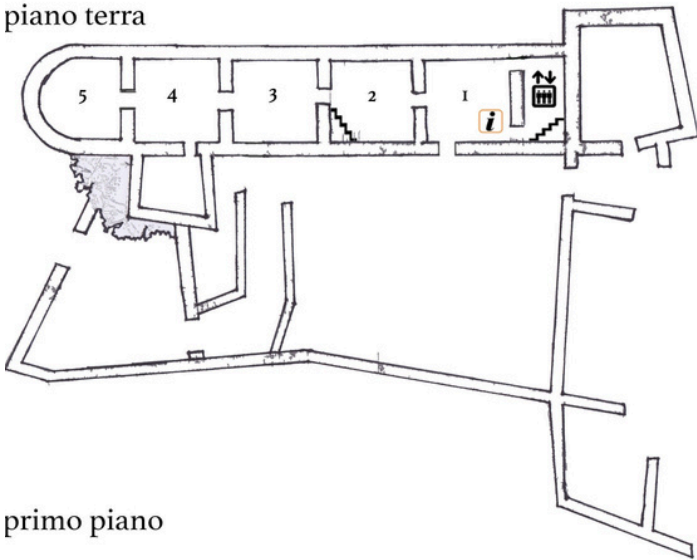
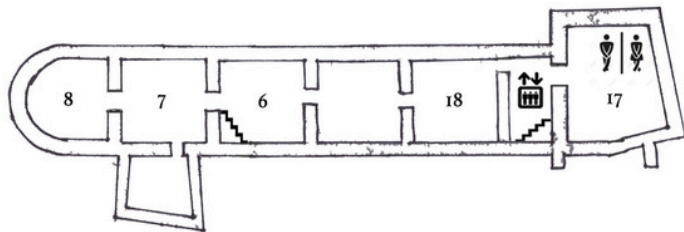


## MAPPA DELLE SALE DEL CASTELLO

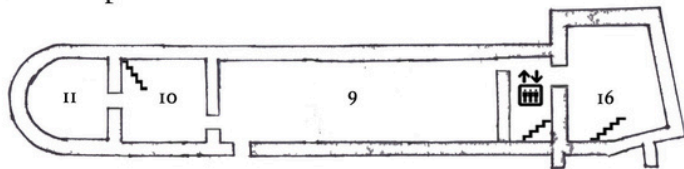
piano terra



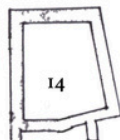
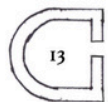
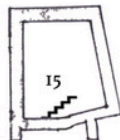
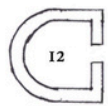
primo piano



secondo piano



le torri - 3° e 4° piano



## OPENING TIMES

From mid June to mid September 10.00 - 18.00  
every day

From mid September to mid June 10.00 - 17.00  
Saturdays, Sundays, holidays

Last entry: 30 minutes before the closing time. Please  
verify the exact starting dates on [www.castellodivogogna.it](http://www.castellodivogogna.it)

## TICKETS

Full: 5 €

Reduced: 4 € (under 18, students, Touring Club  
members, FAI card, groups over 10 people)

Schools: 3 €

Free: under 3, Vogogna residents and Musei  
Piemonte e Valle d'Aosta membership

## INFO

Guided tours are available by reservation for 5 to  
20 persons group and will have an additional  
charge on the facility entrance fee. Guided tours  
and/or educational workshops can also be booked  
for school groups at any time of the year

## ACCESS

Via Castello n. 9, 28805 Vogogna (VB) - Access from  
the stairways of Via Castello or Via San Martino, 3  
min on foot from the city center

+39 0324 347217 +39 351 7578688  
[castellodivogogna@gmail.com](mailto:castellodivogogna@gmail.com)  
[www.castellodivogogna.it](http://www.castellodivogogna.it)

# CASTELLO VISCONTEO di Vogogna (VB)

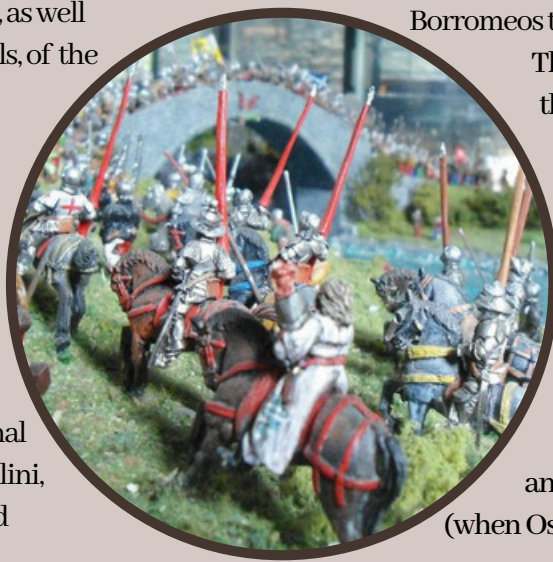


Associazione Culturale Ossola Inferiore  
[info@acoivogogna.org](mailto:info@acoivogogna.org) / [www.acoivogogna.org](http://www.acoivogogna.org)



The historical center of Vogogna boasts some features of a medieval village: Palazzo Pretorio, a broletto in Lombard style, stands in the heart of the center, beside the noble Biraghi Lossetti residence and along the main road, lined with 16th century arcades. The castle rises in the north, close to the mountain. Together with the upper fortress and the walls which surrounded the town, it formed a defensive center to control the valley, the road from the lakes to the alpine passes and its commercial traffic: so it had only a military function, as a defensive outpost of the Duchy of Milan. The current appearance of the castle is the result of alterations from different times; the most ancient portions are presumed to be an early watchtower, the square tower and an upstream portion of building, which were expanded in the 14th century. In 1328 Vogogna became the capital of Ossola Inferiore, submitted to Novara, whose bishop and Lord Giovanni Visconti decided to adjust the village to its new administrative role. He therefore built in 1348 the Palazzo Pretorio, where the deputy and the local government gathered and the circle of walls surrounding the village. Dating perhaps to the same period is the enlargement of the castle with the central building and the semicircular tower, as well as the construction, in the castle walls, of the gateway with a drawbridge.

The resourceful bishop Giovanni Visconti is credited with the passage of Vogogna and the lower Ossola Inferiore from the domain of Novara to the Visconti seignory. Around 1360 the castle was attacked by the mercenary troops of the Marquis of Monferrato. It was the time of factional struggles between Guelfi and Ghibellini, respectively supporting the Pope and



the Emperor; those two parties were called Spelorci and Ferrari in Ossola. In 1374 a gang of Spelorci from Domodossola approached and crossed the walls of Vogogna at night, and killed many Ferraris, whose emblem with hammer, tongs and anvil is still in our town's coat of arms nowadays. Later, in 1514, a raid by men from Domodossola and Switzerland ravaged the village to obtain free transit for goods: the effects of their furious incursion are still clearly visible, in the then-destroyed upper fortress that has never been restored. In 1446 Filippo Maria Visconti, Duke of Milan, granted Vogogna as a fief to Vitaliano Borromeo, already Count of Arona: under the

Borromeos the castle had a time of improvements. The Visconti and Sforza dynasties knew the strategic and defensive importance of our fortress: the armies which defended the Duchy from many attempts of conquest by the Swiss were stationed here, as it happened in 1484 and 1487, when they defeated the invaders at the Battle of Crevola. In the 16th century the semicircular tower of the castle became a prison and continued to serve as a jail after 1743 (when Ossola became a part of the Savoia state)

and even after 1797 with the advent of the Cisalpine Republic; in the narrow and dark cells you can see graffiti made by prisoners. In 1998, following restoration works, gardens were reopened, and finally since 2001 the interior



spaces has been hosting expositions and events run by ACOI. The ground floor houses Ossola's archaeological jewel, the Dresio celtic head dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries BC; visitors then find rooms with medieval settings as well as an exhibition of machines and weapons designed by Leonardo da Vinci. People interested in scientific and environmental themes, can visit a special section that shows some aspects of the return of the wolf on the Alps, in an exposition edited by the Val Grande National Park, which has its headquarters in the village.

