



- Main cities: POTENZA, Matera, Melfi, Venosa
- Historical overview: Known to the Greeks and Romans as Lucania (a name still heard today) after the Lucani tribe who lived here as far back as the 5th century BC. The Greeks also prospered here, settling along the coastline at Metapontum and Eracleia, but things started to go wrong under the Romans, when Hannibal, the ferocious Carthaginian general, rampaged through the region. In the 10th cen, the Byzantine Emperor, Basilikòs overthrew the Saracens in Sicily and the South and reintroducing Christianity. The pattern of war and overthrow continued throughout the Middle Ages as the Normans, and the Bourbons constantly tussled over its strategic location right up until the 19th cen. In the 1930s, Basilicata was used as a kind of open prison for political dissidents – most famously Carlo Levi – sent into exile to remote villages by the fascists. Basilicata autonomously declared its annexation to the **Kingdom of Italy on August 18, 1860** with the Potenza insurrection.

- Spoken languages: Italian and Lucan dialects

- Climate: it is mostly continental, Mediterranean beside de coast. Even if the region is quite small, the climate varies consistently; in fact a significant feature is that the Region is exposed to two seas.

«When you see Basilicata you see fields, vineyards, beautiful landscapes. You see the land as it should be.»
- Francis Ford Coppola



*San Giovanni Battista
Church, Matera*



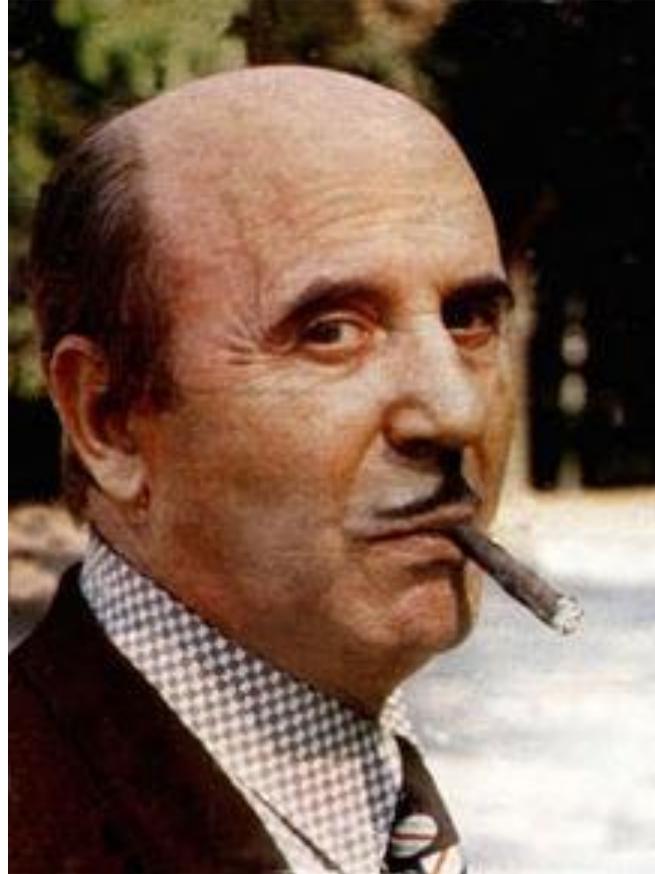
Castelmezzano



Matera



Hidden identities self-portrait, Valeria Turco



Albino Pierro was an Italian poet. He was famous for his works in Lucan dialect, and being nominated twice for the Nobel Prize for Literature (he scored second both times). He was aware that his dialects is one of those which will disappear, so he decide to impress the sounds of “*my language*” on paper through poetry.