ABOUT THE PLACE

Sardinia is the second largest island of the Mediterranean and has a surface area of about 24 000 km^2. Sardinia is a rugged island. Sixty-seven percent of the surface is covered by hills (100-600 m a.s.l.) and 15% by mountains (above 600 m), although the peaks are not particularly high. The mountains are mainly composed of ancient formations of granite, schists and basalt, mainly dating back to the Early Palaeozoic (300 million years), and have been subject to a long history of erosion. The highest mountains of Sardinia are in the Gennargentu Massif (P.ta la Marmora, 1834 m; Bruncu Spina, 1829 m; M. Spada, 1595 m). Other notable ranges are the Supramonte of Orgosolo (M. Corrasi, 1463 m), the M. Limbara area (P.ta Balestrieri, 1362 m), the Goceano (M. Rasu, 1259 m) and in the south (M. Linas, 1236 m; M. dei Sette Fratelli, 1023 m).

Our sea is an ancient myth: it tells of the wanderings of Ulysses, the enterprising Phoenician traders, the Roman triremes, the agile ships of the Barbary pirates, the ambitious Napoleon, the young artillery captain who failed to conquer the archipelago of La Maddalena and defeat the imposing fleet of Admiral Lord Nelson on the way to Trafalgar. But it is also a young sea, constantly being regenerated: favourable currents and winds constantly purify it, giving it the incredible hue of an emerald. After thousands of years battling with the mainland this young sea has turned out to be the winner, unmistakably modelling the coast: beaches strewn with granite sand finely ground by time alternate with ragged cliffs with fantastic shapes that inspired the English sculptor Henry Moore. Along the 80 kilometres of wildly beautiful shore in the territory of Arzachena there are many well sheltered lonely little coves, each with characteristics of its own. Though we cannot list them all we must mention the splendid sandy beaches of the Piccolo and Grande Pevero to the south-east of Porto Cervo, the famous bays of Capriccioli and, facing them, in the bay of Cala di Volpe, the long stretch of Liscia Rujas, Going back up the coast, to the north-west of Porto Cervo, we come to the clear sea of Baja Sardinia and, continuing along the other side of the Gulf of Arzachena, Mannena, Barca Bruciata - an incomparable natural swimming pool - and finally the Golfo delle Saline.

THE CONFERENCE SITE

Sardinia is an ideal site for congresses, thanks to its excellent connections via sea and air, its modern, efficient facilities, and capable operators in the sector, as well as its marvelous weather all year round and the traditional warmth and hospitality of its people. All these qualities make Sardinia an enjoyable destination for both the "classic" tourist and congress participant. Plus, its exceptional natural environment and important historical-artistic patrimony let travelers mix business with pleasure.

The considerable increase of the congress sector in Sardinia is due to the quality of its accommodation facilities (which are at the top of European standards) and the expansion of all affiliated services that vaunt excellent professional and entrepreneurial capabilities. Moreover, these facilities are located in the most important cities and intelligently distributed along the four coastal regions.
Modern and efficient, they can handle any type of congress and leave the participant with a pleasant memory of their sojourn.

Se also: http://www.sarnow.com/sardinia/

The proposed location for the forthcoming 9th ECCV: The city of Olbia
Located on the northeast coast of Sardinia, Olbia is situated at the bottom of a deep inlet. The city is home to Sardinians main harbor and tourist airport. The territory of Olbia has been inhabited starting from the VIII century b.C., but the city was founded not earlier than about VI century b.C. by the Cartagenas. The etymology of world Olbia indicates the meaning of happy town (città felice).
While in Olbia it is possible to visit the Arcipelago of "La Maddalena" (1 hour by boat), the Emerald Coast (at 15 km with the picturesque Porto Cervo), the Gennargentu Natural Park (80 km) and the old harbour of Alghero.
There are several local attraction and interests. Among them:

- The "Costa Smeralda" and its beautiful beaches, with water sports and diving facilities;
- "La Maddalena" natural park;
- Ancient Roman archeologcal site near Olbia, including the ancient roman aqueduct;
- Craftsman museums in Olbia and Porto Rotondo;
- Archeological and Ethnic museums in La Maddalena, Sassari and Ozieri;
- Several Nuragic pre-historical sites dated 5000 b.C.;
- The giant's graves (Dolmen-like archeological site);
- The petrified forest (ancient rests of dried and petrified tress of pre-historical ages);
- Romanic, Gothic and Neoclassic churches and cathedrals in Olbia and surrounding towns.
- and many more … (you may visit: http://www.museionline.it/ita/cerca/sardegna.htm and http://www.sarnow.com/sardinia/

Transportation details: how to reach the Conference site

The city of Olbia is very well connected to continental Europe thanks to two main harbours and one international airport.

The Olbia airport is connected to the main Italian hubs of Milan and Rome as well as to main European destinations such as: London, Paris, Nice, Hamburg, Stockolm, Munich and Wien.

The Olbia harbour also has many daily connections to Genova, Livorno and Civitavecchia (near Rome) with several ferry companies.

Alternatively also the Alghero airport (150 Km from Olbia) and the Porto Torres harbour (120 Km from Olbia) have many daily connections and can be easily reached from Olbia either by car or public transportation. The Alghero airport is also conveniently connected to London Stansted and Frankfurt airports with Ryanair (low cost air carrier).

Conference venue for the 9th ECCV

The conference will be held in a brand new conference center (*Melia Olbia*, opened on June 2003), just outside the city of Olbia.

The Hotel complex has been built on a slope of a hill, overlooking the gulf of Olbia and offering a special view of the silhouette of Tavolara Island. It is surrounded by wonderful gardens with abundant Mediterranean vegetation. The hotel is only 8 Km from the airport and 15 from the Il Pevero golf course. A standard 18 holes golf course is under construction within the complex and will be available in 2005.

Services and Facilities

The Meliá Olbia is a 4*superior hotel within the Geocenter residential and sporting complex.

Distributed on 3 floors, a total of 155 comfortable rooms are at your disposition in the main building, including 4 Junior Suites,1 Presidential Suite, 1 Real Suite. Other 64 rooms in borgo italiano style as well as 5 luxurious Garden Villas are located in the park. The Garden Villas offer a terrace, private garden, private swimming pool and private bathrooms. All rooms offer a fully equipped bathroom, air-conditioning, satellite TV, direct dial telephone with Internet connection, safety deposit box, mini-bar, 24-hours room service, laundry.

A buffet restaurant with Mediterranean cuisine and pizza corner is located on the ground floor, together with a nice a la carte restaurant serving typical Sardinian dishes and Spanish cuisine. Piano and lobby bar, aqua bar and barbecue are next to the pool. The hotel complements its facilities with a private parking, shuttle bus service to the beach and the airport and a Convention and Business Center.

The sporting facilities of the complex include: a tennis club, with 10 courts (6 clay + 4 grass), a swimming club with Olympic outdoor swimming pool of more than 1,000 m^2, 25 meters indoor swimming pool, indoor pool for children, water jogging and physical rehabilitation, a sports hall with 2500-4000 seats and a SPA in phytoterapy and thalassotherapy with a wide range of body treatments

The in-house Convention Center includes a large convention hall (with seats for up to 900 people, which can be split in 3 smaller sections) and also 10 smaller meeting rooms (capacity 50 to 120 people) with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment, which offer a great variety of set-ups and dimensions.

The Melia-Olbia Convention Centre

within the Geo-Center resort

Hotel complex and convention center