



# Fortified village and Tower Viano

FIVIZZANO

**Location:** The castle is located on top of a hill surrounded by the compact structure of the historical centre of Viano, one of the most important fortified villages of the Magra valley and the municipality of Fivizzano.

**Type of castle:** Fortified village with a castle at its middle.

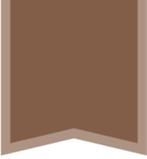
**Construction period:** From the second half of the 13th century, after the expansion of the Malaspina family, it became part of the belongings of Spinetta Malaspina the Great.

**First appearance in historical sources:** In the 13th century, due to the testamentary disposition of the Lord, it was annexed to Fosdinovo. Nevertheless, the most ancient origins of the castle's core derive from the Bianchi group, which supported the Bishop of Luni - who owned many territories in the northern part of the Apuan Alps.

**Strategic role:** Defensive and residential functions.

**Further use:** After the 17th century, the castle was demolished and there remained only a circular tower equipped with a raised access, which was probably linked to the castle.





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**Current condition:** Restored.

**Viewing:** The fortified village can be visited. It can be reached by car.

**History:** In 1393, after the foundation of the fief of Castel dell'Aquila, Viano it became an important site for the new little state, together with Gragnola and Cortila.

The bloody wars among the members of the Malaspina family and fief's turmoil at the beginning of the 15th century encouraged the conquest of the area by the Florentine Republic and the loss of sovereignty by the Malaspina family.

In 1621 it became an independent imperial fief, and in this period the construction of a new residential castle began, perhaps built on the remains of a previous medieval structure. The work was never completed: "the unfinished stronghold had only one door and an emergency smaller one; it was inhabited by 26 families and 140 people."

**Structure:** The built-up area emerges as a cylindrical tower on top of a hill, surrounded by the village's houses.

The fortified village had strengthened defensive walls with seven cylindrical towers. In the middle stood the circular tower of the Malaspina.