



CAGLIARI



The administrative centre and most important town in Sardinia grew up around the old district of Castello, which stands on a hill.

The sightseeing tour of Cagliari can start from the airy terraces of this district, once the fortifications of the Pisan and Aragonese overlords; from here



wonderful views may be admired.

To reach Castello one still has to pass the old medieval gates: it maintains the appearance of an old fortified town, with its ramparts, its narrow streets and the two medieval towers of San Pancrazio and the Elephant, named after the statue of an elephant, that is well visible outside. The fine Cathedral in Pisan Romanesque style



with Gothic elements, the terrace of Saint Remy and the rampart of Santa Croce complete the charming atmosphere of the old district. In the same part of the town is the building housing the old University, founded in 1648, the Cittadella dei Musei, heart of cultural events in the town, the Siamese Museum, that house a rich collection of oriental weapons and objects and



the National Archeological Museum where many exhibits can be seen, recalling the past civilizations on the island. Notable amongst these exhibits are the bronze figures representing different aspects of life during the Nuraghe period.

There is also an interesting collection of finely engraved Carthaginian stones and gold and silver ornaments.

The lower part of the city is out of the walls; here there are the churches of San Michele, one of the most important examples of Spanish-Gothic style in Sardinia, and of Sant'Anna, rebuilt after the bombardments during the Second World War. Behind this church there is the church of Sant'Ef시오, to which the most important feast in



the city is consecrated. It takes place in May and it celebrates the end of the plague in 1656, with a procession of people wearing the traditional costumes. The Saint's statue is taken to Nora on a coach drawn by oxen.

