

Highlight Tourism

# Caltanissetta, the new life of the former world capital of sulphur extraction

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*"Calatenixet ...resolvitur Castrum foeminarum"* (Goffredo Malaterra, De rebus gestis Rogerii Calabriae et Siciliae comitis et Roberti Guiscardi ducis fratris eius).

A curious city, at the center of everywhere and nowhere at the same time. A no place full of human ingenuity and history, fundamental elements of the Sicilian past. An active center both under Byzantine and Arab rule, **Caltanissetta** evidences an historic importance which goes well beyond a simple chronicle of contemporary times. The city, in fact, is frequently cited as the seat of a Tribunal and of the judicial offices of the Public Prosecutor of the Republic of Italy.

Bombarded during World War II, many important buildings have nonetheless remained: the Cathedral, or Duomo, di Santa Maria la Nova (1560); the Abbey of Santo Spirito (1153) with its archaeological Museum; the churches of Sant'Agata al Collegio (1610), Santa Maria degli Angeli (1250), San Giovanni, San Sebastiano (1711), San Domenico (1400), and Santa Croce (1590); the monumental "cemetery of the angels" ( Cimitero Monumentale degli Angeli); the convent of the Cappuccini friars; the Palazzo del Carmine palace (the city hall); the Moncada (1600)Palace; and, finally, the Mineral, Paleontological, and Sulfur Mine Museum. We shall repeat it here: number one in Italy.

A flourishing agriculture and viticulture exists in the countryside around the city. Among the wine-producing estates: **Masseria del Feudo, Lombardo Vini, Grottarossa, Feudo Principi di Butera**. And, as well, Maurizio Spinell's Santa Rita bakery, one of Italy's finest.

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