

# The Castle of Vernazza

## VERNAZZA



**Location:** Situated on the rocky coastline, south of Vernazza, at 70m above sea level.

**Type of castle:** Tower surrounded by defensive walls.

**Construction period:** The oldest part of the fortress – the cylindrical tower – dates back to the 11th Century. The structure owes its current appearance to additions and restoration work carried out over the centuries.

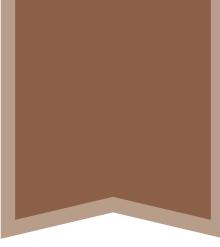
**Strategic role:** Defensive and control functions; right in front of the promontory there is the last natural harbour of Riviera di Levante and Porto Venere.

**Further use:** It had been a defensive structure for a long time, but during the Second World War, the Germans used it as anti-aircraft base.

**Current condition:** It has been restored over the past few decades.

**Visitabile:** It is owned by the municipality, where it is used for exhibitions and houses a museum.





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**History:** the fortress was most likely founded in the early Middle Ages, during the reign of the Obertenghi. This area later fell under the control of the Da Passano and the Fieschi. In 1182, the castle was conquered by the Genoese. For a short period it was ruled by Pisa, followed by the Fieschi family, who sold it to the Genoese Republic in 1276. This allowed Genoa to exert full economic control over the region. Most of the construction works date back to Genoese times.

The building once housed a bronze cannon that was etched with the words 'Comunitas Vernatiae'. It was taken by the English soldiers during the Second World War and is now on display at the British Museum in London.

**Structure:** the castle has an irregular shape that follows the rocky spurs on which it was built. Its appearance is the result of restoration and conservation work undertaken throughout the centuries. The structure also boasts a bastion and a cylindrical tower that was rebuilt after the war.