

The photograph captures the imposing stone structure of the Castel Sforzesco. The main focus is a large, cylindrical bastion with a series of arched windows near its top. To the left, another part of the castle is visible, featuring a flat-topped circular tower. The walls are thick and show signs of age. In the bottom right corner, a circular inset provides a detailed architectural floor plan of the castle. The plan shows the layout of the walls, bastions, and internal courtyards. Key features labeled include: Bastione San Francesco, Bastione San Pietro, Bastione San Martino, Bastione San Giacomo, Bastione San Bartolomeo, Bastione Santa Barbara, and Bastione Santa Margherita. Other labels include Porta nord, Porta sud, Porta ovest, Porta est, Piazza d'armi, Cortile interno, Cortile esterno, and Terrazza di San Bartolomeo. A compass rose is also present in the top left of the plan.

## SARZANA

**Location:** The fortress stands at the city's walls in the historical centre of Sarzana.

**Type of castle:** Fortress.

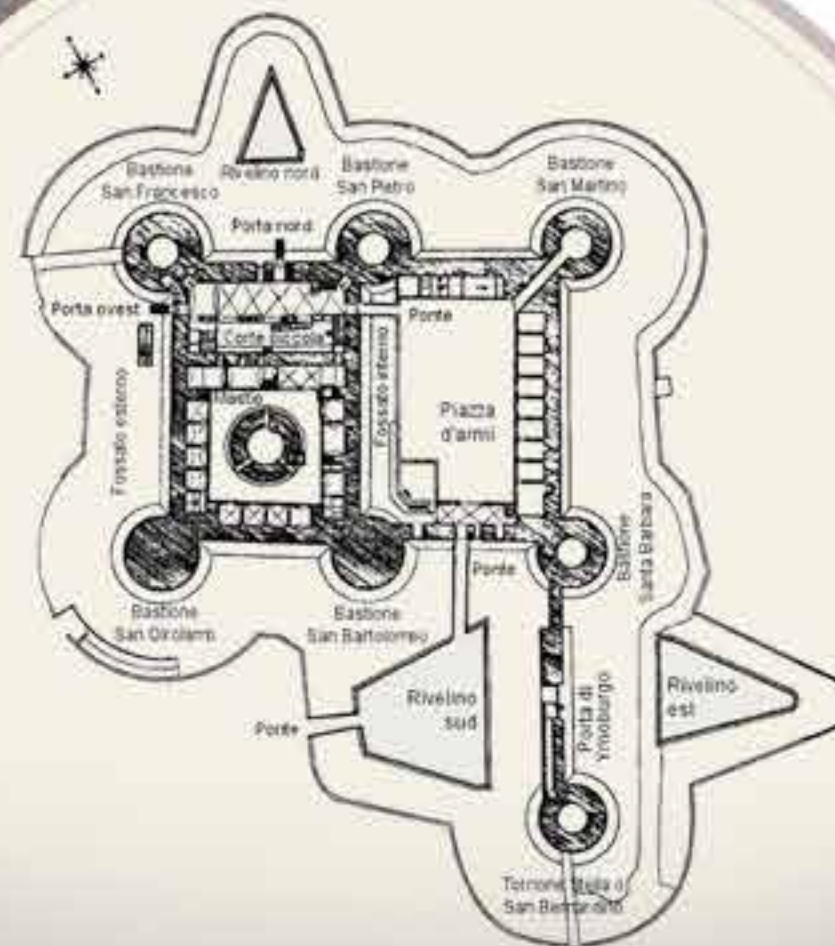
**Construction period:** The first core founded by Pisa in the 13th century was a fortified building, named Firmafede castle, which was later destroyed and then rebuilt in the 15th century.

**Strategic role:** Defence of the village of Sarzana.

**Further use:** It was used as a defensive structure until the end of the 18th century but had other purposes until the end of the 1970's.

**Current condition:** Good condition. It has recently been restored.

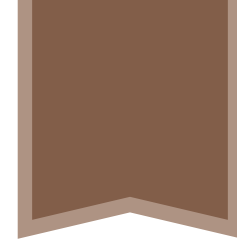
**Viewing:** To plan your visit, go to [www.fortezzafirmafede.it](http://www.fortezzafirmafede.it)











# Cittadella di Sarzana Fortezza Firmafede

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## SARZANA

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**History:** The Citadel stands in the setting of Firmafede fortress, the most ancient defensive structure, built in the 13th century by Pisa which at that time was an allied city. The historical events of this village are the same as those of Sarzanello and of the town of Sarzana, which were continually engaged in battles to defend their independence from the Lords of Lunigiana and from the attempts at expansion by the Genoese and the Florentine Republics. In the 15th century, after the war of Sarzana and due to the restoration of Sarzana, the Medici initiated the switch of functions between the two buildings, since the Citadel was at that time more suited to protecting the city, which had expanded. In 1494, Charles VIII sold the fortress to the Banco di San Giorgio, which completed the works started by the Medici. The structure remained with the Genoese until 1797. In the 19th century, after the Republic's annexation to the Kingdom of Savoy, it was no longer necessary to use it as a fortress, so it was turned into a police station and then into a prison until the 1970's.

**Structure:** The fortress dates back to the 15th century, i.e. the same period Sarzana's urban revolution. The structure of the fortress consists of a rectangle with six angular fortified towers: four are positioned at the angles, while the other two are positioned along the longest sides. Lorenzo de Medici started the construction in 1488, which took place over several phases, and for this purpose he chose the best military architects and engineers. On the western side of the defensive walls there is the entrance to the inner courtyard, from where the actual fortified area begins with the main building, the circular tower, used as castellans' residence in the event of assault.

During the reign of Charles VIII, who provoked many conflicts on the Italian peninsula, which were resolved in 1559 by the Treaty of Cateau Cambresis, the Citadel of Sarzana was enlarged.

As with Sarzanello, the Banco di San Giorgio and the Genoese Republic strengthened the original structure, which was a prison from the 19th century until a few decades ago.

From the beginning of the 1980's to the first years of the current century, the Ministry of Culture and the Commune of Sarzana undertook to renovate the structure and to dedicate it as location for the Museo dei Castelli della Lunigiana.