



AN UNSPOILED AND LIVELY OLD VILLAGE SET IN A MODERN DISTRICT OF GENOA

BOCCADASSE: AN ANCIENT FISHING VILLAGE

“ When you leave the turmoil of the city and come to Boccadasse, you are under the impression of returning to the cradle or falling into your mother’s arms. The anxiety of life seems to melt a little, and you feel that the ancient peace and harmony are still here, in the intimacy of its beautiful sea. ”

Boccadasse is an untouched fishing village by the sea, a pleasant and quiet spot in today’s busy Genoa, celebrated by the verses of Edoardo Firpo (1889-1957), Genoese poet and painter of the twentieth century. The verses of his poem "Boccadaze" have been engraved on a memorial plaque by the citizens.

GENOA

The Municipality of Genoa, the largest one in Liguria, extends on an area of approximately 244 square kilometres and consists of a thin coastal strip over 42 km long, overlooking the Ligurian Sea and surrounded by hills and mountains. Genoa, the principal town of Liguria, is a modern cosmopolitan metropolis, now undergoing a process of important economic, social and urban transformations. Genoa, along with Venice, Pisa and Amalfi, was one of the maritime republics that dominated the Mediterranean and European scene during the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance. At that time Genoa was also known as “Superba” and “Dominante dei Mari”, thanks to the position of dominance that reached at international level, especially in the economic and commercial fields. Today the city is looking for a new identity, between the glory of a distant past, linked to the navy and to the trade, and the tremendous challenges of the third millennium, in the role of the third largest Italian industrial area, for what concerns the fields of marine craft, clothing, technology and scientific research, as well as being a major tourist and cultural centre. In the town center you can see some of the most beautiful palaces in Europe, inscribed in the Unesco World Heritage Sites. Even the museums of the city can boast a great artistic value. At least once in their life, many of us have been in Genoa for various reasons: visiting an interesting art exhibition staged in one of its important historical residences, attending a play, entering one of the most interesting aquariums in Europe, or just passing through to embark on a cruise in the Mediterranean. There are people who never miss to visit the Salone Nautico Internazionale, the largest exhibition dedicated to the sector, or Euroflora, the most important floral exhibition in Europe. Every weekend, Genova Tour offers you the opportunity to visit the architectural gems of the historical center, such as Palazzi Rolli, inscribed in the UNESCO world heritage sites, the Botteghe Storiche, the large international port, and more. I've never met a person who has travelled to Genoa only to walk the streets of Boccadasse, the unspoiled fishing village, which, because of its peripheral location, but above all thanks to the will of its inhabitants, has succeeded in preserving its original urban structure. This is an experience not to be missed.

BOCCADASSE

One of the nine districts in which the city of Genoa is divided, the Middle East one, includes a few important areas: going along Course Italy, the beautiful waterfront of the city, you can easily reach the historical village of Boccadasse, set like a jewel between S. Francesco d'Albaro, one of the most elegant residential neighbourhoods of Genoa, and the area called Sturla. At the end of the course, the Church of Sant'Antonio welcomes you, with its restored Firpo viewpoint, from which you can enjoy the sight of the village, whose origins go back to the year 1000. The church, whose original building was erected in the eighteenth century by the inhabitants of the place, contains numerous ex voto that testify the grateful faith of the population (fishermen and sailors), always exposed to sudden bad weather. It recall "Creuza de mä", a song in Genoese language entirely dedicated to the Mediterranean sea and considered one of the best songs by Fabrizio de André (1940-1999): “Ombre di facce, facce di marinai, da dove venite? Dov'è che andate?” .

It tells about the return home of the sailors, after the hard experience of the sea, a place where “the moon seems naked“. The term "Creuza de mä (path along the sea), describes a kind hilly street, somewhere stepped, which leads to the sea, like all the streets of Genoa. From the church of Sant'Antonio a typical Liguria “creuza” and a steep stairway lead to the marine village. Piazzetta Nettuno, overlooking the small bay bordered by Capo di Santa Chiara, as well as the colourful houses that crown the village, the panoramic views that you can see when you climb along the typical "creuze" to the small Castle Turcke, are of considerable tourist interest and are surrounded by the atmosphere of old times.

BOCCADASSE: A PALETTE OF COLOURS

This ancient fishing village was called Boccadasse because of the shape of its inlet that, seen from above, seems a “bocca d'ase“ (a donkey's mouth).

The fishermen still sell their fish today, throwing from time to time a small fish to a seagull or to a sleepy cat.

No cars, no bathing equipment, everything has remained intact. Walking through the lanes uphill and then down to the sea means to live in an enchanted atmosphere, enriched by colours ranging from shades of terracotta to the colours of the apricot and pistachio.

The colours are mixed with the perfume of the flowers and the scent of the Mediterranean sea.

BOCCADASSE: SOME CHARACTERISTIC SIGNS

This is a charming place out of time, where people go for a walk, to sunbathe on the rocks or to eat an ice cream in every season.

Today the village lives also thanks to some small art galleries, restaurants and “focaccerie”, all featuring characteristic signs, and located in the square or along the creuze.

BOCCADASSE AND ITS SINGER-SONGWRITERS

*C'era una volta una gatta
che aveva una macchia nera sul muso
e una vecchia
soffitta vicino al mare con una finestra
a un passo dal cielo blu.
Se la chitarra suonavo
la gatta faceva le fusa ed una stellina
scendeva vicina vicina
poi mi sorrideva e se ne tornava su.
Ora non abito più là, tutto è cambiato,
non abito più là, ho una casa bellissima
bellissima come vuoi tu.
Ma io ripenso a una gatta
che ora non vedo più.*

To avoid crowds of young people in the square on weekends, we suggest you to go for a walk in the morning silence and, if you like, undisturbed take pictures in every corner of the village, while you enjoy the unforgettable view of the sun rising towards the bay of Portofino. It is no coincidence that Boccadasse has been celebrated by the most famous Genoese songwriters. Only there you can fully understand the lyrics of their songs, so Gino Paoli's verses come to mind: "Ti ricordi il sole nella casa al mare? Ti ricordi i fiori che curavi tu? I sorrisi rossi dei gerani appesi? Sale sopra i vetri e sui tuoi capelli? Ti ricordi il vento nella casa al mare, quando c'era freddo e non lo sentivi?"

The bay and the old houses of the village form a very romantic environment. The magical enchantment of a visit to Boccadasse is also mentioned in the text of the famous song "La Gatta" by Gino Paoli, written in 1960; the author lived here for many years, in "salita Santa Chiara", and it happens to hear him speaking about the place with infinite regret. Based on the nostalgia for the simple life of past time, the song recalls the charm of the bay, whose colours are mixed with the perfume of the flowers and the scent of the Mediterranean sea.

Cuisine

The whole magazine would not be enough to give the recipe of all specialties of the Genoese cuisine, such as Focaccia, Trofie al Pesto, Cima alla Genovese etc..., so we will only give you the one of the Focaccia, that is appreciated all around the world.

LA FOCACCIA GENOVESE

(fugassa) Genovese Focaccia with oil

Ingredients: 500 g of flour, half a cube of yeast, a pinch of sugar, 3 tablespoons of oil, salt, water as needed to prepare a fairly soft dough (about 250-300 grams), more oil and salt.

Dissolve the yeast in a little quantity of water, add some flour until you have a fluid mixture, cover and let it rest for half an hour. Then put the flour on the wooden table, place the remaining ingredients in the dough that has already risen, knead until you have a dough that is soft and does not stick to the table, put it in a bowl, cover and carve a cross on top, then let it rise at least for 2 hours. 1) When the dough is ready, cover the bottom of a baking dish with a sheet of parchment paper and grease thoroughly with oil. 2) Put the dough on the sheet. Pull it with your hands, so that it is rather thin. Then, with your fingers, make the characteristic "dimples" 3) Prepare an emulsion of oil and water in equal parts and sprinkle the top of the cake. Let stand twenty minutes and bake it in the oven already hot at 200 degrees.

Getting to Boccadasse

By car: A12 motorway, exit Genova-Nervi: then drive along the flyover, direction city centre. After the flyover, go along Corso Italia.

When you arrive at the Santuario Sant'Antonio you are at Boccadasse.

By train: F.S. Genova Nervi.

By plane: Cristoforo Colombo Airport

By ship: Port of Genoa