



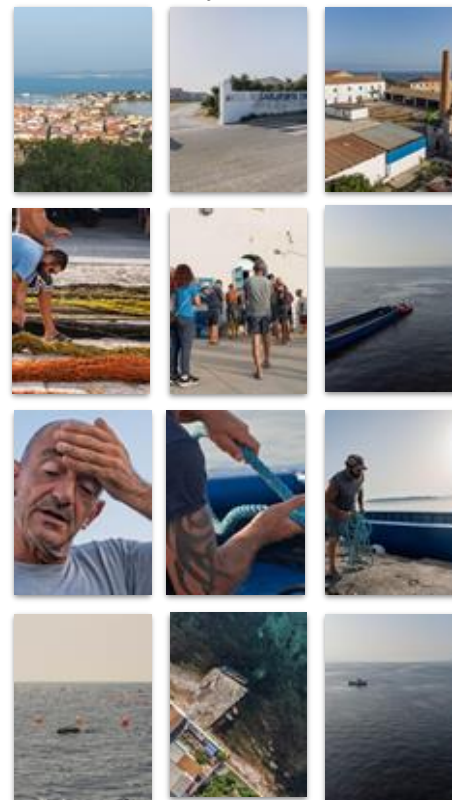
CARLOFORTE AND THE SECRET
OF THE TUNA - Podcast

Part Art 40W



In this video, we explore Carloforte (San Pietro Island, Sardinia) and its “Tonnara”, a centuries-old bluefin tuna tradition. T180 Local guide Natalia Lapicca takes us to the heart of one of the last historic tuna fishing sites still active in the Mediterranean, located in a 19th-century structure. From the migratory routes of the tuna traveling all the way from the Atlantic to the impressive hand-fishing techniques of the *tonnarotti* (tuna fishermen), this is an exciting journey through history, biology, and community life.

Photo Gallery





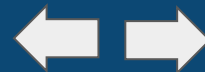
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Aerial view of the harbor of Carloforte, Sardinia. The historic harbour represents the heart of the island, inextricably linked to its famous tradition of bluefin tuna fishing and processing.



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The Carloforte “tonnara” (old tuna fishery) is the only still-operating historical plant in the Med exclusively dedicated to bluefin tuna catching and local processing..



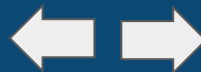
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In the Tonnara premise, nets for the preparations of the tuna traps are arranged before being lowered into the sea. Once in the sea, these creates a system of “chambers” for bluefin tuna fishing.



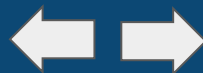
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The “Tonnarotti” (tuna fishermen) are at work spreading out and preparing the nets—a crucial operation before assembling the “chambers” of the tuna traps.



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The “Tonnarotti” gather together before setting sail for the fishing expedition. The “Rais” guide the expedition.



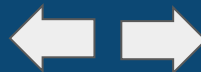
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One of the barges used for tuna fishing. These boats have no engines and are pushed or towed to the fishing spot place by other boats, also crewed by the “tonnarotti”.



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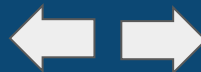


A close-up of a
Carloforte
“tonnarotto”: a
story of lifelong
dedication to an
ancient tradition.

Ph. Thalassonia



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Today, many young locals choose to work as tuna fishermen, which, although seasonal, is a vital source of income in a region with few employment opportunities.

Ph. Thalassonia



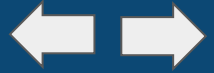
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Younger generations acquire skills from the elders. This guarantees a natural generational turnover that keeps this important fishing tradition alive.

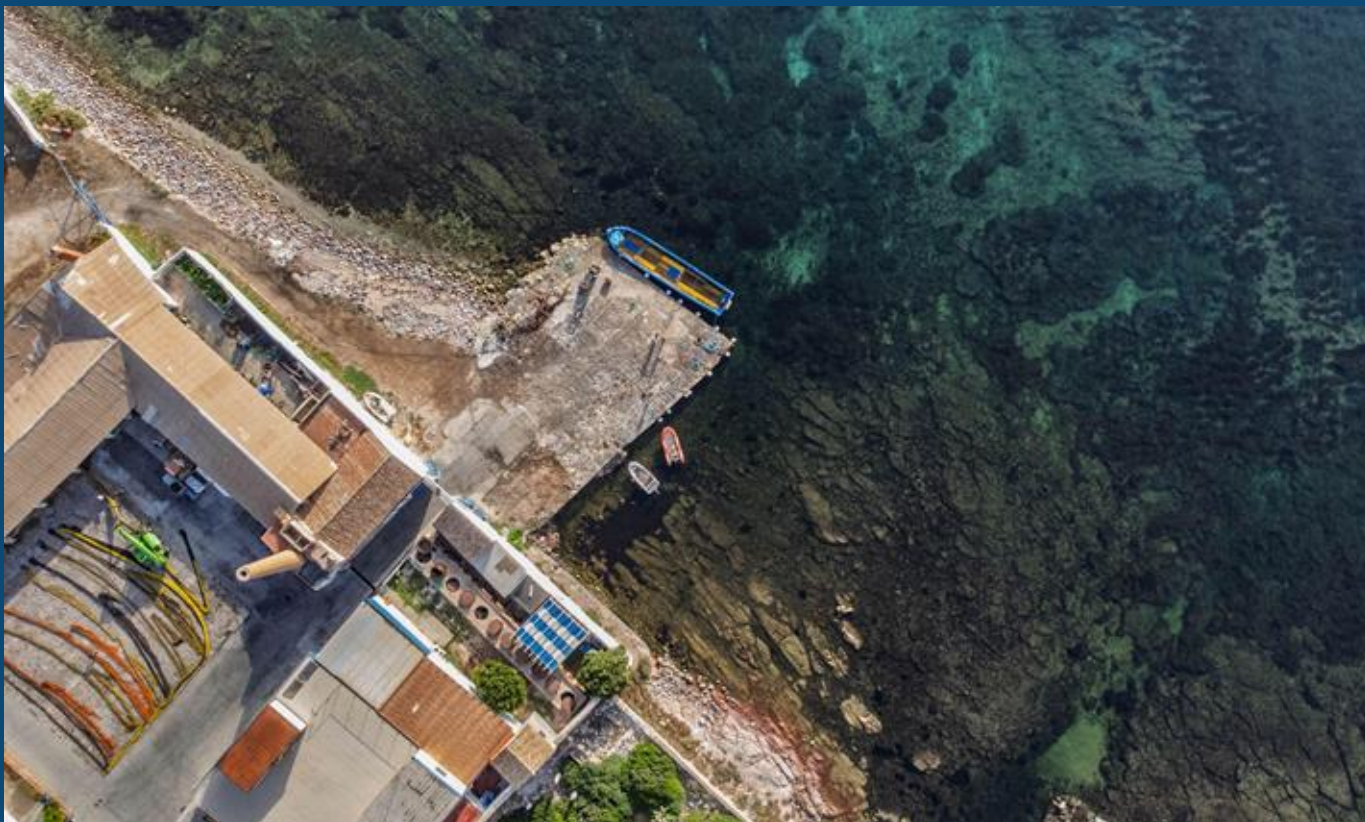


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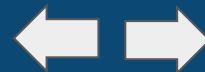


At sea, the tonnara stands as a complex intertwining of ropes, nets, and buoys, a physical mosaic of “chambers” that intercept and trap the migratory passage of the tuna.

Ph. Thalassonia



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The Carloforte
tonnara from
above: the
shore facilities
of the Sulcis
tuna trap
which, together
with
Portoscuso,
forms the last
active
traditional
bluefin tuna
fishery in Italy.

Ph. Thalassonia



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Back to sea every day, the boat carrying the *tonnarotti* leaves the pier for the offshore tuna trap, heading toward the nets.

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