



CITTÀ DI
VENARIA REALE
CITTÀ METROPOLITANA DI TORINO



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Teatro della Concordia
Venaria Reale

ENGLISH





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Speeches:

TOMMASO SERVETTO – President of the Via Maestra Foundation of Venaria Reale

PAMELA PALUMBO – Councilor for Twinning of the City of Venaria Reale

MONICA FEDERICO – Councilor for Events and Tourism, Economic and Productive Activities of the City of Venaria Reale

DOMENICO MADONIA – Deputy Mayor of the municipality of Castronovo di Sicilia

CATHERIN TROTON – Mayor of the City of Vizille

MICHAEL NEHER – Mayor of the City of Vöhringen

VASILE GHEORGHE – Deputy Mayor of the City of Sinaia

FABIO GIULIVI – Mayor of the City of Venaria Reale





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TOMMASO SERVETTO – President of the Via Maestra Foundation of Venaria Reale

On behalf of the Venaria Reale Cultural Foundation, I am pleased to welcome the guests from Vizille, Vöhringen, Sinaia, and Castronovo di Sicilia.

I would like to thank the Mayor and Councilors Palumbo and Federico for this wonderful initiative, which holds great significance in relation to the times we live in.

Celebrating the source of friendship means celebrating the festival of a fundamental value in human relationships. A friend is someone we turn to in times of need and who supports us in difficult moments, and it is with joy that we welcome your friendship, reciprocating it with sincerity.





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PAMELA PALUMBO – City of Venaria Reale Twinning Councilor

Good evening everyone, dear friends from our twin cities,

It is a great joy to welcome today the delegations from Vizille (France), Vohringen (Germany), Sinaia (Romania), Castronovo di Sicilia (Italy), and to warmly greet our friends from Kribi (Cameroon) from a distance.

Since 2022, thanks to the specific delegation for partnerships established by our Mayor—an important choice to give dignity, value, and continuity to these relationships—we have begun to implement concrete initiatives to strengthen the ties with our twin cities.

Over the years, we have had the opportunity to get to know closely the traditions, cultures, and people that make our partnerships unique. We started with the Friendship Festival held in Venaria Reale in September 2022, continued with our participation in the celebrations for the 875th anniversary of the city of Vohringen in 2023, the annual celebration of the Holy Cross in Castronovo di Sicilia, the Friendship Festival in Vizille in 2024, and all the initiatives that periodically connect our musical bands: the G. Verdi Musical Corps from Venaria and the Armonie from Vizille, the Tre Valli Choir from Venaria Reale and the La Mirandole Choir from Vizille, as well as the wonderful “Sinaia Forever” festival in Romania.

Through participation in these events, we have come to know wonderful realities and people, demonstrating that partnerships are not just symbols but living tools for cultural, educational, and social growth. They serve as bridges between people, generations, and ideas. I want to thank all the associations in Venaria Reale that are somehow connected to these partnerships and actively collaborate with the municipal administration: the G. Verdi Musical Corps, the Tre Valli Choir, the Castronovo Association dedicated to TIRRITO ing. Salvatore, and the Orthodox Parish.

I renew our commitment as a municipal administration to nurture these ties by actively involving associations, schools, and citizens.

A warm greeting once again to our friends from Kribi, with the hope of meeting in November.

Thank you all for being here. Long live friendship, long live partnerships!





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MONICA FEDERICO – Councilor for Events and Tourism, Economic and Productive Activities of the City of Venaria Reale

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Civil and Religious Authorities,
Dear citizens,

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of responsibility that I extend my personal greeting as the Tourism Councillor of the Municipality of Venaria Reale.

The Friendship Festival is much more than a simple occasion: it is a time for us to come together, to recognize ourselves as a community, and to celebrate those values that unite us and make us stronger.

Values such as inclusion, peace, culture, dialogue between generations and traditions: all essential elements for the tourist identity of our city.

Venaria Reale is not just an architectural gem; it is not only the Royal Palace, the Park, or our historical and artistic heritage. Venaria is its people: welcoming, open, and capable of conveying to visitors an authentic sense of community and belonging.

As a tourism department, we believe that tourism is not merely the movement of people, but an encounter between worlds, stories, and cultures.

Every tourist we welcome is an opportunity to build a bridge, to tell who we are through our hospitality, our traditions, and our values.

In all of this, young people play a central role: they are the guardians of tomorrow, the ambassadors of the Venaria to come. To them goes the invitation to cultivate friendship as a way of life, as a choice of peace, as an act of courage in a time that often pushes toward isolation and withdrawal.

I want to thank all the associations, volunteers, educators, cultural and tourism operators, families, and everyone whose commitment makes this festive moment possible. Collaboration between institutions and citizens is the true engine of our growth.

I conclude by wishing everyone a day full of sharing, smiles, and genuine relationships. And may the Friendship Festival, which is also part of our Autumn Festival that values local typical products such as wild boar and includes gastronomic stands from our twin cities, leave a mark in everyone's hearts and inspire our way of being citizens and welcoming the world every day.

Happy Friendship Festival to all! Long live Venaria Reale!





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DOMENICO MADONIA – Deputy Mayor of the municipality of Castronovo di Sicilia

It is a true honor to be here today, in the splendid setting of Venaria Reale. We are not just guests; we are family. The bond between Castronovo di Sicilia and Venaria Reale is not a bureaucratic agreement signed at a table, but a pact of blood and labor, cemented in the 1960s and 1970s.

When our Sicily, with all its historical and cultural riches, faced the necessity of work, thousands of our fellow citizens, our heroes of emigration, left their land. They did not do so lightly, but with the dignity and determination typical of our people. They arrived here, in the North, in this welcoming land that knew how to embrace and value them.

Today, the many Castronovesi in Venaria Reale are not just a community; they are the living proof that the values of identity, work, and family are stronger than any distance. They are the example of how one can honor their homeland while also contributing essential value to the greatness of the new homeland.

That is why the CASTLES project—promoted by Venaria, Sinaia, and Vizille—resonates with particular strength in our hearts. Castronovo is here today not just to shake hands but to carry the value of a South that wants and must become a protagonist again.

The story of our castles and villages is not merely a tale to be preserved but a launching pad for the future. We want to translate the legacy left by our fathers and mothers into concrete opportunities for our children.

We want our young people no longer to be forced to leave in search of work but instead to have the choice to stay or, if they have left, to return to invest their talent in their land.

We want the Mezzogiorno to no longer be seen as a land of problems but as a land of resources and untapped potential, the true gateway to the Mediterranean and a pillar of Italian cultural sovereignty.

This European project gives us the tools to make our historical heritage not a relic but a driver of local development and national and European pride.

The twinning with Venaria Reale is not a nostalgic sentiment; it is an operational commitment. We want to strengthen the bridge that unites us, exchange good administrative practices, and benefit from the experience and pragmatism of the North.

I warmly thank the Mayor of Venaria Reale and the present delegations for including us in this occasion. We will work side by side, with a sense of responsibility and team spirit, to demonstrate that, from Piedmont to Sicily, our Italy knows how to be united in its diversity and strong in its growth project.

Long live Venaria Reale! Long live Castronovo di Sicilia! Long live the Europe of peoples and identities!





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CATHERINE TROTON – Mayor of the City of Vizille

Dear elected friends from Venaria Reale, Vöhringen, and Sinaia,
Dear residents,

We are delighted to meet again to celebrate together this new edition of the Friendship Festival.

Friendship, that unbreakable bond that has connected our peoples for over 60 years and which is enriched at each of our meetings.

We have already happily gathered on several occasions, we have learned to know each other and discover different ways of life and cultures each time. We mutually enrich each other. Despite our differences, we realize that we share numerous human values that form the foundation of our relationship.

We are currently going through a difficult period, shaken by numerous international conflicts, at the gates of Europe and in the world. This situation makes us feel even more intensely the need to weave bonds of friendship with you to preserve peace at our level.

Next year our electoral mandates will come to an end and, for some of us, we will present ourselves again before our fellow citizens. I sincerely hope that the twinning will continue, not only through elected officials, but especially through the inhabitants themselves, because the exchanges between the residents of our beautiful cities give the twinning its full meaning.

We will thus have worked to make the twinning known and lived among our fellow citizens by associating members of our numerous associations as often as possible. I am thinking here especially of the Friends of the History of Vizille Country, the tennis club, the Harmony, to name just a few, who have already largely participated in bringing our communes closer together.

These precious exchanges between our inhabitants consolidate the bonds that unite us and thus allow the twinning to continue sustainably.

Long live friendship between our four peoples - Italian, German, Romanian, and French!





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MICHAEL NEHER – Mayor of the City of Vöhringen

Dear friends,
dear Mayor Giulivi,
dear colleagues from Venaria Reale, Vizille, and Sinaia,
ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great joy and sincere gratitude that I greet you on behalf of the city of Vöhringen and our delegation. It is an honor for us to once again be part of this wonderful exchange this year—one that unites not only our cities but, above all, our peoples.

Our meeting today in Venaria Reale is the expression of a lived European friendship. It is proof that partnerships do not exist solely on paper, but remain alive through meetings, exchanges, and shared values—even across national borders.

The beginning of our meeting with a visit to the sports facilities will certainly be not only informative but also inspiring. The awarding of the title "European City of Sport 2025" is a great recognition for the city's ongoing work in the field of sports and health. Congratulations—you truly deserve it!

The 3-V meeting is completely dedicated to solidarity. The event's program, including the inauguration ceremony of the new commemorative plaque in the garden of the partner cities, clearly demonstrates how deep our ties have become. We are happy and hopeful for the future to welcome another city, Sinaia, into this circle.

The streets of Venaria Reale—lined with stands offering regional culinary delights from the 3-V partner cities—will showcase how Europe is tasted, listened to, and lived.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our hosts in Venaria Reale for the warm organization of this weekend. You have once again proven that hospitality and warmth are at home here.

Dear friends,
it is precisely during these challenging times that it is invaluable to extend a hand, build bridges, and learn from one another. Our sister cities are a shining example of this. They show how Europe can grow in the small—through encounters, respect, and shared joy.

I wish us all a beautiful celebration, enriching conversations, and many unforgettable memories. To our friendship among Venaria Reale, Vizille, Sinaia, and Vöhringen—and to a common future in peace and friendship!

Thank you very much, and long live European friendship!





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VASILE GHEORGHE – Deputy Mayor of the City of Sinaia

Dear Mayor Fabio Giulivi,
Dear City Councilors,
Dear guests attending this event,

It is a great pleasure for us to reciprocate your visit and to be with you here, in the heart of the city of Venaria Reale, to celebrate together the Festival of Friendship – an event dedicated to unity, shared values, and cultural dialogue between our communities.

The official twinning between our cities, begun last year, marked the start of a beautiful and promising collaboration based on mutual respect and the desire to build lasting ties.

On the occasion of this year's anniversary edition of the Sinaia Forever Festival, we had the honor of receiving the delegation from your city, led by Mayor Fabio Giulivi. I hope your time in Sinaia brought you joy and made you feel at home.

The signing of the final twinning agreement on 6 September in the elegant "Baron de Marçay" hall was more than a mere official ceremony – it marked a genuine coming together of our communities, a commitment we wish to be lasting and ever deeper.

We are honored to be among you today, guests at a celebration rich in tradition that gives us the opportunity to discover the beauty, authenticity, and vibrant spirit of Venaria Reale. Its selection as a European City of Sport for 2025 is a well-deserved recognition of the local authorities' commitment to promoting a healthy, active lifestyle and of how you inspire younger generations to embrace the values of sport.

Sinaia has a special historical and cultural heritage and, since 1968, has shown a consistent openness to international cooperation, cultivating friendly relationships with communities worldwide. Today we count 14 twin towns, three of which are with Italian localities: Aosta (1968), Castelbuono (2010) and, more recently, Venaria Reale (2024). Through these twinings we have proudly promoted Sinaia's image, enhanced our cultural and tourist heritage and, above all, strengthened bonds of friendship through innovative educational programs for our youth and students.

It is a great joy to share today a truly special moment: the arrival of the first students from Sinaia to Venaria Reale to take part in the CASTLES project, a European initiative bringing together young people from Italy, France and Romania. Through this experience they will discover shared values, forge lasting friendships, and learn what it means to be an active part of a united, tolerant and free Europe.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight the special element that has contributed to the strengthening of the friendship between our cities: the generous involvement of two extraordinary ecclesiastical figures – Father Ierotei Ghica, Parish Priest of the Sinaia Monastery, and Father Valeriu Drăgănescu, Parish Priest of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Venaria Reale. Through their spiritual work and commitment to the community, they have made a significant contribution to bringing our two cities closer together, fostering trust and friendship. I express my deep gratitude and appreciation to them, and to the many Romanians residing in Venaria who preserve our values with dignity and keep alive the connection to Romanian cultural and spiritual identity.

Thank you for the invitation, for the cultural and touristic experiences offered and, not least, for the culinary delights I look forward to discovering here at the Festa d'Autunno – Sagra del Cinghiale.

With friendship and gratitude.





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FABIO GIULIVI – City Mayor of Venaria Reale

Authorities, administrative colleagues, students, teachers, citizens of Venaria Reale, dear friends of Venaria Reale, it is truly a great pleasure to welcome you this evening, on this Day of Welcome, which officially inaugurates the first stage of the European CASTLES project and which is part of our Friendship Festival, a special moment where all our twin cities reunite.

A double reason for pride, therefore: on one side the CASTLES project, which sees us as the lead city together with our European partners from Vizille (France) and Sinaia (Romania); and on the other hand, the joy of welcoming also the friends from our other twin cities: Vöhringen (Germany), Kribi (Cameroon) and Castronovo di Sicilia (Italy).

To all of you – delegations, mayors, administrators, teachers and young people – I extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you.

Your presence here testifies to the strength of a bond that goes beyond borders, languages and distances, and which continues to renew itself year after year, under the sign of collaboration and friendship.

With Castles, we truly open the doors of Europe.

A project born to create authentic connections between young people and communities from different countries, valuing what unites us: culture, education, sport and above all the European values of solidarity, participation and inclusion.

Our involved cities – Venaria Reale, Vizille and Sinaia – share not only a common history of collaboration, but also a powerful symbol: the castles that represent our identities and our roots.

The Reggia di Venaria, the Château of Vizille, the Peleş Castle in Sinaia: different places but united by the beauty, culture and desire for freedom that they embody.

In the coming days, we will live together moments of meeting, writing workshops, cultural visits, sporting activities and festive moments, in a special year for us, in which Venaria Reale is the European City of Sport 2025.

It will be an opportunity to bring together young people, families and associations, to build genuine bonds, based on mutual respect and knowledge.

And today, while celebrating the friendship between our cities and the values of Europe, we cannot forget the time we are living in.

A time in which, unfortunately, the winds of war and international tension are still blowing too strongly. But there are also beginning to be glimpses of peace.

Every encounter, every exchange, every shared smile is a small victory of coexistence over division, of respect over distrust, of dialogue over closure.

And so from Venaria Reale, from this city that believes in European values and the brotherhood between communities, we want to launch a strong message:

that peace agreements may always prevail over the winds of war,

and that the new generations – our young people – may know how to build a future founded on dialogue, solidarity and mutual respect.

I wish to thank all those who have worked with passion and commitment to make this initiative possible: the councilors, municipal offices, schools, associations and families who, as always, have opened not only the doors of their houses, but especially the doors of their hearts.

And a special thanks goes to you, girls and boys: you are the true protagonists of this project, the most living testimony of a Europe that grows, renews itself and still knows how to dream.

Friends from Vizille, Sinaia, Vöhringen, Kribi and Castronovo di Sicilia,

thank you for being here, thank you for your friendship, for your presence and for your trust.

Venaria Reale welcomes you as part of its great European and international family.

May this encounter be the beginning of new experiences, of new collaborations and, above all, of lasting friendships.

Because when people meet, respect each other and build together, peace ceases to be a utopia and becomes a daily reality.

Welcome to Venaria Reale, welcome home.

