

Sennariolo

Country church of Santa Vittoria

5 km west of the town, on the hill of the same name stands the small country church dedicated to Santa Vittoria, which dominates the entire surrounding area at the top of the mountain, offering a spectacular panoramic view of Montiferru, the Planargia and the coast.

There are no certain sources documented on the date of construction of the site, but it is believed that it may have been erected in the Middle Ages.

According to some popular legends, at the foot of the hill was fought a battle between the Planargese and the Mori, landed to invade the country, plunder it and enslave the inhabitants.

The locals got the better of it, expelling the invaders, and just to thank them for the victory, the church was built as a sort of ex voto, and dedicated to the cult of Santa Vittoria.

There is uncertainty about the historical origin of the cult dedicated to it, as there are no historical sources to prove it.

In the "gosos" (devotional songs of Hispanic origin, composed in Sardinian and dedicated to the saints or to the Madonna), reference is made to the Santa Vittoria of Cordoba in Spain, but this element does not tell us with absolute certainty that the saint venerated in Sennariolo is the Spanish one.

More probably, instead, the Saint venerated is the Roman one; this cult, in fact, could be justified by the presence, around the year 1000, of the Camaldolese friars in the territory of the western Montiferru, having these own Priory in the near centre of Scano di Montiferru.

Every year, on the second Sunday of May, there are celebrations in honor of the saint: on Saturday afternoon, the procession starts with the simulacrum of the martyr, on foot, from the parish church to the country church, arrived at the hill, you start the religious celebrations, which continue until Sunday morning, with the celebration of Holy Mass there.

On Sunday evening, we prepare to return to the village, with the procession that retraces in the opposite direction the path to the parish church.

Directions: Once in Sennariolo, take Via Santa Vittoria and follow the signs to reach the restaurant La Rosa dei Venti, continue for about 5 km, until you arrive at the homonymous hill on which the church is situated. Free admission, the church is closed, but you can visit it by contacting the owner of the nearby restaurant, who has the keys.



Santa Vittoria. The country church



San Quirico. Lateral view of the building



Interior of the Parish Church

Discover Sennariolo



The Parish Church of St. Andrew with the bell tower



Discover Sennariolo

Parish Church of St. Andrew

The current layout of the church dedicated to St. Andrew the Apostle, dates back to the second half of the seventeenth century, and more properly to 1676, date engraved on the red trachyte lintel that frames the portal located in the center of the façade.

Inside there is a single nave environment that leaves the stone of construction uncovered.

In all probability, the current aspect is the result of the adaptation of a pre-existing Gothic fifteenth-sixteenth-century plan, as can be seen from the presence of ogival arches of the two chapels facing the presbytery (which was probably built later, this would undoubtedly justify the diversity of the style of this compared to the chapels).

The nave has a barrel cover with a wooden choir leaning against the counter-façade and a slightly raised presbytery, also with a barrel cover.

There are four chapels: starting from those near the presbytery we find on the left the chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, connected to the oratory where the homonymous confraternity founded in 1755 is located; on the right instead, we find the one dedicated to the souls of Purgatory, connected to the sacristy.

The other two chapels are respectively on the left the one dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and on the right, slightly larger than the others, the one dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua.

The high altar, in marbled stucco, probably re-



placed a previous wooden altarpiece, it has four twisted columns that frame the niche containing the simulacrum of the patron saint.

The date 1910, presumably the year of the adaptation of the new altar, with a fresco representing the cross of St. Andrew, is engraved in the fastigium of the altar, and under the table there is

another fresco with the image of the saint, both restored and frescoed by the Sardinian artist Pina Monne, in 2009.

Of particular interest is a room recovered from an ancient passage in the load-bearing walls, made in 2005-2006, which, used as a baptistery, houses the baptismal font with wooden elevation dating from the eighteenth century.

Inside the church there are some eighteenth-century wooden statues (Christ died with his litter and Saint Lucia), and other nineteenth-century wooden statues (Madonna del Rosario and St. Maria Magdalena).

The building is also embellished with some stained glass windows made by the Sardinian craftsman Ignazio Erdas, one of which is located in the baptistery, representing the theme of the Baptism of Christ.

Outside, to the right of the façade, is the bell tower completed in 1867, consisting of three levels, the last of which houses the bells.

A room above it houses the public clock, which still marks the hours (from 7 am to 9 pm, while in the early morning at 07.00 am, at noon and in the evening at dusk, is reproduced a symphony of bells).

The bell tower ends with an onion-shaped dome, covered with polychrome majolica of eighteenth-century manufacture.

Address: Piazza Rimembranza, Sennariolo.

Opening hours to the public: during and immediately after religious services: Monday to Saturday at 18.00, Sunday morning at 11.30, afternoon at 18.00, free admission.

Country Church of SS. Quirico and Giulitta



The church dedicated to the martyrs Quirico and Giulitta, is located in the countryside of Sennariolo, on the border of the municipality of Cuglieri.

It is in a state of ruin, due to the total collapse of the roof and the partial collapse of the walls that make up the perimeter of the building.

Although we do not have certain information documented on the exact date of foundation, it can be assumed that it was built in the Middle Ages, with rehashes of later periods (the nave, evidently dates back to the sixteenth century).

The style of the factory is common to other rural churches in the

Sardinian territory, however, some details make it different and somehow unique compared to others.

The construction material is very poor, it is, in fact, elements of little architectural importance and not relevant from the artistic point of view.

The church has a single nave, an apse and wooden roof no longer preserved, and a roof made of local stones irregular.

Inside, in the cornices, there are hints of capitals placed under the arches, which originally divided the nave into three bays.

The so-called "muristenes", i.e. ancient structures that served as shelter for pilgrims on the feast of the saint, and the sacristy, both of which are in ruins, are placed next to the room.

The apse, covered by a half-cantine and partly hidden by the stones, has a niche that certainly housed the simulacrum of the titular martyr.

In the upper part there is a single lancet window and an oculus in a decentralized position with respect to it, made with two opposite arched segments.

The internal and external parts were completely plastered, as can be seen from the plaster residues still present.

In general, the site is unfortunately severely damaged due to abandonment, lack of maintenance and particularly unfavourable climatic conditions that have favored the collapse of the structure.

Soon, San Quirico will be involved in a project of recovery, which will finally allow to bring to light the building and return it to the inhabitants of Sennariolo.

Directions: from Via Vittorio Emanuele, follow Via Su Malafau on the left and then continue along a small road on the left, after a series of fairly steep climbs, you arrive after about 1100 meters in front of the ruins of the church.



Translation by Marco Manca & Alessandra Usai