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GENOA

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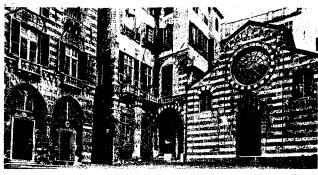
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History

The discovery of a Greek cemetery of the 4th century B. C. is the only proof that Genoa was ever occupied by the Greeks. The city was destroyed by the Carthaginians in 209 B. C. but restored by the Romans, who made it and Placentia their headquarters a-gainst the Ligurians. An inscription of 117 B.C. (now preserved in the Palazzo Municipale at Genoa and called the "Bronze tablet") refers to the decision of the judges sent from Rome to settle the boundaries between Genuates and the Veturii, the inhabitants of a neighboring hill town. It is known only from inscriptions of other places that Genoa had municipal rights. The city was a municipium and the headquarters of the Roman fleet which, among its admirals, had the famous Agrippa whose house is thought to have been in the Piazza Cavour. Strabo states that Genoa exported wood, skins and honey and imported olive oil and wine, though Pliny speaks of the wine of the district as the best of Liguria.

The history of Genoa during the Dark Ages, throughout the Lombard and Carolingian periods, is but the repetition of the general history of the Italian communes. The patriotic spirit and naval prowess of the Genoese, developed in their defensive wars against the Saracens, led to the foundation of a popular constitution and to the rapid growth of a powerful fleet, and earned Genoa its title of La Superba, "the Proud." From the necessity of leaguing together against the common Saracen foe, Genoa united with Pisa early in the 11th century in expelling the Moslems from the island of Sardinia; but the Sardinian territory thus acquired soon furnished occasions of jealousy to the conquering allies, and there commenced between the two republics the long naval wars which terminated fatally for Pisa in the Battle of Meloria (1284). Genoa secured great advantages from the trade stimulated by the Crusades. The seaports wrested at the same period from the Saracens along the Spanish and Barbary, coasts became important Genoese colonies, while in the Levant, on the shores of the Black Sea and along the banks of the Euphrates were erected Genoese fortresses of great strength.

The commercial and naval successes of the Cenoese during the Middle Ages were the more



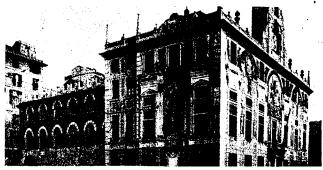
GENOA - Piazza San Matteo

remarkable because, unlike their rivals, the Venetians, they were continually plagued with internal discord -- the Genoese commons and nobles fighting against each other, rival factions among the nobles themselves striving to grasp the supreme power in the state, nobles and commons alike invoking the arbitration and rule of some foreign captains as the sole means of obtaining a temporary truce. From these contests of rival nobles, in which the names of Spinola and Doria stand forth with greatest prominence, Genoa was soon drawn into the great vortex of the Guelf and Ghibelline factions (the struggle between the Papacy and the Holy Roman Emperors for the first place in western Christendom); but its recognition of foreign authority -- successively German, Neapolitan and Milanese -- gave way to greater independence in 1339, when the government assumed a more permanent form with the appointment of the first doge, an office held at Genoa for life, in the person of Simone Boccanera. Alternate victories and defeats of the Venetians and Genoese--the most terrible being the defeat sustained by the Venetians at Curzola (1298) where the famous Venetian traveller, Marco Polo, dictated his book of voyages, Il Milione, during his four years of captivity -- ended by establishing the inferiority of the Genoese rulers, who fell under the power now of France, now of the Visconti of Milan. In 1380, when victory over Venice seemed assured, the Genoese allowed themselves to fall into a trap and were forced to surrender her whole fleet. From this point, Venice reigned undisputed mistress of Mediterranean and Levant trade. The Banca di S. Giorgio, with its large possessions, mainly in Corsica, formed during this period the most stable element in the state, until in 1528 the national spirit appeared to regain its ancient vigor when Andrea Doria succeeded in throwing off the French domination and restoring the

old form of government. The government as restored by him, with certain modifications, tending to impart to it a more conservative character, remained unchanged until the outbreak of the French Revolution and the creation of the Ligurian republic.

Between August 26 and October 30, 1451, the great navigator Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, in the Piazza de Ferrari. The original house was demolished in 1684 and the House of Columbus built on the site. Nearby a cloister has been constructed in the Roman style of the former monastery of S. Andrea, which had links with Columbus.

The Ligurian republic was soon swallowed up in the French Empire, but not before Genoa had experienced terrible privations in the



GENOA - San Giorgio Palace

siege when Andrea Massena held the city against the Austrians (1800). In 1814 Genoa rose against the French, on the assurance given by Lord William Bentinck that the allies would restore to the republic its independence. It had, however, been incorporated with the dominions of the King of Sardinia. The discontent so created kept alive in Genoa a republican spirit which, through the influence of a young Genoese citizen, Giuseppe Mazzini, was a permanent menace not only to the Sardinian monarchy but to all the established governments of the peninsula. A republican outbreak occurred in 1848, but after a short and sharp struggle, the city, momentarily seized by the republican party, was recovered by General Alfonso la Mormora.

In World War II Genoa was heavily bombed by the Allies; its port and industrial areas were virtually demolished by the repeated aerial attacks. Genoa today is a thriving port with a population of 648,678 according to the 1951 census. The outlying districts boost the population figure to 683,447.

Sight Seeing

The natives of this city have nothing to be ashamed of, really, in the old Latin saying: "Genoese, therefore merchant." Out of their maritime and commercial enterprises, they made themselves wealthy and lavished that wealth on beautifying their city. Because of its commercial reputation, Genoa is too frequently overlooked as a city of beauty rivalling that of many a recognized artistic center. But discerning writers have spoken of Genoa the Proud and of the majesty of her buildings, set in a great semi-circle around the port, as magnificent within as they are imposing without.

The port area, like port areas around the world, is what tourist guides usually define as picturesque and what a sociologist will flatly call slums. Ships and installations stretch for miles on either side of the Maritime Station. From Cape Faro, on the left, to the mouth of the Polcevera, there are twelve and a half miles of port area: docks, freight elevators, plants, warehouses, railroad tracks and public services. The battered port was rebuilt after the war, from 1945 on. Violent storms during the winter of 1954-55 crippled it, and again it was rebuilt.

Immediately behind the docks, the lower city begins. Streets are ancient, sometimes



GENOA - Piazza de Ferrari

aristocratic, like the Via Luccoli, where elegant ladies shop and promenade in the late afternoon, or they are narrow, twisting lanes called caruggi, lined with shops and wares of that exotic quality that tells you you're in foreign parts.

Not far from where the liners dock is the main railway station facing on Via Balbo, which runs past the ex-Royal Palace with its much-admired Mirror Gallery and collection of art. On this street, too, is the Palazzo Durazzi, which contains paintings of the Flemish master Van Dyck. At the far end, on Piazza della Annunziata, is the 17th century Church of the Santissima Annunziata, built by Della Porta and Scorticone. Its rich interior makes it a veritable art gallery.

The Genoese are proud of their Via Garibaldi (this Italian national hero was a native Ligurian), a short street, compact with princely mansions and sumptuous villas. The Palazzo Bianco (White Palace) and the Palazzo Rosso (Red Palace), facing each other on this thoroughfare, are important museums of painting and sculpture.

Piazza Fontane Marose, into which this street leads, marks the beginning of the modern center of Genoa. Branching out of it, the Via Carlo Felice leads to the Piazza de Ferrari and the Municipal Opera House.

The Church of Sant'Ambrogio, at the end of the square, was reconstructed in 1527 from a tiny 4th century church. The cross-shaped interior contains priceless works by Rubens, del Piola, Merano, and other artists, and an organ by Hermann.

A block from Sant'Ambrogio is the cathedral of San Lorenzo, seat of the archbishopric of Genoa. According to legend, the cathedral was built in the third century by Saint Lawrence himself. It was rebuilt, in its present Romanesque style, in 1100. The bell tower, cupola and ceiling are works of the 16th century, and the chapels are crowded with the works of a dozen masters.

Near the cathedral, on Piazza Matteo, there is a group of ancient houses dating from the 12th century and belonging to the Doria family, one of the most important in Genoa's history. The chapel of San Matteo was built in 1125; its black and white marble facade recounts the exploits of the illustrious Dorias.

The Palazzo Doria has all the flavor of Genoa's mighty days of empire, when her fleets sailed to all points of the known world and beyond, across uncharted seas on historic missions of exploration. Pomp, energy, and

wealth are in these doors and walls. The same is true of the Palazzo Ducale, the Palazzo Reale, the Palazzo San Giorgio, once seat of a powerful bank and money lender to European sovereigns, and the palaces of the Grimaldi and Spinola families.

And the churches! Where there is a church, there is art, and Genoa has 400 churches. If you stay any length of time, visit some of these: the Madonna del Soccorso, with paintings by Van Dyck and Velasquez; Santo Stefano, where Columbus was baptized; San Donato, with a delicate octagonal campanile and a splendid



GENOA - Panoram

triptych; Santa Maria di Castello, Saints Cosmo and Damiano, San Siro. And there is the gruesome but edifying Oratorio della Morte, dating from the 17th century, which contains, besides the art, religious objects belonging to those condemned to death and the hangman's rope.

For a change from the overpowering concentration of church art and relics, have a look at some of the special collections: the Chiossone Japanese Museum, the Naval and Archæological Museums, the Mazzini Institute, the Natural History Museum and the homes of Columbus and the fabulous violinist Paganini, whose Guarneri violin is carefully preserved by the city of Genoa and examined and played once a year by an internationally known violinist.

Genoa's grattacieli (skyscrapers) may be puny by American standards, but they are notable examples of adaptation of twentieth century architecture to a medieval and Renaissance setting. From the Capurro Grattacielo there's a fine view of city and harbor. Other vantage points are the Lanterna lighthouse (visible 27 miles out at sea); the Righi, reached by funicular from near the railway station; and the height of Nostra Signora della Guardia. Best of all is a drive along the Circonvallazione a Monte, a road that winds through the hills overlooking the city. view changes at every turn, and on a clear day the whole of the Riviera is visible, from La Spezia to Imperia.

Night Life



Clubs and Bars: The Union Club, a downtown businessmen's club, usually extends privileges to officers, as does the Circolo Aristico Tunnel. Enlisted men are welcomed to use the facilities of the Andrea Doria Seaman's Club and the United Seaman's Service Club, located near the port at Via San Benedetto 4, (telephone 62-212). There is musical entertainment nightly at the latter. The Andrea Doria has been used in the past for division parties with excellent results. (In order to land beer for a ship's party a customs duty of approximately \$1.40 per case must be paid.)

Some of the night clubs in Genoa are:

Olimpo-Grattacielo - Via Dante 11. Sky-scraper location, dinner dancing only.

Ippocampo - Corso Torino 186. Dancing, floor show.

La Luccioco - summer, open air.

La Cambusa di Capurro - Piazza de Ferrari.

Dancing Bardi - Piazza de Ferrari.

Ragno d'Oro - Piazza de Ferrari.

Tritone - Corso Italia, corner Via Zara.

Lido d'Albaro - Corso Italia.

Orchidea.

Scandinavian.

La Marinetta di Nervi.

Restaurants: The better restaurants, other than those of the leading hotels, include the following:

Olimpo (atop the Grattacielo, 31st. floor) Via Dante 11.

Ai Pesci-Vivi - Corso Italia, on the sea. Recommended for seafood.

La Caravello d'Oro - Corso Italia 15.

Vittorio al Mare - Via Aurora 34, Bocca-dasse.*

Punta Bagno - Corso Italia 3.

Mantelli - Via Granello 7R.

Da Mario - Via Conservatori del Mare 33.*

Gino - Via XXV Aprile.

Cheixe - Via Boccadasse 29.

Alfredo Chianti - Via Chiemssone 5.

Perelli - Vico Parmigiani 6R.
Gino - Via XX Settembre 184.
Carlotta - Setteripa 69.
Colombo - Via Degli Archi 6.
Corona de Ferro - Vico Inferiore del Ferro.
Al Giglio Rosso - Corso G. Marconi 70.
Birreria Forst - Piazza Nunzinta.
Giovacchino - Via Maragliano 30.

* Especially recommended by Michelin



Ligurian regional cuisine is some of the best in Italy. The suffix "alla Genovese" throughout Italy attests to this. In keeping with the coastal area, fish is also featured. Some specialties are pesto sauce (good with lasagne and pasta), Zuppa di Pesce (fish soup), fritti misti (mixed grill), trenette co'u pestu (baked cheese pie), funghi (mush-

rooms), Cima alla Genovese (pastry shell stuffed with meat, peas, cheese and eggs, and artichokes).

Hotels: The leading hotels in Genoa are:

Colombia-Excelsior - Piazza Acqua verdi, telephone: 81-641. Deluxe (5,000 L. range).

Savoia-Majestic - Piazza Acquaverdi, (5,000 L. range).

Plaza - Via Martin Piazzio 13. (3,000L.

Bristol Palace - Via XX Settembre 35, telephone: 51-479, (2,500 L. range).

Grand Hotel de Genes et des Princes - Via Balbi 36.

Brittania e Suisse - Via Balbi 38,(2,000L.

Europa - Via Manachette, (1,500 L. range) only hotel listed not recommended by Michelin.

Londra e Continentale - Via Arsenale di Terra 1, telephone 61-6434, (2,500 L. range).

Athletics: Fields for soccer and softball are located on the other side of Genoa, about 20 minutes by commercial transportation from

the port area. Private buses charge 50 cents round-trip per person. They are the Italian Army field and the Campo Shell field. Two stadiums where basketball and tennis are available along with locker rooms are located at Mervi (Camp Ardita) and Mafta. Rowing and sailing are available at the Yacht Club. A Guanasium offers boxing facilities. It is recommended that athletic arrangements be made through the USIS representative. The nearest golf course is located at Rapallo, 45 minutes by car, bus or train from Genoa. Green fees are 1,000 Lire. Caddy fees run 600 L. for 18 holes, 300 L. for nine, plus a tip of about 200 Lire.

Beaches: The best and least crowded beaches are located outside of Genoa. Some of these are: Paraggi, the closest, Santa Margherita and Rapallo, 20 miles distant, and Chiaveri, 27 miles distant. Genoa itself offers the Albaro, a pool with Olympic specifications; the Lido, Corso Italia, which also has diving towers; and the municipal "bagno" at Nervi, offering skin diving.

Shopping: The best shopping streets in Genoa are Via Roma, Via XX Settembre, Via XXV Aprile



in the modern city and Via Luccoli in the old

Some of the better buys and corresponding shops are given below:

Ceramics:

Richard Genori - Via XX

Settembre 3.

Leather: Stefano Pastore e Figli-

Via Roma 3.

Casa del Guanto - Via Cai-Gloves:

roli 19R.

Souvenirs-Gifts Emma Robbiano - Via XXV

Aprile 34R.

Angora: Via Luccoli.

Borsalino Hats: Pesce - Via XXV Aprile

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Shirts: E. Finollo - Via Roma 38.

C.A. Marchiano - Via Roma Ivory: 16.

Theater and Cinema: Good Italian theaters are available. In particular, is the Piccolo Teatro Elanor Duse, which has a permanent company. Traveling companies also visit Genoa. Ballet performances are given several times a year. The Nervi section of Genoa sponsors a bi-annual summer ballet season which features

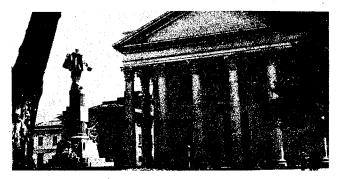


world ballet companies. The season of the Genoa Opera Company is early spring (March and April). Concerts are sponsored by the Giovine Orchestra Genovese and Teatro Comunale: dell'Opera (November-June). English-language movies are dubbed into Italian. The main spectator sports in Genoa are soccer, rugby, and automobile and bicycle races.

Churches: There are over 400 Roman Catholic churches in Genoa. Sermons are given in Ital-

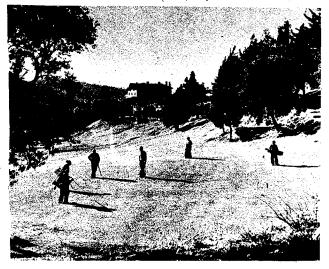


ian. One church in the center of the city arranges for confessions in English once a month. Monthly services, except during the summer, are held by the Church of the Holy Ghost (Episcopal), Piazza Marsala; the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian). There are also Italian, German, Swiss, and Scandinavian Protestant churches, and a synagogue, but services are in Italian.



CHIAVARI - Church of Nostra Signora dell'Orto

Transportation: Local transportation consists of horse-drawn carriages, taxis, buses, street-cars and trolley buses. Taxi fares are 140 L. for the initial rate and 130 L. for each additional 600 meters, as shown by the taximeter. Rates are intended for two persons. There is a charge of 50 L. for each piece of baggage. When taxis drive or pick up a person in the port area, there is an extra fee of 100 L. For night fares (from 2200 to 0600), add another 100 L. to the above prices.



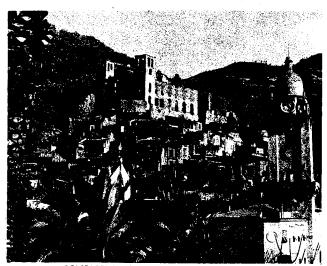
Tours: Local tour agencies include the following:

ENIT (State tourist bureau) - Via Roma. American Express Co. - Hotel Savoia. Thomas Cook & Son - Hotel Colombia. C.I.T. - Via XXV Aprile 16. Ruocco Tours. Some of the tours offered are a one day tour of Genoa, Rapallo, Santa Margherita and Portofino for \$3.50, lunch included; a two day tour to the Italian lakes; and a two day



ZOAGLI - Panorama

tour to Florence, \$21.00 all included. Tours can also be arranged to Rome, Venice, Pisa, Rapallo and the Italian Riviera. The nearest mountain resorts of Italy or Switzerland are about four to five hours by car.



DOLCEACQUA - The ancient Castle of the Doria family

Before you leave Genoa, remember to throw a coin into the fountain of Piazza De Ferrari, to insure your return. This is a custom borrowed from Trevi fountain, but it's just as valid here. The money is gathered regularly and distributed to charities.





