

M. Luisa De Cristofaro

THE CONTEXT

Mountains and valleys

The San Lorenzo area is situated on the south-eastern side of the Matese massif. It extends from the south face of Mount Urbano to the hills which separate the basins of the Titerno (a tributary of the Volturno) and the Calore. It straddles the Titerno at the point where the river, after passing through the gorge at Cerreto Sannita and before entering the Faicchio gorge - into which it has been diverted by Mount Acero - has formed a fertile terraced valley.

Winds and rainfall

The big difference in altitude between Mount Urbano (1100 m) which shelters the town to the north and the hills of the Toppe (300 m) which mark the southern border of the valley creates a microclimate which is milder than that of the internal basins and valleys of the Mezzogiorno (which is a Mediterranean-type climate with continental overtones).

The predominant winds in the region are the "cusanara", a bora which blows down from the mountainous basin of Cusano Mutri, and the "vento", a south-westerly wind which comes up from the plain of Naples-Caserta.

Average temperatures are higher than normal at these altitudes and latitudes. Rainfall is lower than the average for the Telesina valley (3/4 months with temperatures below 10°C and annual precipitation of around 1000 mm).

