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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 Santi Sebastiano e Fabiano:

S. P. 2 n. 27, Scandeluzza in Montiglio Monferrato (AT).

GPS Coordinates: Lat. 45.051937 | Long 8.129214

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 3356926042; +39 3396312586

www.comune.montigliomonferrato.at.it

Local attractions in and around Montiglio Monferrato:

- Castle of Montiglio Monferrato;
- Castle of Colcavagno;
- Church of Santi Vittore e Corona, Colcavagno;
- Church of San Pietro, Albugnano;
- Church of San Michele, Tonengo;
- Church of Santi Pietro e Giorgio, Piovà Massaia (arch. B. Alfieri);
- Church of Santi Nazario e Celso, Montechiaro d'Asti;

Local events and shows:

- Patron Saint's Festival of San Rocco, 16 August, Scandeluzza;
- Regional Truffle Fair, first two Sundays of October, Montiglio Monferrato.



Social Promotion Association



Church of Santi Sebastiano e Fabiano

Scandeluzza in Montiglio Monferrato

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Information point and contacts:

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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, Montemagno, Montiglio Monferrato, Moransengo-Tonengo, Portacomaro, San Sebastiano da Po, Tigliole.



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Translation: Wall Street English, Chieri (TO)



Abbeys and churches between the river Po and Monferrato

Description of the local area

The building stands at the top of a hill, which is the norm for the Romanesque churches in this area, a short distance from the village, near the entrance to the cemetery, actually forming part of the cemetery wall with its north side. It is reached by means of the provincial road from Murisengo to Valle Versa.

Historical details

It is certainly the oldest church and the most interesting one from an artistic point of view of all those in Scandeluzza. Evidence of its extremely ancient origins can be seen on a stone, laid inside the church, bearing this inscription: A.D. 427. REC. ECLAFVIT / FUNDATA - ET IEDIFCET. / 429. DIE xv. MESIS MAII / FVIT CONSECRATA P.P.M.D. In 1298 it appears in the oldest register of churches in the diocese of Vercelli as "ecclesia sancti Stephani de Taxio" subordinate to the parish church of Montiglio and joined with the "ecclesia de Scandalutia"; the latter being subordinate to the parish church of "Castrum Turris" (near Villadeati). The first church mentioned should correspond to the "ecclesia Sancti Sebastiani de Cazia", joined with Santa Maria di Scandeluzza in the register of 1348.



The naming of the church after the saints Sebastiano and Fabiano, according to Monsignor Ferraris, must go back to more recent times, so the church that is now named after these latter two saints could correspond to the one previously named after Santo Stefano. Other churches named after the saints mentioned are almost non-existent in this area; in Casale, though, the little cemetery church is dedicated to San Fabiano.

The little temple of Scandeluzza must also have acted as a village church prior to its depopulation and subsequent declassification of the church to a country cemetery chapel, with surrounding dwellings also disappearing. The political needs of the Lords to move the population into a single village and castle coincided with the inhabitants' need for safety, but they continued to look after the abandoned church in order to bury their dead, while there was nothing but ruined houses around the sacred building. The only urban area,



which probably stood around the site of the cemetery and must have been called 'Caxio', was already in decline at the end of the XIIIth century, given that its church was united with and subordinate to that of Santa Maria di Scandeluzza; it was without doubt abandoned in 1304, when the Lords of Montiglio, jointly with the Marquis of Monferrato, built a fortification around the church of Santa Maria and obliged the population of Caxio to move.

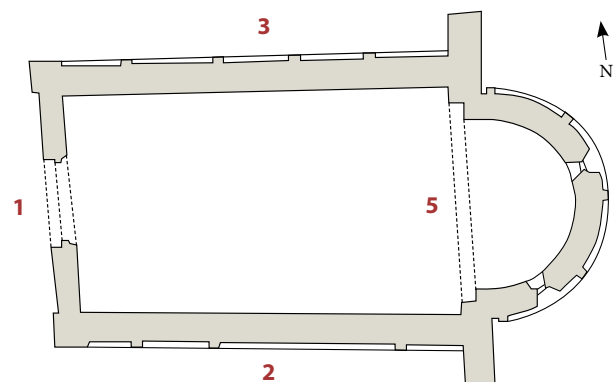
Description

This church, like the majority of the Romanesque churches in the area of Monferrato, features a single apse and rectangular, aligned main body; in other words the façade to the west and the apsal protrusion to the east.

1. The double pitched façade, with corner pilasters, is in exposed brickwork, laid on a foundation of a different type of bricks. The stone portal is formed from three superimposed rings, sculpted with various decorative motifs and resting on pairs of small columns, with parallelepiped pedestals.

The crown piece of the façade consists of a series of terracotta dentils, two rows of shiner bricks with a band of lozenge elements in between, covered by an ovolo moulding in stone.

2. The south face, rounded off by the corner pilaster of the façade and the buttress of the triumphal arch is divided into four irregular



sections and between the second and third pilasters there is a filled in door with a pointed arch, made from terracotta elements with rosettes stamped on them; the walling on this side is done in stone blocks of various sizes with thick beds of mortar, alternating with rows or short sections of bricks. The foundation offset can be seen, as well as the attachment of the pilasters to the backing wall, signs of dating between 1600 and 1800. The end wall of the main body, which acts as buttress for the triumphal arch, has been raised at a later date, since it consists of stone blocks alternating with rows of bricks as far as the line of the gutter of the longitudinal wall and then only bricks in the upper part; the latter, towards the apse, contains elements that protrude with an irregular trapezoidal pattern.

3. On the north wall there are no openings, as is the rule for buildings of this type; in the sections formed by four pilasters resting



on a base, recycled elements have been included; the walling consists of stone blocks, pebbles, small arches and pieces of brick laid with no precise order.

4. The apse is in blocks of stone alternating with bricks, in the Romanesque style of the Monferrato area; there is an unusual crown piece not found in other churches in the area, consisting of double hanging arches in brickwork, resting on shelves processed with various motifs. Higher up a stone cornice can be seen, sculpted with foliage. In the semi-circular apse there are two single pane windows. The inside of the semi-dome of the apse has frescoes of Christ with San Sebastiano e Fabiano.

5. The end wall of the main body has a fresco showing the face of the Madonna and an inscription along the whole of the triumphal arch "Beati qui in Dea moriuntur" (Blessed are they who die with the Goddess), with geometric motifs defining the two parts of the end wall. The latter two are not symmetrical, since the apse is not in alignment with the main body. The intrados bears the signature of the author of the 19th C. decorations: "Pifferi Cesare" "4 7bre 1876".