

We are Italian Americans

Our roots are deep in Sassinoro, Italy, an ancient soil drenched by the Mediterranean sun and watered by streams.

We are enriched by thousands of years of culture. Our hands are those Of all our forefathers; butchers, masons, artists, and farmers the men and women of the soil. Our thoughts have been recorded in the annals of Rome, the poetry of Virgil, the creations of Dante and the philosophy of Benedetto Croce.

The Petrocco's are Italian Americans and we take our place with Cristoforo Colombo who first spanned the seas to the new world; with Giovanni Caboto, known in American history as John Cabot, discoverer of the mainland of North America; Amerigo Vespucci, who gave our name to the new world, America.

First to sail on the Great Lakes in 1679, founder of the territory that became the state of Illinois, colonizer of Louisiana and Arkansas we are Enrico Tonti; with Filippo Mazzei, friend of Thomas Jefferson whose thesis on the equality of man was written in the Bill of Rights; with William Paca, signer of the Declaration of Independence; with Constantino Brumidi who is called the Michelangelo of America for creating the Dome on the U. S. Capitol. We are the million strong who served in America's armies and the tens of thousands whose names are enshrined in military cemeteries from Guadalcanal to the Rhine.

We are Americans without stint or reservation, loving this land as only one who understands history, its agonies and its triumphs can love it and serve it. We will not be told that our contributions is any less nor my role not as worthy as that of any other American. We stand in support of this nation's freedom and promise against all foes.

Our heritage has dedicated us to this nation. We are proud of our full heritage, and we shall remain worthy of it.

WE ARE ITALIAN AMERICANS



Our Italian Home Towns Regione Campania

Regione Campania

On the Tyrrhenian Sea between the Garigliano (Lower Liri) River and the Golfo di Policastro, the regione Campania comprises the provinces of Avellino, Benevento, Caserta, Napoli and Salerno.

It was from this region that our Caravaglia / Tenerello lines left for Sicily at the beginning of the 19th century. As far as we can tell, the family arose in Avellino, even though the Tenerello line appears today to be more common in Caserta.

Campania is a mountainous region, the Appenino Napoletano in the extreme east giving way to the slightly lower upland of the Metese and Monti Picentini, with the Cilento mountain area extending to the coast in the south. The coastal lowlands north of Naples (the Volturno River basin and the Terra di Lavoro) and south of Salerno (the plain of the lower Sele River) are separated by the volcanic regions around the Bay of Naples - the Campi Flegrei and Vesuvius - and by the Monti Lattari, stretching inland from the Sorrento peninsula.



Ancient Campania, although its boundaries were extended several times, was smaller than the present region. Early settled by Greek colonists and the Etruscans, the region was dominated by the city of Capua after its foundation in the 6th century BC. Campani, the Roman name for the inhabitants of Capua and later those of the Campanian plain, is actually pre-Roman and appears in inscriptions in Oscan on coins struck for the Samnites, the conquerors of Campania in the late 5th century. Samnite Capua became an ally of Rome, then a colony, and finally a Region of the Roman Empire.

After the fall of Rome, Campania was occupied successively by the Goths, Byzantines and Lombards. Conquered by the Normans in the 11th century AD and incorporated in the Kingdom of Sicily a century later, it became part of the Kingdom of Naples after the Sicilian Vespers in 1282. It became part of a unified Italy in 1860.

Today, the regional capital is the city of Naples (Greek Neapolis), which remains dominated by the shadow of the great volcano Vesuvius.

See the Genealogy of...



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The Campania Region

Campania is the administrative region for southern Italy and is located on the Tyrrhenian Sea, between Lazio and Basilicate, comprising the provinces of Avellino, Benevento, Caserta, Napoli (the capitol) and Salerno. The islands of Capri and Ischia, located in the Bay of Napoli are also part of this region.

The very fertile coastal plain is thickly populated and produces vegetables, citrus fruit, oats, tobacco, olives and wine grapes. Industries include raising livestock, oil refining, fishing, canning, lumbering, shipbuilding, glass making, tanning, ceramics, chemicals, machinery, textiles, steel and iron.

Over the centuries Campania was dominated by many ethnic groups. First the Greek around 1030 BC, the Samnites around 420 BC and the Romans around 340 BC. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, Campania was occupied successively by Goths, Byzantines, Lombards and Normans. Finally, the region was incorporated in the Kingdom of Napoli and united with the Kingdom of Italy in 1861.

During the World War II invasion of Italy, by Allied Forces, Campania suffered extensive damage.

Origin Of The Name

The area around Capua at the time of the Romans was called Agro Capuano, that subsequently became Agro Campano and then Campania.

Climate

The climate in the coastal regions, in the lowlands and in the islands is incredibly mild. In the mountain areas, despite the abundant winter snowfalls, the climate is rather nice.



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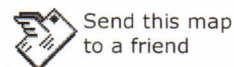
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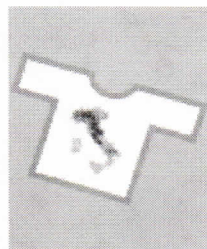
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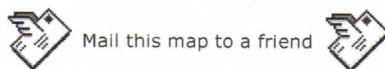


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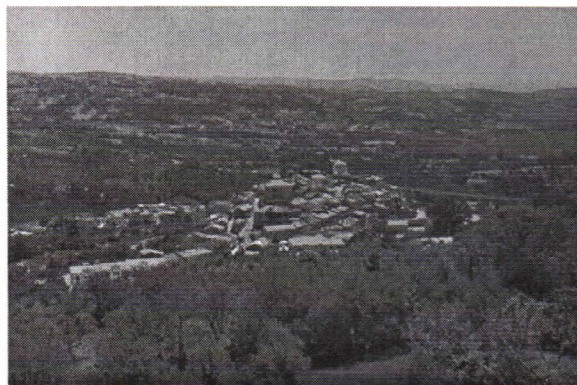
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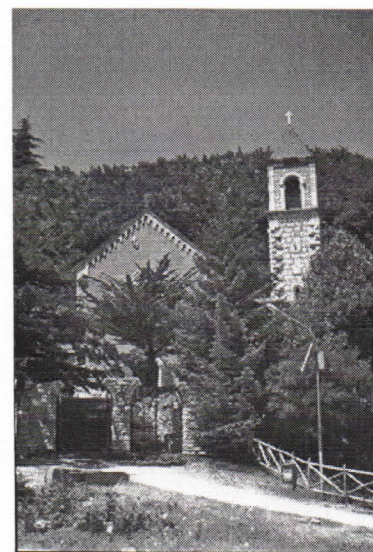
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Sassinoro



The name of the town derives from a stone on which Pope Onorio rested. Infact on the portal of the old baroni palace there was the inscription "sax Onorii". This region dates back to ancient times and is confirmed by many remains of the prehistoric period.

Sassinoro belonged to the Abbey of S. Sofia in the year 1000. The possession was confirmed by Conrad the second, emperor of Germany and king of Italy in 1027. The town belonged to the De Capoa's, Counts of Altavilla, until the 1566. It subsequently passed to the Carafa's. In 1608 it was sold to Giovan Vincenzo Allegretti.



St. Lucia Sanctuary, 18th century.
According to legend it was around the

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natural grotto, flocks of sheep disappear
The shepherds, following their sheep
reached the grotto where St. Lucia and S
Michele the Archangel appeared to them

The town passed to the Mazzacane o
Cerreto in 1651. It was held by
Orazio Mondelli in 1766. It was
inherited by his son Francesco. The
Mondello family held it until the end
of feudalesim. Sassinoro was
annexed to the province of Benevent
in 1861.

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