



THE CRACO SOCIETY

AUGUST IN CRACO VECCHIO

CONTENTS CONTENUTO

- **August in Craco**
- **A Poem to Craco**
- **La Panchina –
“The Bench” in
Craco**
- **133rd San Rocco
Feast in New York**
- **Historic Feasts in
Craco**
- **[Contact us-](#)
[Contattateci](#)**

Then and now, harvest is the culmination of an entire year's work and its completion is cause for celebration in all cultures.

August was a busy month in Craco for preserving foods that will be used throughout the winter months. Countless bottles of tomatoes were preserved as a paste, pieces, or as whole peeled tomatoes.

People also sifted and sorted the fava and ceci beans to select the best of them which were put into sacs for the winter. The not-so-good legumes were used as food for the animals.

Fava beans were dried and prepared as snack foods along with “Ceci al tufo”. Lupini beans were brined and preserved for snacking too.

In Craco this culminates on August 15th with the celebration of Ferragosto, which is celebrated throughout Italy and coincides with the Roman Catholic holy day of the Assumption.

After Ferragosto, many people from Craco would walk to the neighboring town of Pisticci to celebrate the feast of San Rocco there.



A Classic Image—shown above is a statue of San Rocco depicting him in a characteristic pose showing the sign of the plague and accompanied by his faithful dog.



Fruits of Labor—pictured above are the typical fresh vegetables that were available in Craco during August.



A Labor of Love—the wonderful bounty of August was enjoyed fresh but also preserved. In the photo above tomatoes are being cooked to preserve for later months.



A Winter Treat—shown above are dry ceci beans (also known in English as chickpeas or garbanzo beans) that could be preserved and used in many ways. High in protein they help provide nutrition when fresh food was limited.

A POEM TO CRACO

To My Craco

By Franco Tuzio, Craco, Matera, Basilicata, Italy

Your story, for those who have memory,
Turns out to be like the wise man
Who, after having concluded his last voyage,
Everyone discovers his true value
And everyone comes to honour him
Your unfortunate fate
For many has been ungrateful
Whoever has lived here
Has lost much
Even his identity
And for him there was no more peace of mind
Even the things most dear
Had to be left behind
Whoever returns to this place where it lies
Cannot find peace
Only memories remain and resurface
When these awaken
He looks at the walls he came to see
So that they might watch over him
One day, these sheltered him
From the ravages of time
Today watching its long agony from this illness
Wounds him inside with anger and melancholy
No one would have ever wanted
For any of this to have happened
So he plunges into conviction
And slowly reaches resignation



LA PANCHINA A CRACO

Rick Rinaldi shared a photograph from Craco with a story about a Cracotan tradition. It may seem familiar, as it was also common to see these gatherings in the areas our immigrant ancestors settled.

Rick explains, "It's very typical for Crachesi to go to the "Panchina" (little benches) to meet with friends and exchange ideas on current events, past events, etc."

Shown in the photograph, enjoying their time and companionship are: Filippo Maffei, Francesco Rubino, Felice Lauria, Giulio Lavieri, Giuseppe Rinaldi, and Antonio (Tonino) Capogrosso.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, October 23rd

San Vincenzo is coming to New York City

133rd Annual Feast of **ST. ROCCO** Sunday, August 21st, 2022



MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CHURCH

113 Baxter Street, Little Italy, NY 10013
212-226-6427 | 646-734-8354

Don't forget to support the 133rd celebration of the San Rocco Society.

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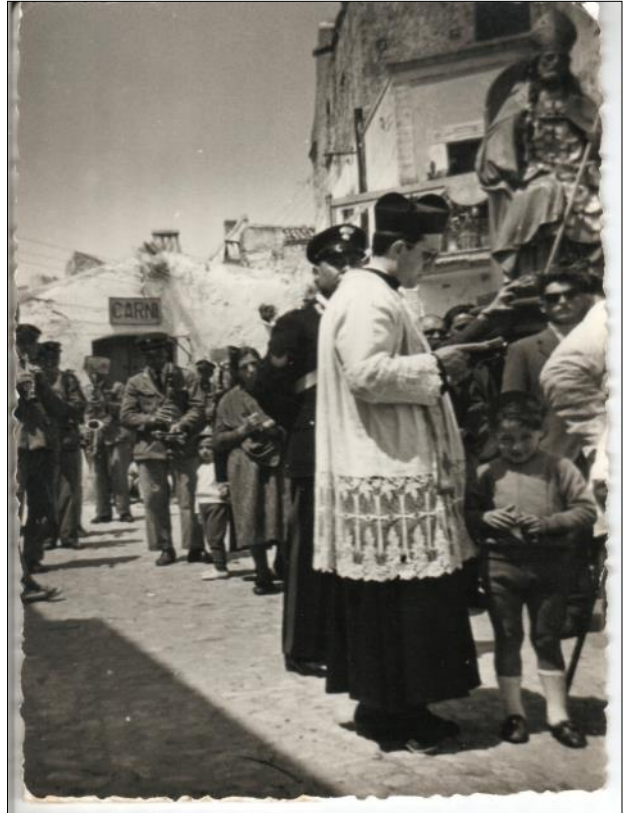
The San Rocco Society of Potenza, Inc.

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All donations are tax deductible

HISTORIC FEASTS IN CRACO



(CRACO) PROCESSIONE SAN NICOLA

FERIE AGOSTO 1990

COMITATO FESTE : TONINO MONTEMURRO, VINCENZO D'ELIA, CRAPULLI ANTONIO, FRANCO MONTEMURRO, ALIANO MARIOPIO, CRAPULLI ENZO, DON VINCENZO SOZZO



Changing Times—Craco, like so many Italian enclaves regularly hosted feast day celebrations that include processions.

The photograph at the top left shows the August 1990 procession celebrating San Nicola in Craco Peschiera.

The remaining photographs give us a glimpse into how the San Nicola procession looked in Craco Vecchio.

The image on the top right shows the procession being organized before it winds its way through the town.

The image to the immediate right is taken by the photographer as the procession enters the Largo Vittorio Emmanuel.

The participation of the people of Craco is shown in the photograph to the left. The procession is passing in front of the "Cine Astre," Craco's movie theater.



HOW TO CONTACT US—COME CONTATTARCI



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