



ITALY

HORSES' LOST PARADISE

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parallelozero

GENONI (ORISTANO), PRIVATELY HELD GIARA'S LITTLE HORSES
GRAZING ON THE VOLCANIC HILL CALLED SANTU ANTINE.
GIARA'S PLATEAU IS ON THE LEFT. A NUMBER OF LITTLE
HORSES LIVE IN CAPTIVITY AND SOME OF THEM ARE INVOLVED
EVERY AUGUST IN THE TRADITIONAL LOCAL RODEO



THE *CUADEDDEU*, OR GIARA HORSE, RANKS AMONG THE LAST WILD HORSES IN EUROPE. THERE ARE ABOUT FIVE HUNDREDS LEFT, AND THEY LIVE IN A PLATEAU IN SOUTHERN SARDINIA CALLED THE GIARA.

THESE HORSES ARE QUITE MYSTERIOUS: HOW THEY REACHED THE MIDDLE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA IS NOT CLEAR YET – PROBABLY THEY WERE BROUGHT IN BY PHOENICIANS MORE THAN 3,000 YEARS AGO.

THE CUADEDDEU (THE SARDINIAN TERM FOR “LITTLE HORSE”) IS NOT A PONY BUT A SMALL SIZE HORSE (JUST 120 CM AT THE WITHERS ON AVERAGE), AND IT USED TO LIVE IN THE WHOLE SARDINIA BUT IT BECAME EXTINCT EVERYWHERE EXCEPT IN THE GIARA: A VOLCANIC PLATEAU (580 METERS HIGH, ON AVERAGE) SURROUNDED BY CLIFFS AND GORGES, A SORT OF “ISLAND IN THE ISLAND” IMPOSSIBLE TO ESCAPE FOR THESE ANIMALS.

THAT’S WHY THE GIARA BECAME THEIR LOST PARADISE – OR THEIR INVISIBLE CORRAL, IF YOU PREFER – A RESTRICTED HABITAT FOR THESE RESTLESS, REBEL, FREEDOM LOVING HORSES, SOMETIMES USED TO TEACH HORSE-RIDING TO KIDS, OR DURING AUGUST’S RODEOS IN THE SURROUNDINGS.

GRAZING IS COMING SHORT, ANYWAY, AND SO DOES THE WATER OF THE LITTLE LAKES IN THE PLATEAU: HOW LONG THE LITTLE HORSES OF THE GIARA WILL SURVIVE?



PORTO TORRES, YOUNG RIDERS OF THE ASSOCIATION GIARA ORISTANESE OF ORISTANO PERFORMING A PAIR. FOR THIS KIND OF HORSE SHOWS PERFORMED BY KIDS AND CHILDREN, ANIMALS INVOLVED ARE GIARA'S LITTLE HORSES OR "GIARAB", A BREED OBTAINED CROSSING GIARA'S AND ARAB HORSES

GIARA DI GESTURI (SARDINIA), THE PLATEAU SEEN FROM
NORTH WEST. PICTURE TAKEN WITH THE PRECIOUS HELP OF THE
VII REPARTO VOLO OF POLIZIA DI STATO OF ORISTANO





GIARA DI GESTURI (SARDINIA), GUIDE PEPPINO SEDDA EXPLORING
THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE OF BRUNCU SERGIU AT SUNSET



TORRE GRANDE (ORISTANO), GIRLS OF THE ASSOCIATION GIARA ORISTANESE OF ORISTANO PREPARING FOR THE SARTIGLIEDDA HELD ON AUGUST 15TH. FOR THIS KIND OF HORSE SHOWS PERFORMED BY KIDS AND CHILDREN, ANIMALS INVOLVED ARE GIARA'S LITTLE HORSES OR "GIARAB", A BREED OBTAINED CROSSING GIARA'S AND ARAB HORSES

GIARA DI GESTURI (SARDINIA), LITTLE HORSES
RUNNING IN A PAULI (A LITTLE LAKE)



GENONI (ORISTANO), A RIDER MOUNTING A GIARA'S
LITTLE HORSE DURING THE RODEO HELD IN AUGUST AND
ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIAZIONE EQUESTRE GENONESE





GIARA DI GESTURI (SARDINIA), A LITTLE HORSE AT SUNSET



TORRE GRANDE (ORISTANO), MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION GIARA ORISTANESE OF ORISTANO PREPARE HORSES FOR THE FEAST OF ASSUMPTION ON AUGUST 15TH. FOR THIS KIND OF HORSE SHOWS PERFORMED BY KIDS AND CHILDREN, ANIMALS INVOLVED ARE GIARA'S LITTLE HORSES OR "GIARAB", A BREED OBTAINED CROSSING GIARA'S AND ARAB HORSES



TORRE GRANDE (ORISTANO), MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION GIARA ORISTANESE OF ORISTANO WAITING FOR THEIR EXHIBITION AT THE SARTIGLIEDDA, THE DAY OF FEAST OF ASSUMPTION. FOR THIS KIND OF HORSE SHOWS PERFORMED BY KIDS AND CHILDREN, ANIMALS INVOLVED ARE GIARA'S LITTLE HORSES OR "GIARAB", A BREED OBTAINED CROSSING GIARA'S AND ARAB HORSES

GENONI (ORISTANO), PRIVATELY HELD GIARA'S LITTLE HORSES
GRAZING ON THE VOLCANIC HILL CALLED SANTU ANTINE. A NUMBER
OF LITTLE HORSES LIVE IN CAPTIVITY AND SOME OF THEM ARE
INVOLVED EVERY AUGUST IN THE TRADITIONAL LOCAL RODEO



ORISTANO, DAVIDE FLORIS, 13 YO, CARESSES RUSTY,
A GIARA'S LITTLE HORSE BORN IN CAPTIVITY AND
OWNED BY THE ASSOCIATION GIARA ORISTANESE, QUITE
OFTEN USED AT SARTIGLIEDDE AND PAIRS



TUILI (MEDIO CAMPIDANO), A DEAD LITTLE HORSE ON THE GIARA. PHOTO COURTESY OF PRO LOCO OF TUILI



GENONI (ORISTANO), PUSHING IN THE CORRAL SOME GIARA'S
LITTLE HORSES DURING THE RODEO HELD IN AUGUST AND
ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIAZIONE EQUESTRE GENOVESE



GENONI (ORISTANO), A MOMENT OF A THRESHING WHEN
GIARA'S LITTLE HORSES WERE USED FOR IT. THIS
PRACTICE WERE STOPPED WHEN MECHANICAL MACHINES WERE
INTRODUCED. PHOTO COURTESY OF PRO LOCO OF TUILI





TORRE GRANDE (ORISTANO), MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION GIARA ORISTANESE OF ORISTANO PREPARE HORSES FOR THE FEAST OF ASSUMPTION ON AUGUST 15TH. FOR THIS KIND OF HORSE SHOWS PERFORMED BY KIDS AND CHILDREN, ANIMALS INVOLVED ARE GIARA'S LITTLE HORSES OR "GIARAB", A BREED OBTAINED CROSSING GIARA'S AND ARAB HORSES

GENONI (ORISTANO), A GIARA'S LITTLE HORSE RIGHT
BEFORE THE STARTING OF THE RODEO HELD IN AUGUST AND
ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIAZIONE EQUESTRE GENONESE



GIARA DI GESTURI (SARDINIA): ELENA CASSU, 84 YO, WITH HER SON FILIPPO FRAU, 46, IN THE HOUSE MADE OF STONE THEY LIVE IN ON THE PLATEAU. THEY ARE THE LAST RESIDENTS OF THE GIARA, EVEN THOUGH THEY OFTEN STAY IN THE OTHER HOUSE THEY HAVE IN THE NEAR VILLAGE OF GONNOSNÒ (ORISTANO)



GENONI (ORISTANO), PEOPLE ATTENDING THE RODEO
HELD IN AUGUST WITH THE GIARA'S LITTLE HORSES,
ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIAZIONE EQUESTRE GENONESE





GIARA DI GESTURI (SARDINIA), CORK
STRIPPERS AT WORK AT DAWN ON THE GIARA



TORRE GRANDE (ORISTANO), MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION GIARA ORISTANESE OF ORISTANO WAITING FOR THEIR EXHIBITION AT THE SARTIGLIEDDA, THE DAY OF THE FEAST OF ASSUMPTION. FOR THIS KIND OF HORSE SHOWS PERFORMED BY KIDS AND CHILDREN, ANIMALS INVOLVED ARE GIARA'S LITTLE HORSES OR "GIARAB", A BREED OBTAINED CROSSING GIARA'S AND ARAB HORSES

GENONI (ORISTANO), A RIDER FALL ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FROM THIS GIARA'S LITTLE HORSE DURING THE RODEO HELD IN AUGUST AND ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIAZIONE EQUESTRE GENONESE





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