



Castle of Levanto

LEVANTO

Location: The castle is located in the southern part of the historic centre of Levanto, on the coastal ridge of the Mesco promontory. It is enclosed by Genoese defensive walls dating from the 13th century.

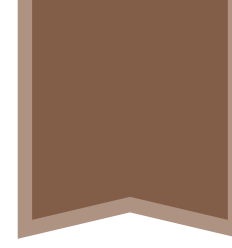
Type of castle: Polygonal fortified walls with a semi-circular great tower.

Construction period: The first defensive structure dates back to the 12th century, when the Da Passano - lords of Levanto – had to fortify the area quickly to prevent being conquered by the Republic of Genoa. The existing castle is a reconstruction dating back to the 15th century.

First appearance in historical sources: Some historical sources state that there was evidence of the existence of this defensive fortress as early as in 1165, i.e. under the rule of the Malaspina on those territories. Around the 13th century, one document paper certified its existence under the name of “castello di Monale”, or Monale’s castle.

Strategic role: This fortress was designed to guard the access routes from the coast and from mule tracks descending from the promontory of Mesco.





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Further use: It has not been in public ownership since the second half of the 19th century. Nowadays it is for residential use.

Current condition: Restored between the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

Viewing: It is not possible to visit the castle, as it is a private property.

History: The existing building dates back to the domination of the Republic of Genoa, i.e. to the second half of the 15th century. It could be a reconstruction on the same site as a pre-existing medieval castle. With the birth of the Captaincy of Levanto in 1637, it became the captain's temporary office. It was later used as a prison until the fall of the Genoese Republic, which followed the Napoleonic invasion of 1797.

Structure: The structure is composed of walls disposed in the shape of a quadrilateral and a circular tower. There is a protruding walkway decorated with Ghibelline battlements and supported by brick arches; the remaining decorations consist mainly of Guelph battlements. In the southern and eastern area, there are some embrasures which were created during the Genoese reconstruction.

Among the decorations there are two slate bas-reliefs, which represent the Annunciation – 15th century – and Saint George with the dragon – 16th century –.

Popular tradition states that in the basement there were several underground passages which supposedly led to the beach and to the church of Santissima Annunziata.