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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Castle of Monreale

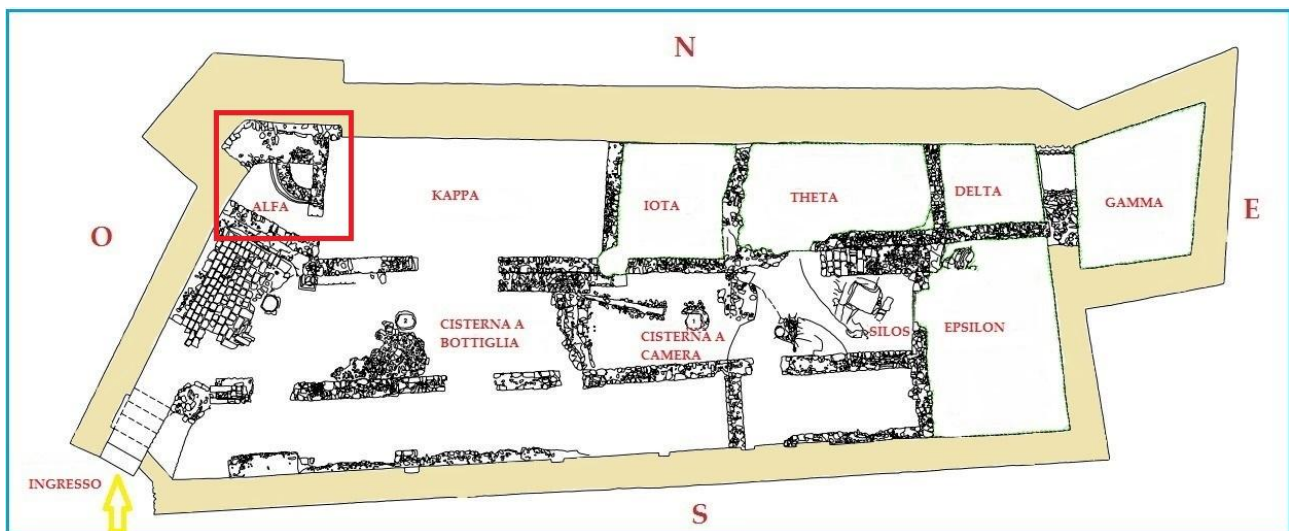
Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ *Alpha* room

The *alpha* room (figs. 1-2), identified in the north-west corner of the keep, is the first of the rooms next to the northern perimeter wall, and has a curved wall. It was investigated starting in 1992, when it was found completely full of waste materials and was interpreted as a dump for the castle's various phases of life. Seeds, bones of small animals, fish bones, coins, bronze pins, glassy fragments, bone dice, musical instrument parts and, above all, ceramic artefacts (archaic and Valencian majolica) dated between the fourteenth and fifteenth century have been recovered from the soils which filled it, which can be dated to the 14th and 15th centuries.

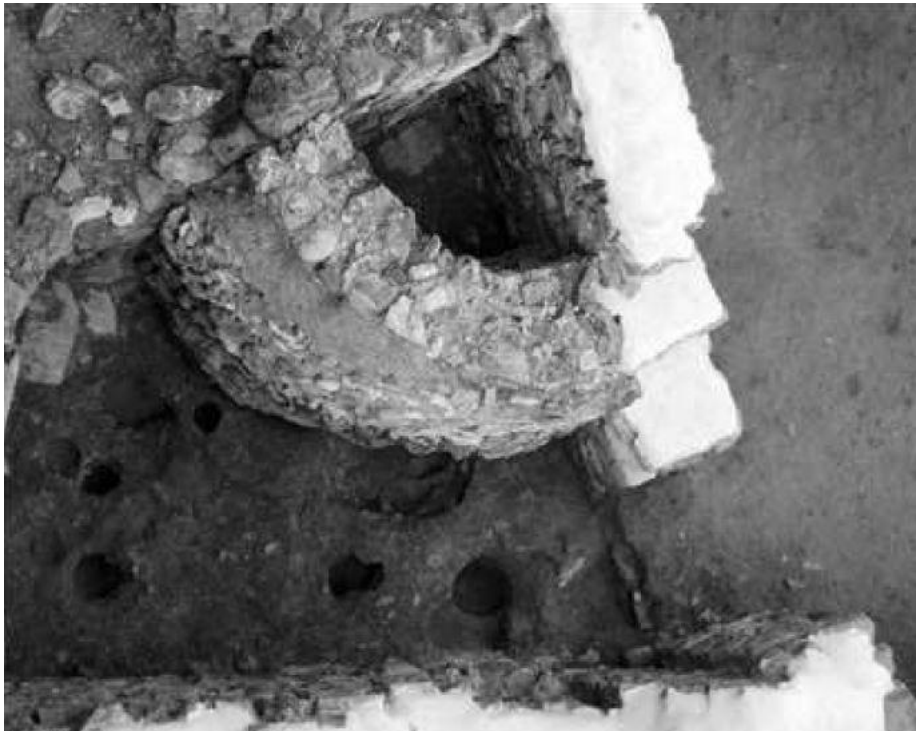
Removal of the residual layers during the archaeological analyses in 2008-2009 showed the presence of several pole holes from a wooden structure that must have supported a staircase, also in wood (fig. 3). It was possible to reach the upper floors of the castle by these stairs. The semi-circular structure in the northern corner of the room, that was first thought to be a tower, was then interpreted as a depot for storing and preserving food-stuffs.



**Fig. 1** - The *Alpha* room in the North-West corner of the keep (reconstruction by M. G. Arru, from Spanu 2003, p. 58).



**Fig. 2** - The keep seen from above with an indication of the *alpha* room (reconstruction by M. G. Arru, photo by R. Bordicchia).



**Fig. 3** - *Alpha* room: pole holes and structure

For preserving foodstuffs (from Stasolla 2010, page 46)

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Maria Grazia Arru.

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

## ■ Bibliography

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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