



# The Castle of Bastia

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LICCIANA

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**Location:** The castle is located on a hill in the Taverone valley, in the municipality of Licciana Nardi, province of Massa.

**Type of castle:** Castle, fortress and fortified residence.

**Construction period:** The construction of the castle's ancient core could date back to the 13th century.

**First appearance in historical sources:** The castle was part of the territories that Francesco d'Olivola pawned in 1294 and in 1307 in favour of the Marquis of Villafranca.

**Strategic role:** The castle overlooks the village of Licciana Nardi, in a strategic position to control the road towards the pass of Lagastrello and the road between Fivizzano and Bagnone.

**Further use:** The military and political functions of the castle ended. Nowadays the castle is used as a residence.











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**Current condition:** The site is well preserved.

**Viewing:** The castle is a private property and can be visited upon request calling 0187/474199.

**History:** The castle of Bastia passed from the Marquis of Olivola to the Malaspina di Villafranca between the 13th and the 14th centuries, until it was conquered by the Genoese in the 15th century, in order to avenge the murder of the provicar of Genoa and La Spezia committed by the Marquis of Villafranca. During the war between Florence and Milan, in the 15th century, the castle was used by the Florentine as headquarter to avoid the incursions of Milan in Lunigiana. As well as other territories, in the 16th century Bastia was owned by the marquis of Monti Giovanni Spinetta, who transformed the castle's figure. After the death of Giovanni Spinetta in 1535, Bastia became an independent fief. The first marquis was Fioramonte II, whose dynasty lasted until 1781, when the fief returned to the marquis of Ponte Bosio. During the last two centuries, there have not been relevant events. The behaviour of the Marquis caused popular uprising and dissatisfaction.

**Structure:** The trapezoidal structure is equipped with four cylindrical corner towers. In the middle of the defensive walls stands another pre-existing tower. The walls date back to the 15th and 16th centuries –when guns developed – and it looks more like a fortress than as a castle. The construction period of the central tower is uncertain due to the superimposition of different restorations, which confused the original structure.