Casalborgone

Piazzo

Abbazia Santa Fede

Tonengo

Moransengo

6 San Michele

Gonengo

Maroero

San Giovanni Battista

Aramengo

Berzano di San Pietro

San Giorgio

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 Michele:

Strada Provinciale 18, Località San Michele, Tonengo (AT).
GPS Coordinates: Lat. 45.1128504 | Long. 8.0150768

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 3404588688   +39 3355723266
protocollo@comune.moransengotonengo.at.it

Local attractions in and around Tonengo:

- Abbey of Santa Maria di Vezzolano, Albugnano;
- Abbey of Santa Fede, Cavagnolo;
- Church of San Pietro, Brusasco;
- Chapel of San Grato, Moransengo castle;
- Cocconato, mediaeval town centre.

Local events and shows:

Patron Saint's Festival of San Michele, last weekend in September.

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tourism in the heart of Piedmont

Information points 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

RETE ROMANICA DI COLLINA

The Romanesque Hills Route promotes knowledge and use of the romanesque heritage of the local areas between the river Po and Monferrato.

With the collaboration of:

REGIONE PIEMONTE

DIREZIONE REGIONALE MUSEI PIEMONTE MiC

TRANSROMANICA
The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage

With the support of:

Municipalities and Parishes of Albugnano, 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, Moransengo-Tonengo, Portacomaro, San Sebastiano da Po, Tigliole.

FONDAZIONE Cassa di Risparmio di Asti

🇬🇧

Church of San Michele

Moransengo-Tonengo

6

RETE ROMANICA DI COLLINA

Abbeys and churches between the river Po and Monferrato

Description of the local area

The church of San Michele stands alone on a small hill, close to the provincial road leading from Tonengo to Cocconato.

The sight of the Romanesque church is especially appealing, with its little flight of steps, bordered by rosemary bushes. The steep climb is evocative of the symbolism of ascension associated with the cult of San Michele.

Also, the naming after the archangel Michael might suggest that this spot was a destination along the major mediaeval pilgrimage routes, especially the one between Mont Saint-Michel and Monte sant'Angelo sul Gargano, on the way to Jerusalem, passing through the thousand-year-old Sacra di San Michele in the Susa Valley; what is more, the road between Industria (a Roman colony lying beneath the modern town of Monteu da Po), and Hasta Pompeia (Asti) passed through the hills precisely at these points.

Historical details

The first historical details on San Michele of Tonengo appeared in 1298, as shown from the registers of the Diocese of Vercelli: the church was subject to the *Plebs Sancti Joannis Baptistae de Lustria*. In the mid-1300s it was under the temporal patronage of the Counts Radicati, lords of Cocconato, branch of Aramengo. It remained the parish church of Tonengo until the sixteenth century, when a new parish church dedicated to San Bernardo was built.


Later, in the pastoral visits of 1577 and 1584, San Michele was only mentioned as a former Parish Church of Tonengo.

Description

Although the construction of the building dates back to the XIIth century, it was extensively altered in later times and its original Romanesque features have only been partly preserved.

Aligned east-west, it consists of a single hall with a rectangular plan, terminating in its semi-circular apse. A triumphal arch connects the nave to the apse and the latter structure is externally supported by two symmetrical buttresses.

1. The best-preserved area is the **apse**, which rests on a pedestal of original sandstone. This apse, which is divided into three sections, has some interesting decorative elements, such as its hanging arcades, resting on small corbels, its stone arches and the widely-splayed single openings. The walls, with courses of light-coloured bricks, presumably date between the second half of the XIV century and the start of the XV. The south side was rebuilt with materials from the mediaeval period recovered from parts of the original building. The three single openings in the apse were created by
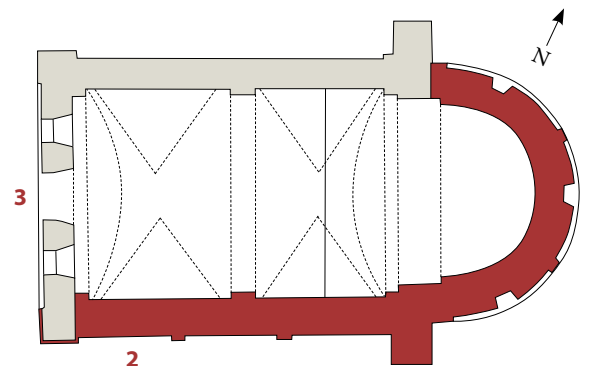
recycling the original dressed stones, material which is exactly like the base. The north side and the façade underwent work in the seventeen hundreds. In the north side, though, a large trapezoidal-shaped dressed stone can be seen, which might have belonged to the Romanesque entrance doorway.

2. Other elements from the original building would seem to be the **stone doorway** on the south side, filled in with brickwork, with its beautiful bevel sculpted with a diamond-shaped motif.

3. The main façade is completely plastered, definitely subject to remoulding in the XVIII century, as was the interior, where new barrel vaults were built, the flooring was changed and an altar was erected in brickwork with plaster cornices painted as fake marble. The natural lighting of the interior, achieved by the creation of rectangular windows of quite considerable size in relation to the building, is also very different from what was originally provided by the single openings of the Romanesque apse.