



ITALY

# AbandoNation

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CASTELNUOVO DEI SABBIONI, TUSCANY: ABANDONED IN THE 70S OF LAST CENTURY BECAUSE OF A SOIL EROSION CAUSED BY THE UNDERLYING MINE OF BROWN COAL

AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE ITALIAN TERRITORY BEGUN TO BE SISTEMATICALLY ABANDONED. THE NEED OF A JOB, POLITICS AND INFRASTRUCTURES FAVOURING URBAN SETTLEMENTS AND NATURAL CAUSES PRODUCED A PROGRESSIVE, DEFINITIVE ABANDON OF MANY VILLAGES.

THE ITALIAN REVENUE AGENCY RECENTLY CONDUCTED A RESEARCH CALLED "GHOST HOUSES", TO GIVE A RELIABLE IMAGE OF THIS ABANDON; OVER A MILLION OF UNREGISTERED PROPERTIES WERE FOUND. A LOT OF THEM ARE OLD FARMHOUSES IN SMALL, FORGOTTEN PLACES, BUT THERE IS ALSO A HUGE NUMBER OF DESERTED VILLAGES, OFTEN NOT EVEN MARKED ON MAPS. WITH THE HELP OF GOOGLE EARTH, MORE THAN 1500 ABANDONED VILLAGES HAVE BEEN MAPPED, BUT OTHER SOURCES SAY THEY ARE MORE THAN 5000: AN IMPRESSIVE AMOUNT, DEPICTING THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DEPOPULATION AND CONSEQUENT URBANISATION THAT CHANGED ITALIAN HISTORY.

OUR TOUR GOES THROUGH THE WHOLE COUNTRY, FROM ALPS TO SICILY, TO TELL THE STORIES OF THIS ABANDONED SIDE OF THE NATION.

ROSCIGNO VECCHIA, CAMPANIA: GIUSEPPE SPAGNUOLO IS THE ONLY RESIDENT LEFT IN THE VILLAGE, ABANDONED IN THE EARLY 1900S FOR AN IMPENDING LANDSLIDE





VILLAGGIO ASPRONI, SARDEGNA: THIS VILLAGE WAS BUILT TO HOST THE MINERS WORKING IN THE NEAR MINE. IT WAS ABANDONED WHEN THE MINE WAS CLOSED IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 1900S

CRACO, BASILICATA: THE ABANDON STARTED IN 1963,  
CAUSED BY A LANDSLIDE. LAST RESIDENTS LEFT IN 1981



POGGIOREALE, SICILY: ABANDONED  
AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE OF THE BELICE  
VALLEY TOOK PLACE IN 1968



SARDINIA: HOUSES OF ONE OF THE MINERS' VILLAGES AROUND THE MINE OF MONTEVECCHIO. THEY WERE ABANDONED AFTER THE MINE WAS CLOSED IN THE 80'S OF LAST CENTURY



VILLAGGIO RIGHI, SARDINIA: CARMELO WORKED  
AT MONTEVECCHIO'S MINE. HE LIVED IN THE  
RIGHI VILLAGE, ABANDONED AFTER THE MINE WAS  
CLOSED IN THE 80'S OF LAST CENTURY



CONSONNO, LOMBARDY: THIS VILLAGE WAS ABANDONED  
IN 1962 TO BE TRANSFORMED IN A FUN RESORT,  
AND THEN THE PLACE WAS ABANDONED AGAIN AS A  
LANDSLIDE CRUSHED THE ROAD TO ACCESS IT





TOIANO, TUSCANY: ABANDONED DURING THE SECOND HALF OF LAST CENTURY EXCEPT FOR A FAMILY INCLUDING A MOTHER AND HER SON

BRONDINO, PIEDMONT: PIETRO BRONDINO WAS  
THE LAST INHABITANT OF THIS VILLAGE.  
HE DIED ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO



ROCCA CALASCIO, ABRUZZI: THE HIGHER PART OF  
THE VILLAGE, AROUND THE ROCK, WAS ABANDONED IN  
1703 BECAUSE OF AN EARTHQUAKE. THE LOWER PART  
WAS ABANDONED IN THE 50'S OF LAST CENTURY



MONTERANO, LAZIO: ABANDONED IN 1799  
AFTER A PILLAGE MADE BY THE FRENCH ARMY





COL DI FAVILLA, TUSCANY; ABANDONED IN 1960  
WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE ROAD  
ISOLATED THE AREA FROM COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC

BORGATE DI MASSELLO, PIEDMONT: RESIDENTS  
LEFT THE VILLAGE AFTER THE SECOND WORLD  
WAR TO GET A JOB AND LIVE IN NEAR CITIES



VILLAGGIO ASPRONI, SARDINIA: THIS VILLAGE WAS BUILT TO HOST THE MINERS WORKING IN THE NEAR MINE, AND ABANDONED WHEN THE MINE WAS CLOSED IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 1900S. TODAY SOME HOUSES ARE USED BY SHEPHERDS TO HOST THEIR ANIMALS



MINE OF MONTEVECCHIO, SARDINIA:  
CLOSED IN 1991, CAUSING THE ABANDON  
OF THE NEAR MINERS' VILLAGES



SCURATI, SICILY: ABANDONED IN THE  
50'S OF LAST CENTURY, NOW IS THE SET  
OF LIVING NATIVITY SCENES





BORGO SCHIRÒ, SICILY: BUILT DURING THE FASCIST REGIME, WAS COMPLETELY ABANDONED IN 2000, WHEN EVEN THE PRIEST LEFT THE CHURCH

SAN PAOLO IN ALPE, EMILIA ROMAGNA: ABANDONED LIKE  
OTHER SMALL COMMUNITIES IN THE NATIONAL PARK OF  
FORESTE CASENTINESI IN THE 60'S OF LAST CENTURY  
- PEOPLE MOVED TO THE CITIES TO LIVE AND WORK



PORENCE, PIEDMONT: THIS MAN IS BACK TO LIVE IN  
PORENCE, WITH HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER. THE VILLAGE WAS  
COMPLETELY ABANDONED BECAUSE OF URBANISATION



TOIANO, TUSCANY: ABANDONED DURING THE SECOND HALF OF LAST CENTURY EXCEPT FOR A FAMILY INCLUDING A MOTHER AND HER SON



CARBONERA, VENICE LAGOON: THIS ISLAND, AND MANY OTHER IN  
THE AREA, FOLLOWED A SIMILAR DESTINY: FROM NAVY RADIO  
STATION TO PRIVATE PROPERTY TO END IN COMPLETE ABANDON





BUEL DEL LOVO, VENICE LAGOON: THIS ISLAND, AND MANY OTHER IN THE AREA, FOLLOWED A SIMILAR DESTINY: FROM LOCATION OF NAVY BATTERIES TO HOSTING FISHING FACILITIES TO END IN COMPLETE ABANDON

BORGO SCHIRÒ, SICILY: BUILT DURING THE FASCIST REGIME, WAS COMPLETELY ABANDONED IN 2000, WHEN EVEN THE PRIEST LEFT THE CHURCH



PENTEDATTILO, CALABRIA: ABANDONED  
DURING THE 60'S OF LAST CENTURY  
- RESIDENTS MOVED TO THE COAST



ISOLA SANTA, TUSCANY: THE COSTRUCTION OF THE  
NEAR DAM IN 1949 DAMAGED THE STABILITY OF THE  
VILLAGE, COMPLETELY ABANDONED IN 1975





BRONDINO, PIEDMONT: PIETRO BRONDINO WAS THE LAST INHABITANT OF THIS VILLAGE. HE DIED ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO.

MONTERUGA, PUGLIA: BUILT DURING THE  
FASCIST REGIME, IT WAS COMPLETELY  
ABANDONED IN THE 80'S OF LAST CENTURY



ROGHUDI, CALABRIA: ABANDONED IN 1973  
AFTER TWO DEVASTATING FLOODS



POGGIOREALE, SICILY: ABANDONED  
AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE OF THE BELICE  
VALLEY TOOK PLACE IN 1968





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