



COMUNE DI STERNATIA

The Griko Language



The Italian Parliament recognised the Greek community in Salento as a **distinct ethnic group** and a linguistic minority called “Grica linguistic minority of the Grico-salentino ethnic group”.





Sternatia is part of GRECIA SALENTINA, a countries association where many people speak griko

- Calimera (Kaliméra)
- Castrignano dei Greci (Kastriniána)
- Corigliano d'Otranto (Choriána)
- Martano (Martána)
- Martignano (Martiniána)
- Melpignano (Lipiniána)
- Soletto (Sulítu)
- Sternatia (Chóra)
- Zollino (Tsuddhínu)

The Municipality of Sternatia
has started a series of activities
aimed at the preservation of the
precious language tradition of
which some of the local people
are repositories:
the **GRIKO LANGUAGE.**

A	B	Γ	Δ
E	Z	H	Θ
I	K	Λ	M
N	Ξ	Ο	Π
P	Σ	T	Υ
Φ	X	Ψ	Ω



The aims are:



- to widen the knowledge of Griko, by reaching parts of the population which were once excluded;
- to pass this tradition on to the new generations;
- to avoid its extinction.



Sternatia gives great importance to traditional heritage represented by Griko music, songs and poetry, organizing artistic events.



Being an oral tradition, the only possibility for the Griko culture to survive relies on the action of all those who want to transcribe it in writing.



GRIKO

Ùmme

Denghie

Kalime`ra

Kalini`fta

Stasu kalo` (to a male), Stasu kali`
(to a female), Stasi`te(sta) kali` (to a
group)

Haristo`

Prakalo`

As kalo`

Kalombra`i

Kalo`s i`rte (to a male), Kali`irte (to
a female), Kalo`s i`rtate (or Kalo`s
i`rtato) (to a group)

Atteporna` (or Arteporna`)

Artevvra`i

Tuni'fta

ENGLISH

Yes

No

Good Morning

Good Night

Good Bye

Thank You

Please

Best Wishes

Good Evening

Welcome

This Morning

This Evening

Last Night

La mia felicità

Nel sereno roseo mattino
il sole possente
splendido
ascende lento
e il placido mare
di fulgide stelle
accende.

Esulta il cuore mio
nella corsa veloce
sulla rotta di sfolgoranti stelle
che la mia veloce barca
nel mare profondo
spegne.

Stelle sul mare
la mia felicità?

In alto,
lontano e nel cuore,
il sole!

I màli charàmmu

'S t'òrrio pornò àspro-rodinò
o mèan ìjo
poddhì kama spittarizzi,
's tin anghèra satìa satìa nnènni
ce e quèta tàlassa
ze astèria 'gomònni
ka lamparizzune ze àspri
lumèra.

Cherète e kardiamu
ce trèchonta 'pài
pànu i stra' z'àstèria cha
lustrèune
ka i bàrchamu fèonta
'kàu 's ti tàlassa
'sbìnni.

Astèria mmes to nnerò
e màli charàmmu?

Pànu,
làrga ce 's ti kardìa'
on ìjo!

My happiness

In the quiet rosy morning
the powerful
splendid sun
slowly rises
and lights
the unruffled sea
With twinkling stars.

My heart rejoices
In the fast race
In the wake of sparkling
stars
Which my fast boat
In the deep sea
Extinguishes.

Stars above the sea,
My happiness?

Above,
Far-away yet in my heart,
The Sun!

Ernesto Aprile has written a number of folk plays and poems in Griko published
in Italian and Greek magazines and texts.

Thank you!

