

## FINANCIAL TIMES

EUROPE | SATURDAY JULY 2/SUNDAY JULY 3 2005

W1 WEEKEND

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## HOUSE AND HOME

Emily Badus explores a 1,000-year old Italian settlement re-colonised for the 21st century

**T**he village on a rocky hillside in southern Italy is a ruin. It is a ruin in the way that the ruins of ancient Rome are. The village was built in the 10th century and it has been abandoned since the 14th century. The ruins are a testament to the fact that the village was built in a place that was not meant to be there. It was built in a place that was not meant to be there. It was built in a place that was not meant to be there.

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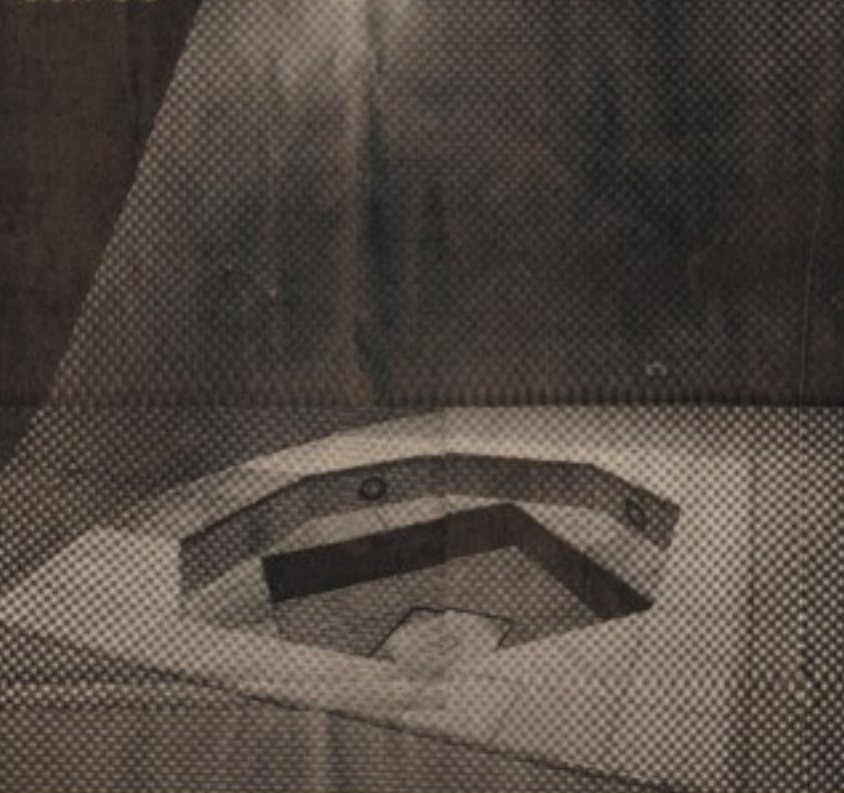
To the elderly who lived in the Sassi until the 1950s, the area represented an informal youth spirit wedged into dark, airless dwellings.

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## Living well in prehistoric caves



Archaeologists have transformed one of the original Sassi into a Turkish bath.

Laurenza explains. Malesi explained enough about the Sassi to help the team to develop a thriving tourist economy around the ruins. Daily life was a mix of the old and the new. The ruins were used as a museum. The ruins were used as a museum. The ruins were used as a museum.

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When the gipetto's former residents came to visit, they were so amazed by the transformation (into a hotel area) that they wept.

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