



The Castle of Monterosso

MONTEROSSO

Location: The castle dropping sheer to the sea overlooks the ancient part of Monterosso. The building is located at the top of San Cristoforo hill, in the middle between the new village of Fegina and the ancient one of Monterosso.

Type of castle: Circular towers with enclosures, with large defensive walls around the perimeter with Ghibelline battlements facing the sea, the remains of which are the quadrangular fortified tower of Fegina and the village's tower, which is now the belfry of the San Giovanni Battista church.

Construction period: The circular towers and the village's tower date back to the 14th century, whereas the fortified tower on the Fegina cliff was built in the 15th century.

First appearance in historical sources: The first writings about Monterosso date back to the 11th century. A paper of 1056 mentions loco Monte Russo among the territories that Guido degli Obertenghi assigned to the monastery of San Venerio del Tino.

Strategic role: Defensive and control of attacks by pirates and Saracens.





The Castle of Monterosso

MONTEROSSO

Further use: In the 19th century, a part of the castle became a graveyard.

Current condition: The remains of the ancient fortress have been restored. The area is almost entirely occupied by the municipal graveyard.

Viewing: Inside the graveyard are the ruins of the defensive walls with battlements and three angular circular towers.

History: The area was a feud of the Obertenghi and then of the Lagneto, but was soon conquered by the Genoese Republic, who allowed construction of the towers, bastion and defensive walls.

The defensive Aurora tower was built in the 16th century, while other elements were probably added before the 18th century.

In the 16th century, Monterosso was surrounded by 13 towers. After 1000AD, when the danger of Saracen attacks had diminished, the slow but continuous villagers' emigration began from the villages located on the hills to the new ones prospering close to the coast, such as Albaredo and Monterosso.