



«(...) The place performs a miracle of peace on troubled and distracted minds; poor we may be, but here we gain our share of riches, and that is the scent of lemons.. (...)» – Eugenio Montale

- Main cities: **GENOVA**, La Spezia, Savona, Imperia
- Historical overview: Evidence of Neanderthals living in the area was discovered in the region of Loano. Between the 4th and the 10th centuries Liguria was dominated by the Byzantines, the Lombards of King Rothari and the Franks. It was also invaded by Saracen and Norman raiders. The alternation of French and Milanese dominions over Liguria went on until the first half of the 16th century. The French influence ceased in 1528, when Andrea Doria allied with the powerful king of Spain and imposed an aristocratic government, which gave the republic a relative stability for about 250 years. In 1815, the Congress of Vienna decided that Liguria should be annexed to the Kingdom of Sardinia. The Genoese uprising against the House of Savoy in **1821**, which was put down with great bloodshed, aroused the population's **national sentiments**.
- Spoken languages: Italian and **Ligurian**
- Climate: it is Mediterranean, but influenced by the mountainous morphology of the terrain.

LIGURIA – Heritage and Natural Sites

03. THE NORTH-WEST

New Year's Eve 2017 in Genova



Golfo dei poeti, Porto Venere



Mananrola, Cinque Terre



Riomaggiore, Cinque Terre





Beniscelli Alberto



Eugenio Montale was an Italian poet, prose writer, editor and translator, and recipient of the 1975 **Nobel Prize in Literature**. He is widely considered the **greatest Italian lyric poet since Giacomo Leopardi**. Montale wrote more than ten anthologies of short lyrics, a journal of poetry translation, plus several books of prose translations, two books of literary criticism, and one of fantasy prose. Alongside his imaginative work he was a constant contributor to Italy's most important newspaper, for which he wrote a huge number of articles on literature, music, and art. He also wrote a foreword to Dante's "The Divine Comedy", in which he mentions the credibility of Dante, and his insight and unbiased imagination. Montale's work, especially his first poetry collection ***Ossi di seppia*** ("Cuttlefish Bones"), which appeared in 1925, shows him as an antifascist who felt detached from contemporary life and found solace and refuge in the solitude of nature. The Mediterranean landscape of his native Liguria was a strong presence in his early poems: they gave him a sort of "personal seclusion" in the face of the depressing events around him. These poems emphasise his **personal solitude and empathy with "little" and "insignificant" things**, or with the horizon, the sea. According to Montale, nature is "rough, scanty, dazzling". In a world filled with defeat and despair, nature alone seemed to possess dignity - the same as the reader experiences in reading his poems.