



# The Castle of Panicale

LICCIANA NARDI

**Location:** The castle of Panicale is located in a hilly area north of Licciana Nardi, close to the historic centre along the road leading to Bagnone.

**Type of castle:** Fortified village.

**Construction period:** 11th century.

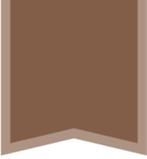
**First appearance in historical sources:** The first reference to the Castrum was when it was donated by the Emperor Arrigo IV to the Estensi in 1077.

**Strategic role:** Residential castle and fortified village.

**Further use:** The village is inhabited. The Medici Palace is still inhabited by descendants of the family.

**Current condition:** The village's medieval core is still intact: it has an entrance door leading to the palace's Marquis square, preceded by the church of San Biagio. Remains of the castle, which is nowadays a ruin, are documented in the tower-house.





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**Viewing:** The village can be visited, while the Medici Palace is a private property.

**History:** Panicale is the site where an ancient residential castle stood, of which only the tower-house and the fortified village remain.

It was built as a residence and the walls surrounding the built-up area had a defensive role. The village was assigned to the Estensi by Emperor Arrigo IV in 1077. The Estensi then assigned it to a noble family from Emilia-Romagna, the Da Moregano. About a century later, it passed to the Malaspina, who ruled the whole of Lunigiana.

As the fief of the Malaspina was split in 1275, the castle of Panicale was assigned to Francesco Malaspina di Olivola and then to the Marquis of Villafranca in 1355. In 1535, Panicale was an independent fief, as was Licciana.

In the 15th century, the Medici Palace was built on the ruins of the ancient castle. This is still inhabited by descendants of the Medici nowadays.

**Structure:** Residential palace and fortified village. The village is equipped with only one round arched entrance, protected by loopholes. In the village of Castello di Panicale, there is a recurring medieval settlement pattern: civilian settlements were built close to the fortified houses and were then enclosed by defensive walls.

There is no trace of the ancient castle, there only remains the tower-house, a solid, quadrangular structure, whereas the castle was turned into a noble palace for the Medici in the 15th century.

The building has been modified in the XIX century.