

# NEWSLETTER

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## DID YOU KNOW THAT:

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### The Swedish Route

The Swedish itinerary of Via Querinissima is a fascinating journey through history and culture, retracing Pietro Querini's path along ancient medieval pilgrimage routes and sites associated with iconic figures such as **Saint Olav and Saint Bridget**. Indeed, It is likely that Querini followed the ancient **Österdalsleden**, a route used by pilgrims traveling between Trondheim and Vadstena, famous not only for its stunning landscapes but also for its historical significance.

In **Vadstena**, Querini and his crew found hospitality at the church founded by **Saint Bridget**, a place Querini described in his diary as extraordinary, with forty-two altars and beautifully decorated ceilings. This sanctuary, a major pilgrimage destination, became a pivotal point in their journey.

Continuing along the route, Querini reached **Stegeborg Castle in Söderköping**, where Venetian nobleman Zuanne Franco welcomed them with generous hospitality for over forty days, a kindness that Querini vividly recorded in his diary.

Today, visitors can immerse themselves in this heritage by exploring places like **Vadstena Church, the Lödöse Museum, and Linköping's Stiftsbiblioteket**, all of which showcase Sweden's medieval past and its connection to Querini's extraordinary journey.



Stegeborg Castle in Söderköping and Vadstena Church. Thanks to Rikard Åslund, from Ostergotland Region, for the photos

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## WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MEANTIME

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# European Conference on the Wine Region in Portugal

The director, **Nicoletta Martorana**, attended the **European Wine Conference in Portugal**, an important opportunity for dialogue and exchange. **Portugal represents a key stop for Via Querinissima**, both historically—Querini stayed in Lisbon—and thematically, as it highlights medieval trade routes and cultural connections through Malvasia and cod.

During the event, Portugal's eno-gastronomic heritage was celebrated as a fundamental part of its identity, symbolizing exchange and shared traditions that bridge history, cuisine, and local culture.

Furthermore, we highlighted the strong partnership between our itinerary and the **European Cultural Route Iter Vitis**, with whom we collaborate to promote culture, history, and sustainable tourism. Through exhibitions, conferences, and eno-gastronomic itineraries, we aim to explore how Malvasia played a key role in the commercial and cultural networks that continue to connect European regions today.

The conference was also a valuable occasion to reflect on ways to further enhance Portugal's eno-gastronomic heritage and create new opportunities for development, reinforcing the role of food and wine as essential elements of cultural identity and economic growth





## The maritime route to Santiago: a project by Ría de Muros Noia Association

The route from Muros to Santiago intersects with the Via Querinissima. **On September 26 1431, Pietro Querini arrived in Muros and travelled to Compostela with some members of his crew to pray to St. James.**

There are many paths and routes that lead to Santiago, but few are as captivating as the **one that follows the sea and flows into the Ría de Muros and Noia on the edge of the Rías Baixas**. This journey follows in the footsteps of thousands of pilgrims who have travelled this route to Compostela since the time of the Second Crusade, have followed this route to Compostela.

Thanks to this remarkable project by our spanish partner, **people will have the opportunity to experience the Camino de Santiago and the Via Querinissima from a truly unique perspective.**

[More info](#)

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## Discovering Pietro Querini's story with Faro De Faris, the mascot and guide of PORT EDUCATIONAL

**PORT EDUCATIONAL** is a platform created by our member, the **North Adriatic Sea Port Authority**, to give young children "virtual access" to the world of the ports of Venice and Chioggia. Using the edutainment formula, primary school children are guided to discover the professions and activities that take place in the harbours through animations, games and curiosities.

Every year, the platform is enriched with new content. **In 2025, three important figures from the lagoon's past are the protagonists of the new section "Faro's Adventures",** dedicated to the most important sailors of the port cities of Venice and Chioggia. Among them is our own **Pietro Querini**, who — alongside **Marco Polo and Giovanni Caboto** — serves as a testimony to the experiences that have enriched and characterised the relationship between the city, the sea and the people, presenting them in a simple, clear and entertaining way so that everyone can understand their meaning and importance.

[Play now](#)

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## Via Querinissima in Crete

At the **4th Pancretan Hospitality Conference** in Lasithi, our Greek partner **3win Action** presented Via Querinissima to an audience of tourism operators, institutions, and industry professionals, fostering dialogue on Pietro Querini's journey and his historical connection to Crete.



Moreover, 3win Action is developing a series of initiatives to integrate Via Querinissima into the island's cultural and tourism landscape. Through **gastronomic and walking routes**, a **cycling race from Dafnes to Heraklion**, and key events such as a **Stockfish Festival in Tylissos**, an **international symposium**, and **educational programs for schools**, the project aims to bring Querini's story to life for both the local community and visitors.



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## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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VIVIAN SMITS

We are pleased to announce Vivian Smits from Västra Götalandsregionen is a new member of our Scientific Committee.

Vivian's academic work concentrates on exploring the **intricate relationship between heritage and social sustainability**. Her research investigates how cultural heritage contributes to societal well-being and development by shaping community identity and fostering social cohesion

[More info](#)

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



## Round table on the return journey of Pietro Querini

 **February 3**

Today, February 3 at 3:30 PM, a round table will be held in hybrid format at the Veneto Regional Council headquarters to explore the **hypotheses of Pietro Querini's return journey**.

The discussion will feature **Antonio Franzina**, journalist at the Veneto Regional Council, along with Professors **Andrea Caracausi**, **Stefania Montemezzo** and **Steinar Aas**, who are also members of the VQ Scientific Committee.



ROUND TABLE

EXPLORING THE HYPOTHESES  
OF PIETRO QUERINI'S RETURN  
JOURNEY

HOSTED BY VENETO REGIONAL COUNCIL

 **MONDAY**  
FEBRUARY 3RD IN  
HYBRID FORM

 **START AT**  
3.30 PM

 PALAZZO  
FERRO-FINI  
SAN MARCO  
2322 - 30124  
VENEZIA

 SEND AN E-MAIL TO STAFF@VIAQUERINISSIMA.NET TO  
CONNECT TO THE EVENT REMOTELY

WWW.VIAQUERINISSIMA.NET

**SPEAKERS**

Professors Andrea Caracausi and  
Stefania Montemezzo, University of  
Padova

Professor Steinar Aas, Nord  
Universitet

Antonio Franzina, journalist at Veneto  
Regional Council

## Sami National Day

 **February 6**

On February 6, Norway celebrates the **Sami National Day** (*Samenes nasjonaldag*). This date was chosen to commemorate the historic Sami gathering in **Tråante** (Trondheim) on February 6–9, 1917, a pivotal moment when the Sami people first united to advocate for their rights and cultural identity.

The Sami National Day holds great significance in **Nordland**, a region deeply rooted in Sami traditions and also home to Røst, the island that welcomed Pietro Querini. Traveling along **Via Querinissima** in Nordland offers a unique opportunity to discover not only the history of Querini but also the extraordinary heritage of the Sami people.

[More info](#)

## Lecture "Pietro Querini's journey and the Via Querinissima"

 **February 12**



Our new member, the Swiss Association for Cultural and Economic Relations with Italy in Basel (ASRI), will host a **conference on Pietro Querini and the Via Querinissima Cultural Route** at the University of Basel.

The conference will be held by **Marzia Liuzza**, PhD Student at Padova University and Ca' Foscari University and member of the VQ Scientific Committee, and **Stefano Agnoletto**, Project Leader for VQ in Nordland and member of the Scientific Committee. The event will be moderated by **Filippo Pecorari**, President of ASRI. In addition, several meetings with local actors will also take place.



## CONFERENCE

Pietro Querini's journey and the Via Querinissima

Hosted by

Swiss Association for Cultural and Economic Relations with Italy - Basel

Speakers

Stefano Agnoletto, Marzia Liuzza (VQ Staff)

 Wednesday, 12th  
February at 6.15 pm

 Room 117, University of Basel,  
Petersplatz 1

 ASSOCIAZIONE SVIZZERA PER I RAPPORTI CULTURALI ED ECONOMICI CON L'ITALIA  
BASILEA  
www.asri-basilea.ch  
segreteria@asri-basilea.ch

 Via  
Querinissima  
Cultural Route

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## Winter Light Festival 2025

 **February 8-14**

We are thrilled to invite you to one of Norway's premier festivals, the **Winter Light Festival 2025**, which will be held in the enchanting town of Mo i Rana in Nordland. This festival is a magnificent celebration of light in the heart of the northern Norwegian winter, reminiscent of the same winter experienced by Querini in Røst.

Both locals and visitors will experience a spectrum of cultural expressions ranging from music and dance to theater, art, and conversations. Whether you are young or old, passionate about classical music or curious about social debate, there will be something for everyone.

The Winter Light Festival offers us a wonderful opportunity to come together, share laughter, and be moved and inspired by the beauty of light amidst the winter darkness. Don't miss out on this magical event!

More info

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## Northern Norwegian Art Museum

 **February 25**

On February 25, **Northern Norwegian Art Museum (Nordnorsk Kunstmuseum ) will open its new branch in the center of Bodø.**

Nordnorsk Kunstmuseum's foundation is the unique collection of 2,228 works by artists from the 1600s to the present day. Through the exhibition program, the museum wants to combine international relevance with a grounding in North Norwegian art history by showing relevant works from the collection.

The opening exhibition, *Everything Speaks – Stories in Motion*, has ambitions to reflect on the multiculturalism in Northern Norway and Sápmi.

Do you want to understand more about art and culture of the region which welcomed Querini? This museum is a new opportunity for you! If you are in Nordland, do not miss it!

More info

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## DON'T MISS THE LATEST NEWS

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...and don't forget to use Via Querinissima's official hashtags for your communication:

#ViaQuerinissima

#InternationalCulturalAssociation

#PietroQuerini

#Stockfish

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