

INTERNATIONAL CULTURE AND TRADITIONS. YOUNG EXPLORERS ON THE START!



Carini



WHERE IS CARINI LOCATED?

Carini is an ancient village in the metropolitan city of Palermo, Sicily. It extends for about 76.50 kilometers and is about 26 kilometers from Palermo.

The territory, mainly flat, is bordered by some Mountains, while the historic center is built on the hill overlooking the territory.



CARINI AND ITS HISTORY

It is a small town, that took its name from the Greek word 'Hyccara' (referring to a local species of fish).

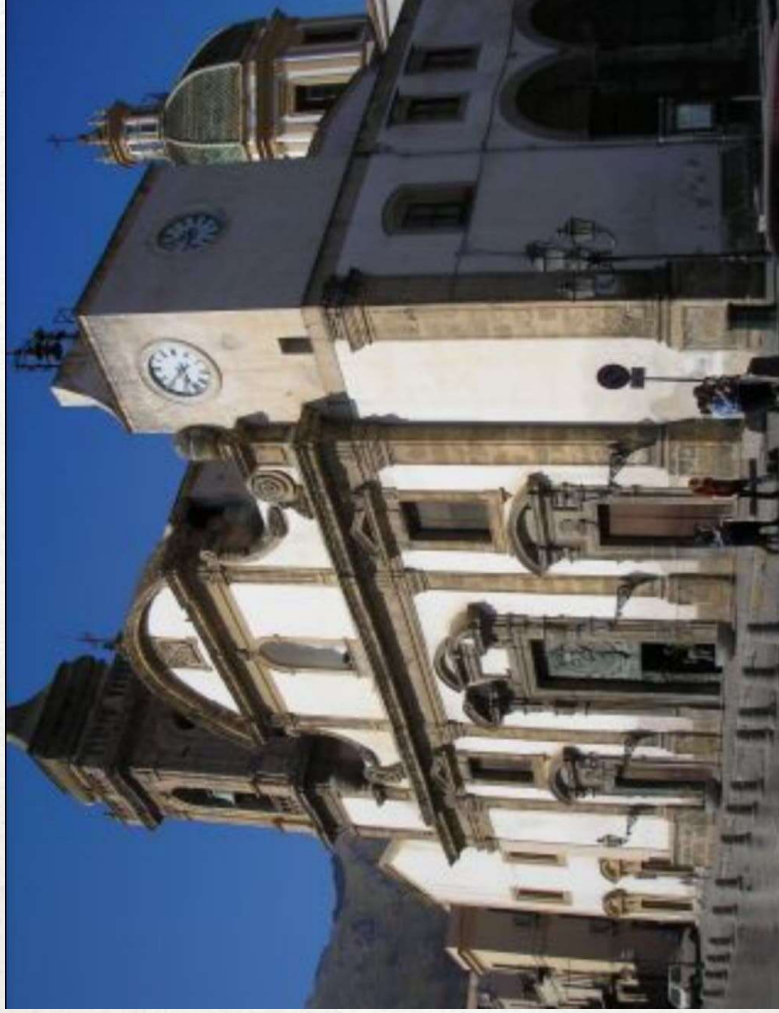
During its historical development it was rebuilt
several times,

the last reconstruction taking place under the Arabs, around the 10th century
A.D.

CARINI AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

In Carini, you can visit many interesting monuments, such as the Baroness's castle, the city cathedral, the medieval gate, as well as natural reserves or pre-historical grottos, like the nearby Carburangeli Grotto.

THE MOTHER CHURCH



The Mother church of Carini is the city cathedral.

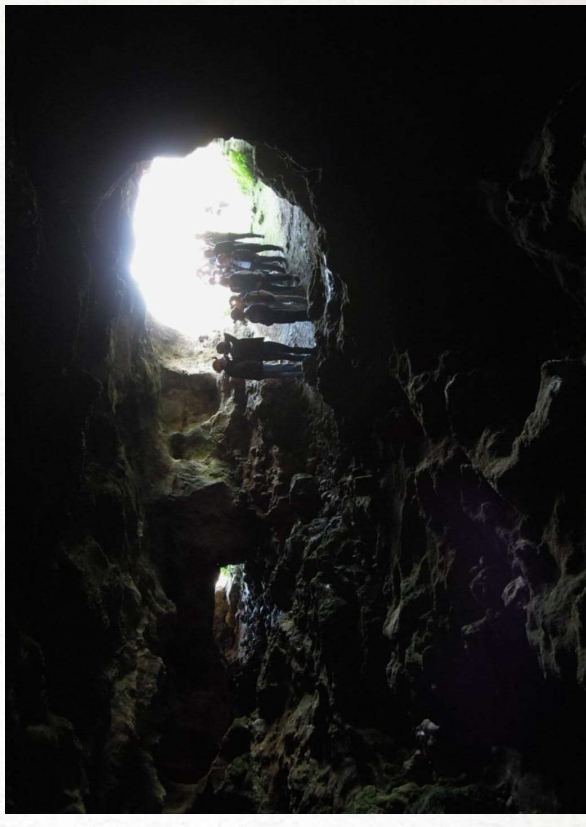
Located in the Duomo Square, it was built in the late 15th century and completed during the late 18th century.

The main prospect is a late 18th century Baroque façade, with two twin bell towers.

CARBURANGELI GROTTA

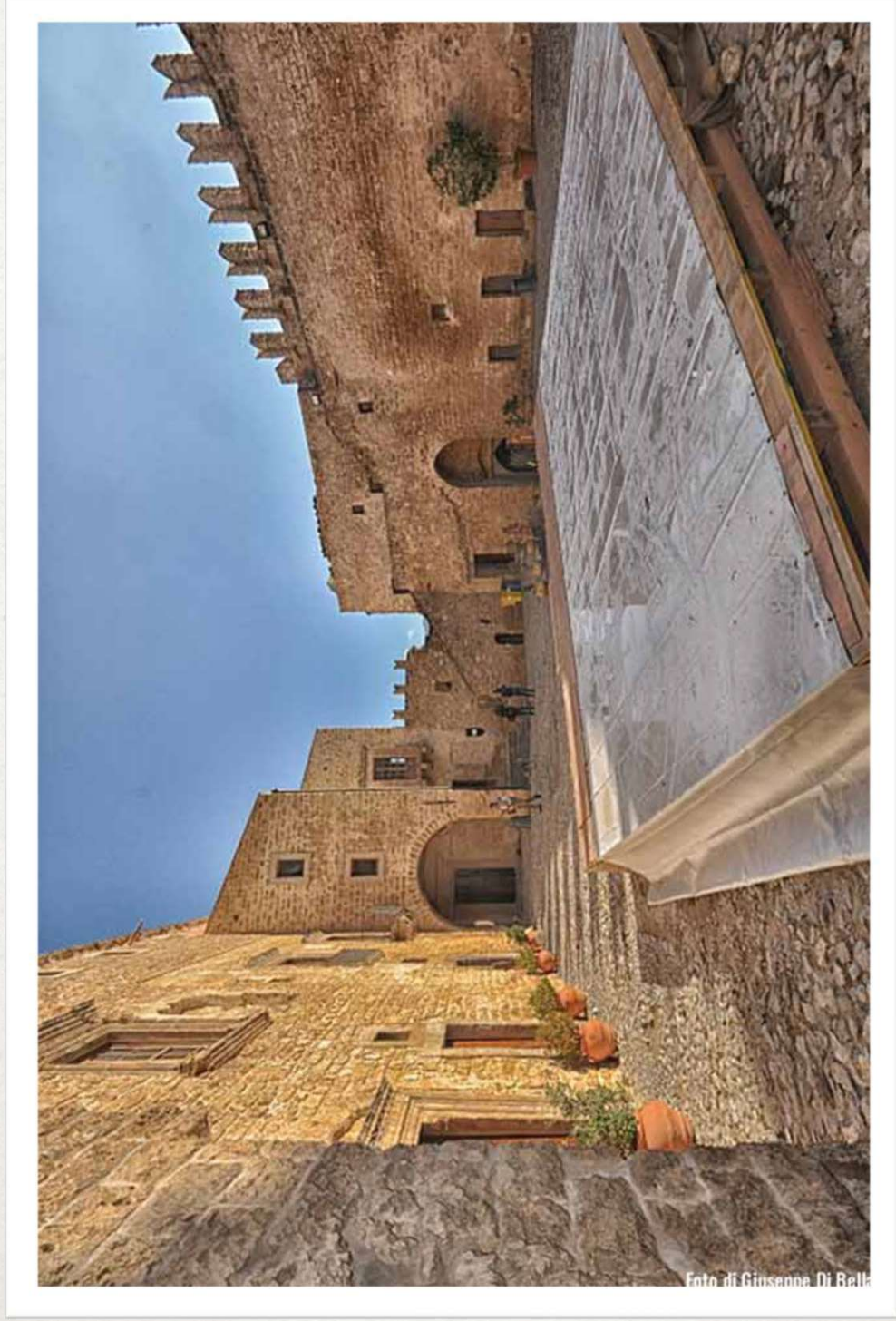


The natural reserve of ‘Carburangeli Grotto’ is a protected natural area of great speleological, archeological and paleontological interest, located in Villagrazia di Carini. It is rich in stalactites, stalagmites and pools, which were once crystalline.



It was recognized as a natural reserve only in 1995. Eventually it was entrusted to Legambiente and WWF so to be safeguarded and opened to all the tourists interested in nature.

THE CASTLE OF CARINI



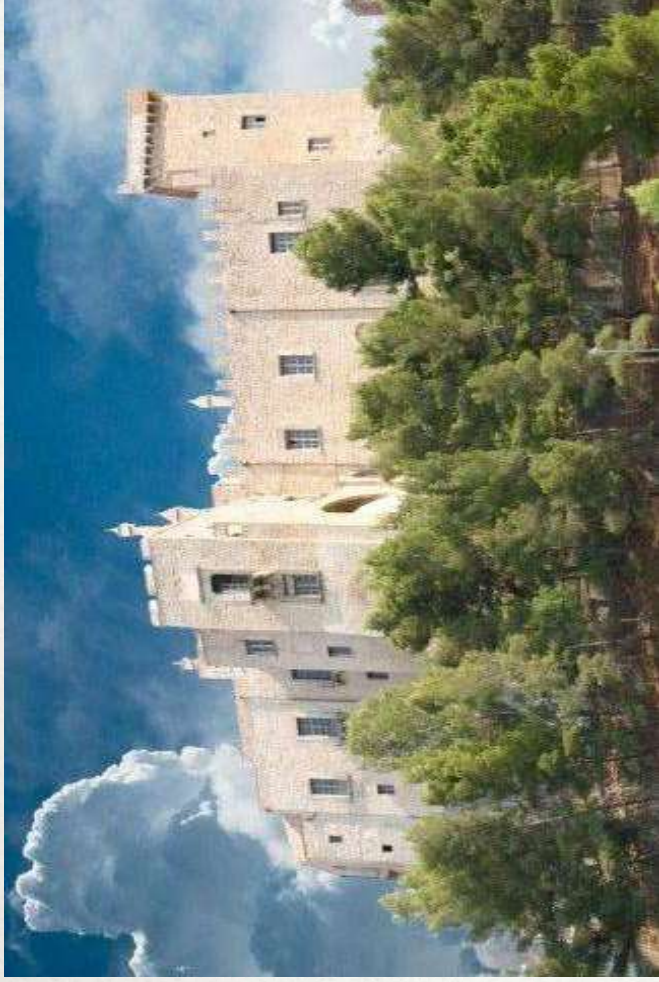
The castle in Carini was initially built as a watch over in fact it is located on the top of the hill near the town of Hyccara;

Originally, it was a stronghold for sighting enemies, like most of Sicilian castles and defensive towers, built in strategic positions.

For a short time, it was owned by the Abate family and then passed to the Barons of Carini, La Grua. When the only daughter of Umberto La Grua married Gilberto Talamanca, the dynasty changed its name to La Grua-Talamanca;

The castle was the setting for a tragedy in 1563 when Laura Lanza, baroness of Carini was murdered by his father.

CARINI'S CASTLE



It is a medieval fortress, a magnificent manor, whose first construction dates back to the Arab period.

From an architectural point of view, the building is a mixture of styles.

The north Gothic wing, which overlooks the valley, characterized by mullioned windows, dates back to the medieval fourteenth century.

The castle presents also presence of Arab-Norman remains such as the typical pointed arches.

Magnificent is the wooden ceiling in the room used as the party hall, with its the numerous frescoes and Latin phrases such as "Et nova sint omnia" ("And everything is renewed") or "Recedant Vetera" ("Let the past be erased").

Testimony of the seventeenth-century period are the very detailed Corinthian columns that can be found in the chapel.

The castle still underwent further transformations in the late eighteenth century to be adapted to the new function of holiday residence.

WHO WAS LAURA LANZA?

The fame of the castle rests on the ballad of the famous baroness of Carini Laura Lanza, an Italian noblewoman who was the protagonist of a tragic Sicilian story. The father arranged her marriage at the age of 14 to Vincenzo La Grua-Talamanca and they moved to the Castle of Carini where they lived for twenty years.

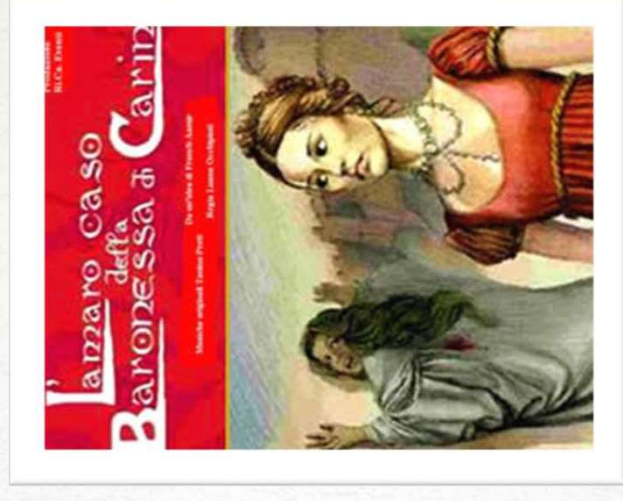
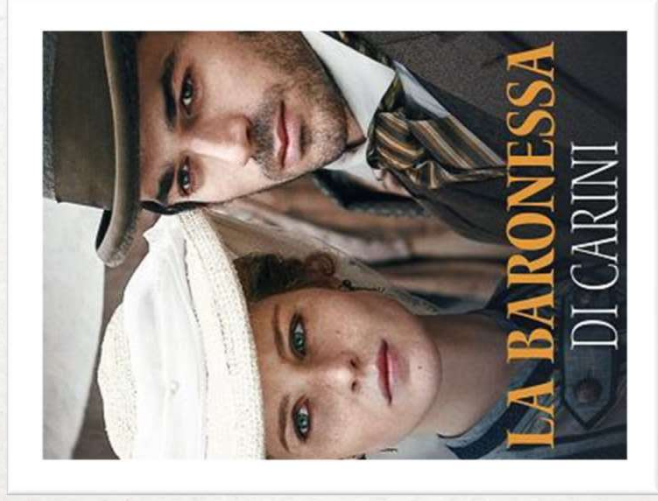


Disappointed by her marriage life, the Baroness fell in love with Ludovico Vernagallo and became his lover: discovered by her husband and her father, Laura was murdered with her lover. The murder room collapsed completely and it said that on one wall there was the bloody print of the Baroness's hand that appears on the day of her death 4th December, 1563



HOW WAS THE STORY HANDED DOWN?

- The story was passed down orally from one man to another over many generations. It was finally written by Salvatore Salomone-Marino, who had heard it sung by Giuseppe Gargagliano, a storyteller.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sR-Exhyymss>
- The story of the Baroness of Carini was also represented in a theater in Palermo in 1912;
- The story has also been told in some films including “The bitter case of the Baroness of Carini” (1975) and “The Baroness of Carini” (2007).



**TODAY THE CASTLE IS THE SEAT
OF CONFERENCES, MEETINGS
AND CULTURAL EVENTS**

