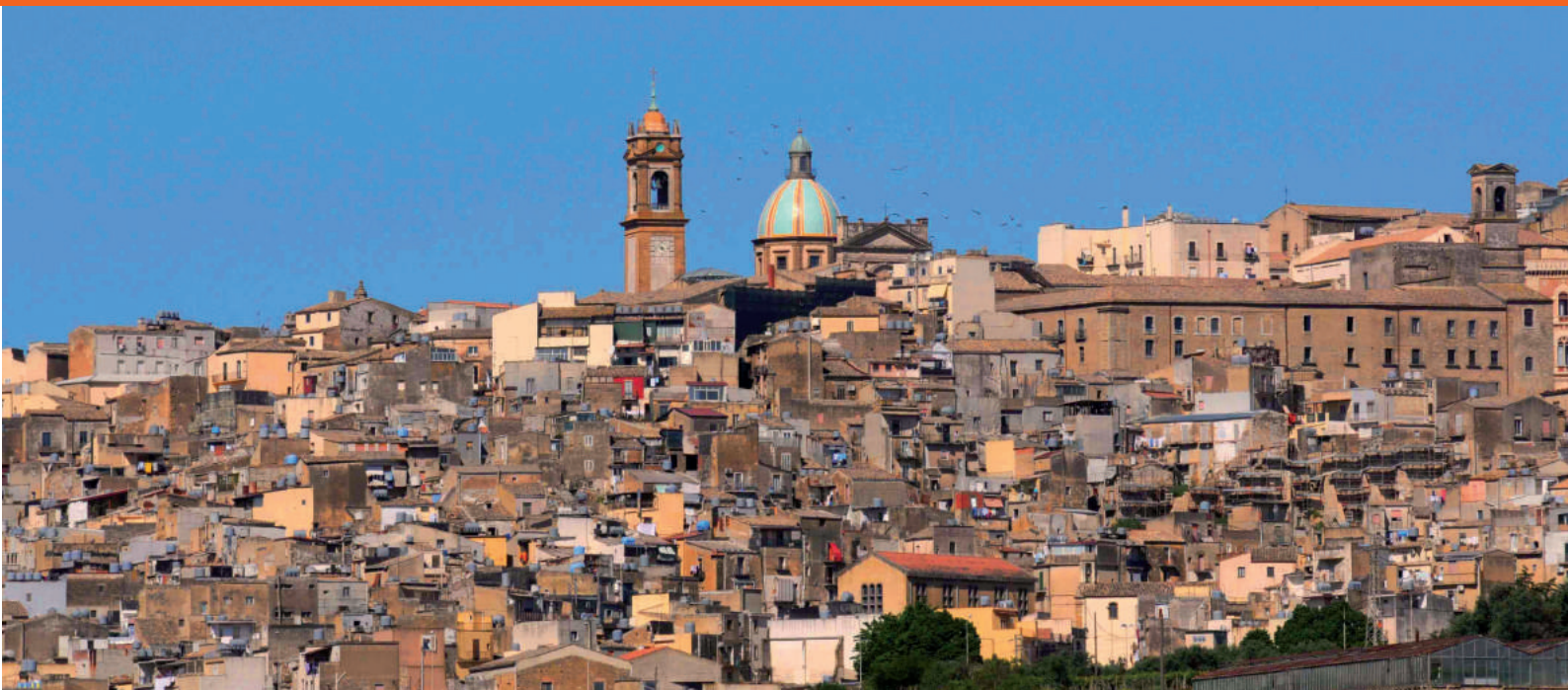


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CALTAGIRONE

HD

UNESCO HERITAGE SITE

Caltagirone is a Unesco Site thanks to its monumental heritage, centuries-old ceramics tradition and picturesque folklore events.

The name Caltagirone derives from the Arab term Qalat-Jerun, that means “Castle of the burial grounds” because of the presence of vast necropolises in its territory. The first settlement rose in the surroundings of a castle during the Greek era.

The earthquakes of 1542 and 1693 completely destroyed the town, and the new town was built in baroque style thanks to the work of several architects.

The most interesting monuments are the Norman Duomo, dedicated to S. Giuliano, preserving beautiful paintings by Francesco Vaccaro (1802-1882), the Chiesa del Collegio erected by the Jesuits in 1593, and the Chiesa di S. Giacomo reconstructed after the 1693's earthquake.

The Corte Capitanale, preserving beautiful windows and portals by the artist Gagini (1478-1536), and the 18. century Chiesa di S. Nicola, today seat of the Sicilian Ethnologic Museum, are also noteworthy, as is the long staircase decorated with polychrome majolica, leading to the Chiesa di S. Maria del Monte and connecting the town's upper and lower part. Caltagirone hosts the Museo Regionale delle Ceramiche (regional museum of ceramics) since 1965.



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Piazzetta Scannaserpe, 3 - 90146 Palermo / Sicily / Italy - tel. +39 091 361567 Fax 091 6372482 - info@stsitalia.it