



Around the Italian Castles...

Nestled on majestic mountains, immersed in fabulous landscapes or lapped by the waters..The Italian castles, so different one to each other, tell us histories so far from us, on the borderline between reality and legend.

Lead yourselves be conducted among crenelated walls, towers, curiosities and ancient characters.

[Rocca Calascio, Abruzzo](#)

Inside the Gran Sasso e Monti della Lega National Park, at 1460 meters of height, it is located Rocca di Calascio, in province of L'Aquila. The majestic medieval structure, completely constructed by white stone, is one of the highest in Italy. Nestled among the mountains, the ancient underlying village, today inhabited. Its undoubted charm made it perfect for several films, among which the unforgettable "Lady Hawke", "The Name of the Rose" and "The American", with George Clooney.



[Castello di Marostica, Veneto](#)

In reality, the castles are two, Superior and Inferior, linked by a walled enclosure of 1800 meters of length. In the pretty small town it is possible to enter the historical center characterized by Piazza degli Scacchi through four doors located along the walls. Every two years, in this place it is played a true match between alive characters in costume. In front of the Inferior Castle it is located the Doglione, well-known also as Rocca di Mezzo, in the past a toll house.

Castello aragonese di Ischia, Campania

The Castle is located on a small island, linked through a walled bridge to the Borgo di Celsa, today known as Ischia Bridge. Thanks to Alfonso

V D'Aragona, the access to the Castle is possible through a tunnel, hollowed in the rocks.

Before that, the access was only by the sea. The

tunnel, 400 meters long, is illuminated by tall skylights that, in those times, acted also as

"piombatoi" from which hot oil, stones and others materials were plunged on the enemies. In this

Castle, in 1952, some parts of the movie "The

Crimson Pirate" with Burt Lancaster were recorded.



Castel dell'Ovo, Campania

Castel dell'Ovo is the ancient castle of Naples and not by coincidence, is one of the significant elements on the famous landscape of the Gulf of

Naples. Its original aspect is no longer visible due to several reconstructions during the

centuries. The name comes from an ancient legend: about the Latin poet Virgilio, who was a

famous wizard in the Middle Ages. He hid in its secret part an egg with the ability to strengthen

its foundation. Its breaking would have caused not only the collapse of the Castle, but also a

round of catastrophic rumors in Naples. During the XIV Century, the Castle suffered

considerable damages: to avoid the diffusion of panic among the population, the Queen had

to swear to have turned the egg.

Castello Scaligero di Sirmione, Lombardia

One of the most complicated and better conserved Italian castles. It is a rare example of

lacustrine fortification. The Castle is watered on all sides by Garda Lake. On one side there is the

dorm, one-time refuge for the Scaligera fleet. The walls and the Three greatest towers have

swallow-tail battlements. Beyond these

towers there is the majestic dungeon: under this, there are cells meant for the Prisoners. It is

possible to pursue the paths and reach also the top of the dungeon, as well as admire the splendor the harbor. An ancient sad story legend says that in the stormy nights, the soul of Ebengardo wanders through the Castle looking for his Arice.....



Castel del Monte, Puglia

Without any doubts, one of the most mysterious Castles of Italy. Castel del Monte is a building of the XIII Century and its construction was decided by the Emperor Federico II in the actual Andria Municipality on a hill of 540 meters of height. It has an octagonal plant with an octagonal turret for each edge. It has narrow spiral stairs definitely unconformable for reasons of defense and escape, silts too tight for lancing darts and neither stables as well. Definitely it was constructed following precise mathematics-astronomical geometry and taking into account several symbolism as well. as well.

Fenis Castle, Val D'Aosta

A scenic structure: its position on a sweet hill and its elegant crenelated walls bring you thinking about a representation function almost fairy-tale, rather than defensive. It is one of the Medieval castle better conserved in Italy. Masks with a apotropaic function on the walls, a fresco figuring San Giorgio that kills the dragon, the courtyard with a range of assays (one different with respect to the other) which support parchments reporting sayings in French.





Castel Sant'Angelo, Roma

The Castle is located on the right side of the Tevere, near the Vatican, with which is linked by a fortified corridor. It has been modified several times and several spaces have been dedicated to jails. The worst prison was the one called 'Sammalo': the prisoner was located inside from the ceiling and, due to the limited space, he wasn't able neither to stand or sit. Some of the cells were reserved to politicians and others to important personalities and it was impossible to escape from them. The name of the Castle comes from a Vision of Papa Gregorio Magno: Micheal the Archangel that was sheathing the sword. The dream was seen as a sign of the end of the plague and that really happened. To celebrate the fact, a stature of an Angel was located at the top of the Castle.



Sforzesco Castle, Milan

It is one of the main symbol of Milan and of the history of the City. It was built in the XV Century by Francesco Sforza, on the rests of earlier fortifications, but, during the years, it was subjected to several changes. The fortifications' belt more external, called "Ghirlanda", is the oldest part. The four corners are made by towers, each of them oriented towards one of the cardinal points and they have different shapes: Cylindrical for south and East, squared for North and West. All the perimeter is circulated by the ancient moat, nowadays not flooded anymore. The Filarete Tower, the highest and the most central one, is also the principal entry. The back facade is the ancient one and here it is also located the so called Ponticella di Ludovico il Moro, a bridge structure which was used to link the ducal apartments with the external walls, nowadays destroyed. In his room, Ludovico closed himself due to the loss of his wife Beatrice d'Este and, for this reason, the rooms were hereinafter called "Salette Nere".

Miramare Castle, Trieste

Surrounded by an amazing park, it stands above the sea, looking the Gulf of Trieste. The Castle was constructed for Archduke Fernando Massimiliano d'Asburgo, to share it with his wife, Carlotta from Belgium. It is a luxury house which conserves its original precious furniture. In the park it is also located the Castelletto, a smaller building that was used as their temporary residence during the construction of the Castle.

The only issue is the sad love story of the couple: Carlotta drove crazy after the homicide of her spouse in Mexico and both the Castle and the Castelletto became the sad scenario of the unfortunate destiny which not allowed them to live in this amazing residence.



ITALIAN INDUSTRY & COMMERCE OFFICE IN THE UAE

#1001, 10th Floor, 48 Burj Gate
Downtown Dubai, Dubai (UAE)

Tel: 00971 4 321 6260

E-mail: info@iicuae.com

Web-Site: www.iicuae.com



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