



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 Sant'Eusebio:

S.P. 16 Castelnuovo don Bosco-Berzano San Pietro,  
via Chivasso, Castelnuovo don Bosco (AT)

GPS Coordinates: Lat. 45.0447423 | Long. 7.95951909

Open the first Sunday of each month in the period  
from April to October, supervised by the volunteers.

On request on other days.

Informations: +39 3393448793 +39 3485219881

[www.comune.castelnuovodonbosco.at.it](http://www.comune.castelnuovodonbosco.at.it)

### Local attractions in and around Castelnuovo don Bosco:

- Abbey of Santa Maria di Vezzolano, Albagnano;
- Basilica of San Giovanni Bosco, Castelnuovo don Bosco;
- Church of Santa Maria di Cornareto, Castelnuovo don Bosco;
- Houses and places associated with San Giuseppe Cafasso, San Domenico Savio and Blessed Giuseppe Allamano;
- Castle and Museum of Plaster, Moncucco Torinese;
- Church of San Lorenzo, Mombello di Torino.

### Local events and shows:

- Last Sunday in November: Regional Festival of truffles and wines from the Upper Asti area, Castelnuovo don Bosco;
- 25 April and 15 August: Flea market for antiques and second-hand objects, Castelnuovo don Bosco.



### Information points and contacts:

Albagnano (AT), Abbey of Vezzolano

tel. +39 3331365812 +39 0119920607

[infopoint@turismoincollina.it](mailto:infopoint@turismoincollina.it)

[www.turismoincollina.it](http://www.turismoincollina.it)

[www.vezzolano.it](http://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 Albagnano, Andezeno, Aramengo, Berzano di San Pietro, Brusasco, Buttigliera d'Asti, Casalborgone, Castagneto Po, Castell'Alfero, Castelnuovo 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 © 2018

Translation: Wall Street English, Chieri (TO)

Rev03, July 2022



# Church of Sant'Eusebio

Castelnuovo Don Bosco

2



Abbeys and churches between  
the river Po and Monferrato

### Description of the local area

The church is situated in an area at the bottom of a valley, close to the junction of the roads for Moncucco-Berzano and for Albugnano-Vezzolano and on the confluence of two streams Rio Nevisano and Rio Bardella. Coming from Castelnuovo it can be seen on the right of the Bardella-Moncucco road.



### Historical details

The Church dedicated to Sant'Eusebio was built in the last decades of the XIth century in the village that existed at that time, where the diocese of Vercelli reached the boundary with those of Asti and Turin. It was first mentioned in a document from 1280 as a parish church of Castelnuovo, dependent on the pieve of Santa Maria of Pino. When the village moved from the bottom of the valley to the top of the hill, where the new castle had been built, with the new church of Sant'Andrea within its walls, the Romanesque church became subject to the parish priest of Sant'Andrea. In his pastoral visit of 1574, the Bishop of Vercelli called it "a church that was once a parish church but was now rural", subject to Sant'Andrea "*praepositura SS. Andreae et Eusebii*". When it was visited in 1597 it was found in bad condition: "it has no vault nor flooring... there is no bell tower nor sacristy... lacking all the requirements for celebrating mass, and it was unroofed in several places and the rain came in". It was relegated to a rural church officiated for rogations and had a cemetery available for a few burials.

### Description

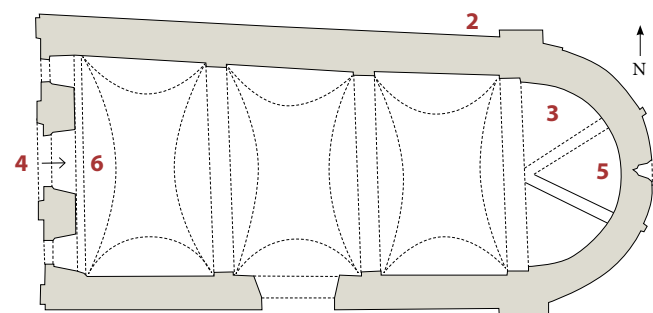
It is a rectangular hall, measuring 11m x 5.6m, with a semi-circular apse and gabled roof. The courses of dressed stone from the ancient Romanesque structure can still be seen, as can the door on the south side and the apse, with two **filled in single openings** (1) that have leaf and scroll decorations on their arches.

On the **north side**, almost adjacent to the apse, a **door** (2), which has now been filled in, bears a semi-circular arch using the bichrome technique, typical of the Romanesque in Monferrato,



which was obtained by alternating bricks with dressed stone. The Romanesque part at the level of the **apse** (3) became the base for higher levels added later, in order to counter the effect of landslips on the hill, which had partially covered the doors and windows. There were two successive rebuilds over time:

- in the XVth century, with work done on the south side, which can be seen from the bricks in regular courses with mortar joints, above which there is a section of plastered walling from the XVIIth century
- in the XVIIIth century, with a radical refurbishment, which raised the sides of the building and completely renewed the vaults and the façade, to bring the church up to the ground level of the surrounding countryside. In 1978, the inhabitants of the farmhouses near the church repaired the roof; later detailed restoration work, which was started with the Great Jubilee of 2000 and completed in 2007, involved the fresco on the **façade** (4) and brought to light the interior flooring and the exterior level of the original Romanesque church, whose semi-circular construction behind the altar can be clearly seen. In the centre of the apse there is a **painting on canvas** (5) with Sant'Eusebio and the Madonna di Oropa with Gesù Bambino. Also worthy of note is the **wooden choir** (6), which can be seen above the main entrance doorway.



### The cult of Sant'Eusebio

Eusebius was born in Sardinia in 283, educated in Rome and in 345 became bishop of the new diocese of Vercelli. He fought against the Arian heresy; he was persecuted by the emperor Costantino, and banished as a prisoner (in a cage) to Palestine and Egypt. Freed in 361, he brought back with him icons of the Virgin Mary (Black Madonna) which he delivered to Oropa and to Crea, before resuming his pastoral duties in the diocese until his death (374). In Vercelli, the cult of Sant'Eusebio grew rapidly and acquired great prestige in the proto-Christian age, spreading to other dioceses. The churches of Eusebius ultra Padum show a considerable monastic presence, such as Sant'Eusebio of Cavagnolo, subjected to the Priory of Santa Fede. In 1961, Eusebius was proclaimed principal patron of the whole of Piedmont by Papa Giovanni XXIII. In Castelnuovo Don Bosco, the remembrance of Sant'Eusebio is celebrated on 2 August each year.



### Interesting fact

In front of Sant'Eusebio Church there is a meeting point for walkers, the start of a "Romanesque walk", leading (through vineyards and woods) to Santa Maria di Vezzolano. Half way along the route, the view from the ridge gives a glimpse of the Romanesque church of Santa Maria di Cornareto and the facing Baroque church of San Michele, patron saint of the local district of Bardella di Castelnuovo, whose saint's day is 29 September. The path that leads from the local district of Lys, through the woods of Pogliano, to Vezzolano, affords a view of the monument that is unusual today, but was dear to the pilgrims who climbed up from Castelnuovo.