



# The Castle of Suvero

ROCCHETTA DI VARA

**Location:** The castle of Suvero stands in the main square of the village, a hamlet in the municipality of Rocchetta di Vara, in the Vara valley close to the subsidiaries of the Cornoviglio river.

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

**Construction period:** Middle Ages

**Strategic role:** the castle of Suvero was built in the 12th century by the Malaspina di Villafranca on a hill overlooking the village. The defensive function lasted until the Renaissance, when it became the residence of the Malaspina until 1797.

**Further use:** It was abandoned after the abolishment of the imperial fiefs.

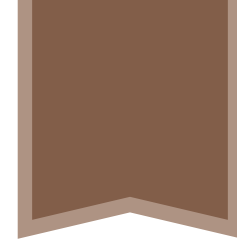
**Current condition:** The building is well preserved.

**Viewing:** Private property. It can't be visited.









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**History:** When the marquisate was divided into smaller units, the castle of Suvero was assigned to the Este. In the 12th century the Malaspina di Villafranca conquered it slowly. During the 15th century it was assigned to the Campofregoso, after Genoa had conquered the territories of the Malaspina. At the behest of King Louis XII, the Genoese returned it to the original owners. After the death of Spinetta Malaspina, lord of Suvero, it became an independent fief assigned to Rinaldo Malaspina, who probably built the castle. There were then several lords of the Malaspina family: some of them shined for their governmental talent, while others provoked dissatisfaction among the subjects. In 1600 the villagers of Suvero decided then to submit to Spain and to Tuscany, but in the end they always returned under the rule of the Malaspina. After the beginning of the Renaissance the castle lost its defensive function and became definitively a residence. For over 200 years it was the residence of the lords of Suvero and was rarely involved in battles.

**Structure:** The current structure, which probably stands on a pre-existing medieval building, is trapezoidal with three fortified corners and impressive fortified towers. On the western side there is a circular fortified tower. In the 19th century the eastern fortified tower collapsed, and in 1921 the southern one was destroyed by the earthquake. Both have been restored.