

FEATURE

'Prison island' birthplace of EU reborn as think-tank venue



Ventotene seen from twin isle Santo Stefano (Photo: Silvia Marchetti)

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This year marks the 80th anniversary of the [Ventotene Manifesto](#), the European Union's building block. Celebrations have kicked-off on two small twin islands off the coast of Rome which are considered the 'cradle' of Europe - and are pushing for greater integration.

This month, tourists enjoyed watching a team of pro-Europeans swim three miles from Cala Nave beach on Ventotene island all the way to the spooky abandoned prison isle of Santo Stefano, rising across the choppy waters, to commemorate the birth of the manifesto and European values.