

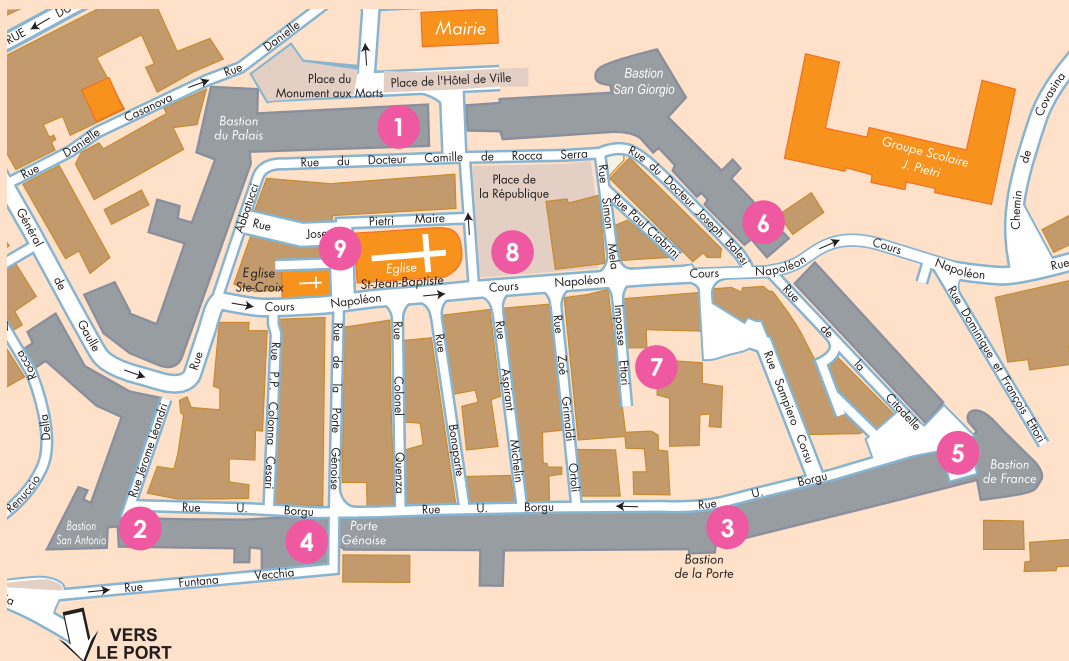
The small historical guide of

Portivechju

Cita di Sali

TOME I





1 TOWN HALL SQUARE

At the right, the **San Giorgio Bastion**, named after the most important Genoese bank, the Saint George office, the Corsican administrator of that time. He took afterwards the name of the old windmill, the “Mulinu à Ventu”, situated on the hill facing it.

At the left, the **Palace Bastion**, “Baluardo di U Palazzu Publicu”, an old Genoese military barrack that held the garrison of this part of the fortress, that today are restored. The governor and his lieutenant lived side by side, at the Palazzo (the Palace) that had a watchtower.

2 RENUCCIO DELLA ROCCA STREET

The **San Antonio bastion** or “Di A Fontana Vecchia”, overlooking the oldest fountain of the village, was before called “Spinola” that was the name of the Genoese governor that occupied the island.

With a view over a hole on the citadel's walls, the legend tells that this hole was done by a cannon ball of Sampiero Corso when he assumed control of the village from the Geneses at 1553.

Sampiero Corso was a soldier of the French army (glorified among François the 1st army). On the battle for Europe that was being fought over two fronts, France that aims for assurance of a strategic platform in Corsica. The goal is to weaken the Spanish tropes with help of their Genoese allies. Henri II, successor of François the 1st, decided to offer his help to Sampiero for its first military expedition in Corsica. The defeat of the French of Saint-Quentin at 1557 and the signing of the Cateau Cambrésis at 1559 would rush the return of Corsica to the Geneses.

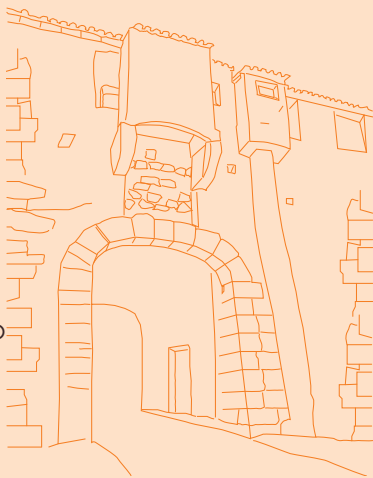
3 DOOR'S BASTION

The Bastion that can only be seen from outside the citadel's walls. It's called the “**Cannon's Bastion**”.

4 GENOESE DOOR

The only access point to the citadel on Genoese time, it is protected by a solid door and machicolation that can be found in great state even today, and by a cannon placed above it, at a platform that was used as an observation tower.

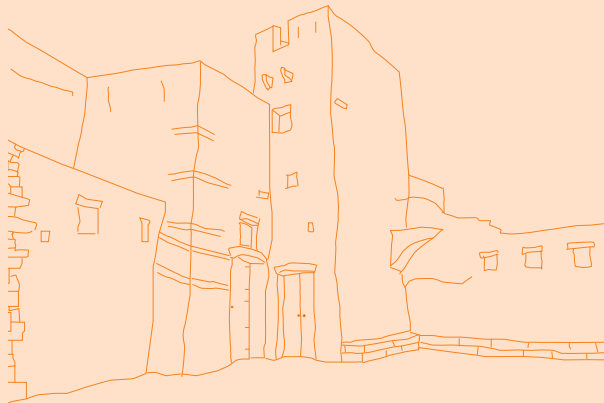
This door gave access to the port from where can still be seen the salt marshes. The people of Porto-Vecchio called that area “**Piazza di Po**” certainly due to the remains of its podestat (tittle granted to the village's magistrate on medieval times).



5 FRANCE'S BASTION

Also known as "**Baluardo di A Marina**"; it was used as an observation tower over the port.

This bastion, the biggest of the citadel, was finished at 1542. It was called "France's Bastion" because it was taken by the French tropes after the departure of Pascal Paoli and the surrender of Porto-Vecchio to the French King at Wednesday the 14 of June 1769.



This bastion was restored between 1986 and 1989. It becomes a remarkable space that hosts numerous events (concerts, expositions, conferences).

6 FUNTANICHJA QUARTER

At the junction of the Pasteur street and the citadel street, you can see a breach on the wall that connected the France Bastion to the windmill.

A door known as "Stefano Sardu" gave access to the old Funtanichja quarter, name of a small fountain that may be found below.

7 ETTORI SQUARE

The old house next to this square used to be an infirmary for the Genoese tropes.

8 REPUBLIC SQUARE

The Republic Square: central square of the old village, constructed at the XIXth century; it was paved on the 80's, it used to be a dirt track.

A curiosity: the “**Bel Ombra**” is the name given to this tropical plant. The Belombra or Raisinier dioïque (*Phytolacca dioica*) has its origins at the south-American pampas, the only place where you can find this kind of trees. This “Bel Ombra” was offered to Porto-Vecchio at 1901. It's part of the people of Porto-Vecchio's memoirs. A natural ornament of this square, yes it's fragile and it's subject to several studies and protections.

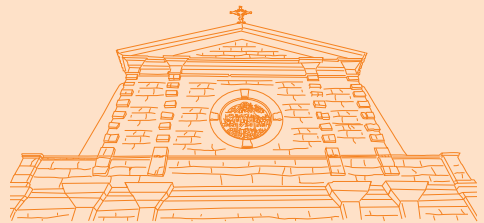
9 SAINT JEAN-BAPTISTE CHURCH AND SANTA CRUCI CHAPEL

Dedicated to **San Giovanni Battista** (Saint Jean-Baptiste), it was built at the XIXth century, in granite.

It was consecrated at 1868 by the pope. Done in roman style, it has a beautiful bell tower that is similar to the one that is found in Quenza (a village in Alta-Rocca).

At its inside, you can find canvas paintings from the end of the XVIth century that represents the crucifixion and the magnificent Christ on procession. The aisle's frescoes were restored in the 50's; and the stain glass windows in the 60's. The building would just be finished at 1896 thanks to public subscriptions, but those subscriptions weren't enough to end the front that is still today private domain from the four columns whose it can still be seen their frame. Therefore this church is unfinished.

In front you have the restored “Santa Cruci” chapel from the XVIth century. Today, the siege of the Santa Cruci brotherhood, it was the town hall at the XVIIth century. On its inside: the Maria Regina painting (XVIIIth century) and the Descent of the Cross (the 90's).



The Genoese Citadel

At 1540, a committee of the members of the Saint Georges' company chosen these "empty lands" and decided to construct a fortress to keep safe their settlers. They were threatened by the barbarians and in particular by the Turkish pirate Dragût that had developed landmarks at the Ziglione island, the "Ziddonu".

The insecurity, the earth's little yield and the malaria will cause most settlers leave their lands.

From 1540 to 1589, the town would be destroyed four times (1546, 1564, 1575 and 1589). But at each try, Genoa would rebuild the citadel on its porphyry rocks.

From 1553 to 1559, it would be taken over by France and conquered by the tropes of Sampiero Corso at 1564.

At 1578, it would take the name Vintimiglia La Nova with the arrival of 900 settlers from Vintimiglia that would be decimated at 1581 due to malaria.

Porto-Vecchio is reborn, at 1578, with the Genoese settlers. But in a higher number that took shelter at the citadel and its neighboring towers of San Cyprien, Benedettu, Chiappa and Punta Cerbicale.

The Genoese republic would end up giving the island to France at 1768. A year later, King Louis XIV's tropes would take possession of the renamed "Bastion de France" and they were installed in a 3 hectares fortress.

GUIDED TOUR TO THE CITADEL

Every Thursday at 18h30 (Mai to September)
Information and inscriptions
at the tourism office
Tel : 00 33 (0)4 95 70 09 58

ot-portovecchio.com

