



The Castle of Trebiano

ARCOLA

Location: The castle of Trebiano is located on a hill overlooking the village of Trebiano, between the Magra valley and the sea.

Type of castle: Castle and residence.

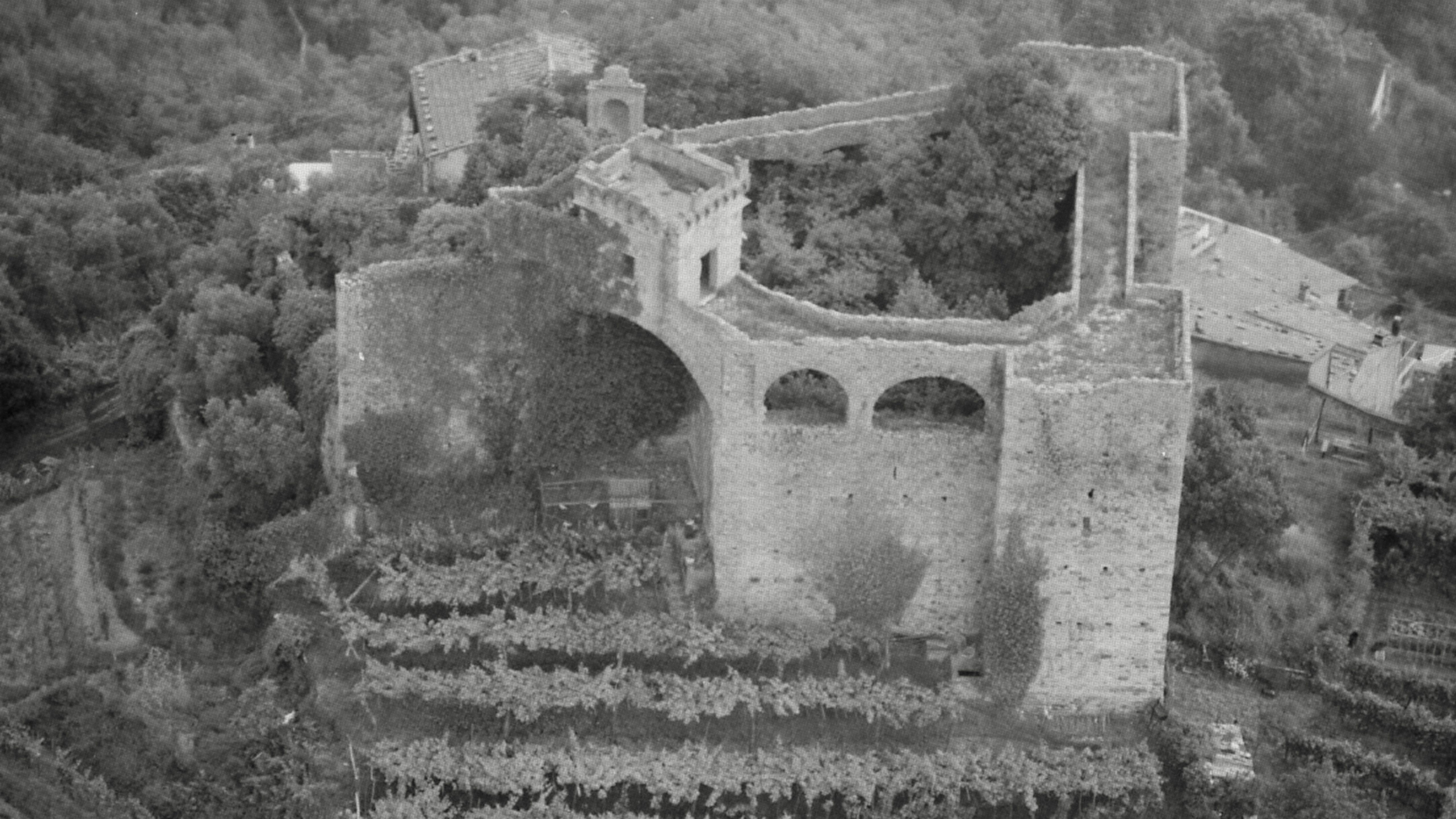
Construction period: 10th century.

First appearance in historical sources: The first mention of the castle dates back to the imperial diploma of Otto I of Saxony of 963.

Strategic role: It was an episcopal residence and a protection for communication paths leading to the seaports of Lerici and San Genesio. It was fundamentally important also for commercial exchanges with Tuscany.

Current condition: The site is well preserved.

Viewing: yes.





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History: It was the residence of the Bishops of Luni. In the 11th century the castle passed to the Lords of Trebiano, who were vassals of the bishop. During this period the castle annexed new territories and defensive walls were built around it. The vassalage relationship with the bishop compelled the Trebiano leader to support him during the battles against the marquis who aimed to conquer the bishop's territories, and to act as arbitrator in the conflicts with Genoa, Pisa or the marquis Malaspina. In 1218 the fief became a commune, as stated in a document written in the same year. Meanwhile, Genoese expansion attempts destroyed the episcopal power. Trebiano was temporarily under the rule of Pisa between 1241 and 1256, and was then acquired once again by Genoa in 1285, despite a reclamation attempt made by the bishop Enrico da Fucecchio.

Structure: The castle's structure is irregular and quadrilateral, nearly pentagonal, with four large quadrangular towers included in the defensive walls. Its military function is evident as there are no windows, but only tight loopholes.