Museum castles, but also many private homes
A THOUSAND EXPERIENCES THROUGH THE FOLDS OF HISTORY

Manors, fortresses, fortified sites, city walls and ruins, restored and open to the public, tell travellers about the events of this land's past. Beyond the drawbridges the discovery of surprising, small and large treasures, an important artistic and memory heritage of Trentino

Enter the halls decorated with antique furniture and fine majolica stoves, once the home of the powerful Prince-Bishops of Trentino, walk in the loggias and courtyards where the representatives of the Holy Roman Empire and the papacy were welcomed, and sit on the lawn where tournaments and challenges between knights were fought. Beyond the threshold of a castle, in Trentino, a thousand adventures between history and legend await us.

There are **155 castles** in Trentino. Some are simple **ruins** that defy the seasons, others are **private residences**, some have been converted into **restaurants and hotels**, while the more **imposing castles**, enhanced by collections and works of art mostly acquired by the autonomous Province of Trento, have been made **accessible to the public**. Thanks also to the numerous **architectural and conservative recovery works** that involved the structures, year after year Trentino has created a real **network of castles** that can be visited today: a circuit that continues to expand.

In the history and landscape of Trentino

In **Trento** attention is focused on the **Buonconsiglio Castle**, a historical-artistic monument of extraordinary value, residence of the Prince-Bishops of Trento until 1803. The castle is famous for its "Cycle of the Months" in Torre Aquila, a masterpiece of international Gothic genre, as well as for the frescoes by Dosso Dossi, Romanino and Fogolino, and the rich collections of archaeology, wooden sculpture, stone sculpture, the Egyptian section, the Renaissance bronze section, and the rich art gallery.

Castel Beseno, in the heart of Vallagarina, is the largest fortified complex in the area, a mighty fortress of medieval origins. It is open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday, every day (except Monday) from April to November, and at other times on weekends. Following the Adige river you reach Rovereto, dominated to the east by the Venetian **Castle**, one of the best examples of late medieval fortification and home to the prestigious Italian Historical War Museum. As you continue heading south, you come across the **Avio** castle, owned by the Fai Association. Its walls and watchtowers are perfectly preserved, and inside it you find a precious cycle of frescoes on chivalric life and courtly love. It is open Wednesday to Sunday, from the end of February to November.

The **Stenico Castle**, in the Valli Giudicarie, is a dramatic and imposing medieval fortress, which surprisingly houses sculptural decorations and valuable frescoes worthy of an elegant

residence. It is open to the public Tuesday to Sunday, from April to November, and only Saturday and Sunday at other times of the year.

Near Lake Idro, strategically perched on a rocky spur overlooking the body of water, **Castel San Giovanni di Bondone** is the symbol of the prestige of the Lodrón family, who owned the structure from the 13th to the 20th century.

In the **Garda Trentino** area it is possible to visit **Castel Drena**, which rises above the Marocche di Dro area, an ancient post-glacial landslide. From the 27-metre-high lookout tower you can see the **Arco Castle** to the south, which can be reached by following one of the three streets that from the centre of the town traverse the olive groves to Prato della Lizza.

Further south, you reach Riva del Garda with the ancient **Rocca**, a fortress on the lake built on 1124, which houses the MAG, Alto Garda Museum, with its three sections, art gallery, archaeology and history.

In **Val di Non** the point of reference is **Castel Thun**, the monumental residence of what is perhaps the oldest noble family in Trentino, already documented in 1050, who produced four prince-bishops between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It is open to the public Tuesday to Sunday, from March to November, and only Saturday and Sunday at other times of the year.

Castel Valer near Tassullo is recognisable by its characteristic octagonal tower, the tallest in Trentino. This nine-century-old manor house, inhabited continuously since 1368 by a single family, that of the Spaur Counts, can now be visited upon reservation on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. This proposal has further expanded with the opening of **Castel Nanno** to the public: the manor built by the Lords of Enno is a treasure chest of fascinating stories and legends that tell the historical vicissitudes of the territory and of the families who owned it until 2022, when it was purchased by the autonomous Province of Trento.

Since summer 2019, **Castel Belasi** has also been reopened to the public. Located in the apple orchards of the Municipality of Campodenno, its roots date as far back as the 13th century. Pancrazio Khuen Belasi, Lord of the castle between the 1460s and 1523 gave the castle its imposing with its characteristic pentagonal lookout tower. **Castel Coredo** is another historic building of great value: it does not have the profile classically associated with a manor, but the surrounding walls, the white and red shutters and the elevated position reveal its noble origins at first glance.

In the nearby **Val di Sole** you can visit **Castel Caldes**, built to guard the western borders of the Episcopal Principality of Trento and a synthesis of different architectural styles, and **Castel San Michele** in Ossana, a stronghold of probable Lombard origin with its mighty 25-metre lookout tower.

There are also many castles owned by private individuals, structures that are often revived with a new identity, such as restaurants (**Castel Toblino**, in Valle dei Laghi), hotels or conference venues (**Castello di Pergine** with the **Ca'stalla** inn and **Castel Ivano**, both in Valsugana).

Further information available here and at this link

(m.b.)