



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Castle of Monreale

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ The keep

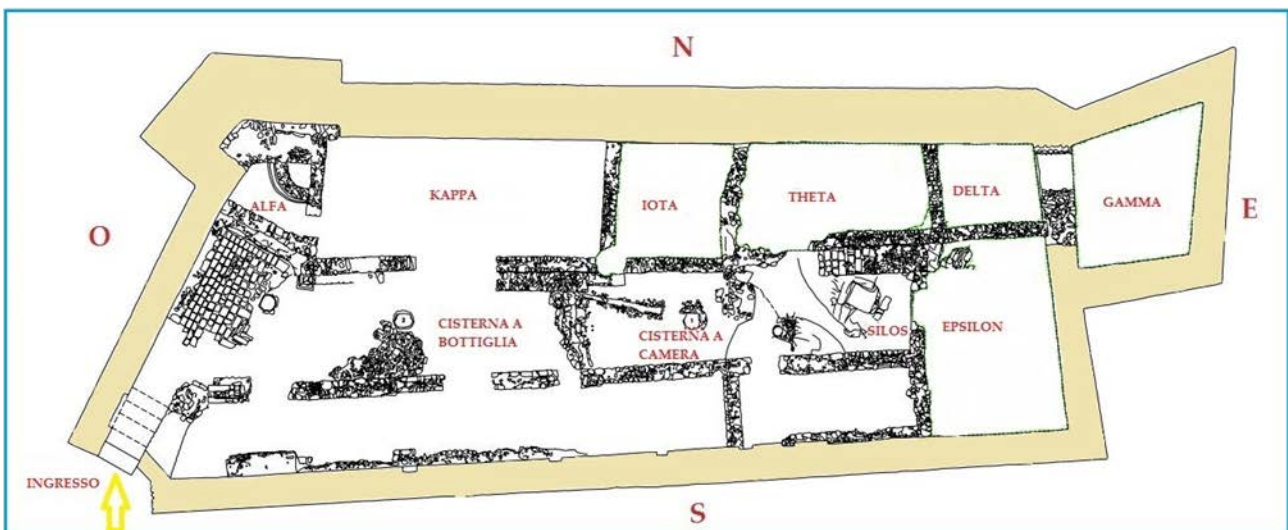
The keep stands on a steep hill, at a height of 387 metres above sea level (fig. 1). The perimeter walls of the fort are still visible, about ten metres high and contains an inner area of about 720 square metres (fig. 2). The keep, which has the shape of an irregular stretched trapezium, with the north and south sides parallel to each other and the Western one oblique in respect of the first two. The entrance, in one corner where the south and west walls meet, leads into the keep's interior that has several rooms: five along the northern wall, two along the southern wall, one on the south-east side, plus another space that is a tower on the north-east side (fig. 3). These rooms, of which only the ground floor remain, were spread over several floors, as can be seen from the holes used to house the wooden floors of the upper storeys. All the spaces, both on the ground floor and on the upper floors, were only illuminated by windows overlooking the inner courtyard. The building consisted of an irregular building made of local schist, trachyte, granite and limestone stones, all bound by abundant mortar.



**Fig. 1** - The hill and the fortified complex of Monreale (photo by R. Bordicchia).



**Fig. 2** - The keep seen from above (photo by R. Bordicchia).



**Fig. 3** - Plan of the keep (reconstruction by M.G Arru from SPANU 2003, p. 58)

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Maria Grazia Arru.

Preliminary research by Dr. Valeria Paretta and Dr. Daniele Corda.

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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