

## THE CARNIVAL OF MAMOIADA

The Carnival of Mamoiada is one of the most ancient and folkloristic popular feasts in Sardinia. This is a modest and poor Carnival, if poverty is interpreted as the lack of papier-mâché sophisticated floats or other modern costumes, but is one of the most evocative and original. The entire population flocks to the town square to dance the traditional dances *Passu torrau* and *Sartiu* to the sound of the accordion for long hours, tirelessly. Every year, more and more foreign visitors and tourists come from every part of the world to attend this special event where everything is authentic and genuine.

They mainly find accommodation in the families from Mamoiada or in some lodges.

Men and women wearing the **traditional Sardinian costume parade**, dance and offer local desserts to people.

The main attraction of this Carnival is the parade of the *Mamuthones and Issohadores*, who catch the attention of everyone. The Mamuthones and Issohadores are the symbol of this Carnival. With their pace and rhythmic “music” they draw and involve the crowd. They are the real owners of this Carnival: they proceed as they want without interrupting the grace of their movements, of the dance.



great dance in the square (1977)



mamuthones e issohadores

“Without Mamuthones and Issohadores there’s no Carnival” the inhabitants of Mamoiada say. In his book *Miele amaro* (bitter honey), Salvatore Cambosu writes: “If you want a Carnival that is unique in the entire world, go and visit Mamoiada, where it starts on Saint Anthony’s day. - and harking back to the interpretation of the wooden-masked Mamuthones as exploited sheep, the writer continues - There, you will see the herd with wooden masks, the mute and imprisoned herd, the losing old and the winning young. It’s a sad Carnival, an “Ash Carnival”, it’s our every-day story, it is joy soaked in gall and vinegar, it’s bitter honey”.



Archivio Peppino Corbula



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Representation of Juvanne Martis Sero

Another symbol of the Carnival of Mamoiada is Juvanne Martis. It's another typical mask, which is positioned on a small cart and surrounded by a restricted group of "relatives", who mourn its death on the Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday, the last Carnival day. The Monday is usually children's Carnival: their parade begins in the kindergarten and elementary school's yards, continues in the streets of the village and ends in Santa Croce square, where the children often stage some performances. The same day, the small Mamuthoneddos and Issohadoreddos - the children dressed up as the Mamuthones and Issohadores - parade, with the same genuine participation and accuracy of the "big" ones.

To conclude these three days of dances and parades, the people in the square are offered a typical dish of broad beans cooked with lard and pork meat and washed down with exquisite and renowned local wine.



Typical sweets (1978)



The arrival in the square of antique wagons with the costumes (1973)



(1973)



carnival performances (1977)





Children with the typical gown



Small mamuthones e issohadores







Juvanne Martis Sero



Carnival 1977







1978



2005 "



(1973)

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