

I CAVALIERI DELLA LAGUNA

THE KNIGHTS OF THE LAGOON



The story of a fishing community that has had to draw on the past and reinvent itself in order to survive.

A human, poetic journey inside the Orbetello lagoon fishing community, using the fishermen's stories to explore a new way of fishing, a philosophy of food production that cares about quality, the environment and people. A story of tradition and technology, humans and nature, passion and conflicts. A story of the demands that have pushed the members of the community to reinvent themselves as entrepreneurs, drawing on the skills passed down from their fathers and their grandfathers. The logic of small businesses like this one might seem anachronistic in a globalized economy based on astronomical turnovers, but in fact it offers the only way forward.

The intention behind this film is inspired by the desire to bring visibility to eco-compatible production and economic models with a low environmental impact. After this unprecedented economic crisis, the world of tomorrow must be different, and I believe it is essential to contribute to promoting new socio-economic models that are perfectly integrated with our society and the environment in which we live.

The film shows the everyday life and productivity of this community, which has joined together in a cooperative, setting up a shop, a workshop for processing the fish, a restaurant where they serve the day's catch, a fishing tourism service and an environmental improvement programme for the lagoon.



Along the way we meet the fishermen, memorable personalities like Maurizio the Latin lover, nicknamed "Il Ricciolone", the curly-haired; Sergio, "Il Topo", the mouse, a former bouncer and the boss of the crew; Francesco the multiplier of fish, known to all as Jesus; Gabriele, the good-looking one; Marco, the isolationist one; Franco, the oldest, known as the "Il Lupo", the wolf; and Alfredo, "El Loco". Characters who can make us chuckle or make us melancholy, gruff men who know how to laugh at themselves and their situation, who tell their stories frankly, in all their individual contradictions. Heroes suspended between the destiny of a disappearing world and the romantic, stubborn desire not to give up, to keep alive their story, which for many of them is also the story of their families, of their fathers and grandfathers. Through the stories of their lives we get to know this seemingly simple but deeply complex place, with iron rules dictated by a very delicate ecosystem.