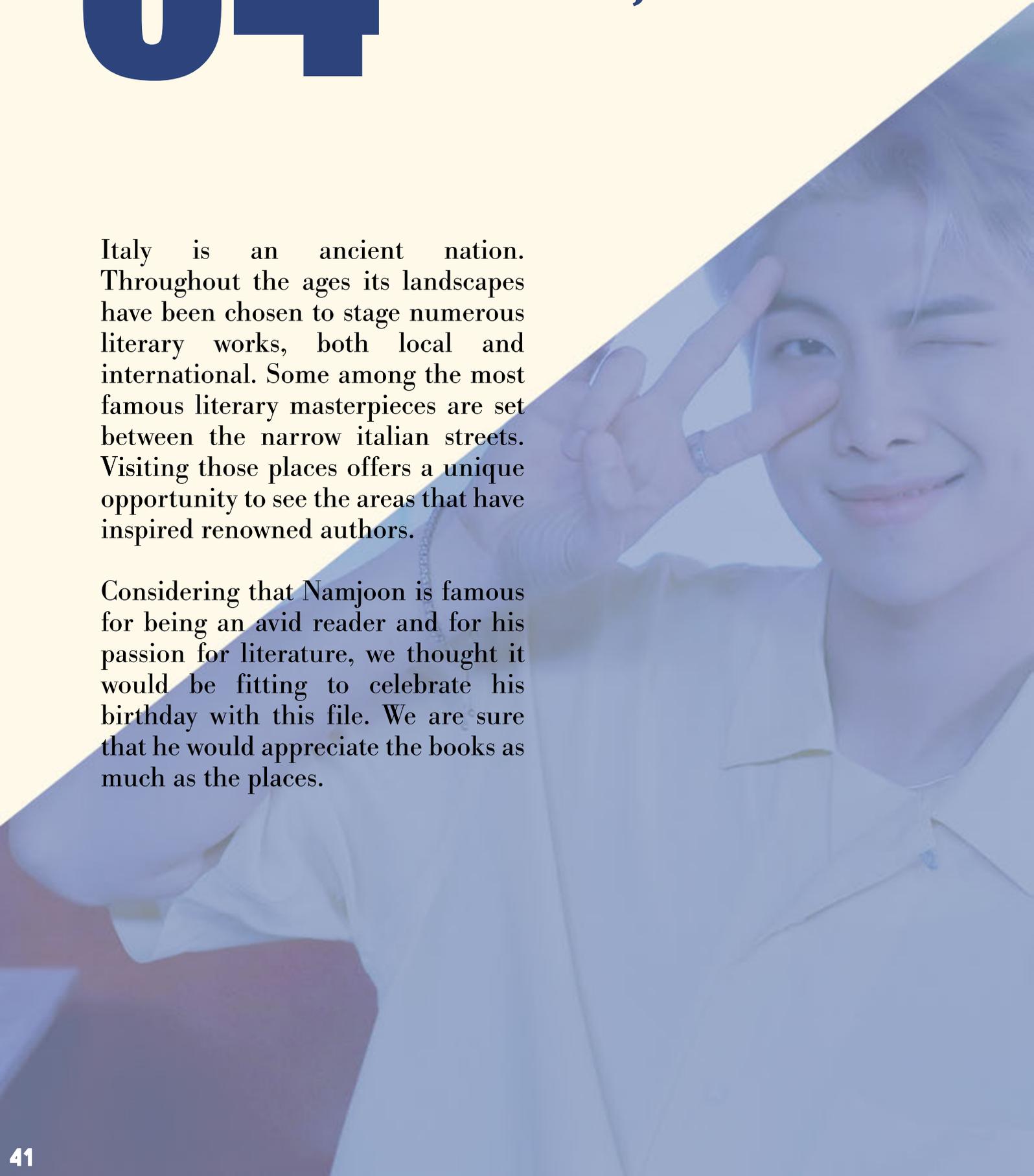


04 LITERATURE

KIM NAMJOON

Italy is an ancient nation. Throughout the ages its landscapes have been chosen to stage numerous literary works, both local and international. Some among the most famous literary masterpieces are set between the narrow italian streets. Visiting those places offers a unique opportunity to see the areas that have inspired renowned authors.

Considering that Namjoon is famous for being an avid reader and for his passion for literature, we thought it would be fitting to celebrate his birthday with this file. We are sure that he would appreciate the books as much as the places.



PLACES OF LITERATURE

AOSTA

The city of Aosta is home to Rocco Schiavone, the main character of a series of crime fictions by the Italian author Antonio Manzini.

Aosta was founded by the ancient Romans with the name of “Augusta Praetoria” and was known as the Rome of the Alps. The main purpose of the city was to keep an eye on the Gauls. To see the places where the novels of Rocco Schiavone are set, you could go in Chanoux Square and be surrounded by both the historical palaces of the city and the Alps. From here you can take some of the main streets of Aosta that will lead you to the wonderful Roman monuments: the Augustan Arch, the monumental Roman Theatre, the Amphitheatre, the Roman bridge and many more.



PLACES OF LITERATURE



VERONA

JULIET'S HOUSE

Set in between the end of the XVI and the beginning of the XVII century, the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet speaks about the unfortunate love story between two lovers from two rival families of Verona: the Montagues and the Capulets.

Right in the centre of the city, in Piazza delle Erbe, is located the house where Juliet lived -according to the tradition at least. A huge metal fence with the coat of arms belonging to the Dal Cappello family separates the house from the entrance hall where lovers from all over the world go to celebrate their love. Beyond the entrance hall there is a small inner yard, with a beautiful bronze statue of Juliet and a plaque with some verses from the play. The house is a medieval building and in the front part is possible to admire the famous balcony where Juliet looked out for Romeo.

**Opening Hours: from Tuesday to Sunday
9am - 6pm.**

COMO

“That branch of Lake Como that turns off to the south between two unbroken chains of mountains...” is probably the most famous incipit of Italian literature.

We thus have to speak about Como, where Alessandro Manzoni's *The Betrothed* takes place. The city is not just the setting of the tumultuous love story between Renzo and Lucia, but it's a character in itself. The author described the city with such vivid details that it's almost as if the mountains, the lake and the beautiful little houses facing it interact with the two main characters. When someone visits the city after reading the novel feels like they're going back there for a second time.



PLACES OF LITERATURE

TURIN



The beautiful Turin wasn't just home to the Italian literary avant-garde for centuries, but was also the setting of many novels. It's worth mentioning the book "Cuore" - the most famous work by Edmondo de Amicis and one of the symbols of Italian literature. The novel is a beautiful story about life during the unification of Italy as seen -and written- by the eyes of a young boy. The novel wanted to unify the social and cultural differences that characterised Italy during those years and it's an accurate description of that era.

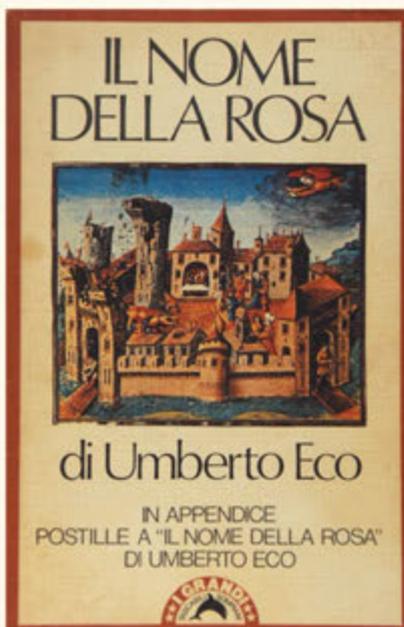
Another famous work set between Turin, Paris and Palermo is "The Prague Cemetery" by Umberto Eco. The main character of the book is captain Simonini, a cynical forger of the XIX who is the only invented character of the story. All the other characters were in fact really alive during the Resurgence.

PLACES OF LITERATURE

TURIN

SACRA DI SAN MICHELE

The abbey of San Michele della Chiusa -commonly known as Sacra di San Michele- is an architectural complex at the top of mount Pirchiriano, just at the beginning of Susa Valley. Sacra di San Michele is the monument symbol of the region Piemonte. The origins of this sanctuary are unknown mainly because its story was passed down by legends. It's also the place that inspired the infamous novel by Umberto Eco "The name of the rose".



PLACES OF LITERATURE

GARDONE RIVIERA



IL VITTORIALE

On the Brescian side of Lake Garda is located this complex of buildings, streets, square, an open theatre, gardens and streams built in between 1921 and 1938 by Gabriele d'Annunzio -one of the most controversial and talented figures in Italian literature. The Vittoriale today is open to the public and inside it it's also possible to visit D'annunzio's house. Every year it attracts an average of 210.000 people.

Opening Hours: From Monday to Friday
9am - 7:30pm, Saturday and Sunday
9am-8pm



PLACES OF LITERATURE

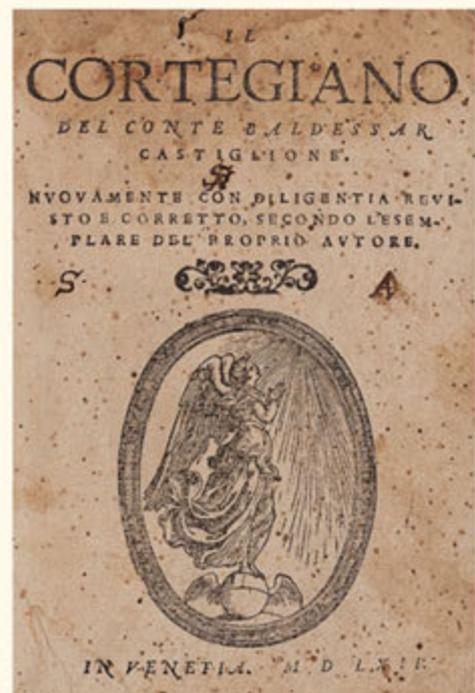
URBINO



Laid in between the soft hills of Marche, in between Tauro Valley and Foglia Valley, is located Urbino: a city incredibly rich in history and art. It's easy to get lost among the many beauties that the city offers.

Surrounded by its ancient brick walls, Urbino became the “cradle of the Renaissance” and even today it feels like breathing the XV century air.

At the court of Urbino was set “Il Cortegiano” by Baldassare Castiglione, a tractate in four books on the habits that one must have to be the perfect courtier.



PLACES OF LITERATURE

PORTO RECANATI

Among the many treasures of the region Marche, the town of Recanati has its own special place. In this town was in fact born one of the most illustrious Italian poets: Giacomo Leopardi and every corner of Recanati has a recall of the poet.

His house -now Palazzo Leopardi- is a must see. Inside it's possible to visit the library where Leopardi studied, walk through his study and see up close the poems handwritten by the poet himself.



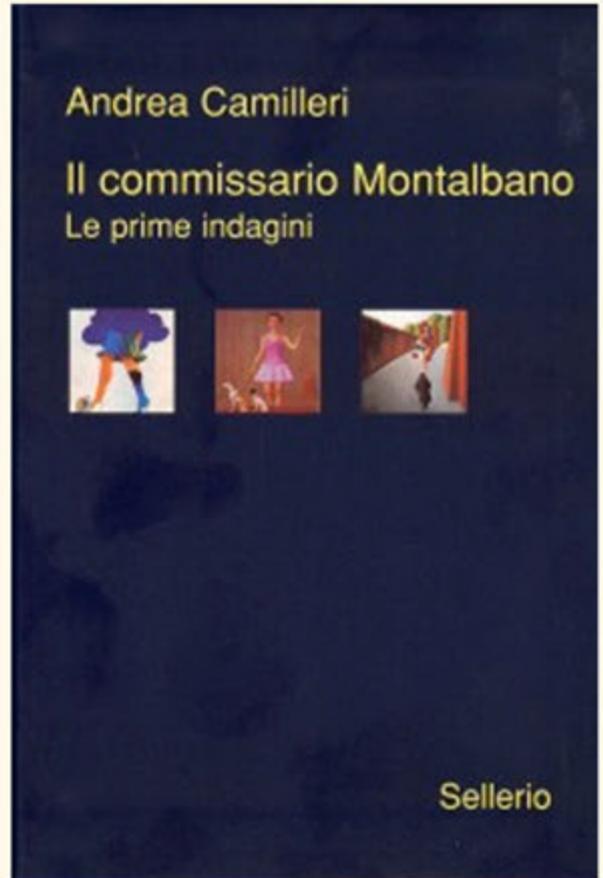
PLACES OF LITERATURE

SCALA DEI TURCHI

The Scala dei Turchi it's a rocky cliff on the coast of Realmonte, in southern sicilian province of Agrigento.

It became a popular tourist attraction because of the peculiar white colour of the cliff and its unique frm, but also because of a famous series of crime novels by Andrea Camilleri. The main character of those books, commissioner Montalbano, lives and works in the fictional city of Vigata that in reality corresponds to the one where Scala dei Turchi is.

The name “Turkish stair” comes from the use that the arab populations -commonly known as “The turks” in the past- and arab pirates used to arrive there with their boats because the place was well protected from the strong winds.



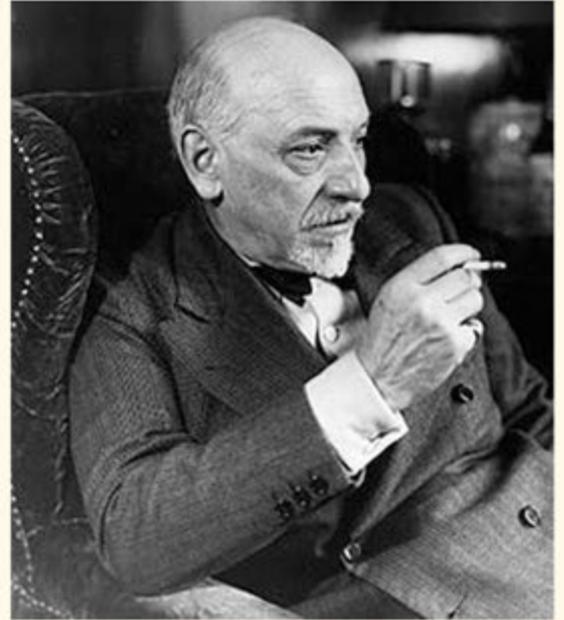
PLACES OF LITERATURE

AGRIGENTO

HOUSE MUSEUM OF LUIGI PIRANDELLO

Agrigento is the city where the famous Italian playwright Luigi Pirandello was born and raised. His home -that is now known as Caos- is located on a hill overlooking the coastline, close to Agrigento. The house was acquired by Region Sicily after WWII and it was restored and transformed into a museum. Inside its rooms it is possible to admire a vast collection of pictures, portraits, first editions of Pirandello's plays with their first posters.

Among the author's most famous works we can find "One, no one, a thousand ones" that speaks about a man -Vitangelo Moscarda- that discovers how he got so used to wear so many different masks in front of people that he doesn't recognise himself anymore. He is one, no one and a thousand ones at the same time.



Opening hours: working days 9am-7pm, Sunday and holidays 9am-1pm



PLACES OF LITERATURE

CATANIA



HOUSE MUSEUM GIOVANNI VERGA

The house museum is located in the house where Verga was born. The author is one of the most illustrious representatives of an Italian literary movement known as verismo. The house was declared a national treasure in 1940. The interior design is still the original one and it is possible to see Verga's full

library with over 2600 books leaned on six bookshelves of walnut wood.

**Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday
9am-1pm 2:30pm-6pm**

