

REGNOS ALTOS CHURCH



The church of Our Lady of Regnos Altos was probably built in the XIV century, in which we found an important painting discovered by accident in 1972 during restoration work, attributing initially to a Spanish school, though today it is considered to be a Tuscan school dating back to 1340-45. When observing the painting from the left we can see: - The Adoration of the Magi; - The Last Supper Underneath: - St Lucia, Mary Magdalene receive the Eucharist from an angel; - The theology of Saints and Martyrs headed by St Martha and St James the Greater. On the wall in front of the apse: - St Constantine roman emperor and his mother Helena holding the True Cross. Above: St Martin who gives his cloak to a beggar. Next: - an enormous St Christopher wearing a green tunic; the Archangel Michael and Celestial Woman. Above St George killing the dragon. On the right wall a theology of Franciscan saints. Underneath the martyrdom of St Lawrence. At the centre The Legend of the Three Dead and the Three living People.

Is a depiction unique in Sardinia. St Macarios illustrates the phase of decomposition of the body after death. The first corpse lays in his coffin, the second showing the first signs of decomposition and the third with the body reduced to a skeleton. This theme is a warning for people to reflect on their death and not to be taken in by vanity and material possession or earthly power because the only thing that counts is the salvation of soul which is equal for everybody regardless of whether they are rich or poor.



The church of Regnos Altos is situated the castle enclosure. The fortress was built by the marquis Malaspina originally come from Lunigiana in 1112. These lords were given some lands from the pope Benedict VIII (including the Temo

valley) because they participated, together Pisans and Genovens to the crusade against the Arabs, who were a threat to the Sardinian people. For this motive the population of Bosa Vetus was transferred to the bottom of Serravalle hill, where they felt more protected. The castle was built in various stages, since the XII century when some towers were constructed, with a scheme similar to Saint Michele's castle in Cagliari. The tower situated in the North corner, was demolished at the beginning of 1300 and reconstructed by Giovanni Capula, the same architect who constructed the tower of Elephant in Cagliari and Saint Pancrazio's tower too.



The original buildings dimensions consisted of four small towers, one at each angle. The walkway is also visible where the gards carried out their sentry duties. The courtyard was situated in the centre surrounded by the living quarters. The buildings were two or three stories high capped by slanted roofs to enable rain water to be collected via the guttering system which flowed into the cisterns. During the first years of the XIV century the caste was pledged and then sold to the Giudicato of Arborea. The arborea stayed in Bosa until 1410 after which the castle and the city of Bosa were conquered by the Aragonesi. The castle then became a true military garrison. They fortified the walls and constructed much larger towers. They also made better use of the economic resources that the city and the river offered and increased the import and export of goods. Under the aragonese domination the fort wall was enlarged and some short square towers were constructed. To follow were built a pentagon tower and a bank toward the sea and were built also in the same period the three cannon ramps. In the XVII was abandoned from the Spanish and it became house for the poorest people. Today we can see the walls, the towers and the ruins of the housing area. From the panoramic view you can see a beautiful view of Bosa; the river Temo, the only one navigable river of the island (it is possible go up the river by boat for 5 km as far the old ruins of a roman bridge near the Romanesque Cathedral of St. Peter, 1062), and the sea.