



# The Castle of Bolano

## BOLANO

**Location:** The castle is located in the village of Bolano, on a hill close to the confluence of the Rivers Vara and Magra, whose watershed was crossed by paths used by shepherds. The location is in the middle of the plain between Lunigiana and the Apennine, where nowadays you can find the path of the Alta Via Dei Monti Liguri.

**Type of castle:** Castle and fortress.

**Construction period:** The castle's existence is certified from the 12th century.

**First appearance in historical sources:** Bolano is mentioned for the first time in the Codice Pelavicino document of 1076, where there is a mention of the curis de Bolano as property of the Bishop of Luni.

**Strategic role:** The castle had an important strategic role because of its position at the confluence of the rivers Vara and Magra, guarding the nearby paths and controlling the local village.

**Further use:** The castle was destroyed in the 18th century, when it was already a ruin.









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**Current condition:** There are few remains of the castle of the Malaspina.

**Viewing:** The ruins are within the Park of the Castle of Bolano, and it is an important architectural and archaeological site. It does not fulfil the usual safety requirements, and , so visitors can access the area at their own risk, and they must pay attention.

**History:** The castle already existed in the Middle Ages, with a structure that was strengthened with triangular defensive walls in 1273, thanks to Enrico da Fucecchio, the Bishop of Luni. These works improved the military and defensive functions of the fortress, which acquired great importance. In 1280 it was conquered by the Malaspina, but the following year it was reassigned to the Bishop of Luni. The peace was signed in 1306 by Malaspina and the bishop. The bishop renounced his power over Lunigiana and confirmed the rule of the marquis over the area.

The power of the Malaspina was never accepted by the inhabitants of Bolano, who often revolted against their lords. Finally the fief was assigned to the imperial vicar Gian Galeazzo Visconti at the end of the 14th century.

In 1408 the inhabitants supported the French and so indirectly the Republic of Genoa. Between the 14th and the 15th centuries, the rules of Genoa and of the Malaspina alternated

until 1561, when the Banco di San Giorgio assigned it definitively to Genoa, so that 20 years later = rights over the fief were acquired by the Malaspina.

**Structure:** There are few remains of the castle: a round fortified tower and a Romanesque capital. We know from the sources that in the 13th century the castle was surrounded by triangular defensive walls and equipped with three entrance doors. There is no evidence of the chapel mentioned in the sources.