



Castle of Castiglione del Terziere

BAGNONE

Location: The castle of Castiglione del Terziere is located on top of a hill overlooking the Magra valley and the village below – which developed along the ridge – in the municipality of Bagnone.

Type of castle: Fortified residence.

Construction period: 13th century.

First appearance in historical sources: In 1275, after the division of the Malaspina goods in the Filattiera fief, it was named Castilione Corbellariorum.

Strategic role: Control of the Magra valley and residence.

Further use: When, in the 1960's, the castle and the village were about to become ruins, Loris Jacopo Bonomi – pharmacologist and poet of Lunigiana – restored the area and turned both the castle and the village into a cultural centre.





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Current condition: The restoration of the village and of the castle, which lasted for more than 10 years (1969-1973), was not only architectural, but also “ideological and spiritual”: he furnished the castle and created an important library, an historical archive, a painting collection and a school for music philology and vocal polyphony.

In the upper village some “monumental” houses have been restored because of their historical value. Many others are being restored now. Inside the castle, there are the “Niccolò V” Centre for Humanistic Studies, and the Public Chair of Philology and Vocal Polyphony of Castiglione del Terziere.

The library consists of manuscripts and books written by local authors, from the 15th century until the present day.

Viewing: www.castellodicastiglionedelterziere.it

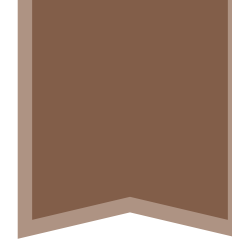
History: Source: www.castellodicastiglionedelterziere.it

The origins of the castle of Castiglione del Terziere date back to the early Middle Ages, as confirmed by remains of the walls which suggest a dating prior to the 11th century. It was once called Castiglione dei Corbellari, from the name of the Lords who ruled the Virgoletta territory, known as Verrucula Corbellariorum. Castiglione became “del Terziere” or “del Tertiero” in 1275, as it was included in the third part (in italian terza parte) of the Filattiera

fief belonging to the Malaspina family. From 1321, the “castrum et fortilitium” (i.e., the village and the castle) were for some years the headquarters of the Military Staff of the Imperial Vicar Castruccio Castracani degli Antelminelli.

In 1351, Castiglione del Terziere became an independent fief and its first Marquis, Franceschino Malaspina, known as “the Soldier”, was an important character with multiple several offices: Captain of War for the Florentine Republic, Podestà of Milan, and Viscount of Luni. The Malaspina di Castiglione del Terziere dynasty ended after 100 years, and after long negotiations Castiglione del Terziere passed under Florentine rule for over 300 years. In fact, in 1451 the Delegation of the Florentine Republic and the Court of Justice were installed in the castle. In 1477, after the “dedication” of Fivizzano to Florence, the Florentine enclave of Lunigiana appeared, a wide territory which extended from the Apennines to Caprigliola, Albiano and Stadano, and which included Vinca. Hundreds of magistrates lived in Castiglione del Terziere for 300 years, and nowadays some of those buildings are still named Casa dei Capitani, Casa del Bargello, and Casa dei Cancellieri. The state of negligence of the castle dates back to the second half of the 18th century, when the Captaincy of Justice was transferred to Bagnone. The construction of the new church dates back to this period as well, as the ancient one was no longer usable due to its neglected state. In 1753 it was sold to Felice Borghesi.

Jacopo Bonomi started the restoration which will save the castle.



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Structure: The village and the castle are protected by defensive walls; on the southern side there is a large semi-circular tower, and on the eastern side there is a quadrangular tower. The core of the castle is an elegant, quadrangular building, decorated with mullioned and three-mullioned windows. The building includes the remains of a more ancient structure. The architectural style can be admired in other manors of Lunigiana, and derives from ancient residences inside the towers.

In the 15th century, the palace and the defensive walls were enlarged.

Notes: Sometimes we wonder about the meaning of our life: it is not easy to find an answer. Every one of us – in his own way – tries to find one. Loris Jacopo Bononi decided to dedicate his life to the (re)construction of a Dream.

Castiglione del Terziere was one of the many neglected Italian Village/Castles on a charming site, and, because it was far distant from “modern” life, would have become an unregarded ruin if the Professor hadn’t had the insane and stubborn idea of reconstructing it and turning it into a treasure chest of memories.

Literary, historical and artistic memories, to give dignity to the inhabitants of Luni.

Source: www.castellodicastiglionedelterziere.it