



# Introduction to Erice

with photos  
by Martin U. Schmidt  
3 June, 2011





Monte San Giuliano (Mount of Erice), 751 m

# Erice: A brief history

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  - Temple of Venus (Temple of love ... )



Venus fountain

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  - Town wall (8<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> century BC)
  - Temple of Venus (Temple of love ... )
- Roman (still temple of love)
- Byzantine
- Arab time (9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> century) (*Couscous*)
- Norman time (11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> century)

Venus fountain







Castle from the Norman time (12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century)





Castle from the Norman time (12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century)





Castle from the Norman time (12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century)

Tower  
Built as  
observation  
tower, 1312  
(Later: prison)



Duomo, "Chiesa Regia Matrice" (1314)





Duomo, "Chiesa Regia Madrice" (1314)



Interior (1850)

Duomo, "Chiesa Regia Madrice" (1314)





Piazza Umberto I, with Town hall





Street at night





CaCO<sub>3</sub> (marble)



$\text{CaCO}_3$  (limestone)

Traces of carriage wheels





During centuries Erice lived from:

- Churches
- Monasteries
- Pilgrims
- Agriculture



## Erice after 1945:

- Less pilgrims
- Many churches and monasteries out of use
- People moved away. Town went down





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Since 1963:

Meetings on subnuclear physics  
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Since 1974:

Courses on Crystallography organized  
by Ludovico Riva di Sanseverino





## Erice today

- Several churches and monasteries rebuilt to lecture halls, student rooms etc.
- Scientific courses round the year
- Town lives from tourism and science.
- Today about 2 000 inhabitants
- Courses on crystallography organized by Paola Spadon and her team



Paola (Last night at 0:15)





## San Rocco

- 15<sup>th</sup> century: Built as church
- 17<sup>th</sup> century: Completely rebuilt to a monastery
- Today: Centre for Scientific Culture "Ettore Majorana"





Ettore Majorana

1906 - 1938

Physicist from Sicilia  
(Theoretical nuclear physics)

Disappeared in 1938 under  
mysterious circumstances





## San Domenico

- 15<sup>th</sup> century: Church
- 19<sup>th</sup> century: Entrance (Renaissance)
- 1970: Rebuilt to a lecture hall





San Domenico (Rear)





Foto: J. v.d. Streek

View from San Domenico



San Giovanni Battista  
(first mentioned in 1339)



Foto: J. v.d. Streek

View from San Domenico



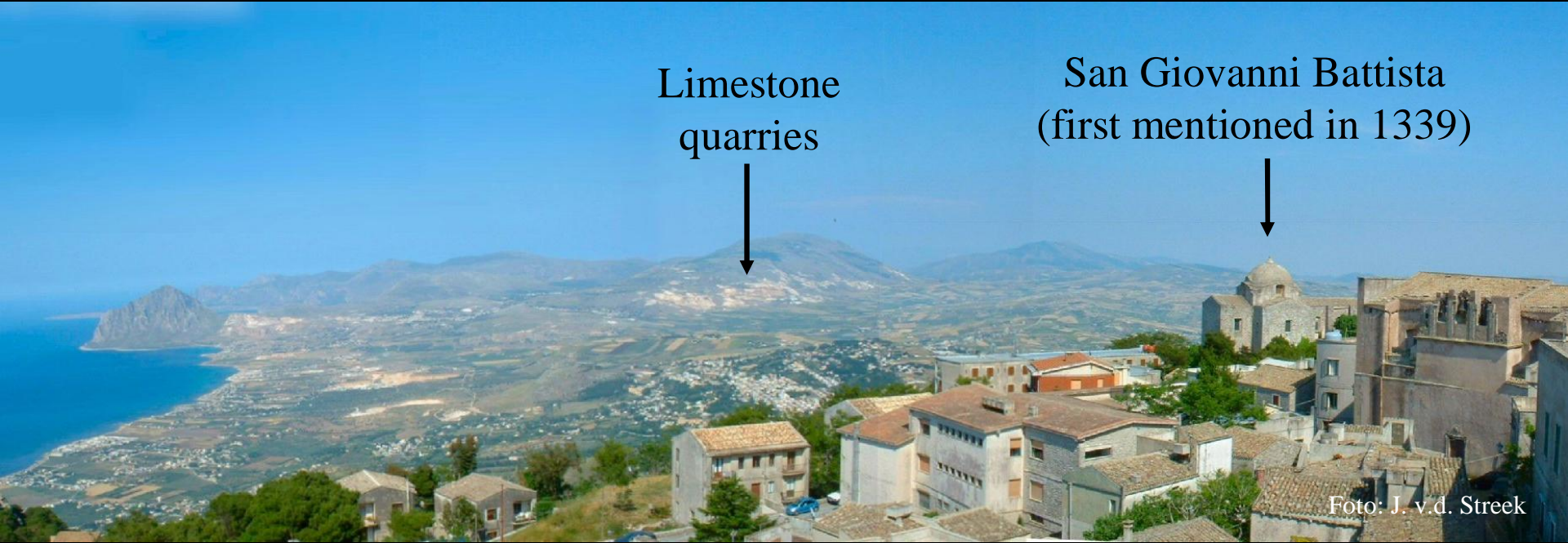


Foto: J. v.d. Streek

View from San Domenico



Monte Cofano  
(659 m)



Limestone  
quarries



San Giovanni Battista  
(first mentioned in 1339)

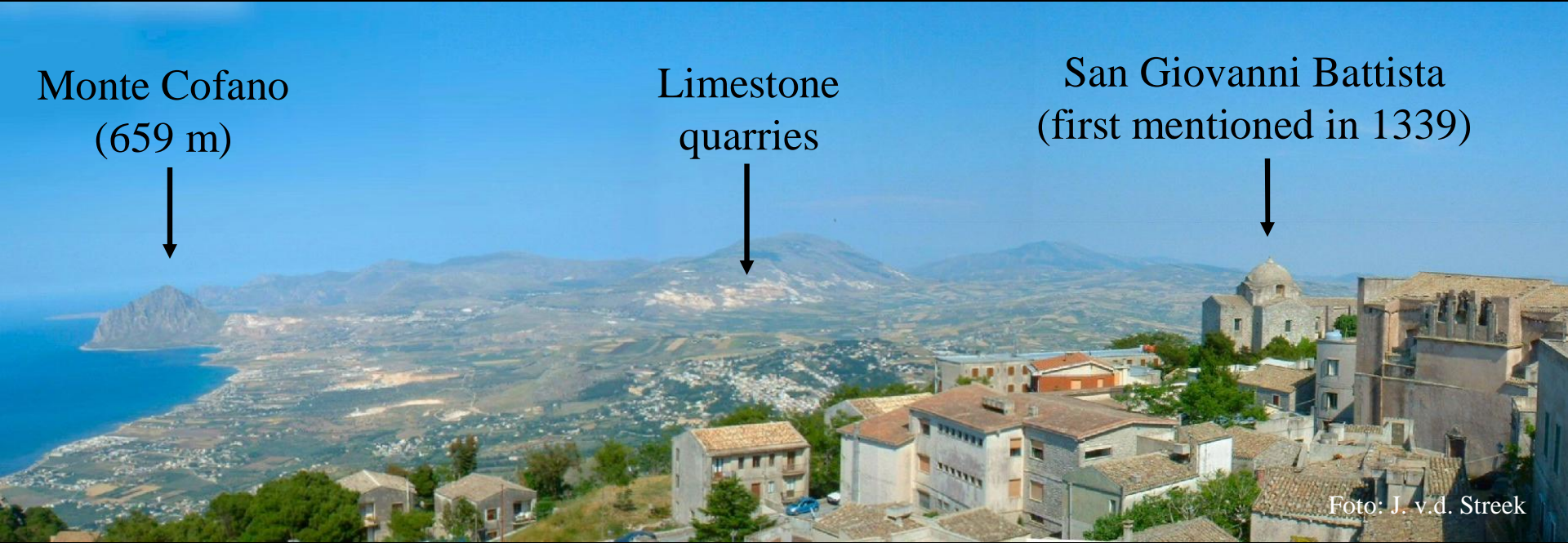


Foto: J. v.d. Streek

View from San Domenico





Monte Cofano (659 m)  
(Real photo!)





Monte Cofano (659 m)





"Spanish Quarter"  
(Built for Spanish soldiers in the 17th century)



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Weather in Erice (sometimes)





Weather in Erice (sometimes)





Weather in Erice (sometimes)



Weather in Erice (sometimes)





Weather in Erice (sometimes)





2 June, 2011





2 June, 2011





2 June, 2011





Sandstorm (1998)

Some additional romantic pictures ...

















Torretto Pepoli (Romantic castle, 19th century)





Torretto Pepoli (Romantic castle, 19th century)





Torretto Pepoli (Romantic castle, 19th century)





Trapani  
(80 000 inhabitants)



# Isole Egadi

Isola Favignana



Isola di Levanzo



Isola Marettimo



Trapani

(80 000 inhabitants)



Africa  
(theoretically)

↓ 180 km

Isole Egadi

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Salt works (Saline)





Salt works (Saline)





Salt works (Saline)  
Excursion to Mozia on Monday





Mozia (Phoenician town 6<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century b.c.)

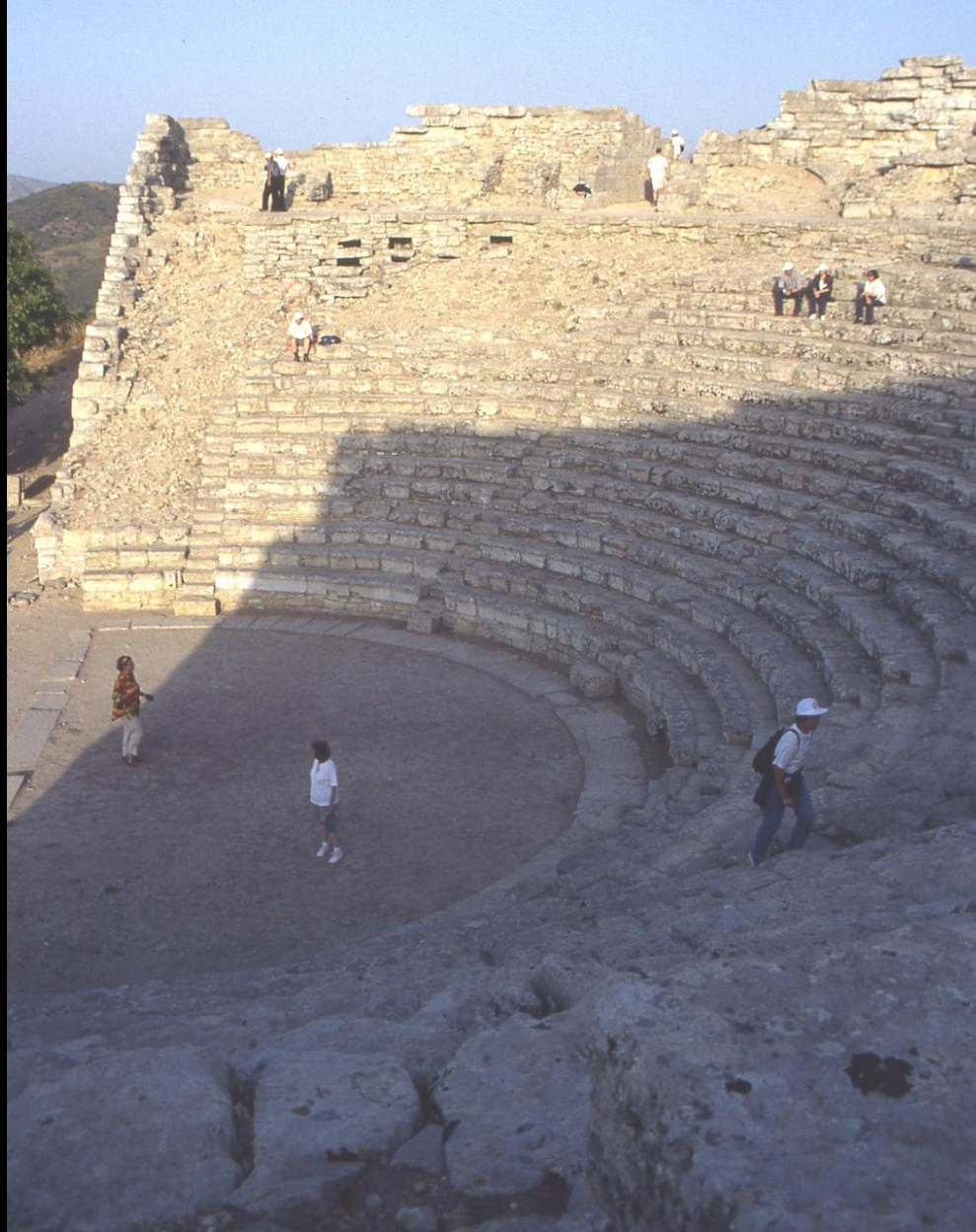




Selinunte (Big Greek town, 6<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> century b.c.)

Excursion on Thursday





Segesta (Elymic town, 6<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>h</sup> century b.c.)

Excursion on Thursday





Segesta Temple  
Excursion on Thursday

The two most important places for you:



1. San Domenico Lecture Hall



The two most important places for you:



2. Marsala Lecture Hall





## Sources of Photos:

Town wall: [fr.academic.ru/pictures/ frwiki/69/Erice\\_mura.jpg](http://fr.academic.ru/pictures/frwiki/69/Erice_mura.jpg)

Mozia: [http://www.freevax.it/ITINERARI/Sicilia/02/mothia%20\(22\).JPG](http://www.freevax.it/ITINERARI/Sicilia/02/mothia%20(22).JPG)

Saline:

[http://www.freevax.it/ITINERARI/Sicilia/02/mothia%20\(3\).JPG](http://www.freevax.it/ITINERARI/Sicilia/02/mothia%20(3).JPG)

Old painting with town wall: Painting in the town hall in Palermo.

Photo by M. Schmidt

All other photos: Martin Schmidt (1997/1998/2004/2007/2011)