



# The return of the deer

**Directed by:** G. Tartagni, G. Mammolotti, A. D'Onofrio

**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica

**Duration:** 30'

**Versions:** 

**Format:** 16 mm

The project to reintroduce deer on the Majella mountains in Italy, begun four years ago, represents a typical example of wild-life management.

Behind this initiative by forest rangers is the project of zoologist, Luigi Boitani, to help wolf survive. Italy's largest carnivorous animal is now reduced to only a few examples dispersed throughout the Apennine mountains. Its survival depends on reconstruction of a suitable environment for its survival, including the presence of deer which are its chief source of food. "Wild Side Of Europe" 's cameras followed the various phases of the operation, from breeding the deer in enclosures, to their liberation on the peaks of Majella. Finally masters of their new environment, the male deer gather their harem of females around them and the mating season begins. The "Wild Side Of Europe" troupe's greatest achievement was in photographing the real protagonist of our story, the wolf, which has never been filmed in the wild in Europe. In these primitive, inaccessible mountains, the wolf has found its ideal refuge. The encounter was very exciting.

At the end of World War II, deer were almost extinct in Italy. The last specimens lived in the remote Alps near Switzerland and Austria. They are now returning after intelligent planning.

