



The Castle of Bigliolo

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Location: it is located on top of a hill on the left bank of the Arcinasso creek, a tributary of the Aulella creek.

Type of castle: Fortified enclosure with residences.

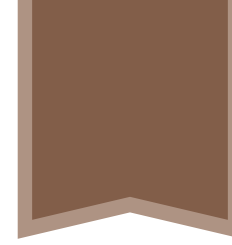
Construction period: 12th century.

First appearance in historical sources: From the 12th century, the castle of the Bigliolo family was mentioned in some documents. The area was named after that family, as shows a parchment of 1181 where the two brothers "de Biliaulo" were mentioned.

Strategic role: The castle of Bigliolo was used as a fortress by the bishop to control the centre of Lunigiana.

Further use: Even if it was in state of decadence from the 16th century, the castle ended its function after the abolishment of imperial fiefs.





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Current condition: Ruins.

Viewing: No.

History: After its first mention in the sources in the 12th century, the castle of Bigliolo acquired great importance also during the following century due to the battles between the Malaspina and the Bishops of Luni. It remained an episcopal residence until the half of the 13th century, when it became a property of the Malaspina di Filattiera. In 1275 it was owned by Francesco Malaspina di Olivola.

When in 1411 the Marquis of Olivola extinguished, Bigliolo passed to the fief of Fosdinovo and then back to the new marquisate of Olivola in 1510 until the abolishment of imperial fiefs.

Structure: The ruins of the castle show several restoration works along the centuries. The fortress was surrounded by 260m long defensive walls, surrounding an area of 2500mq with houses inhabited until the end of the First World War.

The walls were equipped with circular fortified towers. One of these towers is still intact in its height. Among the structures we can still see nowadays there is the formwork, which represented the main defensive core.