

Castello Orsini

HOTEL BED&BREAKFAST AGRI TURISMO	RISTORANTI PIZZERIE	BAR PIZZERIE
LA BASTIA HOTEL RI STORANTE Via Giovanni XXI I I tel: 0761 745062 L'EREMO HOTEL Via S. Giorgio, 7 tel: 0761 748844 Fax: 0761 748949 GLI OLEANDRI HOTEL RI STORANTE Via C. Battisti tel: 0761 748383 PALAZZO CATALANI Via Montecavallo tel: 0761 748715 OSTELLO S. GIORGIO tel: 0761 749020 BED&BREAKFAST BELLACHIOMA Contarda S. Pietro, 13 tel: 0761.759141 BED&BREAKFAST GLI ULI VI Località Fornacchia tel: 0761.748990 AGRI TURISMO PARCO DEI CIMINI Località Piangoli - Strada Romana tel: 0761752266	BAITA LA FAGGETA loc. Faggeta tel: 0761 747120 TAVERNA DEI FRATI Via del Callarozzo tel: 0761 749083 TRE SCALINI Via V. Emanuele I I I tel: 0761 745970 I DUE CAMINI Via Benedetto Brin, 61 tel: 0761.755436 PIZZERIA DA GIGI Via V. Emanuele, I I I DA ALFIERO Fraz. Chia tel: 0761.743005 LA VECCHIA QUERCIA Loc. Santarelo, Km. 12 tel: 0761.759051 LA CHICCHERA Contrada Madonna di Loreto I/A tel: 0761 743120 LA MOLINELLA Strada Molinella tel: 0761 743070 LA CIMINA Località Menica Bassa tel: 0761 750556 ER MERENDERO Strada Ortana KM. 18.600 tel: 0761 743002 SARANNO FAMOSI Via S. Giorgio, 6 tel.: 0761 748844 FUORI PORTA Oasi dei Cimini Str. Prov. Molinella Km.1 tel.: 0761 744993 PASSA PAROLA Località S. Eutizio tel.: 0761 744007 POLLO D'ORO Via A. Trua, 3 tel.: 0761 742519 PALAZZO CATALANI Via Montecavallo, 26 tel.: 0761 748355 (chiuso il martedì)	BAR ROMA Piazza V. Emanuele I I 2 tel: 0761 745727 BAR JULIA Via S. Maria, 7 tel: 0761 745038 BAR DELLA ROCCA Via della Rocca 4 tel: 0761 745160 BAR DELLO SPORT Via Benedetto Brin CHIOSCO DEI TIGLI Via V. Emanuele, I I I LANTERNA VERDE Piazza della Repubblica 10 tel: 0761 748685 BAR "CAFFE' CENTRALE" Piazza V. Emanuele I I 23 tel: 0761 759261 BAR PIZZERIA SIRIA Piazza V. Emanuele, I I Tel. 0761 748565 PASTICCERIA GELATERIA STELLA Via E. Monaci, 31/A Tel. 0761 748655 LA MAISONETTE Via C. Battisti Tel. 0761 748383

Riassunto storico: **Arch. Roberto Chiatti**
Disegni realizzati da: **Stefania De Stefanis**

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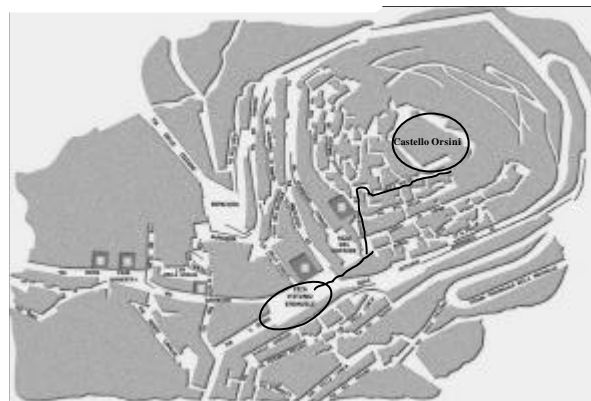
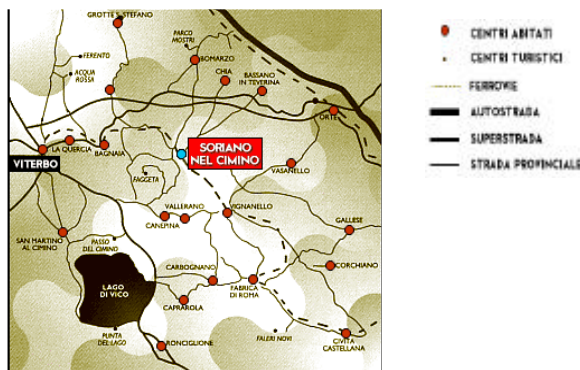
Come arrivarci /How to get to Soriano nel Cimino

AUTOSTRADA DEL SOLE - HIGHWAY:
USCITA ATTIGLIANO (da autostrada A1 FIRENZE)
USCITA ORTE (da autostrada A1 ROMA)

FERROVIA - RAILWAY:
FF.SS.: STAZIONE DI ORTE SCALO
CO.TRAL.: STAZIONE DI SORIANO NEL CIMINO

AUTOLINEE - BUS:
CO.TRAL.: ORTE / SORIANO NEL CIMINO
ROMA / SORIANO NEL CIMINO
VITERBO / SORIANO NEL CIMINO

DISTANZE - DISTANCE:
da ROMA / from ROME Km. 80
da VITERBO / from VITERBO Km. 16
da FIRENZE / from FLORENCE Km. 254
da A1 / from A1 Km. 15



Per arrivare al Castello dalla Piazza principale del paese (P.zza Vittorio Emanuele) prendere Via della Rocca.

Castello Orsini

Soriano nel Cimino



Orario visite

Domenica ore 10:00-13:00 16:30-19:30

(Per gruppi turistici e scolaresche il castello è visitabile tutti i giorni con prenotazione obbligatoria all'Ufficio Proloco)

Per informazioni

ProLoco di Soriano nel Cimino

Via S. Maria, 28 - Tel/Fax (+39) 0761 746001

www.proloco.soriano-nel-cimino.vt.it

prolocosoriano@libero.it

Castello Orsini

Storia

It is Soriano's stronghold and stands high on top of a small hill, 550 meters high, on the slopes of Mount Cimino, above the plain reaching the sight all the way to Umbria region and the Soratte mountain. On the clear winter days, the Appenini mountains can be seen toward the Umbria and Abruzzo regions. The mount Vettore and mount Terminillo and the Gran Sasso and the Maiella can be spotted.

History of the Orsini Castle

It is possible that the most ancient part of the castle was built before the Xth Century and originally was a convent. First informations on the Rocca (the Stronghold) date back to 1200 a.d.. At that time the feud of Soriano was held by the Baron Guastapane and then by the Pandolfi, while the owners of the manor and the land surrounding it had formerly been the Benedictine Monks on Campo Veranno, outside the walls. After Pope Innocent III had accused the Guastapane and the Pandolfi of heresy, the successor was Orso Orsini, nephew of Pope Nicolò III. This Pope in these years, around 1278, had a manor built for himself where he lived up to 1280, the year of his death. This Pope was also the one to have built the Trinity Church next to the existing Agostinian Convent at the foot of Mount Cimino. The remains of this church can still be seen travelling the road that links Soriano to "Acqua Maggiore". Urbano V, because of hereditary disputes amongst the Orsini family, took away the property to the Benedictine Monks of St. Lorence, and absorbed it to the Church estates. From this time on Soriano's Castle changed ownership and lord, many times.

During the time of the Papal Scism, while the popes were in Avignon, the Rocca, from 1374, was held by the Bretoni who were loyal to the Antipope Clement VII. At the end of the Scism Pope Martin V gave the castle to the Colonna's. But in 1435 the Pope Eugene IV gave the township of Soriano to Giovanni Vitelleschi in order to defeat the Prefect of Vico, Giacomo, who was a deadly enemy of the Pope. Vitelleschi finally defeated Giacomo di Vico and had him beheaded before the main Church which at the time was the Church of S. Nicholas, now named St. Eutizio on Via della Rocca. During the following 50 years several Popes changed, and the castle also changed lords until Pope Innocent VIII gave the "Rocca" to Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia (Valentino) in perpetual vicary. The Cardinal sent a mild man to run the castle, Didaco of Carvaical that was killed on the night of November 7th 1489 by the hand of his own guest Count Paolo Nardini that had planned to take the castle with the help of the nearby town of Vignanello. The town people of Soriano, alarmed by an old lady beggar, "la vecchia del carnaioio" who lived in a shanty hut at the Bastia, armed themselves and defeated the enemy at the "Fosso del Buonincontro" (The ditch of goodmeeting); returned at the Castle and killed the Count Nardini, by throwing him off the fortress highest point. This story is now restaged every year during the first two weekend of October during the Sagra delle Castagne" (Sagra of Chestnuts). In gratitude for the saving of the Castle with a Papal Brief, called the Golden Bull, granted the people of Soriano the revenues that previously went to the Apostolic Chamber, and gave them authority to add the word "Fidelitas" to the town's guild. After these events, the Castle changed again several landlords, amongst the most notorious, the Orsini family, the Della Rovere up to 1556, and after Giovanni Caraffa who held it for 4 years.

Castello Orsini

Storia



Veduta panoramica del paese

Then it was owned by Cristoforo Madruzzo that embellished the town with the Papacqua Spring (Queen of waters) with a set of statues and a mansion projected by Vignola.

The power of the Altemps family followed, and the Albani took over in 1700 who had possession of Soriano in principedom. Alessandro Albani completed the construction of the Papacqua mansion and James Eduardo Francis, son of James II, called also the Knight of Saint George, was hosted at the castle. He was to be heir to the throne of England with the name of James III. The Albani also expanded Soriano and opened two portals: one door on via Benedetto Brin, called "Porta Romana", and another on Via Splendiano Pennazzi. They also built the Church Coleggiata, dedicated to St Nicholas of Bari, who is the town's Patron Saint. The Albani's ruled the Castle and the town of Soriano up to the death of Filippo Albani, in 1852, when the heirs left it to the Holy See. Long after the Castle was transformed in a Detention House, and was held as such also under the Reign of Italy. The Italian State has kept it as Penitentiary up 1989 when it was dismissed and passed as an asset of the Finance Ministry. The Ministry has handed it over to the municipality of Soriano nel Cimino.

Architectural features

The structure was given the shape of a stronghold by the will of Pope Niccolò III with works held from 1278 through 1279. It has the lines of a parallelogram: structured with a main building, an earlier rectangular tower, and few minor housings that link all structures. The entire complex is encircled by a first wall, with flat top battlements. The sentry walk runs uphill conterclockwise and ends with a gangway to a tower.

Castello Orsini

Storia

Towards the external part of the structure there is a bastion with a small semicircular tower and two small parallelepiped towers. Wide and artistic courtyards allow access at the different parts of the buildings that have undergone several modifications above all the Renaissance period (square windows with epistyle; a structure to link the lodgings to the tower, the ravlein with portal ashlar, arcade and your open gallery recently closed). During the years 700's several works of restorations were performed.

These works of upkeep have caused various alterations of the internal features, while external works for the upkeep of the walls have been made regularly, the last dateback to 1989. Other building structures necessary for the emprisoned have been added in the last several tens of years.

Encased on the external walls are visible the marble guilds hand crafted, that are referred to the Popes and the noble families that commissioned works on the castle.

The insides have undergone deep transformations. Currently the underground chambers are not accessible, while the halls of the noble floor have been restiled to wider cells as well as the rooms on the higher level. Great interest is for the hall on the ground floor that has four vaults with crossed arches, with ribs that are resting on an octagonal pillar while another was the chapel used by the detained that holds an alter that dates back to the renaissance in peperino stone that was once in the ruined Trinity Church.

Always at the noble floor are still to be seen the original decorations of the castle, and a fresco is there surrounded by Baroque low releifs.

The old town dwellings are all around the castle, still in good shape, with the narrow alleys crisscrossing irregularly.



Veduta a nord del castello e di una parte del paese