



# The Castle of San Terenzio

LERICI

**Location:** The castle of San Terenzio stands on a rocky hill overlooking the western side of the bay of Lerici.

**Type of castle:** Castle and fortress.

**Construction period:** 15th century.

**First appearance in historical sources:** The place name of San Terenzio was mentioned for the first time in the diploma of emperor Otto II to the Bishop of Luni in 981, and then in the diploma of Frederick I of 1185, but it is uncertain if it concerned exactly that place or San Terenzo Monti, in the Aulella valley.

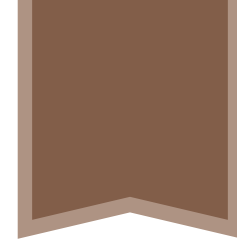
**Strategic role:** Protection of the village from attacks from the coast.

**Further use:** Beginning of the 20th century.









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**Current condition:** The site is well preserved.

**Viewing:** The castle is owned by the State, was then assigned to the municipality of Lerici and can be visited.

**History:** The castle was built in the 15th century by the Genoese to create a net of fortified structures to oppose the Saracen pirates. It became then more structured than the fortress of Lerici, which was built to protect a wider area. Giovanni da Mongiardino was one of the first lords of the castle, as captain of eight crossbowmen. Then there was Giacomo Rossi, who fought against Pisa when the castle was part of the defensive system built by Genoa in the Gulf of La Spezia.

**Structure:** The structure of the castle of San Terenzio is composed by a pentagonal building with three small circular corner towers facing the village. There are other defensive walls to protect a quadrangular fortified tower with flat battlements. What we see today is certainly the result of several restoration works. The original structure was probably composed by a tall quadrilateral medieval tower, and by the pentagonal defensive walls.