

GENERAL INFORMATION
AND PRACTICAL GUIDE

Corsica



www.visit-corsica.com

Qualité
Corse 



A holiday nature reserve

TABLE OF CONTENTS

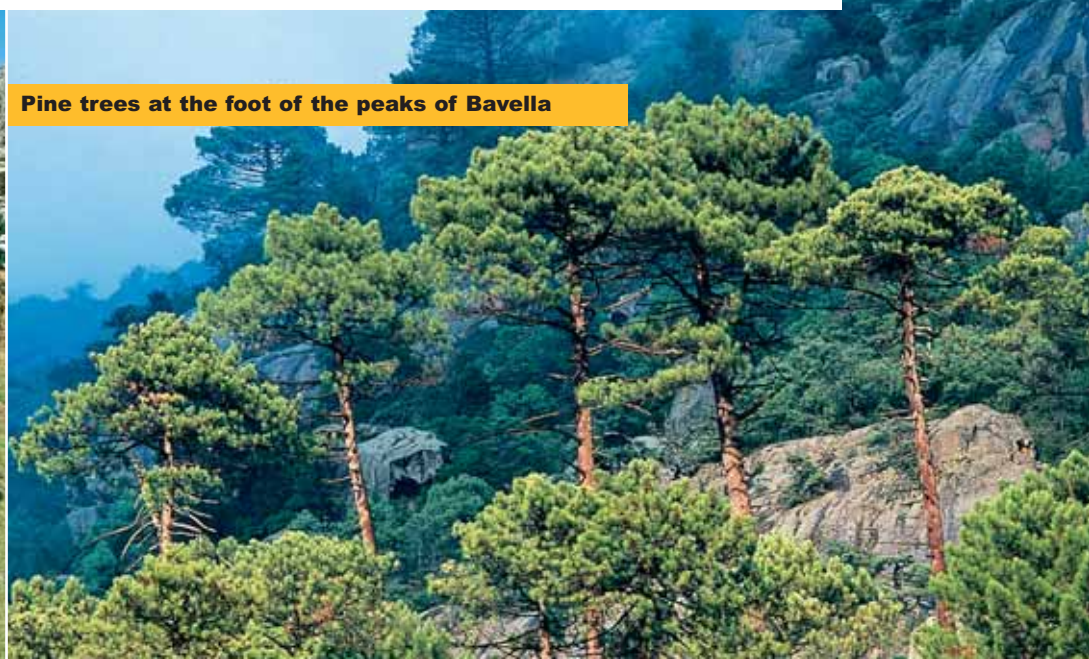
Nature	p. 4 à 5
The seaside	p. 6 à 7
The mountain	p. 8 à 9
Heritage	p. 10 à 11
The Region of Bastia	p. 14 à 17
Cap Corse	
Nebbio	
Saint Florent	
East Coast	p. 18 à 21
Costa Serena	
Costa Verde	
Castagniccia	
South Corsica	p. 22 à 25
Bonifacio	
Porto-Vecchio	
Lecci	
Sainte Lucie	
de Porto-Vecchio	
Alta Rocca	
Solenzara	
The Grand Valinco	p. 26 à 29
Propriano	
Taravo	
Region of Sartène	
The Region of Ajaccio ...	p. 30 à 33
Porticcio	
South shore	
Bastellica	
Bocognano	
West Corsica	p. 34 à 37
Porto	
Piana	
Cargèse	
Region of Vico	
Balagne	p. 38 à 41
Calvi	
Ile Rousse	
Galeria	
Ostriconi	
Central Corsica	p. 42 à 45
Corte	
Venacais	
Niolo	
Bozio - Asco	
Photo credits	p. 46
Tourist Offices	p. 47



**BETWEEN SEA AND MOUNTAIN, NATURE
HAS MANY SURPRISES IN STORE FOR YOU**



Pine trees at the foot of the peaks of Bavella

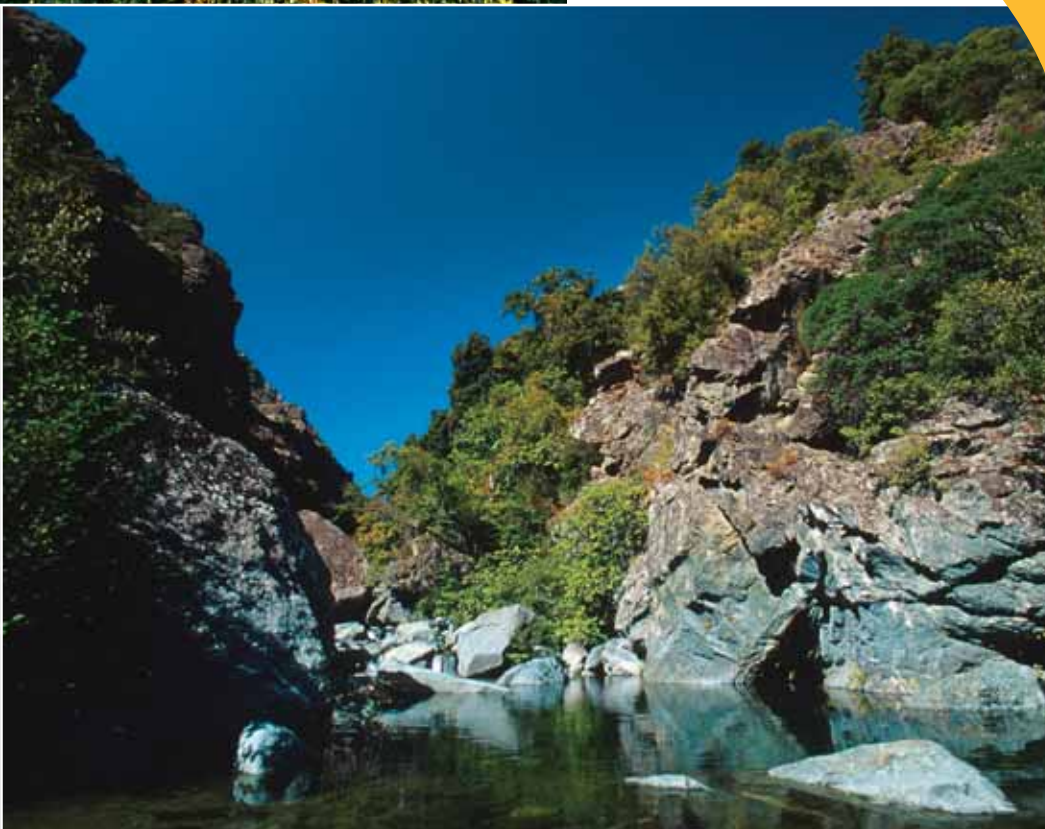




With more than 2000 plant species, Corsica will dazzle you with colour. What is more, the Regional Nature Park of Corsica covers more than two thirds of the island. Five nature reserves protect some unique flora and fauna with the Cerbicale Isles that provide a sanctuary for crested cormorants, the Lavezzi Isles where 68 species of fish have been recorded, the Finocchiarola Isles and Scandola that are France's leading land and sea reserve, and the Biguglia Pond where 127 species of aquatic birds nest.



Cyclists in front of the cliffs of Bonifacio





ALL THE FACES





Crystal clear waters, vast beaches of powder sand, small isolated coves and wild cliffs populated with ospreys: Corsica offers a range of marine landscapes that are unique to the Mediterranean. With over one thousand kilometres of coastline, the island is a succession of fabulous places to swim, fish, dive or simply walk. Even at the height of summer it is not difficult to find a quiet little cove where you will feel like Robinson Crusoe. You are sure to be surprised by the temperature of the waters. Even in October swimming in the sea is still common where the water can be up to 20°C!



OF THE SEA



Cupabia

Girolata

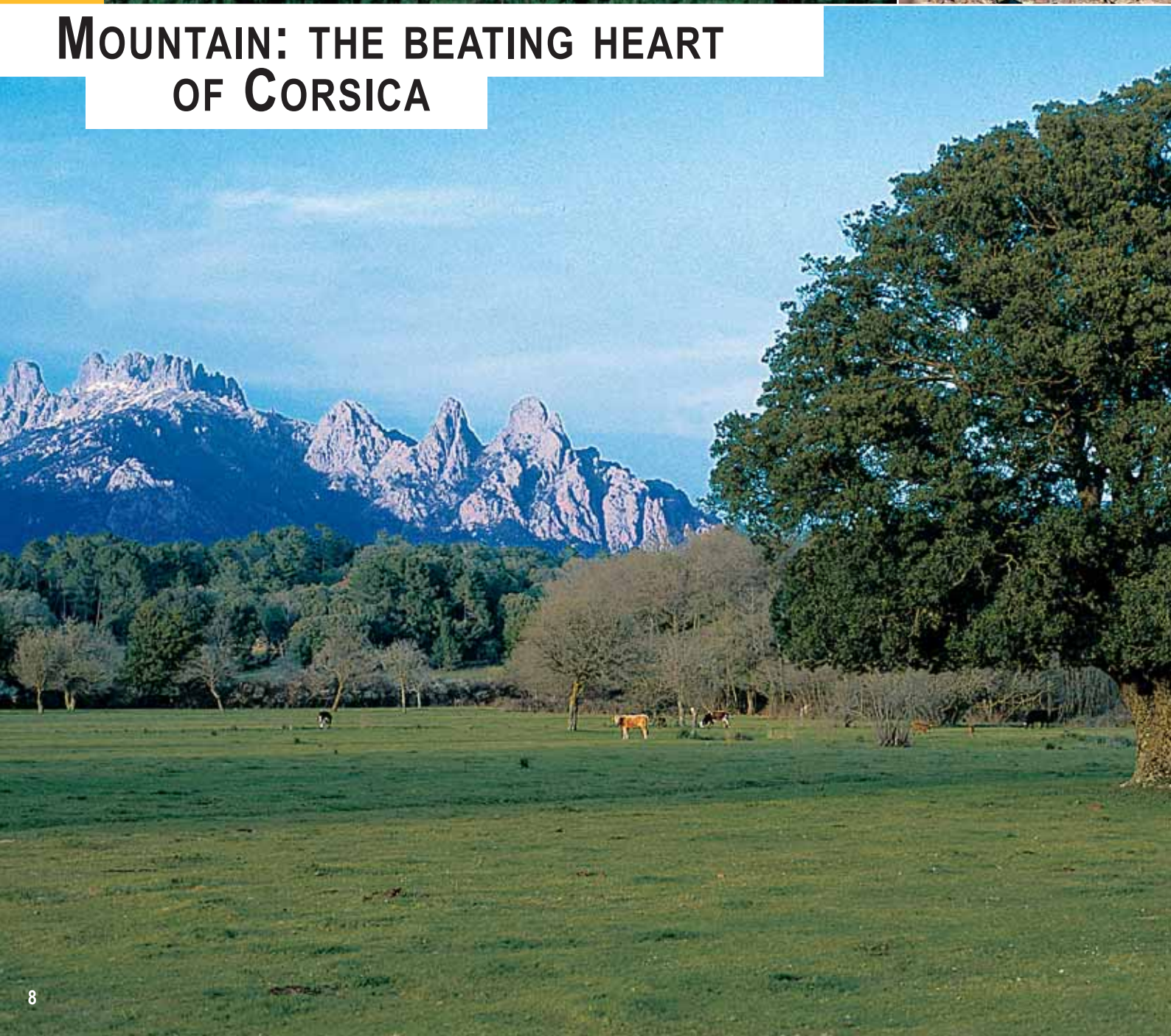




Ghisoni



MOUNTAIN: THE BEATING HEART OF CORSICA





The tableland of Coscione



The Restonica Gorge



Pasture near Quenza

If you like mountains, you will love Corsica. It is the most mountainous island in the Mediterranean with more than 100 peaks over 2000 metres high. Everywhere you look you will see magnificent landscapes in a protected setting. The mountains make up the heart of Corsica and provide the setting for island traditions and even the very identity of the islanders themselves. With its thermal springs, spectacular waterfalls, natural pools, rivers full of fish, mountain lakes, Corsica is a veritable water tower where you will enjoy taking time to recharge your batteries.



AN ISLAND MARK OF CULTURE



Chapel in Haute-Corse





Corsica's uniqueness – quite apart from the fact that it is an island that is unique to the Mediterranean – also stems from its heritage. Everywhere you go, you will see a Chapel, a bridge, a tower, or something of interest to explore. With a rich heritage of monuments, Corsica is also a wealth of culture, craft and living traditions among which gastronomy plays a significant part. Corsica is also an island where people know how to party. Each village, and there are more than 300, celebrates its patron saint each year.



The Tour d'Albo



Row of megaliths at Palaghju



REGION OF BASTIA

BALAGNE

CENTRAL CORSICA

WEST CORSICA

EAST COAST

REGION OF AJACCIO

GRAND VALINCO

SOUTH CORSICA



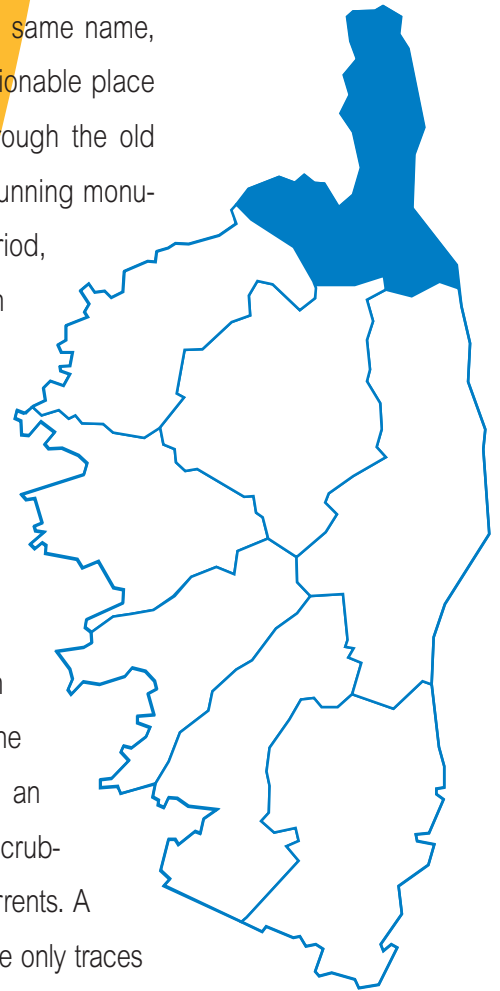


THE REGION OF BASTIA

CAP CORSE
NEBBIO
SAINT-FLORENT

Facing the coast of Tuscany, Bastia has all the charm of an old Mediterranean town with its narrow streets flanked by tall buildings whose understated elegance is enhanced by painted shutters. Founded in 1378 by the Genoese that turned it into the island's capital, its name comes from the 'bastille' or fortress that dominates the town. From here you can tour round the old port by walking down rue Napoleon, looking at the shops and beautiful boutiques as you go. Other sights to see, this time of a more spiritual nature, are to be found in the churches that sprang up all over the town during the 17th and 18th centuries. The church of Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Corsica's largest church, and the churches of Sainte-Marie and the Chapel Sainte Croix will not fail to amaze you with their ornate Baroque interiors. If you are tempted to go for a swim, there are beaches not far from the entrance to the town. Pebble beaches to the north, sandy beaches to the south with the superb Marana beach that borders the ornithological reserve of the Pond of Biguglia. Bastia paves the way to the Port of Nebbio and Saint-Florent on the west coast. Set in the

dip of the gulf that bears the same name, this fishing port is a very fashionable place to visit. Wander at leisure through the old town, explore the citadel, a stunning monument from the Genoese period, and also the beautiful Roman church of Santa-Maria Assunta, before sipping an aperitif in the Place des Portes. Saint-Florent is the starting point of the beach path that stretches the length of the Agriates coast, 40 km of which is protected by the Conservatoire du Littoral. It is an amazing universe of stony scrub-covered hills punctuated by torrents. A land of wind and sun where the only traces of human life are found in the "pagliaghji" that provide shelter for shepherds and their sheep.



Saint-Florent





To TASTE

The famous Cap Corse and Patrimonio wines, two AOC (wines with guarantee of origin) that in addition to the red, white and rosé wines also produce two sweet wines, one white, one red. A wine fair is held on the first weekend in July in Luri.



Bastia Harbour

To SEE

Cap Corse begins north of Bastia. A sharp mountain ridge 40 km long heading north, it is a land of sailors and fishermen. A coastal road takes you right over the ridge and affords spectacular views at each twist and turn. Explore Nonza and its Genoese watchtower that are certainly worth a postcard, along with Centuri which is a beautiful little port with crystal-clear waters. From here the customs trail takes you along the coast to Macinaggio. Explore the nature reserve of Finocchiarola with the Audoin gulls and the Sainte Marie and Tamarone beaches. There is also the picturesque fishing village of Erbalunga where, in the 30s, many painters came and set up their easels.



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

REGION OF BASTIA

Cultural events	
January/February	
BASTIA	- Italian Cinema Festival
March/April	
BASTIA	- English Cinema Week - Comic Strip Festival
April	
BASTIA	- Equinoxe Jazz Festival
May	
BASTIA	- Book and historical fiction Fair
June	
LUCCIANA	- Fiera di a Canonica in Lucciana (art and craft event)
July	
BASTIA	- The changing of the governors (a costume pageant)
PATRIMONIO	- Guitar Nights
SANTA SEVERA	- Festa di u mare (cultural and sporting events on the theme of the sea)
August	
BASTIA	- Zitellina in festa (demonstration for the children)
ERBALUNGA	- Music festival
SAINT-FLORENT	- Porto Latino festival (South-American and Spanish-inspired music)
September/October	
BASTIA	- Spanish and Latin American Cinema Festival Spanish Cinema Festival
October	
BASTIA	- Les Musicales de Bastia (music festival)
November	
BASTIA	- Arte Mare (Festival of Mediterranean film and culture).

Country fairs	
July	
LURI	- A Memoria di u Vinu (wine fair).
Sporting events	
March	
CAP CORSE	- Round "la Giraglia" (car rally)
April	
BIGUGLIA	- Fita Target Kalliste (top national and international archers)
September	
BASTIA	- Sports Festival
October/November	
BASTIA	- Corsica International Chess Open
Religious events	
March/April	
BASTIA Holy Week	- Procession on Maundy Thursday, visiting the altars of repose of all the town's religious buildings
BORGO	- A Granitola (a symbolic procession of the faithful on their knees inside the church)
BRANDO	- A Cerca Procession (for over 12 kilometres from church to chapels)
May	
BASTIA	- Procession of the "Black Christ" of miracles
August	
BASTIA	- Feast of the Assumption
September	
LAVASINA	- Annual pilgrimage to Notre Dame de Lavasina

Information available from Tourist Offices and Tourist Information Centres. See list on page 47.

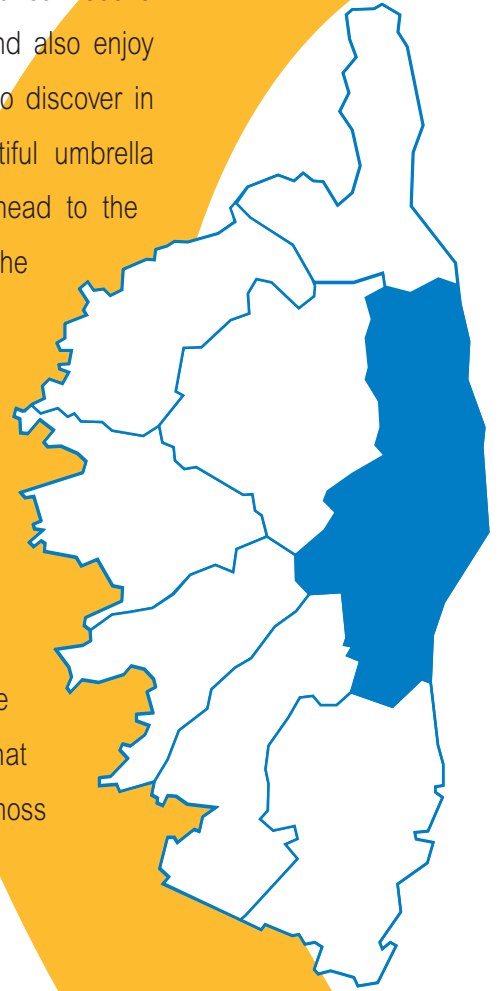


EAST COAST

COSTA SERENA
COSTA VERDE
CASTAGNICCIA

If you can see vast beaches in front of you and behind, stand hills and mountains that are cool and shady, you are on the east coast. From the Moriani Plage at Aléria to Ghisonaccia, beaches stretch for miles bordered by sumptuous pine forests. In this region of vast open spaces, you will enjoy seaside outings and swimming in the many rivers that flow through the region. Here, all the joys of the seaside, sunshine and gastronomy abound. Turning inland now, an ocean of forests awaits you. Vast forest of chestnut trees, Castagniccia will charm you with its character, its stone-roofed houses that all have their own “rataghju” (chestnut drying room) and its flamboyant autumnal colours. The region covers the three “pieves” (ancient parishes) of Alesani,

Orezza and Ampugnani. Further south is the region of Ghisoni, where you can see a pretty 16th century village and also enjoy walks that are full of things to discover in one of Europe’s most beautiful umbrella pine forests. From Ghisoni, head to the resort of Renoso where, in the winter, you can ski in a vast and fully-preserved natural setting. It is the starting point for climbing Mont Renoso (2352m), one of the highest peaks in Corsica. Make the most of your climb to visit the sheep barns of the Pozzi, these peat bogs that punctuate the bright green moss with blue patches.



Castagniccia Salicetù



TO TASTE

Many specialities with a chestnut base: polenta, cakes, preserves; charcuterie, goats cheese, wines, seafood and the succulent citrus fruits of the region, not forgetting the Mavella liqueurs (awarded the gold medal). Lastly, also try the sparkling water of Orezza, whose thermal spring dates back to antiquity and where you can certainly quench your thirst.



Bust of Pascal Paoli

TO SEE

On the coast, you will see the Pond of Urbinu and the Pond of Diane where oysters have been farmed since Roman times. Also visit the Casabianda reserve that houses more than 100 species of bird and turtles. At Ania di Fiumorbu, you can see the cave of the “last bandit of honour” and at Bujia, see the breathtaking waterfall of San Gavino that is 100 metres high. In the Castagniccia region there

are many churches with ornate interior decoration in the Baroque style that are well worth a visit. The churches of Saint-Pierre and Saint Paul in Pedicroce, Notre-Dame-du Mont Carmel at Stoppia Nova, La Porta, Giacatojo, Quercitello and the Valle d'Orezza are all listed as ancient monuments. There is also the magnificent convent of Alesani to see, which celebrates its festival on 8 September.



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

EAST COAST

Cultural events

June

ALERIA - A runcata (donkey festival)

August

PRUNELLI DI FIUMORBU - Jazz In paese
TAVAGNA - Settembrinu Di Tavagna (music festival in five surrounding villages).

Country fairs

June

VEZZANI - Festa di u Legnu di a Furesta (festival promoting awareness of wood and forestry industry)

July

QUERCITELLO - Foire du Pratu (crafts, Corsican products, sheep and goat farming....)

Sporting events

April

GHISONACCIA - Costa Serena / Mother-of-Pearl Coast National Rally

August

CARPINETO - Via Romana (trail)

Religious events

September

VALLE D'ALESANI - Festival of the Nativity of the Virgin (procession to the Convent of Alesani)
PANCHERACCIA - Festival of the Nativity of the Virgin (annual pilgrimage to Notre Dame de Pancheraccia)

Information available from Tourist Offices and Tourist Information Centres. See list on page 47.





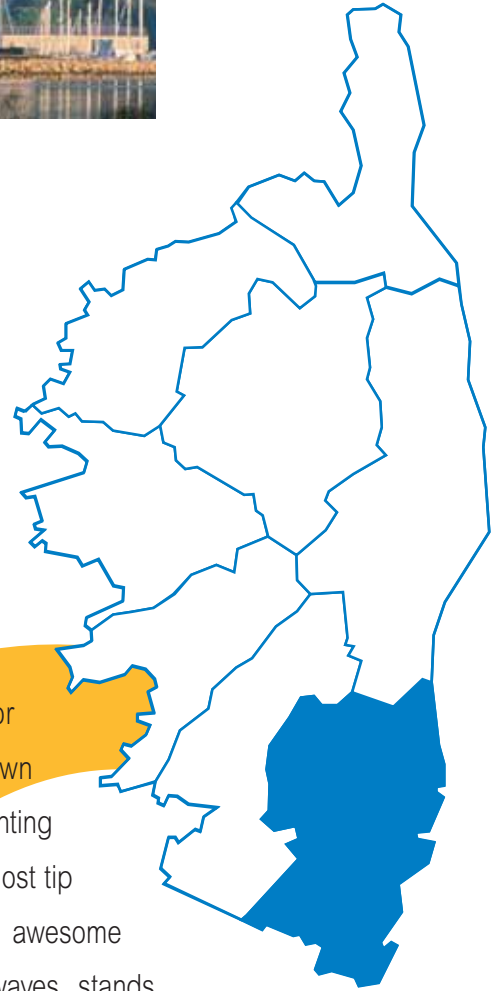
Porto-Vecchio

PORTO-VECCHIO
ALTA ROCCA
SOLENZARA
BONIFACIO

SOUTH CORSICA

Here, in the southern region of the island, the Corsican mountains sweep down to the sea in an apotheosis of beaches, creeks and islets. The third largest town in Corsica, Porto-Vecchio attracts yachtsmen with its roadstead well protected in a cirque of cork oak-fringed hills. You won't be able to resist the lure of the beaches, some of which, like Palombaggia and Santa Giulia, rank among the most beautiful in Corsica. The beaches are only a few minutes from the Ospedale massif. Further west, you come to the imposing wooded massif of the Alta Rocca from which emerge the summits of the Aiguilles de Bavella. From the Col de Bavella, you will

make your way to the Polischellu waterfalls before dropping down towards the Côte des Nacres via the Solenzara Valley, perfect for canyoning, abseiling down waterfalls, rock climbing, hunting and fishing. At the southernmost tip of the island, perched atop awesome white cliffs battered by the waves, stands Bonifacio. Sailing boats and their crews will find a whole series of calanques (deep narrow creeks) and gulfs in which to drop anchor along this highly indented coastline. And why not spend a day on the Lavezzi Isles, just four kilometres off the coast?



TO SEE

The large number of prehistoric sites that are dotted all over the region, in particular those at Castellu d'Araghju and Ceccia. Also visit the sites at Cucuruzzu and Castellu di Capula with their impressive cyclopean walls. At Levie, discover the "lady of Bonifacio", the island's oldest inhabitant (6570 years BC) at the departmental museum of prehistory of Alta

Rocca. At Bonifacio, visit the old town with the Bastion de l'Etendard, the Place d'Armes, the very moving sailor's cemetery, the magnificent King of Aragon steps carved out of the cliff face, and the church of Saint Dominique, one of the island's few Gothic buildings. At Porto-Vecchio, you can stroll around the old town that is protected by Genoese fortifications.



Palombaggia Beach

TO TASTE

The charcuterie of Alta-Rocca, goat and sheep's cheese, honey, olive oil from Saint Lucie de Tallano and a variety of seafood with scorpion fish, ocean bream, red mullet, sea bass, sea urchins and crayfish. Also try the Bonifacio aubergines. From Michelin-starred restaurants to farm/inns, the south of Corsica is a gourmet's delight.



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Rondinara Beach

SOUTH CORSICA

Cultural events

April

- PORTO-VECCHIO
- Festival of Dreams
 - Scen'e Sonniu

June

- PORTO-VECCHIO
- Tuscany Week in Porto-Vecchio (operatic concerts, parades, theatre, exhibitions, crafts.)
 - Craft fair

September

- PORTO-VECCHIO
- Mosaicales du Rire (comedy festival of Porto-Vecchio)

Country fairs

March

- SAINTE LUCIE DE TALLANO
- Festa di L'Oliu Novu (festival celebrating the new olive oil)

Sporting events

May

- PORTO-VECCHIO
- Estival cup (Live-aboard sailing cruiser race between Corsica and Sardinia).
- SOLENZARA
- Endur'o trophy (Heat of the French Jet-endurance and speed championships)

June

- PORTO-VECCHIO
- Festival of Outdoor Sports
 - Corsica Raid Aventure (adventure trek)

September

- BONIFACIO
- Inter-Island Challenge (French Sailing Federation)
 - Town trophies (Inter-town sailing regatta)

October

- BONIFACIO
- Round Corsica Yacht Race (regatta)

Religious events

March/April

Easter week

- BONIFACIO
- Procession of the five Orders

August

- BAVELLA
- Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Snows

September

- BONIFACIO
- Festival of the Nativity of the Virgin

Information available from Tourist Offices and Tourist Information Centres. See list on page 47.

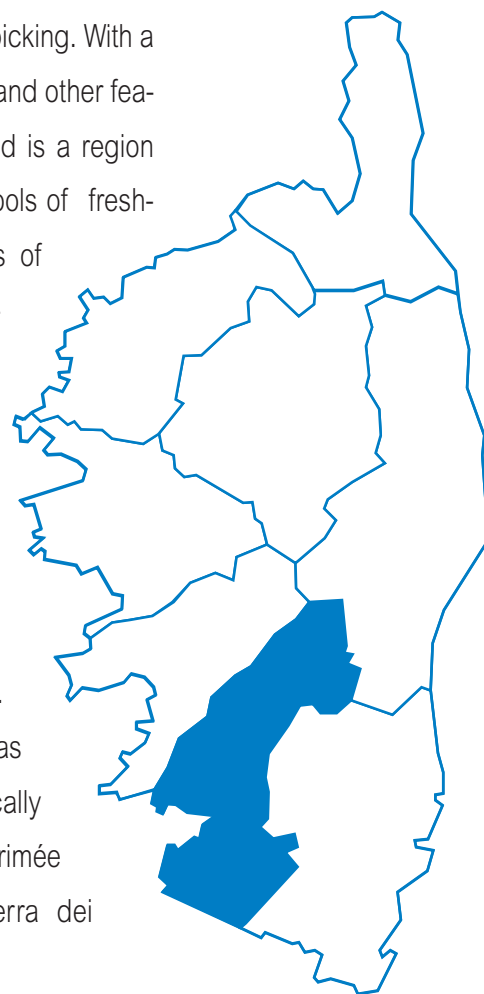


THE GRAND VALINCO

PROPRIANO
TARAVO
SARTENAIS

Corsica's origins can be traced to this small region with its large number of prehistoric sites and castle remains that date back to the time of the lords. Propriano, a seaside resort set in the heart of the Gulf of Valinco, a gulf that is so deep and calm that it could be mistaken for a lake. The journey from the protected area of Roccapina and its beach of powdery sand overlooked by a rocky outcrop, passing through Tizzano, to the charming little fishing port of Porto Pollo, is an uninterrupted succession of coves and beaches, including the beautiful beach of Cupabia. A coastal path takes you to Tizzano through the "maquis" from Campomoro. A veritable valley of green, the Taravo Valley has for a long time lived to the rhythm of the harvests,

grape harvests and chestnut picking. With a large number of historic sites and other features of interest, the hinterland is a region full of activity. Between two pools of fresh-water and sea water, dozens of activities are on offer including, climbing, river fishing, horse trekking, and other excursions, not forgetting that the region is also the starting point of two walking trails: the Mare a Mare Sud and the Mare e Monti Sud. From Propriano, go as far as Sartène, "the most authentically Corsican town" as Prosper Mérimée wrote. As capital of the Terra dei Signori.



Roccapina bay

TO TASTE

The wines with an AOC (guarantee of origin) produced in Sartène along the Wine Routes. Why not try the different types of olive oil in one of the many mills in the region. Also try “brucciu” cheese, local cakes and pastries, Pulenta (based on chestnut flour), charcuterie of Tasso, and of course a wide variety of seafood.



L'Omu di Cagna

TO SEE

At Sartène, take time to stroll around the old town. Stop for a coffee in the Place de la Libération, explore the church of Sainte-Marie, the former palace of the Genoese governors and the Santa Anna quarter with its grey granite cobbled streets. Visit the fascinating museum on Corsican Prehistory that displays artefacts from all of the prehistoric sites on the island. The watchtower at Campomoro, built in 1583 is also worth a visit. Located in a vast protected area where the wild coastline

contains many small coves. Visit the town of Olmeto where you can see the house of Colomba Bartoli and Fozzano, the place where the terrible vendetta began that was to inspire Prosper Mérimée's “Colomba”. Lastly, at Foce that has a very impressive fortified house, the viewpoint commands superb panoramic views over the Gulf of Valinco. A little further on, you will find Santa Maria where you can explore the Roman church of “l'Annunziata” that is set among the olive groves.





Propriano harbour

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

THE GRAND VALINCO

Cultural events

July

FOZZANO

- Colomba Days celebrating the story by Prosper Mérimée set here

Country fairs

August

SOLLACARO

- A Fiera Di U Turismu Campagnolu: Rural Tourism Fair

Religious events

March/April

SARTÈNE

Holy Week

- U Catenacciu (the most famous Good Friday procession)

Information available from Tourist Offices and Tourist Information Centres. See list on page 47.

Olmeto





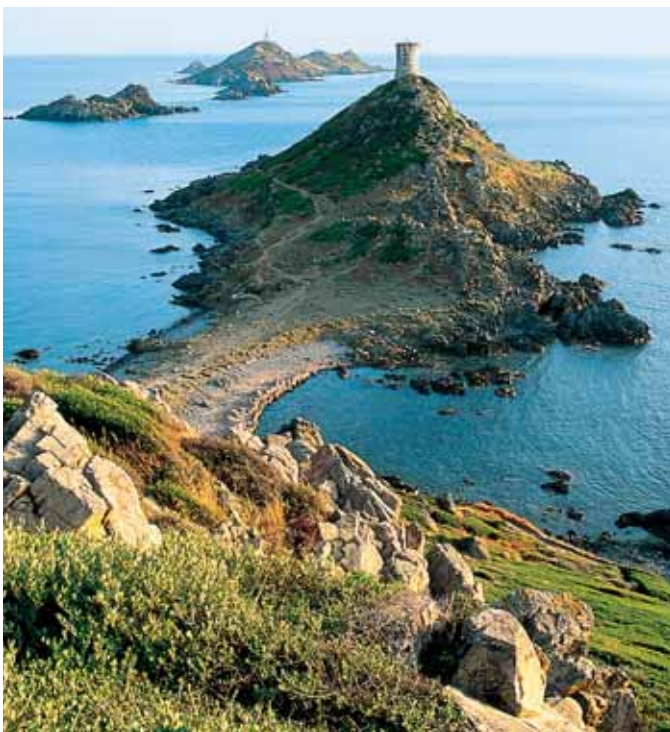
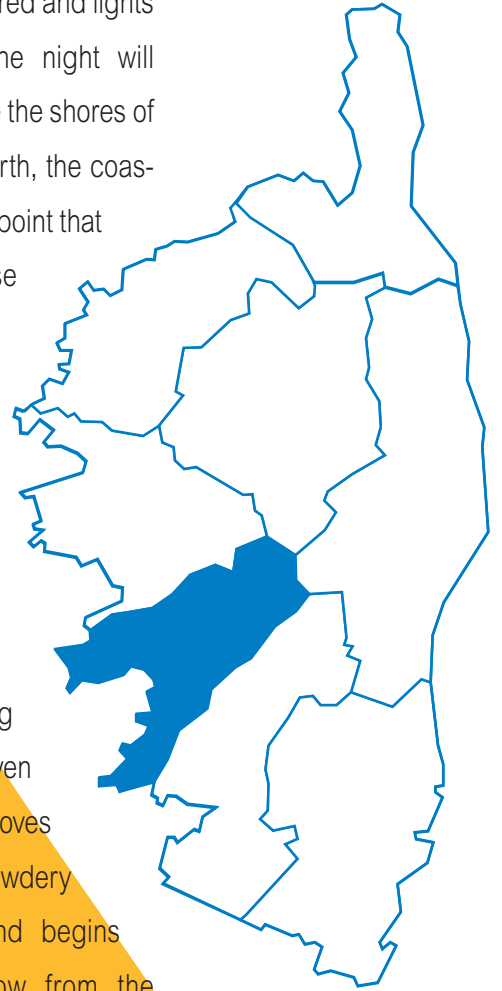
THE REGION OF AJACCIO

PORTICCIO
RIVE SUD
BASTELICA
BOCOGNANO

Ajaccio is above all a unique and magical setup. The town rises up from one of the most beautiful gulfs in the world, set against a backdrop of mountains that are often snow-capped until the spring. The beauty of the area is matched by the mildness of the climate and the “Ajaccian art of living”. In the morning, you can soak up the atmosphere of the city by strolling around the old port, through the lively markets and through the narrow streets of the noble houses in the old town. During the day, enjoy the pleasures of white sandy beaches where you can swim until the end of autumn. At night, after the ever

spectacular sunset that glows red and lights up the Iles Sanguinaires, the night will belong to you. Why not explore the shores of the Gulf of Ajaccio? To the north, the coastal road will lead you to Parata point that is overlooked by a Genoese watchtower. A path leads you to the end of the point from where you can admire the Iles Sanguinaires and access the beaches of the large and small Capo di Feno. the whole of the southern coast is an ideal spot for getting away from it all. It is a real haven

of nature where coves and beaches of powdery sand. The hinterland begins just a stone's throw from the beach with circuits that open up magnificent views to the mountains, valleys and villages.



The Sanguinaires Islands



TO SEE

Walks of all levels are to be found everywhere. Climb up the Prunelli valley and twenty minutes later you will find yourself in the heart of the deep chestnut tree forests of Bastelica, fatherland of Sampiero Corso. Finally, rise by train until Vizzavona who dominates the upper valley of the Gravona region, set in a majestic landscape of Laricio pine trees. Half an hour away by foot, you can explore the waterfall of Voile de la Mariée – an impressive waterfall of more than 70m in height.

TO TASTE

For a true taste of the town, start with an aperitif in one of the café terraces. Enjoy fish and other local produce from the markets with mountain charcuterie, goat and sheep's cheese from the valleys of Gravona and Prunelli, "chaussons", a type of pasty made with swiss chard, onions and courgettes,

"ambrucciate" which are small pastries made with brocciu cheese and delicately flavoured with lemon that will go with one of the AOC (wines with a guarantee of origin) wines made in Ajaccio. Wintertime is perfect for tasting sea urchins, known as "oursinades".

Via Ferrata in Tolla





PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

REGION OF AJACCIO

Cultural events

March	
AJACCIO	- Passion film festival
May	
AJACCIO	- Festival of Japanese Film
June	
VERO	- Contafoli (Storytelling Festival)
July / August	
AJACCIO	- Quarantaine du Lazaret (Philosophy, Literature, Art)
August	
AJACCIO	- Artistic Cutlery Fair - Napoleonic Celebrations (big procession, parade, shows, commemorating the birth of Napoleon Bonaparte)
September	
AJACCIO	- Italian Film Festival - Coral and Sea Festival - Mountain festival
November	
AJACCIO	- Spanish and Latin American Cinema festival
December	
AJACCIO	- International Comic Strip Festival
Country fairs	
April	
CAURO	- Cheese and Wine Fair
November	
BASTELICA	- Apple and Natural Produce festival
December	
BOCOGNANO	- Fiera di a Castagna (Chestnut and craft fair, spearhead of country fairs in Corsica)

Sporting events

May	
AJACCIO	- Imperial Regatta (luxury yacht mailing race)
July	
AJACCIO	- World FootVolley Tour Ajaccio - Mediterranean Trophy (yachting competition)
September	
BOCOGNANO	- Festimonti (Mountain and outdoor activities festival)
October	
AJACCIO	- Rallye de France - Tour de Corse car race – (French round of the rallying world championship) - Corsica International Chess Open
November	
PORTICCIO	- Le maquis car rally

Religious events

June	
AJACCIO	- Feast of St Erasmus fishermen's festival (mass and procession in honour of the patron saint of fisherman. Two days of festivities on the Tino Rossi yacht marina)
August	
AJACCIO	- Religious Ceremonies for Assumption



WEST CORSICA

PORTO
PIANA
CARGESE
REGION OF VICO

With its coastline bordered by red granite cliffs that plunge into a sea of intense blue, the Gulf of Porto is well deserving of its classification by UNESCO as a “world heritage site”. To the north, lies the Girolata peninsula that can only be reached by foot or by boat. This magnificent landscape developed as a result of a volcanic eruption with steep cliffs, jagged peaks, lava flows that have set and formed tube shapes and stairs from where the ospreys dive into the turquoise waters. To the north of this area lies the Scandola

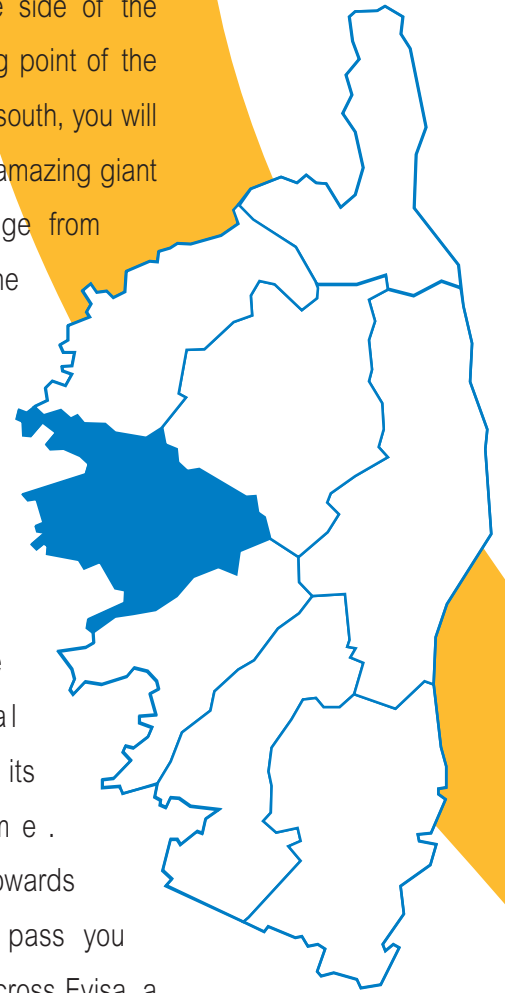
Overlooking the gulf is Ota, a typical Corsican village built on the side of the mountain. It forms the starting point of the Spelunca gorge trail, Further south, you will see the “calanche” of Piana, amazing giant granite structures that change from orange to red according to the time of day. Like a mountain that has been thrown into the sea, the hinterland of the gulf of Porto has remained enclosed for a many years but retains its authenti-

city and the traditional warmth of its welcome. Climbing towards the Vergio pass you will come across Evisa, a village that is surrounded by chestnut trees and borders the Aitone forest whose immense “Laricio” pine trees hide wonderful



nature reserve that is Europe’s only land and sea reserve. Porto, a welcoming seaside resort is famous for its magnificent sunsets.

rivers and natural pools. It is also the starting point for excursions to Tafunatu, Mount Cinto and the lakes of Nino and Creno.



To SEE

On leaving the “calanche”, explore the charming village of Piana that overlooks the gulf with Monte Cinto forming a backdrop with its frequently snow-capped peaks. Visit the Genoese watchtower of Porto that houses a small museum on this particular type of edifice and also the aquarium of Porto that displays under water flora and fauna. At Cargèse, take a look inside the Greek church that houses

some beautiful icons and, so as not to offend anyone, also have a look round the Catholic church. Explore the Genoese bridges of Pianella and Zaglia, and the Ota tiles that the women used to mould on their thighs. At Vico, visit the convent of Saint Francois built in the 15th century by a group of Franciscans and a trip to Guagno-les-Bains to visit the thermal spring is also well worth it.



Porto



To TASTE

The charcuterie of Cristinacce, brocciu caneloni (brocciu is a locally produced cheese), the marron glacé of Evisa, Murzo honey and mushrooms.



Girolata bay

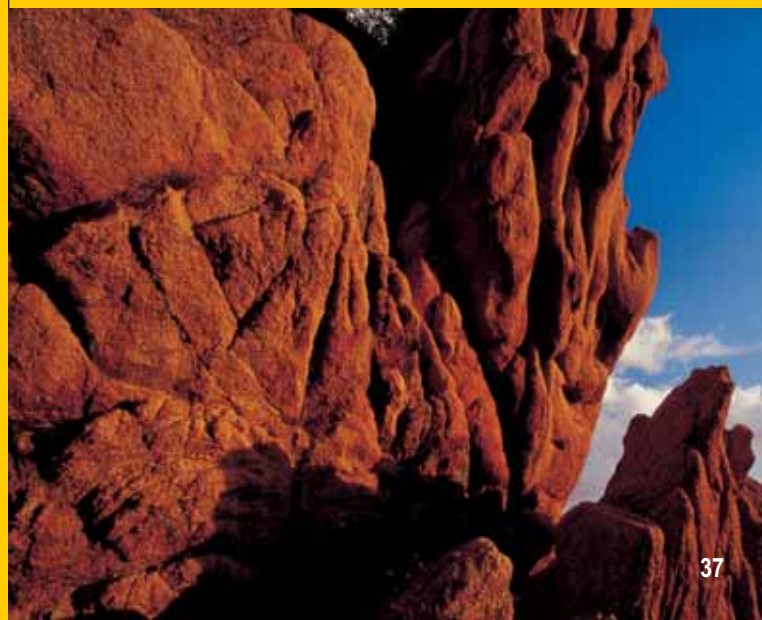
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

WEST CORSICA

Country fairs	
February	
RENNO	- A Tumbera (traditional fair on the theme of pigs and the various ways they are used in Corsican cuisine)
August	
RENNO	- St Roch traditional fair
September	
MURZO	- Mele in Festa (a celebration of Corsican honey and other local produce)
November	
EVISA	- Chestnut Fair (highlighting the special qualities of the "Insitina" chestnut of Evisa)
Religious events	
April	
CARGÈSE	- Easter Festival - Pascal Ceremonies (are held in the Orthodox church at Cargèse and follow rituals under the direction of the Archimandrite)

Information available from Tourist Offices and Tourist Information Centres. See list on page 47.

Rock in Piana



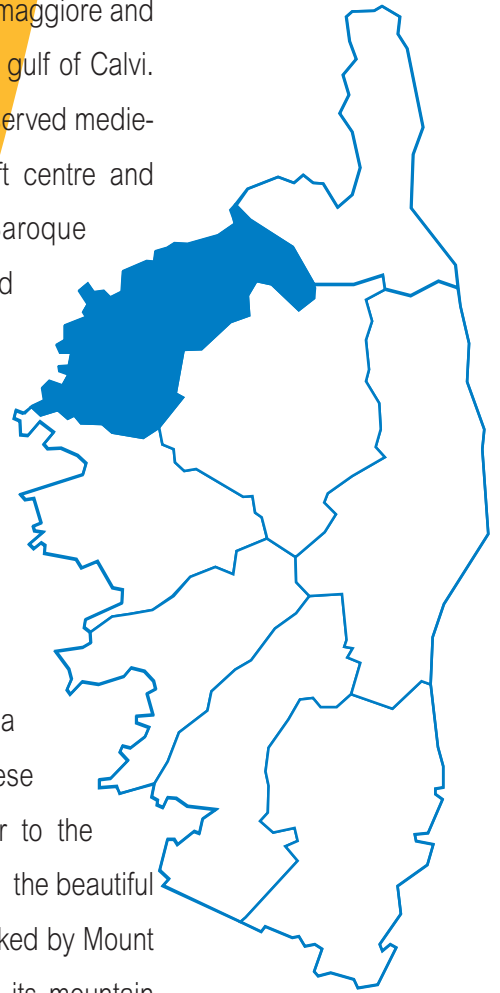


BALAGNE

Often called "the garden of Corsica" because of its fertile hills, Balagne is still known as Sainte Balagne because of the large number of religious buildings there. A second adjective befitting of this place is "festive". Firstly, at Calvi, the vast bay and 5 km beach, the line of mountains covered with snow until May, the walls of the citadel that go out into the sea - you could not dream of a more picturesque location. Walk down towards the port and marina, which is one of the most popular in Corsica and not far away from this point, you can put your towel out on the beach. Ile Rousse is the other seaside resort on this coast. It takes its name from the porphyry red rocks of the Isle of Pietra, just to the north of the town. Its climate is so mild that it could be called the "Mild Isle". Nothing is more pleasant than strolling through the shade of the 100-year old plane trees in the Place Paoli that is edged with date palms. Inland, a large number of terraced villages provide the ideal destination for a variety of trips in a magnificent natural setting. At the foot of Montegrosso, explore Calenza which is set against a backdrop of olive groves, and provides the starting point

for the GR 20 (long-distance hiking route). To see: the three villages of Montegrosso, Lunghignano and its oil mill, Cassano and its star-shaped square, Montemaggiore and its commanding views over the gulf of Calvi. Sant'Antonino, a perfectly preserved medieval eyrie, Pigna, a lively craft centre and Corbara with its highly Baroque church of the Annunciation and convent that are still used as a place of retreat. From Belgodere, that is perched on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Reginu valley, a hiking trail will take you to Olmi Capella. From Mausoleo and Pioggiola you can walk in a landscape dotted with Genoese bridges and chapels. Further to the north, the Ostriconi valley falls, the beautiful village of Lama that is overlooked by Mount Astu, and Pietralba set within its mountain ridge.

CALVI
ILE ROUSSE
GALERIA
OSTRICONI



Lumio



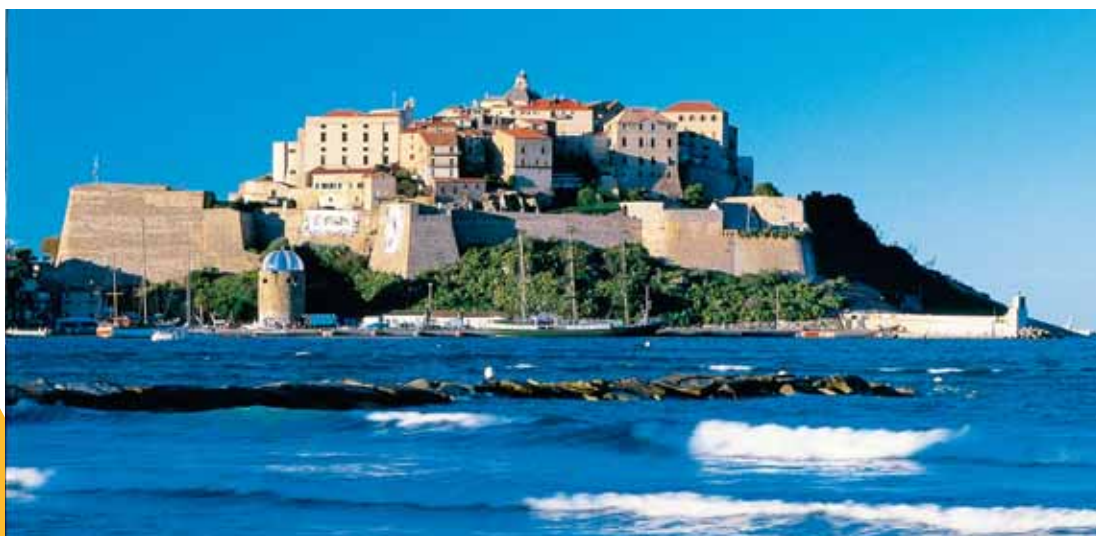
To SEE

At Calvi, the Genoese citadel, visit the pretty Baroque church of Saint John the Baptist that contains the “Christ des Miracles” which, it is said, led to the end of the siege of the town by the Turks in 1553. Also take time to look behind the pink door to the church of Sainte-Marie-Majeure and that of the Oratory of the Brotherhood of Saint Antoine. Why not visit the Revellata peninsula with its remarkable seabed and head up to Notre-Dame de la Serra to enjoy

its commanding views over the bay. In Ile Rousse, tour around the market place with its 21 columns and go for a lovely stroll along the Marinella and visit the traditional coffee-making plant. At Aregno, you can admire the church of the Trinity of San Giovanni, a remarkable Romanesque work of art, decorated with magnificent statues, including one of a man extracting a needle from his foot, as a symbol of the evil that can be extracted from the soul.

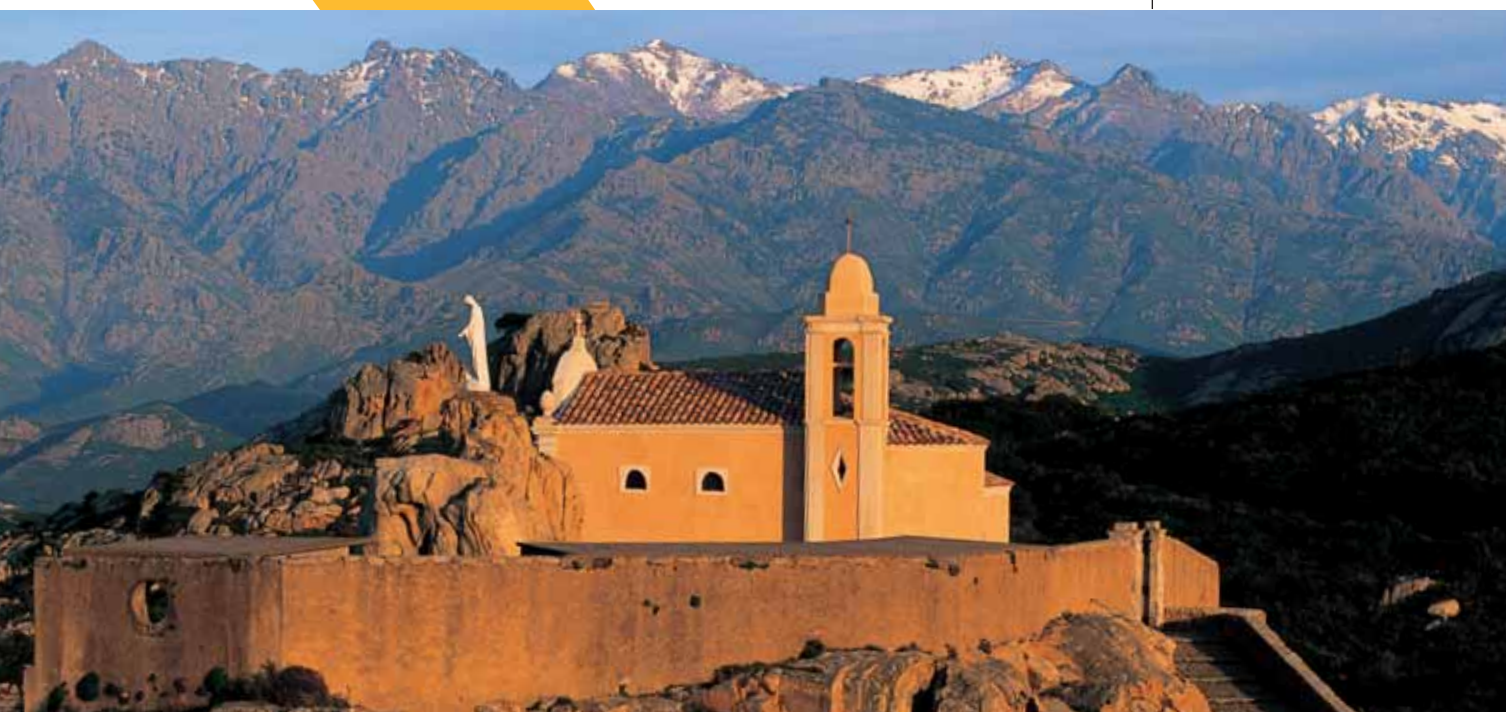
To TASTE

Olive oil and in particular “niellaghja” olive oil that is a local speciality; “oliosi” which are biscuits made with Lama olive oil and the Sant’Antonino “croquants”, small crunchy almond biscuits.



Calvi

Notre-Dame de Serra





PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Lama

BALAGNE

Cultural events

June	
CALVI	- Contemporary Art Festival - Jazz Festival
July	
CALVI	- Calvi On The Rocks (digital arts, electronic music and the Corsican art of living)
LAMA	- European Festival of Cinema and the Rural World
PIGNA	- Estivoce (World Voices Festival)
July / August	
OLMI CAPPELLA	- International theatre season in Corsica (directed by the actor Robin Renucci)
August	
CALENZANA	- Calenzana music festival (bringing classical music, contemporary music, artists and public together)
September	
CALVI	- Calvi Festival of Polyphony
October/ November	
CALVI	- Festiventu in Calvi (Festival on the theme of wind in all its forms)

Country fairs

July	
LUMIO	- A Fiera di a Petra (craft fair)
MONTEGROSSO	- Olive Tree Fair
August	
AREGNO	- Almond Tree Fair

Sporting events

January	
ILE ROUSSE	- International Open Squash tournament
June	
ILE ROUSSE	- Open International de Squash
July	
SPELONCATO	- A Girandulata (Foot race)
November	
ILE ROUSSE	- A Balanina (running race)

Religious events

March/April	Holy Week
CALVI	- A Granitola (procession of barefoot penitents)
June	
CALVI	- Feast of St Erasmus (patron saint of fishermen)
August	
CALVI	- Feast of the Assumption

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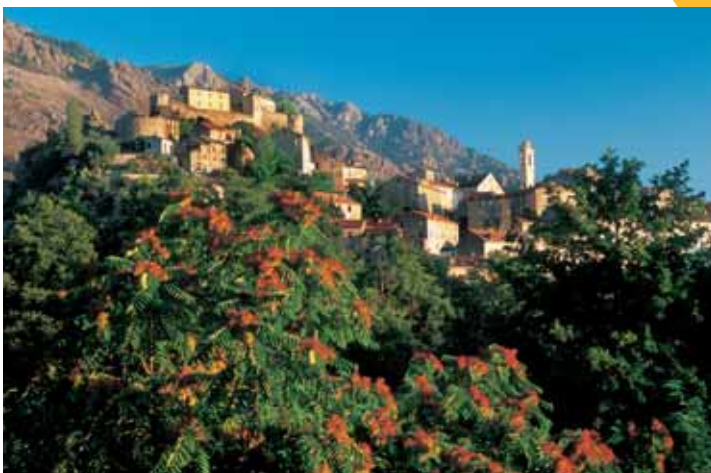
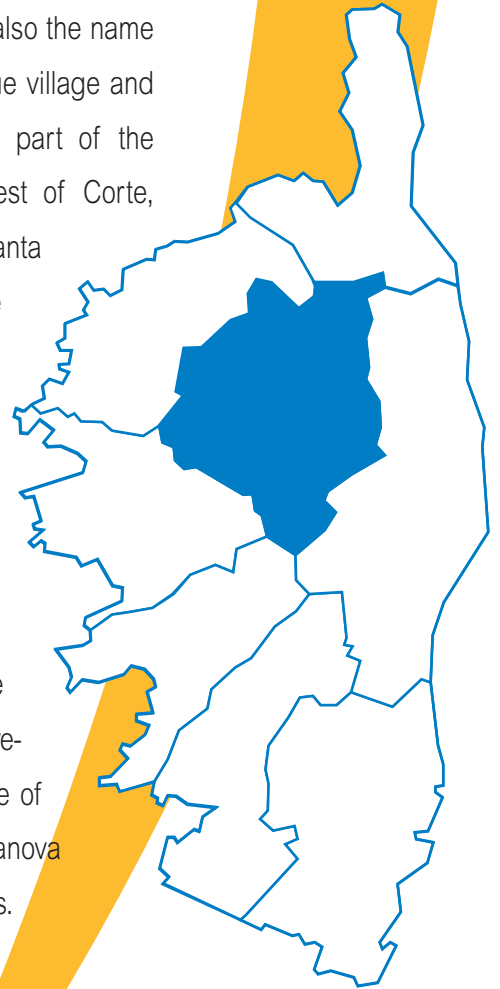


CENTRAL CORSICA

CORTE
VENACAIS
NIOLO
BOZIO
ASCO

An historic town, Corte is also a young and lively city that plays host to more than 4000 students. Built on a rocky outcrop and overlooked by a citadel, the upper town is full of character with old houses on narrow cobbled streets. Set at the heart of the Regional Nature Park of Corsica, at the foot of some of the island's highest peaks, Corte is the perfect starting point for many excursions such as energetic hiking trips, leisurely strolls and family walks. It is also the ideal place to practise outdoor sports and at just 40 minutes away from the closest beaches, Central Corsica opens the way to four different regions, each with their own particular identity. Ascu, which is a majestic valley with green waterfalls, where

you can stop and bathe. It is also the name of a charming and picturesque village and a wild fauna reserve that is part of the Natura 2000 programme. West of Corte, if you take the Scala di Santa Regina, you will reach the Niolo region, a high plateau surrounded by Corsica's highest peaks and villages. East of Corte, you enter the area of Bozio that extends through Castagniccia. South of Corte, you enter the Venachese area, a high pastoral land covered with forests including those of Noceta/Rospigliani and Vizzanova famed for its "Laricio" pine trees.



Corte

To see

At Corte you can follow the heritage trail that takes you on a visit of the old town. Climb up to the Belvédère, which has commanding panoramic views over the valleys of Restonica and Tavignanu. Explore the citadel, built in the 15th century, with its eyrie that stands high above

the town and the church of the Annunciation with its ornate interior decoration. Climb to the peaks of “U Capu Tafunatu” and “A Paglia Orba” in the Niolu area. Admire lakes Melu and Capitellu at the end of the Restonica valley (listed as a Conservation Area).

Creno lake



To taste

The variety of specialities from these regions produced by shepherds from whom you can buy delicious cheeses. Try some of the Niolu charcuterie, chestnut-based products from the Bozio area, AOC (guarantee of origin) honey from Ascu, goat and sheep's cheese from Venachese, “brocciu” cheese made in Corte and other specialities. For a delicious treat, try trout, Corsican soup and wild boar in sauce.





PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

CENTRAL CORSICA

Cultural events

June

CORTE	- San Ghjuva (Events celebrating the Feast of John the Baptist : culture festival, traditional Corsican music and poetry)
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August

CORTE	- Corte Dance Festival "Balli in Corti"
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Country fairs

May

VENACO	- A Fiera di u Casgiu (cheese festival)
CORTE	- Fiera di Corte
	- San Teofallu (crafts and outdoor sports)

June

CORTE	- Cavall'in Festa (regional Horse Fair)
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September

CASAMACCIOLI	- A Santa di u Niolu (ancient fair linked to religious festival, crafts)
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Sporting events

April

CORTE	- Les Foulées Cortenaises (running race)
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August

CASAMACCIOLI	- Pointer dog day
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CARPINETO

- Via Romana (Corsica trail running race)

September

CORTE	- Central Corsica car rally
	- L'Arche (mountain running race)

MOROSAGLIA

- La Paolina (running race)

Religious events

March/ April

Holy Week

CORTE

- Procession of Christ the King

September

CASAMACCIOLI	- Festival of the Nativity of the Virgin: A Santa di u Niolu
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Information available from Tourist Offices and Tourist Information Centres. See list on page 47.

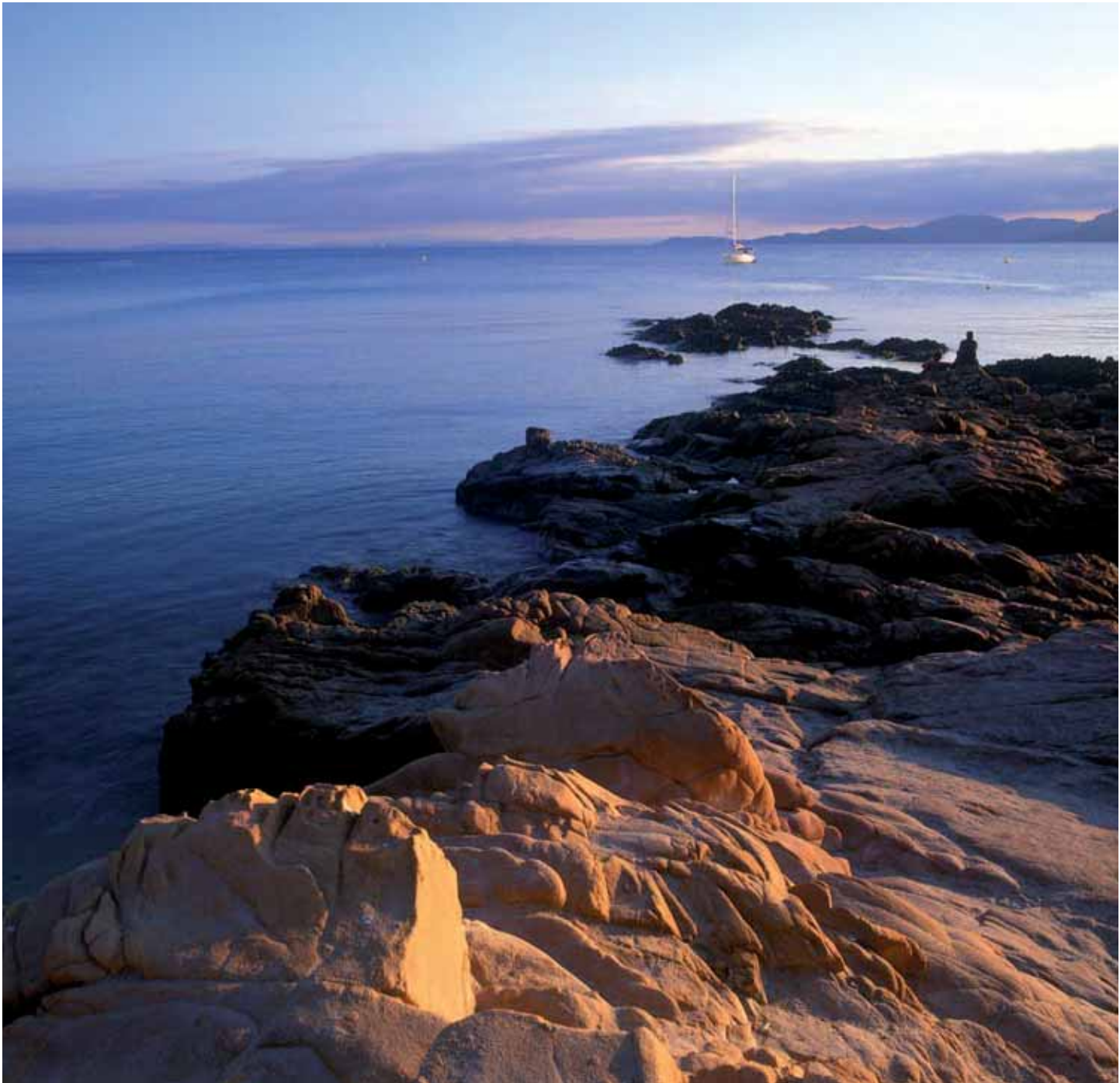


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