



# CHRISTMAS

## PUCIOASA, ROMANIA

### 2011

# WHO?

*US, School no 4. „Elena Donici Cantacuzino” having in its structure School no 3., from Pucioasa.*



# WHERE?

**Country:** Romania

**County:** Dambovită

**Town:** Pucioasa

Pucioasa is a small town in Dambovită County, part of the Walachian region of Romania. In the past it was called the Hills, but as soon as the spas, and thermal waters started to develop, it was named Pucioasa (Sulphur spas). Many of these spas with sulphur and iodine are in Pucioasa Village, a small village outside of Pucioasa.

<b>Pucioasa</b>	
— Oraș —	
Pucioasa Poziția geografică	
Coordonate: <a href="#">Coordonate:</a>  <a href="#">45°4'27"N 25°26'3"E45.07417, 25.4341745°4'27"N 25°26'3"E45.07417, 25.43417</a>	
Țară	 <a href="#">România</a>
Județ	<a href="#">Dâmbovită</a>
Atestare documentară	<a href="#">1649</a>
<a href="#">Suprafață</a>	
- Total	42,59 <a href="#">km²</a>
<a href="#">Altitudine</a>	350 <a href="#">m.d.m.</a>
Populație (2002)	
- Total	15.263 locuitori
- <a href="#">Densitate</a>	366 loc./km²
Cod poștal	135400

**Pucioasa** has a population of more than 15.263 people and the economy is mainly based on tourism. Pucioasa is situated in the middle of Iolomita valley, 20 km from Targoviste. Pucioasa is situated in the Carpathians Hills whose height exceeds 600 metres and is 100 meters above sea level. Thus Pucioasa is located in the central hilly area of Dambovita County, 81km away from the South limit and 42 km away from the North limit of the Carpathians. It is 100 km away from both Bucharest and Brasov.

To the North, it is bordered by Motaieni, Fieni, and Bezdead, while to the south it is bordered by the villages of Branesti, Laculete, to the east of Pucioasa are the villages of Varfuri, Valea Lunga and Glodeni and finally to the west is the village Vulcana Bai.



# THE LANDSCAPE

The Ialomita river has formed three cliffs, lying in a north-south direction, which older generations have called „the bridges’ The central cliff was populated first, the lower cliff has become a recreation ground for exploring stones and water and also is used to cultivate the land. This area is also known as Ialomita meadow.

The cliff at the highest level of the river is now a populated area. In the past it was an area with trees, orchards and grass land. The factories, schools, churches, workshops, and public institutions are situated on the central cliff. The length of the central cliff is 4 km and the width measures between 300 and 700 km. It starts where The Ialomita river is crossed by the railway station until the confluence of The Bizdidel and Ialomita rivers. There are high peaks with heights between 500-700 metres: these include Zapoaie, Brezeanca and Maldareanca peaks.





# **PUCIOASA A BALNEOCLIMATIC RESORT**

*Beginning with the 19th century, spas were discovered in the town. The government declared the town a national balneoclimateric health resort which has special equipment of both local and national interest. The health resort became famous all over Romania and has developed a profile in the healing of rheumatic affections, inflammatory issues, and degenerated post-traumatic problems of the hands and legs. The spas in Pucioasa are also recommended for:*

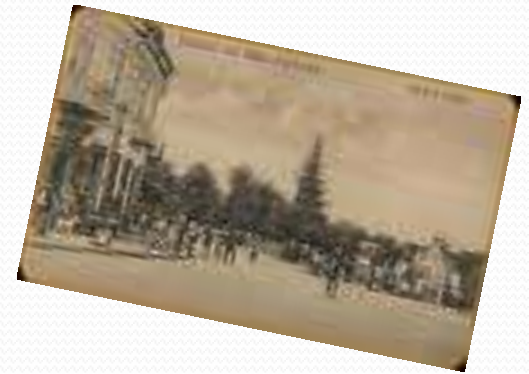
- neurologic peripheral affections;*
- The affections of the central nervous system;*
- gynaecological problems;*
- respiratory problems;*
- ear, throat and nose problems;*



*CITIES THAT PUCIOASA HAS  
ESTABLISHED A CLOSE  
FRIENDSHIP WITH*

-  [Cartaxo](#)
-  [Alcazar](#)
-  [Vadul lui Voda](#)
-  [Jonava](#) |

*In the springtime of 1940 there were many landslides on the slope of the Spatarelu Hill because of the plaster's exploitation. Many cement factories wanted to take plaster from this area which led to many landslides, the rainy years also contributed to the many landslides. All of these factors affected the scenery of the town. In 1975 they decided to build a dam to protect the area from the water of The Ialomita river.*



# HISTORY

*Pucioasa* was certificated in 1760 as a result of the combined settings of Serbanesti, Podurile de Jos and Podurile de Sus along with the village of Zarofoaia. In 1971 the place was located on a Austrian map and in 1835 on a Russian map. Starting with 1828 Pucioasa started to develop as a Health resort, with the name Pucioasa (Sulphur) because of the rich sulphur waters.





# WHEN?

*In 2011-CHRISTMAS TIME*

*ROMANIAN WINTER HOLIDAYS TRADITIONS*

*IGNAT - We celebrate Ignat on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December. The name comes from Saint Ignat Teofanul, of the Christian Orthodox Calendar. It is said that Ignat was a poor peasant who, by mistake, killed his father with an axe when he wanted to cut the pig. God forgave him because he was sorry and he was suffering greatly. That's why on Ignat day the only thing that you are allowed to do is to cut the pig. It is also said that before being cut the pig dreams about his death. People make a cross on the children's forehead with the pig's blood and they will be healthy all year long. After they finish all the work, they have a special kind of food traditionally called „the pig's pity” which is fried, chopped pork.*



# CHRISTMAS EVE-24<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER

*It is said that Christmas Eve appears as Santa's brother an old kind man who was a shepherd.*

*Christmas eve begins with a carol „Good morning for old Santa's brother” -Buna dimineata la Mos Ajun! The houses are decorated beautifully and receive carollers who are rewarded with sweets, pretzels, fruit or even money! It is better if people offer food in the name of the deceased, but also as a sign of wealth because this is the time for presents. It is also said that miser people who don't receive carollers will be punished.*



# CHRISTMAS IN ROMANIA IN OUR TOWN

*The Saint Holiday of Jesus Birth is connected to The Santa's Winter Solstice Cult and also to the Romanian traditions about the „Winner Sun” and „Saturnali”. Due to the fact that the shortest day of the year is at the end of December the Sun must be helped through magic things to avoid death. Here there are some Christian elements about Father Christmas, the shepherd. He doesn't want to let Mary give birth to her child in his home. Secretly his wife helps Mary give birth to Jesus. Father Christmas punishes his wife by cutting her hands. Mary performs a miracle and puts Mrs. Christmas' hands back, which leads Father Christmas to believe in God. He is now happy because his wife is healthy. Father Christmas lit a fire, which they then started to dance around. After the dance, Father Christmas gives presents to the Virgin Mary and her child. This leads to the Saint Father Christmas who brings presents to children on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, the day when Jesus Christ was born.*



*It is also thought that many Romanian scientists said that the word Christmas comes from the Latin word “cratio-onis” which means birth. The Christmas holiday combines many traditions. The most important element of Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ, which can be heard through the Holy Romanian Carols like, “Steaua” and “Irozii”. Christmas also means the beginning of a new Roman year. The traditions have much symbolization, for example, they wish for the best and also for people to be protected from the evil forces.*





From Christmas until Boboteaza children go carolling with a star. This is an old tradition which can be seen among the Christian people. They use a star to announce the birth of Jesus and to represent the star that helped the three wise men to find Jesus.

The children start carolling on Christmas Eve, because they symbolize both moral and physical purity. Females are not allowed to carol on Christmas Day, only men are. The carollers go from house to house to wish people only the best. While carolling they use sticks, bells, whips to make a noise which is believed to scare away the evil presences. There are also some games using masks: goats, bears and horses. When they put on these costumes, they must take the bells with them because they want to drive off the evil forces. On Christmas day, people eat fruits, fish, sweets, croissants, other pastries and of course they drink. It is also said, that on Christmas day you should eat nuts and eggs because they represent a new generation. Christmas in Romania lasts from the 25<sup>th</sup> of December until Boboteaza, a special ceremony of blessing which the priest performs in January. From this point onward starts the rebirth of nature.



# ROMANIAN CAROLS

## STEAUA

Steaua sus răsare  
Ca o taină mare  
Steaua strălucește  
Și lumii vestește  
Și lumii vestește

Că astăzi Curata  
Preanevinovata  
Fecioara Maria  
Naște pe Mesia  
Naște pe Mesia

Magii cum zăriră  
Steaua și porniră  
Mergând după rază  
Pe Hristos să-l vază  
Pe Hristos să-l vază

Și dacă porniră  
Îndată-L găsiră  
La Dânsul intrară  
Și se închinară  
Și se închinară

Cu daruri gătite  
Lui Hristos menite  
Luând fiecare  
Bucurie mare  
Bucurie mare

Care bucurie  
Și aici să fie  
De la tinerețe  
Pân-la bătrânețe  
Pân-la bătrânețe

## DOMN, DOMN SĂ-NĂLȚĂM

Am plecat să colindăm  
Domn, Domn să-nălțăm  
Când boierii nu-s acasă  
Domn, Domn să-nălțăm

Și-au plecat la vânatoare  
Domn, Domn să-nălțăm  
Să vâneze caprioare  
Domn, Domn să-nălțăm

Caprioare n-au vânat  
Domn, Domn să-nălțăm  
Și-au vânat un iepuraș  
Domn, Domn să-nălțăm

Să facă din blana lui  
Domn, Domn să-nălțăm  
Veșmânt frumos Domnului.  
Domn, Domn să-nălțăm

## SORCOVA

Sorcova,  
Vesela  
Să trăiți,  
Să-mbătrâniți:  
Ca un măr,  
Ca un par,  
Ca un fir de  
trandafir.  
Tare ca piatra,  
Iute ca săgeata;  
Tare ca fierul,  
Iute ca oțelul. La  
Anul și La mulți  
Ani!...

## PLUGUȘORUL

Aho, aho, ho-ho,  
Mâine anul se-noiește  
Plugușorul se pornește  
Și începe a brăzda,  
Pe la case a ura.

Iarna-i grea, omătu-i  
mare,  
Semne bune anul are,  
Semne bune de belșug,  
Pentru brazda de sub plug.

Doamne binecuvântează,  
Casa care o urează  
Plugușor cu patru boi,  
Plugușor mânat de noi.

Sus pe cer că strălucește,  
O stea mare ce vestește  
Că se curmă de acum  
Al nevoilor greu drum;

Asta-i steaua românească  
A unirii  
Și-a-nfrățirii

# ROMANIAN TRADITIONAL FOOD

## SARMALE-STUFFED CABBAGE

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 KILO OF CHOPPED PORK MIXED WITH VEAL
- 100 GRAMS OF RICE
- 2 ONIONS
- SOME TOMATOES SAUCE/BISK
- PEPPER
- SALT
- CABBAGE LEAVES

*First you fry the onion with some oil ,then you add the rice some pepper, a little salt and a few leaves of bay laurel. Mix it with a spoon ,add some water or some wine and the pork meat.*

*Put the mixture on the cabbage leaves and roll it. You have to roll it well so the mixture won't fall off. They must be put in a big dish and boiled on a stove or cooker. They must be covered with water and some tomatoes sauce on top of them. They must be served with polenta and Romanian plum Brandy.*

