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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 Lorenzo:

S.P. 12, Tigliole (AT)

GPS Coordinates: Lat. 44.883638 | Long. 8.089384

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 0141 667003 / +39 340 6478340

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

### Local attractions in and around Tigliole:

- Municipal Palace of Tigliole;
- Parish church of Santi Lorenzo e Giovanni Battista;
- Wildlife Recovery Center Lipu;
- Churches of San Martino and San Giorgio di Bagnasco, Montafia;
- Church of San Secondo, Cortazzone.

### Local events and shows:

- Walk by the Pro Loco, May, Tigliole;
- Patron Saint's Festival of San Lorenzo, August, Tigliole.



Social Promotion  
Association

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

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**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.

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Translation: Wall Street English, Chieri (TO)



# Church of San Lorenzo

Tigliole

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Abbeys and churches between  
the river Po and Monferrato



### Description of the local area

The church stands alone in the zone with the same name, San Lorenzo – called “*Teglolo superiores*” during the middle ages - approx. 1200 metres east of the village, at the top of a hill, 230 metres asl. The building is reached from the village by travelling one kilometre along the road to the railway station, then turning left into Str. Comunale San Lorenzo, a dirt road that leads into the countryside. The church is surrounded by a belt of spontaneous trees, mainly locusts and honeyberries.



### Historical details

Given that his fortified castle was exceptionally heavily dependent on the Bishop of Pavia in a political sense, information referring to San Lorenzo di Tigliole is very scarce. Although it is distinct from the adjacent village with the same name, originally (1041) called Teglolo sancta Maria then later Teglolo inferiore or Tigliolette, lying on the confluence of the Traversa river with the Borbore and dependent first on the parish church of Lavege (in 974) then later on that of Marcellengo-San Damiano (in 1345), the village of upper Tigliole did not keep documentation for the whole of the middle ages. The church of San Lorenzo, half way between the two villages, is mentioned in the land registry of 1507 and later the local historian Giansecondo De Canis (who lived in Tigliole) reported that in the early 1700s the church was still carrying out cemetery duties. While it was dependent on the diocese of Pavia it was under the care of the vicar of Costigliole, but was annexed to the vicariate of the city of Asti in 1803, then later on again to the vicariate of Baldichieri on a parish level. Despite the scant historical details, the construction characteristics of the apse, with its typical bi-chrome pattern, splayed windows and monolithic hanging arches, suggest that the building dates back to the XIIth century. On looking at the wall patterns, though, it appears likely the church was built in two separate stages. The interior work and opening of the windows on the south side may date to the XVIIIth century. In the mid-1900s this Romanesque monument was in an extreme



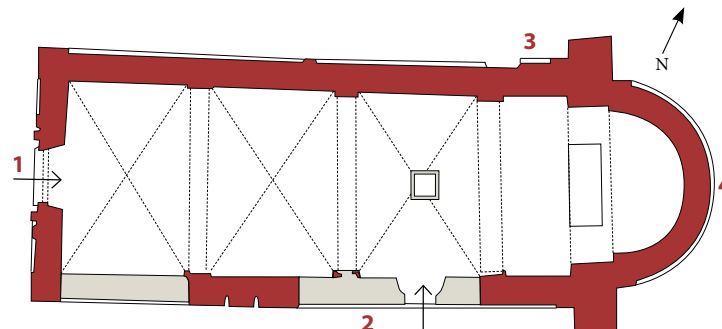
state of deterioration; infiltration of rain water had caused the roof to collapse, together with the vault of the first span over the hall; vegetation had penetrated the walls and caused damage and detachment of some of the decorative stonework on the upper cornice. After inspection by the Superintendency in 1984 and subsequent careful restoration and consolidation, under the care of an architect (Inzerra), the building regained its original dignity in the early 1990s.

### Description

The building has a rectangular floor plan 14.25m long and 4.8m wide on average, with a semi-circular apse. Built with rubble masonry and the external face mainly in bricks laid in various patterns, with rare alternations of stones and bricks, especially for the apse.

**1.**The axial **entrance** is highlighted by an attractive rectangular doorway, slightly protruding from the façade and marked out by squared pilasters ending in a terracotta cornice. The doorway is similar to the one of Sant'Andrea di Casaglio. In the centre, the door with smooth lintel and jambs is surmounted by a lunette with a rounded arch, ring of stone blocks and a second crescent arch supported by two parallelepipeds with capitals that are barely outlined, resting on small columns.

The **side walls** display the successive work done over time: **on the south side (2)**, a doorway filled in on protruding masonry that has been chiselled on its upper part, to open up one of the three wide windows aligned with the interior spans. On this wall, four single pane windows with rounded arches and masonry blocks can be seen, but are now filled in. A fourth window, smaller and lower down opens at the level of the presbytery. In the area towards



the apse, there are the remains of a cornice of hanging arches in brickwork. There is a similar frieze with hanging arches towards the wall of the apse on the **north wall (3)**, incorporating a filled in door with a crescent arch and double ring, one in shaped bricks and the outer one in tuff blocks. In the upper part there are two filled in narrow single pane windows, similar to the south wall.

**4.** The semi-circular **apse** is divided into three sections by a narrow pilaster carved with basketry weaving and a half-column in stone blocks. In the middle of each section there is a double splayed single pane window with three recesses; the jambs and rounded



arches are each carved from a single block of stone. The cornice consists of four monolithic hanging arches for each section. Above that there are two rows of bricks, the lower one laid out in 'saw tooth' pattern and above that a cavetto moulding in stone blocks. On the **interior**, the main body is a single nave, divided by transverse arches into three spans, covered by rib vaults with drop arches. The presbytery is raised by one step from the floor of the hall. The barrel vault covering it rises towards the transverse arch connecting it to the apse, which is lower and narrower, by means of a triumphal arch. In the main body, near the presbytery, a hatch gives access to an underground space with a barrel vault.

### Interesting fact

Because of its location in an area that was originally densely forested, the name of Tigliole ought to refer to the presence of tigli (the Italian name for the linden tree).

Tigliole was for a long time a 'papal land', a genuine legal island, separated from the rest of the Asti area even after the arrival of the House of Savoy and up to 1741, the year in which Pope Benedict XIV effectively conceded authority over the papal fiefdoms to Charles Emanuel III. Tigliole continued to enjoy tax privileges that allowed its inhabitants considerable earnings from the production of saltpetre and gunpowder and by rearing silkworms, partly used by numerous local weavers.