



Castle of Comano

COMANO

Location: The castle is located on the top of a hill, around 600m above sea level, in the heart of the Teverone Valley.

Type of castle: Castle

Construction period: The origins of the castle date back to the 9th century, as the early medieval rural court needed protection. The currently visible tower dates back to the 12th century, while the defensive walls were built during the 15th century.

First appearance in historical sources: In 884, Adalbert I of Tuscany gave the Feud of Comano to the monastery of Aulla. This quote is followed by another document, in which King Hugh in 937 offered his future wife Bertha the court of Comano with 60 mansi.

Strategic role: The castle had an important strategic function thanks to its position at the borders with Emilia-Romagna and Tuscany and thanks to the great economic value of its agricultural centre.





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Current condition: Ruins. The entrance door and the tower have recently been restored.

Viewing: It can be visited.

History: During the Middle Ages, the area was under the rule of the Estensi and then of the Malaspina. In 1164 the emperor assigned a quarter of Comano to Obizzo Malaspina, and in 1220 Frederick II confirmed his investiture to Corrado and Opizone. In the 13th century it was part of the Filatteria feud, and after its partition in 1275 it became part of the Olivola feud. The presence of the Dallo family, vassals of the Malaspina, is mentioned in papers of that period in the area around Comano. Spinetta Malaspina the Great was compelled to intervene because of a fratricide in the 14th century, and he took advantage from this circumstance by adding Comano to the Verrucola feud. In the 15th century, Comano became part of the Florentine Republic, along with the other territories of the Verrucola feud.

Structure: The castle consists of a big circular tower and is enclosed by wide defensive walls equipped with fortified towers. The tower was built using a typical 13th century technique, while the walls could date to the 15th century. On the northern side of the defensive walls, they built a palace in post-medieval age, which currently is a ruin. The fortalice, which previously had mainly military functions, surmounted by an impressive circular tower of the same type as those of Treschietto, Melgrate and Bagnone, confirms the participation of Comano in the defensive project organised by the Malaspina. The tower's structure is surrounded by wide trapezoidal defensive walls, equipped with fortified towers and just one entrance door pointing upstream. Within the fortified enclosure there are ruins of a palace and other structures of uncertain origin. The top of the tower has no battlements, but some stone brackets which supported the structure can still be seen today.