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SPOTS IN LO STAGNONE
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN

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SPOT PROKITE ALBY RONDINA, LO STAGNONE, SICILY

I am sure you already heard of upcoming spot Lo Stagnone in the west side of Sicily, known for its perfect wind conditions and unbeatable vast flat and shallow lagoon. But did you know that the spot offers more than what can be seen on the first si-

ght from the beach? Depending on different wind directions there are many wonderful and unique spots if one ventures a bit further into lagoon. Here is our pick of 5 favorite ones, brought to you by local kite center ProKite Alby Rondina.

A kite surfer in a black wetsuit is captured mid-air, performing a trick above a stone wall. The surfer is holding a kiteboard with a blue and brown pattern. The background shows a clear blue sky with some clouds and a body of water with a white wake. The stone wall is made of large, rectangular blocks.

SALINA WALL AT ISOLA GRANDE (NORTH-WEST, WEST WIND)

On the top of our favorite spots list there is without any doubt the salina wall on the west side of the lagoon, next to Isola Grande. While it takes some effort to arrive there, the reward is unbeatable flat water, created by old salina wall with no obstruction upwind, so the wind is very steady. Water is extremely flat and deep enough to pull out the tricks, but it is advised to take caution because in any unfortunate

event of accident or equipment damage you are quite far from the beach. Best to always travel there together with few friends and support each other. Best conditions to get and kite there are north-west wind, since it is easier to kite upwind there and wind is 90 degrees to salina wall, so you can cruise along its flat water. We used the spot to shoot 2017 Cabrinha kites with James and Alby earlier this year.

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ISOLA LA SCUOLA**(ANY DIRECTION, EASIEST TO GET WITH NORTH-WEST WIND)**

This is not really a “spot” in a common sense, more like a sight to visit during your kite session. On the south-west part of the lagoon lies a very small and charming island called La Scuola, it contains a very small marina and few ruins of the houses. While the purpose of the houses remains a mystery for us,

since there is literally nothing to do on the island, it is a very interesting and beautiful place to see. The downwind side of the island has also a small part of flat water that you can use for takeoff your tricks, but beware couple of rocks that are around the island.



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**SALINA WALL AT SAN THEODORO
(NORTH WIND)**

This place is where magic happens. Seriously, if you want to experience one in a lifetime mirror flat water conditions, you have to visit the north side of the lagoon during north-wind. Water gets shallower and sea grass touches the water level, creating really mirror water, you can kite on! It may look like it is

hard to kite there, but the opposite is the truth! It is super easy to ride upwind and experience cruising the butter flat water, it is sheer pleasure. We advise to take short or no fins, and if your kite crashes, first stand up and shake the sea grass from the lines prior to relaunch. Have fun!



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**SAN THEODORO
(NORTH WIND, SOUTH WIND)**

San Theodoro is a popular beach for tourists because of its azure Caribbean looking water and white sand on the beach. It is not easy to kite there and there is also no place to start / land the kites, so the best way is to kite upwind from the lagoon and cross the channel on foot. Water and surrounding

are really beautiful so it is definitely worth a trip. When the south wind is prevailing, Salinas on Isola Grande creates perfect flat water on the sea side of the spot. But you have to take care not to be drifted on the open sea!





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ISOLA SANTA MARIA (NORTH WIND, SOUTH WIND)

While the kite spot in front of the kite school can get pretty crowded during windy days, very few kitesurfers venture behind the island of Santa Maria. It is surprisingly a very easy trip with any wind direction (cross it from the upwind side) and on the other side you can find perfect conditions, empty space and beautiful nature. We shot pictures and video of slider project with James Boulding at this spot,

since we were not interrupted by random kitesurfers. Also a memorable experience is to make a round around the island, but plan it during the day of stronger wind, so you can rely on the fact that it will not die on you. Also keep your distance from the island when you will pass it from the downwind side, since wind is down close to it and you may end up with your kite in the water.



ABOUT LO STAGNONE



Nearest airport: Trapani Birgi (5 minutes from spot). Also Palermo International which is the main airport of Sicily, 100km away.

Nearest port: Palermo, ferry from Genova every day, which takes 19 hours and cabins available, a good way to get there from mainland Europe if you want to drive. But also from Livorno, Civitavecchia or Napoli there are daily ferries.

Kite School: ProKite Alby Rondina, kite lessons, kite storage, SUPs, hotel accommodation, bikes. It has the latest Cabrinha kite gear also to test and rent. www.prokitealbyrondina.com

Food: Pizzeria's are easy to find and most of them are better than anything you'll find outside Italy. Fior di Sale, 5 minutes from the beach is a solid option. Fish market every morning in Marsala, excellent fresh fish and local produce. I guarantee you will not find better tomatoes anywhere in the world, the local vegetables are astonishingly good and you'll want to hit up the daily local markets in Marsala or Sarò (5 minutes from the beach) if you are self-catering.

Wine: Cantina Birgi, the local winery, offers a variety of local wines. Pump service is available where you just bring a plastic container and they fill it up

just like at the fuel station. Our daily tippie was the local Syrah costing €1.20 per litre. Syrahs are very popular there but I highly recommend the Nero D'avola wines, a red wine from local grapes only grown in Sicily that is slightly sweeter than the Syrah.

Nightlife: Trapani at the weekend has a vibrant nightlife with many locals eating and drinking out, remember don't go out too early, the Italians like to eat late then start the party later! Marsala also gets very busy at the weekends and offers some great places to eat and drink until the early hours.