

Pizzo is so amazing.

On Sunday 8 January, just when we thought the whole Christmas holidays/ festivities were over, we were invited to the church of San Sebastiano. It is a smallish church up the hill from San Francesco, or downhill down a little street called S. Sebastiano from Via Nazionale whichever way you want. Incidentally there is a little wine shop near the church which sells local wine. San Francesco, I was told, is a mother church while this little church is not. I don't really understand the differences, not being catholic. San Sebastiano is run by a lay brotherhood (Confraternanza). The church is beautifully decorated and well maintained, apart from the Christmas decorations which were still up. The cave and manger scene or nativity (presepe), was huge and apparently professionally or lovingly done. We arrived a little late and sat down while someone was doing the introduction to the festivities which consisted of an evening of musical items. The musical items were often pieces composed by local maestros and played by local musicians. The choir was made up of the members of the church and sounded delightful except that I could not understand a word- all in the local dialect. The music often had a lullaby effect and I was later told that it was typical and that this rocking music reminding of the baby Jesus. One felt like humming the choruses and some in the audience were so carried away as to join in the singing as well. The conductor played a pedal organ from the late 1800. The sound was amazing considering the age of the instrument so one can assume that it is lovingly cared for. The organist had to halt a little now and then because of the exertion caused by the constant pedalling and he would add little particulars regarding the pieces or the composers and tradition. One of the composers was invited to the front and given a special gift of the libretto used for the evening. The weather added sounds of thunder to add to the festivities. After that we were all invited to join in a reception in the sacristy where Pandoro squares were served covered in chocolate, Prosecco and Espresso. We only knew the person who invited us and he was busy greeting everyone so we went home walking up the hill with water coursing down but fortunately the rain had stopped.



The IMU—The new property tax reformed.
 Previously the ICI tax was the local tax paid on a second home here in Italy.

There has been a few changes here in Italy for owners of property with the introduction of the new property tax called IMU.

The IMU is the replacement for the ICI which all owners of second home will have been paying. In a nutshell it is the version of council tax or property tax. First homes were exempt under the law by the previous administration but now they are not. The rates are said to be increasing from a basic rate up to a maximum of 0.5% on the cadastral income (the basic rate of 0.4 could be increased up to 0.6) but it is not inconceivable that they will go higher. Each point increase is worth more than 15 million euros to the government. On second homes the governments proposal is to maintain the basic rate provided of 0.76% on houses that are rented with negotiated rents, license fees will be certified by the associations of owners and tenants. The real blow is for all second homes rented out to the open market or kept vacant even if the junta did not quantify the increase which will go to 1,06%. The councils will not turn increase property tax rates of production activities.

There will be an estimated 50 million increases across the board so a nice little earner for the government.

Property taxes in Italy are some of the lowest anywhere in Europe with an average property costing as little as € 100.00 per annum. This in comparison to the UK where the same property will cost approximately € 700.00 per annum.

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Property In Pizzo



Happy new year;it's the year of the dragon and that is good for me. What's new? The XPAT CALABRIA organisation has been around for a couple of months now we have had 2 meetings although the lack of fuel affected the amount of people that could actually make it. There is also a new community hall on the nazionale just by the AGIP garage, signed Moreonitos. Somewhere different to go and intergrate into the local culture. Check inside the paper for dates and events. Lorraine



Greetings and happy new year. Once we have got past this chilly period I will be happier but can't complain really as the sun is still shining and there are even people swimming in the sea, mad foreigners obviously... this year looks good as far as visitors are concerned as the rental market seem to have gathered interest from all over the world from as far as Australia and from as close to home as Catanzaro which shows that everyone wants to come down to the sunny side of Italy. We have had some fun with lack of petrol over the last week but it all seem behind us now. Paul



Winter is well and truly here officially. However, the days without rain and wind are splendid and as one Pizzitano said, the sun definitely improves the mood. We are fortunate to have some lovely sunny days even when the nights are decidedly chilly.Christmas and New Year has come and gone so to the start of many new things. We wish all a very prosperous new year. Elizabeth

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MARKET DAYS

The market usually opens by 8am and closes 1pm / 1.30pm

Pizzo : Thursday , off the top road in Pizzo

Vibo Valentia : Tuesday and Saturday, pedestrian high street and back streets

Filadelfia : Thursday in the main Piazza

Lamezia : Saturday , by the train station

Vibo Marina : Monday , in the old station yard

All the markets sell local home grown fruit and vegetables, wine, cheeses, meats and breads.

Various clothing, household goods, knick knacks, orniments and the stuff you usually find at markets.

Visiting a market is always a great adventure, there is always a bargain to be had.Don't forget, barter !!!
Happy shopping.



New website from Calabrian Services of Pizzo for owners of Pizzo Beach Club in Calabria.

Find property management
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Italian citrus fruit production to go up

Marketing year 2011/2012 Italian citrus fruit production is forecast to reach 3.6 MMT, up 11 percent from the previous year. This forecast anticipates a 16-percent increase in orange production to 2.3 MMT, a 7-percent increase in lemons, and little increase (3 percent) in the production of easy peelers.



Citrus is largely cultivated in southern Italy (Sicily, Calabria, Apulia, Basilicata, Sardinia, Campania) and to a minor extent in some areas of few central (Tuscany and Latium) and northern (Liguria) Italy.

During the last 10 years, total citrus area has slightly declined mainly due to farmers abandoning the orchards or replacing citrus with more profitable crops, particularly in Sicily.

Even so, there has been an increase in clementines area, little change in grapefruit area, and a decrease in other species.



Christmas In Calabria

-Readers story-

Back in August 2011 after finally completing our property purchase, we spent one week in our apartment in Calabria.

It had been a roller coaster process which began in May 2008, when we first discovered the area and decided to buy a property, (but that's another story!).

The decision was made to return at Christmas, as work commitments would not allow us to return sooner.

Fed up with the same old routine of Christmas that seems to start in November, the idea seemed appealing, and so we returned for the two week break.

A pleasant surprise awaited us, apart from the blue sky and sun which seem to shine every day.

Yes, there were signs of Christmas, the decorated trees, fairy lights in some of the windows, but not the gaudy, tacky excess normally seen on some streets in the UK, that look more like Las Vegas than London. The supermarkets seemed normal, and there were no massive queues of trolleys piled high at checkouts. Life seemed to continue as just another day.

The true meaning of Christmas was to be found in most towns and villages.

Large nativity scenes adorned the main streets, beautifully decorated in most cases.

A reminder whether or not you are religious, is that life continues through new life, and there are kind persons who will give you friendship and shelter when needed.

This is so true of the people that we have encountered on our travels to the area, both native Italians and ex pats.

Paul and Lorraine of "Calabrian Services", are a true example of this.

Meeting those two lovely people has been a godsend. Their knowledge, expertise, and helpfulness is invaluable. Nothing is too much trouble for them. I know we, and most of the other people we come into contact with, highly recommend their services.

Christmas day started with a walk along the beach, then off to a restaurant for lunch, not a sprout in sight! I think we could get used to Christmas in Calabria.

Janet and Jo Willmott

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- 12 - Telephone Directory Assistance Number
- 112 - Carabinieri
- 113 - Emergency Police Help Number (also ambulance and fire)
- 115 - Fire Department
- 116 - A.C.I. (Italian Automobile Club) road assistance.
- 118 - Medical Emergencies



Italian cat inherits €10m fortune

Four-year-old stray becomes world's richest feline after death of 94-year-old mistress

Tommaso, a four-year-old, one-time stray from Rome, is thought to have become the world's richest cat.

Since the death of his 94-year-old mistress last month, he has become a property magnate — or perhaps moghate — with flats and houses worth an estimated €10m scattered from Milan in the north to Calabria in the south.

In a handwritten will, signed on 26 November, 2009, Tommaso's mistress — the childless widow of a successful builder — gave her lawyers the task of identifying "the animal welfare body or association to which to leave the inheritance and the task of looking after the cat Tommaso".

One of the lawyers, Anna Orecchioni, told the Rome daily *Il Messaggero* they considered several organisations without getting adequate guarantees of the cat's future comfort and welfare. In the meantime, the old lady met a fellow cat-lover — named only as Stefania — in a park. "Sometimes I'd go to her house so my cat could play with Tommaso," Stefania said.

As the old lady became increasingly frail, Stefania, a nurse, began to take care of her.

"She needed someone to help her move around, shower and eat. I looked after until the end," she said.

Under Italian law, animals cannot inherit directly. But they can be beneficiaries if a suitable trustee is found. The elderly widow decided to entrust the cat — and his fortune — to Stefania.

Tommaso's trustee, who is now looking after him an undisclosed address outside Rome, said: "I had no idea the *signora* had such wealth."

But the fortune pales by comparison with that of Gunther IV, an Alsatian who inherited from his father Gunther III, the pet of a German countess. According to the *Pet Gazette*, he is worth around \$372m.

The richest cat was previously thought to be Blackie, who was left £9m by his reclusive British owner in 1988.

Christmas in Calabria

Christmas run up. There are festivals and events in most villages and towns on the run up to Christmas including the traditional Christmas events with hot red wine, horse chestnuts and lights. Often there are bands and always a traditional Christmas manger to show the nativity scene.

The weather also depends on how high you are and how close to the sea. Typically in the area of Pizzo the weather will be a good plus 10 although go up into the hills around Vibo Valentia and the temperatures can drop to as low as 0 with snow.

The new year in Calabria is also something that many will not be used to with few restaurants open even less bars. There are a few restaurants that will offer the typical new years events but again these usually start around one or two in the morning with the traditional new year celebration being at home with family.

Both Christmas and new year and just about every holiday or



celebrated occasion is greeted with a big "Auguri" which means wish or desire.

Buon Natale e un Felice anno nuovo

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CALABRIAN VOICE

Calabria's English speaking newspaper - ©

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The X-Pat Calabria Association 2011

Started in the town of Pizzo by a local group the idea is to integrate Ex Pats in the region so that they may have some say and influence in the effect the area has on tourism. The founders using their experience from around the globe as tourists hope that this group will help put the area on the map and promote local businesses in this time of need.

The group which at present is run by a local property management company in Pizzo, Calabrian Services is looking to expand in the area and is hoping that the future will prove that if many people come together it can benefit everyone.

Paul Clare who is president of the Association says " in many different countries I have visited and had businesses there has always been a strong group of people who form Ex-pat associations such as these. These comprise of local people who have typically moved to the region to start a new life be it either opening a business, working or retiring. The groups often hold events and offer information to these people to help them integrate into the local areas. This can be done in many ways not least by teaching the language of the region, in this case Italian."



ex·pa·tri·ate v. ex·pa·tri·at·ed, ex·pa·tri·at·ing, ex·pa·tri·ates

1. To send into exile.
2. To remove (oneself) from residence in one's native land.
 1. To give up residence in one's homeland.
 2. To renounce allegiance to one's homeland.
1. One who has taken up residence in a foreign country.
2. One who has renounced one's native land.

To promote the association and also to offer something immediate to the local area The X-Pat Calabria card has been implemented. This card is a promotion on offer to local businesses who wish to offer a discount in some way for their products or services. It is free to join and offers the Ex Pat community the ability to try new business and their products with the incentive of a discount. Anyone can use this card scheme and no actual card is required, just by looking for the sign in the business window or online they can use the bonus. To find businesses that are on the scheme you can log into the local website at www.xpatcalabria.com and visit the members section.

Another area of the website also offers local ex pats the option to put their names out there as contacts for people who are looking for information. All this can be done online.

Lorraine Baker who is currently organizing the new members area says " the more people we can get to participate in this scheme the better, better for us and better for the locals. We are trying to push this all over Calabria, not just in our region and once we have enough people we will be pushing for independent groups to make similar groups in other areas of Calabria. For now we will keep the channels open to new people and members and see where it leads us."

Association secretary Elizabeth Chiarini is from South Africa and has lived in the town of Pizzo for some time now says "Calabria is lacking many of the support forums for information and help so we hope that by offering the people who are here a voice we can also hope, one day, to be able to influence what happens regarding local ex pats and help them have a voice in the region."

Anyone wanting to visit X-Pat Calabria can access us online at www.xpatcalabria.com and register interest, help us or join us, we are looking for people to help promote the idea and expand so this can be a positive aspect of Calabria that can grow with the increase of Ex-Pats here. If you have something to offer or are just looking for places to meet people the X-Pat Calabria association meets once a month in different locations throughout the area. You can find this list online in the what's on section of the website.



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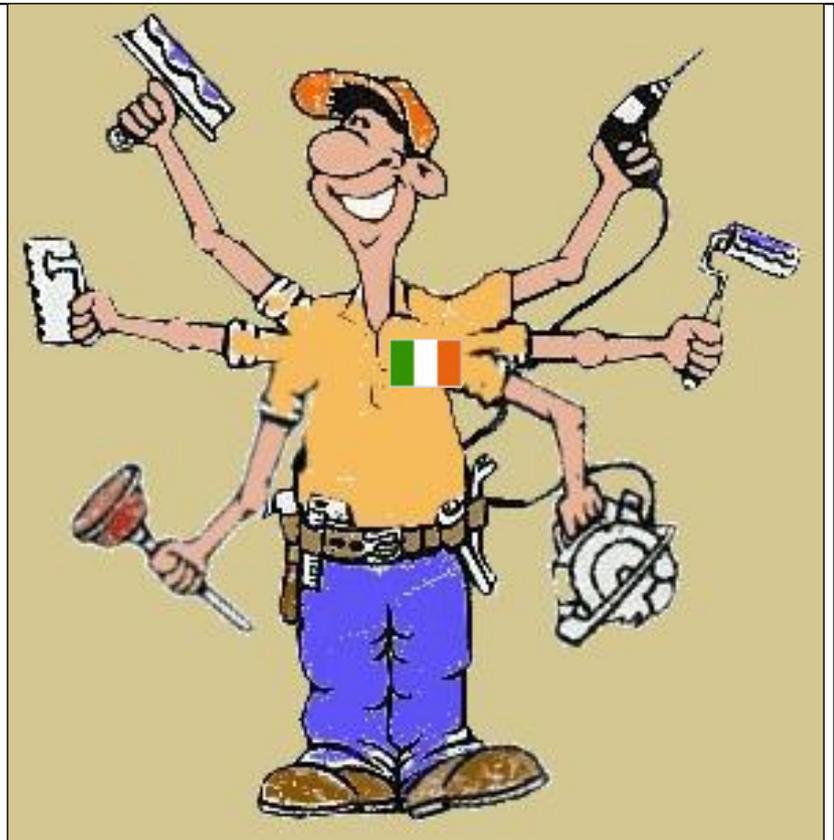
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Circolo del Cinema Lanterna Magica

We are lucky to have some very interesting and entertaining movies shown here at the museum 'La Tornara' at Pizzo Marina. As can be expected it is in Italian and various genres are shown.



The first movie, on November 6, 'Tatanka' by Giuseppe Galliard was prefaced by an introduction by the director who was surprisingly young.

The film depicted the life of a young inner city boy who grows up with his grandfather in Naples and who faced an inevitable life of crime.

He is sent to prison for a crime he did not commit. The introduction of the young man to the discipline of boxing is his saving grace and he is redeemed.

The director took questions afterwards.

13 November: 'Il piccolo Nicolas e I suoi genitori' by Laurent Trent.

Nicolas is a happy child, loved by his parents and with friends at school he apparently lives a happy life until he overhears his parents' conversation regarding the arrival of a sibling. He fears rejection...

20 November: 'Una sconfinata giovinezza' by Pupi Avati.

Lino and Chicca are still in love after many years in spite of a childless marriage. The problems start when Lino becomes ill (Alzheimers).

This film was very sad and The centre for Alzheimers in Pizzo staff explored how these patients may be helped to delay the onset of this illness.

27 November: 'Le donne del 6 piano' by Phillippe Le quay

Jean-Louis Jouvert has a typical upper middleclass life until his old time French servant decides to leave and he becomes involved with the very lively 6th floor Spanish Servants.

4 December: 'In attesa dell'avvento' by Arturo Lavorato and Felice D'Agostino is dedicated to Nicola Zitara an economist from Siderno, recently deceased; his theory about the 'neomeridionalism and the coining the definition of the unity of Italy as 'the birth of a colony'

This film was very thought provoking and worked as flashes of how 'the south' is promised progress and unity of

Italy is emphasised especially with the 150 year celebration but reality is far different.

11 December: 'Happy Family' by Gabriele Salvatores. How families work. Basically Pirandello styled about characters presenting themselves to the author and the hilarious consequences these characters' personalities have.

18 December: 'Rango' by Gore Verbinsky. an animated movie about a domesticated lizard ending up in the desert. His struggle to survive the predators and become a hero.

I am looking forward to the next season, starting 12 January to March 15.

Subscriptions are 25 Eur once off price for all the movies.

Over 65 years is free.

Please write and tell me whether you would be interested in the movies as they are or perhaps we may request screenings in English?

Translating from the Italian about the cinema presentations

The cinema is a cognitive instrument in which the camera possesses a sort of mechanical brain which can formulate arguments and offer the possibility of insight which is capable of revealing a world which is not yet edited, disturbing and revolutionary.

Amongst the real personalities, documentaries, comic, fantasy, erotic, war, comedy, cartoons etc,

"The Magic Lantern" wanted to organise a review this year entitled "The eyes of the world"; the cinema as a "mirror of life" and a testimony to the poetry and tragedy, beauty and horror, reality and dreams, reason and sentiment.



Upcoming movies:

12 January; **Louise Michel** By Benoit Dele'pine

19 January; **Capitalism: A Love Story** By Michael Moore.

26 January; **Vento di primavera** by Rose Bosche

2 February; **Il ragazzo con la bicicletta** by Jean -Pierre e Luc Dardenne

9 February; **Sorelle mai** by Marco Bellocchio

16 February; **L'altra verita'** by Ken Loach

23 February; **Departures** by Yojiro Takita

1 March; **I gatti persiani** by Bahman Ghobadi

8 March; **Gorbaciof** by Stefano Incerti

15 March; **The tree of Life** by Terence Malick

Italian women rally against 'macho culture'

Thousands of Italian women rallied on Sunday, demanding greater rights and an end to discrimination and blaming the country's "macho culture" for its current crisis.

Their demonstration follows on from mass protests in February when women said "basta" to then-president Silvio Berlusconi, known for his playboy antics and now on trial for paying for sex with a 17-year-old escort.

"The government has changed, but not the country," said Cristina Comencini, one of the leaders of the movement "Se non ora quando?", or "If not now, when?"

"Women will not go away. They are still saying that we want to work, have children and be at the centre of the (country's) growth plan.

"We tell the government that the wellbeing of women is not an expense but an investment," she said during the rally, held at the Piazza del Popolo, a square in central Rome.

Organisers said 20,000 people came to the rallies in the capital and in other **Italian** cities, including Turin and Venice.

The movement aims to protect the rights of women, including the right to work, ensure help for young mothers and battle discrimination.

Nichi Vendola, leader of the leftist Sinistra e Liberta party and governor of Apulia, said the country's debt and political crisis "is also the product of a vulgar and macho culture".

9 OF 10 ITALIANS HAVE A TRADITIONAL X-MAS MENU

(AGI) Rome -9 out of 10 Italians have Christmas Eve dinner and lunch at home with relatives and friends and serve a traditional menu. Over half of the families won't spend more than 75 Euros, also thanks to going back to serving the most traditional Italian dishes this year. The news was published by Coldiretti, underscoring the



need to save and therefore to give up costly foreign fashions of the past with luxury goods like Champagne, caviar, oysters, salmon or out-of-season cherries or peaches.

People are going back to Made in Italy products and serving them on the tables of Italians. In addition to tortellini, stuffed pies and boiled meat, Christmas meals will also include enogastronomic festivity gifts that, according to an online survey conducted on the www.coldiretti.it website, more than 5 Italians out of 10 (52%) consider to be "the gift they would like to find under the Christmas tree", followed by 13% that choose fashion wear items, 12% CD/DVDs, 12% IT products and another 14% other items. Among the products most on demand and not to be missed are local tradition artisan-made products: the 'Panone di Natale in Emilia Romagna, 'u picciliatiedd' in Basilicata, 'panpepato' in Umbria, 'pizza di Franz' in Molise, 'lu rintrocilio' in Abruzzo, 'le pabassinis con sa sapa' in Sardinia, 'carbonata with polenta' in Valle D'Aosta, 'pangiallo' in Latium, 'carteddate' in Apulia, 'canederli' in the Trentino region, 'brovada and muset with polenta' in Friuli, 'quazuni'elli' in Calabria, 'pandolce' in Liguria, 'pizza de Nata' in the Marche region, 'buccellati' in Sicily, a cup of capon broth in Tuscany and 'insalata di rinforzo' in Campania are - Coldiretti concludes - some of the hundreds of different regional specialties that Italians rediscover on Christmas Day. . .

ITALIAN PROSECCO LEADS FRANCE'S CHAMPAGNE IN THIS YEAR'S 'BUBBLY' BATTLE

Early export stats suggest that so far this year, Italy's Prosecco variety of sparkling wine is outselling Champagne, its better known - and generally more expensive - French counterpart. A victory for the underdog? Not so fast, says France. Christmas and New Year's sales haven't yet been factored in.



PARIS - With the countdown to 2012 officially on, one question looms large - at least in France and Italy: Prosecco or Champagne? For people outside of Europe, choosing which sparkling wine to toast the new year may seem like a minor issue. For Italians and French it is a matter of national pride.

Going into the holiday season, Prosecco - the sparkling wine produced in northwestern Italy - seems to have the edge this year, according to Coldiretti, Italy's largest farming group. Coldiretti reported that in

the first nine months of 2011, 200 million of bottles of Prosecco were exported, versus "only" 192 million of bottles of Champagne.

Italians are already claiming victory for its "underdog" Prosecco, which doesn't enjoy the same global name recognition as its more expensive French counterpart. France's Champagne makers, however, aren't quite ready to concede.

"Italians are crowing over a victory. They say their sparkling wine is exported more than Champagne is," read a recent article in the French newspaper *Le Parisien*. "But French wine makers dispute these data," the paper added.

"We are comparing two wines that cannot really be compared," says Thibaut le Mailloux, communications director for the Comité Interprofessionnel du vin de Champagne, an organization that involves many of the Champagne industry's major players. "Spumante is an obscure denomination of sparkling wine, while Champagne has a guarantee of origin, and is produced in a specific and unique way," he added.

France is also quick to point out that Coldiretti's export stats don't include the final two months of the year, when according to Le Mailloux, 30% of Champagne business takes place. The battle over the New Year's toast, in other words, is not over yet. France's pricier bubbly might still rise to the occasion.

By Alberto Mattioli
[LA STAMPA](http://www.la-stampa.it)

Pope switches on world's largest electronic Christmas tree



The Pope goes hi-tech with tradition by switching on the 800 metre-tall tree using a tablet computer in the Vatican.

The huge tree is made of 800 lights and laid out on the side of Mount Ingino, near the town of Gubbio in central Italy.

The pontiff joined the town by videolink allowing everyone to see the moment when he pressed the tablet to remotely light the tree.

"This great christmas tree is formed by many lights," Pope Benedict said as he

addressed the Gubbio residents.

"The wish I would like to give is that each one of us could bring a little light to the environment where we live: in our families, at work, in our districts, our countries and in the towns" he added.

Italy in January

Traveling in Italy in January is often a mixed bag – the weather can be dreary, cold, wet, and gray, but with prices (and crowd levels) at about the lowest point you'll find them all year it might just be worth packing a raincoat and a scarf.

Weather in January in Italy

Parts of Italy do get covered in blankets of fluffy, white snow in January, while others get inundated with fog and rain – it depends primarily on what part of the country you're visiting.

As with any other time of year, the temperature will get warmer as you go south. The mountains that line the border of northern Italy tend to be the coldest areas during the winter, although any mountainous parts of the country (and there are many) are where you'll find colder and snowier conditions.

It's less common to get snow in the coastal regions (and when it happens it's something of an event), but instead of snow these areas routinely get rain in January. Because the Italian peninsula is so narrow, the coastal climate extends quite a ways inland on both sides – meaning even if you're as far inland as Rome, for instance, you're more likely to get rain during the winter than snow.

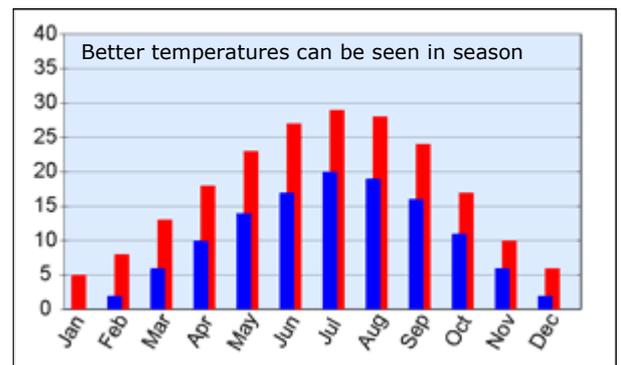
Although the cold and damp can make some tourist activities less enticing (wandering the ruins of the Roman Forum or Pompeii in the rain doesn't sound very appealing), one activity in particular is only available in the winter months like January: skiing. The mountains that line the northern border, as well as those that run down the center of the peninsula, are often packed with skiers and snowboarders in the winter. Not only that, many of the ski resort towns in the Italian mountains are also home to hot springs and spas – and there's nothing like a dip in a natural hot spring to take the January chill right off you.

Temperatures in January vary depending on where you are in Italy, but as a general rule of thumb these are the ranges:

Northern Italy: 25-45°F (-4-5°C)

Central Italy: 40-55°F (5-13°C)

Southern Italy: 50-60°F (10-16°C)



Events for February

ALBA MORGANA
Saturday, February 4, 2012
Location: [Catanzaro](#)

MORGANA ALBA Love Poems of Corrado Calabro 'The verses and the lyrics of the most known and appreciated by Corrado Calabro such as "Love Poems" and "A life in his stride" is the object of representation conceived and directed by Maurizio Soldiers, with the interpretation of Daniela celebrate, Simona De Paola Gazzola and Elisa.
Theatre Politeama Catanzaro
For information: [www.politeamacatanzaro.net](#)

Events Catanzaro

Glauco Mauri - ROBERTO Sturno
09 e 10 February 2012
Location: [Catanzaro](#)

Glauco Mauri - Roberto Sturno "What takes the blows" by Leonid Nikolayevich Andreyev Director Glauco Mauri. In the thirtieth anniversary of the artistic partnership between Sturno Glauco Mauri, Roberto, the two great actors
Italians staged a theatrical text of

Russian playwright Leonid Nikolaevich Andreev.
Theatre Politeama Catanzaro
For information: [www.politeamacatanzaro.net](#)

Events Catanzaro

NOIR WITH ACOUSTIC QUARTET
Saturday, February 11, 2012 22:30
Location: Santa Maria del Cedro (CS)
Acoustic Quartet Noir With the "Sixth Sense" - Santa Maria del Cedro (CS)
For more information:
Events Cosenza

Luke PITTERI to Lamezia Terme
From 17 to 19 February 2012
Location: [Lamezia Terme](#)

Luke Pitteri to Lamezia Terme
Singing Workshop Organized by the Modern Music naturals.
I drive directly from the great Singing Teacher Pitteri Luke will be guest of the School of Singing naturals Lamezia Terme
For information: [Program Event](#)

Events Catanzaro

DR.JEKILL & MR. HYDE - DREAMS AND VISIONS
20 and 21 February 2012
Location: [Catanzaro](#)

Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde - Musical Dreams and visions
Alessandro Benvenuti, Rosalinda Celentano, Alice & Ellen Kessler, Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde - dreams and visions of a musical conceived and directed by Giancarlo Sepe
loosely based on Robert Louis Stevenson tale scenes Fabiana Di Marco - Humble lights Vainieri costumes by John Ciacci soundtrack of original music by David Mastrogiovanni Harmonia Team
Theatre Politeama Catanzaro
For information: [www.politeamacatanzaro.net](#)

Events Catanzaro

NOIR WITH ACOUSTIC QUARTET
Tuesday, February 21, 2012 21:30
Location: [Rende \(CS\)](#)

With the Acoustic Quartet Noir "Salsamentaria Verdiana" - Rende (CS)
For more information:
Events Cosenza

ASTRATTOCONCRETO
Until February 26, 2012
Location: Acre (CS)
ASTRATTOCONCRETO. The Group of Eight by Marisa Bishop
Inauguration of the new major exhibition of Maca, dedicated to the Group of Eight, one of the most

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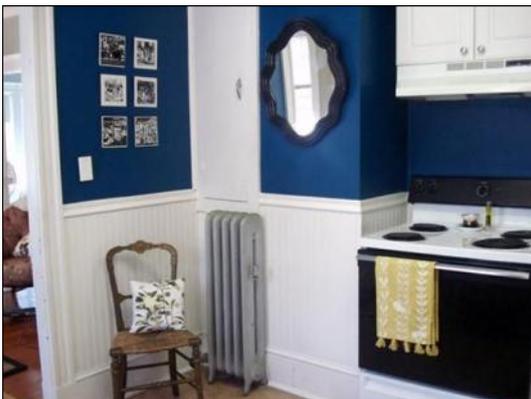
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significant experiences of Italian art after World War II. Over thirty large works tell the story of its members (African, Birolli Corpora, Moreni, Morlotti, Santomaso, Turcato, Widow).

For information: [Program Event](#)

Cosenza Events - Exhibitions

Franco Califano IN CALABRIA
Tuesday, February 28, 2012 21:00

Location: [Cosenza \(CS\)](#)

Franco Califano in Concert at the Teatro Rendano A. Cosenza

For information: www.inprimafila.net

Cosenza Events - Concerts

COMPANY TOTO '
28 and 29 February 2012

Location: [Catanzaro](#)

Paolantoni Francis and John Edwards in the Toto Company
The show directed by Giancarlo Sepe is secular in a mass memory

Theatre Politeama Catanzaro

For information: www.politeamacatanzaro.net

Events Catanzaro

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(opposite the marina)

Blues Blog, 'on the move'

Last spring we put together a company – Blues Move Promotions- to launch the promotion of a Blues Festival in Capo Vaticano (VV) and put together the Blues Move Band with which to tour this part of Calabria, taking in some beautiful views of the countryside, sea and some lovely villages.

Our sax player, being an expert ornithologist and our male vocalist being a lover of all flowers and insects, as well as birds, we were shown about the WWF Oasis of Ancitola by the resident WWF man, Pino Paolillo and collected a lot of wonderful shots to illustrate just how rich and interesting this region is to lovers of nature in all its forms as well as lovers of history and, of course lovers of the sea, the sun, and the sea. For the moment the Blues festival project has been shelved for the lack of a suitable holiday village in which to hold this one month long event, however we would like to share with you all some of the beautiful pictures taken by our official photographer, Guillaume Aufray from France, our saxophonist, Mike Paice from Britain, and our vocalist, the Jamaican, Earl Green; and the blogs that we barely had time to jot down once our artists joined us at Villa Gioia –Capo Vaticano. Here is the Blues Move Band and the first blog of Mark's (Mark Jordan from Britain)- and my – Rosanna Stefanelli, (British/Italian) arrival in Calabria in April 2011

Earl Green (Vocals) Mick Paice (Sax and harmonicas)

BLUES ON THE MOVE



Hello fellows, Mark and I got to Villa Gioia last Saturday after an adventurous journey that saw us piloting a convoy of stranded cars up and down the mountains surrounding the plane of Lamezia when we all found the motorway, Naples – Reggio Calabria, inexplicably blocked and not a soul or a sign to re-direct the traffic along alternative routes! Those of you who are familiar with my driving skills and sense of orientation will appreciate the irony of the situation...but then we had a jeep, I was relatively familiar with the layout of the land and, above all, I was the only one with a map of the region!

I never had such a fun time, going up and down impossibly narrow routes, clinging to the face of the mountain on one side and edging a precipice on the other, leading the convoy through the tiniest, remotest and prettiest villages.

We must have presented quite a sight to the villagers, when we negotiated the last bend, appearing from nowhere on the road that twisted in and out their village squares. They watched our convoy open mouthed, obviously wondering what event was planned to

attract so many tourists to their villages, and must have never seen so many strange cars pounding their roads in the last 20 years!

As for Mark, he had come to relax considerably about my driving and had even been able to keep his nose in his book as we travelled on the motorway as we proceeded on the motorway Napoli - Reggio Calabria. However, at the sight of the precipice over the Lamezia plane stretching several hundred metres below, he straightened up with a jolt and it was sometime before he could relax again and take in the scenery that was truly beautiful. Woods of conifers and oaks gave way to silver beeches and patches of genestre in full bloom framing the horizon, where the sky met the sea in the far distances, while the birds could be heard singing over the noise of our engines.

All's well that ends well! I surprised myself by finding the right trail to Lamezia where one by one the cars following us hooted their goodbyes and Mark and I got home at

last where weeks of hard work and preparation faced us. But more of this later.

View of the Cape seen from Coccorino, on the Ricadi-Nicotera route.



We reached our destination at dusk. The mountains are well behind us and as we approach our home away from home we are met with the breathtaking view of our pet active volcano, on the island of Vulcano, Aegean Islands, straight across .

The following day we are told that a stretch of the road to Nicotera, where, we were planning to hold a gig, has been closed to the traffic pending the completion of ongoing road works. We decide to go and check what the alternative road is like. To our chagrin we must abandon the idea of holding a gig in this beautiful ancient Greek town, as bringing substantial night traffic to the narrow track that presently connects it to the Coast of the Gods would be crazy! Therefore we decide to visit Nicora in the day time, which means that we will be able to fully enjoy en route the splendid views of Capo Vaticano seen from the main road Ricadi- Nicotera-Gulf of Goia Tauro.

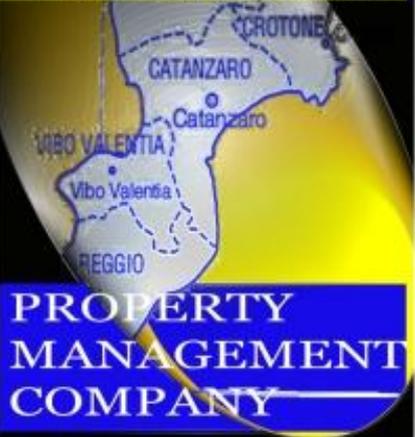


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What is X-Pat Calabria:

Xpat Calabria is an association, non-profit for the benefit of people who have moved to Calabria or are just visiting on holiday and wishing to learn more. The idea is simple, to promote local areas and businesses and help people find their way around.

Where does it cover:

At present it covers the west of Calabria from Pizzo to Capo Vaticano but the idea is to run it out all over the Calabria region. We also promote the group via The Calabrian Voice English speaking newspaper which is available in the region and also online via the website www.calabrianvoice.com

Why is it needed:

There are few forms of information for the area and we hope that this can be a main point of information for the community here as well as promoting the area. The association also looks to promote local businesses and places of interest within the area so people know more about the region and help integrate themselves.

Who is running it:

At present it is run by a few locals in the area plus anyone that can spare a little time to help promote and add information to the site. We are always looking for additional help in the form of information and people to help us expand.

What do we need from people:

To spread the word, to add information, events in their areas and add content to the website and newspaper.

Where are we going:

Anywhere we want, the idea is to grow and expand as much as possible opening new areas as we go.

Meetings:

Every month we will be holding meetings around the region which will be advertised through the website and also via The Calabrian Voice newsletter. Click on to view the dates and places at www.xpatcalabria.com

Whats on at X-Pat calabria

Visit our website today and view the following:

- **What's on-** a list of all the meeting places and locations
- **Photos-** Photos of events past and places to visit
- **Members section-** A list of all the companies in Calabria that offer discounts when used alongside the FREE X-Pat Calabria card (see below)
- **News in Calabria-** from The Calabrian Voice English speaking newspaper
- **Who's here-** A list of like minded people who wish to share their details to help others in the area find more information
- **Contact us-** Wish to help, join a club or participate in some way visit us
- **X-Pat Blog-** A place to add a comment or 2 or just add an idea. All welcome



The X-Pat Calabria Card

The X-Pat Calabria card offers you a chance to use local businesses and services at a discount. The card is free and can be found around the area in existing businesses or from our office in Pizzo on Via Marcello Salomone 114. the offices of Calabrian Services.

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The X Pat Calabria Association is part of Calabrian Voice English speaking newspaper and Calabrian services of Pizzo.

The X-Pat Calabria card is sponsored by Calabrian Services of Pizzo.

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X-PAT CALABRIA EVENTS

More info see www.xpatcalabria.com

JOIN THE VIBO VALENTIA CHESS CLUB

The Club meets every Monday afternoon 6 to 7.45pm in Vibo's new library, housed in a beautiful antique building in the parallel road to the famous panoramic bar Al Castello - immediately under Vibo's Norman Fortress, built in the 13th century by the emperor Frederik II over the ruins of the Greek town of Hipponium, destroyed by the Arabs in the 9th century. All are welcome to join the players on anyone Monday as players vary in strength is usually always possible to find a suitable opponent. The Club is run by its founder, Vincenzo, from Filadelfia, and meetings alternatively take place in other locations also. For further information contact

VINCENZO SERRATORE - Tel. 0968 72 53 83
 mob. 338 71 74 618

TROPEA ENGLISH CLUB

The EXPATS CLUB for NICOTERA-SPILINGA-RICADI-S.DOMENICA-TROPEA shall meet on alternative THURSDAYS at the SHAKER'S BAR at S. Nicolo di Ricadi located on the main road S. Domennica-Ricadi

Some French, German and Italian is spoken besides English, so all expats living in the area do join us to share your linguistic and cultural backgrounds and enjoyment of this varied and fascinating region. The first meeting will be at 6 p.m. on 16 February, 1-15-29 March, 12-26 April, 10-12 May, and so on.

Please signal your interest emailing Rose athellocalabria@yahoo.com

Learn Italian

The X-PATS CLUB for NICOTERA-SPILINGA-RICADI-S.DOMENICA-TROPEA shall meet every Friday, 6-9.00pm at the SHAKER'S BAR at S. Nicolo di Ricadi located on the main road S. Domennica-Ricadi for conversational classes of Italian. The classes are held by a fully qualified experienced Italian and English teacher member of the EXPATS CLUB and they are free, however a 5 euros contribution is expected for each class by each member to cover the cost of beverage and materials, the first payable in arrears, the following payable a week in advance

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