

# About Valderice



**Valderice** offers visitors fantastic sceneries, from the cultivated hills to crystal clear sea water.

It boasts an artistic heritage consisting of villas, churches and "bagli" or typical court-houses.

## VILLAS

The late 19<sup>th</sup> century villas are testimonies of the presence of noble and rich Trapanesi families who used to spend their summer holidays in Valderice because of the mild and healthy climate.

**Villa Manzo:** it is a compact two storey building surrounded by high trees.

**Villa Betania:** founded by the Baron Girolamo Adragna in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, today it is the seat of a psycho-pedagogic institute.

**Villa Adragna:** it belongs to the same family, it is an imposing building, situated on the town's main road.

**Villa Elena:** it is an interesting example of neo-gothic architecture, surrounded by a luxuriant vegetation.

**Villa Pilati:** former property of Barone Rocca in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, later it belonged to Rev. Alessandro Pilati in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it's interesting for its structure with an internal courtyard and the suggestive garden.

## CHURCHES

From an historical and architectural point of view the most interesting churches are:

**The church of SS. Purità or Holy Purity** in San Marco Hamlet, where the first centre of Valderice developed. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, San Marco was the final destination of the Saint procession which started from the Mother church in Erice. The church with a nave, dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**The church of Our lady of Compassion**, founded in 1640; it has a plain façade, with a nave decorated with stuccos and frescos. In the interior we can find a precious 17<sup>th</sup> century painting of *Our Lady of Compassion* by the Trapanese artist Andrea Carreca.

## THE BAGLI

Testimonies of the ancient rural civilization are the "bagli", typical rural buildings in the Valderice landscape. They present an inner courtyard where the warehouses, the owner's house and those of the peasants' are located. The name derives from the Arab "Bahah" which in the Trapani area stands for a closed, fortified complex used for agricultural purposes.

These structures were built on the highest part of a hill in easily defensive places from which the land-owner could watch over his property. They were built in the surrounding of a water spring and provided with a well, a basin and tools for oil and grapes mills.

## Baglio Tangi

Dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it includes different parts: the owner's rooms, stables, granary and cellars.

### **Baglio Mafi**

From the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, 1602 can be read on the coat of arms of the De Nobili family, the first estate owner. Now it lies in rather ruined conditions.

### **Baglio Battiata**

Baglio Battiata was built in 1756; it has two round merloned towers and a chapel. Some inner features: the stairs, the courtyard with a small fountain, merloned towers.

### **Baglio Santacroce**

Nowadays it is a comfortable hotel, it was built in 1636 in lime and tufa stones. The welcoming inner court is furnished by a luxuriant dwarf palm.

### **Baglio Nobili**

In Bonagia hamlet, it dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and it was built by the De Nobili family. Nowadays it is the seat of a therapeutic community. It's enhanced by a garden, wide courtyards, a chapel and the De Nobili family coat of arms.

### **Baglio Marini**

It dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and it was built as a watching tower in a good position on the Sciare property. Most of the building has been modified but it houses original stone mills.

### **Tonnara di Bonagia**

It is not a traditional "baglio" but it keeps the same structure. Renewed in a modern hotel, it preserves an old chapel and the 16<sup>th</sup> century tower, which houses the "tunna fish museum".

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE**

The **San Barnaba theatre** built in the area of an old tuff quarry, and inaugurated in 1993, with its 1000 seats, every summer hosts important events (cinema, dance, performance, etc).

**The Cavalier Arch** is what remains of an old domed chapel, it was a resting place during the procession of the painting of *Our Lady of Custonaci*, which from Custonaci went to Erice.

The **Excelsior mill** is an example of industrial archaeology it was built in art nouveau in 1904 by Mr. Vincenzo Gervasi and was used until the 50s for grinding grain. In the original building, the warehouses and the machinery are kept inside, it has been recently restored.

## **POPULAR TRADITIONS, FESTIVALS and EVENTS**

On **Ascension Day** the crucifix festivals is celebrated in Bonagia with a religious procession and an exhibition of handicraft products and local food.

**Valderice Carnival** takes place with a procession of floats along the town high street.

The **Erice Mount Car Race** is an important sport car event in the month of May.



### **Ragosia farming fair**

It traditionally happens on the first Sunday of September.

### **La Bibbia nel Parco**

Living scenes from the Holy Bible can be seen in the suggestive night atmosphere at the Parco Urbano di Misericordia during the Christmas Holidays.

### **Estate Valdericina**

Interesting cultural events at the San Barnaba Theatre during the summer season.

### **Ville, Bagli e Musica**

A programme of concerts at some of the Valderice bagli and villas in the months of July – September.

### **Rassegna Jazz**

Jazz music at the *Centro Culturale Polivalente* (ex-cinema Mazzara) in the months of October- December.



Ruderi della Chiesa di San Barnaba