and its hinterland
A bespoke tour for explorers of beauty

Itineraries and enchantment in the secret places of a land to be discovered
the itinerary
Enchanted Matera

Matera, a captivating tapestry of beauty and contradiction. Matera is home to those cave dwellings called the “Sassi”, UNESCO World Heritage from 1993, declared European Capital of Culture 2019 and now one of Italy’s most fascinating icons, known the world over.

“I set out at last to find the town. A little beyond the station I found a street with a row of houses on one side and on the other a deep gully. In the gully lay Matera. The gully had a strange shape: it was formed by two half-funnels, side by side, separated by a narrow spur and meeting at the bottom, where I could see a white church, Santa Maria de Idris, which looked half-sunk in the ground. The two funnels, I learned, were called Sasso Caveoso and Sasso Barisano. They were like a schoolboy’s idea of Dante’s Inferno. And, like Dante,
I too began to go down from circle to circle, by a sort of mule path leading to the bottom. The narrow path wound its way down and around, passing over the roofs of the houses, if houses they could be called. When I lifted my eyes to see the way I had come, I at last
Matera, a captivating 

saw the whole of Matera, in the form of a slanting wall. The town is indeed a beautiful one, picturesque and striking.” (Passage of “Christ Stopped at Eboli: The Story of a Year”, Copyright 1947, by Farrar, Straus and Company). Matera is home to those cave dwellings called the “Sassi”, declared a UNESCO World Heritage in 1993, and now one of Italy’s most fascinating icons, known the world over. In this city contrasts reign supreme, a captivating ode to beauty, a tangle of cave-houses, Baroque buildings and stunning churches hewn

Museo Archeologico Nazionale Domenico Ridola

There is proof of human presence in the Matera area since the Palaeolithic age, shown by finds in many locations around the city, including the underlying Grotta dei Pipistrelli and the Grotta Funeraria, both caves located in the heart of the Parco della Murgia. The pioneer of this paleontological research was Domenico Ridola, a physician by profession and an amateur archaeologist. The Museo Archeologico Nazionale, illustrating the history of Matera and its region from prehistory to the Middle Ages, is named after him. The exhibits in the museum include two inspired reconstructions: a cave decorated with graffiti and wall paintings dating from the Palaeolithic age, and a Neolithic hut.
into the rock. Murgia’s biblical landscapes unfold all around, the villages rich in history. The city’s lovely natural surroundings have attracted internationally renowned filmmakers seeking a mystical or oriental feel, and films like King David with Richard Gere (1985), Mel Gibson’s Passion of Christ (2004), Catherine Hardwicke’s The Nativity Story (2006), Cyrus Nowrasten’s Christ the lord (2015) and Timur Bekmambetov’s Ben-Hur (2016) were produced in Matera. The directors found its landscapes perfect for building sets of ancient Galilee and alongside works by figures like Rossellini and Tornatore, it is also worth mentioning Pier Paolo Pasolini’s The Gospel According to Matthew (1964). The great intellectual chose Matera to film several scenes of his memorable masterpiece that “showed the world how a life of Christ should be made, and it is a magnificent achievement, far superior to Scorsese’s or Gibson’s films”, says Philip French of The Guardian. Talking about these places, Pasolini said “for me the spiritual means aesthetic. Not the religious. My idea that the smaller and humbler things are, the greater and more beautiful they are in...
their poverty, was given an aesthetic jolt. A further confirmation”.

The city spans two natural amphitheatres, the Sasso Caveoso and the Sasso Barisano, at whose centre lies the lovely Civita spur, the oldest part of town. Beneath a warren of houses, churches and belfries there is a buzzing underground city of tunnels, cisterns to collect water, and rock churches with magnificent frescoed masterpieces of Latin and Byzantine inspiration. These include Santa Lucia alle Malve frescoed with paintings dating from the 12th–13th century, depicting the Virgin Mary and various saints. Not far away is the Convicinio di Sant’Antonio, carved into the rock in the 14th–15th century, encompassing four magnificently frescoed cave churches that open onto a shared court: San Primo, L’Annunziata, Sant’Antonio Abate, and San Donato, the latter being the most impressive with large pillars that support cross vaults and domed ceilings carved from the tufa, applying the method of digging into the solid, a system used for all underground architecture.
Here, in the Rione delle Malve district, typical dwellings often have only one room and a single entrance, opening onto a common court with a well for drawing water at the centre. This nook of the city offers one of the most spectacular views across the Sasso Caveoso.

The rock churches of San Nicola dei Greci, with its beautiful 13th-century frescoes, and Madonna delle Virtù dating back to the 11th-12th century, are found in the Sasso Barisano.

Basilian monasteries, the fulcrum of the religious and rural life of the past

The followers of Saint Basil, the Bishop of Caesarea and Cappadocia, arrived in Southern Italy from the 6th century, fleeing from iconoclastic persecutions. They brought with them Greek religious rites and a community life that revolved around the underground caves, of which the largest was used as a church while the more cramped spaces became poor refuges where the monks lived in contemplation and mortification of the flesh, or stored food supplies there. Gradually, digging into the rock between Matera and Montescaglioso, they created churches and crypts decorated with a multitude of Byzantine frescoes that conjure up a world of spirituality, saints and anchorites, attracting a population of believers, whose time was spent in prayer and work in the fields, and driving not only religious activities but also the cultivation and processing of the fruits of the Earth.
district and are home to the interesting exhibitions regularly organized by “La Scaletta” cultural circle.

The city vaunts many other underground churches worthy of note, including San Giorgio al Paradiso, Santa Barbara (with its trapezoidal floor plan and 13th-14th-century frescoes), Santa Maria De Armenis, San Pietro Caveoso and Madonna de Idris. The entrance to all the churches is via a tunnel in the crypt of San Giovanni in Monterrone (10th century), with
Murgia’s tufa caves were used as refuges in centuries past by many monks, who left splendid fresco decorations.

beautiful frescoes and used first as a baptistery then as a burial place.

From the exterior there is another lovely view of the Sassi houses, the architecture of the Civita, with the slender silhouette of the cathedral belfry in the background and, below, the Piano district with its Baroque buildings. The underground artistic gems, in contrast, are surrounded by the poverty of the hundreds of buildings of just a few square metres that for many years were home to livestock and large families. A visit to the Museo della Civiltà Contadina will provide a clear idea of the lives led by Matera’s rural population. The museum is housed in one of these dwellings, dating back to the 1700s, and expertly restored for displays of a kitchen, the cistern for collecting rainwater, a stable and a manger, with furnishings and tools of the time. The cave-houses of Casalnuovo and Vico Solitario are also open to the public. The Cathedral, built between 1230 and 1270, soars with majesty in the Civita quarter. This masterpiece of Romanesque architecture, its façade dominated by a splendid rose window.

DISCOVERING UNDERGROUND
In the Parco della Murgia there are 150 rock churches with artistic treasures to explore.
with sixteen rays, has a nave and two aisles. The stunning Last Judgement still to be seen inside is the only surviving fragment of the original Medieval pictorial composition, attributed to Rinaldo da Taranto. Also worthy of note are the 13th-century fresco of the Madonna della Bruna, the patron of a charming folk festival held each 2 July; a beautiful wooden choir dated 1453; the sarcophagus containing the remains of Saint John of Matera, born in the Sassi city in around 1070; an exquisite Nativity by Altobello Persio and Sannazaro of Alessano, dated 1534; other canvases, frescoes and sculptures of great value.

From here it is only a stone’s throw to the church of San Francesco d’Assisi, whose façade mimics Lecce Baroque albeit in a more understated style. The building was erected over the ancient frescoed rock church of Santi Pietro e Paolo, which can still be visited. Matera is to be savoured slowly, wandering the narrow lanes and the steps of the Sassi’s most secret corners, with incredible views over the buildings and the fascinating Murgia landscapes.
or exploring the city squares and elegant Baroque avenue of Piano, peppered with splendid architecture. Here we find the Purgatorio church, with its truly unique façade dedicated to the theme of death, decorated with bones and skulls, and the Romanesque church of San Giovanni Battista. Not to mention San Domenico, with its Romanesque façade and magical Rosario chapel; the Materdomini church, founded by the Knights of Malta at the end of the 17th century over the existing Santo Spirito rock church; and Santa Chiara with the adjoining monastery now converted to house the Museo Archeologico Nazionale Domenico Ridola, an archaeological museum and treasure trove of valuable Musma, a jewel of contemporary sculpture

The Museo della Scultura Contemporanea di Matera (MUSMA), in Via San Giacomo, is housed in Palazzo Pomarici, one of the city's most significant buildings, which is also known as the “palazzo with 100 rooms”. In the heart of the Sasso Caveoso, this is the only “cave museum” in the world, and here it is possible to experience a perfect symbiosis between the sculptures and some of the most characteristic places carved into Matera’s Sassi. More than 1,000 square metres of enchanting underground chambers carved into the rock and exhibiting over 400 works by Italian and international artists, including sculptures, pottery, jewellery, multiples, medals, drawings, engravings, and art books. It is a rich collection that highlights the national and international research into artistic expression from the late 1800s to the present. An annex to the museum is home to the Biblioteca Scheiwiller, a library housing over 3,000 monographs and catalogues.
artefacts from the Palaeolithic to the Medieval period. Last, but not least, there are a considerable number of mansions, including Palazzo Sedile, Palazzo Bronzini, Palazzo Alvino, Palazzo Enselmi and, above all, Palazzo Lanfranchi, the city's highest expression of Baroque architecture, with its beautiful asymmetrical façade. It is home to the Museo Nazionale d’Arte Medievale e Moderna della Basilicata, a regional museum with a rich section of 300 paintings of the Neapolitan school in the D’Errico Collection, spanning the 16th-18th-centuries. Also

LEFT: The façade of the church of San Francesco is an understated homage to Lecce Baroque.
worthy of note are works by Carlo Levi, one of whose most famous canvases is Lucania 61, a celebration of the rural world, and by Luigi Guerricchio. Piazzetta Pascoli offers another of the many spectacular views of the Sassi and, at sunset, when the pale stones are imbued with a thousand shades of pink and orange, the city transforms into a giant Nativity scene, a tribute to pure beauty.

Nearby – and certainly not to be missed – are the cisterns and tunnels that brought water into the city, making up a sophisticated complex called La raccolta delle acque, and the attached rock church of Purgatorio Vecchio. Lastly, Tramontano castle (whose construction began in the early 16th century but was never completed because of the 1515 conspiracy that led to the death of Count Giorgio Tramontano, the patron of the work) and Piazza Vittorio Veneto, the city’s nerve centre, meeting place and promenade. The square is found on the Fondaco di Mezzo, the city’s old layer, partly open to the public with its...
areas below ground extending for more than 5,000 square metres and including cisterns, shops, warehouses and homes in an authentic underground city. Piazza Vittorio Veneto is the starting point for contemporary architecture lovers to explore the experimental urban districts built in the 1950-60s, in the southwest of the city, to provide accommodation for the 16,000 inhabitants who were legally obliged to leave their Sassi homes over a period of time. Some of the leading names of architecture of the time were involved in the design for experimenting cutting-edge urban planning and architectural solutions. The Serra Venerdì, La Nera, Spine Bianche districts, and the farming village of La Martella, a few kilometres from the city, are still quoted in many sector textbooks today.
SANT’AGOSTINO
The church is part of the eponymous convent built on a rock spur between the 16th and 17th centuries.

ABOVE: Tramontano castle whose construction was never completed because of the 1515 conspiracy.

PALAZZO LANFRANCHI,
the city’s highest expression of Baroque architecture and home to the Museo Nazionale d’Arte Medievale e Moderna della Basilicata.

SANT’AGOSTINO
The church is part of the eponymous convent built on a rock spur between the 16th and 17th centuries.
Madonna della Bruna, a popular celebration

Dedicated to the patron of Matera and celebrated every year on 2 July by a rejoicing crowd that teems all over the City of the Sassi. The celebration, dating back to 1389, begins at first light of dawn with the “shepherd procession” and continues in the afternoon with the cortège that carries the effigy of the Virgin Mary through the city streets on a ceremonial wagon pulled by mules bedecked in fine harness. The statue, a magnificent artwork decorated with scenes and papier-mâché sculptures inspired by biblical episodes, is created by local artisans whose craft is handed down from one generation to the next. In the evening, the wagon is literally assailed and destroyed by the jubilant crowd, each individual always eager to take home a tiny piece of this lavish artistic creation (which will then be built anew, to a different design, the following year) as a talisman that protects and brings good luck. Info: www.festadellabruna.it.

The “Casa di Ortega” – Museum of Applied Arts

The “Casa di Ortega” has a dual aim: to document the presence in Matera of the great Spanish artist, José Ortega, but also to encourage the revival and promotion of local craft traditions. The intervention seeks to perform an exemplary restoration of a large complex, located in the Sasso Barisano, which will become a museum space and an area for the creation, display and promotion of quality crafted products. The “Casa di Ortega” will be home to the works produced by the Spanish painter in the 1970s, during his time in Matera, later entrusted by him to his friends of the La Scaletta association. The corpus includes 20 multicoloured, papier-mâché bas reliefs and the relative gesso moulds that make up the narrative series Muerte y Nacimiento and Pasaron. It is precisely these pictorial productions that constitute the leitmotif of the project, which seeks to emphasize the importance of the bond between craft and art. Indeed, Ortega used typical Matera hand-crafting techniques and materials, channelling his artistic inspiration through the town's most popular and quintessential artisanal product: papier-mâché.
From **cave-houses** to the magnificent Baroque architecture

**PIAZZA V. VENETO**
The nerve centre of the city and one of the most popular places to meet and stroll in Matera.

**A CITY UNDER THE CITY**
The square opens over the Fondaco di Mezzo, the city’s old level containing a complete underground town.
The Parco della Murgia is a stunning gem of rock churches and nature.

Having visited the treasures of Matera’s artworks, visitors may like to begin another journey, setting off from the Belvedere di Murgia Timone to explore archaeology, art and unspoiled nature in the Parco Regionale Archeologico Storico Naturale delle Chiese Rupestri del Materano, also known as the Parco della Murgia. The park covers 8,000 hectares in the municipalities of Matera and Montescaglioso, with distinctive tall cliffs, waterfalls (like the Jurio), trails around rare flora (including ancient species), ravines and natural caves used by humans since prehistoric times (for example, the Grotta dei pipistrelli), a wealth of dozens and dozens of settlements, like Villaggio Saraceno, and rock churches (150, no less!). These include the striking Cripta del Peccato Originale, also known as the Grotta dei Cento Santi, with its superb 9th-century frescoes depicting episodes from Genesis.
One of the most significant pieces of Italian wall art.

**ABOVE:** Close-up of the Grotta del Sole rock church.

**BELOW:** The underground church of Madonna degli Angeli, with splendid multicoloured frescoes.
Between forests and caves

Grottole The name of the village derives from “grotticelle”, the rooms where local artisans still make clay vases and jugs. Worth visiting are the remains of the Lombard castle built in 851 AD; the church of Santa Maria la Grotta, renamed San Rocco in the 16th century; the 17th-century mother church and the evocative ruins of the church of Santi Luca e Giuliano, called “Diruta” begun in 1300 and never completed. Grassano In Grassano there are mansions worth seeing that include the 16th-century Palazzo Municipale and Palazzo Materi, as well as the mother church of San Giovanni Battista (17th century). Pomarico The hinterland of Pomarico, with its olive groves, vineyards and orchards, has brought forth important archaeological relics of the Graeco-Hellenistic age. Worth visiting are the 18th-century Palazzo Marchesale and the Baroque churches of San Michele, San Rocco and Sant’Antonio da Padova. Nearby, nature lovers will enjoy the 500-hectare woodlands of the Bosco della Manferrata, the perfect habitat for different animal species, including the woodpecker.
Matera and its hinterland are waiting to be discovered.

RARE AVIFAUNA
The lesser kestrel is the smallest and rarest of Europe’s raptors but it has chosen to live in Murgia.

PARCO DELLA MURGIA
MONTESCAGLIOSO
MIGLIONICO IRSINA GRASSANO POMARICO GROTTOLE
Montescaglioso, with its artworks, is one of Lucania’s masterpieces.

Another of Lucania’s artistic masterpieces lies just beyond the park boundaries: the Abbey of San Michele Arcangelo, in Montescaglioso, founded by the Benedictines in the 11th century, then enlarged and restored in a splendid Renaissance style. Inside, the cloisters cross paths with porches, cells, water collection systems, as well as a chapter room and library with magnificent frescoes dating to the 17th century, some attributed to Girolamo Todisco and his school.

Within walking distance are the monastery of Sant’Agostino (15th century), the Capuchin Convent (17th century) and the SS Concezione monastery (18th century), as well as several churches scattered around the old centre, whose highest point offers a magnificent view of the Bradano Valley and, in the distance, the Gulf of Taranto. The churches include the Renaissance Santo Stefano e Santa Maria in Platea, founded in 1065 and thus the oldest church in Montescaglioso, frescoed with Renaissance and Baroque paintings; the Annunziata, annexed to
The Carnival of Montescaglioso, linked to the rural world and the fertility of the land.

Exterior of the abbey, founded by the Benedictines from the 11th century.

Aerial view of Montescaglioso.

The Abbey of San Michele Arcangelo, in Montescaglioso.

the town’s old leper hospital, dating to the 16th century; San Rocco, also from the 1500s, and the 18th-century mother church of Santi Pietro e Paolo, which vaunts four canvases by Mattia Preti and a mighty belfry whose 45 metres of height dominate the whole town. Near the town, whose original nucleus
San Giuliano is an outright paradise for birdwatchers.

The Murgia Natural Park

The Parco della Murgia Materana is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site situated within the dramatic gorge known as Murgia of Matera, an area that extends for about 8,000 hectares between Matera and the town of Montescaglioso. The park consists of over 150 rock churches and includes the Sassi district of Matera; it also offers an incredible view of the Sassi district from the park.

SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

Just 10 km from Matera, a leading Spatial Geodesic Centre.

LEFT:
The rugged Murgia landscape.

LARGE PHOTO:
The charming contrasting colours of the San Giuliano WWF Oasis.

BASILICATA

Matera and its hinterland

dates back to the 8th century BC, documented by numerous archaeological findings, there are hundreds of typical cellars dug in the tufa to store wine. The nearby rock churches, located in the Murgia Park, date back to the 10th-11th century.

NATURAL OASIS

Species nesting in the reserve include heron, black-winged stilt, cormorant, Eurasian widgeon, Eurasian coot and many others.
San Giuliano is an outright paradise for birdwatchers.

MIGLIONICO
Malconsiglio Castle dominates the town, its compact shape broken by seven mighty towers, and its foundation documented in Lombard times. Inside, the echoes of the dark and gory atmosphere of the famous conspiracy of the barons, perpetrated against Ferdinand I of Aragon in 1485, which ended in the death of the conspirators. The historic event can now be experienced in person by visitors through an interactive multimedia narrative.

From the cliff on which the town is built, the magnificent vista reigns supreme over pale hills, broken only by a few clearings and the intense blue of the San Giuliano dam, lingering in the distance. Soaring over the rooftops of the old town, the Renaissance belfry of the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, built from the end of the 14th century and decorated with interesting bas-reliefs. Inside, the beautiful
Miglionico and Irsina treasure masterpieces of art and architecture

Polyptych of 18 panels is a masterpiece created by the Veneto master Cima da Conegliano in 1499. There is also a striking wooden carving of the Virgin Enthroned with Child and San Giovanni Battista (16th century).

IRSINA: WELCOME HOME!
Leaving Miglionico and crossing great expanses of wheat, Lucania’s next artistic masterpiece is Irsina, an important religious and cultural town in the Middle Ages and in the Renaissance, and chosen by many English families as their second home. Clear proof of its significance is its Cathedral, whose original nucleus dates back to the 13th century, dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption. The church is incorporated into the urban walls, appearing almost as a fortress, and its Baroque façade opens into a charming interior, a treasure trove of precious paintings by the Neapolitan school and unique works of their kind that make up the Donazione De Mabilia, from the surname of the Irsina prelate and rector of the Church of Padua, who gifted it to the city in the mid-15th century. The donation includes
a stone sculpture in the round depicting Saint Euphemia and attributed to Andrea Mantegna, exhibited in 2008 at the Louvre Museum in Paris for an exhibition dedicated to the Padua artist. The crypt of the church of San Francesco, set inside a square Norman tower, boasts a valuable 14th-century fresco cycle. The premises of the former convent are now home to the Janora archaeological museum. Outside the urban walls there are equally interesting underground
Life in the Sassi cave-houses

“In these dark holes with walls cut out of the earth I saw a few pieces of miserable furniture, beds, and some ragged clothes hanging up to dry. On the floor lay dogs, sheep, goats, and pigs. Most families have just one cave to live in and there they sleep all together; men, women, children, and animals.”

(Passage of “Christ Stopped at Eboli: The Story of a Year”, Copyright 1947, by Farrar, Straus and Company)

The Sassi, originally an urban marvel with a drainage system and cisterns, orchards and hanging gardens, with a constant cave temperature of 15 °C guaranteed by the tufa, formed a “healthy and well-protected” city, wrote the chronicler Eustachio Verricelli in 1595. All this was destroyed in the 1600s, following the urban and social crisis linked to modernization that overturned the small agricultural-pastoral economy in favour of large estates. In 1663, Matera became the provincial capital and home to the Regia Udienza Provinciale, a local court of appeal that brought great development but also excessive population growth. Buildings sprang up everywhere, while vegetable and flower gardens were supplanted by multiple storeys and barns, and cisterns became cave-houses for the poorest families. The city was defined a “national disgrace” by Alcide De Gasperi, the prime minister who ordered it to be cleared in 1952 by a national decree. The Sassi and cave-houses are part of a heritage that should not be forgotten, an important episode of Southern Italy’s rural identity and now a proud legacy of the entire nation.

How to get here
Arriving along the Adriatic coast, Matera and its hinterland can be reached on the A14 motorway, leaving at the Bari Nord exit (about 60 km from Bari Airport) and taking the SS96 highway to Altamura, then proceeding on the SS99 highway to Matera. From the Tyrrhenian coast, leave the A3 Salerno-Reggio Calabria motorway at the Sicignano exit. From here, take the E847 to Potenza, then proceed on the SS407 Basentana for Metaponto as far as the Matera exit.

Eventi e tradizioni
Matera’s calendar of events is a busy one:

Gezziamoci with great names of jazz, in July and August
Onyx Jazz Club
via Cavalieri di V. Veneto, 20
Tel.: +39 331 4711589
www.onyxjazzclub.it
info@onyxjazzclub.it

Women’s Fiction Festival dedicated to female fiction writers
http://www.womensfictionfestival.com/

Festival Duni, where music rules, generally from mid-July to early August

Estate a Matera, with mesmerizing entertainment
(Info: APT – Tourism Promotion Authority, 0835/33.19.83)

Montescaglioso Carnival
With propitiatory symbols and cowbells to drive away sickness and evoke the return of the flocks.
You can’t live on bread alone...
Matera IGP bread, famous for its unique flavour, comes in a loaf whose outline resembles the Murgia landscape. It is made using only Lucania remilled durum wheat flour, and slow leavening and baking ensure the bread is easy to digest and has a shelf life of over two weeks. Wines are also excellent here, including the Matera DOC labels, as are the oil obtained from the majatica olive (80% of arable land here is planted to olives), mushrooms, fresh pasta, cured meats, and cheeses.

Giuliana, the thousand year-old whale
The shores of Lake San Giuliano brought to light the remains of an ancient whale, affectionately named Giuliana. The fossil dates back more than one million years, to the Pli-Pleistocene period, when the whole area was covered by the sea. It will be exhibited at the Museo Naturalistico, soon to be opened inside the San Giuliano oasis (www.oasisangiuliano.com), and represents an incredible discovery because the 15-metre skeleton is almost intact.

Comparing past and future
Many artisanal trades of the past can still be found in the Matera area. These include production of pottery and papier-mâché, and the terracotta whistles made here are very typical. Nonetheless, the province of Matera looks to the future with scientific research in various areas, including the Italian Space Agency’s Centro di Geodesia Spaziale, one of the leading sector structures in Southern Italy, with remote-sensing and geodynamics activities.

Casa Noha a journey into the soul of Matera
Casa Noha, recently opened thanks to the FAI (Italian Environmental Foundation) and located in the heart of the Civita district, a stone’s throw from the Cathedral, is a unique experience, not to be missed by those visiting Matera. A multimedia narrative uses the tufa walls of this ancient stately home to tell the story of the city, from prehistory to the present day, from a number of perspectives from architecture to art history, archaeology and the history of cinema.

Commendams and knights
The Matera area, like others in the region, was a route used by the Crusaders and timeless stamps were left by these orders of chivalry. Grassano was founded by the Knights of Malta and its commendam was the richest in Basilicata, with no less than 19 granges under its authority. Worthy of note are the special underground church-wine cellars known as “cinti”, bearing knightly symbols, like the Madonna di Picciano sanctuary in Matera.
“In truth, Basilicata’s low profile makes it appealing for anyone searching for rural Italy’s most cherished qualities: unspoilt countryside, a crystalline sea, ancient ruins, medieval towns, vineyards, mountains and an enviable cuisine.”

(Emily Backus, Financial Times)
MATERA AT A GLANCE

Rock churches in the Sasso Caveoso
Santa Lucia alle Malve
Convicinio di Sant’Antonio
Santa Barbara
Santa Maria de Armenis
San Pietro Caveoso
Madonna de Idris
San Giovanni in Monterrone

Cave-houses in the Sasso Caveoso
Cave-house of Casalnuovo,
Rione Casalnuovo,
Tel.: +39 0835 31 41 39
www.casagrottamatera.com

Cave-house of Vico Solitario
Vico Solitario 11,
Tel.: +39 0835 31 01 18
www.casagrotta.it

Rock churches in the Sasso Barisano
San Nicola dei Greci
Madonna delle Virtù
San Giovanni al Paradiso

Museums
Museo Nazionale d’Arte Medievale e Moderna della Basilicata
Piazza Giovanni Pascoli, 1
Palazzo Lanfranchi
Tel.: +39 0835 25 62 11

Museo Ridola
Via Ridola, 24
Tel.: +39 0835 31 00 58

Museo della Scultura Contemporanea (MUSMA)
Via San Giacomo
Tel.: +39 0835 330582 or +39 366 9357768
www.musma.it

Museo della civiltà contadina
Via San Giovanni Vecchio, 60
Tel.: +39 0835 34 40 57
www.museolaboratorio.it

La casa di Ortega
Via San Nicola del Sole, 5 (Sasso Barisano)
For information, please contact:
- Fondazione Zetema Tel.: +39 0835 33 05 82
- Cooperativa Synchronos Tel.: +39 366 93 57 768

Casa Noha
Recinto Cavone 9, Matera
Tel.: +39 0835 335452 - Fax: +39 0835 330987
E-mail: fainoha@fondoambiente.it
Basilicata
bella scoperta
Agenzia di Promozione Territoriale della Basilicata

Potenza
Via del Gallitello, 89 - Tel.: +39 0971 507611

Matera
Via De Viti De Marco, 9 - Tel.: +39 0835 331983

www/aptbasilicata.it
www.basilicataturistica.com