



National Days of Italian Castles:

XXIV edition doubles the weekends:
May 13-14; September 16-17 2023

Capital cities and small villages animated by free guided tour, cultural activities and special itineraries from north to south of the country, islands included

The starring architectures are narrated in various preservation, valorization, fruition and destination states

Istituto Italiano Castelli, Italian scientific Onlus-charity founded by Piero Gazzola on 1964, announces **the dates of the XXIV edition of the National Days of Italian Castles**: for the first time in its long-lasting history, **the event doubles** the dates and will be held **either on May 13-14 and on September 16-17 (2023)** - this latter weekend in concomitance with GEP (European Heritage Days) from north to south, Italian islands included.

With the double series of visits, conceived and organized by the volunteers of the non-profit organization in 19 Italian regions, the value and re-use of Italian fortified architecture in any state of conservation can be experienced by a double number of enthusiasts and tourists.

Visitors will also be granted, especially if they choose to stay in a region for the first weekend and subsequently change it, with **additional cultural itineraries, mostly of them walkable**.

Studied and conducted by the experts and scholars of the non-profit organizing the Days, they aim to contextualize the architectures and their history in the landscape and in the territorial community to which they have belonged for centuries and for which they could stand for a second chance driving force.

"It is always difficult to choose where to spend a weekend in Italy during the National Days of Italian Castles. This year we return to the traditional date of **May** and we have decided to expand the visits on **Saturday 13 and Sunday 14**, adding collateral sites and numerous tourist walkable itineraries that families and tourists have very much enjoyed in previous years," says the Sicilian entrepreneur **Michaela Marullo Stagno D'Alcontres, new president** of the non-profit organization Istituto Italiano Castelli.

'This year, following the great commitment during the presidency of Fabio Pignatelli della Leonessa, aimed at expanding communication and giving greater prominence to the National Days of Italian Castles, a **repetition of the Days has been scheduled, on 16 and 17 September** when, to coincide with the **European Heritage Days**, both the **May sites** and other **new ones will be opened to special guided tours and other cultural activities**. We are confident that we can count on the collaboration of local administrations, universities, superintendencies, the media and all the associations with which we have national agreements including ASI, UNPLI and many others. To make of this event a success.

La sinergia tra pubblico e privato è l'altro faro guida nell'attività volontaria per l'Istituto: diamo vita a **progetti di pubblica utilità** che sottolineano ancora una volta la **cura del bene comune** e la valorizzazione di fortificazioni ad alto valore simbolico.

Ultimo testimone è il **progetto di illuminazione della cortina esterna del Forte del SS. Salvatore di Messina**, monumento del cuore per i cittadini messinesi e per i visitatori; il suo lungo bastione nel porto cittadino ora risplende di notte e **permette di sfruttare uno spazio sottoutilizzato nelle ore serali**.

A breve inizieranno i **lavori dell'illuminazione artistica** del monumento e ciò consentirà alla cittadinanza di sentirsi unita in importanti fasi della vita, come accaduto con l'illuminazione tricolore durante la pandemia e la visita alla città del Capo dello Stato.

The synergy between public and private is the other guiding light in the voluntary activity for the Institute: we give life **to public utility projects** that once again underline the care of the common good and the enhancement of fortifications with a high symbolic value.

The last witness is the **lighting project** for the **external curtain wall** of the Forte del SS. Salvatore (Messina), a monument of the heart for the citizens of Messina and for visitors; its long rampart in the city harbor now shines at night and makes it possible to **exploit an underutilized space** in the evening hours.

Works on the **artistic lighting** of the monument will begin shortly and this will allow the citizenry to feel united every day through the Italian flag tricolor lighting, as already happened in recent and important phases of life: during pandemics and the President of the Republic's visit.

Italian castles are a treasure made up of history, social geographies, deeds of women and men who over the centuries have animated, populated and guided territories, economies, thanks to the culture of Italian know-how. Safeguarding castles is not only a matter of architecture, restoration, philology and high craftsmanship: it is a mass of actions that bring to light often forgotten sites which are inextricably linked to cities and villages, valleys and overlooks. An **adequate project to enhance the castle's heritage will allow future generations to rediscover the tangible signs of history**. Furthermore, **castles tourism would be able to move great interests** and to awaken even the most internal areas of our regions by **re-evaluating** the economy and **local resources**.

Our commitment to the study, census and safeguarding of forts, towers, bastions and walls, of small and large castles in every state of conservation extends above all towards young people. This is witnessed by the many initiatives of the Istituto Italiano Castelli leading to facilitate their active participation, starting with the foundation of the local 'Youth' sections of our charity in all Italian regions; with the backing of photography awards for secondary schools and of graduation awards and so on.

Two years ago in Abruzzo we had the first fifteen-year-old member who decided to commit herself personally to change the fate of the castle in her town. Even in Sicily, in Mineo, a successful young professional did not hesitate to neglect her profession to devote herself to the restoration of the family castle.

Furthermore, our Molise region local section supports an interesting project aimed at school students with the goal of making pupils aware of the knowledge and protection of **cultural heritage**. It will be a priority for the Istituto Italiano Castelli to involve numerous school groups in the visits.

The National Days of Italian Castles, which this year have reached their XXIV edition, are certainly an indispensable tool with great potential for the growth of the charity. The same goes for the Degree Award, for the scientific activities, for the various publications, including the *Castellum* and *Cronache Castellane* magazines, the *Castella* editorial series.' she concludes.

Abruzzo is an extremely rich region in **castles, walls and towers**; it is the protagonist on Sunday 14 May with **Teramo** where **three free itineraries** have been developed and can be independently and individually booked via *Discover Teramo app*: they allow the understanding of very different fortified architectures. The **nineteenth-century Castello della Monica** (an architectural *unicum* in the entire national panorama for its design specificity) which was built as a **personal residence** by the Teramo artist **Gennaro della Monica** is accompanied by the **city walls** tour with a focus on all the **extraordinary access gates** to the centre; finally **Palazzo Melatino**, an elegant example of a 13th century noble palace in collaboration with **Tercas Foundation**.

Basilicata region opens both on May 13th and 14th **Valsinni**, a **privately owned castle** that is **excellently preserved** and built from the 10th to the 11th century. from a probable extension of a previous Longobard fortification: it stands over the town, in a dominant position over the surrounding area and, in particular, over the last lock of the Sinni river before it flows into the Ionian Sea. The history of the manor reveals a **complex architectural stratification** that has not yet been fully deciphered and is the **subject of archaeological research**.

The small inhabited center is also one of the first literary parks in Italy, with which the members of the Istituto Italiano Castelli collaborate to create a rich program during the National Days of Italian Castles. It is notable to bookmark the local festival "**L'Estate di Isabella**" which offers cultural events, poetic itineraries, temporary exhibitions, theatrical performances and gastronomic events with young people in costume who welcome visitors to the notes of the minstrels, in the shadow of the imposing castle.

The figure of **Isabella Morra**, a **Petrarchist scholar** of the first half of the 16th century, is in fact linked to the castle: she lived in conditions of isolation right in the fortress where she has been segregated until her premature disappearance killed by her brothers, following the discovery of an alleged relationship of the noblewoman with Diego Sandoval de Castro, baron of Bollita (the nearby Nova Siri). Isabella Morra's tragic biographical story remained forgotten for a long time, until the rediscovery led by **Benedetto Croce** in the early twentieth century and the **recent feminist reinterpretations**, mainly in the **United States**, of literary compositions.

Calabria celebrates **Crotone**, **one of the first Greek poleis** founded by the exiles of Achaia people in the 8th century. BC: in collaboration with the Municipality of Crotone, the voluntary members of the Istituto Italiano Castelli have devised a **free itinerary of visits**, conversations within and around the famous city castle, which developed on the site of the original acropolis and which still dominates the whole city. From the 12th century it was part of the fortifications granted to the vassals of Roger II the Norman and was then fortified by Frederick II of Swabia. Starting from the mid-16th century, at the behest of Don Pe-

dro di Toledo - Viceroy in Naples for Charles V - the castle underwent radical changes. The last interventions were carried out under Austrian domination at the beginning of the 18th century. **Guided tours of the manor will be held on 13 and 14 May** with the collaboration of the **Multitracce Cultural Association**.

Four additional itineraries have been developed by the Institute's scholars and experts: a visit to the **historic center of Crotona** with **sixteen stages** and **Gaele Covelli's permanent exhibition** at the Casa della Cultura; **an archaeological itinerary** with the archaeological park and 3 museums; **a path dedicated to the noble palaces** with nine stages and **a path dedicated to religious architecture** which sees, in addition to the cathedral basilica, seven other churches involved.

The **Aragonese Castle of Baia (NA)** is the main site chosen in **Campania** by the local members of the Istituto in collaboration with the **Archaeological Park of Campi Flegrei** and visits **on 13 and 14 May** to which is suggested **an archaeological itinerary to be covered independently: eight are the routes on land and one is submerged in the nearby municipalities of Cuma, Pozzuoli and of course Baia**. The construction of the castle was begun by the Aragonese in the year 1495, together with numerous fortification works in the Kingdom, in view of the invasion by Charles VIII. The fortification was erected in an area of significant strategic importance, with a **particular geographical position**, which **dominated the vast stretch of sea** that extends from the gulf of Pozzuoli to the acropolis of Cuma, with **a view of Capri, Procida and Ischia**. The original Aragonese nucleus incorporates the remains of a **Roman villa** from the late Republican era (perhaps that of **Julius Caesar**).

In **Emilia Romagna**, the **Castle of Castellarano and its fortified village** are open to visits and activities during the Days, which will welcome visitors **on 13 and 14 May**.

The Castle with its tower probably constitutes the oldest building in the entire historical centre: it has still been **a private residence inhabited by the Casali family for more than 150 years**. In the company of volunteers from the Emilia Romagna Section of the Istituto Italiano Castelli, visitors will discover the history of this ancient fortification while admiring the **Estense ice house**, the **Fondazza** and the **gardens** from which you can enjoy a **spectacular view of the Secchia valley**.

The historic village of Castellarano, in the province of Reggio Emilia, is located on the banks of the Secchia river, perched on a sandstone hill that dominates the valley below and offers monuments, spaces and views of great charm. The most characteristic monument of the village is the "**Rocchetta**", a fortified entrance gate and passage point of the ancient road that led from the mountains to the plain, dating back to 1470.

In addition to the Castle route, visitors will find **two additional itineraries: a visit to the monuments of the ancient village** by local guides and the **breathhtaking Calanchi and Castelli route created by the Emilia Romagna section which, starting from the ancient village, winds through 7 stages for 28,6 km** in the municipalities of Castellarano, Scandiano and Casalgrande among the hills of the Reggio Apennines allowing the visitor to admire, among the heartbreaking beauty of the gullies and impervious nature, two Big Benches, the **castle of San Valentino** and its Romanesque parish church, the **castle of Montebabbio**, the **castle of Torricella** where Matteo Maria Boiardo wrote Orlando Innamorato, the **castle of Casalgrande** and the **Tower of Dinazzano**.

Before the National Days of Italian Castles weekend, on **Thursday 11 May from 5.00 pm**, the **Church of Santa Croce** hosts a conference on the restoration of the fortified architec-

ture present in the area and, in the evening, the inauguration of the **exhibition by Loreno Confortini**, illustrator for numerous magazines including Bell'Italia, who will present the view of Castellarano created for the occasion. The exhibition will be open until **Sunday 14 May** when a group of **50 vintage cars from the Club Asi Circolo della Biella**, tackling the Calanchi and Castelli route, will cross the territory of the municipality arriving in Castellarano in the afternoon where enthusiasts will be able to admire **from 3.00 pm all the cars parked in front of the Rocchetta**.

In **Friuli Venezia Giulia** the protagonists are the castles of **Meduno, Toppo and Solimbergo** in the **Pordenone foothills**; the IIC **Liguria** office proposes the **pedestrian visit** of the delightful **village of Bordighera** and the **castle of Dolceacqua**.

In **Lazio** guided tours on reservation to **Castel Sant'Angelo (Rome)**, where the Istituto Italiano Castelli was born and has one of its headquarters.

In **Lombardy** visits and programs focus on the **castles of Brescia** (Saturday 13 May) and **Bergamo** (Sunday 14 May): the activities designed by the Lombard section of the Istituto Italiano Castelli are linked to national festival **Bergamo Brescia Capital of Culture 2023**: the main objectives are **participatory knowledge**, the **enhancement of architectures and landscapes** that are an integral part of the history of the two provinces involved and the **awareness of public opinion on their protection**.

The **castle of Brescia** is an imposing fortified structure built on the Cidneo hill which dominates the city. The position of the primitive Roman defensive settlement, born on the top of the hill, was taken over by the medieval municipal fortress, then restored by the Visconti. At the end of the 16th century the Venetians built a modern bastion circle at a lower altitude, transforming the ancient Visconti fortified structure into a real fortress. At the beginning of the 20th century the area was purchased by the municipality and **used as a public park** with some buildings used as **museums** (Museum of Arms and Museum of the Risorgimento).

The geo-topographic characteristics of the Cidneo hill have strongly conditioned the local defensive choices and have been decisive in the development of the city. The study meeting and the guided tours will be aimed at highlighting the relationship between the fortification and the site where it was born, also making appropriate comparisons with the defense system of the city of Bergamo.

From 10 on **Saturday 13 May**, the institute organizes a study meeting "*The Castle of Brescia and the Cidneo hill*" while from 14.30 to 16.30 guided tours of the Cidneo hill and its fortifications.

The **castle of San Vigilio in Bergamo**, despite its thousand-year history and the many studies, **still raises questions about its evolution over time**. Built in the early Middle Age, it follows, with ups and downs, the history of the city up to the 19th century.

Its most interesting phase is the Venetian one, when Venice in the sixteenth century reformed, expanded and updated the fortification to modern stage. With the fall of the Serenissima it lost value being decommissioned and finally privatized; in 1957 the municipal administration bought the most significant part of it. In 2017, **UNESCO included it in the Site of the Venetian defense works**, thus entering the list of "**Cultural Heritage of Humanity**".

The place deserves today (also due to the Italian Capital of Culture 2023) to be visited, studied, valued: in a word, **truly known**.

The voluntary members of the **Marche** section of the Istituto Italiano Castelli make another **extraordinary village** protagonist: **Acquaviva Picena** with its well-preserved fortress. The small center stands **on two green hills**, in the immediate hinterland of **San Benedetto del Tronto**. It is a fortified village, equipped with eight polygonal and cylindrical towers with three entrance doors to the enclosure and a round tower called the "**Fortress towards the sea**". In the opposite direction stands the "**Major Fortress**", a mighty Piceno fortification first and Roman after it already appears in documents dating back to 947. The fortress is a wonderful example of Renaissance architecture: every summer it becomes the perfect setting for a **historical re-enactment** called the **Palio del Duca** which takes place for a week with various events that culminate in a sumptuous and refined medieval dinner called "Sponsalia, Homage to love", historical re-enactment of the wedding in 1234 between the beautiful Forasteria d'Acquaviva with Rainaldo di Brunforte, lord of Mogliano.

The National Days of Castles in **Molise** offer **guided tours**, conferences and book presentations, as well as **collateral itineraries** on both 13 and 14 May. The main fortified architecture chosen is the **Castle of Civitacampomarano with its village**.

'The castle is located in the central part of the town, on a sandstone boulder at an altitude of 520, between "Civita di sopra" and "Civita di sotto", the two areas in which the town is divided. The two settlements were divided by the bulk of the fortress surrounded on three sides by a moat and protected, on the southern side, by a massive masonry spur, about 25 meters high, inserted into the sandstone rock wall. The fifteenth century is the period in which the castle underwent the most important changes, transforming itself from a defensive structure into a fortified residence. And it is precisely from this period that the beautiful entrance portal was built, decorated with a Catalan style lowered arch. Other transformations carried out on the powerful structure are the construction of the drawbridge that led into the castle on the eastern side, currently transformed into a ladder bridge, and the other pedestrian drawbridge, now fixed, on the western side, rebuilt during the last restoration works carried out on the castle by the Superintendence of Architectural Heritage of Molise, between the end of the last century and the first years of the present one.' (Source: *Atlante Castellano del Molise*, Istituto Italiano dei Castelli section Molise, Palladino editore, CB, 2011).

Within the National Days, **three other manors will be opened in the region with visits, events and presentations**. The **Castle of Pescocolanciano (IS)**, thanks to the collaboration of the **Intramoontes association**, will also be open to visits to the internal areas which house the permanent exhibition on the castles of Molise. The **Castle of Macchiagodena (IS)** - called the "**Terrazza sul Matese**" because the whole enchanting surrounding landscape is dominated by the Matese massif - is also the theater of the **village of reading and culture**. The **castle/fortress of Riccia (CB)** recently restored in the sections that are still visible today and which represented the parts for military use, stands on the edge of a rocky overhang. In the square in front of the castle it will be possible to visit the Renaissance church of **Santa Maria delle Grazie**, commonly called del Beato Stefano, a fundamental element in the architectural complex of **Piano della Corte**, the fulcrum of the **ancient medieval village**.

In Piedmont on **Saturday 13 May** the **Castle and the village of Ormea (CN)** are open to pedestrian guided tours: a visit to **two other castles** in the Val Tanaro (**Bagnasco** and **Nucetto**) is recommended. The castle stands, with its imposing structures, on the hill overlooking the village of Ormea, between the Armella stream and the north-west side of the town itself, which can be accessed by going up a **suggestive terraced slope**. The first

mention of the complex dates back to **1291**, when it belonged, together with the territory under its jurisdiction, to the Marquises of Ceva. After a long period of abandonment, the municipal administration has launched a **project of knowledge, safety and enhancement of the surviving structures**. The first lot of works was completed in **December 2022**, with the preparation of a new access and the creation of a lighting system. The underlying town of Ormea preserves, in addition to the castle, numerous testimonies of its late medieval origins. Among others, the **church of San Martino** deserves a mention, which incorporates one of the fourteenth-century gateways to the village and preserves fifteenth-century frescoes, the so-called house of the marquis, from the fifteenth century, and the remains of the walls.

In **Puglia**, the **privately owned Marchione castle** in Conversano (BA) is open for visits and conferences.

In **Sardinia**, lights are lit on the **ruins of the castle of Medusa in Samugheo (OR)**, built in four phases between the Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. **Open to visits both on 13 and 14 May, it stands on a** high and steep cliff in the territory of Samugheo, an ancient inhabited center of the Mandrolisai. The manor dominates, from above, a large bend of the Araxisi river, communication route between the Barbagie and the Campidano plain. The mighty walls of the central courtyard and some living areas are the rests of the castle, within which, in past years, **archaeological excavations** have brought to light interesting evidence of daily life. During the National Days of Italian Castles in this region, in addition to a **study conference** organized by the Institute at the **Murats Museum**, there is the **popular feast of Sant'Isidoro** with typical dances on **Saturday 13 May**. On Sunday morning 14 May there will be a traditional procession to the country sanctuary of San Basilio and in the evening a parade of folk groups. The visits will be carried out with the participation of the **students of the National Boarding School of Cagliari** and the collaboration of the **Youth Delegation of the Sardinian section** of the Istituto Italiano Castelli.

Three are the provinces of Sicily with architectures in different states of conservation, destination and use: **Catania** with the **castle of Serravalle di Mineo**, **Messina** with the **Branciforti castle** in the small town of **Raccuja** and with the inauguration of the exhibition *Venti Anni del Premio Nazionale di Laurea "Salvatore Boscarino"*, **Syracuse** with the Royal Castle of Noto (only **on 16 and 17 September**).

The **castle of Serravalle di Mineo** is **still inhabited** and is **privately owned**: it will be open on **Sunday 14 May and on 16 and 17 September**. **Orsola Sedati** inherited it, in 2008, after the death of her mother Francesca Millo di Casalgiate, to whom, in turn, it had been handed down by her mother Gerarda Millo di Casalgiate Grimaldi, whose family has owned it since 1513. In 2007 the Regional Department of Cultural Heritage and Sicilian Identity imposed on it the constraint of historical-artistic interest as a testimony of the Middle Ages which since its construction, dating back to the XIII century, has represented a guard point of the street that from Catania to Palagonia it reached Mineo, continuing on to Caltagirone.

The beauty and mystery that the castle of Serravalle emanates do not go unnoticed by those who admire it and what is most striking is the perfect harmony between landscape and architecture. Located on top of a hill, perched on Poggio Pizzuto - an elongated rocky bank that emerges from the surrounding clayey hills - **the castle is still a point of reference and orientation for the surrounding area**, characterized by **two other castles, Mineo and Mongialino**, also placed to defend the underlying **Valle dei Margi**. The touri-

stic-cultural potential of the site is even more confirmed by the presence near the castle of the interesting **city of Mineo**, characterized by the well-known vestiges of ancient and medieval times, by **Baroque churches** and **palaces** and by the House Museum of the writer Luigi Capuana. And from the underlying **archaeological area of Palikè**, owned by the Sicily Region and open to the public: an ancient urban settlement of the 4th century. B.C. linked to the figure of the leader Ducezio, seat of the most important sanctuary of the Sicilian population, dedicated to the Palici brothers, sons of Zeus and the nymph Talea.

The **Branciforti Castle** (Raccuja, Messina) dominates the small town from above and looks like a medieval fortress house flanked by two circular towers, one of which is reduced to just the foundations. **Recently restored** by the Superintendence, **the fruition is now total** and will be used as a **civic museum, historical archive** and **municipal library**: it will be open **both on the weekend of 13/14 May** and on that of **16/17 September**.

The **royal castle of Noto** stands at the only point, an isthmus, which connects Monte Alveria, surrounded by deep quarries, to the offshoots of the Hyblean plateau which was always fortified. The current remains, recently consolidated, are the **imposing ruins** that withstood the terrible earthquake of 11 January 1693 which destroyed not only the royal castle but the entire ancient city of Noto. The royal castle and the remains of the city around it are considered a **medieval Pompeii**. **Periodic but short excavation campaigns** follow one another: **a systematic rediscovery of the ancient city would be needed**, which was once very rich in civil and religious architecture of great value. The curtain of the imposing walls equipped with numerous towers and entrance gates to the city can still be seen in a large part of the layout.

The **valleys below are wonderful naturalistic paradises**, crossed by romantic streams that create lakes and which in the past were used for activities such as tanneries. The site, owned by the municipality, subject to restrictions according to Law 1089/1939, is being studied and carefully cared for by **ISVNA local association** (Institute of Studies for the Enhancement of Noto Antica), chaired by the enthusiast scholar and historian from Noto, **Francesco Balsamo**.

In **Tuscany, Florence** is once again the protagonist on **Saturday 13 May** with a guided pedestrian exploration of the medieval fabric of **Piazza della Signoria**.

In **Trentino Alto Adige** during the May Days the **Castles of Fahlburg** (Prissiano) and **Leonburg** (Lana) will be animated, while on **September 23 Castel Belasi - Campodeno** in Val di Non. In particular, **Castel Fahlburg** (BZ) on **Saturday May 13**, in addition to the guided tours, will host a **conversation** on the **enhancement of private castles** in South Tyrol, with **three different experiences compared** and the participation of **Jakob Andreas Brandis, Diana von Goldegg** and **Anouschka van Rossem**, organized by the local section of the Italian Castle Institute.

In **Umbria visitor will discover** the **fortified village of Monte del Lago** with guided tours on **May 13**. There are **numerous enchanting inhabited centers** that overlook the waters of **Lake Trasimeno**, among these, lying on a promontory that dominates the entire lake basin, there is a characteristic and original fortified village: Monte del Lago. This ancient settlement still today retains a **medieval urban layout**, characterized by a steep flight of steps that ideally cuts the town into two parts; this main road is connected by narrow and twisted alleys, parallel to each other, on the side of which the fishermen's houses rise, one

close to the other. However, there are also some noble residences that belonged to noble **Perugia families**, among which that of the **Pompilij family** stands out, where the poet **Vittoria Aganoor Pompilij** composed extremely delicate verses, and **Villa Palombaro Schnabl Rossi**, an **Art Nouveau residence** that belonged to the musicologist Riccardo Schnabl Rossi who often hosted the friend Giacomo Puccini. Today the spearhead of the economy of Monte del Lago is above all tourism; the amenity of the place, the silence, the charm of the sunsets attract Italian and foreign travelers. Every year at the beginning of September a cultural event is held in Monte del Lago which is one of the most eagerly awaited and attended in the lake area, the **Correspondence Festival**. There are **numerous collateral cultural itineraries** proposed by the IIC volunteers in this region.

In Veneto, **Mestre (VE) is protagonist** with **Castelnuovo** and **Castelvechio**. On both 13 and 14 May, in addition to site visits and a conference, volunteers from the Istituto Italiano Castelli del Veneto together with the **Centro Studi Storici** are offering **two guided heritage walks through medieval Mestre** starting from the Clock Tower: the guided tours will have the characteristic of the **archaeological investigation** on the traces of the disappeared castles, where the participants will be the protagonists of a **real treasure hunt**, in **search of the ancient Mestre diluted in the large contemporary city**.

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National Days of Italian Castles, XXIV edition, from 13 to 14 May, from 16 to 17 September 2022 (with the European Heritage Days)

free or paid guided tours, conversations, conventions and conferences, professional training, degree awards, exhibitions, book presentations, trekking and other visiting activities, historic car parades, heritage walks, treasure hunt

Organized by: Istituto Italiano Castelli Onlus (IIC)

Involved Italian regions: 19

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