

Lombriasco

The territory, already inhabited in the Roman time, as confirmed by two epigraphs, was included in the "marchesato" of Turin in the Early Middle Ages. In 1163 the emperor Frederick Ist Barbarossa invested the place to the marquises of Romagnano, who in 1173 transformed the ancient church of St. Mary - already chapel of the castle, into a parish church, giving it to the monks of St. Augustin. The parish, which depended directly from the Holy See, had ample incomes, but it decayed during the following centuries, so much that it was abandoned and then reconstructed. In the 13th century a part of the town passed to the Savoy family and then to the Princes of Acaja. In 1347 it was occupied by the troops of Luchino Visconti, allied to the Princes of Acaja, in war with the Counts of Savoy. In 1378, the antipope Clemente VII surrendered Lombriasco to Antonio Ponte of Asti: his family got in 1644 the rank of earldom; the family branch of Lombriasco was extinguished in 1850. In 1800 the castle gave hospitality to Napoleon Bonaparte. In 1928, Lombriasco was united to the town of Pancalieri, becoming again autonomous after the 2nd world war.

The **St. Cross chapel** (17th century) served as place of cult for the pilgrims and the wayfarers who venerated a fragment of the Cross of Christ contained in a shrine today preserved in the parish church.

Before the 12th century, the ancient church of St. Mary was the chapel of the castle of the Family Romagnano; thanks to the marquis Manfredo II of Romagnano, in 1173 it was transformed into a parish church and submitted to the monks of St. Augustine. After a long period of splendour, it fell in downfall and had to be rebuilt by the parish priest Giacomo Ponte in 1560. The current **parish Church**, entitled to Our Lady of the Assumption, is owed to the intervention of the parish priest Paolo Ponte (1674). The construction of the building lasted more than one century and it could be consecrated only in 1779. The high altar is of the 20th century, while the organ was built in 1890. The plasters were commissioned in the 19th century by Maria Antonia Ortensia de Tremolety de Montpézat, widow of the Count Francesco Gregorio Maria Ponte, chamberlain of Napoleone. Particularly interesting are those in the chapels of the Crucifix, of St. Rocco and of St. Louis. The church has also some paintings of the 17th and 18th centuries, already present in the church of St. Sebastian. Of great historical interest is the tomb headstone of Manfredo II of Romagnano, lodged in an area close to the church.

The first castle was built around the year 1000 and was commissioned by the marquises of Romagnano, feudatories of the territory. A square tower also served as bell tower for the parish church. It was severely damaged during the following wars and sieges, and in the 18th century it was transformed into an elegant **Palace** by the Ponte, Lords of Lombriasco. With the extinction of the family (1850), the building was purchased by the Benedictine nuns of Mondovì, later transferred to Chieri. In 1894, don Rua, first successor of St. Giovanni Bosco, established a Salesian Community inside it. The ancient building preserves a Gothic window on its façade, a Baroque staircase and some fresco decorations. Today it lodges a school for primary and secondary education, still managed by the Salesian community. A nearby building lodges an interesting **Museum of Natural History**, that preserves fossils, mineral, shells, insects, various animals. The current **bell tower**, was designed by the architect Andrea Cattaneo of Turin, and was built in 1832 with the money of the town hall and the donations of Antonia Ortensia de Tremolety de Montpézat, marquise De Gras Preville, widow of the last but one Count of Lombriasco.

The **Church of St. Sebastian** is a 15th century building but its current shape dates back to the 17th century. The ancient cemetery flanked it (today replaced by a roofing). It was used as parish church during the '600, when the church of St. Mary was in downfall.

Recently restored, it is interesting, in the S. Sebastiano street, the **fresco** dated 1517 and signed by the painter Jacopino Longo of Alba; it represents the Madonna with her Child and the Saints Anthony the Abbot and Sebastian.

Events.

Fair of the Po (June); the river Po, that crosses the territory, is the occasion for a great collective party devoted to the rediscovery of the water resources.

Fair of the Holy Bodies (first Sunday in October): traditional fair of ancient origin, which involves the whole town

For informations:

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