

## THE BISIACARIA

The Bisiacaria is the territory in the Gorizian Province, between the Carso and the Adriatic Sea, as the boundary to the east and west by the Timavo and Isonzo rivers.

The municipal districts of Fogliano-Redipuglia, Monfalcone, Ronchi dei Legionari, Sagrado, San Canzian d'Isonzo, San Pier d'Isonzo, Staranzano, Turriaco for a total of about 60.000 inhabitants.

Bisiàc is an old Venetian dialect spoken in this area. It's origin is still a matter of discussion, a plausible explanation today is that it goes back to the Slavic language – bezjak, meaning fugitive, exile.

The Bisiacaria is easy to reach:

- motorway A4 (exit Redipuglia e Monfalcone Lisert);
- main road 14 (Trieste – Venice);
- railway (Trieste – Udine and Trieste – Venice);
- airport Friuli Venezia Giulia (from Ronchi dei Legionari).

## DISCOVERING BISIACARIA

There are different reasons to stop off in Bisiacaria: historical, artistic, naturalistic and for local food and wine (gourmet conventions).

On foot you can easily reach the archeological ruins of San Canzian d'Isonzo to che Castellieri of the Carso, from the Rocca of Monfalcone to the trenches of the Grande Guerra and to the monumental Sacrarium of Redipuglia, from the natural oasis of the island of the Cona of

Staranzano to the landscape of the Carso from Sagrado to the Timavo; from the ship building yard where the biggest cruiser liners in the world are built to the parks along the Isonzo river.

But it is worthwhile a visit to the countryside with its manors and the parish churches(Turriaco, Ronchi dei Legionari, S.Pier d'Isonzo) and for refreshments it is worth stopping at one of the many agriturismi (holiday farms where they sell and produce their own wine and food) or the typical "privates", that sell their own wine.

## A TASTE OF BISIACARIA

Bisiacaria is also interesting for its mitteleuropei tastes and for the wine from the Isonzo which can be appreciated from the numerous wine cellars, taverns and "privates" from the flat country to the hilly Carso as well as the various village wine fairs (sagre) that offer an opportunity to rediscover traditional cooking.

Many events and shows from the small centres of Bisiacaria are known nationwide.

The Carnival of Monfalcone which is over a hundred years old to the historical recollection of the Grande Guerra and the Carso, to the Festa per l'unità nazionale and the 4th November with the Freccie Tricolori (Italian airforce) in Redipuglia to the launching of cruise liners from Monfalcone.

Not forgetting the numerous local events some of which are traditionally centuries old.



## THE COSTUME

The traditional Bisiàc costume is made up of three female models and one made for adults and children, made scrupulously following a reliable source.

The three female models testimony three different areas: the dress with the bodice goes back to the late 1500's; the most popular, with a fringed shawl and the shoulders is from the second half of the 1800's; the model with the jacket with puffed sleeves and joke comes from the fashion at the end of the 1800's.

The three female models are all with wide gathered skirts covered by aprons and wooden clogs or slippers made of dark material. The Bisiache women are characteristic in the way they wear their scarf head dressing, held in place by a large hatpin to leave the sides of the scarf hanging free.

The winter dress is completed with a black woollen shawl.

The male trousers are to the knee or to the ankle, they are worn together with a waistcoat made of material, worn on top of a light coloured shirt with collar and girdle. Raw, long cotton socks, clogs or slippers and a hat along with a dark coloured cloak in the winter complete the male model.

Typical accessories are handmade wicker baskets, and black cotton umbrellas.

### Bibliography:

- "Il costume femminile Bisiaco" M. Dorsi - Circolo Brandl, 1991
- "Manuale per la confezione" L. Paoli - Circolo Brandl, 1992

## CONCERT AND EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES

The territorial promotion is also shown through exhibiting and promoting the local artistic and artisan heritage.

With this purpose in mind traditional regional events are organized, and above all organized in foreign countries. The exposition with the travelling exhibition with sacrorum ornaments and restored religious objects, an exhibition of toys during the Easter period, and the personal works of local artists in different localities of the region.

Besides, enriching the cultural and musical offer in small centres, the Group organize concerts with the collaboration of up and coming talents.

Bianc Bisiàc – Nero Bisiàc



## WHITE AND RED BISIÀC WINE.

Among the promotional initiatives of the Bisiacaria thought up by the group, there is also the diffusion of wine, the trade mark is "white" and "red" bisiàc; selected by local wine farms, bottled for the group in a limited series with the original labels drawn by Marina Legovini.



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### Credits:

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Centro Stampa, Monfalcone - 2010



Link:

www.regione.fvg.it  
www.turismofvg.it  
www.provincia.gorizia.it







## THE TRADITIONAL GROUP OF "BISIACHI" COSTUMES

The traditional group of costumes "Gruppo Costumi Tradizionali Bisiachi" was officially formed in December 2000. It is involved in promoting the local historical, cultural, handcraft and artistic heritage; with the purpose of promoting the "Bisiacaria", the province of Gorizia and the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, through different activities.

The group takes part in the most important European Folklore festivals; through their public performances with the choir, the pageants and promotional exhibitions.

Their aim is to safeguard the "bisiache" traditions and dialect, they organize and often travel with their theme exhibitions, and they do their own publishing. They also collaborate with schools with different projects.

In recognition of the Voluntary work, and in particular social solidarity, since 2005 The Group has been awarded an Onlus qualification.

(Onlus) non-profit institution - charity

## THE BISIACA DOLL

The rag doll which was made in Bisiacaria in the past has now been revived and is accurately and exclusively offered by the Traditional Group of Bisiachi Costumes.

The rag doll wears the traditional Bisiac costume in different models, complete of accessories and as in the past times completely hand-made and meticulously detailed, making the doll a unique piece.

Each Bisiaca doll is numbered and registered by the group.

## THE CHOIR

The start of a project for a choir in the Traditional Group of Bisiachi Costumes began with the heartfelt desire to rediscover the tradition of popular songs.

The aim is to principally make the most of old tunes from Bisiacaria and Friuli Venezia Giulia, adapting the lyrics of a song and interacting with the public. Today the repertoire also includes a variety of traditional European pieces.

The choir is accompanied by an accordion and sometimes a piano, but is characterized by the use of rudimentary and alternative instruments made from simple everyday objects, most of which made by the artisans of the Group.

For some years the choir has taken care of an entertaining and animation project aimed at the guests of several elderly nursing homes, aimed at improving their sense of psychophysical well being, as well as interacting the disabled through a specific activity involving young people affected by Down's syndrome. The choir is associated with Usci from the province of Gorizia.

Published by Gruppo Costumi Tradizionali Bisiachi:

"Quell'ultimo giorno di Maggio" - 2004

"Musica e Vita" - 2009

"MusicalMente SuperAbile" - 2010

"1780 - 1918: Canti militari degli italiani d'Austria nel Litorale" - 2010

Gruppo Costumi Tradizionali Bisiachi

