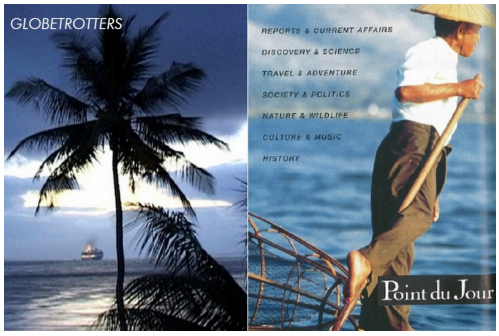


ITALY: THE VITERBO MACHOS

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Just a few miles north of Rome, the people of the town of Viterbo have a peculiar custom. Each year in September, a hundred of the town's strongest men are chosen to accomplish together a difficult task that could be qualified as titanic. They do it to honour their madonna because they are eternally indebted to her: she miraculously saved the people of Viterbo from heavy defeat in the 13th century. Ever since, the men want to prove that they are big and strong enough to accomplish a miracle as well.

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