

History

The Fortress of Verrucole was built between the X and XIII century by the Gherardighi family on the site of a former settlement. The Gherardighi built the original Fortress and a public palace to keep the territory under control Lucca (the nearest city) during this period was striving to expand its territories and moved northwards into Garfagnana. Hence this location, between XII and XIII century, was the site of many battles. In 1296 the Fortress passed under Lucca's control and Lucca gave it to the Guidiccioni family to manage. When the Lucchese leader Castruccio Castracani died, in 1328, the Marquis Spinetta Malaspina (from Massa) took over the fortress and owned it until the 1345. Then the fortress was abandoned until the arrival of the Este family (from Modena and Ferrara). In 1429 part of Garfagnana passed under the power of the Este family this included the Curia of Verrucole. It is believed that the actual form of the fortress was made during two Este's periods: under Marquis Lionello (about 1450) and under Alfonso II (about 1564). In those periods the fortress was rebuilt and it included two towers, one square and one circular each governed by two different Captains. Between 1522 and 1525 the poet Ludovico Ariosto was given the role of Agent of the Garfagnana with orders to reorganize the fortresses including Verrucole. In the second part of the XVI century the Duke Alfonso I d'Este engaged the architect Marc'Antonio Pasi to bring up to date the fortress of Verrucole in accordance with the new criteria for warfare, hence the building of the actual polygonal tower. In the second half of the XVIII century the fortress lost its original military importance, but the structure was cared for by the efficient Este's engineers. Between the end of XVIII and the beginning of XIX century, under French power, the fortress of Verrucole was listed for auction however no one bought it until 1866 when it was acquired by a private family. In 1986 the Commune of San Romano di Garfagnana acquired the Fortress and started the work of cleaning and restoration, which ended in 2012. Like many historical buildings which span a life of many centuries there are numerous legends of magic and ghosts, perhaps linked to the use of the castle over the centuries as a prison. One such person who has passed from history into legend is Captain Francesco Accorsini (from the XVII century), commander of the Fortress, but condemned by the inquisition of the Court of Modena for the practice of magic and witchcraft!



OPENING HOURS and TICKET PRICES

MAY and OCTOBER	from Friday to Sunday	10 am - 7 pm
JUNE and SEPTEMBER	from Thursday to Sunday	10 am - 7 pm
JULY and AUGUST	from Tuesday to Thursday	10 am - 7 pm
	from Friday to Sunday	10 am - 11 pm

ADULTS	€ 5,00
CHILDREN 6 and under	free entrance
CHILDREN between the ages of 7 and 14	€ 3,00
VISITORS OVER 65 YEARS	€ 3,00 <i>reduced price</i>
GROUPS (minimum 15 people)	€ 4,00
RESIDENTS Commune of S. Romano G.	€ 1,00 <i>reduced price</i>
WORKSHOPS	€ 2,00 <i>in addition to the entrance fee (if applicable)</i>

The entrance ticket is for the entire structure both external and internal areas and includes a guided visit (starting at 10.30 am or 3.00 pm). Educational workshops are by appointment during the week and by request at weekend. Booking outside normal opening hours can be arranged by request.

INFORMATION and BOOKINGS



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Amici Fortezza Delle Verrucole

Hamlet VERRUCOLE
S. ROMANO IN GARFAGNANA (Lu)



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Comune di
SAN ROMANO
IN GARFAGNANA



Associazione
Mansio Hospitalis Lucensis



Fortress of Verrucole

VERRUCOLE
SAN ROMANO
IN GARFAGNANA
LUCCA



Archeopark (living museum)

In 2013, the Fortress has developed a new role and identity as a direct outcome of the project "La Fortezza Archeopark". This project supported by the association "Mansio Hospitalis Lucensis", has striven to create a living museum depicting the various aspects of life in medieval times. The conditions of living in the F di V during the 13th century have been reproduced using materials and technology pertinent to the time. The Fortress has been brought back to life as it was in this period, rooms have been equipped as they would have been at that time and the use of historically prepared animators engaged to interact with the public help complete the illusion. A commitment to portray all aspects of daily life allow the visitor to experience a wide range of activities : military, domestic, agricultural (including the use of farm yard animals), trades and skills. Great attention to detail has been taken to ensure that the locations for these activities are as authentic as possible to the period. A particular example of this is the medicinal garden which would have supplied the apothecary.

THE BUVETTE (Refreshment Area)

Another special attraction is the restored "Buvette" a charming refreshment area located in the Fortress, which invites visitors to discover the wonderful flavours of our beautiful lands. Here, whilst admiring the spectacular views offered by this location visitors can enjoy a pleasant break and sample some of the simple genuine foods typical of the area and more surprisingly try some of the dishes which reflect the period.



DIDACTIC WORKSHOP

Visitors can experience for themselves several different activities reproduced in the archeopark by participating in our workshops on medieval life. These workshops are open to both adults and children and are designed to transport the participants to the distant past of their forefathers thus transforming a simple museum visit into a living experience.

ACTIVITIES available

- ◆ **BATTLE AT THE CASTLE**
living a siege in the role of a soldier
- ◆ **ARCHERY**
trying out bows and crossbows and learning about them
- ◆ **KITCHEN**
cooking as in the Middle Ages and discovering lost tastes
- ◆ **TEXILE WORLD**
learning the old traditional ways of producing cloth, trying to spin and weave
- ◆ **RELATION WITH NATURE**
learning about agricultural production, breeding of farm animals and biological foods
- ◆ **HERBALISM**
the significance of the "orto dei semplici", discovering the properties and use of certain plants and their importance in ancient medicine
- ◆ **MINIATURE AND WRITING**
writing and painting with ancient techniques trying to use quills for writing



la Fortezza di
VERRUCOLE

