

## The Governance of the Marchesato

In 1355, with the granting of the status of a Feudal Imperial State, the Marchesato gained complete autonomy in the introduction and enforcement of laws, rules and sanctions required to govern.

- Freedom to make peace or wage war and to establish political alliances. This right was used in establishing agreements with nearby Città di Castello, the Florentine Republic and later the Grand Dukedom of Tuscany.
- The right of appeal to '*mero e misto imperio*' - legal justice for civilian and penal causes, which included the '*potestà di gladio*' - the death penalty. In Titi's map of this area, dated 1676, a 'Colle dell Forche' is shown where the gibbet was kept in Monte S. Maria; another existed at Ranzola, near Lippiano.
- The right to mint coins (*ius faciendi monetam*). The existence of a currency called variously the '*Montesca o Del Monte o fiorino*' in the Marchesato is well documented in the seventeenth century.
- The Campo Franco for legal duelling. The '*Campo Franco*' or '*Colle del Duello*' was located at Fonte Nuova, near the church of S. Agostino. Ancient Chronicles state that there were two areas, one for duels on foot and one for those on horseback. People came from many countries to duel and this provided entertainment not just for relatives and friends, but for crowds who came from near and far to enjoy the spectacle.



The 'Coat of Arms of the Marchesi Bourbon del Monte', (1343),

taken from the '*Storia de Bourbon del Monte*' by L. Bandini, vol I, (Florence, 1749).

In the sixteenth century, the Marchesi of Monte S. Maria added the name of Bourbon to their title. They represent one of the oldest families in central Italy and were descended from the Marchesi dynasty who, together with the Marchese Ranieri had governed most of the High Tiber Valley since the tenth century from their strategically-placed castles.

The history of the Bourbon family of Monte S. Maria and of the Marchesato, is well documented in private and historical archives providing us with both personal and public insights into the history of the High Tiber Valley and of the role of this beautiful, fortified *borgo* within it.

con la collaborazione di:



Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Umbria



Provincia di Perugia



SOPRINTENDENZA ARCHIVISTICA PER L'UMBRIA



Pro Loco Monte S. Maria Tiberina

Italia Nostra



ASSOCIAZIONE SISTO MASTRODICASA



Slow Food®  
Condotta Alta Umbria



**Palazzo Bourbon del Monte S. Maria**  
Piazza Castello 1, Monte S. Maria Tiberina (PG)

**ORARI APERTURA:**

Tutti i giorni 10,30 - 13,00 / 16,30 - 18,00

**INFO:** [www.montesantamariatiberina.org](http://www.montesantamariatiberina.org)  
[info@montesantamariatiberina.org](mailto:info@montesantamariatiberina.org)  
tel. 075/8571003

Evento realizzato con il contributo di:



Regione Umbria

promosso da:



Comune di Monte S. Maria Tiberina



Ugoccione Ranieri di Serbelli Foundation



## A FEUDAL IMPERIAL STATE IN CENTRAL ITALY

History of territorial development from  
the origins to Marquisate of the  
Bourbons of Monte S. Maria

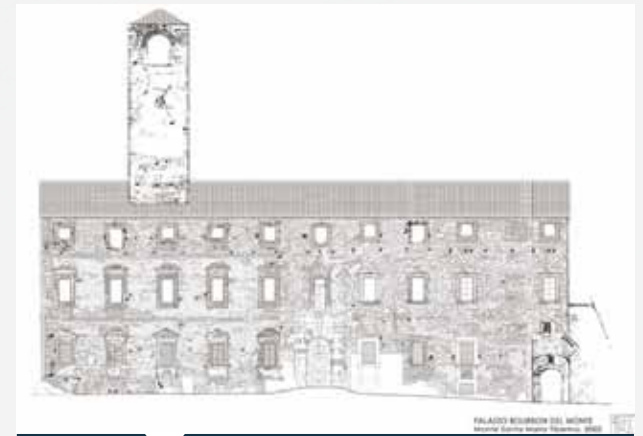
curated by  
Francesca Cangemi  
Francesco Tosti



Comune di Monte Santa Maria Tiberina

**Palazzo Bourbon del Monte S. Maria**  
Monte S. Maria Tiberina, Perugia, Umbria

The aim of establishing a museum in the Castello of Monte Santa Maria Tiberina is to reveal a story so that historical facts and events become the living interpreters of a vibrant past.



Architectural drawing of the main facade of the Bourbon Palace in Monte S. Maria before the restoration work that was carried out (2003 and 2006) by Architect Francesca Cangemi.

Between 1564 and 1614, the Marchese Bartolomeo and his son Marchese Gianbattista erected within the Marchesato the 'Bourbon del Monte Palace', also known as 'Castello o Palazzo Marchionale', upon the existing structure of the earlier castle which had been at the centre of the medieval *castrum*. In 1894, the Marchese Gianbattista Francesco sold the palace and properties of Monte S. Maria to the family of Marchesi Capranica del Grillo, who did little to maintain any of the buildings. From that time the palace were left in a state of disrepair and during the bombings of 1944 suffered additional heavy damage. We have to wait until 1990, when the commune acquired the palace, for the restoration of this beautiful symbol of the history of the strategic hill-top town of Monte S. Maria to begin.

## Monte Santa Maria Tiberina

The history of this settlement is closely tied to its geographical position. The walled village, which grew around a tall tower, dominates the border territory and Tiber Valley below because it provides a 360 degree view from a height of 690 meters above sea level. This strategic position straddles the ancient centre of Etruria to the west and the Tiber valley to the east, each of which also contributed to the development of the history of this community during the centuries.

The Marquisate of Monte S. Maria is one of the few examples in Italy of a feudal imperial state, donated by the Emperor to the Bourbons for their services and owes its existence and survival for almost five and a half centuries to the strategic and unassailable position it commands.



### The Castles of Lippiano and Monte S. Maria

The drawing is taken from the book: *Monte S. Maria e I suoi Marchesi* by Ascani Angelo, page 129, (Citta di Castello, 1978).

In 1250, the *castrum Munte Sante Marie* became the stronghold of Guido di Montemigiano who assumed the title Marchesi di Santa Maria. A century later in 1355, the Emperor Carlo IV declared the *castrum* to be an autonomous Marchesato, thereby giving it concessions and privileges which were later renewed in 1699 by Leopoldo d' Asburgo.

The Marchesato survived until 1815 when, following the Congress of Vienna feudal institutions were abolished and the Grand Duke Ferdinando di Lorena annexed the Marchesato to the Granducato.