



BARILE

The volcanic jewel of Vulture

A journey through 500 Years of
Arbëreshë tradition



A legacy of resilience

- Founded in the 1400s by Albanian refugees led by the hero Skanderbeg, Barile is a living testament to resilience. The Arbëreshë culture is preserved here through ancient dialects and a spirit that has survived for centuries.
- In 1964, the legendary Pier Paolo Pasolini fell in love with this 'timeless' landscape, using the local caves to recreate ancient Palestine for his masterpiece 'The Gospel According to St. Matthew'.



The Stone Heart: 'the Shesh'



- The 'shesh' is the beating heart of Barile: hundreds of caves dug into dark volcanic rock, forming a unique architectural labyrinth. It's a place where time stands still, especially during the 'Living Passion' on Good Friday.
- This religious procession is a visceral experience, involving the whole town in historical costumes, moving through the narrow paths of the volcanic hillside.



A Symphony of Volcanic Flavors

- Taste the fire of the volcano! Aglianico del Vulture, known as the 'Barolo of the South,' is a ruby-red wine with a complex, mineral soul born from the black soil.
- A true delicacy: 'tumact me tulez'—a traditional Arbëreshë dish of tagliatelle seasoned with walnuts, anchovies, and toasted breadcrumbs. Historically, it was the 'wedding dish,' representing a fusion of cultures and textures.



The Wild Volcanic Landscape

- Barile lies on the slopes of Mount Vulture, an extinct volcano dormant for 130,000 years. Its volcanic heritage lives on in the incredibly fertile soil that feeds secular olive groves and prestigious vineyards.
- Wildlife: keep your eyes on the sky to spot the Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) circling the cliffs. The air here is thick with the scent of wild Mediterranean thyme and broom (ginestra).





Practical Advice & Comfort

- We want you to enjoy your visit! The shesh is beautiful but steep and uneven—sturdy sneakers are non-negotiable.
- Don't let the heat fool you: Inside the volcanic caves, the temperature remains a constant 15°C year-round. If you plan to enter the cellars for a tasting, bring a light jacket to avoid the thermal shock!



Living heritage: the arbëreshë soul

- The soul of the town is the 'Gjtonia'—a sacred concept of community where neighbors live as a single family. It's an open-door philosophy of hospitality that defines the Southern Italian experience.
- The identity is celebrated through the Arbëreshë language and the magnificent silk and gold-embroidered costumes worn during festivals, which connect Barile back to its Balkan roots.



The harvest feast: Cantinando

- The peak of Barile's social life is the 'Cantinando' in the Shesh. For one weekend, the ancient caves open their doors to the world. The scent of fermenting grapes and roasted chestnuts fills the air.
- It's a sensory celebration: local folk music, street food, and wine glasses clinking in the cool depths of the volcano. It is the best way to see the town at its most vibrant.



An eternal journey

- Barile is a place where every stone and every glass of wine tells a story of 500 years. We hope this guide helps you appreciate the deep connection between this land and its people.

Thank you for your attention—are there any questions?

