

# Sicily off the trails

TOURS IN THE AGRÒ VALLEY



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Creatività e Innovazione per la Rigenerazione  
della Comunità e dell'Ecosistema culturale



## Introduction 7

### FOODIE TOUR

#### Between food and wine and traditions 11

##### SAVOCA

Bakery "Il buon pane" 14

##### CASALVECCHIO SICULO

Workshop of homemade pasta 16

##### SICILIAN STORIES

Macaroni al ferretto 18

##### ANTILLO

The lumiricchi by Don Egidio 22

##### ANTILLO

Ricotta and fresh cheeses at Luigi 24

##### LIMINA

Venezuelan Arepas by Santina 26

##### SICILIAN STORIES

Getting lost among the lemon groves 28

### NATURE TOUR

#### Between nature and well-being 31

##### MANDANICI

A garden of secrets and natural remedies 34

##### SICILIAN STORIES

Medicinal herbs of Sicily 36

##### ANTILLO AND CASALVECCHIO SICULO

Stories and legends by Antonino 38

##### ANTILLO AND LIMINA

Adventures in the woods with Alessandro 40

##### LIMINA

A'Naca by Alice and Mathias 42

##### CASALVECCHIO SICULO

Regenerate in nature 44

##### FURCI SICULO

Ecoprinting with Serena 46

##### ANTILLO

Peace Bell with Serena 48

### FOLK TOUR

#### Between folklore and mysticism 51

##### CASALVECCHIO SICULO

U Camiddu 54

##### CASALVECCHIO SICULO

U Sciccareddu 56

##### ANTILLO

U Picuraru 58

##### SAVOCA

The Mummies 59

##### ANTILLO

Farmer Museum 60

CASALVECCHIO SICULO

Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul **62**

LIMINA

Saint Philip of Agira festival **64**

SICILIAN STORIES

The procession of the Saint **66**

CINEMA TOUR

**In the footsteps of cinema locations** **69**

SAVOCA

Il Padrino Bar Vitelli **72**

SAVOCA

Il Padrino Church of St. Nicholas **73**

SANT'ALESSIO SICULO

Stanno tutti bene Cemetery **74**

SANTA TERESA DI RIVA

Johnny Stecchino Truck Stop **75**

**The Agrò Valley is waiting for you:  
find out how to reach us** **77**

Want to immerse yourself  
in the stories of the Agrò Valley?  
Click here and watch the videos!





## Introduction

Discover a journey that evokes an epic, discovering the Sicily you don't expect. This amazing land, with its off-trail itineraries, invites you to explore a world of ancient myths and unexpected landscapes. A wild and unspoiled land that seems to come straight out of the legends of the Mediterranean. Here, the Mediterranean scrub dominates unchallenged, outlining breathtaking panoramas with its sinuous curves and intense colors. Narrow, winding paths wind through terraces and lemon groves, leading to villages perched like precious jewels.

In this unusual Sicily, the frenetic pace of modern life gives way to slowness and contemplation. Beauty is revealed in every corner, inviting deep and conscious immersion. The locals, with their genuineness and industriousness, warmly welcome visitors, sharing the secrets of a craft knowledge handed down from generation to generation.

Just like Ulysses, attracted by Circe's song, this unexpected Sicily invites a journey of inner discovery. A personal epic among the heady

scents of the earth and the authentic flavors of a cuisine that preserves the memory of time. A place to rediscover the value of simple and true relationships, and the sense of belonging to a community that lives in harmony with nature.

Like Ulysses, who resisted Circe's enticements and used his wisdom to continue the journey, the visitor is invited to draw inspiration from local knowledge. An invitation to seize the opportunities offered by this Sicily that you do not expect, without being overwhelmed by difficulties or ephemeral temptations.

This territory is not just a geographical destination, it is a state of mind. An invitation to unplug from routine and embrace a different dimension, where time flows at a slower and more conscious pace. An opportunity to reconnect with one's essence and rediscover the pleasure of living authentically.

Come and discover extraordinary Sicily, let yourself be guided by the call of nature and get ready to experience an unforgettable adventure, among the traces of Ulysses and the wisdom of Circe.





# Between food and wine and traditions

Do you love good food? Do you enjoy meeting new people through the cuisine? Come and discover typical Sicilian products, the result of an unusual mix of cultures. You can live unforgettable experiences together with the locals, discover their stories and immerse yourself in the extraordinary food and wine culture of Sicily. We have collected incredible tales, and we know they will become your next travel destination.

# Valle d'Agrò



- 1 SAVOCA  
Bakery  
“Il buon pane”
- 2 CASALVECCHIO SICULO  
Workshop of  
homemade pasta
- 3 ANTILLO  
The lumiricchi  
by Don Egidio
- 4 ANTILLO  
Ricotta and fresh  
cheeses at Luigi
- 5 LIMINA  
Venezuelan Arepas  
by Santina

[→ CLICK HERE FOR THE ONLINE MAP](#)

①

## Bakery “Il buon pane”

SAVOCA



14



Hidden among the narrow streets of Savoca, the Bakery “Il Buon Pane” is a true paradise of Sicilian flavors. Here you can find focaccia, “cunzato bread”, stuffed rolls and freshly baked cookies. Sitting at its tables is not just a simple break, it is a journey back in time. The sun, the colors, the voices - everything invites relaxation. And with a luck, owner Nino will cheer you up with his guitar and Sicilian songs.

15

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## Workshop of homemade pasta

CASALVECCHIO SICULO



16



Concetto invites you to a culinary experience discovering flavors and traditions. Learn the art of homemade pasta with the "ferro," the ancient tool of the housewives of Casalvecchio Siculo. The expert hands of the ladies of the village will guide you in a dance of flour and water, revealing the secrets of a genuine dish and unique flavor: maccheroni al ferretto.

17

# Macaroni al ferretto

18



19

Macaroni al ferretto, also called "maccarruna", are a type of fresh pasta, typical of the Sicilian Sicilian tradition, made from semolina flour and water. They are characterized by the typical central hole, which the women of the village skillfully make with a simple knitting needle. The center hole is not an aesthetic affectation, but has the function of ensuring an uniform cooking of the pasta.

According to tradition, macaroni al ferretto should be served with sauces full-bodied pork or game meat, but nothing prohibits you from enjoy this delicacy with vegetable sauces or other vegetarian condiments. Prepare them at home, especially for those who are novices, requires time and dexterity. But remember that you will be amply rewarded by the unmistakable flavor of a dish that, though homemade, turns out to be versatile and sophisticated.



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## The lumiricchi by Don Egidio

ANTILLO



22



Bar Gelateria Don Egidio in Antillo is now considered an institution; it's a stop you absolutely can't skip! Come and enjoy the creations of pastry chef Giuseppe, who every day creates small works of art in the Sicilian tradition. Don't miss the world-famous "lumiricchi", delicious pastry treats made of shortcrust pastry and ricotta cheese. With every bite we guarantee an explosion of flavor that will surprise you!

23

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## Ricotta and fresh cheeses at Luigi

ANTILLO



24



Luigi waits for you at his sheep farm in Antillo, ready to share his passion for cheese and tales of a life dedicated to the land. Savor fresh ricotta and other typical cheeses, while time seems to stand still among the pastures and mountains.

25

5

## Venezuelan Arepas by Santina

LIMINA



26

A bridge between Venezuela and Sicily, Santina invites you on a unique and historic culinary journey. Taste her arepas, Venezuelan delicacies prepared with love and skill, accompanied by the authentic flavors of the products locals. A meeting of cultures that come together in an explosion of flavor.



Did you know that from the middle of the 19th century and until the second half of the 20th century, the country of Limina was affected by a heavy emigration to Venezuela and the USA? It is estimated that today there are more than a thousand Liminese abroad, but given the economic crisis of recent years there is an ongoing counter emigration back.

27

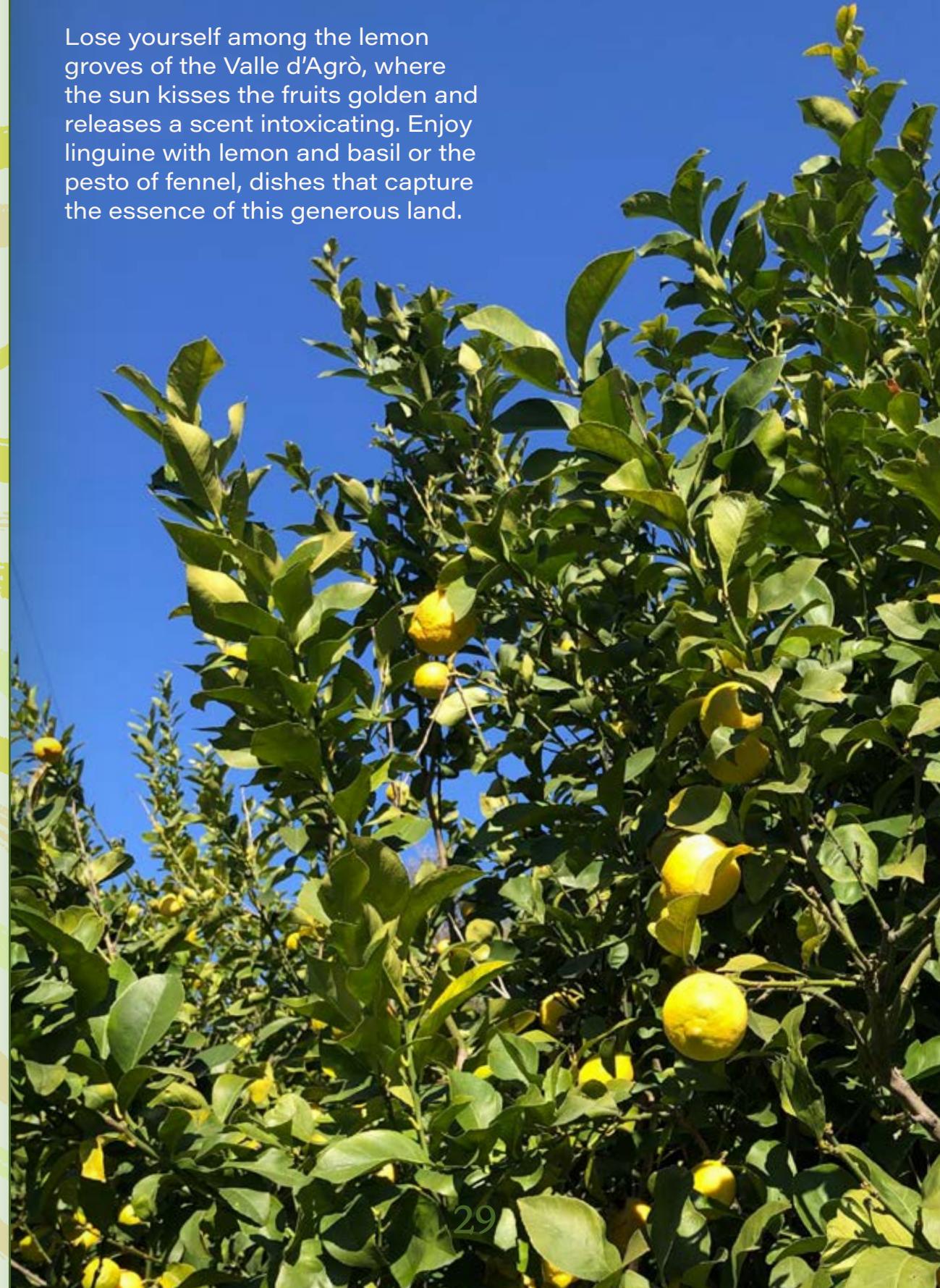
# Getting lost among the lemon groves

28



Lose yourself among the lemon groves of the Valle d'Agrò, where the sun kisses the fruits golden and releases a scent intoxicating. Enjoy linguine with lemon and basil or the pesto of fennel, dishes that capture the essence of this generous land.

29





# Between nature and well-being

Reconnect with mother earth and nature, discover the benefits of the plants and local herbs. Relax, explore and experience moments of well-being outdoors. Do yoga and rediscover your inner self.

# Valle d'Agrò



- ① **MANDANICI**  
A garden of secrets and natural remedies
- ② **ANTILLO AND CASALVECCHIO SICULO**  
Stories and legends by Antonino
- ③ **ANTILLO AND LIMINA**  
Adventures in the woods with Alessandro
- ④ **LIMINA**  
A'Naca by Alice and Mathias
- ⑤ **CASALVECCHIO SICULO**  
Regenerate in nature
- ⑥ **FURCI SICULO**  
Ecoprinting with Serena
- ⑦ **ANTILLO**  
Peace Bell with Serena

[→ CLICK HERE FOR THE ONLINE MAP](#)

①

# A garden of secrets and natural remedies

MANDANICI



34

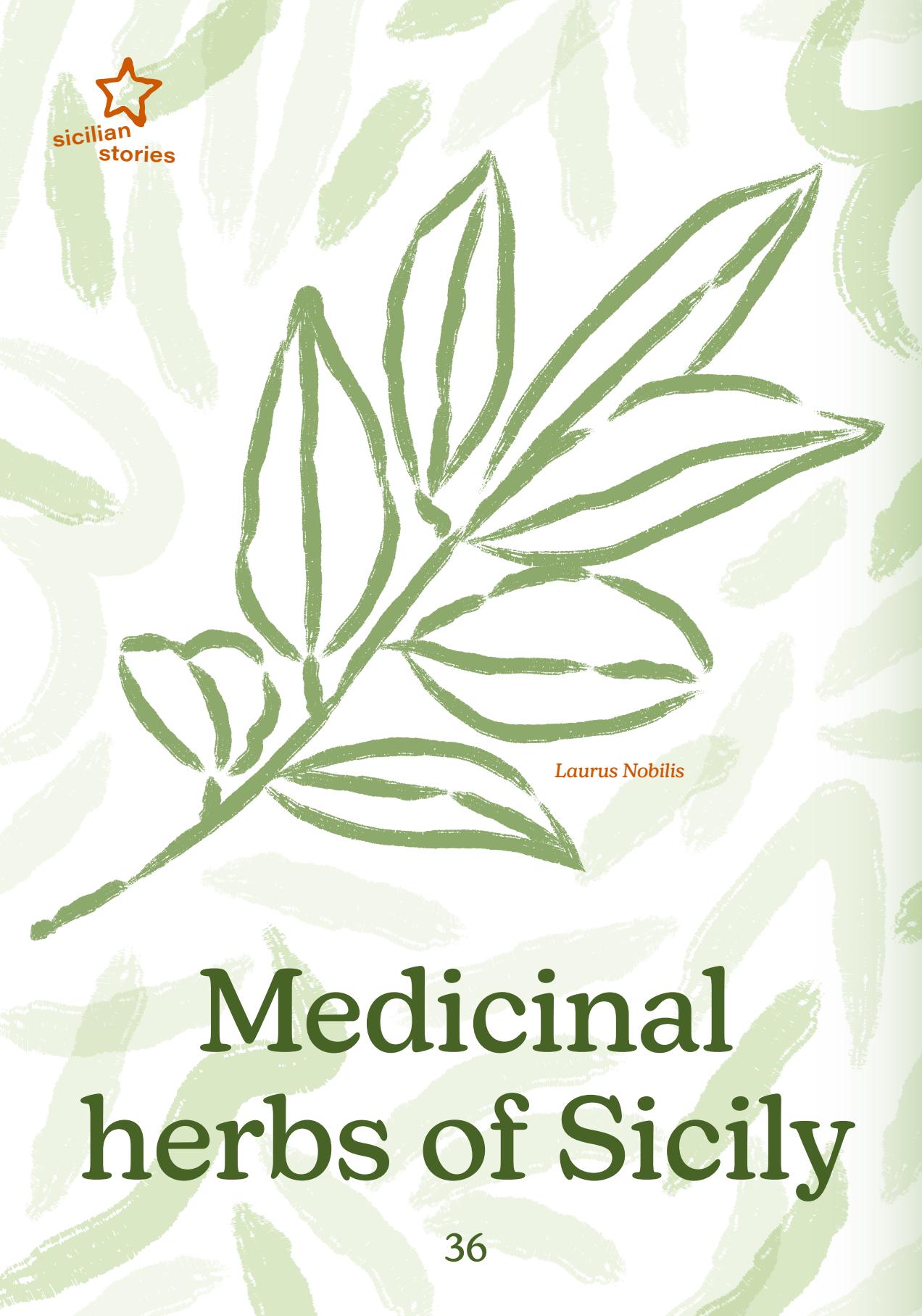


Aurelia and Fabrizio let you into their microworld, the enchanted garden in Mandanici. Discover the secrets of medicinal herbs, their healing powers and the ancient recipes handed down from generation to generation. An authentic and sustainable experience, a return to the origins of natural wisdom.

35

# Medicinal herbs of Sicily

36



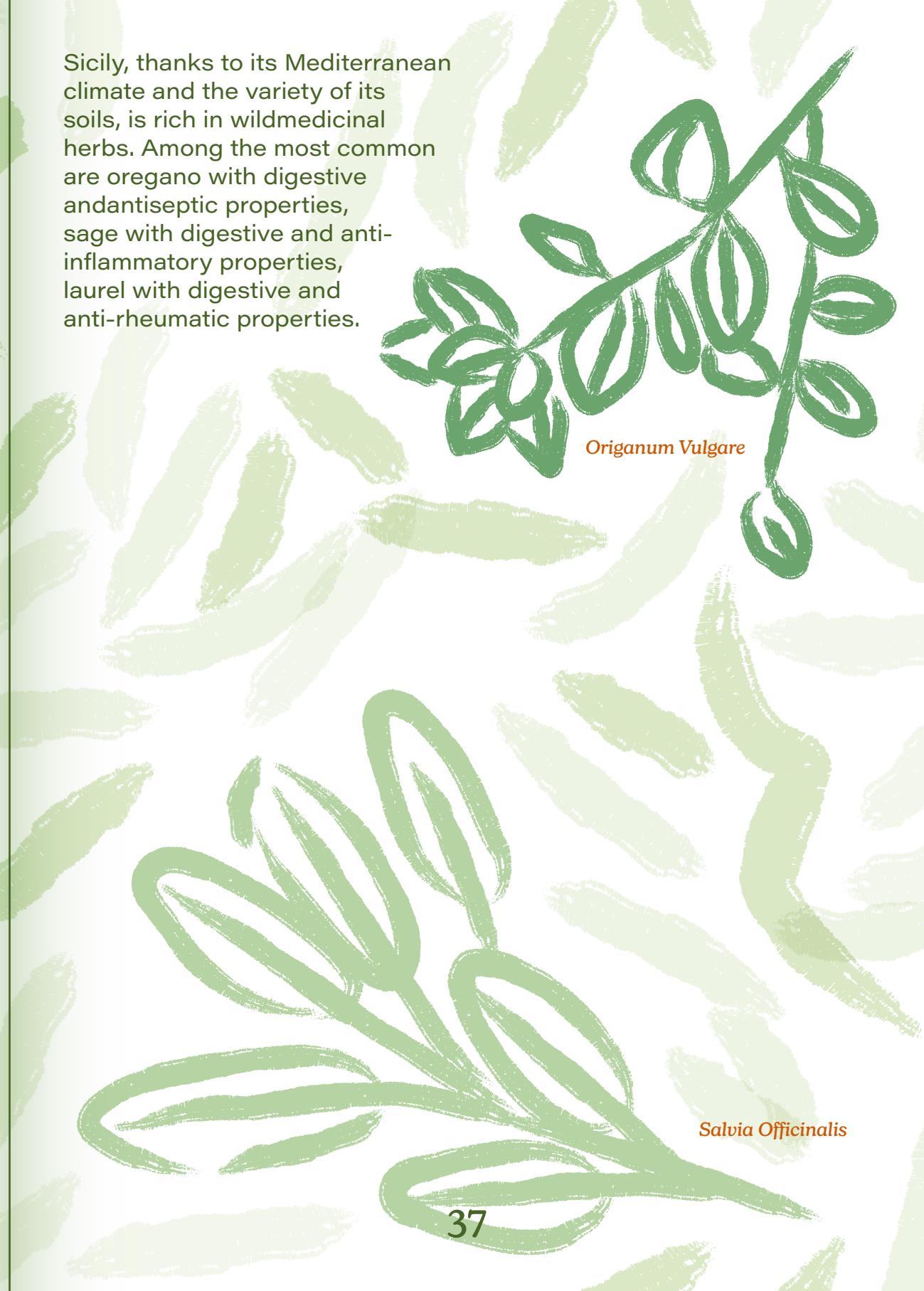
*Laurus Nobilis*

Sicily, thanks to its Mediterranean climate and the variety of its soils, is rich in wild medicinal herbs. Among the most common are oregano with digestive and antiseptic properties, sage with digestive and anti-inflammatory properties, laurel with digestive and anti-rheumatic properties.

37



*Origanum Vulgare*



*Salvia Officinalis*

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## Stories and legends by Antonino

ANTILLO AND CASALVECCHIO SICULO



38



Antonino, keeper of stories and legends, will guide you on a journey through time between the villages of Casalvecchio Siculo and Antillo. Walking along nature trails and in the villages you will discover ancient churches, noble palaces and picturesque alleys, while Antonino's voice will tell you the stories of those who have lived in these places, handing down traditions and secrets.

39

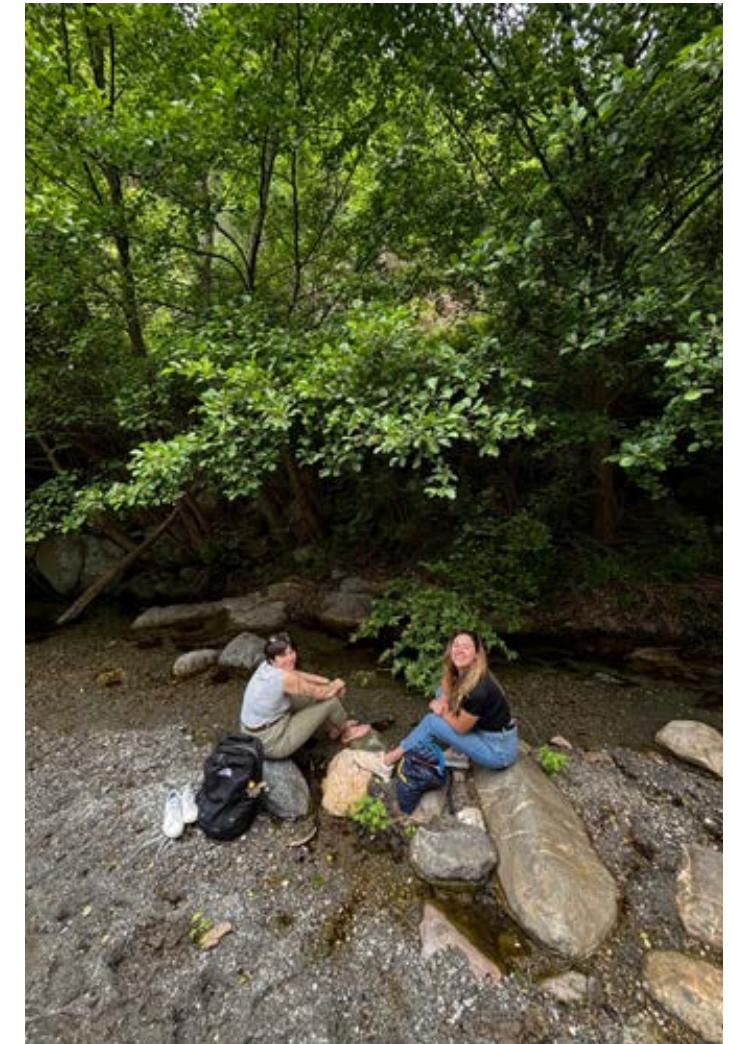
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## Adventures in the woods with Alessandro

ANTILLO AND LIMINA



40



Alessandro invites you to an adventure in the woods of Antillo and Limina. Follow his steps along paths immersed in the green, breathe the pure air and succumb to the charm of the breathtaking views. A rejuvenating experience for the body and the spirit, a return to the essence of nature.

41

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## A'Naca by Alice and Mathias

LIMINA



42



Alice and Mathias welcome you to their A'Naca microworld in Limina. Live the experience "from the garden to the table," harvesting the products fruits and vegetables of the earth and enjoying them in an unforgettable dinner. Sleep under the stars in the yurt tent or explore the surroundings by bicycle, immersing yourself completely in unspoiled nature.

43

5

## Regenerate in nature

CASALVECCHIO SICULO



44



Salvuccio will guide you in a regenerating experience in the name of water and nature. You will explore the evocative Gorges of the Ranciara in Casalvecchio Siculo, a magical place where water flows between the rocks, creating an atmosphere of peace and serenity. Meditate in the valley, listen to the sound of nature and find your inner balance.

45

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## Ecoprinting with Serena

FURCI SICULO



46



Serena invites you to her eco b&b La Zagara in Furci Siculo for a unique creative experience. Learn the art of eco-printing, creating botanical prints with leaves, flowers and natural pigments. A way to express your creativity and take home an indelible reminder of the Sicilian beauty.

47

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## Peace Bell with Serena

ANTILLO



48



Serena is also waiting for you at the Bell of Peace in Antillo, a place where the view sweeps over the Agrò Valley and the soul is awakened. Join in a guided meditation session, find inner peace and be enveloped by the beauty of the landscape.

The Bell was made in the 1980s to remember the missing from all the wars around the world. The bell, because of its significance, was blessed in the Vatican by Pope John Paul II and then returned to Antillo in 1993.

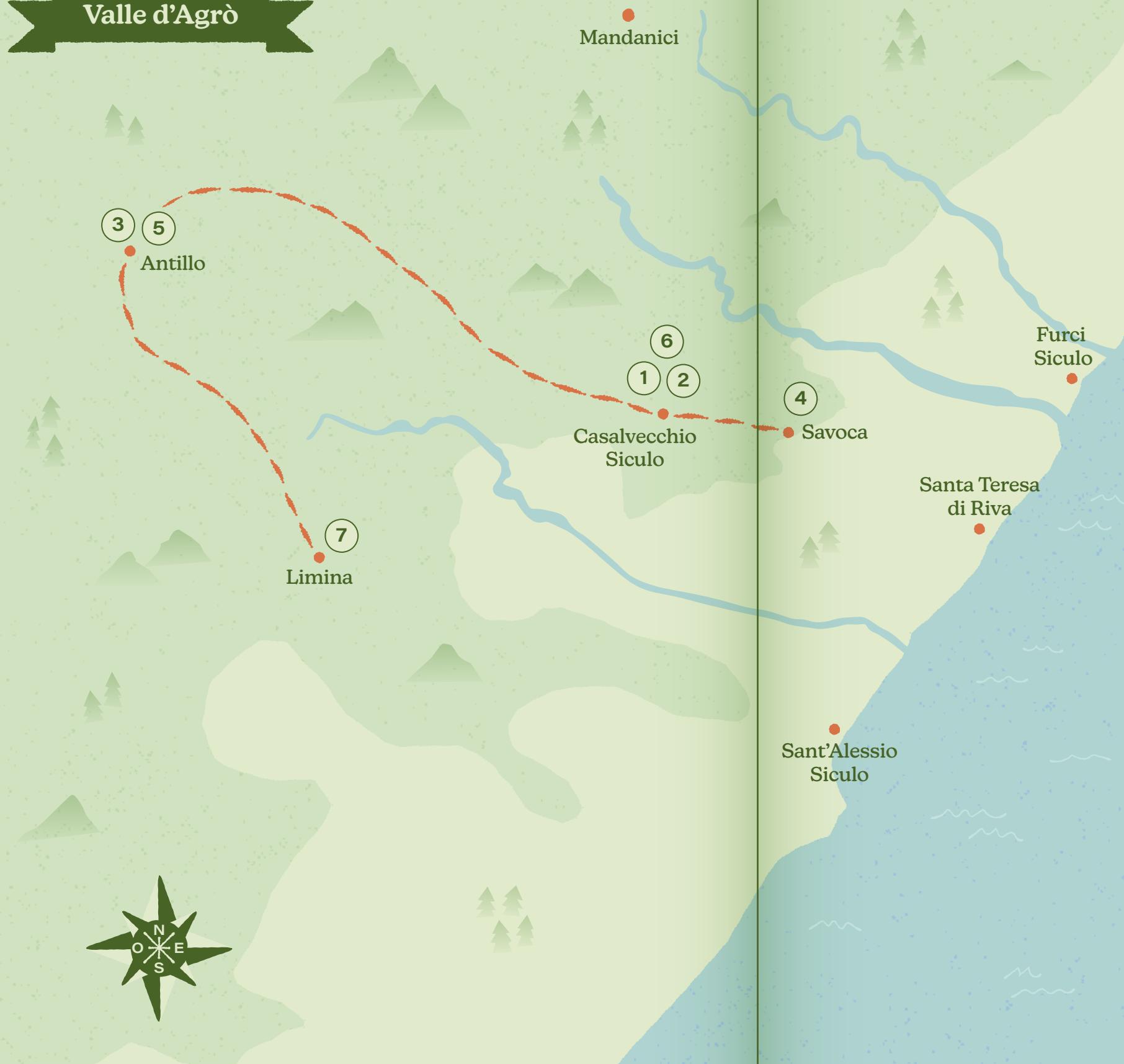
49

# Between folklore and mysticism

Awaken your senses in the beating heart of Sicily: lose yourself in the magic of immersive festivals, listen to tales of local legends, participate in ancestral rituals and discover the alchemy of flavors, colors and scents that make this land unique.



# Valle d'Agrò



- ① CASALVECCHIO SICULO  
U Camiddu
- ② CASALVECCHIO SICULO  
U Sciccareddu
- ③ ANTILLO  
U Picuraru
- ④ SAVOCA  
The Mummies
- ⑤ ANTILLO  
Farmers Museum
- ⑥ CASALVECCHIO SICULO  
Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul
- ⑦ LIMINA  
Saint Philip of Agira Festival

[→ CLICK HERE FOR THE ONLINE MAP](#)

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# U Camiddu

CASALVECCHIO SICULO



54



During the feast of St. Onofrio in Casalvecchio Siculo, the "camiddu" stands majestically, an imposing structure of wood and papier-mâché that represents a camel. Its creation is an act of devotion to St. Onofrio, who is said to have saved the town from the plague by appearing in a dream to a peasant in the form of a camel. Enjoy the wonder of the energy of the festival, as the "camiddu" moves through the streets, accompanied by music and dancing, in a jubilation of merriment and local pride.

55

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## U Sciccareddu

CASALVECCHIO SICULO



56



Alongside the "camiddu," "u sciccareddu" is preparing for his role in the feast of St. Onofrio. This figure, representing a Saracen, embodies the ancient clash between Christians and Muslims. With his flamboyant costume and his sword glittering, "u sciccareddu" engages in a duel symbolic with the "camiddu," in a whirlwind of sparks and fireworks. A moment of great emotional intensity, evoking ancient rivalries and celebrates the strength of tradition.

57

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## U Picuraru

ANTILLO



In February, the Carnival of Antillo comes alive with the "picuraru" mask, a symbol of the region's rich pastoral heritage. Immerse yourself in the festive atmosphere, be captivated by the infectious rhythms, and discover the authentic heart of this community.

58

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## Le Mummie

SAVOCA



In the Capuchin Convent of Savoca, a place rich in spirituality, embark on a journey into the mysterious. Discover the perfectly preserved remains of illustrious figures of the past, namely members of the Savoca aristocracy who lived between the 18th and 19th centuries. This unique experience will make you reflect on the meaning of life and death.

59

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## Farmer Museum

ANTILLO



The Historical, Ethno-Anthropological Museum of Antillo invites you to step back in time and explore the world of ancient peasant traditions. Immerse yourself in reconstructed rooms, marvel at the tools of the trade, and discover the enduring spirit of this land.



If you go to Limina ask about Ntanté, a historical character local, and ask him what happened in the village on the day of your birthday. Thanks to his large archive of newspaper articles, videotapes and objects, he will be able to answer you. Lose yourself in his micro world!

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# Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul

CASALVECCHIO SICULO



62



The Church of Saints Peter and Paul, a masterpiece of Norman architecture, will captivate you with its timeless beauty. Immerse yourself in the harmonious blend of Byzantine, Arab, and Norman styles, and marvel at the exquisite attention to detail. Uncover the secrets of this thousand-year-old cathedral.

63

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# Saint Philip of Agira festival

LIMINA



64



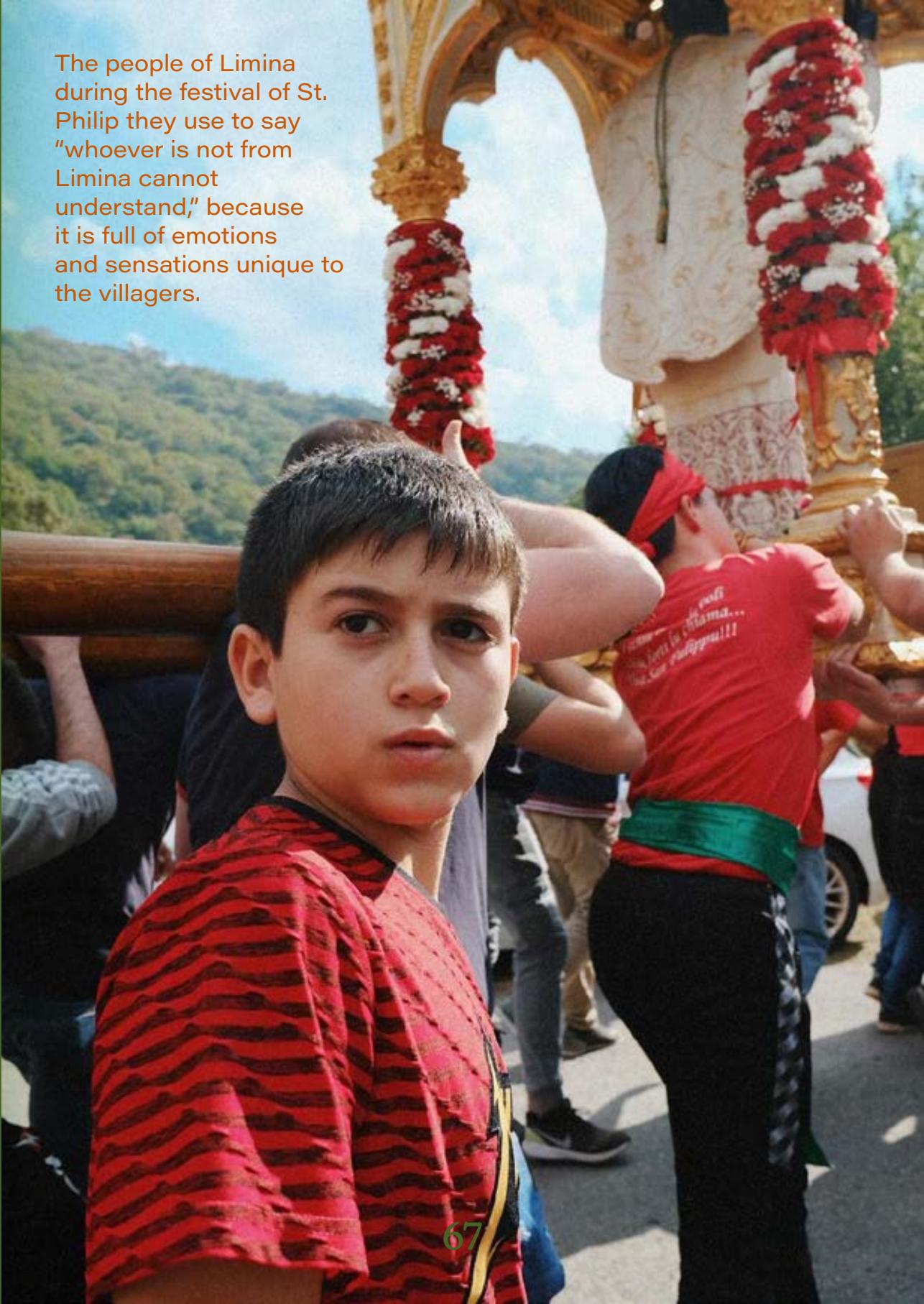
In May, Limina celebrates the feast of San Filippo d'Agira, an event rich in history and legend. The highlight of the festival is the wildly running of the procession, with the saint carried running through the streets of the town, in a demonstration of fervor and popular devotion. Participate in this unique moment, admire the "fight" against demons and surrender to the spirituality that animates this festival.

65

# The procession of the Saint



The people of Limina during the festival of St. Philip they use to say "whoever is not from Limina cannot understand," because it is full of emotions and sensations unique to the villagers.





# In the footsteps of cinema locations

Follow in the footsteps of your favorite characters, explore the Sicily's most iconic film sets and get carried away by the magic of cinema. It will be like being the protagonist of an unforgettable movie.

# Valle d'Agrò



- 1 SAVOCA  
**The Godfather**  
Bar Vitelli
- 2 SAVOCA  
**The Godfather**  
Church of St. Nicholas
- 3 SANT'ALESSIO SICULO  
**Stanno tutti bene**  
Cemetery
- 4 SANTA TERESA DI RIVA  
**Johnny Stecchino**  
Truck Stop

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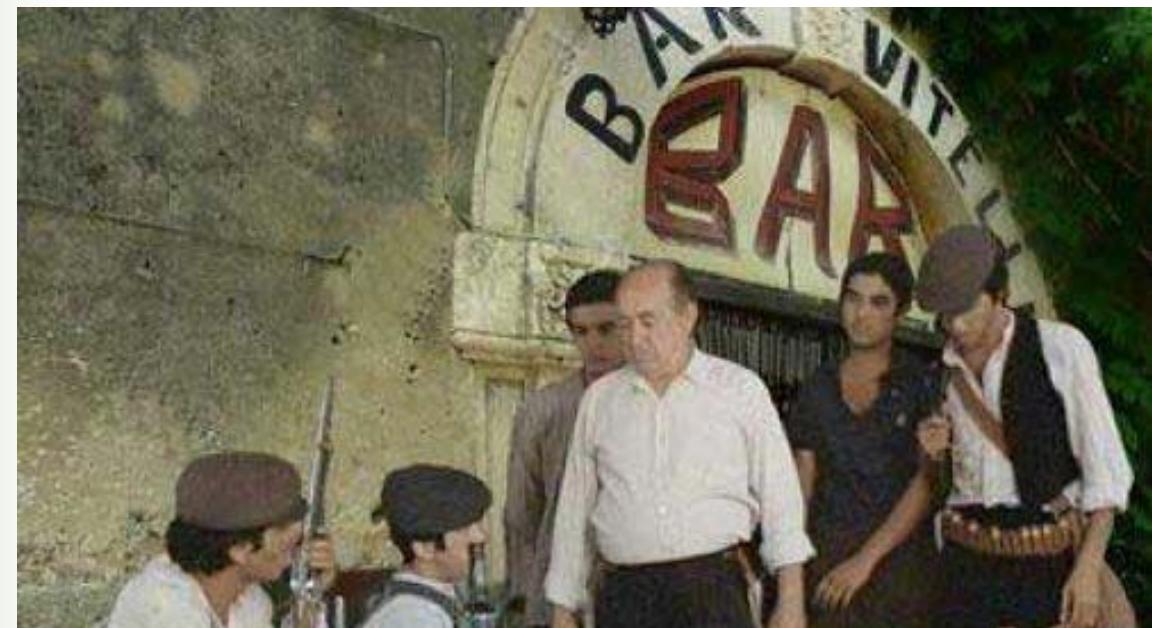
# Il Padrino

FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA, 1972



## CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, SAVOCA

Relive the magic of marriage in the movie "The Godfather" in front of the Church of St. Nicholas in Savoca. Admire its monumental facade, immerse yourself in the beauty of the place and imagine being part of a timeless story.



## BAR VITELLI, SAVOCA

Enter Bar Vitelli in Savoca, where time seems to have stopped in the 1970s. Sit under the pergola, order a lemon granita and savor the unique atmosphere of this place, made famous by scenes from the movie "The Godfather". Inside the venue you can also take a tour in the small photographic museum of the Godfather, which chronicles the weeks of filming.

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## Stanno tutti bene

GIUSEPPE TORNATORE, 1990



### CEMETERY, SANT'ALESSIO SICULO

Visit the cemetery of Sant'Alessio Siculo, where the final scene of the film "Stanno tutti bene - They're All Right." A place charged with emotions, where Matteo (Marcello Mastroianni) reassures his wife with the phrase "they are all well," in a moving embrace that celebrates love and family.

74

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## Johnny Stecchino

ROBERTO BENIGNI, 1991



### TRUCK STOP, SANTA TERESA DI RIVA

Immerse yourself in one of the most significant scenes from the film Johnny Stecchino. The truck stop where the real Johnny Stecchino is taken out is the IP gas station (now Q8) service area in Santa Teresa di Riva (Messina), on the highway A18.

75



## The Agrò Valley is waiting for you: find out how to reach us

Come and get to know the Agrò Valley, it's easy! It is located in Sicily 20 km (half an hour by car) from Taormina and 80 km from Catania Airport (one hour by car).

### BY CAR

From the A19 Palermo-Catania: Take the Roccalumera exit and follow the signs for Casalvecchio Siculo, Antillo and Limina.

From the coast: If you are coming from the coast, follow the signs for Casalvecchio Siculo, Antillo and Limina.

### BY TRAIN AND BUS

The nearest train station is Santa Teresa di Riva. From here, you can take a cab to get to Casalvecchio Siculo, Antillo and Limina or rent a car.

### BY PLANE

The nearest airport is Catania International Airport.

Choose the most convenient way for you and come discover the wonders of the Agrò Valley. We look forward to welcoming you!

# Sicily off the trails

## TOURS IN THE AGRÒ VALLEY

This guide is an innovative way to discover the territory of some of the towns in the Agrò Valley, and plan travel itineraries celebrating the territory, communities and active projects with positive impact.

It was created with the CIRCE project, an acronym for "Creativity and Innovation for the Regeneration of Communities and Cultural Ecosystem." Among other objectives, CIRCE has the goal of enhancing and disseminating cultural offerings through the creative and participatory action of its inhabitants, with a view to revitalizing tourism. All this is aimed at increasing youth employment, increasing community participation and halting the demographic exodus.

### Progetto Circe

**Bando Borghi, Ministero della Cultura  
PNRR M1C3. INTERVENTO 2.1 -  
ATTRATTIVITÀ DEI BORGHI STORICI.  
Comuni di Casalvecchio Siculo, Limina  
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Want to immerse yourself  
in the stories of the Agrò Valley?  
Click here and watch the videos!



