



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

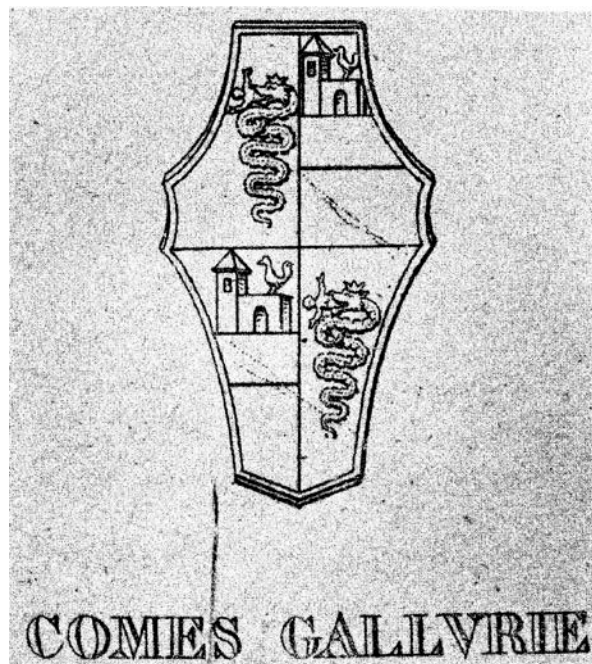
# Palace of Baldu

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ The Visconti in Gallura

The Visconti family was an ancient and noble Pisan family which belonged to the Guelph party, almost always in opposition to the Della Gherardesca Ghibellines. Their name comes from the name of *vicecomes*/viscount that the members of the house already had in ancient times and that became hereditary; they also acquired numerous rights, increasing their own power: From the middle of the 12th century, they wanted to rule the town, but had their fiscal rights confiscated in 1153 after contrasting the consuls. At the end of the 12th century, Pisa began to increase its size in Sardinia and marriages sealed close relations between the island and the town: the first of which was between Elena di Gallura and Lamberto Visconti (1206-1207), starting up a series of Pisa giudici in Gallura (fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** - Coat of arms of the Visconti of Gallura with the Visconti snake and the cock of Gallura (from [https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visconti\\_di\\_Pisa#/media/File:Stemma\\_nino\\_visconti\\_di\\_gallura\\_-\\_2013.jpg](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visconti_di_Pisa#/media/File:Stemma_nino_visconti_di_gallura_-_2013.jpg)).

Ubaldo II was born from the union, who was then married to Adelsia di Torres, daughter of Mariano II in 1219. Ubaldo's heir was his cousin, Giovanni Visconti, who married Giovanna, the daughter of Count Ugolino della Gherardesca: the two families from Pisa

formed an alliance in this way against the Tuscan town, to safeguard their own Sardinian interests threatened by the opposite faction. Also, after 1258, he became lord of the third part of the Giudicato of Cagliari. Internal conflicts in Pisa caused the expulsion of the Visconti family from the city. In 1276, his son Nino succeeded him, who reigned for about twenty years (fig. 2), during which he continued his father's policy, forming an alliance with the Guelph towns and forming a league against Pisa; finally he was forced to abandon his city of birth in 1288, when his uncle Ugolino della Gherardesca was removed from his government of Pisa Pisa.



**Fig. 2** - Tempio: the so-called house of Nino di Gallura (photo by C. Cocco).

On his death in 1296, the appointment of Giudice of Gallura passed on to his daughter Giovanna, in spite of the end of the Visconti family dominion in Tuscany and Sardinia: in 1339, his rights passed on to the Visconti of Milan.

The Visconti became promoters of intensive work related to the encastellation of Gallura: they fortified the villages of Civita, Posada and Orosei and built the castles of Pedresu (Olbia), of Fava (Posada - fig. 3) and Pontes (Galtelli), where they lived, when they were away from their residence in Civita. After their exile from Pisa, the latter founded Terranova and continued the building work restoring the Gallura area.



**Fig. 3** - Posada, Castello della Fava (<http://www.sardegna.digitallibrary.it/index.php?xsl=615&s=17&v=9&c=4461&id=62931>).

The Visconti family is buried in the church of San Francesco in Pisa, where the tomb of Count Ugolino can also be found.

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Claudia Cocco and Dr. Francesca Collu

## ■ Bibliographic abbreviations

- FLORIS 2012-2013      G. FLORIS, *Signoria, incastellamento e riorganizzazione di un territorio nel tardo Medioevo: il caso della Gallura*, tesi di dottorato, Universitat de Barcelona, a.a. 2012-2013.
- GIAGHEDDU 1919      L. GIAGHEDDU, *Il Giudicato di Gallura e le sue relazioni con Pisa*, Siena 1919.
- PETRUCCI 1988      S. PETRUCCI, *Re in Sardegna, a Pisa cittadini*, Bologna 1988.
- PIATTOLI 1970      R. PIATTOLI, s.v. Visconti, in *Enciclopedia Treccani*. Disponibile su  
[http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/visconti\\_res-7d896824-87f0-11dc-8e9d-0016357eee51\\_\(Enciclopedia-Dantesca\)/](http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/visconti_res-7d896824-87f0-11dc-8e9d-0016357eee51_(Enciclopedia-Dantesca)/)
- PINNA 2006      R. PINNA, *Parte orientale vs parte occidentale: una costante condizione di marginalità nella storia territoriale dell'Isola*, in ASGS, X n.s., 2006, pp. 79-100.
- SAFFIOTTI BERNARDI, BOSCO 1970      S. SAFFIOTTI BERNARDI, U. BOSCO, s.v. *Ugolino Della Gherardesca, conte di Donoratico*, in *Enciclopedia Treccani*. Disponibile su  
[http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/ugolino-della-gherardesca-conte-di-donoratico\\_\(Enciclopedia-Dantesca\)/](http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/ugolino-della-gherardesca-conte-di-donoratico_(Enciclopedia-Dantesca)/)
- TAMPONI 2010      M. TAMPONI, *Nino Visconti di Gallura*, Roma 2010.

## ■ Periodicals and magazines

**ASGSS**

*Archivio Storico Giuridico Sardo di Sassari, Sassari, Nuova Serie, I, 1994 e ss.*





UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



**REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA**  
**REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA**

## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



UNIONE EUROPEA

Progetto cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea  
Programma Operativo FESR 2007-2013

FESR - Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale - Asse I, Linea di Attività 1.2.3.a