



# VIGOLENO

**VISIT TO THE KEEP AND THE MILITARY PART OF THE CASTLE**

SATURDAY afternoon

SUNDAY AND HOLIDAYS: morning and afternoon

FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER: afternoon opening

**GUIDED TOURS FOR GROUPS** by reservation only

**VILLAGE – ROMANESQUE CHURCH**

**KEEP AND MILITARY PART – NOBLE FLOOR OF THE CASTLE**

(Red Room, Blue Room, Billiard Room, Theatre)

The noble floor can also be visited by the individuals on Sundays and public holidays in the afternoon

For times and complete tour arrangements visit the website:

[www.comune.vernasca.pc.it](http://www.comune.vernasca.pc.it)



## ORSANTI MUSEUM

[www.museogliorsanti.it](http://www.museogliorsanti.it)

As you reach the entrance of the village, you find in the ancient Casa Tanzi an unusual museum, unique in Europe, which collected witnesses of life of "Orsanti", brave emigrants, composed of artists, musicians, and animal trainers who brought their own shows in the streets and in the squares of the world.

The museum houses unique pieces of antique musical instruments, objects related to the famous shows with bears and monkeys, small theatres with puppets, vintage photos of the Companies that moved from city to city.

# VIGOLENO



## How to reach Vigoleno:

**Motorway A1:** from Milano leave the motorway at the tollgate of Fiorenzuola d'Arda and follow the indication to Parma. After Alseno, turn right in the roundabout (take the 1st exit) to Vigoleno from Bologna leave the motorway at the tollgate of Fidenza and take the bypass road to Piacenza which turns into the Via Emilia. After 4 km turn left in the roundabout (take the 3rd exit) to Vigoleno

**Train:** Line MILANO-BOLOGNA, railway station of Fiorenzuola d'Arda or Fidenza.

Distances in km: Milano 110, Piacenza 45, Parma 45, Fidenza 18, Fiorenzuola 20, Salsomaggiore Terme 11, Castell'Arquato 19



# VIGOLENO

MEDIEVAL VILLAGE



*An antique charm...  
..an exclusive reality*  
Municipality of Vernasca - Italy



Uno dei Borghi più belli d'Italia



Vigoleno

Marchio di qualità Turistico Ambientale del Touring Club Italiano



CASTELLI del DUCATO di PARMA e PIACENZA  
[www.castellidelducato.it](http://www.castellidelducato.it)

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[www.comune.vernasca.pc.it](http://www.comune.vernasca.pc.it)

## VILLAGE OF VIGOLENO

The village of Vigoleno, listed in the Club of "The most beautiful Villages in Italy" and "Bandiera Arancione" (Orange Flag) of the Touring Club Italiano dominates by the elegance of its forms as well as the integrity of the whole Castrense system. It is enclosed by impressive and intact crenellated walls, housing in part a panoramic walkway. The exclusive size of Vigoleno fascinates and leads the visitor into a pleasant discovery of the "signs of the times" that testify to the historical importance that the castle has had for the surrounding territory.

## KEEP

The keep was once the extreme defence of the fortified complex, composed of the long ravelin and the walkway that leads even today from the keep into the south tower and the castle. It has four floors, the last comprises the crenellated terrace with a wonderful view on the surrounding hills overlooking the Stirone River Park, a reserve that has significant elements of geological interest and natural beauty. At the entrance of the keep you find the information office that oversees the museum's walk set up at all the floors of the architectural complex. Historical photographs, reproductions of original maps, instruments of torture, an ancient armory room and local fossils are displayed for the visitors throughout the different rooms.

## CASTLE

The castle, inhabited by the Counts Scotti until the beginning of the 20th century, was later home of the Princess Maria Ruspoli-Gramont. In the 20s and 30s were invited by the Princess the well-known elite and personages of culture of those times in the literary and artistic field, as the poet Gabriele D'Annunzio, the pianist Arthur Rubinstein, the surrealist painter Max Ernst, the dancer Anna Pavlova and many others. In the noble floor you can admire the small theatre with twelve seats, which was frescoed by the famous Russian painter Alexandre Jacovleff with oriental decorations representing dancing persons, animals, exotic figures of symbolic significance.

## TYPICAL CUISINE AND VIN SANTO OF VIGOLENO D.O.C.

The territory of the municipality of Ver-nasca offers a tasty cuisine: "anolini" with meat broth, "pisarei and fasö" (typical piacentino dish made with handmade bread crumbs and borlotti beans sauce), spinach and ricotta filling "tortelli" with sage and butter sauce, roasted venison, boar stew, along with Italian salami, coppa, etc.. and cheese D.O.P. (Protected Designation of Origin), satisfy everyone. A real D.O.C. label (Controlled Designation of Origin) rare wine of the Italian wine production is the Vin Santo of Vigoleno. It is a "passito" (made with grapes left to dry outside on racks) sweet wine kept in small wooden barrels for at least five years. The production is limited (about 2,500 bottles a year) and is obtained using the best bunches of grapes exclusively white and non-aromatic.

## ROMANESQUE CHURCH

The Church of Saint George, located in the eastern part of the village, is a significant example of true Romanesque style dating back to the 12th century. The building has a basilican plan with three naves and a square bell tower. The front bezel shows Saint George killing the dragon with a spear. The interior of the church preserves, among other things, frescos of considerable importance, depicting saints, Gospel episodes and capitals in which prevail plant motifs beside zoomorphic and anthropomorphic figures.

## ORATORY OF THE HOLY VIRGIN OF MERCY

It was probably the castle's chapel of the Nobles Scotti. Located opposite the entrance of the Castle-Palace, it is an elegant seventeenth century building built in local stone (sandstone).

The Oratory presents architectonic Lombard features and had, over the centuries, the dual destination of chapel and public oratory. Documents and maps make suppose that this building was previously used as a refuge for pilgrims to Rome. That would explain the presence on the south side of a high relief depicting Saint Rocco.

