathered on the summit of a spur that is inexorably corroding year after year.



### **The white gold of Cervia**

The history of Cervia is inextricably linked to salt. Salt is life, the white gold of our civilization since the most remote centuries. Cervia is the northernmost salt pan in Italy and covers approximately 827 hectares. Using expert workers, we then go through the various stages of processing, from "cavadura" to washing, after which the product is ready to be sold on the market: the sweet salt of Cervia. The techniques used are the artisan ones, following a solid tradition that has its roots in the past and which, using modern support machinery, guarantees the constant excellence of the product. The basins are also immersed in a vast natural area protected by the Emilia Romagna region, in which we dive to enjoy the varied ecosystem that the Parco della Salina di Cervia Society undertakes daily to preserve.



### **Alpe Cimbra**

In Trentino, between Folgaria, Lavarone and Luserna, lies the Alpe Cimbra, one of the largest pastures in Europe, a place full of charm during the winter. The Alpe Cimbra has always been a land of great champions of skiing, such as Giulio Corradi, who today works wood, but who was part of the mythical "blue avalanche"; or as Aldo Forrer, "kilometer launched" champion. Near the village of Guardia, known as the painted country, Florian Grott, a wood sculptor who draws inspiration from nature, also lives and works. Among these mountains, we still speak the cimbro, an archaic language introduced by the Bavarian settlers around the year 1000, which the expert Andrea Nicolussi Golo considers a great cultural treasure. Above Luserna there is also the "Refuge Malga Campo", where traditional dishes such as "potato polenta" are cooked. On Lake Lavarone, on the other hand, every year "Under Ice" takes place, an event dedicated to diving under the ice. Myths and legends surround the atmosphere of San Sebastiano di Folgaria, where stands the Maso Guez, a farm run by Andrea Incani that breeds two breeds of goats: the Camosciata of the Alps and the Blonde of the Adamello. In addition, Andrea created the "slambrot" cheese, dedicating it to the ancient dialect spoken by the shepherds of these valleys, where the "first snow cat" was also invented. Finally, the Martinella Choir of Serrada was founded here. His repertoire spans every part of the world and celebrates the union and friendship between peoples.



### **The Paganella**

La Paganella is a beautiful Trentino plateau nestled in the Dolomites of Brenta, enclosed between the villages of Andalo, Molveno, Cavedago, Spormaggiore and Fai della Paganella. In winter, among the majestic snow-capped rocks, Franco Nicolini and his sons Elena and Federico, practice ski mountaineering with passion, a sport in which the Nicolini family has accomplished great feats and won numerous medals. A lover of these resorts, is Simone Elmi, an alpine guide and an experienced climber. His goal is to make people understand that we are all the same in front of the mountain. Traveling through the paths of these valleys, you reach Lake Molveno, the deepest of Trentino. Overlooking the ancient fir trees, the village of Andalo. Here lives and works Graziano Costner, one of the discoverers of the original drafting of the "rule card", dating back to 1623, which offers an insight into the way of life of the ancestors of these villages. On the slopes of Andalo, "Bibliogloo" was built, the first Italian library created on the ski resorts, at 1333 meters high. In "Laghet-Pra di Gaggia", on the other hand, there is a Chalet run by Ottavio Sartori, which preserves the secrets of the recipes of the local gastronomy. Thanks to the regular and un turbulent winds, the Paganella peaks are also a coveted destination for paragliding champions, such as Luca Donini and his son Nicola, who launch themselves from the highest peaks. Finally, in Molveno was founded, in 1951, the choir "Campanil Bas", one of the longest and most significant choirs of the Trentino choral tradition.



### **The shops of Perugia**

From the central Piazza IV November with the beautiful Fountain Major to the Cathedral of St. Lawrence; From the Palace of Priors (with the College of Change frescoed by Perugino) to the Arc, the walls and the Etruscan well, Perugia is one of the beautiful Italian regional capitals. We tell about this beautiful city through 5 enterprising women who have managed to keep standing in the historic center of Perugia extraordinary craft activities, conveying centuries-old traditions. Marta, with her twenty eighteenth-century frames inside a deconsecrated church, Antonietta who disseminates her ceramics in the city, Luisa, who transmits the chocolate art of the eponymous great-grandmother, Annamaria and her sister, in a gynecologist of upholsterers and finally Magdalene, refined artist of historical stained glass descending from a family that has written pages of the history of Peruvian art. 5 women who tell their city through the ages.



## **The Sorrento Peninsula**

There are places that have entered everyone's imagination because of their beauty. Sorrento is one of them, and as the song says, once you leave, you can't wait to go back. Pearl of the homonymous peninsula, Sorrento encloses in its center, arranged on a tuff cliff, a great level of artisan expertise. From intarsi to terracotta, from the art of tuff processing to boating, to limoncello, the most typical product extracted from its unparalleled lemons, the most widespread fruit plant in its entire territory. A poignant territory, where you would always like to return...



## **Trani and Barletta**

Trani is one of the most important ports in Puglia, protagonist in recent years of a significant urban recovery. In spring, its beauty dazzles travelers. Here, the brothers Cristoforo and Pasquale Pastore produce an ancient Moscato and you can meet Francesco Caffarella, passionate about this city, one of the first "slow cities", famous as "the city of stone". The first maritime code was born in Trani, while today its relationship with the sea is also enhanced by the Naval League. Trani was the cradle of religions, such as the Jewish one, and the Orthodox one, with the church of San Martino. There is also the Catholic community, with the magnificent Cathedral and the Church of All Saints, built by the Knights Templar. Facing the sea, there is the Museum of Typewriters, while, towards Andria, among monumental olive trees, Savino Muraglia obtains excellent oils from the Coratina and Peranzana olive varieties. Not far away, in the historic Barletta, Constantina Loscocco creates original historical costumes. Finally, in the footsteps of Astor Piazzolla and his special bond with Trani, we follow the writer Maria Pagnotta and the Maestro Rosario Mastroserio.



## **Euganei Hills**

There is a magical corner in the Veneto that is neither plain nor mountain, and where, in an enchanting landscape designed by unusual reliefs of volcanic origin, you will meet ancient villages, among the most beautiful in Italy. It's the Euganei Hills. Arquà, the city where Francesco Petrarca spent his last years of life, seems to be built in harmony with his verses. Around, the spring landscape presents the richness of its products: from the meadows of lavender to the peas of the famous "risi and bisi", to the jugulars from which a liqueur syrup is extracted that they call "the broth - precisely - of jugulars, the workshops and countryside of this Regional park, transmit the care and industriousness of its inhabitants. You can also feel it from the sumptuous villas surrounded by spectacular gardens, in this land that curiously reminds many - and not only Petrarca - Tuscany: almond and olive vines, vapours and thermal waters, which continually remind the traveler of the volcanic origin. Tangible signs that remain in the mines of trachite, a two-tone marble with which St. Mark's Square was paved in Venice, or in the clay quarries, which through a dense network of canals reached Este, where for centuries refined ceramics are produced. And through the beauty of these artifacts, we discover that in this somewhat special territory, work also has its own side of poetry.



## **The island of Alicudi**

The Sicilian island of Alicudi, in the Aeolian Archipelago, has preserved a wild atmosphere since primordial times, when it was an active volcano. In summer, his days are punctuated by the noise of fishermen's boats, such as that of SILVIO TARANTO who has a deep connection with his island. In Alicudi, the western part is dominated by goats while, on the eastern side, the houses can only be reached on old mule tracks. On the island there are no roads, and mules carry heavy material. Piero VIRGONA is dedicated to these animals with great passion. The Arcudari have always learned to survive in this difficult place, as PINO LA MANCUSA did, which entertains tourists in the summer while his wife ADRIANA prepares some fish specialties. Teresa Perre, who was the teacher of Alicudi, also lives here, in the "smallest school in Italy". Today, the school has 8 students and also houses a library dedicated to the journalist "Franco Scaglia". As for the old trails, recently, they have been traced through a mapping that allows you to explore the island by trekking. At high altitude, the archudara AURORA BARBUTO lives, which, among many tasks, is also dedicated to the collection of capers. On the other hand, the problem of the lack of springs has been solved in part by means of a rainwater collection system in the housing tanks. The island has always attracted people looking for a particular existential dimension, such as the intellectual ANDREA BARZINI, while he chose to work here only in the summer, the Aeolian weaver PAOLA COSTANZO. Finally, in Alicudi there are no street lights and the only night lights come from private homes.





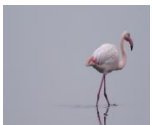
## Barbagia (Sardinia)

There is a Sardinian saying that reads as follows: "feel how beautiful the breath of the wind, the rustling of leaves between the branches of the trees and the singing of birds; but without the sound of "tonara cowbells" this Sardinia of ours would not be so beautiful." In the heart of Sardinia, in the barbagia mountains, in a wild and primitive territory lives a shepherd, Gigi Sanna, frontman of the musical band Istentales, an ethno-pop formation born in the mid-90s, with a great following and boasting collaborations with artists such as Nomadi, Francesco Guccini, Tullio De Piscopo and others. The name Istentales comes from a star in the constellation Orion that since ancient times was used by peasants as a reference point for sowing and harvesting, and by shepherds to conduct flocks. Here in Barbagia the agropastoral culture and traditions of Sardinian identity translate into sounds and music not only through the songs of the Istentales. Another musician, Gianni Atzori invented an instrument, the erbekofono, made of cowbells, played with a sheep bone, whose name can be translated into "sound of the sheep". He, drummer, son of shepherds turned the bond with his land into music: "I was used to the sound of cowbells, it was all inside me, I just had to make it." The pure sound of cowbells transports us directly between the pastures and listening to it with closed eyes you can almost feel the breeze of the fields touching our skin. When the "fannu treulu" flocks pass, they make a fuss. In these pastures, however, this tinkle is granted, like an orchestra, according to the characteristics of the valley, the mountain and the territory where sheep from one sheepfold usually graze rather than another. Even, cowbells have different shades depending on the temperament and singularities of each sheep, so that its shepherd can recognize its movements and behavior even just by listening to the symphony composed by his flock. To tune these cowbells, these "sonaggios and pittiolos" is Marco Floris, a blacksmith who in his workshop in Tonara, makes from the cold bronze bells that return to those who listen to her the warmth of the mother land. And tuning happens in a singular way. Each breeder, musical expert of his flock, stands outside Marco's workshop and with his ear outstretched tells him if the shade is the right one, so Marco widens or tightens the volume of the sound vase to find the unique and inimitable sound of each sheep, unique and inimitable as any living being.



## Filicudi

Filicudi is a Sicilian island of the Aeolian Archipelago, an archaic and volcanic land, which in summer is surrounded by the colors of the Mediterranean scrub. In 3,000 BC, the first settlements appeared at the prehistoric site of Cape Gratin, where goats were sacrificed to ingratiate themselves with the gods. Since the end of the nineteenth century, many filicudari have emigrated abroad, but there are also those who, like the fisherman GIUSEPPE TARANTO, have chosen to stay. On this impervious island, where electric light arrived in 1986 and, until the sixties, we moved only on old mule tracks, lives PIETRO ANASTASI. It was the postman of the island and remembers the time when there were oil lights and water was recovered from the wells. Today, however, the supply of water is guaranteed by the tanker that arrives on the island. Some tasty culinary recipes have always been handed down here, such as those of the delicious Spicchitedda biscuits. In addition, in the district of Val di Chiesa, IONA BERTUCCIO lives, engaged - together with his son DOMENICO MAZZA and other family members - in the cultivation of vineyards, from which malvasia also obtains. In the district of Serro, on the other hand, annuzza CAPPADONA lives, expert in the conservation of vegetables that grow on terraces. In recent years, thanks to the routes created by GIUSI MURABITO, Filicudi can be explored through an "experiential trek", which allows you to relax and immerse yourself in the local culture, among landscapes enriched with pears of India. Finally, in a cave carved into the mountain, lives GISBERT LIPPELT, a former German naval officer, who had the courage to abandon everything to devote himself to contemplative life.



## The Po Delta

The Po Delta, a national park where the waves of the sea mix with the sand of the dunes, and where the roots of the white willows give way to immense lagoons, which reflect the pink feathered flamingos. Recognized as a UNESCO biosphere reserve in 2015, this park contains more than seventy different habitats, in which dozens of different species of fish, mammals and birds live. This particular ecosystem welcomes various productive activities rooted in time. The most important: sturgeon fishing, known to be the caviar of the Po, and eel; but also for the breeding of clams and mussels, winning the second place in the world. All activities are carried out according to an accurate protocol in order to preserve the surrounding environment. To further support this conservationist logic, institutions such as the Cetacea Foundation are present on site. Their task is to watch over the 70,000 species of turtles that live in the Adriatic, and intervene if accidents happen. A Delta full of colors, vegetation, noises; that support and allow the local production impulse.





## **The Gran Paradiso National Park**

The Gran Paradiso is located between Piedmont and the Aosta Valley. In 1922 a park was established there, the oldest in Italy. Its symbolic animal is the ibex, an ungulate that has been the object of indiscriminate hunting for centuries, particularly during fascism. With the creation of the park, the mountainous valley has found a new balance and its species have repopulated, especially thanks to the commitment of the park rangers. Claudia, married and mother of two children, and Martino, a 60-year-old man who takes care of his mother, work there. Two individuals with apparently polar opposite personalities, but united by a passion for nature. Being dependent on the Gran Paradiso is not a simple mission: long weeks in solitude, strenuous walks, and days full of events. A tale of two people who never cross paths, whose narration is intertwined with those of the species that populate the park. A film that testifies to how man and nature can live in total symbiosis, through a relationship of interdependence.



## **The Palù**

The Palù of the Quartier del Piave are one of the most important areas of wet meadows in the Veneto, bordered by hedges and trees preserved since the Middle Ages, reclaimed in 1100 by the monks of the nearby Abbey of Santa Bona di Vidor. The more recent history of the Palù, however, is marked by the tragedies of the Great War, as Luigi Guizzo recalls. The village of Sernaglia della Battaglia was also involved in the epic war and here, among the memories of the village, there is a famous Osteria, managed by Silmava Pilonetto. Instead, thanks to an interesting recovery of the rural universe, Terenzio Gambin accompanies us to the homes of the peasants that seemed lost. A few kilometers away, surrounded by vineyards on narrow grassy terraces, works Chiara Barisan, a cook who has been able to revisit local recipes. Going up the hills of Refrontolo, we meet Mauro De Stefani, who has decided to devote himself to the recovery of ancient apples. Finally, in the midst of the green of the ridges, Guia appears, where Mario Canello lives together with his sons Leonardo and Silvia, lovers and expert connoisseurs of wood.



## **In the east of Sicily**

The coast of Pozzillo is made up of rocks and inlets of lava origin, generated over the millennia by the Etna flows. Next to the cliff stands the Contrada Carpinato, where the lemon trees receive water thanks to a well jointly owned with some families, including the La Rocca family and the Murabito family. On the slopes of Etna, on the other hand, the *Astragalus Siculus Endemica Etnea* grows, a plant that blooms on the arid slopes of the volcano, an icon in culture and a muse for storytellers. One of the last is Luigi Di Pino, who performs in the Riposto Market where you can also find hazelnuts, collected in the hazelnut groves under Etna, as in that of Sant'Alfio. Here, Cristina Musumeci and her husband Stefano Ali dedicate themselves to the care of the hazelnut grove, from which they obtain various culinary products. The journey resumes towards Viagrande, where Fabio Costantino produces wines by cultivating some vineyards that grow on the lava deposited about 3,000 years ago. Moving towards Aci Sant'Antonio, we reach the Museum of the Sicilian cart, another symbol of the island. Today, Maestro Salvo Nicolosi works here. In Acireale, however, Francesco produces traditional Sicilian ice creams while the lemon granita, of Arab origin, is made by Maestro Franco Patané, according to old customs. Franco Pulvirenti also lives within the ancient walls of Acireale, who loves Sicilian customs and traditions, as well as the sounds of his land.



### **Pumpkins and carriages of the King**

Lightning and Hurricane gallop side by side in an overgrown field pulling a carriage that bounces on the grass. Above are Agostino Laura and Veronica. He is a restorer of vintage carriages and these days he is restoring two carriages registered as farm wagons in 1950. Seven carriages are kept in the basement of his country house, right next to the pumpkins put to dry, wine and oil. . Despite the fairytale suggestions, Laura and Veronica are not crystal slippers. In his stable, Agostino raises twenty black Dutch Friesian horses, an elegant and imposing draft breed that he uses for work in the fields, for fairs and for horseback riding, but above all for "sport and traditional attack" competitions. or the carriage races. His friend Cataldo, with his experience as a competition judge, helps him in training and also in the restoration activity. To reward them for so much work, Agostino takes his Friesians to gallop on the beach to the castle of Santa Severa. Not far from Agostino's stable there is the state breeding center of the Lipizzan horse, a noble breed of draft and work horses with a light gray coat that originated in the imperial breeding of Maria Theresa of Austria. These horses arrived in Italy as part of the peace negotiations after the first great war. At the end of the Second World War, after a daring rescue of 100 specimens, they found their home in the province of Rome. Alessandro Guerra takes care of each of them from birth and the breeding is conducted in the wild. The mares freely choose the place they like best for mating and for giving birth that takes place in the wild. It is in respect of this free nature that Alessandro builds his relationship with each foal, and together with Diego he takes care of taming them according to the principles of gentle taming. The peculiar traits of the Lipizzaner breed, their elegant bearing, resistance to work, learning ability and docility are combined with the symbolic value of these horses, which are testimony of brotherhood and union between the European countries that are committed to conservation. and enhancement of this breed. The best of these horses will go into the force of the carabinieri or will be used for the "elegant attack" of representative carriages. The equestrian tradition, and in particular that of the elegant attack by representation, have been present in the Lazio territory since the times of the Etruscan civilization. In particular, the archaeological site of the ancient city of Eretum, whose king was buried together with his two faithful horses attached to the carriage, is right near the stables of Augustine and Alexander's stud farm. During the night Sissi, one of Agostino's mares, gave birth to the little filly Contessa who timidly manages to get on her feet a few hours after giving birth, to continue the long journey that horses and human beings have traveled since prehistoric times, in a relationship of mutual trust between two complementary beings.



### **The Chiese valley**

The snow-covered slopes of the Brenta and Adamello mountains frame the Valle del Chiese, in the south west of Trentino, among suggestive artificial lakes, forts and the ruins of majestic castles. In winter, the Valley is dotted with numerous frozen waterfalls, which attract thousands of "ice climbing" enthusiasts. One of the custodians of these places is Placido Corradi, who welcomed the first climbers who arrived in 1979 in his inn. In Val Daone, among the young climbers, there is also Angelo Davorio. In the enchanting scenery of the Giudicarie, on the other hand, Riccardo Valenti tries his hand at ski mountaineering, attentive to safety. Following the current of the Chiese river, you reach Storo, where the historian Giovanni Zontini lives. Here, Vigilio Giovannelli, President of the "Agri90 Cooperative", produces the Yellow Flour of Storo with local corn, nicknamed "red gold". Reaching the border with Lombardy, we find Lake Idro, which houses a Nature Reserve. Perched on the lake, it overlooks Bondone, inhabited for many years only by charcoal burners. Due to the abundance of woods in the area, the "School of Wood" was born in Praso in 1995. Among its founders, there is Giacomo Nicolini. Some students, such as Osvaldo Filosi, have combined the learning of manual skills with a spiritual experience. Finally, in this oasis of peace, the mountains appear as sacred places, which also fascinate a paraglider pilot Luca Tamburini.



### **The enchanted forest**

The natural monument of the Allumiere beech wood is what remains of an ancient forest dating back to the last ice age. The beech wood plays a role of ecological connection for all the flora and fauna of the area and among the animals it hosts there is the Alpine Rosalia, a beetle belonging to an endangered species. For these reasons, the enchanted forest of Allumiere is an indicator of the quality of the climate and biodiversity of the entire territory of Tuscany and central Italy. The mountains above which the beech grove develops have hosted for about 400 years the mines of allumite, a mineral from which alum is obtained which was transported by donkey to the port of Civitavecchia. Today Allumiere's donkeys no longer carry the white mineral, but are reared to produce their precious milk.



### **On the border with the Cinque Terre**

In Liguria, on the border with the territory of the "cinque terre", set between sky and sea, overlooks Levanto. Around, there are some medieval villages, such as Montale, but also the quarries of red marble, a precious material already used by the Romans. Giancarlo BETTINOTTI and the oenologist LAURA CUGINI work in an agricultural cooperative, attentive to wine quality and respect for biodiversity. On the coast that embraces the Gulf, however, he moves with his boat MARCO SCARAMUCCIA, a dreamy skipper. Cycling through the caruggi, you can admire the buildings of Via Garibaldi transformed into stately palaces in the fifteenth century: they gave a new architectural face that was called "Borgo Nuovo" and that arose next to the medieval part of the country. In Levanto, LIVES AND WORKS RENZO BIGHETTI, an artist who has always been committed to environmental issues. Levanto is also a popular destination for surfers and, among the fans of this sport, there is GABO RASO. At the crossroads of the streets, the traditions of the past are found in the Pesto Laboratory managed by MONIA ROMANO. Thanks to the recovery of a railway track, a cycle and pedestrian path has been designed that allows you to explore magnificent panoramic routes along the coast. Walking in the center, LORENZO PERRONE, chef and lover of local history, remembers the past of the village and that of the Canal port, where goods passed through Emilia. Finally, at the Oratory of San Giacomo, the GROUP "ILLUSTRI CUGINI" performs, a band that pays homage to Fabrizio De André.



### **Belluno, the shining city**

Nestled by the Dolomites and the Pre-Alps, Belluno is nicknamed "the little Venice of the mountains". In San Pellegrino, stands the Villa where the writer and journalist Dino Buzzati (in 2022 marks the fiftieth anniversary of his death) spent his young years. Today, the great-grandchildren VALENTINA and ANTONELLA MORASSUTTI, preserve the memory of this place. On the Nevegal, known as the Colle di Belluno, in winter, FULCIO MIARI and ANTONIO PIAZZA, but also MICHELE NENZ, walk the white walls with snowshoes and skis. The deep bond with traditions, is found in the Agriturismo Faverghera of MARCO VUERICH at over 1500 meters high. In Tisoi, however, there is still an ancient dairy, which produces genuine cheeses. In Val Belluna, STEFANO MANTEGAZZA tackles by bicycle the discovery of the territory through the path of the GAB. Among the snow-capped peaks, CRISTIANO GAGGION, prepares "Le Giuseppine", a dessert of the Belluno Carnival. Near the Lake of Santa Croce, ROBERTO TONON is dedicated to the activity of beekeeper while ALICE PEDON is engaged in the recovery of aromatic and medicinal herbs of the mountains of Giamosa, Giungendo in Chies D'Alpago, you can cross the Cansiglio Forest, a precious resource for the cimbrian people. In this area, ILLARI FULLIN and FRANCO PIANON take care of the Yaks and raise the Alpagota sheep. The mountain guide and mountain rescue volunteer ALEX PIVIROTTTO walks the snow-covered slopes with his son. At almost 1900 meters, in the Upper Comelico, stands the Malga Coltrondo, managed by DANILO MINA and his family, which also breeds the Highlander, a cattle native to Scotland.



### **Salento out of the sea**

Salento is now known to Italians as a place of parties and beaches, good food and wild dances, a holiday land. But in its hinterland full of small municipalities, today benefiting from summer tourism, there are authentic Baroque masterpieces, alleys and sumptuous palaces, which reveal a past of agricultural riches and maritime trade. Among these unexpected cathedrals, unusual artisan shops that produce high quality artifacts are also surprising. In Poggiardo, the magnificent baroque center of the interior, unforgettable flavors are mixed in Stefano's trattoria, which every morning moves to Castro on the coast to choose the fish just arrived from the sea. In Parabita, Matteo inherited the mosaic technique from his grandparents and carves wood, marble and glass paste tiles with results at the height of his ancestors. In Sogliano, Andrea the papermaker transforms plants (from fig to rush) into valuable sheets and notebooks. Finally, in Cutrofiano, while the city prepares the bonfire for the feast of the fòcare, Salvino introduces us to his greatest passion, a local tradition that has been repeated for many generations: ceramics and clay processing. Salento in winter is another thing...



## The other side of Orvieto

Orvieto is a fascinating city with a dual identity. There is an "above" with the splendid façade of its Duomo, a masterpiece of sienese Gothic, the medieval towers and the life that flows fast, and a "below" dugor in a huge boulder of tuff that rises like an island in the middle of the sea. At 36 meters underground we enter with Marco in the spectacular Pozzo della Cava of the Sciarra family: an archaeological treasure discovered by chance in the cellars of the family tavern. His wife Francesca works on the restoration of the countless ceramics found in the excavations. Over the years, the skilful Etruscan processing of ceramics, of which Marino is one of the most creative exponents, has been joined by other crafts and forms of craftsmanship born still present in the city. Among them, woodworking. The very symbol of this fervent activity is Simonetta's workshop where there are real works of art in wood in the form of animals, which always attract the attention of visitors. Finally Loretta, in her beautiful workshop in the heart of medieval Orvieto, shows us her skill in the art of lace. Returning to the city center, we can now look at Orvieto with different eyes. Not only the magnificent façade of its well-known Cathedral. There is another city behind the scenes and underground: a city led by the skilled hands of people, who have been able to transform and preserve, giving their original trait, a civilization full of history.



## Walking huts

Over millions of years, gigantic tectonic movements, earthquakes, landslides and collapses have sculpted the given shape to the territory of the Veronese mountains. With the slow passage of time the water has partly dissolved the layers of limestone digging caves and sinkholes filtering into the depths of the soil, this phenomenon known as karst, generates one of the most interesting landscapes of the earth's soil. As a result of erosion processes, the ceiling of many caves is destined to collapse, opening gigantic chasms in the ground such as that of covolo di Camposilvano. According to legend, it was precisely by visiting this ravine that Dante drew inspiration to write the beginning of the Divine Comedy, the first song of Hell. The plateau of the Veronese mountains is mainly of karst character, this land was in the past lean and not very fertile, these large mountain meadows needed to be fertilized and the most natural and sustainable method in the long run was through the breeding itself. There was a need for the cows to graze and be milked near the place where milk was processed to make cheese, so the story of the walking huts was born. According to the ancient statutes found in the library of Ala di Trento, in the past the breeders were given in management a part of the territory called malga where they could build the casoni for the shelter of men and animals and for the processing of cheese. These huts had to be built of wood and had to be moved every two years in order to fertilize the entire territory used for grazing.



## Mantua, a pearl among the lakes

The pearl of the Gonzaga, as they call Mantua, in addition to its pictorial and architectural wonders is also an active city full of ancient shops where delicacies are produced. Walking through its historic center, starting from Piazza delle Erbe, you will come across the Tur dal Sugar (the sugar tower), where the pastry chef Gianni prepares with skilled hands the cakes symbol of tradition: the Rose Cake, the Helvezia, and the famous Sbrisolona. Going out, just beyond the monumental church of San Francesco designed by the Renaissance Leon Battista Alberti, there is another Giovanni with his delicatessen that produces many different types of fruit mustard. Trattorias where two sisters cook knead and stuff agnoli and pumpkin tortelli, and a landscape around dotted with rice fields, such as Manuela's Cortevicchia, a Renaissance jewel transformed into a modern "duepuntozero" company. Mantua is all this, but with the help of the director of the Doge's Palace, we discover the wonders of the Gonzaga, Giulio Romano and Andrea Mantegna, The Tea Palace and the bride and groom's room. Also a musical city and scenery of Rigoletto, in its splendid bibiena theater Mozart made his debut and today the violinist Walter plays with a Stradivarius arranged by Alessandro, a classical luthier full of passion. City-theater of flowers and gardens cared for by Massimiliano, the florist, with a landscape that penetrates inside through three lakes and canals, as in a small Venice.





## Pastures without borders

Among the mountains that dominate the eastern side of Lake Garda rises the Lessinia plateau, from here with a glance you can embrace a panorama that goes from the Adige valley to the Po Valley. This land, because of its strategic position, has been crossed by the borders of empires and states that, throughout history, have alternated in the control of Central Europe. Of these boundaries it is still possible to see the traces, in the stone stones placed on the peaks, in the roads, in the military bridges and in the trenches dating back to the period of the Great War. Today as then, these boundaries are crossed by forest animals, which have never attributed any meaning to these barriers. Gianmarco Lazzarin is a hiking guide of the regional park of the Lessini mountains and is tracing a mapping of the paths and roads that cross this territory. He stopped to sleep at the malga riondera by his friend Andrea Delmonego. Andrea leads the hut together with his daughter Alice, his son-in-law Bruno and, for a year, there is also little Anita with them. At the Malga Riondera goats, sheep and cows are bred and small-fruit plants are grown and there is also an educational apiary. All the land of the hut is managed in the name of environmental sustainability and is aimed at protecting biodiversity. The presence of the wolf on these mountains poses a threat to breeders but at the malga riondera they have understood how to live with this predator.



## Among the Asolo hills

ASOLO lies in the Venetian hills, in the province of Treviso. Immersed in idyllic scenery, grow the vines that give the famous "prosecco di Asolo", like the one obtained in the Monfumo area where LUCA BELE CASEL carries on a winemaking tradition taken from his ancestors. Among the most symbolic places in the area, there are the "Venetian villas", such as the magnificent Villa Sand, built in 1622. On the slopes of Asolo, there is also the Maglio di Pagnano, while in the narrow streets of the center, echoes the memory of the Serenissima. In the heart of the village, there is the Laboratory of MONICA BERNINI, dedicated to textile art, and you can admire the Casa dell'Arco, rented in 1920 by the famous actress Eleonora Duse. Asolo, however, is also known for its taverns, here called "bacari", meeting places of Venetian origin, such as the one managed by WALTER ZECCHIN. Destination of poets and artists, it has always been the "Caffè Centrale", managed by LELE BOTTER, the "soul" of the restaurant. Among the personalities who attended Asolo, an important sign was left by Freya Starck, the last heir of the great English travelers. Around Asolo, in addition to the grandiose Villa di Maser, once hosted by the architect Andrea Palladio, there is also the Tipoteca Italiana, the most important national reference for printing and typography. Some machines are still working and are used by DANIELE FACCHIN, according to Gutenberg's method. Sulle notes of a folk song, interpreted by ROBERTO TOMBESI and CLAUDIA FERRONATO, two members of the group Calicanto, we end our trip to Asolo.



## Pantelleria

Suspended in the blue of the Mediterranean, between Africa and Sicily, Pantelleria is an island that has fascinated travelers from all over the world, such as PIERGIACOMO, who decided to move here, where he works as a naturalistic guide. INES, a German architect, also decided to leave Germany to immerse herself in the magnificent atmosphere of this land and devote herself to the infusion of aromatic herbs. In the heart of the island, the splendid Pantelleria nature is protected by a National Park and, among some protected areas, the inhabitants cultivate gardens, such as that of DENNY, the last remaining beekeeper. Furthermore, some young islanders, such as ANDREA, leave the herds free to graze and undertake to sow by hand and to recover the land, even the most inaccessible ones. Finally, on Pantelleria, thanks to a group of researchers, a new species of cricket was discovered, which has adapted to living in this place, where men are still able to converse with nature.



## Alpe di Siusi

On the largest plateau in Europe and close to Val Gardena, in Alto Adige, lies the Alpe di Siusi, a place characterized by a fairy-tale atmosphere, where the relationship with animals, such as that between the gamekeeper ANDREA and his hound, has a deep meaning. One of the historic breeders of the area is MATTHIAS, who looks after the herd together with his children, and eagerly awaits the most important event of the year for shepherds: transhumance. For this \"anniversary\", the cows are decorated with garlands and cowbells and taken from the mountain pastures to the valley floor. MARKUS, on the other hand, is one of the few remaining beekeepers on the Alpe di Siusi. The link between present and past is also deeply felt by FLORIAN, a former hotelier who collects local plants and produces distillates by hand. In this magnificent natural amphitheater German, Italian but also Ladin are spoken, which derives from the traces left by history in this corner of the world, where traditions still have great value in the collective memory.





## The Mocheni Valley

From Lake Caldonazzo, we venture into the Trentino region's Mocheni Valley, where in winter, one can admire the snow-covered Brenta Dolomites. Here, in the Middle Ages, Bavarian settlers arrived and passed down their traditions, still preserved today by the Mocheno Cultural Institute. Since the 18th century, the valley's roads have been traversed by the *krumer*, itinerant traders who moved seasonally. Over the decades, families like that of DIEGO IOBSTRABIZER have passed down this profession from father to son. In the valley, DEBORA MUHLBACHER and her husband also reside, raising Grey Alpine cattle and choosing not to leave their land, just like other young Mocheni who uphold their customs, such as the Palù Carnival. Near this village, there is a ranch known as a "horse stopover," managed by GUIDO TRENTINAGLIA, who bakes the ancient *cuccular* bread at home. This area has also preserved the Mocheno language, stemming from the ancient German spoken by the settlers. Amidst the woods, ANDREA OBEROSLER continues the trade of carpentry and, commissioned by the Mocheno Cultural Institute, replaces a grinding wheel inside the Mill De Mil. In this land, there are also those like GIULIA DEBIASI who have rediscovered the properties of medicinal plants and those, like the Mocheni farmers of the past, who waltz or polka in high-altitude mountain farms, immersed in a magical winter atmosphere."



## The Land of Accordions

Coreno Ausonio is a town in the province of Frosinone, nestled halfway between the Gulf of Gaeta, the Liri Valley, Garigliano, and Montecassino. This province is one of the oldest in Europe and is renowned as the "land of labor." However, Coreno Ausonio is primarily known for the significant role played by the accordion, which provided the rhythm for the arduous fieldwork. The art of this instrument has been revived by ALESSANDRO PARENTE, who inherited it from his uncle Vincenzo Del Seni. In the 1990s, Alessandro established a school to pass on the accordion's secrets to the new generations. Furthermore, for the "Windbox" project, Alessandro collaborates with his nephew Laerte Scotti, an arranger and composer of new music. Between September 1943 and May 1944, the town served as a stronghold along the "Gustav Line," built by the Germans to resist the Allied forces. The memories of these events are preserved by the poet DOMENICO ADRIANO. MARIA TIERI has returned to live in Coreno and chosen to work in the family bakery. As we wander through the streets of Coreno, we also meet CAROLINA LAVALLE, who handcrafts the "rata," a miniature container made of wicker or reeds. This region is also known for extracting Perlato Royal Coreno marble, renowned worldwide. Working with Perlato di Coreno, the stonemason GIUSEPPE LAVALLE succeeded in patenting the "musical stone." Continuing with the theme of music, we discover that today, the "Windbox Orchestra" performs in concerts and collaborates with the singer Maura Amata."



## ALTO POLESINE, In the Carousell District

The documentary "ALTO POLESINE, In the Carousell District" explores the Polesine region, located between the Po and Adige rivers in Veneto, a flatland characterized by extensive waterways, canals, lagoons, and sandy islands. The history of the region is intertwined with cycling, featuring new bike paths and the promotion of cycle tourism. The documentary follows a group of cyclists affiliated with the Italian Federation of Friends of the Bicycle (FIAB) from Rovigo as they explore the Polesine countryside and its small villages. Through the stories of these cyclists, it delves into the love for cycling and its role in the local environment. The documentary also unveils the remarkable Carousell District, an international hub for amusement park attraction production that has transformed the region from a humble farming life into a creative and innovative hub in the amusement industry."



## The Campobrun Brothers

Erica Peloso, a 24-year-old livestock farmer, spends her summers on the Campobrun alp, embracing a traditional life at 1,661 meters altitude. Alongside her brother Fabio, they engage in manual dairy processing, tending to a herd of 20 milking cows and 15 calves. Despite their education, Erica in foreign languages and Fabio with a technical diploma, they chose a life close to nature over conventional careers. The mountain routine involves early mornings, manual labor, and a simple lifestyle without modern amenities. As September marks the end of the season, the siblings feel nostalgia for the mountains, emphasizing the challenge and joy of their unique way of life.



### **The natural balance in the mountains and in the barn**

The documentary explores life in the Orobie Alps, focusing on Giada Zamboni, a breeder of Brown Swiss cattle, and her connection with nature. The film highlights the sustainable management of agricultural activities and livestock, promoting animal welfare and the conservation of natural resources. The story unfolds in a mountainous context, following the daily routine of the Zamboni family and showcasing the connection between humans, animals, and the environment. The documentary also emphasizes the work of park guides like Giorgio Tanzi, and professionals such as Arianna Cecchini and Alessandra Gagliardi, who monitor local biodiversity. The narrative spans from the valley floor to the mountain peaks, underscoring the importance of traditional agricultural practices and the key role of care in preserving the balance between humans and nature.



### **The New Light on the Alpine Meadows**

The documentary explores a suspended space on the mountaintops, where human activity and work in the pastures follow an annual cycle unchanged over time. Through the testimony of individuals like Diego, a scythe user preserving ancient traditions, and families like that of Laura Rabbiosi, the film reveals the connection between the past and the future, night and day, in these lands. The introduction of technologies such as milking robots highlights the evolution of livestock farming with the goal of ensuring animal welfare. The story follows the Milesi family during the summer season in the high-altitude pastures, where cows play a key role in preserving the meadows and fertilizing the soil. Haying becomes an important community activity, intertwining relationships and solidarity. The documentary also focuses on the production of Bitto cheese, following the work of Franca, her husband Franco, and their children. The narrative emphasizes the importance of traditional agricultural practices and the deep connection between the inhabitants of these mountains and their territory.



### **Paradise needs help**

The documentary explores the Pelagos Sanctuary, a protected marine area between the French Riviera, Sardinia, the Tuscan Archipelago, and Liguria. The sanctuary is renowned for its rich marine biodiversity, featuring eight species of cetaceans regularly present, including sperm whales, striped dolphins, and common fin whales. Marine biologists Nadia Repetto and Maurizio Wurtz, with over 40 years of experience, have developed a unique way of documenting marine life through life-size sculptures and illustrations. Maurizio's works are inspired by encounters with animals during their travels. The documentary also follows Alessandra Somà and Gabriella Motta, biologists engaged in cetacean spotting and monitoring in the Pelagos Sanctuary. Through their experiences and those of the crews on board, the film provides an intimate look into the lives of these marine creatures. The narrative extends beyond observing cetaceans, addressing crucial themes such as marine ecosystem conservation, waste management, and the impact of human activities. The Pelagos Sanctuary was established to protect marine mammals from the threats of human activities, but the documentary underscores the importance of collective responsibility in preserving the marine natural habitat.



### **The Four Valleys of Arezzo**

The documentary explores the beauty and cultural richness of the valleys surrounding the city of Arezzo in Tuscany, Italy. The narrative begins at dawn, immersing itself in the autumnal atmosphere of the city, particularly the magnificent Piazza Grande, where the Antiques Fair takes place. Exhibitors showcase art objects, furniture, and furnishings representing the cultural heritage of the region. The journey continues to Casentino, one of the valleys where Molin di Bucchio stands, built around 1200. Here, Claudio Bucci, a mason, has restored the old mill, opening it to the public in 2004. The documentary features interviews with Claudio, who shares his passion for restoration and tradition preservation. The story then moves to Cortona, a village in Valdichiana, where Saverio Misesti collects objects from various eras, defining them as expressions of strength and life. Saverio illustrates his deep connection to the region, reflecting on his life spent between Arezzo and Cortona. Through interviews with individuals like Adelaide Valentini, a young farmer, and Gualberto Gualdani, who has a special connection to the Arno River, the documentary explores the lives and choices of those living in these valleys. Adelaide, for example, recounts her upbringing in Valtiberina and her return out of love for nature and the region. The theme of conservation and respect for nature emerges through the stories of those living in these valleys. Claudio and Carla, in Casentino, manage an Ecomuseum to preserve cultural heritage. Adelaide practices sustainable and nature-respecting agriculture. The documentary concludes by emphasizing the importance of these valleys, declared UNESCO Heritage, and the magic of their connection between humans and nature. The interviewees share their worldview, reflecting on how nature, history, and traditions have shaped their lives. The film provides an intimate look at people living in harmony with nature, preserving traditions, and valuing the cultural heritage of the valleys of Arezzo.



### The Baù's Village

We trace the history of Stoccareddo, a small village of 402 inhabitants on the Asiago plateau in the province of Vicenza, isolated in a valley between Monte Pasubio and Monte Grappa, heroic places of the Great War. Up to 380 residents of Stoccareddo share the surname Baù, and legend has it that they all descend from a single Viking who arrived from Denmark in the 12th century. They have a more intact DNA, due to the high rate of endogamy, and have developed a protective gene now being studied for potential application in an immunological drug. The Baùs, with their \"good\" blood, have lived isolated from the world, but over the past century, many of them have emigrated to the USA, South America, Australia, Belgium, and France. They occasionally gather in their hometown to talk about ancestors, family, and work, especially during the so-called \"Festa del villeggiante,\" held approximately every five years, always at the beginning of August. Guiding us through the discovery of this unexpected community are Amerigo Baù, the local historian, Anthony Baù born in Belgium but returned to his roots by starting a lumberjack business, Chiara Baù, a young soul of the village's \"pro loco,\" and the local glory Eder Baù, a professional footballer who made his debut in Milan alongside Shevchenko and Bierhoff before playing for major clubs in the Triveneto region.



### Builders of Babel

In small villages, in hidden gardens, among anonymous villas, along unknown paths, a minor, outsider Italy moves, revealing unexpected creations, carried out for a long time by particular visionary architects. The anthropologist Gabriele Mina called them Builders of Babel: they are self-taught and irregular artists, inspired by the roadside. Often they are workers, bricklayers, pensioners and one day they decide to devote their time – sometimes decades of existence – to the solitary realization of a total work: a mountain of wonders, a wall of carved stones, bizarre gnarled characters or an ideal city on a scale of 1 to 25. They mostly build around or on top of their homes, with a blueprint written in their minds, in dreams and use recycled materials, then paint, assemble, accumulate relentlessly. For the villagers they are curious creations, for families a legacy that is difficult to maintain. However, these architectures of utopia, such as the Tower of Babel, can collapse at any moment, vanish, and that is why it is important to keep memory of them by telling them.



### The Nebrodi valley

Nestled between the provinces of Enna, Catania, and Messina lies the territory of the Nebrodi Mountains. Here stands San Piero Patti, a charming village distinguished by the Arabite district, a true kasbah. Perched on a hill, the Convent of the Carmelite Calzati, built in 1566, now serves as a cultural center. Within its walls, PAOLA FLORAMO preserves the ancient art of weaving. Nearby, the Church of the Carmine boasts a gold-adorned altar, while the Church of Santa Maria Assunta houses a majestic organ played by DALIA FAZIO. Among the village's culinary treasures is a recipe based on almond paste, lovingly prepared by CARMELA LA SCHEPIS. In the surrounding countryside, shepherds like CARMELO LAMANCUSA continue the tradition of milking by hand. Not far away lies an oasis where FRANCO BORRELLO raises Nebrodi black pigs in wild or semi-wild conditions. Elsewhere in the Park, ROBERTO FRANCHINA ventures by jeep to discover remote, untouched landscapes. The region also boasts hazelnut groves, such as those on SALVATORE PRINCIOTTO's estate, where friends gather to celebrate with a toast. A short distance away is Sinagra, a picturesque village nestled near a once-navigable river. The stunning landscapes of the Nebrodi are cherished by GIUSI MURABITO, who works tirelessly to promote the area. This region is also rich in medicinal plants, which ROBERTO FRANCHINA harvests and delivers to the liqueur laboratory of ATTILIO FARANDA. In the valley, a craft brewery is managed by CARMELO RADICI, while individuals like ROSINA COCI diligently preserve the seeds of their cultivated plants.



### **The Valtellina and surrounding**

Between Valcamonica, the Adamello Group, and the Ortles-Cevedale range lies the Valtellina valley. In winter, the Aprica Pass on the Lombard side is blanketed in snow, where alpine guide Tullio Faifer leads passionate hikers on memorable excursions. Further along, just a few kilometers from the Swiss border, lies the town of Tirano, a cultural and geographical crossroads. In the surrounding area, dry-stone walls outline the terraces where vineyards are cultivated. NICOLA GIANA, an expert in these walls, relies on STEFANO MORETTI and MANUEL LAZZARI to construct new ones. Scattered throughout the valley are baitelli, ancient circular stone buildings. Meanwhile, in the Grosio area, you'll find Villa Visconti Venosta, a historic residence that once hosted notable figures, including Camillo Benso, Count of Cavour. Climbing the hills, one reaches the Rupe Magna, crowned by the San Faustino Castle and the Parco delle Incisioni Rupestri (Rock Engravings Park). Another historic residence can be found in the village of Teglio: Palazzo Besta, a Renaissance-era mansion that welcomed artists and writers in its time. In the hamlet of San Rocco, MARIO MOTALLO contributed to the restoration of the Mulino Menaglio, a mill that preserves tools and relics of the rural world and has been brought back to life to grind small quantities of buckwheat, producing flour for the traditional pizzoccheri recipe. Finally, in Aprica, the Gallery of Emotions in Nature has been built—a whimsical space conceived by BERNARDO PEDRONI. On the descent back to Tirano, one can admire the Sanctuary of the Madonna, home to a 17th-century organ, played by CATERINA BORINELLI.



### **Urban fruit**

Oranges, lemons, plums, figs: how often have we passed a tree laden with fruit on our city streets and felt tempted to pick it? We tend to assume that urban fruit is inedible or even harmful, but this is not the case. The non-profit organization Linaria has launched a project to map, harvest, and distribute urban fruit in Rome, as well as to plant new orchards. The fruit is primarily destined for social canteens and food banks, and sometimes for processing workshops to produce delicious jams. More than anything, however, this project promotes a model of active citizenship, offering a fresh perspective on how to live in our cities.



### **Among the Madonie Mountains**

Between Palermo's hinterland and the Sicilian coasts lies the Madonie area, renowned for its biodiversity and cultural heritage. Here, the Madonie Park is home to villages like Petralia Sottana, where ancient crafts thrive: Antonio Li Puma restores historical clocks, while Mirco Inguaggiato creates traditional musical instruments and a Neapolitan-style nativity scene. The village also offers culinary delights, such as "le cucchie," a sweet prepared by Maurizio Bracco. The region features the Urban Geological Path, natural springs, and the Catarratti Hydroelectric Plant. Shepherds and artisans like Nino Spera, the Inguaggiato family, and Francesco Faraci uphold local traditions. Petralia Soprana and Sottana tell stories of archaeology, nature, and social progress.



### **The new inhabitants of Masetti**

The documentary immerses us in the life of a small community nestled in the beautiful Val d'Astico, a place that was once vibrant with activity and joy, now inhabited by a few residents who carry the history of this magical place in their hearts. From the silent streets emerge voices like those of Renata, the last schoolteacher, and Francesco, who returned to breathe new life into his family and the community with the arrival of little Filippo, after 40 years without any new births. Masetti is experiencing a moment of rebirth, amidst the influx of tourists and the call of its roots, where ancient legends intertwine with the challenges of modernity. Set against breathtaking landscapes and millennia-old traditions, the Cimbrian language echoes in the games of children, while bold endeavors such as high-altitude grape cultivation bring new vitality to the village. The climax is reached during the patron saint's feast of San Giovanni, a celebration that revives memories and bonds, where the old and the new merge in a festive atmosphere. The documentary tells not only the story of a resilient community but also the beauty of small things and the strength of ties, demonstrating that, despite the changes of time, Masetti continues to shine like a hidden gem in the heart of the mountains.





### **Under the Forzela dell'Om**

Under the Forzela dell'Om takes us on a captivating journey among the peaks of the Dolomites, where history and natural beauty intertwine at a crossroads of legends. Situated at an elevation of 1,942 meters, this imposing forzela has witnessed centuries of encounters among the Feltrini, Ladini, and Tyroleans, a place where ancient trails tell stories of smuggling, wars, and opportunities for life. After decades marked by economic decline, the devastating floods of 1966, and territorial changes, the community of Gosaldo is seeking a rebirth, transforming the old smuggler's paths into natural trails to attract tourists and reclaim its heritage. With the echo of "scapament del contha," the unique language of chair makers, and the passion of young artisans like Massimo Campel, tradition is finding new avenues of expression. In this history-rich landscape, we visit the remnants of "La California," once a popular holiday destination, and discover the indelible traces of mines and floods that have shaped the fate of these lands. Guided by Manuel, a geologist in love with his territory, we venture into ancient galleries and confront the resilience of a people who, like the rock and water, have adapted and continue to fight against adversity. Under the watchful eye of the Forzela dell'Om, the documentary celebrates the vitality of a community that refuses to forget its past, striving to pass down stories and crafts to future generations in a context of extraordinary natural beauty.



### **Roots for Renewal**

The documentary explores life in the community of Magliano in Tuscany, where tradition and modernity meet in harmony. At the heart of this narrative is Maurizio Guidi, a skilled woodworker and restorer who, like a modern Geppetto, passionately preserves and shares local stories and legends. The documentary also highlights the efforts of farmers like Claudia Bonaccini and Marco Benvenuti, who embrace an ethical and organic production philosophy, supporting agriculture that prioritizes quality and sustainability. The story is further enriched by artisans like Rodolfo, who transforms recycled wood into shelters for birds. The culmination is the "Festa dell'olio novo" in Pereta, where the community celebrates authenticity and its bond with the land through Maremma's olive oil, a symbol of connection and tradition.



### **A dive into the countryside**

The documentary takes us to Santa Fiora, at the foot of the majestic Mount Amiata, where legends meet reality beneath the church of Madonna della Neve, home to the source of the Fiora River. In this vibrant heart of nature, Fabio and Romualdo Rossi guide us on a journey through time, revealing how the Maremma was transformed from a swamp into a fertile and lively land, now facing new challenges like droughts and violent floods. The Fiora aqueduct emerges as a vital artery nourishing a fragmented and sparsely populated land. Simultaneously, the cultural strength of the Maremma comes alive through the Officina del Malcontento, a musical quartet singing about the struggles and beauties of this land, drawing inspiration from ancient popular traditions. Through the voices of artists and researchers like Daniele Lamioni and Edo Galli, a world is revealed where the Maremma is a dream shaped by the hard dedication of charcoal burners and farmers, and by the timeless inspiration of poets and creators.



### **A Hidden Treasure of the Apennines**

The Casentino Forests Park, straddling Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna, is particularly enchanting in winter. Here, members Andrea and Alessandro have restored the basins of the ancient Molino di Bucchio, located along the Arno River. Since 2008, they have been running an aquaculture project, creating an ideal and eco-sustainable habitat for fish, where biodiversity thrives. Nicola, a Carabinieri officer in the Anti-Poison Canine Unit, also works in the park alongside his dog Titan, trained to detect poisoned baits or those found in animal carcasses. In this high-altitude microcosm, the Sanctuary of La Verna also stands, famous as the place where Saint Francis of Assisi received the stigmata in 1224 and spent long periods in isolation. Here, Fra Michele, the custodian of the sanctuary's archive, took his vows, and visitors can admire prestigious works of art, including terracotta pieces by Maestro Andrea Della Robbia.





### **The summits of the soul**

As the summer season gives way to winter, the lives and rhythms of two high-altitude mountain huts intersect in two regions of Italy. The first is located in Valle d'Aosta, at an elevation of 2,500 meters, where Francesca Zanivan and her husband Stefano—who practices fly fishing on the Lussert lakes—have built Rifugio Grauson, which they manage with their family and occasional collaborators. In the autumn of 2024, Francesca, expecting her third child, helps her husband organize the hut before returning to Cogne (where the family spends the winter). The hut will remain closed until the arrival of the new season. Rifugio Grauson is only accessible by helicopter, the same means of transport that Francesca and Stefano use to move and bring down food supplies and personal belongings. The second hut is located in Veneto, at 2,752 meters, overlooking the Dolomites above the Passo Falzarego, halfway between Cortina d'Ampezzo and Val Badia. Here, Tamara and her brother Mattia are preparing to open the doors of the historic Rifugio Lagazuoi, which they manage with their family while implementing technological improvements to protect the environment and ecosystem. The two young managers have inherited the legacy of their grandfather, an alpine guide who began building the hut in 1963.





# Enawenè, Amazon under attack

**Directed by:** Aldo Pedretti

**Produced by:** Visualcommunication

**Duration:** 26 min.

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

Yowali, one of the Indians protagonists of the documentary, tells us: "All these ornaments are part of our culture, but now we are very concerned about our children, our grandchildren." Another Indians Yokuali adds: "We need support. We have a great culture but today we are losing it because the Whites do not care. " These are the premises of the documentary about the life of Enawene, an indigenous people of 600 individuals living in the rain forest of Mato Grosso. They lead us to visit the village, their houses and tell us the rituals marked by the calendar of fisheries and crops. Not eating red meat, fish is their only source of protein. Since, however, the development plans of government provided for the construction of hydroelectric power plants in these areas, the rivers where they normally fish are increasingly polluted. Even deforestation around the Rio Juruena, the main source of life for the Enawene, seems unstoppable. Ivar Busatto, a coordinator of the Organization Native Amazon in defense of the indigenous cause, tells us what we should do to help them. The Enawene are experiencing an epochal drama. Losing the forests in which their ancestors lived means for the Enawene losing their culture and their own rituals.





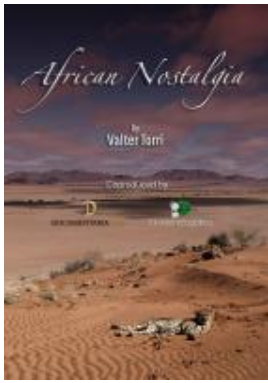
# Through the unknown

---

**Directed by:** Federico Santini  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 75 Min.  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

What motivates an individual to challenge the void? Why would one decide to suffer cold, discomfort, bad weather and inhuman toil? Three years dedicated to a visionary project: the winter ascent of Nanga Parbat. This is the story of a unique adventure. Against a spectacular backdrop of mountain scenery, extreme challenges and bitter defeats.





# African nostalgia

---

**Directed by:** Valter Torri

**Produced by:** Documentaria Film / SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 52 min.

**Versions:**  


**Format:** UHD

Africa seen and described through the eyes of a wildlife photographer who has always been fascinated by the unique atmosphere of this extraordinary continent. A tale of the sensation of breathing the air of Africa, admiring its fiery skies and observing the daily activities of its animals, frequently caught in unusual poses. A story that shuns the spectacle of animals suffering and dying in favour of striking colours and the light, smells and landscapes unique to this continent. A story that describes the cause of his longing for Africa, the sweetest sadness.





# A journey to the other Afghanistan

**Directed by:** Eloise Barbieri  
**Produced by:** Eloise Barbieri  
**Duration:** 52 min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

There is a valley in Afghanistan where war never happened, the Wakhan, a piece of land, sometimes not larger than a few kilometres, which unravels amid high mountains. In its most remote part, the highlands of Pamir, live the last Kyrgyz nomads. Sunni Muslim, these shepherds that once travelled freely throughout Central Asia are now isolated over 4,000 meters. A Western woman lives for two months in their winter camps. She arrives there with expectations that are quickly disappointed, disoriented as the days go by she learns to observe her hosts without preconceptions. This film is her discreet look to this unfamiliar world, she is the access key to the secret universe of women, while remaining a spectator, she reveals through her complicity and her sensitivity the fears and the hopes of these people ignored by the modern world.





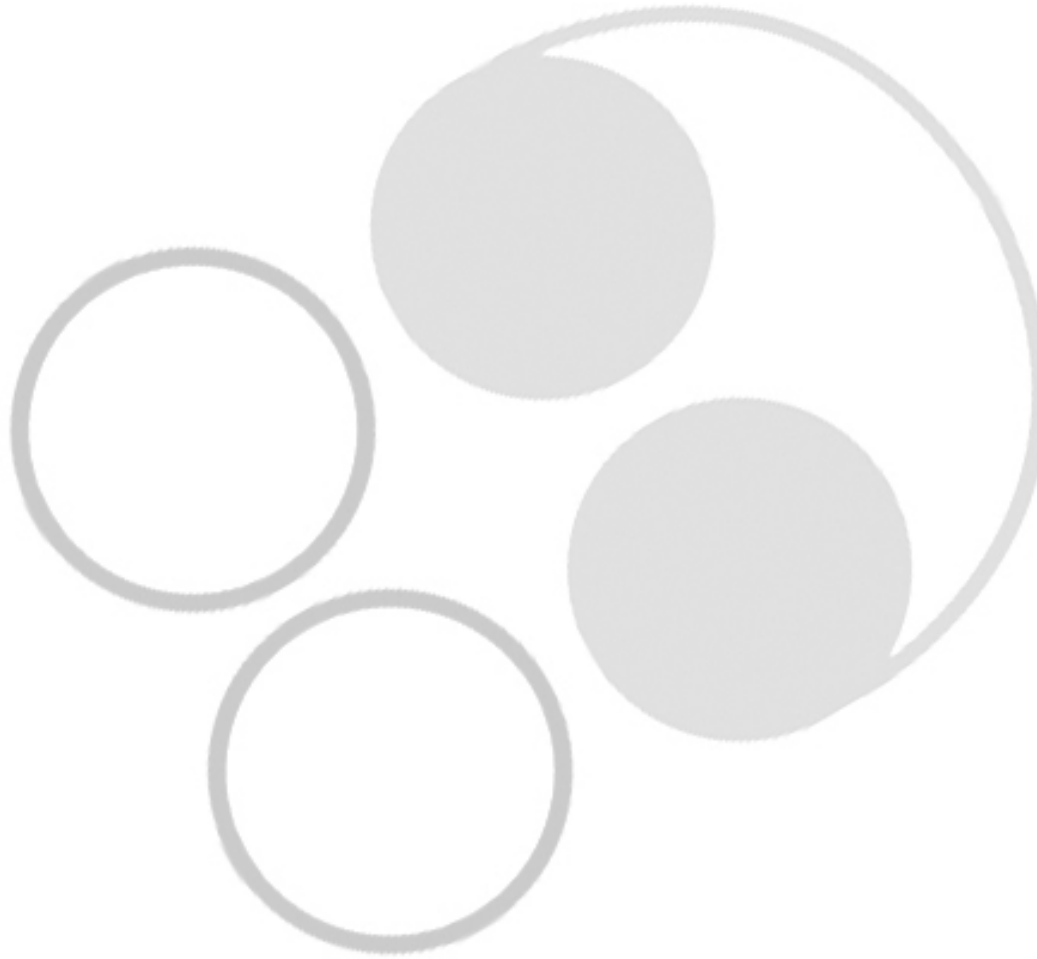


# Rome

---

**Directed by:** Giorgio De Finis  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 120 Min  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

An extraordinary journey to discover the treasures of the Eternal City.



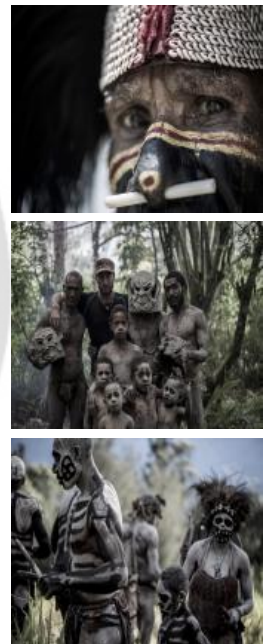


# Remembering Papua New Guinea

---

**Directed by:** Paolo Sodi  
**Produced by:** Alessio Bariviera  
**Duration:** 60 Min.  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** 4 K

"Remembering Papua New Guinea" is an ambitious panoramic fresco of Papua New Guinea, whose cultural and environmental wealth is celebrated through the indigenous tribes, nature, fauna and history. The value of preserving environmental and cultural assets is finally juxtaposed to deforestation and development operations.





# The roots of friendship

---

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 40 Min.

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD



Neither the drought, nor the fatigue nor even the alien beetle come from the east will succeed in weakening the tenacity of a community that for five centuries has been living and thriving around a mythical tree: the fig tree. In Tuscany, in the territory of gentle hills between Empoli and Prato, the cultivation and conservation of figs dates back to the Middle Ages. Siro is the son of farmers, he studied but also listened to the stories of the elderly. He decided to continue the family tradition. Like many villagers he loves figs, plants them, takes care of them, collects them and makes them dry in the August sun. In September, all gather in the farms for the ritual of "appicciatura", in which two dried figs are mated at a time with anise seeds in half. This is the specialty of Carmignano, which triumphs at parties, from October to Christmas.





# ANI, the nuns of Yaqen gar

---

**Directed by:** Eloïse Barbieri  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 52 Min.  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** UHD

In the mid-80s Akhyuk Lama, a Buddhist monk, went to meditate on the sacred plateau of eastern Tibet. Little by little countless pilgrims joined him, thus founding Yaqen gar, an immense “Buddhist settlement” where about 20,000 monastics reside, two thirds of them are nuns. It is a holy site that the Chinese government wants to demolish. The female quarter is a village made up of shacks, the nuns are of all ages and are united by the same spiritual quest and desire for emancipation, many of them belong to the Chinese Han ethnic group. The director is the only Western woman to have managed to live alongside them, she stayed in Yaqen gar for a month, despite the police searches. She recounts the life they lead in this very special place that may soon cease to exist.





# The Guardians of the Camargue

**Directed by:** Paolo Sodi  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 26 Min.  
**Versions:** 🇮🇹  
**Format:** 4K

In the south of France, overlooking the Mediterranean at the mouth of the river Rhone there is a wild land where you can breathe a west-facing atmosphere: it is the Camargue, one of the most extensive wetlands in Europe. We follow the day of a group of "Guardiens", which deal with the breeding of the horses and the Camargue bulls, two native species. This kind of Mediterranean cowboys go through every day immense meadows of glasswort and vast marshes, inhabited by a varied species of aquatic birds, in particular by the spectacular pink Flamingos. A landscape of a beauty that takes your breath away.








# The Chestnut of the Giants

---

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 43 Min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

There are many stories and legends around a tree that fed generations of Valligians in the Alps before modernity emptied the villages: the chestnut tree. Uschione is a small village perched on the sheer rocks that overlook the valley of Keystone, in the high Valtellina. From the stone houses of the village the centers of the valley floor appear as from the plane, eight hundred meters below. Switzerland is just a few laps away, and it's where almost all its inhabitants have emigrated, drawn to the mirage of an easier life. The village remained uninhabited for many years, but only by men. The fraction is intact, but suspended in time. It remains the rural Alpine jewel that had been in the last century: no paved roads, only stone lanes between the stone houses, dry stone walls, vegetable gardens, orchards, small vineyards on the terraces that slowly engulfed the forest swallowed one year after another. But nature continued to live: many wild animals, herbs and flowers of all kinds. And the chestnut trees by the dozens, which every year in October continue to donate big curls and fat. The chestnuts of Lombardy are among the best in Italy, renowned since the Middle Ages. In Uschione, tons of chestnuts were produced, swollen with energy, which almost no one climbs to collect anymore. It is as if the great trees were orphans, suddenly useless, abandoned even if in full health. The "stone staircase", a steep granite-paved path leading to the village is tiring to climb, a testament to the time when you only walked. It was the time when chestnuts were "the bread of the poor", in fact a nutrient-rich fruit, the basis of the food and subsistence economy of many communities. The "gift of God" to which the devil for spite had put thorns around but which hardworking and patient men knew how to open and eat. But the inhabitants have not abandoned it, and working connected to the rest of the world try to revive the gardens and orchards living according to nature, also to no longer leave alone the generous giants of this Italian mountain corner, the secular chestnut trees of Uschione .



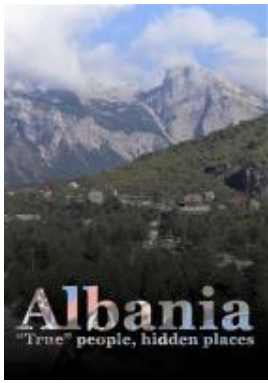


# The vascapun of the Baraggia

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 40 Min  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

Each end is a new beginning. The end of the summer pasture in the mountains is the beginning of the lesser known winter pasture in the plains, which is still practiced in the Biella area. Olimpio was born in the stable. It was a beautiful day in July 1941. Since then Olimpio has always lived here, in the lands near Biella, rich in pastures. Sheep have always been his passion. Alessandro Masiero is a sculptor by passion, for him pastoralism is life, tradition, inspiration. He worked all his life as a manager of a wool mill. He has seen this world change. With the wood of an old cherry tree, he carved a mythical character from the Biella area: the shepherd of the Baraggia, with his "Vascapun", the winter cloak made of straw, that sheltered him from the rain. Daniele is the custodian of the Cluniac monastery of Castelletto Cervo. While recounting its secrets and legends, he recreates a model of the ancient shepherds' cloak, the "vascapun", with the river straw and the stalks of the cattail. After his complicated transhumance, Olimpio, having arrived on the new pastures, prepares his bed for the night, placed in the old subcompact. As always he will spend the night with the flock, to protect his sheep from wolves ... but not from four-legged ones. "Those with two legs," he murmurs with a smile.





# Albania: "true" people, hidden places

---

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 4 x 43 min.

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD

A mini-series to discover Albania. An unknown Albania made up of "real" people and places far from conventional destinations.

- Episodes:**
- Vjosa River, the last queen
  - The mountains of the living past
  - The heroes of the zadrime
  - Mimoza and the mulberries

# Episodes



## Vjosa River, the last queen

The Vjosa River is the last wild river in Europe. But not for long. It is feared that its irreplaceable environmental value will be sacrificed in the name of energy hunger and economic development. He was born in Greece, in the Pindo National Park, the mountain range that connects Greece and Macedonia, and after crossing southern Albania flows into the Otranto Canal, north of Valona. 280 kilometers long, it flows into a watershed of almost seven thousand square kilometers. The area crossed by the river is called "the Blue Heart of Europe" because it offers glimpses of extraordinary beauty and crosses some of the most beautiful and unspoiled territories of the Balkan Peninsula. This earthly paradise of water, rocks and forests could soon disappear. In the programmes of the Albanian Government there is the construction of as many as 36 dams, which would deface the protected areas that the Vjosa crosses, with irreparable damage to the life of the traditional communities that live in its course, as well as destroy a unique biodiversity, with several endangered species, such as the lynx, which could disappear. Wild salmon are still being fished here and if the waterways disappear, the last European population would disappear. This area is part of the list of Unesco Geoparks, for its unique natural and historical features, with vegetation that passes from Mediterranean to Alpine flora and where live 140 species of birds including vultures and eagles and all species of European mammals up to bears and wolves. Along the river there are mule along and where merchants once passed with mules loaded with goods bound for the north. Some are engineering masterpieces, such as the Vradetho Staircase or the three arches of the Plakida Bridge, where a bell warns you when the wind is strong enough to knock you down, in the rapids of the crystal clear river.



## The mountains of the living past

We are in the center of Europe, in the third millennium! Permosh is a very small village in a remote valley in the mountains of northern Albania, in the Scutari region. It is nestled between peaks that reach 2500 meters above sea level, often snowy, immersed in nature and its wild noises. It is located in the meeting point of three borders, Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro and retains the most authentic and intact face of western Balkan culture, so much so that it will become a supranational Park of Peace. The whole Kelmand Valley is far away: from the modernity that advances throughout the region, from the comforts and comforts that often affect our lives. The landscape is primal and authentic, no asphalt, little TV, mobile phones, internet or street lighting. The night in return gives the spectacle of the Milky Way clearly visible to the naked eye, without light pollution. Almost two-thirds of the valley is covered by trees, mainly oak trees. The forests are so inaccessible to humans that they are considered a "primordial forest". The Cem River flows from north to south and is famous for its abundance of mountain trout. 170 caves and caves, 10 of which are of international importance. Inside the caves are stunning underground lakes, huge tunnels and giant siphons that feed dozens of pure water sources and three waterfalls. All these wonders, however, are nothing compared to the inhabitants. It is an ancient and leathery community of a few people dedicated to breeding and farming heroic at high altitude, in the best preserved example of a mountain village, with houses with typical wooden tiled roof gathered around a real working water stone mill, in step with the slow weather of Nature. At the center of the clock tower, used over the centuries as a refuge during the recurring family feuds. Many women in the villages still wear the "xhubleta", the bell skirt whose origin is lost in the night of time.



## The heroes of the zadrime

In the heart of Mediterranean Europe, a few miles from our coasts, there is a beautiful valley in the north of a country we know little about, Albania. Zadrime is the name of a fertile plain, surrounded by mountains, sun-kissed and irrigated by rivers. A region of ancient traditions, witnessed by the vestiges of castles and monasteries, and at the same time also by the most authentic peasant culture that still survives today. Age, a strong and sweet woman. She has struggled all her life but is still impeccable and smiling in her traditional black and white dress. And then there's Yak, Zef, Kol. Together with them we will discover the treasures of this land such as the "byrek" the salt cake, the "pekmes" from the blackberries of mulberry, the white corn bread, the fine "Kalmet" wine, also chosen by the Pontiff.



### **Mimoza and the mulberries**

Albania, Scutari district. Mimoza is probably the last woman in Europe to take care of the complete silk cycle, from the breeding of worms to spinning and weaving, with which she makes traditional clothes to the frame. Weaves fine linen for wedding kits, tablecloths, shirts, undercarves, scarves and scarves, following the method practiced for centuries in the Western Balkans, inherited from her mother. Once in his village, every family owned mulberry trees and raised silkworms. Then, because of a parasite but especially to the competition of China, this tradition has gradually disappeared. As had happened in Italy, at the beginning of the twentieth century. Mimoza wants to take that tradition back by involving the other women in the village. In spring he wanders around in search of abandoned mulberities, collecting the leaves to feed the worms. In the breeding helps Lejla, a retired entomologist from Tirana, the highest Albanian expert of bees and silkworm, who for passion and nostalgia takes care of the larvae and keeps them alive during the winter ... in the refrigerator at home. Then, between April and May, he incubates the eggs and follows the birth of the worms, which he entrusts to Mimosa for the growth phase until the formation of cocoons.








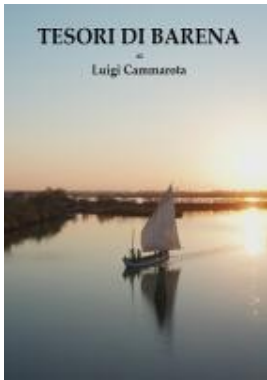
# The Art of Maguey

---

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 43 min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

Pallasca is a village 3400 meters north of Peru's Cordillera Blanca. Mud and straw houses, a gaunt rural economy of high altitude, you get there with an incredible breathtaking hairpin bend road, the only connection to Lima and the other cities of the coast, cross the Olympic Point, the only available step at 5200 meters, higher than the summit of our Mont Blanc. Here an important laboratory for the sculpture of the "maguey". Better known as the American agave, this plant is widespread in Central and South America, and myths and legends flourish around it. It's called the tree of wonders. Similar to aloe of African origin, it has been known for millennia for its many uses: food for humans and animals, syrups and liqueurs such as mezcal and tequila, drugs and vegetable fibers for ropes, baskets, fabrics and carpets, such as sisal. Few know a further use of the American agave, which when it blooms, once in a lifetime, develops a cylindrical keg, three meters long and more long, which supports the inflorescences, up to twenty centimeters wide, resistant but very light, like balsa, a kind of polystyrene expanded vegetable. For centuries in the villages of Peru it has been used for many uses, from braided rope bridges to the roofs of houses and above all, after Spanish colonization, for the manufacture of statues. With this light and compact material you can model huge sculptures but at the same time easily transportable, for example in processions. The laboratories of Pallasca, Punchao and San Luis, managed by Italian volunteers, try to re-establish the broken threads of the pre-Columbian culture of the Andean populations, applying very simple and ancestral techniques for the processing of this extraordinary, ecological and perfectly natural material.





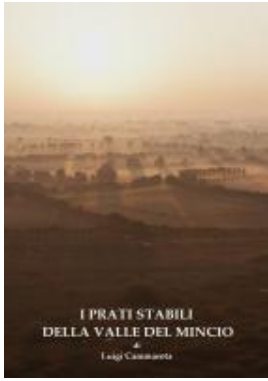
# Salt marsh treasures

---


**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 43 min.  
**Versions:**  
**Format:** HD

Anna and Martina are sisters, and they live in the hinterland of Venice. Their project, to which they dedicate all their time with passion with the help of Andrea and their parents, is a dream, but also a tiring challenge: to revitalize a small uninhabited island in the northern lagoon of Venice, returning it to its original vocation, made of typical quality crops, sustainable fishing, simple and self-sufficient hospitality, according to the principles of the circular economy, from food production to energy to waste management. With the added value of a precious treasure, a unique and special honey, which bees produce from the wild flowers that grow in the "sandbanks", the tongues of brackish land that emerge a few centimeters from the water at every low tide. A dream that day after day, with effort and tenacity, is becoming reality.

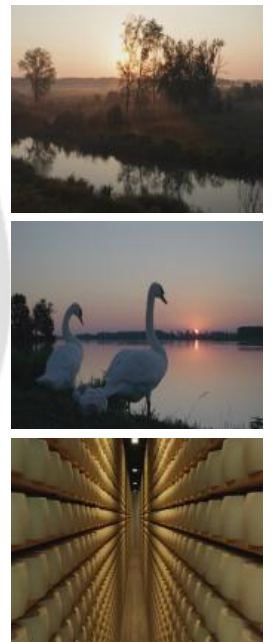




# The Stable Meadows of the Mincio Valley


**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 43 min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

The magical and fortunate encounter between a particular nature of the land and human ingenuity, in a territory rich in water has given life to stable meadows. It is an ultra-sustainable agricultural technique. Land not processed for at least five years where the most valuable fodder grows, are the basis of the production of the most sold, loved and copied cheese with the best-selling, loved and copied designation of origin in the world, Grana Padano. In the area of the Mincio valley, in an area protected by a Park, there are the oldest stable meadows and appreciated by dairy farmers in the area of Mantua and Verona. Here the destinies of spontaneous plant essences were intertwined in the last century with the industriousness of an ethnic group whose origins are confused in legend: the Cimbri, bloodthirsty barbarians, or tireless lumberjacks?





# The Way of the Thousand

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 43 min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

Saying \"Palermo\" arouses opposite emotions, all very strong. Regional capital, wonderful, chaotic, passionate metropolitan city, home to magnificent world heritage sites for art, culture and traditions. Placidly lying - when it appears from afar - in the superb \"Conca d'oro\", with a density of four thousand inhabitants per square kilometre, Palermo is certainly not a quiet place. But looking south from the sea, it appears surrounded by a barrier of mountains, the Monti di Palermo, a chain of mountain ranges more than a thousand meters high which dominate the gulf and the city with a mighty embrace. From the top of these mountains, the noise, the passions and the frenzy are barely perceived, miles away, but also centuries away. Incredibly, the landscape and nature are still those of the rural, sunny and wild Sicily of the nineteenth century, when the narrow-gauge train of the \"Sicilian Railways Company of London\" connected Palermo to Corleone, passing through Monreale and Ficuzza. The train is no longer there, but the ancient route can be traveled on foot, horse and bicycle. Stefano is a young man with a passion for exploratory trekking who, studying an ancient guide of the Alpine Club from 1910, identified a fascinating itinerary that he knows of history, culture and untouched nature: the \"Cammino dei Mille\". It is the set of paths, mule tracks and country lanes that allowed Garibaldi and his thousand \"red shirts\" to outflank the Bourbon army by advancing on the crests of the Palermo mountains and conquering the city and the whole of Sicily. With the supervision of Amelia Crisantino, writer, journalist and historian, and together with other volunteer and enthusiastic walkers, he traced the surprising route of one hundred and sixty kilometers that winds along panoramic ridges, wooded valleys, very green plateaus and which touches large and small inhabited centers, but all famous, such as Monreale, Corleone, Misilmeri, Marineo, Piana degli albanesi, Santa Cristina Gela, Mezzojuso, closing the ring in Palermo. From every point of the way you can see the sea. The most enchanting stretch is in the Bosco della Ficuzza, a Site of Community Importance and a Special Protection Area, a hunting reserve of the Bourbons which, in addition to the royal lodge, boasts stupendous panoramas, centuries-old woods, archaeological remains and precious endemisms. An immersion in the past and in the uncontaminated nature of a Mediterranean territory of rare beauty, which brings out the truest, most natural and sustainable soul of this land through the gaze and voice of the young volunteers and the inhabitants met along the way.








# Precarpathia

---

**Directed by:** Mariusz Michal Daż  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 26 min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

The documentary explores the rich natural, cultural, and traditional tapestry of the Precarpathian Voivodeship, a region located in the southeast of Poland, bordering Ukraine and Slovakia. Characterized by an extensive expanse of woods, forests, and national parks, this area serves as a sanctuary for a diverse range of wildlife, including European bison, deer, bears, wolves, and numerous bird species, making it a paradise for nature lovers and ornithologists. Precarpathia is distinguished by its rolling landscape that ascends towards the Carpathian Mountains and its rich history, evidenced by architectural marvels such as the Lancut Castle and the baroque monastery of the Bernardine friars in Leżajsk, home to a remarkable monumental organ. The daily life of the inhabitants reflects a deep bond with nature and traditions, as demonstrated in the documentary through the activities of Irena, a local woman engaged in mushroom gathering and the preparation of traditional foods, including the \"Kapuszniak\" soup and other dishes made with locally grown vegetables like cabbage. The documentary highlights the celebration of traditional holidays, such as the Feast of the Assumption, and the importance of local craftsmanship, including the ancient art of wicker basket weaving, which, despite facing modern challenges, continues to be valued. The production of honey from bees thriving in a minimally industrialized environment and the residents' affection for traditional agricultural practices, like the manual milking of cows and ancient baking methods, exemplify the uniqueness of life in Precarpathia. Through interviews and narratives, the documentary celebrates the traditions, culture, and deep connection with the land of this Polish region, offering an intimate view of a way of life that, even in a modern world, keeps its historical and cultural heritage alive.







# The invitation

---

**Directed by:** Gino Cammarota

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 43 min.

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD

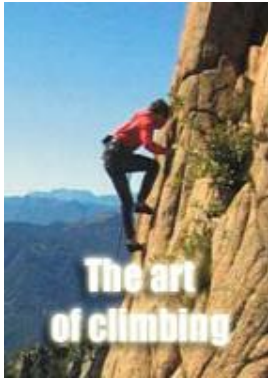
Like flowers sprouting from the earth, the houses of Ursumarzu seem to emerge naturally from the rock, forming a village that harmoniously intertwines with the Calabrian landscape. Once a Roman fortress and later a thriving settlement, this town now has fewer than a thousand inhabitants. Yet, it keeps its traditions alive, such as the ancestral ritual of the \"Mmiti di San Giuseppe.\" During this event, celebrated annually with the arrival of spring, the community comes together to prepare and share a banquet of plant-based foods, symbolizing abundance and hope. A rite of passage and purification rooted in pre-Christian times, it unites the entire population in a moment of conviviality and solidarity, especially towards the most needy. The festive atmosphere, shared memories, and an enduring bond with nature and history make Ursumarzu a living gateway to the past and a beacon of communal resilience.



# EDUCATIONAL

---





# The art of climbing

---

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota & Paolo Caruso

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 2x30'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

The movement on rocks, artificial structures, snow and ice is substantially the same. So far, it has been impossible to establish the basic movements of climbing. At present, Paolo Caruso's technique teaches how to climb in order to develop one's specific motor behaviour even without muscular training. The author exploited his own experience as Alpine-climber and as teacher of climbing, as well as his practice of ancient Oriental disciplines, to introduce a new technical and didactic method which takes into account, for the first time, the main features of climbing without neglecting the importance of a global view on this matter, so that motor behaviour, breathing and mind can be harmoniously developed.

**Episodes:**

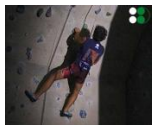
- Basic principles of the movement
- Technical progression

# Episodes



## **Basic principles of the movement**

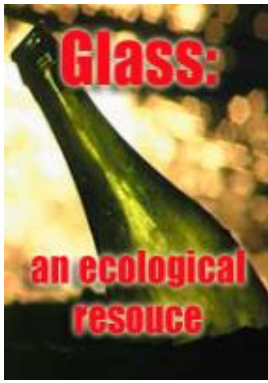
In the first chapter of "The art of climbing", we focus on the basic principles of the movement.



## **Technical progression**

In this second chapter of "The art of climbing" we focus on the technical progression.





# Glass: an ecological resource

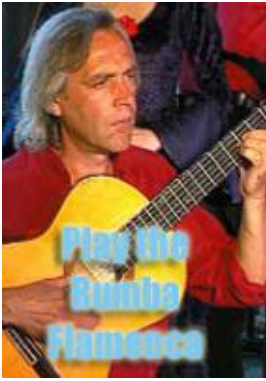
---

**Directed by:** Massimiliano Sbrolla  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 15'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

A material whose origins are lost in time, which has become an ever present element of our daily lives. From its fascinating production techniques to its delicate, and in Italy often overlooked, recycling. It was probably an innocuous bonfire lit on a beach somewhere that gave birth to glass, one of man's most ancient and most important discoveries. The first Sumerian or Egyptian artist, or scientist, to understand that when opaque sand was melted at high temperatures it solidified to form a transparent material could not have imagined the difference his discovery would bring about to the everyday life of people all over the world. Just look around. How could we live without glass in our windows, without glasses, without mirrors or the glass used to construct synthetic fibres, cables and an enormous range of other materials? A used container can be used to make a bottle, vase or phial of a quality every bit as high as products made from "virgin" materials. Returnable bottles are a very environmentally friendly form of packaging. Unlike aluminium or paper containers, glass containers can be reused up to 50 times.







# Play the rumba flamenca

---

**Directed by:** Furio Moretti  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 30'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

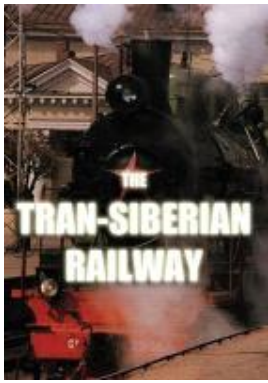
Paco de Lucia, the Gypsy Kings, Los Reyes, Otmar Liebert... all international names who owe their success to music based on the Flamenco Rumba sound. With the severe simplicity of its production "Play the rumba flamenca" has discovered the perfect way to make the basic technique behind this rhythm, which owes its world-wide success to its strong communicational abilities, accessible to everybody.



# HISTORY

---





# The Trans-Siberian Railway

**Directed by:** Daniel Corner  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 50'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** SD

The Trans-Siberian Railway is one of the most colossal works ever created by man. It was built in only 16 years at the end of the 19th century by tens of thousands of workers, many of them convicts, who overcame immense difficulties and faced challenges that seemed almost insuperable at the time. A journey of 9,300 kilometres. From Moscow to Vladivostok, passing through seven time zones. Novosibirsk and Lake Baikal, the fascination and contradictions of the cities of Siberia. The longest, most fascinating railway line in the world, a train that has become a legend. Dream-like landscapes and mysterious peoples. A journey of exploration; through the faces and the testimonies of the real travellers, those in third class, who move over great distances, often sustained only by hope.





# The sinking of the Andrea Doria

**Directed by:** Fabio Toncelli

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica (Coproducted by: Thirteen WNET, ZDF, RAI)

**Duration:** 52' & 75'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

Sixty years after the disaster, the time has come to reveal the mystery behind one of the greatest marine disasters ever and to redistribute blame and praise more justly, with an absorbing documentary using incredible archive and original footage, some seen for the very first time. After fifty years, the various pieces of the puzzle can be fit together to reveal the definitive truth behind the tragic fate of the Andrea Doria, an uncomfortable and in some ways shocking truth. It is the night of 25 July 1956. The Andrea Doria is scheduled to arrive in New York the following morning. But a few miles further on, still out of the fog and travelling in the opposite direction, is the Stockholm, a Swedish passenger ship. The Ile de France, an old but graceful French transatlantic liner, is also approaching the area. No one is yet aware of it, but the destiny of these three ladies of the sea and that of their three captains - Piero Calamai, Harry Gunnarr Nordenson and Baron Raoul de Beaudean - are about to collide. It is to be a night of tragedy and hope, of fierce destiny and miracles, of extreme courage and everyday cowardice.





# St. Peter

**Directed by:** Ingo Langner

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica - Provobis

**Duration:** 52'

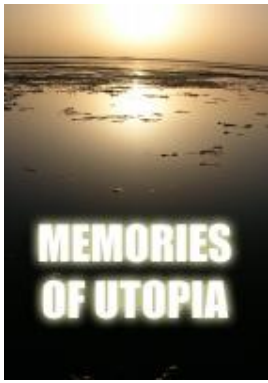
**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

Today's St. Peter Cathedral is not only the largest, but also the most important and most visited church in Christendom. It replaces the old St. Peter's Basilica built under the Roman Emperor Constantine between 319 and 322. Architectural digs in 1940-49 showed that the Roman Christian community worshiped at the grave of the Apostle Peter as long ago as the middle of the 2nd century, but probably from the outset. No Peter's grave, no San Peter in Vatican. Because this is where the Emperor Constantine started this tradition of worshipping a Peter's grave, as he had the first Basilica built on the Vatican hill. Peter's grave is situated in a necropolis still maintained to this day beneath St. Peter's, which also holds the elaborate tombs of Roman nobility. The grave is in precisely the same place where today the papal altar stands.







# Memories of Utopia

**Directed by:** Najla Rizk

**Produced by:** Najla Rizk & Marco Morelli

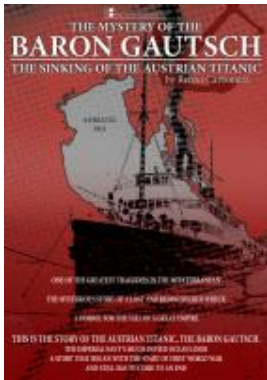
**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

Memories of Utopia tells the story of a Nubian musician who travels from Egypt to the Sudan in search of the Nubian villages that were never flooded. As he travels down the Nile by boat, he meets many Nubians who have returned to their homeland, in search of the life they knew before they were forced to emigrate. Through song and music, Fikry tries to recreate the long ago Nubian nights for him-self as well as those he meets along the way. This is a story of longing, of music and of self-discovery.





# The sinking of the Baron Gautsch

**Directed by:** Renzo Carbonera

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 30 min.

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HDCAM

The luxury ocean liner Baron Gautsch was the pride of the Austrian merchant fleet. It was the best, the safest and the fastest means of transport of the Habsburg Empire and was rightly considered the Austro-Hungarian Titanic. On the 13th of August, 1914, the United Kingdom and France declared war on Austria, having declared war on Germany a week earlier. Skirmishes between the Empires officially became what was to be known as the "First World War". That same day, the Baron Gautsch was sailing towards Trieste packed with reserve soldiers, wealthy tourists and notables returning to Vienna because of the imminent war. At 14.45, the liner hit a mine and sank off the coast of Istria in less than five minutes. Of the 240 official passengers and 66 crew members, 177 died. But the vessel was overcrowded and military or public administration employees did not need to be registered on board. Official figures spoke of over 500 deaths, mainly unrecognizably burnt corpses, making it the largest marine tragedy in the Mediterranean. Only 68 bodies were ever recovered, including that of Second Officer Tenze, in command at the time of the disaster, who was found with a bullet in his head. Was the disaster the result of sabotage or a mine laid just a few hours earlier by the Austrian Navy itself? And what was the Baron Gautsch carrying? Gold? What is the truth?





# Stolen lives

---

**Directed by:** Annamaria Gallone

**Produced by:** Kenzi

**Duration:** 48'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

Today, China: children are stolen and sold to rich families without children of their own. Desperate parents abandon all they have to follow the traces of their child who has disappeared. Very young girls are sold to peasants who need help for the work in the countryside or to affluent men who want one more concubine. The work of the Policy and of a female journalist who persecute these terrible stories is not always successful. And, despite all, the rain continues to fall on the other side of the world.





# A minority report

**Directed by:** Stefano Giantin

**Produced by:** Saputnik Film

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

In June 1999, following the end of the three-month NATO military campaign against Yugoslavia, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) was established. UNMIK was the first peace-building operation ever based on the idea of an UN administration fully governing a post-conflict territory. The range of organisations involved in the missions is extraordinary, ranging from OSCE, to EU to NATO. UNMIK entered Kosovo under the banner of human rights, but in the first three months of operations, UNMIK failed to organise any kind of effective police service. In that vacuum, the spirit of revenge of part of the Kosovo Albanian majority remained unchecked and over 240.000 minorities - mostly Serbs, Roma and Gorani - were forced to leave Kosovo. Their houses and properties were destroyed or illegally sold and occupied, graveyards and worship places ruined, their traces erased. Hundreds of those who stayed, were killed, kidnapped or brutally persecuted for not belonging to the majority community. According to UNHCR, only around 15.000 IDPs returned to Kosovo until 2007. Those who return find their property destroyed or occupied. They live in ghettos dispersed through Kosovo, often without access to basic services. Threats, harassment and isolation are part of the daily life of those who return. *A Minority Report* tells the story of some of those who tried to return, and presents the points of view of the international civil servants who ruled the province in the last seven years.





# The Middle Ages

**Directed by:** Nicola Pittarello  
**Produced by:** Venicefilm Production  
**Duration:** 6x52'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

An exciting and passionate homage to the historical period, a tribute to the atmospheres and the sensations of the Middle Ages: challenges based upon strength and deftness, banquets, battles, and ancient flavors. To listen to the sounds and voices of the Middle Ages means to run backwards in time in order to relive epochs, in which History is tainted by legend. Extraordinary, incredibly realistic reconstructions and re-enactments, as well as experts and historian will help us to relive the Middle Ages from both an historical and a social point of view. All that and much more, shot in HD.



- Episodes:**
- LIGHTS AND SHADOWS: Faith, science and magic
  - ALONG THE WAY: merchants, craftsmen and plebeians
  - A GROUND FOR MANY HANDS: Everyday life in peasant villages
  - BRAVERY, COURAGE AND COURTLY LOVE: dames and knights between history and legend
  - OPPIDUM REPUGNAT: the castle under siege and its defence
  - THE MEDIEVAL MAN: his thinking, his culture, his fears



# Episodes



**LIGHTS AND SHADOWS: Faith, science and magic**



**ALONG THE WAY: merchants, craftsmen and plebeians**



**A GROUND FOR MANY HANDS: Everyday life in peasant villages**



**BRAVERY, COURAGE AND COURTLY LOVE: dames and knights between history and legend**



**OPPIDUM REPUGNAT: the castle under siege and its defence**



**THE MEDIEVAL MAN: his thinking, his culture, his fears**



# DARWIN'S LOST PARADISE

---

**Directed by:** Hannes Schuler e Katharina von Flotow

**Produced by:** Monaco Film, Films A Trois, Chapman Pictures

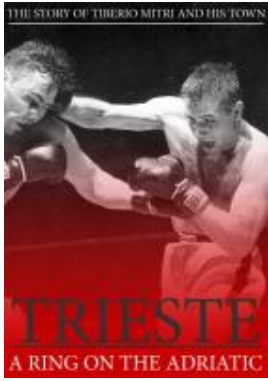
**Duration:** 90'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

Charles Darwin is without doubt one of the greatest thinkers in the history of mankind. His scientific research, which culminated with the publication of the theory evolution in 1859, shook humanity's belief in being chosen, the fruit of God's creation, and proved that it has developed through a long evolutionary process. Mankind was no longer the unique creation of God, but the result of a process of adaptation that had lasted for millions of years. Many of the observations that led Darwin to this new and shocking conclusion were made during the long voyage of the Beagle, a British ship that took him around the world on a five-year journey from 1831 to 1836. Two hundred years after Darwin's birth and 150 years after the publication of "The Origin of Species", the documentary reconstructs the naturalist's voyage around the world and talks to contemporary scientists to try and explain why his ideas still play such an important role in science today.

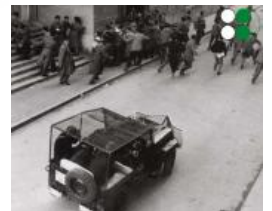




# Trieste - A ring on the Adriatic

**Directed by:** Renzo Carbonera  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 52 Min  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HDCam

Tiberio Mitri was born in Trieste on 12 July 1926 and rapidly became a star of Italian boxing. It is the immediate post-war period and the background is Trieste, claimed by both Tito and Italy and recently occupied by the Americans and the British in an attempt to keep it from the Communists. Tensions are running high: it is as if the city has become an immense boxing ring where a match of historic significance is taking place. Mitri became European middleweight champion at only 22 years of age, in 1948, the same year that he married Fulvia Franco, elected Miss Italia at only 19. The two rapidly became one of the most talked about and glamorous couples in Europe. Fascinated by the American myth, which they glimpsed from their city thanks to the presence of the Allied soldiers and their lifestyle, they decided to leave for New York. Tiberio's dream was to challenge world champion Jack La Motta, while Fulvia wanted to try her luck in Hollywood. But things didn't go as planned: Mitri succumbed to his opponent's blows. He never completely recovered from the defeat, and neither did Fulvia obtain the success she so desired. They returned to Italy, where Tiberio separated from Fulvia and soon after, gave up boxing. At almost the same time, Trieste was returned to Italy and the Americans left forever.





# Vajont 1963: the courage to survive

**Directed by:** Andrea Prandstraller & Michele Barca

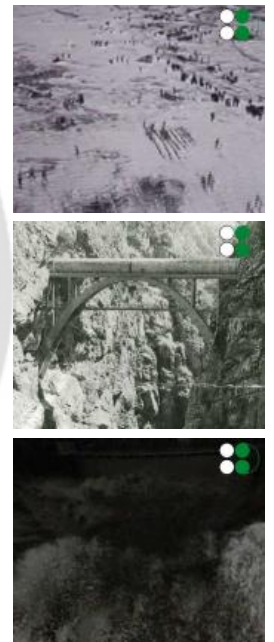
**Produced by:** Venicefilm Production

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD

The story of the tragedy of the Vajont is so well known all around the world that just few words are needed to recount it. It is 22:39, 9th October 1963: a landslide of 250 millions cubic meters leaves from Toc mountain and plunged in the artificial lake created by the Vajont dike. The wave generated by the impact is more than 100 meters high: it jumps over the dike and in a few minutes it falls down on the village of Longarone, which is situated just at the feet of the dike, destroying it. Almost 2000 people go from sleeping to death in few seconds. Considered an immense “natural catastrophe” for years, thanks to courageous journalists the Vajont slaughter turned out as what really was: the tragic epilogue of a wrong operation which has been followed for years to protect economical and political interests. This huge dike, “the greatest dike in the world”, completed in autumn 1960, would have never been constructed here, as the Toc is a rotten mountain, something the valley inhabitants already knew. In fact, the word “toc” means “piece” in the dialect spoken in the valley. But beyond responsibilities and mistakes, beyond the cynical economic calculation perpetrated on the backs of hundreds of innocents, images of the drama and testimony of the few survivors remain, 45 years after the Vajont tragedy.





# Exodus

**Directed by:** Nicolò Bongiorno

**Produced by:** Venicefilm Production

**Duration:** 2x52'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

Between 1943 and 1954, 350.000 Italians were forced to leave their native soil in the provinces - that were Italian at that time - of Pola, Fiume and Zara, to escape the persecution and the de-nationalization process which took place in those regions by the Yugoslavian regime established by Tito. It has been a truly "ethnic cleansing", put to use with a series of civil and military massacres, starting in Istria and Dalmatia in 1943 following the armistice dated 8th September and ending on May 1945, when the Yugoslavian troops invasion of the Venezia Giulia began. This story, full of horror, sacrifice and heroism of plain people stolen of their memories about the places inhabited by Italians since time immemorial, has been completely forgotten for fifty years and hidden to younger generations and to Italian public opinion. This series of two documentaries is meant to reconstruct those events with authentic footage and several interviews to historian and witnesses, who lived those drama in first person. EPISODES: - The denied memory - The forgotten Italy







# Kappler: prisoner of war on the run

**Directed by:** Eugenio Costantini  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 52'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

Herbert Kappler, the notorious SS Lieutenant-Colonel and head of the Gestapo in Rome, who was responsible for numerous war crimes, including the massacre of the Ardeatine Caves, escapes from a Italian military hospital during the night of 14 and 15 August 1977. How did he escape from the Celio prison? In a suitcase, as he first claimed, dropped on a rope, as his wife wrote in her book "I'll Take You Home", or on foot, as he claimed in a recent interview (2007)? In front of our cameras, Eckehard Walther, Annelise's son, who was involved in the escape, tells the truth. When it was discovered, the escape plunged the Italian government into chaos and embarrassed the Germans. The news filled the front pages of leading newspapers throughout Europe and beyond. In Italy, the Minister of Defence, Vito Lattanzio was forced to resign. Did someone allow or protect Kappler's escape? More than 30 years later, many questions remain unanswered. Now we want to find those answers.





# Insulo de la Rozoj - Freedom is frightening

**Directed by:** Stefano Bisulli & Roberto Naccari

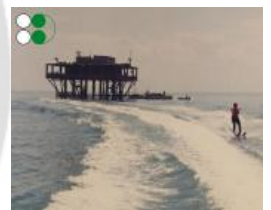
**Produced by:** Cinematica

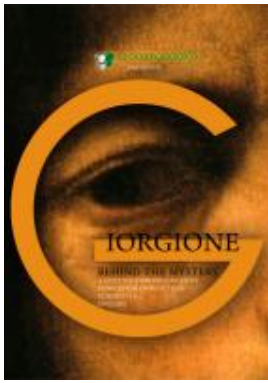
**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  


**Format:** Digibeta

It is a little-known footnote in history that Italy fought its last territorial war just 40 years ago: against Respubliko de la Insulo de la Rozoj, or the Republic of Rose Island, a microstate in the Adriatic some 11 kilometers from the Italian coastal resort of Rimini. The brainchild of industrial engineer Giorgio Rosa, the steel and concrete island measured some 400 square meters and was finally completed in 1967, following many years of preparation and setbacks. A year later, Rosa declared independence from Italy. Rose Island had its own official language (Esperanto), flag, national anthem (from The Flying Dutchman by Wagner), its own currency (the milo), stamps (now highly collectible), shops, a restaurant, and a nightclub. The Italian authorities regarded this new republic with suspicion, fearing it would become a safe haven for tax evasion and other illegal activities, and so the carabinieri closed it down. Early in 1969, it was blown up - a task that proved easier said than done. Insulo de la Rozoj - Freedom is Frightening looks back at this minor episode in history in the form of interviews with those involved and with lawyers, who explain the criteria for setting up a nation state, and intersperses these talking heads with archive footage. The founder of the microstate remains something of an enigma. Was Rosa a naive dreamer, an anarchical, or a crafty business man?





# Giorgione: behind the mystery

**Directed by:** Antonello Belluco  
**Produced by:** Venicefilm Production  
**Duration:** 52 minutes  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

October, 1510: Taddeo Albano, Venetian merchant and trusted partner of Isabella D'Este, the duchess of Mantua, is requested by the lady to find and buy the "Nocte" painting by Giorgione, for her private collection. This is how the journey of Taddeo begins, at the pursuit of the masterpiece of the mysterious painter. Along the way, he will find most of the landscapes and the people Giorgione visited throughout his life: from Castelfranco to Asolo, from nobles who commissioned several of his paintings to Venetian intellectual circles he frequented, from his colleagues Titian and Catena to the parties of the Calza's company.





# The ghosts of the Third Reich

**Directed by:** Claudia Ehrlich Sobral and Tommaso Valente

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 45'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

"Ghosts of the Third Reich" documents the poignant and anguished stories of descendants of the Nazis, who confront their family's past and communicate their most profound feelings of guilt by inheritance. These individuals, whose family members were supporters, officers, and elite of the Nazi regime, share a common desire to distance themselves from Nazi ideology and the actions of their ancestors; and to liberate themselves from the guilt, shame, and pain that continue to levy a heavy price seventy years later. The confrontation with the inheritance of the Nazi legacy is powerfully evoked further in the inclusion of moments from The Austrian Encounter, a focal point for dialogue between descendants of Nazi perpetrators and survivors of the Holocaust. To buy a DVD please write to [info@sdcinematografica.it](mailto:info@sdcinematografica.it)





# Free as his name

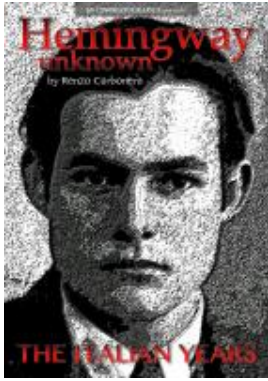
---

**Directed by:** Pietro Durante  
**Produced by:** Pietro Durante  
**Duration:** 58 minutes  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

Twenty years have passed. In a letter published on the front page of the Giornale di Sicilia newspaper, Libero Grassi, Palermo businessman, speaks directly to the extortionists pressing him for protection money. It is the 10th of January 1991. For many it is a date which marks the beginning of the fight back against the rackets. From that moment on, no one could say "I didn't know". There is no statue to commemorate Libero Grassi, nor a square or a street named after him. Libero Grassi has a hand-written plaque and a red mark, re-painted every year by his wife and children, on the pavement where the killers of Cosa Nostra shot him down from behind. Many years later, his ideas have unleashed a possible revolution which today involves over ten thousand citizens of Palermo who recognise themselves in the phrase: "A WHOLE PEOPLE WHO PAYS THE PIZZO IS A PEOPLE WITHOUT DIGNITY" In this documentary, the story of Libero Grassi is relived by his wife and children, who also tell another story, that of his moral legacy. The young people of Addiopizzo, and a businessman who, like Grassi, rebelled, together with the president of the Libero Futuro association which assists businesspeople who are victims of Mafia extortion and who modified the Confindustria industrial association's code of ethics, describe an extraordinary Palermo fired with a new popular dignity. Thus, Libero Grassi's dream will come true. He was killed on the 29th of August 1991, but "he died as a living person". He was not a hero, he was a "normal Sicilian" who liked to say that, in line with all the choices he made, his was "more an adjective than a name".







# Hemingway unknown: the Italian years

**Directed by:** Renzo Carbonera & Nicola Pittarello

**Produced by:** Venicefilm production for SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HDcam


Ernest Hemingway is a legendary figure. He was not only an author, he was a work of art in himself: a rock star before his time. Much of his life was spent on a never-ending holiday, which he meticulously documented and which served as a continuous source of inspiration to him. His name is synonymous with Cuba and Paris, world wars and civil wars, of adventurous African safaris, fascinating women who were in turn fascinated by his charisma. His aphorisms are among the most frequently quoted, his name one of the most present on plaques on buildings around the world. Everywhere there are places that boast of being mentioned by him: whether truthfully or falsely. There are thousands of photographs of him. Hemingway built himself a reputation as a soldier of fortune, a larger than life personality, a man and a myth, confusing the life he lived with the imaginary lives of his characters. This is the context of his travels in Italy. From World War I to the advent of fascism, from the Second World War to the years of the Italian economic miracle: friendships with both men and women, with food and wine, with the landscape, his lovers, the pleasures and tragedies of life, especially in the Veneto, were fundamental for the writer. We uncover how Hemingway was a precursor to the modern "celebrity", discovering along the way how he became a victim of the very image he had created for himself. Discovering the unknown and private aspects of his character among the mountains and lakes of an area that he loved to the end, makes the silence regarding the fragility of this "tough guy" even more deafening.





# REAL WAR

---

**Directed by:** Fabio Toncelli  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 52 Min.  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

When were the first real photographs of war taken? Now, more than a hundred and fifty years later, what do we really see of the wars that are fought in the world? And what did we see in this film over one hundred fifty years old? Few people know that in the mid-19th century, on a balmy March day that heralded spring, a photographer snapped the first photograph of war, a conflict fought in a remote corner of the globe, on the shores of the Black Sea. Since then, war has been described in many ways and its narration has evolved along two main lines: through technological advances in audiovisual production and through the attempt to manage the emotional and political impact that images of conflicts inevitably have in a society increasingly pervaded by omnipresent multimedia communication. Strangely, some aspects of war now seem to be obscured, less effective in reaching the collective consciousness, despite a realism that sometimes seems to exceed a Hollywood movie, where soldiers film their own deaths and sequences that make deadly physical confrontations between soldiers look like a video game. With a relentless narration that does not necessarily follow a chronological order, we recount a number of highly spectacular cases, using exceptional –and in some cases very rare and sometimes shocking – images. From some rare images of World War I, some even in colour, to the devastating bombing of the Monte Cassino Abbey and later the town of Cassino, taken from every angle, almost minute by minute, as if we were there, with its deafening sound and new footage. As well as the Vietnam war, up to the Gulf Wars and the almost cinematographic action of American troops and their allies in Afghanistan. In the end we discover that there may be more reality in an old yellowing photograph from almost a century ago than a shining image in splendid High Definition .





# WWII

---

**Directed by:** Fabio Toncelli (5) - Renzo Carbonera (2)

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 7 x 52 min.

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

WWII as it has never been told! Amazing library footage restored in HIGH DEFINITION, never before heard eyewitness accounts, documents that have remained secret until now, photographs recently found and shown for the first time, astonishing computer reconstructions and moving re-enactments help us to relive not only the political and military climate of the time, but take us side-by-side with the soldiers to discover the embarrassing truth that has remained hidden for over half a century.



- Episodes:**
- Ortona 1943: a bloody Christmas
  - Blue Jeans and short skirts - American Trieste after the war
  - Cassino: nine months in hell
  - Free Mussolini
  - Heimat Südtirol - Canonical Michael Gamper
  - Mussolini 25 July 1943, the fall
  - 2nd December 1943: Hell on Bari

# Episodes



## Ortona 1943: a bloody Christmas

It was the bloodiest and most mysterious battle of the Second World War in Italy. In Ortona, a small seaside town in the Abruzzo region, Germans and Canadians literally fought street by street, house by house, even room by room. Why did everyone want to conquer Ortona in December 1943? What was so important about it? And why was it forgotten so quickly afterwards? What embarrassing secret does Ortona hide until this day? Amazing library footage restored in HIGH DEFINITION, never before heard eyewitness accounts, documents that have remained secret until now, German photographs recently found and shown for the first time, astonishing computer reconstructions and moving re-enactments help us to relive not only the political and military climate of the time, but take us back to the narrow alleys of the time, standing side-by-side with the soldiers to discover the embarrassing truth that has remained hidden for over half a century.



## Blue Jeans and short skirts - American Trieste after the war

At the end of the Second World War, Trieste, a city in the north of Italy that had remained in the shadows throughout the conflict, suddenly found itself the focus of great strategic interest. Caught between Italy and Yugoslavia, between the West and the Communist block, it was administrated by America and Britain for no less than nine years. These were the years of Philip Morris cigarettes, of the first blue jeans seen in Europe, of neon signs, nylon stockings, increasingly short skirts, of nights fuelled by martinis and boogie-woogie, and the first Hollywood movies. The American soldier Jim Herring and his Trieste wife Claudia witnessed it all and tell us about those incredible years with the help of never seen archive footage and historical reconstructions. Trieste appeared to be a happy island, but in reality it was revealed to be a powder keg and a nest of spies!



## Cassino: nine months in hell

The Benedictine abbey of Monte Cassino, halfway between Rome and Naples was one of the most important monuments in the whole of Christianity. During the Second World War the Allied forces decide to bomb the Abbey of Monte Cassino with such unprecedented violence. The battle resulted in one of the worst massacres of the Second World War, with the death of 50,000 from the multinational contingent of the Allied forces, 20,000 German soldiers, plus thousands of Italian civilians, in a battle that went on well into the spring. Was it really necessary to conquer Monte Cassino to free the road for the conquest of Rome? Why did the Anzio landings not avoid a bloodbath at Monte Cassino? Why didn't the Allies head immediately for Rome? This engrossing narration will reconstruct all the political and military background behind the dreadful stalemate of the Anglo-American military campaign in Italy in the winter of 1944, the dramatic leadership errors and the mutual lack of trust between the Allied partners.



## Free Mussolini

For the first time, unpublished documents and photos reveal the secret of the most daring exploit of all time carried out by special forces: Operation Oak, the liberation of the Duce, Benito Mussolini. Testimonies, memories, filmed material, unpublished photographs, and documents carefully hidden in the Italian archives demolish piece by piece the official nazi version and make it possible for the first time to recount the incredible chain of events that had a strong effect on public opinion throughout the world during World War II and still conceals many obscure aspects. From July 25, 1943, the day on which the Duce was deposed by a conspiracy within the regime and arrested, there began a ruthless struggle between the Italian, German and Anglo-American secret services to hide or discover where the Duce really was. Now we are finally able to reconstruct them: a Carabinieri barracks in Rome, the island of Ponza, the island of the Maddalena in Sardinia, a farm house in Abruzzo and finally a hotel in Campo Imperatore at an altitude of more than 2,000 feet. In the first three places, the Germans arrived just after the prisoner had been taken away. But the race continued. Everyone was aware of the importance for the outcome of the war of possessing Mussolini. September 12, 1943: the fascist regime in Italy had fallen a month ago. Mussolini was a secret prisoner in an impregnable building in the heart of the mountains of Central Italy, most likely waiting to be consigned to the Anglo-American forces. The post-fascist government of Field Marshal Badoglio thought the hotel in Campo Imperatore was the most secure prison in the world. And it had good reason to think that. Nonetheless, after an attack of just 14 minutes, he was freed. It was 14 minutes of pure military boldness, which we will relive minute by minute, with German repertory films, re-enactments and graphic reconstructions, in order to discover the incredible truth.





## Heimat Südtirol - Canonical Michael Gamper

The name of Canon Michael Camper is almost unknown outside the South Tyrol. Yet the work of this priest, born in 1885 in Prissian, demonstrates how one man's stubborn attachment to his faith and his land can prevent the tide of history sweeping aside the identity of a people. His extraordinary battle in defence of the cultures and rights of minorities - not only ethnic and linguistic minorities - and his firm Christian opposition to the European totalitarianism of the 20th century make Canon Michael Gamper one of the founders of today's Europe, where the borders between states are little more than marks on a map. Telling the story of Michael Gamper means recounting half a century of the history of South Tyrol, the events, characters, ideas and the dynamics of a battle for the rights of a people.



## Mussolini 25 July 1943, the fall

The fall of the Fascist regime and Benito Mussolini on 25 July 1943, in the middle of the Second World War, is one of the most important events in Italy's history, one of those moments that marks a watershed in the collective nation's memory. We have always been told that Mussolini unexpectedly found himself in a minority during a session of the Grand Council of Fascism and thus deposed and arrested. A simple version, but.... false! The documentary describes what was really happening behind the scenes during those days through colour footage, evidence, intercepted phone calls and original eyewitness accounts of the amazing series of unknown conspiracies and secret plots that brought down the Fascist regime. For the first time, we hear the recollections of the friend and confessor to Dino Grandi, who wrote the proposal that placed Mussolini in a minority, and who had been one of the conspirators in a plot to kill Hitler and Mussolini just days earlier. Who stopped them and why? Above all, for the very first time we see a document that had been lost until now, entitled: "Minutes of the meeting of the Grand Council of Fascism of 25 July 1943". From this emerges the possibility of a conspirator who has remained in the shadows until now, perhaps the only person who always really knew what was going on, and who tried to manipulate events to his own ends.



## 2nd December 1943: Hell on Bari

"Voll besetzt", "completely full": it is the morning of 2 December 1943 when Werner Hahn, the pilot of a German reconnaissance plane, sends a message to his base saying that the port of Bari is full of ships. That is exactly what the Luftwaffe General Staff in Italy have been waiting to hear. In the afternoon, 105 German JU 88 bombers take off with the aim of bombing the port of Bari; at 19:30 they take the Allied defences completely by surprise. It is a massacre: by the end of the operation, 17 ships have been destroyed and the port of Bari has been made inoperable for many weeks. But it is not over: hundreds of sailors and ordinary citizens fill the hospitals. They have not been burnt and they are not wounded, but they are beginning to have rashes, burning eyes and respiratory problems. Many are even dying without explanation. Why? What is going on? What military secret lay behind those strange deaths? Eisenhower sent his own medical officer to shed light on the events: in the end he made a terrible discovery, an American merchant ship, the John Harvey, was transporting a top secret cargo, mustard gas, a highly toxic gas banned by the 1925 Geneva Protocol. The ship had exploded in the port, dispersing its 550 tons of lethal gas in the air. The strictest military censorship is imposed on events in Bari. All the papers are classified Top Secret. It is Churchill himself who gives the order that all British files remove any reference to mustard gas, in sharp contrast to the Americans. Why was the aerial bombardment of the port of Bari one of the biggest secrets of World War II? Why did the Allies send a ship full of chemical weapons to Italy? What was it for? Why did Churchill insist on always denying that there was mustard gas at Bari despite all the evidence? Did the Germans really find out that a ship full of mustard gas exploded at Bari? Who knew about the cargo of mustard gas at Bari when the ship exploded? Was everything possible done to save the victims, or were they sacrificed for military secrecy? The documentary will be structured like a detective story. The excellent enquiry documents, found in a variety of archives scattered all over the world, will serve as the basis for the documentary, along with interviews with surviving eyewitnesses.





# VAJONT: AN ITALIAN TRAGEDY

---

**Directed by:** Nicola Pittarello

**Produced by:** VeniceFilm for SD Cinematografica

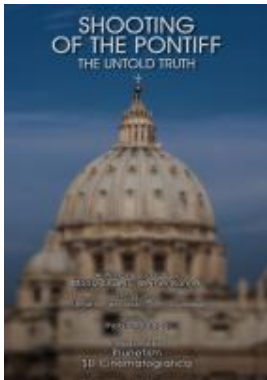
**Duration:** 85'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD

The story of the tragedy of the Vajont through the eyes of the direct responsables. From the dike's conception to the trial's verdict, we reconstruct how we came to the most serious Italian tragedy after the end of the Second World War and how the population of Longarone, Erto and Casso managed to rise up again and demand justice for almost 2000 deaths. For the very first time in a documentary film, we follow the investigation during the trial, we listen to the depositions of the persons under investigation, and we study the unpublished documents from the State Archives of Belluno. "Can all this may possible?" and "Who is responsible for this?": this are the questions asked by some of the survivors, still unable to believe to what happened to their lives. The documentary by Nicola Pittarello recalls the Vajont files with no fictional purposes, but with the aim to ask questions and verify the story recounted since now. Was the SADE, the electric society of the Adriatic, the main responsible for what happened? What was the role if the Italian Government in this story? Which were the answers the public institutions gave after what happened? Could the director of SADE, Alberico Biadene, foresee the tragic event? Did man, in the sake of pursuing progress and development, exceed in ambition?





# SHOOTING OF THE PONTIFF

---

**Directed by:** Werner Köhne

**Produced by:** Prounen Film in coproduction with SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 52 min

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD

Rome. May 13, 1981, 17:00. John Paul II crosses St. Peter's Square in an open Jeep among thousands of cheering people. Suddenly three shots ring out across the square. The Pope collapses. First the shock, then the confusion. The would-be assassin is chased and arrested. A few minutes later an ambulance is hurtling towards the Gemelli hospital, sirens wailing. As four surgeons fight to save the pope's life, the first theories about the attack are already circulating. Who is Mehmet Ali Agca? A mentally ill criminal who acted alone? A terrorist? Or is he the scapegoat for an international conspiracy? The attack, which was described as the "crime of the century", launched an unprecedented investigation that generated more questions than answers. After 35 years, this documentary, with exclusive eye-witness accounts and scientific reconstructions, seeks to put the pieces of the attack together to finally clarify an extremely complex affair.





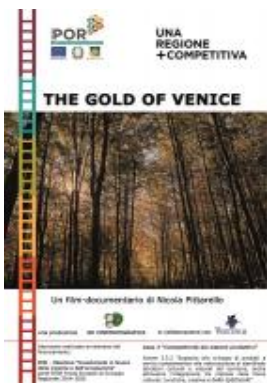
# SACRIFICE CASSINO!

---

**Directed by:** Fabio Toncelli  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 120 Min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

Unpublished photographic and cinematographic images, also in color, unpublished documents, interviews with Italian, German, American, English witnesses, reconstructions in 3D graphics, new shots on the places where the events took place, give life to a real film where the emotion testimonies and the rhythm of the narration intertwine with the strength of the archive images. An intense research and verification work, to bring out the truth about the destruction of the Abbey and the terrifying battle that took place for its conquest. A clash involving soldiers of 27 different nationalities that caused one of the worst massacres of the Second World War: 50,000 casualties between the multinational contingent of the Allied Forces and 20,000 German soldiers plus thousands of Italian civilians, during the fighting that lasted until late spring . But was conquering Montecassino really necessary to clear the road to Rome?





# The Gold of Venice

**Directed by:** Nicola Pittarello

**Produced by:** Coproduced by SD Cinematografica and Venicefilm

**Duration:** 52 Min.

**Versions:** 

**Format:** UHD

There is a story that few people know, that of the relationship between the Republic of Venice and its land possessions. It is above all the need to stock up on timber to push the Serenissima, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, to expand inland. And it is the great challenge with the Ottoman Empire for supremacy over the Mediterranean that fuels this need. In the Venetian, Friulian and Istrian woods, Venice could in fact find the best wood, the essential raw material to build the warships it needed in view of a decisive clash with the Turks, which took place in 1571 in the famous Battle of Lepanto. To preserve its precious forests, Venice implements a series of practices of good land management, also giving way to a profound change of mentality. The protection of the territory becomes a real watchword, with an approach that seems to approach our current environmental sensitivity. "The Gold of Venice" is the story of this adventure and how those practices and mentality have come to this day.





# TRAINED TO SEE - Three Women and the War

**Directed by:** Luzia Schmid

**Produced by:** Coproduction: EIKON Media, Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg, Westdeutscher Rundfunk, SD CINEMATOGRAFICA

**Duration:** 106 min / 52 min

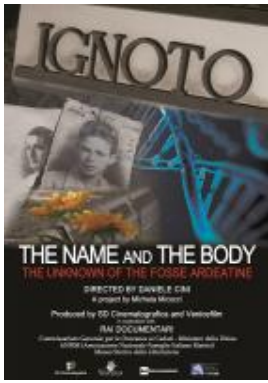
**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

The picture of Lee Miller in Hitler's bathtub became iconic around the world. Lesser known is that it's maker was only one among a bunch of female war reporters which became accredited in WWII. For the first time in history there was a female look on the "male craft of warfare". In her brilliantly edited documentary widely acclaimed filmmaker Luzia Schmid profiles three war reporters: Lee Miller, Martha Gellhorn and Margret Bourke-White, using exclusively her pictures and texts embedded in official footage of the Allied Forces. A threshold of a new look on the victims - not on the heroics of war.







# The body and the name - The unknown of the Fosse Ardeatine

**Directed by:** Daniele Cini

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica & Venicefilm

**Duration:** 53 Min

**Versions:**  

**Format:** UHD

There are stories that no one knows, even if they may have been heard a thousand times.

There are human events that remain submerged like bottles on the bottom of the sea and then at a certain point come back to the surface, thanks to stubborn and curious people, but above all driven by a desire for justice.

The massacre of the Fosse Ardeatine, in Rome on March 24, 1944, among the many carried out by the Nazis in Italy, is one of the most commemorated. The number of victims, their being slaughtered side by side without even having had a trial, all innocent and randomly collected, made it one of the most atrocious pages of the German occupation.

But what had been lost in the memory was several bodies found that had not been able to give a name.

Since the early 2000s, more than 60 years after the massacre, three young women, a documentary filmmaker, an archivist, and a forensic biologist, have managed, collaborating, to solve part of this mystery and to return to the families, scattered around the world, a certain identification of some of these unknown bodies, finally offering a place where parents can celebrate their mourning.

A story full of emotions. From Rome to Florence, from Abruzzo to the London countryside, up to the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, the documentary follows the roads that lead to matching a body to a name, managing to combine the historical re-enactment with the real experience. At the end ... an unexpected discovery!





# The Pope and the Devil

---

**Directed by:** Max Serio

**Produced by:** Picasso Film, Big Media, SD Cinematografica, Wildbear ent.

**Duration:** 4 Eps. x 52 min.

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

The Church is not afraid of history.

With these words Pope Francis opened the Vatican archives on Pope Pius XII in 2019.

Millions of letters, secret dispatches, telegrams, supplications, and countless other types of documents were made public to scholars around the world for the first time.

Today, after decades, we can investigate one of the most controversial figures in contemporary history: Pope Pius XII, the Pope of Silence.

For some, he is the Pope who did not denounce Hitler's murderous madness, becoming almost his accomplice. For others, Pius XII's silence was a weapon to fight the Führer, through despatches and secret actions. Decades of bitter controversy over the actions of this Pope can now be definitively resolved.

- Episodes:**
- The Origins of Evil
  - The Secret Plan
  - The Devil's revenge
  - The rats flee west, a new Devil comes from the east

# Episodes



## **The Origins of Evil**

Eugenio Pacelli is the Vatican ambassador in Berlin and observes Hitler's political rise. The anti-Semitic ideology of Nazism is unstoppable and within a few years the plight of the Jews in Germany becomes dramatic, for example with the implementation of the racial laws and the Night of the Crystals.

Unpublished documents from the Holy See show that the Vatican tried to fight Hitler by trying to encourage the emigration of German Jews, but to where?

In 1938, the Evian Conference brought together the most important western states, but none of them wanted to accept German Jews, because anti-Semitism was not an exclusively German issue.

In March 1939, Eugenio Pacelli was elected Pope with the name Pius XII, while the clouds of the Second World War were gathering.

What will Pope Pius XII do? Will he openly condemn Nazism, or will he remain silent? And why?



## **The Secret Plan**

World War II has begun and millions are dying because of Hitler's madness.

Under St. Peter's Basilica there is an archaeological dig to find the tomb of the holy founder of the Church, but Pius XII exploits this place for secret meetings with the German anti-Nazi resistance.

Pacelli obtained information that could change the course of the war, but the Allies did not trust it and Hitler took advantage of this by conquering France.

The whole of Europe is under the control of Hitler who decides to settle the Jewish question once and for all.

Initially the Germans think of a mass deportation to Madagascar, but when they realise that this plan is unfeasible because it involves moving millions of people, Hitler decides to apply the Final Solution, sending the Jews to their death in concentration camps.

What can Pius XII do to counter this madness? And why does he not denounce it publicly?



## **The Devil's revenge**

In 1943 Italy, exhausted by the war, surrenders to the allies and immediately columns of German soldiers occupy it.

Rome itself is invaded by Nazi troops who start laying siege to the Vatican, no one can enter, no one can leave.

Hitler wants revenge on the Pope, because he knows very well that Pius XII is in contact with the Allies.

He therefore hatches a plan to invade the Vatican, capture the Pope and deport him to Germany.

Pius XII is aware of this plan and signs his resignation as Pontiff, Hitler will only capture a priest.

Meanwhile, the violence of the war continues and the Nazis deport Roman Jews, without the Pope being able to prevent it, but Pius XII reacts by opening churches, convents and even the catacombs to those persecuted by Hitler.

The clash between the Pope and the Devil is at its climax.



## **The rats flee west, a new Devil comes from the east**

Soviet troops enter Berlin, Hitler commits suicide...the Devil is dead.

With the end of the Second World War, a new chapter in the history of Pius XII opens.

While documents prove that the Pope's silence was the method by which he saved thousands of people from Hitler, there is another silence that needs to be investigated.

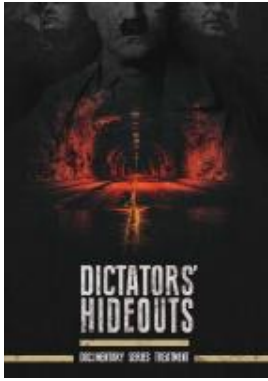
At the end of the war, thousands of Nazis were fleeing Europe and some members of the Holy See facilitated this escape.

Why?

And what did the Pope know?

A devil died, but in reality Pius XII was fighting a battle against another devil: Josif Stalin and communism.

Ever since the Revolution of 1917, the Catholic Church had been attacked by communism with very violent repression and Pius XII, being a profound anti-communist, had never withdrawn from this fight against the other Devil.



# Dictators hideouts

---

**Directed by:** Adam Gaweda

**Produced by:** InbornMedia coproduced by SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 6 x 45 min.

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD & UHD

Throughout the past century, dictators held Europe in an iron grip. Yet, despite their unquestioned control, paranoia and distrust corrupted their minds. In order to secure their authoritarian rule, numerous bunkers, palaces, and hideouts sprung up around Europe. From Stalin's secret underground super bunkers in Moscow to Hitler's clandestine Riese headquarters to Ceausescu's People's Palace—the world's heaviest building, among many others, Dictators' Hideouts explores the dark confines of these megaprojects, investigating their mysteries, analyzing their costs, and testing their efficacy against an all out attack.

**Episodes:**

- Hitler's last secret
- Mussolini's underground refuge
- Stalin's atomic bunker
- Ceausescu's delusions of grandeur
- Hoxha's bunker madness
- Yanukovich's hidden palace

# Episodes



## Hitler s last secret

Countless Nazi prisoners were forced to dig tunnels and chambers spanning kilometers in a remote region of Poland. Codenamed Riese, the network of mega bunkers was Nazi Germany s largest mining and construction project in both scale and theory. With excavation commencing in 1943, deep below Ksiaz Castle, we scrutinize its purpose as merely another of Hitler s headquarters, or if it was meant to house mysterious laboratories for the construction of the atomic bomb. Could Riese have changed the course of World War II?



## Mussolini s underground refuge

Fueled by narcissism, Mussolini's tenure as "The Duke" led to numerous disastrous defeats for Italy's Fascists. As his losses mounted, Mussolini fled, jumping from one hideout to the next, desperate to find a base from which to survive the second World War. His ultimate solution? A mega bunker in Monte Soratte so advanced that it would go on to act as a NATO base following Italy's defeat in World War II. Would Monte Soratte be enough to protect Il Duce from the Allied onslaught?



## Stalin s atomic bunker

Infamous for the bunkers constructed during World War II and throughout the Cold War, Stalin's hideouts have maintained a shroud of secrecy for decades. Now, for the first time ever, new documents, along with a book banned in Russia, unveil the mysteries of the "Man of Steel's" Soviet-era shelters. As we travel from his unassuming dacha in Lipki, to the sanctuary hidden in the forest in Sochi, all the way through the Moscow metro system, where a clandestine second metro line connects numerous high end bunkers for the USSR's elite, we will uncover the true extent of the fortifications meant to secure Stalin from the threats of the West.



## Ceausescu s delusions of grandeur

In the center of Bucharest stands a monolith that hides a grand secret. Casa Poporului, known abroad as the People s Palace, is the magnum opus of Romania s most bloodthirsty dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu. Immediately ballooning in both expense and scale, the palace becomes emblematic of Ceausescu s megalomania, resulting in billions wasted on a monolith so large and heavy that it sinks six millimeters into the ground every single year. But could the rumors of an extensive anti-atomic super bunker connected to the Spring Palace bunker through a city-wide network of tunnels below its surface be true?



## Hoxha s bunker madness

Following the cutting of ties of Albania from its allies, Enver Hoxha drives his country into geopolitical isolation, further fueling his paranoid notions of an imminent invasion and threat to his rule. His first plan, Bunkerization, involves the mass construction of hundreds of thousands of bunkers throughout the country, allowing his citizenry to wage guerilla warfare against the enemy he was sure would come. The plan quickly turns to folly, as the country is driven to financial ruin due to the mass expenditures required for the project. Still left yearning for more security, Hoxha establishes the megabunkers BUNK'ART 1 and BUNK'ART 2, before setting his sights on Corovoda, his mountain bunker also known as The Capital of War.



## Yanukovych s hidden palace

Having siphoned billions from his people, Ukrainian dictator Viktor Yanukovych spent decades enriching himself and his cadre of oligarchs. In order to obscure his ill-gotten wealth, Yanukovych turned to Mezhyhirya, a sprawling 150-acre estate north of Kyiv. With Mezhyhirya in his grasp, Yanukovych ratchets his corruption to levels never seen before, in a scheme that spans multiple countries, numerous banks, and countless individuals. But when angry protesters storm the estate, they encounter excess on an entirely different level: an 18-hole golf course, a private zoo, a state-of-the-art laboratory, a private car museum, a luxury galleon-themed restaurant, and his piece de resistance, Honka House, a multi-million-dollar mansion connected to a secret tunnel. Can Mezhyhirya save Yanukovych from the wrath of the Ukrainian populace?



# CURRENT AFFAIRS / SOCIAL ISSUES

---





# Japan and the mystery of the Geisha

**Directed by:** Flaminia Lubin  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 45'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** SD

Japan: land of technology, light, pulsating energy. The nation's race towards the future never stops. One might imagine that microchips, nanotechnology, robots, and ultra dynamic, anti-seismic architecture have cancelled out its centuries-old history, its beliefs and traditions. But it has not. This is a world caught up in the frenetic quest for the new, but also deliberately connected to its past. Made up of people who love their history and want to hand it down and protect it from the encroaching future. This ever-changing, mutating world still finds space for the geisha, those enigmatic custodians of beauty with their alabaster skin and red lips, who still follow the ancient codes of Japanese tradition. In the West, the geisha is generally seen as little more than a high-class prostitute. This is a misunderstanding. She is the incarnation of one of the many souls of Japan. She is a sophisticated woman, who loves her clients - without making love to them. For an entire night, she will help them escape their high-tech reality and everyday life, their very existence. For the very first time, the cameras are allowed into this realm of flowers and weeping willows, where the ancient, enigmatic and fascinating "game" of the geisha still goes on.





# Burning Man

**Directed by:** Raffaella Maresti

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 60'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

"Burning Man" one of the strangest meetings of the United States and the West, is a festival which began with a few intimate friends on the Californian coast, and in the space of a few years, transformed itself into an extraordinary success. It was 1986 when Larry Harvey, landscape architect, on the day of the Summer solstice, got together a few friends on the beach of San Francisco, and made a crude male figure with pieces of waste wood, and set it aflame. "It burned like the sun." records Harvey, "And everyone around came running to see it, converging upon the scene as if by instinct." We're now this year at the 14th edition. B.M. takes place on the 28 August and the 4th September, on the sandy bottom of an ex salt lake of Nevada, where there grows up a strange village of tents, and streets of gas lights, post-offices and a commissary. But only for one week. At the centre of the village, there's B.M. the statue symbol which is now 16 metres high, and illuminated at night time by futuristic neon tubes, which is burned the first Sunday of September, at the end of the meeting.





# Mozambique: Barbara's children

**Directed by:** Giorgio de Finis

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 60'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

A journey through the Mozambique of the “meninos da rua” and the discovery of Barbara Hoffmann’s extraordinary and unusual example of solidarity. A 36-year-old Swiss woman, together with her 900 children living in very “difficult conditions”. This expression is even too light to describe a category including: parentless, poor and handicapped children, victims of beating and sexual abuse; those who underwent criminal proceedings, street-children without any education...and all that one can imagine to find in a marginal world. Those who take advantage of “tia” (aunt) Barbara’s loving cares are, not only the children of ASEM (association without profit for Mozambiquean children) but also the other Mozambiquean children, because Barbara seems to have adopted all of them. When she walks in the streets of Beira the children run forward to meet her, they call and greet her and tell their present problems. With her we met Jaime, the boys of Town-Hall Square, we listened to their stories... If one takes into account statistics, it is clear that contributions such as Barbara Hoffmann’s are only drops in the ocean, however she met neither numbers nor statistics on her path. It is not easy to ignore the stories and, above all, the eyes of these children.





# Africa, Africas

---

**Directed by:** Annamaria Gallone

**Produced by:** Kenzi

**Duration:** 3x20'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

Three African women filmmakers, Regina Fanta Nacro in Burkina Faso, Maji-da Abdi in Ethiopia and Agnes Ndbi in Cameroon, will each make a documentary on the Africa of today and tomorrow, hovering between hopes and fears, from a female point of view. Numerous issues emerge from the various aspects of social reality, with a focus on the women's courage in overcoming all kinds of difficulty and their ability not to become mesmerised by Utopian dreams of running away, but to become organised at levels of micro-economy to ensure a better life for themselves and their families.



**Episodes:**

- Fantacoca'
- The river between us
- Laafi bala



# Episodes



## **Fantacoca'**

The phenomenon of 'decapage', whitening the skin in slang, has spread like wildfire and involves women from all social backgrounds. To obtain results in a few days, deadly cocktails of products are used, ranging from cortisone to hydroquinone. One of the most obvious effects is the appearance of light and dark patches on the skin. These girls are called 'fantacoca' in jest. In actual fact, the consequences of this treatment are very serious, but nobody seems to realize.



## **The river between us**

We are in Ethiopia, in the territories along the border with Eritrea. Our story is the story of the children and women we have met. Without any warning, they have been forced in their thousands to cross the river separating the two countries, because of a fratricide and pointless war between individuals belonging to the same people. A declaration for all: "War is something that I know. I'm not frightened of it, I grew up in it, those who fire bullets do not frighten me. What frightens me is when they make my children suffer".



## **Laafi bala**

Stories of juvenile unemployment in Burkina Faso. Frustrating expectations, dreams of escape and anguish-filled questions on a future that promises to be very difficult. From the comments gathered at the market, at the bar, in front of the school, the lack of structures and projects to promote employment and help young people make plans emerges as all too clear. As usual, thanks to a unique style, instilled with a light comic touch, the director succeeds in exploring to the full the most serious problems of ordinary people.



# Stolen lives

---

**Directed by:** Annamaria Gallone

**Produced by:** Kenzi

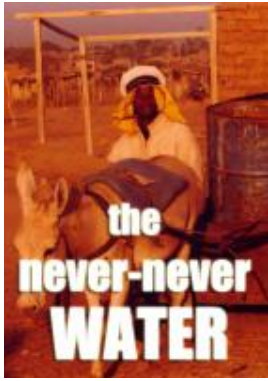
**Duration:** 48'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

Today, China: children are stolen and sold to rich families without children of their own. Desperate parents abandon all they have to follow the traces of their child who has disappeared. Very young girls are sold to peasants who need help for the work in the countryside or to affluent men who want one more concubine. The work of the Policy and of a female journalist who persecute these terrible stories is not always successful. And, despite all, the rain continues to fall on the other side of the world.





# The never-never water

---

**Directed by:** Alessandra Speciale

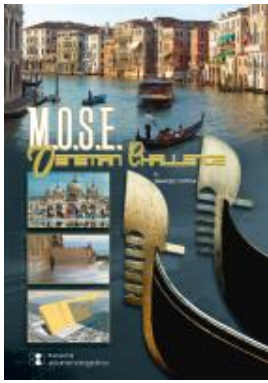
**Produced by:** Kenzi

**Duration:** 48'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

The “water lords” have arrived in the Sahel as well. In Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in addition to the shortage of water there is now also the threat of privatisation. The national water board is about to be sold to multinational corporations and people crowd around the wells, waiting hours to fill a few buckets. This documentary tells the story of Moussa, an itinerant water seller in the suburbs of the capital. The daily struggle for access to water is followed by interviews and accounts of the political and economic institutions involved in the process of privatization, the trade unions that have created a committee of opposition and the victims of the privatization that has already affected other public sectors. A journey to discover a dramatic urgency for the whole of our planet.



# The challenge of Venice

**Directed by:** Michele Barca and Nicola Pittarello

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

An inextricable relationship links Venice to her salty, fresh and brackish waters, an inexhaustible resource, yet at the same time, a threat to the city's survival. Regulating the water has always formed a part of the city's history, and over the centuries has involved both major and minor interventions in the lagoon in order to maintain its delicate balance. The real threat for Venice today is the increasing frequency of high tides and the possible constant increase of average sea levels caused by climate change. Especially at high tide, the force of the water weakens and sometimes damages the banks and the foundations of the buildings. The future of Venice lies faraway from the city, where the lagoon meets the sea, and where every day 200 million cubic metres of water flow through the port. Therefore, a decision was made to protect Venice with a massive system of Mobile Barriers: MO.S.E. (Modulo Sperimentale Elettromeccanico). Work began in 2003 and with 40% now completed, it should be finished by 2014. The construction of the mobile barriers that disappear into the seabed is a highly complex engineering and naval operation. The barriers are made up of steel sluice gates hinged on reinforced concrete structures anchored to the seabed. The manpower required is immense: the three separate sites employ almost 2000 workers, mainly engineers and highly skilled workers. Some of the equipment used is unique in size and technology. Will the M.O.S.E project solve the Venice's problem?





# Diving Women

---

**Directed by:** Gianluca Cerasola

**Produced by:** Morol Srl

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

Jeju Island is the island of women, a subtropical coral reef of volcanic origin, off southern South Korean Peninsula. The oasis of Jeju is inhabited by around 600,000 inhabitants, the aspects that distinguishes is the matriarchal structure of the family. Because of continuous wars, (still military service is obligatory for two years), while men were committed to the front, the woman has become the cornerstone of family, the one who carries out the economy and the livelihood of the family. The Diving Women of Jeju-do are marked example of this inevitable "abuse of women". These groups of women (Haenyeo), which due to the shortage of men has specialized in spear fishing and marketing of fish. Women are immersed without the aid of oxygen cylinders to gather shellfish, crustaceans, fish and seafood. The fishing Haenyeo have developed an amazing physical resistance, able to withstand cold ocean temperatures throughout the year, holding breath underwater for more than two minutes and reaching depths of over 30 meters. Their equipment, decidedly moderate, has evolved over the years, if the first was composed of a bag, a knife and a costume, now-a-days, they use wetsuits, fins, masks and gloves, which allows them to remain at sea for about three hours. According to some studies, women denominates over this activity because they have also a superior mental strength than men and a greater proportion of subcutaneous fat, fat brown, which makes them more stable to strong climate contrasts in water. The youngest diving women has 65 years old, the oldest woman Haenyeo has 87 years and submerges, 4 months a year, five times a week for about 2 hours







# Insulo de la Rozoj - Freedom is frightening

**Directed by:** Stefano Bisulli & Roberto Naccari

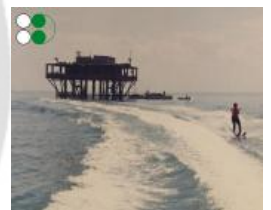
**Produced by:** Cinematica

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** Digibeta

It is a little-known footnote in history that Italy fought its last territorial war just 40 years ago: against Respubliko de la Insulo de la Rozoj, or the Republic of Rose Island, a microstate in the Adriatic some 11 kilometers from the Italian coastal resort of Rimini. The brainchild of industrial engineer Giorgio Rosa, the steel and concrete island measured some 400 square meters and was finally completed in 1967, following many years of preparation and setbacks. A year later, Rosa declared independence from Italy. Rose Island had its own official language (Esperanto), flag, national anthem (from The Flying Dutchman by Wagner), its own currency (the milo), stamps (now highly collectible), shops, a restaurant, and a nightclub. The Italian authorities regarded this new republic with suspicion, fearing it would become a safe haven for tax evasion and other illegal activities, and so the carabinieri closed it down. Early in 1969, it was blown up - a task that proved easier said than done. Insulo de la Rozoj - Freedom is Frightening looks back at this minor episode in history in the form of interviews with those involved and with lawyers, who explain the criteria for setting up a nation state, and intersperses these talking heads with archive footage. The founder of the microstate remains something of an enigma. Was Rosa a naive dreamer, an anarchical, or a crafty business man?





# The ghosts of the Third Reich

**Directed by:** Claudia Ehrlich Sobral and Tommaso Valente

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 45'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

"Ghosts of the Third Reich" documents the poignant and anguished stories of descendants of the Nazis, who confront their family's past and communicate their most profound feelings of guilt by inheritance. These individuals, whose family members were supporters, officers, and elite of the Nazi regime, share a common desire to distance themselves from Nazi ideology and the actions of their ancestors; and to liberate themselves from the guilt, shame, and pain that continue to levy a heavy price seventy years later. The confrontation with the inheritance of the Nazi legacy is powerfully evoked further in the inclusion of moments from The Austrian Encounter, a focal point for dialogue between descendants of Nazi perpetrators and survivors of the Holocaust. To buy a DVD please write to [info@sdcinematografica.it](mailto:info@sdcinematografica.it)





# Uncovering India

---

**Directed by:**

**Produced by:** Current Italy SRL

**Duration:** 4 x 30' + 1x45'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

From the same streets where Mother Theresa of Kolkata "reached the door of every single man", more than 65.000 people are brought by deception from the countryside and forced to work in the brothels of Kolkata's red-light district. Sex workers are forced to live in extremely poor hygienic and human conditions, exploited and marginalized by a male-centric society, which considers them like the scum of the earth. In India prostitution is a job that passes on from mother to daughter. We will get to know the faces and the stories of those girls who will never know any other life but the one in the brothels. Our enquiry will also shed a light on the dark face of India's homosexuals and transsexuals, telling the stories of who is forced to live a hidden life, constantly subject to the social stigma of "diversity", trapped within the Indian society's taboo that considers homosexuality a crime "against nature".

**Episodes:**

- The goddess of prostitution
- Bodies for sale
- The city of transsexuals
- Born in the brothels
- Prostitution in India

# Episodes



## **The goddess of prostitution**

Saraswati is a Hindu goddess traditionally linked to prostitution. Here in Kolkata sex workers are forced to live in extremely poor hygienic and human conditions, exploited and marginalized by a male-centric society, which considers them like the scum of the earth. It then emerges a portrait of a humanity that does not take in account the fundamental human rights of women who are engaged in a solitary and difficult struggle for their own survival, solely protected by their goddess.



## **Bodies for sale**

From the same streets where Mother Theresa of Kolkata "reached the door of every single man", more than 65.000 people are brought by deception from the countryside and forced to work in the brothels of Kolkata's red-light district. Men and women to who it is to be added the despicable trafficking of children, also destined to the sex market. An enquiry that has gathered stories and accounts of men and women trapped within a destiny they now want to change.



## **The city of transsexuals**

Enquiry on the dark face of India's homosexuals and transsexuals, telling the stories of who is forced to live a hidden life, constantly subject to the social stigma of "diversity", trapped within the Indian society's taboo that considers homosexuality a crime "against nature". Entering the crowded and evil-smelling narrow streets of Soganachi, Kolkata's red light district, we will discover who are the homosexual and transsexual sex workers.



## **Born in the brothels**

In India prostitution is a job that passes on from mother to daughter. In this episode we will get to know the faces and the stories of those girls who will never know any other life but the one in the brothels. Stories of people whom life has not given them any other choice but to sell their own body.



## **Prostitution in India**

The very best from the 4 episodes of the journey in India concentrated in one single episode showing previously unreleased images and interviews. The colours, the perfumes and the chaos of a country which fascinates but at the same time gives us account of many difficult lives, stories of women and men who try to survive poverty, hunger, and a society which is in many ways archaic and which we still have little account of. Leaving behind us the main tourist-known streets, we aimed at opening eyes on a different look of India.



# Uncovering Argentina

---

**Directed by:**

**Produced by:** Current Italy SRL

**Duration:** 4x50'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

In 2001 Argentina faced its most severe financial crisis. Ten years have passed since that dramatic event, yet many wounds are still fresh. Our journey will tell the story of the people who started all over again from scratch, without forgetting the ones who are still living hard times, perhaps lost in the tunnel of Paco, the “drug of poor”. Argentina is the first state in South America to have legalized marriage between homosexual couples. How could this be possible in a country with such strong catholic traditions? We will listen to the reasons raised against this openness by some of the most prominent churchmen in office, yet seeing how there are also priests willing to marry couples of the same sex. Leaving Buenos Aires, we will travel along the Ruta 40, a historic route that runs from north to south of the Patagonia region. Our adventure will lead us on the tracks of those who tried to hide their own traces, starting with Nazi hierarchs escaped from Germany to avoid the Nuremberg trial, going on with the last hippie communities that are still trying to achieve their utopia of a perfect world. In our journey we will also face the subject of land speculation, aimed at exploiting the land’s natural resources – water and minerals. All of this is mainly happening at the expenses of the Mapuche, the indigenous people who always lived in this land and who are now strongly asserting their claim on it.

**Episodes:**

- The art of getting by
- The business of gay weddings
- Escape to Patagonia
- Argentina for export



# Episodes



## **The art of getting by**

In 2001 Argentina faced its most severe financial crisis. Ten years have passed since that dramatic event, yet many wounds are still fresh. Many people, as a matter of fact, have lost their jobs and their savings, but it is in times of crisis that man rediscovers the art of getting by, and it is in this way that many have made a business out of trash, others have managed to re-launch enterprises which were destined to bankruptcy, and others are yet boosting the education system and moreover the publishing sector. A journey up to the end of the night in Buenos Aires, to tell the story of the people who started all over again from scratch, without forgetting the ones who are still living hard times, perhaps lost in the tunnel of Paco, a drug as devastating as it is cheap, to the point to be nicknamed the “drug of poor”.



## **The business of gay weddings**

Argentina is the first state in South America to have legalized marriage between homosexual couples. How could this be possible in a country with such strong catholic traditions? We will listen to the reasons raised against this openness by some of the most prominent churchmen in office, yet seeing how there are also priests willing to marry couples of the same sex. In the fabulous setting of Buenos Aires' night life we will discover along tango music how Argentina's capital city is becoming a real “Mecca” for gay people, between night clubs, tourism, new job placements and wedding planners. May this openness be the most effective key to boost the Country's economy?



## **Escape to Patagonia**

In this journey many things will be shown. You will see dusty streets and uncontaminated landscapes. The sun will go down on forgotten prairies, taken care of by their last guardians. You will see men and women on the run and you will listen to their voices telling stories never heard before. The main theme of this trip will be the Ruta 40, a historic route that runs from north to south of the Patagonia region. Our adventure will lead us on the tracks of those who tried to hide their own traces, starting with Nazi hierarchs escaped from Germany to avoid the Nuremberg trial, going on with the last hippie communities that are still trying to achieve their utopia of a perfect world. We will also try to track down those who were made to disappear within the untold tragedy of the desaparecidos ; to end up with those who change name and identity in order to become a cattle farmer and live at a different pace, like a true cowboy. Chronicles of a journey, amidst enquiry, folklore and spirituality.



## **Argentina for export**

The main thread of this road trip is the Ruta 40, the historic route that runs from north to south of Patagonia. In our journey we will face the subject of land speculation, in other words, of how foreign multinationals manage to buy hundreds of hectares for nothing in order to exploit the land's natural resources – water and minerals. All of this is mainly happening at the expenses of the Mapuche, the indigenous people who always lived in this land and who are now strongly asserting their claim on it. The journey is made up of other important stops that explain how Patagonia is still a land of conquest, where the most precious investment is probably embodied in the water reserves treasured in the world's most ancient glaciers. Chronicles of a journey, amidst enquiry, folklore and spirituality.



# Uncovering Brazil

---

**Directed by:**

**Produced by:** Current Italy SRL

**Duration:** 4x50'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

Brazil is going through one of the most important economic booms in its history. Yet, hosting at a short time distance two major events such as the Football World Cup (2014) and The Olympics (2016), how is this Country changing? Journey to the core of Rio de Janeiro, a city that on one hand is ever more acquiring the features of a big modern metropolis, but on the other hand has to face its poorest side. We managed to enter the heart of the poorest and most dangerous of all favelas in Rio de Janeiro, where very soon it is likely to be one of the bloodiest clashes between police forces and organized crime. In Brazil every twelve days a man becomes a woman. Following a decision of the Health Department, the national health system (SUS) takes charge of the costs borne by transsexuals in the process of rectifying their sex. From the favelas to the up-town neighbourhoods of a sizzling Rio de Janeiro, while celebrating carnival, we will unveil all the secrets of Brazilian transsexuals. In Brazil prostitution is legal, and many are the men who decide to sell their body. Journey from Rio de Janeiro to Sao Paolo to understand how Brazilian male escorts live, between luxury and poverty, dreams and disenchantment.

- Episodes:**
- Transsexuals and surgery
  - War in the favelas
  - Stolen Childhood
  - Soccer and the future of Brazil

# Episodes



## Transsexuals and surgery

In Brazil every twelve days a man becomes a woman. Following a decision of the Health Department, the national health system (SUS) takes charge of the costs borne by transsexuals in the process of rectifying their sex. In this way the Department explicitly intends to guarantee transsexuals' right to health, as well as to eliminate those cases of violation of human rights and discrimination based on gender identity. But what comes next in the destiny of these people? Many of them end up as prostitutes; many other enter the drug or criminal scene. From the favelas to the up-town neighbourhoods of a sizzling Rio de Janeiro, while celebrating carnival, we will unveil all the secrets of Brazilian transsexuals, even the ones of those who choose to earn a salary in an honest way, struggling against clichés.



## War in the favelas

Brazil lists within the countries having the most outstanding criminality rates, to the extent that certain favelas are also forbidden to police's special militias. Yet, in view of the forthcoming 2014 football World Cup, the Government is willing to use any means in order to clean up the city streets. We managed to enter the heart of the poorest and most dangerous of all favelas in Rio de Janeiro, where very soon it is likely to be one of the bloodiest clashes between police forces and organized crime, while in prison the detainees already live in inhumane conditions, amidst dirt and overcrowding. Chronicle of a country on a war footing.



## Stolen Childhood

In Brazil prostitution is legal, and many are the men who decide to sell their body. Journey from Rio de Janeiro to Sao Paolo to understand how Brazilian male escorts live, between luxury and poverty, dreams and disenchantment. But every man has once been a child, so, we will tell the stories - often rough - of these boys, whose lives have been marked by abuses, drugs, criminality and discrimination. In parallel, we will give an account of those children who nowadays still live in these desperate conditions. Luckily there are people who try to rescue these minors from street life in order to try to give them a better future.



## Soccer and the future of Brazil

Brazil is going through one of the most important economic booms in its history. Yet, hosting at a short time distance two major events such as the Football World Cup (2014) and The Olympics (2016), how is this Country changing? On one hand Rio de Janeiro is ever more acquiring the features of a big modern metropolis, but on the other hand it has to face its poorest side. We will look into the two souls of this city, struggling between one another, yet united by many things as, for example, passion for soccer. A passion that takes extraordinary cultural connotations: it can cheer up the poor, it can rescue a child from street-life, it can give courage and hope to those who need it. Soccer is also capable of saving an entire favela from the hands of criminal organisations. Journey to the core of a Country that has recently waved goodbye, amongst general emotion, to a very popular President such as Lula, only to welcome (one more time on the path of innovation) the advent of the first prime minister woman of Brazil's history: Dilma Rousseff.



# Free as his name

---

**Directed by:** Pietro Durante  
**Produced by:** Pietro Durante  
**Duration:** 58 minutes  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

Twenty years have passed. In a letter published on the front page of the Giornale di Sicilia newspaper, Libero Grassi, Palermo businessman, speaks directly to the extortionists pressing him for protection money. It is the 10th of January 1991. For many it is a date which marks the beginning of the fight back against the rackets. From that moment on, no one could say "I didn't know". There is no statue to commemorate Libero Grassi, nor a square or a street named after him. Libero Grassi has a hand-written plaque and a red mark, re-painted every year by his wife and children, on the pavement where the killers of Cosa Nostra shot him down from behind. Many years later, his ideas have unleashed a possible revolution which today involves over ten thousand citizens of Palermo who recognise themselves in the phrase: "A WHOLE PEOPLE WHO PAYS THE PIZZO IS A PEOPLE WITHOUT DIGNITY" In this documentary, the story of Libero Grassi is relived by his wife and children, who also tell another story, that of his moral legacy. The young people of Addiopizzo, and a businessman who, like Grassi, rebelled, together with the president of the Libero Futuro association which assists businesspeople who are victims of Mafia extortion and who modified the Confindustria industrial association's code of ethics, describe an extraordinary Palermo fired with a new popular dignity. Thus, Libero Grassi's dream will come true. He was killed on the 29th of August 1991, but "he died as a living person". He was not a hero, he was a "normal Sicilian" who liked to say that, in line with all the choices he made, his was "more an adjective than a name".

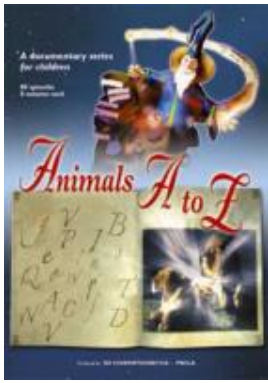


# CHILDREN



---



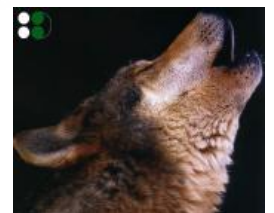
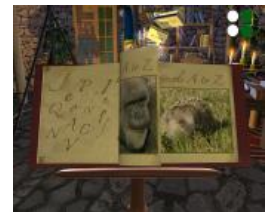




# Animals A to Z

**Directed by:** Lodovico Prola  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica & Ditta Prola  
**Duration:** 38x8'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** SD

This series includes 38 short docs, each one 8 minutes long, and has been created for an audience of children between the ages of 4-10. It is like a big container of information, and it answers many of questions frequently asked by children about the natural world. The series' objective is to depict, reveal, and therefore help them understand the extraordinary world of nature, and unveil the secret life of the wild inhabitants of our planet, their characteristics, their habits, as well as their behavior, and the interesting facts that explain their incredible adaptation to the natural environment surrounding them. Being familiar with the natural world represents the first step towards loving, respecting, and defending our extraordinary natural treasures. The entire series is like an adventure journey with different stops, each one unique, but all linked by a common topic: an exploratory journey in the fascinating world of animal life!



- Episodes:**
- Wolf
  - Cubs (Baby animals)
  - Seaturtle
  - Hedgehog
  - Octopus
  - Snakes
  - Porcupine
  - Badger
  - Lizards
  - Chamois
  - Frogs
  - Kingfisher
  - White stork
  - Fox
  - Great crested grebe
  - Nests
  - Avocet
  - Mantis
  - Hermit crab
  - Butterflies
  - Cuttlefish
  - Ostrich
  - Elephant
  - Horse
  - Eggs
  - Cheetah
  - Beaver
  - Seahorse
  - Deer
  - Seal
  - Cat
  - Otter
  - Bear
  - Bats
  - Raccoon
  - Puma
  - Swallow
  - Shark

# Episodes



## Wolf

Hello, I am the wolf. Our typical prey is fast and agile, and since they know us well, they are always on the look out, ready to run away at the smallest sign of danger. Once the prey is in sight, we alternate in the chase to tire it out. Then, we surround and launch a final attack. We may seem mean and bloody, but we predators hunt only the amount necessary to survive. We often look for weak or ill prey, because they are easier to catch. By getting rid of them, we fulfill an important task towards the health of the species.



## Cubs (Baby animals)

FOAL: Hi everyone! After spending eleven months in mum's tummy, it's time for me to come out! It's been pretty hard, right mum?! Just born and I already weigh more than forty kilos! Ok, now I'm going to get up...whoah! I didn't know it was so difficult! whooooooah... Here we go! Well, you humans take a whole year to learn to walk...and perhaps thanks to my having four legs, I only needed a few hours!



## Seaturtle

Hi, I am a sea turtle. I look a lot like my land cousins, the tortoises, although my legs are shaped like fins and I am a true champion at swimming. I can even reach a speed of 20 miles per hour...that's four times faster than any Olympic champion. Also when I hold my breath, I am a world-record owner: after taking one big mouthful of air, I can hold my breath up to 90 minutes!!



## Hedgehog

My day starts very early: I am a mother hedgehog and I need to take care of my little ones. Look how beautiful they are! I built my nest inside a hole in a tree, and I'll keep it warm with dry leaves and hay. Come on over here, all of you! It's snack time. The best thing for them is fresh milk: I am a mammal too, just like you humans, and I nurse my little ones. Hey, be careful, or you'll sting me...



## Octopus

My silhouette is a little funny, I admit it...Well, keep in mind I am a mollusk...But a very special one! I have eight arms: the tentacles, covered by suckers. I have big eyes, for a better view...and a siphon which allows me to breathe by pumping water through my gills. And if you are really bothering me...thanks to the siphon I can move like a real turbo jet! Your vision will be confused even more by a sudden spray of ink!



## Snakes

Almost everywhere around the world people are afraid of us...Who are we? It's easy: snakes! Some of us are poisonous and may seem threatening but that doesn't mean we're bad guys...Just think...in some African countries we are trained by humans! We dance to music!...Even though we're not crazy about the latest hits!



## Porcupine

Who am I? It's me: The porcupine! It's true, I look quite thorny, and some say that I look like a rock star. Well, that's the reason why I get some respect around here. The fox avoids me, but I'm not a bad guy...even if my spiky coat looks like a bush gone wild! To tell the truth, I am quite shy, I like being by myself and looking for roots and tasty fruit.



## Badger

We badgers like to live in groups, in big families who live in the same place for generations and generations: we inherit our grandparents' homes after all! With summer the time comes to look for a girlfriend. Where could she be?



## Lizards

My relatives are lizards, monitors, chameleon and slow-worms. We are all saurian, just like the dinosaurs of prehistoric times which disappeared 65 million years ago. We still exist because we are small and know how to adapt!



### Chamois

I want to introduce myself: I am the chamois. Years ago, only 20 of us were left in the mountains of the Abruzzi region of Italy!! What a disaster. Luckily, a park has been built just for us, and now there are almost 600 in our group. We run fast in the mountains...Follow us so we will tell you our stories that'll love very much!



### Frogs

We are champions at swimming, as everybody knows! Our favourite style? Brest-stroke!! - Go ahead and try...you'll never beat us! We're also champions in another specialty: the high jump! And besides, many insects fly, so if we don't jump high...we skip dinner!



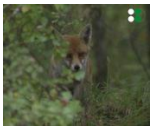
### Kingfisher

Many birds migrate during the winter months in search of warmer climates...But not me! I have a favourite spot, perched on my special branch on my stream. And I don't intend to give it up! I am a kingfisher: snow, ice, rain and storms don't bother me at all!



### White stork

Are children born in a cabbage patch...?...or are they carried by me, the white stork...?! Kids, I am not really sure about how were you born, but I know for sure about this one, my child!! I only know how to carry little storks, and that's a hard task right there, I can ensure you...They are always hungry!



### Fox

Hello, I'm the red fox! And now that you've seen me you can imagine where my...colourful...name comes from. We can adapt to the countryside and to cities alike and when we find a suitable place to live, we normally get fond of it and stay there all our lives...



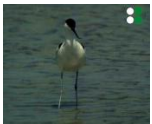
### Great crested grebe

I look this way, I look that way...We are a little shy...but it's you I like! We are grebes and water is our natural element. Wedding present! The first brick of our grassy nest...I'll accept to marry you once we get along perfectly...In the meantime let's dance!...



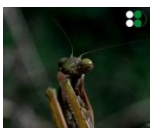
### Nests

I am a penduline tit and if you look at my nest, it's easy to see why I'm called that way...Suspended in the branches, my nest is woven with stalks, plant fibres, leaves, spider webs and soft, fluffy seeds. A soft and comfortable shelter to win over my loved one and protect my chicks.



### Avocet

I am slender and elegant, my name is avocet. An immaculate lagoon is the ideal spot to live: shallow waters and bushes full of life...and hiding places. I have quite an aristocratic aspect, I know...I look like a princess with my long blue legs and beak pointing up! Also, white and black look great on me!



### Mantis

I love summer, warmth and sunny days...Mediterranean climate, that is! I can look scary to some, and my long legs look like hands in prayer...I am the praying mantis. My name sounds funny, doesn't it: follow me and I'll tell you my story...



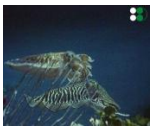
### Hermit crab

I know...I look funny with this weird hat! And how about my eyes which look like two periscopes? I am actually a shellfish...My name is...hermit crab! This beautiful transparent flower is an animal...Her name is Snakelocks Anemone and she lives with me. She is a good friend of mine! Well, I like to have company over...and she is a perfect ally, she protects me with her poisonous tentacles, which don't bother me at all...



### Butterflies

A sea of fragrant flowers swaying in the spring breeze...It's paradise on earth for us butterflies...who add colour to colour! Follow us, and we will lead you into our secret world...



## Cuttlefish

Sometimes you can encounter strange and mysterious creatures in this big sea...Just like little aliens, we hide behind a shipwreck...A scuba diver! Actually, we were waiting for something good to eat, but...you're welcome anyway! We little cuttlefish are eager to grow up, before somebody eats us up!



## Ostrich

Big eyes, the better to see with. A mighty beak. Strong legs, to run very fast. My name is ostrich and I am the biggest bird on Earth! I live in the wide African prairies. To become so big and muscular I had to give up something...I can't fly any more and I only have two toes...well, you can't have everything...



## Elephant

Do you recognize me? I'm the largest animal on Earth! My incisors have turned into precious ivory tusks. Human beings are jealous of them. Unfortunately, they are so beautiful that we are hunted for them. I breathe, communicate, explore the world and drink with my trunk...We live in groups and it's we females who give the orders!



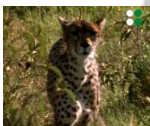
## Horse

Free, strong and wild...This is the way we horses feel...even though we are no longer wild. Our friendship with human beings started 5000 years ago and gradually horse breeds became domestic.



## Eggs

Eggs are the most precious things to birds: they guarantee the survival of the species...That's why we, Eleonora's falcons, have chosen steep cliffs to build our nests. They are really safe here! Hi there, I am the little bustard, look at me...I am a true rarity! I can't lay golden eggs...but greenish ones!



## Cheetah

Slender and elegant...I am unique among cats...My name is cheetah, which means "spotted" in Indian. Do you want to race with me? My specialty is running...Watch out, because nobody can beat me in the whole world! The fastest men on Earth take three times longer to travel the same distance as me!



## Beaver

We are beavers and we have a wide tail which is flat and covered with scales which function like a paddle! The soft bark and the sprouts make a delicious lunch! The dam is also our house. Fresh mud and straw serve as cement for our marvellous constructions. In our den my babies will be born: usually from 2 to 4.



## Seahorse

We have long narrow snouts and our little mouths are adept at sucking our food just like with a straw. There are 33 species of seahorse in the world, of differing colors and shapes. It's a trick even we know well, we're pygmy seahorses, we're tiny and reach a maximum length of 2.5 centimeters. But here's the real surprise...among seahorses, we males are the ones who watch over the eggs and take care of the little ones!!



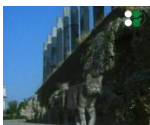
## Deer

We love living together in harmony. When autumn comes and our great love begins, we adult males sing a special song...it's called Bellowing. And it's so loud and powerful that truly everyone can hear it...The winner is usually the deer with the deepest and strongest bellow, but sometimes it's not enough. If the competition gets tough, it becomes body to body. Or rather...horn to horn!



## Seal

A long time ago, I lived on dry land and looked sort of like a bear. Then I decided that I enjoyed being in the water and chasing fish. Eventually my body adapted and little by little my paws began to look like actual fins, and for this reason, along with walruses and seas, they call us all fin-feet.



## Cat

We cats have been your friends for a long time...It's a friendship that dates back 5.000 years of living together under the same roof...But in all this time, I've never forgotten my wild nature!





### **Otter**

I'm the Queen of the river...the crystal waters are our passion. Luckily we otters are champion swimmers and unbeatable fishermen. Humans are taking all the available space! Don't pollute, have you heard??? We don't want that, leave us in peace, agreed? OK? Streams, waterfalls, clear waters...I'm sure all of you like them too. And for us they mean life!



### **Bear**

I am the largest carnivore on earth, and can grow to 900 kilos and 3 meters of height...but I'm not mean, on the contrary. For the most part I am very timid and pass my days alone in search of something good to eat. My diet is made of fruit, vegetables, insects and meat. I eat everything!



### **Bats**

I live in caves. When I sleep, I hang from my claws. I close myself in my wings like a sleeping bag and...Good night! Actually, good morning! Because we bats sleep in dark caves while you are out and about...But when night arrives...it's our moment...to come out of the cave!



### **Raccoon**

Hello, we are raccoons! Our origins are in North America, but nearly 100 years ago humans brought us to Europe. Finally I can breathe some good air...The water's clear, fresh and sweet...And fish!



### **Puma**

They call me mountain lion, cougar, and even panther...But maybe you know be better by the name Puma. I am a champion jumper...I weight 50 kilos, and can leap more than 10 meters thanks to my strong muscles...I can jump as high as 5 meters!!



### **Swallow**

I am a swallow! One fine morning we leave for the great migration: 10 thousand kilometres in 6 weeks... we're going to Africa!! I love to eat flies, midges, mosquitos and every kind of insects. We are useful animals but nowadays we are rare because of insecticides.



### **Shark**

First of all, you should know that we are an ancient species: we have lived on the earth, well, I should say, we have swam in the oceans, since before the times of the dinosaurs...More than 400 million years ago! We haven't changed much since then, as you can see we were already perfect...Our eyesight works very well too. Even though we are fish and we live in the water, we are able to keep our bodies fairly warm, and, in particular, our eyes!





# The mistake

**Directed by:** Emanuele Coppola

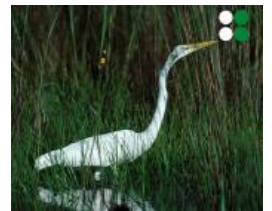
**Produced by:** Panda Film

**Duration:** 30x4'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

A series of 30 episodes of 4 minutes, each one structured as a scientific card dedicated to a single animal species of the european and international fauna. This series is conceived as a "quiz show" for the audience, that is invited to find the wrong assertion from the 4 highlighted during the documentary.





# Ripples - first season

---

**Directed by:**  
**Produced by:** Animabit  
**Duration:** 26x10'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

The Ripples series has been carefully conceived so that each episode strikes a delicate balance between adventure, fun and education. The subject area of each episode may focus on a particular sea environment (natural phenomena or living things), or concentrate on the main character's interaction with the human world. The plot in each episode is closely linked to the features of the characters. The protagonist, a little boy called Ripples, is the one who is best able to act on the information he gathers. The pelican Icarus, who is something of a mentor figure for the group, often has the task of instigating a quest in the earlier stages of the episode. The octopus Polly and the hermit crab Jason provide the comic moments. In each adventure, the importance of friendship and working together are always brought to the fore. On many occasions the members of the group will meet up with new characters, who play a specific role in each story.

- Episodes:**
- The magic amphora
  - The missing pearls
  - The firefly lamp
  - Kiko the dolphin
  - Charlotte the oyster
  - The urchinday
  - The chick
  - The king of the seagulls
  - A sea of... garbage
  - The rainbow
  - Star little star
  - Doctor Jason
  - Polly the babysitter
  - The little bird from the sea
  - Autumn is near
  - The bungling sardine
  - The penguin
  - The two turtles
  - Happy birthday Ripples
  - Wild Oscar
  - A home for Esmeralda
  - Journey into the depths
  - A dolphin called Jason
  - United we stand, divided we fall
  - Night flight
  - The great Jack

# Episodes



## The magic amphora

On the beach, Ripples, Polly and Jason meet a turtle and are lead to Icarus the pelican's fishing boat. The turtle makes a rather rough manoeuvre and Ripples ends up in the seabed next to an amphora where the tiny Moreno is hiding away from "threatening" shadows. Ripples thinks the amphora contains a mysterious creature and, in a fright, goes back to his friends and Icarus on board the fishing boat. Icarus thinks Ripples has found a magic amphora with a genie inside. The three friends go back down to look for the amphora, but instead of a genie they find Moreno. In the meantime Icarus has remembered the magic words to awaken genies, but is very disappointed when his three friends inform him it was all a misunderstanding. They all improvise a playful ring-around-the-roses reciting the magic formula to awaken the genie, who does actually live in the amphora but, not seeing anyone, goes back to sleep.



## The missing pearls

Ripples, Polly and Jason, after having picked up two doubloons found in a safe, offer to help several oysters find their pearls, mysteriously gone missing at night. During their search they come across a group of small craters that give off strong puffs of air. The next morning Ripples discovers just how the pearls went missing: a fish, who lives above the oysters, had swept the entrance to his den, the dust had fallen on one of the oysters who, sneezing in her sleep, had spat out the pearl; this then ended up on one of the craters and was then pushed outside the water by a puff of air, finally ending up in a crabs' den on a reef. The three friends visit the reef, where mother crab tells them that her kids have taken away the pearl and are out playing at making sculptures on a little island. Thanks to Icarus, Ripples and the others fly to the island and see the young crabs using the precious spheres as eyes for a sculpture. They offer the doubloons they had previously found in exchange for the pearls, which can be returned to the oysters.



## The firefly lamp

Under the sea. Jason suddenly wakes up and realizes his shell is missing. Ripples has rushed to the beach to find it, he finds it difficult to see in the dark but is helped by the firefly Lulù and her friends, who make light for him so he may complete his mission successfully. Jason celebrates the recovery of the shell with his friends and meets Dido and Dado, who invite him, together with Ripples and Polly to play football underwater. During the match the ball ends up in a very dark cave no one dares enter; Ripples has an idea: he returns to the beach, calls her firefly friends and takes them underwater in a large closed bottle. Our friends thus manage to get their ball back and the fireflies take that underwater journey they wanted so much.



## Kiko the dolphin

Kiko the dolphin has always lived in captivity in a water circus. He manages to escape to see the wonders of the sea. He meets Ripples and his friends, who are very curious and start asking him about the details of the journeys they think he has made. Kiko's adventures (which are all make-believe, because he is ashamed to have never seen the world) are full of contradictions and mistakes. Icarus doesn't fail to notice this and goes off to ask the other dolphins about him. When the dolphin finally reveals the truth, Ripples and the others offer to be his sea-guides. In return, Kiko puts up a little circus show with his new friends and at the end the dolphins contacted by Icarus offer the young mammal to join them on future journeys.



## Charlotte the oyster

Lillo tells Ripples, Polly and Jason that his little brothers are born. So, our three friends set off for the beach to find presents for the babies. After finding some toy windmills they go back underwater and meet Charlotte the oyster who would like to come along with them, but is too big and heavy to move and our three friends just can't pull her. Downhearted, they set off again and meet a gang of jellyfish; Ripples thinks they may be able to carry Charlotte. This they do, with the help of the toy windmills used as propellers to pull her up. Back at Lillo's den, everyone celebrates and Charlotte decides to start travelling the seas, with all her giant oyster friends, helped by the jellyfish. Their gift to Ripples and his companions is a giant pearl.



### **The urchinday**

Daybreak. Icarus is suddenly woken up by Ripples who, covered in seaweed, reminds him of Giù Giù, the spook of the grotto blue. Followed by Polly and Jason, Ripples dives down to find a present for the "urchinday" of their urchin friend Spillo (Pinprick). Underwater, the fish Juliet is trying to practice playing her shell tuba, but the sound is annoying everyone. After being rejected by everyone, she ends up in a blue grotto; she won't annoy anyone there. The Urchin family home: Spillo (Pinprick) doesn't want to celebrate his urchinday fearing that nobody would want to spend it with him and risk being pinpricked. Ripples and his friends, now at the Urchins' home, reassure their friend. and set of for the blue grotto to collect some rainbow seaweed for the party decorations. Instead, in the grotto they're scared off by loud mysterious noises. Afraid of meeting Giù Giù the spook, they run and hide, but then realize the sounds come from their friend Juliet's tuba and invite her to play at Spillo's party. The "urchinday" is a success: everyone dances to Juliet's music and a waterfall of seaweed is made to pour out of Lucinda's shell (she was the one who had collected all the seaweed before her three friends). Then our three friends tell Icarus all about the party, but upon hearing the sound of Juliet's tuba he gets frightened too, mistaking it with the sound of Giù Giù.



### **The chick**

Cliffs. Mother seagull loses one of the five eggs she is brooding, which ends up on the beach. Jason finds it just as it's hatching. The newly born chick, seeing the crab wearing a pair of wings he had made to try to learn to fly, mistakes him for his father and imitates his every movement. Ripples, Polly and Jason decide to take the young bird back home. Reaching the top of the cliff flying on a huge palm leaf, our friends complete their mission. After meeting his real dad, the chick now takes to calling Jason "Uncle".



### **The king of the seagulls**

Ripples, Polly and Jason show Icarus three objects they received from Lucinda. The pelican shows them the Feather of Honour received years back from the King of the Seagulls, but a flurry of wind blows it away, a flying gurnard catches it in flight and dives back into the water. The free friends begin to chase the fish in vain, but then Lucinda takes them to the Island of the King of the Seagulls to try asking for another feather; unfortunately the sovereign no longer has that type of feather. The downhearted three meet the gurnard at the bottom of the sea, but he says he has given the feather to a moonfish, who is passing by that very moment. The moonfish decides to return the feather in exchange for the three gifts Lucinda had given her three friends. So, Icarus gets his feather back, but on finding out about his friends' sacrifice he gives them each a present he had in his fishing boat for their respective birthdays.



### **A sea of... garbage**

A large boat is sailing around and spreading garbage everywhere: a can falls near Ripples, Polly and Jason who, joined by Lucinda - with a tyre stuck on her shell - decide to go to Icarus and ask for his help to put an end to this havoc. The pelican tells the three friends to collect all the rubbish and goes off to see Giusy, who will take all the garbage back to the boat. Ripples and his companions, after freeing Dido and Dado, stuck in their den blocked off by a pile of rubbish, fill a huge sack up with litter, load it onto Lucinda's back and, carried by Icarus, go off to meet Giusy the whale. With a stroke of her tail the whale sends all the garbage back on board the guilty boat, which then sails away to everybody's satisfaction.



### **The rainbow**

Ripples, Polly and Jason have dived under water during a rain shower and meet Lillo, who tells them to go somewhere else because the vault of his den is about to crumble away. Saddened by the news, they all join Icarus, who seeing a rainbow appear after the storm tells them all about the legend of the treasure at the end of the multi-coloured arch. Ripples and friends dive in to search for it, but all they find is an old frame with a broken creased canvas. Ripples has an idea: the three friends rush to Lillo's den and wedge the frame at its entrance so supplying a support for the tumbledown vault, allowing their friend not to leave his den. Back on the fishing boat they tell their adventure to Icarus, coming to the conclusion that, though they didn't find the treasure at the end of the rainbow, they managed to safeguard the home of a friend, a true treasure.





### Star little star

Ripples, Polly and Jason wake up in the night and join Icarus in admiring a beautiful sky full of shooting stars. The pelican tells them that whoever finds one can obtain fantastic powers and this sets our three friends off to chase a shooting star that has just landed in the sea. But when they reach the star, they feel no particular effect and just fall asleep by it. Jason dreams of lifting a huge rock that's obstructing the entrance to Lillo's den with a super-strength obtained thanks to the star. After waking up, the same scene repeats itself, but instead of special powers, this time the crab uses his intelligence and causes the rock to roll away by moving a small stick that was blocking it, so he is carried in triumph just like in his dream. The three friends join Icarus on the beach, bringing their shooting star along with them, but all of a sudden it glows and goes up again into the sky, taking its place once more in the vault of heavens.



### Doctor Jason

Beach. Ripples pricks himself with a thorn as he is playing with Polly and Jason. The three run to the fishing boat, where Dr. Otto, a large octopus, takes the thorn out of Ripples's foot and, assisted by Jason, dresses the injury. Impressed by the crab's skill he suggests he study medicine and replace him for a few days. Jason accepts and starts studying hard until Otto takes him to his surgery to let him start his practice. His bizarre cures, based on cookies and ice-cream, get him more and more patients, until the queues outside his surgery get so long that he ends up fainting because the massive workload. As he regains consciousness on the fishing boat he finds Dr. Otto, who apologizes to him for giving him such a burdensome task. The octopus can't find a remedy for the hiccups that's struck Icarus; so Jason puts on an African masque and scares the pelican until he is cured. Proud of Jason, Otto awards him a graduation cap.



### Polly the babysitter

Ripples and Jason are busy employing several objects found on the beach as musical instruments (with unpleasant effects), but are also concerned about Polly's absence, so they dive into the water and start looking for her. Their friend is busy babysitting the young cuttlefish Guizzo, something that turns out to be rather demanding, as he is a real pest who never misses an opportunity to slip away from her. Eventually Polly loses him altogether and rushes off to the fishing boat to ask her friends for help; during their search they meet the lobster Artemisio, an unlucky artist whose seashell compositions produce a sweet sound that sends everyone to sleep. Suddenly Jason sees Guizzo go by; the three friends catch up with him and calm him down with the sound of one of Artemisio's musical objects. Polly can then take the little pest back home to mother cuttlefish, who thanks her for having found a way to calm her son down. Artemisio's works start enjoying a great deal of success among mothers, who use them to make their young ones fall asleep more easily and Ripples and Jason find that special sound they were looking for.



### The little bird from the sea

Ripples, Polly and Jason meet a little bird who has just completed a long journey to spend the winter on their beach. Inspired by him, they decide to build a raft and discover the seas. But their vessel sinks right away and our budding sailors end up at the bottom of the sea, where they decide to postpone their journey to the next day. They fall asleep on three soft pillows, which are actually the hats of three jellyfish. While our heroes are asleep, the jellyfish wake up and start to swim elsewhere; Ripples, unlike his companions, actually remains on one of the jellyfish and wakes up in a strange place far away from home. Polly and Jason set off to look for him helped by Icarus. Meanwhile our young shipwreck is swimming to try and find his way home, but at one point, exhausted, he decides to rest on a reef, which turns out to be the back of his whale friend Giusy. Ripples removes from the leviathan's orifice a net that was preventing her from breathing. To thank him, Giusy offers to take him back home and just then they are found by Polly, Jason and Icarus, who can hug their friend once more.



### Autumn is near

Autumn is close at hand. On the beach Ripples, Polly and Jason meet Gegè, a poet swallow who charms Polly with his verses. Feeling jealous Ripples and Jason go away and try to compose their own poem. After asking Icarus for advice, they find the right inspiration under the sea and rush back to recite their verses to Polly and Gegè, but their poetic effort turns out to be rather awkward. Gegè, however, does appreciate it; but then, seeing a flight of swallows migrating for the autumn, confesses to the three friends that he won't be following them, because he is afraid of flying. His new friends offer to help him and take him up on a high cliff on which Jason slips and falls: Gegè overcomes his fear and throws himself into the void to save him. The poet bird has now got over his block, catches up with the flight of swallows and bids farewell to his new friends, who, rather sad to see him leave, cheer up with another of Jason's hammy poems.





### **The bungling sardine**

Bottom of the sea. During the grand annual parade for the departure of the sardines, Samy is still always bumping into her companions, who tell her off at the end of the show. Ripples, Polly and Jason try to console her and she reveals to them that she finds it difficult to follow the emcee's orders because of her orientation difficulties. The three friends ask Icarus what the solution to Samy's problem could be and the pelican gives her a small compass to hang around her neck. Back underwater, Samy proves her skills to the sardines captain and is promoted team leader.



### **The penguin**

Under the sea. Her mother tells Giusy, the little whale, that they're about to set off on their first journey: destination South Pole. She goes off to the fishing boat to give the exciting news to Ripples and his friends. All four start playing, until Jason ends up on a piece of iceberg where he finds the young penguin Michelangelo, who tells him he is lost. While Icarus tries to figure out how to help him get home, Ripples and the others show the penguin the beach and all the wonders of their underwater world. At the end of the day, on Icarus's advice, Michelangelo joins the whales on their journey to the South Pole and finds his way home.



### **The two turtles**

Ripples, Polly and Jason, after meeting Lucinda, who is getting ready for the carnival, go off to the beach, where they meet Helga, a land turtle who wants to learn to swim. The three try and do everything they can to make her wish come true, but a wave drags them onto a reef in the middle of the sea. Icarus joins them on the reef and suggests to ask Lucinda for help. She temporarily abandons her competition preparations and carries Helga herself, letting her swim just on the very surface of the water, back to the beach. The land turtle's wish has come true and Lucinda, with a little help from Ripples, Polly and Jason, wins the competition.



### **Happy birthday Ripples**

Night time. Icarus is plotting something with Joe the cormorant, who gives him a mysterious sack. The next morning Ripples wakes up and doesn't see Jason and Polly. He asks Lucinda to give him a lift to the beach, but she refuses, saying she's very busy. After swimming to the beach he finally finds his friends, who make up a load of strange excuses to refuse to play with him. Ripples walks away feeling bitter and continues to notice that whoever he meets treats him coldly. He sits down on a buoy, his spirits low, but Lucinda and other friends invite him to follow them to a grotto, where the rest of the gang has organized a big surprise party for his birthday—the reason for all the mystery. Jason takes a huge cake out of the mysterious sack and everybody eats cheerfully.



### **Wild Oscar**

Ripples, Polly and Jason meet the bad-tempered hermit crab Oscar, who scares them off with his hard to handle temperament. They talk about their encounter to Icarus, who thinks that Oscar is probably suffering from loneliness and suggests they find a sea anemone to keep him company. It's not an easy search, but eventually a sea anemone sticks to Jason's shell and they all take her to Oscar, who now has a new friend and finds happiness.



### **A home for Esmeralda**

Sara the seal and young Esmeralda watch as their den is being destroyed by a group of men who are building a harbour and go to see their friend Icarus to ask for advice. Having heard from a seagull that the seals are on their way, the pelican heads to the fishing boat taking Polly and Jason along, while Ripples wants to swim there and challenges Icarus to a race. The child thinks he knows a shortcut, but ends up getting lost in a cave where he meets Gustav, a lonesome crab who, not having anyone to tell his tales to, talks to himself. Icarus and the others, meanwhile, after meeting Sara and Esmeralda, learn about their problem and offer to find them a new home. It isn't an easy search, every place they find has a different drawback for the two seals. But in the end, Ripples suggests they go live with Gustav, who finally has someone to tell his tales to.



### **Journey into the depths**

Icarus has a bad cold and Ripples suggests he Polly and Jason go collect some healing seaweed down in the great depths of the sea. Jason, though scared of the dark place where the herbs grow, decides to go along with the others in the hope of finding the old shell he dropped there years back. On their way down to the great depths, our three friends meet Dido e Dado and promise to recover their ball, which the two lost just where they're off to. After penetrating into the depths, Ripples and his gang find themselves in the deepest darkness, but Flish and Flash, two fish who can produce enough light to survive in that environment, help them. These two new companions show our three young explorers the sights; during the trip Jason finds his shell, but can't recover it because a little surly worm who now lives inside it won't let him. Our trio, after also finding Dido and Dado's ball, collect enough healing seaweed and, after discovering that the awesome "Great Dragon's Mouth" is nothing but a crater that spits out jets of water, use it to be pushed back up from the depths and head back home. They manage to return Dido and Dado's ball and treat Icarus's cold.



### **A dolphin called Jason**

While playing with Polly and Ripples, Jason bangs his head, loses his memory and thinks he is Kiko the dolphin. So he joins a shoal of what he believes to be his fellow creatures, but when he meets the real Kiko, he is faced with the evidence of his true identity and begins to cry in despair about his condition of being nothing but a hermit crab. When his friends join him, they console him with stories of his extraordinary adventures and Jason is once more at peace with himself. The next morning, while he is telling the starfish about his latest capers he hits his head once more, but this time he reassures everyone: he is just fine and only wants to fly a little; Icarus offers to give him a lift, but he says he wants to go on his own, otherwise what sort of a seagull would he be?



### **United we stand, divided we fall**

Beach. Ripples, hiding behind a tree-trunk, makes Jason believe he's a talking tree; at the same time, Polly does the same with two of her friends. They then tell Icarus all about their practical jokes and a discussion arises about who's better between males and females. To try and find an answer, the pelican suggests a competition: a male team and a female one will compete to see which will be the first to reach the salty limpets' reef and bring back to the fishing boat the blue stone they will find there. During the challenge, the teams meet up with several dangerous situations, which they only come out of safely through mutual help. Once on the reef, the two teams can only tear away the blue stone with a joint effort. Back on the fishing boat, they all tell Icarus about their adventures and the lesson they've learnt: united we stand, divided we fall



### **Night flight**

Ripples, Polly and Jason get lost in the woods as night is about to fall in trying to fetch a kite they lost. A worried Icarus, not seeing them coming back to the fishing boat, starts looking for them helped by Lulù and her firefly friends. In the meantime our lost friends, after asking a toad for advice, turn to an owlet who gives them their kite back. On their kite they fly away from the wood. Jason falls during the journey, but Icarus catches him. Back on the beach, Ripples and his companions thank the fireflies and Icarus and finally go to sleep.



### **The great Jack**

Joe the albatross gives a crab the news of the imminent arrival of one Jack, causing a round of Chinese whispers and a ray of mystery around this figure. By the time Ripples, Polly and Jason (intent in asking Icarus's advice on a system to produce bubbles that won't explode) hear the news, the Chinese whispers have turned Jack into a terrible sea dragon. Our four friends are worried to death and take refuge in a small bay, when suddenly a threatening shadow stands upon them. The tension loosens when it is discovered that this is nothing but the projected silhouette of Jack, a little travelling show-squid. The misunderstanding solved, Jack explains to our three friends the method for making bubbles that won't explode.



# Ripples - second season

---

**Directed by:**  
**Produced by:** Animabit  
**Duration:** 26x10'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

The Ripples series has been carefully conceived so that each episode strikes a delicate balance between adventure, fun and education. The subject area of each episode may focus on a particular sea environment (natural phenomena or living things), or concentrate on the main character's interaction with the human world. The plot in each episode is closely linked to the features of the characters. The protagonist, a little boy called Ripples, is the one who is best able to act on the information he gathers. The pelican Icarus, who is something of a mentor figure for the group, often has the task of instigating a quest in the earlier stages of the episode. The octopus Polly and the hermit crab Jason provide the comic moments. In each adventure, the importance of friendship and working together are always brought to the fore. On many occasions the members of the group will meet up with new characters, who play a specific role in each story.

- Episodes:**
- The little mermaid
  - A ray of flowers
  - The Hiccups
  - The cloud catchers
  - Lunch is served!
  - The flag
  - The great current
  - When the snow falls
  - Sweet dreams
  - The return of Michealangelo
  - The eel's great journey
  - The fizzy drink
  - The unbeatable Bumbo
  - A sea full of stories
  - The best of friends
  - The enchanted vessel
  - Uncle Hercules
  - The secret room
  - The great spring clean
  - In a jam!
  - Jason's odyssey
  - Journey to the centre of the Earth
  - Mexico and bluebubbles
  - The Puffin's secret
  - A stroke of genius
  - Super Jason

# Episodes



## The little mermaid

While looking through some old books, Ripples Polly and Jason come across a picture of a mermaid. After Icarus explains the phenomenon of mermaids according to the old legends, the three friends' search begins. Will they find what they are looking for, or will she find them first?



## A ray of flowers

While Jason's artistic attempts of Ripples are not as satisfying as hoped, he tries once more using Icarus as his subject.. Meanwhile at the bottom of the sea Polly and Ripples hear about a ghost swimming nearby. They soon learn however that what was thought to be a ghost is instead no other than a friendly Manta Ray named Amanda. Unfortunately Amanda's appearance is often mistaken of that of a frightening ghost and is in need of some help. Who could help better than our three friends. And can Jason work his artistic magic and make Amanda happy?



## The Hiccups

Ripples, Polly and Jason are cherry picking and have a basket full to take back to Icarus. On their way back however a greedy Jason cannot resist the temptation of the delicious fruit and eats them all. Once back at the fishing boat Ripples and Polly soon realize the cherries are missing and Jason is suddenly a victim of an unexplainable bout of hiccups. All attempts to cure Jason's hiccups fail and a crab then realizes that he has in fact got a cherry stone stuck in his throat. How can they free Jason of his cherry stone and the hiccups?



## The cloud catchers

Jason believes and convinces both Ripples and Polly that the clouds are made of scrumptious candy floss. The three friends decide, with fishing net in hand, to try and catch some of the candy floss to eat. Unfortunately it proves to be harder than they thought. Ripples, Polly and Jason make their way back to Icarus, who explains to them what clouds are really made from and eventually they have the chance to taste the clouds with obvious disappointment. Luckily for them however, Icarus has bought back some real candy floss from his recent trip!



## Lunch is served!

Icarus has realized he has gained a few pounds around his tummy and makes a bet with Jason that he'll lose the extra pounds by the end of the week. In an attempt not to lose the bet, Jason decides to prepare Icarus some delicious meals and leaves them anonymously on the fishing boat every morning pretending they are from a secret admirer. Will Icarus be able to resist the delicious meals, or will he want more? And will he find out the truth in the end?



## The flag

The three friends are becoming a little bored on the beach when a crab suggests they play "Find the Flag" And so they form two teams, Ripples, Polly and Jason, against Lillo, Dido and Dado. Icarus lends them the fishing boat's glorious flag with a picture of a dolphin on it, Lucinda hides it in a secret location and the search begins. Not far away a shoal of tuna fish are having problems and keep losing their shoal leader. Ripples has a great idea and thinks that if they donate their flag to the tuna fish, it would be easier for them to see the shoal leader and therefore they wouldn't get lost. Jason happily sews a new flag to replace the old one for the old fishing boat.



## The great current

Ripples, Polly and Jason meet a new friend named Aziz. They soon learn that Aziz isn't allowed to play with them at all as his mother is a little too apprehensive after Aziz' father was swept away by the great current. On hearing this sad news, Ripples, Polly and Jason decide to face the dangerous waters around Blue Island and look for Aziz 'father. Can they overcome the great current, find Aziz'father and bring him home?





### **When the snow falls**

It's snowing and Ripples, Polly and Jason have never seen snow before. They make a wonderful snowman and decide to take it into the sea to show all their friends. Once immersed in the salty waters however, the snowman immediately melts. Icarus decides to decorate a Christmas tree near the beach and the three friends make a new snowman. Suddenly the fog closes in and a strange sound of bells can be heard near the Christmas tree. Once the fog lifts however there are presents scattered under the tree and a strange red hat that has maybe accidentally been left.... Until Christmas eve!



### **Sweet dreams**

After Ripples has a bad dream about the ugly Rospilla toad witch, he closes himself in an empty giant oyster shell. Icarus tries to help him and give him confidence by giving him a "lucky charm". Ripples is convinced that his new pendant has magic powers and will protect him wherever he is and with whoever he is. He soon realizes however that he has in fact lost his pendant and has managed to deal with different situations without his lucky charm. Icarus explains to Ripples that his courage comes from deep within himself and not from the pendant.



### **The return of Michealangelo**

Jason is making a sand castle for the little crabs to play in, which unfortunately crumbles under the weight of a butterfly. A thick fog shortly comes in from the sea along with a strange sound that frightens the inhabitants of the sea. From the fog appears Michelangelo blowing in an amazing horn, announcing his arrival. The penguin has brought his wonderful ice sculptures. Icarus offers to look after the iceberg while the others organize the exhibition but falls asleep. When he awakes he realizes that the iceberg is missing but who or what is the culprit?



### **The eel's great journey**

Ripples, Polly and Jason are playing on the rapids of a river when their playing is interrupted by the passing of a shoal of eels. Icarus explains to his little friends that the eels are swimming up the river looking for a quiet spot where they can breed. Meanwhile a small eel that has been left behind continues trying to swim upstream but without success. The three friends set out to help the eel in its attempt to swim the rapids and reach the rest of the shoal, but will they be successful in their mission?



### **The fizzy drink**

Ripples is in the forest preparing a drink made from a strange mixture of herbs. While Polly and Jason refuse to drink it, Ripples drinks it all in one fell swoop and in doing so, loses his voice. Doctor Otto advises a good deal of laughter to cure the problem but can they make Ripples laugh enough to regain his voice?



### **The unbeatable Bumbo**

Ripples and his friends are playing sponge ball when Lillo arrives with a new friend Bumbo, a pup shark. Bumbo starts playing with everyone and Ripples soon learns that he is somewhat presumptuous. Intent on teaching Bumbo a lesson, Ripples challenges him to a race but to his own disappointment, he actually loses. Icarus then explains the secret of knowing how to lose gracefully and not only does Ripples learn, but Bumbo too learns that no one is invincible! !



### **A sea full of stories**

Ripples, Polly and Jason are listening to one of Icarus' many adventures but soon realize that it may be somewhat exaggerated. After enjoying the story they then swim to the sea bed to look for their friends. Here they find Toto who is busy telling one of his amazing stories. He soon admits he was exaggerating and his friends leave disappointedly. Suddenly they are confronted by a killer whale, can Toto prove himself the hero he says he is!



### **The best of friends**

Ripples, Polly and Jason are chatting about their wonderful friendship when Ripples, unlike his two friends, believes he would be just as happy alone. Disappointed by his words, Polly and Jason swim away into the sea leaving Ripples alone on the beach. Icarus tries to persuade his two little friends that Ripples is a true friend, meanwhile Ripples meets a lonely crow who tells him exactly what it's like being alone. After such an eye opener, Ripples feels the need for some good friends but will he be received with open arms or is it too late?





### **The enchanted vessel**

Icarus is telling a pirate story in the old fishing boat and Ripples, Polly, Jason and Jack are rather scared. Suddenly through the porthole, they see a mysterious vessel appear through thick fog with three strange animals aboard, a parrot, a monkey and a chameleon. The three explain how they have arrived from the Colibri islands and how a strange, mysterious force has brought them here. Icarus then remembers the story of a strange vessel that roamed the seas in search of a legitimate captain, who of which would be able to open the old captain's treasure chest.



### **Uncle Hercules**

Jason doesn't even know he has an Uncle, especially one such as Uncle Hercules. His new uncle has arrived from far away and although very affectionate, Jason finds him also rather intrusive. But when his uncle realizes that Jason isn't actually his nephew, he decides to continue his search. No soon as Jason has given a sigh of relief, does a new cousin appear on the scene.



### **The secret room**

Ripples, Polly and Jason are playing sponge ball on the old fishing boat. After the ball bounces off Jason's head, it ends up in the water and the three friends dive in after it. The ball however has fallen into a sunken galleon and is extremely scary. Lead by Ripples, the little friends bravely enter the shipwreck and after hearing strange noises they come face to face with the threatening ghosts, tails and all.



### **The great spring clean**

Ripples, Polly and Jason think Icarus has gone looking for help to organise a spring clean of the old fishing boat. In an attempt to surprise Icarus, the three friends start cleaning, but unknown to Jason his brush is dirty with oil. Ripples and Polly stop him in time and suggest he goes to take a shower. But Jason, as scatterbrain as he is, gets the wrong room and ends up locked in the freezer. When Icarus finally returns, the three friends however come to realize that Icarus had very different intentions.



### **In a jam!**

There is a strange dark substance, with the resemblance of oil, leaking from a boat in difficulty at sea. The expanding spill is threatening a nest of young seagulls and their mother on a nearby rock. As Jason attempts to help he remains stuck and disappears in the middle of the substance. Frightened, Ripples looks for Polly and Icarus for help but at that exact moment Jason reappears, eating with enthusiasm the strange spill. What could be so delicious in the middle of the sea?



### **Jason's odyssey**

Icarus is telling our little friends about Odysseus and how he faced the dangers of his long journey. Jason would like to live Odysseus' adventures and even designs a boat. Jason falls asleep and Ripples and Polly decide to take advantage of Jason's sleepy state and play a joke on him. They take Jason to the Spooky Beach and dress up as monsters. But while doing so, what seems like a terrible monster, appears. What will happen to them and will Jason wake up and save the day.



### **Journey to the centre of the Earth**

Our friends decide to throw a party on the fishing boat and go to the forest to pick some strawberries. On arrival they soon learn that all the strawberries have already been picked by a little rabbit. On seeing Ripples, Polly and Jason, the rabbit runs away and the chase begins. Where will it lead the three friends and will they manage to get any strawberries for their party?



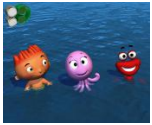
### **Mexico and bluebubbles**

Miguel and Sofia are two Mexican ballerina shrimps who make friends with Ripples, Polly and Jason. The new arrivals decide to teach them how to dance but Jason proves to be somewhat "left footed". Taken aback by Sofia's beauty, Jason decides to give her a real pearl as a present. Unfortunately he doesn't realize that the oyster's pearls are protected by an army of sea horses and he and his friends, who came to help him, are imprisoned. What and who will it take to free them?



### **The Puffin's secret**

Some strange birds arrive on the beach, puffins. Ripples and his friends suspect that the new arrivals have a secret therefore Polly transforms herself into a puffin and joins their group in an attempt to discover their mystery. When Polly however is late, her friends fear she is in trouble. The three friends soon discover that the puffins are touring actors and that they have chosen Polly for her transforming talents as the “star” of their show. Never the less , Polly then decides to return to her friends.



### **A stroke of genius**

To help make Icarus’ dream come true, Ripples and his friends set out to find the magic amphora which has place in the old Octopus’ den. After finding it, remembering the magic words and granting the old octopus one wish, our friends are left with two wishes. They decide to take the amphora back to the fishing boat but on their way back become trapped in fishing net so have to call on the genie for help, wasting the second wish. Once back at the fishing boat the genie is summoned for the third time but complains of being so squashed in the small amphora. Will Icarus finally get his wish to swim like a fish under water?



### **Super Jason**

Jason loves eating and would eat all day if he had the chance. One day he discovers a whole load of strawberries on the seabed which are not only very tasty, but also magic. The hermit crab transforms into a super hero of great strength and is able to fly. His super powers however soon disappear and no one seems to believe him, until Giusy finds herself in danger and Jason comes to her rescue. Ripples and Polly are super surprised but Jason’s super powers don’t last long and disappear rather quickly once again....

# ETHNOLOGY

---





# Japan and the mystery of the Geisha

**Directed by:** Flaminia Lubin  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 45'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** SD

Japan: land of technology, light, pulsating energy. The nation's race towards the future never stops. One might imagine that microchips, nanotechnology, robots, and ultra dynamic, anti-seismic architecture have cancelled out its centuries-old history, its beliefs and traditions. But it has not. This is a world caught up in the frenetic quest for the new, but also deliberately connected to its past. Made up of people who love their history and want to hand it down and protect it from the encroaching future. This ever-changing, mutating world still finds space for the geisha, those enigmatic custodians of beauty with their alabaster skin and red lips, who still follow the ancient codes of Japanese tradition. In the West, the geisha is generally seen as little more than a high-class prostitute. This is a misunderstanding. She is the incarnation of one of the many souls of Japan. She is a sophisticated woman, who loves her clients - without making love to them. For an entire night, she will help them escape their high-tech reality and everyday life, their very existence. For the very first time, the cameras are allowed into this realm of flowers and weeping willows, where the ancient, enigmatic and fascinating "game" of the geisha still goes on.







# The rice of bees: among the Batak of Palawan

**Directed by:** Giorgio de Finis

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 50'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

Divided into small isolated groups, the Batak live in a 240-square kilometres region north of the green island of Palawan, which is the nearest to Borneo among the other islands of the Philippines. At the beginning of the century 700 Batak inhabited the region; at present their number has sharply decreased and there are less than 400 of them still surviving. Hunters, gatherers, restless growers, the Batak developed a surprising knowledge of their natural environment: the forest. Ten years ago the Palawan forest - rich in endemic species - was seriously threatened by timber-merchants; it may seem a paradox but, nowadays, the creation of protected areas and the introduction of rules safeguarding an environment ingenuously conceived up to now are considered the main obstacles to the survival of its inhabitants. Much pressure has been put in order to stop traditional economic activities such as fishing with poisonous herbs or farming with the "cut and burn" technique. The documentary is the result of 4 years of anthropological studies carried out by the author on behalf of the Manila University. It focuses on rice and honey, the two most important products for the Batak survival, and the "lambay" a very significant ritual moment for these people who witness the constant struggle of the shamans "babalian" and the whole community against the nearby groups in order to get the "sprit" of rice and bees.





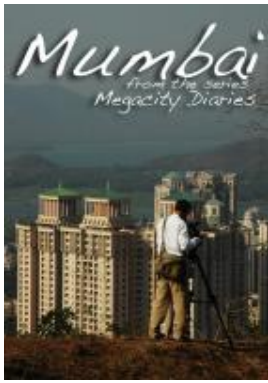


# Oumar, the craftsman of the Dogon

**Directed by:** Piero Coppo  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 25'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

Blacksmiths occupy a special place in communities throughout Africa. As well as iron, they work in wood and bronze. Their wives work in clay, making vases and household pots. However, this is not the blacksmith's only area of competence: they know how to cure many illnesses, and they produce fetishes (wooden statues and stone objects) for healers and fortune-tellers. It is said that at a blacksmith's funeral other blacksmiths engage in trials of strength, handling fire without burning themselves, or even changing into wild beasts. Oumar is a Dogon blacksmith. The Dogon tribe of Mali are renowned for their wisdom and their rich culture. He lives near Sangha, an area renowned for its natural beauty. The documentary shows him sculpting a statue, in his forge, looking for stones to sculpt and at home with his family.





# Mumbai

**Directed by:** Giorgio de Finis

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 52 min.

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

Mumbai, the financial capital of the Indian sub-continent (producing 37% of India's total earnings), home to Bollywood (the world's largest film industry), a city of over 16 million inhabitants that is also home to the largest slum in Asia. "Why do people still live in Mumbai?" wonders the writer Suketu Mehta. "Every day your senses are assaulted... the exhaust fumes are so thick that the air boils like soup. Too many people touch you, in trains, in lifts, when you go home to sleep... At night the mosquitoes emerge from the malarial swamps, and the criminals from the underground, and you hear the deafening loudspeakers from the parties of the rich and the festivals of the poor." The population of Mumbai is forecast to reach 33 million by 2025, with areas of poverty that will have become both medically and ecologically intolerable. But if on the one hand pollution, refuse, poverty, lack of infrastructure and urban planning are suffocating the city; on the other hand Mumbai looks towards New York and Singapore as its models: the government's Vision Mumbai plan aims to turn the city into a metropolis of "global importance" by 2013. But how do the two cities - the pukka city of the rich and the kutcha city of the poor, the solid city of concrete and glass and the flimsy city of cardboard and plastic - co-exist? Among those interviewed: architects Charles Correa and Hafeez Contractor, the billionaire building constructor Niranjan Hiranandani, the long-time leader of the slum dwellers Jockin Arputham, journalist and essayist Kalpana Sharma, Anurag Kashyap (director of Black Friday) and Pralhad Kakkar (director of Bumbay, a controversial documentary about the lack of lavatories in the city and how its inhabitants defecate), artists Sunil Gawde and Shilpa Gupta; and actors, producers, designers, gallery owners, and voluntary associations.





# Diving Women

---

**Directed by:** Gianluca Cerasola

**Produced by:** Morol Srl

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

Jeju Island is the island of women, a subtropical coral reef of volcanic origin, off southern South Korean Peninsula. The oasis of Jeju is inhabited by around 600,000 inhabitants, the aspects that distinguishes is the matriarchal structure of the family. Because of continuous wars, (still military service is obligatory for two years), while men were committed to the front, the woman has become the cornerstone of family, the one who carries out the economy and the livelihood of the family. The Diving Women of Jeju-do are marked example of this inevitable "abuse of women". These groups of women (Haenyeo), which due to the shortage of men has specialized in spear fishing and marketing of fish. Women are immersed without the aid of oxygen cylinders to gather shellfish, crustaceans, fish and seafood. The fishing Haenyeo have developed an amazing physical resistance, able to withstand cold ocean temperatures throughout the year, holding breath underwater for more than two minutes and reaching depths of over 30 meters. Their equipment, decidedly moderate, has evolved over the years, if the first was composed of a bag, a knife and a costume, now-a-days, they use wetsuits, fins, masks and gloves, which allows them to remain at sea for about three hours. According to some studies, women denominates over this activity because they have also a superior mental strength than men and a greater proportion of subcutaneous fat, fat brown, which makes them more stable to strong climate contrasts in water. The youngest diving women has 65 years old, the oldest woman Haenyeo has 87 years and submerges, 4 months a year, five times a week for about 2 hours





# Myanmar

**Directed by:** Fabio Picarelli

**Produced by:** Acqua

**Duration:** 50'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

From the Irrawady river to the beautiful Pagodas of Bagan, Myanmar gives the visitor incomparable sights and ancient sensations. Our exploration of Burma started with the Ayeyarwady River, once known as the Irrawady, that rises in the Himalayas near the borders with Tibet and southeast China and crosses the whole country until it flows into the Indian Ocean. Although today's Myanmar may seem like a closed country with many problems, on the banks of the river of a thousand pagodas life continues undisturbed, maintaining a connection with the past and the vibrant Buddhist culture that pervades this fascinating corner of the Orient. Leaving the river up as we rode a horse and cart along the paths of this spectacular Burmese plain punctuated by thousands of ruins dating back over 800 years, the infinite towers of the temples of ancient Bagan, which we were finally about to see, let us remember the words of Marco Polo when he first saw the pagodas: "...They make one of the finest sights in the world, being exquisitely finished, splendid and costly. When illuminated by the sun's golden glow, they are especially brilliant and can be seen from a great distance."







# Enawenè, Amazon under attack

**Directed by:** Aldo Pedretti

**Produced by:** Visualcommunication

**Duration:** 26 min.

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

Yowali, one of the Indians protagonists of the documentary, tells us: "All these ornaments are part of our culture, but now we are very concerned about our children, our grandchildren." Another Indians Yokuali adds: "We need support. We have a great culture but today we are losing it because the Whites do not care. " These are the premises of the documentary about the life of Enawene, an indigenous people of 600 individuals living in the rain forest of Mato Grosso. They lead us to visit the village, their houses and tell us the rituals marked by the calendar of fisheries and crops. Not eating red meat, fish is their only source of protein. Since, however, the development plans of government provided for the construction of hydroelectric power plants in these areas, the rivers where they normally fish are increasingly polluted. Even deforestation around the Rio Juruena, the main source of life for the Enawene, seems unstoppable. Ivar Busatto, a coordinator of the Organization Native Amazon in defense of the indigenous cause, tells us what we should do to help them. The Enawene are experiencing an epochal drama. Losing the forests in which their ancestors lived means for the Enawene losing their culture and their own rituals.



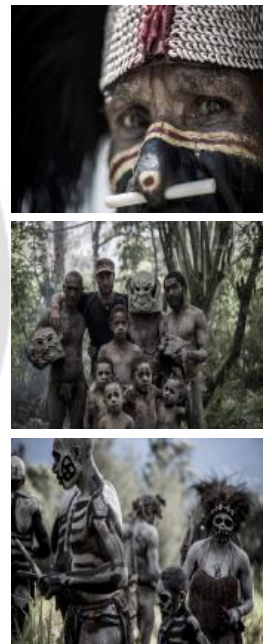




# Remembering Papua New Guinea

**Directed by:** Paolo Sodi  
**Produced by:** Alessio Bariviera  
**Duration:** 60 Min.  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** 4 K

"Remembering Papua New Guinea" is an ambitious panoramic fresco of Papua New Guinea, whose cultural and environmental wealth is celebrated through the indigenous tribes, nature, fauna and history. The value of preserving environmental and cultural assets is finally juxtaposed to deforestation and development operations.



# ART / MUSIC / CULTURE

---





# Ferrara

**Directed by:** Florestano Vancini

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 30'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** SD

Tourists are attracted to Ferrara because of its extraordinary urbanistic and artistic structure. Set up at the end of the first millennium, it was built as a small village running along the river Po, however it soon became under the Estensi's rule, a capital dukedom. By the end of the fifteenth-century, Ferrara expanded to triple its original size, giving the town a new Renaissance look. This was the outcome of a real "development plan" never before carried out and certainly very innovative for those times. The documentary avoids using monotonous photographic images and opts instead for a guided visit through Ferrara. It shows the town's history and arts in a most enchanting way. It takes you through its attractive Medieval alleys still intact, through eyecatching Renaissance streets and slowly leads you to discover its works of art, its buildings, churches, squares and its surrounding walls. A reality which is alive but whose time has come to a standstill.





# The township ladies

---

**Directed by:** Annamaria Gallone

**Produced by:** Kenzi

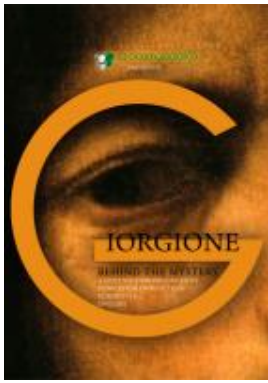
**Duration:** 26'

**Versions:**  


**Format:** SD

A tribute to two great South African divas of the fifties: Dolly Rathebe and Dorothy Masuku, who tell us about Jim comes to Jo'burg (African Jim), first fiction movie shot in an authentic township. Revelation of the night club underground world of the township of Johannesburg.





# Giorgione: behind the mystery

**Directed by:** Antonello Belluco  
**Produced by:** Venicefilm Production  
**Duration:** 52 minutes  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

October, 1510: Taddeo Albano, Venetian merchant and trusted partner of Isabella D'Este, the duchess of Mantua, is requested by the lady to find and buy the "Nocte" painting by Giorgione, for her private collection. This is how the journey of Taddeo begins, at the pursuit of the masterpiece of the mysterious painter. Along the way, he will find most of the landscapes and the people Giorgione visited throughout his life: from Castelfranco to Asolo, from nobles who commissioned several of his paintings to Venetian intellectual circles he frequented, from his colleagues Titian and Catena to the parties of the Calza's company.





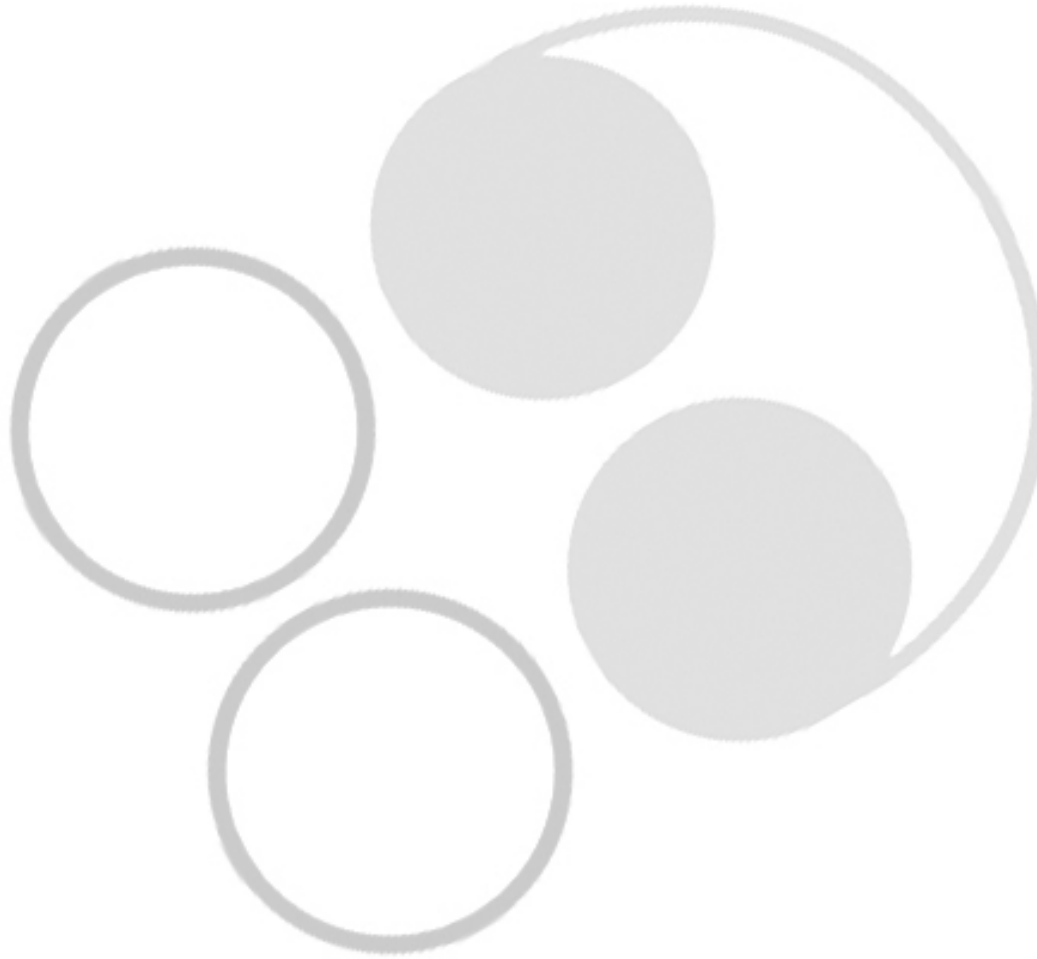


# Rome

---

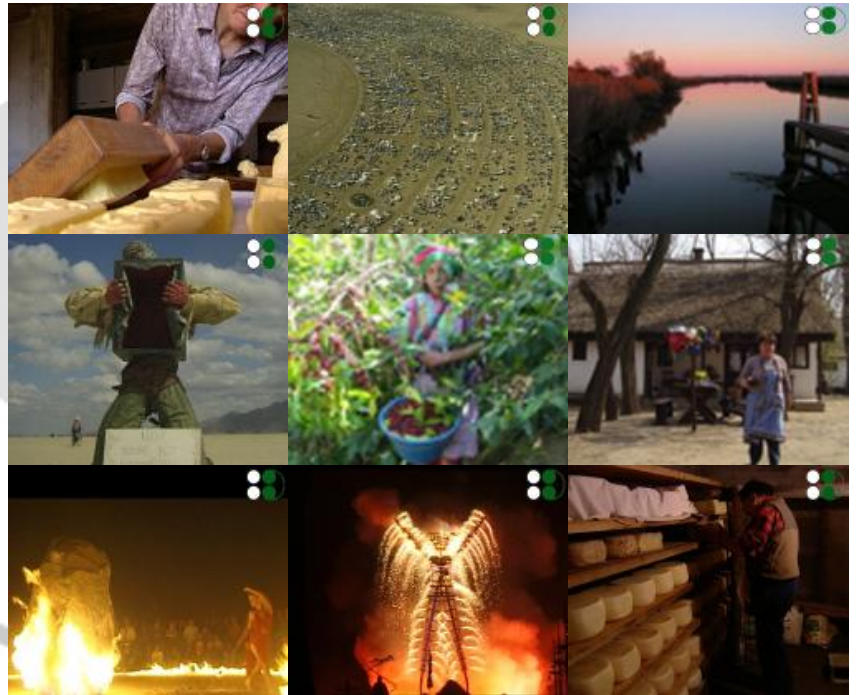
**Directed by:** Giorgio De Finis  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 120 Min  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

An extraordinary journey to discover the treasures of the Eternal City.



# LIFESTYLE

---





# Burning Man

**Directed by:** Raffaella Maresti

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

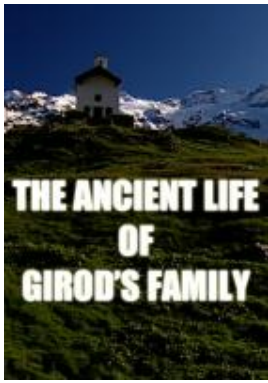
**Duration:** 60'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

"Burning Man" one of the strangest meetings of the United States and the West, is a festival which began with a few intimate friends on the Californian coast, and in the space of a few years, transformed itself into an extraordinary success. It was 1986 when Larry Harvey, landscape architect, on the day of the Summer solstice, got together a few friends on the beach of San Francisco, and made a crude male figure with pieces of waste wood, and set it aflame. "It burned like the sun." records Harvey, "And everyone around came running to see it, converging upon the scene as if by instinct." We're now this year at the 14th edition. B.M. takes place on the 28 August and the 4th September, on the sandy bottom of an ex salt lake of Nevada, where there grows up a strange village of tents, and streets of gas lights, post-offices and a commissary. But only for one week. At the centre of the village, there's B.M. the statue symbol which is now 16 metres high, and illuminated at night time by futuristic neon tubes, which is burned the first Sunday of September, at the end of the meeting.



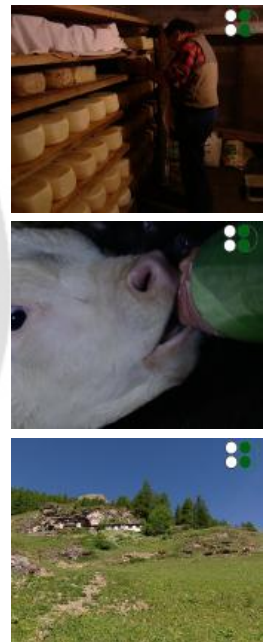


# The Ancient live of Girod's Family

---

**Directed by:** Jost Geppert  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 30'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** SD

This short film tells the true story of the Girod family from the Valle d'Aosta. There's a traditional way of life, unchanged for generations, in total harmony with nature. The Girod family have been Alpinists for generations. It is a hard life, characterised by physical hardship and the loneliness of the open mountain spaces. It would not be possible, if the whole family, from grandparents to grandchildren, were not involved. The Graian Alps, the highest mountains in Europe, form the backdrop to this story. They are a fascinating natural environment of wide blue skies and a never-ending panorama of snow-capped peaks. They are home to many rare and beautiful animals - from the chamois to the ibex, from the wood grouse to the golden eagle. However, today, even the highest and most inaccessible peaks are regularly climbed and the region is beginning one great theme park of mass tourism, a fairground for visitors from all over Europe. If the world around has changed so drastically, what, if anything, remains of the ancient alpine culture that was once so closely linked to nature? Are there still people prepared to forgo four-wheel drives and refrigerators, televisions and electricity?





# Terra Madre

**Directed by:** Annamaria Gallone

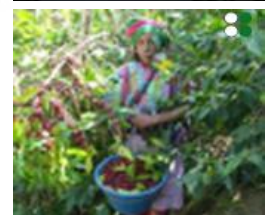
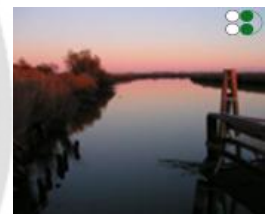
**Produced by:** Kenzi / Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity

**Duration:** 6x26'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

The “Terra Madre” documentaries narrate food in its production, processing, distribution and promotion. Each episode introduces us to one of the 270 presidia, which Slow Food has established around the world, discussing respect for the earth’s resources, the environment, the biodiversity, the producers’ rights and the health and pleasure of the consumers. The protagonists of the documentaries are gastronomic delicacies, endangered species, natural wonders and over all, the people connected with these products and their memory through their commitment and their passion.



- Episodes:**
- Manrique and the odyssey of coffee (Guatemala)
  - Olga, Paprika and the curly piglet (Hungary)
  - Bitto, the everlasting cheese (Italy)
  - Stories of eels, water and fire (Italy)
  - Stories of farms and cows in the Gargano (Italy)
  - The black, the woods and people from the Nebrodi Mountains (Italy)



# Episodes



## **Manrique and the odyssey of coffee (Guatemala)**

Coffee and contradictions abound in Huehuetenango, in Guatemala, a subtropical paradise and living hell for those cultivators enduring the damages caused by civil war, impoverished conditions and the insensitivity of the global market. Manrique Lopez Castillo, young leader of the producers, takes us through the ways in which 8 cooperatives with the help of Slow Food are working for change.



## **Olga, Paprika and the curly piglet (Hungary)**

Olga Rendek heads the group of eleven Mangalica pig farmers from the Hungarian Slow Food Presidium in preserving their time-old manifesto of love for the land, nature and genuine traditions. The rural landscape around them is adjusting to life and regulations in the EU, as Hungary deals with its communism leftovers.



## **Bitto, the everlasting cheese (Italy)**

It's milking time and as the cheesemakers in the valleys of Albaredo and Gerola in the province of Sondrio know, that means Bitto: a traditional cheese made out of love, dedication and a piece of Alpine turf, the only one that is universally recognized for its capacity to age for ten years.



## **Stories of eels, water and fire (Italy)**

The eel, embarking upon a lifelong adventure, swims up stream to the Sargassi Sea to reproduce, ending its life cycle in the waters of the Comacchio Valleys, a delicate ecosystem framed by the Po and Reno rivers and the Adriatic Sea. The Slow Food Presidium and the Delta del Po Regional Park of Emilia-Romagna have brought back the secular tradition of marinating the eels. No longer in risk of extinction, the eels can now be processed according to the most traditional technique.



## **Stories of farms and cows in the Gargano (Italy)**

Although you might expect bats, hanging from the cave walls in the Gargano you will instead find Caciocavallo Podolico, a mature cheese produced from the milk of the Podolico heritage cow breed, now on the brink of extinction. Also home to the fading Gargano goat breed from which Canestrato, a slightly spicy cheese is produced, the Gargano remains a sanctuary for ancient animals and precious cheeses. The Slow Food Presidia are working to protect these indigenous breeds and to promote the savory cheeses produced from their milk.



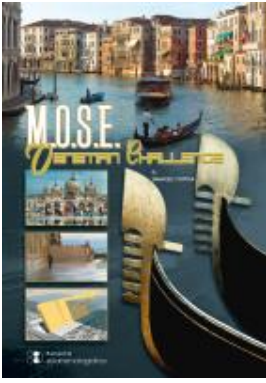
## **The black, the woods and people from the Nebrodi Mountains (Italy)**

Walking through the beautiful forests of the Sicilian Nebrodi Mountains you might come across what appears to be a herd of small wild boars, but in reality, they are Nebrodi black pigs, a breed that is diminishing in numbers and with it, meat of extremely high quality. The Slow Food presidium is working to reunite breeders with the old processing methods in order to preserve not only this indigenous breed, but also all the products obtained from this pig.

# SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY

---





# The challenge of Venice

---

**Directed by:** Michele Barca and Nicola Pittarello

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

An inextricable relationship links Venice to her salty, fresh and brackish waters, an inexhaustible resource, yet at the same time, a threat to the city's survival. Regulating the water has always formed a part of the city's history, and over the centuries has involved both major and minor interventions in the lagoon in order to maintain its delicate balance. The real threat for Venice today is the increasing frequency of high tides and the possible constant increase of average sea levels caused by climate change. Especially at high tide, the force of the water weakens and sometimes damages the banks and the foundations of the buildings. The future of Venice lies faraway from the city, where the lagoon meets the sea, and where every day 200 million cubic metres of water flow through the port. Therefore, a decision was made to protect Venice with a massive system of Mobile Barriers: MO.S.E. (Modulo Sperimentale Elettromeccanico). Work began in 2003 and with 40% now completed, it should be finished by 2014. The construction of the mobile barriers that disappear into the seabed is a highly complex engineering and naval operation. The barriers are made up of steel sluice gates hinged on reinforced concrete structures anchored to the seabed. The manpower required is immense: the three separate sites employ almost 2000 workers, mainly engineers and highly skilled workers. Some of the equipment used is unique in size and technology. Will the M.O.S.E project solve the Venice's problem?





# DARWIN'S LOST PARADISE

---

**Directed by:** Hannes Schuler e Katharina von Flotow

**Produced by:** Monaco Film, Films A Trois, Chapman Pictures

**Duration:** 90'

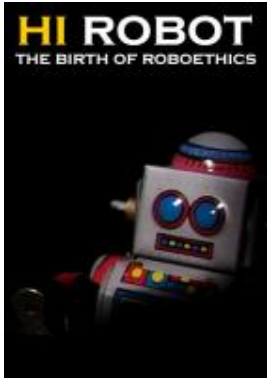
**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD



Charles Darwin is without doubt one of the greatest thinkers in the history of mankind. His scientific research, which culminated with the publication of the theory evolution in 1859, shook humanity's belief in being chosen, the fruit of God's creation, and proved that it has developed through a long evolutionary process. Mankind was no longer the unique creation of God, but the result of a process of adaptation that had lasted for millions of years. Many of the observations that led Darwin to this new and shocking conclusion were made during the long voyage of the Beagle, a British ship that took him around the world on a five-year journey from 1831 to 1836. Two hundred years after Darwin's birth and 150 years after the publication of "The Origin of Species", the documentary reconstructs the naturalist's voyage around the world and talks to contemporary scientists to try and explain why his ideas still play such an important role in science today.







# Hi Robot

**Directed by:** Manuel Stefanolo  
**Produced by:** Scuola di Robotica  
**Duration:** 52'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** SD

Robots! Robots floating in our Solar system, and diving into the oceans; robot in hospitals and homes, in factories and schools; robots fighting fires, making goods and products, saving time and lives. Robots today are making a considerable impact on many aspects of modern life, from industrial manufacturing to healthcare, transportation, and exploration of the deep space and sea. In a short span of time, robots will be as pervasive and personal as today's personal computers. The dream to create machines that are skilled and intelligent has been part of humanity from the beginning of time. This dream is now becoming part of our world's striking reality. However, this process is not toll-free. Placing robots in human environments inevitably raises important ethical, legal, and societal issues. What is going to happen when these smart robots will be our servants and house stewards, and when our lives will depend on them? Could people who mean no good use these robots to harm others? What about assigning the liability of an action (or of a misconduct) to an autonomous robot? Although far sighting and forewarning, could Asimov's Three Laws become really the Ethics of Robots? Shall humans endow robot soldiers with the "license to kill"? "Hi Robot", a 52' documentary film, tackles all these problems in a sharp, popularized and vivid way.







# The three minutes of man

---

**Directed by:** Lodovico Prola

**Produced by:** Ditta Prola

**Duration:** 40'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** SD

Our story starts from a tale recounted by a grandfather to his grandchild: the story of our planet, and of how human presence changed it forever. In an attempt to put the whole history of our planet into a dimension comprehensible by the kid, he decided to compare the whole history of our planet to a week, each day lasting 770 million years. Day after day, they'll discover how life appeared on Earth, and its evolution: from the most ancient and simple forms of life that populated our oceans, to the appearance and mysterious extinction of the dinosaurs, from the kingdom of the reptiles to the ultimate reign of the mammals. Our presence on Earth started on Saturday at 23:57, just three minutes before the end of the week. Man is still a primitive creature, but his hands start to use the tools he has produced for himself. Compared to the 4.6-billion-year history of our planet, human's presence on Earth is just a small drop in the ocean, but its impact on the ecosystem is that of a devastating tsunami. In just few fractions of a second, man emerges among all the other living creatures. He is the first to try and dominate the nature's elements, and he's the protagonist an evolutionary process of unprecedented speed. Saturday: just 1/40 of second before midnight. The industrial revolution has begun. In the blink of an eye, man changed the face of our planet as no one has ever done before, this time with devastating effects. Man feels as if he is the king of the world, as if the whole complexity of nature could be easily controlled. Suddenly, it becomes clear that something in the delicate equilibrium between man and nature has been broken. Despite that, our species continues to go on, convinced that what we've been doing for just an insignificant fraction in the Earth's history, could last forever. Midnight. The human being, a newly born creature in the whole of Earth's history, can do nothing but look around scared for the price the planet has paid for his progress. The world, his own home and refuge, now seems as if it's gone out of the natural rhythm of evolution, out of the slow course of Nature.



# HD

---





# Johnny seagull taught me to fly

**Directed by:** Massimiliano Sbrolla

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

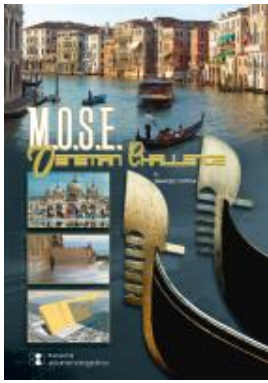
**Duration:** 50'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

For the very first time, the pilot of a motorised hang-glider crossed the Western Sahara alone and without ground assistance. This feat was achieved by Achille Cesarano, a 30-year-old Italian from Le Marche who flew six thousand kilometres from Ancona to Dakar. In 36 days, 27 stages, 65 hours of flying, 600 litres of fuel and 12 days of forced waiting due to bad weather. Achille flew over Italy, France, Spain, Morocco, the Western Sahara, Mauritania and Senegal. "And Johnny taught me to fly" recounts Achilles' incredible journey, his passion for flying and his extraordinary encounter with a seagull, who he cared for as it first took to the air and who inspired the technical solution that made his trans-Saharan flight possible.





# The challenge of Venice

**Directed by:** Michele Barca and Nicola Pittarello

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

An inextricable relationship links Venice to her salty, fresh and brackish waters, an inexhaustible resource, yet at the same time, a threat to the city's survival. Regulating the water has always formed a part of the city's history, and over the centuries has involved both major and minor interventions in the lagoon in order to maintain its delicate balance. The real threat for Venice today is the increasing frequency of high tides and the possible constant increase of average sea levels caused by climate change. Especially at high tide, the force of the water weakens and sometimes damages the banks and the foundations of the buildings. The future of Venice lies faraway from the city, where the lagoon meets the sea, and where every day 200 million cubic metres of water flow through the port. Therefore, a decision was made to protect Venice with a massive system of Mobile Barriers: MO.S.E. (Modulo Sperimentale Elettromeccanico). Work began in 2003 and with 40% now completed, it should be finished by 2014. The construction of the mobile barriers that disappear into the seabed is a highly complex engineering and naval operation. The barriers are made up of steel sluice gates hinged on reinforced concrete structures anchored to the seabed. The manpower required is immense: the three separate sites employ almost 2000 workers, mainly engineers and highly skilled workers. Some of the equipment used is unique in size and technology. Will the M.O.S.E project solve the Venice's problem?







# The Middle Ages

**Directed by:** Nicola Pittarello

**Produced by:** Venicefilm Production

**Duration:** 6x52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

An exciting and passionate homage to the historical period, a tribute to the atmospheres and the sensations of the Middle Ages: challenges based upon strength and deftness, banquets, battles, and ancient flavors. To listen to the sounds and voices of the Middle Ages means to run backwards in time in order to relive epochs, in which History is tainted by legend. Extraordinary, incredibly realistic reconstructions and re-enactments, as well as experts and historian will help us to relive the Middle Ages from both an historical and a social point of view. All that and much more, shot in HD.



- Episodes:**
- LIGHTS AND SHADOWS: Faith, science and magic
  - ALONG THE WAY: merchants, craftsmen and plebeians
  - A GROUND FOR MANY HANDS: Everyday life in peasant villages
  - BRAVERY, COURAGE AND COURTLY LOVE: dames and knights between history and legend
  - OPPIDUM REPUGNAT: the castle under siege and its defence
  - THE MEDIEVAL MAN: his thinking, his culture, his fears



# Episodes



**LIGHTS AND SHADOWS: Faith, science and magic**



**ALONG THE WAY: merchants, craftsmen and plebeians**



**A GROUND FOR MANY HANDS: Everyday life in peasant villages**



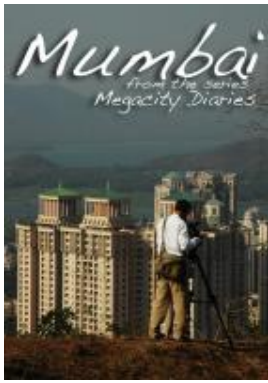
**BRAVERY, COURAGE AND COURTLY LOVE: dames and knights between history and legend**



**OPPIDUM REPUGNAT: the castle under siege and its defence**



**THE MEDIEVAL MAN: his thinking, his culture, his fears**



# Mumbai

**Directed by:** Giorgio de Finis

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

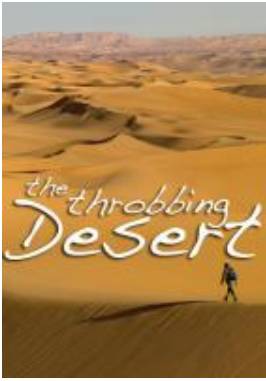
**Duration:** 52 min.

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

Mumbai, the financial capital of the Indian sub-continent (producing 37% of India's total earnings), home to Bollywood (the world's largest film industry), a city of over 16 million inhabitants that is also home to the largest slum in Asia. "Why do people still live in Mumbai?" wonders the writer Suketu Mehta. "Every day your senses are assaulted... the exhaust fumes are so thick that the air boils like soup. Too many people touch you, in trains, in lifts, when you go home to sleep... At night the mosquitoes emerge from the malarial swamps, and the criminals from the underground, and you hear the deafening loudspeakers from the parties of the rich and the festivals of the poor." The population of Mumbai is forecast to reach 33 million by 2025, with areas of poverty that will have become both medically and ecologically intolerable. But if on the one hand pollution, refuse, poverty, lack of infrastructure and urban planning are suffocating the city; on the other hand Mumbai looks towards New York and Singapore as its models: the government's Vision Mumbai plan aims to turn the city into a metropolis of "global importance" by 2013. But how do the two cities - the pukka city of the rich and the kutcha city of the poor, the solid city of concrete and glass and the flimsy city of cardboard and plastic - co-exist? Among those interviewed: architects Charles Correa and Hafeez Contractor, the billionaire building constructor Niranjan Hiranandani, the long-time leader of the slum dwellers Jockin Arputham, journalist and essayist Kalpana Sharma, Anurag Kashyap (director of Black Friday) and Pralhad Kakkar (director of Bumbay, a controversial documentary about the lack of lavatories in the city and how its inhabitants defecate), artists Sunil Gawde and Shilpa Gupta; and actors, producers, designers, gallery owners, and voluntary associations.





# The throbbing desert

**Directed by:** Marc Innaro e Sandro Vannini

**Produced by:** Laboratoriorosso

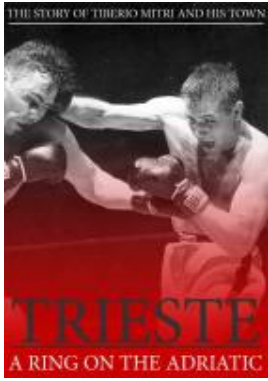
**Duration:** 52'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HDV

"The throbbing desert" by Marc Innaro and Sandro Vannini is the product of two months of filming spanning over ten thousand kilometers. It describes an Egypt that no tourist has ever seen, one still linked to ancient traditions and the arduous task of converting desert sand into fertile soil to harvest olives and dates. The vast expanse of Egypt's western desert still bears the imprint of prehistoric civilizations, offering extraordinary evidence of an unbelievably rich past. It is also one of the driest places on Earth, a mysterious landscape that has yet to be fully explored. Our expedition visited the huge plateau of Gilf-el Kebir (the Great Barrier) on the border between Sudan and Libya, one of the least accessible locations in the world. It was utterly unknown until 1926, when it was made famous by the Hungarian explorer Laszlo von Almasy, and more recently by the film adaptation of Anthony Minghella's "The English Patient." Today, the western desert suffers considerable damage on an ongoing basis from the increasing diffusion of mass tourism, asphalt roads, and new systems of irrigation that extract water from ancient underground sources. The development of the grand project of the New Valley (Wadi el-Gedid) is slowly but forever changing the oases of Bahariya, Farafra, Dakhla and Kharga. Thousands of Egyptian farmers (or "fellahin") have moved to the area, overlapping with the local population and altering the social system and way of life there. We encountered their effects on the delicate environmental and hydro-geological balances, particularly on the area's fauna and on the ancient oasis villages that are now surrounded by modern outskirts of brick and concrete.

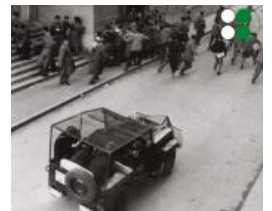




# Trieste - A ring on the Adriatic



**Directed by:** Renzo Carbonera  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 52 Min  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HDCam

Tiberio Mitri was born in Trieste on 12 July 1926 and rapidly became a star of Italian boxing. It is the immediate post-war period and the background is Trieste, claimed by both Tito and Italy and recently occupied by the Americans and the British in an attempt to keep it from the Communists. Tensions are running high: it is as if the city has become an immense boxing ring where a match of historic significance is taking place. Mitri became European middleweight champion at only 22 years of age, in 1948, the same year that he married Fulvia Franco, elected Miss Italia at only 19. The two rapidly became one of the most talked about and glamorous couples in Europe. Fascinated by the American myth, which they glimpsed from their city thanks to the presence of the Allied soldiers and their lifestyle, they decided to leave for New York. Tiberio's dream was to challenge world champion Jack La Motta, while Fulvia wanted to try her luck in Hollywood. But things didn't go as planned: Mitri succumbed to his opponent's blows. He never completely recovered from the defeat, and neither did Fulvia obtain the success she so desired. They returned to Italy, where Tiberio separated from Fulvia and soon after, gave up boxing. At almost the same time, Trieste was returned to Italy and the Americans left forever.





# The Pharaohs' gate

**Directed by:** Sandro Vannini  
**Produced by:** Laboratoriorosso  
**Duration:** 52'  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

The intent of this documentary is to travel along the Egyptian coast of the Red Sea from the Sudanese border to Port Said, and discover an always more vital area for Egypt. Actually, it is just along the Red Sea coast that important projects of turistic development are taking shape (Gouna, Ain Sukhna, Marsa Alam). After the discovery of important oil and natural gas resources it is some years that Red Sea has also become the energetic "Eldorado". Thanks to the Suez Channel (in 2009 it will occur the 140th anniversary of its inauguration), that is a precious gate to the Mediterranean sea for the tankers and the huge cargo boats coming from the Far East, the rights of way are now the most important precious income for Egypt. Therefore, oil refineries, cement factories, industries, ports, construction sites and mass tourism are today changing the face of the Egyptian coast on the Red Sea in an impulsive and maybe with no remedy way. Our reportage tells you the contrast and the positive and negative consequences regarding the economical and occupational problems and also the environmental, cultural and archaeological questions. Is it still possible and sustainable this kind of development the Egyptians have been following? And how much is it actually useful to Egypt and Egyptians?







# The ghosts of the Third Reich

**Directed by:** Claudia Ehrlich Sobral and Tommaso Valente

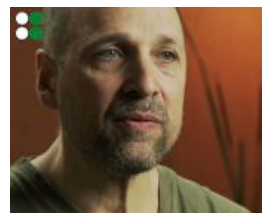
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 45'

**Versions:**  


**Format:** HD

"Ghosts of the Third Reich" documents the poignant and anguished stories of descendants of the Nazis, who confront their family's past and communicate their most profound feelings of guilt by inheritance. These individuals, whose family members were supporters, officers, and elite of the Nazi regime, share a common desire to distance themselves from Nazi ideology and the actions of their ancestors; and to liberate themselves from the guilt, shame, and pain that continue to levy a heavy price seventy years later. The confrontation with the inheritance of the Nazi legacy is powerfully evoked further in the inclusion of moments from The Austrian Encounter, a focal point for dialogue between descendants of Nazi perpetrators and survivors of the Holocaust. To buy a DVD please write to [info@sdcinematografica.it](mailto:info@sdcinematografica.it)





# THE ROADS OF TIME

**Directed by:** Daniele Cini  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 120 min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

Since the dawn of humanity, men have traced their paths: paths made by their footsteps, by their animals, roads rutted with the wheels of their chariots. But only the ancient Romans built eighty thousand kilometres of roads that radiate out to the whole of Europe: roads for eternity. Like the Salaria, the old salt road, along which antiquity's most valuable mineral was carried by mule. Or the Appia, the first real consular road, built after bloody wars with neighbouring peoples in order to consolidate Roman rule in the south of the peninsula. This military road was constructed by the blind censor Appius Claudius, who examined the paving stone by stone, with his bare feet. Or the Aurelia and the Tiburtina, roads created to facilitate the transhumance of flocks. Or the Cassia, which in the Middle Ages became part of the Via Francigena for pilgrims heading to the great shrines of Europe. The centuries pass and these ancient paths become controlled by brigands. But the roads resist and are still here: the roads of time.





# WWII

---

**Directed by:** Fabio Toncelli (5) - Renzo Carbonera (2)

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 7 x 52 min.

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

WWII as it has never been told! Amazing library footage restored in HIGH DEFINITION, never before heard eyewitness accounts, documents that have remained secret until now, photographs recently found and shown for the first time, astonishing computer reconstructions and moving re-enactments help us to relive not only the political and military climate of the time, but take us side-by-side with the soldiers to discover the embarrassing truth that has remained hidden for over half a century.



- Episodes:**
- Ortona 1943: a bloody Christmas
  - Blue Jeans and short skirts - American Trieste after the war
  - Cassino: nine months in hell
  - Free Mussolini
  - Heimat Südtirol - Canonical Michael Gamper
  - Mussolini 25 July 1943, the fall
  - 2nd December 1943: Hell on Bari

# Episodes



## Ortona 1943: a bloody Christmas

It was the bloodiest and most mysterious battle of the Second World War in Italy. In Ortona, a small seaside town in the Abruzzo region, Germans and Canadians literally fought street by street, house by house, even room by room. Why did everyone want to conquer Ortona in December 1943? What was so important about it? And why was it forgotten so quickly afterwards? What embarrassing secret does Ortona hide until this day? Amazing library footage restored in HIGH DEFINITION, never before heard eyewitness accounts, documents that have remained secret until now, German photographs recently found and shown for the first time, astonishing computer reconstructions and moving re-enactments help us to relive not only the political and military climate of the time, but take us back to the narrow alleys of the time, standing side-by-side with the soldiers to discover the embarrassing truth that has remained hidden for over half a century.



## Blue Jeans and short skirts - American Trieste after the war

At the end of the Second World War, Trieste, a city in the north of Italy that had remained in the shadows throughout the conflict, suddenly found itself the focus of great strategic interest. Caught between Italy and Yugoslavia, between the West and the Communist block, it was administrated by America and Britain for no less than nine years. These were the years of Philip Morris cigarettes, of the first blue jeans seen in Europe, of neon signs, nylon stockings, increasingly short skirts, of nights fuelled by martinis and boogie-woogie, and the first Hollywood movies. The American soldier Jim Herring and his Trieste wife Claudia witnessed it all and tell us about those incredible years with the help of never seen archive footage and historical reconstructions. Trieste appeared to be a happy island, but in reality it was revealed to be a powder keg and a nest of spies!



## Cassino: nine months in hell

The Benedictine abbey of Monte Cassino, halfway between Rome and Naples was one of the most important monuments in the whole of Christianity. During the Second World War the Allied forces decide to bomb the Abbey of Monte Cassino with such unprecedented violence. The battle resulted in one of the worst massacres of the Second World War, with the death of 50,000 from the multinational contingent of the Allied forces, 20,000 German soldiers, plus thousands of Italian civilians, in a battle that went on well into the spring. Was it really necessary to conquer Monte Cassino to free the road for the conquest of Rome? Why did the Anzio landings not avoid a bloodbath at Monte Cassino? Why didn't the Allies head immediately for Rome? This engrossing narration will reconstruct all the political and military background behind the dreadful stalemate of the Anglo-American military campaign in Italy in the winter of 1944, the dramatic leadership errors and the mutual lack of trust between the Allied partners.



## Free Mussolini

For the first time, unpublished documents and photos reveal the secret of the most daring exploit of all time carried out by special forces: Operation Oak, the liberation of the Duce, Benito Mussolini. Testimonies, memories, filmed material, unpublished photographs, and documents carefully hidden in the Italian archives demolish piece by piece the official nazi version and make it possible for the first time to recount the incredible chain of events that had a strong effect on public opinion throughout the world during World War II and still conceals many obscure aspects. From July 25, 1943, the day on which the Duce was deposed by a conspiracy within the regime and arrested, there began a ruthless struggle between the Italian, German and Anglo-American secret services to hide or discover where the Duce really was. Now we are finally able to reconstruct them: a Carabinieri barracks in Rome, the island of Ponza, the island of the Maddalena in Sardinia, a farm house in Abruzzo and finally a hotel in Campo Imperatore at an altitude of more than 2,000 feet. In the first three places, the Germans arrived just after the prisoner had been taken away. But the race continued. Everyone was aware of the importance for the outcome of the war of possessing Mussolini. September 12, 1943: the fascist regime in Italy had fallen a month ago. Mussolini was a secret prisoner in an impregnable building in the heart of the mountains of Central Italy, most likely waiting to be consigned to the Anglo-American forces. The post-fascist government of Field Marshal Badoglio thought the hotel in Campo Imperatore was the most secure prison in the world. And it had good reason to think that. Nonetheless, after an attack of just 14 minutes, he was freed. It was 14 minutes of pure military boldness, which we will relive minute by minute, with German repertory films, re-enactments and graphic reconstructions, in order to discover the incredible truth.





## Heimat Südtirol - Canonical Michael Gamper

The name of Canon Michael Camper is almost unknown outside the South Tyrol. Yet the work of this priest, born in 1885 in Prissian, demonstrates how one man's stubborn attachment to his faith and his land can prevent the tide of history sweeping aside the identity of a people. His extraordinary battle in defence of the cultures and rights of minorities - not only ethnic and linguistic minorities - and his firm Christian opposition to the European totalitarianism of the 20th century make Canon Michael Gamper one of the founders of today's Europe, where the borders between states are little more than marks on a map. Telling the story of Michael Gamper means recounting half a century of the history of South Tyrol, the events, characters, ideas and the dynamics of a battle for the rights of a people.



## Mussolini 25 July 1943, the fall

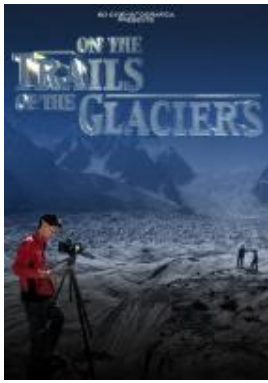
The fall of the Fascist regime and Benito Mussolini on 25 July 1943, in the middle of the Second World War, is one of the most important events in Italy's history, one of those moments that marks a watershed in the collective nation's memory. We have always been told that Mussolini unexpectedly found himself in a minority during a session of the Grand Council of Fascism and thus deposed and arrested. A simple version, but.... false! The documentary describes what was really happening behind the scenes during those days through colour footage, evidence, intercepted phone calls and original eyewitness accounts of the amazing series of unknown conspiracies and secret plots that brought down the Fascist regime. For the first time, we hear the recollections of the friend and confessor to Dino Grandi, who wrote the proposal that placed Mussolini in a minority, and who had been one of the conspirators in a plot to kill Hitler and Mussolini just days earlier. Who stopped them and why? Above all, for the very first time we see a document that had been lost until now, entitled: "Minutes of the meeting of the Grand Council of Fascism of 25 July 1943". From this emerges the possibility of a conspirator who has remained in the shadows until now, perhaps the only person who always really knew what was going on, and who tried to manipulate events to his own ends.





## 2nd December 1943: Hell on Bari

"Voll besetzt", "completely full": it is the morning of 2 December 1943 when Werner Hahn, the pilot of a German reconnaissance plane, sends a message to his base saying that the port of Bari is full of ships. That is exactly what the Luftwaffe General Staff in Italy have been waiting to hear. In the afternoon, 105 German JU 88 bombers take off with the aim of bombing the port of Bari; at 19:30 they take the Allied defences completely by surprise. It is a massacre: by the end of the operation, 17 ships have been destroyed and the port of Bari has been made inoperable for many weeks. But it is not over: hundreds of sailors and ordinary citizens fill the hospitals. They have not been burnt and they are not wounded, but they are beginning to have rashes, burning eyes and respiratory problems. Many are even dying without explanation. Why? What is going on? What military secret lay behind those strange deaths? Eisenhower sent his own medical officer to shed light on the events: in the end he made a terrible discovery, an American merchant ship, the John Harvey, was transporting a top secret cargo, mustard gas, a highly toxic gas banned by the 1925 Geneva Protocol. The ship had exploded in the port, dispersing its 550 tons of lethal gas in the air. The strictest military censorship is imposed on events in Bari. All the papers are classified Top Secret. It is Churchill himself who gives the order that all British files remove any reference to mustard gas, in sharp contrast to the Americans. Why was the aerial bombardment of the port of Bari one of the biggest secrets of World War II? Why did the Allies send a ship full of chemical weapons to Italy? What was it for? Why did Churchill insist on always denying that there was mustard gas at Bari despite all the evidence? Did the Germans really find out that a ship full of mustard gas exploded at Bari? Who knew about the cargo of mustard gas at Bari when the ship exploded? Was everything possible done to save the victims, or were they sacrificed for military secrecy? The documentary will be structured like a detective story. The excellent enquiry documents, found in a variety of archives scattered all over the world, will serve as the basis for the documentary, along with interviews with surviving eyewitnesses.





# On the trails of the glaciers

**Directed by:** Different Directors  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 3 x 52 min.  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

Is it really possible to predict the fate of our planet? A famous photographer accompanied by a team of scientists has taken up the challenge: for the first time, three episodes from the most remote glaciers in the world provide visual evidence of the climate change that has occurred over the last century. Years of research have succeeded in uncovering unpublished photographs and film of the early explorations of the twentieth century. These invaluable images, scientifically compared with others taken today from the same perspective, allow experts to establish the "health" of some of the world's largest glaciers, reliable and sensitive indicators of global climate change. Every episode contains surprises. Most glaciers have retreated for kilometres, others have disappeared entirely, while some, on the contrary, are expanding. The adventure, difficulties and particular characteristics of the locations make each episode very different. This thrilling quest travels to Karakorum, the Caucasus, Patagonia, Alaska and the Alps in an attempt to understand the fate of our planet.



**Episodes:**

- On the trails of the glaciers: Mission to Karakorum
- On the trails of the glaciers: mission to Caucasus
- On the trails of the glaciers: Mission to Alaska

# Episodes



## **On the trails of the glaciers: Mission to Karakorum**

A hundred years after the climbing and scientific expedition of Duke of the Abruzzi to the Baltoro glacier in Karakorum, a team of scientists and photographers, lead by photographer and alpinist Fabiano Ventura, is following in his footsteps with the aim of carrying out an accurate analysis of the climate change effects and to compile for the first time a visual record of the transformations that have taken place in the Baltoro glacier during the last century. By comparing Vittorio Sella's and Massimo Terzano's photographs with those of Fabiano Ventura, as well as through data collection on field and laboratory analysis, the purpose of the mission is to highlight the environmental and glacier changes that have taken place over the last century in the most sensitive and relevant system, that is cryosphere. At present, it is widely recognized at scientific as well as at public level that glaciers represent a reliable indicator of the global climate and environmental changes that our planet is experiencing.



## **On the trails of the glaciers: mission to Caucasus**

After the successful expedition to Karakorum and the Baltoro glacier, photographer Fabiano Ventura and his team of experts continue their mission to study the effects of climate change on the world's largest glaciers. Their latest expedition takes them to the Georgian Caucasus, an area of incomparable beauty rendered inaccessible for decades by the Soviet regime and thus still unspoiled and timeless. For the first time, photographic evidence gathered by the explorers of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century is compared with the same shots taken by Fabiano Ventura, then scientifically analysed to determine the "health" of some of the largest glaciers in the world.



## **On the trails of the glaciers: Mission to Alaska**

After the successful expedition to Karakorum and to Caucasus, photographer Fabiano Ventura and his team of experts continue their mission to study the effects of climate change on the world's largest glaciers. Their next expedition will take them to Alaska. Thanks to the cold weather and the frequent precipitations, glaciers are found in Alaska at low altitudes; they pass through the long valleys and merge just before they arrive at the sea. Their particular characteristics make Alaska's glaciers very interesting from a scientific point of view. Once again, in this documentary, photographic evidence gathered by explorers of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century is compared with the same shots taken by Fabiano Ventura. These are then scientifically analysed to determine the "health" of some of the largest glaciers in the world.



# Emotions of Italy

---

**Directed by:** Valter Torri  
**Produced by:** DocumentAria Film  
**Duration:** 4 Eps. x 52 Min.  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

Many things can arouse emotions in humans and one of the most common is the enjoyment of the beauty of the landscape. In Italy these emotions reach their climax. The Italian landscape is unique, characterized by a huge variety of different natural environments in a relatively small geographical area. It is a landscape unequalled anywhere in the world, formed into thousands of years of history by the hand of successive human populations. In this series of three episodes we will feel the intense emotions caused by the sight of some of the most typical Italian landscapes: the Apuan Alps, the marble mountains overlooking the sea; the Apennines of the high pastures of the still wild Garfagnana in Tuscany; and that of the second largest island in the Mediterranean, Sardinia, of which we will see some of its less known natural environments. And to further heighten the emotional impact of these extraordinary landscapes, in two episodes also we tell the stories of the people who live in these landscapes, and have a moving, conflicted love/hate relationship with their environment.

**Episodes:**

- Apuane, the water mountains
- The shepherd and the mountain
- A letter from Sardinia
- Disturbing Neighbours

# Episodes



## **Apuane, the water mountains**

A journey among the Apuan Alps, a spectacular mountain chain worldwide famous for their pure white marble, also known as Carrara's marble. Born in an ancient sea millions of years ago, because of a coral barrier uplift, these mountains maintain to this day an indissoluble relationship with water. In every season water, in form of snow, ice, rain and mist, envelopes and penetrates the bowels of these mountains; for this, many impressive torrents and waterfalls often spring with violence from their steep slopes. Thank to this amount of humidity, many species are able to live on these particularly severe mountains, despite the marble quarries are more and more threatening them.



## **The shepherd and the mountain**

Harsh and frugal, solitude and constant exposure to bad weather, in continuous fear of predator attacks... this is a shepherd's life. And this is the story of one of them, with his flock and his dogs, surrounded by the wonderful landscapes of Garfagnana and Appennino Tosco-emiliano National Park in Italy, where he makes a one day long decisive journey, lasting from dawn till dusk, which reveals his extraordinary relationship with himself and with nature, in a harsh yet still today human scaled environment. For some time now he has been cherishing the idea of leaving the mountains and to go down to the valley, looking for a place which can finally offer him greater wellbeing without the problems he has to face in the mountains. Three particular events, between fantasy and reality, will contribute to his final decision.



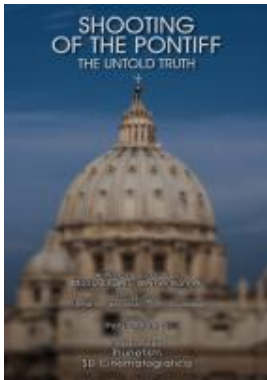
## **A letter from Sardinia**

A man, his father and the wonderful and rugged land of the origins... Sardinia. Three entities linked by a difficult and thwarted love that man finds again in the journey he made across the island. While going back to the port of embarkation, on board a steam train, the man remembers what he saw and writes to his father. The poignant beauty of the visited natural places re-establishes a link between generations and with his own roots that seemed lost.



## **Disturbing Neighbours**

The autumn paints forests and woods with amazing colours rivalling those of the most creative painters. But we should not be fooled by the beauty of the landscape. It is in the wild valleys of the Apennines, not far from the warm waters of the Mediterranean, that this story takes place: a story in which predators and prey live and fight together, as enemies, but sometimes as allies.



# SHOOTING OF THE PONTIFF

**Directed by:** Werner Köhne

**Produced by:** Prounen Film in coproduction with SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 52 min

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD

Rome. May 13, 1981, 17:00. John Paul II crosses St. Peter's Square in an open Jeep among thousands of cheering people. Suddenly three shots ring out across the square. The Pope collapses. First the shock, then the confusion. The would-be assassin is chased and arrested. A few minutes later an ambulance is hurtling towards the Gemelli hospital, sirens wailing. As four surgeons fight to save the pope's life, the first theories about the attack are already circulating. Who is Mehmet Ali Agca? A mentally ill criminal who acted alone? A terrorist? Or is he the scapegoat for an international conspiracy? The attack, which was described as the "crime of the century", launched an unprecedented investigation that generated more questions than answers. After 35 years, this documentary, with exclusive eye-witness accounts and scientific reconstructions, seeks to put the pieces of the attack together to finally clarify an extremely complex affair.







# Through the unknown

---

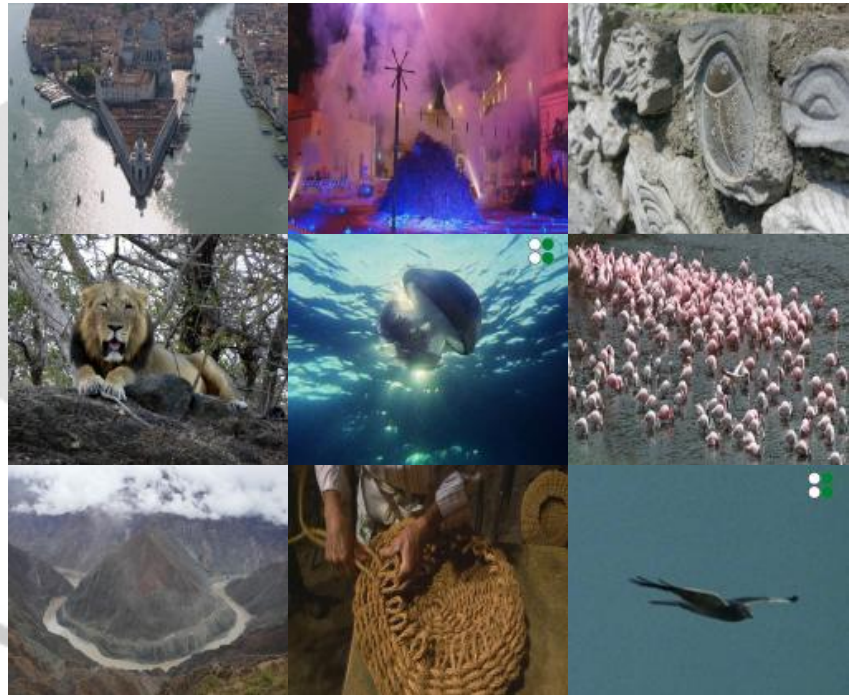
**Directed by:** Federico Santini  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 75 Min.  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

What motivates an individual to challenge the void? Why would one decide to suffer cold, discomfort, bad weather and inhuman toil? Three years dedicated to a visionary project: the winter ascent of Nanga Parbat. This is the story of a unique adventure. Against a spectacular backdrop of mountain scenery, extreme challenges and bitter defeats.



# NATURE IN HD

---

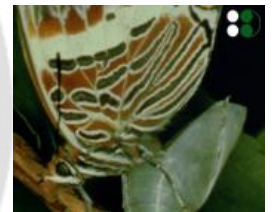




# Wild side of Europe

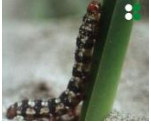
**Directed by:** Various  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 27x30'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** 16 mm

European fauna as you have never seen it before. The animals of our continent shot in their natural environment, as well as in our cities, where they have found a way to co-exist with man. From the wolf to the turtle, from the falcon to the porcupine, from the bear to the octopus. Spectacular and often moving footage of the secret lives of the species that exist around us, supported by solid scientific knowledge and stimulating narration.



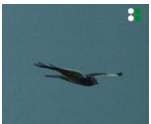
- Episodes:**
- Behind the dunes
  - A conflict of interests
  - Aliens of the outskirts
  - Clandestine creatures of the city
  - Relics of the past
  - Spring concert
  - The kingdom of Sardinia
  - Biological indicators
  - The Italian cowboys' friend
  - Living together
  - Deep love
  - Strange friendships
  - The new lord of the castle
  - As in a mirror
  - Reproduction devices
  - Away from this mad earth
  - The return of the deer
  - The land of the vultures
  - The heron tree
  - The king of the sweeper
  - The most beautiful horns
  - Man's friend
  - Private property
  - "Flash", the imprisoned goshawk
  - On the side of the insects
  - Mediterranean commuters
  - A dog's life

# Episodes



## Behind the dunes

We wonder if next summer you'll be able to bask in the sun behind a dune after watching this episode of "Wild side of Europe"! We discovered an incredible variety of insects in this strange miniature desert between the shore line and the Mediterranean scrub. Amidst the timeless dunes created by the ceaseless activity of the wind and sea carrying grains of sand landward, lives the most beautiful butterfly in Italy. The Jasio is the largest and most beautiful butterfly in Italy. It is still a mystery why it has established itself in this geographic area, since the *Charaxes* genus is usually found only in the tropics. Also from the tropics come the Jasio's splendid colors and magnificent wing pattern. The documentary poetically illustrates the biological cycle of this butterfly. We observe the infant caterpillar hatch from the egg with its strange snout, resembling a Chinese dragon. We watch it cover the leaves of the strawberry tree with silk to keep from sliding off its only source of nourishment. Finally, after various mutations, the magic moment arrives when the fragile, velvety wings emerge from the cocoon and slowly unfold to reveal the insect's splendid beauty.



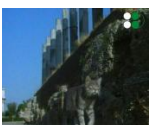
## A conflict of interests

For some time the Montagu's Harrier has been forced to leave its original habitat in swampy lands as these areas are gradually reduced. Today many Harrier pairs live in the large, dense expanses of cultivated wheat. Every summer at harvest time, dramatic events occur in these fields. The reapers move steadily along devouring not only the grain but also the nests and small birds unable to fly. The only hope of salvation for the newborn is a late harvest season - or intervention by man. The documentary illustrates the WWF project to save the Montagu's Harrier nests and their precious broods from extinction. The vast fields of *Posidonia*, up to 30 metres below the water, protect the Italian coast from erosion. A field of *Posidonia*, the most common marine plant in the Mediterranean, waves in front of the camera. This valuable plant is now in serious danger due to man's uncontrolled use of dragnets for fishing. The film demonstrates the important ecological role played by these submerged plant fields.



## Aliens of the outskirts

In a stream on the outskirts of Florence, we met a creature that looked like it came from another planet. As elegant as a medieval warrior, the river of fresh water crab has a long history behind it. It slowly moved inland from the sea thousands of years ago and, after many adventures, created a home for itself in fresh water streams. Very little is known about this animal and, unfortunately, there is a danger it might disappear from the face of the earth before we really get to know much about it. The impact of the city on the surrounding environment often threatens the survival of many animals by confining them to small areas where they are besieged on all sides. More than 3000 cormorants pass their winters in ponds around Cagliari in Sardinia. Every morning these winged vacationers leave Molentargius, where they spend the night perched on high tension pylons, and travel to Santa Gilla, an industrial zone where the pond is teeming with fish. This tiny body of water lies in a humid area containing some of the richest bird life in Europe. Unfortunately, it is a seriously polluted with toxic wastes and threatened by the approach of building construction. The pond is also suffering from neglect and indifference on the part of people incapable of comprehending its beauty and natural wealth.



## Clandestine creatures of the city

Since living close to humans, the original wild cat, once a strictly solitary animal, has profoundly changed its habits. Domestic cats who have regained their freedom do not return to the isolated, retiring life of their ancestors. Instead they group themselves together in parks and courtyards throughout the city. The ancient Roman monuments, with their thousands of cubby-holes, have become the stray cats' preferred dwelling place. In addition to cheap lodging, the asphalt jungle also offers many animals free heating. Some birds who nourish themselves in the countryside and build their nests among the trees there, come to sleep in buildings in the city to escape the cold winter nights. An army of clandestine creatures has secretly crept into the city. The documentary deals with the various aspects of birds that live in the city of Rome. Amidst the baroque church domes, thousands of starlings conduct an aerial duel with a peregrine falcon. A Penduline tit weaves its nest under a bridge spanning the Tiber river while a kestrel looks after her brood among the ruins of the Baths of Caracalla. They have to put up with the disturbance of the notes of Puccini's opera, "Turandot". The kite snatches dead fish from the surface of the Tiber under a bridge heavy with traffic. Unknown to us, these and many other birds live lives parallel to our own. You only have to lift your eyes above the rooftops to see them.



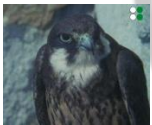
### Relics of the past

Two animals that are among the most difficult to observe, at least in Italy, live in perfect harmony in the same den. The porcupine is the largest rodent and the badger is the largest member of the weasel family living in Italy. Spending the daylight hours in their underground shelter, they come out at night to wander around suspiciously, protected by the darkness. The ice-age forced the chamois down into Southern Europe, including the Italian peninsula. A small group found their way up the mountains of the Abruzzo region. The last 400 chamois living in the mountains of the Abruzzo National Park in Italy are descendents of an ancient community from the north who colonized the Apennine chain more than 250,000 years ago. Today, after many adversities and the risk of extinction, the chamois lives peacefully in the beechwood forests of the region. We follow the story of a young chamois, born during the month of May, illustrating the most curious aspects of the biology and behaviour of these magnificent animals. We see the young chamois at play; its struggle for survival during the long, snowy winters; and the mating exhibitions of the old males as they confront each other in late fall in order to establish their social position in the community.



### Spring concert

The lagoon of Comacchio, together with the Po river delta, comprise the largest swamp area in Italy and one of the largest in Europe. Every spring the tiny islands scattered throughout these marshlands are invaded by millions of terns, gulls and other birds. They fight over tiny bits of land that could suddenly be swallowed up by a surge of water. The documentary tells the story of the territorial battles, courting behaviour and plight of the newly born, all at a frantic pace in this densely populated bird colony. Here each species has developed its particular strategy for survival in this raucous forced cohabitation. The life of millions of water birds depends on tiny organisms living in the changing world of sand and mud. The interstitial fauna, living between the grains of sand and mud, is a hidden microcosm waiting to be discovered. It's surprising to learn that life doesn't consist only of what is apparent to the naked eye. The troupe of "Wild Side of Europe" discovers a hidden world right under our eyes, one that we never thought existed. During the course of the millenniums, millions of living creatures managed to conquer the interstitial environment, evolving and adapting themselves to these particular aquatic surroundings made up of myriads of minute spaces. Of minuscule dimensions, these micro-organisms are excellent biological indicators of the quality of the environment. In fact, they are usually the first victims of marine pollution.



### The kingdom of Sardinia

During that time of the year when most other birds prepare to migrate or fatten themselves up to confront the rigors of winter, one bird alone, the Eleonora's falcon, chooses this season to begin building its nest. This unusual reproduction strategy allows these birds to nourish their fledglings with exhausted migratory birds caught while crossing the Mediterranean Sea in autumn. On a sheer cliff in Sardinia, we filmed one of the few remaining colonies of this rare bird as prey. The species owes its name to Eleonora d'Arborea, an Italian noblewoman who, in 1392, passed a law protecting the bird. The survival of the Eleonora's Falcon in Sardinia depends on preservation of the environment of the rocky cliffs in the southern part of the island. The survival of the little bustard on the table-lands of the island is also in danger. Very few ornithologists have ever had the privilege of observing the nuptial dance of the male little bustard. The little bustard is one of the rarest birds in Italy, with only a few examples left in Puglia and Sardinia. The film depicts the nuptial rites of these animals against the background of the Sardinian grasslands. These regions are very similar to the desolate steppes of Central Asia and many little-known animals and plants find refuge here. Among them are several very rare plants, reptiles, amphibians and birds. The most important of these are the little bustards who put on a show every evening during which the males, in their gaudy black and white plumage, show off for the occasion. They take up positions in their tiny lek and begin jumping into the air while flapping their white wings conspicuously in the dim twilight of the plateau.





### Biological indicators

In 1963 the entomologist, Frederick Hartig discovered a unique species of moth on Monte Vulture in Italy. He called it *Brahmaea europea*. It was a great surprise for all butterfly specialists. The documentary takes us to Lucania, where the discovery was made and where this rare insect still lives, although threatened by a gradual reduction of its natural habitat. Since some aspects of biology are very difficult to observe directly in nature, the film was made in the laboratory of an entomologist who succeeded in reproducing the moth in captivity. In order to save the Hartig's moth from extinction, biologists and environmentalists are asking that the entire region of the Vulture mountains be declared a nature reserve. Thanks to similar projects, new wildlife refuges have arisen where the black-winged stilt can build its nest. This bird has become almost a symbol of the Italian peninsula. Filmed in the salt marshes of Central-Southern Italy, this documentary presents the social life of the black-winged stilt: colony life, territorial conflicts, nuptial and mating ceremonies, egg laying, brooding and the birth of the chicks. The film also shows the defensive tactics the animal uses against predators and a collective assault on a group of grazing buffalo.



### The Italian cowboys' friend

"The Maremma is parched land of burnt stbble and immense plains. Here and there are dry bogs exhaling a pestilential stench while the dark green underbrush relieves the aridity of the landscape. It's a land of wild animals and sullen, solitary "butteri" (Italian cowboys) twisting around on restless, hot-blooded horses". This is how an 18th century traveller described the Maremma region in Italy. The Maremma horse survives unchanged from this bygone era. This bay horse, with its wide chest and fast gallop, resembles a ram. It has a strong, proud temperament and is noted for its loyalty. "Wild side of Europe" followed the horse for a year during its various activities. We observe it in moments of complete liberty, galloping frenetically with the herd through the water of the marshes. We see it in situations of complete submission to man where it untiringly accompanies the "buttero" as he performs his tasks. We watch the amusing behaviour of an arrogant stallion displaying its leadership of the herd as it lords it over the females and claims its rights. Finally we observe a suffering mare give birth to a strong colt. It emerges head first with the Maremma traits it will carry for the rest of its life.



### Living together

The social organization of the hymenopterons, including bees and ants, is incredibly complex. For almost a century, from Darwin onward, zoologists have sought to discover the intermediate stages that lead to such perfection. Studies recently conducted on wasps of the *Polistes* genus are beginning to supply the answers. "Wild side of Europe" filmed the organization of the *gallicus* and *dominulus* wasps and observed the strategy these two species employ in founding their honeycomb. The *gallicus* is strictly a loner, while the *dominulus* is very social, even during the period when it is constructing the colonies. The film illustrates, among other things, the battle the female founder engages in to decide who will play the role of queen and consequently inhibit the reproductive capacities of its sisters. A formidable predator of wasps returns each year to the Tyrrhenian coast of Italy: the rainbow-colored bee eater. Every year at the beginning of May, the bee eaters reappear among the dunes in the wild-life refuge at Orbetello. These birds with their colorful plumage arrive in Italy after a journey of almost 10,000 kilometers from the grasslands of Central Africa. A few days after their arrival they pair off and begin building their nests: tunnels several meters long, dug out with their beaks. This home protects the birds from all predators except snakes. The documentary shows an attack by a snake and the collective defense strategy devised by the bee eaters to chase away the aggressor. The birds perform nose dives and swooping assaults with their beaks wide open and succeed in giving the snake the worst of it.



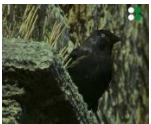
### Deep love

Whenever we think of intelligent animals, monkeys or perhaps dogs immediately come to mind. We don't usually think of the octopus. In this film "Wild side of Europe" pick the humble, common octopus as an example of animal wisdom and shows how wrong we are to underestimate it. Through the collaboration of the Zoological Station in Naples, we learn that our main character is a very cunning individual. It makes up for its lack of natural weapons such as armor, stings or poison, with an extraordinary capacity to adapt to any new situation. It can change color faster than any other animal. 1000 chromatophore cells for every square millimeter of skin permit it to assume any shade of color in a fraction of a second. Its large repertoire of theatrical tricks and optical illusions make it the best magician inhabiting the seas. The octopus swims by means of a very special propulsion system. It allows the animal to maneuver precisely and even quickly move in the opposite direction. The cuttlefish's rich source of oxygen has allowed it to develop a larger brain than other molluscs. Perhaps its familiarity has prevented the cuttlefish from being the subject of intensive study. Actually, this animal still holds many mysteries. For example, we know it can change color very easily and that the various colors function as a kind of language. However, we have not yet been able to interpret the meaning of these colors. The documentary shows how the male courts the female and convinces it to mate. It also illustrates the care with which the male defend its companion from the scheming attentions of other admirers. Each phase of its behaviour is accompanied by sudden changes in the color of its stripes.



### Strange friendships

The main character in this story is a jellyfish known as the *Rhizostoma pulmo*. Our cameras followed it during its apparently casual wanderings along the Mediterranean coast. We also filmed its surprising reproductive cycle, from the moment when a tiny polyp founds a new colony of thousands of individuals, until the time when, majestic and elegant, the adult sails through the water like a suspended spaceship. During our journey, the jellyfish has an unusual encounter with some crabs of the *Portunus* genus. They lie in wait for and then suddenly attack the jellyfish in nimble leaps. The quickest - and luckiest - crab install itself under the umbrella of the jellyfish and uses it as a means of transport to new territories it seeks to conquer. The sting systems developed by the various types of jellyfish are sophisticated war-machines that defend them against aggression. The sting are triggered immediately when their tentacles are brushed by an extraneous object. A strong friendship binds the hermit crab to the sea anemone. It is what zoologists call mutual symbiosis. The crab transports the sea anemone here and there, offering it its left-over food in return for the anemone's service of scaring predators away with its poisonous stings. The documentary analyses in detail the complicated behaviour that has developed around this friendship.



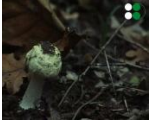
### The new lord of the castle

In the Tuscan hills of northern Italy lies a town that has not changed for centuries: San Gimignano. Here a vast colony of jackdaws builds its nests in the famous medieval towers that characterise the town. Rather than describe the biological behaviour of this bird community, the documentary chose to dwell on the unusual story of a little jackdaw that fell from its nest and was raised by a man. The story is a homage to Konrad Lorenz and his love for these animals, of whom he wrote so well. The towers in medieval Italian towns make better homes for jackdaws than those found in their usual environment. In another instance, a bird looking for a home found a man ready to build towers especially for it. The swift, a real son of the open sky, spends its whole life in flight, even managing to make love in the air. It normally hunts at more than 60 kilometers per hour but during its courting and battle acrobatics, it reaches almost 200 kilometers per hour. Great altitudes are another of its specialties and it is most comfortable above 3,500 meters. The only time it stops flying is during the nesting period and while raising its young. At Portico Romagna, in Italy, the tall medieval watch towers situated at strategic points contain many small openings in their walls. Similar apertures are found in the buildings in other towns nearby. These openings were built in many parts of Italy to attract swifts to build nests there, making it easy to remove the young birds before they learned to fly. Times have changed but the swifts still build their nests in these wall openings. They offer an excellent opportunity to study these birds close up.



### **As in a mirror**

Face to face and looking very much alike, the male and the female grebe imitate each other's movements in an elegant "mirror" dance. After many years absence, the great crested grebe has returned to live among the reed thickets of Lake Annone, a small body of water lost in the hills of Brianza in Italy. As soon as the pollution in the water and hunting diminished, the first pairs began colonizing the area once again. The documentary tells the story of their return. Grebes are classified by ornithologists as "short-distance migrants" because of the brief journey they make to reach their winter quarters. The "long-distance migrants" are much more tenacious flyers and among these is the white stork that flies over 6,000 miles. According to a famous story, the stork places infants in the cabbage patch at night. In an effort to document this unusual behavior, we lay in wait for many long nights but, to tell the truth, we had no success. Maybe storks do not place infants there anymore out of revenge for the countless bullets shot at them once they crossed the Italian border. Times have changed now and many people are working to persuade the storks to return.



### **Reproduction devices**

There are thousands of mushrooms, both large and microscopic, growing everywhere: in the dark, in the light, in the warmth and in the cold. They assume many bizarre forms including that of goblets, hats, stars and lanterns. "Wild side of Europe" conducted a journey through the world of these mysterious plants whose origin is still uncertain. Mushrooms have adapted themselves to living entirely underground and this has created problems not easily solved. On the other hand, sowing seeds to insure their future is a common problem for all plants and each species has had to evolve its own particular strategy. This documentary is a fascinating description of the strategy that plants have elaborated to sow their seeds and assure their future. "Wild side of Europe" used sophisticated techniques to discover the secrets of a mysterious, fundamental chapter in the adventure of life on our planet.



### **Away from this mad earth**

The only time sea turtles remember their remote past as land creatures is when they lay their eggs. But that link is their Achilles' heel since it makes them easy to catch in many parts of the world; so much so that today they are one of the endangered species. Their situation in the Mediterranean is even more serious than in other places because the few beaches where they lay their eggs are continually disturbed. The documentary recounts the story of two species of sea turtles, the Caretta and Chelonia mydas, the only ones that still reproduce in the Mediterranean. We follow them from the moment of birth on the beaches of Cyprus until they lay their eggs. Figures representing the number and distribution of sea turtles in the Mediterranean are still incomplete. Though they no longer deposit their eggs on the western Mediterranean beaches, they still inhabit the waters along the coast.



### **The return of the deer**

The project to reintroduce deer on the Majella mountains in Italy, begun four years ago, represents a typical example of wild-life management. Behind this initiative by forest rangers is the project of zoologist, Luigi Boitani, to help wolf survive. Italy's largest carnivorous animal is now reduced to only a few examples dispersed throughout the Apennine mountains. Its survival depends on reconstruction of a suitable environment for its survival, including the presence of deer which are its chief source of food. "Wild Side Of Europe" 's cameras followed the various phases of the operation, from breeding the deer in enclosures, to their liberation on the peaks of Majella. Finally masters of their new environment, the male deer gather their harem of females around them and the mating season begins. The "Wild Side Of Europe" troupe's greatest achievement was in photographing the real protagonist of our story, the wolf, which has never been filmed in the wild in Europe. In these primitive, inaccessible mountains, the wolf has found its ideal refuge. The encounter was very exciting. At the end of World War II, deer were almost extinct in Italy. The last specimens lived in the remote Alps near Switzerland and Austria. They are now returning after intelligent planning.



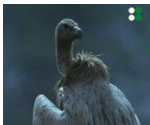
### **The land of the vultures**

Spain with its rock formations, steep canyons and vast pasture lands, represents an ideal habitat for vultures. It was here that "Wild Side Of Europe" filmed these griffon vultures during their reconnaissance flights and as they attacked a carcass and began their tumultuous ceremony to establish the order of precedence for dinner. The ritual decides who is the hungriest and therefore has the right to eat first. In its wanderings, "Wild Side Of Europe" met the rare Cinereous vulture and observed it feeding its young and exchanging tender gestures with its mate. The documentary closes with an experiment: a large ostrich egg made of plaster of Paris and filled with giblets is used as bait for the Egyptian vulture. The bird arrives on the scene and immediately looks for a large stone. The vulture throws it repeatedly against the egg until the shell breaks open. This type of behaviour has caused this species to be called the "intelligent vulture". The nest hidden in an impenetrable part of a rocky cliff belongs to the peregrine falcon, a fearsome predator that streaks across the endless skies like a prince looking down on his immense dominion. Unfortunately, the peregrine falcon's life is now threatened by dangerous pesticides that poison the bird's habitual prey. Consequently the calcium in its egg, necessary for the young to grow up healthy and strong, is reduced and reproduction is hindered. As a result, this noble falcon is slowly disappearing from Europe, though the situation is slightly better in the Mediterranean countries, especially Spain and Italy. We're again faced with the burning problem of the use of chemical products that poison nature and the creatures living in it.



### **The heron tree**

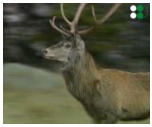
What does the trees represent in human culture? Besides practical aspect such as supplying wood, fruit, leaves and shade, the tree has served man as the subject of every sort of fantasy. Walnut trees housed witches and the door to the other life opened through the hollow trunk of an olive tree. Understanding how the tree has stirred our imaginations, can perhaps help us to understand ourselves better. It can certainly help us develop a more direct relationship with the plant kingdom. About a thousand herons return to the most industrialized area of Italy every year. They live together in colonies and inform each other when danger approaches. However, unlike other species, each couple must provide for the defense of its own brood. In the most industrialized area of Italy, Which includes Milan, Genoa and Bologna, live some of the largest colonies of herons in Europe. A few tall poplar trees among the smoke-stacks and factories is all a heron needs to found a community. The colony's proper name is a "heronry". Sometimes even one large tree is enough. The documentary tells the story of a heronry situated in an isolated tree and the life revolving around it. "Wild Side Of Europe" observed the colony through all four season, revealing a fascinating fresco of nature. The activity of the heronry is mingled with that of people working in the fields in this forgotten angle of the Padana plain.



### **The king of the sweeper**

On the verge of extinction, the last griffon vultures in Sardinia are fighting a desperate daily battle for survival. The film depicts this huge glider with almost three meters of wingspread flying over the mountains of Barbagia, one of the wildest and most enchanting spots in Sardinia. The camera carefully follows the parent birds as they take turn defending their one large, hairless offspring. They alternate their long period at the nest with exhausting flights in search of the food that becomes more and more scarce. The griffon vultures of Sardinia are now being aided in their struggle by members of the Italian League for the Protection of Birds. Through supplies of meat and attentive surveillance they have made the future of these birds a little less uncertain. Though modern society denies the Sardinian vultures their traditional carcasses, every large city accumulates huge amounts of food refuse on its outskirts. This enormous mass provides nourishment for numerous animals. The herring gull is certainly one of the animals that knows how to best exploit co-habitation with man. Open-air refuse dumps with their limitless food supply have allowed these birds to greatly increase their numbers. But there is a time of the year when the gulls abandon all this to move to wilder, less spoiled area of the Italian peninsula. During the mating season, they meet in noisy, crowded colonies and compete for tiny spaces on cliffs descending into the sea. Our cameraman, Giancarlo Pancaldi, followed them to the island of Capraia and filmed every phase of their reproductive cycle against an extraordinary beautiful background.





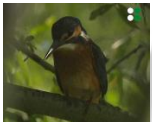
### **The most beautiful horns**

Ever since man became a shepherd, he has been moving animals from one continent to another, thus favoring crossbreeding and adaptation to new environments. This is what seems to have happened to a species of goat that was introduced into the Mediterranean from Asia Minor and found ideal living conditions on the islands of Creta and Monte Cristo. The film illustrates the differences and similarities of the various types of goats found among the steep, dangerous coasts of these marvelous islands. There also exist some species that seem to be absolutely indigenous in several regions. The "Wild Side Of Europe" troupe filmed the Corsican deer which, unfortunately, owes its fame to the fact that it is in danger of extinction. Studies of these animals serves as a pretext for a wider panorama of ungulates in general.



### **Man's friend**

This is the little known story of the double personality that often exists in domestic dogs. Just as Dr. Jekyll was transformed into Mr. Hyde, in the same way man's most faithful friend often changes, at night, into a ferocious delinquent, roaming through the countryside attacking chickens and herds of sheep. The next morning the dog is the usual affectionate, overgrown puppy it always was. This is the first step down a road leading slowly towards the backup of the animal's alliance with man and a return to the wild life of its ancestor, the wolf. Today in Italy feral dogs number more than a million and those who have gone back to the wild are almost 100,000. This phenomenon has reached alarming proportions and even threatens the survival of the last wolves remaining in Italy, estimated to be no more than 200 to 250 specimen. Bands of stray dogs are numerous in Central Italy and threaten to make the wolf extinct. It may be the domestic dog that deals the final blow to its ancestor. Suddenly rearing up, kicking, biting and chasing each other, the stallions of the Camargue fight for possession of the harem. "Wild Side Of Europe" filmed daily life of one of the last groups of wild horses still existent in the world. We discovered how little we still know about the natural behavior of an animal that has lived close to us for so long.



### **Private property**

Small and colorful, the kingfisher is a very difficult bird to observe in Italy. Its sharp sight allows it to seek cover before being spotted. An amateur cameraman with the enthusiasm of a professional - and a great deal of patience - spent all his free time observing a pair of kingfishers build their nest beside a small stream on the outskirts of Genoa. This film is the result of three years of perseverance and shows their life, battles, courtship, fishing excursions, nest-digging, egg-laying and even the birth of their fledglings. It was filmed from nature in a nest built more than a meter underground. The colorful plumage of the male sand martin signals its presence to rivals, while the gudgeon employs a strange strategy for the same purpose. All fish are mute. There are some who have learned to compress their swimbladders in order to emit real sounds. This is the case with the *Patogobius martensis*, better known as the fresh water goby. This tiny, insignificant fish uses sounds in at least two instances. When another male invades its territory, the goby grows dark in the face and launches a series of "howl" is used to court the pregnant female. The male continually launches its love call until the female agrees to enter the nest the male has prepared and lay its eggs. From the moment all parental care is performed by the male who, mute and mimicking the female, fans and cleans the eggs until they hatch.



### **"Flash", the imprisoned goshawk**

The story of a hunting falcon is the cue for a journey into the world of nature. Falconers and birds of prey tell a real-life story about the survival of rare species and those on the verge of extinction. Going back to the middle ages, to the time of Frederick II of Sweden and the beginning of ornithology, it is possible to reconstruct the various stages of the destruction of nature in the Mediterranean. The film deals with the erroneous relationship between the hunter and the environment, the absurd plundering of small raptors of their eggs for bird-raising and the problem of animal collectors. Our protagonist is "Flash", a goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) stolen from its nest and raised by its falconer owner to be a hunter. "Flash" remembers its infancy and later life, re-living its most crucial moments. This gives us a pretext to illustrate the lack of equilibrium between man and the environment and to denounce the barbarities humans perpetrate on birds of prey.





### **On the side of the insects**

Although the silkworm, which is actually a caterpillar, is famous for its strong filament almost a kilometer long, the larvae of all lepidoterons secrete silk for various uses. Some, like the cabbage worm, use it to make a safety-belt. Others, such as the processionary caterpillar, construct an edifice together with other caterpillars which they only abandon to look for food. Still others, like the psyche caterpillar or the moths that get into our closets, prefer a movable dwelling they can park wherever they please. The documentary describes then infinitely imaginative uses of this silk filament. With the invention of synthetic, the silkworm fell into disgrace. Modern chemistry has not only solved man's clothing problems but has also provided him with all kind of insecticides. In just a few years, these chemicals have been poisoned, rivers polluted and even underground water beds contaminated. To defeat cunning, creeping enemies like the parasites who attack farm crops, there are other means besides chemicals. In order to avoid poisoning ourselves, new strategies are becoming more frequently used. This is called the biological alternative. The concept is simple: it is enough to ally ourselves with the natural enemies of these parasites and help them destroy the enemies of man. The camera of Nando Armati went snooping into the most advanced techniques in the biological battle. We see bands of ravenous plunderers being bred with great care and then launched at the right moment against the infesting insects.



### **Mediterranean commuters**

Storks, those legendary flyers, are spied on by the "Wild Side Of Europe" troupe during their roles of mothers of families and migratory birds. The film includes their courtship rituals, spectacular ceremonies, and the birds' peculiar behavior while weaning its young. There are also fascinating scenes of extremely long journeys from the African continent through Spain to the towers of Amsterdam and the windmills of the Netherlands. In addition to these enjoyable scenes which have made the stork the symbol of love and maternity, there are also the horrifying scenes of death that present man as a symbol of destruction. Chemical poisons in fertilizers, the double-barreled rifles of the taxidermists and the chain-saws of the woodcutters disrupt the ecosystem and render the survival of these majestic animal precarious.



### **A dog's life**

It may seem incredible but the huge Great Dane belongs to the same species as the tiny Chihuahua: over 110 pounds compared to a few ounces of flesh and bones. Dogs have many different faces, and often they were created by humans. We've enlarged them, shrunk them, raised them, lowered them, stretched them, wrinkled them and deformed them. We've cut the tails and ears of dogs and made them ferocious or submissive. We've forced them to sit in living-rooms or chained them to posts. Though genetic engineering is a recent science, humans have always used their "best friends" as fertile guinea pigs for selecting and creating new breeds better adapted to particular needs. While in ancient times chiefly employed as guards and hunters, today they are also trained for social duties. As a result, dogs have become irreplaceable in police and anti-drug operations; in searching for people missing in natural disaster; and in aiding the handicapped. The documentary represents a scientific treatment of all aspects of this marvelous domestic animal, including the various theories regarding its lineage. A present-day problem is the return of these animals to the wild state, while stray dogs are beginning to cause worry in certain areas.



# DARWIN'S LOST PARADISE

---

**Directed by:** Hannes Schuler e Katharina von Flotow

**Produced by:** Monaco Film, Films A Trois, Chapman Pictures

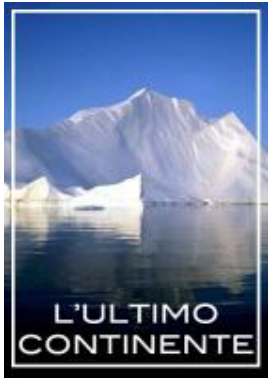
**Duration:** 90'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

Charles Darwin is without doubt one of the greatest thinkers in the history of mankind. His scientific research, which culminated with the publication of the theory evolution in 1859, shook humanity's belief in being chosen, the fruit of God's creation, and proved that it has developed through a long evolutionary process. Mankind was no longer the unique creation of God, but the result of a process of adaptation that had lasted for millions of years. Many of the observations that led Darwin to this new and shocking conclusion were made during the long voyage of the Beagle, a British ship that took him around the world on a five-year journey from 1831 to 1836. Two hundred years after Darwin's birth and 150 years after the publication of "The Origin of Species", the documentary reconstructs the naturalist's voyage around the world and talks to contemporary scientists to try and explain why his ideas still play such an important role in science today.

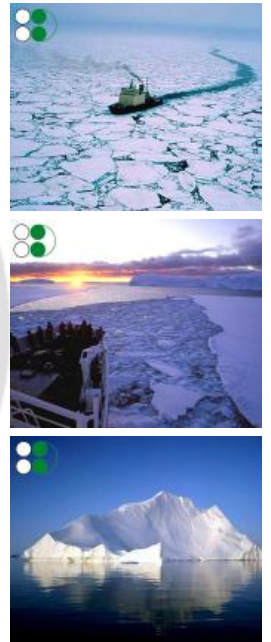




# The last continent

**Directed by:** Elsa Dossi  
**Produced by:** Dall'Angelo Pictures  
**Duration:** 25'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

A fascinating voyage on board of an icebreaker transformed in a cruise ship. We begin of journey starting from the Tierra del Fuego to reach the Anctartic and visit it as much as possible, to the point of barely been trapped into the sea ice. It's the adventure of the 21st century that everyone can live, on the trails of the great explorers of the past, to get to know the ice desert, the most infertile continent but at the same time a land covered in snow and ice, where the effects of the global warming are studied and analysed. We'll discover how many species of animals manage to survive in such an extreme climate, such as the emperor penguins and the leopard seal. this time it won't be an explorer or a scientist to tell this story, but just a tourist as many others, moved by her love for adventure and the desire to know a place that has become reachable only in the latest years.





# ANIMAL FILES in HD

**Directed by:** Lodovico Prola

**Produced by:** Ditta Prola

**Duration:** 10x30'

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

In our short-sighted anthropocentrism, we humans always think we are superior: the only creatures with an inner life, with feelings and morals. With the advantages of technology we feel the most modern and best equipped, better able to communicate, the most talented in constructing... This documentary series allows us to discover the many unexpected wonders of the animal world and find out that we are not always the best, allowing us to examine our consciences and to regard our fellow inhabitants of planet Earth with wonder and respect.



## Episodes:

- Rainbow birds
- Creatures of the night
- In the world of Emotions
- Removals and Transportations
- The Masters of bioengineering
- Serenate
- Beyond good and evil

- Animal beauty farms
- Parental care
- Disguises for survival

# Episodes



## Rainbow birds

The secret life of the most visible of European fauna, dressed in all the colours of the rainbow



## Creatures of the night

Discovering nocturnal animals and their sophisticated super-senses



## In the world of Emotions

A journey into the mind of the animals to reveal their complex inner world



## Removals and Transportations

There are animals that journey on immense migrations, animals that carry exceptional loads, and others who have themselves carried, covering great distances without a drop of sweat.



## The Masters of bioengineering

Scientists, engineers and architects are increasingly taking inspiration from the constructions of animals. But our technology is not yet able to match the effectiveness and efficiency of bioclimatic animal constructions.



## Serenate

Sounds, smells, light signals, vibrations, electric shocks, parades, dances and facial expressions. Even without the internet, animals are able to communicate with their fellow creatures...



## Beyond good and evil

Many social animals follow codes of conduct in their communal lives. This primitive form of morality contributes to the stability of the groups and punishes those who behave unethically. This core evolutionary nucleus is the basis of our own morality.



## Animal beauty farms

We believe, in many cases without foundation, that animals are dirty and carry disease. In fact all living beings are concerned about personal hygiene and spend many hours, in some cases even a large part of their day, taking care of their appearance. And is not just a question of hygiene...



## Parental care

There are two basic strategies in nature to perpetuate the species: have lots of offspring and pretty much ignore them, or have a few and take care of them, defend them and protect them until they are completely able to look after themselves. Stories of terrible parents and perfect moms and dads.



## Disguises for survival

Animals – on the contrary of what humans do – wear their masks for all their lives. Some of them camouflage themselves to hide from predators, other to surprise their preys. Some of them wear a mask to scare their natural enemies, other ones to fascinate and seduce their partners. Some innocuous species, thanks to their camouflage technique, are able to trick other animals by pretending to be dangerous. There is no limit to nature's fantasy: the morphologies and the chromatic games of the animal kingdom are so many and so different that scientists haven't been able to define and explain a large parte of this kaleidoscope of shapes and colors yet.





# Animals

**Directed by:** Various directors

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 40 episodes of 13' and 6 speci

**Versions:** 

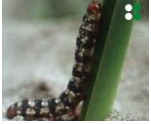
**Format:** HD

European fauna as you have never seen it before. The animals of our continent shot in their natural environment, as well as in our cities, where they have found a way to co-exist with man. From the wolf to the turtle, from the falcon to the porcupine, from the bear to the octopus. Spectacular and often moving footage of the secret lives of the species that exist around us, supported by solid scientific knowledge and stimulating narration.

## Episodes:

- |                                    |                                 |                                 |                                 |                              |                             |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - The miniature desert             | - Parallel lives                | - The rooster of the plains     | - Jellyfish & Co.               | - The strategy of seeds      | - A majestic sweeper        | - A killer worth saving         |
| - The nymph in the strawberry tree | - Children of the moon          | - The Hartig's moth             | - Close friends                 | - Chasing after life         | - A king in the refuse pile | - A life hanging in the balance |
| - S.O.S. Montagu's Harrier         | - The rock dwellers             | - Maremma horses                | - Sharp-eyed fellows            | - The deer of Majella        | - Mediterranean ungulates   | - The biological alternative    |
| - Poseidon's garden                | - The terns of Comacchio        | - Sociable Wasps                | - Aristocrats of the sky        | - Lining up for lunch        | - Back to the wild          | - A nest everywhere in Europe   |
| - An Extra-terrestrial in Florence | - Universe in a handful of sand | - All the colors of the rainbow | - Love in the water             | - The last prince of the sky | - Horses of the Camargue    |                                 |
| - Vacation on a pond               | - The mystery of the Falcon     | - The great illusionist         | - The world's most famous mummy | - The tree                   | - The flying fisher         |                                 |
| - The bourgeois cat                | - The Italian knight            | - A ten-armed embrace           | - The world of mushrooms        | - Home sweet home            | - Voices in the water       |                                 |

# Episodes



## The miniature desert

We wonder if next summer you'll be able to bask in the sun behind a dune after watching this episode of ANIMALS? We discovered an incredible variety of insects in this strange miniature desert between the shore line and the Mediterranean scrub.



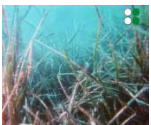
## The nymph in the strawberry tree

The jasio is the largest and most beautiful butterfly in Italy. It is still a mystery why it has established itself in this geographic area, since the *Charaxes* genus is usually found only in the tropics. Also from the tropics come the jasio's splendid colors and magnificent wing pattern. The documentary poetically illustrates the biological cycle of this butterfly.



## S.O.S. Montagu's Harrier

For some time the Montagu's harrier has been forced to leave its original habitat in swampy lands as these areas are gradually reduced. Today many harrier pairs live in the large, dense expanses of cultivated wheat. Every summer at harvest time, dramatic events occur in these fields. The reapers move steadily along devouring not only the grain but also the nests and small birds unable to fly. The only hope of salvation for the newborn is a late harvest season - or intervention by man. The documentary illustrates the WWF project to save the Montagu's Harrier nests and their precious broods from extinction. In Italy, the entire population amounts to between 150 and 200 pairs.



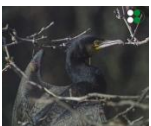
## Poseidon's garden

A field of *Posidonia*, the most common marine plant in the Mediterranean, waves in front of the camera. This valuable plant is now in serious danger due to man's uncontrolled use of dragnets for fishing. The film demonstrates the important ecological role played by these submerged plant fields. They provide a refuge for the eggs laid by many marine organisms and also act as nurseries for the larvae of many species of fish, including several of commercial importance. Other fishing methods also pose a threat, especially those employing poisons and explosives that disturb the delicate balance of marine ecology. The film concludes with an analysis of several recent initiatives designed to save the marine environment and its resources, with special attention focused on artificial barriers, underwater ruins and marine reserves.



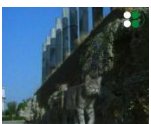
## An Extra-terrestrial in Florence

In a stream on the outskirts of Florence, we met a creature that looked like it came from another planet. As elegant as a medieval warrior, the river or fresh water crab has a long history behind it. It slowly moved inland from the sea thousands of years ago and, after many adventures, created a home for itself in fresh water streams. Very little is known about this animal and unfortunately, there is a danger it might disappear from the face of the earth before we really get to know much about it. A biologist from the University of Florence, Marco Vannini, has been studying it for several years. He discovered that these unusual animals live in tunnels dug underground. They are more like hotels than dens, where the first to arrive gets the room, at least until the next night.



## Vacation on a pond

More than 3000 cormorants pass their winters in ponds around Cagliari in Sardinia. Every morning the winged vacationers leave Molentargius, where they spend the night perched on high tension pylons, and travel to Santa Gilla, an industrial zone where the pond is teeming with fish. This tiny body of water lies in a humid area containing some of the richest bird life in Europe. Unfortunately, it is seriously polluted with toxic wastes and threatened by the approach of building construction. The pond is also suffering from neglect and indifference on the part of people incapable of comprehending its beauty and natural wealth.



## The bourgeois cat

Since living close to humans, the original wild cat, once a strictly solitary animal, has profoundly change its habits. Domestic cats who have regained their freedom do not return to the isolated, retiring life of their ancestors. Instead they group themselves together in parks and courtyards throughout the city. The ancient Roman monuments, with their thousands of cubby-holes, have become the stray cats' preferred dwelling place. The documentary was filmed over a period of a year among the cat colony the has established itself around the "Magic Door" monument in Piazza Vittorio in Rome. The film illustrates how little we know about the social behavior of this urban feline living so close to us.



### Parallel lives

An army of clandestine creatures has secretly crept into the city. The documentary deals with the various aspects of birds that live in the city of Rome. Amidst the baroque church domes, thousands of starling conduct an aerial duel with a peregrine falcon. A Penduline tit weaves its nest under a bridge spanning the Tiber river while a kestrel looks after her brood among the ruins of the Baths of Caracalla. They have to put up with the disturbance of the notes of Puccini's opera, "Turandot". The kite snatches dead fish from the surface of the Tiber under a bridge heavy with traffic. Unknown to us, these and many other birds live lives parallel to our own. You only have to lift your eyes above the rooftops to see them.



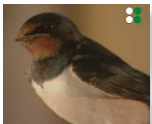
### Children of the moon

Two animals that are among the most difficult to observe, at least in Italy, live in perfect harmony in the same den. The porcupine is the largest rodent and the badger is the largest member of the weasel family living in Italy. Spending the daylight hours in their underground shelter, they come out at night to wander around suspiciously, protected by the darkness. For a whole year we observed their cautious nightly outings and watched their mysterious behavior from behind a window placed in their den.



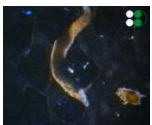
### The rock dwellers

La last 400 chamois living in the mountains of the Abruzzo National Park in Italy are descendants of an ancient community from the north who colonized the Apennine chain more than 250,000 years ago. Today, after many adversities and the risk of extinction, the chamois lives peacefully in the beechwood forests of the region. We follow the story of a young chamois, born during the month of May, illustrating the most curious aspects of the biology and behavior of these magnificent animals. we see the young chamois at play; its struggle for survival during the long, snowy winters; and the mating exhibitions of the old males as they confront each other in late fall in order to establish their social position in the community.



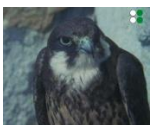
### The terns of Comacchio

The lagoon of Comacchio, together with the Po River delta, comprise the largest swamp area in Italy and one of the largest in Europe. Every spring the tiny islands scattered throughout these marshlands are invaded by millions of terns, gulls and other birds. They fight over tiny bits of land that could suddenly be swallowed up by a surge of water. The documentary tells the story of the territorial battles, courting behavior and plight of the newly born, all at a frantic pace in this densely populated bird colony. Here each species has developed its particular strategy for survival in this raucous forced cohabitation.



### Universe in a handful of sand

It's surprising to learn that life does not consist only of what is apparent to the naked eye. Our troupe discovers a hidden world right under our eyes, one that we never thought existed. During the course of the milleniums, millions of living creatures managed to conquer the interstitial environment, evolving and adapting themselves to these particular aquatic surroundings made up of myriads of minute spaces. Of minuscule dimensions, the micro-organisms are excellent biological indicators of the quality of the environment. In fact, they are usually the first victims of marine pollution.



### The mystery of the Falcon

During that time of the year when most other birds prepare to migrate or fatten themselves up to confront the rigors of winter, one bird alone, the Eleonora's Falcon, chooses this season to begin building its nest. This unusual reproduction strategy allows these birds to nourish their fledglings with exhausted migratory birds caught while crossing the Mediterranean Sea in autumn. On a sheer cliff in Sardinia, we filmed one of the few remaining colonies of this rare bird of prey. The species owes its name to Eleonora D'Arborea, an Italian noblewoman who, in 1392, passed a law protecting the bird.



### The Italian knight

Filmed in the salt marshes of Central-Southern Italy, this documentary presents the social life of the black-winged stilt: colony life, territorial conflicts, nuptial and mating ceremonies, egg laying, brooding and the birth of the chicks. The film also shows the defensive tactics the animal uses against predators and a collective assault on a group of grazing buffalo.



### **The rooster of the plains**

Very few ornithologists have ever had the privilege of observing the nuptial dance of the male little bustard. The little bustard is one of the rarest birds in Italy, with only a few examples left in Apulia and Sardinia. The film depicts the nuptial rites of these animals against the background of the Sardinian grasslands. The regions are very similar to the desolate steppes of Central Asia and many little-known animals and plants find refuge here. Among them are several very rare plants, reptiles, amphibians and birds. The most important of these are the little bustards who put on a show every evening during which the males, in their gaudy black and white plumage, show off for the occasion. They take up positions in their tiny lek and begin jumping into the air while flapping their white wings conspicuously in the dim twilight of the plateau.



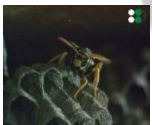
### **The Hartig's moth**

In 1963 the entomologist, Frederick Hartig discovered a unique species of moth on Monte Vulture in Italy. He called it *Brahmaea europea*. It was a great surprise for all butterfly specialists. The documentary takes us to Lucania where the discovery was made and where this rare insect still lives, although threatened by a gradual reduction of its natural habitat. Since some aspects of biology are very difficult to observe directly in nature, the film was made in the laboratory of an entomologist who succeeded in reproducing the moth in captivity.



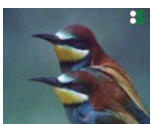
### **Maremma horses**

"The Maremma is a parched land of burnt stubble and immense plains. Here and there are dry bogs exhaling a pestilential stench while the dark green underbrush relieves the aridity of the landscape. It's a land of wild animals and sullen, solitary "butteri" (Italian cowboys) twisting around on restless, hot-blooded horses". This is how an 18th century traveller described the Maremma region in Italy. The Maremma horse survives unchanged from this bygone era. This bay horse, with its wide chest and fast gallop, resembles a ram. It has a strong, proud temperament and is noted for its loyalty. We followed the horse for a year during its various activities. We observe it in moments of complete liberty, galloping frenetically with the herd through the water of the marshes. We see it in situations of complete submission to man where it untiringly accompanies the "buttero" as he performs his tasks. We watch the amusing behavior of an arrogant stallion displaying its leadership of the herd as it lords it over the females and claims its rights. Finally we observe a suffering mare give birth to a strong colt. It emerges head first with the Maremma traits it will carry for the rest of its life.



### **Sociable Wasps**

The social organization of the hymenopterons, including bees and ants, is incredibly complex. For almost a century, from Darwin onward, zoologists have sought to discover the intermediate stages that lead to such perfection. Studies recently conducted on wasps of the *Polistes* genus are beginning to supply the answers. We filmed the organization of the *gallicus* and *dominulus* wasps and observed the strategy these two species employ in founding their honeycomb. The *gallicus* is strictly a loner, while the *dominulus* is very social, even during the period when it is constructing the colonies. The film illustrates, among other things, the battle the female founder engages in to decide who will play the role of queen and consequently inhibit the reproductive capacities of its sisters.



### **All the colors of the rainbow**

Every year at the beginning of May, the bee eaters reappear among the dunes in the wild-life refuge at Orbetello. These birds with their colorful plumage arrive in Italy after a journey of almost 10,000 kilometers from the grasslands of Central Africa. A few days after their arrival they pair off and begin building their nests: tunnels several meters long, dug out with their beaks. This home protects the birds from all predators except snakes. The documentary shows an attack by a snake and the collective defense strategy devised by the bee eaters to chase away the aggressor. The birds perform nose dives and swooping assaults with their beaks wide open and succeed in giving the snake the worst of it.



### **The great illusionist**

Whenever we think of intelligent animals, monkeys and perhaps dogs immediately come to mind. We don't usually think of the octopus. In this film we pick the humble, common octopus as an example of animal wisdom and shows how wrong we are to underestimate it. Through the collaboration of the Zoological Station in Naples, we learn that our main character is a very cunning individual. It makes up for its lack of natural weapons such as armor, stings or poison, with an extraordinary capacity to adapt to any new situation. It can change color faster than any other animal. 1000 chromatophore cells for every square millimeter of skin permit it to assume any shade of color in a fraction of a second. Its large repertoire of theatrical tricks and optical illusions make it the best magician inhabiting the seas.





### **A ten-armed embrace**

Perhaps its familiarity has prevented the cuttlefish from being the subject of intensive study. Actually, this animal still holds many mysteries. For example, we know it can change color very easily and that the various colors function as a kind of language. However, we have not yet been able to interpret the meaning of these colors. The documentary shows how the male courts the female and convinces it to mate. It also illustrates the care with which the male defends its companion from the scheming attentions of other admirers. Each phase of its behavior is accompanied by sudden changes on the color of its stripes.



### **Jellyfish & Co.**

The main character in this story is a jellyfish known as *Rhizostoma pulmo*. Our cameras followed it during its apparently casual wanderings along the Mediterranean coast. We also filmed its surprising reproductive cycle, from the moment when a tiny polyp founds a new colony of thousands of individuals, until the time when, majestic and elegant, the adult sails through the water like a suspended spaceship. During our journey, the jellyfish has an unusual encounter with some crabs of the *Portunus* genus. They lie in wait for an then suddenly attack the jellyfish in nimble leaps. The quickest - and luckiest - crab installs itself under the umbrella of the jellyfish and uses it as a means of transport to new territories it seeks to conquer.



### **Close friends**

A strong relationship binds the hermit crab to the sea anemone. It is what zoologists call mutual symbiosis. The crab transports the sea anemone here and there, offering it its left-over food in return for the anemone's service of scaring predators away with its poisonous stings. The documentary analyses in detail the complicated behavior that has developed around this friendship. For example, there is the message sent by prolonged caresses which the hermit crab uses to convince the sea anemone to detach itself from the rock and move onto the crab's shell. The hermit crab shows off the numerous anemones on its shell as a means of frightening enemies and confirming its social position. Two hermit crabs will sometimes engage in a fierce battle before giving up even one anemone. Each time the crab decides to move into a larger shell, he must begin the laborious task of transferring all its anemones from one shell to the other. This operation lasts for several hours.



### **Sharp-eyed fellows**

In the Tuscan hills of northern Italy lies a town that has not changed for centuries: San Gimignano. Here a vast colony of jackdaws builds nests in the famous medieval towers that characterize the town. Rather than describe the biological behavior of this bird community, we chose to dwell on the unusual story of a little jackdaw that fell from its nest and was raised by a man. The story is a homage to Konrad Lorenz and his love for these animals, of whom he wrote so well.



### **Aristocrats of the sky**

The swift, a real son of the open sky, spends its whole life in flight, even managing to make love in the air. It normally hunts at more than 60 kilometers per hour but during its courting and battle acrobatics, it reaches almost 200 kilometers an hour. Great altitudes are another of its specialties and it is most comfortable above 3,500 meters. The only time it stops flying is during the nesting period and while raising its young. A Portico Romagna, in Italy, the tall medieval watch towers situated at strategic points contain many small openings in their walls. Similar apertures are found in the buildings in other towns nearby. These openings were built in many parts of Italy to attract swifts to build nests there, making it easy to remove the young birds before they learned to fly. Times have changed but the swifts still build their nests in these wall openings. They offer an excellent opportunity to study these birds close up.



### **Love in the water**

Face to face and looking very much alike, the male and the female grebe imitate each other's movements in an elegant "mirror" dance. After many years absence, the great crested grebe has returned to live among the reed thickets of Lake Annone, a small body of water lost in the hills of Brianza in Italy. As soon as the pollution in the water and hunting diminished, the first pairs began colonizing the area once again. The documentary tells the story of their return.



### **The world's most famous mummy**

According to a famous story, the stork places infants in the cabbage patch at night. In an effort to document this unusual behavior, we lay in wait for many long nights but, to tell the truth, we had no success. Maybe storks do not place infants there anymore out of revenge for the countless bullets shot at them once they crossed the Italian border. Times have changed now and many people are working to persuade the storks to return.





### **The world of mushrooms**

There are thousands of mushrooms, both large and microscopic, growing everywhere: in the dark, in the light, in the warmth and in the cold. They assume many bizarre forms including that of goblets, hats, stars and lanterns. We conducted a journey through the world of these mysterious plants whose origin is still uncertain.



### **The strategy of seeds**

This documentary is a fascinating description of the strategy that plants have elaborated to sow their seeds and assure their future. We used sophisticated techniques to discover the secrets of a mysterious, fundamental chapter in the adventure of life on our planet.



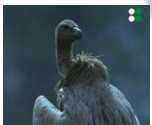
### **Chasing after life**

The only time sea turtles remember their remote past as land creatures is when they lay their eggs. But that link is their Achilles' heel since it makes them easy to catch in many parts of the world; so much so that today they are one of the endangered species. Their situation in the Mediterranean is even more serious than in other places because the few beaches where they lay their eggs are continually disturbed. The documentary recounts the story of two species of sea turtles, the Caretta and *Chelonia mydas*, the only ones that still reproduce in the Mediterranean. We follow them from the moment of birth on the beaches of Cyprus until they lay their eggs.



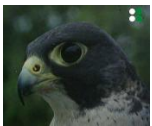
### **The deer of Majella**

The project to reintroduce deer on the Majella mountains in Italy represents a typical example of wild-life management. Behind this initiative by forest rangers is the project of zoologist, Luigi Boitani, to help the wolf survive. Italy's largest carnivorous animal is now reduced to only a few examples dispersed throughout the Apennine mountains. Its survival depends on reconstruction of a suitable environment for its survival, including the presence of deer which are its chief source of food. Our cameras followed the various phases of the operation, from breeding the deer in enclosures, to their liberation on the peaks of Majella. Finally masters of their new environment, the male deer gather their harem of females around them and the mating season begins. Our troupe's greatest achievement was in photographing the real protagonist of our story, the wolf, which has never been filmed in the wild in Europe. In these primitive, inaccessible mountains, the wolf has found its ideal refuge. The encounter was very exciting.



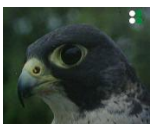
### **Lining up for lunch**

Spain with its rock formations, steep canyons and vast pasture lands, represents an ideal habitat for vultures. It was here that we filmed the griffon vultures during their reconnaissance flights and as they attacked a carcass and began their tumultuous ceremony to establish the order of precedence for dinner. The ritual decides who is the hungriest and therefore has the right to eat first. In our wanderings, we met the rare Cinereous vulture and observed it feeding its young and exchanging tender gestures with its mate. The documentary closes with an experiment: a large ostrich egg made of plaster of Paris and filled with giblets is used as bait for the Egyptian vulture. The bird arrives on the scene and immediately looks for a large stone. The vulture throws it repeatedly against the egg until the shell breaks open. This type of behavior has caused this species to be called the "intelligent vulture".



### **The last prince of the sky**

The nest hidden in an impenetrable part of a rocky cliff belongs to the peregrine falcon, a fearsome predator that streaks across the endless skies like a prince looking down on his immense dominion. Unfortunately, the peregrine falcon's life is now threatened by dangerous pesticides that poison the bird's habitual prey. Consequently the calcium in its eggs, necessary for the young to grow up healthy and strong, is reduced and reproduction is hindered. As a result, this noble falcon is slowly disappearing from Europe, though the situation is slightly better in the Mediterranean Countries, especially Spain and Italy. We're again faced with the burning problem of the use of chemical products that poison nature and the creatures living in it.



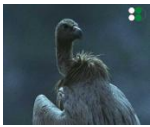
### **The tree**

What does the tree represent in human culture? Besides practical aspects such as supplying wood, fruit, leaves and shade, the tree has served man as the subject of every sort of fantasy. Walnut trees housed witches and the door to the other life opened through the hollow trunk of an olive tree. Understanding how the tree has stirred our imaginations, can perhaps help us to understand ourselves better. It can certainly help us develop a more direct relationship with the plant kingdom.



### **Home sweet home**

In the most industrialized area of Italy, which includes Milan, Genoa and Bologna, live some of the largest colonies of herons in Europe. A few tall poplar trees among the smoke-stacks and factories is all a heron needs to found a community. The colony's proper name is "heronry". Sometimes even one large tree is enough. The documentary tells the story of a heronry situated in an isolated tree and the life revolving around it. We observed the colony through all four seasons, revealing a fascinating fresco of nature. The activity of the heronry is mingled with that of people working in the fields in this forgotten angle of the Padana plain.



### **A majestic sweeper**

On the verge of extinction, the last griffon vultures in sardinia are fighting a desperate daily battle for survival. The film depicts this huge glider with almost three meters of wingspread flying over the mountains of Barbagia, one of the wildest and most enchanting spots in Sardinia. The camera carefully follows the parent birds as they take turns defending their one large, hairless offspring. They alternate their long periods at the nest with exhausting flights in search of the food that becomes more and more scarce. The griffon vultures of Sardinia are now being aided in their struggle by members of the Italian League for the Protection of Birds. Through supplies of meat and attentive surveillance they have made the future of these birds a little less uncertain.



### **A king in the refuse pile**

The Herring Gull is certainly one of the animals that knows how to best exploit co-habitation with man. Open-air refuse dumps with their limitless food supply have allowed these birds to greatly increase their numbers. But there is a time of the year when the gulls abandon all this to move to wilder, less spoiled areas on the Italian peninsula. During the mating season, they meet in noisy, crowded colonies and compete for tiny spaces on cliffs descending into the sea. Our cameraman, Giancarlo Pancaldi, followed them to the island of Capraia and filmed every phase of their reproductive cycle against an extraordinarily beautiful background.



### **Mediterranean ungulates**

Ever since man became a shepherd, he has been moving animals from one continent to another, thus favoring crossbreeding and adaptation to new environments. This is what seems to have happened to a species of goat that was introduced into the Mediterranean from Asia Minor and found ideal living conditions on the islands of Crete and Monte Cristo. The film illustrates the differences and similarities of the various types of goats found among the steep, dangerous coasts of these marvelous islands. There also exist some species that seem to be absolutely indigenous in several regions. Our troupe filmed the Corsican deer which, unfortunately, owes its fame to the fact that it is in danger of extinction. Studies of these animals serves as a pretext for a wider panorama of ungulates in general.



### **Back to the wild**

This is the little known story of the double personality that often exists in domestic dogs. Just as Dr. Jekyll was transformed into Mr. Hyde, in the same way man's most faithful friend often changes, at night, into a ferocious delinquent, roaming through the countryside attacking chickens and herds of sheep. The next morning the dog is the usual affectionate, overgrown puppy it always was. This is the first step down a road leading slowly towards the breakup of the animal's alliance with man and a return to the wild life of its ancestor, the wolf. Today in Italy feral dogs number more than a million and those who have gob back to the wild are almost 100,000. The phenomenon has reached alarming proportions and even threatens the survival of the last wolves remaining in Italy, estimated to be no more than 200 to 250 specimens.



### **Horses of the Camargue**

Suddenly rearing up, kicking, biting and chasing each other, the stallions of the Camargue fight for possession of the harem. We filmed the daily life of one of the last groups of wild horses still existent in the world. We discovered how little we still know about the naturale behavior of an animal that has lived close to us for so long.



### **The flying fisher**

Small and colorful, the kingfisher is a very difficult bird to observe in Italy. Its sharp sight allows it to seek cover before being spotted. An amateur cameraman with the enthusiasm of a professional - and a great deal of patience - spent all his free time observing a pair of kingfishers build their nest beside a small stream on the outskirts of Genoa. This film is the result of three years of perseverance and shows their life, battles, courtship, fishing excursions, nest-digging, egg-laying and even the birth of their fledglings. It was filmed from nature in a nest built more than a meter underground.



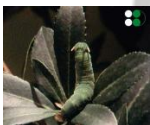
### **Voices in the water**

Not all fish are mute! There are some who have learned to compress their swimbladders in order to emit real sounds. This is the case with the *Patogobius martensis*, better known as the fresh water goby. This tiny, insignificant fish uses sound in at least two instances. When another male invades its territory, the goby grows dark in the face and launches a series of "Howls" that are often enough to chase away the intruder without any further combat. A gentler "howl" it used to court the pregnant female. The male continually launches its love call until the female agrees to enter the nest the male has prepared and lay its eggs. From that moment all parental care is performed by the male who, mute and mimicking the female, fans and cleans the eggs until they hatch.



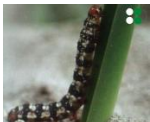
### **A killer worth saving**

The story of a hunting falcon is the cue for a journey into the world of nature. Falconers and birds of prey tell a real-life story about the survival of rare species and those on the verge of extinction. Going back to the Middle Ages, to the time of Frederick II of Sweden and the beginning of ornithology, it is possible to reconstruct the various stages of the destruction of nature in the Mediterranean. The film deals with the erroneous relationship between the hunter and the environment, the absurd plundering of small raptors or their eggs for bird-raising and the problem of animal collectors. Our protagonist is "Flash", a goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) stolen from its nest and raised by its falconer owner to be a hunter. "Flash" remembers its infancy and later life, re-living its most crucial moments. This gives us a pretext to illustrate the lack of equilibrium between man and the environment and to denounce the barbarities humans perpetrate on birds of prey.



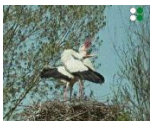
### **A life hanging in the balance**

Although the silkworm, which is actually a caterpillar, is famous for its strong filament almost a kilometer long, the larvae of all lepidoterons secrete silk for various uses. Some, like the cabbage worm, use it to make a safety belt. Others, such as the processionary caterpillar, construct an edifice together with other caterpillars which they only abandon to look for food. Still others, like the psyche caterpillar or the moths that get into our closets, prefer a movable dwelling they can park wherever they please. The documentary describes the infinitely imaginative uses of this silk filament.



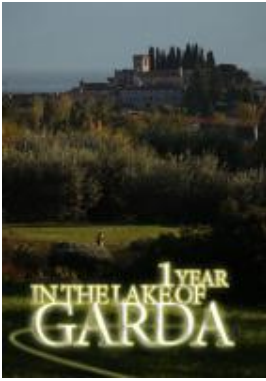
### **The biological alternative**

The defeat cunning, creeping enemies like the parasites who attack farm crops, there are other means besides chemicals. In order to avoid poisoning ourselves, new strategies are becoming more frequently used. This is called the biological alternative. The concept is simple: it is enough to ally ourselves with the natural enemies of these parasites and help them destroy the enemies of man. The camera of Nando Armati went snooping into the most advanced techniques in the biological battle. We see bands of ravenous plunderers being bred with great care and then launched at the right moment against the infesting insects.





### **A nest everywhere in Europe**

Storks, those legendary flyers, are spied on by our troupe during their roles of mothers of families and migratory birds. The film includes their courtship rituals, spectacular ceremonies, and the birds' peculiar behavior while weaning its young. There are also fascinating scenes of extremely long journeys from the African continent through Spain to the towers of Amsterdam and the windmills of the Netherlands. In addition to these enjoyable scenes which have made the stork the symbol of love and maternity, there are also the horrifying scenes of death that present man as a symbol of destruction. Chemical poisons in fertilizers, the double-barreled rifles of the taxidermists and the chain-saws of the woodcutters disrupt the ecosystem and render the survival of these majestic animals precarious.



# One year in the lake of Garda

---

**Directed by:** Marco Preti  
**Produced by:** The Coral Climb  
**Duration:** 52 minutes  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

In the centre of north Italy, there is a place famed for the beauty of its landscape, the mildness of its climate, the majesty of its setting. It's a place once popular with the ancient Romans, a piece of the Mediterranean locked away among the imposing mountain chains of the Alps...It's called The Valtenesi. Nestled among the morainic hills and the banks of Lake Garda the Valtenesi stretches from the Gulf of Salo' to the Bay of Desenzano. It contains some ten or so communes, each linked to its own ancient castle: Soiano, Moniga, Manerba, Polpenazze, San Felice, Padenghe. For centuries The Valtenesi was a farming area: beautiful but exceedingly poor. The economic boom linked to tourism has radically changed the nature of the villages and their inhabitants. Fields and vineyards have given way to new housing, residences and hotels. But there's a part of the Valtenesi that's remained intact, romantic, a reminder of a time gone by.







# The breath of the woods

---

**Directed by:** Antonio D'Onofrio  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 27'  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

Woods are our insurance for the future of the earth: when we destroy them, nature rebels causing catastrophes. Luckily woods have extraordinary allies: mushrooms! They clean, nourish, give oxygen to the woods, they make it breathe! This documentary sheds a light on the various aspects of the mushroom life: how they appear, what they eat and how they reproduce themselves, focusing on many species - from the eatable to the poisonous ones.









# 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
- In the trails of the big five of the Mediterranean

# Episodes



## **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.



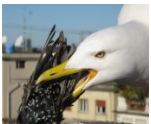
## **Treasure's Islands**

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**

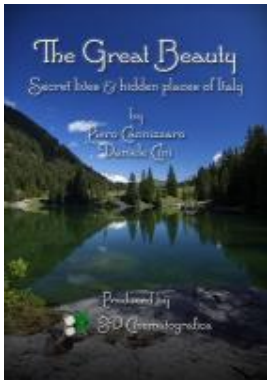
Although massive land reclamation, started already by the Etruscans and then continued by the Romans and by the Medici family, have redeemed most of the Maremma, still at the foot of hills covered with Mediterranean scrub and oak trees, important wetland extend. They are the resting place for flocks 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.



### **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.





# The Great Beauty

**Directed by:** Piero Cannizzaro, Daniele Cini, Luigi Cammarota, Francesco Adolini, Paolo Sodi, Andrea Frigerio

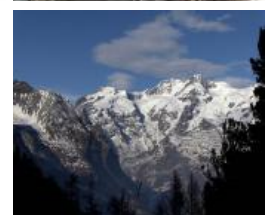
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 89 x 26 min.

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD & UHD

Ours is an age in which a simple click is all it takes to download lots of information, and deepen one's knowledge and learning from the Internet. Today, everything tends to be globalized, to merge, to level cultures, social activity and behaviour. Precisely for this reason, more and more people are looking for "something different", the places lived by curious people from a far off time, rich in squares, theatres, shops, cafes, and restaurants; places of the spirit, inhabited by artisans who are passionate about their work, where people still know how to recognise the slow, beneficial succession of the seasons, where they eat seasonal products, that respect both flavour and health, and enjoy the spontaneity of living together as a community. These reflections, together with a search for little known places in Italy, gave rise to a journey through the "boot" in the middle of the Mediterranean, discovering hidden towns rich in ancient traditions, where the secrets of the delicious local cuisine, traditional crafts and folk music are still passed down from generation to generation by residents who have not given up their cultural identity, or the traditional ways of cultivating the land or riding the waves of the sea that laps at their villages; people who still carry on an "alternative" and "non-globalized" popular culture that otherwise would be lost. This series of documentaries of 26 minutes each explores these places and their characters.



Episodes:												
- Hydro-Eden	- Taormina	- Ischia	-	- Maratea	-	- The	- Filicudi	- The	- Pastures	- The	- The	- A dive
- The landscape with the orange flag	- Stories of Salento between past and present	- Procida	- Lagonegro	- Sambuca di Sicilia	- Benevento	- Paganella	- The Po Delta	- The enchanted forest	- without borders	- The Campobrun Brothers	- The Nebrodi valley	- into the countryside
- Primiero and San Martino di Castrozza	- The Valle d'Agro'	- Modena	- Tiburtina: on the way to dawn	- Peter the hermit	- On the banks of the Sile river	- The shops of Perugia	- The Gran Paradiso National Park	- On the border with the Cinque Terre	- Among the Asolo hills	- The natural balance in the mountains and in the barn	- The Valtellina and surrounding fruit	- A Hidden Treasure of the Apennines
- Val di Fassa	- Tolfa, at the borders of the maremma	- Acireale and Acitrezza	- Cassia, in the heart of Italy	- The unknown Trulli	- In the heart of Veneto	- Trani and Barletta	- The Palù	- Belluno, the shining city	- Pantelleria	- Alpe di Siusi	- Urban	- The summits of the soul
- Wild Maremma	- Stories from the Val d'Aosta mountains	- Madonna di Campiglio	- Aurelia, riding along the sea	- Lecce	- Civita di Bagnoregio	- The white gold of Cervia	- In the east of Sicily	- Salento out of the sea	- The Mocheni Valley	- The New Light on the Alpine Meadows	- The Madonie Mountains	- The new inhabitants of Masetti
- The roads toward the salt and the sea	- Gressoney-Sain-Jean	- Vallagarina	- Salaria: with salt towards the mountains	- Molise of traditions	- Cimbra	- Alpe Cimbra	- Pumpkins and carriages of the King	- The other side of Orvieto	- The Land of Accordions	- The Four Valleys of Arezzo	- Under the Forzela dell'Om	- The roots for Renewal
- Crater's pride	- Cesena and Cesenatico	- Pollino national park	- Appia road: Regina viarum				- The Chiese valley	- Walking huts	- ALTO POLESINE, In the Carousel District	- The Baù's Village		
			- Santa Margherita di Belice					- Mantua, a pearl among the lakes		- Builders of Babel		

# Episodes



## Hydro-Eden

There are unexpected places to be found in Italy: there is no need to go to far away countries or seek out unexplored, untamed lands, or even look for them in parks or protected areas. These are places that are created by chance, by a landslide, a flood or other natural disaster that suddenly cuts off an area of land until it is forgotten by man. And so it is given back to the animals, who return as if to their own paradise on earth, no longer fearing even the seasons. A paradise born of the only element able to produce life on its own, a paradise of water.



## The landscape with the orange flag

There's a land between the mountains and the sea, right at the Italian border with France, that recently has become a Regional Park. Its peculiarity, together with the great variety of its environments, is the presence of a landscape that has been colonized by man for centuries and that now has partially gone back to its wilderness: a landscape now protected, which has also been awarded with the Touring club "orange flag" for three of its beautiful villages. A twenty-year old breeder and a young naturalist with a passion for bats, together with a repentant fisherman who studies the river prawns and an old lady who cooks following the ancient tradition of the "white cousine", will guide us in this wonderful park at the border.



## Primiero and San Martino di Castrozza

Dominated by the legendary peaks of the Dolomites, such as the Pale di San Martino, lies the Valle di Primiero, which borders on Veneto and Alto Adige. In winter, among these mountains there are still those who, like Silvana, carry on the snow an authentic relationship between man and nature. Immersed in the scenery of the Paneveggio Natural Park stands, instead, San Martino di Castrozza, loved by nobles and artists, a historic destination for the pioneers of modern alpinism. Around San Martino, the plateaus are covered with old trees, especially firs and pine pines, even sought after by Stradivari for its violins. Nestled in the Valle del Primiero is also the village of Mezzano, where you can admire impressive piles of wood: the famous songs. Stacking is an ancient custom, as is weaving, an art carried on with passion by LUCIA. North of the Valle di Primiero is Siror. Here, the typical flavors are those of the fumada meat, produced for over forty years by the butcher shop inherited by FRANCESCO BONELLI. Another place in the Valley where tradition and creativity walk together is a craft brewery, managed by FABIO together with his friend NICOLA. Between Primiero and San Martino, the flavors are still genuine, like that of the Cheese of Primiero, used in the kitchen by the chef LUCA SIMONI. Among these rock giants, in the Valle del Vanoi, the houses have preserved ancient structures and original elements, such as the frescoes left by passing travelers. Here, CARLA and her husband Ivano, have maintained the customs of the past, when each family raised cattle for their livelihoods. With the advent of modernity, the small breeders gathered and founded the Caseificio di Primiero, where the Trentingrana PDO cheeses and the famous Tosela are produced. These places were frequented even by the Welsperg counts who chose to build a magnificent villa in the park of Paveneggio; but, above all, by the well-known writer Dino Buzzati. A large library, dedicated to him, is present in Villa Welsperg and represents a tribute to the memory of this great man of letters. Finally, in the Valle del Vanoi, MARIANO also decided to carry on a craft business, and build snowshoes for the snow. Thus, surrounded by beauty and admiring these mountains, we can only share the reflection of Dino Buzzati, who was stuck in his notebook: "Are they rocks or are they clouds? Are they true or is it a dream? "





## Val di Fassa

At the north-eastern border of Trentino, surrounded by the mountains of Catinaccio, Sella and Marmolada, lies the Val di Fassa. In a magnificent basin, lies the village of Canazei, with its ancient wooden houses and the charm of many frescoes left by travelers coming from beyond the Alps. Dominated by the Gran Vernel massif, Canazei has preserved unspoiled nature and the inhabitants often perform more than one trade. This is the case of GIACOMO CIOCCHETTI, a winter gaitista and manager of a high altitude estate during the summer. In Val di Fassa, in the past, during the long winters, the peasants carved small handicrafts with wood, an activity also dedicated to DAVIDE DEFLORIAN, which also sculpts the famous wooden masks worn during the characteristic carnival of Penia. Also in this country, the architecture of the houses refers to a mythological peasant universe, when the dwellings rested on a solid wooden foundation. Today, there are still those who, like Maddalena, live respecting the customs of their ancestors. In the modern Caseificio Sociale Val di Fassa, on the other hand, local farmers bring milk, which is useful for producing the soft Tosela cheese and the typical Puzzone di Moena, known for its aroma. In the heart of the Dolomites, the Fassa cuisine has its roots in the traditional flavors, also loved by the chef PAOLO. Coming down from Canazei, at the end of Val Duron, one arrives in the village of Pian. Protected for its value and still inhabited, the town preserves some ancient bread ovens. They recall the memory when bread was prepared from all over the country, which met in the homes of families who had one. This old custom is remembered by ELISABETTA. In this valley, when the snow falls, to reach the high altitude shelters is necessary the snowmobile, which is also used by the managers of the old shelter Gardeccia, born in 1902. Built at 1950 meters in height in heart of the Catinaccio, surrounded by spectacular spiers like the Towers of Vajolet and the Cliffs of Larsec, the refuge belongs to the De Silvestro family. Center of the culture of Fassa, this land has preserved the Ladin language, officially recognized as a linguistic minority, also taught in schools. He has a vocabulary and a grammar, but only a few inhabitants continue to speak it. Among these is MARTINA IORI, an emerging singer-songwriter. His music accompanies us at the end of this journey in Val Fassa, among the Dolomites landscapes that at sunset are colored red and give an explosion of light that radiates the horizon ...



## Wild Maremma

In the territory alongside the ancient Aurelia road, we follow the daily routine of some of its inhabitants, who live their lives in a strong relationship with nature. A land of surprising beauty, inhabited by wolves, wild boars and a beautiful bird of prey, the harrier. Their nests are in constant danger, as they are hidden between the sheaves of wheat and might be destroyed by the threshing machines. We're just 100 km off Rome, but there is still space for some of the most beautiful wild landscapes in Italy.



## The roads toward the salt and the sea

The ancient Roman roads are one of the most fascinating and longlasting infrastructures in the world. Most of these roads derive from the ancient roads of salt, connecting the coasts to the mountain regions, where this precious resource couldn't be found. At dawn, salt flats are populated by flamingos, little egrets and shelducks, all of them birds of rare elegance. Going south to reach the environment of the Roman coast natural reserve, we can see the damages caused to the underwater resources by the trawlers throughout the years. Entire grassfields of posidonia, a submarine plant that constitutes a "natural lung" of the sea, where most of the fish lay their eggs, has been eradicated.



## Crater's pride

100 km off of Rome, we can find the largest crater in Europe: the lake of Bolsena. It was the center of a rich ancient population, the Etruscans, and this territory is now inhabited by people who really love their territory, and who do everything they can in order to preserve their traditions and their history, even in its most obscure and unsettling aspects. Like the story of the two not easily reachable islands at the center of the lake, dominated by obscure legends about brutal murders, cruel penances and magical doors to hell.



### **Taormina**

Since ancient times, many legends have spoken of the origin of the name of Taormina, this beautiful town of “a thousand beauties” founded in 358 BC on Mount Tauron by Greeks from Naxos, one of the most ancient Greek colonies on the island. The inhabitants of Tauromenium were so influenced by this colony that they built the famous Greek Theatre, now a symbol of the city. But Taormina is much more than breath-taking views, stunning coves and lush flora. Particularly beautiful architectural monuments can be found in its streets and among its old buildings, remnants of the various powers that, over the centuries, created the history of the city, like the Romans, Arabs and Bourbons. But today as yesterday, it is the majestic volcano Etna that looms over the town, seeming to rule over the fate of the men. And Taormina, in the past as in the present, continues to be part of its kingdom.



### **Stories of Salento between past and present**

The sun, the sea, the wind. It is the nature that strikes you when you arrive in this narrow strip of land that stretches between two seas. Dry stone walls, olive trees, fields of wheat, sand and pebbles beaches. This stretch of Puglia, the Salento, is famous worldwide for its ancient traditions, Mediterranean landscapes and the mystery of an ancient culture. The Salento continues to enchant travellers who cross it with the charm of its legends and the many secrets hidden within the walls of its historic remains. A place of sounds, songs and folk music located at the extreme south of the Italian peninsula, once a magnificent harbour for ships from the East, it still retains a great artistic heritage and an atmosphere that, more than any other, preserves the sense of its origins. In this corner of the Mediterranean, the atmosphere remains unique, wonder overwhelms reality, human rhythms meet those of nature and are repeated as in an ancestral ritual.



### **The Valle d'Agro'**

The Valle d'Agro lies on the eastern slopes of Mount Peloritani, in the Province of Messina and owes its name to the river that ploughs a furrow along its entire length. Beautiful landscapes, endless horizons, clear sea, verdant countryside, centuries-old Sicilian traditions that are still very much part of the present: this strip of Sicily allows us to “plunge into the emotions of the past” and is still influenced by a number of deep-rooted cultures, both sacred and profane. Due to the nature of its territory and of its position, the Valle d'Agro has been a crossroads where many powers have met: Greek, Roman, Arab, Byzantine, Norman and Bourbon. Today as yesterday, it retains a great artistic heritage and excellent culinary tradition, linked to the products of the land and of the sea. Here the legends of the past have become the present reality.



### **Tolfa, at the borders of the maremma**

We will travel through one of the most important natural areas of the southern part of the Maremma, in a borderland where the marshes ends and the terrain becomes more rugged. With its 17,000 hectares of pristine land near Tolfa, its value is also recognised by Europe, being identified as a Site of Community Interest and a Special Protection Area. The Maremma pastures are very characteristic, with horses and cows still grazing freely in the oak forests. Almost all the land is publicly owned and the forests and pastures are managed for civic use.



### **Stories from the Val d'Aosta mountains**

The charm of the Val d'Aosta mountains is timeless: simply stop in the ancient capital of the valley and look upward and gasp, enchanted by the beauty and hues of Europe's highest peaks. The Matterhorn, the Gran Paradiso, Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa frame the blue sky and make the valley – with its approximately 330 km of mountains – one of nature's masterpieces, with its glaciers, forests and valleys stretching as far as the eye can see.



### **Gressoney-Saint-Jean**

Beneath the beautiful Monte Rosa mountain chain, which lies between the boundaries of Valle d'Aosta and Switzerland, is the Gressoney valley and the town of Gressoney-Saint-Jean, home to the Walser culture. Handed down from archaic populations of Germanic origin that settled on the slopes of this beautiful Alpine region during the Middle Ages, the Walser culture and its oral traditions have a timeless appeal. From the ingenious architecture of its wooden houses to its Germanic cuisine, from the mysterious "Titsch" language spoken by their German ancestors and the characteristic costumes and headdresses, the Gressoney valley has carefully guarded its ancient roots as well as the beauty of its mountains, also beloved by Queen Margherita of Savoy. Among those who refuse to give up their cultural identity, we find Rudy, a craftsman who works wood just as his father did, Signora Mercedes, who guards the secrets of the Gressoney cuisine, and Carla, a skilled seamstress who designs typical Walser costumes and also teaches skiing. Finally, great ski champions like Arianna Follis, World Gold and former Olympic champion cross-country skiing, and Federico Pellegrino, five times world cross-country champion, live and train in Gressoney.



### **Cesena and Cesenatico**

A fascinating journey through this magical land and through its history, which winds between the past and the present. An extraordinary historic centre, churches and buildings of great artistic value, ancient walls, towers, fortresses and abbeys founded in the mists of time: these are the first images that welcome visitors to Cesena. A port dating back to the sixteenth century, a medieval tower, ancient columns, historic memories and maritime traditions: this is Cesenatico. In our journey we meet characters who live in Cesena and Cesenatico and who guard their cultural identity like a precious treasure.



### **Ischia**

A wonderful island of volcanic origin overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea, the largest and most enchanting in the Gulf of Naples: this is Ischia. A world of beautiful landscapes, of ancient settlers, spas, monuments and gorgeous sunsets, Ischia has an ancient history. The documentary is an extraordinary journey through the most fascinating places on the island and tells the stories of some island characters who, today as yesterday, continue to carry on their traditions, to carefully guard their customs and traditions, and respect their cultural identity.



### **Procida**

Procida with its multi-coloured houses, its rich vegetation that blends with the typical Mediterranean architecture, its limpid, glimmering sea and beautiful coastal rocks, offers visitors breath-taking views. The documentary focuses on the natural beauty of the island, trying to capture the rich charm of its history and the ways and customs of Procidan culture.



### **Modena**

In ancient Emilia, there is still a city on a human scale, where the charm of history sits alongside the works of modern artists: it is Modena. The central streets evoke the splendor of the Middle Ages and the exceeding greatness of its monuments, such as the Duomo and the Ghirlandina Tower, two true masterpieces built centuries ago. City founded over many channels, such as the historic Canal Chiaro where there were numerous workshops of master tanners, Modena still has many traditions. Modena has given birth to Luciano Pavarotti and is considered the capital of music "beat", born between the counters and the tables of the legendary "Italian Bar". Outside the city walls, however, the rhythms and habits are still marked by the cycle of the seasons, as eight centuries ago, and the characteristics of its food, such as Parmigiano Reggiano, retain the same authenticity of time. In the province of Modena coexist, however, different universes, like the passion for mechanics and the myth of speed, embodied by the timeless legend of Ferrari.



### **Acireale and Acitrezza**

Acireale lies in the shadow of the majestic Mount Etna and with its beautiful narrow streets, ancient houses and the lava portals with masks, it is a charming town, known for its delicious rice timbales called arancini. One of the most exciting events of the island folklore, is the Carnival of Acireale. Another beautiful seaside village is Acitrezza. Every night here opens the old "Fish Market". There you will find the most varied species of fish, from tuna caught off the stacks, swordfish, seafood, the white bream, amberjack from sardine. For the inhabitants of these small towns to preserve their identities is a value that must be safeguarded. They do not intend to give up to their roots, despite the historical and social transformations.



### **Madonna di Campiglio**

In winter, the magic of the Dolomites and the Trentino Alps enchants travelers: just look at its snow-capped peaks to be enchanted by the beauty of landscapes. Surrounded by the Presanella glaciers, stands the beautiful Madonna di Campiglio, an elegant resort set at 1,550 meters altitude, one of the most renowned villages in the entire Arco Alpino, famous not only for its beautiful nature and its skiing facilities but also Even for keeping the richness of its culture. Few steps away from the town center, you can admire lakes, streams, mountain pastures and shelters, which keep the memories of heroic gestures.



### **Vallagarina**

In the south of Trentino, on the border with the beautiful countryside of Verona and Vicenza, there are some magnificent valleys where dominate uncontaminated landscapes and secular traditions. Vallagarina was also one of the most significant theaters of the First World War on the Italian-Austrian front.



### **Pollino national park**

In Pollino National Park, between Basilicata and Calabria, there are numerous water springs, protagonists of the beauty of the landscapes. This territory is, however, well-known for the sulfur waters of "thermal baths", which have always given health and well-being due to their mineral properties. In this universe marked by the repetition of the seasons, the paths still breathe the fascination of the customs and culture of the peoples who live in the Pollino Park



### **Lagonegro**

In the area of Basilicata, between the Vallo di Diano and Pollino Park, stands the suggestive Massif of Sirino, a group of mountains of the Apennines. In this hidden place of Basilicata, modernity is advancing but the bells still mark the rhythms of these peoples of the south, a crossroads of civilizations influenced by the Greek and Saracen, Roman and Bourbon cultures.



### **Tiburtina: on the way to dawn**

In the heart of the capital there is a square with ruins now inhabited only by cats, from which one of the oldest Roman consular roads started: the Tiburtina road. The aim of this road, at the beginning, was only that of uniting the Capital to an older city of Rome itself, following the course of the river Aniene: the city of Tivoli.



### **Cassia, in the heart of Italy**

Cassia road crosses the center of Italy and from 2,000 years its path winds through a landscape of extraordinary beauty. Starting from Florence and descending towards Rome, the scenery enchants the gaze that rests on the rows of cypress trees, on the hills, on the castles and on the lands of different colors.



### **Aurelia, riding along the sea**

From the Gianicolo hill, where the magnificence of Rome is captured, the Ancient Aurelia began, the largest of the great consular roads, which in the Imperial era, even reached Arles, in France. Outside the perimeter of Rome, the ancient consular road runs along the sea near the Norman castle of Santa Severa, built around the year 1000. From Santa Severa, the mountains of Tolfa begin, and the road is lost inside the heart of the Lazio Maremma. Although the ancient Aurelia no longer exists in the form it had at the time of the Romans, the places it passes through still bear its memory, a certain flavor and perhaps even the traces of the horses that have traveled through the centuries.



### **Salaria: with salt towards the mountains**

There is a material that, from the dawn of time, was extracted from the sea and sold to the peoples of the mountains, as precious as gold: salt. And yet today, if one names the Via Salaria, the Roman consular road that was used to transport it, no one thinks of it in the halls. But the road, over the centuries has united two peoples (the Romans and the Sabines) and two seas (the Tyrrhenian and the Adriatic) as a way of continuous exchange of goods and activities. Like the olive oil, which in Sabina is the main product, with archaic oil mills like that of Marco, at Poggio San Lorenzo, or the ford to dye the fabrics, as Alberto shows us, who cultivates it at the edge of Lake Ripasottile, in the plain of Rieti. A road that climbs the mountains, reaches the areas affected by the earthquake of Amatrice, where volunteers like Roberto help farmers like Amelia and her brothers, to resume activities destroyed by the earthquake. A path that after passing Lazio and Abruzzo reaches the Marche in Ascoli, where Miro and Ottavio climb huge oaks and plane trees to be able to deliver them to eternity, with a careful work of arboriculture. A road that reaches the Adriatic after cutting "the navel of Italy", the exact center of the peninsula and reminding, even in the name, what is today the "salt of life": solidarity for those who are going through difficult times and a cure that thinks of the future, of the generations to come.





### **Appia road: Regina viarum**

At the time of the Republic, three centuries before Christ, the censor Appius Claudius the Blessed built one of the great consular roads, which depart from Rome, perhaps the most beautiful. The Appian Way, 120 years later, will arrive in Brindisi, opening its doors to the East: it was since then called the "Queen Viarum", the queen of the streets. Just a stone's throw from Rome, when it is still one of the most beautiful urban parks in the world, a young graduate in mathematics, Silvia Brannetti, has inherited the family winery and produces wine and organic oil working from morning to night. It is the wine route that climbs into the Roman Castles, where a brilliant composer, Giorgio Battistelli, devised a concert made only by ancient craftsmen who live in this area. Alfredo the cooper and Antonio the selciaiolo, are two of the performers of this show made only of noises: a great fresco to the dignity of the craftsman work. The road then continues in the Pontine plain at the foot of the Lepini mountains where we meet the city of Cori, where Vito builds stained glass windows and Caterina, with his brother Vincenzo, stuffs chairs as is ancient family tradition: so widespread a time, next to the marshes and reeds, to give a name to the road, which here is called "strammari". Continuing towards Campania, we meet one of the most extraordinary gardens in Europe, a "plant monument" appreciated by writers and artists from all over the world. A place that can not leave indifferent. Stella Catani, wife of her administrator and Roberta, a gardener, introduce us to her marvels. And that shows how our heritage, when treated with love, can go through history and remain intact for future generations. Just like that consular road, the ancient Appia, which two thousand years later, continues to remain the most beautiful of all roads: the Regina Viarum.



### **Santa Margherita di Belice**

Land of "The Leopard" and its author, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, Santa Margherita di Belice rises southwest of Sicily, at the confluence of the provinces of Palermo and Agrigento. Among the narrow streets, the flavors and aromas of the past reign; in the bakeries, tumminia bread is baked, a local variety of aromatic wheat. There are numerous typical sweets, linked to the centenary confectionery tradition of the Belicin families. Santa Margherita di Belice has always been an agricultural country and, not far from the center, there is Solì, a place specialized in the production of artisanal preserves. Another typical crop of the area is prickly pear. In addition, until the nineteenth century, the donkey lived in the stable next to the peasant family and "washed" it with a special machine called "muli-lavaggio", the only one of its kind in Italy. Instead, between symbolism and sacredness, there is the artistic production of this country and its sounds, which recall the story of banditry. Thus, a journey through the beauties of Santa Margherita di Belice, also represents a journey through the ancient Sicilian culture.



### **Maratea**

Set in the Gulf of Policastro and overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea, Maratea is a town of Basilicata with legendary beauty thanks to its landscapes and the heady scents that cover it in every corner. Overlooking the blue sea and the green of the Mediterranean vegetation, it embraces the rocky cliff and the surrounding nature. Entering its ancient historical center, enriched by portals and alleys, arches and eighteenth-century buildings, caves and towers, you can reach, thanks to an old coast, also the top of Mount San Biagio, on which stands "The Christ of Maratea", a statue second in size only to that of Rio de Janeiro. In an alley of the historic center, instead, you can taste the old flavors of the past, like the typical bocconotti biscuits. To enhance the beauty of the city is its port, where Maratea has preserved a universe linked to fishing and maritime activities, as well as customs, traditions and knowledge related to an ancient peasant world, which has always coexisted with the traditions of the coast.



### **Sambuca di Sicilia**

In Sicilia, in the province of Agrigento, Sambuca di Sicilia lies at the foot of Mount Adranone, on a hill sloping down towards the Orange Lake. Here, among the cultivated hills, vineyards and golden wheat stand out. In addition, the grape has excelled in quality since it was brought by the conquering peoples, the Greeks, the Arabs and the Phoenicians. Entering the alleys of the old town, it turns out that Sambuca was built on an Arab architectural structure. Besides the courtyards, artists and craftsmen work in the bazaars, creating works of art, textile sculptures, ceramics and pottery. In addition, the flavors of the past are handed down, like those of the "minni di virgini", the typical shortcrust pastry. Outside the walls, in the quiet of nature, ancient culinary traditions can be found, such as those linked to the Vastedda del Belice, the only spun cheese in Italy. In the Masserie, it is produced at kilometer zero. Between present and past, Sambuca tries to bring forward a deep link between the history of the territory and popular wisdom.





### **Peter the hermit**

Is it possible in 2000 to live without electricity, without television, without a telephone, without internet? Pietro has lived for over 25 years in a hut lost in the mountains of central Apennines, far from everything and everyone. We follow him in his days, in his difficulties and in the pleasures that nature reserves him. And when, at the end of the shooting, we leave him in "his kingdom" we start to share his choice!



### **Pescasseroli**

Pescasseroli, a small jewel of the Abruzzese Apennines in the province of L'Aquila, is immersed in the nature of the Monti Marsicani, 1167 meters high. A place that the writer Dacia Maraini frequents assiduously, where she often takes refuge to write. Here was born in 1866 Benedetto Croce, philosopher and writer. During the winter months, the country and the nature that surrounds it have learned to live with the snow. Rich in beech woods, Pescasseroli is also the cradle of the National Park of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise, as well as old crafts.



### **The unknown Trulli**

The Valle d'Itria, in the Murge plateau, in Puglia, hosts one of the most bizarre forms of habitation that man has maintained until today: the trulli. The town of Alberobello is certainly the place that has preserved the most and for their maintenance an art has developed that has specialized over time: the art of master trullari. At Locorotondo, the same structure develops into another type of construction: cummersa. The Valle d'Itria then plunges from the plateau to Fasano, where in ancient caves excavated in the tuff reborn in a living crib, the ancient crafts of this area so attached to the traditions: from the underground oil mills to the cultivation of the queen tomato, an excellence of the area.



### **Lecce**

Lecce, the Pearl of Salento, the Florence of the South, is one of the southern cities most visited by tourists, second only to Naples. Perhaps the aspect that most attracts, already in the floral baroque of its churches and in the elegance of its palaces, is the feeling of a city always in celebration. From the works in Lecce stone of an original stonemason to those in colored wrought iron, passing through the terracotta whistles and the art of papier-mâché, the city is filled with lights and lights up the overwhelming energy of a band a little out of the normal.



### **Molise of traditions**

Molise is one of those regions known to few, also because its mountainous shape and the absence of large cities, keeps it outside the main routes. In these evocative but isolated landscapes, traditional activities unique in Italy are maintained. Like that of the construction of the bagpipes, in Scapoli, a village on the border with Lazio and Abruzzo. Or the art of lace, kept by the women of Isernia as well as the perforated steel in Campobasso. But the most significant capital for Molise craftsmanship remains the city of Agnone, where the art of copper develops alongside the oldest bell foundry in Italy, an authentic glimpse of the Middle Ages that has remained intact to this day.



### **Benevento**

The Sannio of Benevento area develops between Campania, Molise and Puglia. In this strategic crossroads between different populations, the Samnites have developed some artisan excellences that have allowed them to trade and develop more than any other province of Campania: as in Cerreto Sannita, where after a terrible earthquake, an economy of reconstruction was reborn that has favored the flowering of local ceramics, or to San Marco dei Cavoti, which has become the home of torrone and croccantino, or to Sant'Agata dei Goti, in the center of an important wine-growing valley, where one of the most prized Campanian wines has developed: Falanghina. But the center of this Samnite land remains Benevento, a city full of history and dominated by a legendary figure that inspires one of its most famous liqueurs, the witch.



## Anacapri

Anacapri is located in the highest part of the famous island of Capri, opposite the Gulf of Naples. Until the end of the nineteenth century, there was only the "Phoenician scale" that connected the two parts of the territory. Today, a chairlift leads to Mount Solaro from which you can admire a breathtaking view. A short distance away, lies the valley of Cetrella where the hermitage of Santa Maria in Cetrella stands, guarded by OTTAVIO RUSSO. From here, an ancient trail reaches the home of the famous writer Compton Mackenzie. The name of the island, however, comes from the widespread presence of goats. In the Orric Valley, on the other hand, there are cultivated impressive olive trees that overlook the "path of the Fortini", dotted with the majolicas in the shape of a book by the master SERGIO RUBINO. In Anacapri, however, there are also those who, like JOHN ANASTASIO, have chosen the fisherman's craft while the most famous attraction is the extraordinary Blue Cave. For its beauty, the island has always fascinated the world of cinema and modernity was introduced also thanks to taxis brought by the family of ANTONIO DE GREGORIO. Climbing to the top of Anacapri, you can visit the fabulous Villa San Michele while in the area of the Migliera stands the "Philosophical Park". IN this lovely area also lives ANTONIO PARLATO, nature lover and blacksmith by profession. Among southern spices and scents, Lena Gargiulo cooks the typical "Goat ravioli", a symbol of the island. Another important artistic testimony is found in the Baroque Church of St. Michael Archangel, which preserves prestigious majolicate floor and an organ from the 1800s. Finally, Anacapri continues to celebrate life thanks to the cheerful tarantelles composed in this land...



## On the banks of the Sile river

The Trevisan lands are crossed by the Sile River, the longest resurgence waterway in Europe. In Treviso, the deep relationship between the city and the river, is evidenced by the presence of the canals, but also by its mercantile history. In fact, not far from the Lodge of the Knights, stands the Fishmonger, a famous fish market, where the protagonists are stockfish and cod. Stefano Zanotto, manager of a historic inn, is also here, a type of restaurant that in Treviso is a real institution. Leaving the city, you will meet the Cervara Oase, where Erminio Ramponi works, engaged in the recovery of the nesting of storks. But also the element of fire belongs to the tradition of this area and is carried on by the sailor Marco Varisco, who inherited it from his forearms. In the Trevisan countryside, however, you can also find the prized white Asparagus of Badoere, while, from a passion for flight by Giancarlo Zanardo, the Foundation "Jonathan Collection" was born, which collects a series of models of historical aircraft. Even today, some fly over the Piave, the scene of the heroic events of the Great War. In Castelfranco Veneto, where the wounded were sheltered from the front, the castle city maintained its ancient military structure. Along the banks of the Sile there has also been a passion for craft boats and, among those who delight in using it on the river, there is Stefano Marini. Finally, these valleys and their culture inspired the songs of the Male Choir "Voices of the Sile", directed by Raffaella Pupo in Quinto di Treviso.



## In the heart of Veneto

Valdobbiadene and the famous "prosecco road" represent a beautiful natural amphitheatre set in the hills of the high Treviso brand. In this land full of avian panoramas, lives CHRISTIAN ZANATTA, who dedicates himself to the production of prosecco in the vineyard of Bastia of Mondeserto. In this area, there are also the ancient hills of Cartizze, where the clay soil and a ventilated microclimate, generate an extraordinary oasis for the production of a unique and valuable wine. Nestled in these millennial atmospheres, he also works PASQUAL REBULI, a "cechèr" profession, a craftsman who makes traditional wooden shoes in his workshop. The values of this historic valley are also reflected in the eyes of LUIGIA RUGGERI, who recently celebrated her 107th birthday and who lived, firsthand, the "refugee". In Guia, on the other hand, there is GINO BUSO, called "Scarpèr", "one of the last cobblers" in the area, witnessing a job that is disappearing. Further on, in Bigolino di Valdobbiadene, the protection of the coastal territory is carried out by the sculptor GIOACCHINO VETTORELLO, known as "Gioki". In the area of the Piave, on which the trunks used to build part of Venice were transported, Gioki selects the most suitable sauces for his works of art. Finally, here is still alive the tradition of choral singing, carried out by the "Coro di Valdobbiadene", which combines the memory of the past with innovation.



## Civita di Bagnoregio

The first lights of the sun penetrate the morning haze of the Calanchi Valley, a land out of time located in upper Lazio, between Lake Bolsena and the Tiber Valley. In the middle of the valley stands Civita di Bagnoregio: an ancient village gathered on the summit of a spur that is inexorably corroding year after year.



## The white gold of Cervia

The history of Cervia is inextricably linked to salt. Salt is life, the white gold of our civilization since the most remote centuries. Cervia is the northernmost salt pan in Italy and covers approximately 827 hectares. Using expert workers, we then go through the various stages of processing, from "cavadura" to washing, after which the product is ready to be sold on the market: the sweet salt of Cervia. The techniques used are the artisan ones, following a solid tradition that has its roots in the past and which, using modern support machinery, guarantees the constant excellence of the product. The basins are also immersed in a vast natural area protected by the Emilia Romagna region, in which we dive to enjoy the varied ecosystem that the Parco della Salina di Cervia Society undertakes daily to preserve.



## Alpe Cimbra

In Trentino, between Folgaria, Lavarone and Luserna, lies the Alpe Cimbra, one of the largest pastures in Europe, a place full of charm during the winter. The Alpe Cimbra has always been a land of great champions of skiing, such as Giulio Corradi, who today works wood, but who was part of the mythical "blue avalanche"; or as Aldo Forrer, "kilometer launched" champion. Near the village of Guardia, known as the painted country, Florian Grott, a wood sculptor who draws inspiration from nature, also lives and works. Among these mountains, we still speak the cimbro, an archaic language introduced by the Bavarian settlers around the year 1000, which the expert Andrea Nicolussi Golo considers a great cultural treasure. Above Luserna there is also the "Refuge Malga Campo", where traditional dishes such as "potato polenta" are cooked. On Lake Lavarone, on the other hand, every year "Under Ice" takes place, an event dedicated to diving under the ice. Myths and legends surround the atmosphere of San Sebastiano di Folgaria, where stands the Maso Guez, a farm run by Andrea Incani that breeds two breeds of goats: the Camosciata of the Alps and the Blonde of the Adamello. In addition, Andrea created the "slambrot" cheese, dedicating it to the ancient dialect spoken by the shepherds of these valleys, where the "first snow cat" was also invented. Finally, the Martinella Choir of Serrada was founded here. His repertoire spans every part of the world and celebrates the union and friendship between peoples.



## The Paganella

La Paganella is a beautiful Trentino plateau nestled in the Dolomites of Brenta, enclosed between the villages of Andalo, Molveno, Cavedago, Spormaggiore and Fai della Paganella. In winter, among the majestic snow-capped rocks, Franco Nicolini and his sons Elena and Federico, practice ski mountaineering with passion, a sport in which the Nicolini family has accomplished great feats and won numerous medals. A lover of these resorts, is Simone Elmi, an alpine guide and an experienced climber. His goal is to make people understand that we are all the same in front of the mountain. Traveling through the paths of these valleys, you reach Lake Molveno, the deepest of Trentino. Overlooking the ancient fir trees, the village of Andalo. Here lives and works Graziano Costner, one of the discoverers of the original drafting of the "rule card", dating back to 1623, which offers an insight into the way of life of the ancestors of these villages. On the slopes of Andalo, "Biblioigloo" was built, the first Italian library created on the ski resorts, at 1333 meters high. In "Laghet-Pra di Gaggia", on the other hand, there is a Chalet run by Ottavio Sartori, which preserves the secrets of the recipes of the local gastronomy. Thanks to the regular and un turbulent winds, the Paganella peaks are also a coveted destination for paragliding champions, such as Luca Donini and his son Nicola, who launch themselves from the highest peaks. Finally, in Molveno was founded, in 1951, the choir "Campanil Bas", one of the longest and most significant choirs of the Trentino choral tradition.



## The shops of Perugia

From the central Piazza IV November with the beautiful Fountain Major to the Cathedral of St. Lawrence; From the Palace of Priors (with the College of Change frescoed by Perugino) to the Arc, the walls and the Etruscan well, Perugia is one of the beautiful Italian regional capitals. We tell about this beautiful city through 5 enterprising women who have managed to keep standing in the historic center of Perugia extraordinary craft activities, conveying centuries-old traditions. Marta, with her twenty eighteenth-century frames inside a deconsecrated church, Antonietta who disseminates her ceramics in the city, Luisa, who transmits the chocolate art of the eponymous great-grandmother, Annamaria and her sister, in a gynecologist of upholsterers and finally Magdalene, refined artist of historical stained glass descending from a family that has written pages of the history of Peruvian art. 5 women who tell their city through the ages.



## **The Sorrento Peninsula**

There are places that have entered everyone's imagination because of their beauty. Sorrento is one of them, and as the song says, once you leave, you can't wait to go back. Pearl of the homonymous peninsula, Sorrento encloses in its center, arranged on a tuff cliff, a great level of artisan expertise. From intarsi to terracotta, from the art of tuff processing to boating, to limoncello, the most typical product extracted from its unparalleled lemons, the most widespread fruit plant in its entire territory. A poignant territory, where you would always like to return...



## **Trani and Barletta**

Trani is one of the most important ports in Puglia, protagonist in recent years of a significant urban recovery. In spring, its beauty dazzles travelers. Here, the brothers Cristoforo and Pasquale Pastore produce an ancient Moscato and you can meet Francesco Caffarella, passionate about this city, one of the first "slow cities", famous as "the city of stone". The first maritime code was born in Trani, while today its relationship with the sea is also enhanced by the Naval League. Trani was the cradle of religions, such as the Jewish one, and the Orthodox one, with the church of San Martino. There is also the Catholic community, with the magnificent Cathedral and the Church of All Saints, built by the Knights Templar. Facing the sea, there is the Museum of Typewriters, while, towards Andria, among monumental olive trees, Savino Muraglia obtains excellent oils from the Coratina and Peranzana olive varieties. Not far away, in the historic Barletta, Constantina Loscocco creates original historical costumes. Finally, in the footsteps of Astor Piazzolla and his special bond with Trani, we follow the writer Maria Pagnotta and the Maestro Rosario Mastroserio.



## **Euganei Hills**

There is a magical corner in the Veneto that is neither plain nor mountain, and where, in an enchanting landscape designed by unusual reliefs of volcanic origin, you will meet ancient villages, among the most beautiful in Italy. It's the Euganei Hills. Arquà, the city where Francesco Petrarca spent his last years of life, seems to be built in harmony with his verses. Around, the spring landscape presents the richness of its products: from the meadows of lavender to the peas of the famous "risi and bisi", to the jugulars from which a liqueur syrup is extracted that they call "the broth - precisely - of jugulars, the workshops and countryside of this Regional park, transmit the care and industriousness of its inhabitants. You can also feel it from the sumptuous villas surrounded by spectacular gardens, in this land that curiously reminds many - and not only Petrarca - Tuscany: almond and olive vines, vapours and thermal waters, which continually remind the traveler of the volcanic origin. Tangible signs that remain in the mines of trachite, a two-tone marble with which St. Mark's Square was paved in Venice, or in the clay quarries, which through a dense network of canals reached Este, where for centuries refined ceramics are produced. And through the beauty of these artifacts, we discover that in this somewhat special territory, work also has its own side of poetry.



## **The island of Alicudi**

The Sicilian island of Alicudi, in the Aeolian Archipelago, has preserved a wild atmosphere since primordial times, when it was an active volcano. In summer, his days are punctuated by the noise of fishermen's boats, such as that of SILVIO TARANTO who has a deep connection with his island. In Alicudi, the western part is dominated by goats while, on the eastern side, the houses can only be reached on old mule tracks. On the island there are no roads, and mules carry heavy material. Piero VIRGONA is dedicated to these animals with great passion. The Arcudari have always learned to survive in this difficult place, as PINO LA MANCUSA did, which entertains tourists in the summer while his wife ADRIANA prepares some fish specialties. Teresa Perre, who was the teacher of Alicudi, also lives here, in the "smallest school in Italy". Today, the school has 8 students and also houses a library dedicated to the journalist "Franco Scaglia". As for the old trails, recently, they have been traced through a mapping that allows you to explore the island by trekking. At high altitude, the archudara AURORA BARBUTO lives, which, among many tasks, is also dedicated to the collection of capers. On the other hand, the problem of the lack of springs has been solved in part by means of a rainwater collection system in the housing tanks. The island has always attracted people looking for a particular existential dimension, such as the intellectual ANDREA BARZINI, while he chose to work here only in the summer, the Aeolian weaver PAOLA COSTANZO. Finally, in Alicudi there are no street lights and the only night lights come from private homes.





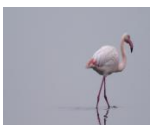
## Barbagia (Sardinia)

There is a Sardinian saying that reads as follows: "feel how beautiful the breath of the wind, the rustling of leaves between the branches of the trees and the singing of birds; but without the sound of "tonara cowbells" this Sardinia of ours would not be so beautiful." In the heart of Sardinia, in the barbagia mountains, in a wild and primitive territory lives a shepherd, Gigi Sanna, frontman of the musical band Istentales, an ethno-pop formation born in the mid-90s, with a great following and boasting collaborations with artists such as Nomadi, Francesco Guccini, Tullio De Piscopo and others. The name Istentales comes from a star in the constellation Orion that since ancient times was used by peasants as a reference point for sowing and harvesting, and by shepherds to conduct flocks. Here in Barbagia the agropastoral culture and traditions of Sardinian identity translate into sounds and music not only through the songs of the Istentales. Another musician, Gianni Atzori invented an instrument, the erbekofono, made of cowbells, played with a sheep bone, whose name can be translated into "sound of the sheep". He, drummer, son of shepherds turned the bond with his land into music: "I was used to the sound of cowbells, it was all inside me, I just had to make it." The pure sound of cowbells transports us directly between the pastures and listening to it with closed eyes you can almost feel the breeze of the fields touching our skin. When the "fannu treulu" flocks pass, they make a fuss. In these pastures, however, this tinkle is granted, like an orchestra, according to the characteristics of the valley, the mountain and the territory where sheep from one sheepfold usually graze rather than another. Even, cowbells have different shades depending on the temperament and singularities of each sheep, so that its shepherd can recognize its movements and behavior even just by listening to the symphony composed by his flock. To tune these cowbells, these "sonaggios and pittiolos" is Marco Floris, a blacksmith who in his workshop in Tonara, makes from the cold bronze bells that return to those who listen to her the warmth of the mother land. And tuning happens in a singular way. Each breeder, musical expert of his flock, stands outside Marco's workshop and with his ear outstretched tells him if the shade is the right one, so Marco widens or tightens the volume of the sound vase to find the unique and inimitable sound of each sheep, unique and inimitable as any living being.



## Filicudi

Filicudi is a Sicilian island of the Aeolian Archipelago, an archaic and volcanic land, which in summer is surrounded by the colors of the Mediterranean scrub. In 3,000 BC, the first settlements appeared at the prehistoric site of Cape Gratin, where goats were sacrificed to ingratiate themselves with the gods. Since the end of the nineteenth century, many filicudari have emigrated abroad, but there are also those who, like the fisherman GIUSEPPE TARANTO, have chosen to stay. On this impervious island, where electric light arrived in 1986 and, until the sixties, we moved only on old mule tracks, lives PIETRO ANASTASI. It was the postman of the island and remembers the time when there were oil lights and water was recovered from the wells. Today, however, the supply of water is guaranteed by the tanker that arrives on the island. Some tasty culinary recipes have always been handed down here, such as those of the delicious Spicchitedda biscuits. In addition, in the district of Val di Chiesa, IONA BERTUCCIO lives, engaged - together with his son DOMENICO MAZZA and other family members - in the cultivation of vineyards, from which malvasia also obtains. In the district of Serro, on the other hand, annuzza CAPPADONA lives, expert in the conservation of vegetables that grow on terraces. In recent years, thanks to the routes created by GIUSI MURABITO, Filicudi can be explored through an "experiential trek", which allows you to relax and immerse yourself in the local culture, among landscapes enriched with pinyon pears of India. Finally, in a cave carved into the mountain, lives GISBERT LIPPELT, a former German naval officer, who had the courage to abandon everything to devote himself to contemplative life.



## The Po Delta

The Po Delta, a national park where the waves of the sea mix with the sand of the dunes, and where the roots of the white willows give way to immense lagoons, which reflect the pink feathered flamingos. Recognized as a UNESCO biosphere reserve in 2015, this park contains more than seventy different habitats, in which dozens of different species of fish, mammals and birds live. This particular ecosystem welcomes various productive activities rooted in time. The most important: sturgeon fishing, known to be the caviar of the Po, and eel; but also for the breeding of clams and mussels, winning the second place in the world. All activities are carried out according to an accurate protocol in order to preserve the surrounding environment. To further support this conservationist logic, institutions such as the Cetacea Foundation are present on site. Their task is to watch over the 70,000 species of turtles that live in the Adriatic, and intervene if accidents happen. A Delta full of colors, vegetation, noises; that support and allow the local production impulse.





## **The Gran Paradiso National Park**

The Gran Paradiso is located between Piedmont and the Aosta Valley. In 1922 a park was established there, the oldest in Italy. Its symbolic animal is the ibex, an ungulate that has been the object of indiscriminate hunting for centuries, particularly during fascism. With the creation of the park, the mountainous valley has found a new balance and its species have repopulated, especially thanks to the commitment of the park rangers. Claudia, married and mother of two children, and Martino, a 60-year-old man who takes care of his mother, work there. Two individuals with apparently polar opposite personalities, but united by a passion for nature. Being dependent on the Gran Paradiso is not a simple mission: long weeks in solitude, strenuous walks, and days full of events. A tale of two people who never cross paths, whose narration is intertwined with those of the species that populate the park. A film that testifies to how man and nature can live in total symbiosis, through a relationship of interdependence.



## **The Palù**

The Palù of the Quartier del Piave are one of the most important areas of wet meadows in the Veneto, bordered by hedges and trees preserved since the Middle Ages, reclaimed in 1100 by the monks of the nearby Abbey of Santa Bona di Vidor. The more recent history of the Palù, however, is marked by the tragedies of the Great War, as Luigi Guizzo recalls. The village of Sernaglia della Battaglia was also involved in the epic war and here, among the memories of the village, there is a famous Osteria, managed by Silmava Pillonetto. Instead, thanks to an interesting recovery of the rural universe, Terenzio Gambin accompanies us to the homes of the peasants that seemed lost. A few kilometers away, surrounded by vineyards on narrow grassy terraces, works Chiara Barisan, a cook who has been able to revisit local recipes. Going up the hills of Refrontolo, we meet Mauro De Stefani, who has decided to devote himself to the recovery of ancient apples. Finally, in the midst of the green of the ridges, Guia appears, where Mario Canello lives together with his sons Leonardo and Silvia, lovers and expert connoisseurs of wood.



## **In the east of Sicily**

The coast of Pozzillo is made up of rocks and inlets of lava origin, generated over the millennia by the Etna flows. Next to the cliff stands the Contrada Carpinato, where the lemon trees receive water thanks to a well jointly owned with some families, including the La Rocca family and the Murabito family. On the slopes of Etna, on the other hand, the *Astragalus Siculus Endemica Etnea* grows, a plant that blooms on the arid slopes of the volcano, an icon in culture and a muse for storytellers. One of the last is Luigi Di Pino, who performs in the Riposto Market where you can also find hazelnuts, collected in the hazelnut groves under Etna, as in that of Sant'Alfio. Here, Cristina Musumeci and her husband Stefano Ali dedicate themselves to the care of the hazelnut grove, from which they obtain various culinary products. The journey resumes towards Viagrande, where Fabio Costantino produces wines by cultivating some vineyards that grow on the lava deposited about 3,000 years ago. Moving towards Aci Sant'Antonio, we reach the Museum of the Sicilian cart, another symbol of the island. Today, Maestro Salvo Nicolosi works here. In Acireale, however, Francesco produces traditional Sicilian ice creams while the lemon granita, of Arab origin, is made by Maestro Franco Patané, according to old customs. Franco Pulvirenti also lives within the ancient walls of Acireale, who loves Sicilian customs and traditions, as well as the sounds of his land.



### **Pumpkins and carriages of the King**

Lightning and Hurricane gallop side by side in an overgrown field pulling a carriage that bounces on the grass. Above are Agostino Laura and Veronica. He is a restorer of vintage carriages and these days he is restoring two carriages registered as farm wagons in 1950. Seven carriages are kept in the basement of his country house, right next to the pumpkins put to dry, wine and oil. Despite the fairytale suggestions, Laura and Veronica are not crystal slippers. In his stable, Agostino raises twenty black Dutch Friesian horses, an elegant and imposing draft breed that he uses for work in the fields, for fairs and for horseback riding, but above all for "sport and traditional attack" competitions or the carriage races. His friend Cataldo, with his experience as a competition judge, helps him in training and also in the restoration activity. To reward them for so much work, Agostino takes his Friesians to gallop on the beach to the castle of Santa Severa. Not far from Agostino's stable there is the state breeding center of the Lipizzan horse, a noble breed of draft and work horses with a light gray coat that originated in the imperial breeding of Maria Theresa of Austria. These horses arrived in Italy as part of the peace negotiations after the first great war. At the end of the Second World War, after a daring rescue of 100 specimens, they found their home in the province of Rome. Alessandro Guerra takes care of each of them from birth and the breeding is conducted in the wild. The mares freely choose the place they like best for mating and for giving birth that takes place in the wild. It is in respect of this free nature that Alessandro builds his relationship with each foal, and together with Diego he takes care of taming them according to the principles of gentle taming. The peculiar traits of the Lipizzaner breed, their elegant bearing, resistance to work, learning ability and docility are combined with the symbolic value of these horses, which are testimony of brotherhood and union between the European countries that are committed to conservation. and enhancement of this breed. The best of these horses will go into the force of the carabinieri or will be used for the "elegant attack" of representative carriages. The equestrian tradition, and in particular that of the elegant attack by representation, have been present in the Lazio territory since the times of the Etruscan civilization. In particular, the archaeological site of the ancient city of Eretum, whose king was buried together with his two faithful horses attached to the carriage, is right near the stables of Augustine and Alexander's stud farm. During the night Sissi, one of Agostino's mares, gave birth to the little filly Contessa who timidly manages to get on her feet a few hours after giving birth, to continue the long journey that horses and human beings have traveled since prehistoric times, in a relationship of mutual trust between two complementary beings.



### **The Chiese valley**

The snow-covered slopes of the Brenta and Adamello mountains frame the Valle del Chiese, in the south west of Trentino, among suggestive artificial lakes, forts and the ruins of majestic castles. In winter, the Valley is dotted with numerous frozen waterfalls, which attract thousands of "ice climbing" enthusiasts. One of the custodians of these places is Placido Corradi, who welcomed the first climbers who arrived in 1979 in his inn. In Val Daone, among the young climbers, there is also Angelo Davorio. In the enchanting scenery of the Giudicarie, on the other hand, Riccardo Valenti tries his hand at ski mountaineering, attentive to safety. Following the current of the Chiese river, you reach Storo, where the historian Giovanni Zontini lives. Here, Vigilio Giovannelli, President of the "Agri90 Cooperative", produces the Yellow Flour of Storo with local corn, nicknamed "red gold". Reaching the border with Lombardy, we find Lake Idro, which houses a Nature Reserve. Perched on the lake, it overlooks Bondone, inhabited for many years only by charcoal burners. Due to the abundance of woods in the area, the "School of Wood" was born in Praso in 1995. Among its founders, there is Giacomo Nicolini. Some students, such as Osvaldo Filosi, have combined the learning of manual skills with a spiritual experience. Finally, in this oasis of peace, the mountains appear as sacred places, which also fascinate a paraglider pilot Luca Tamburini.



### **The enchanted forest**

The natural monument of the Allumiere beech wood is what remains of an ancient forest dating back to the last ice age. The beech wood plays a role of ecological connection for all the flora and fauna of the area and among the animals it hosts there is the Alpine Rosalia, a beetle belonging to an endangered species. For these reasons, the enchanted forest of Allumiere is an indicator of the quality of the climate and biodiversity of the entire territory of Tuscany and central Italy. The mountains above which the beech grove develops have hosted for about 400 years the mines of allumite, a mineral from which alum is obtained which was transported by donkey to the port of Civitavecchia. Today Allumiere's donkeys no longer carry the white mineral, but are reared to produce their precious milk.



### **On the border with the Cinque Terre**

In Liguria, on the border with the territory of the "cinque terre", set between sky and sea, overlooks Levanto. Around, there are some medieval villages, such as Montale, but also the quarries of red marble, a precious material already used by the Romans. Giancarlo BETTINOTTI and the oenologist LAURA CUGINI work in an agricultural cooperative, attentive to wine quality and respect for biodiversity. On the coast that embraces the Gulf, however, he moves with his boat MARCO SCARAMUCCIA, a dreamy skipper. Cycling through the caruggi, you can admire the buildings of Via Garibaldi transformed into stately palaces in the fifteenth century: they gave a new architectural face that was called "Borgo Nuovo" and that arose next to the medieval part of the country. In Levanto, LIVES AND WORKS RENZO BIGHETTI, an artist who has always been committed to environmental issues. Levanto is also a popular destination for surfers and, among the fans of this sport, there is GABO RASO. At the crossroads of the streets, the traditions of the past are found in the Pesto Laboratory managed by MONIA ROMANO. Thanks to the recovery of a railway track, a cycle and pedestrian path has been designed that allows you to explore magnificent panoramic routes along the coast. Walking in the center, LORENZO PERRONE, chef and lover of local history, remembers the past of the village and that of the Canal port, where goods passed through Emilia. Finally, at the Oratory of San Giacomo, the GROUP "ILLUSTRI CUGINI" performs, a band that pays homage to Fabrizio De André.



### **Belluno, the shining city**

Nestled by the Dolomites and the Pre-Alps, Belluno is nicknamed "the little Venice of the mountains". In San Pellegrino, stands the Villa where the writer and journalist Dino Buzzati (in 2022 marks the fiftieth anniversary of his death) spent his young years. Today, the great-grandchildren VALENTINA and ANTONELLA MORASSUTTI, preserve the memory of this place. On the Nevegal, known as the Colle di Belluno, in winter, FULCIO MIARI and ANTONIO PIAZZA, but also MICHELE NENZ, walk the white walls with snowshoes and skis. The deep bond with traditions, is found in the Agriturismo Faverghera of MARCO VUERICH at over 1500 meters high. In Tisoi, however, there is still an ancient dairy, which produces genuine cheeses. In Val Belluna, STEFANO MANTEGAZZA tackles by bicycle the discovery of the territory through the path of the GAB. Among the snow-capped peaks, CRISTIANO GAGGION, prepares "Le Giuseppine", a dessert of the Belluno Carnival. Near the Lake of Santa Croce, ROBERTO TONON is dedicated to the activity of beekeeper while ALICE PEDON is engaged in the recovery of aromatic and medicinal herbs of the mountains of Giamosa, Giungendo in Chies D'Alpago, you can cross the Cansiglio Forest, a precious resource for the cimbrian people. In this area, ILLARI FULLIN and FRANCO PIANON take care of the Yaks and raise the Alpagota sheep. The mountain guide and mountain rescue volunteer ALEX PIVIROTTTO walks the snow-covered slopes with his son. At almost 1900 meters, in the Upper Comelico, stands the Malga Coltrondo, managed by DANILO MINA and his family, which also breeds the Highlander, a cattle native to Scotland.



### **Salento out of the sea**

Salento is now known to Italians as a place of parties and beaches, good food and wild dances, a holiday land. But in its hinterland full of small municipalities, today benefiting from summer tourism, there are authentic Baroque masterpieces, alleys and sumptuous palaces, which reveal a past of agricultural riches and maritime trade. Among these unexpected cathedrals, unusual artisan shops that produce high quality artifacts are also surprising. In Poggiardo, the magnificent baroque center of the interior, unforgettable flavors are mixed in Stefano's trattoria, which every morning moves to Castro on the coast to choose the fish just arrived from the sea. In Parabita, Matteo inherited the mosaic technique from his grandparents and carves wood, marble and glass paste tiles with results at the height of his ancestors. In Sogliano, Andrea the papermaker transforms plants (from fig to rush) into valuable sheets and notebooks. Finally, in Cutrofiano, while the city prepares the bonfire for the feast of the fòcare, Salvino introduces us to his greatest passion, a local tradition that has been repeated for many generations: ceramics and clay processing. Salento in winter is another thing...



## The other side of Orvieto

Orvieto is a fascinating city with a dual identity. There is an "above" with the splendid façade of its Duomo, a masterpiece of sienese Gothic, the medieval towers and the life that flows fast, and a "below" dug out in a huge boulder of tuff that rises like an island in the middle of the sea. At 36 meters underground we enter with Marco in the spectacular Pozzo della Cava of the Sciarra family: an archaeological treasure discovered by chance in the cellars of the family tavern. His wife Francesca works on the restoration of the countless ceramics found in the excavations. Over the years, the skilful Etruscan processing of ceramics, of which Marino is one of the most creative exponents, has been joined by other crafts and forms of craftsmanship born still present in the city. Among them, woodworking. The very symbol of this fervent activity is Simonetta's workshop where there are real works of art in wood in the form of animals, which always attract the attention of visitors. Finally Loretta, in her beautiful workshop in the heart of medieval Orvieto, shows us her skill in the art of lace. Returning to the city center, we can now look at Orvieto with different eyes. Not only the magnificent façade of its well-known Cathedral. There is another city behind the scenes and underground: a city led by the skilled hands of people, who have been able to transform and preserve, giving their original trait, a civilization full of history.



## Walking huts

Over millions of years, gigantic tectonic movements, earthquakes, landslides and collapses have sculpted the given shape to the territory of the Veronese mountains. With the slow passage of time the water has partly dissolved the layers of limestone digging caves and sinkholes filtering into the depths of the soil, this phenomenon known as karst, generates one of the most interesting landscapes of the earth's soil. As a result of erosion processes, the ceiling of many caves is destined to collapse, opening gigantic chasms in the ground such as that of covolo di Camposilvano. According to legend, it was precisely by visiting this ravine that Dante drew inspiration to write the beginning of the Divine Comedy, the first song of Hell. The plateau of the Veronese mountains is mainly of karst character, this land was in the past lean and not very fertile, these large mountain meadows needed to be fertilized and the most natural and sustainable method in the long run was through the breeding itself. There was a need for the cows to graze and be milked near the place where milk was processed to make cheese, so the story of the walking huts was born. According to the ancient statutes found in the library of Ala di Trento, in the past the breeders were given in management a part of the territory called malga where they could build the casoni for the shelter of men and animals and for the processing of cheese. These huts had to be built of wood and had to be moved every two years in order to fertilize the entire territory used for grazing.



## Mantua, a pearl among the lakes

The pearl of the Gonzaga, as they call Mantua, in addition to its pictorial and architectural wonders is also an active city full of ancient shops where delicacies are produced. Walking through its historic center, starting from Piazza delle Erbe, you will come across the Tur dal Sucar (the sugar tower), where the pastry chef Gianni prepares with skilled hands the cakes symbol of tradition: the Rose Cake, the Helvezia, and the famous Sbrisolona. Going out, just beyond the monumental church of San Francesco designed by the Renaissance Leon Battista Alberti, there is another Giovanni with his delicatessen that produces many different types of fruit mustard. Trattorias where two sisters cook knead and stuff agnoli and pumpkin tortelli, and a landscape around dotted with rice fields, such as Manuela's Cortevicchia, a Renaissance jewel transformed into a modern "duepuntozero" company. Mantua is all this, but with the help of the director of the Doge's Palace, we discover the wonders of the Gonzaga, Giulio Romano and Andrea Mantegna, The Tea Palace and the bride and groom's room. Also a musical city and scenery of Rigoletto, in its splendid bibiena theater Mozart made his debut and today the violinist Walter plays with a Stradivarius arranged by Alessandro, a classical luthier full of passion. City-theater of flowers and gardens cared for by Massimiliano, the florist, with a landscape that penetrates inside through three lakes and canals, as in a small Venice.





## Pastures without borders

Among the mountains that dominate the eastern side of Lake Garda rises the Lessinia plateau, from here with a glance you can embrace a panorama that goes from the Adige valley to the Po Valley. This land, because of its strategic position, has been crossed by the borders of empires and states that, throughout history, have alternated in the control of Central Europe. Of these boundaries it is still possible to see the traces, in the stone stones placed on the peaks, in the roads, in the military bridges and in the trenches dating back to the period of the Great War. Today as then, these boundaries are crossed by forest animals, which have never attributed any meaning to these barriers. Gianmarco Lazzarin is a hiking guide of the regional park of the Lessini mountains and is tracing a mapping of the paths and roads that cross this territory. He stopped to sleep at the malga riondera by his friend Andrea Delmonego. Andrea leads the hut together with his daughter Alice, his son-in-law Bruno and, for a year, there is also little Anita with them. At the Malga Riondera goats, sheep and cows are bred and small-fruit plants are grown and there is also an educational apiary. All the land of the hut is managed in the name of environmental sustainability and is aimed at protecting biodiversity. The presence of the wolf on these mountains poses a threat to breeders but at the malga riondera they have understood how to live with this predator.



## Among the Asolo hills

ASOLO lies in the Venetian hills, in the province of Treviso. Immersed in idyllic scenery, grow the vines that give the famous "prosecco di Asolo", like the one obtained in the Monfumo area where LUCA BELE CASEL carries on a winemaking tradition taken from his ancestors. Among the most symbolic places in the area, there are the "Venetian villas", such as the magnificent Villa Sand, built in 1622. On the slopes of Asolo, there is also the Maglio di Pagnano, while in the narrow streets of the center, echoes the memory of the Serenissima. In the heart of the village, there is the Laboratory of MONICA BERNINI, dedicated to textile art, and you can admire the Casa dell'Arco, rented in 1920 by the famous actress Eleonora Duse. Asolo, however, is also known for its taverns, here called "bacari", meeting places of Venetian origin, such as the one managed by WALTER ZECCHIN. Destination of poets and artists, it has always been the "Caffè Centrale", managed by LELE BOTTER, the "soul" of the restaurant. Among the personalities who attended Asolo, an important sign was left by Freya Starck, the last heir of the great English travelers. Around Asolo, in addition to the grandiose Villa di Maser, once hosted by the architect Andrea Palladio, there is also the Tipoteca Italiana, the most important national reference for printing and typography. Some machines are still working and are used by DANIELE FACCHIN, according to Gutenberg's method. On the notes of a folk song, interpreted by ROBERTO TOMBESI and CLAUDIA FERRONATO, two members of the group Calicanto, we end our trip to Asolo.



## Pantelleria

Suspended in the blue of the Mediterranean, between Africa and Sicily, Pantelleria is an island that has fascinated travelers from all over the world, such as PIERGIACOMO, who decided to move here, where he works as a naturalistic guide. INES, a German architect, also decided to leave Germany to immerse herself in the magnificent atmosphere of this land and devote herself to the infusion of aromatic herbs. In the heart of the island, the splendid Pantelleria nature is protected by a National Park and, among some protected areas, the inhabitants cultivate gardens, such as that of DENNY, the last remaining beekeeper. Furthermore, some young islanders, such as ANDREA, leave the herds free to graze and undertake to sow by hand and to recover the land, even the most inaccessible ones. Finally, on Pantelleria, thanks to a group of researchers, a new species of cricket was discovered, which has adapted to living in this place, where men are still able to converse with nature.



## Alpe di Siusi

On the largest plateau in Europe and close to Val Gardena, in Alto Adige, lies the Alpe di Siusi, a place characterized by a fairy-tale atmosphere, where the relationship with animals, such as that between the gamekeeper ANDREA and his hound, has a deep meaning. One of the historic breeders of the area is MATTHIAS, who looks after the herd together with his children, and eagerly awaits the most important event of the year for shepherds: transhumance. For this "anniversary", the cows are decorated with garlands and cowbells and taken from the mountain pastures to the valley floor. MARKUS, on the other hand, is one of the few remaining beekeepers on the Alpe di Siusi. The link between present and past is also deeply felt by FLORIAN, a former hotelier who collects local plants and produces distillates by hand. In this magnificent natural amphitheater German, Italian but also Ladin are spoken, which derives from the traces left by history in this corner of the world, where traditions still have great value in the collective memory.





## The Mocheni Valley

From Lake Caldonazzo, we venture into the Trentino region's Mocheni Valley, where in winter, one can admire the snow-covered Brenta Dolomites. Here, in the Middle Ages, Bavarian settlers arrived and passed down their traditions, still preserved today by the Mocheno Cultural Institute. Since the 18th century, the valley's roads have been traversed by the *krumer*, itinerant traders who moved seasonally. Over the decades, families like that of DIEGO IOBSTRAIBIZER have passed down this profession from father to son. In the valley, DEBORA MUHLBACHER and her husband also reside, raising Grey Alpine cattle and choosing not to leave their land, just like other young Mocheni who uphold their customs, such as the Palù Carnival. Near this village, there is a ranch known as a \"horse stopover,\" managed by GUIDO TRENTINAGLIA, who bakes the ancient *cuccalar* bread at home. This area has also preserved the Mocheno language, stemming from the ancient German spoken by the settlers. Amidst the woods, ANDREA OBEROSLER continues the trade of carpentry and, commissioned by the Mocheno Cultural Institute, replaces a grinding wheel inside the Mill De Mil. In this land, there are also those like GIULIA DEBIASI who have rediscovered the properties of medicinal plants and those, like the Mocheni farmers of the past, who waltz or polka in high-altitude mountain farms, immersed in a magical winter atmosphere.\"



## The Land of Accordions

Coreno Ausonio is a town in the province of Frosinone, nestled halfway between the Gulf of Gaeta, the Liri Valley, Garigliano, and Montecassino. This province is one of the oldest in Europe and is renowned as the \"land of labor.\" However, Coreno Ausonio is primarily known for the significant role played by the accordion, which provided the rhythm for the arduous fieldwork. The art of this instrument has been revived by ALESSANDRO PARENTE, who inherited it from his uncle Vincenzo Del Seni. In the 1990s, Alessandro established a school to pass on the accordion's secrets to the new generations. Furthermore, for the \"Windbox\" project, Alessandro collaborates with his nephew Laerte Scotti, an arranger and composer of new music. Between September 1943 and May 1944, the town served as a stronghold along the \"Gustav Line,\" built by the Germans to resist the Allied forces. The memories of these events are preserved by the poet DOMENICO ADRIANO. MARIA TIERI has returned to live in Coreno and chosen to work in the family bakery. As we wander through the streets of Coreno, we also meet CAROLINA LAVALLE, who handcrafts the \"rata,\" a miniature container made of wicker or reeds. This region is also known for extracting Perlato Royal Coreno marble, renowned worldwide. Working with Perlato di Coreno, the stonemason GIUSEPPE LAVALLE succeeded in patenting the \"musical stone.\" Continuing with the theme of music, we discover that today, the \"Windbox Orchestra\" performs in concerts and collaborates with the singer Maura Amata.\"



## ALTO POLESINE, In the Carousel District

The documentary \"ALTO POLESINE, In the Carousel District\" explores the Polesine region, located between the Po and Adige rivers in Veneto, a flatland characterized by extensive waterways, canals, lagoons, and sandy islands. The history of the region is intertwined with cycling, featuring new bike paths and the promotion of cycle tourism. The documentary follows a group of cyclists affiliated with the Italian Federation of Friends of the Bicycle (FIAB) from Rovigo as they explore the Polesine countryside and its small villages. Through the stories of these cyclists, it delves into the love for cycling and its role in the local environment. The documentary also unveils the remarkable Carousel District, an international hub for amusement park attraction production that has transformed the region from a humble farming life into a creative and innovative hub in the amusement industry.\"



## The Campobrun Brothers

Erica Peloso, a 24-year-old livestock farmer, spends her summers on the Campobrun alp, embracing a traditional life at 1,661 meters altitude. Alongside her brother Fabio, they engage in manual dairy processing, tending to a herd of 20 milking cows and 15 calves. Despite their education, Erica in foreign languages and Fabio with a technical diploma, they chose a life close to nature over conventional careers. The mountain routine involves early mornings, manual labor, and a simple lifestyle without modern amenities. As September marks the end of the season, the siblings feel nostalgia for the mountains, emphasizing the challenge and joy of their unique way of life.



### **The natural balance in the mountains and in the barn**

The documentary explores life in the Orobie Alps, focusing on Giada Zamboni, a breeder of Brown Swiss cattle, and her connection with nature. The film highlights the sustainable management of agricultural activities and livestock, promoting animal welfare and the conservation of natural resources. The story unfolds in a mountainous context, following the daily routine of the Zamboni family and showcasing the connection between humans, animals, and the environment. The documentary also emphasizes the work of park guides like Giorgio Tanzi, and professionals such as Arianna Cecchini and Alessandra Gagliardi, who monitor local biodiversity. The narrative spans from the valley floor to the mountain peaks, underscoring the importance of traditional agricultural practices and the key role of care in preserving the balance between humans and nature.



### **The New Light on the Alpine Meadows**

The documentary explores a suspended space on the mountaintops, where human activity and work in the pastures follow an annual cycle unchanged over time. Through the testimony of individuals like Diego, a scythe user preserving ancient traditions, and families like that of Laura Rabbiosi, the film reveals the connection between the past and the future, night and day, in these lands. The introduction of technologies such as milking robots highlights the evolution of livestock farming with the goal of ensuring animal welfare. The story follows the Milesi family during the summer season in the high-altitude pastures, where cows play a key role in preserving the meadows and fertilizing the soil. Haying becomes an important community activity, intertwining relationships and solidarity. The documentary also focuses on the production of Bitto cheese, following the work of Franca, her husband Franco, and their children. The narrative emphasizes the importance of traditional agricultural practices and the deep connection between the inhabitants of these mountains and their territory.



### **Paradise needs help**

The documentary explores the Pelagos Sanctuary, a protected marine area between the French Riviera, Sardinia, the Tuscan Archipelago, and Liguria. The sanctuary is renowned for its rich marine biodiversity, featuring eight species of cetaceans regularly present, including sperm whales, striped dolphins, and common fin whales. Marine biologists Nadia Repetto and Maurizio Wurtz, with over 40 years of experience, have developed a unique way of documenting marine life through life-size sculptures and illustrations. Maurizio's works are inspired by encounters with animals during their travels. The documentary also follows Alessandra Somà and Gabriella Motta, biologists engaged in cetacean spotting and monitoring in the Pelagos Sanctuary. Through their experiences and those of the crews on board, the film provides an intimate look into the lives of these marine creatures. The narrative extends beyond observing cetaceans, addressing crucial themes such as marine ecosystem conservation, waste management, and the impact of human activities. The Pelagos Sanctuary was established to protect marine mammals from the threats of human activities, but the documentary underscores the importance of collective responsibility in preserving the marine natural habitat.



### **The Four Valleys of Arezzo**

The documentary explores the beauty and cultural richness of the valleys surrounding the city of Arezzo in Tuscany, Italy. The narrative begins at dawn, immersing itself in the autumnal atmosphere of the city, particularly the magnificent Piazza Grande, where the Antiques Fair takes place. Exhibitors showcase art objects, furniture, and furnishings representing the cultural heritage of the region. The journey continues to Casentino, one of the valleys where Molin di Bucchio stands, built around 1200. Here, Claudio Bucchini, a mason, has restored the old mill, opening it to the public in 2004. The documentary features interviews with Claudio, who shares his passion for restoration and tradition preservation. The story then moves to Cortona, a village in Valdichiana, where Saverio Misesti collects objects from various eras, defining them as expressions of strength and life. Saverio illustrates his deep connection to the region, reflecting on his life spent between Arezzo and Cortona. Through interviews with individuals like Adelaide Valentini, a young farmer, and Gualberto Gualdani, who has a special connection to the Arno River, the documentary explores the lives and choices of those living in these valleys. Adelaide, for example, recounts her upbringing in Valtiberina and her return out of love for nature and the region. The theme of conservation and respect for nature emerges through the stories of those living in these valleys. Claudio and Carla, in Casentino, manage an Ecomuseum to preserve cultural heritage. Adelaide practices sustainable and nature-respecting agriculture. The documentary concludes by emphasizing the importance of these valleys, declared UNESCO Heritage, and the magic of their connection between humans and nature. The interviewees share their worldview, reflecting on how nature, history, and traditions have shaped their lives. The film provides an intimate look at people living in harmony with nature, preserving traditions, and valuing the cultural heritage of the valleys of Arezzo.



### The Baù's Village

We trace the history of Stoccareddo, a small village of 402 inhabitants on the Asiago plateau in the province of Vicenza, isolated in a valley between Monte Pasubio and Monte Grappa, heroic places of the Great War. Up to 380 residents of Stoccareddo share the surname Baù, and legend has it that they all descend from a single Viking who arrived from Denmark in the 12th century. They have a more intact DNA, due to the high rate of endogamy, and have developed a protective gene now being studied for potential application in an immunological drug. The Baùs, with their \"good\" blood, have lived isolated from the world, but over the past century, many of them have emigrated to the USA, South America, Australia, Belgium, and France. They occasionally gather in their hometown to talk about ancestors, family, and work, especially during the so-called \"Festa del villeggiante,\" held approximately every five years, always at the beginning of August. Guiding us through the discovery of this unexpected community are Amerigo Baù, the local historian, Anthony Baù born in Belgium but returned to his roots by starting a lumberjack business, Chiara Baù, a young soul of the village's \"pro loco,\" and the local glory Eder Baù, a professional footballer who made his debut in Milan alongside Shevchenko and Bierhoff before playing for major clubs in the Triveneto region.



### Builders of Babel

In small villages, in hidden gardens, among anonymous villas, along unknown paths, a minor, outsider Italy moves, revealing unexpected creations, carried out for a long time by particular visionary architects. The anthropologist Gabriele Mina called them Builders of Babel: they are self-taught and irregular artists, inspired by the roadside. Often they are workers, bricklayers, pensioners and one day they decide to devote their time – sometimes decades of existence – to the solitary realization of a total work: a mountain of wonders, a wall of carved stones, bizarre gnarled characters or an ideal city on a scale of 1 to 25. They mostly build around or on top of their homes, with a blueprint written in their minds, in dreams and use recycled materials, then paint, assemble, accumulate relentlessly. For the villagers they are curious creations, for families a legacy that is difficult to maintain. However, these architectures of utopia, such as the Tower of Babel, can collapse at any moment, vanish, and that is why it is important to keep memory of them by telling them.



### The Nebrodi valley

Nestled between the provinces of Enna, Catania, and Messina lies the territory of the Nebrodi Mountains. Here stands San Piero Patti, a charming village distinguished by the Arabite district, a true kasbah. Perched on a hill, the Convent of the Carmelite Calzati, built in 1566, now serves as a cultural center. Within its walls, PAOLA FLORAMO preserves the ancient art of weaving. Nearby, the Church of the Carmine boasts a gold-adorned altar, while the Church of Santa Maria Assunta houses a majestic organ played by DALIA FAZIO. Among the village's culinary treasures is a recipe based on almond paste, lovingly prepared by CARMELA LA SCHEPIS. In the surrounding countryside, shepherds like CARMELO LAMANCUSA continue the tradition of milking by hand. Not far away lies an oasis where FRANCO BORRELLO raises Nebrodi black pigs in wild or semi-wild conditions. Elsewhere in the Park, ROBERTO FRANCHINA ventures by jeep to discover remote, untouched landscapes. The region also boasts hazelnut groves, such as those on SALVATORE PRINCIOTTO's estate, where friends gather to celebrate with a toast. A short distance away is Sinagra, a picturesque village nestled near a once-navigable river. The stunning landscapes of the Nebrodi are cherished by GIUSI MURABITO, who works tirelessly to promote the area. This region is also rich in medicinal plants, which ROBERTO FRANCHINA harvests and delivers to the liqueur laboratory of ATTILIO FARANDA. In the valley, a craft brewery is managed by CARMELO RADICI, while individuals like ROSINA COCI diligently preserve the seeds of their cultivated plants.



## The Valtellina and surrounding

Between Valcamonica, the Adamello Group, and the Ortles-Cevedale range lies the Valtellina valley. In winter, the Aprica Pass on the Lombard side is blanketed in snow, where alpine guide Tullio Faifer leads passionate hikers on memorable excursions. Further along, just a few kilometers from the Swiss border, lies the town of Tirano, a cultural and geographical crossroads. In the surrounding area, dry-stone walls outline the terraces where vineyards are cultivated. NICOLA GIANA, an expert in these walls, relies on STEFANO MORETTI and MANUEL LAZZARI to construct new ones. Scattered throughout the valley are baitelli, ancient circular stone buildings. Meanwhile, in the Grosio area, you'll find Villa Visconti Venosta, a historic residence that once hosted notable figures, including Camillo Benso, Count of Cavour. Climbing the hills, one reaches the Rupe Magna, crowned by the San Faustino Castle and the Parco delle Incisioni Rupestri (Rock Engravings Park). Another historic residence can be found in the village of Teglio: Palazzo Besta, a Renaissance-era mansion that welcomed artists and writers in its time. In the hamlet of San Rocco, MARIO MOTALLO contributed to the restoration of the Mulino Menaglio, a mill that preserves tools and relics of the rural world and has been brought back to life to grind small quantities of buckwheat, producing flour for the traditional pizzoccheri recipe. Finally, in Aprica, the Gallery of Emotions in Nature has been built—a whimsical space conceived by BERNARDO PEDRONI. On the descent back to Tirano, one can admire the Sanctuary of the Madonna, home to a 17th-century organ, played by CATERINA BORINELLI.



## Urban fruit

Oranges, lemons, plums, figs: how often have we passed a tree laden with fruit on our city streets and felt tempted to pick it? We tend to assume that urban fruit is inedible or even harmful, but this is not the case. The non-profit organization Linaria has launched a project to map, harvest, and distribute urban fruit in Rome, as well as to plant new orchards. The fruit is primarily destined for social canteens and food banks, and sometimes for processing workshops to produce delicious jams. More than anything, however, this project promotes a model of active citizenship, offering a fresh perspective on how to live in our cities.



## Among the Madonie Mountains

Between Palermo's hinterland and the Sicilian coasts lies the Madonie area, renowned for its biodiversity and cultural heritage. Here, the Madonie Park is home to villages like Petralia Sottana, where ancient crafts thrive: Antonio Li Puma restores historical clocks, while Mirco Inguaggiato creates traditional musical instruments and a Neapolitan-style nativity scene. The village also offers culinary delights, such as "le cucchie," a sweet prepared by Maurizio Bracco. The region features the Urban Geological Path, natural springs, and the Catarratti Hydroelectric Plant. Shepherd and artisans like Nino Spera, the Inguaggiato family, and Francesco Faraci uphold local traditions. Petralia Soprana and Sottana tell stories of archaeology, nature, and social progress.



## The new inhabitants of Masetti

The documentary immerses us in the life of a small community nestled in the beautiful Val d'Astico, a place that was once vibrant with activity and joy, now inhabited by a few residents who carry the history of this magical place in their hearts. From the silent streets emerge voices like those of Renata, the last schoolteacher, and Francesco, who returned to breathe new life into his family and the community with the arrival of little Filippo, after 40 years without any new births. Masetti is experiencing a moment of rebirth, amidst the influx of tourists and the call of its roots, where ancient legends intertwine with the challenges of modernity. Set against breathtaking landscapes and millennia-old traditions, the Cimbrian language echoes in the games of children, while bold endeavors such as high-altitude grape cultivation bring new vitality to the village. The climax is reached during the patron saint's feast of San Giovanni, a celebration that revives memories and bonds, where the old and the new merge in a festive atmosphere. The documentary tells not only the story of a resilient community but also the beauty of small things and the strength of ties, demonstrating that, despite the changes of time, Masetti continues to shine like a hidden gem in the heart of the mountains.





### **Under the Forzela dell'Om**

Under the Forzela dell'Om takes us on a captivating journey among the peaks of the Dolomites, where history and natural beauty intertwine at a crossroads of legends. Situated at an elevation of 1,942 meters, this imposing forzela has witnessed centuries of encounters among the Feltrini, Ladini, and Tyroleans, a place where ancient trails tell stories of smuggling, wars, and opportunities for life. After decades marked by economic decline, the devastating floods of 1966, and territorial changes, the community of Gosaldo is seeking a rebirth, transforming the old smuggler's paths into natural trails to attract tourists and reclaim its heritage. With the echo of "scapament del contha," the unique language of chair makers, and the passion of young artisans like Massimo Campel, tradition is finding new avenues of expression. In this history-rich landscape, we visit the remnants of "La California," once a popular holiday destination, and discover the indelible traces of mines and floods that have shaped the fate of these lands. Guided by Manuel, a geologist in love with his territory, we venture into ancient galleries and confront the resilience of a people who, like the rock and water, have adapted and continue to fight against adversity. Under the watchful eye of the Forzela dell'Om, the documentary celebrates the vitality of a community that refuses to forget its past, striving to pass down stories and crafts to future generations in a context of extraordinary natural beauty.



### **Roots for Renewal**

The documentary explores life in the community of Magliano in Tuscany, where tradition and modernity meet in harmony. At the heart of this narrative is Maurizio Guidi, a skilled woodworker and restorer who, like a modern Geppetto, passionately preserves and shares local stories and legends. The documentary also highlights the efforts of farmers like Claudia Bonaccini and Marco Benvenuti, who embrace an ethical and organic production philosophy, supporting agriculture that prioritizes quality and sustainability. The story is further enriched by artisans like Rodolfo, who transforms recycled wood into shelters for birds. The culmination is the "Festa dell'olio novo" in Pereta, where the community celebrates authenticity and its bond with the land through Maremma's olive oil, a symbol of connection and tradition.



### **A dive into the countryside**

The documentary takes us to Santa Fiora, at the foot of the majestic Mount Amiata, where legends meet reality beneath the church of Madonna della Neve, home to the source of the Fiora River. In this vibrant heart of nature, Fabio and Romualdo Rossi guide us on a journey through time, revealing how the Maremma was transformed from a swamp into a fertile and lively land, now facing new challenges like droughts and violent floods. The Fiora aqueduct emerges as a vital artery nourishing a fragmented and sparsely populated land. Simultaneously, the cultural strength of the Maremma comes alive through the Officina del Malcontento, a musical quartet singing about the struggles and beauties of this land, drawing inspiration from ancient popular traditions. Through the voices of artists and researchers like Daniele Lamioni and Edo Galli, a world is revealed where the Maremma is a dream shaped by the hard dedication of charcoal burners and farmers, and by the timeless inspiration of poets and creators.



### **A Hidden Treasure of the Apennines**

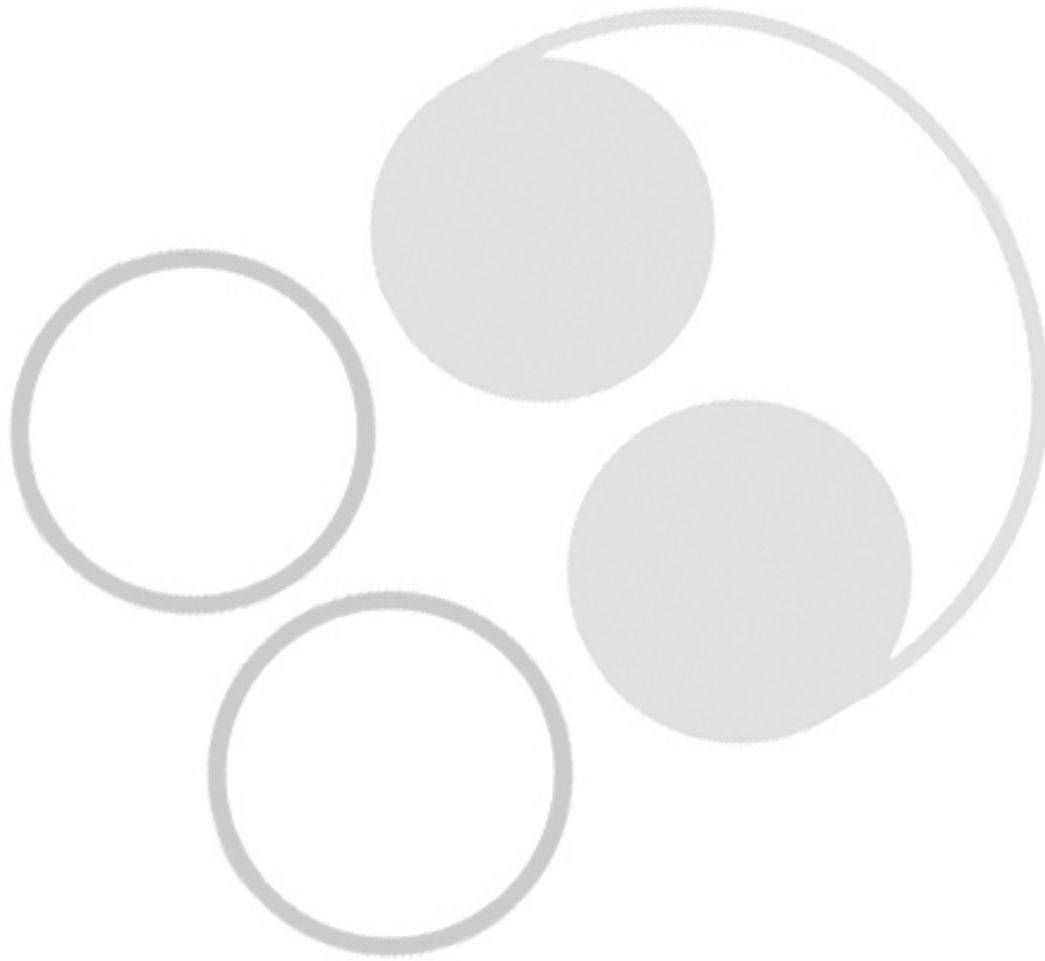
The Casentino Forests Park, straddling Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna, is particularly enchanting in winter. Here, members Andrea and Alessandro have restored the basins of the ancient Molino di Bucchio, located along the Arno River. Since 2008, they have been running an aquaculture project, creating an ideal and eco-sustainable habitat for fish, where biodiversity thrives. Nicola, a Carabinieri officer in the Anti-Poison Canine Unit, also works in the park alongside his dog Titan, trained to detect poisoned baits or those found in animal carcasses. In this high-altitude microcosm, the Sanctuary of La Verna also stands, famous as the place where Saint Francis of Assisi received the stigmata in 1224 and spent long periods in isolation. Here, Fra Michele, the custodian of the sanctuary's archive, took his vows, and visitors can admire prestigious works of art, including terracotta pieces by Maestro Andrea Della Robbia.





### **The summits of the soul**

As the summer season gives way to winter, the lives and rhythms of two high-altitude mountain huts intersect in two regions of Italy. The first is located in Valle d'Aosta, at an elevation of 2,500 meters, where Francesca Zanivan and her husband Stefano—who practices fly fishing on the Lussert lakes—have built Rifugio Grauson, which they manage with their family and occasional collaborators. In the autumn of 2024, Francesca, expecting her third child, helps her husband organize the hut before returning to Cogne (where the family spends the winter). The hut will remain closed until the arrival of the new season. Rifugio Grauson is only accessible by helicopter, the same means of transport that Francesca and Stefano use to move and bring down food supplies and personal belongings. The second hut is located in Veneto, at 2,752 meters, overlooking the Dolomites above the Passo Falzarego, halfway between Cortina d'Ampezzo and Val Badia. Here, Tamara and her brother Mattia are preparing to open the doors of the historic Rifugio Lagazuoi, which they manage with their family while implementing technological improvements to protect the environment and ecosystem. The two young managers have inherited the legacy of their grandfather, an alpine guide who began building the hut in 1963.





# Saved by the bell

**Directed by:** Lodovico Prola

**Produced by:** Ditta Prola

**Duration:** 26'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD

In the last thirty years in Italy many efforts have been made in order to save many animals from the brink of extinction. Studies, census, reintroduction plans have been developed and protected areas have been introduced in order to save them. Did all this work? Which is today's condition of otters, turtles, wolves, eagles, bears and lynx? Are they still the most endangered species of Italian's wildlife? Or is there anyone else, maybe some less known species, that is now in danger? Where do we have to put our efforts now? and who are the enemies we will have to face? This documentary wants to answer these questions, in order to celebrate the good results achieved and at the same time focus on the new issues we'll have to fix, before it is too late.





# Emotions of Italy

---

**Directed by:** Valter Torri  
**Produced by:** DocumentAria Film  
**Duration:** 4 Eps. x 52 Min.  
**Versions:**    
**Format:** HD

Many things can arouse emotions in humans and one of the most common is the enjoyment of the beauty of the landscape. In Italy these emotions reach their climax. The Italian landscape is unique, characterized by a huge variety of different natural environments in a relatively small geographical area. It is a landscape unequalled anywhere in the world, formed into thousands of years of history by the hand of successive human populations. In this series of three episodes we will feel the intense emotions caused by the sight of some of the most typical Italian landscapes: the Apuan Alps, the marble mountains overlooking the sea; the Apennines of the high pastures of the still wild Garfagnana in Tuscany; and that of the second largest island in the Mediterranean, Sardinia, of which we will see some of its less known natural environments. And to further heighten the emotional impact of these extraordinary landscapes, in two episodes also we tell the stories of the people who live in these landscapes, and have a moving, conflicted love/hate relationship with their environment.

**Episodes:**

- Apuane, the water mountains
- The shepherd and the mountain
- A letter from Sardinia
- Disturbing Neighbours

# Episodes



## **Apuane, the water mountains**

A journey among the Apuan Alps, a spectacular mountain chain worldwide famous for their pure white marble, also known as Carrara's marble. Born in an ancient sea millions of years ago, because of a coral barrier uplift, these mountains maintain to this day an indissoluble relationship with water. In every season water, in form of snow, ice, rain and mist, envelopes and penetrates the bowels of these mountains; for this, many impressive torrents and waterfalls often spring with violence from their steep slopes. Thank to this amount of humidity, many species are able to live on these particularly severe mountains, despite the marble quarries are more and more threatening them.



## **The shepherd and the mountain**

Harsh and frugal, solitude and constant exposure to bad weather, in continuous fear of predator attacks... this is a shepherd's life. And this is the story of one of them, with his flock and his dogs, surrounded by the wonderful landscapes of Garfagnana and Appennino Tosco-emiliano National Park in Italy, where he makes a one day long decisive journey, lasting from dawn till dusk, which reveals his extraordinary relationship with himself and with nature, in a harsh yet still today human scaled environment. For some time now he has been cherishing the idea of leaving the mountains and to go down to the valley, looking for a place which can finally offer him greater wellbeing without the problems he has to face in the mountains. Three particular events, between fantasy and reality, will contribute to his final decision.



## **A letter from Sardinia**

A man, his father and the wonderful and rugged land of the origins... Sardinia. Three entities linked by a difficult and thwarted love that man finds again in the journey he made across the island. While going back to the port of embarkation, on board a steam train, the man remembers what he saw and writes to his father. The poignant beauty of the visited natural places re-establishes a link between generations and with his own roots that seemed lost.



## **Disturbing Neighbours**

The autumn paints forests and woods with amazing colours rivalling those of the most creative painters. But we should not be fooled by the beauty of the landscape. It is in the wild valleys of the Apennines, not far from the warm waters of the Mediterranean, that this story takes place: a story in which predators and prey live and fight together, as enemies, but sometimes as allies.



# Enawenè, Amazon under attack

**Directed by:** Aldo Pedretti

**Produced by:** Visualcommunication

**Duration:** 26 min.

**Versions:**  

**Format:** HD

Yowali, one of the Indians protagonists of the documentary, tells us: "All these ornaments are part of our culture, but now we are very concerned about our children, our grandchildren." Another Indians Yokuali adds: "We need support. We have a great culture but today we are losing it because the Whites do not care. " These are the premises of the documentary about the life of Enawene, an indigenous people of 600 individuals living in the rain forest of Mato Grosso. They lead us to visit the village, their houses and tell us the rituals marked by the calendar of fisheries and crops. Not eating red meat, fish is their only source of protein. Since, however, the development plans of government provided for the construction of hydroelectric power plants in these areas, the rivers where they normally fish are increasingly polluted. Even deforestation around the Rio Juruena, the main source of life for the Enawene, seems unstoppable. Ivar Busatto, a coordinator of the Organization Native Amazon in defense of the indigenous cause, tells us what we should do to help them. The Enawene are experiencing an epochal drama. Losing the forests in which their ancestors lived means for the Enawene losing their culture and their own rituals.








# The beaches of Chelona

---

**Directed by:** Alessandro De Rossi & Federica Botta  
**Produced by:** Alessandro De Rossi & Federica Botta  
**Duration:** 25 min  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

In a lost village in the southern Peloponnese, we met Chelona, turtle in Greek. She is special. And has met a special person. An elderly fisherman has taught her to trust man. Each day, he cleans his net for her and each day, she enters the port and feeds on the discarded food. For once we are amongst friends. She allows us to get in the water and swim with her. To get so close to her as to look her in her eyes. Even to touch her. She shows us how the sea could be if we were to respect it. She teaches us that there is an alternative.





# The poseidon's steeds

---

**Directed by:** Alessandro De Rossi & Federica Botta

**Produced by:** Sallophoto image & video

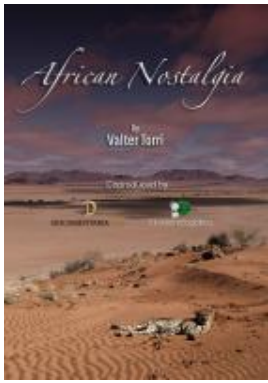
**Duration:** 25 Min.

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD

The job of the fisherman is as old as man. The greatest civilizations have developed on the sea shore or to the edge of the rivers, taking advantage of the waters of the oceans or lakes. But now the great scientists, researchers and even the European Commission said that in the World 90% of commercial species is to limit the already over-exploited or overfished. Yet the island of Asinara is like a lung, since the great prison was closed in 1998, the animals resumed possession of the spaces. When finally in 2002 was born the Marine Protected Area, which had been untouchable became a heritage to defend and save. In the spring there is a plethora of nests, new births and love of ancient battles. Each species fights for its territory: horses, wild boar, mouflon, some rare species of birds. It ' so both above and below the sea surface: groupers, merloni, rockfish and sea bass. And even worms, anemones, castanets, colorful sponges and posidionia, crucial to the coast. Even turtles returned to nest on the shores of the Gulf . Life has returned to show his diversity in this corner of paradise protected .





# African nostalgia

---

**Directed by:** Valter Torri

**Produced by:** Documentaria Film / SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 52 min.

**Versions:**  

**Format:** UHD

Africa seen and described through the eyes of a wildlife photographer who has always been fascinated by the unique atmosphere of this extraordinary continent. A tale of the sensation of breathing the air of Africa, admiring its fiery skies and observing the daily activities of its animals, frequently caught in unusual poses. A story that shuns the spectacle of animals suffering and dying in favour of striking colours and the light, smells and landscapes unique to this continent. A story that describes the cause of his longing for Africa, the sweetest sadness.





# The roots of friendship

---


**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 40 Min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

Neither the drought, nor the fatigue nor even the alien beetle come from the east will succeed in weakening the tenacity of a community that for five centuries has been living and thriving around a mythical tree: the fig tree. In Tuscany, in the territory of gentle hills between Empoli and Prato, the cultivation and conservation of figs dates back to the Middle Ages. Siro is the son of farmers, he studied but also listened to the stories of the elderly. He decided to continue the family tradition. Like many villagers he loves figs, plants them, takes care of them, collects them and makes them dry in the August sun. In September, all gather in the farms for the ritual of "appicciatura", in which two dried figs are mated at a time with anise seeds in half. This is the specialty of Carmignano, which triumphs at parties, from October to Christmas.





# The Guardians of the Camargue

**Directed by:** Paolo Sodi  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 26 Min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** 4K

In the south of France, overlooking the Mediterranean at the mouth of the river Rhone there is a wild land where you can breathe a west-facing atmosphere: it is the Camargue, one of the most extensive wetlands in Europe. We follow the day of a group of "Guardiens", which deal with the breeding of the horses and the Camargue bulls, two native species. This kind of Mediterranean cowboys go through every day immense meadows of glasswort and vast marshes, inhabited by a varied species of aquatic birds, in particular by the spectacular pink Flamingos. A landscape of a beauty that takes your breath away.







# The Shepherd of the Alps

---

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 30 Min.  
**Versions:**  
**Format:** HD

Piedmont, Biellese Prealps. In the summer shepherds and animals have climbed where there was green grass and water at will, but when the cold comes men and cattle must descend to the valley, where along the Deer River and in the "basket" of Candelo will find food and drink for many more months. So we follow one of the last transhumancities on foot of the Alps, through the Prealps of Biellese, the sanctuary of Oropa, the feast of the wool of Ternengo, next to the great monuments of industrial archaeology of the wool mills of the golden age. Special dogs accompany the flocks. In local dialect they are called "tabuì" and are the only native breed for the management of the flocks. It is the shepherd of Oropa, an ancient dog, descendant of the dog of the Neolithic Alps that in the wake of the Roman legions was the progenitor of all European breeds. It is a medium-sized dog, very intelligent, balanced, tireless, accustomed to driving the flock with a particular technique, "pinching" with delicate bites the garacks of animals. In order not to injure the paws of herbivores, they must learn to dose the strength of the teeth. But can the shepherd of the Alps be called "race"? Maybe, but it's not important. A working dog applies to what it does, and a good dog doesn't read the pedigree. It can read the movements of the sheep, but above all the looks and gestures of man, it knows how to decipher the voice of the shepherd in all its nuances. Thus, in the millennia, it became the most trusted workmate, even if the colors of his cloak, his size or the shape of the ears are not perfectly classified. What matters is the sposition of his heart.





# The Chestnut of the Giants

---

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 43 Min.

**Versions:** 

**Format:** HD


There are many stories and legends around a tree that fed generations of Valligians in the Alps before modernity emptied the villages: the chestnut tree. Uschione is a small village perched on the sheer rocks that overlook the valley of Keystone, in the high Valtellina. From the stone houses of the village the centers of the valley floor appear as from the plane, eight hundred meters below. Switzerland is just a few laps away, and it's where almost all its inhabitants have emigrated, drawn to the mirage of an easier life. The village remained uninhabited for many years, but only by men. The fraction is intact, but suspended in time. It remains the rural Alpine jewel that had been in the last century: no paved roads, only stone lanes between the stone houses, dry stone walls, vegetable gardens, orchards, small vineyards on the terraces that slowly engulfed the forest swallowed one year after another. But nature continued to live: many wild animals, herbs and flowers of all kinds. And the chestnut trees by the dozens, which every year in October continue to donate big curls and fat. The chestnuts of Lombardy are among the best in Italy, renowned since the Middle Ages. In Uschione, tons of chestnuts were produced, swollen with energy, which almost no one climbs to collect anymore. It is as if the great trees were orphans, suddenly useless, abandoned even if in full health. The "stone staircase", a steep granite-paved path leading to the village is tiring to climb, a testament to the time when you only walked. It was the time when chestnuts were "the bread of the poor", in fact a nutrient-rich fruit, the basis of the food and subsistence economy of many communities. The "gift of God" to which the devil for spite had put thorns around but which hardworking and patient men knew how to open and eat. But the inhabitants have not abandoned it, and working connected to the rest of the world try to revive the gardens and orchards living according to nature, also to no longer leave alone the generous giants of this Italian mountain corner, the secular chestnut trees of Uschione .





# The Asian hornet

---

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 40 min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

This is the story of an Italian excellence: how to deal with an environmental problem generated by the globalization of goods with a formidable, creative team game. The world of research, that of beekeepers and ordinary people have allied themselves with the most lethal enemy of bees ever appeared in Italy: the Asian hornet, aka "Vespa Velutina". Paulin, Sonia, Andrea and Lorenzo: between Piedmont and western Liguria, parallel stories of normal people united by an insect, new to us and very problematic. Paulin graduated in agriculture in Turin, founded a farm on the Asti hills: fruit and bees. Together with his brother, he produces organic bee products, honey, pollen, royal jelly. But one day... Sonia and her husband Fabrizio have recovered a rocky escarpment infested with brambles and weeds, transforming it into a "great gourmet restaurant" of bees: flowered terraces, nectariferous species in a corner of paradise, an uncontaminated island to safely breed these wonderful useful insects to extinction risk. But one day ... Lorenzo is 23 years old, studying engineering at the Polytechnic of Turin and symphonic composition at the Conservatory. He is undecided. Will you build bridges and skyscrapers when you grow up or will you be a conductor? Meanwhile, he also cultivates the third passion, born when he was still a child he explored the woods around his home in the western Liguria with his inseparable friend. The bees. But one day ... the "Vespa Velutina", the Asian hornet destroyer of hives, has arrived and their life has changed. Andrea Romano is also a beekeeper, but he is also an expert entomologist, coordinator on the field of the European project to contain the invasion of this insect, dangerous for bees who do not know it and cannot defend themselves. Will they manage to defend not only their bees but all the Italian bees, stopping the invasion of the "Vespa Velutina"?





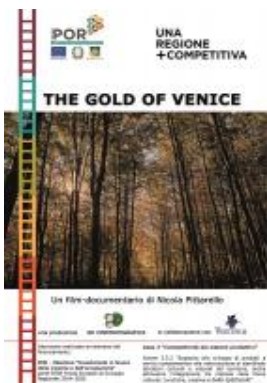
# The vascapun of the Baraggia

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 40 Min  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

Each end is a new beginning. The end of the summer pasture in the mountains is the beginning of the lesser known winter pasture in the plains, which is still practiced in the Biella area. Olimpio was born in the stable. It was a beautiful day in July 1941. Since then Olimpio has always lived here, in the lands near Biella, rich in pastures. Sheep have always been his passion. Alessandro Masiero is a sculptor by passion, for him pastoralism is life, tradition, inspiration. He worked all his life as a manager of a wool mill. He has seen this world change. With the wood of an old cherry tree, he carved a mythical character from the Biella area: the shepherd of the Baraggia, with his "Vascapun", the winter cloak made of straw, that sheltered him from the rain. Daniele is the custodian of the Cluniac monastery of Castelletto Cervo. While recounting its secrets and legends, he recreates a model of the ancient shepherds' cloak, the "vascapun", with the river straw and the stalks of the cattail. After his complicated transhumance, Olimpio, having arrived on the new pastures, prepares his bed for the night, placed in the old subcompact. As always he will spend the night with the flock, to protect his sheep from wolves ... but not from four-legged ones. "Those with two legs," he murmurs with a smile.







# The Gold of Venice

**Directed by:** Nicola Pittarello

**Produced by:** Coproduced by SD Cinematografica and Venicefilm

**Duration:** 52 Min.

**Versions:** 

**Format:** UHD

There is a story that few people know, that of the relationship between the Republic of Venice and its land possessions. It is above all the need to stock up on timber to push the Serenissima, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, to expand inland. And it is the great challenge with the Ottoman Empire for supremacy over the Mediterranean that fuels this need. In the Venetian, Friulian and Istrian woods, Venice could in fact find the best wood, the essential raw material to build the warships it needed in view of a decisive clash with the Turks, which took place in 1571 in the famous Battle of Lepanto. To preserve its precious forests, Venice implements a series of practices of good land management, also giving way to a profound change of mentality. The protection of the territory becomes a real watchword, with an approach that seems to approach our current environmental sensitivity. "The Gold of Venice" is the story of this adventure and how those practices and mentality have come to this day.







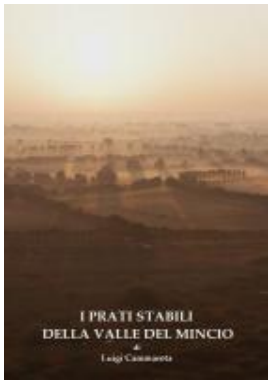
# Salt marsh treasures

---


**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 43 min.  
**Versions:**  
**Format:** HD

Anna and Martina are sisters, and they live in the hinterland of Venice. Their project, to which they dedicate all their time with passion with the help of Andrea and their parents, is a dream, but also a tiring challenge: to revitalize a small uninhabited island in the northern lagoon of Venice, returning it to its original vocation, made of typical quality crops, sustainable fishing, simple and self-sufficient hospitality, according to the principles of the circular economy, from food production to energy to waste management. With the added value of a precious treasure, a unique and special honey, which bees produce from the wild flowers that grow in the "sandbanks", the tongues of brackish land that emerge a few centimeters from the water at every low tide. A dream that day after day, with effort and tenacity, is becoming reality.

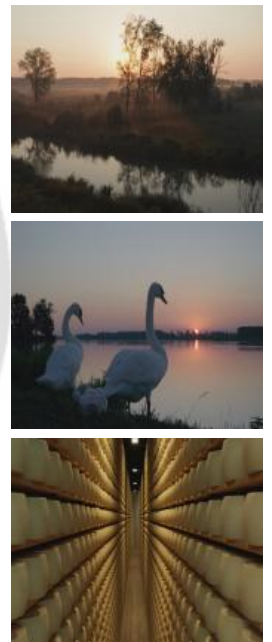




# The Stable Meadows of the Mincio Valley

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 43 min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

The magical and fortunate encounter between a particular nature of the land and human ingenuity, in a territory rich in water has given life to stable meadows. It is an ultra-sustainable agricultural technique. Land not processed for at least five years where the most valuable fodder grows, are the basis of the production of the most sold, loved and copied cheese with the best-selling, loved and copied designation of origin in the world, Grana Padano. In the area of the Mincio valley, in an area protected by a Park, there are the oldest stable meadows and appreciated by dairy farmers in the area of Mantua and Verona. Here the destinies of spontaneous plant essences were intertwined in the last century with the industriousness of an ethnic group whose origins are confused in legend: the Cimbri, bloodthirsty barbarians, or tireless lumberjacks?



NATURE .....	3
Italian Parks - 1st season (18x30' ) .....	4
The Trees (5x12') .....	9
Focus in Italy (4') (30x4') .....	10
Domus de Janas (30') .....	14
The Ancient live of Girod's Family (30') .....	15
The mystery of the Wolf (52') .....	16
Hunting for 'Ngotto (52') .....	17
Majella (3x15') .....	18
Discovering Nature (11x30') .....	20
Animal Files (20x26') .....	23
World Champions: man against beast (52') .....	29
Rocky Mountains: the source of Colorado (26') .....	30
The predators of the Blue River (52') .....	31
Focus in Italy (2') (20x2') .....	32
Italian Parks - 2nd Season (17x30') .....	35
The kings of the Mediterranean Sea (4x30') .....	38
The mistake (30x4') .....	40
Nature: LIVE! (16x5') .....	41
Winged dreams (7x30') .....	42
Histrio's journey (50') .....	44
The art of defence (50') .....	45
Rome's Angels (42') .....	46
Extremadura (45') .....	47
A butterfly's life (52') .....	48
Out with Tuscany's rangers (52') .....	49
The fabulous world of Notranjska (50') .....	50
ADVENTURE / TRAVEL .....	51
Flying over Everest (60' or 2x45') .....	52
The Trans-Siberian Railway (50') .....	53
Mysterious World (3x30') .....	54
Cape Verde - ten islands of history (30') .....	56
Johnny seagull taught me to fly (50') .....	57
Mumbai (52 min.) .....	58
The throbbing desert (52') .....	59
The Pharaohs' gate (52') .....	60
Myanmar (50') .....	61
Sailing ancient waters (90' - 2x50' - 3x30') .....	62
The fabulous world of Notranjska (50') .....	63

THE ROADS OF TIME (120 min.) .....	64
One year in the lake of Garda (52 minutes) .....	65
On the trails of the glaciers (3 x 52 min.) .....	66
The Great Beauty (89 x 26 min.) .....	68
Enawenè, Amazon under attack (26 min.) .....	91
Through the unknown (75 Min.) .....	92
African nostalgia (52 min.) .....	93
A journey to the other Afghanistan (52 min.) .....	94
Rome (120 Min) .....	95
Remembering Papua New Guinea (60 Min.) .....	96
The roots of friendship (40 Min.) .....	97
ANI, the nuns of Yaqen gar (52 Min.) .....	98
The Guardians of the Camargue (26 Min.) .....	99
The Chestnut of the Giants (43 Min.) .....	100
The vascapun of the Baraggia (40 Min) .....	101
Albania: "true" people, hidden places (4 x 43 min.) .....	102
The Art of Maguey (43 min.) .....	105
Salt marsh treasures (43 min.) .....	106
The Stable Meadows of the Mincio Valley (43 min.) .....	107
The Way of the Thousand (43 min.) .....	108
Precarpathia (26 min.) .....	109
The invitation (43 min.) .....	110
EDUCATIONAL .....	111
The art of climbing (2x30') .....	112
Glass: an ecological resource (15') .....	114
Play the rumba flamenca (30') .....	115
HISTORY .....	116
The Trans-Siberian Railway (50') .....	117
The sinking of the Andrea Doria (52' & 75') .....	118
St. Peter (52') .....	119
Memories of Utopia (52') .....	120
The sinking of the Baron Gautsch (30 min.) .....	121
Stolen lives (48') .....	122
A minority report (52') .....	123
The Middle Ages (6x52') .....	124
DARWIN'S LOST PARADISE (90') .....	126
Trieste - A ring on the Adriatic (52 Min) .....	127
Vajont 1963: the courage to survive (52') .....	128
Exodus (2x52') .....	129

Kappler: prisoner of war on the run (52')	130
Insulo de la Rozoj - Freedom is frightening (52')	131
Giorgione: behind the mystery (52 minutes)	132
The ghosts of the Third Reich (45')	133
Free as his name (58 minutes)	134
Hemingway unknown: the Italian years (52')	135
REAL WAR (52 Min.)	136
WWII (7 x 52 min.)	137
VAJONT: AN ITALIAN TRAGEDY (85')	140
SHOOTING OF THE PONTIFF (52 min)	141
SACRIFICE CASSINO! (120 Min.)	142
The Gold of Venice (52 Min.)	143
TRAINED TO SEE - Three Women and the War (106 min / 52 min)	144
The body and the name - The unknown of the Fosse Ardeatine (53 Min)	145
The Pope and the Devil (4 Eps. x 52 min.)	146
Dictators hideouts (6 x 45 min.)	148
CURRENT AFFAIRS / SOCIAL ISSUES	150
Japan and the mystery of the Geisha (45')	151
Burning Man (60')	152
Mozambique: Barbara's children (60')	153
Africa, Africas (3x20')	154
Stolen lives (48')	156
The never-never water (48')	157
The challenge of Venice (52')	158
Diving Women (52')	159
Insulo de la Rozoj - Freedom is frightening (52')	160
The ghosts of the Third Reich (45')	161
Uncovering India (4 x 30' + 1x45')	162
Uncovering Argentina (4x50')	164
Uncovering Brazil (4x50')	166
Free as his name (58 minutes)	168
CHILDREN	169
Animals A to Z (38x8')	170
The mistake (30x4')	175
Ripples - first season (26x10')	176
Ripples - second season (26x10')	182
ETHNOLOGY	187
Japan and the mystery of the Geisha (45')	188



The rice of bees: among the Batak of Palawan (50')	189
Oumar, the craftsman of the Dogon (25')	190
Mumbai (52 min.)	191
Diving Women (52')	192
Myanmar (50')	193
Enawenè, Amazon under attack (26 min.)	194
Remembering Papua New Guinea (60 Min.)	195
ART / MUSIC / CULTURE	196
Ferrara (30')	197
The township ladies (26')	198
Giorgione: behind the mystery (52 minutes)	199
Rome (120 Min)	200
LIFESTYLE	201
Burning Man (60')	202
The Ancient live of Girod's Family (30')	203
Terra Madre (6x26')	204
SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY	206
The challenge of Venice (52')	207
DARWIN'S LOST PARADISE (90')	208
Hi Robot (52')	209
The three minutes of man (40')	210
HD	211
Johnny seagull taught me to fly (50')	212
The challenge of Venice (52')	213
The Middle Ages (6x52')	214
Mumbai (52 min.)	216
The throbbing desert (52')	217
Trieste - A ring on the Adriatic (52 Min)	218
The Pharaohs' gate (52')	219
The ghosts of the Third Reich (45')	220
THE ROADS OF TIME (120 min.)	221
WWII (7 x 52 min.)	222
On the trails of the glaciers (3 x 52 min.)	225
Emotions of Italy (4 Eps. x 52 Min.)	227
SHOOTING OF THE PONTIFF (52 min)	229
Through the unknown (75 Min.)	230
NATURE IN HD	231
Wild side of Europe (27x30')	232
DARWIN'S LOST PARADISE (90')	241

The last continent (25')	242
ANIMAL FILES in HD (10x30')	243
Animals (40 episodes of 13' and 6 speci)	245
One year in the lake of Garda (52 minutes)	253
The breath of the woods (27')	254
Wild Italy (8 x 50 min.)	255
The Great Beauty (89 x 26 min.)	258
Saved by the bell (26')	281
Emotions of Italy (4 Eps. x 52 Min.)	282
Enawenè, Amazon under attack (26 min.)	284
The beaches of Chelona (25 min)	285
The poseidon's steeds (25 Min.)	286
African nostalgia (52 min.)	287
The roots of friendship (40 Min.)	288
The Guardians of the Camargue (26 Min.)	289
The Shepherd of the Alps (30 Min.)	290
The Chestnut of the Giants (43 Min.)	291
The Asian hornet (40 min.)	292
The vascapun of the Baraggia (40 Min)	293
The Gold of Venice (52 Min.)	294
Salt marsh treasures (43 min.)	295
The Stable Meadows of the Mincio Valley (43 min.)	296

