



**Welcome**





## Petrosino is...

The history of Petrosino as an autonomous municipality of the province of Trapani began in 1980. Before this date, it was part of the Marsala territory. Petrosino and Marsala in fact share a common agricultural and wine making vocation. The countryside, in fact presents large

cultivated fields, mostly with vines, with various local productions of fruit and vegetables. Passing through the fields, you will come across the typical *baglio* rural architectural structures, which are particularly widespread in the area between Marsala and Mazara del Vallo: these

are real fortified farms, with internal courtyards which the old master's house opens out onto. Petrosino is characterised not only by the agricultural landscape but also by its sandy coastlines (noteworthy is the Biscione beach) which in summer become popular holiday destinations.

Vineyard



Marchese Baglio



Biscione coastline





## History

According to tradition, the name comes from the Latin words *sinus* (gulf) and *Petri* (Peter), that is Gulf of Peter, alluding to the landing of the Apostle Saint Peter on the bay of Biscione. It is, however, more probable that the name comes from the Greek term *petroselinon*, in local dialect *piddusinu*, meaning parsley which is

grows abundantly in the countryside. The first settlements, dating back to the mid seventeenth century, were of inland farmers who formed small villages called *chiànura* and of fishermen who settled on the coast of today's village of Biscione. The town developed from the nineteenth century along the main street (today Viale

Baglio Woodhouse), where, in 1813, John Woodhouse built a vineyard. The autonomy of the town dates back only to 1980, when Petrosino, town hamlet under the administrative rule of Marsala, separated from Marsala thus becoming the youngest town with its own local government in the province of Trapani.

Sibilliana tower



Woodhouse Baglio, arch



Spanò Baglio, doorway





## Landscape

The Petrosino territory, with a predominantly agricultural vocation is characterised by cultivations of vines of Grillo and Catarratto grapes, typical for the production of famous Marsala wine, which extend on fertile flat terrain as far as the sea. It is the town municipality which produces the most wine in Italy with

the most number of grapes per inhabitant. In 1632 the original village assumed its current configuration and the settlement was brought to perfection by the Englishman John Woodhouse with the construction of a *baglio* (rural fortified structure) the gateway of which became the coat of arms and the symbol of the

town. The reclaiming of the land in the 1930s, following the construction of a system of closed canals which collect water and take it down into the sea, allowed the recovering of some terrains for agriculture. The agricultural landscape ends on the sandy beach which has numerous bathing areas in summer.

Vineyards



Torrazza coastline



Inland, Galvaga tower





## Nature

**O**f great interest are the marshy coastland areas of *Margi Spanò*, *Margi Milo*, and *Capo Feto* Sites of Community importance (SCI) and areas for the Protezione Speciale degli uccelli - Important Bird Areas (IBA). These natural biotopes are crucial areas for the transit of migrating birds of

great importance and for some, they are ideal habitats for their survival. These are depressions, separated from the sea by a long sandy strip which are completely filled with water in winter and which in summer dry out. This phenomenon has been studied also for the presence of animal and vegetable

species which are rare or in danger of extinction, like the *Limonium ramosissimum*, the *Salicornia perennis* and the *Asparagus acutifolius* which form thorny bushes. Among the birds present in the marsh there is the curlew, the teal and, of great importance, the rare presence of the wild duck.

Margi - Spanò Reserve

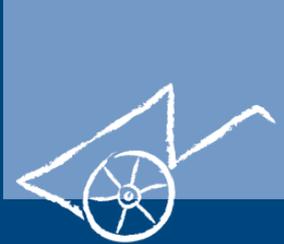


Capo Feto Reserve



Curlew





## Traditions

Every year on the 19th of March, on the occasion of the festivities for San Giuseppe (Saint Joseph), the traditional *invito di San Giuseppe* - invitation to Saint Joseph, is held outside the church. This is a rich lunch characterised by the offering of numerous dishes to three people: an old man, a young woman and a child

representing, respectively, Saint Joseph, Mary and Jesus who are served by devoted followers at a votive altar decorated with symbolic bread. Following ancient farming traditions in August in the streets of *Chianu Parrini* the *fiesta di chianura* takes place, which takes its name from the term chiano, a small rural village in which

farmers lived, met and celebrated festivals and banquets: it recalls moments of farming and maritime life of old, animated by local and foreign folkloristic groups and typical cakes and pastries made from mulled wine and mustard made from grape must are prepared and offered.

Altar of Saint Joseph



Chianura Festivity



Chianura Festivity





## Religion Remembrance Bonds

The numerous votive aedicules in dialect *fiuredde* - from the divine sacred figure that they contained inside - are the expression of a spontaneous popular religion which is shown by the lighting of candles or the decorating of the aedicules with palms, flowers, and drapes during the festivities for the Saint to which it is

dedicated and during other religious celebrations. In May, solemn celebrations in honour of Maria S.S. delle Grazie, patron saint of the town take place, finishing on the 31st of the month with a heartfelt and well attended procession and the giving of the keys of the town to the simulacrum of the virgin Mary which is kept in the

Mother Church. The procession in the sea with the statue of Maria Stella del Mare, on the 14th of August is suggestive. The rites of Holy Week are well participated, starting only recently on Palm Sunday and characterised by *Misteri viventi* which represent scenes from the passion of Christ.

Sacred aedicule



Maria SS. Delle Grazie



Living Misteri





## The Bagli

The fortified structures of the *bagli* are rural architectural buildings which are to be found all over the countryside and which characterise the territory. They are built in a dominating position in order to control the surrounding land and the various phases of the agricultural work. They have, as a characteristic element, a central courtyard around which communal life is lead. The accommodation, the stables and the storerooms open onto this courtyard, often paved in stone. Special spaces are used for grape pressing (*palmentu*) or olive pressing (*trappitu*); the highest part was the owner's

accommodation who stayed there seasonally. With the development of the wine producing activity, above all in proximity to the coast, structures similar to *bagli* were realized. In the urban centre is *u bagghiu gnisi* "The English baglio", so called by the locals as it was built in 1813 by John Woodhouse, an English trader who discovered the Marsala wine and exported it all over the world. In its ancient buildings the great *Soleras 1815* and *Waterloo 1815* were produced. In Triglia Scaletta district there is baglio Spanò, built by marquis Nicolò Spanò of Marsala between 1873 and 1882. It has a

rectangular layout and is characterised by the presence of two communicating courtyards, one reserved for the owner's family and the other for productive activity, the daily needs of the farmers and for storerooms and stables. Of the ancient baglio Marchese (XVIII century), the summer home of the marquis D'Anna from Marsala, the three corner watchtowers, are of particular interest, being unique elements of their type. Nearby is the Villa Sanuzza (second half of the XIX century) which was the first residential home of the territory.





## Monuments

The Mother Church (XVIII and XIX centuries) and the Woodhouse baglio (1813) are the two most representative monuments, the former, a religious symbol, the latter, a symbol of the wine producing culture of the territory, to which the *Monumento all'uva* - Monument to the grapes, realized by Franco Armato also makes reference; the

*Monumento al Pescatore* - Monument to the Fisherman by Francesco Gennaro pays tribute to the hard work of those who go to sea. A bronze bust of the honourable Francesco De Vita (1913-1961) commemorates the great man and politician. The Sibiliana Tower and Galvaga Tower are majestic and fascinating; the first, situated

on the coast was to keep a look out for pirates coming in from the sea, the other, situated inland in Ramisella district, served as a defence for the countryside and as a look out post for any eventual bandits or trouble makers. Showing the ancient tradition of wheat milling, two windmills from the XIX century, shaped like cut off cones are still standing.

Mother Church



Monument to the grapes



Monument to the fisherman





## Museums Science Education

At the local Scuola Media (middle school) of the Istituto Comprensivo "G. Nosengo" there is the *Museo della civiltà contadina* - Museum of rural civilisation, which holds the historic memories of the town, containing a patrimony of tools and objects which allow the reconstruction of the identity of the town and

show the techniques and procedures linked to the activities which took place in the fields, in the craft workshops or in family households. One can imagine the work of the farmer with the plough and the various stages of the grape harvest, the transporting of the grapes in vats upon wagons and the wine making inside

typical barrels. There is a kitchen complete with all its utensils and a bedroom. Some garments from the end of the 18th century, beginning of the 19th century document the type of clothes worn at that time. In Petrosino there is a private professional school for the training of ceramicists and decorators.

Museum of rural civilisation



Museum of rural civilisation



Ceramics Laboratory





## Typical produce

There are fine works in Tuff stone extracted from the limestone quarries, which is excellent for artistic sculptures of a characteristic yellow colour and for building material. Skilled hands still make, as in the past, the *nasse*, traditional equipment for catching fish. There are also

craft laboratories of embroidery where skilled embroiderers make real works of art following ancient methods. With great artistic skill, a company produces highly expressive shaped and decorated ceramics taking inspiration from the secular culture of Sicilian ceramics. Particularly

fine are the series of pharmacy vases and the plates inspired by museum pieces. The production includes tiles with Sicilian decoration from the 16th century to today and also plates, jugs, kitchen accessories, flasks, lights, lampshades and furniture for outside and indoors.

Artistic ceramics



Working of Tuff stone



Nasse (fishing baskets)





## Wine and food

The cultivation of vines and the production of wine have always represented the most important productive sector of the territory, with 70% of the agricultural land used for vines. Petrosino falls into the two D.O.C. areas of Marsala and Delia Nivolelli. On the market, the sparkling wines and table and

dessert wines are also much appreciated. The cuisine of Petrosino is imaginative and mixes flavours of the sea with those of the countryside: fish couscous, pasta with sea urchins or sardines, cod *ghiotta* (soup), sea urchins with oil and vinegar are the main gastronomic seafood

specialities; *spaghetti al matarocco*, pasta with broad beans, *pane cunzato*, fried *qualeddu*, snails “*a picchi pacchi*” are typical of the countryside cuisine. The cakes and pastries include the *mostarda*, the *mustazzoli* of mulled wine and honey, the Easter *cannatuna*, *cubaita* and *pinolata*.

Local wines



Mustazzoli



Mostarda





## Shows and events

The summer in Petrosino is rich in events. In July and August, in piazza Biscione, musical, cabaret and theatre performances take place. *Petrosino tra immagini luci e colori* - Petrosino between light and colour is an event which includes exhibitions, projections of pictures of the cultural patrimony and a spectacular body painting

event. During the *Giornata dell' anguria* - Water melon day water melons and products made from the fruit like ice-cream and mousse can be tasted. Between September and October in Petrosino the *Sagra dell'uva e del vino* - Grape and Wine Festival takes place, combining wine with exhibitions of various

typical products, tasting, a health conference and various folkloristic events with a parade of Sicilian wagons. At *carnevale* (Mardi Gras) masked groups and wagons brighten the city. The poetry competition Pasquale Benigno, of national level, promotes unedited poetry in the Italian language and in dialect.

Grape and wine festival



Folkloristic group



Water melon day





## Entertainment, sport and free time

The coast of Petrosino is of extraordinary beauty and in summer attracts numerous seasonal holidaymakers. The beach on the Torrazza coast, made up of a large and suggestive inlet with the limpid water of the crystalline sea, is ideal for holidays at any time of year thanks to its healthy air

and mild climate. The splendid sea is perfect for sailing excursions while the great number of fish in the sea attract those who love fishing either from the coast or from a boat. On the Biscione coast there are many possibilities for scuba diving, with descents from 10 to 60 metres in depth.

The sea is populated by various kinds of fish, and it is possible to admire some dolphins or a few turtles *Caretta caretta* laying their eggs on the beach. Basketball, bowls, male and female five-a-side football, beach tennis and beach volley tournaments animate the summer.

Torrazza coastline



Indoor sports arena



Bowls area





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Provincia Regionale  
di Trapani



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