



1:80000 scale. Map created on InkAtlas.com. Copyright OpenStreetMap contributors (openstreetmap.org), OpenTopoMap (CC-BY-SA), 2021.

The numbering of the church refers to the **General Map of the Romanesque Hills Route**.

How to get to and visit the church of San Giorgio:

borgata Masio 10, 14020 Aramengo (AT).

GPS Coordinates: Lat. 45.094043 | Long. 7.992523

Open the first Sunday of each month in the period
from April to October, supervised by the volunteers.
On request on the other days.

Informations: +39 3402582934; +39 3336482054

www.comune.aramengo.at.it

Local attractions in and around Aramengo:

- Abbey of Vezzolano, Albugnano;
- Church of San Pietro, Albugnano;
- Church of San Giovanni Battista, Berzano di San Pietro;
- Church of San Michele, Tonengo;
- Church of Madonna della Neve, Cocconato.

Local events and shows:

- Patron Saint's Festival of Sant'Anna, 26 July;
- Patron Saint's Festival of San Rocco, Marmorito, 16 August



Social Promotion
Association

Information point and contacts:

Albugnano (AT), Abbey of Vezzolano

tel. +39 3331365812 +39 0119920607

infopoint@turismoincollina.it

www.turismoincollina.it

www.vezzolano.it

Facebook: turismo InCollina

Instagram: reteromanicadicollina



The Romanesque Hills Route

promotes knowledge and use
of the romanese heritage of the local
areas between the river Po
and Monferrato.

With the collaboration of:



With the support of:

Municipalities and Parishes of Albugnano, Andezeno, Aramengo, Berzano di San Pietro, Brusasco, Buttigliera d'Asti, Casalborgone, Castagneto Po, Castell'Alfero, Castelnovo don Bosco, Cavagnolo, Cerreto d'Asti, Cocconato, Cortazzone, Lauriano, Marentino, Mombello di Torino, Montafia, Montechiaro d'Asti, Montiglio Monferrato, Portacomaro, San Sebastiano da Po, Tigliole, Tonengo.

Texts: Beppe Moiso. Photos: Giacomo Lovera © 2020

Translation: Wall Street English, Chieri (TO)



Church of San Giorgio

Aramengo

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Abbeys and churches between
the river Po and Monferrato

Description of the local area

The little Romanesque church of San Giorgio stands within the municipal area of Aramengo, in the local district of Masio (ancient 'al Maso'). Its structure stands cosily on a low hill overlooking the houses of the ancient village (369 m asl).

The building can also be seen from below and is easy to reach along an asphalt road, the Strada Comunale San Giorgio, which branches off from the main Provincial Road SP458, Asti-Chivasso.

Historical details

After first being reported in the 'ecclesiastic community of Aramengo' in 1298, when it was added to the churches subject to the Diocese of Vercelli, the church was first mentioned in local records in the year 1357, in a document of ancient consignments and the income they enjoyed. At the time, it served as a parish church and remained such until at least the early 1500s. Its location, far from the town, demonstrates the importance of this well populated village in ancient times. From a Pastoral Inspection



in 1573 it emerges that it had been relegated some time before from the level of parish church to a cemetery church, on account of the attached cemetery. In 1597 the church was recorded as inaccessible, lacking a roof and flooring, and the cemetery was totally neglected. As a replacement, in the early years of the 1500s another, larger church had been built on the hills overlooking the village, on the ruins of a castle church which there is no trace of today. It is quite likely that during the early years of the 1600s, as a result of its serious state of disrepair, as well as in observance of ecclesiastical ordinances, the building was completely renovated. The perimeter walls were partially rebuilt and fitted with a new roof, while a pleasant façade with a small bell chamber welcomed the faithful. At the same time, the old cemetery was also abandoned in favour of the new one, which was set up on the hill beside the new parish church in the village centre, with the name of Sant'Antonio Abate.



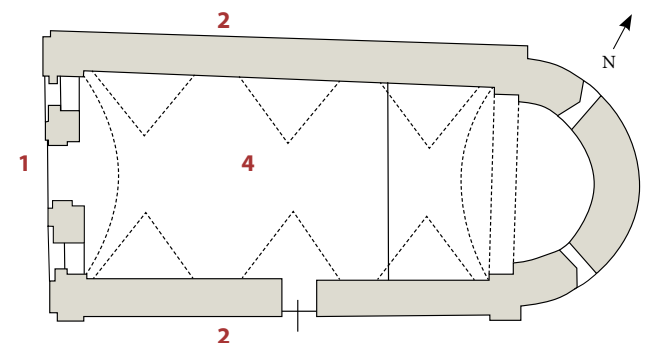
Description

The structure that appears well preserved today is the result of major renovations, carried out at the end of the 1980s. Passing the gates and climbing the short flight of steps gives an admirable view of the little church as a whole: the simple geometrical shapes condition the interior, consisting of a single rectangular hall finishing in a semi-circular apse.

1. The façade, dating from the 1600s, appears as a curve; at the centre of this there is a delicate doorway framing the modern wooden door; at the top, in the centre of the tympanum, there is a curved niche, now lacking a statue, and further down, there is a quatrefoil window. On the left pitch of the twin pitched roof, there is a small rectangular bell chamber. A wrought iron cross dominates the façade.

2. The side walls still bear evident signs of restoration in the 1600s, when renovation was done using only bricks. In the middle of the south wall there is a secondary entrance door, with a lintel in light coloured ashlar stones; still on this side, two blocks of stone can be seen with stylised profiles of two faces engraved on them, one of them being upside down, indicating that these were recycled materials.

3. The apse is the part where the original appearance of the building is best preserved, even though its walls have been partially



rebuilt, especially in the areas higher up, using recycled materials. Its semi-circular layout is inserted between two large buttresses and subdivided by the same number of half-columns in stone, topped with bricks. The base is in sandstone, while the upper part is topped with rows of protruding masonry, replacing the hanging arches which probably decorated it before they went missing.

4. The interior consists of a single rectangular hall with barrel vaults and lunettes around the windows. The interior walls, with exposed masonry, feature rows of bricks alternating with other, less numerous, rows of stone blocks, especially in the north wall. The apse is smaller than the hall in dimensions and joins it at the top with a double triumphal arch. In the middle of the hall there is a doorway leading to a small funeral crypt, which is closed as a result of re-surfacing the floor.

Two large paintings, from the 1600s and 1700s and now hanging beside the altar, testify to the naming of the church after San Giorgio the martyr. The saint, shown in both paintings, is represented with the classical iconography of the act of killing the dragon, under the protection of the Madonna and Child.



Interesting fact

A set of ancient graffiti can be seen on the south side of the apse and on the respective side wall of the church and the engraved writing, some of it upside down on account of recycling of materials, testify to the existence of the ancient cemetery.

The name of the district of Masio comes from Latin "masseria" (large homestead); the suffix -engo, included in many local place names, including Aramengo and its district of Gonengo, is of Germanic origin (probably Lombard). The widely known, but probably misleading, assonance between 'ramengo' or 'remengo' (venetian dialect forms for the Italian word 'ramingo') has popularised the expression: "andare remengo", meaning gone to pot or fallen into ruin. The term 'ramingo', from the Provençal term 'ramenc', defines a bird that lives in tree branches without a nest: The original quote in Italian: "per tutto l'autunno era andato a ramengo", in giro qua e là (C. Pavese), refers to someone going wandering, like the bird among the branches.