



CASTEL DEL MONTE – THE OCTAGONAL FORTRESS

Castel del Monte, located in Andria, is a unique example of medieval architecture and one of the world's most famous castles, recognizable by its distinctive octagonal shape and the many legends associated with its founder, Frederick II Holy Roman Emperor. Frederick II, a pioneer of scientific and cultural innovation, had a deep respect for planet Earth and the natural and man-made environment, more than he was interested in political affairs.

The construction of the castle employed fine stone materials, breccias and limestones from Apulian quarries. Historical information about the castle is limited and is based on the only existing document: the imperial decree by which the emperor ordered materials to be prepared for the construction of the castle, dedicated to Santa Maria del Monte. In terms of geology and landscape the rock on which the octagon stands is important, a residual relief that offers panoramic views of both the Adriatic and Murgia sides.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996, Castel del Monte is part of a prestigious series of monuments located in the Park which includes the Garagnone Castle and the Gravina Castle.

MG4 Geosite – international significance

Location: Andria

Age: Early Cretaceous – Quaternary

Interests: Geology - Stratigraphy - Karst - Archaeology - Architecture - History - Water reserves, climate change

