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Chianalea di Scilla, the little Venice of Calabria

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Overlooking the crystal-clear sea of Chianalea di Scilla, this charming village enchants visitors with houses built directly on the water and picturesque alleys. With its seafood restaurants and spectacular sunsets, it is an authentic and romantic destination on the Calabrian coast.

Overlooking the clear waters of the Strait of Messina, the village of Chianalea di Scilla stands out as one of the most evocative places along the Calabrian coast. Often referred to as the “Little Venice of the South,” this ancient fishing district has preserved its identity, defined by houses built directly on the rocks and narrow streets winding through history and tradition.
Here, time seems to slow down: fishermen’s boats gently sway just steps from the homes, while seaside restaurants serve exceptionally fresh seafood, an authentic expression of local cuisine.

The landscape, dominated by sunsets over the Strait of Messina, offers scenes of rare beauty, making Chianalea di Scilla an increasingly sought-after destination for travelers in search of authenticity. Blending culture, landscapes, and flavors, Chianalea di Scilla now stands as a symbol of the most genuine Calabria, capable of combining ancient charm with contemporary hospitality.
Not to be missed is the Castello Ruffo di Scilla, which overlooks the village with sweeping views of the Strait of Messina, occupying a strategic position since ancient times. Its origins likely date back to the Greek era, when the site was already used as a military lookout, later fortified by the Romans.

Over the centuries, the castle was expanded and renovated by various ruling powers, including the Byzantines, Normans, and Aragonese. Its current name derives from the noble Ruffo family of Calabria, who became its owners in the 15th century, transforming it into a fortified residence.
Used both as a defensive stronghold and a noble dwelling, the castle has preserved its symbolic and strategic role over time, still dominating the landscape of Scilla today with its imposing walls and millennia-old history.

Completing the experience in Chianalea di Scilla is its cuisine, an authentic expression of the sea and Calabrian tradition. Among waterfront restaurants and cozy trattorias tucked into the alleys, visitors can enjoy specialties such as grilled swordfish, pasta with the catch of the day, and rich flavors that reflect the territory. Each dish becomes a journey through the aromas of the Strait of Messina, leaving visitors with the memory of a place where beauty and taste meet in perfect harmony.

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