

The Castle of Terrarossa

LICCIANA NARDI

Location: The castle is located on a hill close to the village of Terrarossa, in the lower part of the Magra basin, to the north of the confluence with Caviglia creek.

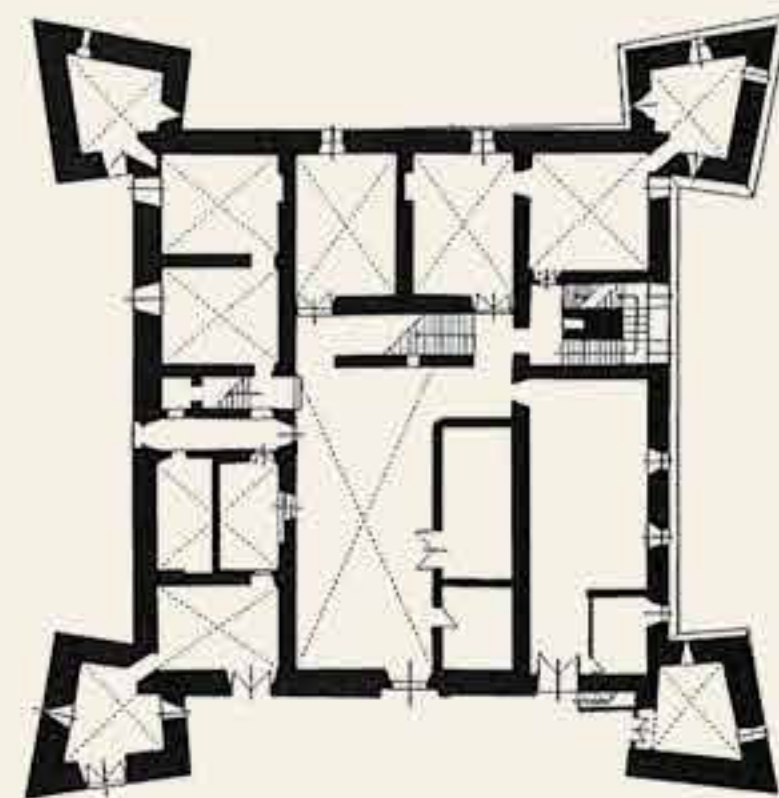
Type of castle: Main castle of the feud and residence of the Marquis Malaspina.

Construction period: The Malaspina residence was built by the first Marquis of Terrarossa in the 16th century.

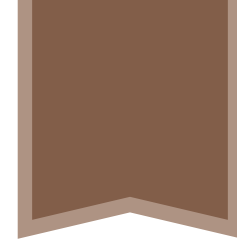
Strategic role: Control of the Francigena road.

Current condition: The remains of this ancient castle, originally named Terrarossa, are nowadays part of another palace known as Castelletto. In the 12th century the village moved to the valley that stood below the ancient castle of Terrarossa and developed along the Francigena road - which traced the left bank of the river Magra – and finally changed its name into Borgonuovo.

Current condition: The site is well preserved.







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Viewing: It is currently owned by the commune of Licciana Nardi and is open to the public. Inside the structure there are a hostel with 30 beds, the headquarters of the new Municipal Police of Lunigiana and a tourist information office.

History: Terrarossa was a feud belonging to the Malaspina di Villafranca from 1347 until 1599, when Lord Fabrizio Malaspina declared a partnership pact with the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, and in 1618 the assignment was completed. During the last year of the Malaspina rule, the castle was mainly used as a residence. In front of it there was a large square with a garden, vineyards and meadows, and all this was surrounded by high defensive walls. When Fabrizio Malaspina was lord of this area, he greatly encouraged the cultivation of the fields and developed silkworm farming. Ten years later, Ferdinando II de' Medici assigned it to Manfredi Malaspina di Filattiera. After the death of Manfredi Malaspina in 1787, nephew of the original lord, the feud returned to the Grand Duke.

| With the decree of 9th June 1808, Terrarossa was annexed to the French empire, together with all Lunigiana, including the communes of Pontremoli, Calice, Bagnone, Albiano, Groppoli, Filattiera and Fivizzano.

It remained property of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany until 1847, when the Treaty of Florence came into force. After this event, this territory became part of the Duchy of Modena and

Reggio. After the unification of Italy it became an independent commune, but in 1869 it was annexed to Licciana Nardi.

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.