



- Main cities: CAMPOBASSO, Isernia, Termoli
- Historical overview: The area was founded three centuries before the birth of Christ by the Samnites, a warrior tribe of original Italian people that ruled the Abruzzi-Molise region of Italy. The first recorded mention of the area occurs in 295 BCE, at which time it had already fallen into the hands of the Romans. Its name, Aesernia, most likely derives from the Roman word *aeser*, meaning "water." Aesernia became a key communication center between southern Italy and the inner Appennine Regions. Until 1963, it formed part of the region of *Abruzzi e Molise*, alongside the region of Abruzzo. The split, which did not become effective until 1970, makes Molise the youngest region in Italy.
- Spoken languages: Italian and Molisan dialect
- Climate: it is Mediterranean along the coastline; moving towards the center the temperatures get colder.

MOLISE – Heritage and Natural Sites

05. THE SOUTH



San Vincenzo al Volturno Abbey



Pietrabbondante Theater, Isernia



Campobasso



Fontana Fraterna, Isernia



Michele Greco da Valona (detail)

Francesco Jovine was a writer and actor, known for *Le terre del sacramento* (1970), *Signora Ava* (1975) and *Professor, My Son* (1946).

“**Le terre del Sacramento**” takes the title from the name of an ancient feud set in the center of the complex circumstance with its ancient history that is just the history of the people that lived and live between the weed and its scrubs. The author has told this history in its recent aspects, but he has recognized the signs of a secular drama; he has **tried a transposition in the time without chronological jumps**, but looking for the lost echos of a remote discourse.



The novel is developed in southern Italy, in a village and in a town placed to the borders of the Appennines; but its characters emigrate toward the big cities and over the ocean, as it always happens to the inhabitants of the province of the South. **Migrations for poverty** or to overcome the physical anxiety of the horizon. It has twenty or thirty characters of foreground and about ten characters seen in foreshortening, and movements of country and city crowds. The book is all moved, narrated without concessions, even if minimum, to descriptive or lyric abandonments.