



FRIENDS OF FAI

Preserving Italian Heritage

CASTELLO DELLA MANTA

2019 Restoration Project





CASTELLO DELLA MANTA

A History

Famous for the splendid late Gothic frescoes that decorate its interior, some of which are considered among the most important in Europe, Castello della Manta is a medieval fortress whose simple exterior belies the treasures found within its walls.

The Castle, transformed over time into a stately home, began to resemble the Castle we know today at the beginning of the 1400's, thanks to the work of the noble Saluzzo della Manta family. With the extinction of this branch of the family in the late 1700s, the castle was abandoned and fell into ruin. From the Saluzzo family it passed to the Radicati, then to the Provana and finally to the de Rege Thesauro family.

Between 1416 and 1426 a master painter, still anonymous despite numerous attempts at attribution, painted frescoes in the Baronial hall which are some of the masterpieces of Italian Late Gothic art. On one side are the nine Worthies, exquisite larger-than-life male and female portraits of historical figures such as King Arthur, Charlemagne, and French kings. On the other side is the whimsical Fountain of Youth, where the old strip off their clothing to dive into the fountain, where they instantly become young and amorous.

Majestically situated on a hill and surrounded by the picturesque Alps, Castello della Manta is a vibrant and colorful castle, rich with history and priceless works of art.

The castle was donated to FAI in 1985 by Elisabetta De Rege Provana and since then has become the subject of substantial restorations and one of FAI's most visited properties.



THE RESTORATION PROJECT

Our goal is to raise \$400,000 to:



RESTORE

the charming flooring of the Salone delle Grottesche and the Chamber of Michele Antonio, both of which are richly decorated with colorful geometric designs.

REOPEN

the windows in the internal courtyard, which were sealed up centuries ago.



ENHANCE

the outdoor areas of the Castle, starting with the redevelopment of the Castle's front garden, a project which will be entrusted to the landscape architect Paolo Pejrone. A new external staircase will also be added, which will make additional rooms of the castle safely accessible to the public.

DONOR BENEFITS

\$10,000:

- Honorary certificate of recognition from the President of FAI
- Free entrance to Castello della Manta for the donor and up to 10 guests
- Private guided visit of the Castello, to be coordinated with FAI
- Priority access to the next Friends of FAI trip
- Name on donors' panel at the entrance of the property

\$15,000:

all of the above, plus:

- One weekend at a FAI guest house (Abbazia di San Fruttuoso or Villa dei Vescovi)

\$20,000:

all of the above, plus:

- FAI VIP services: FAI will ensure that your next trip to Italy is one to remember by arranging private visits and special events during your stay. Your experience will be customized based on your specific needs and interests

\$50,000:

all of the above, plus:

- Two weeks at a FAI guest house (may be used over a two year period)

