

# The Castle of Treschietto

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**Location:** About 4km away from Bagnone, the castle of Treschietto is located at the end of the village on a rocky outcrop of Mount Orsaro, at the intersection between the Bagnone and Acquetta streams.

**Type of castle:** Fortified residence with corner tower.

**Construction period:** 14th century.

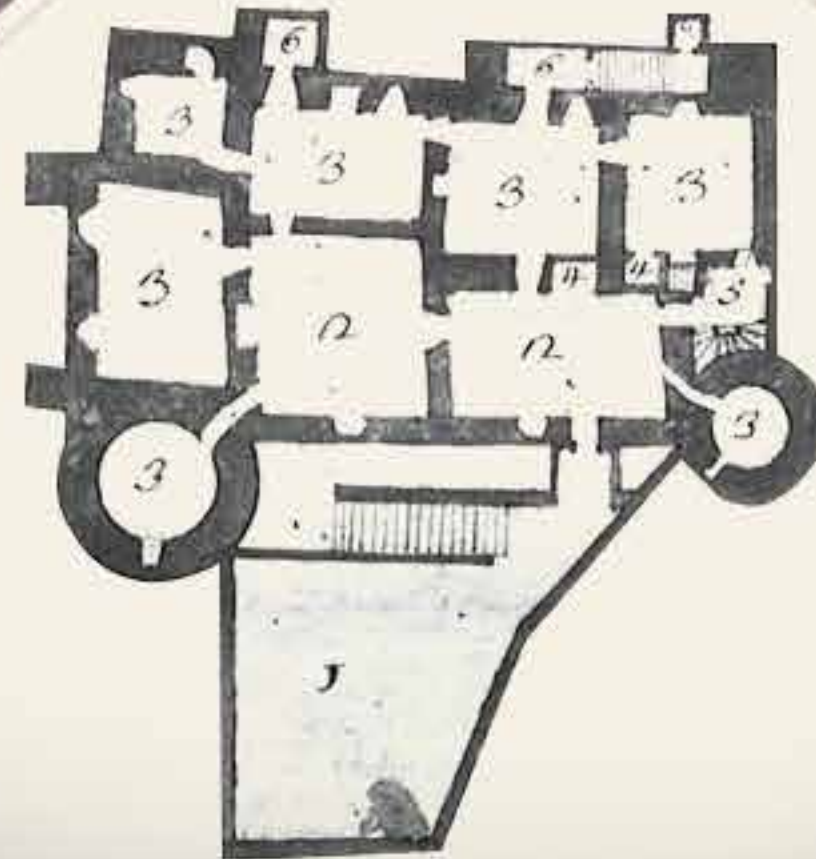
**First appearance in historical sources:** 14th century.

**Strategic role:** Excellent position on an ancient road leading to the Garfagnana valley.

**Further use:** A painting of 1852 shows the castle as a ruin.

**Current condition:** Ruin.

**Viewing:** The ruins can only be visited from the north-eastern side, which can be accessed by car and then a short walk. It is still possible to see the remains of the defensive walls, from which an impressive circular tower stands out.











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**History:** After hereditary divisions, Treschietto was granted, together with Vico, Iera and Corlaga, in the same fief to Giovanni Malaspina—known as Beretta— and then the fief passed to his descendants.

After several difficult events regarding the family, and after many problems with the subjects, the last lord Ferninando Malaspina decided to give the fief to the Grand Duke of Tuscany, but the resolution was contested by the Malaspina di Filattiera and the Imperial Treasury. In 1747 the emperor Francis I gave it to the Count of Carlo Emanuele di Richecourt. After his death in 1789, the fief was once again under the rule of the Empire, and after the restoration it was assigned to the Duchy of Modena, as along with all the other fiefs in Lunigiana.

**Crime news:** There are still many legends and tales about this castle and the characters who frequented it. Among these is the gloomy Marquis Giovan Gaspero Malaspina, known as the monster, who lived for almost all his life in Treschietto committing brutal crimes against the young women of the fief.

**Structure:** Even though we know little about the original structure of the Malaspina, a plan of 1764 illustrates the expansion works carried out by the Grand Duke of Tuscany and then by the French Count of Nay and Richecourt.

It has a rectangular shape and its northern side is situated on a cliff. The other sides were protected by circular, corner defensive towers, while the entrance was protected by a ravelin. Large French gardens surrounded the accessible area of the castle.

Ground floor: 10 rooms, including 6 for wine cellars, tanks, kitchen, pantry, sink, prison and stables.

Noble floor: 7 bedrooms, two cloakrooms and two salons, landing and balconies.

Second floor: 6 other rooms, an oratory, a library and a prison in the attic.