



# SYPHONIA 2024

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16° EURO SPELEO FORUM

## **“Syphonia 2024”, an unmissable journey into the depths of the earth chasing the water**

Tetide Aps Association and the Italian Speleological Society are warming up the engines to welcome cavers and researchers from all over Italy and Europe to “Syphonia 2024”, the International Meeting of Speleology that this year will take place from October 31st to November 3rd, and will be held in the charming town of Caselle in Pittari, Salerno, southern Italy. The town has been selected to host the prestigious 4-days event because of its stunning karst landscapes and an intriguing karst phenomenon, the sinkhole of the Bussento river, with its ‘mysterious’ and fascinating path into the depths of the earth.



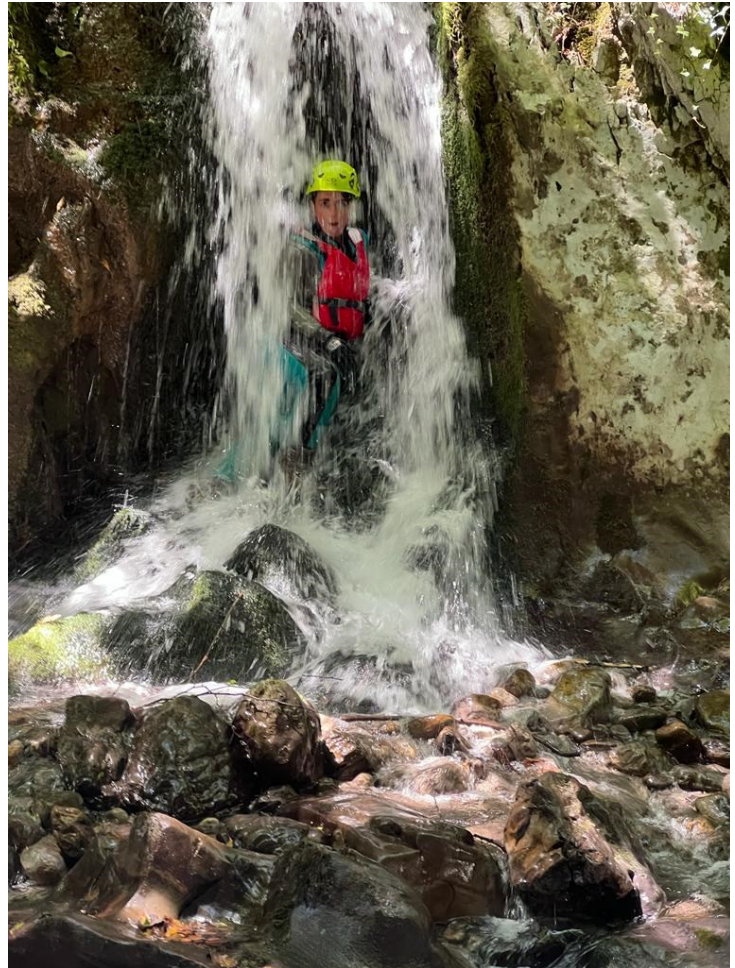
*Caselle-in-Pittari, Photo Archive Comune di Caselle in Pittari*

And for the first time, this edition of the Italian Meeting will also host the 16th **EuroSpeleo Forum** of the European Speleological Federation (FSE), promising a rich and unprecedented exchange of knowledge and experiences among participants from across Europe and beyond.

“Syphonia2024”, the name itself is a strong giveaway of the protagonists of this edition: **siphons**, such as the ones formed in the underground bits of the Bussento River, because sumps are also the epitome of the cave exploration, the blessing and the curse of every speleologist, with no exception. As Rick Stanton highlights in his autobiography *Aquanaut, a Life Beneath the surface*, presented in Italy a few years ago, “The dream of every caver is to follow the water from where it sinks in the ground to where it comes out again, at its resurgence [...] Cave divers are dry cavers who begin diving only as a way to go further in the cave; when they reach a sump, they need to dive through it to reach more dry cave”.



*Bussento Sinkhole, Picture TETIDE archives*



*Bussento River, Picture TETIDE archives*

Syphonia and a 3 words tagline: “**Water, Caves, Future**”, to foster debates and the sharing of best practices, data and perspectives on vital topics relevant to speleology and environmental protection. Workshops, conferences, and debate sessions will address the theme of **water** protection, focusing on critical issues such as microplastics, pollution, and resource management. But also, emphasis will be given on sustainable **cave** exploration and conservation, showcasing new discoveries, international expeditions, and the impact of caving activities on the environment. Everything with a look to the **future**, trying to Implement

educational programs for environmental protection and to endorse the propagation and the best use of digital speleology.

A few tips on what awaits all of us:

### **International Conference: Digital Speleology**

Thursday, October 31, 2024

A deep “dive” into digital speleology, highlighting data, technologies, and cadastres as useful tool to protect underground heritage and manage territories. Key topics include the Grotto Center Platform, Wiki Cave Experiences, and innovative cave data management approaches.



### **10th European Expedition Symposium**

Friday, November 1, 2024

In an era where satellite communication and human expansion seem to leave no corner of nature unexplored, caving expeditions highlight those vast regions - above and below the Earth's surface – that remain largely uncharted. These expeditions aim not only to explore these territories but also to disseminate widely new knowledges and discoveries. With a primary focus on meticulous documentation, caving expeditions ensure that their findings reach a broad audience, from scientific publications to international media broadcasts.

A key element for a true global speleology and cave expedition is a strong **holistic approach**, a perspective that includes elements like integrating geography, archaeology, history, anthropology, biology, and physical sciences. For this reason, the symposium will offer a comprehensive overview of multinational and multidisciplinary cooperation in speleological expeditions.

Organized by the *European Speleological Federation* (FSE) in collaboration with *Tetide* and *La Venta*, the event aims to promote the knowledge of caves through exploration. Topics will include recent expeditions, research results, best practices in expedition preps, local regulations, and environmental issues.

Participants from all corners of the globe are invited to share their experiences and contribute to the growth of the international speleology.

**Underground Visions - International Image Contest** TETIDE APS encourages the submission of digital images that creatively depict underground environments, promoting environmental education and awareness about the significance of underground ecosystems and conservation efforts worldwide.

Categories for submission include digital photographs, paintings, drawings, vector graphics, raster graphics, fractal art, pixel art, generative art, mixed media collage, and AI-generated imagery. Participants are invited to submit up to three educational images highlighting the beauty and importance of caves. Submitted images will be displayed during Syphonia, with winners determined by a public vote.

**“Bussento: yesterday, today, tomorrow”**

A round table has been organized in order to discuss the history of cave explorations, the current state, and future prospects of the Bussento River, aiming to highlight its preservation.

--- And this is just the beginning!

Join us in Caselle in Pittari to celebrate together, the wonders of the underground world and to explore the future of speleology... **God Odin**, with traditional magic speleobar nights, will be there too. Don't ask, you'll find out!

For more information, please visit: [Tetide Syphonia 2024](#).



*Chiesa-di-San-Rocco, PHOTO Archive Comune di Caselle in Pittari*

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