


# Elastic Metamaterials: from theory to applications

## Alghero Summer School, May 22-29 2016

**Social roundtrip - Wednesday 25 May 2016 (Bus at 14.00 from Piazzale della Pace)**

**Visit to the archaeological area of the city of Porto Torres**

The guided tour will target the archaeological area of the city of Porto Torres on the northwest coast of Sardinia. The contemporary urban center is the result of a long history that began with the foundation of the *Colonia Iulia Turris Libisonis* in the mid-first century B.C. by Julius Caesar or by Octavian. In the Middle Ages the city became the capital of the Giudicato di Torres one of the four autonomous kingdoms in which was divided Sardinia.

The visit will start by the Roman bridge, built in the Julio-Claudian age, was the gateway to the vast and fertile plain of Nurra. With it's seven arches on the Rio Mannu River and 135 m long is the longest roman bridge in Sardinia. The original flooring characterized by large slabs of trachyte, covered later with asphalt was in operation and busy, even by heavy vehicles, until the sixties.

The visit will continue with the Terme Centrali otherwise called the palace of Re Barbaro a thermal public complex built in the III century A. D. on top of a magnificent aristocratic residence, richly decorated with frescoes and mosaics, many of which are still preserved in good condition. The most important is the famous mosaic of Orpheus, in which the domus was entitled.

It will be possible to visit in the same area the Terme Pallottino and the Terme Matzke named by the archaeologists who discovered them, the Domus of mosaics and other important buildings of the roman town. The visit will finish in the local museum where are exposed numerous finds coming from the archaeological excavation carried out in town.

**Visit to the Sella & Mosca farm**

In 1899 excavation work commenced on the I Piani zone, characterised by a thick layer of sandstone, in addition to trachyte and limestone, which prevented drainage of the soil. Several thousand rocks of various sizes were removed one by one by machinery that was extremely advanced for the time. Today this truly Herculean feat is commemorated by the large sandstone rocks that have been used for landscaping on the estate, giving it a truly unique look. A large overhead bridge built using just a few hundred of these huge rocks stands in the middle of the property. Looking down from it, it is possible to appreciate the

scale of the estate and the way it respects several natural areas that continue to exist side by side with the vineyards.

Over a century has passed since two adventurous Piedmontese men started to drain the land that is now occupied by over 541 hectares of Sella&Mosca vineyards. This very promising area with its enchanting landscape was the setting for the fortunate encounter of these two adventurous men, who were fascinated by the virgin terrain: the engineer Sella, nephew of the famous statesman Quintino Sella, and the lawyer Mosca.These are the origins of Sella&Mosca, which at the turn of the twentieth century transformed pastureland into fertile vineyards, commencing the most prestigious wine production in Sardinia. Today visitors to the charming estate relive this pioneering atmosphere in a continuous kaleidoscope of fragrances, perfumes and aromas that express the character of the powerful, sunny land and greatly contribute to the unmistakable personality of its wines. Respect for the place and the culture of wine, and closeness to the land and its traditions are the rules handed down by the founders, which have always inspired all Sella&Mosca's work and determined its success.
The founders of Sella&Mosca were keen amateur Egyptologists and great travellers. Their logo depicts a wine-pressing scene inspired by the Ancient Egyptian Kingdom. It is believed to be a stylised reproduction of a scene shown on a low relief in the mastaba of Mereruka, Vizier of King Teti, at Saqqara. The relief depicts five men using long poles to press the grapes contained in a sack, so that the juice filters through the fabric and falls into the jar below.

The Sella&Mosca estate is also home to an interesting museum, divided into two sections. The first is dedicated to the company's history and offers an intriguing historical look at the winery's pioneering activities at the turn of the twentieth century, illustrated in photographs and with vintage winemaking equipment. The second provides an archaeological insight into the Anghelu Ruju prehistoric necropolis, and its people and culture, discovered in 1903 on the Sella&Mosca estate.