



MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MARCO LA CATOLA

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MARCO LA CATOLA

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The municipality of San Marco la Catola is located in the western part of the province of Foggia on the dorsal Apennines at the border with Campania (province of Benevento) and Molise (Campobasso province).

According to legend, San Marco la Catola was founded by some veterans of the Sixth Crusade, captured in the Holy Land and released by Federico II in 1228 with the conquest of Jerusalem. They followed the emperor in Puglia and established themselves on the hill where it was born San Marco.

The artistic and architectural heritage of the city is characterized by a number of buildings and monuments of great value and historical interest.

- Sanctuary of Our Lady of Jehoshaphat and Convent of the Minor Capuchin Friars

The church of Santa Maria of Jehoshaphat dates from the fourteenth century. The friars came to San Marco in 1585, called by the Marquis Giovanni Battista Gaetano Pignatelli who desired strongly that the church dedicated to Our Lady of Jehoshaphat was "officiated and maintained with decorum." The Minor Capuchin Friars built the monastery that over time has "absorbed" the existing church of Our Lady of Jehoshaphat, which is preserved the wooden sculpture which is said to have been brought to San Marco by Christians freed by Federico II of Svevia in Jerusalem. In the hypogeum of the church was buried Father John of San Severo died April 5, 1631, in the odor of sanctity. The church was consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary July 12, 1713 by Cardinal Vincenzo Maria Orsini (born Pietro Francesco, Gravina di Puglia, February 2, 1649 - Rome, Feb. 21, 1730), Pope in 1724 under the name of

Benedict XIII. A plaque remembers the event. The Convent also hosted a very young Padre Pio, at that time still a student of theology, from 1905 to 1906 and in the period April-maggio1918.

- Mother Church dedicated to St. Nicholas of Myra

Initiated in 1605, the construction work of the church was completed in 1611; a memorial plaque it shows the dates: "Istius op. excelsa temples. D.ni incepta 1605, a. pfectu fuit 1611". The church was consecrated to the Blessed Mother and the Virgin Mary and St. Nicholas of Myra July 9, 1713 by Cardinal Vincenzo Maria Orsini (born Pietro Francesco, Gravina di Puglia, February 2, 1649 - Rome, Feb. 21, 1730), Pope in 1724 under the name Benedict XIII. A plaque remembers the event. The main altar was built in 1796 and was made by an artist from Caserta; the balustrade in front of the main altar is from 1788. By custom the dead were buried in the burial grounds of the churches, the Mother Church has seven of it: one for the priests, another for the baronial family, the other five for gentlemen, artisans, farmers, virgins and children. In 1890 it was demolished the old bell tower with the round dome by colorful ceramic tiles, because it was unsafe; in 1910 it was built the new, what we see today.

- Ducal Palace

Located in the high part of the country, the first certain news of its existence dates back to the Swabian denomination period of the Kingdom of Naples (1194-1266). This news is found in the work "The Empire unpublished facts of the thirteenth century," German author Hans Winkelman (died 1768). In fact, into the work are reported to the Statutes of the offices or duties relating to the Empire of Frederick II of Svevia, the Statuta Officiartum. They also included the Statute for the repair of the castles (Statutum de riparacione castrorum), which date to 1241-46 and in 45th place of the list quoted the castrum of San Marco la Catola for maintenance operations. The original nucleus had a rhomboid plant. Built with more sighting purposes and for defense, he stood on a platform of 3 meters, at the watch tower structure 17 meters high, where the four sides were arranged in directional purposes. Only when the castle was enfeoffed in 1441 it became necessary to add the building to accommodate the family and the feudal servitude. Until 1821 it was owned by the Pignatelli family.

- The Giostra of Jaletta

The Giostra of Jaletta ("U JOC from Jalètt" sammarchese dialect) is an equestrian tournament, which revolves around a slatted wooden tub with below a ring slit: the jaletta precisely. A San Marco la Catola on 20 August of each year, the day after the Festival of San Liberato Martyr, under the walls of the Duke's castle Pignatelli takes place this ancient chivalric game - perhaps the only one of this kind in the entire region of Puglia. The occasion will face four riders for each ward (for a total of 7 districts which include: Vall Saccon, Via November d Sott, Stanca Cavall, U Giardin, Sant Lorenz, Port'ammont and Port'abbasc) in an attempt to thread the rod (in sammarchese "dialect verja") into the slot below the jaletta, which, full of water, is hanging by a rope between two balconies. The origins of the Giostra of Jaletta appear difficult to temporal location, although according to tradition dates back even late medieval age, when, according to many, was organized by the local population to entertain the local feudal lord.

- A Vecchje - THE OLD WOMAN

A Vecchij is a popular carnival event of celebratory kind took place the Lenten period commonly known as " saw the old woman", in which a puppet which looked like an old woman is sawed and dismembered, and testifies portrays aspects of rural culture that represented, in a festive dimension ritualized, the seasonal transition from winter to spring, the cyclical death and rebirth of nature.

- Brigandage

Starting from 1860 and until 1863 the surrounding area San Marco was affected by the phenomenon of brigandage, so that the person in charge of the government, Lt. Colonel Fantoni, issued in January 1862 a decree of interdiction of the woods of San Marco and surrounding municipalities to citizens, who were unable to work there or to cross it. In the town was captured by the local National Guard the famous bandit Giambattista Varanelli, said Titta, head of the homonymous band. The October 22, 1863 in a gun battle was wounded, arrested, shot in the square and left for two days at warning the population. In this period it was born a network of fortified farms of special architectural beauty, built by local landowners to repel the attacks of the robbers. These buildings are caratterizzatai by the presence of watch towers with loopholes and mighty walls with buttresses.

- Tratturale Network

The municipal area is crossed by the ancient Regio Tratturo Lucera-Castel di Sangro, a leading sheep tracks of transhumance in southern Italy. This, with its 127 km long, was the shortest of the five Regi Tratturi, but also one of the most intact, with well 28 km in good condition and 53 km arranged and re-confined. It starts from the Zittola Taverna, right on the border between Abruzzo and Molise, where it leaves the Abruzzo, and the Pescasseroli-Candela to head in the same the same direction, towards the plains in Puglia, but keeping more internally in the Apennines.