



Basilicata, Italy 2008

By C. Wilkins and N. Hardy,
Year 13 A Level Italian students

As part of our A2 level Italian course, we have to study an Italian region in great detail. We decided to study the Basilicata in Southern Italy as Mrs. Binder, one of our Italian teachers, was brought up in the region.

We spent several months studying and researching the Basilicata via the internet. We then arranged a trip for Easter 2008 to see the region for ourselves.

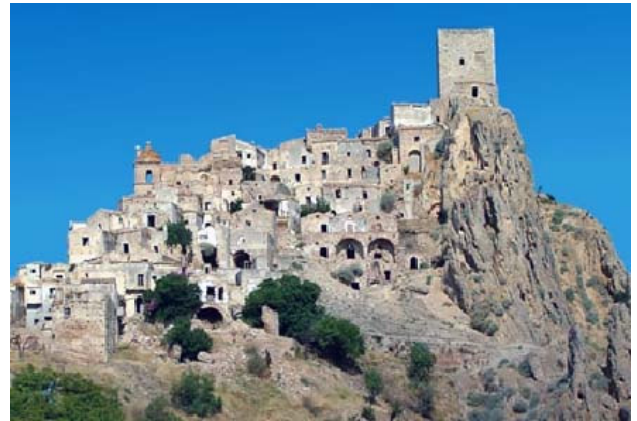
We paid for our flights, but due to the lack of public transport and difficulties in transportation throughout the area, and the mountainous topography of the landscape, it was going to prove expensive to go around. Therefore we applied to the school for an 'ImberBursary'. The £200 we received was spent mainly on transportation, as Nina's cousin became our personal chauffeur for the week. We travelled around a lot, often for several hours each day in order to make the most of our experience and to see as much as possible in our limited time span.



We were hosted by families with girls of our own age in the village of Genzano di Lucania, where we also went to school for a day and spent most of the evenings. Although a small village without much to do, there was plenty of character and the landscape surrounding it was beautiful and very different from what I have seen elsewhere in Italy.



We also visited the town of Matera, where we saw the 'Sassi', ancient houses built into the rock and where Mel Gibson filmed 'The Passion of the Christ'. We also visited several other villages with plenty of Italian historic charm. We went to the beach in order to see what the tourism in Basilicata has to offer,



archaeological parks and my personal favourite, a village called Craco, which provides evidence of the destruction that natural hazards pose in this region, with landslides and earthquakes leading to the abandonment of this 'ghost town'.

We also experienced the local food and specialities in order to improve our understanding of the region and prepare us to write about anything the examiner might throw at us! We feel the trip was hugely beneficial to us and our Italian has improved greatly as a result of the trip. We are very thankful to Mr. Walsh and the 'ImberBursary Scheme' for allowing us to take this opportunity to visit a usually forgotten gem of the Italian countryside.

