

SA COSTA

The medieval town "Sa Costa" is reached from Via Carmine (that connects the Church of "The Carmine" with "S'Iscale e sa Rosa" behind the walls. Buildings has been adapted to the unique truncated-cone configuration of the Serravalle Hill. The characteristic quarter has considerable historical charm with its unique lanes that follow the hill's upware bends. The staircases interrupt the horizontal route and the houses have a surprising strucutre facing to the south.

The poor people's houses usually have one room on each floor. The houses have generally two entrances on staggered floors that provide access from the downhill road and the uphill road; the kitchen is usually on the top floor with a triple oven for baking bread. The façade decorations in local red Trachyte stone are very simple. The top part of the quarter, towards the Castle is now entirely uninhabited. New people are coming to live in the quarter, and many people are foreigners (English, French, German).

THE CASTLE

According to a 15th – 16th century chronicle, a Tuscan Family, the Malaspina, founded the "villa y castillo" in 1121, and named the Castle after the hill it was built.

The fortress was located on the top of the hill nearest to the mouth of the River Temo. The importance of the building structure which occupies more than 14000 square metres off lat land, has influenced the castle's destiny. In the final years of the 19th century, the main tower was renovated; an important recovery project and archaeological digs have been planned since 2000. The walls that enclosed the flat ground area were connected to the structure.

The Castle covers a surface of nearly one hectar and it has been built in local red stone and basaltic stone.

It is possible that originally, there were 4 towers according to the common medieval military architecture. The main gates of the Castle are on its North-Eastern side.

In the castle, there is a place –of- arms; it was a typical place inside a fortification where troops and soldiers can gather. In the "Place-of-arms, we can see the small Church of " our Lady of Regnos Altos".

The initial building period was associated with the time when "The Malaspina Family" owned the castle.

THE CHURCH OF REGNOS ALTOS

Within the Castle stands a palatine Chapel originally consecrated to Saint Andrew and later, dedicated to "The Virgin Mary of Regnos Altos". This Church can be found in the Southern part of the Castle.

The Church was built in 3 stages:

-the first which can be seen in its western part, has a stone floor. It was built during the periodo f Malaspina rule.

-The second stage was attributed to the "Giudicato di Arborea period rule.

-the third stage was carried out during the first half of the 19th century, which included an extention of the biuldind eastwards.

A series of frescoes on the 3 walls of the Medieval building were discovered in 1973 by a builder during restoration work.

FRESCOES

From the left, the frescoes start with “The worship of Magi”, followed by the “Coena Domini” and then the representation continues with the 4 Doctors of the Church followed by the 4 Evangelists. A serie of Saints are placed in the lower part; on the inner side of façade, frescoes of Scholastica with the Emperor Constantine and Helena holding the Relic of the Cross can be seen.

On the inner part of the façade, we can see the scene of Saint Martin of Tours with the poor and Saint George slaying the Dragon at the right. The huge figure of Saint Christopher stands among them.

The right-hand wall is divided in 2 parts :

-the higher part is characterized by some personalities dressed as Franciscan monks, and we can recognize Saint Louis of Toulouse.

-the lower part contains a re production of the scene “**The meeting between the 3 living and the 3 dead**”.

The story is that : 3 hunters had a vision of 3 skeletons.

Lastly, there is the scene of “The tormento f Saint Lawrence”.

The pictorial cycle is the result of a cultural environment closet o Franciscan spirituality. The story is full of emotions, mysticism and humility.

On the second Sunday of September, the festival of “Nostra Signora di Regnos Altos” is held. This festival is in honor of the “**Holy Mary “of the Castle of Malaspina**”. During the days preceding the event, the roads of the old town “Sa costa” located below the castle, are dressed with reeds and branches while small altars with the Holy Mary on are set up. The altars are embellished with typical covers sewed with the technique known “The filet”. During these nights, typical local food is served along the roads of “Sa Costa”. The festival attracts visitors all over the Island and is introduced by musical shows, and parades of peoples wearing old dresses of the town.

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