

Pordenone, Castle of Torre

The castle of Torre was built in medieval times where once the complex of the great Roman villa extended. The oldest part of the fortification is represented by a square-based tower, characterized by massive walls, probably built in the second half of the 13th century by the Patriarch of Aquileia, who initially entrusted it to the lords of Prata. After various events in which the castle is disputed by the Patriarchate, nobles of Prata, nobles of Porcia, Count of Gorizia and Carraresi, finally in 1391 the Patriarch of Aquileia, Giovanni di Moravia (1288-1394), granted the castle of Torre to Giovannino of Ragogna, as commute with the castle of Ragogna. After the first half of the fifteenth century, with the Venetian conquest of Friuli, the castle was transformed into a noble residence and was involved in a vast program of architectural and artistic interventions including the fresco decoration with the *Annunciation* on the ground floor, attributed to Gianfrancesco da Tolmezzo (1450-1511). Probably during the second half of the seventeenth century the stairway leading to the noble floor and the open gallery was built. Between the end of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth century, in the vault of the ground floor of the tower-keep, it was made the fresco depicting the main protagonists of the defence of Vienna from the siege of the Turks in 1683, probably to remember the participation of a member of the Ragogna family at the battle. Several additions and structural modifications were made to the building during the 18th and 19th centuries. At the end of the nineteenth century, in the southern sector of the castle, the old building with a loggia was demolished and a new building was built, which went against the northern wall of the main tower. In 1926 the building was replaced with the one existing still today. In 1970 the count of Ragogna died leaving the castle of Torre to the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia; at the end, after various testamentary events, the building reached the Municipality of Pordenone. After a careful restoration that took place in the early 2000s, the castle has been home to the Archaeological Museum of Western Friuli since 2006.

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December 2018