



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 Pietro:

Navigliano district of San Sebastiano da Po (TO).

GPS Coordinates: Lat. 45.10660 | Long. 07.572988

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 0119191221 / +39 328 6489785

www.comunesansebastianodapo.it

Local attractions in and around San Sebastiano da Po:

- Church of San Genesio, Castagneto Po;
- Abbey of Santa Fede, Cavagnolo;
- Church of San Siro, Casalborgone;
- Church of San Giovanni, Berzano di San Pietro;
- Castello della Villa, San Sebastiano da Po ;
- Roman remains of the city of Industria, Monteu da Po;

Eventi e manifestazioni del territorio:

- Fair of San Sebastiano da Po and investiture of carnival masks "Portonè and Marina dal Port", mid January;
- Pom Matan Festival, early September, San Sebastiano da Po;
- Saronsella festival, end of June, San Sebastiano da Po;
- Corn soup and stew, Carnival Sunday.



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 and photos by Associazione InCollina © 2021

Translation: Wall Street English, Chieri (TO)



Church of San Pietro

San Sebastiano da Po

22



Abbeys and churches between
the river Po and Monferrato

Description of the local area

The church is currently used as the chapel for the cemetery of Navigliano, a district of the municipality of San Sebastiano da Po, which is a few kilometres from Turin, where the hills of Turin meet the first slopes of Monferrato. San Sebastiano da Po is situated on a hilltop from where it dominates the plain of Vercelli. Navigliano stands on a rise on the hill known as "Bric verde", 250 m asl., overlooking the district of Saronsella, about 3 kilometres north of San Sebastiano da Po. To quote the historians A. Motta and Eugenio Olivero (Engineer) "it is a lovely little Romanesque church within the boundaries of San Sebastiano da Po, now Archidiocese of Turin, standing on a bluff on the hillside". It is quite important, not only for the history of this area, but also on account of the refined Romanesque style it was built in.



Historical details

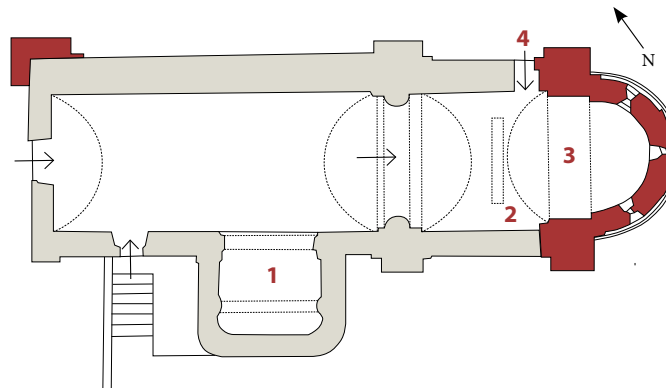
The first mention of the chapel called Nevigliano or Uvigliano is dated to a Papal Bull of 1148, in which it is considered to be one of the oldest Priors of Vezzolano, run by Augustinian friars from the Abbey of S. Maria di Vezzolano, until the XIVth century. Ancient buildings are still visible adjacent to it today, which were probably part of an ecclesiastical complex, such as an abbey. It had considerable belongings and enjoyed, in particular, the benefits of an income from a port on the river Po and a mill. The little church of San Pietro still preserves only its apse and part of the perimeter walls from the Romanesque period. Originally, its rectangular main body was probably covered by an exposed roof and then subsequently lengthened and covered with a barrel vaulted roof; at present the roof is tiled. Archive documents confirm the construction of the apse may date back to the mid XIIth century, while the upper parts of the side walls and the barrel vault over the main body were completed between 1584 and 1647, which may also be deduced from reports of pastoral inspections.



Description

The façade has evident signs of a lack of homogeneity.

1. In the Baroque period a square-shaped **chapel dedicated to S. Antonio**, was opened in the right wall to the south-west; the altarpiece dedicated to S. Antonio Venerato and including angels and plaster volutes was kept there. The building is aligned with a semi-circular apse to the south east, with a rectangular floor plan and dimensions that vary from the classical measurements of similar buildings.
2. In the walls of the presbytery, which is slightly raised, at the point where the **altar** stands, traces of a stone cornice can be seen, sculpted in a basket weave pattern.
3. The **presbytery** is still covered by its original barrel vault with a slight ogee section. Above the choir, also on a semi-circular base, there is a half-dome with Gothic features, as for the triumphal arch marking off the choir. These vaults and arches, which are slightly ogee, mark the borderline between the Romanesque style and the Gothic. On the outside, the walls have a protruding foundation in stone blocks and then continue with bricks and alternating rows of stone; the end section of the main body of the church is marked off by two buttresses per side, protruding outwards from the side walls. The east buttress underpins the brick built bell tower, with a narrow profile and divided into three sections by two string courses. This tower is positioned at the highest point and is of a later construction. The curved wall of the apse is composed on a base in squared stones and streaked bricks. Two stone pilasters divide the apse into three sections.
4. In the middle of each section there is a single **pane window** with monolithic rounded arch. The jambs are also splayed and recessed. On the north-east side there is a small door with rounded



arch formed by just two stone blocks. High up in the centre there is a small arched window, with a slit opening and filled in with randomly placed stones. The decorative motif of the cornice is made up from a row of bricks in a saw tooth pattern and bands of bricks. Below that a motif of small crossed arches based on shelves decorated with leaves, human faces and various shapes. This polychrome effect, typical of monuments in Monferrato, is similar to that seen in the church of S. Maria di Vezzolano, giving rise to the idea that it was made by the same hand. It may be surmised that the construction of San Pietro took place at the same time as the enlargement work on the rectory of Vezzolano (second half of the XIIth century): in particular, the stone blocks of the walls might have come from the same quarry as the mother church.



Interesting fact

The area has been inhabited since the High Middle Ages. The earliest documents place it under the control of the Counts Radicati. The area was the base of the priory of San Michele di Radicata and it is still known today as 'Bric' d'la Rià' in local dialect; it belonged to the Marquisate of Monferrato under the Aleramica dynasty until 1305, then the Paleologi until 1533 and finally the Gonzaga from 1536 to 1631. At the end of the War of Montferrat Succession and under the Treaty of Cherasco, San Sebastiano da Po passed to the Duchy of Savoy. The castle standing in the 'Villa' district is of mediæval origin and, around the year 1000 there were fortifications or fortified houses there. It was totally rebuilt by Bernardo Vittone in the 1700s and frescoed by Pietro Bagetti in the early 1800s.