

Scordia



(Zip Code 95048) is 167 Km. distant from Agrigento, 138 Km. from Caltanissetta, 38 Km. from Catania, which is the province it belongs to, 118 Km. from Enna, 134 Km. from Messina, 280 Km. from Palermo, 72 Km. from Ragusa, 62 Km. from Siracusa, 340 Km. from Trapani.

The municipality counts 17.068 inhabitants, its surface measures 2.426 hectares, and its population density counts 704 inhabitants per square kilometre. It

rises over an internal hilly area, 150 meters above the sea-level.

Renown for the florid production of citrus plantations (especially oranges), Scordia also produces olives, cereals, fruit, grapes, and almonds. Cattle breeding, as well as sheep and goat farms, are flourishing.

Scordia was founded by Prince Antonio Branciforte in 1628, and its name derives from the Greek term ***Skordia***, that means "garlic". The town rose above the estate of the Palace erected by the Prince, and in the nineteenth century, it grew because of subsequent phases of urban expansion.



The most relevant monuments are the *Chiesa Madre* dedicated to the Patron (San Rocco), the *Chiesa di Sant'Antonio di Padova* with the annexed Convent of the *Padri Riformati*, the *Palazzo Branciforti*, and the *Chiesa di Santa Maria Maggiore* preserving a table dating back to 1589 that is an artwork of Vincenzo Valdassi (XVI-th century).



A very interesting place is the so called "*Grotta del Drago*". It rises near Scordia in the same place where once a creek flowed, whose waters carved the surrounding tuff rocks.

Among the town's most noteworthy citizens, there is the botanist Gaetano Ruggeri (1904-1965), which was the Director of Acireale's *Stazione di Agrumicoltura di Acireale* (Citrus Agricultur Station) for a long time.

