

The numbering of the church refers to the **General map of the romanesque network of the hills (RRC)**

How to get to and visit St. Andrew's Church in Casaglio:

Borgata Casaglio, Cerreto d'Asti (AT).

GPS Coordinates: Lat. 45.0547487 | Long. 8.0277479

Open the first Sunday of each month in the period from April to October, supervised by RRC volunteers. Saturdays and Sundays from 10.00 to 18.00; on request on other days.

Information: +39 3333922339 +39 3386938202
www.comune.cerreto.asti.it

Local attractions in and around Cerreto:

- St. Mary of Raseto Church, Mondonio;
- St. Lawrence's Church, Primeglio;
- Church of St. Peter and St. George, Piovà Massaia;
- Passerano Marmorito Castle;
- Piea Castle.

Local events and shows:

- Ceramics and Roses, May, Cerreto (AT)
- Festival of the Patron Saint, St. Bartholomew, August, Cerreto (AT);
- Festival of agnolotti pasta, May, Primeglio (AT);
- Festival of tripe, October, Passerano Marmorito (AT);
- Profumatamenta (Festival of Mint), June, Piovà Massaia (AT).



Information points and contacts:
Albugnano (AT), Abbey of Vezzolano

tel. +39 3331365812
infopoint@turismoincollina.it

www.turismoincollina.it
www.vezzolano.it

Facebook: turismo InCollina



Romanesque network of the hills promotes knowledge and use of the romanesque heritage of the local areas between the River Po and the Monferrato Hills.

With the collaboration of:



With the support of:

Municipalities and Parishes of Albugnano, Andezeno, Brusasco, Castelnuovo Don Bosco, Cavagnolo, Cerreto, Cortazzone, Marentino, Mombello di Torino, Montafia, Montiglio Monferrato, Tonengo.



Texts and photos by Associazione InCollina © 2018
Translation: Wall Street English, Chieri (TO)



St. Andrew's Church in Casaglio

Cerreto d'Asti

13



Abbeys and churches between the River Po and Monferrato

Description of the local area

St. Andrew's is situated in the local district of Casaglio (from the latin name Casalis), on the ridge of a hill, parallel to the village of Cerreto, 321 m.a.s.l. From an environmental and naturalist point of view, the rooftops of the buildings in the area are of interest, probably being of monastic origins, and they almost reach down to rest on the small grassy square. The position of the church affords a view of a picturesque landscape: to the east the town of Cerreto can just be seen and to the south the horizon is marked out by the curve of the Maritime Alps and the Ligurian Apennine mountains. A few metres from St. Andrew's there is the track leading to the hillfort of Passerano-Marmorito, the site of the splendid Castle of the Counts Radicati di Passerano.

Also worth noting is the historico-geographical importance that Cerreto enjoyed for a long period, especially during the XVIth century, as a position on the boundaries of no less than four jurisdictions: the Marquisate, later Duchy, of Montferrat, the lands of the Church, the County of Cocconato and the Duchy of Savoy.



Historical details

The oldest document to give testimony to the existence of the village, its church and the monastery dates back to 1008. In that document the Bishop of Asti, Alrico, endowed the Benedictine nuns of the monastery of St. Anastasius of Asti with lands and four small monasteries, including Sancti Andree de Casallo. The abbesses retained possession of these places until 1803, when the suppression of religious orders was carried out by Napoleon Bonaparte. Between the XIIIth and XVth centuries, the inhabitants of Casaglio abandoned their village in favour of the fortified centre of Cerreto.

The original building underwent substantial changes between 1645 and 1658, by which time it was derelict and was demolished,

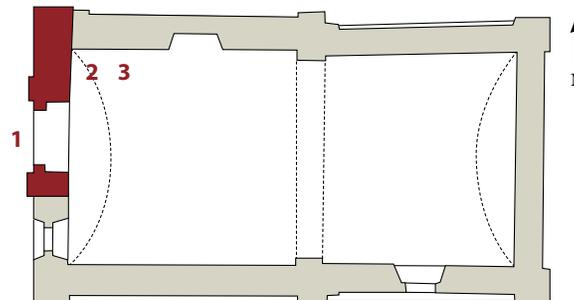


preserving only the central nave. Restoration work in 1993 led to aesthetic and functional recovery of the building, which now appears with a plain façade in exposed bricks, featuring its doorway, with alternating sandstone and terracotta.

Description

The present church has a single rectangular hall. The two perimeter walls were demolished and rebuilt, using the materials from the demolished church. It can be seen, in fact, that there are pieces of stone mixed with bricks included in the masonry of the walls. In the reconstruction of the 1600s, the south side was moved by about seventy centimetres, in order to widen the nave. This operation can be seen from the asymmetry of the main façade. As with all the Romanesque churches, this church is aligned in accordance with the traditional symbolism of directing the façade towards the west and the apse, which houses the altar, towards the east, in the direction of the rising sun.

1. An external element that is definitely Romanesque is the doorway, which is surmounted by a semi-circular arch in sandstone and bricks, finishing with a decorative band of bricks



laid in a classical "sawtooth" motif. The final cornice juts out from the rest of the wall by a few centimetres. Inside, the little church is roofed by a barrel vault on a plaster cornice.

2. The only original decoration is the pilaster and Romanesque capital sculpted with acanthus leaves in the north-west corner. Probably the two plain stone steps are also a reminder of the Romanesque origins of the church.

3. It is worth looking at the "archaeological essay" on display in the north-west corner. This shows a base and fragment of a column belonging to the earliest Romanesque church.

Interesting fact

Cerreto and its local area were a frontier area for years and therefore, inevitably, a theatre for battles. These historical events have left a number of reminders in the local naming of places, such as the local district of "Sentinella" (Sentinel) and "Nonplusultra" (Be all and end all).

