

Osasio

To stroll around the streets of this small town is surely a panacea for the tourist, often under stress due to the frenzy of intersections, parking lots and traffic lights. Here the time flows with totally different rules. From the ample Castle square, the itineraries untie themselves into the direction of ancient farms, noble presences, popular and official devotion points, such as the beautiful Renaissance frescoes and the altarpiece of Flemish taste of the cemetery chapel. Fundamental is the walk to the mill of Borgonuovo, flanked by private parks, brooks and trees: here the Time has really stopped its flow, allowing the maintenance of one of the most good-looking landscape corners of Piedmont.

The inhabited area of Osasio, documented since the early Middle Ages, around the 11th century was submitted to the spiritual and temporal jurisdiction of the abbey of S. Michele della Chiusa. During the 14th century, a part of the inhabited area was subjected to a branch of the powerful family of the Provana of Carignano, to whom the erection of a palace is probably owed, later destroyed during one of the several wars that devastated the territory. In 1363, part of Osasio was purchased by the Family Bartolomei of Susa and attached to their feud of Pancalieri. In 1366, the brothers Catalano, Nicolò and Giorgio Provana sold half of the castle and of the villa of Osasio to the noble Perrono Bulla, citizen of Asti, bourgeois of Avigliana. In 1416, the prince Ludovico of Acaja subjected the territory to his natural child Ludovico, who submitted it to twenty-four local families, so that it could be improved and cultivated under the obligation of an annual tribute of three hundred golden ducats. Such contract, dated March 17th 1440, can be considered as the official birth certificate of the town; many of the current inhabitants still bear the names of these families. At the death of Ludovico, Osasio passed under the direct dominion of the Savoy, to whom the above mentioned tribute was paid for other three centuries. The parish remained submitted to the spiritual power of the abbots of S. Michele until 1808, when it was united to the diocese of Turin. During the 19th century, the territory passed for female descent to the Count Scaglia of Verrua, from whom it was later purchased by the marquises Amoretti of Envie. Under the fascism, Osasio was united along with Virle to the Town of Pancalieri (1928-1946).

Before entering Osasio, crossing the road that goes to Virle from Carignano, the current cemetery rises. Inside it, two famous monuments deserve a visit: the **grave of Venceslao of Breme** and the **chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows**. The inside of the small religious building, erected probably in the 15th century, is enriched by some valuable Renaissance frescoes, most of them are irremediably deteriorated: they represent the Sts. Agatha and Apollonia and the Visit of St. Mary to St. Elizabeth. On the apse vaults, some frescoes of the late 19th century can be seen (the evangelists' symbols). On the altar it was once located a precious painting representing the Annunciation, painted in the 16th century by an anonymous painter with Flemish influences; the ex-voto was ordered by Bernardino of the marquises Romagnano of Virle, escaping unharmed from a fall from horseback. Today it is conserved in Turin, but a full size copy can be found in the parish church. In a small chapel, worthy of note is the neoclassic grave of Venceslao Arborio of Sartirana of Breme, diplomat and minister of the king Carlo Alberto of Savoy. The town centre is characterized by the beautiful **Castle square**, a wide lawn around which the parish church, the Town hall, some farms and important houses, and the small covered market area make beautiful show of themselves. The **parish Church of the Holy Trinity** was built during the 17th century on the site of a preexisting chapel of the 15th century, and depending from the parish of Carignano. The new building, nearly coincident with the current aisle, was later widened with the construction of the apse. The bell tower was added only in 1730, while the last enlargement, when the sacristies were built, was accomplished some decades later. The single-aisled inside presents four side chapels, the altars of which – same as the high altar – were erected in the 20th century in new baroque style. Among its most remarkable works are the painting representing the Holy Trinity on the high altar, painted in 1835 by Stephen Chiantore; the fresco of the dome over the presbytery, attributed to the painter Crippa (1858); the picture of the

Immaculate, of unknown author (18th century). Other surprises are still there to repay for the efforts of the tourist. Next to the apse of the parish church, the **Church of the Holy Ghost** rises, erected around 1730 by the confraternity of the “Battuti Bianchi” founded in 1661. The sober late baroque façade is surmounted by a half-elliptic pediment. On the street bringing us to the Borgonuovo hamlet we shall then meet the small **chapel of St. Rocco**. The building, documented since 1533, was devoted to the Saint protecting against the plague probably after the 1630 great epidemic. Enlarged and restored in 1830 by the family Ferrero, to whom it still belongs, has on the façade two frescoes of the late ‘800 depicting the eponymous saint and Our Lady Help of Christians; the altar-frontal is a work of the painter Nelio Pecchio of Carignano (20th century). In the inhabited area it is still possible to notice big **farmhouses** of the ‘700 and ‘800 and some beautiful **sundials**. Out of Osasio, in the hamlet Borgonuovo, in a picturesque and secluded corner of the countryside, an old **water-mill** rises. The native building, built in the 18th century, was enlarged in the ‘800. In 1879 new iron wheels in iron replaced the worn-out wooden ones. The mill was used until mid-20th century for the grinding of the cereals and for the crushing of the hemp, taking advantage of the power of the stream Angiale.

Events

Fair of the Holy Trinity (June): the fair is the occasion to enjoy an animated atmosphere, that every year involves the whole town and attracts numerous visitors.

For information:

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