

# SAN NICOLA ARCELLA

Interactive Digital Guide

#snaexperience

Produced in collaboration with



# Hi!

**I'm Francis Marion Crawford**

and this is the digital pocket guide for the Municipality of San Nicola Arcella.

**This guide not only contributes to the promotion of the area in an eco-sustainable way** but also provides you with all the essential information to visit and experience our town to the fullest.

In this guide, you will find a concise overview of useful information, points of interest, outdoor experiences, and recommended activities.

*“Look at the links”*

To make the pocket guide even more functional, we have created links, both internal and external, to provide you with as much content as possible by connecting directly to websites and social media pages.

Whenever you find underlined text like this [prolocosannicolaarcella](#) click to visit the link.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BROWSE, DRIVE, AND ENJOY OUR BEAUTIFUL SAN NICOLA ARCELLA



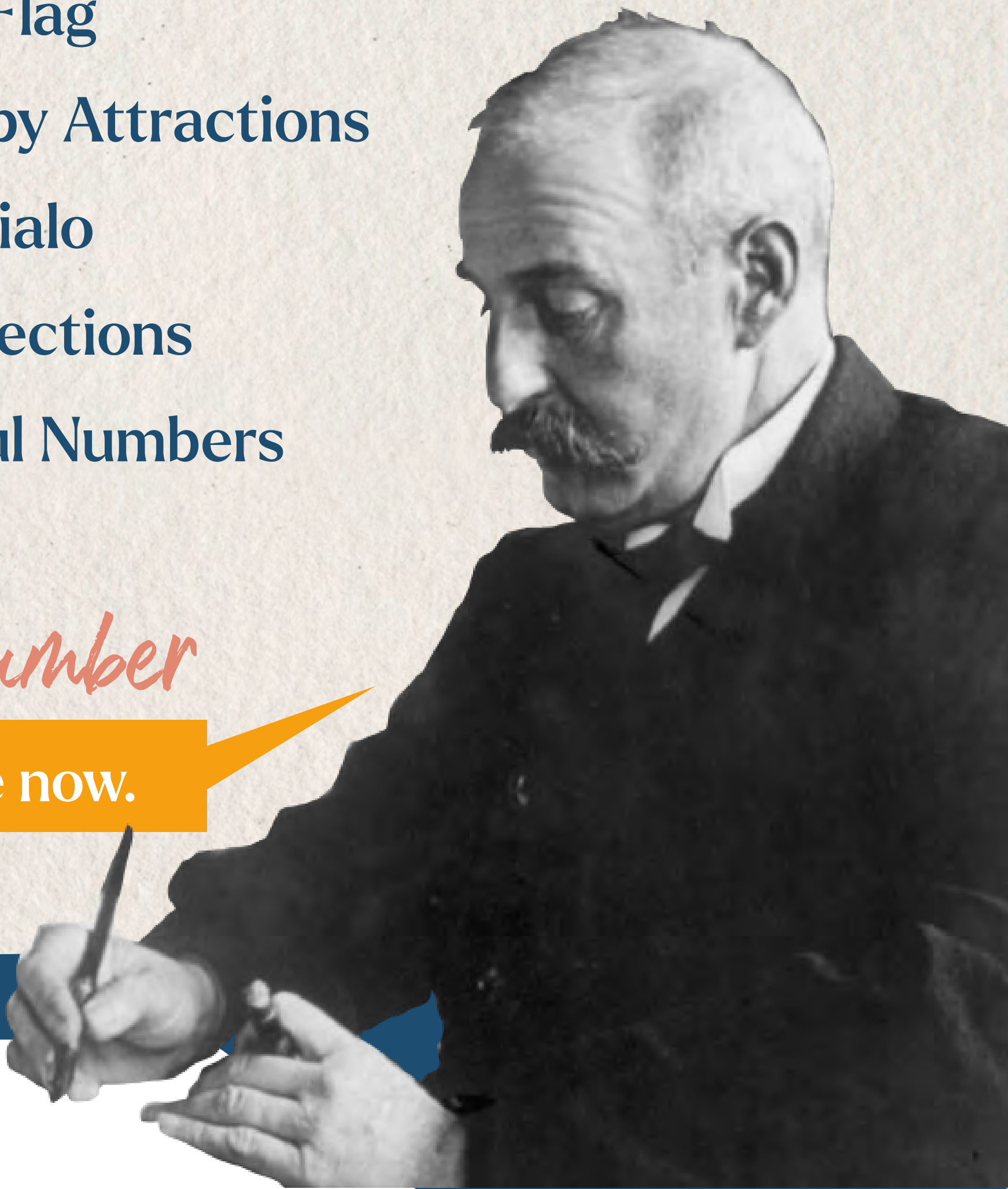
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*Click on the number*

to go to the page now.



# Information

*"Quick facts"*

## OFFICIAL PORTALS:

[comune.sannicolaarcella](http://comune.sannicolaarcella.it)

[arcomagno](http://arcomagno.it)

[visitsannicolaarcella](http://visitsannicolaarcella.it)

## OFFICIAL INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS:

[prolocosannicolaarcella](https://www.instagram.com/prolocosannicolaarcella)

[comunesannicolaarcella](https://www.instagram.com/comunesannicolaarcella)

[arcomagnosannicolaarcella](https://www.instagram.com/arcomagnosannicolaarcella)

## FIRST DENOMINATION:

**San Nicola dei Greci**

## CURRENT NAME:

**San Nicola Arcella**

(from the Bourbon era)

## FOUNDATION:

**1912** (Autonomous municipality)

## INHABITANTS:

**Sannicolesi**

N. Inhabitants **1.954** (as of 31/12/2022)

## LOCAL DIALECT:

**Sannicolese**

## PATRON SAINT:

**San Nicola da Tolentino**

## TOWN FESTIVAL:

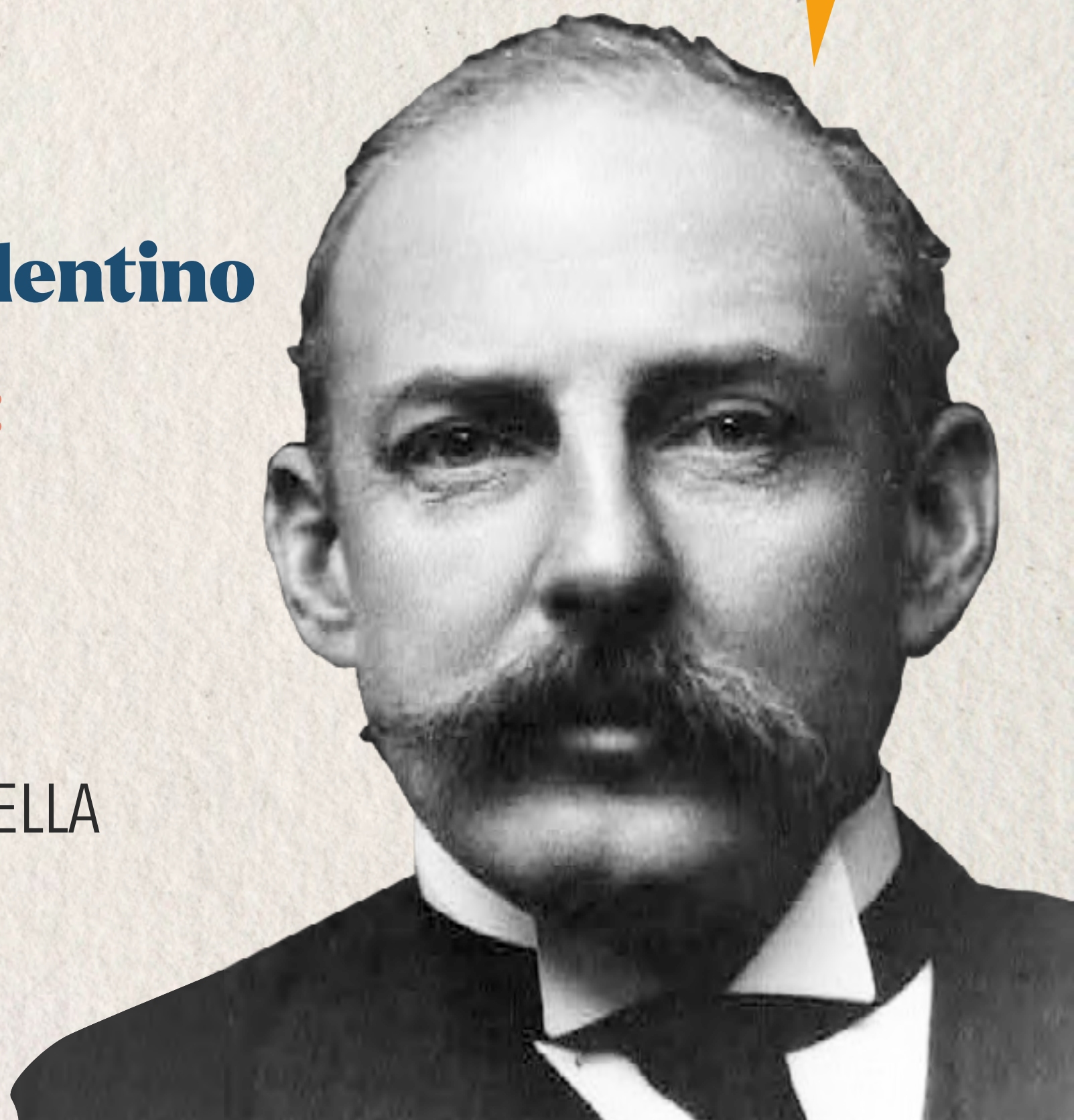
**September 10**



COMUNE DI  
SAN NICOLA ARCELLA

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**San Nicola  
it's smart**



# INTRODUCTION TO *San Nicola*

Perched on a small hill 110 meters above sea level, amidst the colors of the Tyrrhenian Sea and the wonders of the Pollino, lies San Nicola Arcella, a quaint village located along the northwestern Calabrian coast. Steeped in Achaean and Greek culture, it has been an omnipresent observer of the passage of slaves and the powerful, a direct witness to Greek–Eastern monasticism, and the centuries–long and devastating Saracen invasions. San Nicola Arcella shares its story with visitors through a perfect blend of ancient and modern elements, painting a spectacle of colors, flavors, and scents that make it one of the most sought–after destinations in all of Southern Italy. History, culture, gastronomy, and traditions sketch an enchanted village that tells its story through a labyrinth of alleys that contribute to the wonder of the historic center. The beating heart of the town, it is the starting point for exploring squares, scenic spots, natural inlets, monuments, and places of worship. What can you visit in San Nicola Arcella?



# LAOS

## *and the Origins*

**The origins of San Nicola Arcella (SNA) trace back to the town of Scalea, founded by survivors of Lavinium, an ancient Roman city established at the mouth of the Lao River after the destruction of the Greek city of “Làos”, which was attacked by barbarians from the north. The residents of Lavinium were forced to seek refuge on nearby heights due to sanitary conditions (the malaria that plagued the Lao plain) and the need to defend against Saracen incursions. This led to the creation of “Scalea and the Casale of San Nicola Arcella” during Byzantine times.**



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# THE MAP

## San Nicola Arcella

Zoom in on the map, click on the underlined points of interest, and discover more through the links.



SS18 SP1 Center Points of interest



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# THE HISTORIC *Center*

# The Historic Center

**The historic center of San Nicola Arcella is the oldest part of the town. Rich in history and traditions, it features squares, alleys, and narrow streets that evoke a past where community life and sharing were essential.**

The area hosts numerous architectural elements, showcasing local craftsmanship, including staircases, stone arches, ancient entrance gates, surrounding walls, wooden doors, and balconies.

Special mention goes to the “suppuorti,” covered passages that connect two parallel streets, utilizing the limited space between houses.

*Overlooking the sea*



# Sinapsi Urbane

This winding path starts at Piazza A. Siciliano, always considered the heart of the town, where one of the four fountains in the old part is located.

**The town's historic center has been enriched by the creation of artistic works that recount, in 17 stages (12 murals, 4 iron sculptures, and a special artistic installation), the evolution of this territory over millennia. The project, born from a collaboration among several locals, is named "Sinapsi Urbane" (originally "Horus River Vitae") and has a dual objective: to pleasantly narrate, through guided walks, the history of this land, and to encourage visitors to explore the alleys and backstreets in search of the typical smells, colors, and habits of San Nicola.**

**Click here >**



**to find out more**



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*The village  
by the sea*



# THE BELVEDERE

*the sunset show*



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# The Belvedere “a Villa”

“With a single glance, you can admire three regions (Calabria, Basilicata, and Campania), the Island of Dino, Marinella Beach, the Blue Bay with its charming Crawford Tower, and the most beautiful sunsets on the Tyrrhenian coast.”

Known as “Villa” by the locals, the Belvedere of San Nicola Arcella is one of the most beautiful scenic spots along the Tyrrhenian coast, offering visitors a unique view: the Gulf of Policastro, the Island of Dino (the largest Calabrian island), the beautiful Maratea with the Christ the Redeemer statue, and the bay of San Nicola protected by the mighty San Nicola Tower (now known as “Crawford Tower”). Additionally, it provides views of the historic center, the church, and the Pollino mountains, which have contributed to the economic history of a village that is now the pride of the Cedri Riviera.

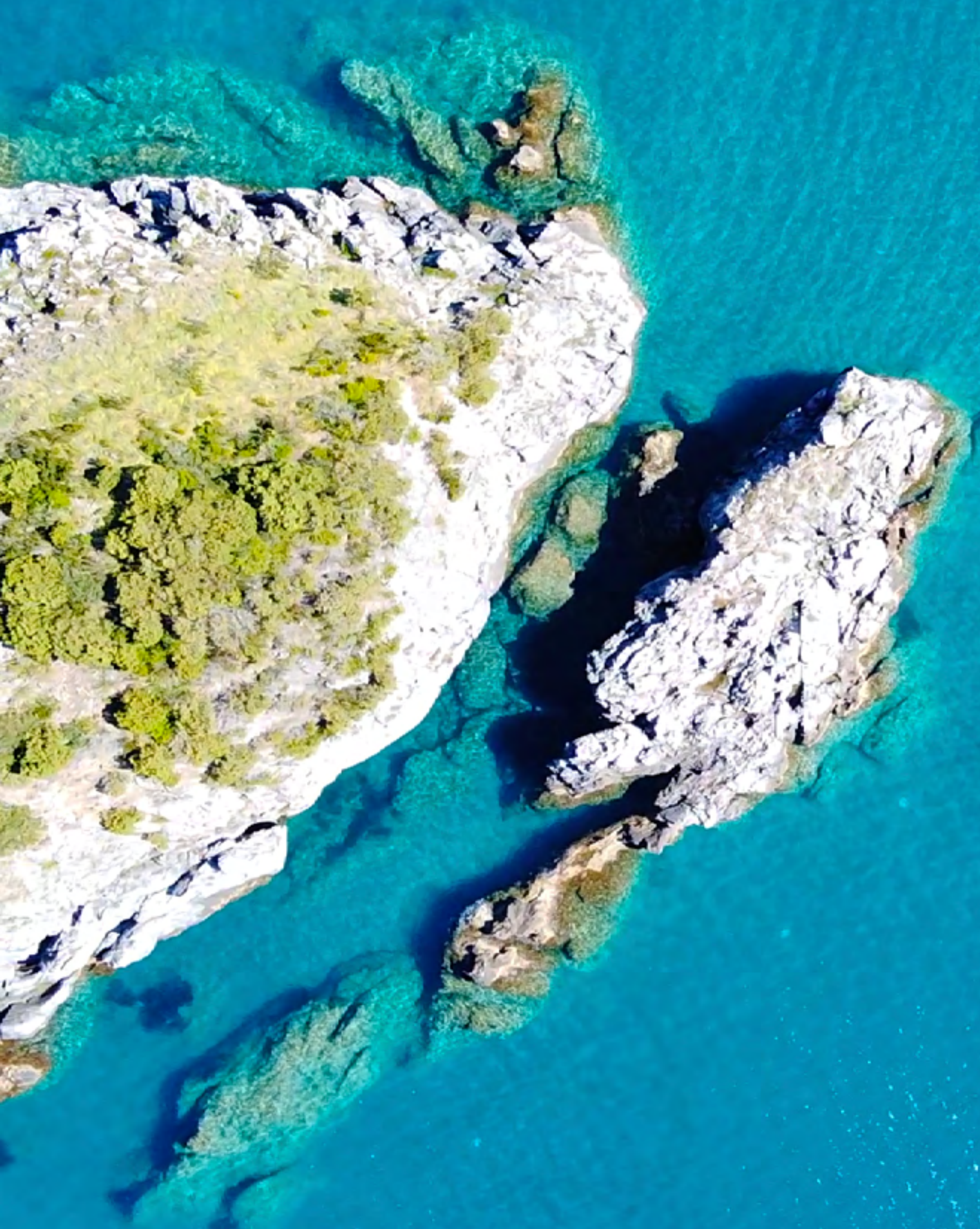


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# Breathtaking view



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# THE COAST *and Beaches*

# THE BEACHES

**San Nicola Arcella boasts a 10 km stretch of coastline that is a treasure for sea lovers, featuring picturesque beaches and marine adventures.**

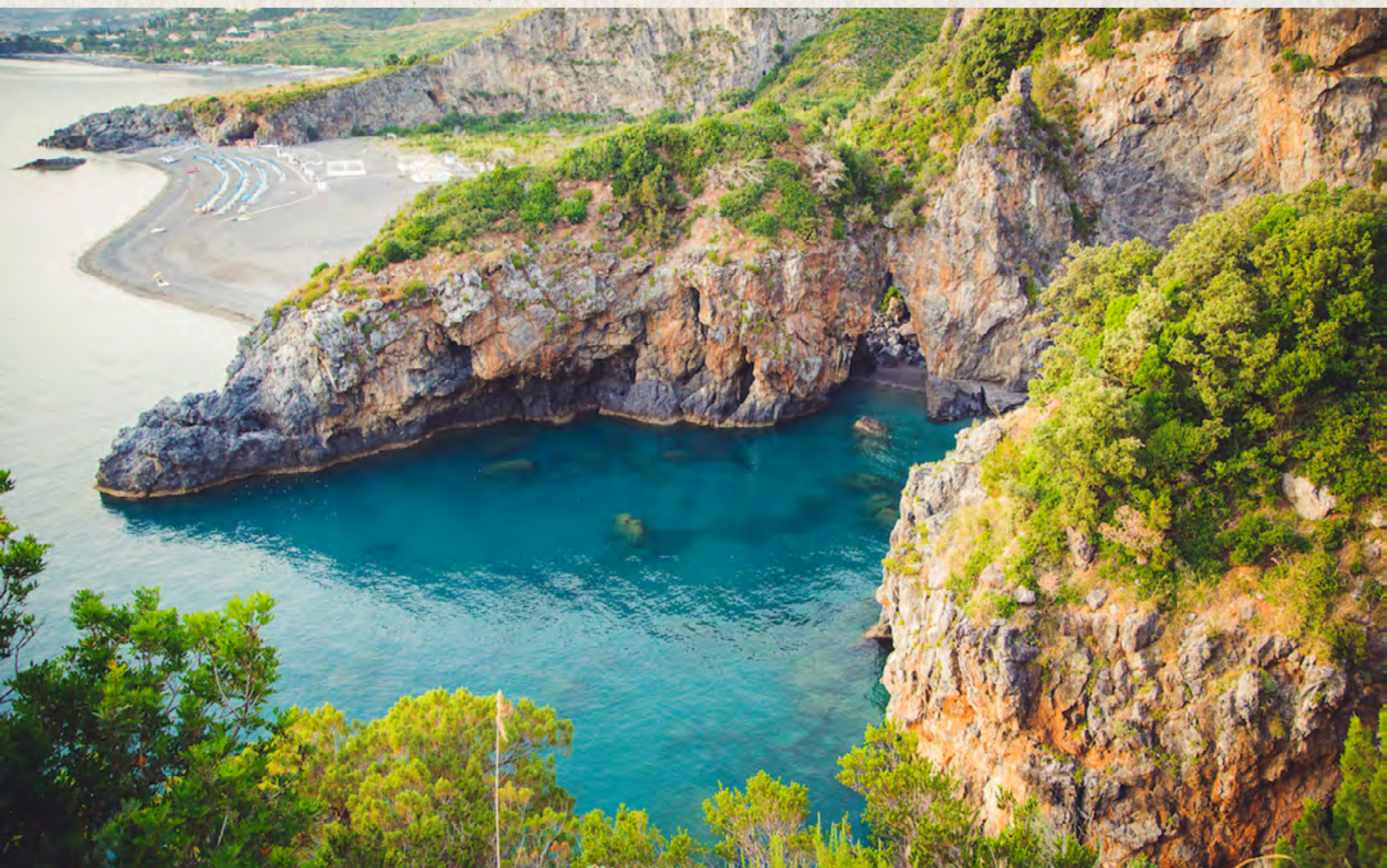
Starting from the south, you find **Carpino Beach**, characterized by grey cliffs contrasting beautifully with the clear sea, creating perfect postcard scenarios and refreshing swimming spots. Moving north, the breathtaking landscape offers rocky inlets and hidden beaches, appearing as gems along the coast. These areas, with their variety of marine colors and bright reflections, are ideal for those seeking a more intimate and personal bathing experience, away from the crowds.



Near the Crawford Tower, an ancient bulwark against Saracen incursions, are the small **beaches of Granatu and Granatieddru**. These places are appreciated not only for their tranquility and peace but also for their seabeds that invite underwater explorations, making them perfect for snorkeling enthusiasts.

Continuing, you will find the wonderful **Blue Bay** with its natural harbor and **Marinella Beach** with its colorful equipped beaches, services, and lively atmosphere, perfect for those seeking comfort and fun by the sea.

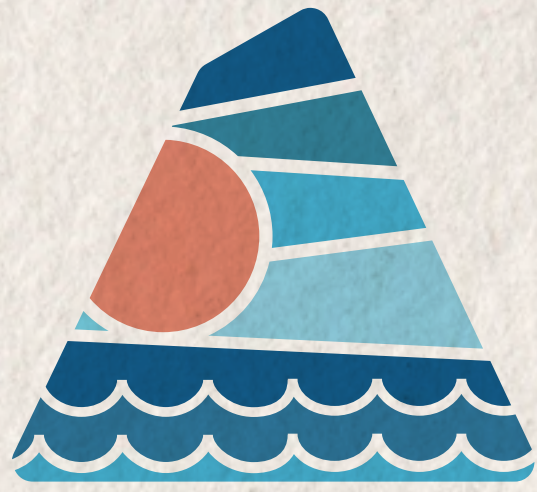
Further north, beyond the **Arcomagno** and the **Arch of Aeneas**, you will be fascinated by the **beach of the Grotta del Prete** and **the equipped beach of the Arcomagno locality**, where nature and modern services meet to offer a complete bathing experience, combining sports, relaxation, and breathtaking views.



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# ARCOMAGNO

*Piece of Paradise*



**arcomagno**

AUTHENTIC WONDER

**TICKET**

**€ 4,00**

children up to 12 years old

**€ 2,00**

Parking allowed  
**30 min**

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Site opening  
**8:30–20:00**

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Entrance times  
**8:30–19:00**

Click here and purchase the ticket  
comfortably by skipping the queue

**buy now**

ticket can also be purchased on site

INFO AND REGULATIONS ON  
[www.arcomagnocalabria.it](http://www.arcomagnocalabria.it)

# ARCOMAGNO

**The Arcomagno of San Nicola Arcella is a captivating geological formation located along the picturesque Tyrrhenian coast of Calabria, in the beautiful Riviera dei Cedri, nestled in the marvelous Gulf of Policastro.**

**This extraordinary natural jewel is a true spectacle for the eyes, resulting from erosive processes that have shaped the coast over millennia. Its main feature is a majestic natural arch that gracefully extends towards the sea. This structure has been sculpted by the relentless action of sea waves, creating a unique and breathtaking landscape over centuries.**



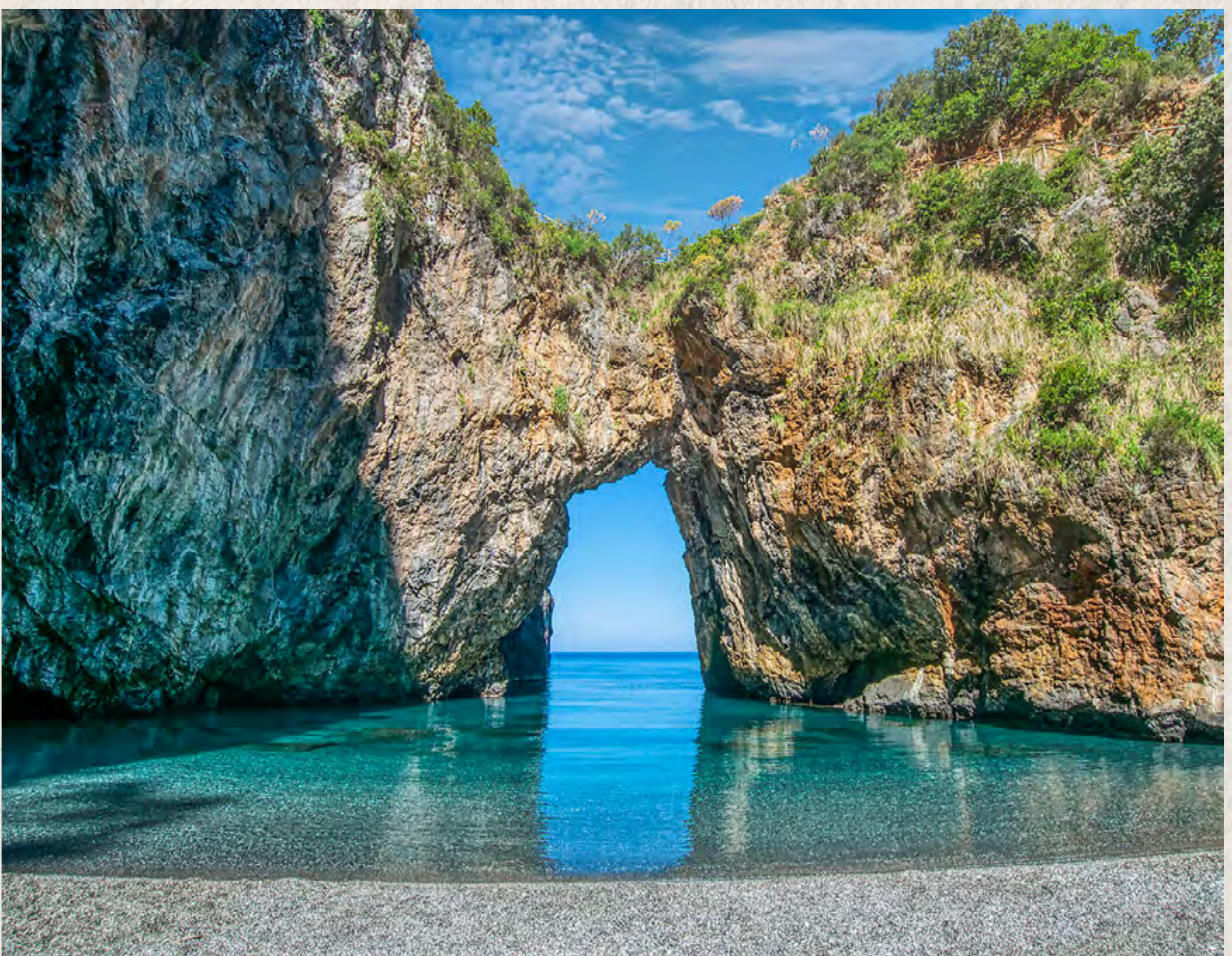
**kissing Zone**  
zona a baci illimitati

"Non importa se si è una coppia. Vanno bene anche i baci a 8giti, gentili e casual, o anche al proprio cane. L'importante è poi postare la foto sui social!"  
"It doesn't matter if you are a couple. Kisses to children, parents or grandmothers, or even your dog are also good! The important thing is then to post the photo on social networks!"

Hashtag: #arcomagno #kissingzonearcomagno #sannicolaarcella  
tag: @prolocosannicolaarcella

# BUT THAT'S NOT ALL:

Arcomagno hides a hidden treasure. Nestled between its majestic walls is a small beach, originally known as the **Grotta d'u Saracinu**. This little earthly paradise appears as a secret realm, with a natural lagoon in the shape of a half-moon extending for about 25 meters. Protected by the great arch, the lagoon creates a unique environment that enchants visitors. The Arcomagno of San Nicola Arcella is a must-visit for lovers of nature and breathtaking scenery.



Reaching it is like embarking on a journey to an enchanted world, where the force of the sea joins the sculptural art of nature to create a timeless masterpiece. Don't miss the chance to explore this hidden treasure and experience an unforgettable adventure on the magnificent Calabrian coast.

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**ARCH OF AENEAS**

*Natural jewel*

# TORRE CRAWFORD

## *The Crawford Tower*

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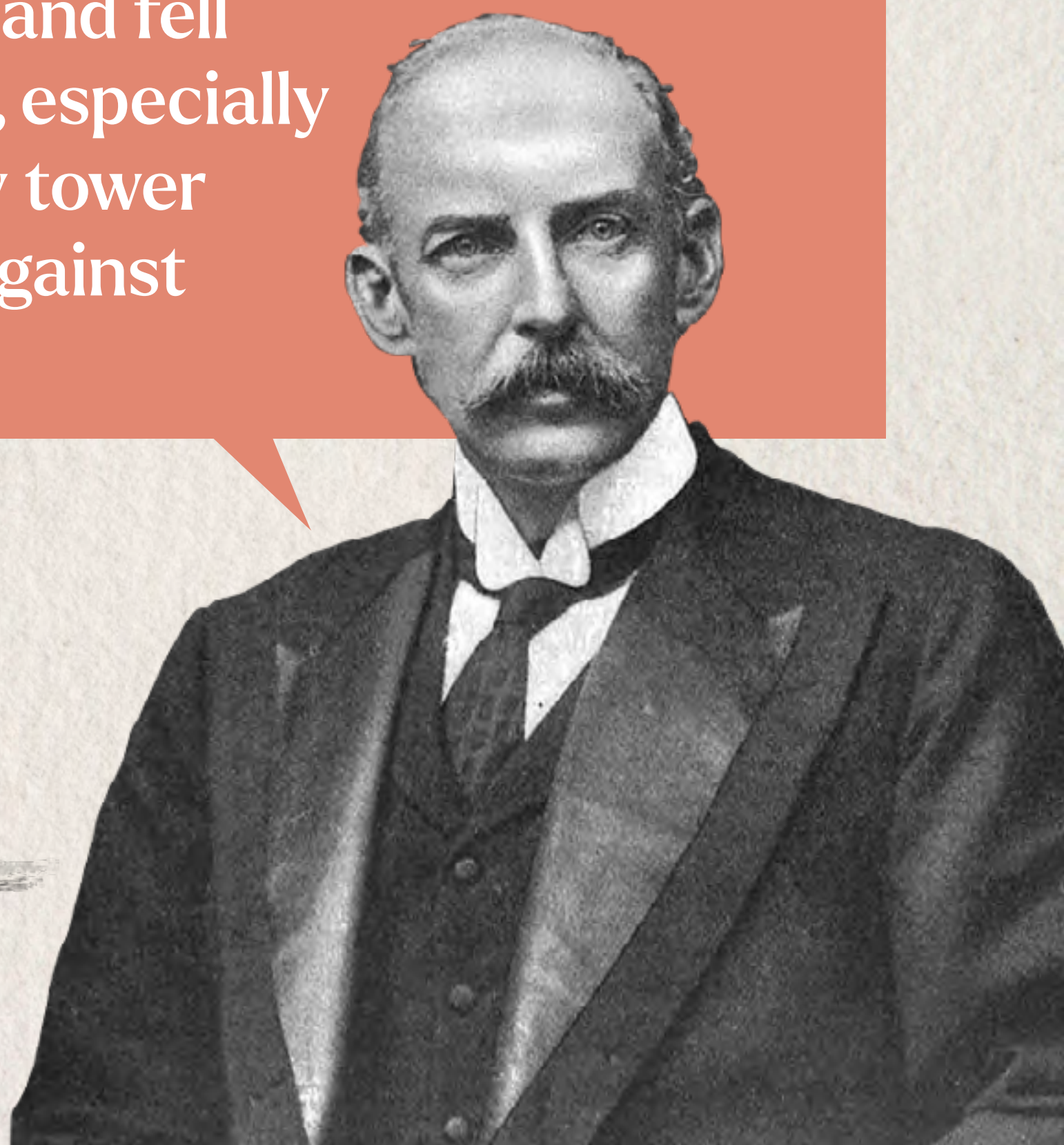
# Keeper of Precious Treasures

**The Saracen Tower is situated atop a promontory that protects the bay.**

The high staircase leading to the first and second floors is one of the tower's most significant features. The stone blocks, about 50 cm long and 20 cm wide, are supported by two large overlapping arches. The first arch leads to the first floor, while the second arch leads to the second floor.

**At the top of the tower, the terrace was used to communicate and warn other watch towers of possible incursions through large bonfires. From 1887 to the early 1900s, the tower was the residence of the writer Francis Marion Crawford (1854–1909); besides being a successful writer, he was passionate about sailing and held a long-distance captain's license.**

While I was making a journey in the waters of the Southern Tyrrhenian Sea, I landed in the bay of San Nicola Arcella and fell in love with the place, especially the sixteenth century tower that once defended against Saracen incursions.



Click here >



to find out more



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Blue Bay

# PALAZZO DEI PRINCIPI

*The Princes' Palace*



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# The Princes' Palace

**Built at the end of the 18th century by the Spinelli family, the palace served as the summer residence of the lords of Scalea.**

**In addition to their military renown, they were known for the literary works of Prince Francesco Maria Spinelli, son of Antonio and Beatrice Carafa.**

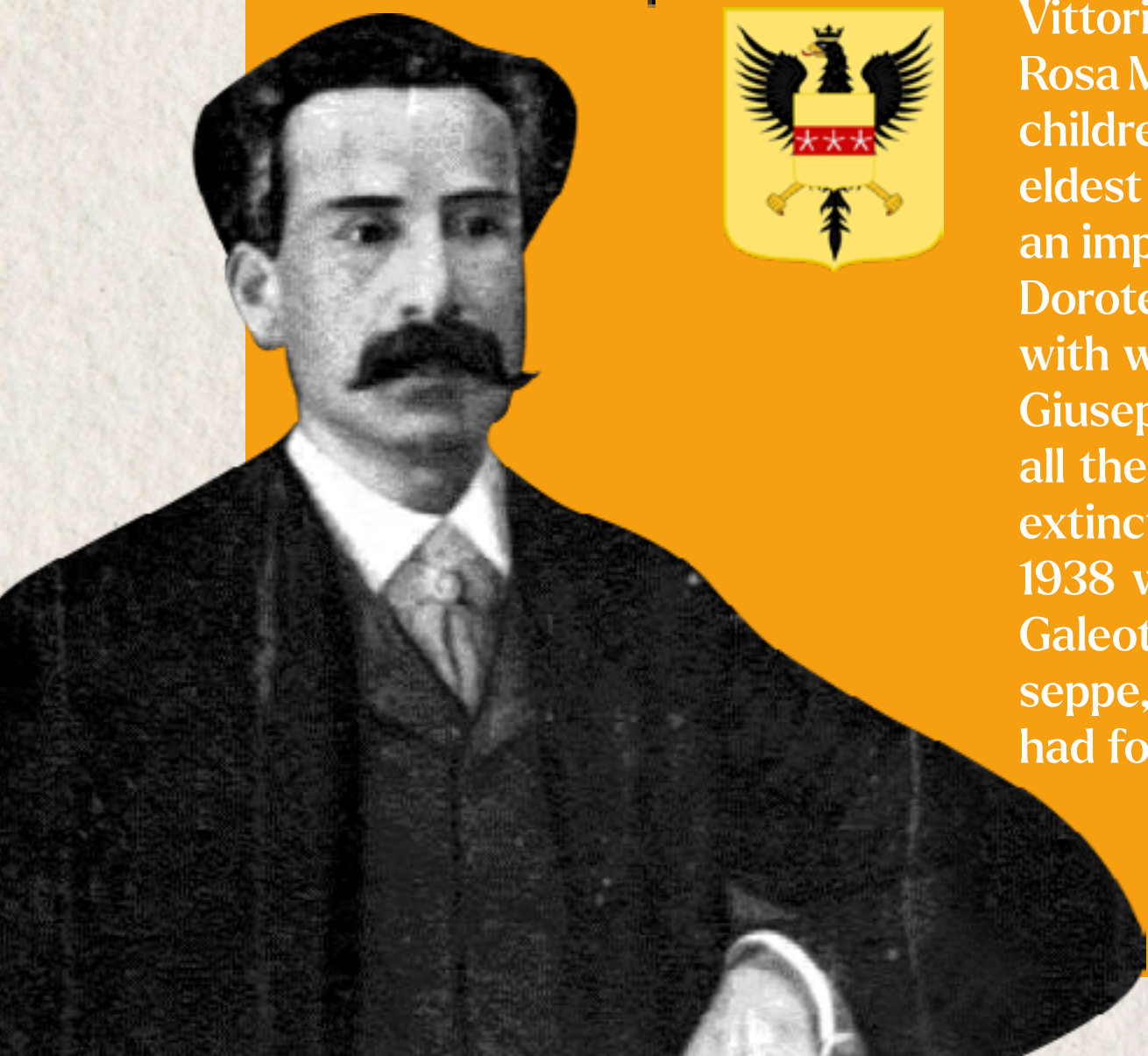
## The Lanza Family

**The Lanza Branciforte, commonly known as Lanza, is an Italian noble family that originated in Sicily in the 15th century. Derived from a cadet branch of the Lancia dei Baroni di Longi, of Aleramic origin, it represents one of the major dynasties of the Sicilian aristocracy. Over the centuries, this family was at the top of political and economic power on the island, with its exponents holding the highest institutional, civil, and military positions in the Kingdom of Sicily. After the eldest branch of the Princes of Trabia became extinct in the first half of the 20th century, the Lanza Branciforte family is represented by the collateral line of the Princes Lanza of Scalea.**



The branch of the Princes of Scalea originated with Francesco Lanza Branciforte Spinelli (1834-1919), the second son of Pietro, IX Prince of Trabia, who married in 1832 the Neapolitan noblewoman Eleonora Spinelli Caracciolo, princess of Scalea and Duchess of Misuraca, daughter of Francesco, prince of Scalea, and the last descendant of his lineage. She brought him all the titles and assets of which she was heir as a dowry.

Francesco Lanza Branciforte Spinelli was a deputy in the IX and X legislatures and a senator of the Kingdom of Italy in the XV legislature. Known as Francesco, he was granted the title of Prince Lanza of Scalea with a diploma given by King Vittorio Emanuele III of Italy on 14 August 1911. Married to Rosa Mastrogiovanni Tasca dei Conti d'Almerita, he had five children: Pietro, Eleonora, Lucio, Giuseppe, and Nicola. The eldest son Pietro, Prince Lanza of Scalea (1863-1938), was an important political figure. In 1887, Prince Pietro married Dorotea Fardella Paternò Castello, baroness of Moxharta, with whom he had six children. The eldest son, Francesco Giuseppe, III Prince Lanza di Scalea (1890-1954), inherited all the titles of the Lanza Branciforte family following the extinction of the primary line of the Princes of Trabia in 1938 with the death of Prince Ottavio Lanza Branciforte Galeotti without descendants. Known as Francesco Giuseppe, he married Teresa De Luca in 1936, with whom he had four children, and through his descendants, the Lanza Branciforte family continues





The architectural style is characterized by a regular and symmetrical layout composed of interconnected rooms around an internal courtyard. The palace has a square structure (approximately 40 m x 44 m), in Baroque style with valuable architectural elements, such as the entrance portal surmounted by three arched windows and the courtyard ending with a curvilinear staircase with two symmetrical ramps placed in front of the entrance and in front of a projection.

[Click here >](#)



[to find out more](#)





# Guided tours

*among the wonders of the village*



## #TICIPORTOIO

visite guidate

### **Crawford Tower**

Monday and Friday – 6.30 pm

### **Princes' Palace**

Tuesday and Wednesday – 7.30 pm

### **Sinapsi Urbane**

Wednesday – 9.30 pm



The visit lasts approximately 2 hours and ends with the sunset to make the experience even more magical and unforgettable.



For info and reservations send a message to:

 [prolocosannicolaarcella](https://www.facebook.com/prolocosannicolaarcella)

 [prolocosannicolaarcella](https://www.instagram.com/prolocosannicolaarcella)

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# FAMOUS PEOPLE

*To Remember*



# NOTABLE FIGURES

## PRINCE PIETRO LANZA BRANCIFORTE

In the 19th century, having married Eleonora, the last heir of the Spinelli family of Scalea, he became prince of the entire fiefdom, inheriting the fortified farmhouse located in the Dino district, commonly known as “Il Palazzo Principi Lanza”.

## LORD FRANCIS MARION CRAWFORD

A writer who, around the end of the 1800s, set his residence at the guard tower and based some of his stories there, offering testimony to the life of the small maritime borough.

## COUNT ALESSANDRO VINCENZO SICILIANO

Among the most significant figures in the history of San Nicola, an economist and philanthropist born in 1860, who emigrated young to Brazil. He founded many charitable institutions and created the first social pension for the poor. His intervention was crucial when San Nicola Arcella managed, in 1912, to become an autonomous municipality, leaving its status as a fraction of Scalea.

## AMEDEO AND ANTONIO BARLETTA

Knights of Labor and great entrepreneurs in Latin America in the early 1900s. They donated the nursery school named after their mother Filomena Barletta to the municipality of San Nicola Arcella in 1932.

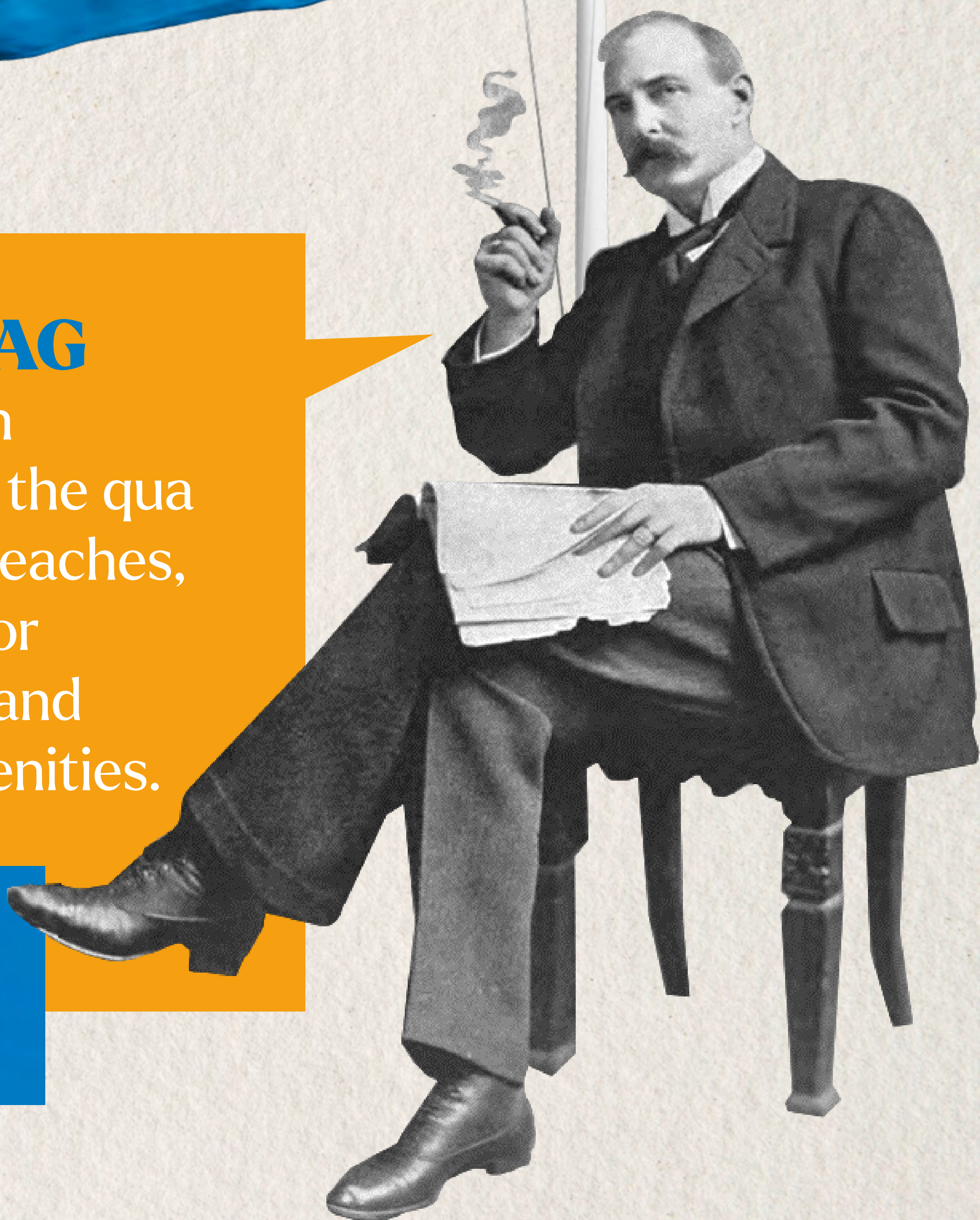
# BLUE FLAG

# 2025



## BLUE FLAG

certification guarantees the quality of the beaches, the water for swimming, and coastal amenities.








# NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

click the icon  and visit the website directly

-  **Pollino National Park**
-  **Statue of Redemeer** (Maratea)
-  **Blanda Museum** (Tortora Historic Center)
-  **Martirano Spinelli Palace**(Aieta)
-  **Sanctuary of Madonna della Grotta** (Praia a Mare)
-  **Dino Island** (Praia a Mare)
-  **Citron Museum** (Santa Maria del Cedro)
-  **Laos Archaeological Park** (Santa Maria del Cedro)
-  **Romito Cave** (Papasidero)
-  **Church of Santa Maria di Costantinopoli**  
(Papassidero)
-  **Street Art** (Diamante)
-  **Relics of Saint Valentine, Convent  
of the Capuchin Fathers** (Belvedere Marittimo)
-  **Sanctuary of San Francesco di Paola** (Paola)

## NOT TO BE MISSED IN CALABRIA

-  **Riace Bronzes** (MARC - Reggio Calabria)
-  **MUSABA Museum Park** (Mammola- RC)
-  **Sila National Park**
-  **Sibari Archaeological Park** (Sibari)
-  **Lavender Park** (Morano Calabro)



LACALABRIAÉNUSCIALO 

third edition

SEPT  
19-20

DIGITAL

**SAN NICOLA**

**ARCELLA**

**is "Nu Scialo"**

the event that unites  
villages and the digital world

TRAVEL

FOOD

**FREE  
ENTRY**

20  
25

[nuscialo.it](http://nuscialo.it)

Event promoted by



# CONNECTIONS

## BY TRAIN

- **PRAJA-AJETA-TORTORA:**

Regional trains, Intercity - Freccce, Italo

- **SCALEA-SANTA DOMENICA TALAO:**

Regional trains, Intercity - Freccce, Italo

## BY PLANE (Link FSI)

- **LAMEZIA TERME "SANT'EUFEMIA":**

International Airport 132 km away

- **SALERNO "COSTA D'AMALFI":**

International Airport 146 km away

- **NAPOLI "CAPODICHINO":**

International Airport 216 km away

## BY BOAT (Link FSI/SS18)

- **MARATEA:**

Tourist port 17 km away

- **BELVEDERE MARITTIMO:**

Tourist port "Riva di Scidro" 35 km away

- **CETRARO**

Tourist port 48 km away

## BY CAR

- FROM THE NORTH: A2 motorway (Salerno-Reggio Calabria) exit "Lagonegro nord" for 45 km (SS Fondo valley del Noce and SS 18)

- FROM THE SOUTH:

A2 motorway (Salerno-Reggio Calabria) "Falerna" exit for approx 100 km on the SS 18.



# USEFUL NUMBERS

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE OF SAN NICOLA ARCELLA

Address: Via Nazionale, 5 - Phone: (+39) 0985 3900

## MUNICIPALITY OF SAN NICOLA ARCELLA

Address: Via Nazionale, 5 - Phone: (+39) 0985 3218

## BRAILE PHARMACY DR. MIMMA ANTONIETTA

Address: Via Nazionale 78, San Nicola Arcella (CS)

Phone: (+39) 0985 3888

## VETERINARIAN DR. ILENIA RESCIGNANO

Address: San Nicola Arcella (CS) - Phone: (+39) 392 6261123

## CARABINIERI - SCALEA (112)

Address: Corso Mediterraneo 393, Scalea(CS)

Phone: (+39) 0985 920888

## POST OFFICE - SAN NICOLA ARCELLA

Address: Via Nazionale 20, San Nicola Arcella (CS)

Phone: (+39) 0985 3130

**State Police:** 113 (+39) 0982 622311

**Finance Police:** 117 (+39) 0982 613477

**Fire Department:** 115 (+39) 0985 91148

**Forest Ranger:** (+39) 0985 764109

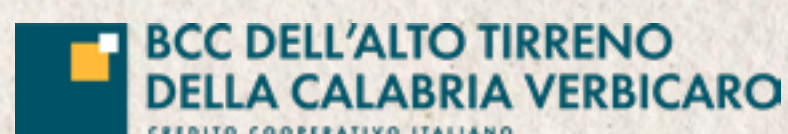
**Port Authority:** 1530 (+39) 0982 971415

**Roadside Assistance:** 803116

**Violence Against Women:** 1522

**Childhood Emergency:** 114

**BANK** *Where to withdraw money*



**Posteitaliane**

**INTESA**  **SANPAOLO**

**BPER:**  
Banca

 **BNL**  
GRUPPO BNP PARIBAS

(Praia a Mare)

[Open on maps](#)

(Praia a Mare)

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(Scalea)

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