

Untold Italy Episode 338: Puglia's Myths and Legends - Spiders, Curses and the Power of Community

A feverish dance, superstitions, witches, and elves. These are the backbones of the stories of the southern Italian region of Puglia. They are lore, tradition, and passionately protected as symbols of pride and resilience by locals. Let's hear all about them today on this episode of the Untold Italy podcast.

Ciao a tutti and Benvenuti to Untold Italy, the travel podcast, where you go to the towns and villages, mountains and lakes, hills and coastlines of Bella Italia. Each week, your host Katy Clarke takes you on a journey in search of magical landscapes of history, culture, wine, gelato, and, of course, a whole lot of pasta. If you're dreaming of Italy and planning future adventures there, you've come to the right place.

Katy Clarke:

Buongiorno! Welcome to the Untold Italy podcast, where we help travellers move beyond the checklist so they really feel part of Italy. This is the Untold Italy Way. I'm your host, Katy Clarke, and on today's episode, we're headed to southern Italy to hear about some of the myths and legends that are beloved by the people of Puglia. One of the things I love most about traveling and exploring cultures that have deep and long histories is hearing the stories that shape the culture and traditions of the land from where they came. There is no better way to really feel part of a place. You start noticing things beyond the beautiful landscapes and get to the heart and soul of the places that you are visiting. Joining me today is my dear friend Paolo, who has appeared many times on the podcast. Paolo is a local guide and veteran of the still fairly new tourism industry in Puglia.

Katy Clarke:

If you have been a guest on one of our Puglia tours, you have likely met him, know his voice and cheeky sense of humor. And you may have even heard some of these stories in context as you walk the streets of Lecce and other places in the region. So, andiamo, let's welcome him back onto the show.

Katy Clarke:

Ciao Paolo, bentornato. Welcome back to the Untold Italy podcast. How are you doing?

Paolo Maragliulo:

Fine. Great. It's just so hot here in Italy at the moment, but life is great.

Katy Clarke:

Good to hear. Now, Paolo, it's been a little while since you joined us on the podcast, so can you let our listeners know a little bit about yourself and what you do?

Paolo Maragliulo:

I'm a tour guide and now work as a trip consultant, travel designer, something like that. I have studied art history and history, so I'm kind of a nerd about this kind of stuff. And I work as a guide. I started like in 2000, so it's now a while.

Katy Clarke:

Oh yeah, we have a lot of fun with Paolo on our Puglia tours. And so when I had the idea to introduce everyone to the legends of Puglia, I couldn't think of a better person to join me. So Paolo, how important are stories to the people of your region.

Paolo Maragliulo:

What I noticed is that we don't even consider them as stories. It's like a part of our, you know, inheritance.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, I love that. It's so great. And that's what makes places different. And that's what we should travel for, to experience these differences and to learn a little bit and take a little bit home and maybe adapt a little bit. But I love hearing those stories. Now, one of the ones that I guess that really sparked my interest was the story of this special dance that you have in Puglia, which is called the Pizzica. Can you tell us the story of the Pizzica, please?

Intro Italian speaker:

Sure.

Paolo Maragliulo:

If you go to Galatina, it's a quiet, very kind of sleepy little village, and there's nothing that tells you about this dance. But then all of a sudden, on the balconies or on the lampposts, you see these very colorful ribbons. And if you don't have anyone there that explains what they are, you end up not knowing. And yeah, the locals believe that the colors scare away the spiders. That's the idea, because the whole phenomenon, the whole dance, it's about spiders. Tarantulas. That's the actual word of the dance that is Tarantella. Basically, In the past, we were so isolated from the rest of the world.

Paolo Maragliulo:

So people like, I don't know, Freud was totally unknown to us. And so for kind of mental issues or, I don't know, depression, bulimia, all of kind of these mental issues, people didn't have answers. So the most common answer was like, what have you done?

Paolo Maragliulo:

Well, nothing. I just went to the field working as usual. So the problem must be there in the field, you know? And so they started to say, what can be? Is it like a snake or like a scorpion or a spider? Yes, it's definitely a spider. So a spider bit you. Now there's some poison in your blood. We have to do something so you can expel all of this out of your body. What can we do? You need to move. You need to move. You need to jump.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Oh, we can call some musicians so they can help you, giving you some rhythm. Okay? That's how it started. In time, it got more organized. So we started to have proper bands with 4 musicians. One is an accordion, one plays the violin, the guitar, and the most important, the tambourine. The person was dressed in white, obviously purity. They sat in a room like a white sheet on the floor with a lot of colorful ribbons or images of something lucky. In particular, they started to say that Saint Paul was the saint protecting you from the poison.

Paolo Maragliulo:

And then they had these loops of music. The music, it's usually 10 to 15 minutes, and the person is encouraged by an older lady to roll on the floor, to get into the rhythm and dance as much as possible in order to get rid of this, like spider kind of possession, if you want. In the past, the ritual was usually a series of loops. They told me up till 24 or 48 hours. It was crazy. And then the day of Saint Paul, which is the 29th of June, they were supposed to go every year to this town called Galatina, where there is a little church, and they had to repeat the ritual. So this is how it was in the past. But then in the '80s, This was completely out of fashion until a group of local musicians have started to study back, you know, the lyrics, the music.

Paolo Maragliulo:

And now we have many bands and many festivals where this music is coming back, but nobody believes in the spider biting you anymore.

Katy Clarke:

Are there tarantulas in Italy? I didn't know that.

Paolo Maragliulo:

So this phenomenon was probably all over southern Italy, but in the area of Lecce has survived till the '50s and the '60s. And an Italian anthropologist came to study the phenomenon and also checked about the tarantulas. Now, we don't have tarantulas like you do.

Intro Italian speaker:

Okay.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Like our tarantulas are super small. And the guy investigated and found out that tarantulas are not the problem because the worst one here gives you only a little bit of fever. The only

very dangerous spider that we have - it's the black widow. But the guy said in this book that that can explain only like 5% of the cases that he studied. So it's more like a mental thing. It's not— or also a social, because most of these people in the past were women. And it's all about the condition where they were living in, under the thumb of their fathers and brothers, always forced to obey the family. They have developed an uneasiness, if you want.

Paolo Maragliulo:

And they needed some attention. And the dance gives them this moment when they can get rid of everything. The rules, the respect, they decide where the music starts. Most of the time, they show their legs, which is a scandal during the dance. So, yes, I think that it was really like a moment to being welcomed back in the community. And also, for a moment, you know, get rid of all the pressure that was in their life.

Katy Clarke:

I love this story. Although I am wondering in Australia, because we do have the big tarantulas, that the dance would have to go on for a very long time to get rid of the poison.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Probably with your tarantulas, forever.

Katy Clarke:

But that's so fascinating. Yeah, like it's almost like a release for these women, you know, to let go and to have this, because it is quite a very energetic dance. When I was thinking, my gosh, when you were saying it goes on for 15 minutes, I was thinking, wow, you'd be exhausted after that.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Yes, the ritual actually ends when the person falls asleep. Like, it's so exhausting that basically there's no chance to dance anymore. And the rhythm is so constant. Like, if you now, if you take part in one of the festivals, you have to really like join in. You have to dance, you have to jump, you have to, let's say, drink some wine as well. That helps.

Katy Clarke:

That helps, yeah.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Because if you like sit and listen to this music, basically it's kind of boring after a while.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah.

Paolo Maragliulo:

So it's really like for moving and dancing.

Katy Clarke:

That's so fascinating. I love it. And what I also love is because every time I talk to you about Puglia, there is this concept of community and people reviving traditions, reviving cities and towns. I just love this. Well, people have been pulling together almost in the face of modern life just to preserve these traditions, and I think it's really special.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Yeah, absolutely. We are so influenced by the community, also in a bad way if you want, because think about the situation. You have somebody in your family that is acting strange, you say that it's been bitten by a spider. And the community now wants you to dance in public in order to show everybody that this person is really affected by this problem. Because otherwise what happens is that the community starts to isolate you.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Starts to say, oh, you bring bad luck, or I don't want to deal with you or your family. I don't offer you a job or things like this. So community is great, but, you know, there's also these side issues sometimes.

Katy Clarke:

And I heard there's, like you mentioned, there's festivals throughout Puglia. Is it through the summer where they have these Pizzica festivals?

Paolo Maragliulo:

The majority is in the summer. Usually we start in late May, beginning of June, all the way till the first week of September. Now there is, in particular in August, there is a series of festivals called Notte della Taranta. One is gigantic. It's now a concert, it's broadcasted on Italian television, and there's like hundreds of thousands of people. But the weeks before, in every small village, there is a little, a smaller festival where they dance and perform this music. Which is really interesting.

Katy Clarke:

And is it teenagers and young people getting involved too?

Paolo Maragliulo:

Yes, there's a lot of schools where they learn the dance. I can tell that it's changed, which is not necessarily bad because after we have kind of lost it completely, you know, in the '80s in particular, '70s and '80s, the way that has come back it's different. So the movements are a little different. It's a different meaning because now it's more like being together, you know, like dancing together, having fun. In the past, for instance, this music was also used to court, to flirt. So like in a lot of festivals, you see a man and a woman dancing together. And usually

the lady has a scarf or a handkerchief or a tissue. That shows to the man, like, 'you can see it, but you can't have it'.

Paolo Maragliulo:

I don't know if you need more explanations.

Katy Clarke:

No, no, no.

Paolo Maragliulo:

And the guy goes around and around, you know, trying to have this symbol, this scarf.

Katy Clarke:

Oh, I love these. It's so good. But I mean, traditions are meant to evolve too, right? Like, well, I think what's nice is that you've got something that's come from the past, and it keeps changing and adapting to life the way it is now, but it's still that constant that's there that people can say, hey, I'm Pugliese, you know, I know this dance and, you know, these costumes and all of those things. I think it's very special. Oh, thanks for telling us that story. I really love that one. But now you also promised me some stories about witches and cursing, and I think this is going to be very exciting.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Okay. People probably know about the possibility of cursing somebody, like, you know, the evil eye or stories like this. In the area where I live now, which is Matera, and also in Calabria, but in the past, probably all over southern Italy, even giving too many compliments was some sort of a curse. Now, this is hard to explain. For me, because I don't know. But still, if you say too many nice things to people, you see that they don't like it. They're kind of scared of that because there is an old belief that if somebody is too nice with you, it's probably envious. And envy causes a cursing, okay? That it's called affascino.

Paolo Maragliulo:

If you feel that something wrong is happening, how can you detect it? Migraine. So if you have a headache, probably can be related to this. So you go to the witch and the witch has, not anymore in reality, this is kind of lost, but like a glass full of water and a few drops of olive oil.

Paolo Maragliulo:

And she sees how these drops float on the water. If they come together, it's fine. If they still separate, something wrong has happened. I know this because my girlfriend's grandma used to do these rituals. There's rituals to detect if you've been cursed and obviously rituals to clean you from this cursing. And she used to have a series of formulas, things to say that are in between something religious and something not religious. And she used to yawn a lot during the ritual, constantly yawning.

Katy Clarke:
So interesting.

Paolo Maragliulo:
The old people are still shy. And don't want to, uh, to have too many compliments. And you can still see that.

Katy Clarke:
Oh, I kind of get that actually. Yeah. Interesting. Interesting. And do witches, do they look like something or is it, you know how in English-speaking countries, a witch has got like a black hat and a black coat and—

Paolo Maragliulo:
No, no, no, no, no. It's, uh, it's not like in a movie. Usually it was like, uh, all the ladies. They were kind of retired.

Katy Clarke:
Okay.

Paolo Maragliulo:
In the past, in particular, we didn't have, like, a pension system. Before we started having a pension system, these old people were adopted by the neighborhood. And in exchange, they used to perform these rituals, you know, to thank the community, you know, for the support. So, usually, you can't tell. They look normal. Old people, they still tend to dress in black, but...

Katy Clarke:
Yeah, I think that's for mourning, isn't it? It's for, like, if someone's passed away.

Paolo Maragliulo:
Yes. That's a tradition. It's still related to the community. For instance, when I lost my dad, I remember my mum had to dress in black for a specific time. It was a way to tell the community that she was mourning. But I also remember that my mom, which is a very colorful person, didn't want to do it for like a year, so she did it just for one month.

Katy Clarke:
Time for a quick break, shorter than your morning espresso.

Paolo Maragliulo:
And I remember that she was walking around with her brother. Her brother's like 6 years younger, that was working in Germany back then. So nobody knew about my uncle. And so we started to hear people gossiping like, oh, look at Carmela. She's now with a new boyfriend. That's why she's not dressing in black anymore. Okay, and then we had to knock at every single door and say, hey, this is my brother, or this is my uncle, explaining things to people.

Katy Clarke:

The power of gossip. I can just imagine people were getting so excited on the streets of Lecce for your mum.

Paolo Maragliulo:

It's connected to what I was telling you before: the power of the community, you know. That can be for the good, but also, like in this case, can isolate you if, you know, they start to think something wrong.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, for sure. Oh my goodness. Wow. And what about any superstitions? You mentioned that people are a little bit superstitious. Like in English-speaking, obviously 13 is an unlucky number and 7 is usually a lucky number. In Chinese culture, 8 is a lucky number.

Paolo Maragliulo:

So what sort of superstitions do you in Puglia. You know that we don't have the 13th in Italy. For us, the bad day is Friday the 17th. I don't know why, but it's the 17th, the unlucky number. In Italy, for instance, uh, you know that the highways have a number. So we have A1, A2, so on.

Katy Clarke:

Uh-huh.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Then we have A16 and then A16B. And then 18. Oh, so we don't, we don't call A17. It's, uh, for lucky purposes.

Katy Clarke:

Well, what if your birthday's on the 17th? Asking for a friend.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Too bad. Too bad.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Sorry.

Katy Clarke:

Oh no.

Paolo Maragliulo:

But you can be born on the 13th in, uh, in Australia. That's, uh, kind of the same, no?

Katy Clarke:

That's the same. Yeah. Okay. Oh no, I don't like that. Anyway, what, what other superstitions do you have?

Paolo Maragliulo:

We have so many, so many. So, like, one is not to place your hat on someone else's bed. I don't know why. The other unlucky thing, it's the position of the bed. You never want the feet looking towards the door. And I got the explanation for this. Apparently, it's because - that's the position of a dead body before the funeral. So you don't want that.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Like, you don't walk under a ladder. That's another unlucky thing. They're very common against the poor black cat. There's a number of things that you don't want to do with a black cat. You don't want to cross, you don't want to pass if it crossed the street in front of you. you wait until somebody else goes through. You don't want to be the first, you know, crossing. We don't have the 13th place at a meal.

Katy Clarke:

Oh.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Like, you know, working as a tour guide, it happens. Like, I had groups of 12 and I, and I was the 13th person. In a lot of restaurants - not even explaining that, had set a 14th place on the table just to, like, not allow us to be 13th at the table. And I said, we don't need a 14th place. Eh, see, don't worry, don't worry, leave it there.

Katy Clarke:

Oh, that's so interesting.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Yeah, and what is super fun to me is that if you talk to people, they say, no, but I'm not superstitious. But you never know. It's much easier to respect certain rules than take the risk. Like, I don't want to take the risk.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, fair enough. Do you do this?

Paolo Maragliulo:

No, I'm not a superstitious person, unfortunately.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, I didn't think you were. But I can see that sometimes it's easier just to comply.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Si, exactly, exactly. For a lot of these things, people say, yeah, you know, it doesn't cost me much, so like, uh, it's better to comply. And also, the other thing is little objects, you know, like in Naples, the red horn, it's considered a lucky symbol. So a lot of people have it on, I don't know, a necklace, or a bracelet. You can see these lucky symbols hanging.

Katy Clarke:

But only if someone else gives it to you. You can't buy it for yourself, can you?

Paolo Maragliulo:

Exactly, exactly.

Katy Clarke:

What about in Puglia? You've got the Pumo. There's little Pumo shapes. So that's a good luck charm, isn't it?

Paolo Maragliulo:

Yes. You know what they are, no? Like this pointed round shape with 3 leaves. That they usually are placed on the balconies. So, if you walk around the streets in Puglia, you can see that the balconies have an iron spike at the corner where you place these ceramic shapes. That's to bring good luck. So, it's a symbolic fruit. Somebody says it's a rosebud, but the word 'pumo' means fruit, basically.

Intro Italian speaker:

Mm-hmm.

Paolo Maragliulo:

And it's a fruit that has a lot of fruit inside. So a lucky fruit for us, it's a fig. You know, one fruit with a lot of little seeds inside, like a lot of fruit. A lemon, also a lemon has a lot of things inside. And the other one, very popular, is the pomegranate.

Katy Clarke:

Mm.

Paolo Maragliulo:

So that it's not only to wish good luck, to specifically wishes - like fertility, abundance, wealth. Because it's one thing full of things.

Katy Clarke:

Okay. Yeah, I get it.

Paolo Maragliulo:

See? Also, can I say that? I don't know. You tell me. Poopies.

Katy Clarke:
You can, of course.

Paolo Maragliulo:
Lecce is full of ladies because that's a good luck symbol too.

Katy Clarke:
Oh, there you go. Well.

Paolo Maragliulo:
We touch ourselves for good luck. So like, we touch our bum or we touch boobs. And when is... when you want to like prevent, you know? You knock on wood, right?

Intro Italian speaker:
Yeah.

Katy Clarke:
Knock on wood. Yeah.

Paolo Maragliulo:
We touch iron. So we don't knock on wood, we touch iron. That's our version. That's why you see men touching themselves. in their genitals. Iron.

Katy Clarke:
Wishful thinking sometimes, I think.

Paolo Maragliulo:
Sorry, that was too much probably. But for people that are in Italy, sometimes they see people acting in a way they don't understand. Now they know. If you see people touching themselves, that's the reason. They want to keep away some bad luck.

Katy Clarke:
Oh, that's so funny. I love it. Okay, so what about... you also mentioned, you told me about witches. What about the elves and the dwarves? And I love this one too. This is like the Lord of the Rings. I don't know what's going on in Puglia, but...

Paolo Maragliulo:
In particular, we have this kind of little dwarves that we believe that live in the countryside in particular. So I was reading a book recently - it was explaining that it's in common to many other cultures and it's the creatures of the night. So, like in the past, people would have stayed at home at night because there were no lights outside. So the night was always scary because you don't see. So if you hear a noise, you know, like people have always believed that there was something in the darkness. And in particular, we have this little dwarf. Now, every village has a different name.

Paolo Maragliulo:

In Lecce, it's a very complicated name. It's called Laurieddhu. Very hard to say that again. We believe that is responsible of things like when you lose something in your own house and you say, it's impossible, it's here, like, it has to be here. Okay? We believe that it's these little dwarfs that love to make fun of you. In the past, they thought that you used to hide things. And we have the tradition to say that you have to be nice with the dwarf.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Because the dwarf usually hides like a treasure, gold coins, usually under the house. Now, this is related to true stories because in the past people used to like hide something valuable in the walls of the house or under the floor. And so like making renovations, people sometimes have found these little treasures. And so this has been connected with the stories of the dwarf.

Katy Clarke:

You know, it's funny, here in Australia, we have a lot of migrants from southern Italy. Sometimes the older generation, we do still find the things in the wall or in the mattress or under the floorboards, like money and things like that. So maybe they brought the dwarves with them too when they came here.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Not so long ago, they found a huge amount of liras.

Katy Clarke:

Oh yeah.

Paolo Maragliulo:

That, you know, we have switched to euros, so they were worthless. But like, the guy had saved a lot of money in liras. The guy that found them says, oh, too bad, I can't use them anymore.

Katy Clarke:

Oh my gosh. Oh, that would be so disappointing. But mind you, even if you found a lot of lira, by the end of it, it was just like 1,000 was worth nothing anyway, right? So...

Paolo Maragliulo:

Exactly, for a coffee.

Katy Clarke:

Oh, is there any particular ways that you need to be nice to your dwarf?

Paolo Maragliulo:

My grandma used to leave a little bit of food, like on the table. So that's what, uh, her way to be nice. My mum told me instead not to get angry. Like when you lose something, if you don't get angry, and like you take these little issues with a smile, that's a good way to keep the dwarves, you know, happy.

Katy Clarke:

Oh, that's a good idea. She's smart, your mum. I love that. I'm going to use that too. Don't get angry, otherwise they're going to hide something. Yeah, that's a good one.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Yeah, because, you know, you might start like shouting, where is the...? No. That's something that you're not supposed to do.

Katy Clarke:

Okay. Yeah, I'm gonna deploy that one in our house. I think it's a good one. Oh, Paulo, this is so much fun. I love these type of stories. It's so... That's the reason why, you know, I love to travel and I love to meet people like you because, you know, you can see all the beautiful sights of the world and you can do it, but something just starts connecting you to people. And the culture in a completely different way when you hear the stories and these superstitions and these just, you know, little quirks that people have. I just love it.

Katy Clarke:

And I love that some of them have traveled with the migrants to different parts of the world. And I just think it's, um, it's so lovely. But, you know, we talked about some festivals, but is there any other ways that people can learn more about these traditions when they're in Puglia?

Paolo Maragliulo:

Oh, there's many books they can find. In particular, the most famous one, it's Ernesto De Martino, which is this anthropologist that studied particularly the pizzica dance. But there's also a lot of schools where you don't only learn the dance, but you also learn what's behind. For instance, when you dance, there is a movement that kind of reproduces the movement of killing the spider. So, like, with your heel or with your foot, you, like, hit the floor, reminding you of the idea of, like, killing the spider. And when you take part of these lessons, they love to explain all of this.

Katy Clarke:

I love taking guided tours because this is the type of thing that you hear on tours, especially if you've got a guide as good as Paolo, because he likes to tell stories and get all these quirky things out. Yeah, I highly recommend anywhere you go, you know, if you find a guide that is really in touch with their home and wants to share these stories, it's a really special way to experience different parts of Italy.

Paolo Maragliulo:

The other thing that I suggest is to ask. You know, sometimes we travel, we see something weird or strange, And we might think that something wrong, but in reality, if you ask, people understand that you, uh, you have like a different point of view on things and love to explain you why we act in a special way. Sometimes asking is a very good way to get the explanation for things.

Katy Clarke:

Pack your curiosity in your bag when you go. Ask lots of questions. And that's what I love is on our tours when you, when you're with our guests and, you know, the more questions that get asked, the more you get out of the experience, I think. Like, so yeah, but everyone, if you would like to go on tour with Paolo, it's a very good idea. And he's available for all sorts of different things, bike tours, hiking tours, all sorts of things aren't you, Paolo?

Paolo Maragliulo:

Yes, yes, go for a drink. I'm available for many things. You can find me on Instagram and my website as well. You can have a consultation if you want to plan your tour in Italy, or if you want to book a guided tour, I'm here.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, we were talking about you the other day, Paolo. I don't know if your ears were burning. Myself and my friend Brianna, who came with her family, and we were just talking about how much fun that she had with you and you know, the kids did too. So yeah, it's just, it's a lovely way to really understand a place that you're going to. So thank you so much. So grazie, Paolo. Thank you for sharing these special stories. I can't wait to see you in Puglia soon.

Katy Clarke:

Maybe next year. I'm thinking next year I'm coming to Puglia. Not in July because it's too hot.

Paolo Maragliulo:

No.

Katy Clarke:

Maybe September, I think.

Paolo Maragliulo:

Okay, see you here then.

Katy Clarke:

Yes, I can't wait. So grazie mille, ciao!

Paolo Maragliulo:

Grazie, ciao!

Katy Clarke:

Paolo is the best, isn't he? I just love the way he adds so much rich context to his home region of Puglia and also where he lives now in Matera in the Basilicata region. Hiring a local guide like Paolo is one of the best things you can do whenever you go, in my opinion. In Italy, they must all pass some serious graduate-level exams to obtain a license to practice as a guide. So they all need to know their facts and figures, but I think what really sets the great ones out, like Paolo, is their ability to tell stories and engage visitors into the lore of the land and the place that they live. We have a trusted set of guides that we use and recommend to our trip planning clients from all over Italy. Some of them, like Paolo, are brave enough to appear on the show, and of course we're happy to showcase them here. But unfortunately, most of them are not. For some reason, Italians can be a little shy like this.

Katy Clarke:

So if you do know anyone who would be suitable, particularly in the untold regions, do get them to reach out to us at ciao@untolditaly.com. Of course, we will leave a link to all the places Paolo mentioned and where you can find him online in our detailed website show notes on untolditaly.com/338 for episode number 338. And of course, all our podcast episodes are available ad-free in the premium version of the Untold Italy app. That's all for this week. Next time on Untold Italy, inspired by the stories of Puglia, we are going to take a look at one of the greatest stories of all time and how, while some people think it's all about ancient Greece, there are in fact many sites that belong to modern-day Italy. But until then, it's ciao for now.