



COMUNE DI S. VITTORE DEL LAZIO

MEDAGLIA D'ARGENTO AL MERITO CIVILE

(Provincia di Frosinone)

Brief notes on the “Radicosa” contrada

The **contrada of the Radicosa** is of great interest for its artistic, naturalistic and archaeological features. This mountain resort is approximately 7 km from the historical centre.

The spacious **square**, next to the rural church called **Madonna del Rosario** (Madonna of the Rosary) in her honour, is a reference point for visitors and inhabitants alike. It has a **permanent stage** for shows and concerts and a large **dance floor** in smooth cement. From the square there is an extraordinary panoramic view of the slopes of **Mount Sammucro** and of the gorge of the valley.

The maintenance work for the church and for the square were undertaken with contributions from the local council, the residents of the area and the benefactor, **Giacomo Forte** an Italo American native of the Radicosa and resident in America.

Yet again thanks to the extraordinary contributions given by Mr. Giacomo Forte during the Great Jubilee, two wonderful frescoes inspired by the topic of incarnation were painted in the **18th century church**. The fresco of the apse represents **The Nativity** while the one on the arch shows the **Prophet Isaiah** in the act of predicting the birth of the Messiah.

Both are operas by **Master Silvestro Pistolesi da Firenze**, who has also left signs of his art in the **Archcenoby of Montecassino**. The frescoes inaugurated with a solemn ceremony on 30th June 2001, further enrich the already large wealth of cultural features of this small village situated in the extreme south of the province of Frosinone.

In this interesting, inhabited nucleus there are more than one hundred inhabitants including numerous teenagers and children. It is a mountain reality still very much alive with concrete possibilities of further development. Among the principal resources of this area are **sheep and cattle farming**, still going strong with **a few hundred head of sheep, goats and cattle with the respective production of meat and traditional cheeses**

Taking into account the resources of farming in this place, with the contribution of the EEC- Objective 5b, important infrastructures have been realized such as the so called “mountain basins” made up of **9 auto fed tanks and cisterns** used as troughs and for collecting and storing water for preventing fires, as well as numerous internal roads penetrating across various estates for use by farmers.

The **Radicosa Contrada** has **tourist potential yet to exploit**: the landscape, the nature, the farm buildings and the **belt of the Samnite polygonal wall** on the slopes of **Mount Sammucro (1205m above sea level)**.

This is a fortification probably built to defend an important settlement. Reading from **Book X** written by the great historian of Ancient Rome **Titus Livio**, in which the events of third war of the Samnites are described, allow us to locate on the slopes of Mount Sammucro in the territory of San Vittore del Lazio the mythical **City of Aquilonia**, destroyed by the Romans in 293 B.C..

The **wall belt of the Samnite oppidum** can be visited starting from an altitude of **720m above sea level**, where on **5th June 2010 a commemorative stone was laid in commemoration of the fallen of the FSSF** (December 1943 attacks).

(Note di V. Casoni – Traduzione di Lorisa Morena Ventre)