

## Sestri Levante – Santa Cruz’ Italian Sister City (*sorella citta’ italiana*)



*View of Sestri Levante in Liguria (from bbpiazzaitalia.it)*

**Sestri Levante** (from the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce website:)

Sestri Levante is a town in Liguria, Italy. Lying on the Mediterranean Sea, it is approximately 56 kilometers south of Genoa. While Portofino and the Cinque Terre are probably the most well-known tourist destinations on the Italian Riviera, Sestri Levante is becoming quite a favorite among Italians. This once quiet fishing village is slowly turning into a tourist hotspot, developing an old and a new town.

Located halfway between Genoa and La Spezia, Sestri Levante has two bays: Baia del Favole, which means Bay of Fables, and Baia del Silenzio, which means Bay of Silence. Baia del Favole was named in honor of Hans Christian Andersen, a Danish writer, who lived in Sestri Levante for a short time in 1835. Every year, the Sister Cities Committee enters local writers from Santa Cruz into the annual Hans Christian Andersen Fables contest held in Sestri Levante.

**History of Sestri Levante** (from Wikipedia)

Sestri Levante has its origins as an ancient maritime and merchant center. Originally a small island with a promontory, it was later connected to the mainland. In Roman times, it was known as Segesta Tigullorum (or Tigulliorum) or simply Segesta. It was mentioned in the year 909 in a certificate of a man named Berengario, in which part of its territory was ceded to the basilica di San Giovanni di Pavia; after it was invaded by the Barbarians. During the Middle Ages, Sestri Levante began to expand, probably giving the fortress appearance that is due to the terrain.

In 1133, the noble family of Lavagna, the Fieschi, attacked Tigullio, the gulf in which Sestri Levante is located, however, they were fought off by the powerful Republic of Genoa, and therefore, Sestri Levante became a part of the republic, for military protection. In the year 1145, the abbey of San Colombano was acquired by the Genoese, and was transformed later into a castle.

In 1170, Sestri Levante was attacked by a naval flotilla from Pisa, but was able to withstand the attack.

Sestri Levante is mentioned by Dante Alighieri (as "Siestri") in Canto 19 of The Divine Comedy.

## Santa Cruz Sister Cities *(from the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce website:)*

The U.S. Sister City program began in 1956 from a proposal by President Eisenhower. A sister city is a long-term based relationship between two cities from different countries which is officially approved by the local city councils. This relationship becomes official with a signing ceremony by the top-elected officials of the two local cities. A sister city partnership promotes cultural and commercial ties. Santa Cruz has five sister cities: Alushta, Ukraine; Jinotepe, Nicaragua; Puerto la Cruz, Venezuela; Sestri Levante, Italy; and Shingu, Japan.

For more information on Sestri Levante, check out:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sestri\\_Levante](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sestri_Levante)

For more information on Santa Cruz' other Sister Cities, check out:

[http://www.santacruzchamber.org/cwt/external/wcpages/facts/sister\\_cities.aspx](http://www.santacruzchamber.org/cwt/external/wcpages/facts/sister_cities.aspx)



*(Images from: recipiesandramblings.com, vacances-location.net, and teleradiopace.tv)*