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Gorizia and its Borgo:

a challenging and **borderless** regeneration scenario, an inclusive, participatory community, where **stories intertwine** and the city's potential is unleashed. **Here, today.**

Absent-minded walk, autumn, the golden morning light, chestnut leaves along the side street, the first shiver tightening your shoulders, a quick coffee. **A newspaper tucked under your arm.** Is there a more *local* way to start the day?

This is how our newspaper was born: it's the desire to tell the story of Borgo Castello through our eyes, to let you hear the same background hum that we hear, to share little fragments of a narrative that will accompany you for a while. Piece after piece, the plot will become vibrant with colors: many voices, many stories, a community to be observed closely through every era.

So go ahead! Tuck our newspaper under your arm, look around while sipping a local wine at one of the small tables on the square, blend in with Gorizians from all eras!

Gorizia and its Borgo will find their way into your heart, and as you jump from line to line in our pieces, you'll feel the urge to stroll through the ancient city: with your gaze up high, your forehead resting on an old shop window, or maybe your gaze narrowing into the distance to bring our crossed borders into focus?

LA VIA DEL BORGO IS OUR INVITATION TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE REGENERATION OF BORGO CASTELLO: A LABORATORY OF URBAN AND CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION.

MONICA PAOLETICH
Director Confcommercio Gorizia



“VILLA QUAE SCLAVORUM
LINGUA VOCATUR GORIZA”

“THE VILLAGE THAT IN
THE SLAVIC LANGUAGE
IS CALLED GORIZA”

FROM THE DIPLOMA OF OTTONE III,
THE 28TH OF APRIL 1001



Let's start **from the beginning!** The first mention of Gorizia!

Above:
View of the Castle of Gorizia,
Irma Demeczky Volf, 1892,
watercolor on cardboard.
Palazzo Coronini Cronberg
Foundation, Gorizia

**THE NAME GORIZIA
COMES FROM GORICA,
WHICH IN SLOVENIAN
MEANS “SMALL HILL,”
REFERRING TO THE
HILL WHERE THE FIRST
DWELLINGS WERE
BUILT**

The history of Gorizia begins like a classic medieval tale:
an emperor, a patriarch, and a donation.

It was **April 28, 1001**, when Ottone III, from Ravenna, gifted half of the villa of Gorizia and the castle of Salcano to Patriarch Giovanni of Aquileia. Gifting castles was truly the trend of the time! And the other half? It ended up in the hands of Count Verihen of Friuli, thanks to Emperor Conrad. Half to one, half to the other—what could possibly go wrong? Then came Henry

IV, who in 1077 decided to grant Patriarch Sigeward dominion over Friuli. And Gorizia? Forgotten, probably because Henry had his mind elsewhere.

It was **during the 11th century** that the castle of Gorizia took Salcano's place, becoming the center of power. The county changed hands between the Eppenstein, Hohenburg, and finally Meinhard, advocate of the Church of Aquileia. **A long, complex, and tangled story, as only medieval affairs can be!**



CURIOSITIES



G. M. Marussig, *Gorizia e sua origine*, 1705.
The image represents the only depiction of the remains of the *castrum* of Sv. Katarina, when they were still fully visible.

Have you ever heard of the **theory of Noreia/ Gorizia?**

Among the scholars of the modern era (16th-18th centuries) who embraced the now-disproven idea of the topographical equivalence between Noreia and Gorizia, the Jesuit from Gorizia, **Giovanni Maria Marussig**, was the most passionate storyteller of the Noreia-Noritia-Goritia legend.

In his manuscripts, there is a drawing that notes: **“The remains of ancient Norea found above Salcano and Cromperg, a castle and village near Gorizia”**, perhaps referring to the Church of St. Catherine.

The strategic position of the site suggests it may have been the castellum Siliganum, which disappeared from records after 1001.

The drawing, which you can see next to this text, depicts a **well-preserved defensive wall** with a tower beside a gate. These are the only remnants we have of the **castrum of Sv. Katarina**. Marussig's descriptions suggest that, in his time, the walls were still clearly visible.

The village was destroyed during the First World War, while the Church of St. Catherine survived until 1959.

Who was Giovanni Maria Marussig?

Giovanni Maria Marussig (1641-1712) was a **clergyman, poet, and polygraph from Gorizia**. The author of numerous manuscripts, he is remembered for **his descriptions** of the 1682 **plague and local historical chronicles**, often accompanied by illustrations. He wrote in Friulian, Italian, and Venetian, covering political and religious events. His work ranges from devotional texts to local historical chronicles, with a style rich in iconographic and literary references.



**WANT TO
LEARN MORE?
SCAN THE
QR CODE**

AND GO TO PAGE 177!

The image of the **last Count of Gorizia**: Leonardo's cenotaph.

At the end of the left nave of our **Cathedral**, in the **Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament**, stands the **cenotaph of Leonardo**, the last Count of Gorizia.

He died on April 12, 1500, but as early as 1497, he had commissioned his funerary monument from Vito da Brescia, later placing it right in the Gorizia Cathedral. That same year, following late medieval tradition, a requiem was held for his wife, **Paola Gonzaga**, who had died at the end of 1496. It is said that she is buried in the same location, although her tomb has never been found.

Paola appears within the cenotaph, holding her family's coat of arms in one hand. Leonardo, on the other hand, is depicted wearing intricately decorated armor, holding a lance with a banner in his right hand and the Gorizian coat of arms, his family's emblem, in his left.

But that's not all! The count carries a large sword at his side, and at his feet rests a lion. In the upper right corner, there is an angel holding the Tyrolean coat of arms, and the entire composition is framed by a long ribbon bearing an inscription in German, ending with a blank space left to be filled with the count's date of death.

Without heirs, Leonardo bequeathed everything to the Habsburgs. Maximilian I, perhaps to honor the last member of such an important dynasty, commissioned another cenotaph, this time by Christoph Geiger, who completed it between



1. The coat of arms of the Gonzaga supported by a female figure, probably the wife Paola.
2. Leonardo's sword still exists and is preserved in Dresden, at the *Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden*!
3. The coat of arms of the Counts of Gorizia: the symbols it contains, the rampant lion on a blue background and the white and red stripes, are found in the coat of arms of the former province of Gorizia and also in that of the city of Lienz, as a reminder of a shared history!

1506 and 1507. This second monument, richer and more stylistically refined than the one in Gorizia, includes the Habsburg coat of arms as well as that of the Hungarian Gara family, in honor of the last count's mother. The monument is located in the Church of St. Andrew in Lienz, Austria, where Leonardo rests to this day.

We invite you to admire Leonardo's cenotaph with your own eyes and observe its details. Our beautiful Cathedral is located right in the heart of the historic center.

The **first image** of the Castle.

The Castle of Gorizia, a piece of history dating back to the 10th century, has quite the impressive résumé. **Its**

first public appearance?
A seal from 1307, signed by Albert II of Habsburg.



The medieval seal from 1307 with the first image of our castle!

Even though the depiction is a bit stylized, the keep stands out clearly, proud of its ancient origins.

Originally consisting of **a stone tower, moat, and palisade**, the castle was expanded in the 1200s. It changed hands from Maximilian I of Habsburg to the Serenissima (Venetian Republic) in the

The Castle of Gorizia is open to visitors and houses a wealth of items, including: ancient furnishings, works of art, and a wonderful display of medieval musical instruments!
For information and hours, you can call 0481 535146.

16th century, undergoing significant modifications to withstand cannon fire... unfortunately, the old medieval keep was demolished.



Leonardo of Gorizia and Paola Gonzaga, from the *Görzeraltar* panels, 1500-1510 (Lienz, Castle of Bruck).

"The countess wore a dark silk gown, adorned with many particularly large pearls [...] She is beautiful, although her left shoulder is lower than her right, which slightly detracts from her appearance. She is loved and respected by all for her extraordinary culture."

Paolo Santonino, secretary to the Patriarch of Aquileia, 1485

Paola Gonzaga, refined and intellectual countess of the County of Gorizia.

Paola, daughter of Ludovico III Gonzaga and Barbara of Hohenzollern, was born in Mantua in 1464, into one of the most influential families of the Italian Renaissance.

She was raised in a refined court, closely surrounded by the intellectuals and artists of her time. As had already happened with her sister Barbara, who married Eberhard im Bart von Württemberg, **Paola was also promised to a prince of German lineage: Leonardo, Count of Gorizia.** The marriage was celebrated in 1478 after lengthy negotiations regarding the dowry. From the outset, the union proved complicated. Paola, accustomed to the lavish Mantuan court, never managed to adapt to the austere and cold Gorizian residences or the rough and uncouth manners of her husband.

The couple had a daughter who died in infancy. It was precisely the disappointment over the lack of heirs that worsened Paola's already frail health (she suffered from a hereditary condition that caused her to be hunchbacked and from a vaguely defined "heart ailment" that plagued her throughout her life). Moreover, the absence of descendants forced Leonardo to leave the County of Gorizia in the hands of the Habsburgs. Paola died a few years before her husband (around 1496), and **it is said that her remains were buried in the Cathedral of Gorizia. However, her tomb has never been found.**

Fricelle de poma

Clean the apples very well and cook them, carefully remove the core, and mix them with the yeast, flour, and sugar. Make fritters and fry them in good oil.



Ingredients:
100 g of cooked apple pulp
25 g of sugar
50 g of yeast
About 130 g of flour

With the dough thus prepared, with a workable consistency, create small balls of dough. After letting them rest for a couple of hours, fry them in plenty of oil.

From the recipe book of Maestro Martino da Como, cook for the Patriarch of Aquileia, Lodovico Trevisan, Patriarch from 1439.

LA VIA DEL BORGO

is right here.

WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE FUTURE, WHERE PEOPLE CONNECT AND STORIES INTERTWINE.

In Gorizia, on via Rastello, at the heart of Europe, which, with the ambitious goals of this NRRP, looks primarily towards future generations. It is in these pages, **where the past meets the future, where people connect and stories intertwine.** It is an innovative and attractive collective space capable of building a new community—inclusive and engaged.

At the center of this physical and symbolic path is **our Bottega at via Rastello 52**, a historic boutique that the Juretic family entrusted to Confcommercio Gorizia to transform into a new kind of commerce: a commerce of stories, emotions, and connections, which we hope will soon evolve into a process.

Just like a bottega, we follow regular store hours, frequently change the products on the shelves, and every day we seek new ways to attract citizens and tourists, people in search of a reason **to fall in love with our city, which, still a little quietly, whispers its uniqueness.**

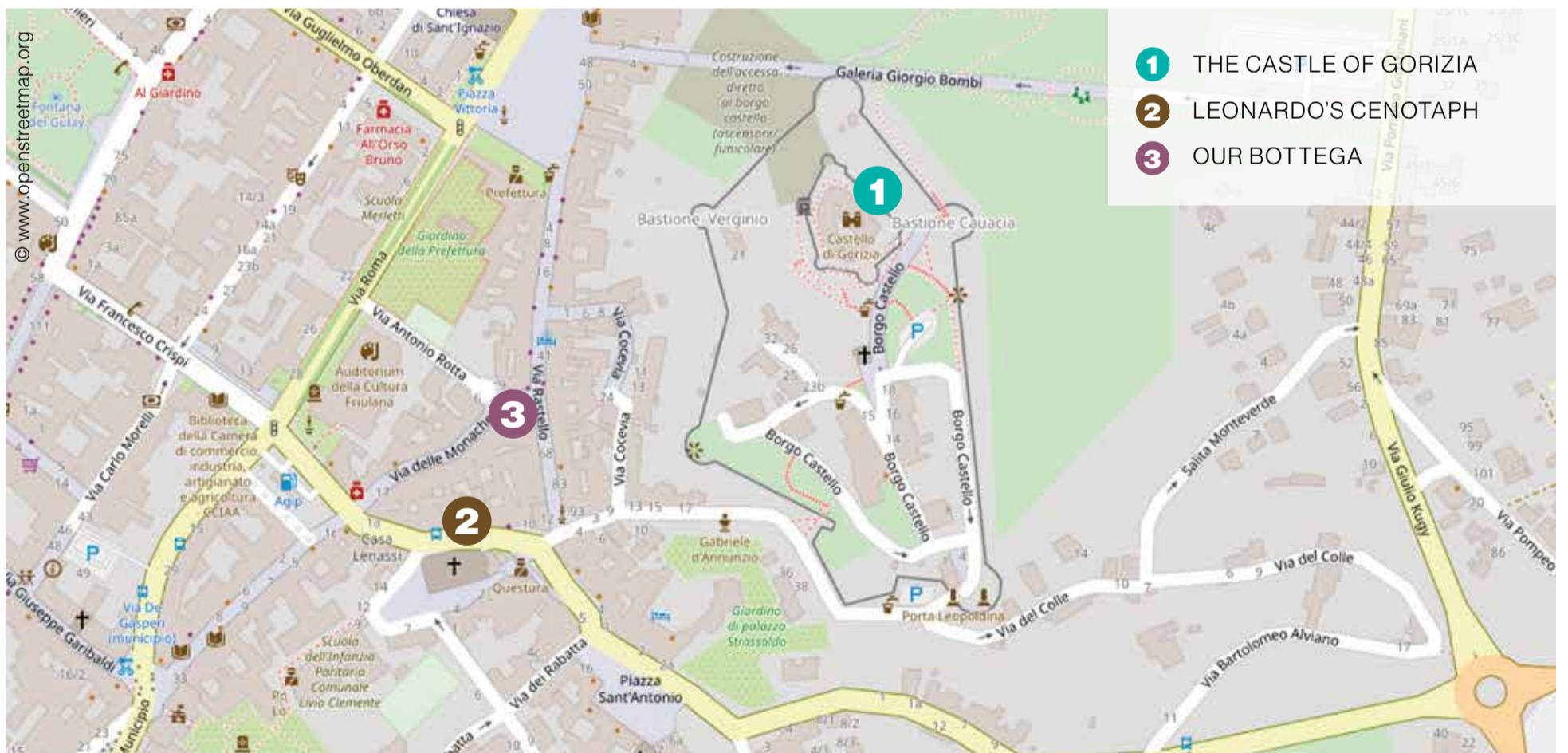
La Via del BorGO is our invitation to actively participate in the regeneration of

Borgo Castello: a laboratory of urban and cultural transformation, as well as a new sales model.

Our Bottega is also a co-working space: **Confcommercio Gorizia** leads a rich project that embraces contemporary art through **QuiAltrove** as a tool for regeneration, the authentic and skilled flavours of **Chiara Canzoneri**, the beauty to be learned from **Fabrizia Perco**, or the vibrant jazz and the solidarity wine from the **Consorzio Il Mosaico**. It is a window overlooking social innovation from the rooms on the second floor of **Casa Netural**, which brings the experience of Matera, European Capital of Culture, to Gorizia. It is our past and our present, to be reread with fresh, irresistible perspectives.

Different languages and points of view that, between the spring of 2024 and the summer of 2026, will contribute to making Gorizia, all around its Borgo, a competitive ecosystem, **a destination to choose.**

Confcommercio Gorizia, Lead partner of Thematic Cluster 1 within the pilot project 'One thousand years of history at the centre of Europe: Borgo Castello, crossroads of peoples and cultures'



- 1 THE CASTLE OF GORIZIA
- 2 LEONARDO'S CENOTAPH
- 3 OUR BOTTEGA



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IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

- CHRISTMAS IN GORIZIA
- CRAFTSMANSHIP
- DECEMBER RECIPES
- AND MUCH MORE!

TUCK YOUR NEWSPAPER UNDER YOUR ARM, SNAP A PHOTO AND TAG US!
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