



Municipality of
Roccella Jonica
Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria



Roccella Jonica

Sea Mountains History Culture Fun



www.visitroccella.it



Porto delle Grazie



Jonica Multiservizi S.p.A.

Roccella, a (little bit) special town



The town of Roccella seen from the sea

Yes, we have always thought to live in a special town, a town where it is worth spending a holiday or a weekend. Follow us and we will try to convince you. Roccella is a seaside town, with more than 8 kms of beaches and a tourist port with 450 berths and a dock for fishing vessels.

But its territory climbs up to the Calabrian Serre up to reaching 1100 metres of altitude.

If you love the mountains, half an hour drive from Roccella you will find stunning woods, rich in undergrowth and mushrooms.

That's why Roccella is the seat of the oldest and the most important Calabrian mycological circle.

We have a long history dating back to the Middle Ages and making our town, until late 1800s, the only inhabited village along the 250 kms of

coast between Crotona and Reggio Calabria.

Roccella in fact, located on a fortified rock, a hundred metres from the sea, was impregnable for the Saracens and Barbary pirates, whose raids in Calabria ended only at the beginning of 19th century. There was no need for its inhabitants to move to the internal heights.

On your arrival in Roccella you can visit the majestic Carafa Castle, the seat of the local feudal lords, the Carafa Princes, for more than three centuries, that has been largely restored and is currently fully accessible.

Or you can go forward in the streets and alleys of the old town, rich in churches and noble palaces.

And yet Roccella is a modern town as well, living in the present.

Maybe you already know that here we have organized one of the most important music events in Italy, the International Jazz Festival "Mediterranean Sounds", for 40 years.

But maybe you do not know that there are also many other concerts, plays, exhibitions, conferences, making Roccella one of the most important cultural centres in Calabria.

That's also because Roccella is one of the municipalities in Italy with the greatest number of entertainment facilities in relation to the number of inhabitants.

Roccella is in fact, a municipality of less than 7000 inhabitants where there are an open-air Theatre with a capacity of 1600 seats, an Auditorium of 600, a Conference Hall with a capacity of 100 seats in the restored Matrice Church annexed to the Carafa Palace of great charm and beauty, and the 17th-century Convent of the Minims with two halls, one with the capacity of 150 seats and the smaller one of 40 seats. Shall we go on?

Well, know that Roccella has been awarded "Blue Flag" for 18 years for the quality of its sea and beaches and the care for the Environment.

We have started the door-to-door separate waste collection for ten years so far and we are able to recycle more than 67% of our waste.

For all the public lighting led lamps are used and our water system ensures the water supply all the days of the year, even in summer when the population is tripled. Moreover, in Roccella there is a very efficient sewer and sewage system thanks to which the sea water is clear all summer season long. Roccella's beaches are safe for children as

they have been awarded "Green Flag" for 10 years by Pediatricians.

And there are also two areas on the free beaches for disabled people, where they can enjoy the sea and use free all the infrastructure and facilities they need in order to spend a nice time with their families.

And what about the sea promenade? It extends for 3 kms and 700 metres from the south end of Roccella to the tourist port, along which there are a few houses and a cycle track continuing for other 3 kms up to Caulonia.

Do you know Roccella is also classified among the first holiday resorts in Italy regarding the good value for money?

Are not you convinced that Roccella is a special place yet?

Well, we can add there are lots of restaurants and pizzerias, trattorias, pubs you can go to if you come here; they offer a great variety of menus for all tastes – from local dishes to international cuisine, from freshly caught fish to the traditional stockfish and dried salted cod cooked in thousand ways and prices for all budgets.

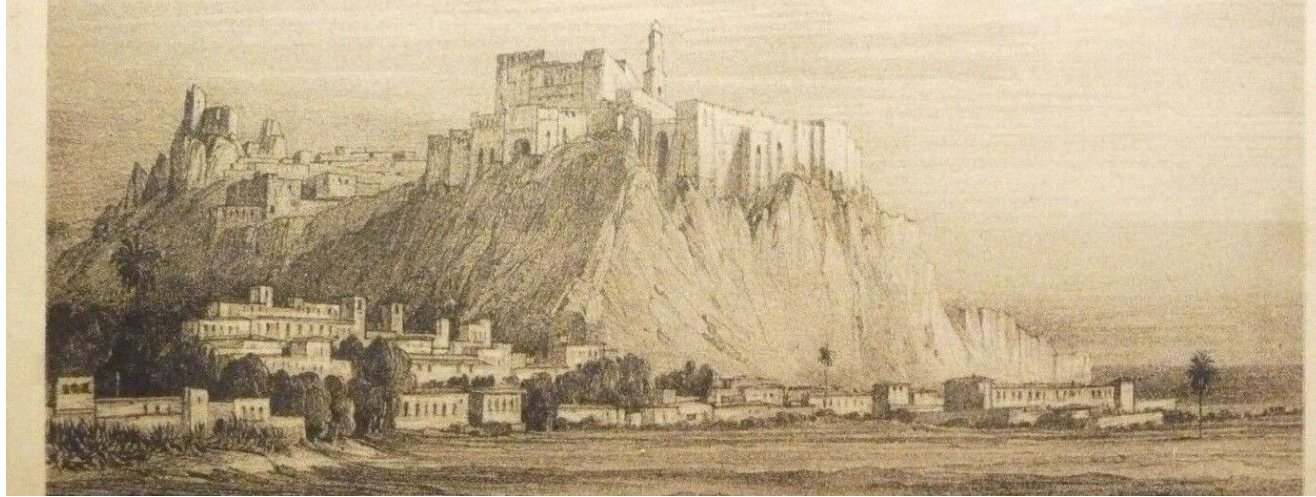
There is no summer day without an event to take part in, enjoying your eyes, ears and mouth...also simultaneously!

If you like, you can go diving or sailing and take lessons to the local diving school, visit the local archaeological sites, or you can make trips to the Aspromonte Park.

Are not you convinced yet? Well, come to Roccella and enjoy our well-known hospitality!

We are waiting for you!

Roccella, *the traces of the past*



Roccella drawn in 1847 by Edward Lear, author of the book "Journals of a landscape painter in southern Calabria and the kingdom of Naples"

The first settlements in Roccella were on the heights at the back of it, in the area known as Saint Onofrio, where it is located a necropolis dating back to the Iron Age, and explored in 1861. The necropolis was used from the middle of the IXth century to the middle of the VIIIth century BC, and it was abandoned before the arrival of the Greek colonists in Locri. An old erudite tradition places in this area an old city called Amphisia, but there is no evidence of the existence of this city nor of its identification with Roccella. Reliable information is referred only to the late antique and medieval phase. In fact, Roccella arose in the Early Middle Ages, as a fortification of a pre-existing settlement located on the coastline and was already assigned in Lordship to different soldiers at the dawn

of Feudalism (Gualterio da Collepetro and his successors, Leone da Regio, Pietro Ruffo and Antonio Centelles). The maritime site of the town, located on the south-west of the rock, already testified by two authors in the XVIIIth century, has been evidenced by recent archeological research and excavations that have brought to light structures dating back to the VIth century A.D. This settlement, depopulated over the centuries, since the XIIth century has been reduced to the fondaco and the church of San Vittore, coexisting only as a port and commercial centre of the town on the rock. The strong points of Roccella San Vittore were artillery and the fortification; they guaranteed the stable presence of the town in the sea.

In the Roman time Roccella already had a "motta" with its tower and walls on Mount Falcone, the innermost and highest peak of the rock; between the XIIIth and XIVth centuries it was equipped with complete walls and the town was fortified, closed on the narrow small streets arranged like a fan around the median axis, with the town gate on the south-west side. Roccella's dock has been frequented since the Early Middle Ages; sailors from Pisa, Amalfi and Venice supplied the fondaco and took the products of the territory behind it. The feudal lords of the town, who since the XIVth century and up to the end of feudalism have been the same ones from Castelvetere, had made Roccella's seaport, the port of their wide feudal state they ruled and both the citizens and the town's feudal court were involved in intense commercial activities. Roccella's history has been linked indissolubly since the second half of the XVth century to the powerful and illustrious Neapolitan family of the Carafas della Spina who embedded the prince title, obtained by the King Philip II, to Roccella, thanks to the high income from the trade of the port of Saint Vittore. Since then Roccella had been simply a barony, incorporated in the wide marquisate of Castelvetere. During the french invasion of Charles VIII to throughout 1498, the fortress-city of Roccella was the stronghold of Antonio Centelles Junior, son of the rebel Antonio senior. In 1497, the venetians landed the artillery in order to track down the tenacious Centelles: in december 1498 the final battle took place, the aragonese army defeated the rebel and Roccella was given back to the Carafas.

Roccella was equipped with stronger defence walls, adapted to the deadly "bombards", with gunnery and firing points, especially along the more vulnerable sides. Thanks to that Roccella stayed safe because in the following century it was often assaulted by the most notorious pirates of the time, Dragut and Cigal; but they never managed to conquer the "cittadella" that became the bastion of the ionian southern coast. A quite different fate has befallen the fondaco and the Church of Saint Vittore, they in fact were more often pillaged and set on fire, as they were the object of raids. Despite this, the fondaco flourished. The Carafas took care of it, they built structures, stores, oil storage tanks, passenger inns, and built their seaside residence in the nearby. At the same time the other families in the town built rural villas throughout the countryside as well, near the mulberry fields that supplied the silk industry. Since the XVIIth century people from Roccella built very close to the sea, outside the safe protection of the walls, and the local fishermen gathered in a quarter around the church of Saint Anthony the Abbot, on the north side of the coast. In the XVIIIth century the great feudal Palace, renewed by the prince Vincenzo Carafa in the second decade of the century, incorporated a large part of the old inhabited centre on the rock that was already beginning to be abandoned slowly in order to move to the plains. And this was how Roccella of Saint Vittore's decline started in order to create an inhabited maritime centre around its fondaco and its churches that had arisen in the suburb in the previous centuries.

Roccella, *the traces of the past*



View of Roccella in 1701- G.Pacichelli

The old inhabited centre lost its central role and was almost abandoned following the tragic Earthquake of 1783. The Carafa Palace, the greatest building on the rock, has been identified since then with the whole area of the old inhabited centre, crystallized in the symbolic definition of "Castle". When also the Matrice Church, last spark of life in the dying old town, was closed to be moved to

the new building of worship, on via XXVth April, the abandoned centre lost completely any reason for being, remaining only in the faded memory of the local elderly residents as "the town". The new Roccella lives totally by the sea, also physically, the Ionian Sea from which it has never parted and that now more than ever represents a factor of development of its economical, social and cultural life.

Roccella *and the Carafas*

In 1479 Roccella's history linked to the one of Carafa family. It was on that year King Ferdinand of Aragon granted the feuds of Roccella and Castelvetere to a noble neapolitan man: Jacopo Carafa della Spina.

The Carafas were among the best families in the Reign, among them there were a Pope and numerous Cardinals and Bishops, they had feudal states throughout the Reign and a notable influence at Court and in the context of noble seats in Rome.

Jacopo's son, Vincenzo built a large part of the feudal Palace. Vincenzo was succeeded by his son, Giovanni Battista who died tragically as he was executed in Naples in 1552, and was succeeded by his son, Girolamo. When very young, Girolamo repelled the corsair Dragut from Roccella's fortress in 1553.

Girolamo left as heir his son Fabrizio, and the history of the dynasty reached its peak. Fabrizio and his regent mother's policy, together with some events, such as the victorious defence of the town from the attack of the corsair Cigala, had as a result the conferral of the princely title in 1595. In 1613 Fabrizio was given the concession to found a church dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, as the seat of a Priory of the Gerosolimitan Order of Malta; of which Order one of Fabrizio's sons, Gregorio, became the Great Master in 1680.

Fabrizio was succeeded by Girolamo and then Fabrizio II, who by marrying Agata Branciforte, the daughter of the first peer of the Kingdom of the two Sicilies, left his son Carlo Maria as heir of a large feudal State also in Sicily. On the extinction



The Carafa della Spina Family crest

of the first-born branch in 1703, the Carafa State was given to the cadet branch of the family, the Dukes of Bruzzano. The first Prince of the Bruzzano branch put in action a policy of great construction work whose traces are still visible today. The feudal Palace was almost completely rebuilt and enlarged, buildings were added to the fondaco, and the oil depot was built on the seashore, then turned into a seaside casino, churches and convents were equipped.

Carlo Maria's son Gennaro and his grandson Vincenzo Maria continued the policy of investments and concessions to the town that under the new feudal lords had a great expansion and was the favourite seat of the family of the Princes in the State, also after the subversion of feudalism in 1806.

Sightseeing Roccella



Carafa Palace today

Carafa feudal Palace: a first part of the Palace was built after 1516 by Vincenzo Carafa, who moved his residence leaving the medieval castle. A first enlargement was due to Carlo Maria and Giulia Carafa who, at the end of the XVIIth century, added the northern wing, towards the town Gate, thanks to a spiral stone staircase. The current and imposing appearance was given to the Palace in the first two decades of the XVIIIth century by the Prince Vincenzo Carafa, who acquired many neighbouring houses and incorporated them in the new construction. The Palace, disposed around a central courtyard paved with sea stones, was built in Baroque style of the living space organized by zones, disposed on three levels with



Carafa Palace

mezzanine floors, equipped with a large stone staircase, with walls and vaults decorated with stuccoes. The hall led to the bedroom where there was the passage to the Church. Worthy of note is the octagonal sitting room. The service areas (kitchens, cellars, stables, and guardhouse), whose doors are surmounted by the Carafa crests, many of which reused from the first palace, overlook the courtyard on the ground floor.



Pizzofalcone Tower

Castle (called Pizzofalcone Tower): the cylindrical tower, called Pizzofalcone, and the ruins of the bastion in front of it, are the only survived structures today of the ancient castle of Roccella Saint Vittore. Built in medieval times in the norman scheme of Motta, on an artificially sagomed rock, the castle had the Tower-Mastio with a wall circuit surrounding it and large spaces carved in the underlying rock. In the XVIth century it was added to the primitive medieval structure the bastion from which the wall circuit started. In the rocky ridge that welds the peak of the Castle to the town cliff, a passage was dug to connect the Fortress to the fortified system of the towngate.



Saint Maria of the Graces Sanctuary

Saint Maria of the Graces Sanctuary: situated in a picturesque position under the Castle, it is a small church with a single nave with a baroque facade and a front stone staircase. According to the tradition, the building was erected by the will of Onofrio Buscemi, the Captain of a ship that escaped a shipwreck just in front of this place, in 1545. It stands on an ancient church devoted to Saint Peter and Paul, indeed. Today's appearance of the church presents specific features of a Baroque flourished between the XVIIth and XVIIIth century.

Sightseeing Roccella



Faced of Saint Nicholas former Aleph's church

Church of Saint Vittore (today of Saint Nicholas former Aleph): the church of St. Vittore, later of the fathers Paoletti or of St. Francis of Paola, attested as early as the XIVth century, but its patron saint has given the name to all the area since the previous centuries. Originally with a single oriented nave, with the bell tower on the North-East side, was remodelled in the XVIIIth century, reversed in orientation and turned into a three-nave church with the bell tower on the South-west side. At the beginning of the XXth century it was reduced to a single nave and with an elliptical plan. Inside there are the valuable altar in XVIIth century's mixed marbles with the bust portraying St. Francis, a work by the sculptor Pisani from the calabrian Serre; the grave of the Bishop of Gerace Pier Domenico Scoppa, died in Roccella in 1797; the amazing "Altarpiece" of St. Vittore while landing the Turkish in the background of the town



Interior view of Saint Anastasia's church

of Roccella, a remarkable XVIIth century's work of pretian school and also an important document for the knowledge of the old appearance of Roccella.

Church of St. Anastasia: this church was built in 1753 as a rural church dedicated to St. Francis Xavier; then it became a parish church after the Earthquake of 1783, when the title of the old parish on the rock was transferred. It is a building in the late baroque style.



Interior view of Saint Joseph's church

Convent of the Reformed and Church of St. Joseph: the Convent was founded by Fabrizio Carafa in 1614, with the annexed Church of the Conception - that has been dedicated to St. Joseph since the end of the XVIIIth century- in the area underneath the Castle. Today of this complex remains the church, whereas the Convent's buildings were hit by the Earthquake of 1783 and never built again; both the Northern and western sides of the Cloister still remain and consist of a porch with masonry pillars.

Roman Columns: they are two archeological remains found on the beach of Melissari district. The columns, of red Egyptian granite, can be dated to Roman times. According to the most accredited hypothesis, they are finds from the load of stone materials, then unloaded on this coast to lighten the ship.



Cloister of Saint Joseph's church



Red egyptian granite Roman Columns

Sightseeing Roccella



Interior of the Convent of the Minims - Multi-purpose hall

Convent of the Minims: In 1580 the Fathers of the Order of the Minims of Saint Francis of Paola got the permission to build their Convent near the Church of Saint Vittore of Marseille. The Convent developed on three sides around the church of St Vittorio and had a tower standing at the North-East corner of the convent building. Numerous are the remnants of the original building incorporated in the subsequent buildings that have remodelled the early complex, especially after the Earthquake of 1783: the archeological excavation has brought to light a base of a bell tower, some parts of the boundary wall, and the ruins of the Cloister together with two survived arches on the west side and the base of a pillar on the East side, besides all the ground floor of the tower. The archeological excavation has also revealed that the Convent was built on the ruins

of a late-antique settlement. When in 1818 it was reopened, after the closing due to the Earthquake of 1783, it appeared quite changed on the East wing, where it was created a four-span-porch in front of the former tower. Today the complex has been restored and brought to the past, and has been used for cultural events taking place mainly in the three halls on the first floor, deriving from the removal of the cells of the friars, carried out at the end of the XIXth century when the Convent was suppressed and acquired by the Municipality.



Convent of the Minims - Inner courtyard

Roccella, a sea promenade to be loved



View of the new waterfront

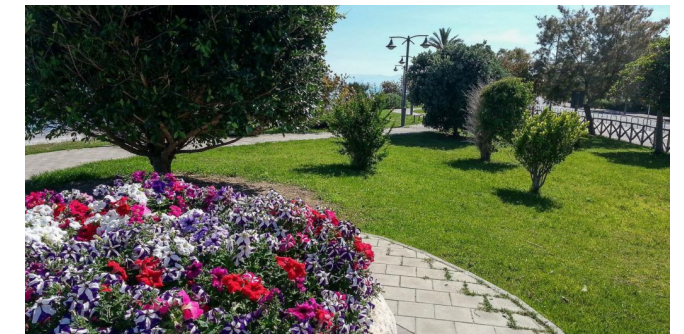
It is worth having a walk or riding a bike along Roccella's sea promenade that since 18th May 2019 has been named in memory of Senator Sisinio Zito, a politician and former mayor of Roccella. If you move from the Port to the town, you will find on your right the low hills descending to the sea, on your left the seaside, and in the background the rock with the Pizzofalcone Tower and Carafa Palace, even more suggestive if you watch it against the light as the sun sets. In winter you may happen to see in the distance the snow-capped peak of Aspromonte.

Along the 3700 Kms you will see a few buildings but much greenery, a fitness area, a children's playground, the small square of the Columns named after Rita Levi Montalcini and, on the southern outskirts, a green area stretching for 300 metres. This explains why Roccella's seaside



Sunrise on the promenade

promenade attracts all year long, not only in summer, people coming from near villages and towns just to enjoy walking, doing jogging or cycling, while breathing deeply the sea air. When you are tired, you can rest on one of the benches that are along the whole way or at the tables of bars and restaurants running along it.



Fitness area

Roccella, *the Port of the Graces (the Marina)*



View of the boat moorings



View from the Port of the Graces

There are many aspects characterizing inhabited centres. Roccella has got more than one. The fortified citadel, from the top of its position and history, evokes a glorious past. The tourist port, in the south-west of the centre, enlivens the present and calls to pick the challenges of the future. The Port of the Graces- Marina of Roccella is situated close to the inhabited centre (about two kms far), and can be reached by any means, via the sea promenade or cycle path. The Port offers all the necessary services and something more, such as a large and dense green area, covered with pine trees, overlooking the dock. The landscape is characterized by the presence of agaves and prickly pears as well, with the result of a vast and extensive port compendium. A famous person from the world of sailing once said that a few tourist ports in Italy can boast all the qualities of the Port of Roccella. Among these,

its position along the main waterways (in fact it is an obligatory stop if you sail from the Strait of Messina to or back from Greece), its great spaces on the ground, the florid greenness around it, its crystal clear basin water, the proximity to the town and vast white beaches on both sides of the structure.

The Port of the Graces is a walking destination for people from the town or the ones who moor. In fact you can breath healthy air and live great emotions like watching the Sun sets behind the Rock of the town, just where the Carafa Palace stands, framed by the masts of the sailing boats. Or you can enjoy a pizza, an ice-cream or an aperitif, overlooking the sea or in the cool shelter of the pinewood. Both residents and tourists appreciate the ferment of the life of the yachtsmen and of the many small-scale and professional fishermen, who sail everyday as it has happened here for

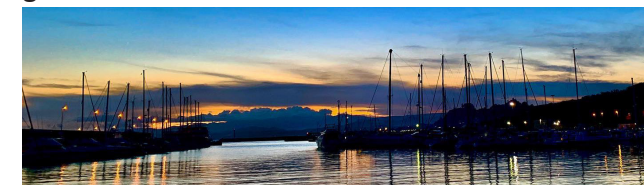


View of the Port of the Graces and in the background the "Aspromonte"

centuries without stopping. It is taken great care of the Environment; years of awards say that, such as the Blue Flag of dockings. The customer assistance is of high quality as well, as certified by the five Golden Anchors by the International Yacht Association. Total safety by land and by sea, thanks also to the presence of the offices of the Port Authority and the Finance Police.

The Port has 450 berths of different sizes, a shipyard, a bridge crane up to one hundred tons of cargo, a dry dock and a slipway, a fuel station, a weather and sea station. For those who arrive from the sea there are many services offered, both standard and not: VHF radio assistance, mooring and unmooring physical assistance, 24-hour telephone assistance, a reception office, parcels and mail reception, water, electricity and fuel supply, sanitary facilities and laundry services, a clubhouse (with a kitchen, a reading

room, toilets and TV set), shipyard and storage, hauling and launching, hull maintenance and repairs, electronic, hydraulic and mechanical repairs, sailmaker, upholstery, spare parts, waste water aspirator, waste oil and batteries collection, separate waste collection, video-surveillance service, fire system, access to the wifi network throughout the area, weather service, tourist office, a large parking lot, charging columns for electric vehicles, car rental, bike rental, also electric bicycles powered, and a storage area, for the long-term storage and the safekeeping of goods.



The Port at sunset

Roccella, *Entertainment facilities*



The Theatre at the Castle and in the background the Pizzofalcone Tower

In these two pages you will find the pictures of the main entertainment facilities intended for shows, cultural events in general, meetings, civil weddings. First the **Theatre at the Castle**, seat of concerts, dance recitals, theatrical performances, fashion shows and so on, throughout the summer. It is equipped with a big stage (18 metres wide and 10 metres deep), artists' dressing rooms, rehearsal rooms and a bar. At night, when the Castle, on whose slopes there is the Theatre, is lit, the sight that appears before your eyes is of a great suggestion.

In summer you can happen to attend shows and cultural events on the new **Waterfront**, in the **Piazzetta delle Colonne** with its flight of steps in a semicircle and let's not forget the Jova Beach Party, the gig on the beach with more than 30.000



Nature Village Area- Jovanotti's gig

spectators, held in August 2019 on an area in the north of the sea promenade, called **Area Nature Village**, intended to host great events according to the municipal structural Plan.

The municipal **Auditorium** is used throughout the year for congresses and conferences, as well.

Also the former **Convent of the Minims** has a polifunctional use, here are hosted painting, sculpture and photography exhibitions.

This facility, together with the restored **Matrice Church at the Castle** and the Town Council Hall, has had in the last years an extraordinary use for the celebration of civil weddings, an aspect that has been focused by the Municipal Administration.



Municipal Auditorium

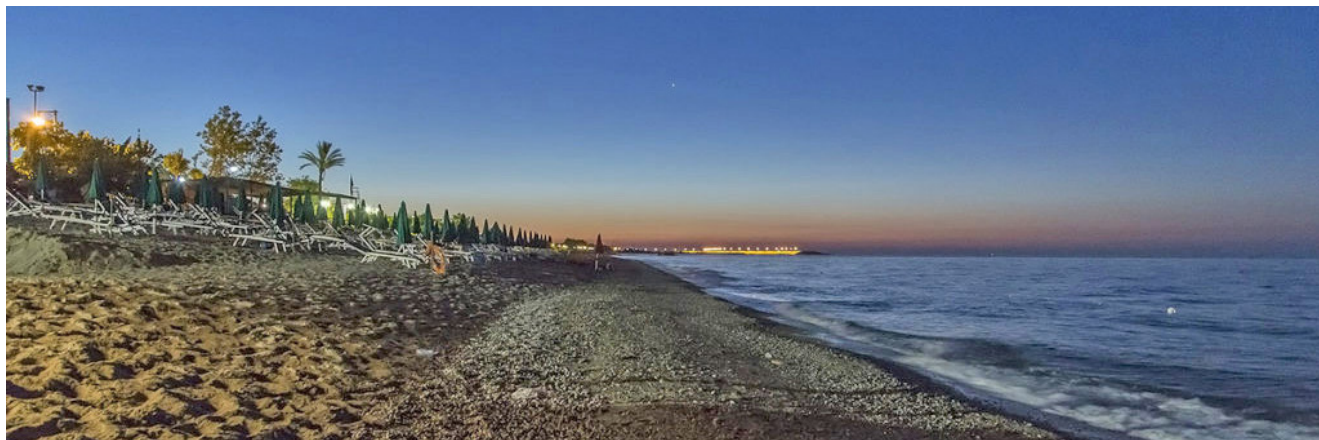


The Matrice church at the Castle-Christmas concert



The New Waterfront - Piazzetta delle Colonne

Roccella, *the seaside*



Beach in the central zone

Eight kilometres and more of white seaside, with fine and silica sand, all bathing, are a lot and so you will be spoiled for choice. If you love comforts, about fifteen of bathing establishments with cabins, bars, showers, beach games, surveillance and many other services are available to you. Otherwise you can go to the free beach, equipped with showers and walkways from the town to the port, and kept clean by the Municipality.

If you prefer, on the other hand, to stay alone, the space is not missing: go beyond the Port, or in the opposite direction, towards Marina di Gioiosa Ionica, where you can find only sea, beaches and spontaneous vegetation.

By the way, if you visit Roccella in spring, a spectacle of Nature not to be missed, is given by the blooming of hundreds of species of flowers right next to many stretches of beach. Well, if you consider the beauty of the Ionian Sea, of its



Part of free beach

incredible and continuously changing colour, of the charm of what it hides (after all Riace Bronzes have been found at a few kms from here), you can be sure that coming to Roccella for a beach holiday, is such a choice you will not regret.

Roccella, *Meta and the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



Street performers - "Meta Roccella" event

Since summer 2018, the Municipal Administration, with the clear aim to extend the tourist season, has thought up **META Roccella**, a three-week event on the occasion of the **feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, that is the time of proximity and re-entry tourism also from abroad.

Here then a container of events full of art, music, theatre, culture, sport, traditional gastronomy, moments to be lived in the entertainment- and non-spaces of the town.

The event named "Enchanted Port" is of particular interest, a series of moments of entertainment taking place at the "**Port of the Graces**", just as "**Discovering Calabria**", routes and guided tours designed in cooperation with experts in the field, in order to discover our surroundings.

The devotion to Saint Maria of the Graces does the rest, the town lit up in celebration, the fair, the music, the band concerts, the fireworks, the fish festival,



Return to the Sanctuary



Feast of Our Lady of the Graces - The descent towards the sea

the extraordinary beauty of the Sanctuary, the folklore. An appointment not to be missed.

Roccella in the summer



White night - "Back to Flora" event

In summer Roccella isn't only healthy air, clean sea, local food, tranquillity, hospitality. The village in fact, over the years has been able to carve out a leading role in the calabrian tourism sector thanks also to its summer schedule of events, rich in quantity and quality. Not so rarely there is more than one event at night, dedicated to dance, music, show, theatre, fashion, sports, literature, and other forms of entertainment. It is fundamental to this end, the synergy with associations, shopkeepers, operators in the sector, citizens, that in this period try to do their best in the organization of their activities that, shared and linked to the ones of the Municipality, constitute a first-class touristic offer, aimed at a constant growing over the years. Apart from "Mediterranean Sounds", that we will treat separately, among the steady ap-



Summer Roccella Fitwalking

pointments, the **White Night** deserves a special mention: it has been the most attended event for more than 20 years! On 14th August, since eight pm, all the streets and suburbs of the town are filled with any kind of entertainment that can satisfy the needs and tastes of the large audience that, late at night, moves to the beach to live and enjoy the moments of the "**Back to Flora**" up to six in the morning of mid-August. Extremely attended is also the **Summer Roccella Fitwalking** that has been a regular appointment for years now in Roccella summer as well as Christmas with the **FitChristmas**. That's a new way of doing sport proposed and developed in our area by the Calabria Fitwalking Amateur Sports Association, that has succeeded in combining the benefits of a healthy phy-



"A...mare per Andrea" memorial event

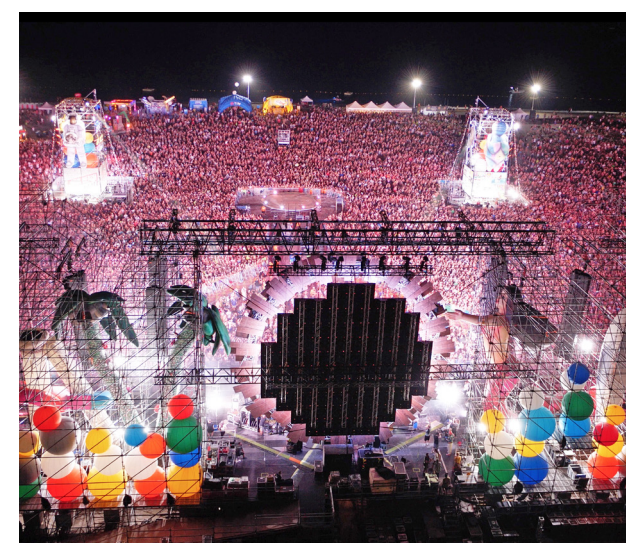


White night - street performers

sical activity with the pleasure and the advantages of being together and socializing. Another sport event not to be missed is the Memorial "**A...mare per Andrea**", included in the circuit of the Italian Swimming Federation, well-established on the national competitive and amateur scene with the participation of plenty of athletes. All the rest will be told by the following pictures.



White night - The central stage



Jova Beach Party

Roccella, *Mediterranean sounds*

The International Jazz Festival “Mediterranean Sounds” is one of the most important events of the world jazz scene and is held every year in Roccella (and other locations in the Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria) in summer, especially in the second half of August. In recent years, special winter sessions called “Jazzy Christmas” have become increasingly frequent and appreciated. The Festival, founded in 1981, immediately became famous thanks to the peculiarity of its formula.

In fact, from the beginning it focused on the original productions and commissions of new music, encouraging meetings between musicians from different areas of expression and geography and trying to put the emphasis on contamination with different languages such as literature, the dance, the photography and the cinema. It has also always given great space to young artists and to Italian and European jazz, innovating with respect to the idea that a jazz festival should be only a review of American stars. So Paolo Fresu, for example, played at Roccella in 1984 when he was still very young. Another great artist, Noa, began to attract the attention of the press after singing at our Festival in 1994, while Nicola Piovani faced for the first time the public’s judgment with “La Cantata del fiore” in 1988. In Roccella the events are held in the Teatro al Castello, the Municipal Auditorium, the former Convent of the Minims, the Port of the Graces and Rita Levi Montalcini Square, in the presence of thousands of spectators from all over Italy and also from abroad. The press review of each edition has hundreds of articles that ap-

pear in the national and international press. There are countless Italian and foreign artists hosted by the Festival during 40 editions, including many of the major exponents of the world music scene. Many memorable evenings in the long history of the Festival.

To name one, the concert held by George Russell and his orchestra in 1989. A composition commissioned to Russell by the Festival, “La folia, the Roccella Variations”, was then performed. In the words of Franco Fayenz, one of the most important Italian music critics, the song was “of such beauty that it could change the course of a life”. Deservedly then it is considered one of the classics of contemporary music and has become also the official anthem of the Municipality of Roccella.

The Festival is flanked by seminars, workshops and meetings during which the young musicians who participate improve their training working with leading teachers.



Technical rehearsals during the Jazz Festival



Theatre at the Castle - the Jazz Festival

Roccella, moments of culture



Summer school of high education in philosophy "Remo Bodei"

If we have not been able to convince you of the attention of the Municipal Administrations that have succeeded one another in the cultural field over time, talking about the Jazz Festival, also take a look at the following proposals.

The Scholè Cultural Association - Center for Philosophical Studies is made up of high school teachers and scholars of the discipline in its management team who have in common the goal of spreading philosophy outside the traditional circuits, opening up to the city. The disbursement, each year, of several scholarships facilitates the participation of many young people in the study seminars organized in Roccella.

The proposed activities are of national interest: the "Remo Bodei" Summer School of Other Formation in Philosophy, the "Mario Alcaro" School of Other Formation in Philosophy and the production of collective volumes in which young scholars participate.

The historical parade in honor of the Carafa Princes, promoted by the Municipal Administration with the organizational support of a technical



Carafa Historical Parade

committee and a scientific committee composed of history scholars, is the extraordinary and evocative re-enactment in period costume of some of the most significant pages of the feudal history of the town.

It has become a fixture on the summer program of events, much awaited and attended not only by the local public, but also by hundreds of external people who every year fill the squares and streets of the town.

"The artistic - literary cafes" are promoted by the Municipal Administration and designed and edited by the ARAS Reading Club.

For a decade now they have represented a qualified cultural offer with many proposals ranging from literature to music, from theater to docufilms to exhibitions and with the participation of authoritative and competent guests.

The Week of Culture is an event that for some years has managed to give tone to the tail of the summer and takes place in conjunction with the Feast of the Blessed Virgin of Sorrows which is celebrated in the Borgo district on the 3rd Sunday of September.

Roccella, on Christmas



Illuminations along Via Roma

Art, culture, entertainment, tradition: these are the ingredients of the magical Christmas of Roccella. A strong commitment of the Municipal Administration to encourage tourism including school, stimulate trade, enhance the symbolic place of the country, the Castle.

Every year there are punctual awards for the **Christmas lights** that help create that festive atmosphere of warmth that makes Roccella a welcoming town even during the Christmas holidays.

The highlight of the event program is **"Christmas at the Castle"**, dedicated to children, with the charming house of Santa Claus, the baby cinema, the Elves' workshop, the Christmas workshop, the markets. An opportunity to buy gifts and spend a pleasant evening in the company of family and friends.

Young people have the opportunity to enjoy



The trees of Saint Vittori's Square

healthy nightlife with **"The white week"**, an initiative conceived and promoted by the Pro Loco and by the Youth for Roccella that responds well to the needs of entertainment in the name of good music, aperitifs and flavor of our tradition.



The Castle on Christmas time

Roccella, *services that matter*



The Water House

A tourist who visits a town or a city is naturally interested in the historical, artistic and environmental attractions that have pushed him to that precise place. However, the services that it is able to provide are also of interest, starting with basic ones, such as water or transport or, as regards seaside resorts, purification, essential for the quality of bathing water.

From this point of view, the services offered by Roccella are of an excellent standard: from the water system to purification up to separate waste collection and green maintenance and street hygiene services.

And we are particularly proud of our **Water House** which distributes fresh and sparkling drinking

water. As well as **Eco Libraries** located in strategic points of our town, from which you can pick up books to read on the beach and where you can leave the books you want to be read by others. This is thanks to the choice to entrust all the services in question to Jonica Multiservizi Spa, a company wholly owned by the Municipality of Roccella Ionica.

A company that is public, because it cares about the needs of users / citizens, attention to the weakest, the safety and well-being of employees; participatory, because it believes in the full involvement of citizens and users based on the principle of transparency and the guarantee of civic access; open, because it wants to make the complex path that it sets up to achieve its goals evident and available, marrying the ethics of PA open data as a tool for overall growth of the territory and the country.

It is perhaps also worth mentioning, as useful services for those who come to Roccella, also the sports facilities we have (for football, soccer, volleyball, tennis, basketball, shooting, as well as the numerous gyms) and the small health center with emergency medical service and other specialized services.

For more serious or urgent problems, the Locri hospital is a few kilometers away.

Roccella, *old and new flavors*



Local cured meats

Roccella is historically a town of land and sea, of farmers and fishermen. It is therefore logical that these two components converge in its culinary tradition, originally quite limited, made up of simple dishes with intense flavors, which fortunately has not disappeared but has gradually expanded to include today an extraordinarily rich offer of dishes. suitable for the most varied and demanding tastes. It is therefore possible to still find on the table today, especially on the occasion of festivals and fairs, the testimonies of a centuries-old gastronomic culture, from beans with wild herbs to eggplant meatballs, from stuffed anchovies to the most diverse pancakes, from pasta with goat or pork sauce to "spaghetti



Fried anchovies and "surici" fish

alla Corte d'Assise", from olives prepared in an infinite number of ways to zeppole and sausages of all kinds. And if you are lucky, you can taste the delicious fried "surici", small flat fish typical of this sea or a delight like the wild artichokes preserved in oil. But also the modern and more sophisticated recipes and dishes, the result of an infinitely wider availability of ingredients than in the past, especially as regards fish (cod, onions, swordfish, tuna, octopus, cuttlefish, crustaceans, and others), will help make your stay in Roccella even more enjoyable.

Roccella *and surroundings*



The Cattolica of Stilo

Stilo and its Cattolica (Km. 32 from Roccella, half day visit)

Small village, homeland of Tommaso Campanella (Renaissance philosopher), located on the slopes of Mount Consolino, from where the ruins of the medieval castle dominate the surrounding area, Stilo became the nerve center of the eastern culture of southern Calabria in the 10th century. Even more hidden by the wonderful mountains of Stilo la Cattolica, a gem that seems to have been forgotten by time, in which the beauties of Byzantine art are hidden. It is a cubic-shaped building surmounted by five domes covered in tiles on cylindrical drums with a Byzantine architecture inside, similar to the typology of the Greek cross church inscribed in a square, typical of the middle-Byzantine period with four columns that divide the space in nine parts, roughly equal in size.



Marmarico Waterfalls

Bivongi and the Marmarico waterfalls - Pazzano (Km. 46 from Roccella, full day visit)

In Bivongi we find the Orthodox monastery of San Giovanni Theristis, one of the most important Basilian monasteries in Southern Italy, where a monastic community belonging to the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Italy (Athonite monks from Mount Athos) still resides permanently.

The Marmarico waterfall, with its 114 meters, is the highest waterfall in Calabria and in the southern Apennines. It is located in the upper reaches of the Stilaro river, in the municipality of Bivongi (RC). The waterfall, nestled between the Sila and Aspromonte National Parks, falls within the Calabrian Serre Regional Natural Park. It arises from the Stilaro river, which in turn originates from the union of the Folea river and the Ruggiero torrent.

In the territory of Pazzano we find the hermitage



The Orthodox Monastery of Saint John Theristis

of Santa Maria della Stella, between myths and legends the hermitage hermitage of the Greek monks of the Byzantine Empire located at 800 meters above sea level. The Sanctuary, created inside a cave, is accessed by a staircase carved into the rock of 62 steps. In one part of it it is said that the signs of a struggle between the devil and the Madonna have remained. Three places of great interest that deserve the attention of the most attentive tourist.

Monasterace: trip to Kaulon, ancient polis of Magna Graecia (Km. 22 from Roccella, half day visit) The Archaeological Park of the ancient Greek colony Kaulon, frequented since the mid-eighth century. BC, extends over a strip parallel to the coast line, a few km from the beach at the foot of the Punta Stilo lighthouse in Monasterace Marina. According to tradition, the site was founded by the mythical son of the Amazon Penthesilea, had



Archaeological Park of Ancient Kaulon

Achaean origins and represented a Crotonese garrison in the fight against Locri. The city was then destroyed by the Syracusans (388 BC) and finally by the Romans (205 BC). Today the ruins of the walls and a large Doric temple probably dedicated to Apollo Katharsios have been brought to light. The area includes the remains of the sacred areas, the surrounding walls and the houses of the polis. Visible: the remains of the thermal complex, the so-called Baths of Nannon, the Doric temple of which the base, the altar, the steps and other structures of a sacred nature are recognizable; the Dragon House where the threshold mosaic was found, currently kept inside the Museum. A vast underwater archaeological area is also included in the park, which extends between the Doric temple and the current course of the adjacent river. The archaeological museum of Ancient Kaulon can also be visited.

Roccella *and surroundings*



Musaba Museum

Mammola - Musaba (Km. 20 from Roccella, half day visit)

Mammola, a group of houses gathered around numerous small squares as per the medieval layout, falling within the Aspromonte National Park, is the city of the Stocco. In this village very close to Roccella, it is possible to taste, in its many restaurants, dishes based on stockfish and mushrooms and, in general, typical mountain and peasant cuisine, with the reworking of simple ingredients.

The MuSaBaArtHotel / Foresteria

Is an exclusive contemporary art center where guests have the opportunity to live in direct relationship with art, architecture and landscape. Located in a park, it is an artistic-architectural work designed and built by Nik Spatari, with receptive features not only functional to artistic, educatio-

nal, creative holidays but also to the presentation of events and moments of communication. For more info <https://www.musaba.org>

Locri and its history (Km. 25 from Roccella, half day visit)

Locri today represents one of the most important archaeological sites of Magna Graecia. It was founded in the eighth century BC. during the second wave of migration from the Achaean Greeks to our lands. The city grew so much that other colonies were founded on the Calabrian territory, such as Hipponion, the current Vibo Valentia and Medma, the current Rosarno. Locri resisted all subsequent dominations such as that of the Bruzi and the Romans but yielded under the Saracens, when all the population left the coast can be admired today in the archaeological site is an entire city built with an advanced urban



Archaeological site of Locri

system with walls, roads, houses, the agora, the port and several temples. In one of these, the one dedicated to Persephone, numerous “pinakes” were found, votive tablets in terracotta depicting various myths of antiquity, now preserved in the National Archaeological Museum of Reggio Calabria.

Gerace, the city of a hundred churches (Km. 30 from Roccella, half day visit)

Wonderful village almost 500 meters above sea level, one of the most beautiful in the whole of Calabria, all to be experienced and explored. It returns many and multiple images immortalized in the memory of great travelers, full of monuments that invite you to be visited, of panoramas that inebriate the sight, of flavors of typical gastronomy that enhance the palates, representations of a medieval history that still lives today among the



The Cathedral of Gerace

its stone-paved streets and its walls. It was a great Byzantine center and became even more important under the Normans. Absolutely to visit the Castle (7th century AD), the co-Cathedral, the first monument of the entire region, the Church of San Francesco (from the 13th century) and its inlaid marble altar as well as the squares and the magnificent views of the Aspromonte and on the Riviera dei Gelsomini.



View of the ancient village

Roccella *and surroundings*



Archaeological Park of Scolacium

Archaeological Park of Scolacium (Km. 67 from Roccella, half day visit)

From the ancient Greek colony Scolacium, the Archaeological Park is located near the seaside district of Catanzaro Lido. The remains visible on the site demonstrate the layout of the Roman colony on the Greek one. The theater rests on the natural slope of the hill and could seat about 5000 spectators. It was built during the first century and was equipped with a new scene on the occasion of the foundation of the colony by Nerva, in conjunction with the remarkable monumental development of the city and with the expansion of the entire town; it was also the subject of numerous subsequent renovations, up to the 4th century. Most of the material recovered during the excavations comes from the theater, including the valuable architectural fragments and sculptural groups now visible in the dedicated museum, always updated with the latest findings.



Reggio Calabria's promenade

The structures of the ancient amphitheater, whose construction dates back to the time of Emperor Nerva, and which could accommodate about 12,000 spectators, were found in the very last excavations.

Reggio Calabria and Scilla (Km.110 from Roccella, full day visit)

Reggio is the capital of the Metropolitan City, the tip of the Italian boot and seat of the MARC, the National Archaeological Museum which, in addition to being the largest permanent national institute dedicated to Magna Graecia, tells, through a particularly developed path, the history of human population in Calabria from prehistoric times to Romanization, as well as guarding the two bronze statues found in Riace and now known throughout the world, which have become an identifying symbol of the region. Do not miss a walk along the seafront, defined



Scilla-Chianalea fishing village

by D'Annunzio "the most beautiful kilometer in Italy", from which you can admire a unique panorama in the world, clearly seeing the Sicilian coasts, Mount Etna and the Aeolian Islands. A few kilometers from Reggio Calabria is Scilla, a renowned tourist resort dominated on its promontory by the Ruffo di Calabria Castle. Chianalea is its oldest fishing village: here the houses are built directly on the rocks, they seem to challenge the force of the sea and they are separated by narrow alleys that descend to the Tyrrhenian Sea and which, seen from above, look a bit like Venetian canals. Time seems to have stopped in Chianalea. A magical atmosphere which was worth entering one of the most beautiful villages in Italy.

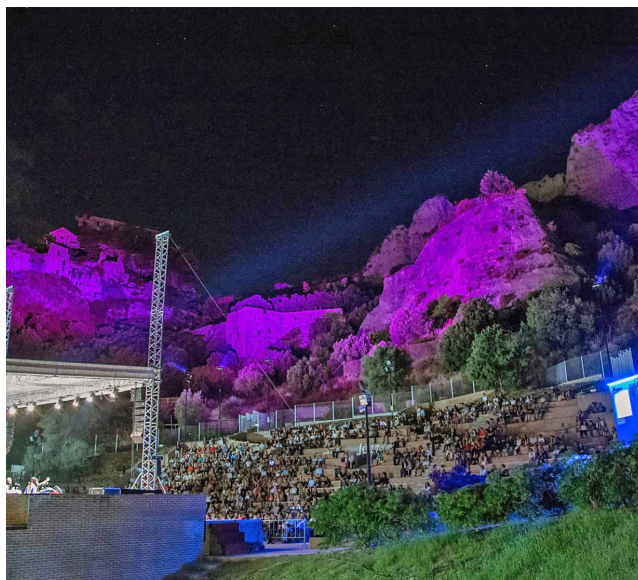
Tropea (Km. 90 from Roccella, half day visit)
Seaside resort overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea divided into two parts: the upper part built on



The Castle of Tropea

a rock overlooking the sea where most of the population resides and where the daily life of the town takes place; the lower part, called "Marina", which is located near the sea and the port of Tropea. Of considerable interest is the historic center of the city, with many noble palaces of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries perched on the cliff overlooking the beach below. And again: the Cathedral of Maria Santissima di Romania, a building from 1100, in Romanesque style, containing the sacred effigy of the Madonna of Romania protector of the city and the Sanctuary of Santa Maria dell'Isola, which stands on a promontory in front of the town, the distinctive symbol of "the Pearl of the Tirreanean Sea".

Roccella, *what people said about us*



View of the Theatre at the Castle during the International Jazz Festival

I have an impressive memory of the Roccella Jonica Festival. I had behind me a lot of music written for cinema, for records, but I was not used to the melee of musical theater. The decisive push to accept the invitation was given to me by Nanni Moretti. In my memory that evening remains unforgettable. **(Nicola Piovani)**

Roccella Jonica has always been a hospitable port for the strange, for the experiment, for the sound never heard and the voice not immediately understandable. The fertile sea that unites, and not the hostile sea that divides. **(Stefano Benni)**

Roccella Jonica is, for me, a magic word that reappears every year at the end of August. **(Armand Meignan - Director and founder of Europa jazz)**

If it is true, as it has been written, that “when time stops, it becomes a place”, this is true for me, as for few other places in the world, for Roccella Jonica, a place of the soul, even before that of the body, and therefore an authentically “eternal” place. **(Arianna Fermani - Professor at the University of Macerata)**

Roccella Jonica is that place where music has always had a place of honor thanks to a group of passionate people who, with the Roccella Jazz Festival, have created a very beautiful and renowned reality in the world. Roccella welcomes and does so with a big heart. **(Jovanotti - singer)**

Roccella Jonica is part of my blood, it is my life, it is my best moments. **(Raoul Bova - actor)**

Every now and then I am asked why I never miss Roccella ... because there is a beautiful sea without that traffic jam of ostentatious boats that I can't avoid elsewhere. And because in the evening, you can sit in the main square, a real agora, where you can learn and comment on the events of the day. **(Franco Fayenz - music critic)**

Roccella, *information*

We are sure to have stimulated and intrigued you just enough for a visit and maybe even for planning a holiday in our town that is ready to welcome you in every season of the year.

But maybe now you are wondering: “how can we get there? Where can we go to sleep? Where could we taste the delicacies you have talked about? What are the opening and closing times of the artistic and historical sites? When are the events of the summer schedule programmed? And the Christmas ones? If we decided to get married in Roccella, in one of your wonderful sites, who could take care of our wedding?”

These and other information will not be found in this brochure because they may be obviously subject to variations.

For this reason we have created an exclusively tourist website, **www.visitroccella.it**, that will provide you all the information and details in order to satisfy every need and that you are invited to consult.

Consult: www.visitroccella.it

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View of the Castle and Pizzofalcone Tower

